

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE
COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND
CHESTER, VOL. 23. - NEW SERIES; THE
FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH
OF MANCHESTER. PART II, PP. 218-398**

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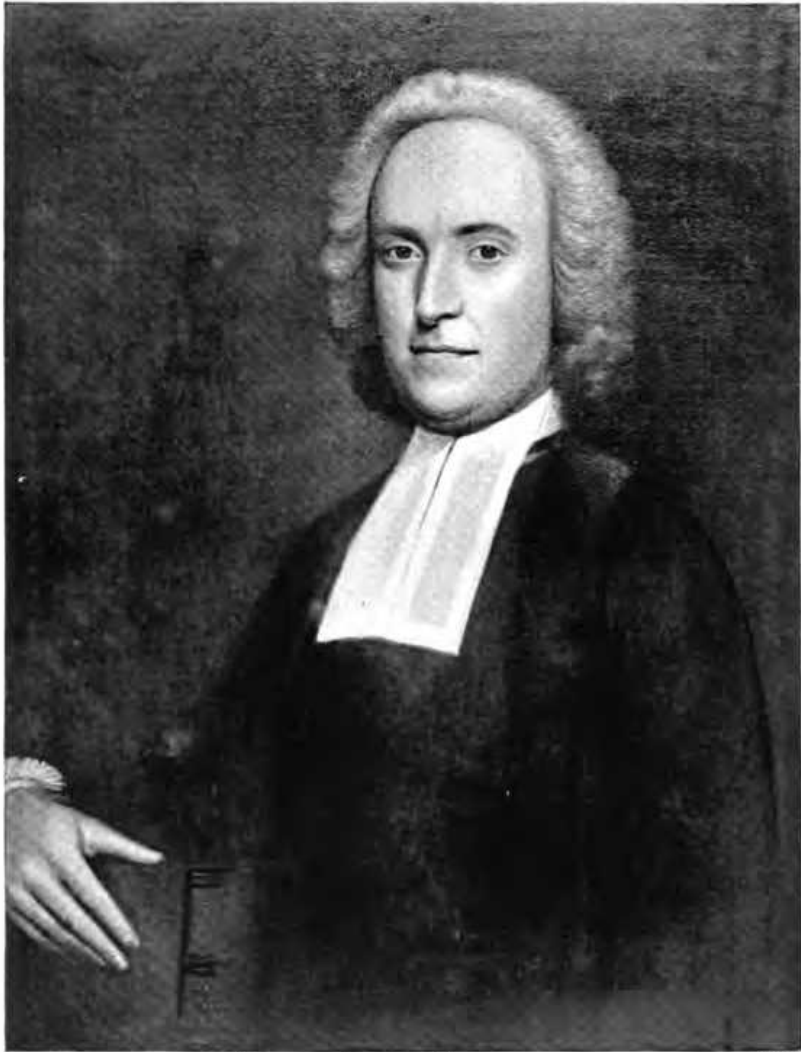
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VOLUME 23.—NEW SERIES.

MANCHESTER:
Printed for the Chetham Society.
1891.



REV. JOHN CLAYTON,

From a Portrait in the possession of LIEUT. COLONEL W. WILLMOTT MAWSON, Manchester.

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The Fellows
OF THE
Collegiate Church of Manchester.

BY THE LATE
REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A.,
*Honorary Canon of the Manchester Cathedral,
and Vice-President of the Chetham Society.*

EDITED BY
FRANK RENAUD, M.D., F.S.A.

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PART II.
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PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
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friend Mr. Whittaker in Assheton's place. It is evident that the violence of the Bishop occasioned him a host of indignant antagonists amongst the churchmen of Manchester, and his character and proceedings were the subject of virulent calumnies and odious libels. For an account, however, of Peploe's harsh treatment of Assheton, see Dr. Byrom's *Remains*, vol. i. pp. 231 to 234.

Mr. Assheton was evidently a man of nerve, and his resources were many. When the Warden became Bishop, in the latter capacity he was the Visitor of the College, but Assheton went on the ground that as Bishop he could not visit himself, and, consequently, his control over the Fellows, who had elected the Chaplain, was invalid. The Court of King's Bench granted a mandamus to the Warden to elect and confirm Mr. Assheton; and on the 28th June, 1728, as the Chapter record expresses it, "the Reverend Sam^l Lord Bishop of Chester, Warden, elected and confirmed, with his own voice and suffrage, Mr. Richard Assheton, Chaplain" (*Chapter Register*, vol. ii.), and the Warden and Fellows administered to him the oath, whose long continued disobedience to Episcopal authority, and disregard of the monitions issued from the Consistory, were thus crowned with success.

In March, 1731, he ceased to be Registrar and Chaplain; but it was not until the 27th September, 1731, that he was elected Fellow of the Collegiate Church, on the death of his father. (*Ibid.*)

On the 17th July, 1750, he was "Sub-Guardian of the College," and in 1757 "Senior Fellow and Vice-Warden." (*Ibid.*)

In 1750, April 16, he was elected a Governor of the Hospital and Library of Humphrey Chetham, Esq., and so continued for fourteen years.

"1753, July 9.—Went to the Old Church, where there was a Charity Sermon preached by Mr. Assheton for the Infirmary. His text was: 'Be not weary in well doing.'" (Mrs. Barton's *M.S. Journal*.) Mr. Assheton seems to have been active in visiting the sick, administering the Eucharist, and in parish work

generally, at a time when such duties were much overlooked and neglected by the clergy, and, although he dogmatised where the Church was silent, there is sufficient reason to conclude that he was anxious to defend her interests against Erastianism and all undue innovation.

