

MALPAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE following documents show the origin of the school at Malpas, its founding and first endowment by Sir Ralph or Randle Brereton and his associates. They are taken from the enrolment (21st April 1528) on the Chester Plea Roll 229, m. 46. Sir Randle, who had large possessions in Shocklach and Malpas, had built a chantry chapel in the south aisle of Malpas Church, herein called St. George's Chapel, where he had made his tomb. It appears that the senior Brereton family, lords of a portion of Malpas barony, had also a chapel called Our Lady's Chapel, and there was a chantry priest singing in the Rood loft. The school was of the chantry type, for while the boys were to be instructed in "grammar" according to Whittington's *Grammar*,¹ or such book as might supersede it in course of time, they were to be regular in their prayers in the chapel for their founder, and the schoolmaster, who must be a priest and graduate, was to say Mass there daily if he could. Thrice a week the school boys were to go around or within the church in solemn procession by two and two, and the master was to assist in choir every Sunday and holy day; while yearly on the Friday after the Exaltation of the Cross (14th September) the master was to arrange for the obit of the founder according to the scheme detailed in the deed. St. George's Day was also to be kept specially.

The master was to teach gratuitously all who

¹ Robert Whittington of Lichfield, who published various school-books which were very popular. He died about 1560.

came, for there is no limit of number; but those who could afford it were to pay 1*d.* each quarter, viz. a cock-penny after Christmas (no doubt for the Shrovetide cock-throwing), and a Potation penny in each of the other quarters, the master making "a drinking" for them in return. The play days were the Church holy days, and should a week pass without one occurring in the calendar, Thursday afternoon was to be given to play. There were to be vacations of a fortnight each at Christmas and Easter. The school hours were from 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning (or an hour earlier in summer) until 5 in the evening in winter and 6 in summer. The day's work should end with an anthem of Our Lady and the psalm *De Profundis* for the souls of the founders. The older boys were to take turns in teaching the young ones their A B C and primer; after a boy had been twelve months in "grammar" he was to speak Latin only in school. Obedience to the master was strictly enjoined; the boys were to carry no weapons beyond a knife to cut their meat with; they were not to play cards or dice, and not to plunder poor men's apple-trees by the way.

For the founder's intention was to give opportunity to poor children and young men to "learn grammar to the intent that they thereby might better learn to know Almighty God and to serve Him according to their duties, by occasion whereof they might the better avoid and eschew all vices and use good manners," in the hope that "through the grace and goodness of Almighty God" they might become "the very clear lantern of good example in virtuous living to all the country thereabout." How many such schools there were then in the county is unknown. Sir Randle speaks of them as "very few"; but there was probably one at Chester,¹ and

¹ John Birchley, "teacher of the children," had £6 from St. Werburgh's Abbey before the Dissolution.

others are known at Knutsford, Stockport (1488), and Macclesfield (1503). The foundation deeds of the last-named may be seen in Earwaker's *East Cheshire* (i. 414; ii. 512), and may have given the stimulus to the founder of Malpas School in 1528. The first master was to be John Lathom. The founder seems to have died about three years afterwards, being succeeded as Chamberlain of Chester by his son William in 23 Henry VIII. The school did not endure according to the founder's wishes, the confiscation of chantry endowments some twenty years later making havoc here as elsewhere. It is curious that the foundation deed itself, as enrolled, does not name the trustees or define the lands set apart for the endowment. This information is afforded by the deeds which follow it, and which were enrolled at the same time. As Sir Randle has the credit of the foundation it may be surmised that William Davidson and the others, who here come forward as co-founders, were in some degree Sir Randle's agents; it is recorded in their deeds that he had built a new schoolhouse at great cost, and while the trustees' names are given in Davidson's deed it is the founder who makes regulations for their continuance. Still it would show no lack of generosity, but rather a fuller measure of it, had Sir Randle welcomed the assistance of others in his plans for the enlightenment of the district; as things stand, however, the measure of this assistance must remain uncertain.

Helsby¹ gives the following report made to the King in 1546, in view of the suppression:

Memorandum that within x yeres last past there was a Gramer scole erected in the syd Towne of Malpas, and the Scole maystre thereof haveynge lands and tenements assygned for hys stipende to the yerely value of xii. *li*. The same landes nowe beyinge re-

¹ Ormerod's *Cheshire* (ed. Helsby), ii. 618.

sumed and taken by one Sir Roger Brereton¹ knyght so that at this present there ys no Scole there left, Albeyt yt were verry necessary to have Scole there.

