1. Lancashire a County Palatine: The Duchy of Lancaster.

This book deals with the Geography of one of the most important and thickly peopled parts of Britain. Modern Britain is divided into counties, some of which are called *shires*. In official documents Lancashire is usually called "The County of Lancaster."

The name *County* means a region of which a count or an earl is the governor. The word *earl* is Anglo-Saxon; *count* is Norman-French. The word *shire* is Anglo-Saxon, and means a region *shorn* or cut from an Anglo-Saxon kingdom. England, before the coming of the Normans, was already divided into *shires*. The Norman conquerors made use of these shires and later treated them as counties. Lancashire is not mentioned in Domesday Book, because there was no such shire among the Anglo-Saxon divisions. Lancashire north of the Ribble was surveyed with Yorkshire; South Lancashire was mentioned as "Inter Ripam et Mersham" (between Ribble and Mersey) and was associated with Cheshire.

Manchester, Ribchester, and Lancaster were fortified stations or towns on the great Roman roads which ran to the north; the latter name meaning the fortified camp on the Lune. The Roman rule came to an end in the fifth century, and there followed that long period of disorder which we call "The Dark Ages." During this time the western slopes of the Pennines and the western plains were

unsettled, and the history of the west is quite fragmentary. It is not until 1115 to 1118, that we meet with the "Honor of Lancaster"; and it is fifty years later, in 1168–9, that we find a mention of the County of Lancaster as contributing 100 marks to the Royal Exchequer. Lancashire, or the County of Lancaster, was thus a much later creation than many of the English counties. It does not seem to have been fully recognised as a county until about 1193–4.

In the middle of the thirteenth century Henry III made the County of Lancaster into an Earldom. A century later, in 1359 or 1360, Edward III raised it to the dignity of a duchy in favour of Henry, Earl of Lancaster. The first Duke of Lancaster had a daughter, Blanche Plantagenet, and she married her cousin, John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward III; these were both of Royal blood. In 1362 we find John of Gaunt spoken of as the *Duke* of Lancaster. During the years 1359–63, the county was made into a County Palatine, that is a county with Royal privileges.

The duchy was thus Royal, and in 1376 we read of a Chancellor whose duty it was to look after the revenues of the Royal Duke. In 1396 an Act of Parliament settled the privileges of the County Palatine on John of Gaunt and his successors for ever. Finally, in 1399, a son of John of Gaunt became King of England as Henry IV, and thus the revenues of the Royal duchy became merged in those of the Crown.

The revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster are still independent of Parliament, but an account has to be rendered annually. This is the duty of the Chancellor of the Duchy, an office which dates from the fourteenth century. In 1924

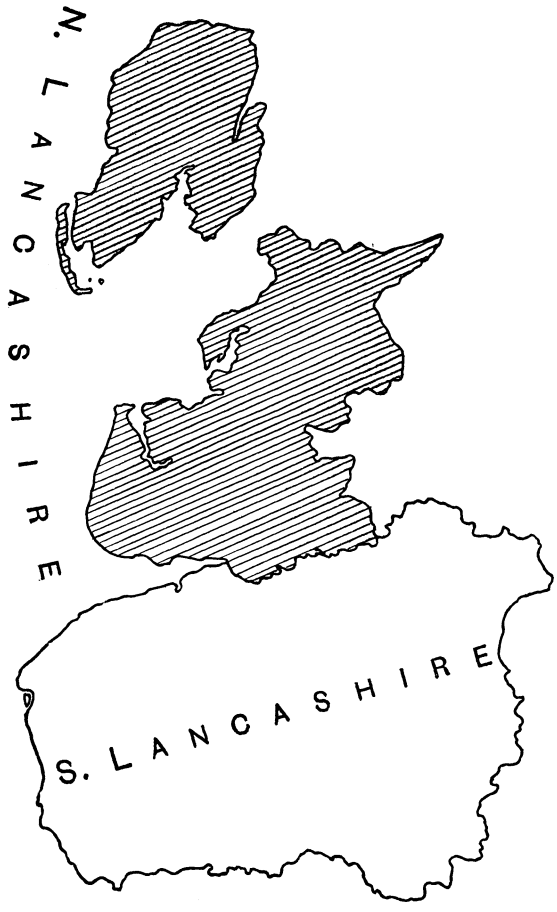
the revenues of the duchy, mainly from court fees, dues, and royalties, were £141,066, out of which, after paying expenses of management, £11,039, a salary of £2000 to the Chancellor, and making allowance for charities, etc., the sum of £70,000 was paid over to the Keeper of the Privy Purse of His Majesty the King.

2. Position and General Characteristics.

In the series of Cambridge County Geographies Lancashire is divided into two parts. This book deals with that part of the county which lies between the Ribble and the Mersey. Professor J. E. Marr has described Lancashire north of the Ribble in a separate volume of the series, under the title of *North Lancashire*.

South Lancashire is a roughly rectangular region bounded by the Irish Sea on the west, the Ribble on the north, an irregular county boundary on the east, and the Tame and the Mersey on the south. It includes the old "Hundreds" of Blackburn, Leyland, Derby, and Salford. A **hundred** consisted of a number of townships and later a number of parishes.

