

X.—THE TOWN MOOR OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

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Until 1925, when the Law of Property Act gave members of the public right of access for air and exercise to any common situate within a borough or urban district, the general public had no rights in common land. At Newcastle upon Tyne, however, the burgesses were already in possession of such rights in the Town Moor and indeed had enjoyed them for at least seven hundred years prior to this Act. At one time there were a great many commons in England, but they disappeared steadily as the enclosure movement spread and as towns expanded and swallowed up all available land within and adjacent to their boundaries. Newcastle, no less than other towns, grew in size and importance, yet the Moor was preserved—intact and open, free from the encroachments of the builder or the enclosing zeal of the landlord which transformed open land into private demesne—a unique and priceless heritage which has contributed to the enjoyment and well-being of generations of citizens. Its survival was no mere accident. It was made possible by the untiring efforts and constant vigilance of the Council on the one hand and the Freemen on the other. From earliest times, whether as rivals or associated in a common effort, they worked to preserve and improve it for the benefit of the public and the city at large. The history of the Town Moor is therefore not only a topographical study. It is also the record of a proud achievement won through corporate effort in the service and interests of the community.

The first specific reference to the Moor which has come

down in writing occurs in letters patent of Edward III, dated 10th May, 1357. The king mentioned that "From the time when they had that town and its appurtenances at fee farm the burgesses and their predecessors had and enjoyed the moor and lands called Castle-Feld and Castle-More as appurtenant to the said town". This indicates that the rights of the burgesses of Newcastle in the Moor were established as early as 1213, the year in which King John granted the farm of the borough for £100 a year, though prior to 1357 there was no written title on which to rely. The letters patent continue with a statement to this effect:

namely that the burgesses "fear since there is no mention thereof in their charter, that they may be questioned in the future thereof; and that the town by reason of the last pestilence and dangers of wars and other adversities is so impoverished and destitute of men that the profits of the town do not suffice for the payment of the farm; and whereas the said men have prayed the king for a remedy herein the king has hereby granted that the burgesses and their heirs shall hold the land and moor aforesaid by the aforesaid bounds as appurtenant to the town with all the profits thereof, as they ought to have held them and have held them since the date of the said charters and letters, with power to dig and have mines of coal and stones therein, and make their profit thereof in aid of the farm of the town without impediment."¹

The fee farm of £100 was regularly paid in the centuries

¹ dicti tamen burgenses pro eo quod de dictis mora et terris licet de pertinentiis dicte ville existant, in carta predicta mentio facta non existat, metuunt se posse imposterum impetiri dictaque villa tam propter ultimam pestilenciam quam propter guerrarum discrimina et alias varias adversitates adeo sit depaupertata et hominibus destituta quod proficue eiusdem ville ad solucionem firme predictæ non sufficiunt, velimus eorum indemnitati in hac providere. Concessimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quod predicti burgenses et eorum heredes habeant et teneant moram et terram predictas per metas et divisas predictas tanquam pertinentes ad villam predictam cum omnibus proficuis de eisdem mora et terra infra metas et divisas predictas fodere et minera carbonum et petrarum ibidem habere et carbones et petras inde extrahere et commodum suum de eisdem carbonibus et petris ac aliis proficuis de eisdem more et terra provenientibus in auxilium solucionis firme sue predictæ facere possint, prout eis melius et utilius videbitur.—The original charter of 10th May, 1357, is lost but the text of it, from which the above passage is quoted, is preserved in a confirmation of 29th July, 1375, which remains in the City Archives. An English translation of the enrolment of the original text is printed C. Ch. R.V., p. 154.

which followed until, in 1885, it was commuted for a payment of £2,200 made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Newcastle upon Tyne to Robert Newton Phillips of Pipe Grange, near Lichfield, and Herbert Edlmann of 2 New Broad Street, London, whose predecessors in title had purchased the fee farm rent from the Crown in 1671.² There is, however, no evidence to suggest that the £100 was raised by a direct levy on the profits of the Moor. For instance, though mines and pits were established in accordance with the terms of Edward III's grant, they were maintained and worked for the benefit and convenience of the burgesses of the town rather than as a commercial enterprise designed to swell the corporate funds. Such mines were sunk and operated under the direction of the Common Council to that end that every citizen might enjoy a plentiful supply of coal at the lowest possible cost.

