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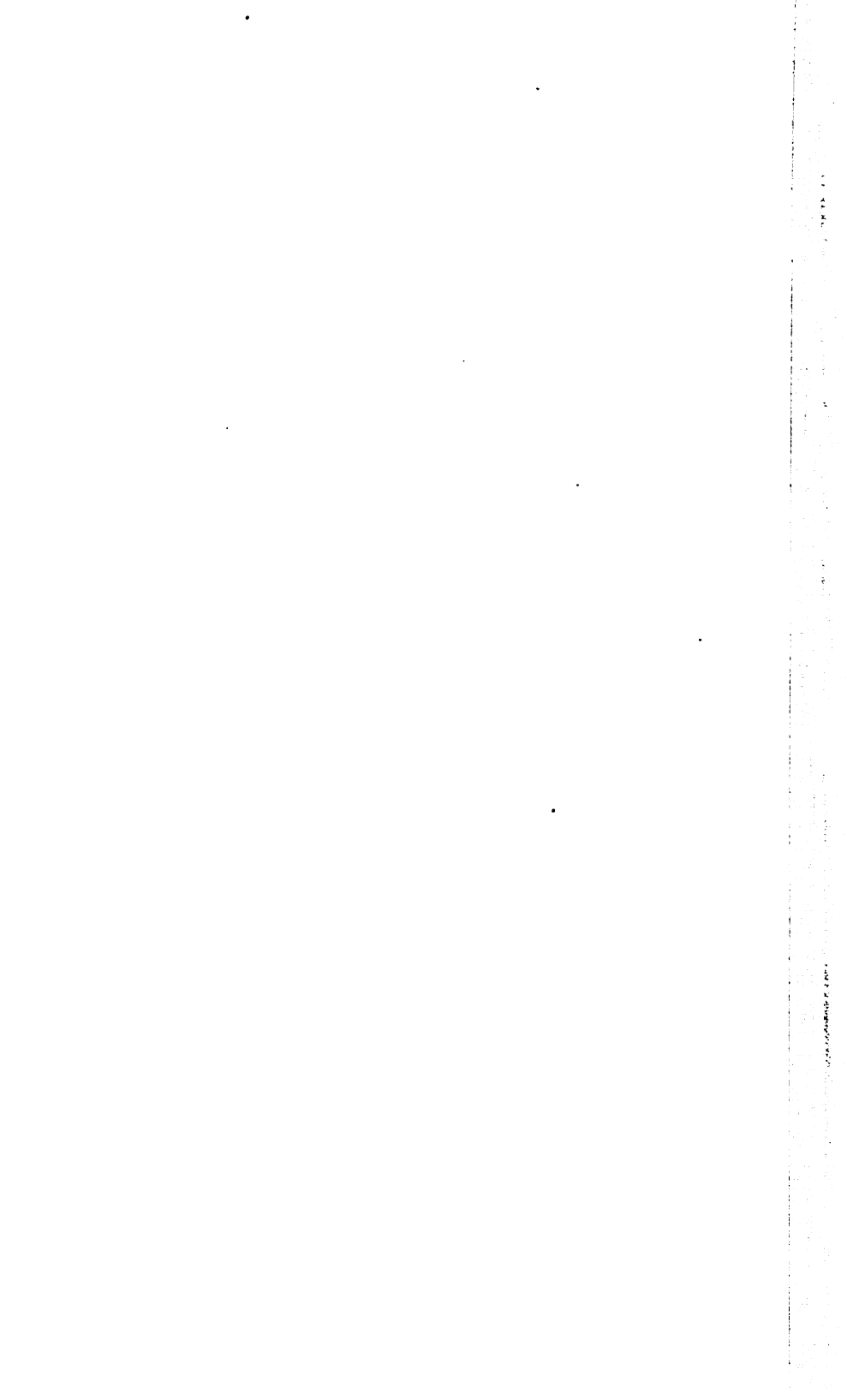
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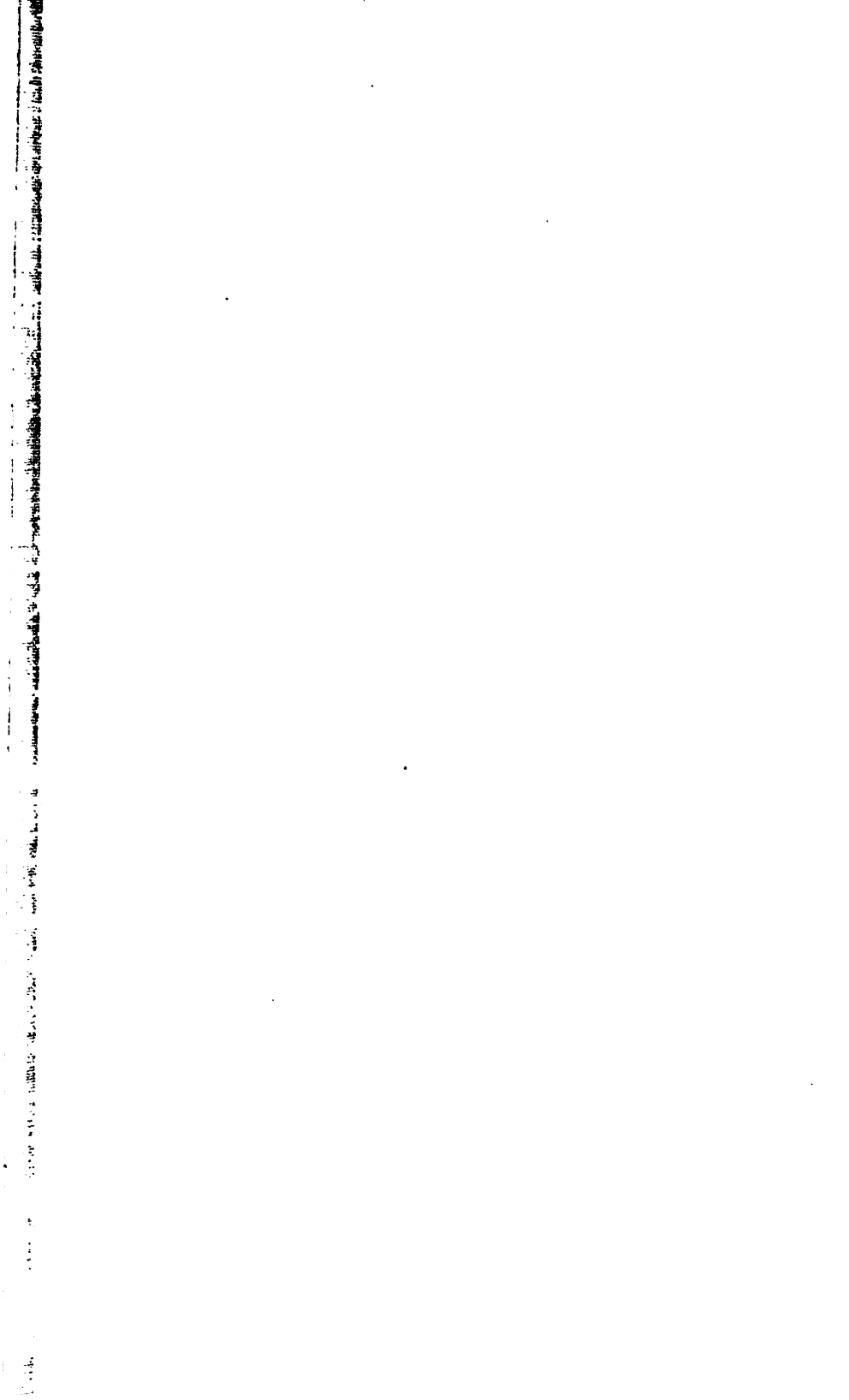
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MAP TO ILLUSTRATE
LOWER WHARFEDAL

BY
HARRY SPEIGHT

SCALE 4 MILES TO AN INCH



LOWER WHARFEDALE.

BEING A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF THE
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES AND SCENERY
OF THE PICTURESQUE
VALLEY OF THE WHARFE,
FROM CAWOOD TO ARTHINGTON.

BY
HARRY SPEIGHT,
AUTHOR OF "UPPER WHARFEDALE"; "NIDDERDALE AND THE GARDEN OF THE NIDD";
"ROMANTIC RICHMONDSHIRE";
"CRAVEN AND NORTH-WEST YORKSHIRE HIGHLANDS," ETC.

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PREFACE.



THE following contribution to the history of a very notable part of Yorkshire, fulfils an obligation—explained in the Preface to the companion volume on *Upper Wharfedale*—to continue the story of the remaining portion of the picturesque Wharfe valley.

Starting at historic Cawood, with its memories of Cardinal Wolsey, I have investigated the records of every place from the junction of the river with the Ouse near Cawood, upwards along both banks, a distance of 25 miles, to the attractive domains of Harewood and Arthington. The latter, now a separate ecclesiastical parish taken from Adel, adjoins the old parish of Otley, where my previous work commenced. The district thus dealt with embraces an area of nearly two hundred square miles, and comprises some twenty ancient parishes of varying extent.

Being in remote times, as it still is, accessible by navigation from the ancient city of York, the district possesses many indications of having been cleared and settled at a very early period, and the story of Celt, Roman, Saxon, Dane, and Norman, I have endeavoured to trace succinctly on the evidences of coeval remains and relics, many of which are illustrated by special engravings. These early settlements, and the general fertility of the lands thus appropriated, have operated in no small degree in obtaining for the district that value and importance it acquired in later times.

Quaint Thomas Fuller, writing in the days of Charles I. and the Commonwealth, furnishes a high opinion of the rich and charming vale of the Lower Wharfe and surrounding parts, and is moreover singularly exact in support of his praises. He tells us that when King Henry the Eighth, in 1541, made his progress to York, (journeying from Hatfield by the Doncaster road to Pontefract and thence (*see page 38*) to Cawood), Dr. Tunstall, Bishop of Durham, then attending on him, “shewed the King a valley which the Bishop avowed to be one of the richest that ever he found in all his travels through Europe. Within ten miles of Haselwood, the seat of the Vavasours,” he proceeds to say, “there were 165 manor-houses of lords, knights, and gentlemen of the best quality; 275 several woods, whereof some of them contain five hundred acres; 32 parks and 2 chases of deer; 120 rivers and brooks, whereof five be navigable, well stored with salmon and other fish; 76 water mills for the grinding of corn on the aforesaid rivers; 25 cole-mines, which

yield abundance of fuel for the whole county; 3 forges for the making of iron, and stone enough for the same. And within the same limits as much sport and pleasure for hunting, hawking, fishing, and fowling, as in any place of England besides."

These commendations surely prove the district to possess a more than ordinary importance and one worthy of particular record. The historic battle-grounds of Towton, Marston, and Bramham Moor all lie within the area of the Lower Wharfe, Ouse and Nidd, described by the venerable authority I have quoted. Much of this territory, indeed, is bound up with those great national struggles, which with short intervals of rest, continued from the 14th to the 17th centuries, the consequences whereof, affected in no small measure, the land-ownerships and other interests of the district. The old towns of Tadcaster—a place always of importance in warlike times—and Wetherby, were closely associated with those crises which culminated in the disasters of the Pilgrimage of Grace and Rising in the North, as well as with those later conspiracies of the Jacobites in the earlier half of the 18th century. Within the same area also lie all the old homes of the Fairfaxes,—those redoubtable veterans in arms who had not a little to do in directing the affairs of England during the gravest epoch of her history. Their old houses at Walton, Steeton, Nun Appleton, Newton Kyme, as well as in Virginia, will be found described and illustrated in this work. I have also appended a pedigree of the family brought down to the present time through the kind communications of the present noble representative of the house of Fairfax in America. Other old manor-houses and the (presumed) castles at Ryther, Bolton Percy, Tadcaster, Easedyke, Thorp Arch, and Wetherby, I have also specially described, and have stated, I believe, all that can be learnt in record and tradition concerning these ancient strongholds. Reminiscences of many famous families gather round most of these old manor places. The Percies of Tadcaster and Bolton Percy, the Rythers of Ryther, the Stapletons of Wighill, the Stanhopes of Grimston, the Whartons of Healaugh, the Oglethorpes of Bramham, the Gascoignes and Wentworths of Harewood, and other families of more than local renown have been dealt with in some detail, and in several instances the records are accompanied with original pedigrees.

It is, indeed, not a little remarkable, that a district in point of area comparatively small, should have been the home-land of so many distinguished families. I have to regret not being able to add to this interest some account of another illustrious family, which had close ties with the neighbourhood of Wighill, but my discoveries were made after that section of the work was printed. The Rev. George Walker, who became in 1661, rector of Kilmore and Chancellor of

Armagh, in Ireland, was for many years vicar of Wighill, and at least one of his children was a native of that parish. This family formed alliances with other prominent Wharfedale families. A son of the same vicar of Wighill, also a clergyman named George Walker, was the heroic defender of Derry during the terrible and protracted siege of 1689. His majestic monument now graces the Royal Bastion in that historic city. Walker may be justly described as the champion of the laws, religion, and liberties of this kingdom, and no man from the time of the Fairfaxes has done more to advance those principles of national freedom and religious toleration which have contributed not a little to build up the English Constitution of our own time.

Possibly, too, other important discoveries await the patient investigator of the historic district which I have, however feebly, portrayed in this work. But, singular as it may appear, little or nothing has hitherto been done to elucidate its past life and hidden records. Out of the score parishes dealt with, only two have had anything approaching a succinct history written, and of these two—Cawood and Harewood,—much of a supplementary character is now for the first time recorded. Sir Clements Markham has written very fully and ably on the Fairfaxes, but apart from the circumstances connected with the lives of the great Lord Fairfax, and of the seafaring Admiral Robert Fairfax, no succinct history of their home parishes has hitherto been produced. It is not a little surprising, too, that so important a place as Tadcaster, with its twenty centuries of settled life, going back to an age even before the advent of the Romans, as discoveries prove, should have found no historian. The hundred pages, therefore, devoted to an elucidation of the records of this ancient and important parish, will, it is hoped, not be misplaced.

I need hardly observe that the preparation of so full and consecutive a history of each parish dealt with has been no light undertaking. Moreover, owing to the wealth of unexplored material the work has extended much beyond the limits intended. I have, in fact, added more than one hundred pages above what was stipulated in the Prospectus the work would contain. The parish-chest, with its venerable archives, is always a rich storehouse of information, and so far as Lower Wharfedale is concerned it is a mine of interest not hitherto searched. But in these old registers and precious town-books, many a worthy or forgotten name, or incident in the past life of a place, is often found buried in undeserved oblivion. Who, for example, if we may trust the old books at Bolton Percy, dare assert the existence in a wild state in Yorkshire, down to almost within living recollection, of that rare and curious quadruped, the European beaver? It is believed to have been extinct in this country for

centuries (*see* page 118), though living specimens are recorded to have been taken in Northern Europe as lately as 1845.

It is not, however, from local sources alone that a large amount of new and interesting information has been collected, but numerous documents, charters, and other papers bearing upon the district have been obtained from London, Wakefield, and York. Many valuable manuscripts have also been forwarded to me from various quarters, including several unpublished pedigrees of prominent Yorkshire families, while some others I have compiled, notably of the early lords of Harewood and of the great Barony of Skipton-in-Craven, will, I hope, be found a useful reference.

Every portion of the area dealt with has been carefully explored by me, and every notable building, ecclesiastical as well as domestic, has been described from my own personal observations. Many of the churches of ancient origin, as at Ryther, Bolton Percy, Tadcaster, Newton Kyme, Bardsey, Thorp Arch, and Harewood, are particularly noteworthy, and in several instances there can be little doubt they stand upon pre-Christian foundations. Most of them are also remarkable for their contained antiquities, which include numerous stone altars (as at Ryther) and some valuable early sculptured crosses (as at Collingham and Kirkby Wharfe).

To the courtesy of the clergy, gentry, and others resident in the district embraced, I am indebted for an inspection of old parish-books and other useful papers, often illustrative of bygone customs and events. It is superfluous to mention names, of the clergy particularly, where everyone has been kind enough to grant me this privilege, and also in many instances to supply me with special information afterwards. Moreover, to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Crosthwaite, Bishop of Beverley, I am indebted for his kindness in revising the proofs of the chapters on his ancient and interesting parish of Bolton Percy. Also to several of the local clergy, now deceased, notably the Rev. R. H. Cooke, M.A., vicar of Healaugh, and the Rev. James Isaacson, M.A., vicar of Church Fenton, I owe the preservation of many useful facts, otherwise lost. To the Rev. Canon Wilton, M.A., formerly vicar of Kirkby Wharfe, and now rector of Londesborough, I am much indebted for his always instructive communications and loan of papers; likewise the Rev. Algernon C. Dudley Ryder, M.A., rector of Trowbridge, who has taken a very kindly interest in my work, and supplied me with many useful notes on the ancient family of Ryther of Ryther; also the Rev. George Beilby, M.A., vicar of Haselbury-Plucknett, Crewkerne, has done the same concerning the Beilbys of Micklethwaite Grange.

Several of the chapters have undergone revision by the local landowners, and it is necessary to observe that in these, as in all

other places, where special reference has been made to such landowners or to persons now living, the comments have been made without their sanction. It usually happened that when the proofs were returned such notices were either cancelled or so much modified as to be valueless for the purposes of a local history, and I have therefore ventured to restore them on my own responsibility.

Much historical information, together with the loan of various rare books and documents, has reached me from various quarters. To the accomplished researches of the Rt. Hon. Lord Hawkesbury, F.S.A., I am again indebted for many notes on matters genealogical and heraldic. To the learned President of the Royal Geographical Society, Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., I owe the elucidation of many points relative to the Fairfax family, with whose history no one is more conversant. My thanks, for various other information, are likewise due to many other friends and correspondents, particularly the following: the late Mr. John E. F. Chambers, of Alfreton, an interested and ever-obliging antiquary; Mr. Joseph Foster, Hon. M.A. (Oxon), for the Fairfax pedigree; Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, historian, of Northumberland, for notes on the house of Percy; Mr. T. B. Whytehead, Chapter Clerk, York; Mrs. E. Paver-Crow, Ornhams Hall; Mrs. Tempest, Broughton Hall; Miss A. Bellhouse, Roundhay; Messrs. Wm. Murray Tuke, Saffron Walden; Wm. C. Maude, Bournemouth; Wm. F. Atkinson, Ilkley; George F. Jones, F.R.I.B.A., Malton; Wm. Greenwood, Jersey; Chas. A. Goodricke, Croydon; Dr. J. H. Whitham, Boston Spa; Wm. Callum, B.A., Tadcaster; Dr. Hargreaves, Wetherby; S. Slater Whitfield, Wetherby; F. W. Dalby, Collingham; Ben. Spencer and James C. Eastburn, Bradford. To Mr. John Hopkinson, F.R.Met.S., F.L.S., &c., I am again obliged for the carefully-prepared table on local Rainfall.

Among the large number of illustrations included in the book many rare and valuable ones will be found, engraved from the only known originals. In accordance with my usual method, I have indicated on pages 19 to 21 the sources from which they have been derived. The Frontispiece to the Large Paper edition of the work, I should add, has been specially prepared and printed by Messrs. Armitage & Ibbetson, of Bradford. All the other plates, as well as the book, have been printed by Mr. G. F. Sewell, Bradford, and the quality of this work must be left to speak for itself.

For the large and influential patronage accorded in the publication of the work I desire to express my thanks. I have added the subscribers' names, as usual, at the end of the volume.

HARRY SPEIGHT.

Bingley, Yorkshire.

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THE RAINFALL OF LOWER WHARFEDALE.

BY JOHN HOPKINSON, F.R.MET.SOC., ASSOC.INST.C.E., &c.

(Specially compiled for this work.)

In discussing the rainfall of Upper Wharfedale* it was shown that it gradually decreases from the head of the valley downwards. This decrease is continued into and through Lower Wharfedale, the rainfall at Wetherby being only two-fifths that at Arncliffe, and less than four-fifths that at Leathley. The mean fall at sixteen stations for the whole of the valley of the Wharfe for the twelve years 1886-97 was 34·88 inches. Dividing the twelve stations into four groups of four stations each the result is as follows: Mean rainfall from Arncliffe to Burnsall, 43·12 inches; from Barden to Ilkley, 36·23 inches; from Blubberhouses to Leathley (the Washburn valley), 33·26 inches; and from Arthington to Wetherby, 26·91 inches. The mean height of the twelve rain-gauges above the sea is 673 feet, and of each group in the above order, 1121, 831, 482, and 258 feet.

The following table gives the mean and extreme rainfall at six stations in Lower Wharfedale for the 14 years 1886-99.

Station.	Authority.	Height above sea-level.	Mean. ins.	Min. ins.	Max. ins.
Lindley Wood, N., Leathley	T. Hewson, C.E.†	320	30·86	22·61	35·69
„ S., „	„	312	30·79	22·72	36·12
Arthington	„	139	28·41	19·30	35·39
Eccup, S., Adel ..	„	390	27·34	19·78	32·45
„ E., „ ..	„	375	27·44	19·72	33·61
Ribston Hall, Wetherby..	J. McClelland‡	130	24·10	17·77	31·59
Mean .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	28·16		

Two of these stations—Arthington and Wetherby—have a record for at least 25 years, and the Eccup record can also be carried back to cover that time by taking a former gauge at Eccup nearest to the *east* gauge and continuing its record with that of this gauge. The mean annual rainfall for the 25 years at Arthington, Eccup, and Wetherby, thus determined, was—

ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
1875 28·65	1880 32·98	1885 25·69	1890 24·12	1895 29·38
1876 33·61	1881 32·71	1886 32·20	1891 26·88	1896 26·16
1877 36·51	1882 34·04	1887 18·93	1892 28·53	1897 26·93
1878 34·40	1883 30·40	1888 27·44	1893 23·45	1898 26·50
1879 27·32	1884 24·57	1889 24·88	1894 31·02	1899 26·65
75-79 32·10	80-84 30·94	85-89 25·83	90-94 27·20	95-99 27·32
Mean for the whole period, 28·68 inches.				

The rainfall at Eccup can be carried back for another quarter of a century, and the following is the result for each decade of the half-century ending 1899: 1850-59, 25·98 ins.; 1860-69, 26·83 ins.; 1870-79, 31·26 ins.; 1880-89, 28·74 ins.; 1890-99, 27·49 ins. For the first 25 years the mean fall was 26·64 ins., for the second 25 years, 29·08 ins., and for the whole 50 years, 27·86 ins.

* *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 19-21.

† Previous to 1886, E. Filliter, C.E.

‡ Previous to 1898, Mr. Jones.

In the following table is given the mean and extreme monthly rainfall at Ribston Hall, Wetherby, for the 30 years 1870-99.

	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Max.</i>		<i>Mean</i>	<i>Min.</i>	<i>Max.</i>
	<i>ins.</i>	<i>ins.</i>	<i>ins.</i>		<i>ins.</i>	<i>ins.</i>	<i>ins.</i>
January ..	1·89	·12	4·22	July ..	2·61	·10	6·57
February ..	1·63	·00	3·66	August ..	2·59	·79	4·96
March ..	1·91	·30	4·31	September ..	2·53	·69	6·47
April ..	1·99	·49	5·16	October ..	3·18	·58	6·83
May ..	1·91	·04	5·08	November ..	2·33	·67	4·76
June..	2·38	·15	5·23	December ..	2·19	·31	5·81

Year: Mean, 27·04 ins.; Min., 16·91 ins. (1893); Max., 42·70 ins. (1872).

It may be of interest to compare the rainfall of Lower Wharfedale with that of some other Yorkshire dales. For this purpose the ten years 1890-99 will be taken. During this period the rainfall in this part of Yorkshire was about half an inch more than it was during the 14 years 1886-99. The following tables give the mean annual rainfall for these ten years at four representative stations in each of the three catchment-basins on the north-east and in each of the three on the south-west of Wharfedale, and that at four stations in the upper part, and at four in the lower part of this dale, with the height of each station above mean sea-level.

SWALE.			AIRE.		
	<i>Height.</i>	<i>Ins.</i>		<i>Height.</i>	<i>Ins.</i>
Richmond ..	430	30·43	Malham Tarn ..	1296	58·44
Bedale ..	170	25·21	Silsden Reservoir	560	30·46
Northallerton ..	242	24·46	Bingley ..	572	26·93
Baldersby ..	101	24·92	Weetwood Reservoir	328	26·08
URE.			CALDER.		
Aysgarth Vicarage	648	37·17	Hebden Bridge ..	479	46·19
Leyburn ..	420	32·53	Halifax (Bermerside)	500	33·14
Masham Moor ..	693	36·88	Mirfield (Cote Wall)	200	27·73
Mickley ..	225	29·51	Wakefield Prison	96	24·86
NIDD.			DON.		
Ramsgill ..	450	44·17	Dunford Bridge Res.	1111	48·00
Pateley Bridge ..	410	40·35	Sheffield (Ranmoor)	610	33·42
Harrogate (Stray)	380	29·20	Rotherham ..	184	23·01
Knaresborough ..	170	25·07	Doncaster..	190	23·94
UPPER WHARFE.			LOWER WHARFE.		
Arncliffe Vicarage	734	61·66	Leathley, N. ..	320	31·67
Grimwith Reservoir	890	44·44	Arthington ..	139	29·46
Barden Reservoir	746	42·49	Eccup, S. ..	390	27·86
Ilkley ..	600	35·13	Wetherby..	130	23·94

These figures give a mean annual rainfall of 31·66 inches for the three valleys north-east of Wharfedale, of 33·52 inches for the three valleys south-west of it, and of 32·59 inches for the whole, against 45·93 inches for Upper Wharfedale, 28·23 inches for Lower Wharfedale, and 36·58 inches for the whole of the valley of the Wharfe. The chief cause of this diversity is difference of elevation, as may be gathered from a cursory examination of the figures. It is also shown in

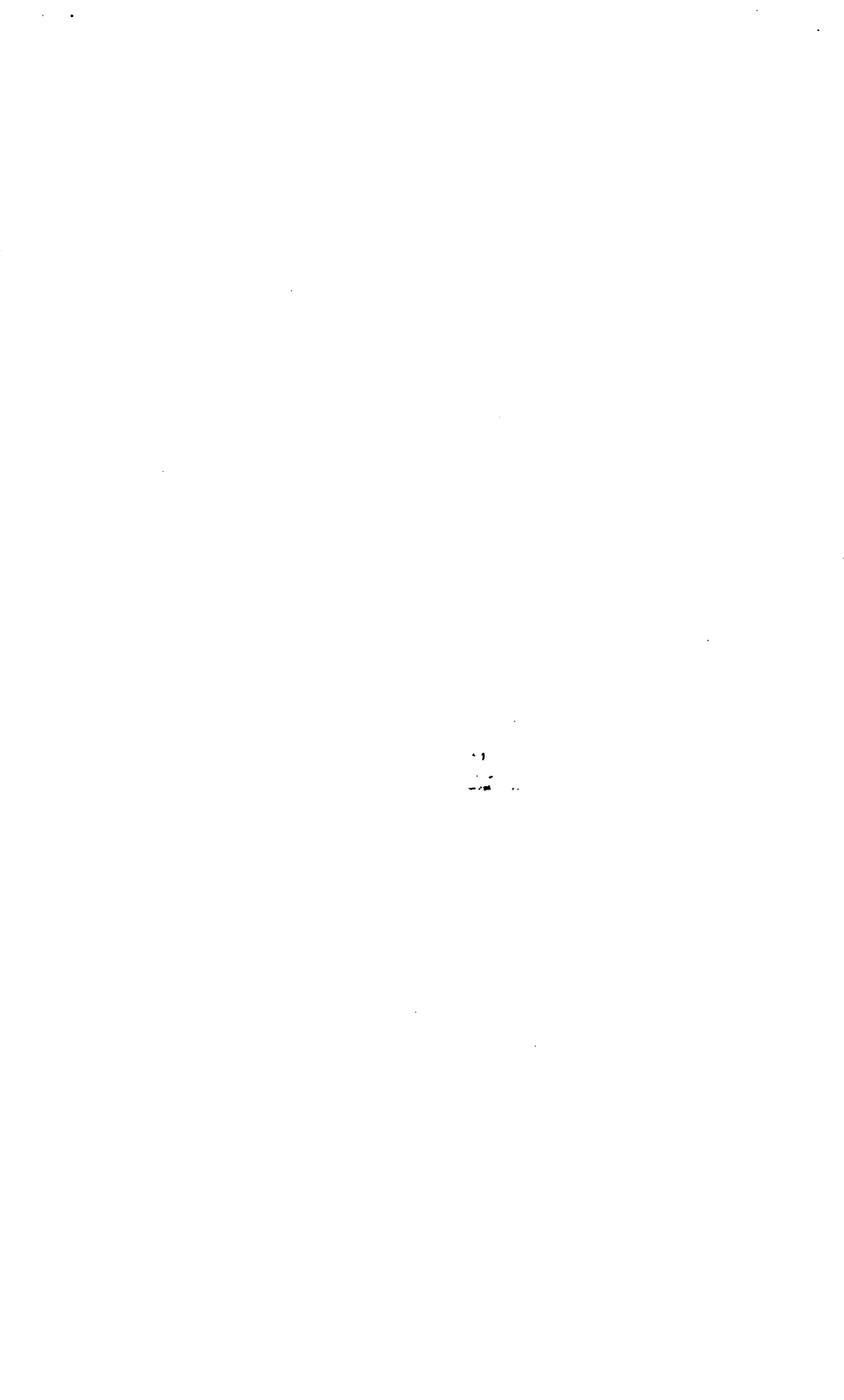
the fact that the average height of the twelve gauges in the three valleys north-east of Wharfedale is 385 feet, and that of the twelve in the three valleys on the south-west, 510 feet; but it is still more apparent if the stations be grouped in accordance with their height above the sea irrespective of the river-valleys. This may be shown thus:

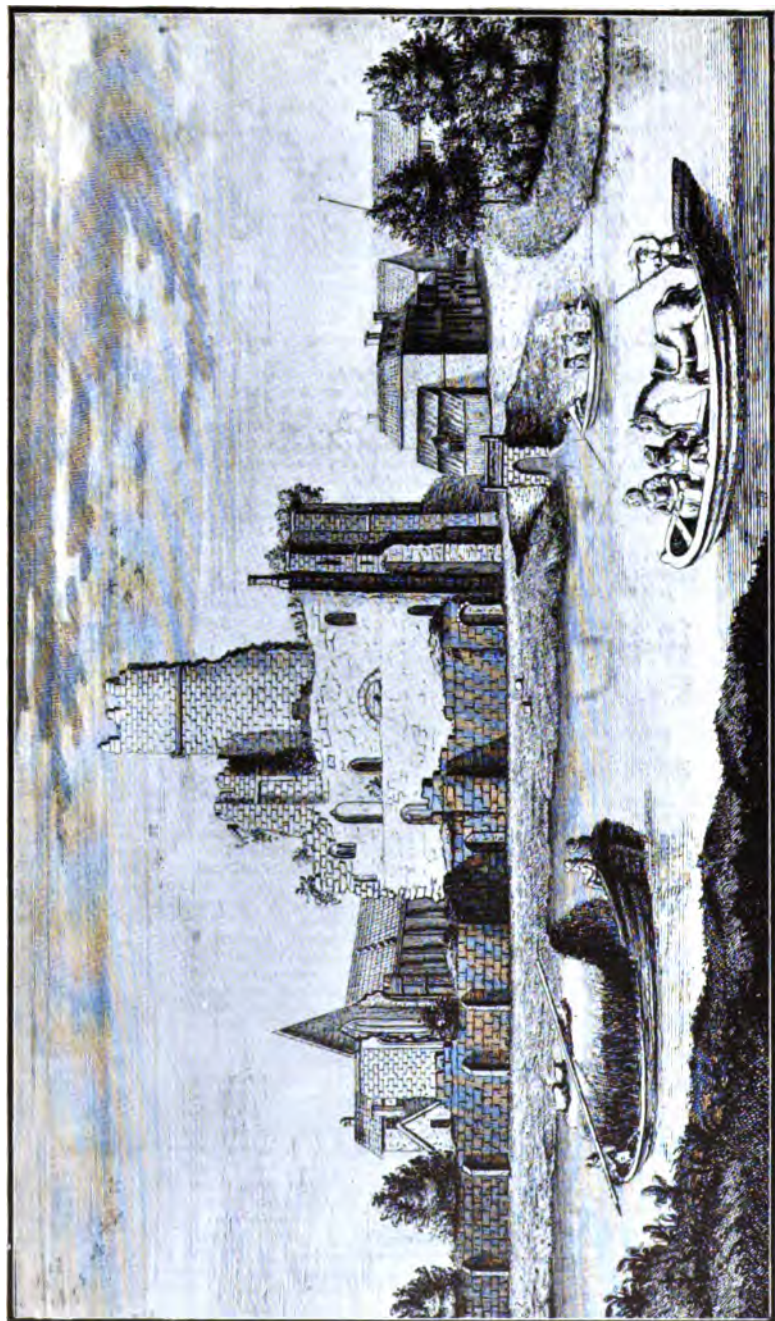
8 stations,	96-190 ft.,	average height,	148 ft.,	mean rainfall,	25.05 ins.
8	.. 200-410 ft.,	..	312 ft.,	..	29.61 ins.
8	.. 420-600 ft.,	..	501 ft.,	..	34.62 ins.
8	.. 610-1296 ft.,	..	841 ft.,	..	45.31 ins.

Neither in this account of the rainfall of Lower Wharfedale nor in the former one of that of Upper Wharfedale has any mention been made of heavy falls of rain in short periods. A record of the heaviest downpour which is known to have occurred in the valley of the Wharfe in a day and in an hour may, therefore, be of some interest.

On the 12th of July, 1900, there fell at Cherry Bank, Ilkley, 5.40 inches of rain, being 11.9 per cent. of the year's fall of 45.33 inches. At Brook Street, Ilkley, where the day's fall was 4.50 inches, there fell in an hour and a quarter, between 2 p.m. and 3.15 p.m., 3.75 inches of rain, being at the rate of 3 inches per hour, "an intensity" Dr. R. H. Mill states in *British Rainfall*, 1900, "never before recorded in this country as having been maintained for so long a time." The centre of the storm was on Rombalds Moor, about midway between the Rivers Aire and Wharfe, the next heaviest fall to that at Ilkley being 4.50 inches at Gilstead Filters, Bingley, in the valley of the Aire; and fortunately the resulting surface-water was about equally shared by these two rivers. Nevertheless, the result at Ilkley and other places in the neighbourhood, was disastrous, the damage at Ilkley being estimated at £100,000. The force of the water carried down boulders weighing several tons, piling them on the roads to the depth of four feet, and its erosive action changed a great part of the course of the short valley of Spicey Gill.

The heaviest fall of rain recorded anywhere in the British Isles in any one day during the 35 years ending 1900, was 8.03 inches, at Seathwaite in Cumberland, on the 12th November, 1897. The average annual rainfall there is 135 inches, and in that year it reached 144 inches, the day's fall being 5.6 per cent. of the year's fall. The greatest day percentage on record is at Angerton Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, where 6.70 inches fell on the 29th of September, 1898, being 18.1 per cent. of the year's fall of 36.97 inches. The total amount of rain which fell on the day of the great Ilkley flood is not, therefore, so extraordinary as its intensity for a short period, which it may be hoped will long remain *the record* for this country.





CAWOOD, TWO CENTURIES AGO.

LOWER WHARFEDALE.

CHAPTER I.

LIFE AND ASPECTS AT ANCIENT CAWOOD.

Importance of Cawood—Where Wharfe joins Ouse—Aspects of the town—The new bridge—Character of surrounding country—Local geology—Carrs and marshes—Name of Cawood—Ancient woodlands—The manor at the Conquest—Tenure in bondage, some of its effects—Local customs—Manor-house of the Archbishops of York—Royal visitors at Cawood—Ancient inns—"Hostilers" of the 14th century—Great banquets at the Castle—Life at Cawood past and present.



UNRIVALLED as is Yorkshire in scenes of historic and legendary lore, as also in picturesque beauty, there are few places within it that excel in interest the long life-story and outward charm of the pleasant old town of Cawood. As the abiding-place from time to time of many of our English monarchs, and as the country-seat for a long period of the Archbishops of York, and other high State dignitaries, not the least conspicuous of whom was the great Cardinal Wolsey,—the crisis of whose life dates from his arrest at Cawood,—events of importance cluster round this now quiet haven, which memory will not willingly let die.

A few hundred yards above the town, the Wharfe, after its sixty miles' journey from the mountains of Langstrothdale, enters the tidal waters of Ouse,—the river being tidal to a little above its junction with the Wharfe, some ten miles from the city of York. At Cawood the Ouse is a bright and lively stream, forming an elbow having a sharp curvature from east to north, which gives character and picturesqueness to the situation of the town. Viewed from the riverside the red-tiled roofs of many buildings, with the dark brick walls and remains of the fine old Castle, stand out in pleasing contrast with the conspicuous white stone structure of the ancient Parish Church upon its banks. The prefatory engraving presents a view

of the town as it was early in the 18th century. The houses, indeed, must have possessed more than ordinary comforts and attractions even in the 16th century, for Leland speaks of Cawood as "a preatī village"; the local tenants of the wealthy Archbishops in those times evidently having been well and neatly housed and cared for.

The main thoroughfare runs parallel with the Ouse, and in place of the old ferry there is now a handsome iron bridge connecting the East and West Ridings and the town of Cawood with the York side of the Ouse at Kelfield. This bridge is built on the swivel principle, with two open spans of considerable width, so that vessels can pass through it without lowering their sails or casting off their towing-ropes. Painted white and looking elegant and light, it forms a pleasing object, especially when the stream is enlivened with craft, or snow-white ducks are seen gliding in the bright sunlight on the blue waters beneath it.* The bridge was built from plans furnished by Mr. Robert Hodgson, engineer to the North Eastern Railway Company, and was opened to the public on Wednesday, July 31st, 1872.

Round about there lies a rich agricultural country, while between Cawood and Selby, some five miles, there are many hundreds of acres appropriated to the growing of celery and other market produce. Here and there one may see a well-stocked apple-orchard, and posied lanes and fields abounding in season with cowslips and primroses. The great wood called Bishop's Wood, which no doubt helped to give Cawood its name, is about a mile distant, and is partly in Wistow parish. Many uncommon wild plants are to be found hereabouts, as well as other things of fascinating interest to the naturalist. Forty years ago Mr. Wm. Nelson, M.C.S., discovered the very rare water violet (*Hottonia palustris*) in this locality, a plant which I have long known to grow in an old water-course in the Aire valley, between Bingley and Marley, but lately destroyed through the extension of the sewage works in that neighbourhood by the Corporation of Keighley.

Geologically the country around Cawood possesses too, an interest especially to the student of glacial phenomena. No solid rock is exposed at the surface nearer than the edge of the Wolds or the little isolated hills of Trias near Selby. But, says Mr. Kendall, the drift deposits are of exceptional, if not of unique interest. Two great sub-parallel ridges of boulder-clay, sand, and gravel, extend in crescentic form from the neighbourhood of Stamford Bridge

* It was across the Ouse at Cawood that Dick Turpin swam on Black Bess, on his famous ride from London to York. The name of Turpin was not uncommon in this district two centuries ago.

respectively through York and Escrick round to Bilbrough. These have been recognised as successive terminal moraines of a great glacier that occupied the vale of York. Sections at various places have yielded characteristic erratics such as Shap granite, the quartz-porphry of Threlkeld near Keswick, the Carrock Fell diorite, and Scottish granites, which indicate, probably, the remote sources from which the ice emanated.

For many miles around these moraines the soil is composed of sandy clay and gravel, the product of the melting glaciers. This warpy clay is admirably suited for the growth of vegetables, and as stated above there are large areas entirely given over to market gardening. To the east of Cawood, between the Ouse and Derwent, the deposits are found to attain a thickness in many places of fully 100 feet. At Cawood a boring was made at Smith's mill in 1852, which revealed the following section: Sand, 3 feet; clay, etc., 57 feet; quicksand, 30 feet; red sand, 4 feet; grey soft sandstone, 240 feet. The grey sandstone in this section, says Mr. Davis, evidently bears a close relation to the thick bed of sandstone met with in boring operations for the Selby Waterworks at 75 feet from the surface, and this is further confirmed by the fact that when the Selby well was made, which is five miles south, a large portion of the water was drawn from the one at Cawood.

In former times, before the land was drained, the country bordering upon the Ouse was much subject to inundations, and still-existing names of carrs, marshes and ings, testify to the prevalence of wet, low-lying places. An Act passed in 1776 for dividing and enclosing the common-fields within the parishes of Cawood and Wistow, speaks of "ings, marshes, carrs, commons, and other waste lands and grounds," which gives us an idea of the former character of the old unenclosed lands. Blackie (*vide* "Place Names," page 37) thinks that the name Cawood means "wood enclosure," from the Cymric-Celtic *cae* (enclosure). But "wood" is not Celtic, and such a combination of alien words is opposed to the principles of etymological construction. I believe the whole name to be Danish or Norse from *Kjarr*, low, swampy ground, and *wode*, wood. Locally the name is pronounced "car-wood," or when spoken by the native rapidly it sounds like the compound "cow-ud." Polite folk, however, speak of the place as "Kay-wood."* The district, moreover, was anciently much more thickly wooded than it is at present, and old Leland, who

* There is a Cawood in the hundred of Lonsdale, but it is not mentioned in Domesday, and the earliest reference to it appears to be in a grant by Roger de Begon to the Priory of Thetford, of the wood called *Carnuēda* (township of Arkholme-with-Cawood). Dugdale, vol. v., n. 6, page 150.

ferried over the Ouse into Cawood in the time of Henry Eighth, tells us that from there he went to Sherburne. All the way he travelled beside the old dike or canal called Bishop's Water, was he says, "wel wooddid." Likewise we gather from a manuscript of the time of Edward I., entitled *Iste liber compotus et compilatus fuit de diversis inquisitionibus ex officio captis temp. regis Edwardi filii regis Henrici*, that John de Cawood then held two carucates of land in Cawood by the serjeantry of keeping the forest (of Langwith in the parish of Wheldrake) between Ouse and Derwent, but this "forest" did not necessarily mean woodland, though local circumstances lead us to infer that originally it was.*

Although forming valuable hereditary demesne long before the Conquest, Cawood is not mentioned in the great Norman inquest of 1083-6. It had been granted with Otley and Wistow by King Athelstan to the See of York as a thank-offering for his victory over the Danes and Scots at Brunanburh in 937.† Nothing is known of its previous ownership, but it is tolerably certain, from what we do know of the subsequent nature of the tenures, that the estate had been farmed under the Danes by tenants-in-bondage, subject in all probability to the same Metropolitan. Although the conquest by Athelstan changed the government it did not subvert the customs of the manor. Such customs by villeinage tenure no doubt originated under the tyrannical laws of the Danes. At this time every tenant was bound, when called upon, to answer who was his lord or master. But with the decline of feudalism and the gradual extension of civil liberty, many abler bond-tenants received their enfranchisement through the wise and considerate administration of the Archbishops. This change was taking place at Cawood as early as the 13th century, at a time even when the tendency in many manors was to strengthen rather than to relax the bonds of feudalism; bonds that held the tenants to the soil upon which they were born and reared, and from which they could not be removed except by the lord's leave. Such tenants were subject to sale or transfer by their lords, even with their families and goods. All they could shew or prove with respect to their inheritance or the title to their holdings, was the customs of the manor and their admissions to them on the court-rolls; such entries being styled tenure by copy of court-roll, and the tenants themselves were afterwards known as copyholders.

* Although much of the old forest had been enclosed in the 17th and 18th centuries, there were still several thousand acres lying waste in the middle of the 18th century. As early as the reign of John, about 80 acres had been enclosed within the bounds of the forest by Richard de Malebisse, but I do not find that the boundaries or exact extent of the forest are anywhere defined

† See the author's *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 36-7.

After the Reformation tenure in villeinage rapidly declined, although it was not actually abolished by statute until the reign of Charles II.; the copyholds however being reserved. Sir Thomas Smith, who was secretary to King Edward VI., tells us that in his time there was not a villein *in gross* (that is attached to the person of the lord) throughout the kingdom; and that the few villeins *regardant* (those attached to the manor or soil) that then remained, were such only as had belonged to certain of the monasteries and ecclesiastical corporations. It is thus quaintly explained: "The holy fathers, monks and friars," he observes, "had in their confessions, and specially in their extreme and deadly sickness, convinced the laity how dangerous a practice it was, for one Christian man to hold another in bondage; so that temporal men by little and little, by reason of that terror in their consciences, were glad to manumit all their villeins. But the said holy Fathers, with the Abbots and Priors did not in like sort by theirs, for they also had a scruple in conscience to impoverish and despoil the Church so much, as to manumit such as were bond to their churches, or to the manors which the Church had gotten, and so kept their villeins still." These villeins were, however, on well-ordered manors not badly off. Though bound to perform menial services for their lord, such as leading turf and manure, making his hay, maintaining his fences, &c., they held their estates at a low rental, and were often able to resist advances by virtue of simple immemorial usage and custom. Thus they acquired a position and degree of comfort often superior to the freemen on an estate. Their holdings, however, were still subject to the same burdens by way of fines, heriots, or mean services, though some of these lapsed by desuetude. Sometimes they were commuted for a small pecuniary quit-rent. At Cawood some small services were long retained by the Archbishops from their tenants. Even in our own time it was customary for certain tenants to forward annually a load of faggots by water from Cawood to Bishopthorpe.

An interesting instance of services due to the Archbishops of York by the copyholders of the manor of Wistow is contained in a schedule dated 1711. From this we learn that "for every head of a whole oxgang the tenant pays yearly two hens between Michaelmas and Shrovetide, for each of which the lord allows 1½d.; he has likewise to lead two loads of wood from any part of the woods to Cawood Castle, for each of which the lord allows one penny. But these services are only due when the lord keepeth house in this country." This boon-service was in vogue long after the abolition of tenure-in-bondage, nor is it yet quite extinct in Wharfedale; and it is also

interesting to observe that the price allowed for fat hens in 1711 must have been based on some ancient rate, when say in the 14th century, hens were valued at 1½d. each, and fresh eggs were sold at twenty-four for a penny.*

The Archiepiscopal manor-house at Cawood was no doubt originally erected some time after the grant by Athelstan, but it was not raised to the dignity of a castle until the reign of Henry III. In 1271 Archbishop Giffard obtained royal licence to raise and crenellate his manor-seat at Cawood, by which leave the house was practically rebuilt on a much larger and grander scale; being fortified after the manner of a castle. The King and his retinue had been at Cawood some years previously and no doubt some inconveniences had been experienced on that occasion, through the limited accommodation of the building. Henry had a special fondness for the district, having been married with great pomp in the noble minster at York in 1251, and several despatches exist signed by him at Cawood.

The elevation of the rustic manor into a stately and strong castle added considerably to the importance of Cawood, and the old Archiepiscopal residence at Sherburn henceforward became less frequented, and was finally abandoned by the middle of the 14th century. As a consequence we find Cawood a frequent stopping-place of English monarchs and other notable personages journeying north and south by way of York. The place was still, however, chiefly looked upon more as a holiday resort of the Archbishops, and Holinshed remarks quaintly: "At Cawood is a castell belonging to the Archbishop of Yorke, where he useth oft to lie when he refresheth himself with change of aire and shift of habitation, for the avoiding of such infection as may otherwise ingender by his long abode in one place, for want of due purgation and airing of his house." This old Elizabethan writer makes proper reference to the desirability of shifting residence during the terrible plagues that were so often rife in the Middle Ages. He tells us that in 1485 "a new kind of sickness" broke out, "so sharp and deadly that the like was never heard of in any man's remembrance," and "that scarce one in a hundred that sickened did escape with life." Davies also tells us that at this time only three aldermen and seven of the "twenty-four" were present at the York Council to oppose the march of the Earl of Richmond towards London, the others being without the city "for the plague that reigneth."† The same sickness occurred

* A statute of Edward II. fixed the price of a fat hen, or two chickens, at 1½d., a fat goose at 2½d., and 24 eggs not more than 1d.

† *Extracts from the Records at York*, page 215.

again in 1500 and there was "a great death."* Large numbers would appear to have perished in and about York, amongst the stricken being the aged Archbishop Rotherham, who removed to Cawood and there died of the plague May 29th, 1500.

In 1299 King Edward I. stayed here on his way to Scotland, intending to quell the turbulent Scotch after their defeat under the gallant Sir William Wallace in the year previous.† While at Cawood he summoned his young Queen to come to him, but on her journey hither she was brought to bed at Brotherton by the birth of a prince, who became known as Thomas of Brotherton. The Queen on her recovery came to Cawood, and for several years was a regular visitor at the increasingly famous old town; the most lavish provision being made by Archbishop Corbrigge for the royal dame's comfort and entertainment. In 1302 he obtained a grant of free warren within the manor, so that the game, both in quantity and quality, would be much improved. There was a constant intercourse kept up at this time between Cawood and York, and much passing to and fro of distinguished visitors. The Parliaments frequently assembled at York, and for seven years (1298—1304) the Courts of Exchequer and King's Bench were continued in the same city.

In the time of Archbishop Greenfield the castle at Cawood appears to have undergone some further enlargement and improvement. Mountain, in his history of Selby, says that the brickwork of the castle was added about the year 1306, at the expense of Archbishop Greenfield. But he gives no authority for the statement. The register of this period shews that in 1311 money was expended in the construction of a study in the Archbishop's rooms at the castle. Here in 1315 the Archbishop died, and from that time, following the destructive ravages of the Scots after Bannockburn, nothing seems to have been done even in the smallest way of repairs for fully thirty years subsequently. The district had been plundered of its wealth, land went out of cultivation, and that terrible malady known as the Black Death carried off many of those whom poverty had left to its miserable grip.

During the reign of the first Edward, the town was in the very zenith of its glory. But for the next seventy years following the king's death in 1307, misery, poverty and reduced population was the mark of its sad fate. Both Edward II. and his Queen sought refuge within the strong walls of Cawood after the reverse of Bannockburn, and in 1319 the Court of King's Bench was again

* Arnold's *Chronicle*.

† See the Author's *Upper Wharfedale*, page 205.

held in York. From the evidence of the Poll Tax of 1378 we may form some idea of the importance and population of Cawood in the previous time of its prosperity. Even then it ranked amongst the principal towns in the north. In 1378 there were 70 married couples living in the town, and nearly all of these would, no doubt, have families. At anyrate the rolls state that there were 27 single persons above the age of 16, over and above the married folk. The principal taxpayer, rated at 6s. 8d., was John de Cawood, gent., while there were no fewer than seven innkeepers or *hostilers*, whose names were John Barber, Robert Dannock, John Alanson, William and John de Rome, John Brewer, and Richard Anlaby, each of whom paid 6d. tax, while the rest of the inhabitants paid 4d. Singularly no other trade or calling is mentioned, not even a ship-carpenter, shewing that the Ouse traffic and trade generally must have greatly declined in the course of the century's disasters. It was not, indeed, till 1385, when the Chapter of York took a long lease of the Huddleston quarries that matters began to mend at Cawood. One may, however, conclude that in spite of bad trade and poverty, there was a considerable amount of drinking going on, seeing that there were seven "hostilers" in the town. But an "hostel" at that time was not as we understand the term now, nor were "hostilers" innkeepers pure and simple. They were the men of credit and of recognised position in those days, who not only entertained travellers, but were responsible for their good conduct, and if they were merchants or traders for their honourable dealings as well. In 1285 a statute was passed that no man should lodge in the "suburbs" of a place without his "hoste" should answer for him. In 1357 it was enacted that when fishers should sell their merchandise at Yarmouth, they should have their "hostelers" with them. In 1403 the law was that in every city where stranger merchants repaired, sufficient "hostes" should be assigned to them, and that the said merchants should dwell with their "hostes." Again in 1439 it was enacted that the chief officer of every borough, whither any merchant alien should repair, should assign to every such alien an host or surveyor, who should survey all his buyings and sellings, and register them in a book and certify them into the exchequer, and should have 2d. in the pound for all merchandise by him bought or sold.* So that we see the Cawood "hostilers" of the 14th century and the period following, when it was a busy port and trading-place, would be something more than mere purveyors of meat and drink. It may also be noted that the Archbishop's manor of Wistow had, in 1378,

* See *Records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, published by the *Surtees Society* (1895), Vol. 93, page xxxi.

almost as large a population as Cawood. There were in Wistow 65 married couples and 28 single adults. These included a *cosur* or "botcher" (mender of clothes), who paid 3s. 4d., a merchant who paid 12d., and a carpenter who paid 6d.; the rest paid 4d.

It is not unlikely that Archbishop Neville "laid much out" on the castle, as Camden asserts, as the Nevilles were great builders. But it was well into the 15th century before any very substantial changes took place in the structural aspects of the Cawood stronghold. Then the famous Archbishop Bowet, who died in 1426, built the great hall, wherein he was a regal entertainer of a constant stream of guests. He maintained a large household and immense quantities of comestibles as also of wine and malt liquor, were used when he was in residence at the castle. Four-score tuns of claret are recorded as having been annually consumed in his several manor houses, and assuming other things in proportion, this good-living prelate must have been the main supporter of the tradespeople of a large district whenever he went to reside at one or other of his palaces. Cawood, indeed, became renowned for the liberal and lavish manner in which its principal house was kept, and many were the sumptuous feasts served in the great hall. A large body of liveried yeomen constantly acted as guard, and the strains of trained minstrels added liveliness to the festivities. When the noble George Neville was installed to the Archbishopric in 1466, the event was celebrated by an entertainment, the unstinted character of which seems almost incredible, despite the contemporary register of its proportions. Hunting and shooting and slaughtering must have been carried on briskly for some days before the feast was held. The private park and woods at Cawood were well stocked with deer and game of all kinds, for ever since Archbishop Corbriggs had obtained the King's grant of free warren in 1302, much care had been bestowed in the development of these preserves.. It is recorded that no fewer than 500 stags, bucks, and does were killed, cooked, and served up, in addition to 2000 pigs, 1000 sheep, 2000 geese, 4000 pigeons, 4000 coneyes, 2000 chickens, not to mention a hundred and odd oxen and half-a-dozen wild bulls, while the sea yielded a dozen prime porpoises and rare seals. What a dish! Venison pasty is comprehensible and would doubtless be appreciated, but the palate must have been singularly vigorous that would dare a dinner of porpoise pie!*

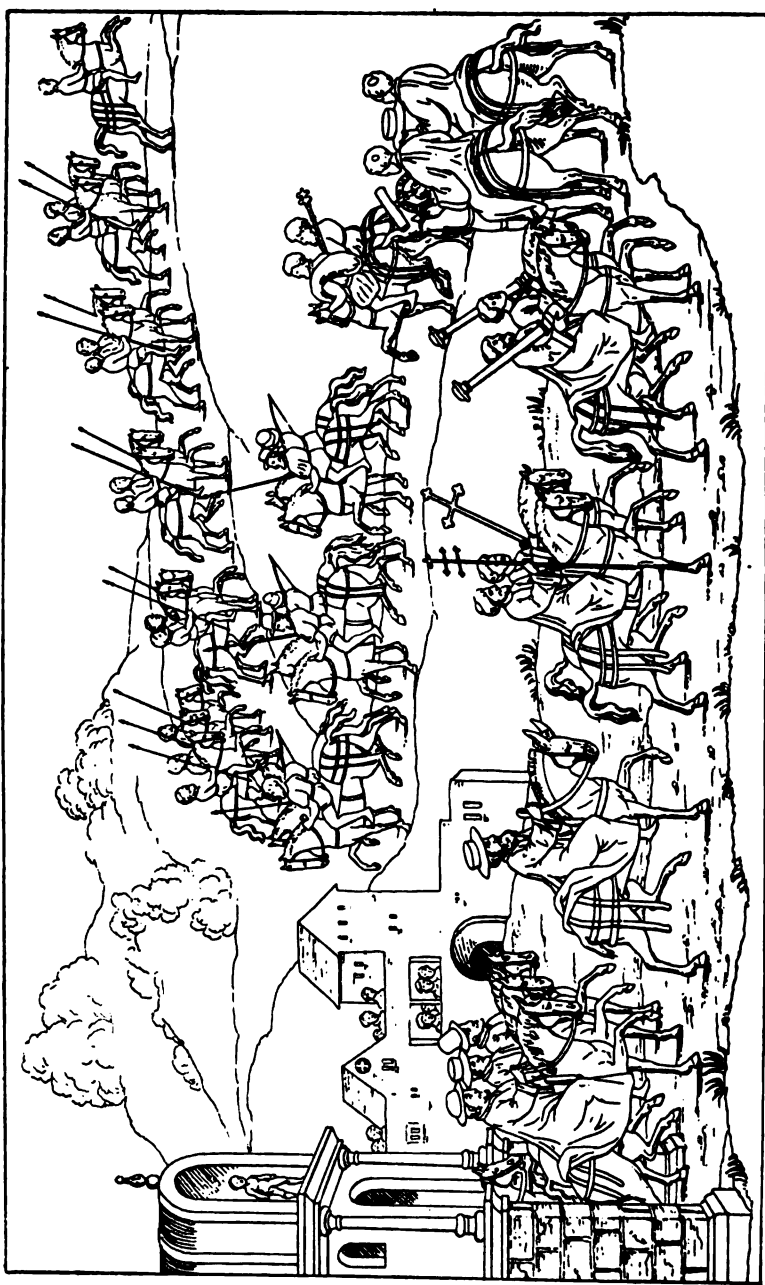
* Porpoise, however, seems to have been considered a "dainty dish fit to set before a king," and was served on the Royal table with bread crumbs and vinegar as well as in the castles and houses of the gentry, down to the time of Queen Elizabeth. A recipe for making "puddyng of porpoise" is preserved among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum.

