

The SHUDEHILL FIGHT , November 1757

from *Manchester Streets and Manchester Men*, by Thomas Swindells pub. 1908

SHUDEHILL. p. 115 ...

BRADSHAW HALL

Hidden away behind the buildings that face into Nicholas Croft, and standing between Bradshaw Street and Snow Hill stands Bradshaw Hall, once the home of a well-known family, but now quite forgotten. Formerly there stood in front of it a piece of garden ground, the boundary wall of which was in Shudehill.

More than a century ago that land was covered with houses, which in later years were converted into shops. To-day the building is used for business purposes, although its handsome front, the fine old oaken staircase, the oak shutters, and some of the old windows - remain to remind us what a fine residence it was a century and a half ago. The most notable resident who ever lived there was John Bradshaw, who for a long period of years was an active magistrate, and took a leading part in town affairs. He was born in 1708, and at the age of twenty-five was placed on the commission of the peace. In 1753 he was high sheriff of the county, and four years later the neighbourhood of Shudehill was the scene of much excitement.

SHUDEHILL FIGHT.

During the years 1753-7 there had been a general scarcity and dearth of food, and in consequence there was general discontent. In several cases that discontent took the form of food riots. The first of these took place on June 6th, 1757, when the mob seized the provisions brought to the Shudehill market. The succeeding harvest brought no alleviation of the sufferings of the poor, and discontent increased until on

November 15 it culminated in a riot. An account of this occurrence was published at the time on a broadside, a copy of which has survived. The following is a verbatim copy of the contents of the document.

At the head of the sheet, under the heading "The account of the riot at Shudehill," is a crude representation of soldiers armed with lances or spears and guns; under which is the description of the encounter. "On Saturday about nine hundred rioters came from Clayton, after destroying the corn mills there. A party of soldiers was ordered by the High Sheriff to Shudehill to be ready for them. About eleven o'clock they came up, and pelted the soldiers with stones by which one was killed and nine wounded; in return for which the soldiers fired on them, and killed three and wounded fifteen, who were taken to the infirmary.

Two hours after that they assembled again, and went to Bramhall's Mills, near the town, and destroyed the House Mills, and burnt the haystacks. At night a part of them returned to the town and attempted to break open the dungeon on Salford Bridge, and release a rioter that was confined there. In order to prevent a second riot the constables released him.

Besides those killed in the fray, a fine young man, a son of Mr. Newton, was shot. He had climbed a tree to see the riot." Such was a contemporaneous account of the affair that was afterwards known as the " Shudehill Fight."

Mr. Bradshaw, in conjunction with Mr. Bailey, of Withington, a relative by marriage, and who was High Sheriff at the time, took an active part in quelling the disturbances. Tim Bobbin published a lengthy account of the incident in the form of a pamphlet bearing the title of 'Truth in a Mask, or the Shudehill Fight'. John Bradshaw married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the Rev. Samuel Peploe, Bishop of Chester, and Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester.



Transcription from :

'THE
WORKS
OF
TIM BOBBIN, ESQ.
IN
PROSE AND VERSE
WITH
A MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR
BY JOHN CORRY
PUB. 1862

(An allegorical account of the Shude Hill Fight in 1757)

**'TRUTH IN A MASK: or the SHUDE HILL FIGHT
BEING A SHORT MANCHESTERIAN CHRONICLE OF THE PRESENT TIMES. 1757'**

p. iii

TO THE READER.

On my return the other day from hunting out the names of the persons in the county of York, who by trading in corn, meal, &c. oppress the poor; I called at the sign of the Falcon, in Littlebrough, where I knew was a glass of good ale, and the landlord a friend to travelling quadrupeds. At this place, necessity calling me forth, I blundered into a little room, where my business being soon done, and not caring to defile any thing that was not set apart for that use, I cast my eyes round, and saw in a hole or niche in the wall, a large old folio MS. The back had fallen a prey to the worms, and a great part of it torn off; most of the leaves had lost their quadrangular form and (like our modern heroes) ready to desert their stations. However, not caring to leave it where I found it, I budged it up under my arm and brought it into the house. On asking the landlord where he had it, he answered, "A neighbour of ours dying the other dny, forgot to take his goods with him; so that a sale ensuing and I buying a few utensils, happened to have it thrown in at the bargain." I being a dealer in paper, told him, if he'd please to bestow it on me, I'd send him a double quantity of superlative b—m f—r for it; To which he agreed, and I, packing it up, marched away with my new-found treasure.

