

## THE ANCIENT CORPORATION OF CHEADLE.

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
### THE MOCK MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.


**A**LTHOUGH Cheadle is situated near a coal-field and is also a market town which can trace its manorial lords back from medieval and feudal times to the Domesday Survey, yet it has never become an important industrial centre, nor has it received any charter of incorporation. But there was a short period in its history when some of the leading inhabitants decided to imitate in one respect their near neighbours of Newcastle-under-Lyme. From 1699 till 1729 they chose annually a Mayor who gave a dinner to the self-elected burgesses when he went out of office.

At that time the most important town in North Staffordshire was Newcastle-under-Lyme and undoubtedly the main factor which made the borough so important throughout the middle ages was the acquisition of all sorts of chartered rights, especially the trading privileges. Before recording what has recently come to light about the ancient corporation of Cheadle it will be as well to consider how the administration of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme was carried on, because the Cheadle corporation seems to have been modelled in a minor way on that of Newcastle. We need not consider the early borough charters but it is important to notice that Queen Elizabeth's charter of incorporation granted in 1590 confirmed the right of the *burgesses* to elect a Mayor. The Mayor, two Bailiffs and twenty-four Capital Burgesses were to form the governing body, known as the Common Council, to make bye-laws for the good rule and government of the borough. Thirty years later the Mayor, Bailiffs and Capital Burgesses passed an ordinance that "from henceforth [21 April, 1620] the election of officers for this Borough shall be made by the same Company and that the Commonalty



JOHN LEVESON GOWER,

 First Earl Gower, eldest son of John, Baron Gower of Stittenham, was born in 1694; succeeded to the title in 1709; created Viscount Trentham of Trentham and Earl Gower in 1746, and died in 1754.

 [From a painting by Michael Dahl at Sutton Place, Surrey: by special permission of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland.]

hereafter to be excluded." Again, when the charters of the borough were surrendered into the hands of the King and a new charter was granted by James II in the first year of his reign, 1685, before a year had elapsed the corporation officials confirmed the ordinance of 1620 at a meeting held in the Gildhall on 6 March 1686:—"Ordered that we the present Mayor and Aldermen and the greater part of the surviving Mayor and Aldermen nominated in his Majesty's late most gracious Charter according to the power given unto us therein do vote resolve and agree that the election of all and every Mayor and Mayor's Alderman and Aldermen Bailiff or Bailiffs and all Capital Burgesses and all other officers whatsoever belonging to this Borough shall for ever hereafter be chosen by the Mayor and Aldermen for the time being and the greater part of them."

By this means the burgesses were deprived of the power of exercising their chartered rights: and, finding their attempts to recover their privileges ineffectual, they determined to cast an odium upon the ceremony of election, yet in some measure to retain the semblance of their rights, by electing a Mock Mayor. After the election and proclamation of the Mayor had taken place at the Gildhall by the self-elected Aldermen and Capital Burgesses, the burgesses assembled at the adjacent market cross, and, having proclaimed that the functions of the late Mayor had ceased, they set about electing a new one with all due and legal formality. The new Mayor having been proposed was duly elected by acclamation, in which deliberation only burgesses were allowed to participate. Then followed a eulogy on their late Mayor, who was contrasted with the arrogant and tyrannous usurper, and the proclamation of the newly-elected chief magistrate finished off the proceedings.

How many times this ceremony was enacted it is impossible to say, also when it was instituted is not known.\*

At the Wedgwood museum, Etruria, there is a block mould which has round the rim this quaint inscription:

\*For the history of the picture entitled "The Mock Mayor," see the appendix.



"Jatky Mayson, Mock Mayor of Newcastle, was legally chosen ye 2nd October, 1792." The Mayor officially recorded for that year was William Hyatt, but the burgesses round the market cross had proclaimed "Jatky Mayson". As in 1792, so in 1699—when the records of Cheadle's mock corporation begin—the officials elected by the Newcastle close corporation were: the Mayor, two Bailiffs, two Justices of the Peace, two Receivers of Money, two Mill Reeves, two Churchwardens, two Constables, two Serjeants, two Searchers and Sealers, two Assize lookers and two Fire lookers. Among the permanent officials was the Recorder.

#### MAYORAL ALLOWANCES TO OFFICIALS.

There are various interesting and amusing references in the borough records of Newcastle to the entertainment which was expected from the Mayor. Under date 4 October 1811 occur the two following resolutions:

"Resolved that this Court highly disapproves of a requisition made by the Serjeants at Mace that the Mayor upon going out of office shall give them a public dinner without limitation of the expense." "Resolved that for confining the expenses above mentioned every person who shall in future serve the office of Mayor is hereby desired that if upon going out of office he thinks proper to give a dinner to the Serjeants at Mace he will fix a limit to the expense both of their dinner and liquor." A little later we find that on the Sunday after the Mayor was elected the Serjeants at Mace received egged ale and buttered toast and one shilling each, while the bell-ringers received 48 quarts of ale, a leg of mutton, turnips and apple dumpling. On the Monday also the bell-ringers received more ale, generally about a quart each. When the Mayor went out of office on the Sunday the ringers were to have 48 quarts of ale, followed by 24 quarts next day. On the Tuesday the Serjeants received five shillings each for liquor and two shillings for dinner. It was also the custom for the Mayor to give the ringers on 5 November 12 quarts of ale. In 1825 there was a drastic revision of the allowances and the clauses relating to ale were withdrawn entirely.

## THE CHEADLE CORPORATION MINUTE BOOK.

While we are not able to give the exact date for the first election of a Mock Mayor at Newcastle we can do so for Cheadle. First hand evidence about the mock corporation at Cheadle came to light in October 1929 when there appeared in an auctioneer's catalogue of a sale of books in London this item: "Staffordshire—Original Nomination Book of the Mayors of Cheadle, in Staffordshire, from 1699 to 1729, each nomination having the signature of the retiring Mayor, together with those of the aldermen and the burgesses, octavo, *old sheep, with clasps.*"

This manuscript proved to be an original minute book, the record of which had been almost entirely lost. One piece of indirect evidence about it was preserved at the William Salt Library, Stafford, in a manuscript without date but written during the latter part of the eighteenth century, wherein occurred the following about Cheadle: "This ancient town seems to have been of much higher degree of consideration in days of yore than it is at present, since within living memory some of the heads of the first families in the county have not only graced the election of Mayor of Cheadle with their presence, but have actually been elected mayor in regular annual succession." This reference to Cheadle was inserted in *Notes and Queries*, April 1878, by Mr. J. Ingamells, the compiler of the valuable historical directory of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and he asked "Was Cheadle ever a corporate town?" but he received no reply. Now, after the lapse of rather more than half a century, the original minute book of Cheadle's mock corporation has turned up. Let us see what the little brown sheepskin book, measuring 7in. by 4½in., can tell us about the members of the corporation who year by year enjoyed a special dinner at Cheadle from 1699 to 1729. First of all it is explained that the Mayor and Aldermen of the corporation of the Town of Cheadle after due summons have met to make good laws for the support of the corporation "being legally incorporated as by our Charter (when inspected may appear)." Did



those members who belonged to the legal profession draw up a charter of incorporation?

They may have done so, but where is the document now? Following this preliminary statement occur three regulations: (1) that Thomas Potter, the present Mayor, has the sole right of electing a successor and that this right shall descend to his successors; (2) that the Mayor, after nominating his successor, shall treat all the members of the corporation at his own charge and shall not diminish the revenues of the corporation; (3) that honest gentlemen who are free and willing can join the society in spite of non-residence and they shall enjoy the privileges but must conform to the fundamental laws of the corporation.

These rules were dated 4 September 1699 and were signed by Thomas Potter, the Mayor, and sixteen others including Richard Ensor, J. Parnell, John Turner (his name is crossed out here and in the four other places where it occurs), Cha. Smith, Robert Hurst, Ri. Bynns, Rector of Cheadle, Oba. Lane and Wm. Chaloner.

#### FIRST MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION.

Perhaps all those who were present on this first occasion were local men, though they may not all have been residing in Cheadle. Not until January 1703 was Obadiah Lane lord of the manor of Longton which he then purchased from the Foley family. He was never elected Mayor of Cheadle but his son occupied that office in the year 1716. Richard Ensor may possibly have been the vicar of Ilam as one of that name occurs there in 1669 and his successor Arden Ley is not of record until 1709. Thomas Potter can be identified as the father of a son also named Thomas baptized at Cheadle in 1680.\* He was one of the churchwardens in 1700, attended the mock corporation for the last time in 1710 and was described as Thomas Potter, senior, when he was buried 2 January 1713 (N.S.)† His son Thomas, born in 1680, married

\*The Hon. and Rev. O. St. M. Forester, the Rector of Cheadle, gave me every facility for examining the registers gratis.