Liquor there was in plenty, however, to wash it down. Three hundred tuns of ale (over 75,000 gallons) and one hundred tuns of wine, served to stimulate the appetites and digest the abundant solids consumed by the throng of feasters. The bakers must have had a busy time, but many hands make light work, and the 300 quarters of wheat would speedily be converted into thousands of bread-rolls, tarts, and pasties, with but small chance of growing stale. Besides these substantial viands there was a corresponding provision of hot custards, spices, wafers, and various sugared delicacies. It is stated that nearly 1200 servants were engaged to prepare and serve this vast feast, and that nobles and clergy and gentry came to Cawood, many with their retinues, to partake of the great prelate's unbounded hospitality.* Neither were the poor neglected, for none went empty away. The great Earl of Warwick, the redoubtable Richard Neville, "the last of the Barons," who at this time resided at Middleham, acted as steward on this memorable occasion. He was the Archbishop's own brother, and thoroughly well versed in the art of entertaining, for at his own castle at Middleham he constantly kept a large company, and his hall was daily thronged with guests. Six oxen were eaten at breakfast every morning, and "every tavern was full of his meat for who that had any acquaintance in that house he should have so much sodden and roast as he might carry on a long dagger."

What a picture Cawood would present on such an occasion as this! The noblest in the land entering the old town, and moving towards the portal of the castle, where numbers of others would be assembled, all gaily mounted on valuable horses and attended by servants and footmen each robed in quaint and costly livery. Life indeed at this day seems tame and dull in our villages, when we conjure before us such stirring scenes and events, which brought master and man together in good fellowship in the days of these old barons. The village fair is but a poor substitute, and even this is fast dying out, and village life is becoming in most places more and more monotonous. I have heard a story of an incumbent of one of our remote dale-parishes appealing to the Bishop of the diocese for a suggestion as to how best to celebrate a certain local festival. The Bishop politely and reverentially suggested "a quiet day." The answer was speedily returned, "My Lord, we have too many quiet days; what we want is an earthquake."!

* See Hearne's additions to Leland's *Collectanea*

PROGRESS OF CARDINAL WOLSEY.



CHAPTER II.

CAWOOD AND WOLSEY.

Wolsey appointed to the See of York—His arrival at Cawood—Repair of the castle—High state life at the castle—The coming crisis—The Cardinal's arrest at Cawood—His farewell and grief at his departure—Great concourse of spectators—The journey to Pontefract and Leicester—The Cardinal's death—Decline of Cawood—The castle after the Reformation—Local feeling—Arrival of Archbishop Grindal—Visit of Queen Elizabeth to Cawood—The Civil War—Cawood Castle dismantled, and its old glory departed.



CAWOOD was not suffered to lapse into a state of quiescence for many years after the splendid generosity and fame it obtained through the connection of the Nevilles had subsided. Though the old castle got somewhat out of repair during that period of abeyance caused by the protracted absence of the many-officed Cardinal Wolsey from the See of York, to which he had been appointed in 1514, though never installed, yet full amends were made on his coming here. When he arrived at Cawood, about Michaelmas, 1530, although broken in spirit and distrustful of the future, he set himself loyally to restore the breaches and make more than good previous neglect. A very large number of workmen was almost immediately engaged to carry out the repairs thoroughly and expeditiously, and we have the authority of Holinshed, who lived in the next generation, that in artificers and labourers above 300 persons were at work and in receipt of daily wages there. Holinshed also remarks that the Cardinal "had there an honorable and plentiful house for all comers." Indeed the story and spectacle of his brief sojourn at Cawood appears before the mind and eye like a stage romance. His arrival at the gates of the castle was attended with all the pomp and consequence of one who had but lately been the most influential man of his time, and supreme head of the Church in England, nay almost of Europe. Accustomed to gorgeous processions and brilliant State functions, he had had a thousand marks granted to him from the Bishopric of Winchester, in order to render his progress north one befitting the dignity of his person and rank. He had about 500

servants daily about him, according to his checker-roll, many of them being of noble blood. But at Cawood the flower of his ambition was already spent and the bared bough now shewed its thorns.

The story of his arrest need not be recited in detail. It was a national crisis that sounded the knell of the dying Rome in England, and prepared the way for the Reformation. For a time Cawood, indeed, was like a little Rome, and the old castle seemed as the Vatican. There was a perpetual passing to and fro of messengers, and the town was daily thronged with visitors, not a few of whom were disconsolate foreigners trusting to the forlorn hope of seeing their beloved prelate restored to the King's favour. There was, too, a specious show of rejoicing by all in attendance, and daily great banquets were given at the Castle. But amidst it all the dread eyes of the spy were hovering about the walls like bats in the night-time, and it is even asserted that there were traitors in the house. Wolsey assumed an air of indifference, nay he is even represented as being extremely happy in his new abode. But the man who had incurred the tyrant King's displeasure, and who was in reality an exile from that great world of flowing honour and devoted responsibility, cannot but have felt in his forced retirement that there were dark clouds above his head that might break at any moment. His remorse at this time is truly represented by the greatest of English poets, in the well-known soliloquy of Wolsey, beginning with these lines :

" Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness !
This is the state of man : to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hope ; to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him :
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost,
And—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening—nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do."

And yet a moment afterwards, when his servant enters his chamber and asks, " How does your Grace ? " the Cardinal turns softly to him, and with wonted smile replies :

" Why, well ;
Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell.
I know myself now ; and I feel within me
A peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience."

But it was surely a species of happiness that rippled only on the surface! Is there not truth in the call: "O! for the wings of humble liberty! O! for the freedom of the peasant!" "Better to be lowly born," says the same great moralist, "than wear a golden sorrow."

At length the crisis came. The Cardinal was to have been enthroned at York on the Monday of All Hallows, November 7th, but on the Friday preceding, the Earl of Northumberland unexpectedly arrived at the castle and demanded admittance and an audience of the great prelate. He was conducted to the banqueting-hall where the Cardinal was "att his frutes" with a number of the York clergy and others. "I arrest your Grace on a charge of high treason," spoke the Earl with forced firmness. Immediately every glass was set down and wine and grape remained untouched. The Cardinal rose and blandly demanded to know by whose authority the charge was made. "The King's," was the speedy answer. It was useless parleying. Every preparation had secretly been made for the arrest and safe escort of the doomed chief to the south. Never has Cawood known such a day-and-a-half of excited suspense as that which passed between the appearance of the King's guard and the departure of the heart-broken Cardinal Wolsey from the ancient streets of the fair town. The Earl and his coadjutor, Sir William Walsh, had hastily summoned many of the local gentry to aid them in the ordeal of preparing for the journey.

November 6th, the Sabbath, was fixed upon for the departure. The great concourse of servants had been shut up in the chapel for fear of a disturbance arising at their master's removal. The Cardinal, indeed, had won the esteem and even affection of them all, as well as of those in the town who had no business with him. He demanded to see all those who had served him, that he might bid them farewell. They were presently after some ado, brought into the great chamber of the castle, where the great man spoke words of comfort to them, praising them for their diligent faithfulness. He then took each by the hand, and there was not a dry eye among them! As the afternoon wore on the company began to separate, and only those servants were retained who were to attend upon the Cardinal during his journey. These were his chaplain, two grooms of his chamber, his barber, and his usher, Mr. Cavendish, who was also his biographer, and whose touching memorial of the fallen minister's departure from Cawood is worthy of repetition. A vast crowd from all the towns and places round about assembled to bid him God-speed. Says his biographer : *

"My lord's mule and our horses were ready brought into the inner court, where we mounted, and coming to the gate, which was shut, the porter opened the same

* George Cavendish, the famous Cardinal's secretary and biographer, died in 1561-2. He was elder brother of Sir Wm. Cavendish, the builder of Chatsworth House, who was one of the commissioners appointed to visit and take the surrender of divers religious houses. See also Rev. Jos. Hunter's *Who wrote Cavendish's Life of Wolsey?* (1814).

to let us pass, where was ready a great number of gentlemen with their servants, such as the Earl assigned to conduct and attend upon his person that night to Pomfret, and so forth, so ye shall hear hereafter. But to tell you of the number of the people of the country that were assembled at the gates which lamented his departing was wondrous, which was about the number of three thousand persons who at the opening of the gates, after they had a sight of his person, cried all with a loud voice, "God save your Grace, God save your Grace! The foul evil take all them that hath thus taken you from us! We pray God that a very



CARDINAL WOLSEY.

vengeance may light upon them!" Thus they ran crying after him through the town of Cawood, they loved him so well. For surely they had a great loss of him, both the poor and the rich, for the poor had of him great relief, and the rich lacked his counsel in any business that they had to do, which caused him to have such love among them in the country.

Then rode he with his conductors towards Pomfret, and by the way as he rode, he asked me if I had any familiar acquaintance among the gentlemen that rode with him. "Yea, sir," said I, "what is your pleasure?" "Marry," quoth he,

"I have left a thing behind me which I would fain have." "Sir," said I, "if I knew what it were, I would send for it out of hand." "Then," said he, "let the messenger go to my lord of Northumberland, and desire him to send me the red buckram bag lying in my almonry in my chamber, sealed with my seal."

The bag was duly obtained and brought to the Cardinal after he was in his chamber at the Abbey of Pontefract, where he lay all night.* Sad dejected spirit! Hope, heaven high, which had buoyed him on had fled, and there lay nothing now before and around him but the darkness that broods over despair. Never mortal sank lower in humiliation than this once mighty and stately prelate, whose power had created the envy of kings and whose ambition had made a nation bend at his feet. Fitly may we exclaim with Browne—

"Oh, false ambition,—

Thou lying phantom, whither hast thou lured?"

"Haughty beyond comparison," remarks Hallam, "negligent of the duties and decorums of his station, profuse as well as rapacious, obnoxious alike to his own order and to the laity, his fall had been secretly desired by the nation, and contrived by his adversaries."

Yet let us give the man his due. No minister of his time did more to promote education, nor was ever minister more loyal to his sovereign, or stood by him through all the bitter reproaches of an overtaxed people. That which lay at the bottom of their disagreement was, in truth, the advancing tide that swept down the monasteries. Wolsey was for reform; the King was for sudden and complete destruction, and never did he rest until the Parliament, which met shortly before Wolsey's death, had effected the separation of this country from the supremacy of Rome." The ill-starred Cardinal, prematurely broken in body and spirit, some three weeks after leaving Cawood reached the gates of Leicester Abbey, and addressing the Abbot, said, "Ah, I am come to lay my bones among you." Truly it was so, for ill and disconsolate he lay down in a chamber of the great Abbey and in a few days breathed his last.

With the departure of Wolsey, a shadow fell on Cawood which never wholly brightened. The old castle was no longer the scene of great business, banqueting and rejoicing. When Henry VIII. was at Cawood, Sept. 3rd and 4th, 1541, his Privy Council met at the castle, but the hardened feelings of the bloated monarch would be

* The bag contained three shirts of hair, one of which, in the cold season, he wore next his body, besides his other shirt, which was of very fine Holland linen. It was in one of these hair shirts that he lay at Leicester Abbey, where he died, Nov. 29th, 1530, and was interred there by the light of torches about four o'clock on the following morning. With him was buried all such vestures and ornaments as he was professed in when he was consecrated Bishop and Archbishop, as mitre, crosses, ring, and pall.

little moved by a visit to the place which his fallen minister had lately made so popular.*

Subsequently, during the religious rebellion of 1569, the castle was the scene of several meetings held for the discussion of public affairs. When Archbishop Grindal was translated from London to York, he tells us that he left London on August 1st, 1570, and two days afterwards he was seized with ague, "arising from fatigue, for during my residence in London I had not been accustomed to riding on horseback, on which account I was forced to rest ten days in the midst of my journey." On August 17th he arrived at Cawood, "clearly delivered of mine ague," he says, and then he proceeds to complain of the manner of his reception "into this shire," which was not what he had looked for. Sir Thomas Gargrave, with his son, Mr. Bunie, Mr. Watterton, one of the Savills, and four or five more gentlemen met him at Doncaster, and the next day he was accompanied to Cawood by Mr. Aske (of Doncaster), and Mr. Hungate (of Saxton), and four or five other "inferior gentlemen." This indifference no doubt arose from the circumstance that many of the leading gentry were still secretly attached to the old faith, and the fate of Wolsey was still rampant in the local mind. The Archbishop himself was conscious of this, and plainly remarks that "the greatest part of our gentlemen are not well affected to godly religion, and among the people there be many remnants of the old."

Queen Elizabeth visited the Archbishop at Cawood on her way to York in 1572, and it may have been on this occasion that the old Bible, which bears her signature, at Newton Kyme, reached the good Bishop Oglethorpe, who some 14 years before had placed the crown upon her head at the pageant of her coronation. The Archbishops continued in residence down to the outbreak of the Civil War, and two of them, Archbishops Matthew and Mountaigne, both of whom had been translated from Durham, died at Cawood. The former expired on March 29th, and the latter, who was the son of a Cawood yeoman, on Nov. 6th, 1628. See his monument in Cawood Church.

After the Civil War—Cawood having been an important outpost of the King's forces—the Council of State, by an Order dated 30th April, 1646, resolved that the several castles of Tickhill, Sheffield, Knaresborough, Cawood, Sandal, Bolton, Middleham, Hornsey, Mulgrave, and Crake, in the County of York, being inland castles, be made untenable, "and no garrisons to be kept or maintained in them." By this Order the old castle was unroofed and dismantled.

* From Cawood the King and his Court ferried across the Ouse and thence proceeded to Wressel Castle. See the *Account of the King's Progress in Yorkshire in Memoirs of the Archaeological Inst.*, Meeting held at York, 1846.



CAWOOD CASTLE GATEWAY, EAST FRONT.

CHAPTER III.

CAWOOD CASTLE, CHURCH, AND TOWN.

Description of the Castle—Cawood Park—Site of church liable to inundations—
 Early history—Description of the church—Local families—Ancient markets
 and river-traffic—Old custom—Old system of rating—Keesberry Hall—First
 mention of Cawood—Present aspects of the town—The new light-railway—
 Former importance and population of Wistow—Its ancient church.



HAVING, in the preceding chapters, given an account of past life and events in connection with the old town and castle, something must now be said of the existing remains and evidences of their former glory. The historic castle may be described first.

Of the Archbishops' Castle the most important fragment left is the great gateway, which has a groined roof and is entered on the east by a wide depressed arch of a single span, continued to the west side, where two arches of the same character open upon an inner court. Above the east arch is a beautiful oriel window of four bays, each of the four panels at their bases containing a shield of arms. Two blank shields enclosed within quatrefoils also appear in the spandrils of the archway, and two shields terminate the hood-moulding of the arch. Only one of these, however, is now visible, owing to one side of the arch having been encroached upon by a modern building, while the one remaining bears three wheat sheaves, being the arms of Archbishop Kemp (1426—1451) who was the builder of this fine gateway. Archbishop Kemp sprang from a humble origin in Kent, and rose by his own efforts and industry to the chief position in the Church. After his York primacy he was translated to the See of Canterbury, where he died. He appears to have done more than any other prelate in the rebuilding and restoration of the Castle, after the long century of national poverty and depression which preceded. His arms were to be seen everywhere about the buildings both in wood and stone. (*See* also his seal illustrated at the end of this chapter.)

The inner or western front of the gateway is likewise characteristic of the period of its erection, and is represented on the accompanying

engraving. It presents a not unstately appearance, though the modern surroundings detract not a little from its effect. The principal window is peculiar in its arrangement above the projecting stone weathering or roof of the arch, which bears eleven panels of armorial shields. Nos. 1, 2, 3, have the three wheat sheaves of Archbishop Kemp; 4, has the cross keys and mitre of the Chapter of York; 5, the old arms of England and France; 6, three wheat sheaves; 7, the old arms of Canterbury; 8, 9, 10, three wheat sheaves; 11, the cross keys and mitre. Some of the shields are badly weathered, and all are gradually decaying.

On the south side of the gateway is a large brick building (now a barn), which is generally believed to have originally served the purpose of a chapel. It has been a lofty apartment lighted by six cinquefoil-headed windows arranged along each side at a good elevation from the ground. Six brick buttresses with stone set-offs are raised against the outer walls, between the windows. Some of the old doorways are now blocked or have been remodelled for the purposes of a barn. There has been at one time an upper floor, with a fire-place at the north-west angle. The chapel is not often mentioned in contemporary deeds, but there can be little doubt it has existed from the time of rebuilding and embattling the manor-house in 1271. In the registers of Archbishop Bowet (1408-23) it is stated that one Fra. Roger Frank is commended to serve in the chapel of his castle of Cawood.

The castle seems to have extended a considerable distance to the east, and an old boundary-wall still exists facing the river, with other remains. The old gardens and orchard, as well as a brick-yard, attached to the castle, are mentioned as far back as the time of Henry III., when the castle was originally built. After the dismantling of the castle in 1646-7, much of the material was used from time to time for building purposes, and from 1763 to 1766 great quantities of stone were conveyed to Bishopthorpe and employed in the erection of the present front and entrance gateway of the Archiepiscopal palace. A fine pointed window of four lights was also removed there. Much of the adjoining farmhouse was also built out of the ruins. Extensive foundations existed down to about 1778, when they were dug up, and little now is left to bespeak the area covered by the former building and its appurtenances.

The court-room of the gate-house has a groined ceiling over the projecting windows, with Tudor ornaments at the intersections and terminations. The central portion is occupied by a carving of a pelican vulning herself to feed her young brood, the same being the arms of Archbishop Piers (1588—1594). In this old court-room



CAWOOD CASTLE GATEWAY.

prisoners were at one time tried and committed to York, and it is still used for the court-leets and for the transaction of business in connection with the See.

The ancient Park at Cawood, previously mentioned as part of the demesnes of the See, has also been shorn of its olden glory. In the hey-days of the castle it abounded with the best of game. On the death of Archbishop Young in 1568, and during the unsettled period when Mary of Scotland had designs on the English throne (many of the Wharfedale gentry being concerned in this treason), the castle was occupied by the great Earl of Sussex, President of the North. The manor was then temporarily held by the Crown, and the following unpublished document, being a copy of Her Majesty's letter to the Lord Treasurer, shews in what manner the Park was held under the Crown :

TO THE LORD TREASURER.

Where by the death of the late Archbushopp of York the park of Rest and Skerrowe parcell of the Manor of Cawood being part of the temporalities of the same Archbushopprik are now as we understand in our hands and disposicon ; and therefore humblie suite is made unto us that we will grante the rule and oversight of the said two parks of Rest and Scorrowe unto our wel [beloved] servant, J. Vaughan esq one of our Counsell in the north : we lett you wit [know] that he shall have othe unto thoversight thereof, and as furder as in us doth lye do grant the same unto him wherfore we will (if we shall have power to grant the rule and oversight of the said parks without the preiudice to any others right therto) that our said servant shall by your odre be admitted to the government and oversight of the said parks answering to us for the same such duties as you wolde have receivid to our use if you had granted the same to any others.

xij July 1568 at Havering.

Much of the manorial history of Cawood and Wistow is embraced in that of Otley, which together formed one Liberty and jurisdiction, the subject being dealt with in my volume on *Upper Wharfedale*. As stated on page 48 of that work the Archiepiscopal authority was surrendered in 1837 to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, exactly 900 years from the date of Athelstan's grant of these manors to the See of York. At the Reformation Cawood ranked *third* in point of value among the manors yielding rents to the Archbishops. The amount accruing from Cawood was £70 13s. 4d. yearly. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are now lords of the manor, and the principal landowners are the trustees of the late Wm. H. Nicholson, Esq., J.P., and the Prest family. John Lucas Nicholson, Esq., is the present occupant of the Grange.

The oldest piece of sculptured stone-work now existing at Cawood is a Transition-Norman doorway at the west end of the nave side of the Parish Church. It consists of a lofty semi-circular arch, in



CAWOOD CHURCH.

two orders, each supported by two slender columns set in the angles of the doorway; the shafts having square abaci with plain astragals and circular tori moulded on square bases. This is all that remains of an earlier church erected in the time of the indefatigable Archbishop Roger (1154—1181), who built the choir of York Minster. But the situation of the church, like that at Tadcaster, close to the river, being very unfavourable from its liability to inundation, seems to bespeak a foundation of high antiquity. In all probability the site was chosen for the erection of some early Christian or perhaps pagan temple, long before the Norman conquest. Its position on the river bank has always been one of great gravity to the parishioners of Cawood, particularly in former times. The *Fabric Rolls of York Minster* contain the following entry, under date 1510:

Wꝛ ye parishyng of Cawod, for defens of ye church of ye water, lyis in gret cost, and charges w'towt aide and helpe of ye parson, which we think he aght to beire part of the charges for defens of his chaunsell and dose not.

Again in 1519 there is this appeal to the Archbishop:*

Plesse it your lordshippe that our Kirk standdes in gret danger off ye water off Owes, and is like for to be lost w't owt helpe of my lord grace, and yt it wold pless your good lordshepe to instances maister parson, for ye water is as like to hurt the chauncell as the church.

In 1630 Archbishop Harsnett left money which purchased copyhold houses and lands in Cawood, for various purposes, including the maintenance of the church-staith or embankment. This is still applied, and inundations as a consequence have been prevented.

Of the origin and early history of the church there are but scant records. Torre states that a carucate of land in Cawood was held of the King by the render of a barbed arrow by the heirs of Dautry, allies of the Percies, who bore the same arms, five fusils in fess, a coat that is traced to a Flemish source. King Stephen also granted to the Archbishop in fee and inheritance seven oxgangs of land in Cawood. It would appear that when the prebend of Wistow was founded by Archbishop Gray about 1217, the church at Cawood was appropriated to the said stall, but no vicarage was ordained.

* It has always been the duty of an incumbent to keep the chancel in repair. The chancel was for his exclusive use and the public had no rights there. As early as A.D. 633 the Council of Toledo bade the priests and deacons communicate before the altar, the clerks or inferior clergy within the choir, and the people outside the choir. The Eastern Church, the most conservative portion of Christendom, still shuts in the chancel with a solid screen, pierced only by the "Holy Gates" which are closed and curtained at the most sublime portions of the holy mysteries. The stone screens and closed gates before the choirs in the cathedrals at York and Lincoln, are no doubt the result of the same primitive idea. See the Rev. G. S. Tyack's *Lore and Legend of the English Church*.

Drake observes that the Dean and Chapter of York have jurisdiction in some respects over the parishes and towns within the several dignitaries and prebends of the church, as well as over the prebendal places themselves. Down to the 17th century the church was served by curates, and the prebendaries of Wistow continued patrons. At the Enclosure in 1777 the tithes were commuted for allotments and fixed annual rents. The Archbishop of York is now patron of the living.

After the battle of Myton in 1319, in which so many of the diocesan clergy were slain, the church, like the Archbishop's castle at Cawood, fell into disrepair, for the country was sorely tried with poverty and the miseries of invasions by the victorious Scots. A letter from the Archbishop, written at Cawood at this time, to the rural dean of Sherburn, states that many of the tenants have been killed in the battle, and he requests that their affairs be promptly and properly looked after.

The Church (All Saints) is an interesting structure, and since its restoration in 1887-8, at a cost of £1500, its appearance has been much improved, without detriment to its antiquity. The interior, of which I give a view, is neatly pewed in pitch-pine, and the old grave-slabs have been relaid in concrete, and an even floor obtained. The nave has two aisles, separated by a double row of pointed arches, those on the south side being supported by four beautiful Early English clustered columns, while those on the north side are later, having octagonal shafts, with uniform capitals and bases. The chancel-arch is pointed, with broad chamfers, and rests on single columns, having moulded capitals, like those in the south aisle. Two wide arches separate the chancel on the north from what has been a private chapel, now occupied by the organ and vestry. There is a 13th century doorway and also an obtuse arch (now built up) on the south side, which very probably led into another chapel. On the outer wall there is a recess bearing arms: party per chevron embattled (sable and argent), three stags' heads (counterchanged). The same arms may be seen in Stillingfleet Church on a monument of a Moreby, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Wm. Acclom in 1370. From the Returns of Chantries at the Reformation we gather that there was an obit and certain lights in the parish founded "to continue for ever," and that freehold land belonging to part of the said lights was then worth 6s. Copyhold land belonging to the said obit was valued yearly at 6s. 8d.; and to the residue of the said lights, 2s. By license dated 28 March, 1300, Henry de Newark, Archbishop of York, with the assent of his Chapter, ordained that a void piece of land with one building thereon at Kingston-upon-Hull,

belonging to the Archbishopric, should be built upon at his expense and assigned to three chaplains to celebrate divine service in the three chapels of the manors of the Archbishop, of Cawood, Burton, and Wilton. They are to celebrate in the cathedral church of York at the altar of St. William, for the souls of the King and Queen and Archbishop of York, and each chaplain to receive yearly 100s. from the rents of the houses so built.

The interior walls are interesting, being very crude in construction. They are formed of stones of all shapes and sizes, some being placed edgeways, others lengthways, and wide joints are filled up with small



INTERIOR OF CAWOOD CHURCH.

fragments. In the north wall there are four windows, each of three plain lights, with cinquefoil heads. The south side has three windows of similar design; the easternmost being filled with rich stained glass, and a brass beneath records that it was erected "in loving memory of a dear father and mother, also of nine beloved children, sons and daughters of Thomas and Jane Catherine Hartley of Cawood." The window was erected in 1889 by Thomas Hartley, only son of the above parents and father of the children, seven of whom died in infancy. The subject of the design is beautifully suggestive: "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not." The east window of this aisle is also richly coloured, and was set there by Isabel Lyle to the memory of her parents and

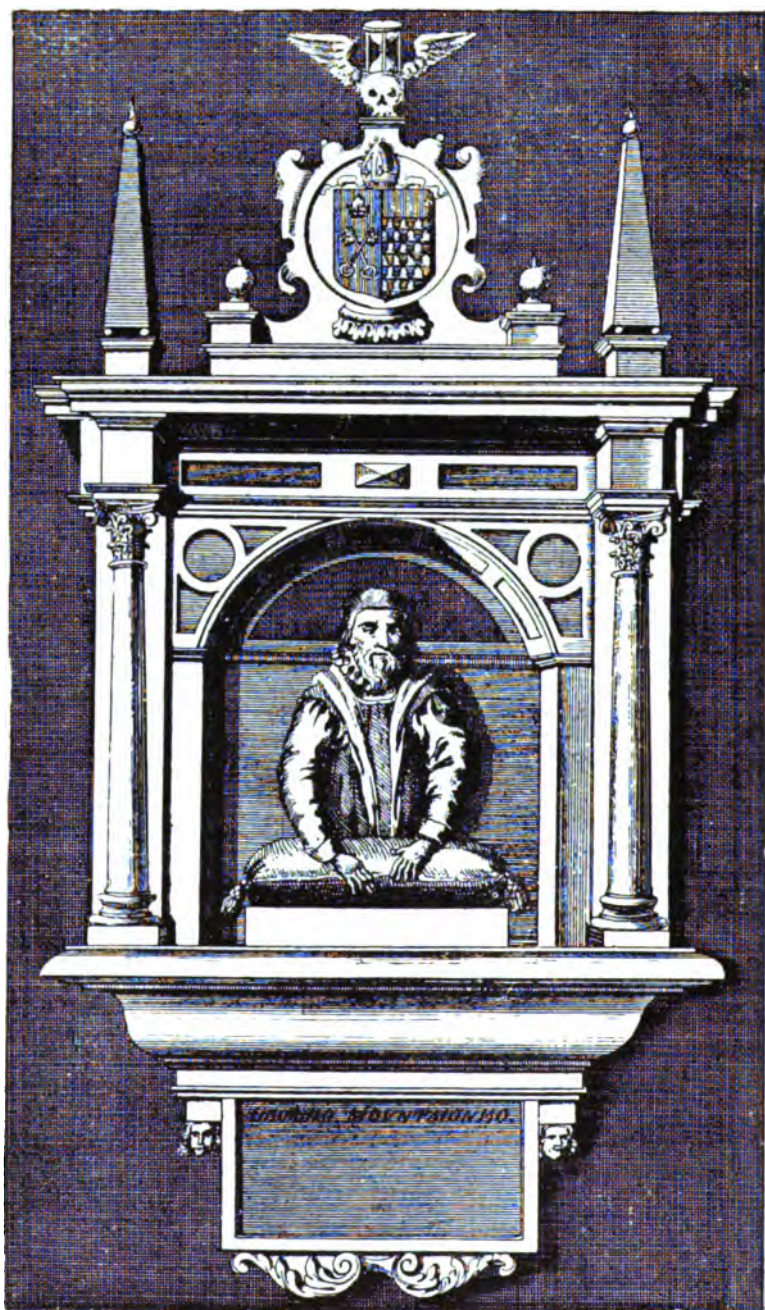
her infant daughter (1890). In 1898 the central three-light window also in this south aisle was filled with stained glass in memory of the late Mr. W. H. Nicholson. The large and beautiful east window of five lights (Perpendicular) was erected in August, 1890, to the memory of Frances, third daughter of Edward Prest, of York, by her sisters and brother-in-law, James Williamson. The other windows in the chancel are single narrow pointed lights. One of these in 1899 was filled with stained glass by Mrs. Day, in memory of her husband, the Rev. Alfred Bloxam Day, for 24 years (1871—95) incumbent of Cawood. There is a piscina in the south wall. The font is octagonal and plain and lined with lead. The organ was the gift of the late John Wormald, Esq., of Cawood, in 1872.

There are a number of mural monuments in the church, memorials of the several local families of Taylor, Middleton, Elston, Smith, and Wormald of Cawood Castle, Featherstone, Nicholson, and one on the south wall to Archbishop George Mountaigne, who as before stated was a native of Cawood and died at the castle in 1628. This monument bears a half-length representation of the Archbishop, with an ornamental shield above, bearing the arms of the See of York impaled with his own arms as shewn on the annexed engraving. Eight lines of hexameter verse appear above the obliterated inscription, which was as follows :

GEORGIO MOUNTAIGNEO.

Honestis hoc in oppido penetibus oriundo, per cunctos disciplinarum gradus CANTAB. provento, et academia procuratori, sub initio D. JACOBI hospitio quod Sabaudiam vocant, et ecclesie WESTMONASTERIENSIS praefecto, ab eodem R. ad praesulatum LINCOLNIENSEM, ac inde post aliqua temporum spiramenta LONDINIENSEM promotus, a CAROLO divi. F. ad DUNELMENSEM honestiss. senii et valetudinis secessum translatus; moxque, H. E. infra spatium trimestre, ad archiepiscopatum EBORACENSEM benigniter sublevatus. Viro venerabili, aspectu gravi, moribus non injucundis, ad beneficia non ingrato, injuriarum non ultori unquam, nec (quantum natura humana patitur) memori, amborum principum Domini suoque semper elemosinario. ISAACUS MONTAIGNUS TESTAMENTI CURATOR FRATRI B.M.P. VIXIT A.59 M.6.D.2.

The tower of the church is a large, massive, and handsome structure, which, ever since its erection about the end of the 15th century, has been a notable and conspicuous landmark for many miles around. The summit is battlemented with four lofty crocketed pinnacles at the corners. Above the belfry window it is finely corbelled, while beneath it is an elegant canopied niche. The buttresses are of somewhat unusual design, being octagonal and extending half-way up the tower terminate in a neat, open parapet. The old clock was coeval with the tower, and is mentioned in the *Fabric Rolls of York Minster* for the year 1510, when curfew-bell



MONUMENT TO ARCHBISHOP MOUNTAIGNE IN CAWOOD CHURCH.

was tolled "at dew tymes." The present clock was erected in 1843. There are three ancient bells in the tower, two of them dated 1674, and the other, older and undated, is inscribed *Sanctæ Andrea ora pro nobis*. It is supposed to have come from the castle. The registers date from 1591, but during the Civil War epoch, 1642—9, there are no entries. The living is a perpetual curacy, held since 1895 by the Rev. B. Eyre Wake, M.A.

Among old local families that of Cawood of Cawood stands out pre-eminently in early annals. Members of this family were hereditary foresters of the Forest of Langwith between Ouse and Derwent from an early period. In 1263 David de Cawode was made Abbot of Selby. In 1347 a chantry was erected at the east end of the church of All Saints in Ousegate, York, by Henry de Belton, who settled thereon certain lands and houses for finding a chaplain to say mass for the souls of the said Henry and Margaret, his wife, of his father and mother, and Sir Thomas de Cawoode. The Poll Tax of 1378 shews them to have been the principal contributors to the subsidy in Cawood. Many of this family were freemen of the city of York at this time. Sir William Cawood was a canon of York, who died in 1439, and his monument is on the south side of the choir of York Minster. There are also other important memorials of this local family down to the 17th century. Among later descendants perhaps the most famous was John de Cawood, Crown printer and publisher in the time of Queen Elizabeth, of whom Dugdale has preserved the following epitaph :

John de Cawood, citizen and stationer of London, printer to the most renowned Queen's Majesty Elizabeth, married three wives, and had issue by Joane, the first wife only, as followeth : three sons, four daughters. John, his eldest son, being Bachelor of Law in New College, Oxenford, died 1570 ; Mary, married to George Bischoppe, stationer ; Isabel, married to Thomas Woodcock, stationer ; Gabriel, his second son, bestowed this dutiful remembrance of his dear parents, 1591, then churchwarden ; Susanna, married to Robert Bullock ; Barbara, married to Mark Norton ; Edmund, third son, died 1570. John de Cawood died 1st April, 1572, being then at the age of 58. He bore arms : sable and argent parte per chevron, embattled, between three harts' heads cabossed, countercharged within a border, per fesse countercharged as before, with verdoy de trefoils sleped, numbered 10.

He was buried in St. Faith's, under St. Paul's, London, where this epitaph was placed.

The Smiths were also a family of some note, long resident at Cawood, and their name is continuous through the registers. A memorial in the church shews an alliance with the Torre family, of Snydall, in the parish of Normanton, in the time of Queen Anne.*

* John Torre, the distinguished antiquary, who died at Snydall in 1699, is buried in the old church of St. Andrew at Normanton.

The family was also involved in the Civil War broil and for having taken part on the king's side were great sufferers on the assumption of power by Cromwell. William Smith, of Cawood, died during his troubles, leaving a widow Frances Smith and four children, who had to compound with the Parliament for their estates. The said Wm. Smith died seized of certain messuages and lands in Cawood and Wistow, of three water corn mills in Cawood, and of the fourth part of a small vessel, worth to be sold £20, total yearly value £51 4s. The rest of his estate was sold to the use of the State, and it is recorded that he died indebted to several persons to the amount of £300 18s. 4d.

Richard and John Wilkinson, husbandmen, of Cawood, had also to compound, in that they assisted the forces against the Parliament; likewise Isaac Mountaigne (brother of the Archbishop) with his son George, of Wistow, compounded for having "sent an horse to supply the forces against the Parliament."*

The Wormalds, too, were another notable family, who intermarried with the above Smiths of Cawood. Samuel Wormald, tanner, was a freeman of the city of York in 1748. Samuel Wormald was Sheriff of York in 1767-8, and died in 1785. His wife, Ann, was one of the three daughters of Joseph Bigland, carrier, of York; the carrying trade being an important one in York at that time. A son of this marriage, also named Samuel, was Lord Mayor of York in 1809. He married in 1777 Ann, daughter of Edward Smith, Esq., of Cawood Castle, by whom he had a son, John Wormald, Sheriff of York in 1820-1, who died at Fulford House, near York, in 1848, aged 65. A branch of the Tuke family was also residing at Cawood early in the 18th century, from whom descended John Batty Tuke, a well-known banker at Beverley, where he died about 1845. He was grandfather of the present Member of Parliament for the University of Edinburgh, Sir John Batty Tuke, Bart.

Among other old families who have long resided in the neighbourhood I may mention also the Morritts, who were considerable property owners in Cawood and elsewhere. In 1585 Thomas Morritt of Ingmanthorp, yeoman, died, leaving his widow Joan and son John and daughter Brigetta, joint executors to his will. A branch of the family was also at this time seated at Sherburne-in-Elmet. Thomas Morritt, mariner, was a freeman of the city of York in 1648. In 1743 Bacon Morritt, of York and Cawood, bought a third part of the manor of Bourne, and in 1757 he also purchased lands, &c., in Little Fenton. He was the son of Robert Morritt, gent., of Selby, and he married in York Minster, Nov. 24th, 1723, Ann, only child and

* See *Yorks. Archl. Jl.* (Rec. Ser.) xviii., 83; xx., 9 and 10.

heiress of William Sawrey, of Plumpton Hall, in Newland, Furness,* by which marriage this historic estate, the property and home of the Sawrey family for nearly three centuries, came to the Morritts. In 1806 the house (now a farm) and land were sold to Mr. Whitwell, of Kendal.† The York and Cawood family is now represented by the Morritts of Rokeby Park in Teesdale, John Sawrey Morritt, Esq., having in 1769 purchased the manor of Rokeby, with Mortham, &c., from Sir Thomas Robinson, Bart., and his grandson, William John Sawrey Morritt, Esq., is now lord of the manor.

Within the present century many changes have come over Cawood, much property having changed hands and old families departed. Likewise the business and importance attending the Archbishops' residence having long ago disappeared, the scenes of life and activity which the old streets were wont to present are now but a reminiscence. The May Day festivities and many old customs and superstitions have similarly gone, and the new railway into Cawood would seem to have frightened away all the troubles of barguest and other uncanny spirits. Two centuries ago Cawood was startled by the appearance of a ghost in a field not far from the village, which created no little disturbance at the time. A woman, with child, had been foully murdered by her husband and the body carefully secreted. The apparition of the woman, by-and-bye, appeared on the spot, and this led to the detection of the crime and the apprehension of the murderer. So say the *York Castle Chronicles*. The man, William Borwick, was publicly hanged on White Cross Hill, Haxby Lane End, on September 19th, 1690, and this is, I believe, the last occasion of a Cawood man suffering the extreme penalty of the law.

It is not beyond recollection when some little stir was made in the place by the holding of the weekly (Wednesday) markets. In the enquiry about local charities, held at Cawood in 1664 (elsewhere quoted), it is spoken of as "a market town." Although the town was never chartered for markets, owing to its proximity to Selby and Sherburn,‡ it had, however, long held a weekly market by prescription, and two annual fairs, one for cattle on May 12th, and the other for line on September 21st and 22nd. At one time a great deal of flax was grown in the district, and it is still to some extent

* I presume this is the William Sawrey of Plumpton Hall, co. Lancaster, who is buried in the old church of St. Martin's, Micklegate, York. An epitaph there records his death on November 24th, 1727, aged 49.

† See *North Lonsdale Mag.*, Vol. iii., page 26.

‡ The charter for holding the market at Sherburn is printed in the author's *Upper Wharfedale*, page 47.

cultivated, but the annual fair for its disposal at Cawood is now also an event of the past.

At one time there used to be a very good carrying trade by water between Cawood and York, and a steam-packet also passed every morning (Sundays excepted) from York to Hull and every evening from Hull to York. The river-trade between Hull and York is of ancient standing, and there is still a good business done between these places, as well as Goole. Railway development has, however, done away with much of the traffic. In 1385 the Chapter of York took a lease of the quarry at Huddleston for eighty years, in order to provide an adequate supply of good stone for the building and reparation of the Minster. Sir John Langton, who resided at Farnley, near Leeds, was then owner of the quarry. The lease was renewed in 1465 for a further term of nineteen years. It was customary at that time to carry the stone in ox-wains, or as appears by the *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, it was frequently "sledged" from the quarry to the banks of the Ouse at Cawood, and thence transported in the cumbrous old-fashioned barges to York. We meet with such entries as these :

1416.	For carrying 285 fother of stones in wains from the quarry at Huddleston to the staith at Cawood	£13 10 0
	For carrying 282 fother of stones by boat from Cawood to York. John Blakburn, shipman	108s. 4d.
	For sledding stones to Cawood, 20 days, per William Totty	20s.
1418-9.	In carriage of 237 fother of stones by wains from the quarry at Hudilston to the water at Cawood	£11 10s.
1419.	In carriage of 4 oak-beams (the gift of the Archbishop) from Cawood by vessel to York	10s.
	For repairing the road between the quarry and Cawood ..	3s. 8d.

I am told that an old custom formerly prevailed among the shipmen of the trading-vessels between Cawood and York, who when passing the palace at Bishopthorpe, fired three guns, and in return they were given a drink of good ale by authority of the Archbishop. This is no doubt a relic of the old feudal bond-service, to which I have referred in the preceding chapter. The custom seems to have died out with the introduction of tea and temperance societies.

The old system of local rating was based on the statute of 44th Elizabeth (1601), whereby the whole wapentake of Barkston Ash was assessed at £1, to make up which 43 towns in the wapentake contributed their quota in sums from 2½d. to 11½d. each. The levy on Cawood was 9½d., and this was the basis of rating for a long time subsequently. Cawood and Wistow paid no bridge-money, and Cawood, Ulleskelf, and Wistow are stated to be part of the Archbishop of York's Liberty by special charter. For some time

at the beginning of the 18th century, considerable difficulty seems to have arisen as to the right or propriety of Cawood and Wistow contributing their proportion for the conveying of vagrants, and in 1712 an enquiry into the matter was authorised to be made. The result was that at the Pontefract Sessions, held April 6th, 1714, it was ordered that Thomas Rootos and James Shillito, gents., chief-constables of the wapentake of Barkston Ash, do levy by distress upon some of the inhabitants of Cawood and Wistow, such sum or sums of money as these towns are in arrear to the Estreats for Vagrant money. It was further ordered that their services be rewarded at the cost of the whole Riding, and that they distrain particularly upon Jonas Smith, gent., of Cawood, and Field Dunn, gent., of Wistow.

The land within the parish is chiefly copyhold, but the estate of Keesberry Hall is a freehold manor of about a hundred acres, which seventy years ago belonged to Mr. John Brown, and is now in possession of the Prest family. The courts are still held there every third year. The nuns of St. Clement's, York, had also one oxgang of land in "Kawode" given them by Thurstan, Archbishop of York (1119—1140). This is probably the earliest mention of Cawood which has been discovered.

Cawood now wears the aspect of a quiet country village. Most of the houses have been erected within the last century, and there are chapels both in Cawood and Wistow for the Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists. Formerly, as I have stated, there was a daily service of passenger boats between York, Hull, and Cawood, but since the opening of the Riccal and York railway, about twenty years ago, this local communication has ceased. Pleasure steamers, however, ply frequently in the summer months between York and Cawood, as well as to other places both up and down the Ouse. Steamers may be engaged for large parties by pre-arrangement at almost any time, and as the boats are well fitted up, and licensed for the sale of a variety of refreshments, very pleasurable days' outings may be had by excursions on the river in this way.

The Cawood, Wistow, and Selby light railway, which was opened for passenger traffic on 16th February, 1898, has also been the means of rendering the district, and especially Cawood, more accessible from the famous abbey town. The total length of the railway (single line) is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and at each of the principal farms past which it runs, a siding has been constructed, so that the occupier may have every facility for the loading and unloading of his goods. The cost of cartage to Selby station had previously been about 5s. a ton, and as there are at present about 150 acres of land occupied

as market gardens, and some 400 acres devoted to celery growing, in the district traversed by the railway, the expenditure on transport had always been an important item. The ceremony of cutting the first sod was performed on July 11th, 1896, at Cawood, by Mrs. Henry Liversedge, of Eversley Garth, Sherburn, wife of the first chairman of the company. The event was made the occasion of a general holiday in the district, and a luncheon was served in the Cawood schoolroom, at which Mr. Henry Liversedge presided. There were also present Mr. Thomas Liversedge (chairman of the Urban District Council), Mr. William Staniland (chairman of the Rural District Council), Mr. J. H. Bantoft, Mr. J. Nicholson, Rev. B. Eyre Wake, M.A. (vicar), Mr. Chas. Hoyle, Mr. Mammatt and Mr. White (engineers of the line), Mr. S. Meyer (secretary), Mr. Day (the solicitor), Mr. W. W. Morrell, of York, Mr. Edward Wardle, and many others. In the evening there was a public tea given to the children in the village, followed by various entertainments, and each of the children received a commemorative medal. The event was one that will long be remembered in the annals of the old town.

Wistow, as elsewhere stated, formed part of the Archbishops' extensive Liberty, and is a pleasant village situated some two miles distance from Cawood. In former ages it was an important and populous place, and some idea of its status among West Riding towns may be gathered from the poll-tax returns of 2nd Richard II. There were then (1378) 65 married couples and 28 single adults living in the parish, and the total population would not be much under 500.* In the preceding century it must have had a population in all probability never since exceeded.

It possesses, however, at the present time, little of interest save its ancient parish church, which like the parish church of Cawood, was in the gift of the prebendaries of Wistow, and now of the Archbishop of York. It is a foundation of high antiquity, though the present building is chiefly Decorated and Perpendicular in style. There is a curious 13th century tomb in the church, bearing the statue of a female in an attitude of prayer, and the inscription in Norman-French reads :

Margari Re gist ici . . . merci
 Vous qe passez par ici, priez pour l'ame de Margari.

There is also an old tomb-slab bearing the device of a cross, a battle axe and a sword. Attached to this church, but forming a separate building, there was an ancient chapel dedicated to St. Hilda, the famous Abbess who succeeded St. Heiu at the monastery of Hartlepool and afterwards at Whitby. She died in 680, and the

dedication of this bygone chapel to this early saint has a special interest in its bearing upon the establishment of Christianity before the Norman Conquest in these parts. The subject will be further dealt with in the chapter on Healaugh, which name, as I shall have occasion to explain, may signify *Heiu's lagh*, or territory.

There are about 200 acres of glebe appurtenant to the vicarage, mostly allotted at the enclosure in 1775, when the great tithes were commuted for fixed yearly payments, belonging to the Smith family of London.



CHAPTER IV.

SOME CAWOOD CHARITIES.

Hitherto unpublished records—Bequests of Archbishops Mountaigne and Harsnett—Inquisitions at Cawood in 1648—References to old field-names, pinfold, stocks, rood-stile, &c.—Abuse of the trusts—Enquiry at York Castle—Past and present value of the charities—School endowments, &c.



THE following unpublished documents will be read with interest, in view of the uncertainty that has long existed, with respect to the true purport of the charitable bequests of Archbishop Mountaigne and Archbishop Harsnett for the benefit of Cawood. They have only recently come to light, in the Public Record Office, among some bundles of Inquisitions relating to ancient Charities.

The first of the enquiries was held at Cawood, on 23rd May, 1648,* when the jurors sworn stated that George Mountaigne, late Archbishop of York, on the 12th February, 1626, made his will and bequeathed £100 to the poor of Cawood, and appointed Isaac Montagne his executor. They said that the £100 had not been paid to the poor of Cawood, but to Wm. Smith, Wm. Turner, John Reynard, John Wilkinson, and Wm. Rawden, the elder, the two first-named being dead. And four-score and five pounds have been bestowed on lands late William Clarkes, as appears by copy of Court-roll, 8th Charles I. (1632), and fifteen pounds are unaccounted for. The £100 having been thus misemployed, the Commissioners order the same to be paid by the parties above mentioned.

By another inquisition of the same date it is related that Archbishop Harsnett, by his will dated 13th February, 1630, left £100 to the building of the poorhouse with bricks and timber he had collected, and appointed Samuel Harsnett, his nephew, executor. This again had been wrongfully appropriated. The enquiry respecting this trust was held before many of the West Riding magistrates, gentlemen of well-known position and influence in their day. The following are the particulars :

* No doubt in the court-room of the gateway ; the castle had lately been dismantled.

INQN. TAKEN AT CAWOOD 23 MAY 24 CHAS. I. (1648).

Before Sr. Edward Rhodes & Sr. Robt. Barwick Knts, Charles ffairfax John Stillington Thomas Dicksonson & John Adinsall esqs. By virtue &c. By the oathes of Bartholomew Hall Esq. John Lee Rich. Halliley Rich. Houseman Roger Dighton George Bew Willm. Hemmingwaie Edmund Grant Geo. Spinck Robt. Lund Vincent Stanton Willm. Halliley & Thomas Clarke good & lawful men of the West Riding who say upon their oathes that Samuel Harsenett late Archbishop of York was heretofore seized in his demesne as of free in right of his said See of & in the manor of Cawood with the appurts. in Cawood aforesaid And that one messuage and three parts of a messuage divided into four parts in the Church and adjacent to Lidgate Lane with the appurts. in Cawood aforesaid then were and yet are and tyme out of mind of man had been customerie lands parcell of the said manor and demised and demisable by Coppie of Court Roll of the said manor at the will of the Lord according to the custom of the said manor to any person or persons and his or their heires And the said Samuel late Archbishop being so seized did at the Court of the said Mannor holden at Cawood aforesaid the 17th Nov. in the 6th year of his said Ma'ties' reigne before Thomas Lee steward of the said Court grant the said messuage and premises with the appurts. unto George Mountagne gent. Lancelot Hall clerk Ralph Richardson clerk James Ravenscroft Thomas Crowle Leonard Baynes William Smith the younger Samuel Motteram William Smith the elder Thomas Chamberlayn Thomas Rummans William Rawden & Thomas Rawden and ffancis Ravenscroft their heires and assignes for ever according to the custom of the said manor to be employed by them for a workhouse and a free schole for the teaching of English writing and cyphering and a house of correction for the manor aforesaid And they further saie that the premises so given to the use aforesaid are and were of the yearlie value of £3 10s. And the said Jurors further find that the said Lancelot Hall James Ravenscroft Thomas Crowle Leonard Baynes Samuel Motteram William Smith the elder Thomas Rowden William Rowden & ffancis Ravenscroft are dead And that the rest of the feoffees in trust afore-mentioned wit George Mountagne Ralph Richardson William Smith the younger Thomas Chamberlayne & Thomas Rummans are in full life and of good estate and abillitie to performe the said trust committed unto them they beeing inhabitants of the townships of Wistow & Cawood aforesaid And the said messuage and tenement together with the Rents & profits thereof have for the space of seven years last past remayned in the hands of them the said George Mountagne Ralph Richardson William Smith the younger Thomas Chamberlayne & Thomas Rummans who have converted the same to their own uses by all the said time of seven yeares last and not to the charitable and godlie use or uses by the said Archbishop Harsnett intended for anything appeares to the said Jurors but contrary to the intent of the donor And against the forme of the said statute on that behalf made and provided.

In witness whereof, &c.

In the Tenth Report of the Charity Commissioners (1823) it is stated that in the enquiry then recently held, there is no documentary evidence known to exist how far the statement on the tablet in Cawood Church is correct, that "Archbishop Harsnett left money which purchased copyhold houses and lands within the township for the maintenance of the Church staith, half of Littlestead clew,

highways, the relief of the poor, now let at £22 15s. 10d.; likewise £5 yearly, paid from lands in Wistow, to the master of the free school, for teaching five poor children to read and write." They say there are no entries on the Court Rolls of Wistow (those from 1660 to 1690 being lost) which appear to relate to property there, except a surrender in February, 1692, of "a messuage being the head of one-half oxgang in Garmencar in Wistow, with appurtenances," to trustees "for the use of the poor of Cawood." The oldest of these surrenders, they say, is dated 1648, following no doubt on this enquiry. I furnish, however, proof of surrenders of an earlier date.

The question, too, of the church-staith and the maintenance of the highways, &c., is brought up in the following new document, which is additionally interesting in that it contains references to old field-names and such objects as the pinfold, stocks, rood-stile, &c., within the parish.

INQUISITION TAKEN AT CAWOOD 23RD MAY, 24TH CHARLES I. (1648).

Jurors say John Peares Archbp. of York was seized of the M. of Cawood And one messuage builded near the Church yard and Penny Place near Tynbar Garth, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mess. near the river Ouse, a mess. near the Pinfold, one Penny Place near the Water Row, 3 parts of a cottage in Rydergate & $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cottage in Wittongate one Penny Place near Milne dyke, one close contg. 5 acres of Penny land abutting on the Marsh 1 ac. 3 ro. of Penny land in Clipscroft 3 acres of Penny Ingg lying in the Tenn Acres half an acre of meadow lying near the Stocks in the Ings 5 roods of meadow called the bulling, one rood of Penny land at the Rood stiles, a close containing 8 acres of penny land near Sand Wharfe, a close contg. 7 acres of Penny land called Larder Land, half an acre of Penny land in Browne Riddings, one parcel called the Kirkgowle & a rent of 6s. 8d. of the yearly value of £19 being customary lands, And the said Archbp. died 29 Eliz. and said Manor being in the Queen's hands during vacancy of the see who in the Manor Court 2nd Oct. 30th year did grant the said messuages to Rich. Smith Philip Watson Eshley Pearson Thos. Spofford Thos. Clark Thos Hodgson Isaac Mountagne Thos. Rummans & several others & their heirs for the maintenance of one Staith betwixt the Ch. yard & the R. Ouse & half a close lying between little Stead & Cawood Inngs & for maintenance of highways within the Lordship & relief of the poor there And of the above parties Isaac Mountagne & Thos. Rummans are living & all the premises with the profits for 7 years last past have remained in the hands of Thos. Rummans (the said Isaac M. living in remote places) & he hath converted the same to his own use.