The early Chamberlains' Accounts give a very vivid and detailed picture of the expenditure incurred by the Corporation in connection with mining. In 1562, for example, expenses include:

4th. week of March

To Robert Hawll Wright for 5 days work on timber for sinking a pit	3s 4d
To Nycolas Gybson Wright for 5 days work at the same	3s 4d
Paid to their 2 men for 1½ days work	2s
Paid to Richard Dent for carrying 4 fothers of timber to the 2 pits	4s 4d
To Allan Dixon roper for a coal rope for one of the pits—weighing 2¼ stone @ 2/10 the stone	6s 4d
Paid to the sinkers of the new pit at the Mayor's command	12d
Paid to the sinkers for filling and drawing off water from the pit	3s 4d

Similar payments are recorded in the weeks which followed, and in addition there are references from time to

² See Note on the Fee Farm.

time to the cost of breakfasts, or other repasts, served to the Mayor and Chamberlains in the course of their visits to inspect and supervise the work.³

The Journal and Act books of the Common Council, which begin in the mid-seventeenth century, also refer to the management and maintenance of the pits and the terms on which coals were supplied to the burgesses. For example, at a Common Council held 4th November, 1646, there was a report on a convenient site for a pit near the Cowhill. The cost of sinking the pit was to be met by the town and the coals were to be worked at a penny a bowl—the bowl being the standard measure authorized by the Common Council.⁴ At the following Council Meeting, on 11th November, a further report was made on the draining of a drift and a proposal to link up the subsidiary shaft with the main mine on the Town Moor.⁵ On 12th April, 1647, referees were appointed to inspect the shaft at the common pit at the Town Moor and see how it was made,⁶ while a committee of Council was appointed on the 28th June to view the pit and come to an arrangement with the workmen to do whatever was convenient and necessary to provide coals speedily for the burgesses.⁷ Referees were appointed in the years which followed to survey old workings and supervise new ventures with a view to obtaining coal of a satisfactory quality and in adequate quantities. In all these undertakings the Corporation acted on behalf of the burgesses at large, working to ensure that the benefits of the royal concession of the right to take coal were equally available to all and making every effort to maintain the efficiency of the common pits in the public interest not as a source of revenue.

In the same way the burgesses had the right to pasture a certain number of beasts on the Moor and officials

³ e.g. 2nd week in May, 1562: "Item paid for brekefast at John Newtons for Mr. Mayr, Chamberlayns & xxiii when they went to se the synking pit xxs"; or, 1st week of July, 1562: "Item paid for bred for the Maior, Chamberlayn & xxiii in going to vewe the cooll mynd in the Comon more for wyn bred & ayll vis iiiid".

⁴ Common Council Book, 1645-50, f. 72.

⁵ *ibid.*, f. 73.

⁶ *ibid.*, f. 143.

⁷ *ibid.*, f. 152.

appointed and employed by the Corporation supervised their exercise of this right in order to protect the interests of the community as a whole. Thus, already in 1562, when the series of Chamberlains' Accounts begins, the Viewer of the Common Moor was one of the permanent staff of officials and functionaries in receipt of a regular salary each year. The Corporation made no profit from this office. Instead it was a charge on the revenues of the town. Yet such expenditure must have been amply justified for, without some provision for a permanent supervisor who reported regularly to Council, it would have been impossible to prevent the public interest in the Moor being sacrificed to the advantage of one section of the community or to the rapacity of the individual out for short-term profits regardless of any harmful effects which would eventually result from his activities. In addition to the Viewer, grassmen were appointed by Council and authorized and instructed to impound cattle damage feasant and to move off trespassers and in general to see that all rules and bye-laws affecting the Moor were observed.⁸ A town neateherd or noltherd was also appointed to tend and be responsible for the cattle pastured there by the burgesses. The articles of agreement, dated 1st April, 1653, which are recorded in the Common Council Act Book, give full details of his duties. He was to employ four servants who were to come into town—between 4 a.m. to 5 a.m. from Lady Day to Michaelmas and between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. from Michaelmas to Lady Day. They were to proceed through the town blowing their horns to warn the citizens that it was time to bring out the cattle who were to be driven to pasture on the Moor. Each servant followed a particular route, carefully specified in the articles of agreement. The first route covered Pilgrim Street Gate, Manor Chare, Broad Chare, Keayside, Sandhill, Butcher Bank and finally back to the Gate via Pilgrim Street; the second, which began at Newgate, covered White Cross and Middle Street; the third, starting from Westgate, covered the Long Stairs