†All the dates quoted from the Cheadle Parish Church registers are in the new style of reckoning.

Ann Hurst in 1704 and attended the election of a Mayor on 1 January 1711, but that was the only occasion when he signed the minutes. According to R. Plant's *History of Cheadle* a tablet on the north wall of Cheadle parish church contains a Latin inscription to the memory of Rupert Hurst and Ann his wife, who were born in the parish and whose mortal remains lie buried near those of their ancestors. It is recorded that Rupert died 14 June 1743 aged 45 and Ann 25 April 1759 aged 63; that eight of their children, cut off by a premature death, share their grave; that Robert the eldest son died a bachelor 5 March 1777 aged 55; that Thomas Hurst who erected the tablet died a bachelor 22 October 1816 aged 77; that he was a son of Rupert and Ann and was a Bachelor of Laws. Robert Hurst, who was one of the original members of the Cheadle corporation, was in all probability the father of Rupert baptized 13 December 1695. He was one of the churchwardens in 1691 and again in 1700. On 1 January of the following year he was appointed Mayor of the corporation and attended the meetings until 1719. His burial entry occurs in the parish register on 7 September 1720. When he did not attend the meeting of the corporation on 2 January 1716 his son Rupert on that occasion only was present. The latter married Ann Power in 1718 and when he died in 1743 his age most likely was 48 years and not 45.

John Turner, described in the church register as gentleman, was buried 5 June 1709: his last appearance at the meetings of the Cheadle corporation was on 1 January 1709. William Turner, son of John and Sara, baptized 11 May 1686, was admitted a member of the society on 1 January 1712 and became an alderman 6 December 1714. From the Cheadle parish church registers we see that John Parnell son of John was baptized 29 January 1702. Evidently the father was the one appointed Mayor for 1700. His name occurs regularly in the minute book and on 1 January 1712 he is styled Recorder. Thereafter we see only his signature until on 22 January 1724 he is again styled Recorder. The burial entry in the church register: "John Parnell buried 7 February



1724" seems to be that of his son because the Recorder's characteristic neat signature occurs after the election of a Mayor on 29 September 1725. Then he seems to have resigned and perhaps his resignation was a leading factor in the collapse of the mock corporation, for after this date there are only two more entries, both for 1 January 1729, in the first of which Thomas Harrison is styled Recorder. "Mr." John Parnell was buried 9 March 1740. Mr. William Challoner, who was one of the churchwardens at Cheadle in 1676, may have been the father of William Challoner, an original member of the Cheadle corporation. The son William was baptized 4 July 1667 while Ralph's baptismal entry occurs ten years earlier, 11 June 1657. The latter attended the corporation meetings only in 1709 and 1711. When William Challoner was nominated Mayor of Cheadle by James Witherings, gentleman, 1 January 1709, no less than 48 people signed the minutes—a record! William Challoner, who married Maria Hollins 1 September 1691, regularly attended the corporation meetings until 1714 and he was styled gentleman when he was buried 30 May 1716.

Another regular member of the corporation was Charles Smith, a lawyer, we may presume, judging from this entry in the church registers: "Dorothea, daughter of Caroli Smith, Juris consulti, baptized 8 July 1716." He was appointed Mayor 1 January 1704 and was buried 18 May 1734. On 1 January 1705 Charles Smith nominated Dr. Richard Bynns as the Mayor for that year. The Rev. Richard Bynns D.D. had been appointed Rector of Cheadle in 1698 after Richard Stedman, the late Rector, had been buried on 2 May in that year. Richard Bynns as Rector signed the Cheadle registers for the first time in March 1699 and ten years later his signature occurs again. He attended the mock corporation in 1699, 1701 and 1702, and then there is a gap until 1711 except for his year of office (1705—1706) as Mayor. This gap is accounted for by the fact that the Rev. Richard Bynns had been appointed Rector of St. Mary's, Stafford, in 1703. Matthew Drakeford signed the Stafford parish church registers for the last time as Rector of Stafford in May 1703, and in the



following October in the same register the new Rector, the Rev. Richard Bynns, penned his signature. According to a manuscript at the William Salt Library, Stafford, for his Stafford appointment he received £70 per annum. Besides being Rector of two important parishes in 1711 he became a Prebend of Lichfield Cathedral. At least two of his sermons preached at the August assizes at Stafford in 1710 and 1712 were considered worthy of publication by the High Sheriff, the Grand Jury and the Justices of the Peace. Printed copies of them are in the William Salt Library. The Rev. Richard Bynns attended the corporation meetings on the 1st of January 1711, 1712 and 1713 and in the same year he died. His successor as Rector of Cheadle was Michael Hutchinson who had attended the corporation meeting of 1 January 1706 when Richard Bynns D.D. nominated Mr. Richard Brett to succeed him as Mayor.

#### ELECTIONS OF MAYORS.

On 4 September 1699 after John Parnell had been nominated and appointed the Mayor for 1700 a regulation was passed whereby if any dispute arose between two or more members of the corporation it should be settled by two members indifferently chosen.

In 1701 it was agreed that the Mayor's feast should be held on the Monday after the feast of St. Giles (1 September) commonly called Wake Monday. No doubt this date was chosen because it would be in the holiday week at Cheadle, as the church was dedicated to St. Giles. After 1700 the election of the Mayor took place on New Year's day right down to 1 January 1720 when Edward Mainwaring, esquire, entered on his year of office. In 1703 it was foreshadowed that the first rule of the corporation about the right of electing the Mayor would be altered. Instead of Jeffrey Power, in the first person, nominating and appointing George Barwell to succeed him it is recorded that the retiring Mayor made the appointment at a general assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses. The earlier formula was revived for a few years but on 1 January 1709 James Witherings,

gentleman, appointed his successor "with the consent and advise of the Aldermen and Capitali Burgesses of the said Corporacion," and this was the method of election for the remaining twenty years. The Mayor for 1721 was not elected on 1 January but in the previous September when Edward Mainwaring was presiding at the Mayor's feast. This innovation was continued for two years, but Sir Thomas Fleetwood, the Mayor in 1723, waited until 22 January 1724 before appointing Thomas Harrison to succeed him. The latter reverted to the usual custom and appointed his successor 1 January 1725. William Leveson Gower, esquire, the Mayor for that year, on 29 September, 1725 appointed Samuel Bagnall. Only one other meeting after that date is recorded, *viz.*, 1 January 1729 when Charles Adderley, esquire, appointed Charles Bagot, esquire, to succeed him.

#### THE CORPORATION OFFICIALS.

In 1699 the only official mentioned is the Mayor. At the beginning of 1702 Thomas Spencer is described as mace bearer. In January 1709 besides the mace bearer (John Parker) there are two sergeants and a musician.

In 1711 Madam Ann Hollins was elected Stadtholder and nine other ladies were present to support her election. On a previous occasion in 1704 six ladies had been present and at the beginning of 1712 Mrs. Hollins was continued in office for another year. When she was first elected Stadtholder the vote in her favour was unanimously given by the Mayor and the aldermen who subscribed their names. By an examination of the signatures we see that after the Mayor the Rector of Cheadle signed and then all the ex-Mayors in chronological order, only Thomas Potter and Jeffrey Power being absent. Thus we can infer that members after occupying the mayoral chair automatically became aldermen. But on certain occasions later when new members were admitted some were burgesses and others were enrolled as aldermen. The number of the latter elected in 1714 and 1715 is noteworthy. We have already mentioned that among the corporation officials was the Recorder, John Parnell, who



was succeeded late on by Thomas Harrison. Richard Warner who was a Sergeant along with Samuel Potter in 1709 also occupied the same office with Samuel Taylor in 1713. The only other member to be styled Sergeant was in 1712 the Rev. Rowland Taylor who had been the Mayor in the preceding year. William Shaw, the Musician, is mentioned only once.

