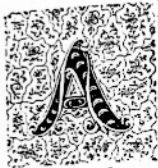


BLACKBURN PARISH.



ADJACENT to the parish of Whalley is Blackburn parish, situated in the hundred and deanery of that name, and in the archdeaconry of Manchester. This parish consists of three valleys with the intermediate eminences—namely, the broad woody Ribblesdale, ascending into undulations on the N.N.W., which terminate in the heights from Billington to Billinge; the valley of the Darwen, advancing from Walton-le-Dale by the foot of Hoghton Tower and Blackburn, into the hills of Over-Darwen; and the vale of Blakewater, opening into Oswaldtwisle and terminating in the Darwen at Blackburn; while on the eastern borders of the parish are the dales of the Calder and Hyndeburn, merging in the expanse of Ribblesdale. This parish is fourteen miles in length from Walton-le-Dale on the western to Billington on the eastern extremity, and ten miles in breadth from Salesbury on the north to Over-Darwen on the south, and comprises an area of seventy square miles, or 45,269 statute acres. The northern boundary of the parish is accurately defined by the river Ribble, flowing through the noble valley which ornaments and enriches Mid-Lancashire; the Calder, after receiving the Hyndeburn from the south-east, washes the north-eastern boundary of the parish till its confluence with the Ribble in the hamlet of Langho; and the Darwen, flowing from the township to which it imparts its name at the south-western extremity of the parish, after receiving the mountain stream called Moulden Water or Roddlesworth Water, at Pleasington, flows to Walton-le-Dale, where it yields up its tributary stream to the Ribble. The Black-burn or brook, sometimes called the Blakewater or Yellow Stream, rising in the township of Oswaldtwisle, flows to the Darwen at Witton, past the town of Blackburn, and gives its name to the town, the hundred, and the deanery.

This extensive parish, for its parochial government, forms itself into twenty-three townships, of which eight are ancient chapelries:—

TOWNSHIP.	Area in Acres.	Population in 1861.	TOWNSHIP.	Area in Acres.	Population in 1861.
Balderstone, C.	1710	532	Mellor	1830	1398
Billington, C.	2960	1,038	Osbaldeston	980	238
Blackburn	3610	63,126	Pleasington	1600	422
Clayton-le-Dale	950	375	Ramsgreave	757	320
Cuerdale	500	56	Rishton	2760	1198
Darwen, Lower	2490	3,301	Salesbury, C.	1150	331
Darwen, Over, C.	5010	16,492	Samlesbury, C.	4270	1215
Dinkley	500	120	Tockholes, C.	2050	820
Eccleshill	792	543	Walton-le-Dale, C.	4630	7383
Harwood, Great, C.	2510	4,070	Wilpshire	940	228
Harwood, Little	730	270	Witton	650	3292
Livesey	1890	3,581			

The population of the entire (old) parish in 1861 was 110,349, and that of the town, township, municipal and parliamentary borough of Blackburn (all conterminous), 63,126. The Blackburn Poor-Law Union comprises twenty-four townships—viz. Balderstone, Billington, Blackburn, Clayton-le-Dale, Clayton-le-Moors, Church-Kirk, Dinkley, Over Darwen, Lower Darwen, Eccleshill, Great Harwood, Little Harwood, Livesey, Mellor, Osbaldeston, Oswaldtwisle, Pleasington, Ramsgreave, Rishton, Salesbury, Tockholes, Wilpshire, Witton, Yate and Pickup Bank. Area, 43,569 statute acres; population in 1861, 119,942.

In Saxon times King Edward the Confessor held Blackburn, as appears from the Domesday Survey. William the Norman, by right of conquest, claimed this town and hundred, and by his behest it was granted to Roger de Poitou, from whom it passed to Roger de Busli and Albert Greslet. In 1160 Henry de Blackburne held the church and manor of Blackburn, as they had been held by hereditary succession by three of his predecessors, Gamaliel, Gilbert, and John. This clerical lord had two sons, Richard and Adam, between whom the property was divided in equal moieties. Roger, the son of Adam, assigned his moiety to John de Lacy, earl of Lincoln and constable of Chester, who granted it to the abbot and monks of Stanlawe, the parent of Whalley Abbey, with all their appurtenances within and without the parish.¹ Till the dissolution of religious houses this moiety remained in the abbey of Whalley, but in the year 1537, on the attainder of the abbot Paslew, it was vested by the crown in Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, who became the rector of

¹ Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum*, ccccxxvi. From the office of the late Court of Augmentations.

Blackburn, and the patron of the vicarage. The other moiety descended from Richard to Adam de Blackburne, who left two daughters co-heiresses, Agnes, who married David de Hulton, and Beatrice, who married William de Hulton. From the son of Agnes, Richard de Hulton, this moiety, which had absorbed the whole of the manorial privileges, passed to the Radcliffes of Radcliffe Tower, and from them to the Bartons, first of Holme, and afterwards of Smithells, and from them to Henry, first Viscount Fauconberg, whose descendant, Thomas Bellasys, in 1721, sold the manor of Blackburn to William Baldwin, Henry Feilden, and William Sudell, esqs., for the sum of £8650. The so-entitled "manor" of Blackburn remained in the representatives of these three families till the whole became vested, by purchase in Joseph and John Feilden, esqs. On the death of John Feilden his share was purchased by his nephew, Joseph Feilden, esq., the present owner. The permanent lords of Clitheroe have from time immemorial, probably from the age of Ilbert de Laci, claimed an acknowledgment from the manor of Blackburn, and their lessees collected the tolls and stallage.¹ According to the *Status de Blagborneshire*, the parish church of Blackburn was erected about the year 596, soon after the introduction of Christianity into this country. At the time of the Domesday Survey, this church, dedicated to St. Mary, had two bovates of land in Blackburn, and two carucates in Whalley, free from all custom. In the *Valor* of Pope Nicholas, the return is made of "the church of Blackburn with chapel, £33:6:8." And in the *Liber Regis*, more than two centuries afterwards, under the head Archdeaconry of Chester, Deaconry of Blackburn, the entry occurs of "Blackburn Vicarage, St. Mary, £8:1:8." The original structure, which had wholly disappeared in the interval, was renewed about the reign of Edward III., and in the time of Henry VIII. the middle aisle and choir were handsomely re-roofed in compartments. A memorial, in the south chapel window, of Sir John Talbot, bespoke the benedictions of the pious, in these terms, for Thomas, earl of Derby, one of the founders of the ancient chantry:—"A.D. 1521. Pray for the prosperous estate of ye Rt. Hon. Thomas, Erle of Derby, Viscount Kinton, Lord Strange, Lord of Knoken." In a niche which remained till the church was taken down was a magnificent monument erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Walmesley, the judge. But the recess was dismantled, the monument itself, which was an exact counterpart of that of Anne, duchess of Somerset, in Westminster Abbey, having been demolished by the Parliamentary soldiers, A.D. 1642.² The monument was thus inscribed, after some quaint verses:—

"SIR THOMAS WALMESLEY, Knight, here entoambed, was made judge of the Common Pleas an. xxxi R. Eliz. and continued a judge of that Bench y^e space of xxv years and above, during which time he went all the Cercuits of England, except that of Norfolk & Suffolk. He dyed Nov. 26, 1612, having lived LXXV yeares complete under v several princes: King Henry VIII. King Edward VI. Queene Mary, Queene Elizabeth, and our soueraigne lord King James. He left behind hym (who are yet livyng), Anne, his ladye and sole wyfe, and also one only son, Thomas Walmesley, sole heir to them both, whom, in his lye time, he saw twyce married; 1st. to Elenor, sister of Henry Lord Danvers, and daughter to Sir John Danvers by Elizabeth his wyfe, one of y^e daughters and coheirs of y^e Lord Latymer; and 2ndly to Mary, sister of Sir Richard Hoghton, knt. and bart., by bothe of whom he saw him have issue, by his first wyfe one son & two daughters, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Anne, by his second one son, Charles."