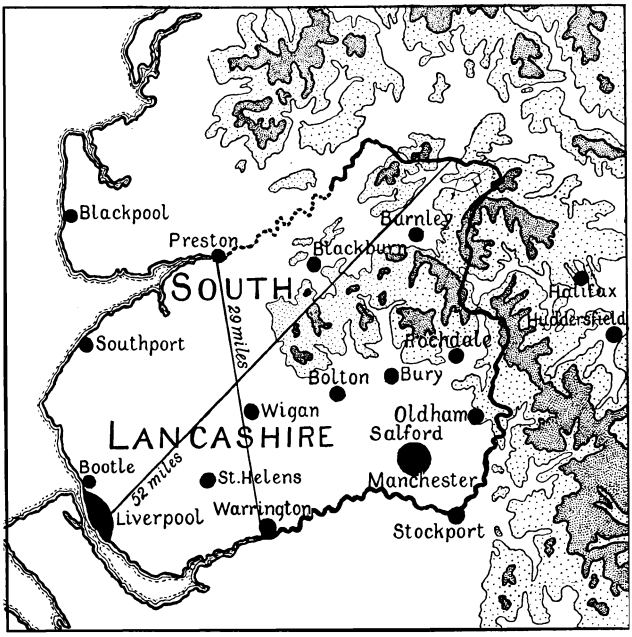
There are two distinct parts of South Lancashire—different in structure, climate, agriculture, and density of population. If a line be drawn from Preston to Warrington, to the east of it is the hilly region, where the rainfall is greater and the soil less fertile; to the west of it is the plain, where the rainfall is less and agriculture more successful. It may roughly be said that there is a manufacturing east—the land of the hills; and an agricultural west—the land of the plain.



Map showing the relation of that part of the county treated in this work to the whole county

3. Size and Boundaries.

South Lancashire is about 48 miles long from east to west, that is from Blackstone Edge to Formby Point; its



South Lancashire, showing the structure and boundaries. The cities and county boroughs are shown

Land over 600 ft. lightly stippled; over 1200 ft. closely stippled

breadth from north to south, measured from Preston to Warrington, is about 29 miles. The longest straight line that can be drawn is from near Colne, in the north-east, to

Liverpool in the south-west, and measures about 52 miles. The area is about 1160 square miles; the population about four and a half millions.

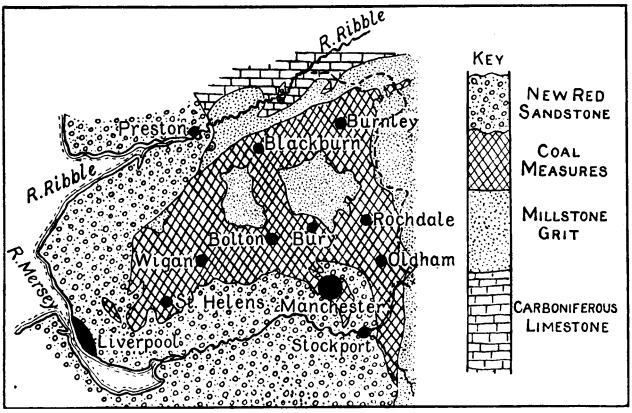
At Mitton, near Whalley, two tributaries join the Ribble; these are the Hodder on the right bank, the Calder on the left. The Hodder does not concern us in this book. Going upstream from the confluence the Ribble is for several miles the county boundary, except at certain points where there has been some change in the course of the winding river. About three miles east of Clitheroe, near the ruins of Sawley Abbey, the county boundary leaves the Ribble and follows Ings Beck. It then follows the Pendle Range of hills for some distance, leaving this ridge at White Moor to cross one of the entries of the Craven Gap at Foulridge. It continues east of Colne and then runs almost due south for many miles along the Southern Pennines to a point about three miles east of Ashton-under-Lyne. From the confluence of the Ribble and Hodder at Mitton to the point mentioned just now the boundary line separates South Lancashire from the West Riding of Yorkshire. The boundary now follows the Tame to Stockport, and afterwards the Mersey to the Irish Sea. Along this latter part, from the point where it begins to follow the Tame, the county boundary separates South Lancashire from Cheshire.

4. Geology.

Before we discuss the build of South Lancashire it is advisable to learn something of its geology. Geology is the study of the rocks of the Earth's surface, how these rocks have been formed, the fossils they contain, and what

the rocks and fossils tell us of the past history of the earth. By rocks we mean not only hard stone such as the grit-stone of Rossendale and of the Pennines but also the soft sandstones and sands of the Ormskirk district; even the loose sands of Formby and Southport are rocks to the geologist.

There are three chief classes of rocks accepted in geology.



A Geographer's Geological Map of South Lancashire

(*a*) *Sedimentary Rocks*. These have usually been formed under water, layer upon layer, in estuaries, shallow seas, or lakes, and often contain the fossil remains of plants and animals which lived at the time when the rocks were laid down.