[ENROLMENT]

Ranulphus Brereton de Malpas miles Camerarius Cestrie in propria persona sua venit coram prefato Justiciario [Thoma Englefeld armigero filio Thome Englefeld militis] et cognovit scriptum subsequens fore factum suum et petit illud irrotulari; et irrotulatur in hec verba:

TO ALL PEOPLE to whome this present Cedula and declaracion of a will tripartite indented made the twenty day of Marche in the yere of our Lord God A Thousand Fyvehundreth and seven and twenty and in the nevententh yere of the reign of our sove-reign lord Kyng Henry the eight by the grace of God Kyng of England and of Fraunce defendour of the Feythe and lord of Irland shall come rede here or see / I Sir Randulph Brereton of Malpas in the countie of Chester Knyght Chamberleyn of Chester sendith gretyng in our Lord God everlastyng.

WHERE I the forsaid Sir Randulph Brereton knyght by the grace and helpe of God callyng to my remembraunce that in the seid Countie of Chester be verrey fewe scoles of Gramer wherby mennys sonnes and children may lerne gramer to thentent that thei therby myght better lerne to know All myghty God and to serve hym accordyng to their duties by occasion whereof thei myght thei better avoide and eschewe all vicez and use good maners; thynkyng Also Inwardly in myn hert that through the grace and goodnes of All myghty God many pore childern And yonge men applyeng theym self to lerne gramer which is the originall ground and Founteyn owt of the whiche doth procede and spryng thei verrei meane and pleyne weye to come to the clere understanding of good lyvyng and lernyng myght approche to such knoleche of the light of grace that per caas they myght happen to be thei verrey cler launterne of good example in vertuouse lyvyng to all the countrey therabout to the good encrease and use of virtue and expulsion of all vices / have ordeyned establisshed and made and by thez presentes do ordeyn estab-lisshe and make a Fre gramer scole to be kept and holden in Malpas affore seid to endure and continue by the grace of God for ever And also have ordeyned and made dyvers convenyent

¹ A son of the founder.

ordynaunces and estatutes concernyng the same as herafter do ensue

FIRST I the seid Sir Randulph Brereton knyght by thez presentes name make and ordeyn John Lathum Clerke Scole maister of the Forsed Fre gramer scole and I will that thei same master John Lathum and his Successours Scole maisters of the same Scole for the tyme beyng and every of theym shalbe graduate and admytted by a universite for his lernyng and shalbe named and called the scole maister of Malpas

AND I will that all and every maner of person or persons that shall herafter happe to be enfeffed and seised of eny landes tenementes rentes or hereditamentes which I the seid Sir Randulph Brereton or eny other well disposed person have or herafter shal preches to and for the use of the Exhibicion and selarie of the seid scole maister and other his successours scole maisters of the seid scole shall stand and be seised therof to thuse of the seid Maister John Lathum and of his successours scole maisters of the seid scole aslong as he or they shalbe scole maisters of the seid Fre scole for his and their stipende wages and lyvyng and for such other thynges and charges as herafter shalbe specified and mentioned and shall suffre hym and theym to take and perceyve yerely all the issuez rentes reve nuez and proffitz what so ever thei shalbe comyng or growyng of the same landes and of every parcell therof

ALSO it is my will and full mynd that when so ever and as ofte that it shall happen twelve of the Feffes which shalbe seised or enfeoffed of eny such landes and tenementz as be or shalbe yeven for the exibucion stipend and wagez of the said scole maister and of his successours to decesse and but only iiij of the same feffes to overlyve that then the same iiij feffes so overlyvyng shall within two monethes then next foloyng enfeffe therin two honest prestes the whiche two prestes shall immediatly refeffe of and in the premisses the seid iiij feffes so overlyvyng and twelve other of the most honest and discrete persons of the parisshes of Malpas Tilston and Shoklache / and those to be named and appoynted by the seid iiij feffes so overlyvyng after their discrecion

TO HAVE and to hold all and every the same landes and tenementes to theym their heirz and assigns for ever to thuse and entent above declared and herafter to be declared and so from tyme to tyme as often and when so ever as by occasion of deth it shall happen iiij persons only of the seid xvj persons so enfeffed in the premisses to overlyve the other twelve persons

ALSO it is my will and full mynd that when so ever the seid maister John Lathum nowe made and named by thes presentes to be scole maister of the seid scole or any other of his successours herafter beyng scole maisters therof shall happen to decesse