The chantry of Our Lady in the south aisle of the church was founded by the second earl of Derby in 1509, 1st Henry VIII. (not 1514 as Dr. Whitaker states), for the souls of Thomas, earl of Derby, deceased, and his Lady, George Stanley, Lord Strange, the Lady Jane, and their children, their posterity, and all the parishioners. It was endowed with lands for the maintenance of a priest, who should sing and say mass, and teach a grammar-school and song-school, if such a one could be had, and if not, for a song-school in the town of Blackburn. The chantry was dissolved by Edward VI., and the lands granted for life to Thomas Burgess, then chantry priest. It was restored by Queen Mary, and sold in the reign of Elizabeth. It was divided in 1614 between the Talbots of Salesbury, who had the north part, and the Walmesleys of Dunkenhalgh, to whom the south part was appropriated. The Rushtons of Dunkenhalgh, descendants of the feudal rectors of Blackburn, are supposed to have had some beneficial interest in this portion of the church before the foundation of this chantry. In the N.E. aisle of the church was a chantry, founded by the Osbaldestons of Osbaldeston, and their burial-place. Elena, wife of Sir Alexander Osbaldeston, directed by will (1560) that three stones with inscriptions in brass should be laid in her family chapel, within Blackburn church, over the remains of herself, her husband, and Sir Thomas Tyldesley of Morleys, her brother.³ In this chapel was also an inscription on brass:—"Here lyeth the body of Sir Edward Osbaldeston, a charitable, courteous, and valian knight, qui obiit, A.D. 1636, æt. 63." In addition to the monuments, of which there were many, there was inscribed on the south side of the old church the following pious doggrel—

"Before thou doe thy worke beginne
Then of God crave pardon for thy sin
And then thy worke shall prosper soe
As want shall never breed thee woe
) (1614 .I. M.
George Ryley."

The corroding hand of time having reduced the ancient church of Blackburn to a state of dangerous

¹ In 1311, according to the great De Lacy Inquisition, John Hilton held 1½ carucate of land in Blackburn freely, of the Lacies, by homage.

² From the memorials of Mr. Money, formerly agent at Dunkenhalgh.

³ *Notitia Cestriensis*.—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 276-7.

dilapidation, it was resolved by a meeting of the parishioners, held on the 6th of August 1818, to rebuild the church upon an enlarged scale, out of the parish rates, and to purchase additional burial-ground. For this purpose an act of parliament was obtained, and a stately edifice arose on the site of the ancient Free Grammar School, at a cost of £26,000, which was completed in 1826, and consecrated by the bishop of Chester on the 13th of October in that year.¹ The architecture of the new church, which reflects much honour on the skill of Mr. John Palmer of Manchester, is in the style of the 14th century, and the edifice is accurately described² as consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, and a tower. The exterior exhibits six windows in each aisle, divided by mullions and transoms, with heads of flowing tracery in two alternate patterns, one of which is copied from Roslyn Chapel. The clerestory contains on each side twelve windows, disposed in couples, each window having two lights, surmounted by a trefoil head. The east end is plain, and exhibits the vaults, which are fourteen feet high. The chancel window is very rich and handsome; above it is a small circular window of elegant tracery, and beneath appear the arms of the impropiator, Joseph Feilden, esq. The tower is square, and consists of three storeys; but the main feature in this appendage to the church is the recessed arch, which occupies the whole of the lower storey on its west front, and encloses, besides the principal entrance, a window of very light and elegant tracery. On the corbels and other parts of this front appear the royal arms in duplicate, with those of the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of the diocese. The arms of the two vicars in whose time the building was erected are on the porches. In the interior the nave is separated from the aisles by six arches on each side, resting on pillars composed of a central cylinder, surrounded by four semi-cylindrical shafts, with plainly-moulded capitals. The chancel is composed of one spacious receding arch, or rather of nine arches, resting on lofty cylindrical columns, in close contact with each other, and contracting their space as they approach the east, where the view is terminated by a large and handsome window rising above the altar-screen. The aisles are occupied by galleries, so supported as to leave the columns of the nave unencumbered. The singing gallery is very lofty, and projects considerably into the nave. It is of semi-octagonal form, and rests on pointed arches supported by clustered pillars and buttresses.

VICARS OF BLACKBURN FROM 1160 to 1868.³

Date of Institution.	Names of Vicars.	On whose Presentation.	Cause of Vacancies.
1160	Henry de Blackburne.		
1289	William de Lenches	Roger de Meuland.	
June 16, 1317	Sir Adam de Wallbonk		Death of William de Lench.
1360	Adam or John de Gristhwaite.		
Oct. 15, 1362	John de Lynddelay.		
1369	William de Wetherley.		
1419	Geoffrey Banister.		
1480	Sir Robert Salley.		
Dec. 15, 1489	Henry Salley, a monk		Death of Robert Salley.
Oct. 24, 1555	James Hargreaves	Philip and Mary.	
June 18, 1563	John Hylton	Archbishop of Canterbury	Deprivation of James Hargreaves.
Nov. 10, 1580	Edward Walsh	Warren, Archdeacon	Resignation of John Hylton.
Feb. 23, 1606	John Morres	Archbishop of Canterbury	
June 20, 1623	Adam Bolton	George, archbishop of Canterbury.	Death of last incumbent.
	Leonard Clayton.		
Dec. 5, 1677	Francis Price	Gilbert, archbishop of Canterbury	Death of Leonard Clayton,
April 30, 1706	John Holme	Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury	Death of Francis Price.
Aug. 25, 1738	John Potter	Ditto	Death of John Holme.
Aug. 16, 1742	John Woollen	Ditto	Cess. of John Potter.
Aug. 7, 1772	John White	Archbishop of Canterbury	
Nov. 27, 1780	Thomas Starkie	Ditto	Death of John White.
May 12, 1813	Thomas Starkie	Charles, archbishop of Canterbury	Cess. of Thomas Starkie.
Nov. 7, 1818	Thomas Dunham Whitaker	Ditto	Death of Thomas Starkie.
Feb. 16, 1822	John William Whittaker	Ditto	Death of Thomas D. Whitaker.
Aug. 9, 1854	John Rushton	Bishop of Manchester	Death of J. W. Whittaker.
April 2, 1868	Edward Birch	Ditto	Death of John Rushton.

