

*J. H. Partington Esq*

VOL 17

17

# A Memoir

OF

## The Reverend John Tilsley, M.A.,

Vicar of Denby, near Bolton, A.D. 1642-1662.

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Re-printed from "Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Notes."

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BY JOHN E. BAILEY.

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"CHRONICLE" PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND STATIONERY WORKS, ELLESMERE STREET.  
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Bolton parish Register

1573. Feb. 27. John Tyldesley obitt - buried  
 1590. Nov 29 Elyn Tyldesley, dau. of Ryc<sup>d</sup> de Bolton. - baptised  
 1591. April 10 a childe of Ryc<sup>d</sup> Tyldesley, de Bolton - buried  
 1592. Sept 7 Elyn Tyldesley, d. of Ryc<sup>d</sup> de Bolton - baptised  
 1595. Sept 22 Hugh Tyldesley, married to Grace Salisbury  
 1597. June 28 w<sup>or</sup> Richard Tyldesley in ye chunche - buried  
 1600. (Jan.?) Raph Tyldesley son of Raph & Elizabeth his wife - baptised  
 " March 8 alis Tyldesley, d. of Thomas & Jane his wife - do -  
 1603 Jan. 5. alis Tyldesley of Bolton, late wife of Gilbert intra ecclesiam - buried  
 " Oct 24 James Tyldesley of Bolton, son of Thomas - baptised  
 " Feb. 12 Dorothea Tyldesley of Middleton par. d. of Thurstau - do  
 1603 April 25 Thurstau Tyldesley of Middleton par. married to Anne Bamforth of Bolton par.  
 1603-4, March 3, Richard Tyldesley of Dayne par. - buried  
 1605. July 29 Richard Tyldesley of Boulton, son of Richard - baptised  
 " July 29 Ann Tyldesley of Boulton, d. of Thomas - do  
 " July 15 Richard Tyldesley of Boulton, son of Richard - do  
 1606 Nov 17 anne Tyldesley of Boulton, d. of Richard - do  
 1607 Dec 10 Richard Tyldesley of Boulton, intra ecclesiam - buried  
 1608 Jan. 1 Raulphe Tyldesley of Boulton, son of Thomas - baptised  
 " Feb. 26 John Tyldesley of Dayne par. bastard son of Thomas & - (blank) - baptised  
 " March 5 Katherine Tyldesley of Boulton, d. of Richard - baptised  
 1609 Jan. 15 Isabell Tyldesley of Little Boulton, d. of John - do  
 1609 April 25 Richard Tyldesley of Restwrick par. married to Susanna Brooke of Boulton par.  
 1610 Nov 26 anne Tyldesley of Boulton, intra ecclesiam - buried -  
 " Jan. 28 the wife of Rich<sup>d</sup> Tyldesley of Harwood - do -  
 1611 April 11 Richard Tyldesley of Boulton, son of Richard - baptised -  
 1612 May 10 George Tyldesley of Little Boulton, son of John - do -

Ruth Tyldesley de Westhaughton, baptised at Leigh church 28 Jan. 1615  
 John Tyldesley de Westhaughton, baptised at Leigh church 23 Aug 1618.





The Reverend John Tilsley, M.A., Vicar of Deane,  
near Bolton, A.D. 1642-1662.

**J**OHAN TILSLEY—for so he wrote his name—was one of the most prominent ministers in the county of Lancaster during the Civil War and Interregnum, is chiefly distinguished for his successful advocacy and establishment of Presbyterianism in the southern part of the county. The facts of his life are here for the first time presented, and are given in detail, on account of the light they throw on the history of the time. The narrative will, moreover, elucidate some curious perplexities in the accounts of the tenure of the vicarage of Deane.

Tilsley was a native of Lancashire, which he calls “my deare mother and nurse.” There is no evidence at hand of his parentage. Canon Parkinson supposed that he was of the Tyldesleys of Wardley; but several circumstances point to the neighbourhood of Bolton as the place of his origin. The Rev. J. H. Stanning informs me that the Register of Deane enumerate many Tildesleys of “Hulton Inferior.” His continued residence in Manchester may cause him to be regarded as a Manchester man; and the connection was so close that he described himself in his will as of that town.

By following Oliver Heywood rather than Calamy, who is incorrect, the year of Tilsley’s birth must be placed in 1614. In due time he was sent to the University of Edinburgh, then frequented by many youths whose parents were unwilling to make use of the English Universities. Amongst his countrymen at Edinburgh University were Nathan Paget, John Brereton, Hopewell Fox, of Tewkesbury, Abiell Rathband, and Christian Gee. “Johannes Tilsleyus” was laureated on 22 July, 1637. As his name does not appear in the Scotch *Fasti*, it is clear that he was ordained in England.



MEMOIR OF JOHN TILSLEY, M.A.

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His earliest employment in the ministry was at the Church of Deane, as curate to the vicar, the Rev. Alexander Horrocks, with whom, says Calamy, he was "as Timothy to Paul, a son in the Gospel." On 23 Feb., 1641-2, when the national Protestation was taken at Deane, the signatures of the clergy were in the following words:—Alexander Horrocks, Richard Hardie minister, James Walton minister, and John Tilsley minister. Another return adds the name Thomas Johnson, this group being all styled clerks. The only other names of the Tilsley family noticed on that list of Protestators are Henry of Westhoughton, and Richard of Farnworth.

On 4 Jan., 1642-3, Tilsley was married to that lady whom he described twenty years later as "loving, lovely, loved." She was Margaret, daughter of Ralph Chetham, gent., brother of Humphrey the Benefactor. The marriage took place at the Collegiate Church of Manchester, the bridegroom being called "preacher of the word of God." Although Tilsley was intimate with the Benefactor, the family were not enamoured of the connection, and his name was left out of the Turton pedigree at Dugdale's Visitation of 1664.

Tilsley's interest in the Civil War is shewn by his being present with Sir John Seaton's forces when that officer went from Manchester with his newly-raised dragoons and captured Preston in Amounderness on Thursday, 9th Feb., 1642-3. Tilsley wrote a jubilant letter concerning the affair, which was published in London; it is to be seen in the *Civil War Tracts*. This letter is described as coming "from a worthy minister (an eye-witness thereof) to an eminent divine in London." The divine was probably the Rev. Thomas Care, formerly of Salford Chapel, who had married Ann Booth (*nee* Mosley), to whom there is a reference at the end of the letter. Tilsley says that the attacking force was made up of about 1,000 firemen, horse and foot, and about 600 billmen, halbadiers, and clubmen. After keeping a fast at Manchester, the troops marched thither on Wednesday night, which was fair, assaulting the place a little before sunrise; the Manchester companies, says the narrator, fell in with "notable resolution" under Captain John Booth. Tilsley rejoices that certain persons are killed or captured, including among the latter Anderton of Clayton, "one of the most considerable men for estate and activity in the County." He shews the military advantage gained by the action, and compliments the skill shewn by Sir John

Seaton, who had only one fault—he was "too harsh for our northern knotty-rigged dis-  
*The Protestation taken by the Commons May, 1641, -I, A. B. do in the presence of almighty God promise, vow & protest, to maintain & defend as far as lawfully I may, with my life, Power, & Estate, the true Reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery & Popish Innovation within this Realm Contrary to the said doctrine; & according to the duty of my allegiance, I will maintain & defend His Majesty's Royal Person, Honour, & Estate, also the Power & Privilege of Parliaments, the lawful Rights & Liberties of the Subjects, Every Person that shall make this Protestation, whatsoever he shall do in the lawful pursuance of the same: And to my Power, as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose, by all good ways means and endeavors.*

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positions." Sir John Seaton was not popular amongst his "sojourners," who at Manchester threatened to kill him because he would not give them the "plundage." At the capture of Wigan from the Royalists by the same Major-general, at the end of the following month, Seacome (p. 72; ed. 1767) tells us that the Manchester troops "took and plundered to the very Utensils and Plate of the Communion table, which one of their Puritanical Teachers, one Tyldesley, hung round him as the Spoils and Plunder of a popish Idol."