Another inquisition of like date states that Tobie, late Archbishop of York, demised one fourth of a cottage in Cawood to Robert Turner and others, as trustees for the poor, of the yearly value of 20s. And all the trustees being dead, one John Watson had converted the cottage to his own use. Then again on the same date the jurors affirmed that Wm. Smith, the elder, late of Cawood, made his will 25th September, 1643, and gave to the poor there £3 during the unexpired term of the water-corn-mill there, towards the binding of apprentices. But since his death the above sum has remained unpaid.

Although the enquiry of 1648 was intended to rectify the great abuse of the various trusts that had gone on uninterruptedly during the unsettled era of the Civil War, yet we do not find matters just as they should be for many years subsequently. The following affords further light on the subject.

INQN. TAKEN AT YORK CASTLE 13TH OCT. 1664.

Jurors say that Richard Wilkinson of Cawood yeoman about the year 1661 received and had of the inhabitants of Cawood £20 for the repair of the highways leading between the market town of Cawood aforesaid to the market town of Sherbourne from the town cross in to that corner of Reastepark near Cawood Park whereof he employed for the said use But £12 7s. 2d. remained in his hands which he converted to his own use And he also received of John Burton late of Cawood yeoman decd. a steere of the value of £1 13s. 4d. in lieu of one heifer belonging to the poor people of Cawood which heifer he pretended to be his own but was formerly part of the gift of Wm. Child to the use of the poor of Cawood And said Rich. W. is tenant of one acre of meadow in Cawood Inges belonging to the said poor under the yearly rent of 10s. and that he hath no lease of it.

Following this is another of the same character :

INQUISITION TAKEN AT YORK CASTLE 16 CHAS. II. (1675) 13 OCT.

Jurors say that William Clark late of Cawood yeoman & Jane his wife were seized by Copy of Court Roll of $\frac{1}{2}$ an oxgang of land late Halls in Cawood & for a certain sum of money to them paid by Mountain late Archbp. of York his heirs or Assignes did by them surrender 6th Feb. 1632 did surrender into the hands of the Lord the said $\frac{1}{2}$ oxgang to the use & behoof of James Mountain William Smith th'elder William his son and others [named] to the use of the poor of Cawood And said oxgang has come to the possession of James Watson one of the trustees by a pretended lease not produced at this Inquisition for a rent of £5 And it is worth £5 10s. yearly And Jas. Watson is in arrears £6 4s.

In 1823 these properties were vested in feoffees, who are chosen from time to time, on vacancies in their number, by election of those who remain. The premises are all held by tenants from year to year, except the workhouse and the schoolroom, with its appurtenances ; and some few of the cottages and small parcels of land, the latter of which are occupied by poor persons rent free, according to custom. The annual income from the property was £212 9s. At the present time (1895) the estate consists of 134 acres and yields about £300 yearly, applied in six portions, one-half being devoted to the maintenance of the National School, while the remaining three parts are expended in apprentice fees, fuel and clothing, the maintenance of the church-staith, and Wistow clew or dam.

The boys' school was built in 1850 and that for the girls and infants in 1876. There is also a girls' school endowed with £80 yearly, and residence, the income being derived from a farm left for this object by the Rev. Samuel Duffield. There are also some other small charities, amounting to £12 yearly.

CHAPTER V.

ABOUT RYTHER.

Effluence of the Wharfe—Wild flowers—Situation of Ryther—An ancient settlement—Meaning of Ryther—Early history—Large extent of woodland—Local possessions of the canons of Bolton—Ancient knight-service—The family of Ryther—Its great military distinction—Free-warren at Ryther—The reverses at Bannockburn—Compulsory knighthood—John de Ryther, "hero of a hundred fights"—Ryther nuns—Later history and pedigree of Ryther—The Earls of Harrowby—The castle—Aspects of Ryther—Local charities—The Wesleyans—The township of Lead.



PLEASANT walk of about two miles from Cawood brings us to ancient Ryther, with its famous Norman church. The road runs direct, but the river winds considerably, and about midway between the two places the Wharfe enters the Ouse. Bordering the river part of the way our path is brimful of interest in the variety of wild plants and flowers that spring around us in profusion. The ample wastes of the water-side are covered with willows, and the showy marsh mallow and tall figwort (most useful of herbs) grow together, with patches of that old-fashioned pot-herb called Good King Henry (*Chenopodium Bonus-Henricus*), which was once much cultivated in the gardens of the monasteries and old manor-houses.

Ryther, like Cawood, is built on the south side of the river, and the similar position of its ancient church by the water side, proclaims the importance of the river as the highway of the old races entering and settling the country along its banks. The river being navigable and almost tidal up to Ryther, we may readily conceive the facilities it would offer to Saxon and Dane on their errands of conquest, at a time when the surrounding lands were covered with impenetrable woods and marshes, infested by native Britons and the offspring of their Roman allies. Ascending the river in their shallow craft, such as Tacitus describes as in use in northern lands, it needs little imagination to assume that a site such as this, close to the shore, would be settled at a very early time. The persistent occurrence of the 'th' in the name of Ryther, peculiar to Anglo-Saxon, seems to indicate a settlement during the Anglo-Saxon occupation, perhaps

as early as the sixth or seventh century. And the dedication of the pre-Conquest church to All Saints (an Anglo-Saxon dedication) lends some support to this belief. Leo (vide *Altsächsische und Angel-sächs. Sprachproben*) gives *rithe* as a well, a fountain, a river, a sufficient explanation for the identification of a site such as Ryther. The Normans being unaccustomed to the sound of 'th,' write the name in *Domesday Ridre*, and even curtail it to *Rie*, as they do with Reeth in Swaledale.*

Surveyed under the territory of the powerful Ilbert de Laci, lord of the honour of Pontefract, the estate and possessions of Ryther are thus recorded in *Domesday* :

THREE MANORS. IN RIE, Archil and Gamel and Roschil, had two carucates of land for geld, and two ploughs may be [there]. Now Hugh has [it] of Ilbert. In the demesne one plough, and six villanes and four bordars with one plough. A priest and a church. Eighteen acres of meadow. Wood pasture, one leuga and a half in length and one leuga in breadth. The whole two leugæ in length and one leuga in breadth. In the time of King Edward it was worth forty shillings; now thirty shillings.

The mention of a "priest" or of a "church" in *Domesday* does not necessarily imply that the two were co-existent, though at Ryther we have the excellent testimony that the church in 1086 not only existed, but was endowed and had a resident priest, who is taxed for the 18 acres of meadow apparently allotted to him. No doubt he kept a cow or two, mowed some portion of his allotment, and through the functions of his office, would on the whole be very comfortably off. The lord, by fealty, had an ample demesne, and there is small doubt he was primogenitor of the famous local family who subsequently took the name of De Rither and long flourished here. The extent of woodland in 1086 may be gathered from the fact that a square leuga is computed to contain 1440 statute acres.

The further testimony of *Domesday* is that in *Ridre* there were two carucates of land held by *Chetel* and his brothers in two manors, the whole being within the Laci fee of Pontefract. Again in the *Recapitulation* the same two carucates in *Rie* are referred to as under the castle of Pontefract. In Lede (Lead) there were also two carucates belonging to the soke of Haslewood. All these, with others mentioned in the survey, the men of Barkston wapentake declared belonged to William Mallet. He was one of the heroes of Hastings and to whom the Conqueror entrusted the burial of the body of the fallen King Harold. He died in 1071, and his son and heir, Robert Mallet, does not appear to have succeeded in recovering the whole of his father's estates.

* See the author's *Richmondshire*, page 239

The "Rie" or "Bie," cited by Burton as containing an oxgang of land given by William, son of Gilbert de Bie to the canons of Bolton in Upper Wharfedale, does not appear to have ever been identified. It is certain, however, that this territory was in Ryther. In the Priory accounts for 1298 I find several entries of sums paid by the canons for the mowing of meadows &c., at Ryther. In 51st Henry III. (1266) I find the Prior of Bolton obtained a grant of free warren in Ryther, among other places, and the Compotus of the Abbey for 1325 has also this entry :

Liberat. Priori apud Ryther, viil. xviis. iid.

shewing that the monastery was then in receipt of rents from Ryther.* The grant of free warren has not been printed before, and is as follows :

FOR THE PRIOR OF BOLTON.

The King to his Archbishops, &c., greeting. Know ye that we have granted & by this charter confirmed to our beloved in Xt. the prior and convent of Boulton in Crauuen that they and their successors for ever may have free warren in all their demesne lands of Boulton, Kilwyk, Steede Ridinges, How, Halcum, Emesay, Estby, Crachou, Mercum, Malgrum, Seteches, Wykedon, Brandon, Wyntworth, Strete, and Ryther, in the County of York, while however such lands are not within the metes of our forest so that no one shall enter such lands to chase in them or to take anything which to such warren belongs without the licence & will of the said Prior & monks or their successors upon forfeiture of ten pounds.

Wherefore we will, &c.†

The *De Banco Rolls* of 19th Edward I. (1290) record an action of the Prior against Hugh Chapelyn, Nicholas de Helm, William de Ryther, and others for hunting in the Prior's free warren at Wygedon and Brandon and taking hares. Again in 1344 the Prior of Bolton enters a plea against Richard Turpyn (ancestor probably of the redoubtable Dick Turpin) to give an account of the time when he became the Prior's bailiff in Ryther.‡

Torre states that the town of Ryther was held by William de Ryther of the Earl of Lincoln as of the honour of Pontefract by the rent of 5s. 4d., in which town is one Knight's Fee, where ten carucates of land made a Knight's Fee. This fact shews how Ryther must have prospered since the Conquest, how cultivation had extended, to be thus able to provide a man and a leader worthy to attend the King in his wars. For knight service was the most

* See also *Yorks. Inquisit.*, vol. i., page 110.

† See page 299 of *Upper Wharfedale*, where the date of this grant is erroneously stated to be 1257.

‡ It is very probable, too, that "Ethorning in the wood of Ria," granted to Holy Trinity Priory, York, was in Ryther. See *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Yorks. Archaeol. Inst.*, 1846, page 115.

honourable of all service, though the King by the laws of his realm could not enforce the attendance of any one Knight for more than forty days in the year on the holding of a whole fee, or if he held half-a-knight's fee, twenty days. The custom seems to have had its origin long before the conquest of England by the Normans, and may be traced among the natives in the East. The Poles, for example, even down to this present century, have always claimed to be exempt from serving in the militia more than six weeks, or forty days in the year, by right of ancient usage. By-and-bye much of this service in England was respited on the payment of a sum of money, varying according to the degree and qualification of the owner. Such tenure, however, still brought with it the advantages and emoluments of wardship, aids, relief, primer seisin (or the right of the lord to the profits of an estate unclaimed by the heirs of his vassal*), and estreats of different kinds.

The history of Ryther is largely that of the ancient family of the same name, which through several centuries was prominent in affairs of Church and State. The first mention of the family-name occurs in the foundation-charter of the Nunnery at Appleton over the water. This charter is of the date about 1150, and one of the witnesses thereto is Walter de Rithre. William de Rither likewise gave the church of Ryther, with its appurtenances, to the same monastery. The date is not stated, and the first distinct reference to their ownership of the manor I find is in the reign of John. A third part of the manor of Ryther was claimed in dower by Lecia, late wife of John de Rie or Ryther, and this lady on her husband's decease had to prove her just dues against the heirs or successors of her husband by entering a writ in the form of a fine at the King's Court. This was done at York before the justices-in-eyre on July 1st, 1212, whereby she yields all her rights to a third part of the manor of Rie, with appurtenances, to William de Rie (how related is not stated) on payment to her by the said William of 15 marks of silver.† The said William is represented in this suit by a Gilbert de Rie, no doubt

* This was a right which the King had, when any of his tenants *in capite* died seized of a knight's fee, to receive of the heir (provided he was of full age) one whole year's profits of the lands, if they were in immediate possession; and half-a-year's profits if the lands were in reversion, expectant on an estate for life. This feudal usage afterwards gave a handle to the Popes, who claimed to be feudal lords of the church, and who demanded in like manner from every clergyman in England, the first year's profits of his benefice, by way of *primitia* or first fruits. *Blackstone* (1783) ii., 66-7.

† This is an interesting action of early date, shewing the right of a widow to recover her dower, which had gone to the husband had he survived her. See *Blackstone's Commentaries* (1783), ii., 433-5.

the same person I have mentioned in the grant of land at Ryther to the canons of Bolton. Moreover, the surety of the said Lecia is one Simon de Marton, who most likely was nearly related to her, and as there was a Simon de Marton, lord of Marton-in-Craven in 1206-7, the church at which place about this time having been given to the monks of Bolton, the circumstance seems to offer some additional testimony to the interest which the canons of Bolton had in Ryther.

In 1219 Jordan de Ryther gave six acres of land in Bradley (near Huddersfield*), with a toft and free common, to the monks of Fountains, which his son Thomas confirmed. In 1250 Sir William Rithre is one of the witnesses to the confirmation by Roger Paytefin to the poor of the Hospital of St. Peter at York, of all the donations which they have of the gift of his ancestors in the towns and territories of Saxton and Woddehus, together with the right of patronage of the church of Saxton.

During the prosperous reign of Edward I., the family achieved high distinction in the person of Sir William de Ryther. He was in many engagements at home and abroad, and was summoned to Parliament in 1279 as a Baron of the Realm. His name is mentioned in the poem of the siege of Carlaverock (1299) amongst the knights present, and there we have the first notice of his arms, which are to be seen in Ryther church and in the old Minster at York :

William de Ridre was there,
Who in a blue banner did bear
The crescent of gold so fair.

The crescent is a very ancient bearing and doubtless intended to indicate some connection with the Crusades to the Holy Land; † indeed it is not improbable that Sir William de Ryther was a companion in arms with the Prince, afterwards Edward I., during his valorous and romantic expedition to Acre and Nazareth, the last of the Crusades, 1270-72. Not a little of the success of this great monarch, whose activity and skill raised England to a position, social, civil, and military, she had never before known, was due to the foresight, judgment, and generalship of this redoubtable lord of Ryther. The accounts of the wardrobe of 28th Edward I. (1299), inform us that Dom. Will. de Rithre, *banneret*, received £67 13s. od. for the wages of himself and his retinue, consisting of two knights and five esquires from the 14th of July, on which day his horses were valued, to the 29th of September, when one of his knights, Dom. William de Beeston, returned, being 77 days, £50 15s. od. And for himself,

* See the author's *Upper Wharfedale*, page 393.

† *Ibid*, page 118.

one knight and five esquires from the 28th September to the 13th of October, on which day another of his knights returned, being 14 days, £7 14s. 5d.; and for himself and his five esquires from the 18th of October to the 3rd of November, being 22 days £9 18s. od. His title of banneret was the highest grade of knighthood, for it was only conferred on the field of battle upon those who had distinguished themselves, and was an intermediate rank between the ordinary knight and baron. In 1296 he was in an expedition to Gascony; in 1298 he is mentioned as summoned to Carlisle with horses and arms, and he was in the wars of Scotland in 1281, 1300, 1302, and 1303, being always entrusted with important commissions and well favoured of the King. In 1299 the King granted him license of free warren in Ryther, Dunholme, and Thornton, and in 1303 in Scarcroft,* Hornington, and Gildersome. Touching this old warren I find in the *Plumpton Correspondence* the following short letter from Sir Ralph Ryther, Kt., who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1504, and died in 1520:

TO MY COUSIN, SIR ROBERT PLOMPTON, KNYGHT, BE THESE BYLL.

Right worshipfull Cousin, I recomend me unto you, desiring to hear of your welfare; praying you to give me ij. couple of conyes to stocking of a little ground that I make at Ryther, and I shall doe you as great a pleasure. I pray you that I may be recomend to my lady your wyfe. We have rest,† and past this summer I wyll pray you to come and kill a bucke with me. I pray you, Cousin, that the bringer hereof, my servant, may have the conyes, and *Jesu* keepe you.

At Ryther, this fryday.

By your Cousin,

RALFE RYTHUR.

William de Ryther's name likewise appears among the witnesses in a suit, at the assize held in 1278, concerning the right of free passage on the river between York and Boroughbridge, a very important privilege in those times of bad roads; and of fishing free of toll, which the Earl of Cornwall had established. His name also occurs as a witness to the gift by Roger Saxton, rector of the church of Fishergate, of several parcels of land in Saxton, to the Hospital of St. Leonard, York. He is also mentioned as having held the manor of Cowthorpe as feoffee during the reign of Edward I. The time of his death is uncertain, but Drake says: "Hornington did belong (9th Edward II.) to the Lady Vesey; it was afterwards part

* A branch of the family was afterwards seated at Scarcroft, in the parish of Thorner. John Ryther, of Scarcroft, married (*temp.* Charles I.) Ursula, daughter of Sir Robert Dolman, Kt., of Pocklington. His wife's brother, Philip Dolman, of Lead, in the parish of Ryther, married a daughter of Walter Vavasour of Hazlewood. For pedigree see *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 36, page 235.

† That is no bucks were to be killed out of the stock in the park at Ryther in that year.

of the possessions of Sir Wm. Ryther, Kt., who had free warren there, so I conclude that he did not die until after 1316."

Dugdale states that he was succeeded by John de Ryther, presumably his son, who was governor of Skipton Castle in 1309, and who in 1318 obtained from Edward II., a grant of free warren in Haslewood and Addington. His name occurs in the Scottish Rolls of Edward III. along with that of Robert de Ryther, who was most likely his son. In 1312 Robert de Ryther was summoned to meet the King at Pontbell or Battlebridge, on Wednesday after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, to do and perform what should then and there be required. The troubles with Scotland were then at their height, and the disastrous reverse of 1314, completely subverted the grand run of prosperity which the nation had enjoyed during the past hundred years. The whole of the North of England was in a state of tumult and disorder. The Scots in 1317-18 were in the Yorkshire Dales, and there was hardly a building or a farm that escaped pillage or destruction. On December 16th, 1318, Robert de Ryther was suddenly called upon to raise and arm all his men and able-bodied tenants. Then came the wreck at Myton, when gallant knight and trained peasant, with the flower of the diocesan clergy, fell against Scottish spear and arrow. Robert de Ryther was apparently not in the battle, or at any rate not harmed, for soon afterwards he, with Mauger le Vavasour of Haslewood, was ordered to assemble his men and lead them to York. How he fared we know not. But there is no doubt a life spent in anxious warfare, land going out of cultivation for lack of men to follow it, and the drains constantly made upon his resources, must have greatly impoverished the family patrimony. He had, moreover, been mulcted in the heavy fine of 400 marks for joining in the Lancaster conspiracy against the King. After the execution of the Earl in 1322 he was released from prison and the fine was paid.

Edward II., in the first Parliament of his reign (1307), passed a statute for compulsory knighthood, as a means of raising money to carry on his costly warfare, a prerogative enjoyed by our monarchs to the time of the unhappy Charles I., who, however, was obliged to abolish it in the 16th year of his reign (1640), shortly before the outbreak of hostilities.* As a consequence of this compulsory act, we find Robert de Ryther called upon in 1326 to accept knighthood, but it is recorded that he excused himself by waiving the distinction until Michaelmas term next.

In the following year (1327) the dethroned monarch died, and Robert de Ryther, who may also have died the same year, is declared

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 325.

seized of the manor of Ryther, as also of the manors of Scarcroft and Hazelwood. His successor, John de Ryther, retrieved in some measure the fortunes of his time and family. He was a valiant soldier and diplomatist, and reached a ripe age. Few men, even in the days of chivalry, have such a record of military achievements attached to their names. In 1334 Edward III., then at York, ordered John de Ryther and Nicholas de Wortlay to assemble the men-at-arms, archers, and others at Sherburn, whence they were to proceed to the Scottish Marches. On his own testimony, taken from depositions on the Scrope and Grosvenor controversy in 1386, when he was too old and infirm to travel to York, we learn that when the King, Edward III., began his wars with France, he was with him in his expedition to Burempos in Picardy. He was afterwards, in 1340, at the siege of Tournay, and subsequently (1342) at the siege of Vannes and at the siege of Morlaix. He was with the King at Melrose on his expedition to Scotland, and he afterwards sailed to Flanders and took part in the battle of Sluys, which is memorable in its connection with a document, said to be the earliest known among the English records announcing a naval victory. Next we hear he was in the front at the great fight at Crecy in 1346, where cloth-yard arrows were never flung from English bows with more deadly effect. When the conflict was ended John de Ryther accompanied the King to Calais, and was present during the long investment of that port; then he went to Rheims, assisting in the siege of that city, thence he rode with the King to Paris. Our hero was also in the siege of Wellon in Lithuania, when Sir Geoffrey Scrope was killed, and he caused Sir Geoffrey's arms to be painted on a glass window which he himself set up in the cathedral of Wellon. He was next at the famous battle of Najara, near the Ebro in Spain, where the Black Prince, fighting for Don Pedro, overthrew the forces of Du Guesclin and took him prisoner. Then he attended the great lord of Lancaster, John of Gaunt, to the Chivranche in Caux.

The greater part of his eventful life, indeed, was spent in military activity, and the fame and success of his exploits will always give interest and honour to the home of his family at the old Wharfeside village. He was in truth "the hero of a hundred fights," and for his important services was probably exempted from the tax of knighthood, as we find him always styled *esquire*. His last years appear to have been spent at Scarborough, and in the subsidy-roll of 1378 the name of William de Ryther, esquire, possibly his son, appears at the head of the inhabitants of Ryther. At this time Ryther had a population of 32 married couples and 10 single adults,

besides the untaxed poor and children under the age of 16. The parson was also not taxed in this lay subsidy, but the parson's man is down as contributing his groat towards the maintenance of Calais as an English garrison. Little, perhaps, the poor man cared whether Calais belonged to the French or the English, but remembering the deeds done there by the old lord of Ryther or his kinsman, he would pay the tax without murmuring.*

The fortunes of this famous family need not be followed here much further. Their later history will be found related in a subsequent chapter on the records of Harewood. A John Ryther fought at Agincourt in 1415, but his identity is uncertain. It may be noted that in 1397 William Ryther gave 20 marks for license to found a chantry in the church at Alford in Lincolnshire, for the soul of John Southeby of Alford. He had probably married a daughter of John Southeby, as in the 12th Henry IV. (1410), among the tenants of Thomas Colepepper, then lord of Saleby, was John de Southeby, *filius*, Dom. William de Ryther, *milit*. In the previous year the same William de Ryther was fined 2d. for non-attendance at the Saleby Court-leet. He was Sheriff of York in this reign, and again in four years of the reign of Henry VI., a William Ryther, *miles*, occurs as Sheriff of York. Of him more will be related in the chapters on Harewood.

At least two female members of the family found a home in the monastery of the Rythers' benefaction at Appleton, on the opposite side of the Wharfe to Ryther. The name of Agnes de Ryther occurs in the list of Prioresses after that of Elizabeth Fitz Richard, who died in 1426. She was buried in the Nunnery chapel, but her gravestone had at some period been taken up and for a long time used for stopping water at a mill, until it was rescued by Mr. Lamplugh, rector of Bolton Percy, in 1736, and placed in his church. The inscription upon it is as follows :

Orate pro anima Agnetis de Ryther quondam priorisse . . . monasterii xliii. qui obit. primo die mensis Martii mcccc cujus anime proprietur Deus. Amen.

Assuming that Agnes de Ryther was Prioress for 23 years, and not 33 years, the date of her death would be about 1449. She was succeeded by Joan de Ryther, whose name occurs in 37th Henry VI. (1458). In the will of John Latham (1455), canon of Beverley and

* It is questionable whether John de Ryther ever was lord of Ryther, as in 1362 Archbishop Thoresby ordered his receiver to pay unto Robert Ryther, lord of Ryther, twenty pounds sterling, being the price of 24 oaks bought of him to be used in the building of the Lady Chapel in the Minster at York.

rector of Thorne, the name of "Joan Rither, now prioress," is mentioned. The testator states that "if the said Joan Rither be the survivor, she is to have a plain piece of silver and a great feather-bed, with the bolster, for her own use, and after her decease for the use of the house. Burton mentions another female member of the family, Isabel, daughter of Sir Wm. Ryther, who married Robert, son of Sir Ralph Babthorpe, Kt., who died in 1468.

The Rythers appear to have continued at Ryther down to about the Reformation. Henry Ryther, esquire, of Ryther, died in 1543 and requests to be buried in the church, nigh unto the tomb of Sir Ralph Ryther, Kt., his father, who died in 1520, and who was son of Sir Wm. Ryther, of Ryther, who married Lucy, daughter of Sir Wm. Fitzwilliam, and had issue, Sir Robert, High Sheriff of Yorkshire in the reign of Henry VIII.; Sir Ralph, Thomas, and Nicholas. From a younger son of this Sir William Ryther, descended Robert, who settled at Wisbeach,* and had issue Dudley Ryder, whose grandson John was successively Bishop of Killaloe and of Down and Connor, and Archbishop of Tuam, in Ireland, and whose descendants have intermarried with many considerable families in that country. The pedigree on pages 72-3 shows the connection of this remarkable old family of Yorkshire Rythers with the noble house of Harrowby. The latter family writes the name Ryder, but both families bear the same arms, differenced by an ermine spot, sable, on each of the three crescents, for Ryder, Earl of Harrowby.

It is remarkable that the first three Earls of Harrowby were Cabinet Ministers in succession, and the first Earl, the friend of Pitt and Percival, twice refused the Premiership, but was for a long time President of the Council. The scholarly genius of the family was well maintained in the second Earl, who was a double first at Oxford, and a very popular M.P. for Liverpool. The third Earl, the friend of Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury, as Lord Sandon won in 1868 his father's seat at Liverpool by the largest number of votes ever polled at that time. He was President of the Board of Trade in 1878-80, and Lord Privy Seal in 1885-6. Few noble houses, indeed, have so long and illustrious an ancestry.

Among families of distinction possessing blood-relationship with the Ryders, the following peers may be mentioned: Earl Fortescue, whose mother was Lady Susan Ryder, daughter of the first Earl of Harrowby; Earl of Wharnccliffe, whose grandmother, Lady Georgina Ryder, was daughter of the first Earl of Harrowby; and Viscount Lifford, whose grandfather, the second Viscount, married a granddaughter of John Ryder, Archbishop of Tuam.

* *Vide Playfair's Brit. Family Antiquity* (1809), pp. 214-16.



PEDIGREE OF RYDER, OF HARROWBY.

Arms : Azure, three crescents Or, each charged with Ermine spot Sable.

Crest : In a mural crown Or, a wyvern's head Argent, thereon an Ermine spot Sable.

ROBERT RYDER, of Wisbeach, co. Cambridge.....

REV. DUDLEY RYDER, of Bedworth, co. ANNE, fourth daughter of Richard Bickley, of Halloughton, co. Warwick, younger Warwick, æt. 17, A.D. 1645. brother of Sir Francis Bickley, of Attleborough, co. Norfolk, bart.

<p>MARY, SARAH, m. ELIZABETH, ... (1=)RICHARD RYDER, of the (2) ELIZABETH, DUDLEY, of Nuneaton, co. ANNE Samuel mar.... Hardinge the Cloisters, West of Thomas William, m. the Cloisters, West Lomax, of Bovingdon, esq. Smithfield. vngdon, esq.</p>	<p>dau. of Rev J. Marshall, D.D.</p>	<p>BENEDI FRANCIS WARWICK, mar. Katharine, da. of.... Shiers.</p>
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<p>RICHARD, ob. s.p. LOMAX, mar. Mary, dau. of William Norman of Henley-upon-Thames, ob. 6th Oct., 1779, æt 58, buried at Bovingdon.</p>	<p>SIR DUDLEY RYDER, bart., born A.D. 1691; made Solicitor-General 1733; Attorney-General 1736; and in 1734 Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench; ob. 25 May, 1756, buried at Grantham, co. Lincoln.</p>	<p>NATHANIEL RYDER, daughter and co-heiress of Richard Terrick, D.D., Bishop of London, married January, 1762, at St. Mary's, Lambeth, co. Surrey; ob. 24th August, 1804.</p>
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<p>THOMAS, ob. 2d Nov., 1812, æt. 81, bur. at Bovingdon.</p>	<p>ELIZABETH, baptizd at St. Andrew's, Holborn, 15th July, 1735; M.P. for Tiverton, 1768; created a peer by the title of Baron Harrowby 20th May, 1776; anno 16 Geo. III.; ob. 26th June, 1803.</p>	<p>ANNE, ob. 10th Nov., 1794, æt. 72, bur. at Northchurch.</p>
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MARY, CHARLOTTE, ob. 10th July, 1866, æt. 78, bur. at Bovingdon.

DUDLEY RYDER, D.C.L., = **SUSAN LEVE-SON GOWER**, daughter of Granville, Hanover Square, 22 Dec. 1762; M.P. for Tiverton; created 18 July, 1809. Viscount Sandon, of Sandon, co. Stafford, and Earl of Harrowby.

ELIZABETH, born in the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, 22d Nov., 1767.

(2) **NATHANIEL**, born at Shiplake co. Oxon, 12 Aug., 1770; d. 1st Aug. following; buried there.

(3) **NATHANIEL**, born at Streatham 7 June, 1775; d. 18 March, 1776, bur. in South Audley Chapel.

(4) **ANNE**, bo. 1 Nov., 1779; ob. 26 June, 1801.

SIR DUDLEY RYDER, = **FRANCES**, 4th dau. of John, 1st Marq. of Bute; md. 15 Sept., 1823; M.P. for Liverpool, 1831—47. D. 19 Nov., 1882.

FRANCIS STUART DUDLEY, 3rd Earl, born 1831; M.P. for Liverpool, 1868—82; died in 1900, s.p.

HENRY, born in the parish of St. George, Hanover Square, 22d Nov., 1763, and ob. the 25th of that month.

(2) **HENRY, M.A.**, vicar of Lutterworth, co. Leicesters, Dean of Wells; D.D.; Bishop of Gloucester; afterwards Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry; mar Sophia, dau. of Thomas-March-Phillips, of Garendon, co. Leicester, Dec., 1802; left issue.

FRANCES, 4th dau. of John, 1st Marq. of Bute; md. 15 Sept., 1823; M.P. for Liverpool, 1831—47. D. 19 Nov., 1882.

FRANCIS STUART DUDLEY, 3rd Earl, born 1831; M.P. for Liverpool, 1868—82; died in 1900, s.p.

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RICHARD RYDER, = **FREDERICA**, dau. of Sir John Skynner, knt., mar. 1st Aug., 1799. was a Privy Councillor.

FRANVILLE-DUDLEY, = **LADY GEORGIANA-AUGUSTA**, 3rd dau. of Henry Charles, 6th Duke of Beaufort, 30 May, 1825.

DUDLEY HENRY, b. (3) **HENRY STUART**, 1830, mar., and has (4) **FRANCIS EDWARD**. And five daughters.

(2) **GRANVILLE RICH-ARD**, b. 1833; M.P. for Salisbury, 1874—80; mar. (no issue).

FREDERICK DUDLEY, = **MARIAN CHARLOTTE EMILY**, dau. and heiress of Thos. Cockayne, Esq., of Ickleford Ho., Herts. She d. 1878.

FREDK. COCKAYNE DUDLEY, b. 1841; d. 1853.

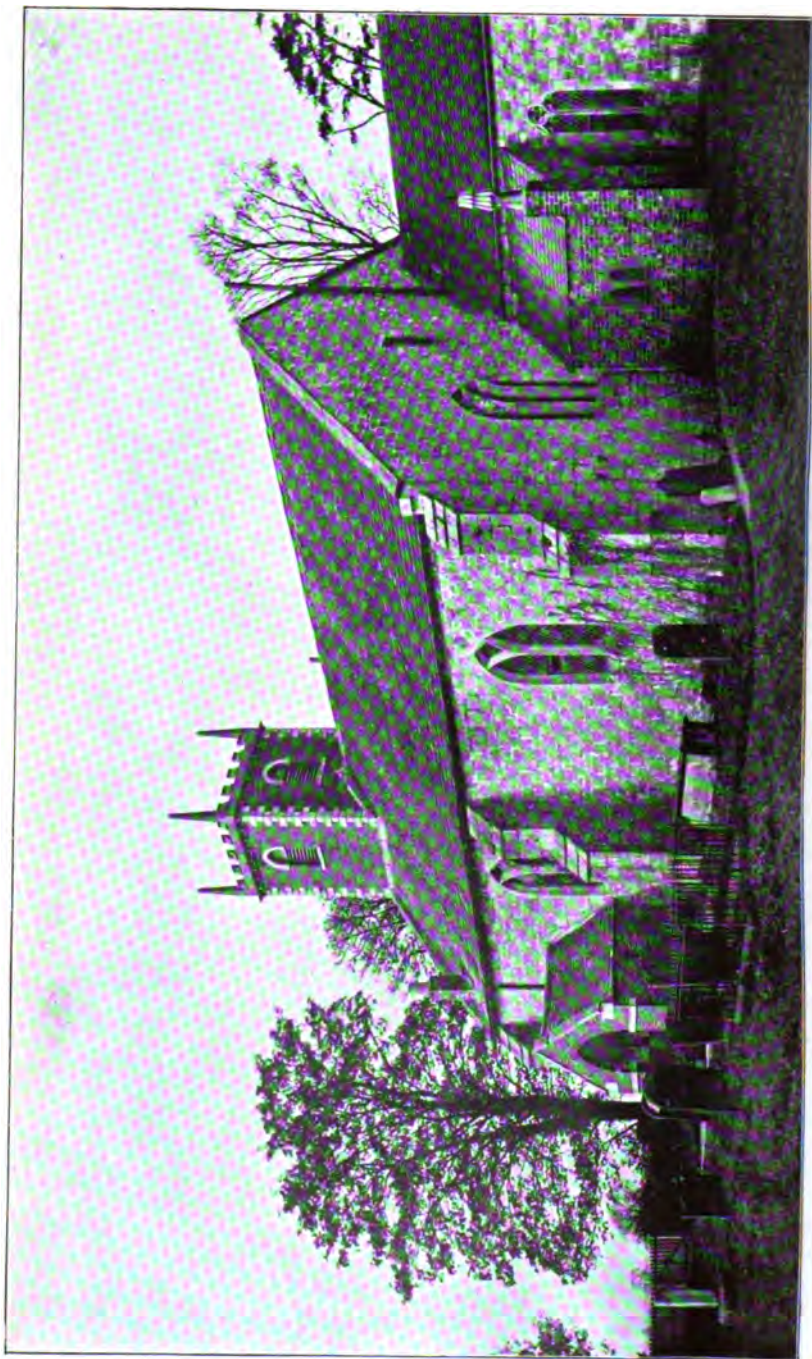
HUGH CUTHBERT DUDLEY, Capt. R.N.; b. 1843; d. 1898.

JOHN EDWARD DUDLEY, ALGERNON C. DUDLEY, Rector of Trowbridge, mar. and has issue.

LIONEL G. DUDLEY, **STEWART L. DUDLEY**, **MARIAN FRANCES GEORGIANA BEATRICE MARY FREDERICA**, **FREDERICA CONSTANCE DOROTHEA**, **HELENA AUGUSTA COCKAYNE**

Sir Wm. Scargill, Kt., M.P. for York in 1399, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Wm. Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe, kinsfolk of the Rythers, and had issue John Scargill, who made his will in 1472. Thomas Scargill of Lead died in 1433-4, and his will is printed in the *Test. Ebor.* (Surtees Soc. Pub.) vol. ii., page 35. His wife Joan died in 1421, and desires to be buried "in the quire of the chapel of St. Mary of Ledes, within the parish of All Saints of Ryther."





RYTHER CHURCH BEFORE THE RESTORATION IN 1898

CHAPTER VI.

RYTHER CHURCH.

Unique collection of stone altars—Preservation of relics—Popularity of St. William, Archbishop of York—His portrait in the church—Architectural description of the fabric—The ancient monuments—The Robinson brasses—Restorations of the church—Grant to Appleton Nunnery—Taxation of the living—The registers—List of rectors.



THE old church at Ryther is a gem of antiquity, and possessing, as it does, no fewer than five stone altars, each bearing the symbolized wounds of Christ, is in this respect probably unique. Two of these have probably served as high-altars in the chancel, while the other three have belonged to side chapels in the church; or one of them may have been brought, as a useful flag-stone, from a chapel attached to the old manor-house.* The largest of them is probably the original altar-table of the 11th century building, mentioned in *Domesday*. It is seven feet long, two feet eight inches wide, and six inches thick. It is remarkable in having the centre symbol much larger than those at the corners; the limbs of the central cross being $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches each way, while the angle crosses are $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches only. All the known altar-slabs have, I believe, these symbols very nearly uniform in size.† Down to the sixth century such altar-tables were of wood, but the Council of Epone in France, A.D. 509, ordered that "no altars should be consecrated with the chrism of holy oil, but such as were made of stone only." These stone altars frequently enclosed the relics of saints, and such relics were considered an indispensable adjunct in the early Church. It is not at all unlikely that one or more of the altar-stones at Ryther has

* Although at the restoration (1898) three of the altars were placed in the chancel, Mr. Fowler was of opinion that two of them had been in other parts of the church. The other three, he thinks, are *in situ*; certainly the one in the chantry is, which at the time of the restoration was in the pavement of the chantry. That now fixed on the south wall of the chancel was in the floor of the porch; the remaining three were found buried.

† See Mr. Oxon's paper on "The Symbolism of the Five Wounds" in the *Trans. Lancs. and Chesh. Antiq. Soc.*, x., 67—77.

been used for such a purpose, particularly in the 13th century, when the popularity of St. William of York, the much-abused Archbishop, who died in 1154, and was canonized in 1280, gave a stimulus to the collection and preservation of such objects. His tomb was originally in the nave of York Minster, but in 1284, his relics were placed in a very elaborate shrine and retained in the choir. At the removal or "translation" of the relics, King Edward I. and his Queen, with the whole court and eleven Bishops were present, and the large offerings then made greatly assisted in carrying on the work of building the Minster.* Dodsworth records that in Ryther Church, in 1661, there was a picture of St. William, Archbishop, in the east window, along with a painting of Archbishop Scrope beneath it. This prelate who was beheaded in a field between Bishopthorpe and York in 1405, was also greatly beloved, and the religious zeal which prompted his rebellion forms one of the principal scenes in Shakespeare's play of *Henry IV.*

In addition to these interesting altar-stones, the church retains evidences of the changes it has undergone at successive intervals from the Conquest to the present time. The chancel-arch, jambs of the north door, as well as part of the north wall, with some curious window-heads, now built up, are probably Norman, in point of age, but erected most likely by Saxon workmen. Then in the reign of John, when William de Ryther appears to have got possession of the whole manor, considerable structural alterations were made, and the nave would seem to have been almost wholly rebuilt. Portions now remain of this early work, including the west wall with its lancet windows, the north door, and also the south doorway which is pointed, with angle shafts having circular abaci. The latter being greatly decayed were renewed during the recent restoration, and some ancient carved stones were then also built into the walls of the new porch. They are portions of the Early English and Decorated crosses of the nave and chantry gables, and were discovered built up in the 18th century gable, which was put up when the brick tower was erected, and the building put under one roof instead of, as originally, two. The south aisle shews early Decorated work in the double lancets, with open heads, well chamfered and splayed on the inside. The east end has the appearance of having been a private chapel, though it seems never to have been specially endowed. It has a large hagioscope commanding a view of the high altar, and there is a piscina and an ogee niche, beside which is the effigy of a lady habited as in the time of Edward III. The hands are joined in prayer, clasping her heart, her best offering to God and his Holy

* See also CHURCH FENTON, chantry of St. William.

Church. A rich coronet, having a jewel in front, encircles the brow, and on her fingers are also jewelled rings. The sleeves are long, the lower garment plaited and the hem beautifully studded, while angels support her head and at her feet is a lap-eared dog with collar studded.

The chancel was rebuilt in 1843, when the late east window was inserted, which was substituted for the present one in the style of the north and south windows of the chancel at the restoration in 1898. The old glass I have referred to above or such of it as then remained, was replaced in the south aisle at the west end. Here are two shields bearing the arms of De Ros (gules, three water bougets, argent) and Ryther. The arms of Ryther also appear with those of Redmayne (gules, three cushions, ermine) in the east window of the same aisle. During the alterations in the chancel a large fresco was uncovered beneath a thick coating of whitewash, but it was so much decayed, that nothing could be made of the design, and on exposure it soon crumbled away. A similar illuminated inscription of the Ten Commandments was found beneath the whitewash of the chancel-arch in 1898.* The existing chancel appears to have been rebuilt on the foundations of the 14th century chancel, but the walls are considerably thinner than they were before, as is evident from the foundations outside. The stone-work of the north and south windows has been replaced, and also that of the priest's door. The mullions of the two windows have been partly cut away for the purpose of fixing shutters, and some of the iron hooks remain. The priest's doorway has an almost semi-circular head, and the jambs, which seem to be original, have been chamfered. The Early English builders have also apparently used the stones and timber of the original Norman door for the north door in the nave, turning round the moulded stones of the door-head and forming them into an Early English door-head. The outer circle of the arch of this door consisted of beak-heads, which are built up in various parts of the church. This north door was for a long time concealed, having been covered over with lath and plaster before the late restoration. The font is a plain circular bowl, supported on a plainly-moulded shaft.

The ancient monuments are, however, the chief glory of this interesting church. The oldest of these is a table-tomb bearing the cross-legged effigy of a knight and his lady. He is depicted clad in chain armour, with pointed and ridged bascinet, and limbs protected with jambs or shin-plates, characteristic of the transition period of the time of Edward II. By his side reposes his lady, shewn with

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, pp. 277-8.

the characteristic wimple or gorget of the same epoch, and almost identical in style and age with that of the female effigy in the church at Kirk Fenton. There can be little doubt that the monument was fashioned and erected as a memorial of the great Sir Wm. Ryther, and his lady, the knight who died about A.D. 1316, and of whose warlike exploits I have spoken at some length in the previous chapter. That he is a Ryther is shewn by the three crescents on his shield, and the effigies are interesting from having been executed at the time the destroying Scots were levelling and pillaging churches



ALTAR-TOMB IN RYTHUR CHURCH.

and farms in the district, when these valuable monuments would be concealed.

Another massive altar-tomb of Caen stone supporting a slab of dark grey marble, bears various shields, &c., and has also borne a number of brasses, which in all probability have been torn off during the Puritanical raids in the time of the great Civil War. A further and somewhat earlier altar-tomb, with sides richly panelled, bears the figure of a knight accoutred in martial habit as worn in the era of the Wars of the Roses. His gorget is of mail and his collar of white rose rayonné, or, and a sun in splendour, being the badge of

Edward IV. His head reclines upon his helmet, from which the crest has been cut. His right foot rests against a dog, collared, and beneath his left is a talbot, while sword and dagger are on either side. Three sides of the tomb have been beautifully sculptured, that on the north having the figures of four knights and four ladies, while there are three ladies on the west and three knights on the east side. This portion of the tomb greatly resembles the altar-monument of Cardinal Archbishop Bouchier at Canterbury, which is known to have been executed in 1486.* Gough supposed the



TOMB OF SIR WM. RYTHUR IN RYTHUR CHURCH.

Ryther tomb to commemorate the famous John de Ryther, who was governor of Skipton Castle in 1310. But the effigy is at least 150 years later than this time, and there can be no doubt is intended to commemorate the hero of Towton, Sir Wm. Ryther, Kt., who died in 1476. By his will he directs to be memorized by a monument to be erected in the church, and his son, Sir Robert Ryther, Kt., who died in September, 1491, orders that his body be buried "in the church against the sepulchre of his father." It was also the same

* A descendant of the Cardinal's family, John Bouchier, married in 1760, Mildred, daughter of Robt. Lane Fox, of Bramham Park. For Pedigree of Bouchier see *Duc. Leod.* (1816), vol. i., p. 122, and Append., p. 121.

Sir Wm. Ryther who bequeathed "all his tyles, bricks, and slates within his lordship of Ryther," for the building of the tower of the church at Ryther, A.D. 1476.

In 1844 these fine old monuments were carefully repaired, a fund being raised for the purpose, towards which the Earl of Harrowby, a descendant of the Rythers (see pedigree on pages 72-3), generously sent five pounds.

In the chancel is a coffin-shaped stone, which has originally covered the remains of a prioress of Appleton. It is inscribed in black letter: *Hic jacet Idonea de Gainesburgh, priorissa de Appleton, cujus anima propicietur Deus.** She was prioress in 1342. In addition to these ancient memorials there are more recent ones to the family of Robinson. In the south aisle is a handsome brass, having three shields inscribed to John Robinson, Esq., of Ryther, who died in 1619, aged 53, and his two wives: Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Rogers, of Dorsetshire, and Susan, daughter of Sir Edward Holmden, in Middlesex. By the latter he had issue, John, Henry, James, Mary, Ann, and Susan.

ARMS: Centre (Or) on a chevron (gu.) between 3 stags trippant, (vert) as many cinquefoils (of the first) ROBINSON. Crest: a stag trippant (vert) attired (or) bezanty. (Dexter) ROBINSON impaling Quarterly I. and IV., (arg.), a mullet (sa) on a chief (or) a fleur-de-lys (gu.). ROGERS; II. and III., (Or), a fret (sa.) and a chief (gu.). (Sinister) ROBINSON impaling (sa.) a fess between two chevrons (erm.) HOLMDEN.

Another brass, inscribed to Henry Robinson, of the Inner Temple, son of above John, died 1636, aged 26. The three shields bear the same arms as above, excepting that the Robinson coat is charged with a crescent for difference.†

In 1773 a brief was issued in aid of the repair of the church. It was a restoration characteristic of the time; the two gables of nave and chantry were replaced by one, a ceiling quite out of keeping with the antiquity of the building was put up, and no doubt there would be a plentiful application of whitewash. An unsightly brick tower and porch were then built, which have now given way; the one to a handsome bell-turret and the other to a stone porch in keeping with the building. These latter alterations were made about three years ago, when the church underwent a very thorough and judicious restoration, a work that redounds very greatly to the credit

* Probably a Ryther. 1478-9.—Johanni Ryther de Gaynesburgh pro vi doliis plastri emptis de stallaguim Usæ, 16s. *Vide Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, page 84 and see also page 72.

† These brasses are described by Mr. Mill Stephenson in the *Yorks. Archl. Journal*, xv., 45.

of all who were concerned in the difficult task. The cost was about £1400, raised by public subscription. The church was re-opened by the Archbishop of York on Sept. 22nd, 1898, and in the evening the preacher was the Rev. A. C. Dudley Ryder, M.A., rector of Trowbridge, who descends from the ancient house of Ryther previously mentioned.

Burton says that William de Ryther gave the church at Ryther, with its appurtenances, to the nuns of Appleton, but he is unable to explain why the nuns never presented to it. The Rythers, it is evident, retained the presentation in their own hands, and continued



RYTHER CHURCH AFTER THE RESTORATION IN 1898.

patrons for some centuries afterwards. The nuns had merely an annuity of five marks per annum out of the profits of the living.* I have referred to the tripartite ownership of the manor in the time of King John, and the whole church was valued at 15 marks annually, and in 1292, according to the valuation of Pope Nicholas IV., at £20, a very valuable living in those prosperous days.† The annuity to the nunnery at Appleton of five marks, or £3 6s. 8d., was of course

* *Vide Torre's MSS.*, as taken from a MS. in possession of Hen. Squire, advocate, being a parchment book of abstracts dated 1290 to 1364.

† See also *Beverley Chapter Act Book* (Surtees Soc., vol. 98), p. 173.

forfeited at the dissolution of the house, but the amount is still paid by the rector of Ryther to Lord Brownlow, under the name of "Egerton Fee Farm Rents."

The registers of the church commence with the year 1558, but are defective during the period of the Civil War. Torre furnishes a catalogue of the rectors to 1619, when the Crown presented as *custos* of John Robinson. In 1703-4 William Elsley was presented by John Call, of Bloomsbury, Esq., who recovered by a law suit, the patronage from the Crown. It appears the Crown ultimately obtained the patronage from Sir Michael Wharton, in exchange for Leven, and it is now in the hands of the Lord Chancellor. These are the rectors, with the dates of their institution :

LIST OF THE RECTORS.

<i>Date of Inst.</i>	<i>Names of Rectors.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>How vacated.</i>
12 —	.. Will. — (in 1268 Will. de Ryther entered the monastery at Thornton.. .. Henry de Rytherholm)		
17 Sep., 1309	.. Peter de Ryther, acolite* .. ..	.. Will. de Ryther, <i>mil.</i> .. ..	.. By resig.
29 Jan., 1328	.. John de Killom, acolite .. ..	.. Edw. III. as guardian of Robert de Ryther, <i>mil.</i>	
	.. Thos. de Ripplingham .. ..		.. By resig.
29 Oct., 1338	.. Joh. de Bolton .. ..	.. Will. de Clapham h.v.p.	
	.. Joh. de Godetyme .. ..		.. By death
13 Nov., 1369	.. Joh. Ebchester .. ..	.. Tho. Percy, <i>mil.</i> , and two others	
	.. Tho. Porter (to Kirketon Ch.) .. ..		.. By resig.
11 Mar., 1401	.. Adam de Lowth (to All Saints' Ch., Peaseholme, York) .. ..	.. Will. de Ryther	.. By resig.
5 Dec., 1406	.. Robt. Bryan (to Burnum Ch.)	ditto	.. ditto
16 May, 1408	.. Tho. Robert (to St. Oswald's Vic.)	ditto	.. ditto
6 Oct., 1410	.. Walt. Bosum (res. for chantry in Castlegate Ch., York)	ditto	.. ditto
28 Feb., 1420	.. Joh. de Malteby (Burd. in the chancel at Ryther, 1432)	ditto	.. By death
21 July, 1432	.. Robt. de Aberford (Burd. in the choir at Ryther) .. ..	.. Sibilla, widow of Will. de Ryther, <i>mil.</i>	.. By death
8 May, 1472	.. Robt. Ryther, Dec. B. .. ..	.. Will. Ryther, <i>mil.</i>	.. By death
28 Mar., 1487	.. Will. Savage .. ..	.. Rob. Ryther, <i>mil.</i>	.. By resig.
3 Nov., 1497	.. Joh. Twyforth <i>als.</i> Colyns, Canon of Leicester .. ..	.. Rad. Ryther, <i>mil.</i>	.. By ditto
30 Aug., 1506	.. Thos. Oggleshorp (will d. 3 Nov., 1513; bd. in choir)	ditto	.. By death

* Peter de Ryther was rector of Kirkby Misperton in 1335.

<i>Date of Inst.</i>	<i>Names of Rectors.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>How vacated.</i>
30 Nov., 1513.	Joh. Wilkinson (Bd. in the choir, 1520) .. .. .	.. Assignees of Rob. Ryther, <i>mil.</i> *	.. By death
14 Aug., 1520.	Thos. Ricall	ditto	.. By ditto
20 June, 1557.	Will. Fentiman (Bd. in the Kirke- garth near Peter Fentiman)	.. Feoffees of Thos. Ryther, <i>arm.</i>	.. By ditto
13 Feb., 1572.	Ric. Richardson (Bd. in the chancel)	Rob. Aske, <i>arm.</i>	.. By ditto
28 Oct., 1584.	Joh. Crossbye .. .. .	.. Archbp. (by lapse)	.. By resig.
28 Aug., 1590.	Rob. Pereson, M.A. .. .. .	.. Rob. Aske, <i>arm.</i>	..
20 Dec. 1606	.. Rob. Pereson, M.A. † .. .. .	.. James I. (by lapse)	By death
7 June, 1619.	.. Roger Lowde, † B.A. .. .. .	.. James I. (as guard- ian of Joh. Rob- inson .. .. .	.. Died 1653
	.. Robert Morritt ‡ .. .. .	..	.. Died 1701
16 Mar., 1703-4	William Elsley .. .. .	..	Died 1743||
22 Nov., 1769.	John Wise, clerk .. .. .	.. George III.	.. By death
9 May, 1772	.. Michael Bacon, D.D.	ditto	.. ditto
9 Nov., 1805.	.. John Forster, M.A.	ditto	.. ditto
Nov., 1846.	.. Wm. Sibthorpe Cole, M.A. ...	.. Victoria .. .. .	.. ditto
6 July, 1892.	.. Arthur Thos. Field, M.A.	ditto .. .. .	..

It is noteworthy that there have been only three rectors during the past century. Mr. Forster, who held the living for 41 years, was rector of Sandal Parva at the time of his appointment to Ryther by the Lord Chancellor Eldon, his relative, and as the distance between the two places was certified to not exceed 25 miles, he continued to hold the two livings together. He was a native of Northumberland and descended from the ancient family of Forster of Bamburgh Castle, who lost their estates for the part they took in the cause of

* Sir Ralph Ryther did not die until 1520, yet the assignees of Sir Robert Ryther, it should be noted, presented to the living in 1513.

† Had administration of his goods taken in 1619 by Edward and Barnaby, his sons.

‡ Roger Lowde buried, 1653, *vide Ryther Register*.

§ The time of his institution has not been found. He was rector in 1660, and baptised a daughter Mary in 1661, and he was buried at Ryther in 1701, Nov. 16th. The living at his death was sequestered two years. Meantime there was entered Nov. 15th, 1701, *caveat* by John Call; Nov. 22nd, 1701, *caveat* by Richard Braithwait; Jan. 15th, 1702, *caveat* by Richard Davies.

|| On the death of Wm. Elsley in 1743, there was a *caveat*, entered at the instance of the Crown, Oct. 31st, 1743, and the living was sequestered 16 years. Mr. Elsley was the son of Samuel Elsley, of Patrick Brompton, and was educated at Sedbergh Grammar School. In 1689, at the age of 16, he entered St. John's College, Cambridge; was B.A. in 1693, and afterwards, when rector of Ryther, he became a Canon of York.

the Young Pretender.* He was a magistrate of the West Riding and sat regularly at the Selby Petty Sessions. There is a monument to his memory in the church. One of his sons, the Rev. Charles Forster, was formerly vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Bridlington.

His successor, the Rev. Wm. Sibthorpe Cole, was appointed on the recommendation of Lord Morpeth and his friend Sir William S. Milner, of Nun Appleton. For the long period of 45 years Mr. Cole



REV. WM. SIBTHORPE COLE, M.A.

laboured diligently for Christ's sake in this ancient and pleasant parish, winning the respect and affection of rich and poor alike. During the same period he was also Rural Dean. He was the eldest son of the Rev. W. Hodgson Cole, vicar of Wonersh and West

* An interesting account of the ancestry of the family will be found in Sir Walter Besant's novel, *Dorothy Forster*. See also Mr. Bates' *Hist. of Northumberland*, pp. 256-60, &c.