#### THE LOCAL CLERGY.

We do not propose to give all the available genealogical and biographical details of the members but only those particulars of the more important members which help to explain the foundation and scope of this mock corporation. It is significant that very many of the local clergy became members of the corporation. We have already mentioned the Rev. R. Bynns, Rector of Cheadle, and Richard Ensor, Vicar of Ilam, at the inception of the Society, and in 1706 the Rev. Michael Hutchinson who succeeded the Rev. R. Bynns as Rector of Cheadle in 1713. There were three additional parsons in 1701. The Rev. John Sherratt, a Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge, who took his M.A. in 1675, was inducted to the living of Draycot-le-Moors 12 October 1678 and was Rector there until his death in 1721. The Rev. John Cope, who signed the minutes describing himself as Vicar of Dilhorne, was appointed in 1700 and remained there till 1721. The Rev. Nathaniel Taylor, son of Samuel, was born at Stafford in 1657 and he matriculated at Pembroke College Oxford 26 March 1675, so that his date of induction in the printed records as Rector of Checkley in 1672 seems doubtful but he was the Rector there till he died in 1703. Was Rowland Taylor who signed the minutes 1 January 1702 the Vicar of Barlaston of record in 1710?

Samuel Langley, who was admitted an alderman of the Cheadle corporation 1 January 1714 was the Rector of Checkley from 1713 till his death in 1738. He may have been related to William Langley who was the Rector of Cheadle in 1650.

Thomas Shipton at Cheadle in December 1714 was born at Drayton Bassett in 1682, son of the Rev. Anthony Shipton,

and he took his degree at Oxford. The Rev. Jonathan Kimberley, born in 1651, became the Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry in 1681 and was there until appointed Rector of Tatenhill in 1713. He was made a Canon of Lichfield in 1684 and when he died in 1719 he was buried in the Lady Chapel of Lichfield Cathedral. The Rev. George Wenman is of record as Rector of Kingsley in 1716 and 1725 and his name is impressed on the sixth bell of the church. The Rev. Daniel Burslem, who signed the Cheadle corporation minutes 1 January 1719, occurs as Vicar of Barlaston in 1721, the patron being Lord Gower. According to S. W. Hutchinson's *Archdeaconry of Stoke-on-Trent* Richard Brett was the Rector of Swynnerton. Last of the local clergy was John Dearle of Stafford, schoolmaster and parson. From 1715 to 1749 he was the Curate of Baswich-with-Walton and he was also Master of King Edward's Grammar School at Stafford. He has left a small diary from which we learn that Mrs. Anne Dearle the elder, the wife of the diarist, died 13 September 1742. The diary is MS. 2006 at the William Salt Library.

#### THE LOCAL GENTRY

Another class strongly represented on the Cheadle corporation was that of the local landed gentry from whom besides those already mentioned the following well-known family names are selected: Hollins, Adderley, Hale, Colclough, Grosvenor, Thornebury, Barbour, Mills, Sneyd, Bagot, Crompton, Mainwaring, Boothby, Fleetwood, Adams, Ashenhurst, Fernyhough, Ashby, Leveson Gower, Bagnall, Bowyer, Cotton, Fletcher and Fenton.

Madam Ann Hollins was the only Stadtholder of record in the Cheadle minutes. From the same family was Copwood Hollins who attended the meetings of the corporation from 1701 to 1704. He was the son of Philip Hollins who had married a daughter of George Copwood and a monument in Dilhorne church has the following inscription: "Here lieth the bcdy of Copwood Hollins, late of Dilhorne Hall, who died August 25th, anno domini 1705, aged 53 years." He died without issue and Dilhorne Hall became the property of



Thomas Harrison, who was the Cheadle Mayor in 1724 and the Recorder in 1729.

The Mayor who succeeded John, Lord Gower, in 1722 was Archbold [Archibald] Grosvenor of Hales Hall near Cheadle. He first attended the corporation meetings in 1704. Before the demolition of Cheadle old church, joining on to the old structure was the vault of the Grosvenor family, the stonework of which was left standing. When this fell in 1870, for several days seven coffins were exposed. On one of them was the following inscription: "Here lies Archibald Grosvenor, Esq., fifth son of Jonas Grosvenor, Esq., of Bishbury, in this county, by Ann his wife, daughter of John Shelsbury, Esq., of the county of Essex. He was bred up in the Army, and when he retired from it, design'd and finish'd that delightful seat, in honour of his lady, call'd Hales Hall. Ob. 26 Sept. 1725." His wife's inscription reads as follows: "Here lies Frances, granddaughter of that great and learned lawyer Sir Matthew Hale, and wife of Archibald Grosvenor, Esq. Ob. 20 Nov. 1736." By will dated 13 June 1727, Frances Grosvenor, widow, charged her farm at Oakamoor with a sum of £10 per annum to be paid to the poor of the parish of Cheadle. When her grandfather, Sir Matthew Hale, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of Charles II, died in 1676 he was then in possession of Hales Hall unrestored which had been bequeathed to him by Selden, the antiquary. The judge would certainly not have approved of the Mayor's feast at Cheadle because he had instructed his grandchildren, including Frances the wife of Archbold Grosvenor: "I will not have you pledge any health, for it is become one of the greatest artifices of drinking and occasions of quarrelling in the Kingdom." Gabriel, Edward and Matthew Hale who attended the meetings of the Cheadle corporation may have been distantly related to the Judge. Let us turn to another local family. Blest Colclough was present on New Year day 1704 and 1709 while Caesar, his elder brother, attended in 1710 and the two following years. Their father was Adam Colclough of Delph House who married Anne Blest of Eccleshall. The latter may be identical with Ann Colclough who

supported the Stadtholder in 1711. Ann Colclough of Delph House, widow, was buried in 1717. It is amusing to notice that when Adam Colclough's sister was baptized in 1636 she is styled Elizabeth "Cowclocks" in the parish church register. In 1719 Caesar Colclough of Delph House, Cheadle, married Anne daughter of Arden Adderley of Hams Hall and widow of Samuel Adderley of Blakenhall. Many entries of the Adderley family occur in the Cheadle church registers. Henry Adderley, gentleman, was buried 8 March 1689. William Adderley, who married Katherine Hammersley in 1709, was one of the churchwardens in 1714 and he died in 1738. Samuel Adderley in 1701 was the first of the family to attend the Cheadle corporation meetings. He was present 1 January 1713, was elected Mayor at the beginning of 1714 and he seems to have been in office for two years, because it was not until 2 January 1716 that Samuel Adderley appointed Nathaniel Lane, Esq., as his successor. Among those who were admitted as aldermen at the end of 1714 and the beginning of 1715 were Ralph Sneyd and Leicester Barbor. The former was born at Bradwell Hall in May 1692, was High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1713 and he died in 1733. The latter was most likely the son of John and Dorothy Barbour of Flashbrook, Staffordshire. Other aldermen admitted 6 October, 1715, in the mayoralty of Samuel Adderley were Arden Adderley, Robert Adderley, D.D., Ralph Adderley and Henry Crompton. The Mayor, Samuel Adderley, seems to be identical with the son of Samuel Adderley who married Catherine daughter of Adam Colclough of Delph House. With his tenure of office the gentry from a wider area began to be enrolled.

George Thornebury who occurs in 1705 would most likely belong to the Thorneburys of Thornebury Hall. John Strongitharm, 1709, is also of local origin. His burial entry occurs 8 July 1724. William Strongetharme son of John and Mary was baptized 5 December 1695.

#### JOHN, LORD GOWER.

It seems that when Edward Mainwaring, the squire of



Whitmore, and Steward of the Manor of Newcastle, was admitted as an alderman 17 June 1715 he was the intermediary whereby John, Lord Gower, from Trentham and a strong supporting contingent from Newcastle-under-Lyme joined the Cheadle society. This happened five years later when Edward Mainwaring, having been elected the Mayor of Cheadle corporation for the year 1720, on 26 September of the same year at the Mayor's feast nominated as his successor for 1721 "the most noble and Right Honourable John, Lord Gower—Baron Gower of Stittenham". Edward Mainwaring's father and grandfather had both been M.Ps. for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and when the latter, elected in 1661, died in 1675, William Leveson Gower was returned in his place. He was elected for the same borough in 1678, 1679, 1680—1, the Convention parliament of 1688 and finally as Sir William Leveson Gower, baronet, in 1689. In appreciation of his parliamentary connection with Newcastle William Leveson Gower gave a piece of communion plate for use in the parish church of St. Giles. The salver bears this inscription: "30 May 1680—The gift of Wm. Leveson Gower, of Trentham, Esq., to the antient and Worshi<sup>pl</sup>. Corporation of New Castle-under-Lyme haveing been thrice successively chosen to serve them as one of their Burgesses in Parliament. The Worshi<sup>pl</sup>. William Middleton being then Mayor—Thomas Oulton, Minister." When the first baronet died in 1691, his son Sir John Leveson Gower filled the vacant seat and from an extract in the corporation records we can see that the relations between the ancient borough and the noble house of Trentham were most cordial. On 28 July 1693 "Ordered that a present of such things as Mr. Mayor shall think fit be sent to Sir John Leveson Gower, Bart. our representative in Parliament be sent to Trentham at such time as Mr. Mayor shall think fit at the Corporation's charge." Sir John continued as one of the M.Ps. for Newcastle in the successive parliaments of 1695, 1698, 1700, 1701 and 1702 but in 1703 on becoming Baron Gower of Stittenham he took his seat in the Upper House until his death in 1709. Between 1709 and 1720 there are recorded in the Newcastle borough minutes