On 29 June, 1643, the House of Commons, considering that the Rectory of Deane Church, being an impropriation of all tithes whatsoever, is now sequestered, and the parish church and chapels within that parish having no means of maintaining ministers, and the people by the sad distractions of that county are much impoverished, having been much plundered so as not to be able to maintain ministers at their own charge, ordered that out of the tithes or other profits belonging to the Rectory there be paid on 1 Oct. next £20 each to the minister of Deane Church, the minister of Houghton Chapel, and to the minister of Horwiche Chapel (*Journals*, iij. 149).

The draft order of the House of Lords, appointing "Mr. John Tilsley" Vicar of Deane Church, is dated 10 August. Calamy says that Tilsley succeeded Horrocks. The latter, who did not die until July, 1650, continued at Deane in a subordinate position, being advanced in years, up to 1648; and he styled himself during those years "minister" at Deane, while Tilsley termed himself "Pastor" at (or of) Deane. The Impropiator of the tithes of the parish was Christopher Anderton, of Lostock and Birchley, the gentleman of influence whose capture at Preston Tilsley considered so important a matter. While Baines makes Alexander Norris Vicar of Deane, Walker curiously enough (ii. 184) makes this Mr. Anderton the Vicar, adding that in 1643 one "J. T." was thrust upon the parishioners. The profits of the Rectory, besides supporting the ministers of the parish, supplied funds for the stipend of the minister of Langho. The order of the House of Commons sequestering the profits and appointing Tilsley Vicar is dated 9 Oct., 1643, as follows (iij., 271.):—

An Order for Sequestering the Rents and Profits of the Rectory of Deane Church, in the County of Lancaster, from Christopher Anderton, to the Use of Mr. John Tilsley, a godly, learned, and orthodox Divine; who is hereby appointed and required to be Vicar of the said Parish Church of Deane; and to preach there every Lord's Day; and take care for Discharge of the Cure of that Place, in all the Duties thereof; and shall have, for his pains, Sixty Pounds per Annum; and to the several Chapels of Houghton and Horwiche, in the said Parish, to either of them Twenty Pounds per Annum. Which said

to bring condeigne Punishment on all such as shall by Force, Rastie, counsels, Plots, Conspiracies, or otherwise do any thing contrary to the present Protestation. And further that I shall in all just & honourable ways endeavour to preserve Union & peace between the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, & Ireland, neither for Hope, Fear, or any other Respects, shall relinquish this Promise, vow & Protestation. — (*Richmond's Historical Collection* vol. IV. p. 71-2).



Sum of One Hundred Pounds shall be paid upon the First Day of February, and First of August, by equal Portions, out of the Sequestration of the said Rectory of Deane Church, by those Officers that are appointed for the receiving of the Profits of the said Sequestration: And the Acquittances, under the Hands of the several Ministers who are to receive the same, shall be their sufficient Discharge.

In the first reports which reached London of the capture of Bolton, 28 May, 1644, by Prince Rupert, it was reported that four ministers had been put to the sword, viz., Heycock (*i.e.*, Heyricke, Warden of Manchester), Tilsbury (*i.e.*, Tilsley), Harper (*i.e.*, Harpur), and Fogge (Whitelock's *Memorials*, page 89).

Tilsley was unfortunate in his male offspring. His eldest son, John, was baptised at the Collegiate Church 20 Oct., 1643, being called "son of John Tildesley, Preacher," and he was buried 14 Feb., 1647-8, when the father was called "Minister of the word of God at Deane Church, but living in Manchester." Three times, says Henry Newcome, writing in February, 1662, did the father bury an only son. Elizabeth was baptised at Manchester 28 Nov., 1647. In the pamphlet which he wrote in 1646, Tilsley speaks of himself as "a Manchester man by habitation" (p. 17).

Meanwhile, on 13 Dec., 1644, the Houses of Parliament appointed twenty-one ministers, of whom Horrocks and Mr. John Tildesley were two, for ordaining ministers in the County of Lancaster (*Com. Jour.*, iii., 705). The latter afterwards spoke of his position as "a member of the Committee appointed by authority of the Lords and Commons to have inspected into the condition of the ministry of that County." He was able to say in the year 1646, as the result of their efforts, that "in no congregation in that whole county the Book of Common-Prayers or Ceremonies are in use and exercise, nor have been of a long time by-past."

On 25 Nov., 1645, the Committee of the Plundered Ministers in London resolved that the house of Ralph Heaton, within the parish of Deanchurch, heretofore parcel of the glebe of the said church, and now sequestered from the said Ralph, shall be settled upon Mr. Tildsley, Vicar thereof, for his habitation, the said Mr. Tildsley's means being very small, and that it be reported to the House. To this and other property adjoining there is a reference in the *MS. Mancuniensis* of Hollinworth (page 6), who says: "Robert de Gredly, Lord of Manneester, gave to God and the bl'd Virgine, to the Abbot of Whalley, and to their chappell of St. Mary den (now called Deane Church) all that land lying neere to the sayd Chappell. This land is now in the tenure of Mr. John Tilsley, minister there."

*Foundations of Manchester, by P. Hibbert-Ware vol. 4, p. 65.*

*This statement, which is erroneous, is afterwards corrected by the Author in the Appendix of the same volume.*

Tilsley's Scotch education at the University of Glasgow, on the country, led him to favour the Covenant, became a Presbyterian, and for "imbarqueing with us in the same way most proud." On the rise of the Independents, they assumed so severe a form that the Presbyterians. Tilsley had in part when the first part of the war was over, and Presbyterianism in the county. He asserted by Parliament, schism, error, heresy, and "separate" congregations were "erroneous," confidently expecting a toleration. including Warden Heyrick and Eccleston, Mr. Alt, of Bury, and others, in the spirit of the National Covenant, according to the advice of the Assembly, out of all places of public trust; and gentlemen, ministers, and others, 12,578 signatures, of which upwards of the county, Tilsley tells us, were effective in the service of Parliament. Hundred, having reduced the rest of the county, also subscribed at Liverpool, called "the Petition," in all that county." On 25 Aug., 1646, the question whether thanks should be resolved in the affirmative, the Assembly drew up the thanks.—(*Journals*, v., 100.)

Meanwhile an anonymous pamphlet, the Petition, called *A New Birth*, being in allusion to a remonstrance presented to Parliament 26 May, 1646,



Tilsley's Scotch education at the time when Laud was endeavouring to impose a liturgy on the country, led him to favour the Ecclesiastical polity of that country. He took the Covenant, became a Presbyterian, and soon after eulogized "our dear brethren of Scotland" for "imbarqueing with us in the same Cause and War in depth of Winter when our Enemies were most proud." On the rise of the Independents and other sects, Tilsley's attitude towards them assumed so severe a form that, says Martindale, he and his friends were called "Rigid Presbyterians." Tilsley had in particular many controversies with the Independents, and when the first part of the war was over he interested himself no little in establishing Presbyterianism in the county. He asserted that through the non-settlement of Church-government by Parliament, schism, error, heresy, profaneness, and blasphemy were woefully spread; "separate" congregations were "erected" and multiplied, and sectaries were growing insolent, confidently expecting a toleration. About the end of June, 1646, Tilsley and his friends, including Warden Heyrick and Richard Hollingworth, of Manchester, Edward Gee, of Eccleston, Mr. Alt, of Bury, and other ministers promoted a petition to Parliament, couched in the spirit of the National Covenant, for the speedily fixing of an Ecclesiastical discipline, according to the advice of the Assembly of Divines, to suppress the sectaries, and keep them out of all places of public trust; and to encourage "the orthodox Presbyterian noblemen, gentlemen, ministers, and others well affected." After great efforts the petition received 12,578 signatures, of which upwards of 6,000 were from Salford Hundred, that part of the county, Tilsley tells us, which was "confessedly most eminent for Religion, most effective in the service of Parliament; it alone, together with the assistance of Blackburn Hundred, having reduced the rest of the whole countie." We are likewise told that it was also subscribed at Liverpool, called by Tilsley "a garrison of good note and the prime haven in all that county." On 25 Aug., the petition was presented to the Lords. It was put to the question whether thanks should be given to the gentlemen that exhibited it, and being resolved in the affirmative, the Earl of Manchester and Lord Roberts were appointed to draw up the thanks.—(*Journals*, viij., 471.)