I was no sooner at home, but curiosity pricked me to examine its contents, which I found was the work of several persons,

p. iv

and something particular in some of the hands. In short, it was a collection of memoirs by

several virtuosos, and was carried down from father to son from the days of good Queen Bess, to these our most miraculous times. In a few leaves at the latter end was the following short chronicle, which seemed wrote lately and in a legible hand; and it appearing to suit the present times, I resolved to thrust it into the world without altering its garb. If it meet with a kind reception, the public may expect more out of the same collection, from the publisher, who is sensible of the madness and ill consequences of a mob; but is still a friend to the poor.

T. B.

p. 237

TRUTH IN A MASK, &c.

Now it came to pass in the reign of George the son of George, who reigned over Britain, that there were four years of dearth in the land; and there was in that country, a city, and the inhabitants thereof were merchants, and workers of fine linen, and workers of silk, and workers of wool: And there were also in that city, men, cunning to work in gold, and in silver; in brass, and in iron; in purple, and in crimson, and blue, and fine twined linen, and endued with understanding in all manner of work; and that city grew and flourished exceedingly.

2 And the inhabitants of that city waxed rich, and mighty; as the merchants of Tyre and Sidon; as the merchants, the princes of Tyre: And they builded unto themselves houses and palaces; and made for themselves great palaces to be a name unto them: And they gathered vessels of gold, and vessels of silver, and garments, and horses, and mules, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and much riches: and they waxed so vain in their prosperity that they despised the inhabitants round about, and their cities; and gloried in their own city, and called it the City of Men.

3 And in the fourth year of the dearth, when George the son of George, had ruled the land thirty and one years; when the famine was sore in the land; there arose certain men the sons of Belial; and they took counsel together, and said, There is corn in the land of Chester; go to, let us buy all the corn in the land of Chester; for it will come to pass that the Lord will continue the famine yet three years.

p. 238

4 And when there is no bread in all the land, and that the people faint for lack of bread: we will sell unto the people, bread for their money at our own price: and when their money doth fail, we will sell unto them for their cattle; and we will give them bread in exchange for their horses, for their flocks, and for their herds, both of great and small cattle.

5 And it shall be, when we have bought with our corn, and our bread, all their cattle, small and great, that they will sell unto us their houses, their orchards, and gardens; their cornfields, their meadows, and pastures; their woods, yea, all their land and themselves also; and we will buy them and their land, and they, and their seed after them, shall be servants unto us for ever.

6 And the sons of Belial did as they had counselled, and they bought all the corn in the land of Chester, and the famine was exceeding great: but the cry of the people, for want of bread, did reach the ears of the king, and the king's counsellors; who took counsel together how they might preserve the lives of the people: for they wist not of the deeds of the sons of Belial, and that the sons of Belial had added by their counsels unto the sufferings of the people. So the king and his councils did order, that corn should be brought from foreign lands to nourish the people.

7 And when the sons of Belial saw, that by the wisdom of the law the king and his counsellors had made, that corn was plentiful in the land; and that their counsels were brought to nought, like the counsels of Ahithophel, they went unto the merchants of the

city, even unto several rulers of the city, and said unto them: "Ye know how that the time of plenty maketh the people to be idle, and that ye can have no more work done for twopence in times of plenty, than ye can have done for one penny in times of dearth and famine.

8 Now therefore as it is not good for you, nor for us, that bread be plentiful in the land; lend unto us upon usury, so

p. 239

many talents of gold, and so many talents of silver as may be necessary; and we will buy also all the corn that is brought into the land, and will sell unto the people for two talents, what we buy for one talent: and when we have sold unto them till their money fail, we will sell unto them for their cattle, yea, we will buy their cattle, and their land, and themselves also, to be our servants, and we will divide the people, and their land, and their cattle, between you and us; and the people, and their sons and daughters, yea, even the great men and the rulers of the neighbouring cities shall serve us and you; as men-servants, and maid-servants, as hewers of wood, and drawers of water, for ever.