Claudor in Surrey, Rural Dean and Domestic Chaplain to H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, by his wife Francis, great grand-daughter of George Ashby, of Ashby and Quenby, co. Leicester. He was born in 1799 at Guildford Grammar School, where his father was then head-master, and took his degree at Worcester College, Oxford, in 1820, at the early age of 21, obtaining a second class in Classical Honours. During the ten years he resided in Oxford he took pupils, among whom were the late Lord Harewood and the late Sir Wm. M. Milner, Bart. He then went to Dover and was appointed incumbent of the new church of Trinity, and shortly afterwards became chaplain to the Duke of Wellington, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. In 1831 he married Mary, daughter of John Maule, vicar of St. Mary's, Dover, the nearest heir male of the great Scottish family of Maule, of Panmure, now represented in the female line by the Earl of Dalhousie.* Mr. Cole was full of interesting reminiscences of his early college life. Shortly before his death, when past 90 years old, he wrote a most happy account of these memorable days, full of wit and story. I abstract the following anecdote, shewing how the famous University Boat Races were managed in the twenties :

In June, 1827, when I was about to leave Oxford finally, after a happy residence of more than 10 years, I went to the river one evening to see the boat-race. As I was running over the Bridges, my leg suddenly went through a plank ; I fell prostrate, and was at once covered by a mass of men. But a man a little in advance of me, who saw the accident, sang out most loudly—'Mind what you are about ; there's a pro-proctor at the bottom !'—and in a few moments the superincumbent mass was removed from me, and I rose uninjured.

The boats were started in those days in a primitive way. I do not know how many boats existed then on the river, but I can only remember three—Christ Church, Brazenose and Jesus ; there might have been another. The lock would not hold more than four, and the process was this. The boats were stationed in the lock, and the stroke of the first boat went forward into the bows as far as he could, so as to leave room for the bow oars. He then placed his hands against the brickwork at the side of the lock, and shoved the boat along, gradually going astern himself, and as he went bow got his oar into the water, and began to pull ; shortly No. 2 did the same, and by the time he had got to his place two or three oars were at work : on taking his seat he began to row, and as quickly as possible

* Mr. Cole had a family of five sons and four daughters ; the eldest son, William, died young ; the second, Edward Maule, married the Lady Philadelphia, sister of John Francis Erskine, Earl of Mar, by whom he has issue. See the Peerage. He is well-known as an archæologist and geologist, and since 1865 has been vicar of Wetwang, near Driffeld. The third son, Hamilton Maule, R.N., died in the West Indies, (4) Arthur Maule, died aged 20, and (5) Henry, married, is still living. The daughters are (1) Mary Louisa, married to the late Major-General Holled Coxe, (2) Amelia Frances, married to the late Dr. W. W. Day, and (3) Eleanor Amelia, wife of the Rev. H. Jackson, the present vicar of Thorp Arch.

all the oars got into play. The same process was observed by the succeeding boats. I believe that not one of the boats then in use belonged to any College. I may be wrong, but I believe that all were hired. I remember that S. John's had a four-oar, and Wadham, and, I think, Trinity; but I do not remember any others. The crews were not very strictly Members of a College. Christ Church had a waterman to row for them, and also Jesus.*

Mr. Cole's forty-five years' ministrations at Ryther will long remain a happy remembrance, and it is a pleasure to perpetuate his memory by the accompanying portrait. He died in January, 1892, at the advanced age of 93. For many years he was an unpaid inspector of schools, and left behind him a rare example of what a clergyman should be, faithful to his duties, loved by his parishioners and friends, mourned by all.

Of the present respected rector I must, perforce, forbear to say much. Mr. Field is a thorough churchman of wide experience, and is an assiduous worker. He comes of an old Norfolk family, but was born at Longnor in Staffordshire, where his father had a large private school, which had a considerable reputation in the Midland Counties from about 1832 to 1859. Like a previous rector of Ryther, the Rev. Wm. Elsley, he received his early education at Sedbergh Grammar School, and afterwards, in 1855, entered St. John's College, Cambridge, the celebrated Bishop Atlay, a former vicar of Leeds, being tutor in his time. Mr. Field was curate of Holbrook, Suffolk, in 1859—60; of Settrington, near Malton, 1860—65; vicar of Peak Forest, 1865—75; of Holbrooke, Derbyshire, 1877—82; and was rector of Holy Trinity, Chesterfield, 1882—92, and chaplain of Chesterfield Union during the like period. Mr. Field has had in the past a good deal to do with church restoration and extension, and one of the proudest achievements of his incumbency at Ryther has been the successful carrying out of the great work of restoring the ancient church over which he still presides. Also quite lately public subscriptions have been raised for the purpose of meeting the expense of extending the churchyard three-quarters of an acre. This work has been accomplished, and the additional ground was consecrated by the Archbishop last Ascension Day.

* *Our Memories: Shadows of Old Oxford, 1892.*

CHAPTER VII.

CHURCH FENTON: ITS ASPECTS AND HISTORICAL RECORDS.

Landscape effects—Wild flowers—Apple-land—The autumn-crocus—Name of Fenton—History of the manor—Ancient landowners—Old field-names—Wapentake courts—Ancient charters—Population in 1378—An unpublished inquisition—The Civil War—The Jacobite rebellion—A diabolical murder.



LAT as the country appears around Church Fenton, there is a pleasantness, not to say a genuine charm about the old winding thoroughfares, with their wealth of wild flowers. A certain soothing mellowness there is in the wide spaces of field and meadow-land; while here and there a rising knoll or "rash" covered with trees render the aspects neither wanting in interest or impressiveness. Under the soft shadows of a summer's eve, it is delightful to be out here beneath the warm blue expanse of the paling sky; and while scarce heeding the ever-changing aspects of light, form, and colour, your ear perchance catches the long-drawn "coo" of the stock-dove;—a soothing restfulness comes over all, and half-listlessly you perceive the dim distances grow ever fainter with the brightening moon!

How pleasant also to be in this luxuriant neighbourhood in the spring-time, when primroses, orchids, and sweet-violets garnish field and hedge-row, and the snowy orchards, too, are clothed with a bridal charm. Truly this is a "land of apples," and—asks an eminent divine—is there anything better and bonnier, save a bride in her best array, than a round, rosy apple? Surely it is one of God's best gifts to man! "Never a meal without an apple, is my motto," says the Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, and there is a saying in the West country: "An apple a day, keeps the doctor away!" which may fitly apply to the dwellers in this orchard-land. Ruddy autumn, too, has its ample delights. The bright blossoms of the fleabane, which is one of the rarest sights in the Highlands, makes here a common wayside show, while the pretty crimson petals of the wild autumn crocus are among the most conspicuous sights in the neighbourhood of Church Fenton. I cannot make out (for no one seems to know) how long this uncommon plant has spread its humble glory over the

fields of Fenton. Tradition says the bulbs were brought to England in the reign of Edward III. by a pilgrim who carried them at the risk of his life from an Eastern land, concealing them in the hollow of his staff. But whether the pilgrim brought them to Yorkshire, or how long the bulbs have grown here, we have now no means of ascertaining.

Church Fenton, Kirk Fenton, or Fenton as it appears in old charters, seems like many other of the surrounding places, as Bolton, Ryther, Appleton, &c., to have had its origin as a settlement, in Saxon times. The prefix *fen* is obviously the A.S. *fen*, a fen or marsh, in allusion to the original situation of the *ton*, enclosure, town, beside some wet, low-lying spot. Before the land was drained, marshes, with their congregations of wild-fowl, must have been common in the flat-lands about the Wharfe and Ouse, and many field-names of sites now dry and cultivated still bear witness to the fact. The Fleets at Little Fenton may be cited as an example.

In the great Norman survey of 1083—6, the place is first noticed thus :

MANOR. In Fentun, Osmund had three bovates for geld. Land [to] half a plough. Now, the same [Osmund] has it of Ilbert [de Lacy]. In the demesne one plough and one acre of meadow. In the time of King Edward it was worth ten shillings ; now ten shillings.

Osmund, the previous Saxon owner, was permitted to retain his land as a vassal of the new lord of the great honour of Pontefract. Though Whitaker, in reviewing the rich manor of Sherburn, with its berewicks and two dependent churches, at this time, suggests that one of these churches was probably at Fenton, there is nothing to warrant the assumption. The manor of Fenton was separately surveyed and was not part of the Archbishop's fee. The cultivated area was also small, the population insignificant, and even admitting that the lord's ploughland in demesne carried, as no doubt it would, a capital messuage with service, there is nothing to presuppose the existence of a separately endowed church, as in the case of Sherburn, with its "four-score and sixteen carucates of land, where they may be sixty ploughs."

Osmund's descendants in all probability continued to reside here, taking the name of De Fenton, though it is not under this name that we hear of the next transaction in the history of the manor. This was in the reign of John, when the King's Justices were holding court at Doncaster on Sunday, August 18th, 1202. A fine was there entered between Alexander Fitz-Robert, petitioner, and Henry de Camera and Agnes his wife, deforciant, of six bovates of land, with appurtenances in Fenton, and the said Alexander remits all his rights

in the named six bovates, &c., in favor of him the said Henry and Agnes and their heirs. For this quitclaim the said Henry and heirs remit to the said Alexander and his heirs 18 pence of two shillings rent of (etc.) 21 acres of land in the same place, rendering hence only 6d. annually for the same, namely 3d. at Pentecost and 3d. at the Feast of St. Martin, for all services, save foreign services. And the before-named Henry gives the said Alexander 1 mark of silver.

Then again in 1208 there is another agreement between Roger de Brun and Ascelina, his wife, petitioners, and Richard Fitz-Richard de Hudeston (Huddleston), deforciant, of three-fourths of a bovate of land, and of three parts of twelve acres of land, with appurtenances, in Fenton. Roger and Ascelina acknowledge the said lands, &c., to be the right of him, the said Richard; for which recognizance the said Richard gives to the said Roger and Ascelina four acres of above land, of which one is in the culture of Hesse, another in the culture of Muncaie, a third in the culture of Hille, and the fourth lies near the garden of the said Richard towards the south. To have and to hold the said lands on a yearly render of 3d. payable at Pentecost, for all services. And the above Richard gives the said Roger and Ascelina a half-mark of silver.

Fenton, in common with many other places in the wapentake of Barkston Ash, is not returned in *Kirkby's Inquest* (1284-5), but in the *Nomina Villarum* (1315) it is recorded that Fenton, with its members, is held conjointly by two of the families above mentioned, namely Henry de Camera and John Fitz-Richard, while the township of Barkston, adjoining, was at this time held of the Archbishop of York, John Fitz-Walter and John de Selby. The old Hundred Courts were formerly held in this once important village, to which the men of the wapentake owed suit.

The parish of Church Fenton includes the township of that name, Little Fenton and Biggin (from the A.S. *byggan*, to build), the two latter within the liberty of St. Peter of York. A singularly interesting record of the names of the inhabitants, with their holdings, appears in Archbishop Greenfield's *Register* of the 4th year of Edward II. (1310), under the heading of Fenton :

Johannes fil. Thomæ holds 22 acres of land. Constantius Furmin holds 1 toft ; Robertus Jolif 1 toft and 4 acres of land ; Henry Diker 1 toft and 2 acres of land ; Roger Stain 1 toft and 4 acres ; John de Lumby 1 toft and 8 acres ; John Batman 1 toft and 8 acres ; William fil. Hugh de Chater 1 toft and 8 acres ; Henry de Houck 1 toft and 33 acres ; Thomas Chapelain 1 toft and 1 acre ; John de Birne 1 toft and 1 acre ; Margeria de Panely 1 toft ; John fil. Henry 1 toft and 16 acres ; Roger fil. William 1 toft and 30 acres ; William fil. Galfrid 1 toft and 1 acre ; Robert fil. Wilkoc 1 toft and 1 acre ; Galfrid del Meiten 1 toft and 1 acre ; Jacke 1 toft and 6 acres ; Richard Totty 1 toft and 3 acres ; William fil. German 1 toft

and 2 acres ; John fil. Gilbert 1 toft and 6 acres ; John fil. Alan 1 toft and 3 acres ; Walter Brette 1 toft ; Adam Fox 1 toft ; Richard fil. Humfrey 1 toft ; Alice le Wilde 1 toft ; Thomas Sutor 1 toft ; Thomas Alli 1 toft and 1 acre.

Whether the Robert Jolif who held a parcel of land at Church Fenton in 1310, is any connection of the Essex family of Jolliff or Jolliffe I have not ascertained. But it is noteworthy that the late John Jolliffe Tuffnell, Esq., D.L., J.P., of Chelmsford, was at his death in 1894, one of the principal landowners at Church Fenton, and by marriage of John Tuffnell, Esq., with Elizabeth, sister of Sir William Joliff, claims descent from the Jolliffs of Leeke and Careswell Castle, co. Stafford.

I have already mentioned the Langtons as owners of the valuable quarries at Huddleston, and in a deed dated at Bishopthorpe in 1373, a grant is made to William Gray and Robert de Wyclif of the wardship and marriage of John, son and heir of John de Langton, of York, he being then a minor, and heir to lands and tenements in Frismersk (one of the lost towns on the Humber), Huddleston and Fenton. These possessions had been held by John, father of the said heir, of the Archbishop of York by knight service. Following this I find some further charters from which it appears the ancient and honourable Craven family of Altaripa or Dautry, held lands in Fenton. A charter of Thomas de Altaripa, dated at York, 26th March, 1382, assigns and instates Robert de Barketone, his attorney, to receive full possession of all those lands which belonged to Nic. de Middleton, Kt., within the parish of Church Fenton, according to the terms of a certain indenture to him the aforesaid Richard (*sic*) thereof made. Again in 1383 Thomas de Altaripa of Carlton-in-Craven, granted Robert de Stillington, parson of the church of Broughton, Robert Dautry, chaplain of Carlton, and Thomas Wode, of Carlton, all his lands in Elslack, Glusburn, Rimington, Bukthorpe, Newthorpe-juxta-Sherburn in Elmet, and Kirkfenton, with all their appurtenances.* This grant is witnessed at Elslack, where Godfrey de Altaripa had by license of 12th Edward II. (1318) erected a castle or fortified manor-house. Another indenture of the same date, written in Norman-French, and dated at Rest in the parish of Sherburn, witnesses that Thomas Dautrey, of Carlton, granted and confirmed to William de Hoghwyk, his heirs and assigns, an annual rent of 26s. 8d., issuing out of his lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, in Glusburn in Craven, during the life of Isabelle, wife of the said Thomas Dautery. By this arrangement the said William agreed to hold and peaceably enjoy all the lands, &c., in Kirk Fenton, according to the form and effect of a charter of

* *Col. Top. et Gen.*, Part xxiii. (1839) page 308.

enfeoffment made to the said William by the said Thomas Dautery, without any rent charge issuing from the said lands and tenements, except the services due and accustomed to the chief lord of the fee, and also that the said Isabella, wife of the said Thomas, shall not challenge her dower in the said lands and tenements, underwritten.

The property of this ancient house was transmitted by marriage of coheireses. Elizabeth, daughter of John Dautery, Kt., married Sir John Bold, of Bold, co. Lancaster, to whose son, Brian Bold, she releases all her lands, services, &c., in Carlton and Jolesum, 33rd Henry VI. (1454-5). Before this, however, a fine is entered of the manor of Carlton between Boniface de Bold, plaintiff, and John de Bold and this Elizabeth, his wife, deforciant. About the same time also, Isabella, daughter and sole heiress of a William de Altaripa, married Roger Ferrand, of Skipton, who brought the Hall estate, not the manor, into that family.*

The manor of Fenton was in 1649 purchased by Adam Baynes, M.P. for Leeds in the Interregnum. He was born in 1621-2, entered the army of the Parliament, and died in 1670. He purchased several Royal Forests in Lancashire, likewise the King's manor of Holmeby in Northants. of General Lambert for £22,000 but was compelled to give it up at the Restoration. The following transactions (not before published) concern the sale of the manor of Church Fenton at this time :

MANOR OF CHURCH FENTON.

We whose names are hereunder written being five of the Contractors appointed by an Act of this present Parliament for the sale of the lands and possessions of the late Deans, Deans and Chapters, Cannons, Prebends, and other persons in the said Act mentioned; doe hereby Certify to the Treasurers in the said Act named, or any two of them; that Adam Baynes who according to a Contract of the 9th day of October last made by the said Adam Baynes for the purchase of the Mannour of fenton and other things in the County of Yorke was to pay the sum of [blank] in the whole, hath according to an Act of this Parliament of the nineteenth day of June, 1649, payd to John Blackwell one of the Contractors in the said first Act named whom wee and the rest of those contractors have appointed to receive the same; the sum of sixpence in the pound for all his said purchase money which comes in the whole to Nyne pounds two shillings fourepence and hath been received by the said John Blackwell and is by the said Act of the nineteenth June 1649 to be defaultd by the said Adam Baynes and to be allowed to him or such other, to whom the Conveyance is to passe by the said Treasurers, or any two of them, in part of his or their said purchase money.

Dated this 9th day of November 1649.

THO. AYRES	WILLIAM ROBERTS
CLEM OXENBRIDGE	ROBT. FFENWICKE
	JA. RUSSELL.†

* See Whitaker's *Craven*, 3rd edition, page 223.

† Add MSS., 21,427 fo. 50.

Twenty-two days following the date of the above, I find this certificate of completion of the contract, enrolled by the Deputy Comptroller :

Know all men by these presents That the wholle purchase money payable by Adam Baynes of Knowstropp in the county of Yorke according to a contract of the munnth of October 1649, by him made with the Contractors for the sale of ye late Deanes and Chapters landes for the purchase of the Mannor of ffenton wth the rights members and appurtenances thereof in the said County of Yorke and other things certified by the Deputy Register to have binne by the said Adam Baynes Contracted for Amountinge to the sum of three hundred sixtie ffoure pounds foureteene shillings two pence is by him paid and defaulted in this manner (that is to say) ffoure pounds eleven shillings tenn pence is payd in ready money to the Treasurers And the residue thereof being three hundred and sixtie pounds two shillings and foure pence is defaulted by the said Adam Baynes upon parte of transferred Certificate fixed upon the Credit of the Act of Parliament for the sale of Deanes and Chapters lands and one Certificate under five of the Contractors hands for sale of the said lands for vid. per pound upon the Contract. As is certified to us by the Register Accountant. Witness our hands the first day of December 1649.

STEPHEN ESTWICKE.

THO. HOES. (?)

The purchaser left a son, Robert Baynes, who died in 1697, but whether the manor descended to him and his heirs I have not ascertained.* The manor subsequently passed to the Gascoignes of Parlington, and is now owned by Lady Ashtown, but the principal landowners are Col. Wm. Nevill Tuffnell, Esq., D.L., and Henry Edward Bull, Esq.

The *Fabric Rolls of York Minster* shew that many of the male population of the parish of Fenton, in the 15th century, were employed in quarrying and leading stone from the quarries at Huddleston to the banks of the Ouse for transhipment to York. The blacksmith of Fenton, whose smithy is still conspicuous in the village, is also mentioned in 1458. Singularly, not one tradesman or artificer in Fenton is returned in the Poll Tax of 1378. The named population then consisted of 42 married couples and 26 single adults who are all rated at the agricultural tax of 4d. each. Allowing for men absent in war, &c., and for the exempted poor, the population of the parish was probably not less than 250, in which case it would

* An account of Adam Baynes will be found in the *National Dict. of Biography*, but the date of his birth is erroneously given as 1631, and Knowstrop is stated to be in Northants. instead of in Yorkshire. It may also be added that in the confirmation of his arms granted in 1650, he is stated to have "anciently come out of Cumberland and settled himself at Knothrop." It is not improbable that his ancestors settled with kindred long seated in the parish of Leeds, and in a long succession of Adams and Roberts, perhaps descended from the Adam and Robert de Knowsthorpe of the *Subsidy Rolls* of Edward III.

be safe to assert that it had been nearly 400 a century before. There was no squire or chief lord living there in 1378, though "Isabella at ye Hall," probably a housekeeper, is mentioned among the then resident ratepayers.

No properties at Fenton are cited in the *Monasticon* as having belonged to the monasteries, yet it would appear that Selby Abbey had possessions here, for in 33rd Henry VIII. (1541), William Bapthorpe obtained a grant from the King of lands and tenements in Fenton and Wistow, late belonging to Selby Abbey.* Eight years previously he had similarly obtained the manor of Newhay, with tenements, &c., in Saxton and Scarthingwell, late the property of Clementhorpe Priory.

From an unpublished inquisition taken at York Castle, 15th Oct., 1672, I find that a parcel of land called the Fleet, in the lordship of Little Fenton, the rents and profits of which, every third year, when a field in the township of Little Fenton, called Sweemunds, lay fallow, were taken by the churchwardens of Kirk Fenton for repair of the Parish Church. This enquiry elicited the fact that Wm. Hammond, Esq., of Skaldingwell, had been owner of the lands, and he about the year 1660 had sold the said parcel to John Motterhom, of Bishopdyke Hall, who had not paid the above rent for four years past.

Church and poor had suffered greatly during the troubled era of the Civil War, and there appears to have been a great abuse of public charities, as will be seen in the chapter on this subject relating to Cawood.

How many men of Fenton took part in that disastrous broil of the 17th century we have no means of ascertaining, but the *Sessions Records* of the West Riding shew that one George Buck, of Fenton, had been badly wounded in the war and in 1676 he was lame and blind. He had served the King's party under Captain Edward Stanhope, in the company of foot, and no doubt fought at Marston, but being now totally unable to work, a petition bearing many influential signatures, seems to have got the old man a pension.

During the Jacobite rebellion in 1715 the men of Fenton were again called upon to provide and set forth foot soldiers for the West Riding militia. Their names are given in a MS. book elsewhere noted, entitled *Ye Register of Sir Henry Goodrick, A^o 1715 and 1716.*† The country was in a very disturbed state for a long period and not

* The above grants I find cited in the Coucher Book of Selby Abbey, but the charters are undated.

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 56.

until the "waefu' day o' Drumossie Muir" in 1746 sealed the fate of the Stuarts, was anything like a settled order of society restored; though Church Fenton, some two or three years after this, was the scene of one of the most shocking crimes that marked that era of unsettled existence. Two honest women named Elizabeth Ferrand and Mary Parker, living together, being well-to-do grocers in Church Fenton, were brutally murdered in broad daylight in their own house by a ruffian named Fawthorp, who robbed them of all their money and valuables and then decamped. Afterwards the barking of a dog attracted the attention of some of the neighbours, who broke into the house, and discovered the two lifeless bodies mangled in a most awful manner. The bloody deed, it is said, had been done with a cooper's adze, or some other blunt instrument. Fawthorp was eventually apprehended and hanged at the Tyburn without Mickle-gate Bar, York, March 26th, 1749.



CHURCH FENTON CHURCH.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE CHURCH, VILLAGE, AND OLD FAMILIES OF CHURCH FENTON.

Antiquity of the church—Its dedication—Description of the church, and architectural details—Singular position of holy-water stoup—Prebendary of Fenton—The vicars—Old families—Old houses—Remains of ancient cross.



URNING from records of war and crime, let us now seek pleasanter paths. The hoary old church by the wayside in the village is invested with no common interest, and nearly eight centuries of history surround its hallowed walls. Its very dedication is lost in antiquity. Though recorded to have been St. Mary,* there appear good reasons for supposing it to have borne a double dedication in honour of St. Mary and St. John the Baptist. Upon entering the church you take a step down, perhaps symbolical of the Baptist stepping down into the waters to baptize. This arrangement, however, is common in ancient and unaltered churches dedicated to this saint. Healaugh and Adel in our own district may be cited as examples. Moreover one of the pre-Reformation bells of the church bears a figure of the Baptist, with the inscription : *Fac tibi Bap̄tista fit ut acceptabilis ista.*† [Do those things which the Baptist has made favourable (acceptable) to you.]

* There are a number of early charters in the *Reg. Mag. Album* at York, and in the Cotton MSS. (*Claudius B. III.*), in which the church of Fenton is thus referred to : (1) Hugh, son of Germanus de Fenton, grants to God and the church of the Blessed Virgin of Fenton, the yearly rent of a penny, which David de Chaucomb used to pay him for a tenement in Fenton ; (2) William, son of Henry de Camera, of Fenton, grants to God, the church of S. Mary and the prebend of Fenton, and Mr. Robert de Winton, prebendary of Fenton, and his successors, an annual rent of 6d. which the said Robert owed me for one part of a messuage near the cemetery of Fenton. Archbishop Gray's *Register*, page 189.

† Anciently St. John the Baptist as a patron-saint was very popular, but in modern times no dedication is so common as St. John the Evangelist. Among the old churches of Worcestershire the proportion of St. John the Baptist outnumbered St. John the Evangelist as twenty to one. See Miss Arnold-Forster's *Studies in Church Dedications*.

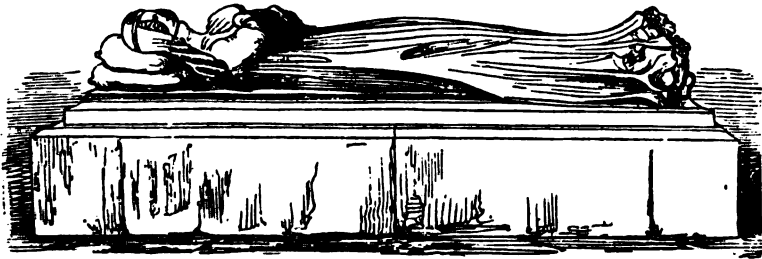
The church is cruciform, having transepts with central tower (as in cathedrals) supported upon four massive 13th century arches. These are discontinuous, there being no capitals, a character most commonly met with in Flamboyant work, though occasionally in earlier styles. The choir is spacious, being forty feet long and nearly twenty feet wide; the arch inclines slightly to the north. The large east window of four lights is a fine example of late Flamboyant, and contains a beautiful and harmonious composition in stained glass, with inscribed scrolls. The north and south sides of the chancel, as also the west end and the tower, are late Perpendicular.* The south window of the chancel is of three lights, filled with stained glass depicting figures of St. Peter, St. John and St. James, and is a memorial to the Rev. John Bull, S.T.P., prebendary of Fenton in the Cathedral Church at York, who died in 1858. The window was erected by his brother, the Rev. Henry Bull, M.A., rector of Lathbury in Buckinghamshire.

The north transept, now occupied by the organ and vestry, is Early Pointed, having lancet lights, one of which contains some old stained glass. There is also a Perpendicular oak screen in this transept, making a division for the vestry, and a slab upon the floor records the death of one Thomas Birdsall, who died in 1709. Before 1840, when the new school was built, this transept had been partitioned off for the Sunday School, and subsequently down to the restoration of 1844 a loft was set up in it, in which hay and straw were kept, I believe for the sexton's donkey! Indeed old inhabitants tell me that the ass was actually stalled there, and that strangers passing in the night-time fled as for their lives when sometimes they were startled by the sombre bray of the disturbed animal echoing in the aisles, verily believing his Satanic Majesty was endeavouring to call up (it is to be hoped vainly) the spirits of the departed!

The south transept affords an interesting example of the transition that took place in the time of Edward III., when the restricted lancets were giving way to the more spacious lights of the Middle Pointed style. In the east wall are two single pointed windows, and in the west wall a double lancet, with quatrefoil above, combined beneath a hood terminating in bosses of characteristic foliage. The south side is lighted by a spacious window in four compartments, having Decorated tracery in the head. Beneath this window is an ogee niche of the same period, coeval with a female effigy now in the chancel, which was discovered laid upside down and forming part of the chancel pavement when the church was restored in 1844. It is

* The wood and plaster-work of the chancel in 1500 was reported to be in a very decayed condition. *Surtess Soc.*, vol. 35 (1858), page 266.

of good Huddleston limestone and in excellent preservation, and is laid upon a modern base. The lady is represented with hands in prayerful attitude upon her breast, and clad in a long, close-fitting dress, concealing the feet. The sleeves are open at the ends and reach a little below the elbow. The head, reclining upon a cushion laid anglewise, is covered with a veil, having a double plait arranged diagonally in front, while a single plait extends down either side of the head, and the usual large wimple or gorget covers both chin and neck. At the feet is a curious combination of heads, a dog and a talbot or lion apparently contending for the head of some other animal. The effigy may be dated 1320—1330, and had probably been concealed during the Puritanical revolution. Some old oak forming the end of a pew bears the arms of Newby (two stilts in saltire); Ryther (three crescents) and Newby again (as named, with a label of three points for difference).



FEMALE EFFIGY IN CHURCH FENTON CHURCH

The east end of the south transept has apparently been a chantry chapel, though there appears no documentary evidence of its having been endowed. In the east wall are two stone brackets upon which figures no doubt were placed, and during the alterations in 1844 an ancient stone altar-slab, bearing the usual five crosses, was discovered here, as also another in the chancel. The latter has the usual centre cross marked on the front edge of the stone.*

The south aisle is separated from the nave at the west end by two pointed arches resting upon octagonal columns. A third arch lower and rounder than the others is carried upon a small cylindrical shaft, having a moulded capital and octagonal base, and a half-arch at the east end springs from the latter. There is a narrow pointed entrance into the tower, the step of which is now nearly a yard above the floor of the nave, and about seven feet above this doorway is a small square-headed window. The tower is battlemented, and has large belfry-windows with sloping sills. The curious buttress-like projection

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 317-18.

at the south-west angle, shewn in the accompanying illustration, is only a thickening out of the wall for the above-mentioned staircase into the tower.

The second illustration shews the east end with the restored roof-pitch. It may be noted that before the introduction of hammer-beams and flat roofs, the leading timbers of the principals, says Mr. Parker, were often formed into an arch by the addition of circular braces under the tie-beams, the beams themselves being also frequently curved. The spandrels formed by these braces were very usually filled with pierced tracery, and the timbers generally were



EAST END OF CHURCH FENTON CHURCH.

more moulded and enriched than in the earlier styles. Mr. George Fowler Jones, F.R.I.B.A., who very ably and efficiently restored the church in 1844, tells me that he re-roofed it to the old pitch, which was clearly marked by a weathering against the tower. As a consequence the roof of the aisle inside looks low, being continuous with the nave-roof above it, but the design undoubtedly carries with it the principle of the original building. The old roof had evidently been lowered three times by shortening the spars and other timbers that had decayed on the wall. The south aisle was also rebuilt and

part of the north transept, together with the buttresses at the angles of the south transept.*

The old south porch, which had been many times repaired,† was also rebuilt, and has a very high gable. The doorway is Early Pointed and bears a nail-head impost. The north entrance, now blocked, has a mutilated stone bracket on the east side, and the remains of a holy-water stoup opposite, a somewhat remarkable position for such objects, and apparently so placed from local usage of entering the church by the north doorway and quitting it by the south.

The church was originally a rectory but was appropriated to the prebendary of Fenton by Archbishop Walter Gray. A vicarage was ordained in 1240 and the prebendaries continued patrons.‡ The living is valued in the King's Books (Henry VIII.) at £6 13s. 4d. yearly, and in the Parliamentary Survey at £10 per annum. Torre gives a list of vicars to the 17th century.§ In an inquisition taken at Sherburn in 1310, Adam, *clericus*, de Fenton, is named as present among the jurors, who say that the manor of Sherburn, &c., is held by the Archbishop of York of the lord King, *in capite*.¶ The present excellent vicar, the Rev. James John Christie, M.A., who is also Rural Dean, succeeded the late venerable vicar, the Rev. James Isaacson, in 1899. The registers of the church commence in 1630, but are defective from 1739 to 1750.

* Mr. Jones, the architect and restorer of the church 56 years ago, and now in his 85th year, is still remarkably hale and active. Upon hearing of the author's project he at once kindly undertook to visit the district, and took several admirable photographs (including the views of Church Fenton) which are engraved in this work.

† In 1472 the porch was reported to be in a bad state owing to decay of plaster-work. *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 35, page 257.

‡ Adverting to the conjecture on page 90 as to a Domesday church at Fenton, I may observe that the prebends of the liberty of St. Peter's, York, were an ordination of post Survey date; nor were the prebends of Fenton and Wistow founded until the time of Archbishop Gray, the foundation being confirmed by Pope Honorius III. (*Reg. Mag. Album*, III., 56a). The original plan of the canons of York living together, or in common,—a system derived from the Celtic Church, does not appear to have continued after the 11th century, for Henry the Chanter, who wrote about this time, relates that "after the canons had lived together for a few years, Archbishop Thomas, by the advice of certain persons, divided the land of St. Peter (A.D. 1090), which was still for a large part waste, assigning a prebend to each, both that the number of canons might grow, and also that each one acting for himself would be more zealous in building on and cultivating his own share" (*History Ch. Y.*, II., 108). The prebends were called sometimes after the altars in the minster to which they belonged, and sometimes after the places from which they derived their dues. The latter was adopted in the case of the prebends of Fenton and Wistow, within the liberty of St. Peter at York.

§ Vide Torre's MSS. (Peculiars), page 555. ¶ *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 49, page 438.

The most ancient local family of which we have any record is that of De Fenton, who took their name from the place, and in all probability descend from the "Richard" of Fenton, whose "garden" I have mentioned as existing in 1208. In 1275 Johannes de Fenton, tanner, was a freeman of the city of York. He is amongst the earliest enrolled, and doubtless obtained his freedom by inheritance. In 1309, Nicholas de Fenton, butcher, and in 1328, William de Fenton, *clericus*, were also freemen of York. In 1317 license was granted to Ralph de Fenton, chaplain, to assign rents in Naburn-juxta-Fulford, to a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the cathedral church at the altar of St. William for the souls of the said Ralph and his ancestors.* Members of this family were settled early about Leeds, and they were long resident at Middleton, near Hunslet, from the time of Edward II. Sir Geoffrey Fenton, Kt., Secretary of State, married a daughter of Richard Weston, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, by whom he had a son, William, and a daughter, Catharine, married to Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, from which alliance several noble families trace their descent. He died in 1608. Richard Boyle, second Earl of Cork, created Earl of Burlington in 1664, was lineal ancestor of the present Duke of Devonshire.†

I have also mentioned the family of Dautry, landowners in Fenton, who had a fortified manor-house at Elslack in the parish of Broughton in Craven. Thomas de Fenton was instituted *rector* of Broughton in 1391 and resigned in 1393. The church at Broughton, it should be observed, was not appropriated to Bolton Priory nor a vicarage endowed till 1442. Fr. Wm. de Fenton, a canon of that monastery, was *vicar* of Broughton and a man evidently of some substance, for administration of his effects was granted to Gilbert, Prior of Bolton, 22nd April, 1480.‡ There have always been Fentons at Fenton, and they are there still.

After the dissolution of religious houses there were a few families in the parish who resolutely declined allegiance to the reformed church. The Newbys were amongst these, an important landowning family in the 15th and 16th centuries at Church Fenton, whose arms are in the church. Peacock mentions Francis, wife of Gervise Newby, gent., Elizabeth, wife of Edward Newby, and Ambrose and Cicely Newby, their children, as Papists in 1604. Also Robert Halliley, Alice Dalby, Elizabeth Grene, widow, and Clare, her daughter, were avowed non-communicants at the Parish Church at the same time.

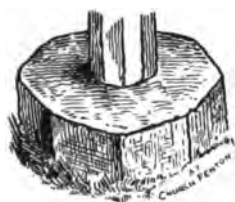
* *Pat. Rolls*, 11th Edward II., page 1, m. 28.

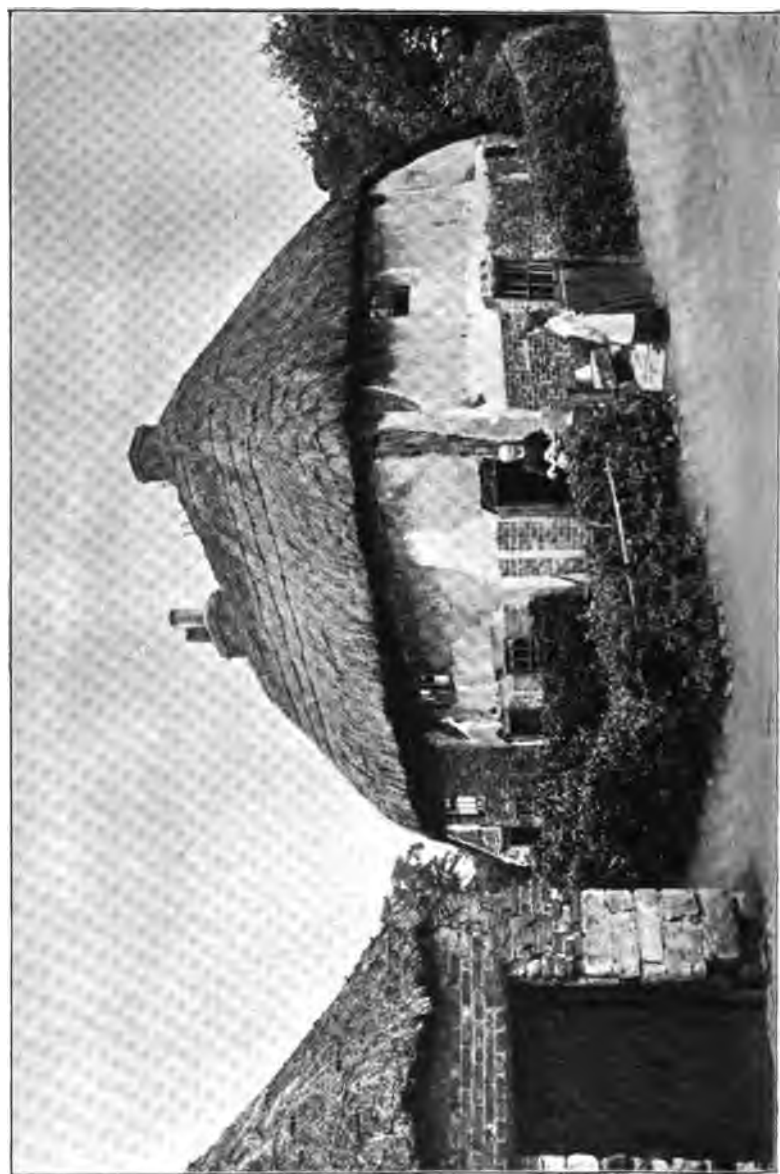
† See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 305.

‡ See Whitaker's *Craven*, 3rd edition, page 109.

The lords of the manor of Fenton have for a long period been non-resident, and there is no house now existing that can strictly be called the manor-house. The old moat-house was pulled down about 1885 and the present substantial residence, now occupied by Mr. Joseph A. Walkington, occupies its site. The commons of the parish were enclosed in 1771-2, when 260 acres were allotted for tithes. A further Enclosure Act was also passed in 1775. The Wesleyan Methodists were established here last century and they erected a chapel in 1807. The National Schools in the village were built in 1840, when Wm. Ammitt was schoolmaster. The buildings were enlarged in 1871. There is also a Board School at Biggin.

There are the remains of an ancient cross on the green opposite the smithy, but for what purpose it was erected or whether it is in its original position no one now appears to know. The base is rudely octagonal and the portion of the shaft that remains is of the same pattern and about a yard high. The village has never been chartered for a market, nor have markets known to have been ever held here, as the ancient chartered towns of Sherburn and Tadcaster are only some three to five miles distant.





CHAPTER IX.

BOLTON PERCY: ITS HISTORY AND OLD FAMILIES.

Picturesque aspects—The vine and rosemary—Old houses—Evidences of the Ice Age—Many Boltons in Yorkshire and consequent confusion—The manor of Bolton Percy—Methods of land cultivation at the Conquest—The soke of Healaugh an important heritage—The pre-Conquest church—The Percies and their Yorkshire castles—Successive owners of Bolton Percy—Peculiar anomaly in the ownership of the church and manor—Grant of free-warren—Plague and murrain—Effects at Bolton Percy—Population in 1378—The Lords Beaumont—Sale of the manor to the Fairfaxes—The Duke of Buckingham and Mary Fairfax married at Bolton Percy—Sale of the manor to the Milners—Old families—The Wickhams—Some notable connections with Bolton Percy—Manor of Hornington—The Kendalls.



FROM Church Fenton we may travel by rail, three miles, crossing the Wharfe into the Ainsty, to the pleasant village of Bolton Percy. It has a station on the main line from Leeds and Sheffield to York, and, accurately measured, the station is 7 miles 40 chains from York.

The village forms yet another of those beautifully-picturesque "red-tiled islands in a sea of orchards," surrounded by sweet sequestered lanes and posied by-ways, and where, too, charming old homesteads stand about invitingly beneath perfect masks of flowers. Comfortless as these pretty dwellings sometimes are, we nevertheless like their quaint looks, neither forgetting the old fashioned herbs and flowers that usually grow about them. These gardens are many-posied. The vine and rosemary here make a luxuriant show, conjuring up memories of those bygone days when nearly every house older than the Reformation,—when religion was surely nearer the hearts of the people,—grew one or other of these typical plants with almost venerated care. The vine was the type of Our Lord, who compared Himself with it, and he that planted it had "cast out the heathen" (Ps. lxxx., 8); while the rosemary was the emblem of remembrance in absence or in death. The leaves and tendrils of the vine are sculptured on our oldest sacred monuments; the rosemary was laid upon every bier, and was it not the sweet-voiced Ophelia who exclaimed: "There's rosemary prithe, that's for remembrance, and there are pansies, too, that's for thoughts"?

Two or three of these old cottages are pictures of rustic beauty. One of them, I observed, was built of stone and thin bricks, alternately, something after the old Roman fashion; while the walls of another were composed of a great variety of round cobbles, derived from the washings of the great ice-sheet and moraines that once overspread this skirt of the Vale of York. In the old wall of the churchyard, near the stile on the south-east side, there is a boulder of Shap Fell granite, which I once pointed out to an old native of the place, who was unaware of its presence. The face of the stone measures 27 inches by 18 inches, and as I find from the Parish Accounts that a new gate for the churchyard, and also a new stile, were provided in 1800 by a William Richardson, for the sum of £2 11s., it is not improbable the stone may have been put in then.

The noble old church, the largest in the Ainsty, stands where it has always stood from the old Saxon days, by the homes of the people; while few may be aware that this now small and peaceful village was probably the site of a once mighty battlemented castle, erected by one of the doughty Percies in the days of the first King Edward. But of this more anon.

In Yorkshire there are many Boltons, and in early charters and other old documents it is not always easy to distinguish them. Even the clerk to the Conqueror's commissioners confuses Bolton Percy with Bolton-on-Dearne, these being among the hundred manors granted to Percy at the Conquest. Our Bolton seems to have been an important parish even in pre-Norman times. It is thus surveyed in the great inquest of 1083-6:

THREE MANORS. In Bodetone (Bolton Percy) Ligulf, Turchil [and] Ernui had eight carucates for geld, where four ploughs may be. Now Rozelin has it of William [de Percy]. He has two ploughs there and six villanes with two ploughs and twenty acres of meadow. A priest is there and a church. Wood, half a leuga in length and half [a leuga] in breadth. The whole one leuga in length and half [a leuga] in breadth. In the time of King Edward it was worth forty shillings; now thirty shillings.

MANOR. In Torp (Pallethorpe) Gamelbar had two carucates of land for geld, and one plough may be there. Now Fulk has it of William. Two villanes and two bordars are there with one plough. In King Edward's time it was worth twenty shillings; now twenty shillings.

TWO MANORS. In Hornitone (Hornington) Gamelbar and Aldene had three carucates of land for geld, where two ploughs may be. Now Godefrid has it of William. Five villanes are there with one plough and twelve acres of meadow. Wood pasture half a leuga in length and as much in breadth. The whole six quaranteens in length and six in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth ten shillings; now fifteen shillings.

These represent the whole of Percy's possessions in what was constituted the parish of Bolton, but there were other large properties

in the parish not held by Percy, namely, four manors in Steeton, three manors in Appleton Roebuck, five manors in Colton, besides lands in Pallethorpe and Hornington, all held by Osbern de Arches. Next we find it stated :

IN BODELTUNE (Bolton Percy) William de Percy has five carucates of the land of Ligulf. The soke belongs to Hailaga (Healaugh), the land of Goisfrid Alselin. Of twelve bovates of land in Waletune (Walton) of the land of Godwin, the soke belongs to Hailage (Healaugh), the land of G. Alselin.

William de Percy summons his peers in testimony that [when] William Malet was living, and was Sheriff of York, he himself was seized of Bodetone (Bolton Percy) and held it.

Osbern de Arcis confirms that Gulbert, his predecessor, had Apeltone (Appleton Roebuck) and all the other lands quit [from geld].

Ulchil suabrodre [had] in Stiutone (Steeton) two carucates, in Hornintone (Hornington) half a carucate, in Oxetone (Oxton) one carucate, in Torp (Pallethorpe) six bovates, in Coletone (Colton) seven bovates. Count Robert [of Mortain] has them. Nigel Fossard holds of him.

From this important testimony we gather that the district was one of great fertility and very populous in the Confessor's time. There were 8 carucates under the plough in the township of Bolton, and moreover, the whole township was worked on one uniform system by four ploughs. That is, there were 1440 statute acres in cultivation in 1086, of which 960 acres were annually ploughed and paid geld. There was also, according to the calculations of Mr. Pell, 720 acres of pasturable woodland. Fleta (*temp.* Edward I.) observes that if land lay in three common fields [as at Bolton Percy] the carucate contained 180 acres, 60 for winter tillage, 60 for Lent tillage, and 60 for fallow; but if it lay in two fields the carucate contained 160 acres, that is 80 for fallow and 80 for winter and Lent tillage. The latter system seems to be the more ancient of the two, and was probably the method adopted by the Britons, and was still in vogue at Appleton, Steeton, and Colton when the Normans made their great survey in 1083—6.

The soke of Healaugh, it should be noted, extended over a wide district, and even the men of Bolton owed suit to that lordship from five out of their eight carucates, doubtless the continuation of an immemorial usage. It is also interesting to observe that there was already an endowed church at Bolton (Percy) situated within the township, and such township regarded ecclesiastically became the parish or "priest's share." Originally these were of large extent, but as churches and priests multiplied they became smaller, while many were again enlarged by the readjustment of civil boundaries after the Norman conquest. There are places in the parish of Bolton that did not come originally within the civil jurisdiction of Bolton. Colton, for example, did never belong to the Percies, yet the people

of that place have ever attended and received the sacraments at the church of Bolton, and so became united to that parish.

There appears to have been some doubt as to whether the heirs of William Mallet, a large landowner in the neighbourhood (*see* page 63), were not entitled to the manors of Bolton at the time of the Inquest. But Percy summoned his peers and proved his claim, and so this large well-farmed manor descended to the heirs of his chivalrous house. But notwithstanding a long era of prosperity, notably in the 13th century, there does not appear to have been any increase in the area of cultivated land within the manor between the time of the Conqueror's great survey and the last quarter of the 13th century. There were still extensive woodlands within the manor which are especially noteworthy as those from which William de Percy gave timber for service in the construction of York Minster, and his effigy, holding a piece of wrought timber, along with that of Vavasour, holding a piece of rough stone, expressing in a similar manner that he gave much of the stone, are to be seen above the western entrance to that noble fane.

According to the return made by John de Kirkby* in 1284-5, there were still eight carucates of land in Bolton under cultivation, which were held by Robert de Percy of the heirs of Henry de Percy, and he had held them of the King *in capite*, as of his barony of Topcliffe, by the rent of 4s. annually. The same Robert de Percy in 1292 obtained royal leave to crenellate or embattle his manor-house at Bolton (Percy) as also his manor of Sutton (on Derwent).† This was about seventeen years before Henry de Percy received license to build his castle at Spofforth, the family's chief residence in Yorkshire.

* *See Upper Wharfedale*, page 393.

† Mr. Ellis (*Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, iv., 156-7) says that Picot de Percy, brother of William, grantee at the Conquest, was before the Survey, enfeoffed in the manors of Bolton Percy and Sutton-on-Derwent, but the Bolton then held by Picot was undoubtedly Bolton-on-Dearne. Bolton Percy may have come to Picot, and apparently did come to him before William's death in 1096-7. *See post.* Robert, son of Picot de Percy, gave the church of Sutton to Whitby Abbey.

In 1267 Sir Peter de Percy held 7 carucates in Bolton, worth by the year £38 11s. 4d., also 8 carucates in Kernetby (Carnaby), and also the town of Warrum (Wharram Percy) with the advowson of the church. (*See Yorks. Inquisit.*, vol. i., page 104). The above Bolton was probably that of the name in the parish of Bishop Wilton, in the East Riding. In 1367 Henry de Percy, le Piere, was found to have died seized of Wharram Percy, Bolton, and Carnaby. (*Vide Inq. p.m.*, 41st Edw. III., No. 48). In the *New County History of Northumberland* (vol. v., page 420), the Bolton here mentioned (1367) is stated to be Bolton Percy, but it appears to be Bolton in the parish of Bishop Wilton, 3 miles from Pocklington. This manor, with Carnaby and Wharram, soon afterwards came to the Hiltons, by whom it was acquired from the Percies in exchange for the manor of Shilbottle in Northumberland. Bolton Percy at this time was owned by the Lords Beaumont, but the Percies had been lords of three Boltons in Yorkshire, viz., Bolton Percy, Bolton-on-Dearne, and Bolton in the parish of Bishop Wilton; they also held Bolton in Cumberland, and Bolton, 4 miles from Alnwick in Northumberland.

The manor of Bolton next came to the powerful family of Vescy, and in 1290, John, Lord Vescy, contributed 22s. 10d. towards the marriage of King Edward I.'s eldest daughter, this being his proportion of the levy of 40s. on every knight's fee, made on his manor of Bolton Percy. In 1315 the Lady Vescy, Isabella de Beaumont, his widow, is returned as seized of the manor of Bolton-cum-Haryngton [Hornington]. She also at this time was possessed of the manors of Thoresway, Linwood, Stewton, Kelstorn, and Welborn, held of the Barony of Baieux, in Lincolnshire, and the moieties of Waye and Piddle in Dorsetshire. At her decease these manors went by entail to her brother, Henry, Lord Beaumont, who held the entire Barony of Baieux, inclusive of the manor of Irnham, of whose descendant, John, Lord Beaumont, half a fief in Irnham was held by Philip le Despenser, 20th Richard II. (1396).^{*} Henry, Lord Beaumont, married Alice, daughter and eventually heiress of Alexander Cumin, Earl of Buchan, in whose right he became Constable of Scotland, and obtained the manor of Whitwick in Leicestershire, where he was licensed to convert the manor house into a castle. He was summoned to Parliament as a baron in 1309. Henry de Bellemonte or Beaumont, Earl Boghan, obtained in 1338 a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands at Bolton Percy. This was a sad epoch in local history. The disasters following the accession of Edward II. had brought poverty and misery among the hard-working and erst prosperous Yorkshire folk. Famine and plague were now rife, and, as we learn from monastic chronicles and other registers, thousands of honest people succumbed to their combined ravages. From 1340 to 1342 more than half the population of York and Hull died from the shocking pestilence known as the Black Death. The land bore scant crops, pastures and meadows could not be tilled, herbage became poor and sour, and whole farms lost their stock of cattle by disease. At Bolton Percy I find from the Nonæ Rolls that in 1340 "a great murrain exists among the sheep," the taxes due could not be paid, and the place could no longer support a merchant to buy the people's goods.† The following is the record :

THE "NINTHS" OF BOLTON PERCY, A.D. 1340.

Taxed at xl li. Thomas de Staynford, Thos. Rayner, Thos. son of Isabel, Walter son of Henry de Colton, Thos. Lyly, John Oliver, Robert del Shippen, Thos. son of Robert, John le Carter, John Cowhurd de Bolton, Will Stert of the

^{*} See *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Archal. Inst. at York*, 1846, art. ; Holy Trinity Priory, York, page 176n.

† This murrain among sheep seems to have been very widespread at this period. The Durham Abbey Account Rolls for 1338—1339 shew that scores of sheep that had died of the plague were sold to the Hexham Abbey cellarer, and hides of animals similarly stricken were also sold in abundance. See *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 100, page 309.

same, and Roger le Feryman, parishioners of the church of Bolton Percy, [summoned] for this purpose, present upon their oath by indenture made between them and the Prior [of Nostell] and freemen, and alternately signed, that the ninth of sheaves, wool, and lambs of the whole parish is worth this year xxxli and no more, because the ninth part of sheaves, wool, and lambs, does not reach the tax; that the tithe of hay is worth vii marks; oblations and Lent tithes and white tithes* are worth viii marks, and that the wool and lambs fetch a low price, and a great murrain exists among the sheep this present year. They also present that there is no merchant now living within the said parish except by agriculture.

This is really not so bad a return as in most other places, as the parish, we see, was rated, according to Pope Nicholas's taxation, at £40 and was now worth £30. This, I may add, was a tax on nine-tenths of the parish, the other tenth having been bestowed by the lord as an endowment of the church, for the exclusive use of the priest under the name of glebe.†

The Poll Tax of 2nd Richard II. affords some idea of the humble status of Bolton Percy during the last quarter of the 14th century. There were then but 14 married couples and 5 single adults resident in the township, and allowing four in a family and one-third more for children under the age of 16, and for absentees in war and other exemptions, the population would number less than 100 souls in 1378. They all paid the agricultural tax of 4d., except two tailors who paid 6d. each. Appleton, Steeton, Colton, and even Oxton were much more populous than Bolton Percy at this period. But a century and a half afterwards we find that Bolton Percy, in point of rateable value surpassed all of these places. The subsidy-rolls of 1523 shew that Robert Cokett and Thomas Mawe were taxed in goods each 20s., and there were nine others assessed, the eleven paying together £3 19s. 6d. In Appleton, George Battersby paid 9s. for goods and Robert Broket 8s. for goods, while nine others paid a lesser amount, the total levy being 26s. 6d. At Oxton the total levy on ten persons was 9s. 2d., while the only person rated at Steeton was Wm. Fairfax, esquire, for lands 26s. 8d.

The manor in the 14th century was, as I have said, owned by the Lords Beaumont; John, the sixth Baron, being created Viscount in 1440, and was the first person honoured with the title of Viscount in England. He was also a Knight of the Garter, and had granted a patent of precedency above all other Viscounts, and was afterwards constituted Lord High Chamberlain of England. He was succeeded by his second son, William, Viscount Beaumont, lord of Bolton Percy,

* The meaning of "white tithes" (*albe decime*) is not exactly known, but they were probably tithes commuted for money payment, *i.e.*, in *white money*; silver-white rent is used thus.

† See the author's *Richmondshire*, page 298.

who was a staunch Lancastrian, but being taken prisoner at the battle of Towton in 1461, he was attainted and his estates forfeited. They were, however, restored to him by Henry VII., but dying without issue in 1507, the Viscounty expired, and the Barony remained in abeyance between the heirs of his sister Joan, who married John, Lord Lovel, and had a daughter Joan, who married Gilbert Stapleton, Esq., of Carlton. Joan Stapleton had, with sons who died without issue, a daughter and heir, Anne Stapleton, who married Mark Errington, of Couteland, Northumberland. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Errington adopted the surname of Stapleton, in lieu of Errington, and were ancestors of Miles Thos. Stapleton, Esq., who in 1840 obtained by writ the Barony of Beaumont out of abeyance. He died in 1854 and left two sons; the eldest, Henry, Lord Beaumont, who married Violet, daughter of the celebrated dress-maker, "Madame Elise," died without issue in 1892, when his brother, Miles Stapleton, Colonel of the 20th Hussars, succeeded to the Barony, but not to the estates. He married in 1893 Ethel Mary, only daughter of Sir Charles Henry Tempest, Bart., of Heaton, co. Lancs., and subsequently Carlton Towers was repurchased from the mortgagees.*

The manor of Bolton Percy early in the 16th century was sold by Sir John Brocket to the Fairfaxes of Nun Appleton.† And when the war-worn hero of the Civil War, Thomas, Lord Fairfax, died in 1671, the estates of Bolton Percy, Nun Appleton, and Bishop Hill, were left to his only child, Mary Fairfax, wife of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Motives of family interest in the estate appear to have prompted this celebrated but unfortunate alliance with the reckless Duke of Buckingham. She had been engaged to the handsome Earl of Cumberland, and the banns of marriage had been twice called in St. Martin's Church, Westminster. But Brian Fairfax, her cousin, was sent to forbid the banns a third time, probably more by her father's desire than her own. He relates that her father favoured her alliance with the Duke, as he had some of the Duke's estates at Helmsley and York House, of the Parliament's gift, which he was willing to restore, as he did the Earl of Derby's estate in the Isle of Man, to the Countess and her children.