⁸ Common Council Book, 1645-50, f. 107.

and so back to Westgate; and finally the fourth route from Closegate led to the Bull Ring on the Sandhill via Bridgend and back to Closegate. The four men were then to wait at the gates until the townspeople brought out their cattle which were then driven to the Moor, where they were kept and tended by the neateherd and his four servants during the day. At night they were driven back to the town, where their respective owners claimed them—between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. in summer and before 5 p.m. in winter. In payment, the neateherd was to receive 4d. per quarter for each cow put out to pasture and also the privilege of pasturing a certain number of his own beasts.⁹

Mining and pasture rights were very important in relation to burgess economy, but, in addition to these material advantages, the burgesses enjoyed and benefited from many social and recreational activities which centred on the Moor. It was an unspoiled stretch of open country ideal for walks or carriage drives. In early times freedom of movement was restricted, particularly in the case of carriages, because there were no adequate roads and footpaths across the Moor but, from the eighteenth century onwards, an attempt was made to remedy this. For example, the proposal for a carriage-way from Barras Bridge through the Town Moor to the north end of the Cow-Causeway was first advertised in the *Newcastle Courant* for 18th July, 1747. Shortly afterwards, in 1753, the turn pike road from the west end of the Broad Causeway, leading from Gallowgate to the West Cow-Gate where it joined the turnpike from the West Cow-Gate to the river Wansbeck, was made by order of the Common Council.¹⁰ These roads were of great convenience to both pedestrians and carriages.

Again, racing attracted great crowds of sightseers out to the Moor. At one time Killingworth Moor¹¹ was the great racing centre, but in the eighteenth century the races were

⁹ *Extracts from the Newcastle upon Tyne Council Minute Book, 1639-1656*, ed. Newcastle upon Tyne Records Committee 1 (1920), pp. 148-152.

¹⁰ Common Council Book.

¹¹ See *Proceedings*, 3rd ser., vol. vii, p. 245.

transferred to the Town Moor. Originally the races took place the week before Whitsuntide and in Assize Week but, since 1751, they have been held in Midsummer Week which, under the name of Race Week, is a local holiday. The races have always been exceedingly popular and thus amply justified the amounts spent by the Common Council on the upkeep of the race-course.¹² Moreover, it has become the practice to hold a fair on the Moor during Race Week and this has proved a most popular event in which citizens of Newcastle participate together with visitors from far and near.

Two annual fairs had been held on the Town Moor from very early times. The oldest of these, the Lammas Fair, was established by king John. The original grant, which is lost, is mentioned in letters patent of Edward II of 12th November, 1318, which state that whereas the burgesses of Newcastle had a yearly fair in the borough on the eve and day of St. Peter ad Vincula (August 1st) by grant of king John the said fair was in future to be extended over a further twenty-six days.¹³ The Cow Hill Fair was established at a later date. The original letters patent by which Henry VII authorized the Mayor and Burgesses to hold this annual fair on St. Luke's Day were lost between 1490, when the grant was made, and 1789, when Brand mentioned in his *History of Newcastle upon Tyne* that there was no record of it among the City Archives. The terms of the grant are known, however, from the enrolment on the Charter Rolls at the Public Record Office. The summary of it reads:

“Grant of special grace and at the petition of the mayor, burgesses and commonalty of Newcastle upon Tyne, in aid of the said town and its inhabitants to the said (mayor) and burgesses their heirs and successors of a yearly fair in the said town of the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, and on the eve thereof and

¹² e.g. the Common Council Books show various contributions for this purpose, each as £75 in 1756.