various transactions whereby John, Lord Gower, the second baron, acquired property in the Ironmarket, in the Butchery and the Roebuck stables in the High street. We are not surprised therefore to find that among the people who were present on 26 September 1720 when Lord Gower was elected Mayor of Cheadle for 1721 there was an influential following from Newcastle-under-Lyme, including Thomas Fenton, the Mayor, who on 10 April 1722 was chosen Recorder of the Borough in place of Gilbert Walmisley resigned. Among the other Newcastle people were alderman Samuel Procter who had been the Mayor in 1713 and 1719, alderman James Taylor the Mayor of Newcastle in 1718 and 1733, alderman John Richards the Mayor in 1714 and for half the year 1727, also alderman John Swan the Mayor in 1716. In the Newcastle parish church registers when John Swan was buried 25 March 1721 he was described as Apothecary and Alderman. His son John Swan, M.D., was buried 9 April 1768. For nearly twenty years no member of the Leveson Gower family sat in parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme. Then in 1722 the Hon. Thomas Leveson Gower, third son of the first Baron Gower, was elected for the old borough and he retained the seat till his death in 1727. He came to the Mayor's feast at Cheadle in 1721, while his elder brother William Leveson Gower, who was M.P. for the county of Stafford from 1720 to 1756, supported the eldest brother John, Lord Gower, when he was elected Mayor of Cheadle in 1720, and was himself the Mayor in 1725. When the Newcastle corporation wanted to present a petition to the House of Commons about the directors of the South Sea Company in 1721 they requested, not one of their own M.Ps. to do this favour, but the Hon. William Leveson Gower, the county member. A few years later he gave the sum of fifty-two shillings per annum for ever to be doled out in bread in Newcastle on every sabbath day by one shilling a Sunday and to be charged on the farms at the Hill.

#### THE MAYOR'S BANQUET AT NEWCASTLE.

Several of the gentry who attended at the election of a Mayor at Cheadle in 1720 were also present at the Mayor's



official banquet in Newcastle-under-Lyme a few days later, for there is this minute in the borough records: 4 October 1720: Thomas Fenton, Mayor. "Agreed that the Honourable Mr. Hastings, the Honourable William Leveson Gower, Edward Mainwaring, Esq., Samuel Bagnall, Esq., Henry Crompton, Esq., Edward Sudell, gent., Charles Sudell, gent., Thomas Bowyer, Esq., Jeffery Williams, clerk, Thomas Hart, gent., and William Foden, clerk, be admitted to the rights and privileges of this Borough in Consideration of their good services and generosity to the Corporation and of waiting of Mr. Mayor at his Entertainment." And a year later, 30 October, 1721, it was agreed that: "the Right Hon. John Lord Gower, the Honourable Thomas Leveson Gower, Edward Brett Bainbrig, Esq., Peter Spendelow be admitted freemen, and that Henry Crompton, Esq., the Honourable William Leveson Gower, Jeffery Williams, clerk, Edward Sudell, gent., be restored to the privileges of the Borough."

Within a few years, however, the meetings of the ancient corporation of Cheadle languished, one cause undoubtedly being the resignation of the Recorder, John Parnell. He was present for the last time in January 1724, when it was agreed that a Mayor could be elected although absent. We are told that Thomas Harrison, the Mayor for that year, made generous entertainment at his house at Dilhorne and that the Hon. William Leveson Gower in his absence was elected mayor. After 1725 we have particulars of only one more meeting, *viz.*, on 1 January 1729 when Charles Bagot was elected Mayor in his absence and only seven members were present.

#### JACOBITE SYMPATHISERS.

It seems highly probable that this society owed its origin to the sympathy felt, especially by the clergy and the landed gentry, for the unfortunate Stuarts. Quite a number of similar corporations in different parts of England were founded after the Revolution at the end of 1688 and the beginning of 1689. By 1699, when the Cheadle corporation was founded, the Parliament was considering a possible successor to the English throne after the days of William III and Anne.

The result of the deliberations was the Act of Settlement in 1701, which decided in favour of the Hanoverian Protestant line. The troubled state of England just after Queen Anne's death in 1714 is reflected at Cheadle. In the latter part of 1714 there is an influx to the Cheadle corporation of gentlemen living at some distance away, and when Samuel Adderley, the Mayor in 1715, enrolled several of his relatives as aldermen they were specially described as "persons of loyalty and sound principles." Then at any rate the political leanings of the members of the Cheadle corporation could be well expressed in Dr. John Byrom's verse:—

" God bless the King—I mean our faith's defender—  
 God bless (no harm in blessing) the Pretender.  
 But who pretender is, or who is King—  
 God bless us all, that's quite another thing."

But when the 1715 Jacobite rebellion had failed and the country began to settle down under Walpole's peaceful guidance interest in the Cheadle corporation waned, locally at any rate, and the distinguished members from a distance did not always find it convenient to attend and so the society became defunct. Were any of these well-known Staffordshire gentlemen members of the Staffordshire Blue Coat Hunt, the members of which, according to Maud Wyndham in *Chronicles of the Eighteenth Century*, showed their political sympathies by going out hunting with the hounds clothed in tartan and the fox in a military red coat?

#### THE HANLEY VENISON FEAST.

Perhaps the most interesting local connexion with this ancient corporation is that of the Leveson-Gower family, because it suggests the probable origin of the Hanley Venison Feast. When the Right Honourable John, Lord Gower, was appointed the Mayor of Cheadle for 1721 it was mentioned that he had shown "several marks of his favours towards the Corporation of Cheadle." Perhaps one of these marks of favour was the gift of a haunch of venison. His two brothers, William Leveson Gower and Thomas Leveson



Gower, were also members of the corporation and the former occupied the mayoral chair in 1725. John, Lord Gower, in 1746 was created Viscount Trentham of Trentham and Earl Gower, and when he died in 1754 he was succeeded by his third son Granville who was born in 1721. Granville Leveson Gower, second Earl Gower, was created Marquess of Stafford in 1786, three years after he had given a haunch of venison at the foundation of the Hanley Venison Feast. It is not unreasonable to suppose that, as he must have heard about the ancient Cheadle corporation from his father and his uncles, he may have been one of the founders of a similar corporation in Hanley. His son and successor George Granville Leveson Gower, the second Marquess of Stafford, married Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, and he was created Duke of Sutherland in January 1833. Both he and the succeeding Dukes of Sutherland have continued the yearly custom of providing venison for the Mock Mayor's feast at Hanley.

The mock corporations of Cheadle and Newcastle-under-Lyme are but a memory of the past, but the Hanley Venison Feast is still an interesting annual function in North Staffordshire.

#### TRANSCRIPT OF THE CHEADLE CORPORATION MINUTE BOOK.

Folio 1. Wee the Maior & Aldermen of the Corporacion of the Towne of Cheadul in the County of Stafford being legally incorporated as by our Charter (when inspected may appeare) and being now vpon due sumons assembled together to consult of & make some wholsom & good Laws for ye support of our Corporacion.

Doe first agree & order that Mr. Thomas Potter present Maior shall haue the sole choice and nominacion of a Maior to succeed him for the yeare ensueing and that the succeeding Maior shall likewise haue the sole and absolute power and eleccion of another for the yeare ensueing & so de anno in annum imperpetuum.

2. It is ordered that the Maior for the time being shall alwaies at the end & expiration of his yeare & when he shall elect another entertain & treate all the Corporacion at his own charge & not vse or anywise diminish the revenues of this Corporacion.

Folio 1 verso. 3. Wee do agree & consent that all such honest gentlemen as are free & willing to be members of our Corporacion may & shall be admitted into our society notwithstanding there non-residence within the said Corporacion and shall enjoy all the freedoms and priviledges thereof provided they agree & conforme themselves to the fundamentall Lawes of our Company and corporacion. Witness our hands the 4th day of September. Anno Domini 1699.

Tho: Potter, Maior. John Stubbs. Gabriel Morel. Richard Ensor. Jos: Hayne. J. Parnell. Jese Smith.

Folio 2. ~~John Turner~~. Jeffrey Power. Will: Potter, Junr. Cha: Smith. Jno. Power. Robt. Hurst. Ri: Bynns, Rector of Chedull. Oba: Lane. Geo. Barnes. Wm. Chaloner.