The following relics of the old church are preserved in the present structure :—In the north vestry are placed several monumental tablets. In the south vestry, the arms of Walmesley impaling Shuttleworth of Hacking, with other remains of the monument of Judge Walmesley formerly in the Dunkenhalgh chapel. In the window of the same vestry, and in the window of the clerestory are several scriptural subjects in stained glass.⁴ The stalls, at present occupied by the church-wardens and sidesmen, were also part of the

¹ In 1824-5 the old vicarage house was taken down, and another residence for the vicar substituted for it in King Street.

² *Statement of Facts relating to the Taking down and Rebuilding of the Parish Church of Blackburn*, pp. 23-26.

³ Extracted principally from Ecclesiastical Registers in the Bishop's Court, Chester.

⁴ Personal examination enables me to record the subjects of these exquisite little medallions ;—portraits of James the Less, Peter, Paul,

furniture of the ancient church. The new church contains 2200 sittings, of which 900 are free. On the whole it may be observed of the architecture of this edifice, that in boldness and symmetry of design, in correctness and gracefulness of ornament, and in general propriety of arrangement, it is surpassed by few modern ecclesiastical structures. The fine groined roof and the elegant tower of this church were materially injured by a fire, which accidentally broke out in consequence of the overheating of a stove, on the morning of the 16th of January 1831; but the building was completely restored by Mr. Rickman, the architect, at a cost of £2500, which was defrayed by voluntary contribution. The patronage of the living, formerly in the archbishop of Canterbury, who enjoyed the presentation to this living, as well as the produce of the rectorial tithes, from the time of the Reformation, is now vested in the bishop of Manchester.¹

Hawdley Hall was the mansion of the rectory in the reign of Henry VIII., and in 3 Edward VI. (1549) was in lease to Sir Thomas Talbot, who prosecuted Alice Livesey and others in the Duchy Court of Lancaster, for setting fire to the parsonage-barn and to the mansion-house called Hawdley (*Cal. Plead.*) Sir Thomas Talbot of Hawdley, in his will of 27th September 1557, names his lease of the parsonage of Blackburn, which he bought of John Comberford and Robert Bellet, gents., and which was then valued at £300. In 1616 and 1647, the house is described as being built of stone, timber, and brick, half-a-mile from Blackburn, and having certain lands called Hadley demesne, being 143 acres 0 roods 10 poles. It is now called Audley, and is a farm-house.²

The registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, begin A. D. 1600, and exhibit the following results:—

A. D.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	A. D.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1600	—	43	—	1784	442	226	298
1601	—	90	—	1831	633	480	599
1783	366	168	240	1832	706	519	625

The sexton of the parish church and of the Episcopal ground at the cemetery, prepares annually a tabular statement of the baptisms, marriages, and burials in the district. The tables for the year 1867 give the following results:—

Baptisms in the Episcopal churches in the Borough—Parish church, 888; other churches, 949; total, 1837.			Burials in Blackburn—	
Marriages in Blackburn—			Church of England part of Cemetery	
Church of England	.	408	.	1051
Nonconformist chapels	.	115	.	330
Roman Catholic chapels	.	154	.	326
At the Registrar's office	.	197	.	1707
Total	.	874	In private vaults in churches	8
			Total burials in Blackburn	1715

The births and deaths registered as occurring in the township of Blackburn in the year 1867, by the Registrar of births and deaths for the district, are as follows:—Births, 2914; deaths, 1867.

There were in 1834 15 Episcopal places of public worship within the parish of Blackburn, exclusive of the parish church, 3 Roman Catholic chapels, and 21 Dissenting meeting-houses. There are now (1867) 78 places of public worship in the parish, of which 28 are Episcopalian, 20 Methodist, 12 Congregational, 4 Baptist, 10 Catholic, and 4 belonging to minor sects. In the borough of Blackburn there are at present 27 places of worship, 8 of which are Episcopalian, 4 Congregational, 2 United Presbyterian, 2 Baptist, 5 Methodist, 3 Catholic, 1 Society of Friends, 1 Swedenborgian, and 1 Unitarian.

The dates and cost of erection of the principal churches and chapels within the borough of Blackburn are as follows:—St. John's, in Ainsworth Street, erected at a cost of £8000, of which above one-half was contributed by Henry Sudell, esq., consecrated July 31, 1789, of which the vicar is the patron; St. Paul's, Little Peel, Blakey Moor, built in 1792, and served by a pastor of Lady Huntingdon's community; St. Peter's, near King Street, a superb edifice, erected in 1819-20, partly by parliamentary grant and partly by subscription, at a cost of £13,000; patrons of the living, the trustees for sixty years, at the expiration of which time the patronage devolves on the vicar of the parish: Holy Trinity, Mount Pleasant, a very fine Gothic edifice, on a commanding site, commenced in 1837 and opened in 1846, was erected at an expenditure of £6000, raised by subscription; the tower was added in 1855; value of the living, in the gift of the vicar of the parish, £217 per annum, with residence; St. Michael's, Daisy Field; the temporary building was formerly a Methodist chapel, purchased by the vicar and consecrated in 1844; a new Gothic church for this district is now in process of erection at Brookhouse; value of the living £217 per annum, in the gift of the vicar. Christ's Church, Grimshaw Park, a handsome church in the geometric style of English architecture, was commenced in 1857, and consecrated September 2, 1859. The cost of the church and schools was about £8000, towards which the late Robert Hopwood, esq., very largely contributed, in addition to providing an endowment; value of the living, £220 per annum. St. Thomas', Bottom Gate, erected 1866, is open for worship, but the design of the building is as yet only partially completed. St. Luke's District.—In the absence of a church in this recently-formed district, public worship is conducted in the school, Duckworth Street.

The three Catholic chapels are—St. Alban's, Larkhill, a brick building with Ionic portico, commenced in 1824 and opened in 1826; St. Anne's, France Street, an externally plain Gothic structure, without spire, built in 1850, which, with the adjacent schools, has cost about £6000; and St. Mary's, Nova Scotia, a pretty Gothic church on an elevated site, erected in 1865 at a cost of about £4000.

The Congregationalists have four places of worship: the oldest is Chapel Street Chapel, built in 1777; James Street Chapel, a large brick building with stone portico, was opened in 1842. Park Road Congregational Church was erected in 1857 at a cost of more than £4000. It is a beautiful specimen of Decorated Gothic; the large schools adjoining were built by the Messrs. Pilkington, costing £6000. Montague Street Chapel, a brick building, was built in 1864.

Thaddeus, Simon, Matthew, and Andrew, all from the east window of the old Osbaldeston chapel, with two still more ancient fragments, the virgin and child and the head of a tonsured monk.—B. H.