¹³ One text of this, included in an *Inspeximus* Charter of Elizabeth I, occurs in transcript in the Black Book, f. 15 (City Archives). There is also an enrolment on the Charter Roll 12 Edward II, m. 16.

through the twelve days following that feast, with all the liberties thereto belonging."¹⁴

This fair, for the sale of horses, cattle and pigs, was, according to an official report to the Board of Agriculture in 1880, one of the largest fairs in the north of England. These two fairs are still proclaimed to-day, but their dates were changed to the second Wednesday in August and the last Wednesday in October by Order in Council of 4th October, 1848. It was considered desirable that they should fall on a fixed day of the *week* rather than a fixed date each month, since it was inconvenient for the fair to coincide with a regular market day in the district.¹⁵

The Council, particularly from the mid-eighteenth century, was particularly anxious to improve the Moor in addition to working to preserve it as open country. For instance, discussions were held on schemes for leasing portions of it out to be cultivated for a period of years. The proposal of 31st December, 1771, was for the enclosure of about eighty-nine acres on the west side of the western turn-pike road from Gallow Gate Quarry to the West Cow-Gate. This scheme met with violent opposition from the Freemen of the town, who would not agree that this was a satisfactory policy to adopt for the improvement of the Moor in case it should lead to the establishment of permanent enclosures. So fierce was the opposition that a law suit ensued and the case came up at Assizes on 10th August, 1773. It was eventually agreed that the leasing of the Town Moor should be settled by Act of Parliament and this Act, which became law in 1774, regulated the management of the Moor in the centuries which followed. Its main provisions can be summarized as follows. The Freemen were declared owners of the grass or herbage but the ownership of the soil was vested in the Corporation. On the question of leasing, the Act declared that the Corporation might not let more than 100

¹⁴ *Calendar of Charter Rolls* vi, p. 269.

¹⁵ *Proceedings of the Newcastle Town Council*, 1848, pp. 194-198.

acres at a time, in seven-year leases; and then only "for the purpose of improving the said Town Moor, Castle Leazes and Nuns' Moor". The Cow Hill, Race Course and other public portions were never to be leased at all, but were to be preserved as much-prized amenities of the town, open to all for ever. To this day the Freemen have carefully discharged their trust as guardians of the herbage and any profits from fees for grazing, leases of intakes, etc., have been scupulously expended on upkeep and maintenance of the Moor or charitable payments to Freemen and their widows.¹⁶

The nineteenth century was a period of rivalry between the Freemen on the one hand, the Town Moor Committee appointed by the Common Council on the other. Each party was concerned to preserve the natural beauty of the Town Moor and to safeguard the townspeople in their enjoyment of it, but they could not reach any agreement as to the best method of doing this, with the result that they criticized and condemned each other's policies freely. They were agreed on the principle that there was room for improvement which would increase the fertility of the soil. The Freemen, however, were opposed to any scheme to raise money for this purpose, or any proposal to effect it indirectly, which involved and made provision for enclosures, formal parks, leasing, or indeed any other arrangement which would deprive the general public of free access to any part of the Moor, whether permanently or for a period of years. They emphasized the importance of preserving a large, free, open stretch of land where the townspeople could wander at will and shaped their policy with this end in view. All other objectives, such as drainage, fertility of the soil and special facilities for sport, were of secondary importance. One of the most comprehensive and carefully formulated schemes

¹⁶ Thus the Archives of the Freemen preserved at the Guildhall include details of expenditure on the Town Moor, 1845-1935 (e.g. wages of joiners, millwrights, cost of draining, drain pipes, fencing, liming, manuring, killing moles, etc.). There are applications and other records connected with Moor Money extending in date to the present day. Moreover, in addition to the Minutes of the Stewards of the Freemen, there are Herbage Committee Minutes from 1844 onwards.