Meanwhile an anonymous pamphlet in the Independent interest was published against the Petition, called *A New Birth of the City Remonstrance* (about 8 pp. in length), the title being in allusion to a remonstrance of the pressing grievances of the people of London, presented to Parliament 26 May, 1646. The *New Birth* animadverted on the manner in



which the signatures to the Lancashire petition had been obtained. Moreover, an "anti-petition" was spoken of. Adam Martindale, who was then at Gorton, enumerates "three very worthy ministers of great abilities, piety, and interest," living within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of him, who were deeply engaged in promoting the Presbyterian scheme, viz., Mr. Harrison of Ashton-under-Lyne, Mr. Hollinworth of Manchester, and "Mr. Tilsley of Deane, but then living in Manchester, as his severe book in vindication of the petition and promoters of it doth still make it to appear." Of this "severe book" there is a copy in the Chetham Library, No. 9,916, formerly the copy of Thos. Heywood, Esq., and another in the Free Library, No. 37,120, which once belonged to "Thomas Heywood, Surgeon," it having his book-plate containing the Heywood crest.

A true Copie of the PETITION of *Twelve thousand five hundred and upwards* of the Well-affected Gentlemen, Ministers, Free-holders, and others of the County Palatine of Lancaster. TO THE Right honourable the House of Peers And the Honourable the House of COMMONS Assembled in High Court of Parliament.

Together with some true and materiall Observations concerning the said *Petition*, avouched by the avouchers of the *Petition*, Rectifying the fals surreptitious Copy lately Printed under the name of *A New birth of the City Remonstrance*, and invalidating the Animadversions of the nameless publisher thereof.

As also a particular clear and satisfactory Answer to the said Animadversions, showing the falshood and frivolousnesse thereof: Vindicating the *Petition* and the petitioners from all the injurious charges, imputations, aspersions of the Animadvertor: Shewing the harmony of apprehensions and desires betwixt the renowned City of *London* and the aforesaid County; and what repute the famous Remonstrance of that City is in, amongst the well-affected of that County, detecting the lawlesse, licentious, anti-parliamentary practise of this nameless Sectary, and pointing out thereby the Sectarian spirit. Together with a Parænetic to *Lancashire*.

By JOHN TILSLEY, Minister of the Gospell at *Dean-Church* in *Lancashire*, one of the Avouchers of the *Petition*.

Together with the Answer of the Right Honourable the House of Peeres. *London* Printed by *John Macock*, for *Luke Fawn*, and are to be sold at his Shop at the Sign of the *Parot* in *Pauls Church yard* 1646.

It contains the *Petition* itself pp. 1-4; Certain Observations concerning the *Petition*, 5-6, signed by Robert Ashton, John Tilsley, and William Booth, in which the writers claim that the *Petition* was the true sense of the Parliamentary party in Lancashire. A clear Answer to the "Nameless Sectary" on the *Petition*, 7-19; the Parænetick, dated "from my lodging at the golden fleece in Tuttle street, Westminster, Aug. 27, 1646," 19-21; and the Lords' Answer, 22.

Tilsley characterises the author of the *New Birth* as a "hasty spirited Sectarian hot-spur," "a whelp of the same litter with insolent John Lilburn." He averred that no one advanced the petition in Manchester, but "prudent, honest, sufficient men of good repute in that famous town" (p. 17). The tract is written with considerable spirit, and its language is racy. Two sayings are quoted,—one about finding a knot in a bull-rush; the other, "a



great boast but little roast." He also alludes to the "gallantry" of "those northern spirits," his countrymen, and to the "vast congregation of thousands of souls" at Manchester. He criticises a statement that Hollinworth had pressed his congregation to sign, telling them that

none refused to sign it but malignants and Covenant breakers.

*one minister, viz: Master Hollinworth, pressed the people in the pulpit, telling them that none refused to subscribe it but malignants and Covenant breakers.*

Providence cast the man upon this instance: For at Manchester the petition was not signed publicly at all, but sent by chosen men through the town (against any of which I challenge him, or any of that frie or fraternity to except if they can) which when it had been generally signed by all that were Parliamentarie (excepting not above 6 or 8 as I remember), afterward Master Hollinworth published it in the Church, and not till then: Where that he used such expressions I doubt the man cannot evince; but he leaves himself a postern to escape by, viz., *Words to that effect*; but suppose the most, if this were true, why might he not tell it, which might be true in a diverse way? Either first if it was so *de facto* in that place, yea Countie, and that in a palpable manner, which I dare affirm to be true in a very great measure. But supposing that the Covenant binds to a subscription of this Petition, when anyone is thereto called, then it will be evidently true that none but Covenant-breakers refuse it, and that be cause they are Covenant breakers *eo ipso* in refusing; and this I believe is not onely the judgement of that learned and worthy man, but of many more; And may appear thus: First, the Petition in severall of its main parts stands grounded upon, urged and enforced by the Covenant, and by occasion thereof the Covenant is six several times mentioned therein. Yea, furthermore, the Covenant bindeth us according to our places and callings to endeavour severall things therein contained, for example, *Reformation according to the word of God, and example of the best Reformed Churches, extirpation of heresie, schisme, &c.* Now Petitioning is one, yea, a main point of that endeavour, and according to our calling, we being called thereto, *Ergo, &c.* As for those "some godly" souls, I could go near to sum them up without much arithmetick. There is in that town some 6 or 7 persons fallen into, and inclining towards schism, the half of these are members of separate Churches and are supposed to be with their Assemblies on a Lord's day; the other half sometimes withdraw, but imagin them there then. So that this sum is some 3 or 4 it may be of that vast congregation of thousands of souls: But one thing I may not let passe that since Mr. Hollinworth did not speak any such words (whatever they were) till the whole town had subscribed the Petition, no, nor so much as read it, or mentioned it publicly; how can this in any sort with any pretence of good sense be alledged as an indirect or strange carriage to procure hands as it is here charged? Well, but there is more to be considered yet, *the sending of the Petition from house to house* seems to him not fair: I had not thought these men to have held distinction of places, so as to tie the subscription of this Petition to the Church for sanctity of the place; but that this Petition might lawfully enough have been signed in a private house; but this I suspect is not the matter: And here I professe, I am in a deep study to imagine where dishonesty can lie, for I think no man that hath the use of reason will say that it is a strange carryage to carry a Petition from house to house to be signed; but in this the man spoke unadvisedly, for as it is their practice to transact their affairs and advance their way by perambulation from house to house; so I dare be bold to say when ever their anti-petition is set on foot (if it prove not an abortive) and must be brought to what is promised to have a considerable number of free and voluntary subscribers (if I may supply, of considerable persons), must be carried (yea, in night walks) from house to house, yea, into the private corners of houses, and so themselves will become advocates for us herein. So that my good friend and familiar Master Smith [qy., the bookseller of Manchester] needs not blush, neither will he, I warrant you, for being here in this case produced, having no greater crime laid to his charge. I expected (according to his promise) some evidence to this matter out of Master Gee's Letter, but the man's pen lasht out a little too far in the promise, there is no appearance of any such thing therein. As before, so now, Providence rested this from his pen to be a publike testimony of candour and ingenuity in the Proceedings (pp. 15-16).



Presbyterianism in Lancashire was set up by ordinance of Parliament, 2 Oct., 1646, and "Mr. John Tildesley" was named as a minister of the Bolton, or Second Classis of the County. Calamy is justified in stating that Tilsley was a principal member of this Second Classis. He was frequently Moderator, and attended to its proceedings with great regularity. I find that on 16 Aug., 1647, this Classis was considering the business of "repaying some part of Mr. Hollinworth and Mr. Tilsley their disbursements about setting the Church government." As became a Covenanter, Tilsley set his hand to the fierce *Harmonious Consent* of the Lancashire Ministers in 1648; and he was no less ready to sign the strictures on the pamphlet called *The Agreement of the People*, 1648-9; his name, with that of his associates, being in both cases among the names of the signatories.