¹ On a massive piece of plate belonging to this church is in-

scribed, in the true spirit of Christian benevolence, "God knows who gave this," without any name or other indication of the donor.

² *Notitia Cestriensis*—Note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 278.

The United Presbyterian Church, Mount Street, was originally erected by the Independents, but was afterwards secured by the Presbyterians, and greatly enlarged and beautified. The congregation worshipping here have just erected in Preston New Road a splendid Gothic church, with lofty tower and spire, at an expenditure of £7000, to which the Mount Street congregation will be mainly if not entirely transferred.

The Wesleyans have a capacious chapel in Clayton Street, erected in 1816, and also a recently-built preaching-room at Bottom-gate. The United Methodist Free Church has two chapels in Paradise Street and Barton Street; and a new mission has been started in Nova Scotia, in a temporary building. The Primitive Methodist Chapel is in Montague Street, and was built in 1837; this body also has a preaching-room and Sunday school in Audley.

The Baptists have two chapels: that of the General Baptists is in Montague Street, and was built in 1840; the Particular Baptists worship in a chapel at Islington, founded in 1764.

The Friends' Meeting-house, off King Street, was built in 1818. The New Jerusalem Church is in Brookhouse Fields. The Unitarian Chapel in Back Lane was opened in 1863.

Most of the places of worship in the town have attached to them large Sunday and day schools, for the accommodation of which central and branch school-buildings have been erected.

The Sunday schools within the parish and town are exceedingly numerous and well attended. In 1834 the total number of children receiving instruction in the Sunday schools of the town was estimated at 2476, of whom 1100 were in the Church of England schools, 500 in the Methodist, 600 in the Independent, 120 in the United Presbyterian, 100 in the Catholic, and 56 in the Unitarian schools. There are now (1867) estimated to be no fewer than 17,000 Sunday scholars in attendance in the town and the suburbs of Blackburn, of whom 7500 are in connection with the Church of England schools; Dissenting Schools associated in the "Blackburn Sunday School Union" (viz. Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Free Methodists, and Primitive Methodists), 6500; Wesleyans, 700; Catholics, 1300; and Nonconformist schools not connected with the "Union," 1000.

The town of Blackburn is reasonably well supplied with day-schools. The latest returns of the number of children in attendance at school in the borough, are some statistics prepared for Government by Mr. Henderson, the sub-inspector of factories for the Blackburn district, in January 1868, from the manuscript draft of which the appended abstract has been copied:—

No. of Day-Schools.	Description.	Half-Timers.	Day-Scholars.	Infants.	Total.	Certificated.	Non-Certificated.
14	National	2620	1550	1689	5759	5220	539
7	Dissenting	836	604	379	1819	564	1225
3	Roman Catholic	511	765	668	1944	1623	321
3	Private Schools	60	65	...	125	...	125
27	Totals	4027	2884	2736	9647	7407	2240

The number of pupils in private middle-class schools is not exactly known; but an approximate estimate is, that the boys' schools of this description, including the Grammar School, contain about 550 pupils, and the ladies' schools a like number. Adding these 1100 scholars to the 9647 above enumerated, the total number of children under tuition in the borough would be 10,747, equivalent to nearly 1 in 7 of the population. That is about the declared average for the whole of England and Wales.

The Congregationalists and other Dissenters have, until very recently, declined to connect their schools with the Education Board, or to receive the capitation grant. The result has been, that in Blackburn, as elsewhere, the mass of the children attend the National Schools, where the inspection and assistance of Government have rendered the system of teaching more efficient than in the voluntary schools. The Congregationalists have at length abandoned their objections to Government aid and inspection, and several schools have been opened, provided with certificated teachers, during the last few months (1868).

CHARITIES OF BLACKBURN.

The public charities in this parish, as exhibited in the fifteenth report of the Parliamentary Commissioners, made in 1819, are enumerated in the following summary:—

PARISH OF BLACKBURN.

	Annual Proceeds.
1566. Free Grammar School, founded 8th August, 9 Eliz., and endowed with lands, etc., producing less than	£120 0 0
"Poor's Stock;" under this name a sum of £50 has long existed for the benefit of industrious poor persons not receiving relief	2 0 0
Duckworth's Charity; the interest of 40s. left by Widow Duckworth, to be laid out in bread for communicants	0 2 6
Wollin's Charity. The interest of £10, given by the Rev. John Wollin, to be laid out in books.	

TOWNSHIP OF BLACKBURN.

1763. Girls' Charity School, founded by William Leyland, with £200 in trust, to be laid out at interest; and further endowed with subscriptions amounting to £262:10s. in that year, and with £800 in donations from 1764 to 1811. The funds in 1825 amounted to £2416:13:7, at 4 per cent interest.	
1694. Poor's Lands, comprising the Charities of Yates, Sudell, and others:— The Poor's Lands consist of a copyhold estate in Yate Bank, called Lang House, let at the rate of £36 per annum, a farm in Mellor, called Southworth Green Farm, let at the yearly rent of £28	64 0 0
Livesey's Charity. £100 in trust left by Sarah Livesey; the interest to be employed in binding poor children apprentice born in the town of Blackburn and townships of Livesey and Pleasington.	

TOWNSHIP OF BALDERSTONE.

1686. Charities of Ratcliff and others. About 100 years before 1786, Margaret Ratcliff gave land producing £2:12s. per annum for poor householders. Besides this legacy, there are two cottages with gardens, producing together a rent of	14 4 0
1716. Waterhouse's Charity. A rent-charge by Michael Waterhouse	0 10 0

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TOWNSHIP OF BILLINGTON.

	Annual Proceeds.
1671. Poor's Land. With donations from 1671 to 1779, amounting to £122, has been purchased an estate, consisting of a house and barn, with 9 acres of land, at Dinkley Moor Gate, producing an annual rent, for poor impotent persons, of	£24 0 0
1743. School for six poor children, endowed with rents, tithes, and stock, producing annually	14 2 10

CHAPELRY OF OVER DARWEN.

1794. Smalley's Charity. Linen cloth to the poor	1 1 0
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TOWNSHIP OF GREAT HARWOOD.

1691. Poor's Land, consists of Dole House estate, Moor Fields estate, and donations, producing in rent and interest, paid to the school, the poor, and the church	139 10 0
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TOWNSHIP OF LIVESEY.

1730. Charities of Blore and others. Geo. Blore directed that £33 should lie till it became £40, and then the interest to go to the poor of Livesey, and the interest of another £40 to the poor of Livesey and Tockholes; increased by £38 in other donations; but £50 of this charity are lost. Livesay's Charity. See Blackburn.	
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TOWNSHIP OF PLEASINGTON.

Pleasington School. Foundation unknown. The schoolmaster educates about 40 free children, and is supported by rents, and £6 from the overseers; in all Livesay's Charity. See Blackburn.	19 0 0
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TOWNSHIP OF RISHTON.