Also by a singular coincidence in the history of the Bolton Percy estate, this marriage with the Duke would cause it to descend to consanguines of the Lords Beaumont. John, first Viscount Beaumont, was first cousin to John Beaumont, of Overton, Esq., whose

* For further particulars concerning the families of Beaumont and Stapleton, see *The Stapletons of Yorkshire*, by H. E. Chetwynd-Stapleton (1897), and the Rev. J. N. Worsfold's *History of Haddlesey*.

† See also the author's *Nidderdale*, page 185.

grandson, Wm. Beaumont, Esq., married a daughter of Sir William Bassett, and had several children, of whom Antony, the third son, was father of Mary, who married Sir Charles Villiers, Kt., and was created, after the decease of her husband, Countess of Buckingham. She was mother of John Villiers, Viscount Purbeck; Christopher Villiers, Earl of Anglesey; and George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who married Mary Fairfax. The marriage of the Duke to Mary Fairfax took place 15th September, 1657, in Bolton Percy Church, and the event was duly recorded in the registers; she being 20 and he 30 years of age.



GEORGE VILLIERS, DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

The excesses of the Duke of Buckingham plunged his house into great debt, and though he continued extremely wanton in his life and habits, his devoted wife never ceased her affection for him, and ever tried to dissuade him from the pernicious and dissolute ways into which he had fallen. But the fault was not so much in the man as in the profligacy of the age in which he lived, an age the most vicious and libidinous our English annals have to record. Bright, witty, and cheerful, and endowed with more than ordinary ability, the Duke seems to have been a great favourite, and just before his somewhat sudden death in the house of one of his tenants at Kirby

Moorside, Brian Fairfax had been in York arranging for his removal to his own house at Bishop Hill, which had been left to the Duke by his father-in-law, the great Lord Fairfax.

This Brian Fairfax knew the ill-starred Duke intimately, and wrote thus feelingly of him: "If he was extravagant in spending," he says, "he was just in paying his debts, and at his death charged them on his estate, leaving much more than enough to pay them." Sir Clements Markham, in two unpublished letters,* tells us that the famous Admiral Robert Fairfax, then Captain Fairfax, attended in June, 1687, the obsequies of the Duke, who "laid in greater state than the late King, and was buried with great splendour." Captain Fairfax adds that he was one of the mourners, who went before the corpse in long cloaks, and had "very good mourning given to him, cloth of 18s. a yard, with sword belt, stockings, gloves, and cravat, with two white dimity waistcoats," &c. The Duke was no mean verse-writer, and on the death of his famous father-in-law, he wrote an epitaph which concludes with these lines:

So blest of all, he died, but far more blest were we
If we were sure to live till we could see
A man as great in war, as just in peace as he.

The Duchess, his wife, died Oct. 20th, 1704, aged 66, and was buried in Henry VII.'s Chapel. The fifth Lord Fairfax having died in 1710, his widow, who was a Kentish heiress, sold most of her Yorkshire estates during her son's minority, to pay off the debts on Leeds Castle in Kent. She did this with a very reckless hand.† Nun Appleton and Bolton Percy were sold to Alderman Milner, of Leeds, for, it is said, fully £8000 less than they were worth.‡ But there was a family relationship between the Alderman and the Fairfaxes. He was grandson of Richard Milner, who had served under fiery "Black Tom" in his first Yorkshire campaign. There being some doubt as to the title to Nun Appleton, the famous lawyer Witton, grandson of the Mr. Witton who in 1666 drew up the settlement made by Lord Fairfax, skilfully managed the conveyance, and afterwards married the Alderman's daughter, Jane Milner. With the Milner family the estates remained for two centuries, when the present owner, Sir Angus Holden, Bart., M.P., became the purchaser.

Besides the Lords Beaumont, Fairfaxes, and Milners, there were other old landed and yeoman families long resident in the parish, notably the Vavasours, Sampsons, Tates, Wickhams, Brockets (who sold Appleton to the Fairfaxes), Smiths, Kendalls, Housmans, &c. A charter dated at Bolton Percy, 6th July, 1379, grants to John Smyth,

* *Life of Robert Fairfax, of Steeton* (1885), pages 50—51.

† *See Upper Wharfedale*, page 180.

‡ *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 77, page 139.

of Bolton Percy, all rights in one part of a messuage in the town of Melton-juxta-Wath, then held by the widow of one William Stele of Melton. This charter is tested by Henry de Barton, rector of the church of Bolton Percy, William Samson of Appleton, William Cerf of Styveton (Steeton), John Paulyn of Bolton Percy, William Dresure of the same place, and others.* The William Samson here mentioned died in 1393 and was buried "in the church against his father's tomb."†

The Fairfaxes from their long residence in the parish have of course many notable associations with Bolton Percy. Six marriages of the Fairfaxes have taken place within the parish church, and many of the family lie buried within its sacred walls. Amongst those who have been interred here are Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, the Parliamentary general, who died in March, 1647-8, and was father of Thomas, the great Lord Fairfax.‡ Lady Fairfax, widow of the gallant Sir Wm. Fairfax, who was mortally wounded before Montgomery Castle in 1644, along with her daughter Isabella, wife of Nathaniel Bladen, Esq., lie in the same grave within the church. Mrs. Bladen died in October, 1691, and the aged Lady Fairfax, who, as is stated on her monument, "lived mistress of Steeton over fifty years," died in the January following. Mrs. Bladen's eldest son, Martin Bladen, was baptized in Steeton Chapel in 1672, and afterwards settled in Maryland. Her second son, Martin Bladen, became a famous officer, and in his youth served under Marlborough in Flanders, and under Stanhope in Spain. He became Comptroller of the Mint, a Commissioner for Trade and Plantations, Under-Secretary of State, and for many years was member for Portsmouth. He died in 1746 at Albury Hatch in Essex. His sister Elizabeth was the wife of (1) Colonel Ruthven, and (2) of Edward Hawke, and she was mother of the famous Admiral Lord Hawke. His second sister, Frances, married Mr. Hammond of Scarthingwell, and the third sister, Catherine Bladen, did not marry, and was the companion of her uncle, General Thomas Fairfax, who had served in the West India expedition which took the Island of Jamaica. He died at Dublin in 1712, in his 80th year.§ His portrait is at Bilbrough.

The Wickhams of Bolton Percy were descended from William Wickham, who was Bishop of Lincoln and afterwards of Winchester, and died in 1595. His son, Henry Wickham, D.D., was collated to the prebendal stall of Fenton in the cathedral at York in 1614. He was Archdeacon of York, rector of Bedale and of Bolton Percy, and died in 1641, leaving two sons and a daughter; the latter being wife

* See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vi., 65. † Torre's MSS.

‡ Portraits of these generals are engraved in *Upper Wharfedale*, pp. 176 and 179.

§ See Markham's *Life of Admiral Fairfax*, pages 128, 224, &c.

of Toby Jenkins, of Grimston, in the parish of Dunnington, near York.* The eldest son, Tobias Wickham, was instituted rector of Bolton Percy in 1660, and Dean of York in 1677. He died in 1697,† leaving three sons; the eldest, Tobias, was a barrister-at-law, and died in March, 1704-5; the second, William, of Ulleskelf and Wakefield, was Clerk of the Peace for the West Riding, and was father of Tobias, rector of Kirk Bramwith in 1719, and of Keighley; Henry, the third son, was baptized at Bolton Percy in 1665, and lived at Heslington. He married an Archer, from Barbadoes in the West Indies, and his only son, Henry Wickham, was rector of Guiseley, and died in 1772. From him descend the Wickhams of Cottingley in the parish of Bingley, and of Low Moor House and Chestnut Grove in the parish of Thorp Arch.‡

Among other families in the parish were the Inglebys of Pallathorpe and Whartons of Hornington. The manor of Hornington in the time of James I. belonged to Henry Topham, Esq., of York, a man whom Sir Thomas Widdrington eulogises for his wit and great learning. How long the Inglebys resided at Pallathorpe I have not made out. William Ingleby, of Pallathorpe, gent., died in 1637, and was buried at Bolton Percy, October 27th. He married Mary, third daughter to William Hill, of Knaresbro', by whom he left two sons and two daughters; John, his son and heir, William, Mary and Anne. The name of Kendall also appears among the earliest entries in the registers; a family no doubt descended from the Johannes Kenell who contributed his groat to the warlike King Richard's poll-tax in 1378. The following descent compiled from the registers may serve to illustrate a little domestic tragedy, at a time when the neighbourhood of York was afflicted by the terrible scourge I have before spoken of.

WILLIAM KENDALL=MARIE,
Bd. Nov. 30, 1593. | Bd. Oct. 14, 1611.

ROBERT=ANN THORP	JANE,	ELIZABETH,	MARGARET,	THOMAS,	ELLEN,
Bap. 1573,	Bap. 1576,	Bap. 1581,	Bap. 1583,	Bap.	Bap. July,
Md. July 21,	Md. Geo.	D. 1581.	D. 1592.	1586,	1590,
1604,	Marshall,			D. 1587.	Died of the
Died of the plague	Jan. 14.				plague and
and buried	1611.				bd. Oct. 19,
Sept. 20, 1604.					1604.

Thus out of a family of six, three died in infancy or childhood, and then in 1604 the widow lost her eldest son, having only been married two months, when he died of the plague, and lastly the widow's youngest daughter was taken from her at the age of 14 by the same fatal disease.

* Pedigree of Jenkins *see* Clay's Adds. to Dugdale's *Visit.*, pages 143-5; there are also a Grimston and a Dunnington in Holderness.

† *Yorks. Arch. Jl.*, I., page 269. ‡ *See* the author's *Old Bingley*, page 144.

CHAPTER X.

BOLTON PERCY: OLD CUSTOMS AND EVENTS.

Village life in the olden times—The parish accounts—Lord Fairfax and King James II.—Perambulation of boundaries—Wandering beggars—A woman of Bolton Percy publicly whipped—Local wild animals—Sparrow-shooting—A remarkably late occurrence of the beaver at Bolton Percy—Suitable habitats of the beaver—A Book of Briefs—Some old church restorations—The church of St. Olave's, York—The Ripponden flood—Horse-races at Bolton Percy—Carriage of letters—Bequests to the poor—Brockett Hall and the Brocketts—Bolton Lodge and its tenants—Old inn.



IN FORMER times village life was varied a good deal by customs and amusements now no longer existing. The old parish accounts of Bolton Percy, which commence with the year 1679, shew that important national or local events were celebrated with feasting and rejoicing, or much ringing of the old church bells. In 1803 I find the sum of 14s. was disbursed for ringing 7 days; in 1804 to ringers for 9 days, 18s.; and in 1810 to ringers for 10 days, 30s. Going to earlier times I find 10s. was paid in 1680 for ringing on the 5th November, at which period the sum of 2s. 6d. was annually given for ringing on the King's birthday. Charles II. died Feb. 6th, 1684-5, and under the year 1684 (no other date given), I find the churchwardens gave 3s. to ringers on the coronation day of James II. James, when Duke of York, had been insulted by the citizens of York, in 1679, which I shall allude to when I come to speak of his visit to Tadcaster. This is a curious reflection on the changeful temper of the time. The Fairfaxes never favoured that monarch, and when William, Prince of Orange was proclaimed in York in 1688, popular enthusiasm, led by that family, knew no bounds. Thomas, fifth Lord Fairfax, who died in 1710, mounted on a handsome and richly-caparisoned charger, rode into York, with Lord Danby, followed by a hundred stout yeomen, all accoutred, to hear the Prince proclaimed. When in September, 1714, George I. landed at Greenwich, the ringers were given 1s. and 4s. more on "ye Thanksgiving Day for ye King's accession to ye Throne."

Again in 1721 2s. was paid for setting up the King's arms in the church. Loyalty, at any rate, seems to have been ever conspicuous among the good folk of Bolton Percy.

The perambulation of the parish boundaries was also a periodical event of some importance, and in the 17th century I find the meetings usually took place at Street Houses. When the last perambulation was made I have not ascertained. In 1700 I find 1s. given to a woman with a letter of request at Street Houses in Bilbrough parish. The law was then very strict with regard to wandering beggars or vagrants, and such vagrants when apprehended were to be brought before the nearest justice of the peace and sentence passed upon them. They were to be publicly whipped by the constable or petty constable, or some other person appointed by such constable, of the parish or place where they were apprehended. By the statute of 22nd Henry II. (1175), the vagrant was to be carried to some market-town or other place, and there tied to the end of a cart naked, and beaten with whips throughout such market-town or public place till his body be bloody by reason of such whipping. This ordeal was modified by the statute of 39th Elizabeth (1596), when the offender was to be uncovered from the middle upwards and whipped as above. This infliction was carried out at Bingley in Yorkshire, within present recollection,* and the Kildwick-in-Craven parish books contain an entry under the date 1601, May 1st, that one Alice Wright was publicly whipped and sent back to Bolton Percy, from whence she came. Happily modern decency no longer tolerates such disgraceful exhibitions.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the parish of Bolton Percy seems to have literally swarmed with wild creatures of different kinds. Payments made for the capture and slaughter of otters, foxes, fougarts, greys or badgers, &c., are frequent. In 1721 the sum of 2s. 2d. was allowed for powder and shot and shooting of sparrows. What destruction this represents may be imagined. But the record does not equal that of the payment by the churchwardens of Flixton, in Lancashire, who in the 22 years, 1820-1 to 1841-2, disbursed no less a sum than £133 for sparrow-heads, which at the statutory allowance of $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per head, represents a slaughter within that parish during the period named of 63,844 sparrows! †

But by far the most interesting natural history record which I find in the accounts of Bolton Percy, is the entry in 1790 of 2d. "pd. for a bever head." There should be no mistaking such animal, for at this period all the other species named were still more or less common.

* See the author's *Old Bingley*, page 274.

† See Mr. Lawson's *History of Flixton*, page 71.

Still it is remarkable if the beaver maintained an isolated existence in Yorkshire down almost to our own time. There are, I believe, absolutely no records of the existence of the beaver in England in last century. But the lonely Marshes here seems a very likely place, and one may believe that the capture of a beaver here as late as 1790 must have created no little interest. Clarke and Roebuck, in their valuable monograph on the *Vertebrate Fauna of Yorkshire* (1881) observe that the only grounds for surmising that the European beaver ever inhabited Yorkshire are afforded by place-names such as Beverley in the East Riding, Beaverholes and Beaverdike in the Forest of Knaresbro', and Beevor Hill or Beverhole near Barnsley, in the West Riding. These places, they add, appear to have been suitable to the habits of the animal. Attempts have been made to construe a Danish or Norse meaning out of the name of Beverley, but Professor Skeat says "it is as English as can be,—*the beaver meadow*," which implies what Beverley actually is, "a low-lying place by open water-meadows." * That the beaver was also an animal of trading value in this district, is evident from an old manuscript in the possession of the Corporation of Beverley, which states that beaver-skins sold in 35th Henry II. (1188), in the market-place at Beverley at 120d. The record is also borne out by the fact that the existing mayor's chain, of a date not later than the 14th century, consists of beavers and eagles alternately, the eagle being the well-known emblem of St. John the Evangelist. †

There is also at Bolton Percy a valuable Book of Briefs, commencing with the year 1707 and continued till 1773, which if it contains no references of a strictly local character, contains much of importance relating to other places. For example, in 1709 I find 3s. was collected upon a brief for the "Protestant Church at Mittau in Courland, being so impoverished by ye War yt they are not able to build a Church or convenient place of worship." Again, in the same year 3s. 1d. was collected towards the restoration of St. Mary Redcliffe Church, in Bristol, "by length of time very much impaired. Damage £44 10 and upwards." ‡ Next, in 1718 the sum of 7s. 8d. was collected towards a proposed restoration of the old church at Penrith in Cumberland, § and in the same year 5s. 7d. was subscribed for the rebuilding of the decayed church at Dolgelly in Wales. The estimated cost of the former was £1380 and of the latter £1449. Then in 1719 three collections were made and the sum of £1 15s. 10d.

* See Beverley Chapter Act Book (1897), page xix. † *Ibid*, page xxxiii.

‡ There is a Book of Briefs at Ribchester, in Lancashire, containing an entry of 1s. 1d. collected for the same church.

§ This church was wholly rebuilt, except the tower, in 1721-2.

raised towards rebuilding the body of the church and repairing the steeple of St. John the Baptist's church in the city of Chester. The church is stated to be a very large and ancient fabric, founded by King Ethelred in the year of our Lord, 689,* and is now (1719) so ruinous that the congregation cannot, without apparent danger of their lives, assemble in it. Again I find a very interesting reference in 1720 to the old church of St. Olave's, York, which was rebuilt out of the ruins of the dissolved Abbey of St. Mary. The brief states that the fabric is of more than 700 years standing and that the monastery named was obliged to uphold one whole side of it. But since the dissolution of the Abbey the charge "has fallen upon the parish, and that in the Civil Wars it was made use of as a Fort or Battery, having cannons planted upon the roof to defend the King's Palace and the city of York against the rebels, by which means it is become so crack'd and ruinous that it must of necessity be rebuilt. But the parishioners by reason of a numerous poor, and having expended one year with another Fifty Pounds a year, and particularly in one year £300, are not able to complete so great a work, the charge being compted at £1039 and upwards." One other case I will cite from this interesting old manuscript. This is the great Ripponden flood in the Calder valley, which happened on May 18th, 1722. Much of the town, which is romantically situated on the eastern side of Blackstone Edge, was wrecked, and twelve persons, eight in one family, lost their lives. The old chapel, together with several mills and bridges were swept down; the graves in the chapel-yard were torn up by the violence of the deluge, and one coffin was borne a considerable distance and lodged in a tree. The Bolton Percy accounts state the loss to have been £3395, and on Oct. 11th, 1724, a collection was made in the parish and the comparatively large sum of £5 13s. 6d. was raised. The collection upon briefs of this kind, in rural parishes, was generally a few shillings, or at most a pound or two, but the inhabitants of Bolton Percy appear to have often responded to such calls in a very generous manner.

In 1796 an Act was passed for enclosing lands within the parish. All tithes were then commuted. At this time horse-races were run on the Marshes, and the meetings seem to have been well attended and to have generally finished up with a dinner at the old Assembly Rooms. Wood was still largely used for fuel, though some coal was brought from Tadcaster, and in 1799 I find 8s. 6d. was paid for a

* It is very possible that the "King Ethelred" referred to in the Brief of 1719 is Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, who married Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, A.D. 901—911. See Canon Cooper Scott's *History of the Church and Parish of St. John Baptist, Chester*.

load and 2s. more for carting the same from Tadcaster to Bolton Percy church for use in the vestry. On March 13th, 1800, I find 1d. was paid for bringing a letter from Tadcaster (3 miles), and in 1823 8d. was charged on a letter from York. There was little letter writing in those days, and the receipt of such a missive, or of a heavily taxed newspaper, created no little stir and soon became known to the whole village, who gathered to hear the news.

The poor of Bolton Percy have the benefit of various bequests. In 1763 the Rev. Francis Day left £50 to the poor of the parish, and in 1769 Dame Mary, wife of Sir John Lindsay, Kt., and daughter of Sir Wm. Milner, Bart., gave £200 in bank-stock, the interest to be distributed among the poor of the townships of Bolton Percy and Appleton Roebuck, at the discretion of the owners of Nun Appleton, who with the rector are perpetual trustees. In 1807 Benj. Reynolds bequeathed £100 for the relief of poor persons belonging to the township of Bolton Percy, and James Moyser, Esq., of Appleton, who died Jan. 24th, 1694, left a rent-charge of 20s. per annum, paid out of an estate at Appleton Roebuck, for the poor every Christmas Day. There are also several other small donations.*

Brockett Hall in the parish, was the old home of the Brocketts. Robert Brocket, draper, was a freeman of York in 1390, and his son Robert was the same in 1396-7. There was a Nicholas Brocket and wife, brazier, of Steeton, assessed at 12d. in the Poll-Tax of 1378, and Robert Brocket, of Appleton, I have mentioned (*see* page 110) as living there in 1523.†

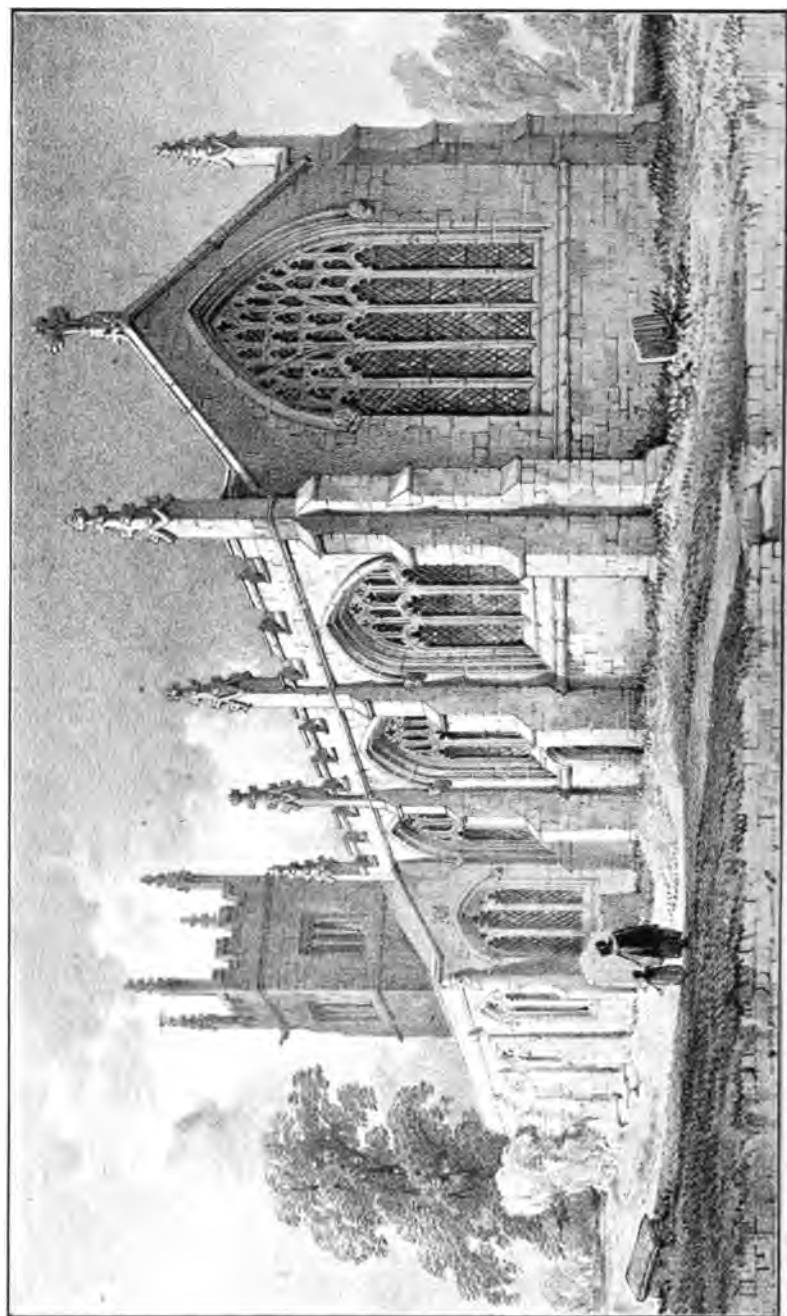
Bolton Lodge, near Ulleskelf, is connected with the village of Bolton Percy by a long bank or ridge of land across the Marshes, made when the house was built last century. It was formerly the seat of Col. Clements, and from 1840 to 1856 the residence of George Hamilton Thompson, Esq., Lieut-Col. of the East Yorks. Militia. Since that time it has been occupied by the family of Oliver. The late Captain Oliver married in 1858 Isabella Anne, daughter of the late H. J. Ramsden, Esq., of Oxton Hall, and brother of John C. F. Ramsden, Esq., Captain in the Royal Artillery, who served in the Crimean War. Mrs. Oliver is the present occupant of the Lodge.

The *Wheat Sheaf* inn, kept by William Shillito sixty years ago, is now a farm-house close to the station.

* *See* the Tenth Report of the Charity Commission, (1823), page 717.

† Drake observes that there was a gravestone in Bolton Percy church in 1641, inscribed to Thomas Brocket and Dionisia, his wife, the former of whom died in April, 1435, and the latter in April, 1437. *Eboracum*, page 386.





BOLTON PERCY CHURCH.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CASTLE, CHURCH, AND RECTORS OF BOLTON PERCY.

License to erect a castle at Bolton Percy—Was the castle ever built?—The castle at Spofforth—The 15th century manor-house at Bolton Percy—Its site and aspects—Traditions of Robin Hood—Historical records of the church—Description of the church—Pagan and Christian ritual—Burial of Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax—Chantry in the church—Barker family—Local customs—A curious dispute about the Hall pew—Local recusancy—The old church bells—Burials in woollen—Old tithe-barn—The rectory—The old rectors—Torre's omissions—Recent rectors.



ROYAL license was obtained by Robert de Percy in 1292 to fortify his manor-house at Bolton Percy.* Little or nothing, however, is known of this old castle of the Percies.† The pre-existing manor-house no doubt stood near the church, and in all probability the same site was taken for the more massive battlemented stronghold that may have been raised here in the chivalrous days of Edward I. But beyond the Crown grant to crenellate there appears to be no documentary proof of the existence of such a castle at Bolton Percy. Gent (1733) says that a "very small part" of it was remaining in his day, but this doubtless has reference to a later manor-house. The Poll Tax returns of 1378 contain no suggestion of a castle or a hall, or even of any notable person then living within the township.

* The Percies had before this time probably made Tadcaster their principal residence. They had a pele-tower or *pilum* at Bolton near Alnwick, which was destroyed after the rebellion in 1317. *Vide Cal. Doc. relat. to Scotland*, vol. iii., No. 623, page 118, quoted by Mr. Hodgson in the *New History of Northumberland*, vol. v., page 30.

† Mr. Parker, (*vide Domestic Architecture*, vol. ii., page 227) makes the mistake of assuming the above grant to refer to Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, the license to build and crenellate which was granted to Richard le Scrop, 3rd Richard II. (1379). The Percies never belonged that estate. Scrope's Castle at Bolton in Wensleydale (not Bolton Percy, as stated in Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, vol. ii., page 200) was built by a Durham mason named John Lewyn, who in 1380 erected the *manteletti* or defences round the great tower of John of Gaunt's Castle of Dunstanburgh. *Vide Duchy of Lancaster Reg.*, Richard II., vol. xiv., page 54b.

But it is quite possible that the building may have been sacked or demolished by the invading Scots between the years 1316 and 1320, or have been suffered to go to decay during the era of plague and famine that followed. Some doubt may, however, attach to any long existence of the castle, or even to its ever having been built, as William de Percy in 1309 obtained a similar grant for the erection of his stronghold at Spofforth, which was little more than twelve miles distant, and Spofforth henceforth became the chief residence of the family in Yorkshire. After the battle of Towton, hard by, in 1461, when Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and Sir Richard Percy, his brother, were slain, their lands and houses were laid waste by the infuriated conquerors. Leland says their manor-house at Spofforth was then "sore defaced," but there is no allusion to Bolton Percy. At this time the manor was in the hands of William, Lord Beaumont, who was also present at Towton, and his name appears in the Bill of Attainder amongst a great many other nobles and gentry, whose houses, in some cases, were dismantled and estates forfeited for their adherence to the House of York.

The 15th century manor-house of the Lords Beaumont (whose arms are in several places in the church) appears to have occupied the high ground a short distance south of the church, being bounded by the Marshes on the west. There are indications of a moat on the east side of Houseman's orchard, and about sixty years ago some foundations of a building were discovered there while draining. The bank on the west side is thrown up to a good height above the road, and in flood-time the marsh and ditch (locally pronounced Fool or Foul Breck*) are a good depth in water. The Marshes reach southwards to a spot called Robin Hood's Bottom, and tradition affirms the bold outlaw to have once secreted himself there. Several old inns in the district bear his name.†

* Is this the Norse *brög* or *broch*, a place of shelter and defence for man and beast in times of Viking and other ravages; not military forts but shelters erected on available land for tillers of the soil; See *Saga Book of the Viking Club*, vol. ii., page 57. Henry le Broch, of Haxby, was a freeman of York in 1299. *Sartees Soc.*, vol. 96, page 8. There is a Colton Breck in this parish, and these *brecks* being connected with old water-mills, seem to be disused mill-races. In the *Fabric Rolls of York Minster* (1371) is this entry: "Custos molend' de Brotherton..... carectatis lapidum emptis cum cuchyngs et cariages in *le brek*, 66s. 8d.

† Perhaps it was the "Merry Geste of Robyn Hode and his Meyne," first printed by Wynkin de Worde, that engendered rivalry in the famous Yorkshire outlaw, Dick Turpin, whose family were long connected with this district. Probably also more traditions about Robin Hood exist in West Yorkshire than in any other part of England, which seems to point to the conclusion that he also belonged to these parts. Tradition, indeed, assigns his birth-place to Locksley (perhaps Loxley near Sheffield), and his burial-place to Kirklees, near Huddersfield where was a Nunnery of the same Cistercian order as the one at Appleton in the

The church (All Saints) at Bolton Percy is a large and very interesting structure, no doubt occupying the site of the building that apparently stood here in the Confessor's time. Through the magnanimity of the first Percy it was probably rebuilt, and by charter, cited by Burton, is said to be the Bolton Church given by Picot de Percy, to the newly-founded Priory of Nostel (*ca.* 1120), in the deanery of Pontefract. Picot de Percy must then have been advanced in years, and it is not very clear how he came into possession of the church, as William de Percy, the original grantee of the manor, was succeeded by Alan, his son; and Picot de Percy, apparently a younger brother of William, the first grantee, was enfeoffed by him in the manor of Bolton-on-Dearne.* The grant to Nostell, observes Burton, was confirmed by King Henry I. (d. 1135), Henry II. (1154-89), and by Robert, son of Picot de Percy, and Robert his son. But if Picot de Percy held the church of Bolton Percy in 1120, while the manor had been held by William de Percy up to the time of his death in 1096-7, we are compelled to the inference that the manor was not subsequently held by the heirs of the said William.† The charter of Robert de Percy's confirmation is given by Dugdale in the *Mon. Ang.*, vol. vi., part i., page 93.

parish of Bolton Percy. He is said to have been related to one of the nuns of Kirklees, and Dr. Gale, late Dean of York, possessed an old MS., which purported to give the original inscription on Robin Hood's gravestone at Kirklees, dated 1247. See Hunter's *Hallamshire*; Baines's *Yorkshire Past and Present*, vol. iv.; Smith's *Old Yorkshire*, vol. i., &c.; Ritson's *Robin Hood*, page vi. *et seq.*; Hunter's *Robin Hood* (1852); Hargrove's *Anecdotes of Archery* (with pedigree of Robin Hood), (York, 1792).

* William de Percy, to whom the manor of Bolton Percy and 2½ carucates in Bolton-on-Dearne, were granted at the Conquest, died in 1096-7, leaving four recorded sons, viz.: Alan, Walter, William, and Richard. Picot, supposed brother of William (the father) with his son, Robert, witnessed the charter of Alan, son of William, to the monks of Whitby. See Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 302, and *Appendix* (WHITBY ABBEY) i., iv.; also *Yorks. Archæol. Journl.*, xiv., 49n. The charter of confirmation by Robert de Percy is printed in Dugdale (vi., i., 93); with the church of Bolton is included all appurtenances *in bosco, et plano, &c.*, *quam Picotus avus meus eis in liberam elemosinam dedit, et Robertus, pater meus, carta sua confirmavit.*

† The only way in which I can explain this apparent anomaly, is to suppose that Rozelin, to whom William de Percy had subfeud the manor of Bolton Percy at the Conquest, died in the interval of the grant and the death of the grantee. On the demise of Rozelin before 1096-7, William de Percy subfeud the manor to his brother Picot, who was already possessed of half the manor of Bolton-on-Dearne, but *not the church* there. This was held by Roger de Busli and was afterwards granted to the monks of Bretton. That the death of Rozelin took place before the death of William de Percy in 1096-7, seems further confirmed from the subsequent descent of Rozelin's manors of Brinsworth, Dalton, and Thribergh, which in 1284 were held by Sir John de Halton of Henry de Percy. See *Kirkby's Inquest*, pages 6 and 230.

The Prior and Convent of Nostel agree that the Archbishop should ordain *citra Natale Domini* 1247, and pledge themselves that as soon as one of the churches of Tickhill, Rouwell, or South Kirkby, comes into their hands, they will exact no pension from the church of Bolton and the mediety of the church of Mekesburgh.* "It was in this way," observes Canon Raine, "that the rich living of Bolton Percy came into possession of the Archbishop of York."† Torre gives the year 1250‡ as the date of the transfer, but the register of Archbishop Gray records that in 1248 "the Prior and Convent of S. Oswald, at Nostel, having transferred to us and our successors in the See of York, their right of patronage in the church of Boulton, now vacant, we collate Rad' Brito, clerk, to it, *divina pietatis intuitu*.§ Afterwards on 10th Jan., 1323, Pope John XXIII. appropriated the rectory to the table of Archbishop Melton during his life, granting him power when he should cease or de cease to reduce the church to its pristine state. Whereupon the said Archbishop collated Robert Byngham to serve as vicar during the union for the term of his life, assigning him a competent portion for a maintenance.¶

The present church was built by Thos. Parker, rector of the parish, who died in 1423, and whose epitaph relating the circumstance of the erection of the church was on the south side of the altar. On the 8th July, 1424, a commission was granted to the Bishop of Dromore to consecrate the church and churchyard, also the high-altar of the church, "newly erected and built."||

The structure consists of a nave with collateral aisles, a spacious chancel, with chapel on the north side, south porch, and a square battlemented tower having four lofty crocketed pinnacles at the angles. The large interior presents an agreeable aspect of antiquity. Some mediæval glass has been preserved, and the old dark-oak box pews have been retained. The length of the interior is 100 feet, nave 58 feet, and chancel 42 feet. The position of the building is not exactly due east and west, but inclines somewhat to south-east. The nave, with aisles, is of broad and lofty proportions, and the columns are octagonal, with massive bases and capitals of the same order, carrying pointed arches. The singularly-constructed original roof, of high pitch and without tie-beams, is illustrated in the

* *Reg. Mag. Album*, III., 93n.

† *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 56, page 205.

‡ Misprinted 1150 in Lawton's *Collect. rerum Eccles.* (1842).

§ *Gray's Register*, page 105.

¶ Torre's MS., pages 135, 141, and Archbishop Sharp's MS., I., 63.

|| See *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 35, page 238.



a shield of arms of eight quarterings. She was the daughter of Sir Henry Cholmley, Kt., and was born at Scriven, near Knaresbro.*
 (6) Upon a tablet of white marble is inscribed :

Here are interred the remains of Sir Wm. Mordaunt Milner, Bart., of Nun Appleton, in the Ainstey of York, the third baronet of the family. Born Oct. 6th, 1754 ; died Sept 9th, 1811, aged 56 years. In 1790 he was first chosen M.P. for York, and continued to represent that city till the day of his death, during four successive Parliaments. He was twice Lord Mayor of York, in 1787 and 1798. In 1803 he was appointed to the command of the Regiment of the York City Volunteers, and in 1809 to that of the York City Local Militia. His public conduct was conscientious and upright, and marked with the strongest sense of honour. In the several relations of private life he was all that can render a man amiable and estimable. His heart was the abode of goodness, and all his energies were employed for the benefit of his fellow creatures ; the sweetness of his temper combined with such a heart, and such a disposition, was perhaps in no instance surpassed. His loss was deeply and sincerely felt and lamented. He had many friends and died without an enemy.

This was no mere effusive outpouring, but a genuine tribute of devotion to the memory of a worthy man. I have examined the York newspapers of the time and find that a very large and sympathetic gathering took place at his funeral, numbers coming from long distances, while many of the common people, it is said, wept at the loss of one who had been untiring through life in his efforts for the good of all classes of the community.

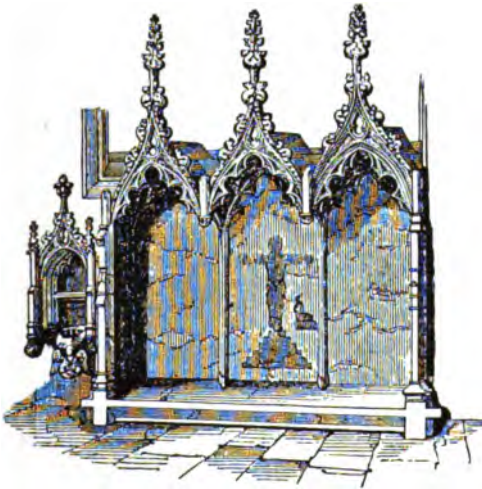
Beneath the foregoing epitaph is a tablet to the memory of Frances Penelope Byng, fourth daughter of the Hon. John Byng, who died Sept. 11th, 1796. On the floor of the choir is a stone inscribed to the memory of Henry Fairfax, late rector of this church, and Mary his wife. He died April 6th, 1665, aged 77, and she died Dec. 24th, 1649, aged 56, and another stone records the death of their two grandchildren who died at Oglethorp, in 1654.

The ancient stone altar was rescued from the floor of the church,† and on the south side is a handsome sedilia of three seats of continuation, having cinquefoil heads under ogee canopies with crockets and finials. At the back of the centre seat there has been affixed to the wall a brass apparently in the form of a crucifix, with

* See Markham's *Life of Admiral Robert Fairfax*, page 134, where Brian Fairfax, her son, relates that she was the " daughter of Sir Richard Cholmeley, Kt., of Roxby, by his Lady Catherine (widow of ye Lord Scroop), eldest daughter of Henry, Lord Clifford, first Earl of Cumberland, by Margaret his first wife, daughter to ye Earle of Northumberland." Brian Fairfax, it is evident, has through inadvertence omitted to mention Sir Henry Cholmley (his mother's father) who was son of Sir Richard Cholmley. The point is correctly represented by Charles Fairfax (uncle of Brian) in *Analecta Fairfaxiana*.

† So stated by Allen (1828) but it cannot now be found.

the kneeling figure of St. John on the left side of the cross. The piscina adjoining is in point of dimension and beauty of workmanship probably unequalled by any similar relic of the kind in the North of England. It exhibits very beautiful evidences of the departing glory of the Decorated epoch, along with the ornate style that came in with the House of Lancaster early in the 15th century. The piscina has a triangular canopy, with crockets and finial, and there are side buttresses, also richly pinnacled, terminating at the base respectively in a male and a female bust, the latter having the hands raised in prayer. The basin of the piscina is a quatrefoil carried on a corbel formed by the bust of an angel with wings outspread, and holding a book upon the breast. Above this, and within the same recess, is a stone credence-table for holding the sacred vessels.



SEDILIA AND PISCINA, BOLTON PERCY CHURCH.

In the use of these objects the Romish Church had the sanction of high antiquity. Her priests have always been enjoined to wash their hands in the piscina before the celebration of the mass, just as the priesthood of the heathen temples were bound to wash their hands before the performance of their service. Hesiod, writing more than 800 years B.C. (*vide Lib. operum et dierum*), says that no offering of wine shall be made to Jupiter, unless the sacrificer has previously washed his hands. Similarly the ecclesiastical vestments of the Roman Catholic Church were throughout England in pre-Reformation ages the same, and bore the same names, as the robes of the heathen priests centuries before the birth of Christ.

The windows of the nave differ in style from those in the chancel, but are alike in consisting of three lights. Those on the south side are plain, and two of the three on the north side are filled with stained glass; (1) to the memory of Anna Elizabeth Harris, of Oxton Hall, who died 18th Dec., 1876; erected by her three daughters; and (2) in memory of Alfred Harris, of Oxton Hall, who died 11th April, 1880. Over the north doorway is a tablet inscribed to the memory of William Darlington, of Ivy Lodge, Cheshire, who died at Oxton, 24th July, 1840, aged 64; also of his widow, Elizabeth Darlington, granddaughter of Thomas Dutton, of Dunham, in the same county, "nineteenth in descent from Odard, Lord of Dutton, fourth son of William, Earl of Eu, by Jeanne, sister of Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester." Elizabeth Darlington died at Bradford, 16th July, 1842, aged 59 years.* This memorial was placed here by their only son, John Darlington. There is also a monumental inscription near the north door, to Isabella, wife of Nathaniel Bladen, Esq., of Hemsworth,† daughter of Sir William Fairfax, of Steeton, Kt., and Dame Frances, his wife. She died Oct. 25th, 1691, leaving six children. Also to the said Dame Frances Fairfax, daughter of Sir Thos. Chaloner, of Gisburgh, in Cleveland. She was born in 1610, married at the age of 19, and died in 1692.

The private pew, or Brockett chapel, anciently known as St. Mary's choir, on the south side, has its east window filled with exquisite stained glass, and a brass beneath records that it was erected by his daughters in 1840, to the memory of Sir Wm. Mordaunt Milner, born Oct. 20th, 1779, and died March 20th, 1815. A floor-slab at the entrance to this pew is inscribed to Wm. Yarbrough, of Appleton, who died in 1671, aged 75;‡ also to Mrs. Mary Bickerdike, of Appleton, widow, daughter of the above Wm. Yarbrough, who died in 1713, aged 52;§ also to Mrs. Margaret Wise, wife of the Rev. John Wise, of Colton, and daughter of the above Mrs. Bickerdike, who

* She was the daughter of Thomas and Anne Sefton of Pickton, co. Chester. Anne Sefton died in her 100th year. The Darlingtons are an old Cheshire family. The only son of above William and Elizabeth Darlington was John Darlington, who was baptized at Great Budworth, co. Chester, in 1808, and he in 1854 assumed the surname of De Dutton. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Turlay, of Leeds, and had issue nine children.

† He was a barrister, and son of Dr. Thomas Bladen, Dean of Ardfert, by Sarah, daughter of the second Lord Blayney, who was slain in 1646, fighting against O'Neale in Monaghan. See Markham's *Life of Admiral Fairfax* (1885), pages 51, 127.

‡ For pedigree of Yarbrough of Snaith see *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 36, page 220; also Clay's *Addits. to Dugdale*, page 331, and Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

§ "Bolton Percy: Edward Bickerdike and his wife, for a clandestine marriage." *York Visitation Book*, 1674.

died in 1740, aged 53; also Margaret their daughter, who died in 1740, aged 14 years. Near this tomb-slab is another inscribed in Latin to the memory of the above Rev. John Wise, of Colton, for some years curate of this church, who died April 16th, 1772, aged 72.

At the north angle of the same pew is a large monument, having two Corinthian columns with ornamental caps, supporting an arched pediment, surmounted by the Fairfax arms. It is a memorial to the celebrated Parliamentary General, Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, Baron of Cameron, who died in 1647, aged 64. The inscription, in Latin, in gilded letters, tells us that he was the descendant of great and glorious progenitors, and was an illustrious instance of British bravery and honour. He was "a sanctuary to the religious, a patron to the learned, and himself was the very standard of humanity and good breeding. By his wife, Mary, daughter of Edmund, Earl of Mulgrave, he had nine children. What wonder then if Death could not separate those whom a particular affection had endeared to each other, so long by a numerous issue."*

The corresponding portion of the north aisle, opposite the Brockett choir, is known as the Steeton chapel, and there are traces of the screen, south and west, by which it was enclosed. The north chapel, now a vestry, has a curious piscina-like object, and it is not unlikely that an altar originally stood there. But the exact use of this object is difficult to determine. It stands against a low plain niche in the south wall, and only just above the level of the floor. No similar arrangement is known to exist elsewhere, and Green thinks that it indicates some use connected with the sacred vessels. Had it had a more common use it would probably have been in the north or west wall. The Certificates of the dissolved Chantries (1548) state that there is nothing in the parish of Bolton Percy but a light which was founded to have continuance for ever, and that the yearly value of freehold land to the said light belonging is 4d.† But in the will of one Christopher Barkar, dated 20th June, 1508, I find this statement :

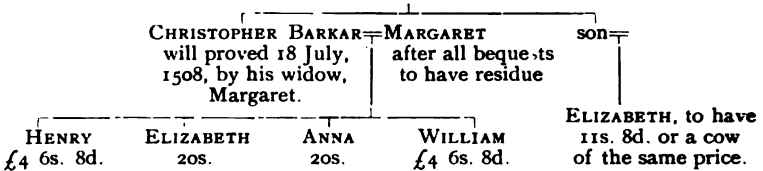
Also I gyffe to ye purchesyng of a chauntre wt'in ye kerk of Bolton Percy wt'in ye space of vii yere, xxss., and yff ye said chauntre be not purchest wt'in ye forsayd yeres, no mony to be geven to ye chauntre.‡

* Notwithstanding that it was a time of great trouble, when many gentlemen were withdrawn from their avocations, the funeral of the Lord Fairfax was attended by about 300 people, including many "Justices of the Peace and Gentlemen of the Country, the Commander in chiefe, and divers of the chief Officers of the army in these parts, who met the corpse at Tadcaster, attended by the Gentlemen aforesaid. He had as decent and honourable a buriall as so short a time (dying on Munday and being buried on Wednesday) would permit." *Vide Civil War Tract in possession of Mr. Thomas Brayshaw, of Settle.*

† *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 92, page 377.

‡ Sir William Fairfax, of Steeton, in his will dated 1557, mentions two chantries, one at Bolton Percy, and the other at Denton, each endowed with five pounds, gifts to his sons. *See Fairfax Correspondence*, vol. i., page 18.

He desires to be buried in the church of Bolton Percy, and gives his best beast for his mortuary. He leaves to the Prioress of Appleton and her sisters 4s.; to the church of Bolton Percy 13s. 4d. (for his burial), and to the churches of Acaster, 12d., and Cawood 12d. The following table shews his family connections and their inheritance:



Upon the easternmost pier of the north aisle is an ornamental stone tablet to William Fairfax, Esq., of Steeton (the last of the Fairfaxes to reside at Steeton), who died July 23rd, 1694, in his 30th year, and this memorial was erected by his younger brother Robert, the Admiral, who inherited the Steeton property. On the north wall is a tablet to the memory of Elizabeth, daughter of the before-mentioned Nathaniel Bladen, Esq., and wife, (1) of Col. Ruthven and (2) of Edward Hawke, Esq., and was erected by her only son, Sir Edward Hawke, Kt., of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and Vice-Admiral of the Blue Squadron of His Majesty's Fleet (1748).

Near the south entrance is a large floor-slab, 10 feet by 4 feet, which has had four brasses at the corners, and there is also the matrix of a brass, doubtless bearing an inscription, 22 in. long and 4½ inches wide. There are also other tomb-slabs in the church, from which brasses have been torn. Near the south entrance is a stained window erected by Mrs. Oliver, of Bolton Lodge, to the memory of John Hope Barton, of Stapleton Park, who died 20th March, 1876. Near the south doorway is a pointed niche, 2 feet 9 inches high and 17 inches wide, which seems to have been a recess for a holy-water basin, used by the congregation, apparently, on leaving the church. The north or "devil's doorway" is still in use, and contains its original massive oaken door, well studded with nails, and ponderous oak-cased lock and iron key. I find from the churchwardens' accounts that this old lock and key were mended in 1722 at an expense of 1s.

The font (Norman) is a plain circular bowl, 2½ inches thick at the rim and 6 feet 10 inches in external circumference at the top. The cover is of 15th century date. The organ is now at the west end, blocking access to the tower. Formerly there was a loft or gallery here, erected in the early part of the 18th century. Paint and whitewash were now becoming fashionable, covering with their dense opacity both masonry and sculpture, and wiping out of sight in most

of our country churches the wondrous art of the past. In 1722 I find 17s. was disbursed on whitewashing inside Bolton Percy church; 8d. was also spent on milk for the whitewash. In 1809 there is the following equally suggestive item in the Churchwardens' books :

MEMORANDUM that in the year 1807, ending Visitation 1808, the Parish Church of Bolton Percy was coloured by John Thompson of Tadcaster at 2d. per square yard.

The Pews were cleaned and oiled, and the Porch, Door-gate, 2 Stiles and Loft were painted by John Fairbourn of Tadcaster aforesaid.

The Inhabitants of the Township of Steeton maintained their own part, which is known by the name of "Steeton Quire," and the rest of the parish the body of the church.

The Vestry and Belfry colouring, the Porch door, gate, and 2 Stiles painting (being considered as ornaments of the Church) were paid for by the Parish at large.

The Loft painting was paid for by the owners and occupiers of the seats.

Witness our Hands this 24th Day of February, 1809,

CHURCHWARDENS.

{ ROBERT ATKINSON, THOMAS LAYCOCK,
STEPHEN HODGSON, BENJ. SWALE,
RICHARD BEAN.

In the year 1814 it is recorded that the fan at the west end of the church was put up at the expense of the Rev. Robert Markham, and cost twenty-two pounds, and in future it is to be kept in repair by the rector for the time being. At this period there was an annual expenditure of £1 for turning dogs out of church. In some districts the office of dog-whipper was combined with that of rousing snorers.* In 1725, for example, one John Rudge, of Trysull, Staffordshire, bequeathed £1 per annum to provide a man to beat the dogs out of church and to wake up all sleepers during the service. The dogs from the Hall were, however, sometimes allowed a special pew, and were exempt from the dog-whipper's attentions. This was the case at Aveley, in Essex. Probably the squires of Steeton and Appleton left their canine friends at home; or, if they brought them to church, they would be thrashed with the rest. Before the Reformation most churches were but scantily supplied with seats, and these were often subjects of dispute. At the synod of Exeter in 1287, the following decree was issued :

We have heard also that the inhabitants of parishes repeatedly quarrel about seats in a church, two or more persons laying claim to one seat, which is a cause of much scandal, and often produces an interruption in the service. We therefore decree that no person shall for the future be able to claim any seat as his own, with the exception of nobles and patrons of churches, but if a person shall first enter a church to pray there, he may chose whatever place he will.

* The Visitation Books at York contain many entries of charges for sleeping in Bolton Percy church; e.g., "1600: William Rylay and John Jaques for slepeinge in the church."

There was a curious dispute between Sir Thomas Fairfax and Mr. James Moyser, gent., touching their respective claims to occupy St. Mary's choir in the church which had been always appropriated by the owners or tenants of the manor house at Nun Appleton. It appears that on a certain summer morning in 1597, immediately after service, Sir Thomas Fairfax, the younger, then living at Nun Appleton, came out of the choir where he usually sat, into the body of the church, and in a perfectly orderly manner requested the parson and churchwardens to find some suitable or convenient place in the church wherein the said Mr. Moyser and his company might sit during the time of divine service. Whereupon it was agreed that the matter should be discussed, and if possible be amicably settled on the following Sunday. The meeting took place, at which Mr. William Fairfax, the churchwardens, with one exception, and other neighbours, were present. They concluded that Mr. Moyser was fully entitled to occupy the choir where he had been wont to sit, but as there was ample room for both parties they suggested that the choir be parted in two and that the said Sir Thomas Fairfax should have the first choice of the two places or parts. This arrangement, however, would not appear to have been satisfactory.

Accordingly a commission was directed by the Archbishop of York to the Rev. Edmund Bunny, rector of Bolton Percy, and the churchwardens of the parish, commanding the apprehension of any person who should interfere with the said Mr. James Moyser taking his seat in the said choir as heretofore. Any person so interrupting or hindering him in his place was to appear personally before the Archbishop or Her Majesty's Commissioners for Causes Ecclesiastical at York on the 2nd day of August, 1597, and shew or propound cause, if they have any, why the said Mr. Moyser, his wife, and retinue ought not to enjoy the said choir as hath been accustomed. This mandate stated that Sir Leonard Beckwith, some time owner of the Manor House of Appleton called Appleton Hall, about two years ago, with his lady after him, John Good and his wife, one Metham and his wife, another and his wife, and lastly James Moyser and his wife, owners by tenancy or otherwise of the said Manor House, had successively one after another during their dwelling there at such times as they repaired to the church at Bolton, to hear divine service or sermons, usually occupied the said St. Mary's Choir, on the south side of the church, as in a place properly belonging to the said house, and that they had from time to time in the same choir buried several of their dead.

Sir Thos. Fairfax, however, warmly pursued his claim, contending that the said St. Mary's Choir, or Beckwith's Choir, belonged to him

in respect of lands purchased by his father of Sir John Brocket, late lord of the manor of Appleton, and now in his possession. The said James Moyser on the other hand held that the choir belonged unto him in respect that the owners and occupiers of Appleton Hall which he then possessed, had for fifty years last past or more, been retained and enjoyed by them.

The dispute was continued with great bitterness by the two parties, but was at length terminated by an award dated the 15th day of September, in the 40th year of the reign of Elizabeth (1597), set down and concluded by John Bennet, Doctor of Laws, William Palmer, Chancellor of the Church of York, and William Nobel, Esq., arbitrators for and between Sir Thomas Fairfax, the younger, of Nun Appleton, on the one part, and James Moyser, of Appleton, gent., on the other part.* The arbitrators having authorised a suit by the said James Moyser against Sir Thomas Fairfax, which they heard and finally decreed that as the choir in dispute was large or spacious enough for both parties, Sir Thomas Fairfax was to have his choice of seats in the said choir and that Mr. Moyser accept the other, and neither should at any time interfere with the other in the enjoyment of the said seats. Furthermore that as divers suits were then depending in the Court of Star Chamber, as also in other Courts, touching some assaults, riots, or affrays, which had happened between the servants of the said parties and others in the year 1597, by which hurt had been done on either side, the said arbitrators ordered and decreed that the same suits shall be no further prosecuted but utterly and for ever cease. But as Mr. Moyser had suffered most in prosecuting the above suits, the arbitrators recommend Sir Thomas Fairfax to pay some charges of suit to Mr. Moyser, but they would fix no amount, and more in the interests of peace and good fellowship did they encourage Sir Thomas to recompense his neighbour with love and all the offices of courtesy that fast amity be entertained between them hereafter.

Shortly before this time a complaint had been entered in the Visitation Books that Henry Fairfax, of Steeton, and Dorothy, his wife, did not come to church. And on 13th July, 1591, they were ordered to repair to Bolton Percy church, "when he sojourned in that parish," and that "he and hys wyfe shal communicate at Bolton Percy church att handes of Mr. Bunny or his minister, some Sunday or Holyday before Martynmas next (Nov. 12th)." Also in 1596 William Fairfax, of Steeton, and his wife, did not communicate at

* For pedigree of Moyser see Foster's *Visitation*, page 223, and *Surtess Soc.*, vol. 36, page 212.

Easter last, "yet they are contented to communicate att the next comunyon."^{*}

The parish accounts for 1797 shew an expenditure of £4 10s. "towards the church pinnacles." On the east gable of the church there is an ancient cross bearing on one side, now looking eastward, a representation of the Virgin and Child, and on the west face the Saviour crucified. Whether it had ever formed part of the ornaments in the old St. Mary's choir in the church, does not seem to be known. But for many years the cross lay in the rectory garden, until it was placed in its present position by Canon Harcourt.