or be amoved from the maistership or Rowme of Scolemaister of the seid frescole for eny cause herafter to be declared That then I the seid Sir Randolph Brereton and my heires males of my body begotten shall name and appoynt an other honest and discrete preest graduate sufficiently and groundely lerned in gramer and able to teache gramer to be scole maister of the seid scole for terme of his lyff / And if it happen as God forbidde that I the seid Sir Randolph have no heire male of my body begotten lyvyng or ellz that I the said Sir Randolph Brereton and myn heirez males within two monethes next after the avoydaunce of the seid scole maister to be necligent and remysse and do not name appoynte and institute an other Scole maister such as is affor rehersed when and as often as the seid Fre scole shall fall voyde as is aforeseid that then Richard Cholmundeley of Cholmundeley esquier and his heirez males of his body laufully begotten shall from thensforth have the nominacion and appoyntment of a newe scole maister graduate sufficiently and groundely lerned in gramer as is afforeseid to be Scole maister of the seid Fre scole as often as the seid Fre scole shall fall and be voyde as is afforeseid And if it happen the seid Richard Cholmundeley or eny of his heires males aforeseid to be necligent and remisse and do not name and institute an able honest and discrete preest graduate as is afforeseid to be scole maister of the seid Fre scole by the space of two moneths then next folowyng that then and from thensforth Thomas Hamner son and heir apparaunte of Sir Thomas Hanmer knyght and his heirez males of his body laufully begotten shall have the nominacion and appoyntment of a Scolemaister of the seid scole graduate and sufficiently lerned in gramer as is aforeseid as often as the seid scole shall fall voyde as is afforeseid And if it happen the seid Thomas Hamner and his heires males aforeseid to be necligent and remisse and do not name ner institute an able honest and discrete preest graduate as is aforeseid to be scole maister of the seid Frescole by the space of two monethes then next folowyng That then and fromthensforth the heires males of the body of Sir William Brereton of Brereton knyght and Elynour his wyff daughter of me the seid Sir Randolph Brereton knyght shall have the nominacion and appoyntment of a scole maister graduate of the seid scole as is afforsaid as often as the seid scole shall fall voyde as is afforseid And if it happen the seid heires males of the said Sir William Brereton and Elynour his wyff to be necligent and remysse and do not name ner institute an hable honest and discrete preest graduate as is aforrehered to be scole maister of the seid scole by the space of two monethes then next foloyng That then and fromthensforth Robert Harcourte sonne and heir apparaunte of John Harcourte squyer and his heirez males of his body laufully begotten shall have the nominacion and appoynt-

ment of a scole maister of the seid scole graduate as is aforseid as often as the seid scole shall fall and be voide as is afore-rehersed And if it happen the seid Robert Harcourte and his heires males aforseid to be negligent and remysse and do not name ner institute an habile honest and discreet preest graduate as is afforseid to be scole maister of the seid scole by the space of two monethes then next folowyng That then the Right heires of me the seid Sir Randolph Brereton shall have the nomination and appoyntment for ever of the seid scole maister of the seid scole and his successours as they shall answere at their perelles byfore all myghty God at the day of Jugement

AND for the statutes and ordynances of the seid Fre scole I the seid Sir Randolph will that thei seid scole maister for the tyme beyng shall teache every scoler comyng to the seid scole after Whittingtons gramer and makyng or after such fourme and such gramer whiche shalbe then most used and most proffitable to be taught hereafter in fre gramer scoles / And the same to be taught frely and qytely without takyng any reward stipend or scole hyre or any other thyng by promyse graunte or covaunt before made every feriall day except viij dayez next before the festes of Nativitie of our Lord God and Ester and other viij dayez after the seid festes except the seid scole maister shall happen to have a resonable let or impedymnt

PROVYDET all wayes that it shall be lafull to the seid scole maister and hise successours for the tyme beyng to take of every scoler of the seid scole lernyng gramer iiiij^d by yere of such as have habilitie at his discrecion / that is to say in the quarter next after Christynmas a Cokpenny and in every of the other quarters in the yere on potacion peny and for the same potacion penyes the seid scole maister for the tyme beyng shall make a drynkynge for the seid scolers in every of the seid thre quarters in the yere

ALSO that thei seid scole maister shall gyve no licence to any scoler of the seid scole to play in any feriall daye if in the same weke of the said feriall dayes shall happe to fall oon holydaye and if it be a whole weke without ony holydaye that then the forseid scolemaister for the tyme beyng shall gyve licence to the seid scolers to pley on the Thursdaye at after none only at his pleasur except it be at the request or desire of a gret wurshipfull man

ITEM I will and ordeyn by thes presentes that thei seid scole maister for the tyme beyng and his successours scole maisters of the seid scole beyng within the Malpas parisshe forsaid every Sondag and holydaye if the can syng shalbe personally in the quere of the parisshe churche of Malpas aforseid in his surples to helpe to syng rede and say the devyne servyce accordyng to his lernyng and connyng except he have a resonable excuse or impedymnt

AND ALSO I will that all the scolers of the seid fre scole beyng present thre tymeze in the weke that is to say Sunday Wensdaye and Fryday shall goo two and two to geders in procession abowt or within the seid Church of Malpas if the parsons or curates of the same Church will despose theym self therunto syngyng the feriall letanye in the feriall dayes and on the Sunday or other holydayez then syngyng the respondes or such servyce as to that daye then shall apperteigne and accordyng to the cunningg of the seid scolers in songe

