



UNDERBANK HALL is one of those beautiful old structures which are rapidly passing away. It was built about the latter part of the 15th or the beginning of the 16th century. In former times it was the scene of great gaiety, and many of the local aristocracy sat down at the hospitable board. It was the town house of the Ardernes of Harden, and was occupied by successive generations of that family from the time of its erection until 1823, when it was sold by Lord Alvanley (who was created a Lord in 1801 on being appointed a Lord Chief Justice), and was eventually purchased by the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co., by whom it has been most carefully preserved. The Company recently renovated the Hall, and in doing so a handsome carved mantelpiece, supposed to be the work of Grinling Gibbons, was found behind a veneer of plaster. In the same room was found a stone Adams mantelpiece. It is a most picturesque building, and contains some beautiful carved oak. There was once a scheme afloat for purchasing this property and converting it into a town hall, but it fell through.