There are three old bells in the tower: (1) inscribed G. DALTON. YORK, 1760; (2) DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBUS, 1629 (with the royal arms); (3) *In Jucunditate Soni Sonabo Tibi Dne & In Dulcedine Vocis Cantabo Tuo Noe*, 1605.† The latter was re-cast at Bradford. Gent (1733) mentions another bell as existing in his day, and bearing an inscription and date 1620.

RINGERS' RULES AT BOLTON PERCY.

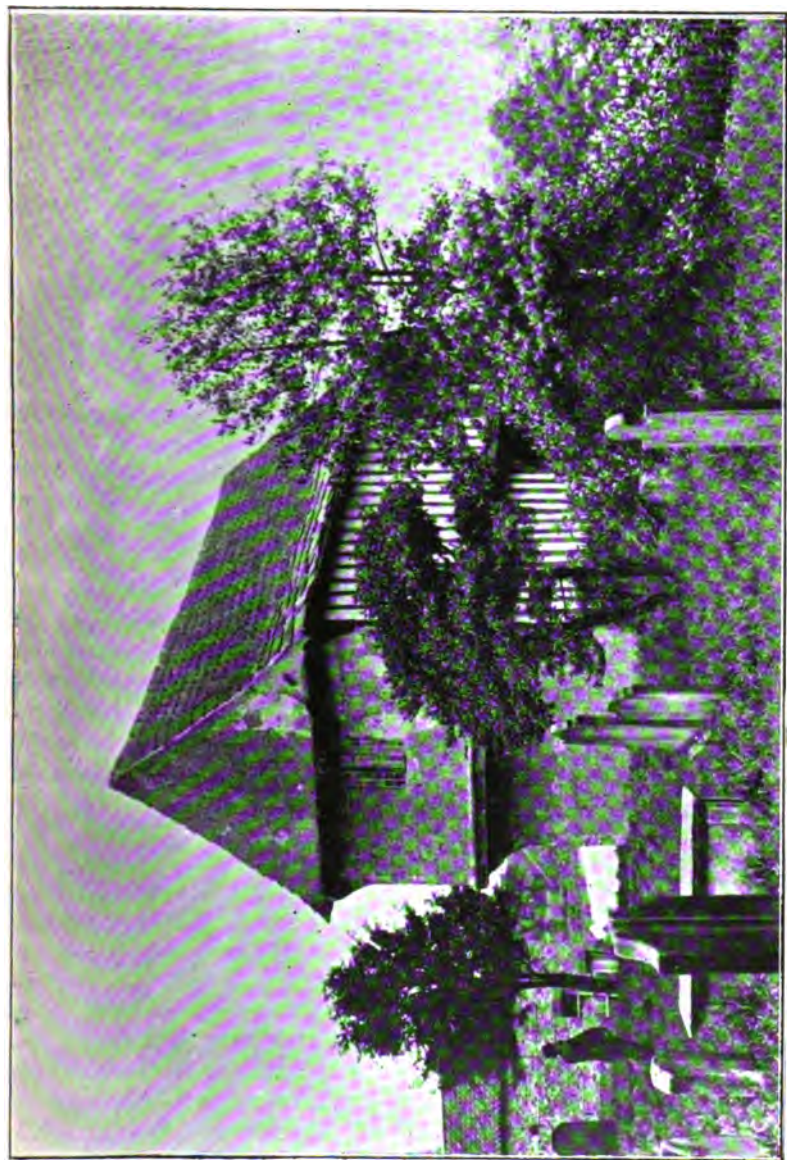
He that a bell doth overthrow
Shall two-pence pay before he go,
And he that rings with spur or hat
Shall four-pence pay be sure of that;
And if these orders he refuse
Not less than sixpence will excuse.

The holy mould in which the fathers of the parish have been gathered for well-nigh a thousand years, bears many memorials of departed worth. But none of the stones exhibit dates particularly old. Gent (1733) mentions one inscribed to William Hopwood, who died in 1666. There is a special Register of Burials preserved, from which it appears that several hundred bodies have been interred in woollen, according to the Act of 1678, for "lessening the importation of linen from beyond sea and encouragement of the woollen and paper manufactures of this kingdom." The last entry I find of this kind is of one William Waite, of Bolton, miller, who was buried April 9th, 1728.‡ There is a curious marriage-entry in the register for 1756. It records the union of one John Brown, labourer, and Ann Steel, but a note following says that John Brown afterwards proved a woman, and so the bonds of wedlock were dissolved.

* It was a rule implicitly carried out at Nun Appleton before the dissolution of the Priory that everyone should on no account be absent from holy communion on Easter Day, Whitsun Day, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Day, but all who were able were to "communicate" every Sunday.

† This inscription also appears on a bell, dated 1603, at the ancient church of St. John the Baptist at Royston, near Barnsley. See *Yorks. Archl. Jl.*, xvi., p. 70.

‡ See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 419, &c.



ANCIENT TITHE-BARN, BOLTON PERCY.

There is a picturesque old tithe-barn still standing near the church and rectory. It is a post-and-pan (half-timber) structure, the upper story projecting, and the roof is of rather high pitch. Inside the spandrels of the old timber-work are beautifully ornamented. The rectory, close by, stands in the midst of a large and well laid-out garden, and was built about two centuries ago at the expense of the Rev. William Pearson, D.D., rector of Bolton Percy. He was also Chancellor of York and Archdeacon of Nottingham, and one who was justly celebrated in his time for learning, eloquence, and piety. In 1781 the Rev. Dr. Marsden paid tax on four male servants at the rectory.

The living is a valuable one and the incumbents have generally been selected from men of tried experience, who have attained a high position in the Church. The patronage rests with the Archbishop of York, and the gross yearly value of the rectory is stated to be £975 and nett value £571. Torre and Drake give a list of the rectors to the institution of Tobias Wickham in 1660. Their earliest record is of Rad. Briton in 1250, but this person, as appears by the register of Archbishop Walter Gray, was collated to the church in 1248, and he was followed by Roger de Oylly in 1251. The institution of Henry Wicham is given by Torre and Drake as in 1617, and Tobias Wickham follows him in 1660. But on the death of the Rev. Henry Wickham, D.D., in 1641,* he was succeeded by the Rev. George Stanhope, D.D., chaplain to the King, and some time vicar of Flintham, co. Notts. He died in 1644, and was buried in York Minster, 26th July. The next rector, also omitted by Torre, was the Hon. and Rev. Henry Fairfax, second son of Sir Thomas Fairfax, the first Lord Fairfax, of Denton. He was born at Denton in 1588, and had five brothers, all soldiers, living in a stormy era. Brian Fairfax, his son, says of him, "I have heard say that King James bid my grandfather make him a scholar, and he would make him a Bishop, but the storm that fell upon the Church and State made him incapable of that dignity, living quietly like Lot in Zoar, from whence he saw Sodom all in flames." He was rector of Newton Kyme, and "all the tyme of the Civil Wars, from 1642 to 1646, their little house was a refuge and sanctuary to all friends and relatives on both sides: from thence they removed to Bolton Percy." Though held in great respect and afterwards interred within the church, his family sympathies with the Government obliged him to resign the living at the Restoration. He therefore retired to his inheritance at Oglethorpe and there died in 1665, aged 77, as recorded upon his gravestone in Bolton Percy church.

* Buried in York Minster, 3rd July, 1641.



THE RT. REV. ROBERT JARRATT CROSTHWAITE, D.D.
(Bishop of Beverley and Rector of Bolton Percy).

After the dissolution of monasteries it was very rarely that a son of a nobleman or person of great family entered Holy Orders, and in 1671 we find Barnabas Oley specially commenting upon the fact that a son of the Earl of Westmoreland had taken Holy Orders, likewise a son of the Lord Cameron, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and rector of Bolton Percy.* The Hon. and Rev. Henry Fairfax was father of Henry, fourth Lord Fairfax, of Denton, who succeeded his cousin, the great Lord Fairfax, in 1671, and married Frances, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Barwick, of Toulston, in the parish of Newton Kyme.

During the last hundred years many excellent and able churchmen have held the important living of Bolton Percy. From entries in the Diocesan Registers I find that the Rev. Wm. Vernon Harcourt, D.D., Canon Residentiary of York, and son of Archbishop Harcourt, was collated to the living in 1837, on the death of Dean Markham, and resigned 13th Nov., 1863. He removed to Nuneham Courtenay, Oxon., on succeeding to the estates of his brother, George Granville Harcourt, M.P. for co. Oxford, who died in 1861. Canon Harcourt's younger son, the Rt. Hon. Sir William Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., late Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer, is reputed to have been born at Bolton Percy, but this an error. The eminent statesman only resided at Bolton Percy with his parents in his early youth.

On 19th Jan., 1864, the Rt. Rev. Francis Russell Nixon, D.D., late Lord Bishop of Tasmania, became rector,† and on 17th May, 1865, the Ven. Stephen Creyke, M.A., was collated to the rectory. On 23rd December, 1865, the Archbishop granted his license to this rector to hold services in the school-room at Appleton in the parish, for convenience of the inhabitants thereof. Subsequently, during his incumbency a church was built and consecrated at Appleton, which with Acaster Selby was formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish. Archdeacon Creyke will always be remembered as a conscientious and zealous worker for the good of the church and parish of Bolton Percy. He spent largely of his private fortune on the beautiful chancel of the parish church. He restored the great east window with its fine old glass; and he filled the other windows of the chancel with stained glass. He covered the floor with encaustic tiles, and erected a series of oak stalls along the north and south walls, similar in design to six old "return stalls," the only remains of the chancel screen which has been long since removed. Archdeacon Creyke died in 1883, aged 85, and was succeeded,

* See Preface to *Christian Reader*, Herbert's works, i., 138.

† For a notice of Dr. Nixon see *Men of the Time*.

25th Jan., 1884, by the Rev. Gilbert Henderson Philips, M.A., who held the living only about a year and a half, when he died at Bolton Percy, and was interred there in August, 1885. He had been editor of the *York Diocesan Calendar* from 1866 to 1880, and was hon. Canon of York and Chaplain to the Archbishop. Previous to his coming to Bolton Percy he had been vicar of Brodsworth (1867—1884). Canon Philips was succeeded in August, 1885, by the Ven. Robert Jarratt Crosthwaite, M.A., Prebendary of Grindall and Archdeacon of York, who in 1889 was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Beverley, and who is still rector of the parish. From 1883-5 he had been vicar of St. Lawrence's, York, and Rural Dean of Selby.

Bishop Crosthwaite's energies have been attended with a large measure of success in many departments of church work. As Bishop of Beverley and Archdeacon of York much of his time is naturally taken up in the discharge of the duties attendant upon these offices. But the parish of Bolton Percy has by no means suffered in consequence of these claims upon the rector's activities. The parish is in a prosperous condition, much good work having been accomplished during the fifteen years of Dr. Crosthwaite's charge, not the least important step in the direction of progress being the erection and opening of the handsome chapel-of-ease at Colton in 1899 (*see COLTON*). Some improvements have also been effected in the body of the parish church. The windows have been re-glazed, and the roof of the nave and aisles has been lined with oak. Also the heating of the church has been improved.

Bishop Crosthwaite's father, the Rev. Benjamin Crosthwaite, I may add, was from 1873 to 1887 Vicar of Knaresborough, and died at Bolton Percy December 2nd, 1887, aged 85.



NUN APPLETON, BOLTON PERCY.

CHAPTER XII.

APPLETON ROEBUCK AND NUN APPLETON.

Importance of Appleton in Saxon times—Relics of pre-historic occupation—Early history—The foundation of Appleton Nunnery—The monastic fish-pond—The Cistercian system—The origin of first-fruits—Rushes and rush-lights—The Fauconberg family—The right to dower—Civilization in the 15th century—General demoralization—Monastic relaxation—Charges against the Nuns of Appleton—Stringent regulations—The story of the wooing of Isabel Thwaites by William Fairfax—An unfounded romance—Their marriage at Bolton Percy—A notable alliance—Suppression of the Nunnery—Fairfaxes opposed to the Dissolution—Public unrest. and tyranny of the "reformers"—Execution of the aged Countess of Salisbury—Grant of site, &c., of Nun Appleton—Erection of the Hall, the home of the great Lord Fairfax—Sale of the estate to the Milners—Purchase by Mr. (now Sir) Angus Holden—Pedigree of Holden—The Markham Family—Description of the mansion—An attractive neighbourhood—Local natural history—The village of Appleton.



CHIS ancient township, formerly in the parish of Bolton Percy, was, with Acaster Selby (so-called from the Abbot of Selby being lord of this place*), constituted a separate parish October 29th, 1875. In the *Domesday* account "Apletone" is described as being in three manors, held by Fardan, Aluin, and Tone, who had the large extent of twelve carucates of land subject to taxation. And there were twelve ploughs. The whole estate having been granted to Osbern de Arches, the latter at the date of the survey (1083-6) had two homagers having seven villanes working the manor with five ploughs, and he had the site of a mill and twenty acres of meadow. There was also wood pasture one leuga in length and half a leuga in breadth. The whole two leuga in length and one in breadth. In King Edward's time the whole manor was worth four pounds; now only thirty-two shillings.

The taxable area was then about 2000 acres, while the township is now computed to contain 2780 acres. It must, therefore, in Saxon times have been a very valuable holding, well cultivated and populous, and was evidently worked in two large common fields, each carucate

* King Richard I. confirmed this town given to them [the monks of Selby] in William the Conqueror's time, by Osbern de Arches, High Sheriff of Yorkshire. *Burton's Mon. Ebor.*, page 388.

containing 160 acres, 80 acres lying annually fallow and 80 acres for geld. But Osbern, the Norman grantee, says that his predecessor, Gulbert, had this manor quit of geld. It is, indeed, not improbable that it was the site of a religious community long before the establishment of the Nunnery here in the 12th century. There are traces of pre-historic encampments in and about the village, while relics of a similar age have been found in the neighbourhood.

It is not, however, until Norman times that we obtain positive knowledge of the people who dwelt here, and how they lived and acted. The powerful family of De Arches were then lords of the place, and one of their kindred, Adeliza or Alice de St. Quintin, founded, about A.D. 1150, a Priory here for nuns of the Cistercian order. This was an important movement in the life of the local population, and one which must have helped materially to assuage the evils of civil war, and restore neglected husbandry, which for many years had distracted and impoverished the country, making farmers declare that "to plough the land was as useless as to plough the sea."

The foundation-charter states that Alice de St. Quintin, with the consent of Robert, her son and heir, erected the Nunnery "in a place which Julian held, near Appleton," and dedicated the same to God, St. Mary, and St. John the Apostle and Evangelist. The foundress was then the widow of Robert, son of Fulco, and she soon afterwards became the wife of Eustace de Merch. I may observe that shortly after her marriage the Nunnery of Keeling, in Holderness, had been founded by Agnes de Arches, her mother, who gave the church of Keeling, with three carucates of land, as an endowment, which was confirmed by Richard de St. Quintin and William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle, as well as by Alice de St. Quintin, who is stated to be daughter of the foundress and then wife of Eustace de Merch. As the charter was also confirmed by Archbishop William Fitzherbert, who died in 1154 and was canonized by Pope Nicholas III., the foundation of the Nunnery of Keeling must have followed very shortly upon that of Appleton.*

Adeliza, the foundress, gave a certain piece of ground here, on both sides of the river, together with two oxgangs of land in this territory, which were confirmed by Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury

* According to the *Harleian MSS.* the Nunnery at Appleton was founded by Adeliza and her son Robert in the 5th John (1204). The signatories to the charters of foundation and confirmation, however, oppose this. Moreover it is tolerably certain that no Cistercian monasteries were founded after the reign of Stephen, as the Chapter of Citeaux in 1152 forbade the erection of any more houses of their order, and that mandate, though it may have been violated, was never withdrawn.

[who was murdered in 1170], and by Robert, son of Robert, son of Fulk, by the said foundress, his wife, and by King John, together with four oxgangs and some essarts of land here, with leave to take one cart-load of dead and dry wood for fuel each day. He also confirmed the carucate of land, with common pasture in the same territory, given by the foundress, with her corpse, together with the two oxgangs of land which William Sen de Appleton gave in the same territory, which received further royal confirmation in 1249. Also Walter de Fauconberg gave a toft, croft, and five roods of land here; and Philip de Fauconberg gave two tofts, one croft, and 21 acres of land, and 15 acres of meadow, with a culture called Stub Flats, and all the land called How Ridding, and the essart, or clearing, called Mickledale and Wathdale in this territory; which were confirmed by King Edward I.*

The extensive and very valuable stank or fish-pond at Appleton I find mentioned in 1298, when the Canons of Bolton Priory obtained a supply of fish from it at a cost of £4 13s. 4d., a considerable sum in those days, equal to at least £60 of present purchasing power. Likewise it may not be generally known that St. Mary's Abbey, York, had a large estate at "Appleton in the Ainsty." It consisted of a mill, 200 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 13s. 8d. rent, of the gift in 1272 of Walter, son of Sir Philip de Fauconberg, Kt. There were also other small properties here given to the same monastery by this family.†

The Cistercian order, it may briefly be stated, was a branch of the Benedictines, and so called from Cistertium or Cisteaux in the Bishopric of Chalons in Burgundy, where the order originated in 1098. It was introduced into England in 1128, or 23 years after the Augustine canons (Nostel and Bolton Priors being the oldest of this order in Yorkshire), and soon became so popular that within twenty years of its establishment in this country no fewer than 85 abbeys, priories, and dependent cells were organised and built. Rievaulx Abbey was perhaps the first to be erected in England (1128-9), and soon followed Fountains, Jervaulx, Byland, Kirkstall, and other of the lesser abbeys and priories in our county. All the houses of this order were built in lonely and isolated places, and were exempted from the payment of tithe. Burton observes that the only privileges he discovered concerning the Nunnery of Appleton were granted in the year 1207, when King John exempted the Prioress and Convent from attendance at the county and wapentake courts, from the aids or payments to the High Sheriff and his servants, and that they should not be impleaded for any of their demesnes, except before the King or his Chief Justice.

* See Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, pages 276-7. † See Drake's *Eboracum*, page 584.

But the Popes subsequently granted many other privileges and immunities to the abbeys and priories of this popular sect. In 1221 Honorius III. allowed them to break up new land in their holding, upon which they were to pay no tithe, and in the year following he ordained that no monks of this order should travel more than a two days' journey from their monasteries on account of any trials they might be ordered to attend. This was a great consideration in an age when roads were few and bad and travelling not without peril, but the situation of the nunnery at Appleton was fortunate in this respect, being within an hour or two of the city of York, where the chief courts were held. In 1245 the Cistercian monks were also exempted from answering before the ordinary, when accused of any crime; nor might any person excommunicate even the friends, servants, or benefactors of their order. Other concessions of a like nature were also made to them, so that the order grew in great favour and many yearned to belong to so privileged a class. They were, however, bound to the rule of St. Benedict, but had their own particular statutes and customs, which originally were of a very rigorous and exacting character. But in process of time these were very much relaxed, and even abused, and had it not been for undoubted benefits and the great and important work that their establishments were performing, the luxurious habits and relaxed life about them would doubtless sooner have hastened their downfall.

Considering that originally there were only a Prioress and some thirteen or fourteen nuns, the house at Appleton was richly endowed. I have enumerated some of the local properties. They had likewise small properties at Acaster and Colton, and an acre of meadow called Middle Ing, at Bolton Percy, given to the house by William de Percy. They had also two messuages in Skeldergate, York, of the gift of Roger de Askwith, and Robert, son of Peter York, gave his land here in St. Benedict's parish. And they had a pension of 5 marks per annum out of the church at Ryther, given them by William de Ryther, and that amount still remains a charge upon the church. Had that charge been upon land, instead of a pecuniary payment, it would have amounted to at least £60 per annum of present currency.

I have said that all the Cistercian houses were being built at one period, and so lavish had been the grants to these and other of the religious bodies that Henry III. was obliged in 1225 to pass a statute restraining the public gifts to monasteries.* Yet such was the popular respect for the monastic life, that it was impossible to stem altogether the great tide of wealth that had begun to flow towards it, and as it was necessary to obtain the King's license before any grant

* *Vide Stat. 9th Henry III., cap. 36, and see Tanner's Notitia, pref. ix.*

could be made, it is a singular reflection upon the religious bias of the time that not only were several new monasteries established in his reign, but there were many and important gifts to already existing religious houses sanctioned by the royal hand.* There are several confirmations by Henry III. to the nuns of Appleton, including one in 1240 of 13 oxgangs of land in Holme given by Sibilla de Percy, with her corpse, and another of lands given by Richard Foliot, in Fishlake, with all the men and their families.† The nuns in this case exercised dominion over the bodies, born and unborn, as well as over the goods of their tenants in this place.‡ Then there was a grant by Roger de Lascelles of 20 acres of meadow in Fulstow, to enable the nuns to hire men to cut rushes and sedges, which the nuns had previously been obliged to cut themselves. Rushes were an essential of comfort at a time when the floors of both church and dwelling were the bare earth. Rushes, too, were used for lighting purposes from very early times, and they continued to be so employed in many places down to the end of the 18th century. Aubrey, writing about 1672, remarks that at Ockley in Surrey, "the people draw peeled rushes through melted grease, which lends a sufficient light for ordinary use, is very cheap and useful, and burns long."

I have mentioned the grant of Fauconberg to the nuns of Appleton, and in 1205 I find a fine or suit entered by Walter de Fauconberg against Hugh de Lelay, touching $3\frac{1}{2}$ carucates of land, with appurtenances, in Appleton. Walter, the said petitioner, grants to the said Hugh and his heirs, the whole of the said lands, with appurtenances, held of him and his heirs by service appertaining to $22\frac{1}{2}$ bovates of land, where 14 carucates make a knight's fee in the said town, for all service. Except $5\frac{1}{2}$ bovates of land, with appurtenances, of the above 3 [and a half] carucates; namely, two bovates, with appurtenances which William, son of John holds; two bovates, with appurtenances which John, son of John holds, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ bovates, with appurtenances, adjoining the two bovates which William de Capella holds towards the west, which remain to him,

* The act of mortmain requiring the King's license in the transfer of lands to the church and bodies corporate had its origin in Saxon times, and according to Blackstone, it can be traced back to "above sixty years before the Norman conquest." *Commentaries* (1783), II., 269.

† Probably the same Richard Foliot who gave a mill at Norton to Nostel Priory before 1120. See Hunter's *Deanery of Doncaster*, II., 204.

‡ There were at this time many grave objections to the papal supremacy, and in 1297 Edward I. compelled the clergy to contribute to the assistance of the State. This was contrary to the Pope's bull, and was really the beginning of that struggle which the Church of England continued until its final separation from Rome by the Parliament of Henry VIII.

Walter and his heirs quit of the same, Hugh and his heirs for ever. The knight's fee here contained 14 carucates, but there are instances in Yorkshire where the knight's fee varied in extent from as much as 48 carucates to as little as 3 carucates.*

The nuns of Appleton were by no means free from legal squabbling and troubles with their tenants respecting the various properties held by them. In 1252 Richard de Fauconberg pleaded in the King's Court against the Prioress of Appleton, that she should render the accustomed services due for the free tenement which she holds of him in Appleton. And in 1266 there is a writ of dower entered by the Abbot of St. Mary's, York, against the Prioress of Appleton, touching the third part of certain lands, a wind-mill, and 10s. rent, in Appleton, which Mabel, widow of Philip de Fauconberg claims in dower. The right to dower was a very frequent subject of litigation where the widow had to assert her title against her husband's representatives, or it may be her step-children, or perhaps against purchasers from her husband.† In 1368, Agnes, Prioress of Appleton, brought an action against William Kyng and Juliana, his wife, for wrongfully pulling down some buildings, and selling some fruit-trees, belonging to a house and gardens in York, which Idonea, late Prioress of Appleton, had demised to the defendants for their lives, to the disinheritance of her church of St. John the Evangelist at Appleton.‡ This was probably one of the two houses in Skeldergate, which belonged to the Priory by gift of Roger de Askwith. In 1439 there is a similar action brought against James Shirwode concerning houses at Tranmore.§ From an unprinted record of an inquisition taken 4th Nov., 1494,|| I find that Isabella Sapcote, widow, late wife of John Frances, was seized among other possessions of the manors of Ilkley, Thirkleby, and Nun Appleton; the last mentioned worth 8 marks, held of the City of York by 3s. rent at Easter and Michaelmas yearly, for all service. She was the heir of Wm. Plesyngton and died 1st March, 1493-4, and Joan, wife of Wm. Neville, aged 48; Alice,

* Under the provisions of the Assize of Arms passed in 1181, the holder of a knight's fee must possess a coat of mail, a helmet, a shield, a lance, and every knight was to have as many of these arms and weapons as he had knights' fees. See Grose's *Military Antiquities*.

† See *Surtees Soc.*, vol. xciv., page 14.

‡ Burton states that in the church of this Priory a chantry was founded at the altar of St. John the Baptist, by John de Latham in 1455, who endowed it with a stipend of £5 per annum payable by the Abbot of Selby out of the manor of Acaster Selby.

§ See *Yorks. Arch. Jl.* (Rec. Ser.), xvii., 159—161.

|| *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 10th Henry VII.

wife of Wm. Staveley, aged 44; and Joan, wife of Thos. Sapcote, aged 34, are her daughters and heirs.*

In the 15th century we hear complaints of many extravagances and irregularities in the monasteries. But this reputed demoralization was not so much due, as is popularly supposed, to increased wealth and indifference to public opinion, as to the wretched and corrupt state of society that followed upon the evils of nearly a century of intermittent civil war. In Yorkshire the result of so much bloodshed, with recurring periods of famine, was most keenly felt, and left its impress on the temper and morals of the people. The baronage of England had been well-nigh extirpated by the wars; men grew reckless and profane, castle and manor-house became the refuges of gaming and profligacy; cottages of the poor were deserted or in ruins; indeed, civilization in the 15th century was at a standstill, or it was at a lower ebb than it had been since the great English Conquest. It may be described as an age of social panic. Even the seclusion of the monasteries offered no safeguard against the depraved state of society at this period. Grave charges were brought against them, and it was a sad and anxious time to the troubled hearts and minds of many an aged Abbot and Prior. Neither did the nunneries escape the vile calumnies heaped upon them; indeed, more serious charges were brought against these than was the case with the abbeys. At Nun Monkton some of the inmates were declared guilty of the grossest offences; of undue intimacy with certain clerics and other persons, from whom they had received presents, and they were henceforth forbidden to hold any manner of discourse with any male member within their establishment under pain of excommunication. At Appleton Nunnery, after the wars, when all had been lost to the House of York, and Henry of Lancaster ascended the throne (1485), some strange behaviour was reported of certain of the sisterhood, not the least shocking was that some of them had frequented the village tavern, and, anxious for news, had been gadding with men by the water-side, not to mention the more serious crime of harbouring them within the walls of the monastery. In 1489 the following stringent rules were ordained:

That the cloister-doors be shut up in winter at seven, and in summer at eight at night, and the keys be delivered to the prioress.

That the prioress and all the sisters lodge nightly in the dorter, unless sick or diseased.

That none of the sisters use the ale-house, or the waterside, where the course of strangers daily resort

That none of the sisters have their service of meat and drink to their chambers, but keep the frater and hall, unless sick.

* See my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 204.

That no sister bring in any man, religious or secular, into their chambers or any secret place, day or night, &c.

That the prioress license no sister to go a pilgrimage, or visit her friends, without great cause, and then to have a companion,

That the convent grant no corrodies or liveries of bread, or ale, or other victual to any person, without special license.

That they take in no perhendinauncers or sojourners, unless children, or old persons, &c.*

If these ordinances of the chapter continued in force for any length of time, one is at a loss to reconcile them with the romantic story of Sir William Fairfax's elopement with the rich and beautiful nun, Isabel Thwaites.† The story has, doubtless, been elaborated much beyond what the real facts of the case warrant. The truth seems to be that this fair scion of the last of her family, being a ward of the Prioress, was sent to the Nunnery to be educated, and that her marriage with Sir Wm. Fairfax was of her own free choice, and had the sanction of all who were concerned. That she had actually become one of the sisterhood at the convent is not probable; there is no evidence upon which to ground any such conclusion.‡ Andrew Marvell, the friend of Milton and some time tutor to Cromwell's nephew, was also for more than two years (1650-52) tutor at Nun Appleton to Mary Fairfax, daughter of the great Lord Fairfax. He, I believe, was the first to present the romance of Isabel Thwaites' traditional elopement to the reading public, and this he did in a poem of 776 lines of tolerable verse. If its length were a measure of its strength or of reason, the lines would have a high historic value, but it is to be feared that even in his day many of the circumstances concerning the event had lapsed into loose tradition. Making one of the nuns address the fair Isabel, Marvell says :

Our Abbess too, now far in age,
Doth your succession near presage ;
How soft the yoke on us would lie,
Might such fair hands as yours it tie !
Your voice, the sweetest of the choir,
Shall draw heaven nearer, raise us higher.

As a matter of fact the Prioress of Appleton, Anne Langton, at the time of Isabel's wooing, could not be much above 30 years of age

* See the page of convent-rules taken from a register, now among the archives at Ripley castle. *Vide Appendix to Sixth Report of the Hist. MSS. Com.*, page 163.

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 174.

‡ Most accounts assert that she was wrested from the Nunnery by main force. But the statute of 3rd Henry VII. (1487), specially provides against the forcible abduction of an heiress, and also with a view to prevent clandestine marriage of minors, the law, even from Roman times, has always required the consent of the parent or guardian at all ages.

(she was instituted in 1506), as she was still Prioress when the house was dissolved in 1539, or twenty-five years after the marriage of Isabel to William Fairfax. Moreover, at the time of her wooing, Isabel Thwaites appears to have only just passed out of childhood, and was still in her teens; an age that was not likely to recommend her for the position as head of the monastery. That the union was in reality a compact of estates, arranged between the parents of the youthful couple, seems clear from the early age at which they were married. Sir Wm. Fairfax's father, who had bought Steeton in 1493, died in 1514-15, when his son was a youth of 16, and was shortly afterwards married. No doubt the Prioress of Appleton felt that by the marriage of her young charge, great emoluments would be lost to her house, as the young lady's alliance carried with it the fair estates of Denton, Askwith, Thwaites (Bingley), &c., and when the monasteries fell, Sir William also came into possession of Nun Appleton and Bolton Percy. The couple were married at Bolton Percy in 1515 (the lady being apparently not more than 16), and the two lived long and happily together in the enjoyment of their ample fortune.* Sir William died at Steeton in 1557, and his lady, Isabel some time previously, and they are both interred in the old church at Bolton Percy.† They had a numerous offspring, and were the founders of that illustrious house which played so important a part in the destinies of England in the 17th century.

When the noise was in the air that the religious houses were to be suppressed and dismantled, not all the Fairfaxes acquiesced in this extreme method of what was called "purifying religion." Sir Wm. Fairfax, whose beautiful and accomplished wife had passed her early life in the convent at Appleton, was bitterly opposed to such measures, and eventually he joined the insurrection of 1537. The King's motive, he well knew, was prompted by anger and avarice, incited by knaves, though we find that monarch, some years afterwards, addressing Sir William as his "trusty and well-beloved knight."‡ Sir William formed one of the grand jury who tried the unhappy case of Catherine Howard at Doncaster, 1541, and brought in a verdict against the unfortunate Queen, no doubt much to the satisfaction of the royal tyrant. Sir Nicholas Fairfax, of Walton and Gilling, grandson of Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Walton, cousin of

* Harrison says William Fairfax was married in his father's life-time, but some accounts affirm the marriage not to have taken place till 1518.

† His will is printed in the *Fairfax Correspondence*, vol. i., page xvii, and therein he desires to be buried in "St. Nicholas' his choir in Bolton Church." The will contains no reference to his wife, who had evidently predeceased him.

‡ See Froude's *History of England*.

Sir Wm. Fairfax, of Steeton, who died in 1514, was another of those whose indignation could not easily be quieted by such rigorous exactions upon the public conscience.

It was a season of national terror. Noble and knight and high-born dame were brought to the block, and the scaffolds were drenched with the blood of those whose consciences forbade allegiance with the tyranny of the "reformers." But of all the unmerciful acts that marked the latter years of the reign of Henry VIII., that of the fate of the unhappy Countess of Salisbury excels, beyond comparison, even the tragic end of the great Cardinal at Cawood, of whom I have spoken in the first chapter of this book. She had been arrested on account of the opposition which her son, Cardinal Pole, had offered to some measures of the King. An attempt, says Cavendish, her contemporary, was made to attain her without trial or confession.* She was kept in the Tower (probably to intimidate the Cardinal, her son), and at the end of two years, upon some pretext of provocation, apparently of the most trivial nature, being unsupported by a particle of evidence, she was led to the scaffold. Pale and trembling with her long confinement, the aged Countess was requested by the executioner to lay her head upon the block. But her courage rose. "No," she said, "my head never committed treason, and if you will have it, you must take it as you can!" Thereupon there was a terrible struggle, but at last being held down by main force while the executioner was performing his office she exclaimed, "O God! blessed are they who suffer persecution for righteousness sake. Lord, have mercy on the King!" She was more than 70 years of age, the nearest relation in blood to the King, and the last in the direct line of the Plantagenets.

The dissolution of the monasteries then followed in hot haste. Men and women might shudder, but none dared speak. On Nov. 28th, 1539, the Nunnery at Arthington was taken; St. Mary's Abbey, York, ceded on the following day, and within a week (Dec. 5th) the Nunnery at Appleton surrendered. The annual income of the latter was returned at £83 5s. 9d. gross, and £73 9s. 10d. clear. The site of the house was granted, according to Tanner, 33rd Henry VIII. (1541) to Robert Darknall, but an abstract from the rolls called *Originalia*, records the homages of Guido and Thomas Fairfax for the buildings and site. Another grant of 7th Edward VI. (1553) records the alienation by Robert Darknall to Sir Wm. Fairfax, Kt., and Humphrey Shelley.

Thomas, first Lord Fairfax, grandson of Sir William, pulled down

* Hallam, however, maintains there is no evidence to shew that she was not heard in her defence.

every vestige of the old Priory, and erected a substantial brick house a little west of the site. Here the great Lord Fairfax ended his eventful days, but not wholly enjoying the confidence of the people whom he had served,* though he had the respect of the restored monarch, Charles II., who had named one of his war-ships, the "Fairfax," in his honour. From the new volume of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (1900), containing papers in possession of Mr. E. W. Leyborne-Popham, of Littlecote, Wiltshire, one of whose ancestors was a colonel in Fairfax's regiment of foot, it appears that the war-worn chief, though already crippled by infirmities, emerged from his retirement at Nun Appleton in order to assist in restoring peace in 1659, when Cromwell (who really owed his throne to Fairfax) being dead, the nation cried for a free Parliament. There is a letter from Fairfax to General Monk, written at Appleton on Feb. 14th, 1660, and four days later the Convention was announced which resulted in the restoration of the monarchy. Such was his power and influence, that had Fairfax opposed Monk the Restoration would not have followed so speedily. Fairfax at this critical juncture had in reality the nation's destinies in his hands. The papers shew that Nun Appleton at this period must have been the scene of much State business and activity. Messengers and petitions of all sorts were daily arriving; "maimed soldiers and poor tradesmen, who had lost their livelihoods in the war, and been forced to sell papers in the streets," beg of him to mitigate an Act of Common Council that forbids their doing so, &c. The old General bore this strain with uncommon gravity, but as time rolled on he was obliged to seek more restful occupation. His latter years were devoted to much religious duty, and, adds Brian Fairfax, to the reading of "good books." The curious old arm-chair, with its big wooden wheels (*see* page 153), in which he was accustomed to exercise, is still preserved, with other of his belongings, at Billbrough Hall.

The house and estate at Appleton were purchased in 1711, as already stated, by Alderman Milner, of Leeds.† The Milners were an old Swaledale family, whose local ancestry can be traced back to the era of the Crusades. Hugh Milner was tenant of half a carucate

* Fairfax had become disgusted with the policy of the party he had long served, and became a hearty loyalist on the accession of Charles II. The best account of his life, prepared largely from unpublished MSS., and containing a great deal of valuable information on public matters of the time, was written by Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., and published by Macmillan in 1870. *See* also the indictment for "seditious words" against one William Hurd in 1663-4, quoted in the Depositions at York Castle (*Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 40, page 119).

† The chief landowners at Appleton Roebuck at this time were the Moyser and Slingsby families.



SIR ANGUS HOLDEN, BART., M.P.

rector of Bolton Percy. Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., F.R.S., &c., the distinguished geographer and biographer of the Fairfaxes, is son of the Rev. David Markham. He was born at Stillingfleet in 1830, and married in 1857 Minna, daughter of the Rev. J. H. Chichester, rector of Arlington, co. Devon. Few men of his time have rendered more valuable services to the cause of geographical research than Sir Clements Markham. From 1863 to 1888 he was the indefatigable secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, and is now its learned and able President. He served in the Arctic Expedition of 1850-1; travelled in Peru, with great advantage to British interests, in 1859-62; and was geographer of the Abyssinian Expedition, besides having filled many other positions of great trust. He was cousin to the late Col. Fairfax, of Bilbrough, of whom some account will be found in the next chapter.

The estate at Nun Appleton having many family charges upon it, augmented largely by agricultural depression, was sold early in 1897. The Milners had always been considerate landlords, and greatly respected in the neighbourhood, and much local sympathy was felt at the severance after so long a connection with the estate. For many years previous to this time considerable improvements had been made to almost every part of the estate. The township of Acaster Selby had also been added to it, by purchase from the Pilkingtons, and various other properties had been bought. In 1878 the Hall was rented by Mr. William Beckett, M.P. for the Bassetlaw Division, second surviving son of Sir Edward Beckett-Denison, Bart., M.P., and he remained at Nun Appleton until his death in 1890.

Mr. Angus Holden, M.P., then residing at Nun Appleton, became in 1897 the purchaser, and is the present proprietor of the estate. Mr. Holden, on the death of his father, the venerable Sir Isaac Holden, in August, 1897, succeeded to the title as second baronet. There are several important northern families of Holden, but of their connection with this family nothing is known. The late Sir Isaac Holden, Bart., the founder of the family's fortunes, was born at the village of Hurler, between Glasgow and Paisley. By his own endeavours he became a great millowner in the town (now city) of Bradford, with branches at Roubaix and Rheims. Mr. Jonathan Holden, the representative of the house in Rheims, has also been no unimportant benefactor to the place of his adoption. In 1887 he presented a Library to the town of Rheims, with which the Queen was gracious enough to allow her name to be associated. In 1897 he made further and extensive charitable bequests to the same town in commemoration of the sixty years' reign of Her Majesty. At the same time he marked his connection with the city of Bradford by munificently remitting £500 to local charities.

Sir Isaac Holden was a Wesleyan and a Liberal. In 1855 he was elected M.P. for Knaresbro', and in 1882, after three unsuccessful contests, he was returned for the North Division of the West Riding, and in 1885 for the Keighley Division, which he represented until his retirement in 1895. He was then in his 88th year, and was still possessed of wonderful vitality. Indeed, Sir Isaac was a marvel of healthful activity almost to the day of his death. When at home at Oakworth House, in the romantic Worth valley, near Keighley, he was accustomed to take long walks on the adjoining moors, and daily he might have been seen tramping over the rugged roads and enjoying the fresh moorland breezes with evident relish. "I never stop indoors for the weather," he used to say, "either for snow, hail, or rain; and it does not matter whether it is hot or cold, I never shorten my walks." In May, 1897, the Corporation of Keighley conferred upon him the freedom of the borough, he being one of four local worthies who received that honour.

He died in his 91st year, and was succeeded by his eldest son, the present popular owner of Nun Appleton. Sir Angus Holden, Bart., had before his removal here taken a useful and conspicuous part in municipal affairs in Bradford, of which town he was for some years mayor. Since 1892 he has represented the Buckrose Division in Parliament. As owner of the historic estate of Nun Appleton the following table of his family connections will be referred to with interest.

MARION (1) = SIR ISAAC HOLDEN, Bart. — (2) SARAH, dau. dau. of Mr. Born at Hurler, N.B., of Mr. John Angus Love, May 7th, 1807. Cr. Baronet Sugden, of of Paisley; in 1893. Died at Oakworth Dockroyd; md. 1832, House, Keighley, Aug. 13th, md. 1850. d. 1847. 1897. Interred at Under- d. 1890. cliffe Cemetery, Bradford. (no issue).	
ANGUS, = MARGARET, MARY = HENRY, son MARGARET = ALFRED, EDWARD. 2nd Bar- dau. of Mr. of Mr. Daniel son of Mr. onet, Daniel Illing- Illingworth, Danl. Illing- M.P. for worth, of Bradford, worth, of Buckrose of Bradford J.P., Bradford, J.P.; Division (1792—1869). d. Sept., 1895 M.P. for from J.P., (has issue). Knaresbro', 1892, now 1868-74; of Nun M.P. for Brad- Appleton ford, 1880-95; co. York. (has issue).	
ERNEST ILLINGWORTH, J.P. = ETHEL EDITH, ANNIE = TATTON, son of of Appleton Ho., Bolton dau. of Major md. at Mr. Robert Percy; md. at Gargrave, Wm. Cookson Bolton Mr. Robert May, 1897. (80th Foot), Percy, Bower, Gargrave, co. July, of Welham, York. 1897. Malton.	

Little remains, save the south front, of the old hall of the Fairfaxes. The original mansion consisted of a centre and two wings. Above the central part rose a cupola, and there were numerous shields of wood, painted with the family arms. When the property came into possession of the Milner family in 1711, many additions and alterations were made to the premises, and the western half of the mansion was again rebuilt about forty years ago. During the operations part of the old floor was taken up, when the complete skeletons of a man and woman were accidentally come upon. Their discovery in such a place clearly indicates a surreptitious burial, the circumstances whereof will probably never be known.

The gardens about the house are extensive and well laid out. In the park and on the estate generally, there is some fine timber; the oak here finds a congenial home, striking its roots deep into the rich loam of the alluvial flats, and many specimens, probably five or six centuries old, present truly noble proportions. In similar soil at Cowthorpe, some ten miles distant, stands the largest oak-tree in England, described and illustrated in my history of Nidderdale.

When the first blush of Spring is over, and the early roses put on their luxuriant bloom, the sweet strains of the 'lovelorn nightingale' may occasionally be heard in the neighbourhood. Mr. Wm. Clayton, of Appleton Roebuck, tells me that this most musical of English

songsters has during the past three or four years nested here annually, each time within a radius of ten yards of the first observed spot, and each season it has successfully reared its brood. The district, owing to the thick oak-woods and bracken-beds, offers shelter and encouragement to many species of birds not found in the country adjacent. The coot, snipe, woodcock, turtle-dove, hawfinch, are not uncommon about Appleton, while the heron is a very frequent object of interest all the year round. This is no doubt partly due to the marshy nature of much of the land, but more particularly to the proximity of the Moorby colony, which is only a couple of miles away.



LORD FAIRFAX'S CHAIR.

The district is also rich in plant life; the rare mistletoe grows

somewhat plentifully in the surrounding woods, and some uncommon species of wild flowers are to be met with, including several of the lily tribe. Water plants are abundant, and luxuriant specimens of Yellow Weed (*Reseda lutea*), Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum flavum*), Enchanters' Nightshade (*Circæa lutitiana*), &c., may be found. The children of the village school at Appleton Roebuck have brought to school on Friday afternoons, during the past two or three years, as many as sixty varieties, which they have gathered within a radius of three miles of the school. Probably the largest mushroom ever seen in England was gathered near Appleton Roebuck in 1898. It measured exactly one yard in circumference and weighed three-quarters of a pound.

The village of Appleton, with its orchards and flower gardens, is very pleasant in summer. In the early part of the century there were three inns in the village, the *Fox and Hounds*, *Shoulder of Mutton*, and the *Buck*. The first mentioned was closed about 1860. The National School was built by subscription in 1817, and there was an Infant School erected in 1841, and supported by the Milner family in commemoration of the attainment of his majority by Sir William Mordaunt Milner, who died in 1867. The church (All Saints) was erected in 1868 at a cost of £2500, raised by public subscription. There are several memorials in the church, including a beautiful east window, the gift of Mr. Richard Creyke, in memory of his aunt. The living is a vicarage, consolidated with that of Acaster Selby, when the parish was formed in 1875.

The Wesleyans have also a chapel here, originally built in 1818, at a cost of £500. A Convalescent Home has also been founded here and is supported by Mrs. Oliver of Bolton Lodge. About three years ago the Charity Commissioners sanctioned a scheme for the disposal of the sum of £94, being the residue of the funds of an association founded at Appleton Roebuck in 1825 for the prosecution of felons, which had then been defunct some years. The above amount has been placed in the hands of six trustees, for the purpose of forming a lending library in the village.

CHAPTER XIII.

COLTON, STEETON, AND THE FAIRFAXES.

Prehistoric evidences at Woolas—Name of Colton—Manorial history and some results of subinfeudation—The creation of new manors—The old Hall at Colton—Local aspects—The new church—Old beliefs and customs—Incense and flowers—History of Steeton—Local landowners—Accession of the Fairfaxes to Steeton—Sir Guy Fairfax built Steeton Hall—Antiquity of chapel—A confusion of Steetons—Alliance of Fairfax with Coates' family of Craven—Steeton Hall made a farm-house—Description of the Hall—Interesting inventory of effects at the Hall in 1558—Chimneys a novelty—The chapel, its ancient arms, and Fairfax associations—The chapel removed.



FROM Bolton Percy it is a somewhat roundabout journey of three miles, by Bramber Grange and Colton Bridge, to the pleasant little village of Colton. Or the open-country walk may be varied by Appleton mill and Woolas Grange to Colton. The old house at Woolas seems to have been a place of some consequence in former times, though little is known about it. There are traces of an extensive camp and moat close by, which may have been one of the Roman outposts to Eboracum, some six miles distant to the north-east. The Roman military way between York and Tadcaster follows a straight course a short mile to the west of Colton. There can be little doubt that Woolas formed one of the numerous small manors in the parish of Bolton Percy at the time of the *Domesday* survey.

There are several Coltons in Yorkshire, all of them named, no doubt, from the cool and elevated sites they occupy in comparison with the surrounding country. The A.-S. *cól* means cool or cold. Colton and Bilbrough are upon the highest tableland in this part of the Ainsty, and there is a local saying, addressed to those who require a bracing air, "you must go up to the moor to get some Bilbrough bloom into your cheeks!"

The manor of Colton anciently belonged to the De Arches family, but there was a small parcel (seven bovates) in this place held in the Conqueror's time by Count Robert of Mortain, by whom it was subfeud to Nigel Fossard.* This in 1065 had belonged to Ulstan, the priest, who had a son Archel.† In 1284-5 the manor of Colton

* *Yorks Arch. Jl.*, iv., page 410.

† *Ibid.*, xiv., page 310.

is stated to contain $4\frac{1}{2}$ carucates of land (the same as in the Confessor's time), held of the heirs of Scotenay, who held of the heirs of Brus, and the same heirs of Brus held of the Barony of Mowbray, who held of the King *in capite*. Here is a specimen of that complicated subinfeudation which by-and-by created so many difficulties, that Edward I., among the numerous wise measures passed in his reign, removed by the statute of *Qui Emptores*, the dangers and abuses of this system. "In the early times of our legal constitution," observes Sir Wm. Blackstone, "the King's greater Barons, who had a large extent of territory held under the Crown, granted out frequently smaller manors to inferior persons to be holden of themselves. These inferior lords began to carve out and grant to others still more minute estates, to be held as of themselves, and were so proceeding downwards *ad infinitum*, till the superior lords observed that by this method of subinfeudation, they lost all their feudal profits, of wardships, marriages, and escheats, which fell into the hands of these mesne or middle lords, who were so impoverished thereby that they were disabled from performing their services to their own superiors. This occasioned, first, that provision in the 32nd chapter of the Great Charter, 9th Henry III. (1224), that no man should either give or sell his land, without reserving sufficient to answer the demands of his lord; and afterwards the statute of Westminster, or *Qui Emptores*, 18th Edward I. (1289), which directs that upon all sales or feoffments of land, the feoffee shall hold the same, not of his immediate feoffor, but of the chief lord of the fee, of whom such feoffor himself held it. But these provisions, not extending to the King's own tenants *in capite*, the like law concerning them is declared by the statutes of *prerogativa regis*, 17th Edward II. (1323), and of 34th Edward III. (1360), by which last all subinfeudations, previous to the reign of King Edward I., were confirmed; but all subsequent to that period were left open to the King's prerogative."

It is thus evident that, at any rate, from Saxon times until 1289, manors continued to be subdivided and new manors made, but from the latter date named no tenant of a lord was able to create a new manor, and thus manors existing at this day, or manors held by a chief lord, must be the same as in the time of Edward I.

The manor of Colton was, 20th Edward I. (1291), held by Garo Chamont or de Calvo Monte. In 1506 Henry Oughtred, Esq., of Kexby, in consideration of the right good counsel to him given by Wm. Fairfax, Esq., serjeant-at-law, did for the pleasure of the said William, grant to him and his heirs free liberty and license to hunt and hawk in the manor and town of Colton, with leave to fish and

fowl therein, rendering one red rose annually at Midsummer. A century later the manor was in possession of Sir George Ratcliffe, Kt., and eventually it passed to the Morritt family (*see* page 52), who resided at the Lodge, now occupied by E. M. Lawson-Smith, Esq. It may be said to take the place of the old manor house at the east end of the village, which was long ago pulled down, but the site is still preserved in the name of Hall Garth, where are the remains of a moat. The place is long and straggling, with plenty of open spaces, and has one inn, a neat school-building, a Wesleyan Chapel, and a Church (St. Paul's), which latter occupies, undoubtedly, the best site in the village. The site was given by Mr. Lawson-Smith, and the church was erected as a Jubilee memorial of Her Majesty's sixty years reign. The foundation-stone was laid by Mrs. Lawson-Smith, and the church was consecrated 16th June, 1899. It consists of nave, chancel, north vestry and south porch, and is constructed of good red brick, with terra-cotta window-heads and mullions; the roof being tiled and surmounted by a bell-turret covered with blue slates. Prior to the erection of the church, services had been held by the rectors of Bolton Percy in the school-room.

It is always interesting to preserve to posterity the existence of customs and superstitions in our rural villages, which, however useless or unimportant they may appear in our day, have often originated in beliefs and doctrines that in remote times formed part of the national life. I have, on various occasions, referred to old burial customs at different periods prevalent in Yorkshire, and Pennant observes that at some places in North Wales the bearers invariably brought the corpse into the churchyard by the south gate. In Yorkshire there was in many places a strong feeling against interment on the north side of the churchyard. As the congregation faced the east or chancel end of the church, the north was the left side, and the objection to burial on that side seems to have arisen from a superstitious dread of being found among the goats on the Day of Judgment. The south also was the light or sunny side, being that on which the Gospel is preached to the faithful.

Whether this custom has any bearing upon the old rite of burning candles beside the dead I am unable to say, but the practice is one which the people would not willingly let die, notwithstanding its rigorous interdiction at the Reformation. The York Visitation Books for the year 1623 contain an entry respecting one Edward Wythes or Wise, of Colton, gent., who is charged for suffering candles to be burned over the corpse of his son John "in the daytime superstitiously." The said Edward Wise excused himself by saying that he was from home and in London on business at his son's death and

After the disastrous battle of Towton, when the house of Percy was attainted and their fine old home at Spofforth dismantled, Edward of York ascended the throne. It was then that the Fairfaxes rose prominently into State favour. They had long been seated at Walton near Thorp Arch, described in another part of this book. Sir Guy Fairfax, was a younger son of the Walton family, and during the Wars of the Roses had been an enthusiastic supporter of the House of York. Indeed, so great was his ardour in the popular cause, that, having escaped with his life on Towton Field, he eventually obtained permission to bear a white rose on the shoulder



STEETON HALL.

of the lion in his coat-of-arms. He attained a high position in the law in the reign of Edward IV. He was Recorder of York, Chief Justice of Lancaster; in 1463 a King's Serjeant, and in 1477 he was a Judge of the King's Bench. His marriage with Isabella Ryther, granddaughter of the famous Chief Justice Gascoigne, had probably, observes Sir Clements Markham, some bearing on his success at the bar.

He it was who built, in 1474, (according to Charles Fairfax, of Menston), old Steeton Hall, with its courtyard and moat (of probably still higher antiquity), and he also rebuilt the ancient chapel, which was consecrated by Archbishop Rotherham in 1477. Before the

destruction of the chapel, in 1873, (pity that so interesting a building should have had to be removed!) which was in the late Perpendicular style, distinct evidences of its incorporation with a Norman edifice were apparent in the mouldings of the entrance. The doorway, now forming an entrance to the garden, has a rudely moulded arch, supported upon two slender shafts having plain circular abaci, and the moulding of the shafts is continuous with the wall masonry; composed of single stones, just as it is in the transition-Norman work in the choir of Bolton Abbey.* Upon one of the stones there is an incised cross, which may be a consecration cross, though it is different in size and form to that at the entrance to the church at Newton Kyme. I have little doubt a chapel existed here or at Colton in the Confessor's time, as I have mentioned Ulstan, the priest, most likely then resident here, as he was endowed with seven bovates of land (about 100 acres) at Colton before the Norman Conquest.†

On the death of the heroic Sir Wm. Fairfax in 1644,‡ Steeton continued to be the residence of his widow, Dame Frances Fairfax, for nearly fifty years, up to her death in 1692. It then passed to her grandson, William Fairfax, who now left his home in Craven and came to reside at Steeton, with his wife and three young daughters, Frances, Susanna, and Anne Fairfax, who all died young. He had

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 312.

† The statement made by Drake, and copied by others, that the "church of Stivetune" was given by Stephen, Earl of Britain, to St. Mary's Abbey, York, is very misleading. "Stivetun" suggests either Steeton in the Ainsty or Stewton (in *Domesday* Stivetun) in Lincolnshire, but there is no evidence that the Norman churches at either of these places were ever appropriated to any monastery. A reference to the original charter of Earl Stephen, who died in 1137, shews that the grant to St. Mary's Abbey consisted of five carucates of land and the church in SIVITUNA, proving beyond doubt that Sinnington (in *Domesday* SIUENINTUN and SIVERINCTUN) in the North Riding, is intended, though I have no record as to the length of time the appropriation continued. But Burton (*vide Mon. Ebor.* page 285) says the church of Sivelington was given by Ralph de Clere, ca. 1170, to the Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary, at Yeddingham. The manor of Sinnington is surveyed in *Domesday* as a possession of Berenger de Toden, second son of Robert de Toden, who died in 1088, ancestor of the Duke of Rutland. As Berenger de Toden appears to have died without issue, his Sinnington estate may have reverted to the Earldom of Richmond, and so have descended to the family of Clare. See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, iv., pages 135-8. Settrington (in *Domesday* Sendriton), was also a possession of Berenger de Toden, and gave title, temp. James I., to Ludovic, son of Esme Stuart, Earl of Richmond, ancestor of the Duke of Richmond, who still retains the inferior title of Baron Settrington.