AND ALSO I will if the seid scole maister for the tyme beyng or his successours scole maisters of the seid Fre scole be proved before the Archedecon or Officiall of Chester by foure honest persons of the parisshe of Malpas forsaid that he is not diligent in attendyng or techyng the seid scolers or ellez be not honest in his lvyng by incontynency or viciousnes or ellz be not discrete in correccion of the seid scolers or not sufficiently lerned in gramer as is aforsaid That then if thei said scole maister do not amende after the monycions to hym therof to be gyven by hym that named and appoynted the said scolemaister if he then be on lyve and if he be deadde then by hym that shall have the next nominacion and institution of the seid scole maister that then the same person to whom the next nominacion shalbe longe shall amove the same scole maister and provyde name and institute on other sufficient and hable preest and graduate as is above seid to be scole maister of the seid Frescole as is afforsaid

ALSO I will and farther ordeyn that thei seid scole maister for the tyme beyng shall appoynt every day oon of his scolers lernyng gramer of the highest fourmes in the scole oon after an other as the seid scolers shall sit in order to teache all infauntes that shall comme to the seid scole to lerne their A B C and prymer and so furthe tyl thei be entred in to lernyng of gramer

AND more over I will and ordeyne that aswell the said scolemaister as the said scolers of the seid scole inhabited within the Town of Malpas aforsaid bytwene Michelmas and Ester shalbe at the parisshe Church of Malpas forsaid betwene vj and vij of the Clokke in the mornyng and there thei scolers shall say such praiers as shalbe lymyted and written in a table to be hangyd in our Ladies Chapell within the said Church called Breretons Chapell

AND ALSO I will that thei said scolemaister for the tyme beyng as often as he shalbe disposed to saye masse shall betwix the same houres of vj and vij say masse in the chapell of seynt George in the Church of Malpas forsaid of my fundacion And then immediatly after that thei shall go unto the seid scolehouse and shall departe thens at fyve of the Clokke in the After none And betwixt Ester and Michelmas the same maister and scolers shalbe at the seid Church bytwene v and vij of the

Clokke in the mornyng and ther thei scolars shall say the said prayers in the place afore appoynted and thei said scolemaister to say masse in the same Chapell of seynt George betwixt thei same houres if he thereunto shalbe disposed and then immediatly from thens shall depart and go to the said scole And at After none thei shall departe from the seid scole at vj of the Clokke and every nyght or they depart from thei seid scole the seid maister and scholers shall syng an Antiphon or Anteyn of our Lady and say De profundis for the soules of the founders of the same scole and their auncetours and all Christen soules And then to departe whom

AND I will that if the seid scolemaister for the tyme beyng shall happe to be sykke or diseased or be absent by the space of vj dayes so that he shall not be able to teache the said scolars that then he shall cause an other sufficient and hable preest to supplie hise rowme in every thyng abovesaid duryng hise said sykenes and disease or absence And shall pay to hym such wagez as they shall agre apon

AND I will that every Scole maister for the tyme beyng when so ever he shalbe instituted in the seid Office shall covenant and graunt by his deed indented to hym that shall name or appoynt hym to be maister of the seid scole that he by all the tyme that he shalbe scole maister of the seid scole shall well and truly observe and kepe all the said ordenances and statutes which on his partie ough to be perfourmed and kept Also that he shall not departe from the seid office of Scole maister onles he gyff oon halfes yeres warnyng to the same person to whom thei seid indenture shalbe made if he be on lyve or after his decease to hym to whom the next nominacion and institucion shall apperteign

AND I will and ordeyn that no scoler shall weire any dagger henger or other wepon invasyve other then his knyff to kytt his meyt with / within the towne of Malpas forsaid aslonge as he or thei shalbe and contynue scoler there

ALSO I will that every Scoler shalbe obeydent to the seid Scole maister for the tyme beyng in all his commandementz and demaundes lafull and shalbe redy to gyff his helpe and his Assistance to the Correccion of any scoler of thei seid Frescole when and often as the seid scole maister for the tyme beyng shall commaund theym

ALSO I will that every scoler after that he be xij monethes in gramer shall use to speke to an other at all tymes within the seid scole Laten and non Englissh if he convenyently so can do And that no scoler shall use dysyng or cardyng ne any other unlafull games ne breke no poore mennys hegges or orchardes to take away there Fruyte uppon payn of correccion at the discession of the said scole maister

AND I will that if any scoler do disobey the seid Scole maister in any resonable commaundement or correccion or make any affray uppon hym that then thei seid scoler to be avoyded owt from the seid scole For ever except the seid Scole maister be content to kepe hym styl

AND ALSO I will that thei seid feoffes and their heires shall permytt and suffer the said Scole maister and his successours for the tyme beyng scole maister to have full power and Auctoritie from tyme to tyme to graunt dymytt and to ferme lett all and singler the saidz mesez landez and tenementz and every parcell of theym at theyre pleasur from yere to yere only at their will and no further