These facts show Tilsley to have been of a bold and uncompromising spirit, and confirm what was said of him, that when he was satisfied as to the grounds of a matter, he pursued his aims to the end. "When the assembly at Bolton," relates Calamy, "had once suspended a prophane and dissolute Preacher at Ribchester [Christopher Hindle?], few but were fearful to go and preach at the Place and declare the Suspension: but Mr. Tilsley was free to it, and did it with great courage, and yet with a becoming Candour and Meekness."

On 24 May, 1649, along with Hiet, Hollinworth, and Ambrose, Tilsley signed an appeal to the Churches of London for charitable contributions to relieve the sad and lamentable condition of Lancashire from fire, sword, and famine. This referred particularly to the towns of Wigan, Ashton-in-Makerfield, &c., where pestilence had been raging three years and upwards, caused chiefly by the wars. The five ministers above named are called "godly and faithful ministers of Lancashire, by providence in this city at present." One of those charged with distributing the contributions was Mr. Horrocks.

For refusing "the Engagement" in 1650 Tilsley was ejected from his benefice, but was soon restored.

Two noticeable funeral sermons were preached by Tilsley;—one at the interment of the Rev. W. Rathband at Cockey, on 1 Cor. iii. 10; and the other at Bolton Church, at the interment of Colonel Robert Bradshaw, eminent for his piety, valour, and wisdom in the time of the war. He was a younger brother of John Bradshaw of Bradshaw Hall, Bolton.

When the Ecclesiastical Commissioners made the survey of the parish of Deane, 19 July, 1650 they returned that Tilsley, a painful, godly, preaching minister, was then in charge.

\**John Tilsley (pastor of Deane) signed the document called "The Harmonious Consent," one of the most intolerant documents of that bigoted section of the Presbyterian Church of Lancashire. 1648. — (Dr. Hibbert's *Life*, Foundation of March, vol. 1. App. p. 88)*



in receipt of all the parish tithes (by virtue of an Ordinance of Parliament, 2 May, 1646) to the annual value of £154 3s. 8d., which sum was to be thus disbursed: The Receiver for the State, £40; Mr. Horrocks, minister of West Haughton Chapel, £40; the minister of Horwich Chapel, £20; Mr. Tildesley his own salary, £60, and likewise £10 reserved of old to belong to the Vicar of Deane; and the said Mr. Tildesley was to be accountable to the State for the reversion of the £154 3s. 8d., if there be any reversion.

Mr. Horrocks died in July, 1650; and his funeral sermon was preached by Tilsley. The latter was very eager that Oliver Heywood of Coley, who had recently left college, should succeed to West Haughton Chapel; and he used very "vehement" arguments to prevail with him, and made great promises of what he would do for him there. But Heywood determined to settle ultimately at Coley. His connection with Bolton had brought him to be acquainted with Tilsley, whom he called "my very worthy father and friend." He was ordained a Presbyter at Bury by the Classis of that Province, 4 August, 1652, on which occasion Tilsley, who was one of the ordainers, "excellently and profitably" gave the exhortation. On 25 April, 1655, Tilsley was present at Denton at the marriage of Heywood to Miss Angier of Denton. In the same year he was concerned with Angier, Gee, and others, in giving advice to Isaac Ambrose about that minister's removal to Garstang, as may be gathered from the dedication of Book iv. of *Looking unto Jesus*, 1658. O. Heywood's Journal, &c. 62 H. 2. m. vol. 1 p. 166

Under date of 23 June, 1652, Henry Newcome of Gawsorth, dining at Manchester with Mr. Thomas Illingworth, met Dr. Worthington there, and also made the acquaintance of Mr. Tilsley. Newcome never heartily liked Tilsley, but complained of his querulousness and irregular temper. p. 167

There are entries of the baptisms of Tilsley's children in the registers of Deane church. I have to thank Mr. J. H. Partington and the Rev. J. H. Stanning, M.A., for copies of the entries. On 3 Oct., 1652, was baptised Mary, called daughter of John Tilsley clerk; on 3 Sept., 1654, Martha, called daughter of John Tilsley de Rumworth, Vicar; and on 23 Aug., 1657, John, son of John Tilsley of Rumworth, minister of God's Word at Deane Church.

By his Will dated 16 Dec., 1651, Humphrey Chetham made Tilsley one of the feoffees of his proposed hospital, terming him John Tildesley of Rumworth, clerk. He also nominated him one of the persons to purchase godly English books "proper for the edification of



the common people," for Church libraries at Manchester, Bolton, Turton, Walmsley, and Gorton, for which £200 was bequeathed; and he was also one of those named to form the library in the town of Manchester "for the use of Scholars and others well affected." The same Will has this bequest: "To my cousin Margaret now wife of the said John Tildsly £200." Humphrey Chetham died 12 Oct., 1653. Soon afterwards the feoffees began to make the purchases for the Church libraries. A letter which is extant goes to show that Tilsley went about this business in a very narrow spirit. Hollinworth was associated with him in the choice; also Richard Johnson, an Episcopalian, late Fellow of the College, at this time preacher at the Temple. Writing to Hollinworth, under date of 5 April, 1655, Tilsley thus expresses himself:—

Reverend Sir,

Yrs of March vlt. I received Wherein you call for a Catalogue of Books for Bolton, Turton, Walmsley. Truly Sr. if the proportion must stand after 50<sup>li</sup> only to ye parish Church & 50<sup>li</sup> to ye two Chapels, I have little stomach to meddle at all in the business: 80<sup>li</sup> would lay a foundation for a prettie [Stock?] at Bolton: And if I dye without sonne I should be willing to add to it at my decease w<sup>th</sup> many other such like Occasions w<sup>ch</sup> might come to amount to somewhat. I spoke to Mr. Norris & Mr. Okey on the matter who said they weere meere passive in th case, and are very sollicitous for an alteration; they say, moreover, that they never heard of lesse then 60<sup>li</sup> for Bolton, and that the executors, not feoffees, weere to dispose, and that they seemd inclinable to have more at Bolton, and weere not tenacious for ye chappels. We desire to have the benefit of the yearly meeting on Easter Monday ere the bookes be bought or the proportion fixed p'emptorily, to see if it may be altered to our minde. I have sent a catalogue inclosed of books enough for twice soe much moneys as is to be bestowed. Mr. Johnson may take such as hee thinkes meete: I spoke with some chiefe of Bolton, who desire to have noe erroneous Authors Or that have any tincture thereof, though mixed w<sup>th</sup> never so much other good matter, for feare of infection: Particularly by all meanes they would Not have One Independent writer in all the number, by any meanes how excellent soever for feare of any of there falling in love w<sup>th</sup> the way for the mans sake. This makes I have purposely omitted many excellent authors, e.g., Tho Goodwine, Mr Burroughs, Greenhil, Caryl, Bridge, . . . Shepheard. As alsoe upon the other accompt Dr Jerem. Taylor, Hammond, Chillingworth, Baxter. Noe more till I see you, but my & my wifes respects & soe w<sup>th</sup> many thanks for your last paynes I com'end you in your present condition w<sup>th</sup> yours to Our rich grea' good god & Rest

Deane Ch. Apr. 5, 1655.

Yor meanest & unworthiest

Br JO: TILSLEY.

Endorsed: ffor ye Reverend my much honord Br Mr. Hollinworth minister of ye Gospell at Manchester These at his house in ye Milngate, Manchester.

Also endorsed in two other hands (the latter Johnson's): Mr. Tilsley about books ffor Boulton. And his p'mis of Books when hee dyes, wch I believ wilbe noe more than this letter.