‡ He succeeded to Steeton on the death of his brother Edmund, in 1636, but the Hall estate had before 1640 been let out to farm. Quintin Hudson had it in 1633.

married in 1685, a Craven lady named Susanna Coates, of whom his brother, Robert Fairfax (the Admiral), remarks in a letter to his mother, written in December of that year: "I hear my sister's name was Coates, before, which is a name I never knew nor heard of, to be anything of a suitable family to match with, but I never was I confess a great searcher of pedigrees.* As a matter of fact she was of a very respectable parentage, being connected with the old Puritan family of Coates, of Kildwick Grange, who were acting magistrates for Craven during the Commonwealth. No doubt they took their name from the ancient township of Coates in the parish of Barnoldswick, one of the family, a Gilbert de Coates, being Abbot of Kirkstall in 1280; that monastery having in the previous century been translated from Barnoldswick.†

William Fairfax was the last of the family to reside at Steeton. He was never very strong, and died July 20th, 1694, at the age of 30, and was buried at Bolton Percy. By his will he bequeathed £1000 to each of his three daughters, but they survived their father only a few years. There is a half-length portrait of him by Sir Godfrey Kneller at Bilbrough Hall. Mrs. Fairfax, likewise, died within twelve months of her son William, and was interred at Auber, in Lincolnshire, where she had been taken ill and died while on a visit to her half-sister, Lady Neville. The family at this period were stricken in sorrow, and when Robert Fairfax, the Admiral, succeeded his brother as head of the family, he married late in 1694, and for several years resided with his wife at Ruswarpe, her father's place near Whitby. Steeton was given up, and for a time was unoccupied, and then Robert built the hall at Newton Kyme and planted the still existing avenue in 1712.

The famous old mansion at Steeton was then in great part taken down; the wings which formed two sides of the court-yard, together with part of the front, and the gate-house, were all removed. The many valuable family portraits, together with some fine old tapestry, and various carved stones were taken to Bilbrough, where they are now preserved. The arms of Fairfax were also in the window, together with a shield of seven quarterings, viz.: Fairfax, Malbis, Etton, Mauley, Calthorpe, Arghom, and Thwaites.

Steeton Hall was converted into a farm-house, and as such it remains. The principal front looks south, where the former extent of the old premises is evidenced in the excellent remains of a massive

* See Markham's *Life of Robert Fairfax*, page 49.

† Roger Coates, of Royd House, in Kildwick parish (will dated May 11th. 1725). died possessed of property in the parish of Sherburn, Kirk Fenton, &c. See Turner's *Yorks. County Mag.*, i., 250-1.

wall, which now bounds the garden and orchard. There is a good plinth to this wall, which is continued at the same level round the house, and the angles have characteristic Perpendicular buttresses. The north side is constructed of massive masonry and the windows have transomed mullions. The south front has also large transomed mullion windows, and a stone slab (now at Bilbrough) with coat-of-arms, was formerly above the porch. The stone is about six by three feet and bears the arms of Fairfax, quartered with Thwaites, impaling Curwen, quartered with Brus, along with the date, 1595. The stone appears to have been carved for Sir Wm. Fairfax, of Steeton, who married in 1581, Mabel, daughter of Sir H. Curwen, of Workington, who died in 1624. Sir William made large additions to the house, and also added the gate-house. He died in 1603. Over the archway of the gate-house was another slab, with the arms of Fairfax (having a white rose on the lion's shoulder, explained on page 160) quartered with the arms of Malbis (a chevron between three hinds' heads erased),* a baldrequin behind the shield, and two angels as supporters.

The gardens and orchards are, doubtless, much older than the house. The orchard contains some very old trees, and there are also some noteworthy plants and flowers, now wild, which are most likely descendants of those that were cultivated and much prized in former times.

On the death of Sir Wm. Fairfax, at Steeton, in 1558, an inventory was taken of all the effects then in the Hall, and this catalogue, which is printed in full in the *Excerpta Antiqua* (York, 1799), affords an exceedingly interesting and valuable exposition of the character and belongings of the house of a knightly family in Yorkshire in the days of Queen Elizabeth. The rooms mentioned are (1) the hall, (2) the parler where he lay, (3) the gallere, (4) south chamber, (5) great chamber with (6) indermer chamber, (7) new chamber with (8) the indermer chamber, (9) Ryder chamber, (10) St. George's chamber, (11) great parlour, (12) Low and (13) High Studye, (14) butre, (15) brew-house, (16) kitchen, besides the outside laithes, barns, and cow-stalls, and the chapel. From this inventory it would be almost possible to construct a plan of the premises before the alterations and additions were made fifty years subsequently. The principal rooms were hung with tapestry and hangings of "Ares warke"; the old knight's armour, with his "gowne of caffry fured and garded with velvet," hung in the parlour "where he lay." He had feather beds, admirably upholstered, a rare object at this time, when the bulk of the people of England slept like the great Norman

* Also formerly in a window at Walton Church.

Conqueror and other feudal monarchs, on wooden frames covered with straw. His "great chamber" was even carpeted, a luxury unknown at the lately dissolved Priory at Appleton, where his good lady had been educated. No better garniture covered the floors of monastic houses than the common rushes gathered in neighbouring marshes and streams. Sir William had also much plate, gold and silver, pewter dishes, saucers, goblets and tankards; while his land about bore a goodly crop of wheat and barley, and he had horses and cows, and a hundred sheep, the latter then (1558) worth 1s. 10d. each.

Chimneys, as we learn from Leland, were by no means common even in castles and better houses at this time, and it is interesting to note in this old inventory such an entry as this: "one iron chimley, vis. viiid."; an item which seems to suggest that the smoke of the hall-fire had been carried off by a moveable construction connected with a louvre-lantern in the roof. The entry follows a record of "one cheste in the chapell," but it is not likely the chapel would have the luxury of a heating apparatus even in winter time. In the chapel was a beautifully-carved oak screen, part of which is now at Healaugh Old Hall, and a later gallery had been erected above the west entrance. The east window was richly emblazoned with coats of arms, as follows: (1) Percy, (2) Percy quartered with Lucy, (3) Semy of fleurs-de-lis, (4) Neville, argent, on a saltire, gules, (5) Hastings, argent, a maunch, sable, (6) Under all, one completely armed (for Sir Nicholas Fairfax, Kt., of Rhodes), in the right hand a spear, on his left arm the cross of St. George, (7) Scrope, azure, a bend, or, (8) Or, a bend, gules, (9) Ryther, three crescents, quartered with Aldburgh, (10) Vaire (or chequy), argent and azure a fess gules, quartered with azure fretty or chevrony, or, a chief of the second.

Domestic chapels of pre-Reformation age are now very rarely met with, and one cannot but feel some regret that a building of such interest could not have been spared as a memorial of past usages, and of a family whose achievements will always be in the forefront of interest in the storied life of Old England. Many of the Fairfaxes were first received in this chapel into the sanctity of Christ's faith, through the holy rite of baptism, and many have hearkened unto His words within its sacred walls. When it was pulled down in 1873, most of the stone, I am told, was conveyed to Bilbrough and used in building the new south side of the church there that replaced the old Norman one. The other parts of the church were constructed of Bradford setts.

CHAPTER XIV.

BILBROUGH.

"Fairfax, whose name in arms through Europe rings.
Filling each mouth with envy or with praise."—*Milton*.

Situation of Bilbrough—A supposed Roman look-out post—Prehistoric tumuli—Recent excavations at Bilbrough Hill—A large tumulus—Antiquity of the church, and its position near the Roman camp—History of the manor—Local families—Purchase of the manor by the Fairfaxes—Its subsequent sale and purchase by Admiral Fairfax in 1716—The old manor-house—The Fairfaxes resident in the neighbourhood over seven centuries—Pedigree of the Fairfaxes—The York and Ainsty Hunt—The American Fairfaxes—Their old home in Virginia—The late Lord Fairfax—Old family portraits at Bilbrough—The church and its re-erection in 1844—The Nortons—The great Lord Fairfax buried in the Norton Chapel—Local memorials—The churchyard—Dedication of the church—Its endowments and the Parliamentary report—The village of Bilbrough, and surrounding scenery.



LONG before the Fairfaxes were settled here in the days of Queen Elizabeth, this pleasant upland village had been a place of no small consequence. Its situation upon rising ground, commanding a magnificent outlook over the rich vale of Wharfe, had rare attractions to the great Lord Fairfax, who, in his later life, would come here to enjoy the fresh breezes and meditate upon that vast and now peaceful scene of many an important exploit and campaign in the long Civil War. Far away, back in Roman times, a similar motive had, doubtless, prompted the governor of York to maintain a guard and look-out post here, commanding the great "street" which led from Tadcaster to the imperial city, but a short distance to the east. It has been suggested that places compounded with the suffix *burgh* or *borough*, indicate a Roman origin, as Bamborough, Aldborough, and probably Knaresborough; while such as have the terminal *bury*, as in Almondbury, Dewsbury, Wednesbury, &c., are towns or stations of Anglian or Saxon foundation.

Having been attracted to Bilbrough in the autumn of 1900, upon hearing that an excavation had then lately been commenced for Mr. Fairfax's new mansion on Bilbrough Hill, I had a favourable

opportunity of examining the site. To my gratification I discovered many indications of the remote occupation of that commanding position. In my presence the workmen dug up many fragments of Roman tiles, portions of thin red bricks, and just before my arrival an unglazed earthenware jug had been, unfortunately, shattered beyond repair by the pick. The ground, to a depth of 18 inches, was strewn with fragments of bone and with broken tiles and bricks: some of the latter might be mediæval; some were entire, and several I measured were 10 by 5 inches and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick, identical in size with many of those in the Roman wall at York. I was also fortunate in observing a portion of a mill-stone, originally nearly five feet in circumference and 6 inches thick. It was of mill-stone grit, and grooved diagonally along the edge of the surface, of similar form and pattern to some of those in the Museum at York.

These discoveries persuade me that this was the original Roman "burgh" that gave Bilbrough its name. It is true that the site had in Elizabethan times been built upon, but many of the fragments of tiles, &c., were undoubtedly Roman, and for two centuries at any rate, the ground had been vacant. On the south side there seems to be the remains of a double bank or vallum, with intervening fosse, but it is impossible at this day to define the area of the original camp or enclosure. The present Bilbrough Hall, now being taken down, adjoins it on the north, and on the west, looking over the vale of Tadcaster, the ground slopes rapidly to the fields. Outside the area of this probable camp, at its south-west angle, is a very large tumulus; and when I asked an aged native if he could tell me anything about this mound, all the answer I received was: "There's a hundred poond [a hundred pounds] buried in yon hill!" Local tradition usually imparts the concealment of much gold in erections of this kind, but as this one has apparently never been examined, I refrain from imagining of what its true wealth consists! It is fully 120 yards in circumference at the base, and upon it grow several fine oak trees. Other smaller barrows in the neighbourhood were opened a few years ago, and found to contain cinerary urns and other relics.

At the Norman Conquest, Bilbrough, or Mileburg (qu. Bileburgh), as it is spelled in *Domesday*, had a church, built as usual, like the churches at Tadcaster and Ilkley on the Wharfe, close to or within the area of the Roman camp. This premises the existence of a temple, pagan or Christian, on the site long before the Norman erection. The manor, or "land" in 1083-6 consisted of eight carucates (a very significant holding at this time), in possession of one Richard, son of Erfast, who was in all probability the Erfast, Bishop of Thetford from 1070. This Richard had also three mansions

in the city of York, as well as the church of the Holy Trinity there. Bilbrough, together with the York property, appears to have come into possession of Ralph Paganel, who gave the church of the Holy Trinity to the Benedictine monks of Marmoutier on the Loire, who founded and erected a Priory on the site. The church of Bilbrough was appropriated to this Priory, but early in the 14th century it had become a free chapel.* All the alien Priors, with the exception of above, had been dissolved by 1414.

Ralph Paganel died before 1130, and his descendants continued in possession of Bilbrough for a long period subsequently. Geoffrey, son of Ralph Paganel, founded in 1132 the Priory of Wartre in Holderness, and he also gave his chapel of All Saints, Skewkirk, near Kirk Hammerton, to Nostel Priory, which afterwards became a cell to this Priory.† The monks of Nostel had also large possessions in Bramham and Oglethorpe, and for more than a century were the impropiators of the valuable rectory at Bolton Percy. According to Kirkby's *Inquest* (1284-5), there were in Byleburgh $7\frac{1}{2}$ carucates of land of the fee of Paynil, who held of the King *in capite*.‡ Paynel, however, appears to have subfeud Bilbrough, as by inquisition made in 1287, Sir Roger de Mortimer was declared seized of one knight's fee in Bilburg, Monketon, and Sandwathe, held by knight-service of John Paynel, and worth yearly £20.§ In 1315 Roger Basy was returned as lord of Bilburgh. Drake says he was the son of Walter de Bascy, who was Mayor of York in 1290.|| But the said Roger Basy or Basi was Mayor of York, 18th Edward I. (1289) and again in 20th Edward I. (1291).¶ Richard Basy, esquire, was lord of the manor and principal resident at Bilbrough in 1378, when he paid the capitation tax of 6s. 8d. He died in 1394, and by his will, dated 29th March, 1393, bequeathed 20s. to the Black Friars of York to pray for his soul.** There were then 33 married and unmarried taxpayers in Bilbrough in 1378, all of whom, save the lord of the manor and four others, paid the agricultural rate of 4d. each. The exceptions were Roger Wryght, carpenter, and three blacksmiths, who were assessed at 6d. each.

* See *Proc. Archæol. Inst.*, York (1846), pages 2 and 171; and Dugdale's *Mon. Ang.*, iv., 680.

† See the author's *Nidderdale*, page 168; also art. Holy Trinity Priory, page 218, in the *Memoirs of the York Meeting of the Archæol. Inst.*, 1846.

‡ See also grants of land in Billeburgh (Lincolnshire), to St. Mary's Abbey, York, cited by Drake, *Eboracum*, page 586.

§ *Yorkshire Inquisitions*, vol. i., 186, and ii., 62.

|| *Eboracum*, page 391.

¶ *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 96, pages 4-5.

** *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vi., 411.

In the 4th Henry VI. (1425), the manor of Bilbrough was owned by Elizabeth, widow of Richard Basy, and soon afterwards it passed to the Nortons. John Norton died in 1464, and his son William succeeded to the inheritance. The *Subsidy Rolls* of 15th Henry VIII. (1523), record that Margaret Norton, widow, paid 10s. on £10 lands in Bilburgh; Christopher Norton (son of William), the same, while the total subsidy of twelve persons in Bilbrough at this date was 45s. 6d. In 1537, on the dissolution of Trinity Priory, York, the great tithes, with the manor, of Bilbrough, were granted to Sir Leonard Beckwith, and in 1554 they were re-granted to John Wright and Thomas Holmes, who in 1556 disposed of them to Sir Wm. Fairfax of Steeton. Thomas, Lord Fairfax, who died in 1671, settled by his will all his tithes of the parish, after the death of Mr. Strutton (Stretton), a Nonconformist minister.*

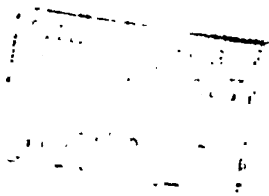
The unfortunate circumstances attending the death of the Duke of Buckingham (*see* page 112) caused many complications in the settlement of the late Lord Fairfax's estates. Bilbrough was ultimately sold, in 1716, to Admiral Fairfax, for £7523 17s. 8d. The purchase included the whole township of Bilbrough, except the lands belonging to Newark and Hemsworth schools in Sandwith. There were, however, five other persons who bought separate freeholds under him, his own share being the largest, and it included the manor, the trust of the tithes, and the presentation to the living.†

The old manor-house, which stood on the site of the one now being built, was the birth-place, in 1560, of Thomas, the first Lord Fairfax. It was occupied at the time the third Lord Fairfax died, in 1671, by his domestic chaplain, the Rev. Richard Stretton, and shortly afterwards was pulled down and the late Bilbrough Hall, which stood at the foot of the hill adjoining, was erected. This house was the property and residence of Thomas March, who was acting agent of the estates in the time of Queen Anne. In 1751 the house was enlarged, and subsequently sold by Wm. March to a lawyer named Agar, who added to it, and it was then called Bilbrough Hall. Mr. Agar eventually sold it to the Rev. Robert S. Thompson, third son of Henry Thompson, Esq., of Kirby Hall, near York, who died in 1862, aged 84. It was again sold by his son, Captain Thompson, to Thomas Fairfax, Esq., who was born at the Hall in 1804, and it continued the family residence until its recent demolition (1900) by the present owner of the estate, Guy Thomas Fairfax, Esq.‡

The Fairfax family have been resident landowners in the neigh-

* Lawton's *Collect.*, page 51.

† *See* Markham's *Life of Admiral Robert Fairfax*, page 262. ‡ *Ibid.*, page 268.



E OF FAIRFAX,

SIR WILLI.
of Steeton, High Sheri
; and 1540; died 1558, bd.

(2) Dorothy, widow of
John Rokeby;
d. 1596

Charles, Edward, (the
died poet), of New-
1604 hall, Fewston;
d. 1632

m, Thomas, John, b. 4
3; b. at Nun App
the Denton, ton, 1597;
of 1594; slain at
thal, a mer- Frankent
11 chant with
adventur his brothe
rurer William

Thomas, V
b. 1640; b
d. 1651 d

Th
5th Lord Far
b. at Bolte
Percy, 1657;
for co. Yor
1688-1707; d.

mas, Brian, of Wetherby
nd d. Barwick, b. 1695; d.
590 1700
John, b. & d. 1699

f Sarah, wife of
n Major John dau. of
Carlyle, of Alex- son Ca
andria, Virginia 1757; d.

ret, dau. Ferdinando
lliam d. at Mount Ea
t, Esq. 1820; md. and

nne Caroline, dau. of
e Hon. John C. Her- of F
bert, of Maryland m

Raymond=Anna
b. 1829; C.E.; late Sylv
Capt in Confederate Burfc
States Army † herst;

Frances Thomas
Marvin, of Bilbrough Hall
b. ton Spa, 1839; Lt.
Aug. 29, adier Guards; m
1878 Feb 8, '84; bd. Ne

of Bilbro
Appleton, 18;

v of

urhood for probably not less than seven centuries. Richard Fairfax,
 1204-5, was possessed of lands if not the manor of Askham Richard
 and other properties in the vicinity of York. He held Askham
 Richard of the heirs of Mowbray, and the fine old church there,
 with its modern Norman porch-entrance, was afterwards given by
 William de Arches to the Priory of Monkton. William, grandson
 of Richard Fairfax, purchased the manor of Walton, near Thorp
 Arch, from Peter de Brus, ca. 1250. From him have descended all
 the noble and illustrious members of this ancient house, with its
 branches at Denton, Steeton, Gilling, Bilbrough, and Virginia, U.S.A.
 The annexed pedigree shews the connection of the Bilbrough branch
 with the senior line of Denton and Steeton.

The late Thomas Ferdinand Fairfax, Esq., of Bilbrough, who was
 Lt.-Colonel in the Grenadier Guards, died 8th Feb., 1884, at the
 early age of 44, and was buried at Newton Kyme. He succeeded to
 the estates upon the death of his father, Thomas Fairfax, Esq., in
 1875. Colonel Fairfax, on finishing his education at Eton, joined
 the famous Grenadier Guards, with which regiment he spent some
 time in Canada. After leaving the army he settled down at
 Bilbrough, to the life of a country gentleman, and was always
 exceedingly popular and highly respected in the neighbourhood. It
 is said that he inherited some of the strongly marked political bias
 of many of his ancestry, and that no one ever exactly knew whether
 he was a Liberal or Tory. For six seasons he was the popular
 Master of the York and Ainsty Hounds, which certainly deserved
 well of his charge. That famous pack, ever since 1818, when
 Mr. Challoner, Mr. Clough, and the Hon. H. Butler, induced
 Mr. James Lane Fox to part with a tract of the Bramham Moor
 country, that it might be hunted from York, has had many Masters,
 but none of them have shown "more determination, more devotion
 to sport, or a steadier eye to hounds" than Col. Fairfax. When
 after the sad death of Sir Charles Slingsby, which cast an almost
 ineffaceable shadow over the hunting-field, Sir George Wombwell,
 with Peter Collinson as his huntsman, took charge of the York and
 Ainsty Hounds, and both in the kennel and in the field maintained
 the good name which Sir Charles Slingsby and his predecessors had
 built up for the pack. Sir George resigned the country in 1872, and
 then there was a short break, but Col. Fairfax came forward and
 proposed to hunt the hounds himself. His action was promptly
 supported by every member of the Hunt, and when he resigned the
 Mastership to the capable hands of Capt. Slingsby in 1879, the pack
 had never been in a better or healthier condition or keener for sport.
 Col. Fairfax married in 1869, Eveline Selina, daughter of his

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friend and neighbour, Sir Wm. Milner, Bart., of Nun Appleton, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, the eldest son, Guy Thomas Fairfax, Esq., being the present lord of the manor of Bilbrough, and now sole representative of the house of Fairfax in England. He married, 6th July, 1899, Joan, daughter of C. H. Wilson, Esq., of Warter Priory, Holderness, and has one son, Bryan Gerald Ferdinand Fairfax, born 16th July, 1900.

As will be seen from the pedigree, the senior line of the family has been long settled in the beautiful vale of the Shenandoah, in Virginia, U.S.A. Here Lord Fairfax erected, in the middle of the 18th century, the still-existing manor-house of Greenaway Court, and here the youthful and afterwards celebrated American statesman General Washington, often stopped as he journeyed to and from eastern Virginia, his own home, to the valleys of Alleghany and Monongahela, where the able young hero, who was born in 1732, afterwards won his first laurels.* The "Old Chapel" hard by (maintained on the principles of the Church of England), was erected about the same time. The remains of Lord Fairfax were taken for interment beneath the chancel in the episcopal church in Winchester, Frederick (now Clark) county, where a tablet to his memory has been affixed to the eastern wall.

George William, eldest son of the Hon. William Fairfax, of Belvoir, Virginia, was the trusted and life-long friend of General Washington. The surveys made by Washington in the great valley of Virginia, were "so singularly accurate and satisfactory, that through Lord Fairfax's influence he received the appointment of public surveyor."† The family relations continued of the most intimate kind, and Lawrence, elder brother of the future President, married in 1743, Anne, eldest daughter of the Hon. Wm. Fairfax. At the beginning of the American civil war, George William Fairfax came to England in order to take possession of Toulston and other estates which had fallen to him. But Toulston he was obliged to sell in consequence of the hostilities. Belvoir, left in charge of a steward, was accidentally burned to the ground, and the owner, as a Royalist, never returned to his old home. He remained in England, and died at Bath in April, 1787.

Greenaway Court, the old manor-house of the Lords Fairfax, is situated in one of the most picturesque and fertile regions in Virginia, the far-famed valley of the Shenandoah. "Its commanding location," observes Mr. W. Y. Page,‡ "the varied beauty of its surrounding

* See Irving's *Life of Washington*.

† Richard Wheatley in the *Magazine of American History*, 1885, page 230.

‡ *Ibid*, 1893, page 140.

friend and neighbour, Sir Wm. Milner, Bart., of Nun Appleton, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, the eldest son, Guy Thomas Fairfax, Esq., being the present lord of the manor of Bilbrough, and now sole representative of the house of Fairfax in England. He married, 6th July, 1899, Joan, daughter of C. H. Wilson, Esq., of Warter Priory, Holderness, and has one son, Bryan Gerald Ferdinand Fairfax, born 16th July, 1900.

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RT. HON. JOHN, ELEVENTH LORD FAIRFAX.

scenery, the wavy outline of undulating fields and forests, with the well-defined course of the majestic Shenandoah (*i.e.*, "river of the woody banks"), with the long unbroken line of the Blue Ridge mountains in the foreground, forms a picture which well attests the taste and wisdom of the lordly possessor in its selection." The house itself, he tells us, has a low-pitched sloping roof, surmounted with three belfries, after the fashion of many old English farm-houses of that day. "Everything about it was low, viewed from a more modern standpoint; a long rambling building, sitting almost flat upon the ground, consisting of only one story and an attic, massive outside chimneys, squat and low, stuccoed gables into which small stone had been pressed when the mortar was yet soft and yielding, giving to



GREENAWAY COURT.

the whole gable, chimney and all, the appearance of mosaic, and which we may readily imagine has not its like upon the American continent."

The late John Contée, 11th Lord Fairfax, lived the life of a gentleman farmer in the Southern States. He was of a very unostentatious and retiring disposition, and the only title by which he was locally known was that of Doctor, to which he was entitled as a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was quite a boy when his family left Virginia and moved to the Heights of Georgetown, Maryland, where he received his schooling preparatory to entering college. He succeeded to the title upon the death of his

Appleton when Lord Fairfax pulled down the Priory buildings and built the hall. The south chapel is separated from the nave by two pointed arches resting on octagonal columns. It appears to have been erected by John Norton, lord of the manor, whose will is dated 1464. He left five marks for the new church tower, when the parishioners should be disposed to build one, and 20s. for a stone to be placed over his body. He died in 1493 and desires to be buried in the chantry-chapel aforesaid, then lately built in the chapel of St. Saviour, and that the chaplain thereof, *Sir* Wm. Dryver, should have an annuity of six marks for ever, to pray for the souls of the said John Norton and his family. This amount (£4 os. od.) still continues to be paid to the rector of Bilbrough. His widow, Margaret Norton, died in 1506, and by her will she desires to be buried in the tomb of her late husband. She left 12d. to *Sir* Thomas Oglethorpe, the curate at Bilbrough, some books to her daughter Joan Nelson, and 3s. 4d. to each of the children of her son William, who was residuary legatee. All her bees, it is interesting to note, she gave to maintain a light in Bilbrough chapel, "as long as it shall please God to preserve them." There are two stone lamp-corbels in the east wall of their chapel, and their altar-tomb, of stone, which is 8 feet long and 3 feet 9 inches broad, bears on the side two shields with merchants' marks, and there are also the matrices of six brasses, torn away, doubtless, during the Puritan revolution.

It was in the old Norton chapel that the great Lord Fairfax desired to be buried, by the side of his wife. Their tomb is a handsome table-monument of black marble, with stone base, 7 feet 6 inches long and 4 feet 9 inches broad at the top, inscribed to Thomas, Lord Fairfax, of Denton, who died Nov. 12th, 1671, and Anne, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Horatio, Lord Vere. Above the inscription is a shield of arms, Fairfax empaling Vere, with the motto "Fare Fac." The sides of the tomb are ornamented with panelled pilasters, sculptured with military trophies, and the spaces between, on the north and west sides, are occupied with elaborately-carved shields of arms. The other two sides being against the wall are plain. The shield at the west end, with helmet, Baron's coronet, crest,* and supporters, depicts the arms of Fairfax quartered with those of Malbes, Etton, and Thwaites, and Vere in the centre on a scutcheon of pretence.† This chapel was originally entered by a doorway on the west side, but now blocked.

* The crest, *a lion passant, gardant, sable*, is on the north side falsely represented by *lions passant*, only. See Markham's *Life of the Great Lord Fairfax*, page 436.

† The field of the Fairfax coat is *argent*, but when the Scottish Barony of Fairfax of Cameron was created, the heralds recorded the arms differenced by making the field *or* (therefore a gold and not a silver shield).

There are no other memorials in the church, but in the tower-porch are three marble tablets; one to the family of Todd of Normans and Tadcaster; another to the memory of Robt. Stephen Thompson, clerk, B.A., third son of Henry Thompson, Esq., of Kirby Hall, who died in 1862, aged 84; the third is inscribed to Harriet, wife of the Rev. R. S. Thompson, and daughter of Childers Walbanke Childers, Esq., of Cautley, who died in 1858, aged 80. There is also a brass in the splay of the south window, recording that beneath the tower is the vault of the family of Todd of Bilbrough.

In the churchyard adjoining the south chapel is a sepulchral enclosure containing three marble crosses, inscribed (1) to Ferdinand Fairfax, born and died in 1876; (2) to Edward C. Milner, Lieut., Coldstream Guards, born Feb. 1st, 1858, died April 23rd, 1878; (3) to Evelyn Selina Fairfax, born June 25th, 1846, died Feb. 11th, 1900.

The ancient dedication name of the church is lost, and the names of St. James and St. Peter are both given, but in *Domesday* (1083-6) it is called Christ Church.* According to Archbishop Sharp it was anciently a chapel in the parish of Askham Richard. But in 1291 it appears as a separate benefice, valued at £12, and in inquisitions made in the life-time of Sir Andrew Luttrell, patron of the Priory of Holy Trinity, York, A.D. 1379,† it is stated that "the free chapel of Bilborough, belonging to the church of the Holy Trinity, is worth yearly £6 13s. 4d." This reduction appears to have been consequent upon the depression and privations that followed the disastrous reign of Edward II., and the terrible scourges of 1348-9 and 1361, known as the Black Death, when nearly half the population of York died. The certified value of the curacy about 1707, was £46 6s. 10d. In 1838 the tithes were commuted for a rent charge of £270. In 1867 the living was declared a rectory, under the District Tithes Act; being described as "a peculiar without the cure of souls." The present average yearly value from tithe-rent charge is returned at £205, and the living for 45 years, from 1854 to 1899, was held by the Rev. Joseph Powell Metcalfe, M.A., who had previously been curate at Collingham. The Rev. W. W. Aldridge is the present rector who succeeded Mr. Metcalfe on his retirement in 1899.

The Parliamentary Commissioners (*ca.* 1650) have the following report about this church:

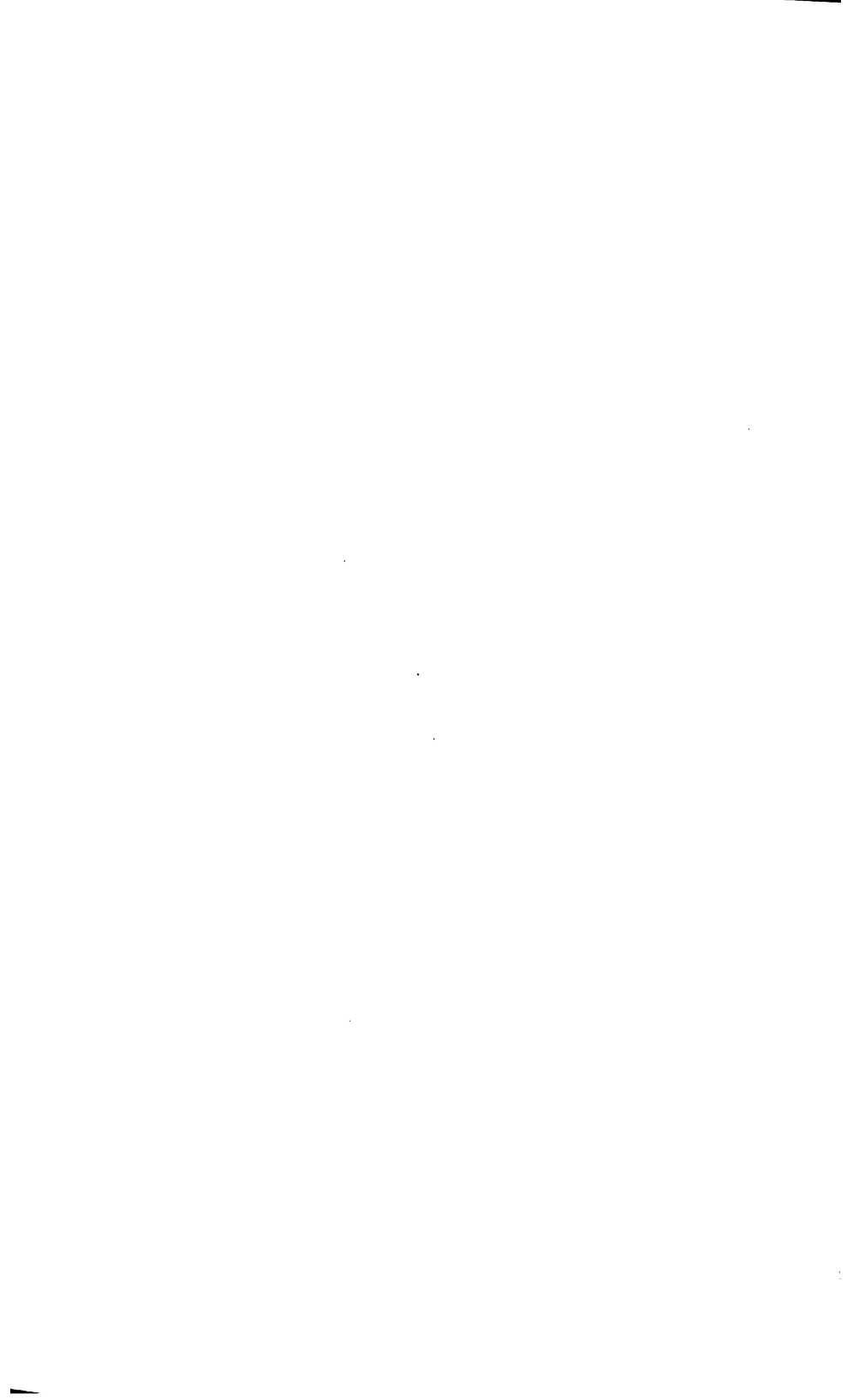
No certain maintenance, except 14 nobles per annum, paid by the Receiver-General of the Commonwealth. We think fit that the towns or manors of Colton and Steeton and all the Street-Houses in the parish of Bolton Percy lying almost two miles thence, and much nearer to the church of Bilbrough, and better ways

* In the will of John Norton (1464) he speaks of "the chantry founded in the chapel of St. Saviour" at Bilbrough.

† See ARTHINGTON.

to it, be divided from Bolton parish and annexed to Bilbrough, and the tithes and other profits thereof arising to the church out thence, go along therewith as annexed to Bilbrough, towards the maintenance of a preaching-minister in the same, being worth about £60 per annum. And that the parishioners of the same parish may erect a new parish church, so as may stand conveniently for the use of the said towns of Steeton, Colton, and Bilbrough. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen of York shall appoint the place, in case the parishioners cannot agree thereof, towards the charge whereof we think fit and desire, that two years' profits of tithes and church dues arising within Steeton and Colton may be allowed there. And that the posterity of Col. Sir William Fairfax, Kt., deceased, may have the use of their ancient chapel in Bolton Church, for burial and other uses, as formerly they have had at their will and pleasure.

The pleasantly-situated village of Bilbrough has in its vicinage some places of interest, such as Red Hill (a famous place for picnics) and Cave Hole, which tradition associates with the youthful exploits of "Black Tom" of Civil War renown. In former times Ingrish Hill, which is a short walk from the village, was a beacon, and in the parish registers at Bilbrough is an entry of a "daughter of George Teasdale, soldier at the beacon." This old signal-place, according to Andrew Marvell, was at one time a landmark for ships coming up the Humber. There are now no buildings of antiquity or of particular interest in the village. Bilbrough Grange, at present occupied by Mr. Fairfax, while the new hall is being built, was formerly the property and seat of John Fisher, Esq. In the garden in front of the house is a well-grown Chili pine, popularly known as the monkey-tree (*Araucaria imbricata*), about fifty feet high, and there is also a very fine copper-beech in the garden behind the Hall. The Wesleyan Chapel was erected in 1838, and the old Free School was endowed with £19 a year; £10 being contributed by the lord of the manor, £5 by the incumbent of the parish, and £4 by Lady Hewley's trustees. There are two small charities founded by Christopher Wright in 1694, and Christopher Blythe in 1766, together amounting to about £9 per annum.





KIRBY WHARFE.

CHAPTER XV

KIRKBY WHARFE.

Geological aspects—Curious phenomena—Architectural qualities of the Magnesian Limestone—Ancient settlements—Flint relics found at Kirkby Wharfe—Discovery of a Roman inscribed tablet—Local sculptured crosses in the church—Kirkby Wharfe a Danish settlement—Historical records—Old families—Picturesque situation of the church—Description of the church—The churchyard—Registers—The vicars—Biographical notices—The vicarage houses—Rural aspects of the village—Old customs.



E will now cross over to the south side of the river to the pleasant and picturesque old parish of Kirkby Wharfe. Here we get on to the Magnesian Limestone, which is an interesting exchange for the wide tracts of Bunter or variegated Sandstone, with its thick overspread of glacial drift, that characterise the surface aspects of the far-reaching parish of Bolton Percy, previously dealt with. For many miles—all the way from Collingham to Kirkby Wharfe—the flexuous river has cut a channel through the varying beds of Magnesian Limestone, or as it is sometimes called Permian Limestone, from Perm, a district in Russia, where this rock is extensively developed, occupying an area twice the size of France, and containing a special fauna. From Kirkby Wharfe the Permian beds extend westwards to Bardsey and Barwick-in-Elmete, and about a mile eastwards over the river to Wighill and Oxton, southwards to a point where the railway crosses the river between Ulleskelf and Bolton Percy. It is the cause of much variety in the scenery, and in many places, as at Knaresbro' and in the neighbourhood of Bramham, it may be seen lying unconformably upon the older series of the Millstone Grits. In my work on Nidderdale I have described some striking peculiarities in these strata, and not far from the observatory tower in Grimston Park, near Kirkby Wharfe, the limestone also assumes a very curious form. The place, called Sunny Bank, is a small wooded knoll, and here the beds of limestone appear quite perpendicular, caused by some violent lateral pressure, the jagged and upturned edges of the rock

extending for a distance of one hundred yards in an east and west direction, and in breadth from ten to fifteen yards.*

This rock has been quarried in Lower Wharfedale from early times, as already explained; its adaptability for working and its richness in magnesia, making it unfavourable to vegetable growth, have in consequence brought it into early repute for architectural purposes. The old quarries of this stone at Huddleston, near Sherburn-in-Elmete, and Thevedale, near Tadcaster, were probably worked in Norman times. The ancient palace of the Archbishops of York at Sherburn, pulled down in 1361, was largely built of it.

At what period the parish of Kirkby Wharfe was first peopled we have no certain knowledge. But Celt, Roman, Saxon, Dane and Norman all appear to have been established in the immediate district. In such places as Bolton, Fenton, and Appleton, we have strong evidence of Anglian settlements; in the neighbouring Tadcaster we have the Roman *castra*, while in Kirkby, the old Viking Dane appears, as he does in such a large proportion of the places compounded with the suffix *by* (a village or building), in Lincolnshire. Well may we picture him with gleaming spear and banner, disporting the dreaded raven, sailing in his stately craft up the Wharfe, as far as its ample waters would allow him, and then contesting with Celt or Angle for some favoured spot upon its banks. Long ago the native Briton was compelled to seek refuge among the wild hills in the upper dale, leaving but scant evidence of his former life in the warmer and more luxuriant tracts of the Lower Wharfe. The old mounds about Bilbrough tell of his presence here, and now and again, but very rarely, a Roman coin or article of flint is turned up by the plough, or by the washing away of earth by the river or beck sides. Though flint weapons were used by Saxon and Dane, it is hardly likely they were fashioned by them in this district, where bronze and iron, introduced by the Romans, were well known. A single flint arrow-head was picked up not far from the river near Kirkby Wharfe, some years ago, and Mr. Henry J. Clayton, of Grimston gardens, tells me that his son discovered, in 1880, a remarkably fine flint axe-head, which had been washed out of the beck side near the old church. The implement is of polished flint, nearly two inches in diameter at the shoulder and about one inch at the tip. This fine relic is now in possession of Mrs. Fielden at Grimston Park.

The Romans, as I have said, had an important station at Tadcaster, and there would appear to have been a summer residence, villa, or

* See also Mr. Marshall's notice on carbonate of copper occurring in the Magnesian Limestone at Newton Kyme, in the *Trans. Geol. Soc.*, Ser 2, vol. ii., page 140.





ANCIENT CROSS. KIRKBY WHARFE.

mausoleum at Kirkby Wharfe. Within the last two years, while some workmen were engaged on some repairs at the farm of Mr. Haywood, at Kirkby Wharfe, they found in an old pig-sty a piece of Sicilian marble, inscribed in Latin characters to the memory of a daughter of some distinguished Roman. This old sepulchral slab may possibly have been brought from the Roman station at Tadcaster, though, from the base use to which it had been put, its importance was not recognised, and it is not likely to have travelled far. The probability is there was a mausoleum in the vicinity of where the stone was found, possibly on Grimston Hill, which commands a fine view of the vale of Wharfe and the country around Tadcaster. The marble had been used as a flag-stone and has had a hole pierced through it in recent times, for the passage of a water-pipe.

Evidence of the settled occupation of Kirkby Wharfe in the 8th or 9th century is forthcoming in the excellent fragments of Christian sculptures now preserved in the church. The most important of these is the complete shaft of a cross, with mutilated head, which has only one limb perfect. The shaft itself is 30 inches high, and with the cross-head, 43 inches. It tapers gradually from base to top; the top being $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and the base $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The principal front of the shaft is occupied with a panel in which is sculptured a tall cross or "tree of life," on each side of which stands the nimbed figures of a male and female, presumably SS. John and Mary. In the panel below the figures is a well executed triquetra-knot, or emblem of the Trinity. The other fragments of crosses seem to be of later date than the one described, being poorer in idea and execution.

Whoever had worshipped here when those crosses were raised in their pristine beauty, it is certain the Danes were in possession of the place at the time of its cession to the Norman invaders. It is also certain that a church stood here before the Conquest, because *Domesday* calls the place Chirchebi (church-village), and tells us it was a manor where Forne had half-a-carucate of land to be taxed, which before the Conquest was worth 5s., afterwards *nil*. The adjoining manor of Grimston appears, however, to have been the more important place in point of economic wealth, for here were one carucate and five bovates of land for taxation, where one plough may be, and when Wlsi had the manor in the Confessor's time it was worth 10s., afterwards *nil*. It is very possible the estate at Grimston had been worked longer and at an earlier period than at Kirkby Wharfe. Both estates fell within the great fee of Ilbert de Lacy, the potent Baron of Pontefract.

The parish of Kirkby Wharfe has, at any rate from the era of *Domesday*, included Grimston, Kirkby-with-Milford, and Ulleskelf, though the latter has been for a long period within the jurisdiction of St. Peter of York, and old documents mention a chapel at that place, of which at the present time little or nothing is known. The early history of the manor of Kirkby Wharfe is somewhat obscure. It is not mentioned in Kirkby's *Inquest* (1284-5), but in 1290, when a levy of 40s. was made upon each knight's fee in the kingdom in aid of the marriage of the King's eldest daughter, we find that Lady Margaret de Nevill contributed 5s. 9d. to that gift, for the two carucates she held in Kirkby and Grimston, where 14 carucates constituted a knight's fee. In the register-books at York for this era are a number of entries of homages made to the Archbishops of York for lands in Kirkby Wharfe held of the See by knight-service. In 1298 Sir Simon Ward made homage to the Archbishop for his lands in Guiseley, Givendale, and Kirkby-super-Wharf, and again in 1300 he did the same; also on August 1st, 1306, he repaired to the Archbishop's manor-house at Otley, and did homage and fealty for the same lands. He died in this year, and on Nov. 21st his son, Sir Simon Ward, presented himself as the heir and successor to his father's lands.*

In 1340 Archbishop William de la Zouch died at Cawood, seized of the manors of Kirkby Wharfe, North Milford, Sherburn, and several others, all of which came into possession of his nephews, whose descendants were conspicuous for their wealth and influence among Yorkshire county families. Anne Montacute, daughter of John, Earl of Salisbury, who descended from the family of La Zouch, married John Holland, Duke of Exeter, who died in 1446. Their only daughter and heiress, Anne Holland, married Sir John Neville, Kt., who was slain at the battle of Towton in 1461, and their son, Ralph Neville, became the famous third Earl of Westmorland, grandfather of the "King maker." It was through this ancient house of Neville that the manors of Grimston and Kirkby Wharfe came to Thomas, Duke of Exeter, in the reign of Henry V. The venerable Lady Margaret Neville, who held these manors in all probability at the date of Kirkby's *Inquest* (1284-5), died in 1318, and her funeral at Bolton Abbey was carried out with great pomp.† In 1426 an inquisition p.m. was made at Selby, when the jurors affirmed that Thomas, late Duke of Exeter, was seized of the manor of Scotton, held of the Castle of Knaresborough, and that before his death he gave and confirmed by deed to Sir Wm. Haryngton, Kt.,

* See also *Memorials of Fountains Abbey*, vol. i., page 197.

† See my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 303.

all his right and possessions which he had in the manors of Farnley, Oakenshaw, Clakeheton, Scoles, Colling, Coningley, Gargrave, Potterton, Grimston, Kirkby Wharfe, North Milford, &c., to hold to the said William and his heirs for ever. And the jurors further say that the said Duke held these manors for the term of his life, after the death of Margaret, late wife of the said Duke, daughter and heiress of Thomas, son of Robert Neville, Knight, of Hornby Castle, co. Lancaster, of the inheritance of Margaret, wife of the said Wm. Haryngton, and one John Langton, Knight, relations and heirs of the said Margaret, late wife of the said Duke. And all the said manors are held of the King, as of his Duchy of Lancaster and the Honor of Pontefract. The Duke died on 27th December, 1425, and John, Earl of Somerset, his nephew, is his next heir.

An indenture dated 11th Henry VI. (1432) shews that the inheritance of Margaret, late wife of Thomas, Duke of Exeter, was divided between the co-heirs, Sir William Harrington, Kt., and Margaret his wife, who, as the aunt and co-heir, took the castle and manor of Hornby, and other estates in Lancashire;* while Sir John Langton, Kt., the other co-heir, took for his share the manors of Farnley, Grimston, Kirkby Wharfe, North Milford, and others above cited, together with the manor of Appleby and its appurtenances, and the advowson of the Priory of Thornholme, all in co. Lincoln.

The senior family of Langton expired in an heiress, who married Sir James Danby, Kt., *temp.* Henry VII.† The manor of Kirkby Wharfe was now for some reason parted and held in moieties, and in 1545 a moiety of the manor of Kirkby Wharfe, and of a market there, was sold by Francis Langton to Anthony Hamond, probably of the Scarthingwell family. Sir John Langton, Kt., who married a daughter of Roger Aske (she was a widow in 1463), had been possessed of the whole manors of Grimston and Kirkby Wharfe, as explained, and probably by the failure of his issue, male, the property had descended to co-heirs in moieties.‡ In 1561 I find

* Richard Beaumont, of Whitley Hall, co. York, married for his second wife Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Harrington, of Hornby Castle. *See Yorks. Arch. Jl.*, viii., 508 n.

† The Langtons were at one period resident at Huddleston, in the parish of Sherburn (*see page 54*). In 1342 the Archbishop of York received the homage of John, son of Nicholas de Langton, for the lands held by him of the See of York in Huddleston. The Fabric Rolls of York Minster contain many references to this old family.

‡ The manor of Kirkby Wharfe subsequently came to the Gascoignes, and Robert Ryther, of Ryther, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe, Kt., but died without issue. The Ryther property therefore descended to his brother-in-law, John Aske, of Aughton, a kinsman of the above Roger Aske.

surviving son; succeeded
ors of Steeton, Bilbrough,
olton Percy; d. 1584

Jane Roberts,
of Bentham,
co. York

6 daughters

Henry Anne Mary

Mathew
Thomas
(base)

Sir Philip
of Steeton, b. 1586
sold the manor of
Bolton Percy, &c.
to Sir Thomas
Fairfax, of Den-
ton; died 1613

Frances, dau.
of Edmund,
Lord Sheffield,
Earl of
Mulgrave, and
President of
the North

William
Frederick
Francis
Arthur

Mary
Bridget
Priscilla
Prudence

Edmund,
md. Mary, dau.
of Sir William
Irwin

Sir William
of Steeton; b.
1610;
commander in
the Parliament
army; fell at
Montgomery
Castle. 1644

Frances, dau. of
Sir Thomas
Chaloner, of
Guisboro';
b. 1610;
d. 1692-3

Mary
Ursula

William
of Steeton; b. 1630
d. at Newton
Kyme, 1673-4

Catharine, dau.
of Robert
Stapleton, of
Wighill

Thomas,
b. 1633;
d. in Dublin,
1712

Catherine
Isabella
Mary
Philadelphia

by
anna of Steeton, Newton Kyme
; d. and Bilbrough; b. 1665-6;
left Admiral in R.N.; M.P.
rs) for York; d. 1725

Robert
of Steeton & New-
ton Kyme, b. 1698
md. 1730; d. 1774

Hester, dau. of
Robt. Bushell,
Esq., of Rus-
warpe, nr. Whitby,
d. 1735, aged 80

Frances
Ann
Isabella

Elizabeth
Catherine
Alathea
Susanna

Hannah,
md. to
Warner
Washington
1695

Guy,
b. and
of Steeton & New-
ton Kyme, b. 1698
md. 1730; d. 1774

Thomas
Elizabeth, sis. of Lind-
ley Simpson, Barrack-
master at Limerick;
d. York, 1780, aged 81

Catharine,
md. Henry
Pawson, of
York; d. 1767

dau. of Geo. Lod-
ington, of Bracebridge
co. Lincoln, d. 1809

Guy, b. 1735;
of Newton Kyme; md.
and issue; d. 1794

Thomas,
William,
d. young

Elizabeth,
d. unmd.
1800

Thomas Lodington
(only child), b. 1770; d.
at Newton Kyme, 1840

Theophania, eldest dau
of Edward Jas. Chaloner,
of Lincoln; d. 1857

etson
wton
ugh,
1875

Louisa Constantia,
dau. of Geo. Ravens-
croft, Esq., E.I.C.S.;
born at Lucknow

Jane
Frances,
b.
1800

Elizabeth,
b. 1802; md.
to Rev. Thos.
Hart Dyke

Theophania,
b. 1803; md. to
Hy. Collingwood
Blackett, Esq.

: Frances,
d. David,
s. Craigie
lis, Esq., of
Midlothian
Fox; she d. 1870

Emma Louisa, b.
1838; md 1859 to
Hon. Chas. Pierre-
point D'Arcy Lane
Wickham, Esq.
Katherine Henrietta,
b. 1842; md. 1868 to
Wm. W. Wickham,
Esq., son of Lamplugh
Wickham, Esq.
Isabel Augusta,
b. 1843; md. 1870 to
Edwd., only son of
York, Esq., of
Hutton Hall, co. York

n
Constance,
b. 1872

bourhood for probably not less than seven centuries. Richard Fairfax, in 1204-5, was possessed of lands if not the manor of Askham Richard and other properties in the vicinity of York. He held Askham Richard of the heirs of Mowbray, and the fine old church there, with its modern Norman porch-entrance, was afterwards given by William de Arches to the Priory of Monkton. William, grandson of Richard Fairfax, purchased the manor of Walton, near Thorp Arch, from Peter de Brus, *ca.* 1250. From him have descended all the noble and illustrious members of this ancient house, with its branches at Denton, Steeton, Gilling, Bilbrough, and Virginia, U.S.A. The annexed pedigree shews the connection of the Bilbrough branch with the senior line of Denton and Steeton.

The late Thomas Ferdinand Fairfax, Esq., of Bilbrough, who was a Lt.-Colonel in the Grenadier Guards, died 8th Feb., 1884, at the early age of 44, and was buried at Newton Kyme. He succeeded to the estates upon the death of his father, Thomas Fairfax, Esq., in 1875. Colonel Fairfax, on finishing his education at Eton, joined the famous Grenadier Guards, with which regiment he spent some time in Canada. After leaving the army he settled down at Bilbrough, to the life of a country gentleman, and was always exceedingly popular and highly respected in the neighbourhood. It is said that he inherited some of the strongly marked political bias of many of his ancestry, and that no one ever exactly knew whether he was a Liberal or Tory. For six seasons he was the popular Master of the York and Ainsty Hounds, which certainly deserved well of his charge. That famous pack, ever since 1818, when Mr. Challoner, Mr. Clough, and the Hon. H. Butler, induced Mr. James Lane Fox to part with a tract of the Bramham Moor country, that it might be hunted from York, has had many Masters, but none of them have shown "more determination, more devotion to sport, or a steadier eye to hounds" than Col. Fairfax. When after the sad death of Sir Charles Slingsby, which cast an almost ineffaceable shadow over the hunting-field, Sir George Wombwell, with Peter Collinson as his huntsman, took charge of the York and Ainsty Hounds, and both in the kennel and in the field maintained the good name which Sir Charles Slingsby and his predecessors had built up for the pack. Sir George resigned the country in 1872, and then there was a short break, but Col. Fairfax came forward and proposed to hunt the hounds himself. His action was promptly supported by every member of the Hunt, and when he resigned the Mastership to the capable hands of Capt. Slingsby in 1879, the pack had never been in a better or healthier condition or keener for sport.

Col. Fairfax married in 1869, Eveline Selina, daughter of his

friend and neighbour, Sir Wm. Milner, Bart., of Nun Appleton, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, the eldest son, Guy Thomas Fairfax, Esq., being the present lord of the manor of Bilbrough, and now sole representative of the house of Fairfax in England. He married, 6th July, 1899, Joan, daughter of C. H. Wilson, Esq., of Warter Priory, Holderness, and has one son, Bryan Gerald Ferdinand Fairfax, born 16th July, 1900.

As will be seen from the pedigree, the senior line of the family has been long settled in the beautiful vale of the Shenandoah, in Virginia, U.S.A. Here Lord Fairfax erected, in the middle of the 18th century, the still-existing manor-house of Greenaway Court, and here the youthful and afterwards celebrated American statesman General Washington, often stopped as he journeyed to and from eastern Virginia, his own home, to the valleys of Alleghany and Monongahela, where the able young hero, who was born in 1732, afterwards won his first laurels.* The "Old Chapel" hard by (maintained on the principles of the Church of England), was erected about the same time. The remains of Lord Fairfax were taken for interment beneath the chancel in the episcopal church in Winchester, Frederick (now Clark) county, where a tablet to his memory has been affixed to the eastern wall.

George William, eldest son of the Hon. William Fairfax, of Belvoir, Virginia, was the trusted and life-long friend of General Washington. The surveys made by Washington in the great valley of Virginia, were "so singularly accurate and satisfactory, that through Lord Fairfax's influence he received the appointment of public surveyor."† The family relations continued of the most intimate kind, and Lawrence, elder brother of the future President, married in 1743, Anne, eldest daughter of the Hon. Wm. Fairfax. At the beginning of the American civil war, George William Fairfax came to England in order to take possession of Toulston and other estates which had fallen to him. But Toulston he was obliged to sell in consequence of the hostilities. Belvoir, left in charge of a steward, was accidentally burned to the ground, and the owner, as a Royalist, never returned to his old home. He remained in England, and died at Bath in April, 1787.

Greenaway Court, the old manor-house of the Lords Fairfax, is situated in one of the most picturesque and fertile regions in Virginia, the far-famed valley of the Shenandoah. "Its commanding location," observes Mr. W. Y. Page,‡ "the varied beauty of its surrounding

* See Irving's *Life of Washington*.

† Richard Wheatley in the *Magazine of American History*, 1885, page 230.

‡ *Ibid*, 1893, page 140.



RT. HON. JOHN. ELEVENTH LORD FAIRFAX.

scenery, the wavy outline of undulating fields and forests, with the well-defined course of the majestic Shenandoah (*i.e.*, "river of the woody banks"), with the long unbroken line of the Blue Ridge mountains in the foreground, forms a picture which well attests the taste and wisdom of the lordly possessor in its selection." The house itself, he tells us, has a low-pitched sloping roof, surmounted with three belfries, after the fashion of many old English farm-houses of that day. "Everything about it was low, viewed from a more modern standpoint; a long rambling building, sitting almost flat upon the ground, consisting of only one story and an attic, massive outside chimneys, squat and low, stuccoed gables into which small stone had been pressed when the mortar was yet soft and yielding, giving to



GREENAWAY COURT.

the whole gable, chimney and all, the appearance of mosaic, and which we may readily imagine has not its like upon the American continent."