for the improvement of the Town Moor was that advanced in Council in 1861, but it was not acceptable to the Freeman since its emphasis was on the opportunities for improvement of the Moor and moreover it proposed that rights of control over the herbage should be transferred from the Freeman to the Corporation in return for an annual payment of £1,200 to the Freeman. The Second Report of the Town Moor Committee, presented to the Council on 7th August, 1861, remarked:

“We found on enquiry the present condition of the Moor to be unsatisfactory to the inhabitants of Newcastle, as well as to a large portion of the Freeman interested in the herbage. An estate so admirably situated for the pleasure and convenience of the inhabitants of a large town, we found deficient in the most valuable attribute of grazing—systematic drainage; and we found, also, that under the existing plan of management, no material improvement could be guaranteed for the future. The Freeman of Newcastle, with funds insufficient in amount, have attempted to cultivate a property most extensive in its character; and we arrived at the conclusion that the only mode of rendering the Town Moor useful to the inhabitants of Newcastle and the Freeman, was to change its form of management, and obtain capital sufficiently large to drain the land properly, and render it agreeable as a place of public resort.”

The six resolutions included a proposal that the entire management of the herbage be vested in the Corporation, which would pay compensation to the Freeman for relinquishing their right and also stipulated “That no part of the Town Moor, Castle Leazes, or Nuns’ Moor be used as building ground, excepting the portion—about 84 acres in extent—lying to the East of the North Road”.

The Freeman refused to agree to these proposals, however, and the Committee therefore recommended that an application be made to Parliament next Session, “to render the Act of 24 George III more applicable to the present times”. Moreover, they put forward further proposals designed to maintain and improve the amenities enjoyed by the general public. The Committee declared:

“We deem it of the last importance when we know the surprising increase of our population, to render our public grounds as attractive and agreeable as possible, and furnish every opportunity to our working thousands, to obtain air, exercise, and innocent enjoyment.”

The actual proposals covered a magnificent terrace of first-class houses on a piece of land, about 80 acres in extent, to the East of the North Road, ornamental parks in the Leazes and other portions of the Moor, rides, drives, cricket and drill grounds, “a gymnasium, in fact for all classes”.¹⁷ The matter was raised again in Council on 3rd December, 1862, when the Town Moor Committee gave the necessary Parliamentary notices for a bill “respecting the improvement of the Town Moor, Castle Leazes and Nuns’ Moor for the purpose of rendering them more conducive to the health and recreation of the inhabitants of the borough”.¹⁸

The Freemen, though they would not adopt the proposals of the Committee, were equally anxious that the citizens of Newcastle should enjoy and appreciate this great expanse of common land to which they had access at all times. For example, in 1869, R. C. Watson, Member of the Upholterers, Tin-Plate Workers, Stationers and Millers Incorporated Companies, published a pamphlet entitled *The Corporation and the Town Moor*. He remarked of the above scheme of the Town Moor Committee of which Alderman Harle was chairman:

“A project has been brought forward by Mr. Alderman Harle for transforming the Town Moor, Castle Leazes, etc., into what he is pleased to call a Public Park. What the Town wants is a large, free open space, over which the people can wander at will, and inhale the pure fresh air without any interruption.”¹⁹ He considered the good health of the inhabitants of Newcastle depended in large measure on access to such open land where they could take exercise. “The pure and bracing air of the Town Moor and Leazes, so frequently recommended by medical

¹⁷ City Archives, Locker 287.

¹⁸ *Newcastle Council Reports*, 1862-3, p. 48.