Folio 2 verso [blank].

Folio 3. 4<sup>o</sup> September, 1699. I do hereby nominate & appoint Mr. John Parnel to succeed me as Maior of & for the Corporacion of Cheadle for the year ensuing & do assign over & give vp ye rule government & management of the same vnto him nothing doubting of his good government thereof. Tho: Potter.

4<sup>o</sup> September, 1699. After the nomination of the Maior for the yeare ensuing itt is hereby assented vnto that if any difference shall happen betweene any two or more persons members of this corporacion such persons in difference doe oblige themselves to abide the award of two persons indifferently chosen between the persons in difference to bee chosen out of the members of the said corporacion provided this shall nott extend to any matters that are relateing to any other persons nott subscribing or nott relateing to this Society.

Folio 3 verso [blank].

Folio 4. 1<sup>o</sup> Januarii 1700—1. I doe hereby nominate & appoint Mr. Robert Hurst to succeed me as Maior of and for



the Corporacion of Cheadle for the yeare ensueing and doe assigne over & give up the Rule Government & management of the same unto him nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. J. Parnell.

The members present the day and yeare abovesaid: John Stubbs. Jo: Cope, Vic[ar] Dil[horne]. ~~Jo: Turner~~ John Stebbing. Ri: Bynns. Oba: Lane. Jeffrey Power. Geo. Barwell. Wm. Cartwright. Nath: Tayler. Copwood Hollins. Tho: Potter, Jr. Geo: Barnes. Simon Lodge. John Sherratt. Charles Booth. Richd. Sherratt. Robt. Hurst, Maior.

Folio 4 verso. These whose names are vndersubscribed enrolled since the 20th of June, 1701. And it is vpon a most serious consideracion agreed without alteracion that the most solemne Feast of the said Maior shall bee kept on the Munday after the feast of St. Giles commonly called the Wake Munday, this Order being in the time of the Mayoralty of Mr. Robt. Hurst. Persons present:

Robt. Hurst, Maior. Saml. Adderley, J. Parnell. ~~Jno. Turner~~ Wm. Chaloner. Jo: Haynes. Test: Jo: Derbey.

Folio 5. 1<sup>o</sup> Januarii 1701—2. I doe hereby nominate & appoint Mr. Jeffry Power to succeed me as Mayor of & for the Corporacion of Cheadle for the yeare ensueing & doe assigne over & give up the Rule Government & management of the same unto him nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Robt. Hurst.

The members present the day & yeare abovesaid: J. Parnell. Simon Lodge. James Withering. Geo: Barnes. George Hollins. ~~John Turner~~ Row: Taylor. George Gilbert. William Cock. Cha: Smith. George Boyson. Tho: Bourne. Chr: Adams. Geo: Barwell. Edw. Harrison. Tho: Potter, Jr. Jno. Browne. Ed: Oildfield. Thomas Spencer, mase bearer.

Folio 5, verso. Jan. ye 1st 1701. Copwood Hollins. Ri: Bynns. Charles Booth. Jeffrey Power, Mayor.

Folio 6. 1<sup>o</sup> Januarii 1702—3.

Att a Generall assembly of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgeses Mr. Power Mayor did nominate & appoint Mr. George

Barwell to succeed him as Mayor for the Corporation of Cheadle for the yeare ensueing & did assigne over & give up the Rule Government & management of the same.

Folio 6, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> Januarii 1703—4.

I George Barwell doe nominate & appoint Mr. Charles Smith to succeed me as Mayor of & for the Corporation of Cheadle for the ensueing yeare and I doe assigne over & give up the Rule Government and management of the same.

Geo : Barwell.

Then present : Ann Hales, Ann Colclough, Elizabeth Gaywood, Anne Barnes, Elizabeth Sherratt, Bridget Colclough, Archbold Grosvenor, Copwood Hollins, Tho : Potter.

Folio 7. J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Jeffrey Power, John Stebbing, Tho. Cartwright, Blest Colclough, Gabriell Barnes, James Withering, Anthoney Belcher, Charles Smallwood, Tho. Yeamans, James Alkin, John Turner, John Bill, Richd. Brett, Tho. Lynier, Thomas Stubbs, Alexander Barker, Joseph Mould.

Folio 7, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1704—5. I Charles Smith present Mayor of this Corporation of Cheadle doe nominate & appoint Dr. Richard Bynns to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporation for the yeare ensueing. And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Management and Government of the same. Cha : Smith, Mayor. Then present : Tho. Potter, J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Jeffrey Power, Geo. Barwell, J. Tombes, Tho : Cartwright, Row : Taylor, Jo. : Cope,

Folio 8. Capital Burgesses [smudged out]. James Withering, Will : Harvey, George Stubs, William Froghall, Anthoney Belcher, Tho : Yemans, Jno : Parker, Richard Warner, Samuel Potter, Geo. Thornebury, Wm. Snape.

Folio 8, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1705—6. I Richard Bynns D.D., present Mayor of this Corporation of Cheadle doe nominate & appoint Mr. Richard Brett to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporation for the yeare ensueing and I doe assigne over and give up the Rule management and Government of the same. Ri : Bynns, Mayor. Richd. Sherratt, Cha : Smith, James Alkin, Will : Harvey, John Sherratt, J. Parnell, Jeffrey Power, John Johnson, Robt. Hurst, Geo. : Barwell, Row :



Tayler, James Withering, Nathl. Lane, Mich : Hutchinson, Wm. Hill, Richd. Brett.

Folio 9 [blank].

Folio 9, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1706—7. I Richard Brett present Mayor of this Corporacion of Cheadle doe nominate & appoint Mr. Thomas Lymer to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporacion for the ensueing yeare. And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Government & management of the same. Richd. Brett, J. Parnell, Jeffrey Power, Geo. Barwell, Robt. Hurst. Cha : Smith, John Stebbing, Nathl. Lane, Tho : Cartwright, Humph. Batchelor.

Folio 10. Jno. Darlinson, Leicestr. Barbour, Geor : Kent, James Withering, Rowland Taylor, James Alkin, Thomas Lymer.

Folio 10, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1707—8. I Thomas Lymer present Mayor of the Loyall Corporacion of Cheadle doe with the consent & advice of the Aldermen & Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporacion nominate & appoint Mr. James Witherings to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporacion for the yeare ensueing. And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Government Authority & management of the same. Tho : Lymer. Tho : Potter, J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Jeffrey Power, Geo. : Barwell, Cha. : Smith, Richd. Brett, James Witherings, Tho : Milles, Ja : Smith.

Folio 11. Saml. Clowes, Saml. Alcock, John Stebbing, William Feilding, Geo : Gilbert, Nathaniell Burd, John Belcher, Richard Ball, Thomas Cock, John Bower.

Folio 11, verso [blank].

Folio 12. primo Januarii 1708—9. I James Witherings, Gent., present Mayor of ye Loyall Corporacion of Cheadle doe with the Consent and advise of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporacion Nominate and appointe Mr. William Challoner to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporacion for the yeare ensueing. And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Government authority and management of the same. James Witherings. J. Parnell, Rob. Hurst, Jeffrey Power, Geo. Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer.

Folio 12, verso. Nathl. Lane, John Stebbing, Row : Tayler, ~~John Turner~~, Tho : Potter, Junr., Blest Colclough, Thomas Milton, Ra : Challoner, John Bower, Tho : Lea, Step : Deakon, John Hill, Charles Booth, James Rotheram, Wm. Jackson, Anth : Warilow.

Folio 13. John Taylor, Daniel Tipper, John Bill, Samuel Taylor, Edwd Buxton, John Nixon, Wm. Frost, John Edows, Jos. Phillip, Geo : Stubbs, Wm. Young, Will : Harvey, Tho : Norrey, Thomas Johnson.

Folio 13, verso. John Dutton, John Strongitharne, Thomas Lees, James Lees, Henry Bradshaw, Edward Hough, Jno. Parker : mase bearer.

Richd. Warner	}	Sergeants.
Samll. Potter		

William Shaw, Musician. Total 48.

Folio 14 recto and verso [blank].

Folio 15. Monday 1<sup>o</sup> January 1709—10. I William Challoner, gentleman, present Mayor of this Corporation of Cheadle doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen & Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate & appoint the Reverend Mr. Rowland Taylor to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing yeare. And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Government Authority & management of the same nothing doubting of his good government thereof. Wm. Chaloner.

Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Cæsar Colclough, John Stebbing, James Rotheram, Tho : Milton, Will. Hill, Archd Grosevenor, Tho : Potter, J. Parnell, Jeffrey Power, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett.