9 Now the chief men of the city did hearken unto the words of the sons of Belial, and did make a covenant between themselves and the sons of Belial; and delivered unto the sons of Belial sixteen hundred talents of gold, and twelve thousand talents of silver; and the sons of Belial did therewith buy all the corn which the merchants of the cities of the sea had brought into the land: and they did cause that the famine did increase. Yet was there found amongst the chief men of the city, some that did not worship Baal, or go astray after the mammon of unrighteousness, or hearken unto the words of the sons of Belial. 10 And the famine did exceedingly increase even unto the time of harvest; for there was not until the harvest found any corn in the hands of any man; but in the hands of the sons of Belial was there corn found.

11 And it pleased the Lord, even the Lord God, that the harvest was plentiful; and the hearts of the people were greatly rejoiced; and were glad in the mercy of the Lord, even the mercy of the Lord God.

12 And the sons of Belial, and some of the chief men of the city, were exceedingly vexed in their hearts, that the plentiful harvest had saved the people, and the land, out of their hands:

p. 240

for they said, the people are as wild asses, and strong as mules; fit only to bear burdens, to be our servants, they, and their children; and they gathered themselves together, and consulted what they should do.

13 Then arose Bramaliel, one of the chief of the sons of Belial, and said; Why are you disheartened my brethren? or fearful, O my friends? or why do your spirits faint within you hearken unto the words of my mouth, and give ear unto my sayings: follow the counsels I shall give unto you, and it shall not be in the power of any one to deliver them out of our hands.

14 Know ye not that there is no money in the hands of any man, except in our hands; and in the hands of a few of our brethren in this city, who would not hearken to our words, and join us in this thing: now go ye and borrow of your brethren talents of gold, and talents of silver, and it will be that ye will find favour in the sight of your brethren; and they will lend unto you all their talents of gold and talents of silver; yea, all that they have will they lend unto you.

15 And it shall come to pass when you have got into your hands all the gold, and the silver, ye shall go unto the growers of wheat, of barley, and of oats, and shall say unto them, what shall I give thee for all thy corn? and peradventure one may say nineteen talents:

then shall you say, I will give unto thee twenty talents: another thirty pieces of silver, then shall you say, I will give thirty-five pieces of silver for all that thou hast: And thus shall you get into your own barns, and into your store-houses, all the corn in the land, and sell it to the poor at your own price.

16 And when you have for your money bought all the corn in the land, then shall you for every talent receive five talents: and shall for your corn receive back, not only the money ye have paid, but the cattle of the people of the land; yea, and the people also, and they shall serve you for ever : and their

p. 241

children shall serve your children even as the children of Israel did serve Pharoah the king: and ye shall then honour me, and the words of my mouth, as Pharoah honoured Joseph, and his words.

17 Then answered the sons of Belial, and the chief rulers of the city who joined with them, and said: thou sayest well; yea, we will follow the words of thy mouth in every thing that thou hast counselled, and will do as Pharoah and Joseph did; only in this thing we will depart from the example of Pharoah and Joseph; that we will not leave the patrimony of the priests untouched: but they also shall be our servants, them and their children; and this because they have been enemies unto us, and said, Woe unto you, ye bloodsuckers; Woe unto you, ye destroyers of men.

18 Then arose Abishai, whose mother was the daughter of Jonadab the priest, and said : Let alone, I pray you, the priests and their land, for the king and his counsellors also, will not suffer that you do so unto them. Then Finshai was wroth, and arose and said; Tush, thou fool, knowest thou not that they are a lazy generation, reaping where they have not sown, and gathering where they have not strewed? Then Othonias, a Pharisee, arose, and said; Hear me, my brethren; the king, even the great king will not that the priesthood shall suffer; and should you but touch even the hem of their garments, they will carry their complaints to the foot of the throne.

19 Hear then my brethren, the words of experience, and mark the counsels of the wise: Send ye unto the priests, and say thus unto them, We are sorry for your distress, and our hearts are grieved within us at the anguish of your hearts, and the sufferings of the poor: we will put into your hands, or the hands of a man whom you shall chuse, two hundred talents of silver to buy corn for the poor; and the corn bought at two shekels of silver shall be sold unto the poor for two shekels of silver; and ye shall deliver it unto them. And the priests will

p. 242

rejoice and be glad: and perhaps appoint me to be the man whom they will entrust; and I will buy the corn of our brother Bramaliel; and so shall the priests be deceived, and instead of cursing, shall bless our coming in, and our going out, yea, they shall even bless our basket and our store.

30 And they all cried out with one voice, great is thy wisdom, O Othonias! wise art thou above the children of men! yea, Solomon himself was not wiser than thou. The words of thy mouth are sweeter far than honey, and the honey-comb: let it even be as thou hast said.