In 1655 there were negotiations about Mr. Tilsley's removal to Newcastle-on-Tyne. At a meeting of the second classis at Bolton, 10 Decr. that year, a letter was read from Newcastle desiring that Mr. Tilsley might go to be Pastor of St. Nicholas parish there. Three ministers were thereupon deputed to consult with the Manchester Classis about the matter,

*At a Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Classis held at Manchester, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 1656, it was agreed that a fast be observed at Manchester, Wednesday, the third of December next, that Mr. Gee & Mr. Tildsley be sought unto to preach there. Upon the occasion of the sad breach made in the congregation by the death of Mr. Hollinworth, late Minister there, to desire the Lords guidance & assistance in order to the election of a minister to succeed him. (Mins of the Manchester Classis. part 2. p. 253) At a Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1656 - It is agreed that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. Gee & Mr. Tildsley for their pains in preaching upon a fast day at Manchester according to the appointment of the Classis. — Agreed that a letter be sent to Mr. Newcome to certify him that the classis doe approve of him to be a member thereof, & bless God that Providence hath brought him hither. — (Ibid p. 254)*



on the following day. The Bolton Classis met again on the 13th. The delegates reported "the mind and sense" of the Manchester Classis, under their hands, that they "doe conceive itt will be most for the glory of God and good of the Church" that he should go. His own Classis, however, promptly resolved that he should stay at Deane. Hereupon Tilsley appealed to the Provincial Assembly. On 10th March, 1655-6, his appeal was, according to the minutes of the Bolton Classis, "delivered in"; but nothing more is said of this matter, and Tilsley continued to attend the meetings. Walker adds more particulars in the first part of his *Sufferings of the Clergy*: "The event [result] does not appear in their proceedings; but the worthy Mr. Gipps, who communicated the papers to me, inserted this Note with his own Hand: 'Mr. Tilsley did go to Newcastle; but finding not the place so beneficial as was expected, returned back; it being not, it seems, to the glory of God for him to stay, when it was not to his own Advantage.' How this accords with the character which the *Abridgement* [by Calamy] gives of him, I leave anyone to judge." Calamy's reply to the remark of "one Mr. Gipps"—he was Rector of Bury—is as follows: "It is a Reflection which is hard to be reconciled either with Reason or Religion. And yet he leaves anyone to judge how this accords with the character which the *Abridgement* gives of him, so will I also leave it to any to judge how such Censoriousness as this carries in it, can 'accord' with Rom. xiv. 4."

Our next notice of Tilsley is connected with an addition to his stipend. The last reference to this subject showed that more was to be paid out of the income from the living than was received. On 27 March, 1656, an augmentation of £30 was ordered by the Council of State to be paid by the trustees for ministers; and the order was approved by Cromwell. When Major Joseph Rigby, Clerk of the Peace of the County Palatine of Lancaster, wrote his "Ingenious" Poem called *The Drunkard's Prospective, or Burning Glass*, 8vo., 1656, Tilsley wrote him, his "much honoured friend," some complimentary verses, which thus warmly conclude:—

———The drunken sot  
Must pledge himself in fire and brimstone hot.  
It is most sad, and yet most true, they'll find  
Two hels: one here, another yet behind.  
May this thy Burning Glass the conscience scotch  
Of Drunkards, while they are yet in the porch  
Of hell; and so most happily suspend  
Direfull infernall flames world without end. Amen.



"So," adds the writer, "so singeth and prayeth your respectful friend, Iohn Tilsley, Pastor of Deane Ch. Lancashire."

On 29 Aug., 1656, Tilsley was present at the marriage, at Kirkley Hall in Yorkshire, of the Rev. Jeremiah Scholes, minister of Stretford. On 3 Dec. Newcome notes that Tilsley assisted at a fast at Manchester having reference to the appointment of a minister there. The same authority says that in July, 1658, Mrs. Chetham died, who left £50 to be given to ten ministers; and through the instrumentality of Tilsley, one of her executors, Newcome was one of the number. During the same year, the choice of a minister at Hoole was left to his decision.

From the year 1657 onwards Tilsley attended the meetings of the feoffees of Chetham's Hospital, assisted in the formation of the Library, and in the administration of that excellent charity. In 1659 he entered into the debates that were agitating Manchester in reference to an "accommodation" of Congregationalists with Presbyterians, the project being approved by prominent members of each body. There was a meeting of the two parties at the College on 13 July, when some "heads" of accommodation were agreed to. But with Roote on one side and Tilsley on the other there was little hope of any good result. Newcome records the gist of one of Tilsley's speeches: "I remember Mr. Tilsley said that the Episcopal principles he could rather accommodate with than theirs [*i.e.*, Congregational], and with their persons and practices for life rather than the other. But this accommodation was set on foot by them; and what we now agreed upon was referred to a further meeting." The Cheshire Rising under Sir George Booth stopped all further negotiations.

On 13 February 1658-9, died Humphrey Chetham, son of Mr. George Cheetham, who was buried at Manchester on the 18th Feb., at a cost of £170 10s. 9d. The Rev. Jas. Livesey, of Bolton, brother-in-law to the young man, published in 1660 a volume in his memory; and in the epistle dedicatory he says: "An exact and graphical delineation of his [H. C.'s] vertues I leave to the learned pen of that eminent divine [*In the margin*: Mr. Ioh Tilsley, on Rev. 2-10], who is importuned to print his funeral sermon."

In the eventful year 1660, Tilsley was plaintiff in a suit about Deane School. (*Nat. Cest.* ii., 38). He put his name to the address to the King from the Lancashire ministers. On 28 Jan., 1660, his daughter Rebecca was baptised at Deane, the father being styled



"of Rumworth." She was buried on the 25th of the following August. On 2 Feb., 1661, Nathaniell, son of John Tilsley of Rumworth, vicar, was baptised.

He was ejected from his benefice by the Act of Uniformity, though he was allowed to live in the house adjoining the Church, which was in the hands of trustees.

No longer now mixed up with public events, Tilsley's life is a mere record of his private concerns and his intercourse with his friends. The notices of him which follow are chiefly derived from the writings of Henry Newcome and Oliver Heywood.

Under date of 9 Aug., 1662, Newcome writes in his diary: "I went to Mr. Hartley and was at Strangeways till 5, and nuted in ye orchard. Wee had dutys [religious exercises] before supper. Wee had Mr. Tilsley's [three] children at supper. Mr. Colbourne here till late. I received a letter from Mr. Tilsley and Mr. Ambrose about goinge to Bolton." Tilsley and Newcome were frequently together, and we find them interested, among other things, in "the poore ministers," *i.e.*, those ejected. According to Calamy, Tilsley was "mighty charitable." The two ministers often met at Mr. Alexander Green's Inn. Under date of 15 April, 1663, Newcome records that Mrs. Tilsley "miscarried again;" on the 28th she died. The burial is noted in the Deane register: "Margaret Tildsley, the wife of John Tildsley Clarke of Deane in Rumworth buried the 29th of Aprill 1663." The following inscription was cut on the stone over her grave:—

Margaret : the  
Deare : & : Precious  
Wife : of : Iohn  
Tilsley : Buried  
Apr : 29th : 1663  
Amost : Vertu-  
ous : Woman  
In : Price : Farre  
Above : Rubies  
Prov : 31 : 10  
ing most  
Lov | lie | Above | all  
ed

In Feb., 1664, there was a misunderstanding between Newcome and Tilsley. "It seems some one told Mr. Tilsley that I said he was an earthworm, and that the world did oversway him." Under date of 29 March, 1664, Newcome writes: "In discourse Mrs. Barton was



1665 June 16 (From York to Scarborough) Lodged in a private house - "and then another great privilege we had, we saved each person four pence a day, whilst we tarried, that we had an ordinary by ourselves at eight pence a meal, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> also we were freed from mixed company. Mr. Tilsley was under the affliction of the ankerods; & so we had his company to our great content the last part of the first week." (Autobiography, vol. 1, p. 150) - 1666 June 27. - "I was troubled from a word that I accidentally heard that Mr. Tilsley should in discourse reflect on my habit at the Spa the last year, very lately saying, I was dropped like an apple." MEMOIR OF JOHN TILSLEY, M.A. married. (P. 158)

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telling me that when Mr. Tilsley was told by some one that he did keep his children in no better fashion, he answered: You would have me do as Mr. Newcome doth, hang all upon their backs. How doth the Lord make use of him and me by our censoriousness to be affliction one to another!" A closer intimacy seemed likely to follow. Tilsley in 1666 was desirous of marrying Newcome's only sister, Rose, born 1641 (died unmarried 31 Dec., 1670). Under March of the year named the brother writes: "What troubles and exercise I had now about Mr. Tilsley and my sister by reason of the forwardness of the motion begun by himself; his sudden and strange cooling; his furious coming on again; and yet unhandsome giving it over again. I have no mind to set down the particulars." Again, 24 Dec., same year: "I was much troubled at Mr. Tilsley's carriage, which now began to discover itself, in order to my sister. Yet I was a little satisfied in this, from considering how he insulted over Mr. Eaton [the Independent minister], and now he hath done worse himself by many degrees; and I would not do so by him, lest I should ever do in anything as foolishly, and some one spare me as little."