1776. Darwin's Charity. £120 to be laid out at interest, to be distributed in bread, one moiety at Church Kirk and the other at Rishton.	
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TOWNSHIP OF SAMLESBURY.

Samlesbury School. The master teaches 6 poor children, and occupies rent-free a dwelling-house and land of £8 yearly value, and has £8 from the overseers	
1715. Langdale's Charity. Dorothy Langdale left £200 for the support of the poor and aged, or for binding out poor apprentices. This legacy, increased by accumulation of interest to £214 : 13s., was laid out in a house, cottage, gardens, and land, producing £25 per annum in rent, which for many years has been applied in aid of the poor's rates, instead of having been disposed of to charitable purposes	16 0 0
1613. Richard Houghton's Charity. The rent of 5 acres of land to be divided among 3 townships, for their poor—viz. to Preston £2 : 10s., to Alston £5, and to Samlesbury £2 : 10s.	25 0 0

TOWNSHIP OF TOCKHOLES.

Blore's Charity. Geo. Blore, as already stated, left £40 to the poor of Livesey and Tockholes, of which £16 was the proportion to Tockholes, before the sum of £4 : 1s. was lost by insufficient security.	
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TOWNSHIP OF WALTON-LE-DALE.

School. Bishop Gastrel, in his <i>Notitia of the Diocese of Chester</i> , gives the following account of the school:— "Walton-le-Dale.—The school here (which is free only to the children of the town) was built by the inhabitants, upon ground given by Sir Richard Houghton, an. 1672 (the children being taught in the church before). The endowment consists of interest of money—viz. £100 given by Mr. Peter Burscough, an. 1624; £100 by Mr. Andrew Dandy, citizen of London; £20 by Thomas Hesketh, of Walton; and £30 raised out of interest of Mr. Burscough's £100 during the vacancy of the school in the rebellion against Charles I. There was also given to it by Mr. Crook of Abram the tenth part of his estate in Alston and Whittingham, leased now for the clear rent of £11 : 10s., the rent being given to pious uses by will, dated 1638." The schoolmaster, who is appointed by the inhabitants, and is to take all the children in the town who apply (paying 4d. each per week), receives an annual stipend of (including £2 from Crook's charity)	
1735. Shuttling-field's estate; consists of a farm-house, outbuildings, and 24 acres of land, left in trust by William Gradell, for the poor of Walton and Brindle, producing annually	16 1 6
1688. Crook's Charity. Thomas Crook devised his estate at Alston in trust, that out of the rents certain sums should be annually paid—among the rest, to the preaching minister of Low Church £2, to the poor of Walton-le-Dale £2, and to the schoolmaster of Walton-le-Dale £2	50 0 0
	6 0 0

The Free Grammar School of Blackburn was founded and endowed by Queen Elizabeth, A.D. 1567, on the humble petition "as well of the inhabitants of the village and parish of Blackburn, as of other persons resident in the neighbourhood," to be called "The Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth," "for the Education, Management, and Instruction of Children & Youths in Grammar, to be & remain for ever: and to consist of one Master or Pedagogue, & one Subpedagogue, or Usher." And her Majesty was pleased to ordain that there should be for ever in the village and parish of Blackburn, "fifty men of the more discreet and honest of the inhabitants or freeholders," to be governors of the possessions belonging to the school. The governors to be a body corporate, with perpetual succession; to be empowered to appoint the master and usher. The endowment consists chiefly of land situated in the neighbourhood of Blackburn, and of fees and duchy-rents; and it has been augmented by various pecuniary benefactions from the governors. The

school was to be "*free to all the world,*" except a small donation by each boy to the master at Shrovetide yearly. Only the classical education, however, is gratuitous; for the English and general education a fee of six guineas per annum is now charged. The number of boys in the school in 1834 was 25; it is at present about 100, and there are two masters and two assistants. The school has never before been in so efficient and prosperous a condition as it is now (1868). The children are admitted at any age; and many remain in the school till their education is completed. The school-house originally stood in the yard of the ancient parish church, but it was taken down in the year 1819 to make way for the new parish church, and rebuilt near to St. Peter's Church. The present erection is a neat stone building, in the Elizabethan style. Robert Bolton, an eminent Puritan divine, and one of the most accomplished scholars of his age, was educated at this school, along with Mr. Anderton, a Catholic, who afterwards removed to Christ's College, Cambridge, and for his eloquence was called "*The Golden-mouth Anderton.*" In addition to the Free School, there is here a Charity School, in Thunder-alley, founded in 1764, by Mr. William Leyland, wherein about 90 girls are instructed in reading, sewing, and knitting.

A collegiate institution, called the "*Independent Academy,*" was established here in 1816 by the Congregational Dissenters of Lancashire, for the education of young men for the ministry. The Rev. Dr. Fletcher was the first theological tutor, and he was succeeded, in 1823, on his removal to Stepney, near London, by the Rev. Dr. Payne. In 1839 the committee of the college resolved "*that the Academy be removed to Manchester,*" and the sum of £15,000 having been subscribed for the erection of a suitable building, the "*Lancashire Independent College*" at Whalley Range, near Manchester, was built, and the professors and students transferred from the Blackburn academy thereto, forming the nucleus of that large and flourishing institution.

Situated, as the town and hundred of Blackburn are, in a central part of the county, they became greatly exposed to the horrors of the civil wars which raged with so much fury in the middle of the 17th century. Towards the end of the year 1642, and in the early part of 1643, the hundred of Blackburn, like that of Salford, was the scene of many military operations. On Christmas eve, 1642, James, earl of Derby, at the head of five thousand men, marched from Wigan with three pieces of cannon in his train, and made a vigorous attack upon Blackburn. The town being garrisoned by four hundred militia, and a number of club-men, aided by the inhabitants, made a gallant defence. On discharging their ordnance, which the Cavaliers placed in front of the town, they exclaimed, "*Take heed, ye Roundheads!*"¹ Their fire, however, produced little effect upon the garrison, and at mid-day it was proclaimed that if the town would surrender to the earl of Derby, his lordship would mediate with the king for their pardon. This language they could not understand: they "*sought no pardon for themselves from the king and parliament;*" on which the battle was renewed and continued till sunset, but with so little effect, that the earl's forces availed themselves of the cover of night to make a precipitate retreat, without effecting the object of their operations. In March 1643, the earl, at the head of two thousand men, after having recovered Preston, marched to Blackburn, and made himself master of that place. In order to extend his conquest, he marched into the parish of Whalley, but here he was met by so determined a resistance, that his forces were obliged to retreat to the Ribble, and to ford that river at Samlesbury up to the chin in water, in which way the hundred was cleared of the loyalist forces. In July of the same year, Prince Rupert, after having prosecuted the siege of Liverpool to a successful issue, paid a visit to his fair and gallant relation, the countess of Derby, at Lathom House, from which he marched at the head of twenty thousand men through Blackburn to York, near which city the sun of his military renown set upon Marston Moor. To alleviate the general sufferings in this division of the county, an ordinance was passed by parliament, that the officers and soldiers, under Colonel Alexander Rigby and Colonel Richard Shuttleworth, who had lost their limbs, should be pensioned out of the sequestered estates of the papists and delinquents within the hundreds of Blackburn, Leyland, and Amounderness, and that such women and children, whose husbands and fathers had been slain in the war, should partake of this provision. On the restoration of the Stuarts in 1660, an act was passed for giving the lords-lieutenant and the deputy-lieutenants the disposal of the forces in their respective counties; and on the authority of this act, meetings of the lieutenantancy of Lancashire, with Charles, earl of Derby, at their head, took place, from the minutes of which it appears, that by a notice from the duke of York (afterwards James II.) diligent inquiry was made after the disaffected people in the county of Lancaster. On the 14th of August 1665, the houses of suspected persons were searched for arms, amongst whom were, Thomas Jolly of High Hill Park, Thomas Summers of Pendleton, Robert Whitacre of Healey, near Burnley, John Birley of Oswaldtwisle, esqrs., and John Waddington of Altham—all in the hundred of Blackburn. Amongst others of the proscribed were—Mr. Tildesley, late of Dean Church; Mr. Heywood, late of Ormskirk; Mr. Naylor of Hindley; Mr. Ditchfield of Warrington; Mr. Gregg, living near Windle in Rainford; Mr. Crompton; and Mr. Bradshaw of Hindley; represented as "*Non-conforming Ministers, and such as frequently held conventicles, giving the people opportunities of meeting to hatch mischief.*"