21

Then sent they deputies unto the priests, even Garshubah and Artani: and they told unto the priests the words of the assembly; and the priests were exceedingly rejoiced, and said, now praised be the Lord, who hath at length touched their hearts: and may their charity be returned unto them ten-fold: and the deputies said — Amen.

23 Then said the deputies unto the priests. Name ye a man from amongst you, that he

may receive the money, to buy the corn, and distribute it: but the priests answered and said, Nay; we may not buy or sell; so name ye a man to buy and sell, and we will take care and see it be distributed as it ought: then answered the deputies what think ye of Othonias? Then said the priests, we approve him; and the priests calling Dantziah the scribe, caused him to write in a parchment roll the terms of the gift, the names of the givers, and the numbers of the talents each man gave; and did lay it up amongst the records of the temple.

23 And the priests went forth and told these things in the city; and the chief men of the city, who were not confederate with the sons of Belial, gave likewise two hundred talents; and the priests caused their names, also, to be entered in the roll: and the priests rejoiced; and the people rejoiced with exceeding great joy; and Othonias, the Pharisee, rejoiced also.

24 And Othonias went home to his own house, and called on Elibamah his wife, and said, come hither and rejoice with me

p. 243

for the elders, the priests, and chief men of the city, have extolled my wisdom, and have appointed me ruler over the treasure of the poor; and my name shall be great amongst the chief of the city, and I shall be no longer numbered amongst the oppressors, and dregs of the people: but amongst the elders and princes of the city. But Elibamah replied not; she being no enemy to the poor.

25 And the sons of Belial, and the chief men of the city who were confederate with them went forth and borrowed all the talents of gold, and all the talents of silver that were to be found in the city, and they were delivered unto them: and the sons of Belial went forth into all the country round about, and did buy all the corn of the growers of wheat, of barley, and of oats, who would sell unto them; and few there were who did not sell unto them for their money; and their store-houses and garners were full.

26 And the growers of wheat, of barley, and of oats, who did not sell unto the sons of Belial said; why should not we also, for every omer of wheat have two shekels ? Now wheat in plentiful years, was bought at an omer for a shekel: So that the famine increased in the land, for the grinding of the millstone was low, and the poor waxed faint for want of bread: for as the price of bread grew great, the wages of the poor decreased: for the merchants who confederated with the sons of Belial, refused to pay the workmen their accustomed wages for their work: and the cry of the poor reached up to the heavens; but the sons of Belial and their associates regarded not; so that the priests were exceeding sorrowful, and their countenances fell yea, even the judges of the land, and the Tetrarch himself; but it availed not.

27 And the people said, would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the years of plenty, when we sat by the flesh-pots, and did eat bread to the full: for now we shall die, we and our wives, and our little ones. So they went unto the

p. 244

Tetrarch, and said; Give us bread, for why should we die in thy presence ? give us bread at an omer the shekel, or we shall all die.

28 And the Tetrarch was extremely sorrowful, and he lifted up his voice and wept; and reasoned with them, saying, "Why do you thus unlawfully assemble together? or, Why so trouble the city? Is not this the Lord's doing? why will you tempt the Lord?" (for the Tetrarch wist not that it was the sons of Belial had caused the famine.) And the people cried yet more and said. Give us bread. - Then the Tetrarch spake unto them, saying; "I will call an assembly of the elders of the city, and the chief men, and the priests, and the scribes and the pharisees, and we will hold counsel together, and see what may be done in this thing."

29 So the Tetrarch called an assembly of the chief men of the city, and told unto them the

complaints of the people; and did say unto them, That unless the people might have bread, they would all die; they and their wives and their little ones. But the children of Belial, and the pharisees replied, they were grieved for the sufferings of the people; but the growers of wheat, of barley, and of oats, would not sell them more than an omer of wheat for two shekels; and as they bought, so did they sell unto the people. And the Tetrarch, and the priests, and the judges, and many of the chiefs of the city (who had not sold themselves to work iniquity) reasoned with the sons of Belial, and their confederates the pharisees : but it availed not.

30 And the sons of Belial went on their way notwithstanding all that was said unto them, and followed the counsels of Bramaliel, Othonias, Finshai, and Hothornah, their chiefs: so the people murmured, saying, We shall die; but no man of the sons of Belial, or those of the chiefs of the city who were joined with them, cared for these things; but sold an omer of wheat for four shekels of silver; so the people's money failed, and their hearts fainted within them.

p. 245

CHAPTER II.