¹⁹ *op. cit.*, p. 22.

men to their patients for the restoration of health, and the foot paths and pleasant walks, with liberty to stroll where you will, and not suffer confinement to harsh gravel walks, have always been highly conducive to the health and enjoyment of the inhabitants, who ought to be extremely grateful that there is so large a tract of ground adjoining the town, open to them at all times for exercise and recreation. To be deprived of it, on any pretence, plausible as it may be, would be felt as a great misfortune. These considerations are worthy of the serious attention of the Town Council; and it is to be hoped that that body will see that the Town Moor, Nuns' Moor and Castle Leazes already form the most healthy and extensive public park in the north of England and perhaps in the kingdom; and that it will be a shameful and unnecessary expenditure of taxation, wrung from struggling tradesmen, to carry out the proposal for laying out formal walks, and putting up palings to confine the public to certain prescribed portions of an extensive estate over which they can now roam and engage in various sports at pleasure."²⁰ He had no objection to a fine road over the Moor. "I would respectfully suggest for the consideration of the Herbage Committee and the Stewards of the Incorporated Companies that there should be a good and beautiful road constructed on the Town Moor, with trees and shrubs planted on either side; if this road was made available for equestrian and pedestrian pleasure seekers, it would vie with the famous Rotten Row, London."²¹ He considered that more seats should be set up at convenient places for the use of the general public: "In my perambulations I was astonished to find only three seats on the Leazes, and two on the north side of the Town Moor for use of invalids and pedestrians. . . . I could not help considering what a great convenience it would be to the large and increasing population of our town, if the gentlemen of the Herbage Committee . . . would give orders for the erection of several additional seats."²² In support of his argument that the Moor should always be managed for the benefit of the townspeople, he referred to a speech by the late Town Clerk: "I shall quote the following observations, which ought to be recorded in letters of gold, from a speech delivered at the Christmas Guild Meeting, 1867, by the late worthy Town Clerk, John Clayton, esquire. The learned gentleman said: 'My parting advice to you, is to go on and improve that noble property, the Town Moor, to the advantage of those who enjoy its produce and the benefit of the inhabitants of the Town, and to continue as you have always done, to cultivate a good understanding with

²⁰ *ibid.*, pp. 15-16.²¹ *ibid.*, p. 20.²² *ibid.*, p. 25.

the governing body, who have, always, and I trust, always will, respect the rights of the Freeman.’²³

The Town Moor Clauses of the Newcastle upon Tyne Improvement Act of 1870 emphasized that all provisions for the management and improvement of the Moor should be related to the interests of the general public and to providing further amenities for their enjoyment. Clause 7, for instance, specified that

“The Corporation and the Committee of Stewards and Wardens may, from time to time, enter into and carry into effect such agreements as they may think fit . . . for amongst other things, the following, viz.: ‘For planting of trees, or clumps of trees, and the fencing or inclosing the same—the formation of roads and paths for public use over, along, or across the Town Moor—the erection of seats upon the Town Moor in situations that may appear most suitable elsewhere than within the Public Park or Parks by this Act authorized—the appropriation of part or parts of the Town Moor for the space of not exceeding ten continuous days for the purpose of agricultural shows, public reviews, or other public purposes.’”²⁴ Clause 12 specified that “The Corporation may take possession of, retain, and for ever hereafter hold and appropriate, and set apart such land . . . not exceeding 35 acres of the Castle Leazes and 35 acres of the other part of the Town Moor, in two distinct plots, as a Public Park or Parks, and for the purpose of exercise and recreation by the public; and the Corporation may, out of the Borough Fund, level, drain, fence, enclose, plant trees, shrubs, flowers, and form and make lakes and waters,” etc.²⁵ Clause 16 regulated costs and other arrangements connected with the Race-course and fairs on the Moor. Any profits were to go to repairs, drainage and general upkeep of the ground. The Town Moor Management Committee produced a new scheme two years later under which they proposed to buy out the herbage rights of the Freeman with money raised from the sale of outlying portions of the Moor.²⁶

Strong opposition to the suggestion that any part of the land should be used for building sites was raised in Council. For example, it was remarked that the “scheme was like

²³ *ibid.*, p. 24.

²⁴ City Archives, Locker 314, p. 2.

²⁵ *ibid.*, p. 5.