AND ALSO where I the seid Sir Randulph Brereton have hertofore established an obyte to be kept yerely duryng the terme of a Thowsand fyve hundreth yeres in the Churche of Malpas forsaid for my soule and for the soule of Elinour my wyff our Childern and Auncetours in the Fryday in the First weke of cleyn Lent with a solempne masse and dirige as in a Cedula and will of me thei seid Sir Randulph sealed with my seale beryng date the second daye of the monyth of August in the yere of our Lord God a Thowsand Fyve hundreth twenty and three And in the xv yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the eight more at large doth appere I will that the said scole maister and his successours for the tyme beyng with all his scolers of the same fre scole shalbe present in the seid Churche of Malpas from the begynnyng of the seid dirige and masse unto the ende of the same and thei seid scolers to say duryng thei same dirige and masse or asmany of theym as be lerned to the same dirige and commendacions for my sowle my seid wyffes soule and the soules of our Childern and auncetours and all Christen soules

AND ALSO I will that oon Anniversarie or obyte shalbe kept yerely from hensforth for ever in the seid Churche of Malpas in the Fryday which is oon of the ymbre dayes next after the Fest of the Exaltacion of the holy Crosse with a solempne masse at the Costes of the said Scole maister and of his successours for the tyme beyng for the soules of me the seid Sir Randulph and of my said wyffes our Childern and all our Auncetours and all Cristen soules in maner and fourme hereafter ensuyng that is to witt that oon of the parsons or oon of the Curates of the said parisshe Churche with vj other preestes which shalbe vij in nowmber at the denominacion of the said Scole maister for the tyme beyng and iij Clerkes shall to gether synge placebo and dirige in the seid parisshe Churche of Malpas in the mornyng of the same Frydaye and after that at their pleasure vj of the seid prestes to say masse of the trentall of seynt Gregory as thei shalbe appoynted by the said Scole maister with the collet Deus summa spes nostre redempcionis &c. And oon of the seid

parsons or oon of the Curates or other prest to kepe masse of requiem solemply with note and the other vj preestes with iiij Clerkes to helpe to synge at the same masse And the prest that kepith the seid masse of requiem to have viij^d and every of the oder vj preetes to have vj^d for their bussynes And every of the seides Clerkes to have iij^d

ALSO I will that thei parisshe Clerkes of the seid Church of Malpas shall cause thre long peales to be rongen on the same Fryday with all the Belles in the stepull except the sayntes Bell and the same Clerkes to be payd for their ryngyng by the seid Scolemaister eyther of theym iiij^d and the Church woman ij^d for attendyng the light apou the herse

ALSO I will that thei seid Scole maister shall gyve and deale in Almos the same Fryday to xiiij pore folkes every of theym j^d by the advyse of the Chauntrye preest syngyng in the rode lofte of the same Church

ALSO I will that thei seid Scole maister shall pay for fyve syrges x^d to be brennyng upon the herse to be made upon the grave of me the seid Sir Randulph duryng the syngyng of the dirige and masse aforsaid and for candels to be sett apou the same ij^d.

AND ALSO I will that thei seid scole maister before the Feest of the Nativitie of our Lord next after the seid Fryday shall say or cause to be seid as many other masses to fulfyll the said trentall that is to witt xxiiij masses with placebo and Dirige to make and fulfill a wholl trentall And after the seid trentall fulfilled the said scole maister every quarter of the yere to say Fyve masses of the Fyve Woundes of our Lord for the soules of me the seid Sir Randulph and Elinour my Wyff our Childern our Auncestours and all Christen soules with such collettes as thei shall thynk convenyent

ALSO that the same scole maister and his successours for the tyme beyng shall yerely in the Feest of seynt George synge masse or cause masse to be songyn in the Chapell of seynt George in the Church of Malpas forsaid and that the same Scole maister shall gyve to theym that helpe to syng the same masse viij^d to make theym mery with all

ALSO I will that the same scole maister and his successours for the tyme beyng shall yerely ageyn the Fest of seynt George bye v poundes of waxe for the reparyng and mayntenyng of Fyve syrges nowe stondyng on the Chapell before seynt George to bren in solempne festes of the yere

ALSO I will that the seid Scole maister for the tyme beyng ones in every yere shall make a true accompte of all such issuez and profettes commyng and growyng of thei seides landes and tene-mentz as he then shall have receyved that yere before to hym that didde name and institute the said scole maister if he be on

lyve and if he be dedde to hym to whom the next nominacion shall apperteigne and before the Chauntry preest syngyng in the Rodelofte in the seid Churche if the seid Scole maister be therunto requyred And if the seid scole maister upon thei seid accompte made shalbe found to have receyved more money then thei summe of ten poundes for his stipend for thei yere and the Costes of the Anniversarie as is before expressed and named which amountith yerely to the summe of vij^s vij^d and over the Costes of seynt Georges masse on seynt George Day which amountith to viij^d and also the costes of fyve poundes of waxe that then all the overplus therof and the same more money over the seides ten poundes and over the Costes of the seid Anniversarie and over the costes of seynt George masse on seynt Georges Day and over the Costes of fyve poundes of waxe before specified shalbe putt in to a Coffe havyng thre dyvers lokkes with thre dyvers keyes of which thre keyes I will oon shalbe in the keypyng of the founder of the seid scole / An other in the keypyng of the seid scole maister for the tyme beyng And the thridde in the keypyng of the Chauntry prest synkyng in the Rode lofte in the seid Churche of Malpas