Then the men of the valley of Saddleworth arose, and gathered themselves together. Now the men of this valley are the remnant of the sons of the giant, even the sons of Anak; for they are strong, and mighty men of valour. But they had neither sword, spear, or gun: neither was there any man amongst them that was skilled in making of swords, of spears, or of guns: but every man of the valley of Saddleworth went down to the city of men, to buy every man his share, his coulter, his ax, and his mattock: neither was there any instrument of war found in their hands.

2 And the spirit of Kenuriel was vexed within him, and he said unto the men of Saddleworth, hear me, my brethren, give ear unto my words ye men of the forest; will ye bow down your necks to the yoke of the oppressor ? will you lay down yourselves at the feet of those who would make you, and your wives, and your children their bondmen; yea, their slaves as long as any of them endure! You see the harvest is past, and the summer is ended; yet we are not saved from the famine: and this because the men of the city of men have bought (with the money they have gained by the labour of you and your brethren) and heaped in their store-houses all the corn of the land, and will not suffer you to have thereof for the support of your lives, and the lives of your little ones. But will you submit to this-? Or can you consent to become their bond-slaves for ever ?

3 Then the men of the valley of Saddleworth cried aloud and spoke with one voice, What! shall we bow down our necks to the proud? to those who have risen to riches by the sweat of our brows? No, we will go down and open their store-houses, and sell unto the people the corn they have stored therein, at an omer a shekel; that we and the people of the land may live.

p. 246

And we will send to the Ashtonites, and to the men who work under the earth, in the hills of Oldham, that they may come and assist us therein.

4 Now it came to pass, that on the twelfth day of the ninth month, in the thirtieth and one year of the reign of George, the son of George, that sixty of the men of Saddleworth, went down to the City of Men, and went to the place where the buyers of corn, and sellers of corn assembled together; and did there reason with the sellers of corn, and say unto them: How comes it that ye are unwilling to sell unto us for our money as ye were wont? Was not the harvest as great, and did not the corn stand as full, on the land as in time past? Yea, has not the Lord God blessed you with the most plentiful harvest, and made the valleys to laugh and sing? Why, then, do ye deny to sell unto us as of old, an omer of wheat for a

shekel?

6 And the sons of Belial, with the Pharisees their associates, were in great dread of the men of Saddleworth, and did send unto the Tetrarch, and did say unto him; Come thou and save us, or we and the city shall be destroyed. So the Tetrarch went unto the place where the people were assembled; and when the men of the valley of Saddleworth saw him, they said; O Tetrarch ! we know that thou art an upright man, one that doeth good and escheweth evil; we mean not to hurt thee, nor thy people, nor the people of this city; no, not even these sons of Belial; but we cannot die for want of bread: we, nor our wives, nor our little ones, whilst there is such plenty of corn in the land: now therefore see, that we have it an omer a shekel, and we will depart every man to his tent.

6 And the Tetrarch did reason with the sons of Belial, and they did seemingly hearken unto his words: for the fear of the men of the valley of Saddleworth was upon them.

7 And when the men of the valley of Saddleworth saw that the sons of Belial did sell their corn at an omer a shekel, they seperated themselves ; and some went to one place, and some to

p. 247

another, believing in the words of the sons of Belial; for the men of the valley of Saddleworth were men without guile. And when the most part of them were departed, the spirits of Othonias, Bramaliel, and the rest of the sons of Belial revived : and they caught each man his sword, and his staff, and fell on those men of the valley of Saddleworth who remained, and did beat them, and wound them, and despitefully use them; and some they did imprison, but others escaped out of the hands of the sons of Belial, and got them to their own homes.

8 Now when these things were spread abroad and known in the valley of Saddleworth, how that the sons of Belial had thus despitefully used their brethren; behold on the fifteenth day of the ninth month, they assembled themselves together, and sent unto the Oldhamites, the Ashtonians, and others, to meet them on the plain of Newton; and they met together about the third hour of the day; and the Newtonians told them, how that a son of Belial had possession of a mill in the country of Clayton, and did there grind things hurtful, and sold it to the poor for bread-corn.