²⁶ *Proceedings of the Newcastle Town Council, 1871-2*, pp. 396-9.

getting in the thin edge of the wedge to destroy that piece of ground, which was so beautiful and of so much value to the town".²⁷ The Chairman of the Committee, however, expressly specified that "Strict provision will be made in the Act of Parliament that it will always be open".²⁸

The Moor has indeed remained an open tract of ground, maintained and managed for the benefit of the general public. To-day, indeed, there are the Barracks, various Parks, the Infirmary and several roads all occupying sites which were once common land. These have, however, been established by mutual agreement between the Freemen and the Corporation. The Parks were provided for public enjoyment and recreation, for instance, and an area of land was acquired and incorporated in the Moor to offset that given up for the Infirmary site. The vigilance of the Freemen and the improving zeal of the Corporation have not been in vain. The Town Moor is still preserved and maintained as an oasis of open country within the boundaries of a great industrial city. It remains a common open to the townspeople who may wander there at will. Seven centuries have passed since the burgesses, in the time of king John, established rights in it, but time has not altered its value nor diminished its importance in the life of the community.

THE FEE FARM RENT

A series of copies of acts and documents concerning the fee farm rent of Newcastle upon Tyne have been preserved in the Charter Box among the City Archives. The most important of these in relation to the history of the fee farm are:

4. Copy of a grant by the King to Francis Lord Hawley, Sir Charles Harbord, Kt., Sir William Haward, Kt., Sir John Talbott, Kt., Sir Robert Stewart, Kt., and William Harbord,

²⁷ *ibid.*, p. 400.

²⁸ *ibid.*

Esq. and their heirs of all and singular the annual fee farm rent of £100 issueing out of and for the farm of Newcastle upon Tyne now or late payable to the Crown by the men of the said Town; to hold nevertheless in trust for his Majesty until sale be made thereof. Patent Roll 22 Charles II.

5. Copy of an indenture between the Right Hon. Francis Lord Hawley, Sir Charles Harbord, Kt., Sir William Haward, Kt., Sir John Talbot, Kt., Sir Robert Stewart, Kt., and William Harbord, esq., Trustees for the sale of fee farm rents and to the Right Hon. Charles Lord Gerrard Baron of Brandon in the County of Cheshire. In consideration of a payment of £1464 5 9 grant, bargain, release and confirmation unto Charles Lord Gerrard of the annual rent of £100 issueing out of and for the farm of the town of Newcastle upon Tyne now or late paid or payable to the Crown by the men of the said Town.

9. To the Right Honourable the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury—The Memorial of the Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne.

“Sheweth that there is in the hands of your Memorialists a sum of £3421 0 0d arising from the Enfranchisements and Sales of Corporate Property.

That the payment of the balance of the old debt of the Corporation (for money borrowed, existing at the time of the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act 1835) remaining unpaid amounting to £12226 has been postponed from time to time in consequence of the claimants being unable to produce the securities.

That your Memorialists are deserving of appropriating the sum of £2200 part of the £3421 in the purchase of the Fee Farm Rent of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne of £100 per annum payable by your Memorialists under ancient charters, and we have agreed to purchase from the present owners thereof, whose predecessors in title purchased the same from the Crown in 1671.”

Given under our Common Seal this 15th day of May, 1885.
Signed Wm. H. Stephenson, Mayor, Hill Motum, Town Clerk.

13. A letter from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury sanctioning the proposed appropriation of £2200 out of the balance of proceeds of enfranchisement, in the purchase of the fee farm rent of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne of £100 per annum, payable by the Corporation.

Signed G. Barrington.

Dated 30th June, 1885.

15. An Indenture between Robert Newton Phillips of Pipe Grange, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, esquire, and Herbert Edlmann of 2, New Broad St, in the City and County of London, esquire (the vendors) of the first part and Charles Dalrymple esquire and Sidney Herbert esquire, two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury of the second part, and the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne (the purchasers) of the third part.

In consideration of £2200 paid by the purchasers to the vendors, the vendors with the approval of the Lords Commissioners hereby convey unto the purchasers "All that fee farm rent of £100 issuing out of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne", to hold unto and to the use of the purchasers in fee simple.

Dated 31st July, 1885.