Tilsley's connections, as we have seen, were respectable; and his influence enabled him to retain some official position at Deane Church. Under bishops Ferne and Hall he does not appear to have been allowed to exercise his vocation. In August, 1670, he was under the Five Mile Act indicted at the Assizes, but Newcome thought he might get off "by his licence." He says that this Act was "strangely revived" against Mr. Tilsley, and executed against Mr. Jollie. In Sept., 1671, Oliver Heywood heard Tilsley preach at Bolton Church; in April, 1672, he was preaching in Cockey Chapel; and on 13th December, 1672, he was preaching at Salford Chapel on Ps. cii. 11, at the funeral of Mrs. Barton. The bishop of Chester at this time was not as severe against Nonconformists as his predecessors. He was John Wilkins, who succeeded to the see in Nov. 1668. He favoured Tilsley at Deane, as he favoured Angier at Denton. He "allow'd him to preach in his church again as Lecturer, another being Vicar, who read the Prayers." This Vicar was John Angier, junr., a son, ~~we~~ <sup>believe</sup>, of Angier of Denton, just alluded to, and he had got a presentation from the King, 2 June that year. Oliver Heywood says that Tilsley had "done something to satisfy Bp. Wilkins, and kept his publick station at Dean-Church." When Thoresby visited Manchester in 1684, he tells us how pleased he was with the agreeable conversation of Mr. Newcome and Mr. Tilsley, "from whom I received several remarks concerning Bp. Wilkins and Lord

Heywood's Diary to  
vol. 1 p 87

"On Monday, I went to Bolton, & preached at night at my brother Okey's, on Tuesday morning I visited my aunt Christian Long a precious but much afflicted woman near street gate, called at my brother Angier's, Mr. Tilsley in my return, & that afternoon preached the Maypole's funeral sermon at James Barlow's house upon a text he left me, Heb. 4. 9. it was a heart-melting opportunity: - Apr. 21: 68.  
"On Wednesday (Sept 20) my father Angier came & dined with us (at Manchester), after that we sealed some writings referring to my father, on Wednesday morning we went

to little Leaver Ript  
I went with him  
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20 Sept. 71: - "I preac  
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all Lord's day, on m  
Ript the National fa  
Friday we spent the p  
to consult about our



to little Beaver kept a fast there for my own father, my brother Heywood preached that night, on Thursday I went with him as far as Beau-church, where I had some business with brother Augier, Mr. Tilsley, - so returned to Crompton-fold, on Friday we had a fast at brother Thomas Crompton's, at night I preached at brother Laurence Crompton's, Saturday I preached a funeral sermon preached it at night at Cogen Adam Greenhaugh's, Lords day, Mr Sutton preached at Cockay, whom I heard all day with comfort at night I preached at Crompton-fold (Apr 27: 70:) (Pbr vol. 1. p 272)

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Keeper Bridgeman, their temper and moderation, &c." Upon Bp. Wilkins's death, 19 Nov., 1672, the learned Pearson succeeded. Hereupon Tilsley was "indicted at the Assizes for nonconformity, and, by the influence of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood, ejected a *third time* in 1678." "After this," continues Calamy, "he spent the rest of his days in a private life at Manchester."

Dianis, H. of the New  
Hampshire, by J. H.  
Turner. vol 1 p 32.

On the death of Angier in 1677, his son-in-law Oliver Heywood, wrote his life; but for some reason its publication was not favoured by Tilsley, Eaton, and Newcome, who considered it imperfect; and it was not published, indeed, till 1685. A copy with the cancelled preface is in the possession of the writer of this memoir.

20 Sept: 71: - "I preached at my brothers <sup>(at our sister's)</sup> on Thursday night, on Friday night at Brother O'Keys at Bolton, Lord's day heard Mr. Hipsley at Bolton church (vol. 1. p 282) - "on Thursday Mr. Newcom kept a fast at John Hullons at Newton-leath, on Friday I visited friends in Manch: on Saturday I went to Denton, preached there all Lord's day, on Sunday I went to Broilsden, preach at Capt. Hullons on Thursday went back to Denton, kept the National fast there in publick April 17. 1672 it was a good day, on Thursday went to Manchester on Friday we spent the forenoon in prayer, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Newcom myself, in the afternoon was a meeting of 18 ministers to consult about ~~our~~ <sup>use</sup> of the Kings declaration, there was such a sweet harmony, on Saturday I went to Little



16 I never heard Mr. Tilsley on Sundays, at Corkay, preached at night at Brother Otways on Thursday, his brother  
 18 Angier, in the afternoon Mr. Norris, being sick, & other friends, on Wednesday I preached at Brother Tho:  
 20 Grompous on Thursday, we buried my sister Mary Heywood my brother Thomas widow, who left 4 fatherless &  
 22 motherless children. (Heywood's Diary, &c. v. 1. p. 289)

with Aunt Mosley." In 1679 and 1682 the same diarist records visits to Mr. Tilsley at Manchester. Tilsley was intimate with Adam Martindale, and the latter terms him "my cousin Tildesley of Manchester." (We cannot explain the relationship.) In 1683 Tilsley was persuading Martindale, who had a ready pen, to write a pamphlet against Mr. Smith, the Lecturer of Bolton, author of *The Patriarchall Sabbath*, in which Martindale detected many things of "bad consequence."

Margaret Tilsley had become the wife of Mr. Joseph Hooper, a Manchester merchant. In the night of 21 Jan., 1683-4, Newcome was called up to go to Mrs. Hooper, who was very ill. "She was in child-bed, but after a few days fell ill and died Jan. 23rd. A very sad providence, her husband just gone from her; but especially to my friend Mr. Tilsley, who hath now buried two of his daughters in half a year's time." The other was Elizabeth, the wife of Richard Percival, of Ollerton, from whom there are now descendants.

Drawing near to his end, Tilsley made his Will as follows:—

FROM *Wills and Inventories*, NEW SERIES CHETHAM SOC., iii. 169.