Folio 15, verso [blank].

Folio 16. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1710—11. I Rowland Taylor Clerke, present Mayor of this Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice & consent of the Aldermen & Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate & appoint the Reverend Mr. John Sherratt to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing yeare And I doe assigne over & give up the Rule Authority & management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Rowland Tayler, Mayor. Richard



The day of 43rd in the putting of  
 mentioned the Mayor & Aldermen who  
 subscribed to the petition do ~~agree~~  
 unanimously make choice of Madam  
 Anne Hollins to be Stadtholder  
 of the said Corporation  
 Anna Hollins  
 Anne Colclough  
 Eliza Sherratt  
 Anne Barnes  
 Anne Mountfort  
 Anna Small  
 Anna Sherratt  
 Joseph Hume  
 Dorothy Sherratt  
 Elizabeth Horchild

ANN HOLLINS ELECTED STADTHOLDER.

Bynns, J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Geo. Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Wm. Chaloner.

Folio 16, verso. The day & yeare in the preceding Page mentioned the Mayor & Aldermen who subscribed theire names doe unanimously make choice of Madam Anne Hollins to bee Stadtholder of the said Corporation.

Ann Hollins, Ann Colclough, Eliz : Sherratt, Anne Barnes, Anne Mountfort, Ann Small, Ann. Sherratt, Sarah Shawe, Dorothy Sherratt, Rebeca Taylor [?] Child.

Folio 17. Att the same time present : Tho : Milton, Ra : Challoner, Tho : Potter, Jr., John Johnson, Samuell Taylor, William Snape, Will : Hill, J : Tombs, Cæsar Colclough, Charles Booth, John Parker, Mace Bearer ; Samuel Potter, Richard Warner, Mace Bearers [? Sergeants].

Folio 17, verso [blank].

Folio 18. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1711—12. I John Sherrat, Clerke, present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate & appoint Thomas Mills, gent. to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing yeare And I doe assigne over & give up the Rule Authority & Management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof And that Mrs. Hollins be continued Stadtholder for the ensuing yeare. John Sherratt, Mayor. Ric : Bynns, Alderman, Row : Taylor, Clerke, J. Parnell, Recorder, Robt. Hurst, Jeffrey Power, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Wm. Chaloner, Thomas Lymer, James Witherings.

Folio 18, verso. The Worthy persons who have subscribed their names were present att the election of the Mayor in the preceding Page named and are agreed to be admitted into the Society.

Mar : Langdale, Tho : Stubbing, Wm. Cavendish, Cæsar Colclough, J. Gent, William Turner, Ralph Hawys, Geor : Kent, Tho : Milton, Tho : Johnson.

Agreed to Tho : Milles.

Folio 19 [blank].

Folio 19, verso. [blank].



Folio 20. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1712—13. I Thomas Mills, gentleman, present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation Nominate and appoint Mr. Thomas Johnson to succeed me as Mayor for the yeare ensuing And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Authority and Management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Tho : Milles, Ri : Bynns, John Sherratt, Row : Taylor, Wm. Chaloner, Robt. Hurst, Geo. : Barwell, James Witherings, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, J. Parnell, Tho : Johnson, Mayor Elect.

Folio 20, verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1712—13. The Persons who have subscribed their names are admitted Aldermen or Burgesses & were present at the Election of Mr. Thomas Johnson, Mayor. Samll. Adderley, Jn. Lister, Will. Mills, George Mills, Geor : Kent, Jeffrey Power, Tho : Milton, Samuel Gent, John Parkinson, Wm. Goodwin, Joseph Wood, George Adamson, James Bradshaw, John Mills, John Strongitharne, Richard Hurlstone, John Bradshaw, John Parker, Mace Bearer ;

Richd. Warner	}	Sergeants.
Samll. Taylor		

Folio 21 [blank].

Folio 21, verso. [blank].

Folio 22. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1713—14. I Thomas Johnson present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen & Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Samuel Adderley, Esq. to succeed me as Mayor for the yeare ensuing And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Authority and management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Tho : Johnson, J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Geo : Barwell, Cha. Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, Ja : Witherings, Wm. Chaloner, Row : Taylor, John Sherratt, Tho : Milles, Samll. Adderley.

Then present & admitted as Aldermen : Samll. Langley, J. Wheeler.

Folio 22, verso. Tho : Milton, Geo. Oxenham, Geo. Kent,  
<sup>His</sup>  
<sup>Mark</sup>  
 Jno. Bradshaw, Richd. Bull, Richard Warner, Sam : Bucknall.

Folio 23. 6<sup>o</sup> December 1714. Att a Court held at Cheadle the Mayor and Aldermen present Wee who have hereunto subscribed our names doe desire to [be] admitted as Aldermen of the Corporation of Cheadle and doe promise to be obedient to the Rules thereof. Ra : Sneyd, Ch : Bagot, Christr. Jones, Leicestr. Barbour, Tho. : Shipton, Natha : Phillips, William Turner,

9<sup>o</sup> Feb : 1714—15. Godf. Watkinson.

Folio 23, verso. 17<sup>o</sup> January 1715. Then Edward Mainwaring, Esq. humbly desired to be admitted as Alderman fo the Corporation of Cheadle & at the same tyme Thomas Jodrell, gent. desired the like admittance & both of them doe promise to advance the Interest of the same Corporation to bee subject to the Rules thereof & to doe & performe what Rules and Injunctions are incident thereunto.

E. Mainwaring .

Tho : Jodrell.

Att the same tyme present, Samll. Adderley, J. Parnell, Geo. Barwell, James Witherings, cum multis aliis.

Folio 24. 6<sup>o</sup> October 1715. The worthy Gentlemen who have subscribed theire names (persons of Loyalty & sound principles) have desired to bee inrolled as Aldermen of this Ancient Corporation of Cheadle and have promised to bee subject to the Rules and orders & to advance the Interest of the said Corporation And therefore are admitted as worthy members thereof.

Then present :

Samll. Adderley,

J. Parnell

Arden Adderley

Robt. Adderley D.D.

Ra : Adderley

Hen : Crompton.

Folio 24 verso [blank].

Folio 25. Monday 1<sup>o</sup> January 1715—16. I Samuel Adderley present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall



Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Nathaniel Lane, Esq. to succeed me as Mayor for the yeare ensuing And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule authority and management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Samll. Adderley.

J. Parnell, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, John Sherratt, James Witherings, Rowland Taylor, Tho : Johnson, Edw. Taylor, Isick [?] Stringer, Rupert Hurst, Edward Peleter, Samuell Bradshaw.

Folio 25 verso. [blank].

Folio 26. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1716—17. I Nathaniel Lane, Esq. present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Henry Crompton, Esq. to succeed me as Mayor for the yeare ensuing And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Authority and management of the same not doubting of his good Government thereof. Nathl. Lane,

J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, James Witherings, Row : Taylor, John Sherratt, Tho : Milles, Tho : Johnson, Hen. Crompton.

Folio 26 verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1716—17. Then present at the election of Henry Crompton, Esq. Mayor for the ensuing yeare who desire to bee admitted members of the Corporation, Brooke Boothby, Tho : Fleetwood, Will. Adams, Richd. Jackson, Junr., Tho : Shelley, Jno. Sherratt, Tho : Barbor, Jonathan Kimberley, Jno. Allanson, John Savage, Warine Falkner, George Cookes.

Folio 27 [blank].

Folio 27 verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1717—18. I Henry Crompton, Esq. present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate & appoint John Wheeler, Esq. to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing yeare And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule authority and management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof. Hen : Crompton.

J. Parnell, Robt. Hurst, Geo. Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, James Witherings, Rowland Taylor, John Sherratt, Tho : Johnson, Nathl. Lane. J. Wheeler.

Folio 28. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1717—18. Then present the persons who have subscribed their names who desire to be admitted members of the Corporation and promise to be obedient to the Rules and orders thereof Gabr. Hale, J. Foley, Jno. Sparrow, F. Ashenhurst, Geo. Wenman, John Coyney, Wm. Saunders, Jon. Parnell, Junr., Jno. Amery, Jno. Power, Junr., John Allen, Jun.

Folio 28 verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1718—1719. I John Wheeler, Esq., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Brook Boothby, Esq., to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing year And I do assign over and give up the Rule authority and management of the same nothing doubting of his good Government thereof.

J. Wheeler.

Hen : Crompton, Nathl. Lane, John Sherratt, Row : Taylor, Robt. Hurst, Tho : Milles, J. Parnell, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Tho : Johnson. Brooke Boothby.