The town of Blackburn is sheltered by a ridge of hills, stretching from the north-east to the north-west,

¹ *Valley of Achor.*

and terminated by Billinge Hill. Dr. Whitaker describes it as situated "in a barren, naked, and sandy flat;" but trade and manufactures have converted this barren region into a productive soil. The rivulet from which it takes its name divides it into two unequal parts. The streets in the older portions of the town are irregularly built, partly owing to the intermixture of glebe-lands; but recently these lands have all become available for building purposes, and, under the direction of the Improvement Commissioners, and their successors the municipal authorities, many of the narrower thoroughfares have been widened and levelled, and the old tenements pulled down and replaced by handsome and regular piles of building. Hundreds of crowded dwellings in the centre of the town have been demolished, and their sites devoted to the formation of an extensive market-area, now entirely surrounded by shops and public edifices, in the midst of which stand the Market House and the Town Hall. The rapid growth of the population has caused the numerous and considerable vacant spaces which formerly existed, and gave the place a straggling appearance, to be covered over with workshops, mills, and tenements, planned without much regard save to convenience. The most attractive and fashionable portion of the borough is the neighbourhood of the Corporation Park and Preston New Road, on the north-western approach to the town, where many well-appointed mansions and villas have within the last few years been erected for the more opulent manufacturers and tradesmen. This township, seated at the junction of the Darwen and Blakewater valleys, stretches across a narrow plain, bounded by hills to the north, the south-east, and south-west. The eminences around are naked, and the place in winter season has a dreary aspect. Its eastern vicinity is occupied by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Southward and south-west, the banks of the Darwen display fertility and beauty, and every spot in the immediate vicinity of the town is in a state of cultivation. A dreadful storm occurred here in 1592, attended with loss of life from floods.

PUBLIC WORKS.—The GASWORKS in Darwen Street, erected in 1819, are the property of shareholders. The works of the company have subsequently been greatly extended, and a gasometer of very large dimensions is now being erected at the No. 2 Works, near Wensley Fold. **WATERWORKS.**—The town was formerly very inadequately supplied with water from two small reservoirs in Pemberton Clough. That estate is now transformed into the Corporation Park, and the lodges have been improved into artificial lakes. The Blackburn Waterworks Company obtained its Act in 1845, and in 1848 began to supply the town. The reservoirs first constructed will hold about 100,000,000 gallons of water; but with the rapid growth of the population, a much larger supply was needed, and at several periods the company has extended its watershed, enlarged its reservoirs, and constructed new ones. About two years ago a very large new reservoir was constructed at Fish Moor, in Lower Darwen township, capable of holding 360,000,000 gallons of water. A new Act, obtained in 1861, gave the company additional borrowing powers, to the extent of £25,000, and authority to issue new shares to the amount of £90,000. The total authorised capital of the company is now (1867) £169,285. The Corporation of Blackburn has several times opened negotiations for the purchase of these works, but so far unsuccessfully.

The rainfall is registered by the officers of the company at Pickup Bank (near the summit of the watershed), at the Guide reservoirs, and at the company's offices, Clayton Street (near the centre of the borough), with the subjoined annual result for the last four years:—

	At Pickup Bank.	At Guide.	At the Offices.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
1864	34.1	34.0	34.43
1865	35.6	33.1	32.68
1866	54.1	53.6	48.98
1867	39.	37.5	37.72
Average of four years	40.52	39.28	38.45

Mr. J. Shackleton of Audley, Blackburn, keeps a private register of the rainfall, which gives the following result for the year 1867. Height of rain-gauge above sea-level, 450 feet; diameter of funnel, 5 inches; total depth of rainfall in the year, 45.66 inches; days on which .01 or more fell, 182; greatest fall in 24 hours, 1.69 inches, on July 17th.

The manufactures of Blackburn appear to have arisen in the time of the Commonwealth, about 1650. The first fabrics for which this place was distinguished were called *Blackburn Checks*, a species of cloth consisting of a linen warp and cotton woof, one or both of which being dyed in the thread, gave to the piece when woven a striped or checked appearance. This article was afterwards superseded by the *Blackburn greys*, so called from the colour, neither the warp nor the weft having been dyed—also a mixture of linen and cotton, generally sent, when manufactured, to London to be printed. The great era of improvements in the cotton business, which opened about the year 1765, led the manufacturers of this district to turn their attention to the making of *calicoes*, which from that time has enormously increased. The invention of the spinning-jenny by James Hargreaves, a carpenter, of Blackburn, in 1767—doing away the disadvantages under which the cotton-weavers laboured owing to the want of yarn, when it was to be produced by the distaff and the spindle—gave a great impetus to this increase.