(*b*) *Igneous Rocks*. These have solidified from the molten condition, under varied circumstances and in very many forms.

(*c*) *Metamorphic Rocks*. These are very much altered rocks which have been made what they are by the long-continued action of heat, pressure, and chemical agents on other rocks.

South Lancashire has rocks of the first class only—the Sedimentary Rocks. No igneous or metamorphic rocks are met with anywhere except in the form of odd boulders or fragments which were scattered *on the surface* by the glaciers of the recent Ice Age. These scattered boulders will be mentioned again.

The **Sedimentary Rocks**, as already explained, were laid down in layers or beds one on the top of the other, and the recognition of this process and of the fossils contained is of the greatest assistance to the geologist, as he can thus learn something of the *relative* age of the rocks with which he has to deal. He knows very little about the *actual* age in years, but the *relative* age is of great importance to him. He divides up his sedimentary rocks into great groups or systems, each system consisting of the rocks deposited or laid down in a Geological Period. A number of systems make up a greater group still, and three such great groups are usually recognised in geology.

The oldest group of rocks is the *Primary* or **Palaeozoic**, a group containing six or seven systems, and the oldest of these systems contains the oldest fossil-bearing rocks we know. The *Secondary* or **Mesozoic** group contains three systems, and the *Tertiary* or **Cainozoic** three (or four), each representing much shorter periods in geological history than the **Palaeozoic** systems. Here is given a table of the groups and systems of rocks, mainly as we know them in Britain, with some examples of the actual rocks which are found in each system in the British Isles.

	Names of Systems	Subdivisions	Characters of Rocks
TERTIARY	Recent and Post-Pliocene	Metal Age Deposits Neolithic ,, Palaeolithic ,, Glacial ,,	Superficial Deposits
	Pliocene	Cromer Series Weybourne Crag Chillesford and Norwich Crags Red and Walton Crags Coralline Crag	Sands chiefly
	Miocene	Absent from Britain	
	Eocene	Fluviomarine Beds of Hampshire Bagshot Beds London Clay Oldhaven Beds, Woolwich and Reading Thanet Sands [Groups	Clays and Sands chiefly
SECONDARY	Cretaceous	Chalk Upper Greensand and Gault Lower Greensand Weald Clay Hastings Sands	Chalk at top Sandstones, Mud and Clays below
	Jurassic	Purbeck Beds Portland Beds Kimmeridge Clay Corallian Beds Oxford Clay and Kellaways Rock Cornbrash Forest Marble Great Oolite with Stonesfield Slate Inferior Oolite Lias—Upper, Middle, and Lower	Shales, Sandstones and Oolitic Limestones
	Triassic	Rhaetic Keuper Marls Keuper Sandstone Upper Bunter Sandstone Bunter Pebble Beds Lower Bunter Sandstone	Red Sandstones and Marls, Gypsum and Salt
PRIMARY	Permian	Magnesian Limestone and Sandstone Marl Slate Lower Permian Sandstone	Red Sandstones and Magnesian Limestone
	Carboniferous	Coal Measures Millstone Grit Mountain Limestone Basal Carboniferous Rocks	Sandstones, Shales and Coals at top Sandstones in middle Limestone and Shales below
	Devonian	Upper, Mid, Lower — Devonian and Old Red Sandstone	Red Sandstones, Shales, Slates and Limestones
	Silurian	Ludlow Beds Wenlock Beds Llandovery Beds	Sandstones, Shales and Thin Limestones
	Ordovician	Caradoc Beds Llandeilo Beds Arenig Beds	Shales, Slates, Sandstones and Thin Limestones
	Cambrian	Tremadoc Slates Lingula Flags Menevian Beds Harlech Grits and Llanberis Slates	Slates and Sandstones
	Pre-Cambrian	No definite classification yet made	Sandstones, Slates and Volcanic Rocks

The rocks of South Lancashire are confined to four of the systems in the table. The most important are the rocks of the great Carboniferous System. A glance at the geological map at the end of the book will show that these rocks occupy practically all the eastern part of South Lancashire. The Carboniferous System is sub-divided into formations which are of considerable thickness. Here they are given in tabular form, so far as they occur in South Lancashire and the Pennines generally.

Carboniferous System	(4) *Coal Measures*: a series of sandstones, shales, clays, and coal-seams.
	(3) *Millstone Grit*: a series of coarse sandstones, flagstones, and shales.
	(2) *Carboniferous* (or *Mountain*) *Limestone*, including "*Pendleside Series*": a series of grey and dark limestones, and shales.
	.....
	(1) *Basal Carboniferous Rocks*: not seen in South Lancashire.

The Carboniferous Limestone or Mountain Limestone is the oldest formation seen in South Lancashire. Its base is not apparent anywhere as there is no natural section or artificial cutting that has gone deep enough. These limestone rocks are seen only in the north-eastern corner of South Lancashire, in the district near Clitheroe. At Clitheroe and Chatburn there are several quarries from which limestone and lime are sent out in great quantities. The Carboniferous Limestone rocks are probably 5000 feet in thickness in that district. The lowest rocks are seen at Chatburn, and are