9 When they heard this they chose unto themselves a captain of the host, whose name was Adamah, an Oldhamite; and Adamah led them on to Clayton mill: and finding therein wheat, mixed with acorns, with pease, and with beans, with chopped straw, and French-whiting, together with dried bones of beasts;* some thereof ground for bread, some grinding on the mill, and some to grind; he shewed the mixture to the people; and when they saw it, they were wroth, and burnt the bolsters, and sieves, broke the wheels, and stones, and destroyed the mill; so that the ruins thereof remain even unto this day.

10 Now it came to pass that whilst this was in doing, there was one Whitadiah, (he was of the number of those who licked up the spittle from under the feet of the sons of Belial) who ran

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\* The MS. added, men's bones, and horse dung dried: which appeared so incredible to the publishers, that they erased it out of the copy.

p. 248

into the city, and told the sons of Belial, and the Pharisees, their confederates, that the people of the land were risen as one man; and were coming to destroy their mills, search their store-houses for corn, and would sell the same an omer for a shekel.

11 And the sons of Belial assembled, and were in great fear, (for their hearts became as



melting wax) and said, what shall we do? O speak ye, that have wisdom! ye, that have the gift of counsel, speak! Speak thou O Otlionias! Then Othonias arose, and essayed to speak, but his spirits failed him, and he trembled exceedingly. And they said, O thou, whom we believed a Solomon, art thou void of counsel at this perilous time? And Othonias answered, and said, Verily, my brethren, the occasion is sudden, and the peril is great, and I cannot advise ye: but if ye will send unto Elibamah, my wife, peradventure she will advise ye; for she is a wise woman, even as a prophetess; and her wisdom and -- have set my feet upon a rock. But the assembly answered not, but held down their heads and wept. 19 Then arose Bramaliel, and said, know ye not that the Tetrarch, the judges, and the priests, the lawyers and scribes may now help us; and since they know not of our craft, let us, my brethren, act wisely: should we beg their counsel, they would advise us to sell an omer of wheat for a shekel, and that would destroy our gain, which is the goddess we worship: Let us then give them no time for counsel, but some of ye run, and say unto the Tetrarch, the judges, the priests, the lawyers, and the scribes, that the people are coming to burn the city. Others of ye send out your servants to the people, and say, come into the city, and we will join with you; and it shall be that the Tetrarch, and the judges, the priests, the lawyers and the scribes shall be affrighted; and shall call to their aid the men of the host of the great king who dwell in the city; and they will kill some, wound others, and the rest will return every man to his own tent; and there will not be any more resistance to us, or

p. 249

our friends ---- And the spirits of the assembly came again; yea, they were much enlivened and did so.

13 Then some of them ran one way, and some another; crying, Arm! Arm! the sons of Anak, with the Oldhamites, and the Ashtonians are coming, and the city will be destroyed ; and the Tetrarch, the judges, the lawyers, and the scribes, were affrighted, and did cry unto the King's host for help: but the priests, trusting not in the arm of flesh, feared not what man could do unto them.

14 And there was in the city of the host of the King, some who had fought valiantly under the banners of the King in Germania, and under the banners of William, the king's son, in Flandria, and they laughed at their fears, and said. Why does this folly possess you? are they not subjects to the king? how, then, can this thing be, that they will burn the city? or, how can they do so, and we see it? - Others they were of the host, who, with Mordaunt, had seen giants on the coasts of Gallia; and fear dwelt upon their countenances; for they thought, peradventure some of those giant-like men, the French, may be here also.

13 And the Tetrarch commanded, and there assembled together the host of the king, and also many of the sons of Belial, and the Pharisees, and chiefs of the city who joined with them, in distressing the people, and their sons; and also some of those who had not sold themselves to work iniquity, nor bowed the knee to filthy lucre; and they drew up in battle array, and went out to meet the people.

16 Now there was one Nicodemus, a man skilful in the laws of the land, (but whose fears mightily prevailed at this time) said, Tetrarch, if thou meet not the people out of the city, the battle will happen therein, and the city will be laid in ashes ; and how wilt thou answer it to the king, should the city be destroyed ? And the Tetrarch answered, and said, Nicodemus, profound is thy skill in the laws, and sound is thy judgment;

p. 250

I will do so: and he ordered the centurion who commanded the Flandrians, to go out, but he refused, unless the Tetrarch gave him the order in a tablet. Then the Tetrarch said to Nicodemus, What shall I do ? And now the sons of Belial cried out, the people had already burned part of the city. And Nicodemus was sore afraid, and said, Tetrarch, do not thou,

but let Bradari, the judge, give the centurion the tablet: and he did so.