The history of the cotton trade here since that time has been one of surprising expansion, but of great vicissitude. Periodical crises of fearful severity have temporarily prostrated this great industry, involving employers and workpeople in common ruin, and taxing the utmost capabilities of the community to struggle through them. In 1826 the introduction of power-looms into the parish gave rise to intense popular irritation, which resulted in the wholesale destruction of the new machinery, and other deeds of violence, necessitating military intervention. A sum of nearly £12,000 was at that time paid by the county treasurer as compensation for destruction to mill property in Blackburn hundred. The result of these frenzied excesses was the complete paralysis of trade. Thousands of people in the district were only kept alive by charitable dole of soup and bread, and several well-authenticated cases of death from actual starvation are remembered by old residents. The poor's-rates for the year amounted to 7s. 6d. in the £ upon the assessment. A number of the able-bodied male paupers were employed in cutting a road through the rock along

the heights of Revidge, and a commemorative inscription cut in a stone fixed in the wall now marks the spot. The winter of 1841-2 was also a period of great commercial depression in Blackburn, and a subscription-list was opened for the relief of the destitute. Again, in 1843, the establishment of soup-kitchens became necessary, and 800 quarts of soup per day were dispensed for some time. The commercial distress which overspread the whole kingdom in the winter of 1847-8 was keenly experienced in this neighbourhood. In November 1847, 5268 persons were in weekly receipt of parochial relief in the township of Blackburn; and in December, 12,000 persons applied for assistance to the Relief Committee. A return published at the time shows that out of 13,246 persons then engaged at the cotton-mills in the town and vicinity, 3026 were altogether unemployed, and 8200 only in partial work, while but 2020 were working full time. With the return of profitable trade the extension of the cotton industry here became extremely rapid. From 1850 to 1860 was a period (with the exception of the serious but brief distress caused by the money crisis of 1857) of unrivalled growth and prosperity. The increase of house and mill property during this period was enormous. From 1851 to 1861 the population of the township of Blackburn increased from 46,536 to 63,125, an increase of nearly 37 per cent in the decade. The suburban districts of Witton and Livesey shared in this great extension. From 1861 to the present time (December 1867), the progress of the parish and town has not been proportionately great, having been to some extent arrested by the cotton famine; but the population of the borough of Blackburn is now estimated at 73,500, and of the suburbs at 8000. The great cotton famine of 1862-65 was felt here in its utmost intensity. At the *acme* of the distress, in December 1862, nearly 35,000 persons, or more than one-half the entire population of the town, were subsisting wholly upon the relief dispensed by the Relief Committee and the parochial authorities. In 1834 there were about 170,000 spindles at work in the town and its immediate vicinity, which yielded an average weight of yarn of about 65,000 lbs. weekly, chiefly about 40 hanks to the lb. The number of spinners and weavers was about 11,000, and the annual value of the goods produced by them was estimated at £2,800,000. It is computed that there are now (1867) in the town and immediate neighbourhood of Blackburn 107 cotton-spinning and weaving mills, of which 35 were engaged in both spinning and weaving, 18 in spinning only, and 54 in weaving only; and that the total number of spindles in these mills is about 1,600,000, and the power-looms 40,000. The steam-power available to drive these machines is nearly 9000 horses. In the rest of the parish there are 87 cotton-spinning and weaving mills, estimated to contain 500,000 spindles and 30,000 looms, requiring for their propulsion steam-engines of more than 4000 horse power. The consumption of coal by the cotton-mills in the parish is stated to be 360,000 tons annually. The consumption of cotton by the spinning-mills in the parish is calculated to be 80,000,000 lbs. per annum, or 200,000 bales of 400 lbs. each. The weaving department of the manufacture being more largely pursued in this district than the spinning, the consumption of yarn greatly exceeds the production, and a large quantity is imported from other parts of the county. The weight of cotton required for these looms will be not less than 160,000,000 lbs. per annum, which is equal to 400,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, or nearly one-sixth of the quantity of cotton consumed by the whole kingdom at the present rate of consumption. The number of work-people employed in the parish in the cotton industry is about 48,000, of whom 30,000 are employed in or near the borough of Blackburn. The value of the cotton fabrics produced by the looms of the district is estimated to exceed £9,000,000 per annum.

The development of the cotton-manufacture has been concurrent with, and mainly dependent upon, the invaluable improvements which have been successively introduced into its machinery. The capabilities of the spinning-mule and the power-loom have been from time to time most materially augmented. The parish of Blackburn, albeit it gave birth to the inventor of the spinning-jenny, has been chiefly prolific in mechanicians who have devoted their special attention to the improvement of the power-loom and the machinery accessory to the weaving of cotton fabrics, and that is doubtless the main cause of the greater extension of the weaving than of the spinning branch of the manufacture in this part of Lancashire. Blackburn parish was one of the chief centres of the hand-loom weaving industry for many years prior to the introduction of the power-loom, and several useful improvements in the process of dressing cotton warps for the hand-loom were patented by Blackburn men. The power-loom, as has been already stated, was not introduced here until the year 1826, and during the forty years which have supervened, essential changes have been effected in its structure, and the increase of its powers has been immense. The ingenuity of no small number of able local mechanicians has been concentrated upon the perfecting and cheapening of the power-loom, and with so much success as to have distanced all competitors. Among the more distinguished local inventors may be named Mr. Kenworthy, Mr. John Raiton, Mr. James Bullough, and Mr. John Osbaldeston. The three first of these derived substantial personal advantage from their inventions, but the last, Osbaldeston, was not fortunate, and died at an advanced age in the Blackburn Workhouse in 1862. The Blackburn power-loom is at the present time celebrated, and in demand, not merely in the United Kingdom, but in all parts of the world where the cotton-manufacture is prosecuted. It is one of the neatest and handiest, and, having regard to its size, utility, and elaborateness of construction, perhaps the cheapest machine ever yet produced. The loom-making trade, which combines also the manufacture of sizing, winding, and warping machines, is one of the specialties of this district. Steam-engines and boilers also are made in the local foundries, to the extent, perhaps, of the requirements of the parish, and machinery of other kinds is produced, but the making of power-looms is by far the most considerable branch of the Blackburn machine-trade. The number of mechanics, moulders, and pattern-makers, with apprentices, engaged in the machine-trade in the parish is about 1300.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—From being notable for the paucity of its public buildings, and for the entire absence of architectural embellishment, Blackburn is now at length better supplied with public edifices than most towns of similar magnitude. The first step in this direction was the construction of a *market*, to supersede the street-market which had become a serious nuisance. This was undertaken by the Improvement Commissioners in 1845. The Market-house was built shortly afterwards, after a design by Mr. Terence Flanagan. Its dimensions are—length, 181 feet 6 inches; breadth, 109 feet 6 inches; height, 34 feet 6 inches. At the western end is a campanile tower, 90 feet high, in the upper storey of which is placed a large illuminated clock. The cost of the building was about £8000, but in the laying out of the Market Square, and the purchase of property for its extension, the Commissioners and Corporation have expended altogether some £28,000. The market is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and is considered perhaps the most important market for farm-produce in Mid-Lancashire. It is largely attended by the farmers and market-gardeners residing within a radius of twenty miles, and is the chief source of supply for the numerous towns and villages of East Lancashire. The market-tolls produce a revenue of £3000 per annum, and their value is rapidly increasing. The *Town Hall* was commenced in 1852, and completed in 1856. The cost of the building, with its internal fittings, has been nearly £30,000. It is an imposing edifice in the Italian style of architecture. The western front is 120 feet long, and has an altitude of 62 feet. The building contains a fine assembly-room, 120 feet by 60 feet, with retiring-rooms; a handsome council-chamber with ante-room, two court-rooms, mayor's parlour, and spacious offices for the various departments of the Corporation, with a residence for the chief-constable. The borough magistrates sit daily in the large court-room, and the county magistrates on every Wednesday in the smaller court. The *Exchange* is an elegant Gothic edifice, situated nearly opposite the Town Hall, at the north-western angle of the Market Square. Only a portion of the design of Mr. Brakspere, the architect, has yet (1867) been carried out. The wing which has been erected contains, besides capacious cellars and offices, the large Exchange Hall, 140 feet by 53 feet, with a magnificent open timber roof, richly embossed and panelled, and supported by fluted iron pillars. The *Infirmary* is a noble Italian structure, situated on a commanding knoll at Hollin Bank, on the south side of the borough. The cost of the building and its internal fittings has been about £25,000. This admirable institution was founded by William Pilkington, esq., during his mayoralty in 1856-7. He offered a donation of £2000 to the building fund, and an additional £2000 towards the endowment. These gifts were liberally supplemented by the lord of the manor, Joseph Feilden, esq., and most of the neighbouring gentry and millowners. The working-people in the town and district also contributed about £1200 to the building fund. The Infirmary has

