

THE "PASSAGE" OF SWANSBACH.

Among the rights held in the thirteenth century by the "barons" of Nantwich was the "passagium" mentioned above. It is mentioned in several inquisitions, Cal. Inq. P.R.O. (Now the National Archives) and the word is translated "ferries" in one place. But I believe "pass" would be more accurate, meaning a place where a main road entered the county of Chester from outside, For instance the "passage" of Lawton, or Lawton Gate, on the border of Staffordshire. These places had to be specially guarded to prevent the entry or exit of evil doers or other undesirable persons.

There were other "passagia" e-g. that of Kelshall and Tarporley, the service there being the guarding of the roads at the times of the fairs at Chester. Swanbach is a little south of Audlem on the Adderley Road.