17 And the Tetrarch went forward, attended by some of the chiefs of the city, to meet the people; and did say unto them. Why do you thus, my brethren ? nay, verily, ye do wrong in disturbing the city. And the people answered him, and said, O Tetrarch, we mean neither thee nor this city any harm. But one of the men sent out of the city by the sons of Belial said, we will murder thee, O Tetrarch: and the sons of Belial, who were with the Tetrarch, cried. Fly, Tetrarch, or thou diest: so he fled and met the host, and said, centurion, I have done all that I am able to prevent the shedding of blood, and appeasing this tumult; but now do thou quell the tumult; and still the madness of the people.

18 Now the servants of the sons of Belial said unto the people, ye may go safely into the city: the Tetrarch is fled, and the men of war cannot by the laws of the great king, fire upon you, until the proclamation of the king is read unto you, and ye have disobeyed it for the space of one hour. So the people went on towards the city; and in the entrance thereof the host of the king, who were in the fore-front, and the host of the city, who brought the rearward met them: and when the people were now come within 40 cubits of the king's host, the sons of Belial cried out fire: but the host of the king refused to fire; but the sons of Belial did so, and killed a decurion of the king's host, and two of the people.

19 Again the sons of Belial cried to the centurion to order the king's host to fire, and he did so: but the Flandrians

p. 251

fired their shot over the heads of the people, knowing them to be the subjects and servants of their king: for though inured to spill the blood of their enemies, yet deigned they not that an hair of the heads of their fellow-subjects should perish: so it is said there was no blood spilt that day, but what was shed by the host of the city; for though the men of the king's host, who had learned to war under Mordaunt, were exceeding wroth with the people, yet they loved not blood; nor was it known that they ever killed men in their wrath, or hurt any in their displeasure.

20 And the men of the city, and the Mordauntians, ran out of the battle, and the people ran also. And the centurion and the Flandrian host lifted up their eyes, and, behold! neither friend, or enemy was within sight! so they went back into the city without controul.

21 As for the rest of the acts of the sons of Belial, and all they did, are they not written in the chronicles of the king at Lancaster ? And the acts of the Mordauntians, are they not written in the records of all the assemblies of the land ? And what they did, and did not, are not the reasons thereof to be found in books of the court-martial at Whitehall?

### **CHAPTER III.**

Now it came to pass that the sons of Belial, and their confederates, met together in counsel, to consider what account they might render unto the king. And, behold, there entered into the assembly, Clatonijah, the priest, and Byromah, the psalmist, whose pen is the pen of a ready writer. And when the assembly saw them, the young men were abashed, the aged arose, and stood up, they refrained talking, and laid their hands on their mouths; yea, the chief men of the city held their peace, and their tongues cleaved to the roof of their mouths: so awful was the approach of these men, to these sons of Belial.

p. 252

3 And Clatonijah being full of the spirit, lifted up his voice, and cried aloud, saying, O ye men of the city, hearken unto the words of my lips, and give ear to the sayings of my mouth, for the words that I shall speak, are they not the words of the Lord your God? The avenger of the poor, and the fatherless, the injured and oppressed.— Oh, that my words were now written: Oh, that they were printed in a book; that they were graven with an iron pen in the rock for ever. And Clatonijah said to Byromah, write the words I shall speak, that

they may be a record against these men; and that the city may know when these judgments shall come upon them, and that I have truly spoken the words of the Lord, that he will avenge his people; and that the inhabitants of this city may take warning by these men, and no more offend against the Law of their God, by following the ways of these men. And Byromah wrote in a book the following words that Clatonijah spake:

3 "ye men of the city, thus saith the Lord, have ye not broken your covenant with me, and caused the people to rebel? Have ye not set at nought my commandments, notwithstanding that your city was by me blest with increase? Notwithstanding I blessed you with riches, and prosperity? Gave I not gold unto you as dust? and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brook? Yea, silver as the dust of the earth; raiment as clay; clothing of silk and of purple, of fine linen and of needle-work, for yourselves, your wives, and your children, as the grass of the field? Vessels of gold and vessels of silver; coaches and chariots; horses and mules; yea, every thing your hearts could desire, gave I not to you in abundance, and made them as plentiful as poplars in the valley of Ordshall ? Yet have ye disobeyed my commandments, despised my priests, and oppressed my people, the inhabitants of the land. The poor have cried unto you for the wrong you have done them ; but you were like the deaf adder: they cried aloud, but ye regarded them not. Ye have defrauded the poor and the needy of their due; have ye

p. 253

not walked deceitfully ? have ye not removed your neighbour's land mark? driven away the ass of the fatherless, and taken the ox of the widow for a pledge? Have ye not taken pledges of the poor, and caused them to go naked, and taken away the sheaf of the hungry? Yea, have not ye caused that they perished for want of bread and of clothing? and, when they complained, did not ye cause them to be beat, to be wounded, and to be killed? The cry of the injured has pierced my ears, the torments of the wounded I have felt and seen, and the souls of the killed are before me.

4 "Have ye done this to increase your store already too full? Have ye not made gold your hope? and said unto fine gold, Thou art my confidence? Have ye not rejoiced in your oppressive gains? though your wealth was great, and your hands full? How do ye say we are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo! the law was made unto you as vain; and the scribes wrote without effect: for ye have despised my law, and set at naught my statutes, and are gone astray after filthy lucre; yea, almost every man, from the greatest unto the least among you, are given to luxury at home, and covetousness and usury abroad. Know ye not that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment; though his head reach up to the clouds, and his excellency mount up to the heavens; though his possessions cover the face of the earth, yet shall he perish for ever like his own dung: they who have seen him, shall see him no more; and, with lifted hands shall say, where is he! He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found; yea, he shall be chased away like a vision of the night; neither shall his place any more behold him: He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: the gains of oppression he shall not enjoy sweetly, neither shall he feel quietness in his belly: in the fulness of his sufficiency shall he be in straits, every hand of the injured shall come upon him: yea, the heaven reveal his iniquity, and the earth shall rise up against him.

p. 254

5 "And as ye have left my laws, and my statutes, and become of the number of those who deal wickedly with me and my people, ye shall travel with pain all your days; yet shall not your riches nor your possessions continue to your sons' sons. For I have vowed, saith the Lord, that the congregation of hypocrites shall be destroyed; and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery and oppression. They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity: yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine: it shall be

dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out within him. The snare is laid for you, O ye oppressors! the snare is laid for you in the ground, and traps are in your way. Terrors shall make you afraid on every side, and destruction wait on all your steps. Brimstone shall be scattered on your habitations; your habitations which you have made unto yourselves, like the palaces of princes. Your roots shall be dried up beneath, and above shall your branches be cut off; the remembrance of you shall perish from the earth, and ye shall have no name in the streets; neither shall ye have son, or nephew, among my people; but your daughters shall be hand-maidens, and the servants of slaves; neither shall any of your seed remain in your dwellings. They that come after you shall be surprized at your fall, as they that went before were astonished at your greatness. Yea, I will visit you in my wrath, and ye shall be for an example to my people for ever. This shall be the portion of the oppressor; the wages of him who grinds the face of the poor: yea, this is the portion God has allotted for him."

6 And the sons of Belial were affrighted, and fled from the presence of Clatonijah, the priest, and of Byromah, the scribe : yet did they not repent, for their hearts continue as adamant, yea, as the flinty rock, even unto this day, notwithstanding the words of Clatonijah, the priest, which he spake unto them.

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[LINK](#) to map of Manchester in 1772, on the MLFHS website, Oldham Branch pages.

John Collier aka Tim Bobbin

Born in 1708 in Urmston and lived his adult life in Milnrow, near Rochdale where he was a schoolteacher, a painter, caricaturist and satirical satirist; he was also a dialect poet and writer who styled himself as the 'Lancashire Hogarth'

He died in 1786

Return to MLFHS, Oldham Branch [HERE](#)

or to the MLFHS, Oldham Branch, Research / Miscellany page [HERE](#)

Pictured Below,
the caricature '**Poverty and Plenty**'
from
'Human Passions Delineated'
by Tim Bobbin
in colour Pub. 1810
monochrome Pub 1773

PLATE 20 (colour) and 38 (monochrome)

*The court and country here depicted are
One's fat and jolly; t'other s poor and bare :
Plenty sits smiling on the courtier's brow.
Whilst meagre want the country's face doth shew-*



POVERTY.

PLENTY.

POVERTY & PLENTY



Published as the Act directs June 1773