AND I will the same more money shalbe kept to bere the Costes and charges of the seid scolehouse and wall abowt the same and the repayryng of seynt George with the ornamentes to the said Chapell of seynt George belongyng and for the defence of the title of the same mesez landes and tenementes and for the refeoffementes and pennyng of thastates of the seides landes and tenementes hereafter to be made to be bestowed yerely by thadvyse of the seid Founder Scolemaister and Chauntry preest as they shall thynk most convenyent and nedefull for the mayntenance of the same

ALSO I will that as often as it shall happen the seid frescole to be vacaunt and voide without a Scole maister as is beforeseid than then all such sommez of money that shalbe Due of in and for the seid measez landes and tenementes Duryng the tyme of the vacacion of the said Scole maister of the seid frescole as is be foreseid shalbe putt in to the seid Coffe with the seid divers lokkes to such use and entent as is before exprest

ALSO I the said Sir Randulph Brereton will that if any doute or ambiguyte growe or happen in tyme to come to the seid Scolemaister for the tyme beyng or eny his successours for and anendes the saides statutes actes or ordynances that then the same doute or ambiguyte shalbe explained declared and made evydent by hym that named and instituted the same Scole maister if he be then lyvyng with the Archdecon or the Officiall of Chester for the tyme beyng / And if he be dedde by hym to whom the next nominacion of the seid scole maister shalbelong with the seid Archdeacon or Officiall

ALSO I will that if it happe the same scole house at eny tyme hereafter by reson of fyre or eny Chaunce or cause or by reason of oldenesse or ruyn by processe of tyme to be ruynous and decayed That then and fromthensforth the rentes issuez and profittes commyng and growyng of all the seid landes and tenementes forsaide to and of the yerely value only of ten poundes bifore appoynted for the stypend and wages of the said Scole maister shalbe perceyved and taken by the said Scole maister and his successours by the space of two yeres only then next foloyng such decaye and ruyn of the seid Scole house to and for the reedifieng buyldyng and repaying of the seid scolehouse / Duryng whiche only two yeres I will that thei seid Scole maister for the tyme beyng shall take for his techyng of his seid Scolers asmuch and suche summes of money as he can agre with his seid Scolers for their lernyng any article or clause in this present Will or Ordynance in any wyse notwithstanding and all and every such rentes and proffettes of the yerely value of ten poundes duryng the seid two yeres to be bestowed and payed by the said Scole maister and Chantry prest syngyng before the rode in the seid Church of Malpas to and for the reedifieng makyng and repaying of the seid Scolhouse

AND ALSO I will that the seid feoffes and their heires shall stand and be seised of and in all and singler the same landes tenementes rentes revercions services and other hereditamentes with their appurtenances to thuse and entent above specified and that the same feoffes nor their heires ner non of theym shal not in any wise in tyme to come make nor do ner suffer to be made ner don eny thyng contrarie to this my present will and ordynance by fyne feoffament recovery or otherwise And for the perourmacion accomplisshement and assuraunce of all and syngler statutes ordynances poyntes and Articlez specified in this present Cedula and will the rather to be observed performed fulfilled and kept I the seid Sir Randulph Brereton for dyvers consideracions have caused the seides statutes and Ordynances with all other dedes and wrytynges concernyng the seid scolehouse to be enrolled before the Justice of the Countie palantyne of Chester in the nynetenthe yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the eight / And before the Chamberleyn of the seid Countie palantyne of Chester in the Exchequir ther in the same yere / And have delyvert oon parte of the originall of the seid scole house and ordynances therapon established and made with all other evydences and dedes of purchase belongyng and concernyng to and for the seid Scolehouse unto Richard Cholmondeley of Cholmondeley And an other parte thereof to the said Scole maister And the thridd part therof to the Abbot and Covent of Chester surely and savely to be kept For the sure contynuaunce of the premisses

AND I the seid Sir Randolph Brereton knyght charge all them that now be or in tyme to come shalbe whiche shall have the Custody or kepyng of the seid Originalles or the Copies of the same as they shall Answare byfore God that thei ner noon of them shall not in any wise in tyme to come delyver or cause to be delyvered to any person or persons the seid Originalles ner eny copenes ner copy therof except it be for the tyme only or ellez for the perfourmaunce assuraunce and helpyng of the mater therein conteigned and the mayntenaunce and good contynuaunces of the said scole and ordynances

IN WITTENES whereof to this present Cedule and declaracion of my wyll tripartited indented I the seid Sir Randolph Brereton knyght have setto my seale the day and yere abovesayd.