In the name of God Amen. The 25th day of November in y<sup>e</sup> year of our Lord God 1684, I, JOHN TILSLEY of Manchester, in the county of Lancaster, Clerk, being Sick in body but of perfect memory, thanks be to God for the Same, and calling to mind y<sup>e</sup> uncertain Estate of this transitory life, I do make, ordain, Constitute, and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following (that is to say), first and principally I Commend my Soul to Almighty God my Creator, assuredly believing that I shall receive full pardon and remission of all my Sins by y<sup>e</sup> precious death and merits of my blessed Saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ; and my body to y<sup>e</sup> Earth from whence it came, to be buried in such decent and Christian manner as to my Executors hereafter herein named shall be thought meet and convenient. And as for touching and Concerning Such worldly Estate as God of his Infinite Goodness hath bestowed upon me, I do order and dispose thereof in manner and forme following. First, it is my will and mind that whereas I am concerned with my Brother-in-law John Cunliff touching y<sup>e</sup> maintenance of my Brother-in-law George Chetham [Mrs. Tilsley's brother, a man "crazy, hippish, and much dejected," commonly called "mad Chetham"] that as well what shall be due to him for my proportion thereof with what else shall be due to him by me upon account as all other debts which of right or Conscience I shall happen to owe to any person or persons whatsoever at y<sup>e</sup> time of my decease, together with my funerall Expenses and Charges, shall be first paid disbursed out of my whole Estate as well Reall as personall by my Executors hereafter herein named. All my Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reversions and Hereditaments whatsoever, within y<sup>e</sup> Kingdom of England or Elsewhere, I doe hereby give devise and bequeath to my Executors hereafter herein named, to be by them Sold and Converted into moneys to the best Advantage and as soon as Conveniently may be, upon this trust that they shall dispose of y<sup>e</sup> moneys to be raised by Such Sale, and also all my personal Estate to Such uses behooves intents and purposes, and upon Such provisos and Conditions as are hereafter herein in that behalf mentioned and Expressed (that is to say), The Sum of £50 to my daughter Partington in consideration of y<sup>e</sup> time I lived with her, Item, the Sum of £100 to be kept in the hands of my Executors hereafter herein named, the benefit and Improvement thereof to be for the use of my said daughter during her life in consideration of filling up what Acrington Miln fell short of £400, But this only Conditionally and in trust that she secure £300 of y<sup>e</sup> £310 that she received for Acrington Milne for the use and benefit of John Partington her son or his Issue if he hath any after her decease.

and this I desire  
 Covenant of hers  
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 Executors hereaf  
 upon the trusts a  
 of £200 w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> b  
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and this I desire my Executors may see performed by Said Daughter according to or in lieu of a certain Covenant of hers made to me under her hand and Seal which may be found amongst y<sup>e</sup> papers in my Desk. Further my will and mind is that the Sume of £600 be placed and put in the hands of my Executors hereafter herein named, to and for the uses, behoofs, intents, and purposes, and under and upon the trusts and Limitations hereafter herein Specyfyed, declared and appointed (to wit), the Sume of £200 with y<sup>e</sup> benefit and Improvement thereof to y<sup>e</sup> use of John Hooper and Mary Hooper Son and daughter of Joseph Hooper my Son in law, and to y<sup>e</sup> Issues of their Severall bodies and for want of such Issue to y<sup>e</sup> Survivor of them and his or her Executors and Administrators. Item the Sume of £200, part of y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid £600, with y<sup>e</sup> benefit and Improvement thereof, to y<sup>e</sup> use and behoofe of John Ogden and Mary Ogden, Son and daughter of Edmund Ogden my son in Lawe, and y<sup>e</sup> Issues of their severall bodys, and for want of such Issue to y<sup>e</sup> Survivor of them and his or her Executors and Administrators. Item y<sup>e</sup> Sum of £200 Residue of y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid £600, with y<sup>e</sup> benefit and Improvement thereof, to y<sup>e</sup> use and behoof of John Partington, Son of my Said Daughter Mary Partington and y<sup>e</sup> Issue of his body his Exors and administrators. Item I doe hereby give devise and bequeath to Richard Percivall my son in law, his Executors and Administrators, the Sume of £300. Item I do give to Robert Worthington of Wormley in Hartford Shire, my nephew, the Sume of £10. Item to my Sister Ruth Hindley, the Sume of £5, and to John and James Hartley [? Hindley] y<sup>e</sup> Sonns, and to Ann and Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> daughters of my Said Sister Ruth, to each of them y<sup>e</sup> Sum of £5. Item to my sister[<sup>in-law</sup>] Elizabeth Croston [sister of Mrs. Tilsley] 20s. to buy her a ring withall and to Elizabeth Croston my neice £5. Item to Mr. Henry Newcome Senior y<sup>e</sup> Sum of £5, to Mr. Henry Finch the Sume of £3, and to Mr. Jeremiah Schoals the Sume of £3, and to Robert Eaton Clerk the Sume of 20s. to buy him a Ring withall. Item to Katherine the wife of John Pike 10s., To Ann Digle 10s., to Mrs. Elizabeth Bowker 10s., To Ellin Robinson widow the Sume of 20s. to buy her a ring withall, To Mary the wife of George Holt 40s., To Hannah Aspinwall widow 20s., To Mr. Adam Martingdale, Mr. Aspinwall late of Crowsall, Mr. Malison of Melling, Mr. James Bradshaw of Rainford, William White, Richard Harrison of Heaton, Marjery Morris of Rumworth, and unto Sarah Wilkinson widdow each of them 20s. apiece. Item to Elizabeth Guest 40s., and to Mary Lees £3. Item I do hereby give to y<sup>e</sup> poor of Manchester £10, and to y<sup>e</sup> poor of Salford five marks to be distributed at y<sup>e</sup> discretion of my Executors hereafter herein mentioned, and my will is that there be no doal at my funerall. Item to y<sup>e</sup> poore of Deane parish y<sup>e</sup> Sume of £20, to be distributed at y<sup>e</sup> discretion of my Executors hereafter herein named, especial respect being had to the poor of Westhoughton and Rumworth, and further my will and mind is that y<sup>e</sup> overplus and remainder of Such my reall and personall Estate (I fancy [if any] such there be) be equally divided amongst so many of my grandchildren as shall be living at my decease. Further I doe hereby make, ordain, constitute and appoint Richard Percivall my Said Son in Lawe, and my said daughter Mary Partington, Executors of this my last will and Testament. And Lastly I doe hereby revoke and annull all former wills and Testaments by me heretofore made, and doe hereby make, publish, and declare this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seale the day and year first above written.

IOH: TILSLEY.

Sealed, signed, and published and declared in y<sup>e</sup> presence and sight of us IN. WILCOXON, THOMAS WILCOXON, JOHN RYDINGS.

Proved at Chester, 13 June, 1685.

Tilsley's interest in Accrington is explained by his relationship to John Cunliffe of Wycollar and Hollins, near that town. Cunliffe married for his second wife in 1638 Mary, eldest daughter of Ralph Chetham of Manchester, linen draper; his father, Nicholas, was the sequestrator and committee man of that name. John Cunliffe was much opposed to the government of Cromwell, and his house at Wycollar was plundered and sequestered. He was one of the trustees of the Will of Humphrey Chetham, his wife's uncle. The following



letter from Cunliffe to Humphrey Chetham shows how bargains in lands and "parishes" were picked up in the interregnum:—

Sir,—My dutie & service p'sented &c. Sr since my beeing wth you I have been w'th Captaine ffarrar, w'th whom (after much adoe) I have agreed, for his 2 fforests of Accrington & Trawden; the certaine rents of w'ch is 60*li* p' ann' & above, as by the rentalle will certainly appeare, besides the p'quesitta w'ch hee estimates att 3*li* p'ann', the valew agreed vpon is 14 yeares valew of the certaine years, & you to receive this halfe yeare rent due att lady day laste casting in the p'quesitta, for regard that I alledged, that they would but cleere the rents in gatheringe of the same & keepinge of courts. He is to receive p'sent money, And if this bargaine bee to yr likeinge, hee desires that there may be articles drawne betwixt you, for w'ch purpose hee hath appointed to meete att the howse of Rob'te Dean, in Hallifax vpon Saturday next, where I wish my brother Croston maye bee for drawinge of articles, and whom you please w'th him, hee hath p'mised his faythfull and Arnest Interest vnto Captain baynes for his p'te, of w'ch hee will give some account att hallifax the same daye if you desire to bye any more than these 4 fforests. Captaine ffarrar will sell you A paryshe the p'ticulars of w'ch you will receive here enclosed, I suppose you maye bye itt some cheaper than this you haue bought of him, In my iorney to Capt ffarrar, I mett w'th a gentleman of my flamiliar & antient acquaintance, who bel ngs vnto Colonell Lambert regim'ts of whom I enquired of Captaine baynes purpose concerninge the sale of his 2 fforests viz Ressondale & pendle, w'ch did soe take with him, that hee offered that if I could fynd A chapman, he would doe me A curtesie in the purchase of itt, I demandinge of him what years valew would be demanded, hee tould mee 14 yeares was ordinarie, but I should have them cheaper. I feeling his pulse offered to giue him half a yeares rent for his paynes, if hee would p'cure them for 11 yeares valew & a halfe or 12 att ye most, wherein hee p'mised his faythfull honeste dealinge, and to give me An account thereof w'thin 14 dayes soe havinge 2 strings for y'r bowe you maye make vse of that wch p'duces the lowest rate, desireinge yo'r order in the p'miases by this bear [bearer] I rest yo'r faythfull cousin to serue you

JOHN CUNLIFFE.

