

**A LANCASHIRE PEDIGREE CASE:
OR, A HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS
TRIALS FOR THE RECOVERY OF
THE HARRISON ESTATES**

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A Lancashire Pedigree Case: Or, A History of the Various Trials for the Recovery of the Harrison Estates by J. P. Earwaker

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J. P. EARWAKER

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A
LANCASHIRE PEDIGREE CASE:
OR
A HISTORY OF THE VARIOUS TRIALS
FOR THE RECOVERY OF
THE HARRISON ESTATES,
FROM 1873 TO 1886:

TOGETHER WITH
A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE MANY
FORGERIES AND FRAUDULENT ENTRIES
IN PARISH REGISTERS, MARRIAGE LICENCE BONDS, &c.,
PUBLICLY EXPOSED AT THE TRIAL AT LIVERPOOL, MAY 25TH TO 28TH, 1886,

WITH
A PEDIGREE OF THE HARRISON FAMILY.

BY
J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A.,
AUTHOR OF "EAST CHESHIRE"; EDITOR OF THE "MANCHESTER COURT LEET RECORDS";
HON. SEC. OF THE RECORD SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE,
&c. &c.

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TO
HIS HONOUR
HENRY FOX BRISTOWE, Esq., Q.C.,
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE COUNTY PALATINE OF LANCASTER,
BEFORE WHOM
THE DECISIVE TRIAL FOR THE HARRISON ESTATES
WAS HEARD IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE COUNTY PALATINE,
ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LIVERPOOL,
MAY 25TH TO 28TH, 1886,
THIS ACCOUNT OF THAT IMPORTANT TRIAL,
TOGETHER WITH A HISTORY OF THE PREVIOUS LITIGATION
IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ESTATES,
IS
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

The following pages contain an account of certain forgeries, as ingenious as they were audacious. Although it is an indictable offence to tamper with entries in Parish Registers, it is only very occasionally that such cases come into the Law Courts, whilst they have not unfrequently been made use of by writers of fiction. In this case, however, not only have numerous entries been altered and erased, but entirely fictitious ones have been inserted, where there were vacant spaces on the pages of the Registers. Again, this has not been done in one Register only, but in at least three or four, and the official " transcripts " or certified copies, returned year by year to the Bishop of Chester, and now preserved in the Registries at Chester and Lancaster, have also been tampered with, and it is feared in some cases ruthlessly destroyed. So extensive have these criminal acts been, that the entries which have been tampered with, or inserted in the Registers of Preston, Kirkham, Poulton and Lytham, as well as on the transcripts

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