Willelmus Davidson de Cestria mercator in propria persona sua venit coram prefato justiciario [Thoma Englefeld armigero] et cognovit scripta subsequencia fore facta sua et petit illa irrotulari; et irrotulantur in hec verba:

KNOW¹ ALL MEN present and future that I William Davidson of Chester merchant have delivered demised enfeoffed and by this my present charter tripartite and indented have confirmed to William Pole knight, Thomas Hanmer son and heir apparent of Thomas Hanmer knight, Richard Cholmondeley esquire, Robert Harcourte son and heir apparent of John Harcourte esquire, Philip Eggerton son and heir of Philip Eggerton esquire, Humphrey Dymmoke of Wyllyngton, John Broghton of Broghton, Richard Golborn of Overton, William Eggerton of Hampton, John Heth of Overton, Ranulph Lloyd, William Kerreson of Bradeley, John ap John ap Jankyn, Robert Lloyd of Iscoyd, John Dodde of Shokelache and Thomas Caldecotte, two salthouses (*salinas voc'* salthouses) with all their appurtenances and commodities lying in the villis of Overwiche and Lagherwiche in Iscoyd in the county of Flynt now in the farm or occupation of Ranulph Brereton knight and which I lately had by the gift, purchase, and feoffment of Edward Sutton knight lord of Dudley. I have also given and granted to the same William Pole, Thomas Hanmer the son, Richard Cholmondeley, Robert Harcourte, Philip Eggerton the son, Humphrey Dymmoke, John Broghton, Richard Golburn, William Eggerton, John Heth, Ranulph Lloyd, William Kerreson, John ap John ap Jenkyn, Robert Lloyd, John Dodde and Thomas Caldecotte all and singular those my messuages lands tenements rents and services with appurtenances in Wiglande which I the

¹ This deed is in Latin.

aforesaid William Davidson lately had and purchased from William Eggerton of Hampton and which lately belonged to David Kerreson of Oldcastell. To have and to hold the said two salthouses, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and services with all their appurtenances and commodities to the aforesaid William Pole, Thomas Hanmer the son, Richard Cholmondeley, Robert Harcourte, Philip Eggerton the son, Humphrey Dymmok, John Broghton, Richard Golburn, William Eggerton, John Heth, Ranulph Lloyd, William Kerreson, John ap John ap Jankyn, Robert Lloyd, John Dodde, and Thomas Caldecotte their heirs and assigns in perpetuity in order thereby to fulfil and perform a certain declaration of the will of me the aforesaid William Davidson specified and declared in a certain schedule annexed to this charter tripartite and indented. And moreover I the aforesaid William Davidson and my heirs will warrant and defend in perpetuity the aforesaid two salthouses lands tenements and other premisses with all their appurtenances and commodities to the aforesaid William Pole, Thomas Hanmer the son, Richard Cholmondeley, Robert Harcourte, Philip Eggerton the son, Humphrey Dymoke, John Broghton, Richard Golburn, William Eggerton, John Heth, Ranulph Lloyd, William Kerreson, John ap John ap Jankyn, Robert Lloyd, John Dodde, and Thomas Caldecotte, against the abbot of the monastery of St. Peter of Westminster and his successors. And further know ye that I the aforesaid William Davidson have attorned and placed and appointed in my stead my beloved in Christ Oliver Davenport and John Kerreson as my true and lawful attorneys together and separately to take possession for me and in my name of and in the aforesaid two salthouses, lands, tenements, and other premisses with all their appurtenances and commodities, and after possession thereof so taken and held thereupon for me and in my name to deliver full and peaceful possession and seisin to the aforesaid William Pole, Thomas Hanmer the son, Richard Cholmondeley, Robert Harcourte, Philip Eggerton the son, Humphrey Dymmoke, John Broghton, Richard Golburn, William Eggerton, John Heth, Ranulph Lloyd, William Kerrison, John ap John ap Jankyn, Robert Lloyd, John Dodde, and Thomas Caldecotte or to one of them for that purpose deputed, according to the tenor, force, form, and effect of this my present charter tripartite and indented thereupon made; all and everything which my aforesaid attorneys or either of them shall do in my name in the premisses are and is held valid and agreeable. In witness whereof I have affixed my seal to this my present charter tripartite and indented. Dated at Overwiche 26 March 19 Henry VIII [1528].