Woodhead ye 19th of Aprill, 1652.

Tilsley's death took place on 12 December 1684. This is the date given by Calamy and Newcome, though Heywood says he was *buried* on the 9th Decr. Under date of Friday, 12 Decr., Newcome writes: "At night my dear friend, Rev. Mr. Tilsley, died. Went with him to his grave at Dean, Dec. 16th. I after (as he desired) preached to his children upon *Hebrews* xiii. 7, 8." The entry of his burial describes him as "Johannes Tilsley de Manchester et olim de Deane Presbyter." His decease is noticed by Martindale among other deaths that happened, about the same time, of learned and profitable preachers, viz, Mr. Bell of Huyton, Mr. Bradshaw of Darcy Lever,—these three being "very eminent." Heywood applies to Tilsley the epithet "an admirable man." He was buried beneath the old yew tree in the church yard beside his wife; and the following inscription was placed on his gravestone:—

Here · Lyeth · the · Body  
of · John · Tilsley · Clark  
Master · of · Arts · and  
sometimes · Vicar · of  
Deane · which · was  
interred · the · 16th · day  
of · December  
1684.

Heywood's Diary x.  
vol 2 p 169  
aged 70.



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On 29th Jan., 1685, Newcome went to Mrs. Partington's, "and was there till six at night going over Mr. Tilsley's books, And I was fond of it (as I use to be of such little things before they come), and it was very just I should find very little in it when over; but well wearied I was. That was most that I got for my fondness." Newcome's weariness over his task is an indication that the library had been formed on the principle that characterised the letter of thirty years previously, which has already been quoted.

William, 9th Earl of Derby, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, was elected a feoffee of Chetham's College in place of Tilsley.

Calamy, who derived his account of Tilsley from one of Tilsley's friends, speaks of his high, even "stupendous" qualifications for his ministerial work. He says: "He had prodigious Parts, a retentive Memory, which made whatsoever he read his own, a solid Judgment, a quick Invention, warm Affections, and a ready Utterance. He was strict in his Life, and free and familiar in his Discourse."

The family of his daughter, Elizabeth Tildesley, and Richard Percival are thus given in an old Chetham pedigree drawn up by Ralph Cooper: Richard, John, Thomas, Margaret Martha, Elizabeth, and Jane. The three sons and two eldest daughters are said to have died unmarried; Elizabeth had one daughter, the wife of James Taylor of Ardwick Green, near Manchester, and left issue; Jane, the youngest daughter, married Mr. Benjamin Naylor of Manchester, and had three children, Peter, Richard, and James, of which the first and last died infants, and the second, Richard (born 31 Jan., 1729), married a daughter of Mr. Joseph Percival of Warrington, and had two sons and a daughter, viz., Percival Naylor, born 20 Dec., 1757; Benjamin, born 23 August, 1761; and Martha, born 14 December, 1765.

There was a William Tildesley living in Salford in 1641; and in 1690 a Mr. Tildesley and his wife were living in Market-street-lane.

Calamy's *Acct.*, p. 402, *Contin.* p. 563; Walker's *Sufferings*, i. 41b, ii. 184; *Lords' Journals*, vi. 252; *V. Rept. Hist. M.S.S. Com.*, 109; *Plundered Ministers' Minutes*; Heywood's and Newcome's *Diaries*, *passim*; Baines i. 534, 537-8 new ed.; Thoresby *Diary* i. 322, ii. 434; Hibbert Ware *Hist. Cheth. Hosp.* p. 135; *Not. Cest.* ii. 37-8; Martindale's *Auto.*, pp. 62, 128, 230, 236.



The Presbyterian Address of Lancashire excited much interest. It gave occasion to a pamphlet entitled - "A new Birth of the City Remonstrance", - in which some severe remarks were made on the manner in which the signatures were obtained, & a counter petition was suggested. This procured a rejoinder from Mr John Tilsley, minister at Dean Church, Lancashire, & one of the avouchers of the petition.

The exertions of Mr Keyrick this party to hasten the establishment of the Presbyterian discipline of Lancashire were at length successful. In an Act, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1646, the recommendation was sanctioned, that the county of Lancaster should be formed into an ecclesiastical province; that the spiritual affairs of each congregation should be managed by its own presbytery; that the province should be partitioned into nine classified districts, each to be governed by a monthly assembly of its own congregational presbyteries; that delegates from the clafical assembly should meet as synods at stated periods to legislate for the whole. {Foundations of Manchester, vol 1, p 245-6}

On the occasion of the funeral of Mr Bourne, "a veteran champion of Presbyterianism", - at Manchester, 1645-6, two addresses in his eulogium are recorded to have been preached: the one by Mr Thos Johnson, of Hellingworth, & the other by Mr Alexander Horrocks, minister of Dean Church. {Id. vol 1 p 245}

(Extract from the Minutes of the Clafical Assembly of Manchester) - Agreed that a fast be observed at Manchester, Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December next, & that Mr Gee, & Mr Tilsley be sought unto to preach upon the occasion of the sad breach made in the congregation by the death of Mr Hollingworth, late minister there; & to desire the Lord's guidance & assistance in another election of a minister to succeed him. {Id. vol 1, p 308}

But although the ejections were numerous that took place in Lancashire, they were notwithstanding much less than what occurred in other countries. This was chiefly owing to the prudent forbearance of B<sup>th</sup> Wilkins, the amiable Bishop of Chester. By this prelate many informations were discharged, & several ministers liable to ejection met with indulgence. Mr Tilsley, for instance, a friend of Mr Keyrick, was permitted to preach in his church as lecturer, another clergyman being sanctioned as vicar, who read the prayers. {Id. vol 1 p 367}



John Tilsey, M.A. of the university of Glasgow. He was born in Lanc. When he left Scotland he preached with Mr. Horrocks at Dean Church, & was to him like Timothy & Paul, a son in the gospel. He possessed uncommon abilities; a retentive memory, & made whatever he read his own; a solid judgement, a ready invention, a fluent delivery, & warm affections. He was very strict in his life, free & familiar in conversation, & eminently charitable: of a bold & active spirit, fearing nothing when once satisfied as to the grounds upon which he proceeded. When the assembly of Boston had suspended a prophane & desolute preacher at Rochester, & most others were afraid to preach at the place & declare the suspension, Mr. Tilsey readily went, & did it with great courage, yet with a becoming candour & meekness. He succeeded Mr. Horrocks at Dean: where he was ejected no less than three times. The first for refusing the Engagement, but he was soon restored. The second, by the Act of uniformity in 1662. After which, tho' he forbore preaching, he continued in the house adjoining to his church, which being in the hands of trustees, was still allowed him. When the excellent Dr. Wilkins became Bp of the diocese, he allowed him to preach in his church again as lecturer, when the new vicar read the prayers. When the Bp. was dead, he was indicted at the assizes for his nonconformity, & by the influence of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood, ejected a third time, in 1678. He spent the rest of his days in a private life at Manchester, where he died Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1684, aged 60. Tho' his abilities were such as seldom meet in one man, such was his modesty, that he was not sufficiently satisfied with his own performances to print any thing. He preached funeral <sup>p 359</sup>sermons for Mr. Rathband, Col. Bradshaw, & Mr. Horrocks, but could not be prevailed to publish either of them.

"Calamy's nonconformists' Memorial," - abridged, corrected, & methodized, with many anecdotes, & several new lives, by Samuel Palmer, 1802 edn. vol. ii. p 359-60. -