now been in active operation about three years. The *Union Workhouse* is an extensive group of buildings, standing on the summit of a high ridge to the south-east of the town, known as *Whinny Heights*. It was opened in 1864. The cost of this capacious and imposing structure was little short of £30,000. It will accommodate 700 inmates. The *Cemetery* is situated on the *Whalley road*, about a mile to the north-east of the town. It was completed and constituted the sole place of interment for the borough in 1857. There are three Gothic chapels in the grounds—for the Church of England, the Dissenters, and the Catholics—the cemetery being divided into three parts. The affairs of the cemetery are controlled by a burial-board, of which the vicar of Blackburn is at present the chairman. The cost of the land for the cemetery, and the laying out of the same, was about £17,000, borrowed on mortgage of the poor's-rates, of which some £6500 has been repaid, a sinking fund being provided by the overseers of the township for that purpose. The amount still owing on mortgage is £10,350. The income of the burial-board for the year ending 25th March 1867, was £3085 : 17 : 5, of which about £773 was received from burial-fees, grass, and rent of fenced-off land; and the expenditure £2772 : 18 : 8, £1765 of which was appropriated to liquidation of the mortgages, and £545 : 12 : 2 to the payment of interest thereon, leaving £462 : 6 : 6 to represent the annual working expenses of the Board.

The *County Court* is situated on the east side of the market-place,—a neat and substantial building of red brick, faced with stone, opened in 1863. The sittings in this court are weekly, on the Monday, and its jurisdiction extends to all the townships in the Blackburn parochial union. The presiding judge is W. A. Hulton, esq., whose circuit embraces the greater portion of the northern division of the county, including the courts of Blackburn, Chorley, Garstang, Haslingden, Kirkham, Lancaster, Poulton-le-Fylde, and Preston. The number of plaints entered in the Blackburn County Court in the year 1866 was 4329, for a total amount of £13,371, and the number of causes determined was 2516. In 1867 the number of plaints entered had increased to 4467.

Coal is found in the southern end of the parish, and in several parts much gray-(stone) slate is got. In one of the adjoining hills is a mine of alum-stone, which Fuller says was worked in his time, but had long been neglected on account of the increasing expense of removing the superincumbent strata. When Sir G. Colebrook's project of monopolising alum took place, he purchased and worked these mines, but since its failure they have again fallen into neglect.

In the year 1770 the population of the municipal and parliamentary borough of Blackburn amounted to only 5000 souls, and in 1783 to 8000; in 1801, the total number of inhabitants was 11,980; in 1811, 15,083; in 1821, 21,940; and in 1831, 27,091. In 1861 it was by the census returns 63,126.

The town of Blackburn is intersected by two lines of railway—the East Lancashire Railway passing east and west from Burnley to Preston, and the Bolton and Blackburn line passing north and south from Clitheroe to Darwen, Bolton, and Manchester. These two lines were originally constructed by separate companies (the East Lancashire Railway Company and the Bolton, Blackburn, and Clitheroe Railway Company), but they are now both incorporated with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway system. The first railway constructed in the parish was the line from Preston to Blackburn, opened on Whit-Monday 1846; the continuation of this line to Accrington and Burnley was completed in 1848. In 1848, also, the line from Bolton to Blackburn was opened for traffic, and in 1850 the branch to Whalley, Clitheroe, and Chatburn was finished. The amalgamation of these two companies with the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company took place in 1854. A new railway from Blackburn to Chorley and Wigan is now in course of construction, for the joint use of the London and North-Western, and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Companies. It will connect with the existing line to Preston near the Cherry Tree station, about two miles from Blackburn, and will pass through the village of Withnell, in the township of Wheelton, to Chorley, and thence to Wigan, shortening the distance by rail between Blackburn and those towns by many miles.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

In 1847, by virtue of a Local Improvement Act, the affairs of the town were placed under the direction of Improvement Commissioners, by whom the erection of the Market-house and the laying out of the Market-square were carried out, and considerable improvements effected in the lighting, paving, and drainage of the town, as well as by the demolition of many dilapidated and overcrowded tenements in the older portions of the town. By a charter of incorporation, dated August 28, 1851, the town of Blackburn was constituted a corporate borough. The borough was divided into the six wards of St. Mary, St. John, Trinity, Park, St. Peter, and St. Paul; each to return six councillors. The council of the borough to consist of a mayor, twelve aldermen, and thirty-six councillors. The first municipal election took place on the 1st of November 1851. William Hoole, esq., chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, was the returning officer. On the 10th of November the council met for the first time, and elected twelve aldermen. William Henry Hornby, esq., was elected mayor. The following is a list of the mayors of Blackburn from its incorporation to the present time (1867):—

1851-2.	William Henry Hornby, esq.	1859-60.	James Cunningham, esq.
1852-3.	Robert Hopwood, esq., junior.	1860-1.	Thomas Thwaites, esq.
1853-4.	} Thomas Dugdale, esq.	1861-2.	Robert Hopwood Hutchinson, esq.
1854-5.		1862-3.	James Barlow S. Sturdy, esq.
1855-6.	William Hoole, esq.	1863-4.	Thomas Lund, esq.
1856-7.	} William Pilkington, esq.	1864-5.	William Stones, esq.
1857-8.		1865-6.	James Thompson, esq.
1858-9.	John Baynes, esq.	1866-7.	John Dean, esq.
		1867-8.	John Smith, esq.

The public works initiated by the Improvement Commissioners, whose powers are transferred to the Corporation, have been carried out with great energy. During the first sixteen years of its existence, from 1851 to 1867, the Corporation, besides providing for the current charges of the government of the borough, has expended in various works and improvements not less than £300,000—a sum equal to twice the total rateable value of the borough, which is now about £151,000. The indebtedness of the Corporation on the 31st of December 1866 was as under:—