Folio 29. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1718—19.

The Persons who have hereunto subscribed their names desire to be admitted members of the Corporation of Cheadle and promise to be subject & obedient to [the] Rules and orders thereof.

Robt. Foley, Matt. Hale, Daniel Burslem, D. Fernyhough, Wm. Fixhall, Jn. Allen, Wm. Ashby, Edward Hale, Jno. Phillips, John Power, John Dearle, Robt. Bill.

Folio 29 verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1719—20. I Brooke Boothby, Esq., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the same Corporation nominate and appoint Edward Mainwaring Esq. to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing year and I doe assign over and give up the Rule Authority and management of the same not doubting of his good Government & Inclination to advance & preserve the Interest



thereof. Brooke Boothby. J. Wheeler, Nathl. Lane, J. Parnell, Geo. Barwell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Rowland Taylor, Tho : Johnson.

Folio 30. 1<sup>o</sup> January 1719—20. The worthy Persons underwritten desire to be members of the Corporation & promise to be obedient to the Rules & Customes thereof and as such have subscribed their names.

Gore Boothby, Math. Hale, Boyddell, Brailsford, R. Buxton, Tho : Ravenhill.

Folio 30 verso [blank].

Folio 31. 26<sup>o</sup> September 1720. The most noble and Right Honorable John Lord Gower, Baron Gower of Stitttenham (after severall markes of his favours towards the Corporation of Cheadle) Having this day been pleased to honour the said Corporation with his presence, I Edward Mainwaring, Esq., present Mayor By and with the unanimous consent and approbation of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation Doe nominate and appoint the said John Lord Gower to succeed me as Mayor of the said Corporation for the ensueing year And do assign over & give up the Rule Authority and Management of the same not doubting but his Lordship will govern according to the antient and fundamentall Customes and Interest of the said Corporation. E. Mainwaring. Hen : Crompton, J. Wheeler, J. Parnell, Geo : Barwell, Cha : Smith, Row : Taylor, Rd. Brett, Tho : Lymer, James Witherings, Tho : Johnson, Gower.

Folio 31 verso. 26<sup>o</sup> September, 1720. The Gentlemen who have hereunto subscribed their names being present at the Election of the Mayor for the Corporation of Cheadle for the ensueing yeare doe desire to be admitted members of the said Corporation & promise to be obedient to the Rules and customes thereof. And as such have subscribed their names. Wm. Leveson Gower, Sam. Bagnall, John Bowyer, Walt : Cotton, Paul Smith, Geo : Fletcher, Ed : Leigh, Edw. Gilmore, Joh : Perkes.

Folio 32. Mat. Wright, Edward Smith, Ed : Williamson, James Rhode, Richd. Mountfort, T. Fenton, Saml. Procter, John Swan, John Richards, Ja : Taylor.

26<sup>th</sup> Septemb: 1720

Let most noble and right Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Lord Gower —  
 Baron Gower of Stratford (after several months of his absence  
 towards his Corporation and Pleaded) Being this day 26<sup>th</sup>  
 1720 to cause the said Corporation with his Pleas — —  
 of Edward Manwaring Esq<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Mayor By and with the  
 unanimous consent and approbation of the Aldermen and  
 Livery Burgesses of the said Corporation He nominated and agreed  
 the said John Lord Gower to succeed in and Mayor of the said  
 Corporation for the ensuing year And do again obliging  
 the said Corporation and Manwaring of the said Corporation  
 and his Lordship will govern according to the ancient and  
 undoubted Customs and Statutes of the said Corporation

Robt. Sayer  
 A. Bell  
 Tho: Lymer  
 James Withering  
 Tho: Johnson  
 Gower  
 Hen: Crompton  
 Wheeler  
 Darnell  
 Geo: Barroett  
 Ma: Little

THE ELECTION OF JOHN, LORD GOWER, AS MAYOR.



Folio 32 verso [blank].

Folio 33. 19<sup>o</sup> September, 1721. I John Lord Gower present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the unanimous consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Archbold Grosvenor, Esq., to succeed me as Mayor for the year ensuing And I doe assign over and give up the Rule Authority and Management of the same not doubting of his good Government thereof. Gower. Hen: Crompton, J. Wheeler, Brooke Boothby, J. Parnell, Tho: Milles, Richd. Brett, Tho: Lymer, James Witherings, Tho: Johnson, Archd. Grosvenor.

Folio 33 verso. 19<sup>o</sup> September, 1721. The Gentlemen who have hereunto subscribed their names being present at the Election of the Mayor for the ensuing year Doe desire to be admitted members of the said Corporation and doe severally promise to be obedient to the Rules and Customes thereof.

John Beresford, Junr. Stay. Wood, John Hollins, Bap. Croft [?], Wm. Hollins, W. M. Lathroby [?], Joseph Wharton, T. Leveson Gower, Edw: Purcell, Tho: Sleigh, Jo: Whitehurst, Paul Smith.

Folio 34. Tho: Harrison, John Doody, Will: Barbor Richd. Beech, Thos. Crompton, G: Williamson.

Folio 34 verso [blank].

Folio 35. 25<sup>o</sup> September, 1722. I Archbold Grosvenor, Esq., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Sir Thomas Fleetwood, Barronet, to succeed me as Mayor for the ensuing yeare And I doe assigne over and give up the Rule Authority and management of the same not doubting of his good Government thereof. Archd. Grosvenor,

Gower, Hen. Crompton, J. Wheeler, J. Parnell, Cha: Smith, Richd. Brett, Tho: Mills, Tho: Lymer, James Witherings, Tho. Johnson. Tho: Fletewood.

Folio 35 verso. 25<sup>o</sup> September, 1722. The Gentlemen who have hereunto subscribed their names being present at the Election of the Mayor for the year ensuing Doe desire

to be admittid members of the Corporation of Cheadle and doe severally promise Obedience to the Rules and Customes thereof.

W. Littleton, Richd. Wilkes, Jno. Hawe, Geo : Langley, Saml. Roycroft, Edwd. Allen, Jno. Baily, R. Freeman, Geo. Gilbert, Sam : Steward.

Folio 36. 22<sup>o</sup> January 1723/4.

I Sir Thomas Fleetwood, Bart., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice and consent of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation and according to the most ancient custome thereof nominate & appoint Thomas Harrison, gent. to succeed me as Mayor for the ensueing year And I doe assign over & give up the Rule Management Authority and Government of the same not doubting but he will steadily pursue the steps of those Noble right Honourable Worshipfull gentlemen his Predecessors. Tho : Fletewood. Thomas Lymer, J. Wheeler, J. Parnell, Cha : Smith, Richd. Brett, James Witherings, Tho : Johnson Tho : Harrison.

Folio 36 verso. 22<sup>o</sup> January 1723/4. The Gentlemen who have hereunto subscribed their names being present at the Election of the Mayor for the ensueing year Doe desire the honour to be admittid members of the said Corporation of Cheadle & doe severally & respectively promise obedience to the Rules Orders & Customes thereof.

Folio 37. 22<sup>o</sup> January 1723/4. Whereas It is observed that severall Worthy Persons have not duely mett and attended *having had timely\** notice contrary to the ancient & known Rules of this Corporation of Cheadle & to which they have assented unto & subscribed their names Now Itt is agreed by the present Mayor, the Mayor Elect and the Aldermen present who have subscribed their names that nothingshall bee an excuse from henceforward for any member of this Corporation's not attendance upon due summons but what shall be allowed by the Mayor & Aldermen or the greater number of them but if any member shall not appear upon summons as aforesaid & shall be elected Mayor by the Mayor

\* "having had timely" inserted over "upon due" crossed out.



in being & the Majority of the Aldermen such Election shall be as valid as if that member so to be elected had been present.

Mayor : Tho : Fletewood.

Mayor Elect : Tho : Harrison

Cha : Smith, J. Wheeler, Richd. Brett, J. Parnell : Recorder.

Folio 37 verso. Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Tho : Johnson.

Folio 38. 1<sup>o</sup> January, 1724/5. This day Thomas Harrison, gent., Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle made a generous entertainment at his house in Dilhorne within the Liberties of the said Corporation and at the same time with the unanimous consent of the Aldermen & Capitall Burgesses of the same Corporation did nominate & appoint the Honorable William Leveson Gower, Esq., who (though at that time absent) it was not doubted but he would accept of the Government of the said Corporation & be obedient to the Rules and Orders thereof as well through his great inclination to the said Corporation as also in Obedience to an order made the two and twentieth day of January 1723/4.

Folio 38 verso [blank].