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. Be it knowen to all true Cristen

people to whom this present will cedula and wryting shall com here or rede, That where I William Davydson of Chester alderman and marchaunt named in the deed tripartite indented hereunto annexed upon confidence and high trust by the same my dede have enfeffed my worshipfull and right trusty Frenedes Sir William Pole knyght Richard Cholmondeley esquier and dyvers others their cofeffes named in the seid dede and their heires of and in two Salthouses with their appurtenances set and beyng in the Townes of Overwiche and Lagherwiche in Iscoyd in the Countie of Flynt nowe in the holdyng and occupacion of Sir Rondulph Brereton knyght And also of and in all those my landes and tenementes in Wigland whiche I lately purchased of William Eggerton of Hampton, To and for the accomplisshement use and performacion of this my will to be declared and specified in this Cedula to the same dede tripartited indented annexed as by the same dede more at large may appere hereafter And where the same Sir Rondulph Brereton knyght of his good and virtuose mynde and disposicion graciously calling to his remembraunce that grace and virtue growth and is myche encreased and founded upon science and good lernyng And for asmoche as the science of Gramer is the rote and fundacion of all sciences the same Sir Rondulph hath construte and costely edified a newe scolehouse for a fre gramer scole for ever God willyng to be kept holdyn and taught in the Towne of Malpas within the Countie of Chester And also by a Cedula and declaracion of his will tripartite indented beryng date the xx day of Marche in the yere of our Lord God A Thowsand Fyve hundreth and seven and twenty and in the xix yere of our sovereign lordes reign Kyng Henry the eighte hath not only ordered and foundet the same fre Gramer scole to continue by the grace of God for ever, but also hath decreed ordened and established many laudable goode and myche profitable ordynaunces statutes rules and addicions for the vertuouse perseveraunce and good continuaunce of the same fre gramer scole as by thei declaracions and contentes of the same will and ordenaunces of the seid Sir Randulph Brereton specified in the seid declaracion of his seid will concernyng the premyssez more at large by articles may appere Therefore I the seid William Davydson of my mere mocion intendencyng and havyng good zele toward mynd and respect aswell to the good increase weell and augmentation of the same Fre gramer scole as to the mayntenaunce and supportacion thereof ORDEYN declare and publisse my full and intiere will intent and mynd of in for and upon the seid two Salthousez and of in and for the seides landes and tenementes in Wigland with their appurtenaunces And thastate and feoffement therof by thei seid dede tripartited indented and hereunto annexed to my seid feoffes in the same dede named made and delyvered in maner and fourme as here-

after Folowith First I will and it is my expresse and full mynd never to be revoked that thei seid Sir William Pole knyght Richard Cholmondeley and others their cofeffes named in the seid dede tripartite indented and herunto annexed and their heires and all other persons what soever thei shalbe that now be or hereafter shalbe or stand seased or inffeffed of or in the seid two Salthousez landz and tenementes with their appurtenaunces and every of them and their heires shalbe seased therof to thuse behove supportacion and mayntenaunce of the seid Fre gramer scole so Founded and ordeyned by the same Sir Randulph Brereton in the Malpas afforeseid and of the payng and susteignyng of the stipende wages and other charges of the scole maister of the seid Fre scole for the tyme beyng and all other his charges accordyng to the ordenaunce and Fundacion thereof made by the seid Sir Rondulph Brereton And therfore I will and it is thei verrei undoubted mynd and intent of me the seid William Davyson that all and every the rentes issuez revenuez and profittes comyng and growyng of the seid two salthousez landz and tenementz with their appurtenauncez shalbe for ever from tyme to tyme levied taken bestowed employed and in every thyng and matter ordred and disposed accordyng to and after the fourme and effect and purport of the seid declaracion of the will of the seid Sir Randulph Brereton concernyng the Fundacion and ordynances theruppon by the same Sir Randulph ordeyned and made as by the said declaracion of the will and fundacion of the seid Sir Randulph more pleynly and manyfestlye is declared and shewed In witnes wherof and to the entent this my seid will shall never be changed ne alterate I the said William Davyson have annexed the same this my will under my seale and signe manuell unto the same my dede tripartite indented the seid six and twenty day of Marche in the xixth yere of the reign of our seid sovereign lord Kyng Henry the eighte.

The deeds concerning Alderman Davidson's gift were also enrolled as follows :

Sir Edward Sutton lord Dudley sells to William Davyson two wichehouses or salthouses in Overwiche and Lagherwyche in Iscoid, in the occupation of Sir Rondulph Brereton. Four deeds 24 to 29 Nov. 1526.

William Eggerton of Hampton sells to William Davidson all the lands, &c., in Wigland which his father William Eggerton had purchased from David Kereson of Oldcastell. Four deeds, dated 9 Sept. 1522 and 1 Feb. 1522-3.

The following refer to the school-house site, which was no doubt Sir R. Brereton's gift :

Humphrey Dymmok of Wilyngton and others grant to Owen Brereton and David Dodde of Egge a parcel of land in Malpas (17 × 18 royal rods) upon which a house had newly been built, 14 Aug. 1526.

Owen Brereton and David Dodde grant to Sir William Pole and other trustees [see the Davidson deed above] the same piece of land upon which a house had newly been built and constructed and ordained for a free school. 26th March 1528. Their will follows, in much the same words as Alderman Davidson's, but adding that Sir Randolph Brereton had "constructe and costely edified the seid newehouse for a scole house for a Fre gramer scole."