Mr. Assheton used the same Arms as his father.

He died in the year 1764, aged 70, and was buried with his ancestors in Salford Chapel.

His will was made some time before his death, but no executor was appointed by him, which informality was supplied by an administration, with will annexed, being granted by the Court of Chester, on the 27th July, 1764, to Margaret, wife of Jeffrey Hart of Salford, sister, next of kin and principal legatee named therein. Testator gave to his sister Hart £500, to his niece Margaret Hart £500, to his niece Elizabeth, wife of John Clayton . . . ; to his niece, the wife of . . . Yardley . . . ; to her brother Robert Assheton . . . , to her brother Richard Assheton . . . , to her sister Ann . . . , to her sister Mary, wife of . . . Craven . . . ; to the relict of his (testator's) brother William Assheton, and to her children . . .

The following is transcribed from a broadside, printed apparently by Mr. Assheton, and being a scarce document may be added here, although the leading facts have been already stated :

“The case of Mr. Richard Assheton and Mr. Adam Bankes, Chaplains of the Collegiate Church of Manchester founded by King Charles, in relation to a Bill now depending in Parliament to empower His Majesty to Visit the Collegiate Church of Manchester during such time as the Wardenship of the said Church is or shall be held in commendam with the Bishoprick of Chester.

AS TO MR. ASHETON.

Sept, 1720.—A Chaplain's place became vacant by the death

of Mr. Henry Asheton, but at that time there being some disputes about the Wardenship, which was then vacant, and those disputes continuing a considerable time, no Chapter could be called for filling up the vacant Chaplaincy, and the then Bishop of Chester licensed the said Mr. Richard Asheton to officiate during the vacancy.

16th July, 1726.—The Warden's place being filled, the Fellows apply'd to the Warden to call a Chapter to fill up the vacant Chaplainship.

19th July, 1726.—A Chapter was held by the Warden and three of the Fellows for choosing a new Chaplain, and the said Mr. Richard Asheton was unanimously elected by the said three Fellows, who requested the Warden to confirm him with his own suffrage as the Charter directed, but the Warden absolutely refused, though Mr. Asheton was in every respect duly qualified.

24th Oct., 14 Geo. I.—One Mr. Whittaker obtained a nomination from the Crown to the said vacant Chaplainship, and going down therewith to Manchester, and demanding admission, was installed and sworn in by the Warden, the Fellows protesting against it.

Mich. Term, 1726.—Mr. Asheton moved the Court of King's Bench, and obtained a mandamus to the Warden to elect and confirm, and to the Warden and Fellows to swear him in to the office of Chaplain, being duly elected; to which the Warden returned that he having admitted and sworn in Mr. Whittaker under the King's nomination, could not confirm, swear, or admit Mr. Asheton.

The matter of this mandamus and return coming afterwards to be heard in the King's Bench, the Court granted a peremptory mandamus in favour of Mr. Asheton, which was in every respect comply'd with, and Mr. Asheton's election completed."

The following letter was addressed by Bishop Peploe to the Fellows of Manchester College, directing Mr. Whittaker to officiate in the Church there. (Bundle ss. No. 5 *Archbishop of York's Papers*, 1876.) It is written in a large sprawling hand, and the month is omitted:—

"Preston, 31st, 1726.

To the Reverend Mr. Roger Bolton, Robert Asheton, and John Copley,
Fellows of Manchester.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Whitaker did about a month ago (at least) offer himself to read Prayers, and do other Divine offices in our Collegiate Church, but was refused. There has (I find since then) been a complaint made to his Grace of York for want of proper help to officiate in the said Church. I do therefore hereby send Mr. Whitaker again to read Prayers, bury the dead, and assist in the administration of the holy Sacrament, during the present circumstances of that Church. If his assistance be rejected, I hope I shall not be blam'd for not doing my part in order to have the Church duty serv'd.

(Signed) SAM. CESTRIENS."

The following unpublished letter was addressed by Dr. Deacon to Dr. Byrom at Richard's Coffee House, by Temple Bar, London, dated Manchester, December 21st, 1726:—

"Dear Grand Master,

By this post there will go to Sir John Bland, in Golden Square, a petition to the Archbishop of York that Mr. Asheton may be restored, together with a Certificate signed by the Gentry, Clergy, and Inhabitants of this place and the neighbourhood. Now you are desired to be one of the Presentees being a Manchester man, that if the Archbishop should make any enquiry you may give him some account of the affair. In order to this you are to go to Mr. Harbin, a nonjuring clergyman, brother-in-law to Mr. Copley, to consult with him, who is pre-acquainted that you will come to him, that it may be presented as soon as possible. He lives over against Mr. Foubert's Academy in King-street, near Golden Square. You are desired to go to him forthwith. He is a learned man, and of great acquaintance, and I believe you will be glad when you know him upon other accounts. You may if you will make use of my name to him, for I believe he has not forgot me. The Bishop has ordered Mr. Bolton and nobody else to officiate at Gorton, and will not allow anyone to officiate at the Old Church or Salford Chapel but those who belong to the Old Church, so that they are in great distress, for the Antistes will not allow his Presbyters to