Folio 39. 29<sup>o</sup> September, 1725. I, William Leveson Gower, Esq., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the advice consent and unanimous approbation of the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Samuel Bagnall, Esq., to succeed me as Mayor for the succeeding year and I doe assign over and give up the Rule authority & management of the same being fully satisfied that he will govern the said Corporation with the greatest care prudence & Judgement.

W. Leveson Gower.

J. Parnell, Cha : Smith, Rd. Brett, Thomas Lymer, James Witherings, Tho : Mills, Tho : Johnson, Gower, Tho : Harrison. Sam : Bagnall.

Folio 39 verso [blank].

Folio 40. 29<sup>o</sup> September, 1725. The Gentlemen who have hereunto subscribed their names being present at the Election of the Mayor for the year ensuing Doe desire to be

admitted members of the said Corporation of Cheadle & doe severally promise to be obedient to & be governed by the Rules and Customes thereof. Wm. Cecil, Ed : Brett Bain-  
brigge, Sam : Alleyne, Chas. Fowler, Tho : Garbett.

Folio 40 verso [blank].

Folio 41. 1<sup>o</sup> January, 1729. I, Charles Adderley, Esq., present Mayor of the Corporation of Cheadle Doe with the Advice, consent and unanimous approbation of the Aldermen and Capitall Burgesses of the said Corporation nominate and appoint Charles Bagot, Esq., to succeed me as Mayor for the succeeding year and I do assign over and give up the Rule, authority & management of the same being fully satisfied that he will govern the said Corporation with the greatest care, prudence & Judgement. And although absent in conformity to a former Order of the 22nd of January 1723/4 he being duely summoned doubt not but he'll willingly & chearfully accept the said office. Charles Adderley, Mayor. Cha : Smith, Sam : Bagnall, Cæsar Colclough, Tho : Lymer, James Witherings, Tho : Harrison : Recorder.

Folio 41 verso. 1<sup>o</sup> January, 1729. The Gentlemen whose names are subscribed being present at the Election of a Mayor for the year ensueing desire to be admitted members of this Corporation & hereby promising to be governed by the Rules & Customes thereof. William Martin.

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[On folio 42 a large rough sketch of a ship appears. Four more sketches of ships, small and of Viking type, appear on the recto of folio 43. The remaining fifty folios are blank. Three folios appear to be torn out at the end.]

## APPENDIX.

### THE MOCK MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

The most valuable painting in the possession of the borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme hangs in the council chamber of the old town hall. The inscription on it is : " The Mock Mayor " — " Presented to the borough by Joseph Mayer, F.S.A., 1880." The picture was painted in commemoration of the





THE MOCK MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.

election of 1833 for Mr. Joseph Mayer, silversmith of Liverpool, and it was exhibited at the Literary and Scientific Institution in 1844. Etchings of the picture, done by W. Buss, occasionally can be met with locally. Mr. Joseph Mayer was especially interested in the mayoral election of 29 October 1833 because his father was then chosen for the first legally elected chief magistrate of the borough when the burgesses had regained their privileges by a long action at law against the self-elected Corporation. The case "The King v. Hatton" (the Mayor for 1832) came before the Court of King's Bench and was decided against the Corporation. Other cases against the Mayors for some years back (J. Eldershaw Phillips, James Astley Hall, George Hall, William Edwards, Robert Bull), as also cases brought against the Bailiffs were allowed to go by default, and the burgesses exercised their rights when they elected Samuel Mayer, of Thistleberry house, in 1833. But so firmly had the custom of electing a Mock Mayor become established that, although the people had a Mayor of their own choice, still they loved the fun it created, and as usual they assembled in solemn conclave round the market cross.

#### THE MOCK MAYOR PICTURE.

The following is Mr. Joseph Mayer's detailed account of the procedure and an explanation of the picture: "His Mock Worship was, with all the gravity befitting such an occasion, summoned by the shrill sound of a nanny-goat's horn to appear before his brother-townsmen and show cause why—always provided if—he had any objection to that most-devoutly-to-be-desired and that most glorious and honourable elevation to the state of Mayor of the Borough, with all the customary privileges of getting drunk and fining himself publicly as an example. Then with great stateliness of step and severe magisterial countenance some well-beloved fellow-townsmen was conducted to the top step and there invested with those most becoming and costly robes of state and that magic wand of office so capable of doing justice on the person whose head it knocked. After this the Mayor-



elect introduced his better half, the Mayoress, to the admiring multitude, while she on her part acknowledged the high honour conferred on her husband and herself. His Worship having commanded silence to be observed, the Town Crier, with the usual preliminaries of bell-ringing, etc., read the following proclamation :

#### THE CRIER'S PROCLAMATION.

' Oyez ! Oyez ! Oyez ! This is to give notice *First*, that by the advice of my Beadle, Mace-bearers, and Bum-bailiffs I do hereby declare and proclaim that it shall be lawful for any man or set of men to put their hands into their breeches' pockets—if there be their purses—and give and pay over to our exchequer any sum less than one hundred guineas that shall seem to him or them fit, in order that we may drink his or their jolly good health in a quart of ale a-piece, for which we, as well on our part as on yours, promise him or them the distinguished honour of three huzzas, and may they live to do the like again next year. *Secondly*, that we after mature consideration do allow any grocer, so he doeth it handsomely and pleasantly to his own feelings, the never-to-be appreciated and valuable privilege (which must be thought a sufficient reward unto him and his children for ever), of giving unto our revenue collectors as much tobacco as he pleases ; provided always, and it is hereby declared, that the amount must not exceed one hundred weight, but shall at the same time be enough to serve all the old women as well as our worthy selves. *Thirdly*, that Morgan, the pipemaker, as his hereditary right, which we hereby acknowledge, may, if he likes, furnish us with saggar pipes to smoke the aforesaid tobacco with ; in consideration whereof we pledge our honour (here two squeaks from the nanny-goat's horn) that nobody else shall. *Fourthly*, our worthy Mayor giveth notice and commandeth that all canting, backbiting, gin-drinking women be brought before him, that he may punish them with the *Bridle* kept by him for that purpose ; and he recommendeth his brother freemen to eat plenteously of roast beef and plum-pudding, to gain which they must work more and drink less ; and further, that all

persons found drunk in the streets after this notice will be put in the stocks for one hour and thirteen minutes. *Fifthly* and lastly, we do hereby say, as commanded by our beloved wife, for the benefit of all young maidens (after painful experience on our own part) that it is better to be married than single; and in proof of our firm conviction of the same we do thus publicly declare, sign and seal this our proclamation with a kiss.' There was a long flourish on the nanny-goat's horn at the close of this performance, after which the procession formed and, with her ladyship enthroned on a donkey, his worship and the goodly company marched through the principal streets of the town, collecting the revenue for a jollification at the market cross in the evening."

#### THE CHARACTERS IN THE PICTURE.

The following is the official description of the characters portrayed in the picture: "His Worship is arrayed in a calf-skin tunic, fastened with a skewer round the neck, a black Staffordshire bull's hide for a gown, and a sheep-skin wig. In his right hand he holds his wand of office, and his civic chain and glass are represented by horses' manes and the prison-door key, the latter being emblematical of the rule of the Bailiffs. His Worship is supported on the right hand by the Town Clerk, a person of very knowing look, and quite alive to the tricks of the law, as is fully indicated by the expressive position of his left thumb. Under his other arm he holds the Charter of the Borough, which the good burghesses, fearing parchment would not be lasting enough, have inscribed on a hide of leather. On the left side is the Bum-bailiff, *alias* Head Constable, with his truncheon, about to dislodge a sweep, who in return is about to powder his Worship's wig with his soot bag. The two figures right and left are Mace-bearers, as seen by the splendid cabbages which they carry; and the Bellman, in his Phrygian cap and shaggy skin dress, is reading the proclamation.

In the foreground is the Lady Mayoress on her Egyptian palfrey, which some school lads with their clouting ropes are ungallantly making to wince with the hope of throwing the



good lady from her seat. The old man on the left of the foreground is Billy Punkey, a well-known harmless, idiotic character, who always made himself busy in keeping back the people from crowding too much into the august presence of his Worship. Near him stands a fine old woman in the picturesque costume of the district, and around are nearly all the members of the legal Corporation and several gentlemen of the town enjoying the burlesque."

Old customs die hard. The election of a Mock Mayor was continued years after the members of the Borough Council were elected by the burgesses at large. At least on one occasion, *viz.*, in 1841, there were two Mock Mayors elected by the workpeople at rival hat manufactories. History relates that they finished up the burlesque in good style by sitting down to a good dinner of roast beef, and many quarts of ale were drunk.