The late John Contée, 11th Lord Fairfax, lived the life of a gentleman farmer in the Southern States. He was of a very unostentatious and retiring disposition, and the only title by which he was locally known was that of Doctor, to which he was entitled as a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was quite a boy when his family left Virginia and moved to the Heights of Georgetown, Maryland, where he received his schooling preparatory to entering college. He succeeded to the title upon the death of his



On the south wall of the chancel there is a neat marble tablet inscribed :

IN SPE BEATÆ RESURRECTIONIS.

To the glory of God and in Memory of John Fielden, of Grimston, who died July 4th, 1893, this Chancel was repaired and adorned by some of his relatives, Easter, 1896.

Also on the south side is a two-light window, containing some curious German stained glass. It bears the dates 1599, 1617, and 1618, and was brought from the Continent by the second Lord Londesborough at the time of the restoration of the church in 1861. It was inserted in the window here by Mr. Knowles, of Stonegate, York, who, as is well-known, has done so much in bringing out the beauty of the old glass in York Minster. The only coloured window in the south aisle is of three lights, placed there to the memory of Ann Lally, who was born in 1773 and died in 1858; given by her daughter, F. H. Moore. Upon the walls of the tower are several tablets to the kindred of Lord Howden, lord of the manor of Kirkby Wharfe. One of them is inscribed to the memory of the first peer's father, Archbishop Cradock, of Dublin. Another reads: "In memory of Thomas Crofton Croker, Esq., the amiable and accomplished author of the *Fairy Legends of Ireland*, and other works, antiquarian and literary. This tablet is erected by his friend, Lord Londesborough, MDCCCLV."* There is a beautiful single-light stained window on the west side of the tower, by Mr. George Shaw, the architect who restored the church,† which was dedicated at the restoration by the Rev. Richard Wilton, M.A., vicar, A.D. 1860, who is now rector of Londesborough. The lower part of the tower is Early English, the buttresses being late additions.

The ancient font (now replaced by a handsome modern one) is a perfect cylinder, no doubt coeval with the original Norman church. Its internal diameter is 24 inches and external 30 inches. In the churchyard, close to the south wall, is a very perfect and handsome late 14th century grave-slab of some ecclesiastic, bearing an incised floriated cross, with chalice on the dexter side. This stone should be placed with the other stone relics in the vestry.

One might linger long in the old burial-ground of the parish, whose

* Among the Hailstone collections in York Minster Library, I have seen what must be a very scarce quarto pamphlet (with woodcuts), entitled: *Recollections of Old Christmas; a Masque performed at Grimston, Tuesday, 24th December, 1850.* By T. Crofton Croker, Esq. Privately printed.

† This window is from a design by Mr. Fairholt, F.S.A. In the *Miscellanea Graphica*, edited by Thos. Wright, F.S.A., will be found an account of the first Lord Londesborough's principal Art treasures at Grimston Park, illustrated with numerous drawings by Fairholt.

fathers have been laid to rest there century after century. Here is the private vault of the Londesborough family. Among the recent tributes to departed worth is a very elegant Iona cross raised to the memory of Mr. John Fielden, of Grimston Park, who was born 8th July, 1822, and died 4th July, 1893. Another beautiful cross, of Celtic design, commemorates his son, Mr. Thos. Fielden, who died 5th Oct., 1897, and whose widow, Mrs. Fielden, is the present occupant of Grimston Park. Near the churchyard, but within the Park, is an old and curious sun-dial, which has had dials on four faces, a very unusual arrangement.

The registers of the church commence with the year 1583. There are 40 acres of glebe at Knapton and 15 acres at Bolton, near Pocklington, belonging to the vicarage. Torre supplies a list of the vicars down to the 17th century, and there are some interesting notes on the early vicars, written at the end of one of the oldest registers, by the Rev. Richard Sugden, who was vicar from 1711 to 1727. I am indebted to the present vicar for the additions to Torre's list. The Prebendary of Wetwang continued patron from the institution of the first recorded vicar to the year 1857; then Archbishop Thomson presented, and subsequently the Fielden family, who are the present patrons.

VICARS OF KIRKBY WHARFE.

<i>Date of Institution.</i>	<i>Name of Vicar.</i>	<i>Date of Institution.</i>	<i>Name of Vicar.</i>
	.. John	1642 ..	Francis Sherwood
23 Jan., 1329	.. Roger de Montefort	1647 ..	John Greenwood
17 May, 1321	.. Will Paule	11 Nov., 1661	.. Geo. Thompson
26 June, 1334	.. Will Paule	26 Oct., 1668	.. Will Kaye
..	.. Will de Wetewang	1705 ..	Thomas Massey
15 July, 1350	.. Roger de Selby	1711 ..	Richd. Sugden
9 Aug., 1377	.. Hugo del Orton	1728 ..	Edward Markland
16 April, 1407	.. Tho. Prestcote	..	Hodgson
19 Sept., 1441	.. Joh. Grenehill, or Grenefield	13 Oct., 1762	.. Robt. Kitching
26 Mar., 1476	.. Tho. Nicholson	9 April, 1788	.. Edw. Heber
28 Sept., 1483	.. Joh. Cowton	12 Dec., 1795	.. Hen. Forster Mills
8 Oct., 1485	.. Robt. Adamson	2 Feb., 1798	.. Thos. Radley
16 June, 1510	.. Henry Knight	1 July, 1799	.. Thos. Gilpin
2 July, 1510	.. Christr. Cattall	2 Jan., 1827	.. Matt. Barker [ham
..	..	11 Mar., 1829	.. Hen. Spencer Mark-
9 Feb., 1580	.. Tristram Tildesley	16 Feb., 1832	.. John Ashford
19 Dec., 1586	.. Ric. Soundifurth	..	[John M. Williams, Curate, 1852—1857.]
20 Mar., 1595	.. Geo. Byngeley	7 Jan., 1857	.. Richard Wilton
29 June, 1597	.. Anth. Higginbotham	20 April, 1866	.. Norman D. J. Straton
22 Jan., 1599	.. Tho. Ostler	8 Sept., 1875	.. George Jas. Bostock
5 June, 1628	.. Tho. Clarke	28 Mar., 1882	.. George S. Allen

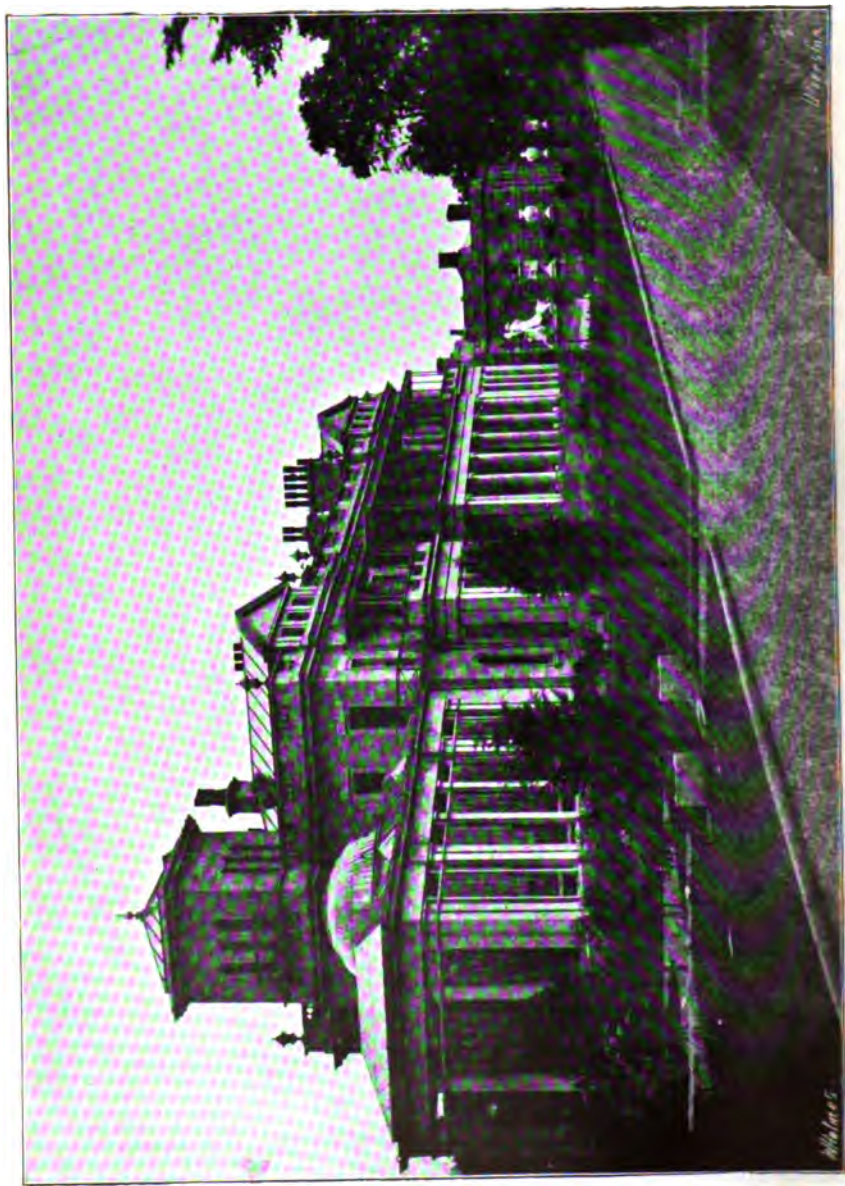
It was during the incumbency of the Rev. Richard Wilton, the present venerable and amiable rector of Londesborough, who is also a Canon of York, that the important undertaking of restoring the church was so efficiently carried out. Canon Wilton, whose family is thought to be connected with the Gloucestershire Wiltons, was born at Doncaster, on Christmas Day, 1827. He became vicar of Kirkby Wharfe in 1857, and in 1860 Lord Londesborough appointed him his domestic chaplain. In 1866 his Lordship presented him to the living of the rectory of Londesborough, near Market Weighton, which he has held ever since. He is author of much excellent verse. His tasteful volumes, entitled *Wood Notes and Church Bells* (1873), *Lyrics, Sylvan and Sacred* (1878), *Sungleams* (1881), and *Benedicite and other Poems* (1889), are full of Nature's melody and resonant with the spirit of one who feels what he writes. Canon Wilton's worthy successor in the living of Kirkby Wharfe was the Rev. Norman D. J. Straton, the present popular Bishop of the Isle of Man. He was instituted 20th April, 1866, and on 22nd March, 1867, he had license from the Archbishop to use the schoolroom at Ulleskelf for the purposes of divine worship. Dr. Straton, previous to his elevation to the See of Sodor and Man in 1892, had been vicar of All Saints (the Cathedral), Wakefield, and Rural Dean of Wakefield, from 1875. His promotion has been rapid. In 1873 he married Emily Jane, widow of Henry Baines, Esq., of Bell Hall, and daughter of Joseph Robinson Pease, Esq., of Hessewood House, co. York.* He was succeeded at Kirkby Wharfe, in 1875, by the Rev. George J. Bostock, who had been chaplain in Western Australia from 1860 to the time of his appointment to the Wharfedale vicarage. He married an Australian lady. For some years before his death, at Kirkby Wharfe, in 1882, he was often ailing and in delicate health, probably due to change of climate. His death was much regretted. The present esteemed vicar, the Rev. George S. Allen, was next inducted to the living, and certainly no incumbent deserves better of his parish. His whole life has been one of well-doing and self-sacrifice in the cause of Christ and His Church. Mr. Allen's father, I may add, was the friend and coadjutor of the learned historian, Dr. T. D. Whitaker, and he collated much of the matter for the Doctor's *History of Richmondshire*. He likewise added largely to the contents of the second edition of Dr. Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, in two volumes, and Mr. Allen has in his possession a presentation copy to his father.

The village, with its ample green, is a delightfully rural and picturesque place, its cottages overhung with flowering creepers and

* For pedigree of Pease see Forster's *North and East Riding (Yorkshire) Pedigrees*.

gardens, even in winter hardly ever out of bloom. I am told that the vine, in favourable seasons, has ripened its fruit here in the open. The so-called Church House, now occupied by Mr. Joseph Lacy, custodian of the church, is a roomy old 17th century tenement, much restored, which at one time was the residence of the vicars. This house was formerly tenanted by a black servant, whom Lord Howden brought from abroad and named Harris, and who married here and brought up a family. The present vicarage is, I believe, the fourth, if not fifth, that has been occupied within living recollection. After the Church House ceased to be occupied by the vicars, an old half-timber dwelling (now removed), which stood beside the Green, was taken for the purpose, but as it was small and inconvenient, the late Lord Londesborough, in 1863, offered Mr. Wilton Milford Hall as a residence, and there he remained until he was succeeded by Mr. Straton in 1866. Then the handsome vicarage, at present standing, was raised on the lane leading to the Selby and Tadcaster highroad. This being a very large and costly building, erected by Mr. Straton, now Bishop of Sodor and Man. The present vicarage was built in 1890 at the corner of the lane opposite. It is a pleasing brick structure, erected from the proceeds of the sale of the former vicarage-house, and four acres of land adjoining.

There is little now to disturb the tranquility of every-day at this pleasant village. The old "Moor Kirk fair" here, which existed from at least the time of Queen Elizabeth, was removed early in the 19th century to Tadcaster. In former times the perambulation of the boundaries of the parish, now done away with, created no little stir. The Village Feast, held every June (on the festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist), is also an event of the past, but old folks well remember the hilarity and merry-making that commemorated this annual gathering of relatives and friends. Railways are no doubt largely responsible for the extinction of many old customs, as well as for the removal of families, who have in many instances lived in the same parish, and even on the same farm, for centuries.



GRIMSTON PARK

W. H. P. S. Co.

W. H. P. S. Co.

CHAPTER XVI.

GRIMSTON PARK.

Ancient cultivation · Meaning of Grimston - Grim in the A.-S. dedication stone at York—The manor of Grimston—The manor-house - Local families—The Stanhopes and Gascoignes—Purchase of the manor by Lord Howden—Local field names—Duke of Wellington at Grimston—Sale of Grimston to Lord Londesborough, and afterwards to John Fielden, Esq.—Description of the mansion—A remarkable collection of relics—The park and gardens · Former population of Grimston—Schools—Bella Hall estate.



AT THE Norman conquest there were probably not less than 200 acres of land in cultivation at Grimston, farmed by a village community, which continued to exist down to last century, when the whole was absorbed in the present noble park. The place may have originated on the Anglo-Saxon conquest, although the name Grim is also Norse and occurs in the Sagas. In *Havelok the Dane*, written *temp.* Edward III., we have the following lines :

In Humber Grim bigan to lende
 In Lindeseye, rith at the north ende,
 Ther sat his shippe up on the sond,
 But Grim it drou up to the lond,
 And ther he made a litel cote
 To him and to his flote.

Grim was also one of the lords of Harewood at the Norman conquest. But in the old church of St. Mary's, Castlegate, in the neighbouring city of York, there is preserved a rare dedication-stone, which (translated), states that "this minster was built by —ard and GRIM and Aese, to our Lord Jesus Christ and Saint Mary, Martin, and Saint —bert and All Saints." This is, apart from names, highly interesting testimony to the survival, in the 8th century, of the ancient British method of erecting monasteries or "minsters," not in the form of a single conventual building but as the venerable Bede tells us, in groups of churches and oratories, sometimes considerable distances apart. From the last part of an effaced date, "—VI.," which appears on the stone, the dedication has been referred to the year 756, and it could hardly have been earlier, as it

is not likely so important a "minster" would have escaped record by the vigilant Bede, who died in 734. This Grim was consequently a Saxon, and must have been a person of some consequence in his time, but whether he was lord and founder of this place (which is 9 miles south-west of York and 2 miles south of Tadcaster), can, of course, never be known.*

The manor of Grimston was merged in Ilbert de Laci's great fee of Pontefract, and appears to have followed the fortunes of its neighbour-manor, Kirkby Wharfe, down to the 16th century, as related in the last chapter. The Prioress of S. Clements, near York, had common of pasturage in $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow in Grimston near Tadcaster, in the 13th century. At this time the capital mansion appears to have been in the occupation of the family of Malure or Mallory, who were akin to the Stapletons.† By writ dated 4th Aug., 16th Edward I. (1288), tested at Westminster by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, and directed to Nicholas de Stapleton and John de Lythegrayns, ordering them to find out by the oaths of knights and other lawful and honest men of the neighbourhood of Grimston and Kirkby-on-Wharfe, if Henry, son and heir of Sarra, daughter of Anketin Malure, who was born at Grimston and baptised in the church of Kirkby-on-Wharfe, and who by reason of his minority was in the King's custody, was, as he alleged, of full age. The jurors sworn say on their oath that the said Henry was of full age on Tuesday in Whit-week, 16th Edward I. (18th May), 1288.‡

In the time of the Nevilles, the manor-house was in occupation of the respectable family of Saxton, who derived their patronym from an adjoining township. In 1378 Robert de Saxton, *franklan*, and his wife, were the principal tenants at Grimston, and paid 3s. 4d. capitation tax towards the levy authorised to be made for carrying on the war with France.§ At this time there were eleven married couples living at Grimston, and two single adults, all of whom paid 4d. each towards the same fund. The population of the township would therefore be about 60 in 1378, and had doubtless been much more a century earlier.

* There are several Grimstons in Yorkshire, one of them being 3 miles east of York, in the parish of Dunnington. Grim is a still existing personal name in Saxony and other parts of Germany. It occurs as a Yorkshire surname in 1202 and 1210 in the Feet of Fines, printed by the Surtees Society, vol. 94, pages 49 and 165.

† See the *Stapletons of Yorkshire* (1897), page 23, &c.

‡ *Yorks. Inquisitions*, ii., 80.

§ The Register of Archbishop Romaine records a debt of £50 due to Roger de Saxton in 1286, and another bond in the same year due to Thomas de Grimston, Archdeacon of York, William de Langton, and Henry de Milford, executors of Wm. de Langton, late Dean of York.

Drawn hither by their masters, the Nevilles, who were also lords of Farnley, near Leeds, were Robert de Fernelay and his wife, and I observe also a Robert Sonnyng and wife, at Grimston, in 1378. In a document at the Public Record Office,* there is contained a grant made in 1418 by William Sonnyng, perhaps son of above Robert, then vicar of the parish church of Kippax, and William Worthington, of Kirkby Wharfe,† to Thomas de Thorpe, of "Grimston near Todegastre," and Isabella, his wife, for their lives, of all their lands in Grimston, which formerly belonged to Henry le Balne, grandfather of the said Isabella, with the remainder in tail to Richard Freman of Allerton-by-the-water, and Agnes, his wife, with reversion to the heirs of the said Henry. These Freemans were a family of long standing at Allerton-Bywater, and in the subsidy-rolls of 15th Henry VIII. (1523), John Freeman, of that place paid 2s. for lands. The family was also seated at Ulleskelf, in the parish of Kirkby Wharfe, and in the same volume of ancient deeds is a grant by John Freman, of Ulleskelf, to Robert Berkar, bailiff of Tadcaster, Laurence Rauson, and John Burton, rector of Garforth, of all his messuages and lands in Ulleskelf and Grimston, by Tadcaster, on certain conditions, and to perform grantor's last will, dated 12th May 16th Henry VII. (1500).

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the manor of Grimston passed by purchase to the Stanhopes. A fine was concluded in 1589 between Edward Stanhope, Esq., plaintiff; on the one part, and Christopher Nelson, gent., and Mary, his wife, deforciant, on the other part, with reference thereto, and the sale included the manor, with 10 messuages, 10 cottages, a windmill, and lands in Grimston, Kirkby, Tadcaster, and Stutton; also free fishing in the Cock and Wharfe. This Edward Stanhope was one of the counsel at York for the Northern Parts. He was also Recorder of Doncaster. He died in 1603, and was buried at Kirkby Wharfe, leaving issue six sons, the eldest of whom, Sir Edward Stanhope, of Grimston, was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1615. His son, Edwd. Stanhope, Esq., like his famous kinsman, Sir Philip Stanhope, first Earl of Chesterfield, took the King's side in the Civil War, and had to compound for his estates. In 1649 he was declared seized of a free tenement for life, remainder to his first, second, third, fourth, and every other son in tail, remainder to the heirs of his father, Sir Edward Stanhope, in the manor of Grimston, worth yearly £133 6s. 8d. After the decease of the Lady Margaret Stanhope, widow, his mother,‡ it is stated there will

* *Ancient Deeds*, vol. iii., D 574.

† Thomas Worthington was vicar of Sherburn-in-Elmet, and died in 1475.

‡ She was the daughter of Sir Henry Constable, Kt., of Burton Constable.

come to him an estate in Grimston, worth yearly £66 13s. 4d., out of which he craves allowance of £30 annuity to James Brook, alderman of York, for 99 years, granted by his father in 1628, out of the manor of Grimston, also £3 and £8 rent-charges out of lands in Grimston, viz.: to James Anderton £3, to George Bowen £8, granted by Edward Stanhope, Esq., his grandfather; £5 6s. 8d. rent to the Crown; and £300 for which his father mortgaged grounds in Grimston to Henry Breary, of the yearly value of £65, redeemable on the payment of the said £300, but the money not being paid, Breary assigned over the premises to William Fentyman* and William Pickering, who are in possession. Also £129 debt for payment of which he mortgaged certain closes in Grimston to William Wilson, who has entered into possession, and £108 debt for payment of which he mortgaged other lands to Henry Breary, who has likewise entered into possession. This Edward Stanhope died in 1658, and was buried at Kirkby Wharfe on New Year's Day, 1658-9.

There is an assignment, dated 12th September, 1656, of the manor of Grimston to Lady Mary Cockayne, on her separating from her husband.† How or why she became entitled to this manor (Grimston, Tadcaster?) is not very clear. She was the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Henry O'Brien, 5th Earl of Thomond, from whom descended Henry, 8th Earl of Thomond, who married a daughter of the Duke of Somerset, lord of the manor of Tadcaster. Lady Mary married in 1627 Charles Cockayne, of Rushton, co. Northants, who was made Viscount Cullen in the peerage of Ireland. The title became extinct in 1813.

John Stanhope, Esq., of Grimston, his grand-nephew, who died in 1704, left several sons and daughters. Considerable litigation followed upon his decease. Edward, his younger son, laid claim to Grimston. He died unmarried, leaving a reputed son by the wife of one Wright, a blacksmith at Grimston, named Edward Wright, to whom his father left Grimston. His inheritance was resisted by Judith, daughter of Langdale Sunderland, Esq., mother of Edward Stanhope, and Judith, his father's sister. The subject was long in Chancery, and was not decided before the whole of the estate had been swallowed up by the expenses of the suit.

* There were lands in Grimston in the tenure of Robert Fentman, 40s. yearly, which at the Dissolution formed part of the endowment of the chantry within the chapel of Farnley, near Leeds. William Fenteman was vicar of Sherburn, and by his will, proved 18th July, 1542, desired his body to be buried in the church of Sherburn, "under the stone of the Worthingtons, and to have the day of his burial set in brass according to the memory of the said Mr. Worthington." See also page 195.

† See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. vi., page 95.



RT. HON. ALBERT, LORD LONDESBOROUGH.

The manor subsequently came to the Gascoignes of Parlington, and early in the 19th century R. O. Gascoigne, Esq., who died in 1843, was lord of the manor, but the whole of the land had been purchased in 1815, from the executors of the Townend family, by the Hon. John Francis Cradock, afterwards (1819), Lord Howden. Through the courtesy of the present owner of Grimston I have seen the original catalogue of particulars of the estate, at the time it was sold in 1815. The sale took place at Garraway's Coffee House, in Change Alley, Cornhill, London, on May 30th, and the whole estate was offered and disposed of in one lot. It comprised the capital mansion at Grimston and Grimston Lodge, together with certain houses, cottages, offices, lands, plantations and woods in the townships of Grimston and Kirkby Wharfe, embracing an area of about 1252 acres; likewise the rectorial tithes of the whole of the said lands, and all other lands within the said townships, together covering 1371 acres. Ulleskelf and North Milford were added subsequently. The particulars furnish the name of every field, its extent and quality. Very few of the names possess any antiquarian interest. I notice Home Brecks and East Brecks (*brek*, O.E., a mill-race), Nodder Ing, Lady Flat, Hurn, and Mast Hill. The last mentioned probably indicates the "balks or marstalls" of the outbounds of the township. The name occurs in this sense at Bingley, in West Yorkshire. The word has been discussed at length by Canon Atkinson, in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. xv., pages 403-7.

Lord Howden, who purchased the estate, was a General, and sometime Colonel of the 43rd Regiment. He bore the titles of G.C.B., K.C.B. &c. He was the son of Archbishop Cradock, of Dublin, and was raised to the peerage for his great military services. His family claim descent from Caradoc and the ancient Princes of Wales. His lordship died in 1839, and was succeeded by his son, John Hobart Caradoc, who married, in 1830, the daughter of Paul, Count Skavronsky, a cousin of the Czar of Russia. He was also a Colonel in the army, and in 1817-18 was aide-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington, with whom both his father and himself were on terms of great intimacy, and in 1827 they had the honour of entertaining him at Grimston Park, at which time the famous Duke, "the greatest military genius of his age," was exceedingly popular. But such is the transitory character of fame that the memory of that celebrated visit is now all but forgotten, and though I have spoken, within recent years, to several old inhabitants, none now remember it. The "Hero of a Hundred Fights" arrived at Grimston on Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 1827, and remained the guest of Lord Howden until the Monday morning following, and on Sunday he attended service in

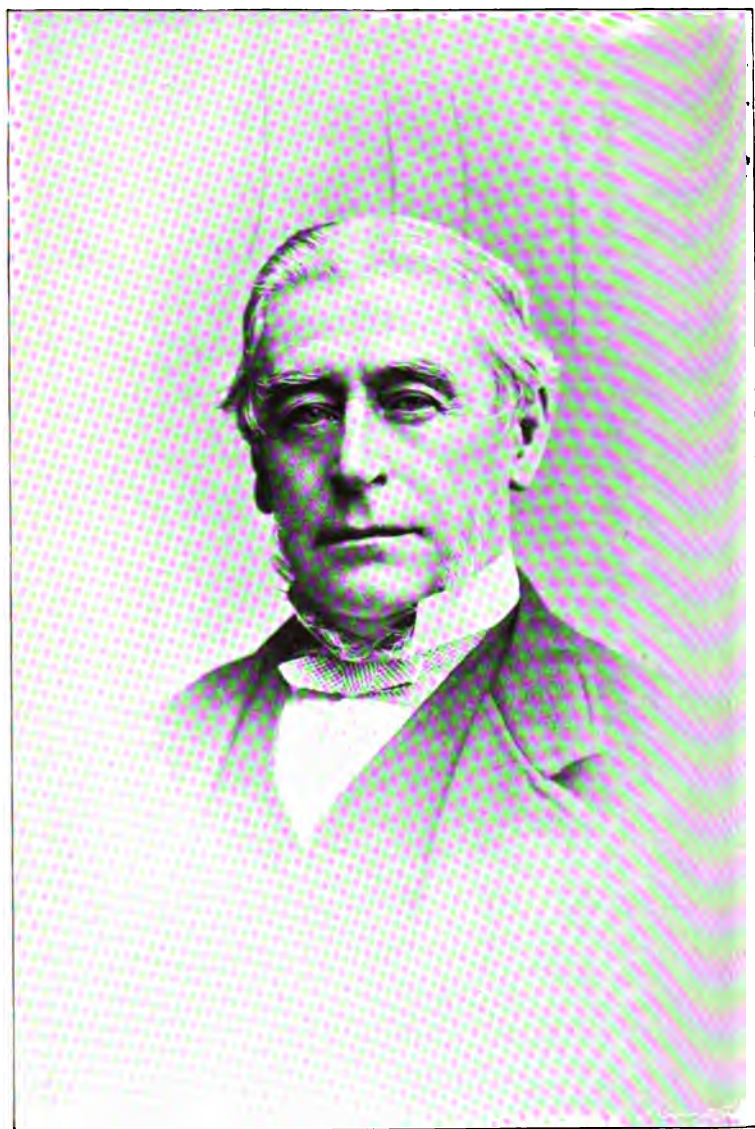
the old church of Kirkby Wharfe. On Monday he entered York, and was presented with the freedom of the city, contained in a richly-chased casket of gold. Afterwards he dined at the *Black Swan* with upwards of eighty nobles and county gentlemen, a great function the like of which this old inn has never known before or since.

Lord Howden eventually left England and built for himself a castle in France, where he died, leaving no issue. About 1849-50



THE FIRST EARL OF LONDESBOROUGH.

he sold the Grimston estate to the Hon. Albert Denison, second surviving son of the first Marquis Conyngham, who, upon his succeeding to the great property of his maternal uncle, Wm. Joseph Denison, Esq., M.P., of Denbies, Surrey, assumed by royal license, 4th September, 1849, the surname of Denison only, and was created Baron Londesborough 4th March, 1850. His lordship was a gentleman of great scholarly attainments, and his life was one of continuous



JOHN FIELDEN, Esq.

prosperity, attended with much public advantage. He was M.P. for Canterbury from 1835 to 1841, and again from 1847 to 1850. He was a K.C.H., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c., and ever took a deep and useful interest in history and antiquities, and there are many valuable articles contributed by him to the volumes of the *Archæologia*. He had also a good knowledge of coins, and was President of the Numismatic Society. The accompanying portrait I am privileged to reproduce from the admirable engraved picture by Sir Francis Grant. It depicts his lordship about to address an archæological society, and upon the table by his side is shown a very fine Roman helmet, brought from Ravenna, and one of the only perfect ones known. His lordship was much attached to Grimston, and always spoke of it as "dear old Grimston." He was twice married, and died in 1860, leaving a large family by both marriages. His eldest son, William Henry, second Baron Londesborough, created Earl in 1887, was formerly M.P. for Scarborough, and he had also been, in 1857, M.P. for Beverley. He was born in 1834, and married Lady Edith, youngest daughter of Henry, seventh Duke of Beaufort, K.G., by whom he had issue, a son (the present Earl) and four daughters. His lordship died in 1900, and was interred at Londesborough, near Market Weighton, the ancient seat of the Cliffords, the estate having been purchased by the first Lord Londesborough in 1850.

In 1873 the Grimston estate was sold to the late John Fielden, Esq., D.L., who at the time of his death in 1893 was lord of the manor and sole landowner. His family descends from the Fieldens or Feildens of Leventhorpe, in the parish of Bradford, *temp.* Henry VIII.,* and afterwards of Todmorden Hall on the borders of Lancashire. John Fielden, Esq., of Centre Vale, Todmorden, who died in 1849, was M.P. for Oldham, and his third son Joshua Fielden, Esq., F.A.S., F.R.G.S., of Nutfield Priory, Surrey, was J.P. for Lancashire and Yorkshire, and M.P. for the Eastern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, from 1868 to 1880. He died in 1887, aged 60. Mr. John Fielden, of Grimston, was succeeded by his son, Thos. Fielden, Esq., D.L., and M.P., for South-east Lancashire (Middleton Division), who died in 1897. He married Martha, eldest daughter of Thomas Knowles, Esq., M.P. for Wigan, who with her family now resides at Grimston Park.

The previous Hall had been built in the latter half of the 18th century by John Carr, the celebrated architect of York, who was also the architect of the large mansions at Farnley and Denton, higher up Wharfedale.† The Hall was rebuilt, by Lord Howden, in 1840, and

* See *Bradford Antiquary*, vol. i. (1881), pp. 10—16, 231, &c., vol. ii., pp. 5, &c.

† Grimston is omitted in the list of Carr's works cited in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. iv., pages 205-6.

is a very large and imposing mansion in the Italian style, with a handsome Corinthian portico, surmounted by a triangular pediment, upon which are his lordship's arms representing an officer surrendering his sword, with the motto: "Betrayed, not conquered." The interior apartments are exceedingly handsome and richly decorated, and during the lifetime of Lord Howden and its subsequent noble owners, few houses in England contained a larger or more valuable collection of famous relics and antiquities. There was a wonderful assortment of ancient armour, and in the Asiatic Dining Room was a magnificent collection of Indian and Turkish weapons, made of or mounted with gold and silver, and ornamented with diamonds and other costly jewels. These included the swords of Tippoo Sahib, and other Indian, Afghan, and Turkish warriors, together with their fire-arms and chain-mail. Much of the armour was collected by the Lords Howden. There was also a great display of other relics, including the gauntlets and sword belonging to Henry VIII. of England; the golden stirrups of the High Constable of France of the reign of Henry VIII. of that country; helmets of the time of King John and the early Edwards; executioners' swords from Germany; Roman helmets and camp-kettles, and a collection of ancient British arrow-heads and celts. There were also in the Blue Drawing Room several fine paintings by old masters; the silver knife, fork, and spoon, of Prince Charles Stuart, "the Pretender;" besides a superb array of jewellery, part of which had been worn by the Bourbon family. There were also four beautiful chairs, a couch, and a table, formed of ivory, which had been presented by the native Princes to the celebrated Warren Hastings on his leaving India. Also many splendid objects of vertu, and a unique collection of drinking-vessels, including a small carved ivory drinking-cup, curiously mounted with gold, which once belonged to the great Reformer, Martin Luther.

The park surrounding the mansion embraces an area of about 300 acres, and is picturesquely diversified by wooded dells and gentle undulations, produced by the uneven denudation of the underlying limestone. There is also a nice lake, which attracts many uncommon birds, particularly in the winter season. In December, 1884, a large bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) was shot here, and about fifty years ago a very fine specimen of the rosy gull (*Larus rossii*) was shot in this neighbourhood, and having been preserved was for many years at Nun Appleton Hall. Yarrell states that it was "quite new to our British catalogue."

The timber on the estate is generally well grown, and there are many grand spreading trees. The elms and ash-tree, as well as

Scotch firs, thrive uncommonly well on the estate, and there is here perhaps the largest sycamore in England. It bounds the vista of the promenade on the west side of the house. This fine specimen is probably 200 years old, and is 80—90 feet high, and at three feet from the ground the trunk measures 22 feet in circumference. There is also a magnificent specimen of the Mount Atlas cedar (*Cedrus Atlanta*), which is 70 feet high, and at three feet from the ground the trunk is 13 feet round. When I saw this tree in the autumn of 1900 it was laden on every bough with numberless cones, which might have been numbered not in hundreds or thousands, but by hundreds of thousands!* The numerous finely-grown trees and luxuriant foliage form a dense and delightful shade in the hot days of summer, while the abundant evergreens temper the severity of the winter's cold.

The laid-out grounds cover an extent of about 40 acres, and are amongst the finest of their kind in Yorkshire. Experienced gardeners have always been employed on the estate, and not a little of the beauty of the existing display is due to the care and skill of the head gardener, Mr. J. Clayton, who came here when the estate was purchased by Mr. Fielden in 1873.† The Rosary contains about 300 varieties of roses, and there is a surprising amount of bloom outside throughout the greater part of the year. There are also extensive conservatories and vineries, besides large kitchen gardens and orchards wherein are some very old species of apples. At the western extremity of the grounds is a splendid level parade designated the Emperor's Walk, which has on either side marble busts of the twelve Cæsars, each most admirably executed by well-known Italian sculptors. At the east end of the walk is a life-sized statue of Paris offering the apple; while at the opposite end is a beautiful arcaded temple enshrining a large bust of Napoleon I.

The grounds and walks were laid out, in the time of the second Lord Howden, by Mr. Nesfield, of London, and like the mansion are in the Italian style. Elegant and attractive as the whole place appears, in its Italian loveliness, it is said that the second Lady Howden could never be reconciled to make Grimston her permanent home, for in spite of its reminders of fair Italy, there was still lacking an Italian sky!

In the neighbourhood of the Emperor's Walk stood part of the village of Grimston, which in 1851 had a population (with the whole township) of 115, and its rateable value in 1851 was £1272. There

* An account of this tree was furnished by Mr. Clayton, the head gardener, to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, for 12th September, 1900.

† The Gardeners' Orphan Fund, established in the Jubilee year, 1887, is recorded to owe its inauguration to a suggestion of Mr. Clayton.

was a Charity School here for 16 girls, supported by Lady Howden and afterwards by Lady Londesborough, and the children were also partly clothed by their ladyships. Grimston Lodge, now the residence of the Harrisons, was in the thirties occupied as a school by Mr. Benjamin B. Haigh (*see* BRAMHAM). In 1770 this village was the scene of a diabolical murder of a man named Lund. The murderer, Michael Naylor, was executed at the Tyburn, without Micklegate Bar, August, 23rd, 1770.

On the east side of the Park, a short distance from the church, are some four or five acres known as the Bella Hall estate. At the sale in 1815 it is described as the "Bella Hall Orchard," and was then a grass pasture. It is bounded on two sides by earthen banks, erected for the purpose of staying floods from the river, and at the south-west extremity is part of a ruined wall, with a built-up doorway, which has evidently been a closed building of some kind, though it does not look very old. The walls are only 15 inches thick. There is an annual rent-charge of £2 10s. payable out of this estate to the trustees of Armthorpe School, near Doncaster, left by Ann Holmes in 1689. It would appear she was of the family of Holmes, of Hertfordshire, who held lands in Armthorpe in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Hunter speaks of John Holmes, who married a Tindell, of Brotherton, *temp.* Henry VIII., as "another trafficker in Abbey lands."



ULLENSAKER.

CHAPTER XVII.

ULLESKELF.

A place without a history!—Importance of Ulleskelf in pre-Norman times—Gallows at Ulleskelf—Some important discoveries—Meaning of Ulleskelf—The manor with church—Historical records—Baptisms at Ulleskelf—Population in 1378—Local men in the wars—Old families—Village aspects—An ancient homestead—A great fire—Disappearance of the old church—Erection of the new church—Wesleyan Chapel and National School.



ULLESKELF on the Wharfe has no history, so I was once told by an intelligent native of the place. It has always been in the old parish of Kirkby Wharfe, and was said to have no separate records. A place without a history naturally stimulated my curiosity, and so I was led to make some close enquiry about it. Then I found that this ancient township had not only a history, but a very long and interesting one; indeed much longer than it will be possible to relate in these pages. In fact Ulleskelf, like the other constituent member of the parish, Grimston, had been in pre-Conquest ages, and even afterwards, a much more important holding than Kirkby itself, and seems to have stood pretty much in the same relation to Kirkby Wharfe as Appletrewick originally did to Burnsall in Upper Wharfedale. It was an old Celtic tribal claim, afterwards taken and occupied by the Danes, and its lords down to and beyond the Conquest had jurisdiction over the whole place, including the lives and possessions of their tenants.* At Ulleskelf they erected a gallows under the ancient law of *infangtheof*, having the right to execute thieves taken within their liberty, and acquired the property of all such felons. Where these old gallows stood at Ulleskelf I have not ascertained. They are mentioned in the pleas of *Quo Warranto*, A.D. 1279, as then the right of the "Prebend of Ulftkelf." It is not unlikely that the township had been added to the See of York for some reason connected with the kingdom of Elmete, which was dissolved about the time that King Edwin became a Christian and founded the See in 627. And so it continued to be within the

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 45 and 365.

liberty of St. Peter's, York, though comprehended within the parish of Kirkby Wharfe upon the formation of that parish, the whole of which, it should be noted, is on the south side of the Wharfe, and not within the Ainsty.

Situated within nine miles of the imperial Roman city, it is not to be wondered that relics of Roman age should have been discovered from time to time in the vicinity of Ulleskelf. Perhaps the best of these were found in 1849, viz., two fine and perfect bronze celts, together with a bronze palstave, in equally good condition. They were dug up in the sand and warp at a depth of five feet, and subsequently passed into the hands of Mr. R. H. Brackstone, of London. Engravings of them are here appended. But by far the most important find within the township, as well as one of the most valuable of its kind ever made in England, was the discovery of an immense hoard of stycas, turned up by a man named Lee while ploughing in a field near the Wharfe. The field belonged to Colonel Thompson and is called Wood Hill Close. There was a compact mass of 3000 to 4000 Anglo-Saxon (Northumbrian) copper coins; the bag or box in which they had been placed having completely perished. About 500 of the specimens are now in the York Museum, and they range from and include coins of Eanred (808-840) to Archbishop Wulfhere (from 854), though singularly not a single coin of either Eanbald (796-832) has been observed among them. They probably represented the monetary wealth of the township or parish at the time of the great Danish irruption in 867, when York was sacked and a most horrible massacre ensued. It would actually appear that there had not been, in this neighbourhood, a survivor left to indicate the spot where so much treasure had been concealed. In 880 the great King Alfred vanquished the intrepid invaders, but again they broke into revolt, but were finally quelled by Athelstan "the glorious" in 937, who then became master of York and all Northumbria,* and by whom the great liberty of Otley, Cawood and Wistow, was among other valuable properties, confirmed to the See of York. There can be little doubt that Ulleskelf also formed part of the same extensive grant by Athelstan, it being also a place of ancient religious importance, and had a church recorded as existing there in 1083.

The place would appear to have been settled and greatly improved by the Danes, who called it by some such name as we now know it, Ulleskelf. In *Domesday*, however, it is written *Oleschel* and *Oleslec*, while the local pronunciation has always been Uskel or Oleskel. From the surface aspects of the place it would not appear, as in the

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 35.



BRONZE CELTS FOUND NEAR ULLESKELF.



case of Shelf, near Halifax, and Tanshelf, near Pontefract, to suggest a *shelving* situation, sufficient to warrant such a derivation from the terminal "skelf." In the prefix *Ole* or *Ulle* I have no doubt there lurks the Scand. name of Ullr, akin to the gothic *wulþus*, glory, which is the name of one of the gods, the step-son of the mighty Thor, in the *Edda*. From Vigfusson, who quotes the *Flateyjar-bok*, I gather that *skelfr* means to frighten, to shake, to make tremble, which is what we might expect to have happened on the Viking conquest of this place. Ullr, in the form of Ulfr and Ulf, gave name to many men of renown in the Viking days, who have left traces of their existence in such places as Ulverston, and Ulles-water, in the English Lake District, and Ullesthorp in Leicestershire. Ulleskelf may therefore have the meaning or significance of *Ulfr's conquest*, and we must not forget the famous Ulphus, son of Toraldus, who governed the western parts of Deira. He it was who bestowed all his lands, &c., on the blessed minster of St. Peter of York. The coins I have referred to may have something to do with that Danish conquest.

At the Norman Conquest Oleslec (Ulleskelf), with its berewicks, is stated to have contained 13 carucates, less one bovate, for taxation, and that 8 ploughs may till them. Archbishop Eldred had these for one manor. Now (1083—6) William de Verli has of Archbishop Thomas, 2 ploughs in the demesne, and 8 villanes and 9 bordars having 4 ploughs, and 3 sokemen with 2 villanes and 5 bordars having 2½ ploughs. There is a church, 60 acres of meadow, wood pasture for swine, &c., the whole worth in King Edward's time 100s., now 4 pounds. In the Recapitulation Archbishop Thomas is recorded as seized of 13 carucates, less one bovate, in Oleschel. A manor so advanced in cultivation, and possessed of an endowed church, must have been one of great importance at this early time.

There is no mention of Ulleskelf in Kjrky's *Inquest*, but in 1297-8 I find a Thomas de Ulekelf made homage to the Archbishop in his chambers at Cawood for lands, &c., held by him in Ulskelf.* Some of the tenants obtained their manumission through the lenient government of the Archbishops, and there afterwards grew up a series of valuable freeholds, and a good deal of property afterwards exchanged hands in the township, particularly in the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1315 Ulskelf, as then spelled, is returned as within the liberty of St. Peter's, York. In 1525 Anthony Hamond sold lands, &c., in Uskelf, and in 1542 the same Hamond bought of Baldwin Yong, the manor of Scarthingwell, &c., and a rental of 1 pound of cumin there and in Barstow (Barkston ?), Saxton, Uskell,

* See also *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 35, page 241.

and Grimston. A fine concerning this property was made in 1554, when Henry Yong, gent., and Thomas Crosthwayte, were plaintiffs, and Margaret Hamond, widow, and others, were the defendants.

Before the dissolution of the monasteries Dean Higdon, who was Dean of York from 1516 to 1539, erected a "goodly house" at Ulleskelf with orchard and well kept flower-gardens. Leland observed this house when he was here about 1540. The prebend of Ulleskelf had been established at an early period, and one might make out a long list of the prebendaries of that stall to the present time. No doubt some of the early prebendaries resided at Ulleskelf and served the church or chapel then existing there. Although in a grant of the manor of Stockeld, 9th Edward II. (1315), I find among the witnesses the name of Adam de Midelston, who simply signs himself parson of the church of Unskelf.* Among the presentations made at the Visitations of those churches dependent upon the Mother Church at York, are several referring to this old chapel at Ulleskelf. In 1472 the chapel is reported to be in a defective condition, and in 1481 there is a similar report of broken windows in the nave, &c., and from an allusion made in this year to a carelessly kept font and *crismarium*, it would appear that the church at this time possessed the right of baptism. The holy chrism, or unguent used at the ceremony of baptism, is of very ancient origin, and is mentioned by Tertullian as in use in his time, *ca.* A.D. 200.

But in the Poll Tax of 1378 we find mention of no house of importance at Ulleskelf, though this was a layman's tax, and the priest consequently is not referred to. There were 27 married couples living at Ulskelf (so spelled) at this time, besides 9 single adults, each of whom paid the agricultural rate of 4d. The population, allowing for absentees in war, &c., would not be much under 200, a comparatively large population at this time, considering the ordeal the district had lately undergone through the scourge of the Black Death. John Michelson and Robert Nicholman appear in this list, and in 1418 I find a John Nicholson "forester of Ulskelf."† Also in 1444-5 Richard, the smith of Ulskelf, receives 10s. 4d. from the Dean and Chapter of York for bands, crooks, and snecks for repair of the Minster. Again in 1472 the same Richard, or his son of the same name, supplies some iron fetters or chains for St. Peter's prison in York. It is evident that there was a forge and smithy at Ulleskelf at this time, where in times of war, weapons of different kinds would be turned out, "homely work" they might be, yet they would "stand in good stead."‡

* *Yorks. County Mag.*, (1891), page 111. † *Surtles Soc.*, vol. 35, page 38

‡ See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 305.

The men of Ulleskelf no doubt were called upon to serve in arms in many a great affray at home and abroad. Towton field is close by, where it is all but certain some of them would be engaged; likewise in the great Civil War of King Charles' time, and again in 1715 I find from an old parchment book at Bolton Abbey, the men of Ulleskelf assisted in the suppression of the rebellion headed by the Pretender, James Stuart. When news of the victory at Preston reached the village, the bells of Kirkby Wharfe rang out a merry peal, as is recorded in the old parish accounts for 1715. During the Civil War of the 17th century, at least one local landowner was a great sufferer for his loyalty and devotion to the cause of the unhappy King. He had to compound for his estates, which comprised lands and houses in Ulleskelf. He produced a deed, dated 18th July, 12th James I. (1614), which shewed there was a rent-charge of £16 per annum granted to Thomas Breary and his heirs for ever, issuing out of a messuage and lands in Uskelfe (so spelled), and he deposed that all his lands in Uskelfe, amounting to £22, are liable to this charge.*

Among other old local landed families is that of Squire. At the time of the Civil War they were living at the Manor House, afterwards taken by the Shilleto family, who for many years, down to about 1840, owned the manor of Ulleskelf as well as a great part of the soil. The Squires had been resident about York long before they settled at Ulleskelf. Timothy Squire, a wealthy woollen draper in that city, was Sheriff of York in the time of Charles II. He had a son Timothy who died in 1682. Robert Squire of the same city also deserved well of his country. He was the fifth son of William Squire, of Ulleskelf, by Ann, his second wife, daughter of William Savile, of Copley. William Squire was a devoted servant in the unhappy cause of Charles I., and his son Robert, who was born at Ulleskelf Manor in 1648, was a lawyer of note and sometime M.P. for Scarborough. He died at York in 1707, leaving by his wife Priscilla, only child of Edward Bower, of Bridlington Quay, one son and two daughters. The son died in infancy, and his daughter Priscilla married Bryan Cook, Esq., eldest son of Sir Geo. Cook, Bart., of Wheatley.

The manor of Ulleskelf afterwards came to the Lords Londesborough, and in 1873 all their land and manorial rights in the townships of Oxtan and Ulleskelf were sold by public auction at York, June 24th. John Fielden, Esq., D.L., who had bought Grimston Park, became the purchaser, and his descendants are now lords of the manor of Ulleskelf, and with the executors of the late Chas. Shann, Esq., J.P., of Tadcaster, are the principal landowners.

* See *Yorks. Arch. Jl.* (Record Ser.), xviii., page 86.

The village of Ulleskelf consists mainly of one long rambling street (*see* illustration facing this chapter), winding in true Danish fashion, and there is little doubt the plan of this ancient thoroughfare remains pretty much the same as when its shealings of wood and turf were raised on the same site in the old Viking days. Modern improvements have done away with much of the antique character of the place, but there are a few old tenements still standing; the most notable of these has a basement of brick and superstructure of lath and plaster, now much decayed. On the principal front of the house there remains portions of an elegant plaster shield of arms. For many generations the house belonged to the Grainger family, and is now owned with other property here by Messrs. Liversedge, of Selby.

In 1740, I find among the *Sessions Records* at Wakefield, there was a great fire at Ulleskelf, and many houses, no doubt at that time constructed largely of wood, were burnt down. Upon the petition of Richard Johnson, Richard Potter, Wm. Varley, Mary Cressor, Jeffery Boan, James Jobson, John Ellis, and Jas. Shillitoe, setting forth that they had sustained damage, by accidental fire, to the amount of £350 and upwards, the Justices ordered the Treasurer of the West Riding to pay unto Mr. Shillito of Ulleskelf, the sum of £10. This was to be distributed by him amongst the sufferers named, at the discretion of the Rev. Mr. Hodgson, vicar of Kirkby Wharfe. Two days afterwards a further £10 was awarded to them from the bounty of the West Riding, and it was also ordered that a certificate of the court be made of the premises to the Lord High Chancellor, in order to procure a brief to enable the sufferers by this calamitous fire to make a general appeal for assistance from the country at large.

I have referred to the old *Domesday* church at Ulleskelf, and as it is mentioned as existing in 1481, in all probability it continued to serve the principal portion of the population of the parish down to the Reformation. After then the people of Ulleskelf would attend the old church at Kirkby Wharfe, and it would be necessary to keep the roads between the two places in a decent state of repair. The old parish accounts contain some records of this fact, and in 1709 is an entry of 2s. 6d. paid for mending the church bridge going to Ulleskelf. Ulleskelf, as I have said, has always had a larger population than either Kirkby Wharfe or Grimston, and the need of church accommodation for that township has long been felt. At length, through the efforts of the present active vicar of Kirkby Wharfe, a very neat and comfortable new chapel-of-ease has been erected in the village. It is dedicated to St. Saviour, and is a

memorial of the completion, in 1887, of Her late Majesty's fifty years happy reign. The whole of the cost of the erection, about £1000, was raised by voluntary subscription, excepting a grant of £90 from the York Diocesan Building Society. Mrs. Fielden is the patron.

A Wesleyan chapel was built at Ulleskelf in 1827, and the National School was erected in 1864 in place of the old school, which had an annuity from the Shillito family for the education of six poor children. The common was enclosed in 1838.

CHAPTER XVIII.

ROUND ABOUT TOWTON.

North Milford—The ancient family of Ledes—Custom of *garsome*—Milford Hall—Manor of Towton—Baron Hawke—Towton Hall—The great Battle of Towton—The site of the battle—The burial trenches—Lord Dacre's tomb—Horse and warrior interred together—Local discoveries—Some relics: a Towton battle-axe—The Towton roses, a foolish belief—The 15th century memorial chapel.



ABOUT midway between Ulleskelf and Towton (three miles), we pass through the old *Domesday* vill of Milford, or North Milford, so called in contradistinction to South Milford in the parish of Sherburn. North Milford, in the parish of Kirkby Wharfe, was of Laci's fee of Pontefract, but the place is chiefly memorable as the seat of a family who for several centuries made the old Hall here their home.

The first local mention of this family I find in the capitation-tax of Richard II. (1378), for Kirkby Wharfe, where Robert de Ledes, *frankelyn*, and wife, contribute 6s. 8d. to that levy. This shows the family had, even at that time, an important status in the district. Their lineage is furnished in the Visitation made in 1665-6, and Thoresby gives a pedigree of the family, commencing with Pauline de Ledes, whose grandson was Sir Roger Ledes, Kt., 43rd Edward III. (1369), from whom descended Thomas Leedes, of North Hall, Leeds, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Plompton, Esq. The Leedes and North Milford families bore the same arms, viz.; *argent*, a fess, *gules*, between three eagles displayed, *sable*. There was also a family of this name resident at Westwick, near Boroughbridge, before the Reformation. Before 1428, Nicholas Crodack, Robert Ledes, and Henry Berton, held one-third part of a knight's fee in Ryther and Lead; and in 1438 Thomas Coupland and Alianora, his wife, who was formerly wife of Thos. Ledes, of Westwick, were defendants in a fine touching property in Dalton Noreys and Newsom, in Brogton-in-lithe, in Richmondshire.

I have already mentioned some local benefactions of this family, and from some further unpublished particulars of an inquisition held

at York Castle, 12th June, 1674, I find that Brian Leedes, of North Milford, gent., by will dated 20th April, 1563, bequeathed £40 to the vicar and churchwardens of Kirkby Wharfe, to be paid "to any inhabitant of the said parish having to pay *garsome* for his house or farm and not able to pay; without hindrance of occupying their farm-hold,* or for lack of his corn for finding of family, or a cow to a poor man or woman, or the buying of a yoke of oxen, or any other meritorious act, £20 of such £40 to be let among such persons as stand most in need every year, and the other £20 as they thought most convenient." The inquisition is too long to be printed in full, but it appears that in common with other benefactions of this period, the heirs or trustees had not fulfilled the terms of the will.

In 1597 Sir Robert Stapleton, Kt., Edward Stanhope, Esq. (of Grimston), John Conyers, Esq., John Vavasour, Esq., and Hugh Bethell, Esq., were plaintiffs in a fine for the recovery of the manor of North Milford from Thos. Leeds, Esq., together with messuages and lands there and in Kirkby Wharfe and Saxton. Thos. Leedes left an only daughter, but the family continued to reside here down to the 18th century, and in the old churchwardens' accounts for Kirkby Wharfe is an entry, under date 1717, of a payment of 1s. "to Mr. Leedes's servant for two otters heads;"† and again in 1720 10s. is paid to Madam Leedes for "wood for altar rails" in the church. In 1740 was celebrated the marriage of Edward Rookes, Esq., of Rodes or Royds Hall, and Miss Leeds, of Milford, near Tadcaster.‡ The Rookes family was seated at Royds Hall in the 15th century,§ and on the marriage of this last male descendant of the Rookes family, in 1740, with the daughter and heiress of Robert Leeds, of Milford, the latter family terminated its long connection with this neighbourhood. Edward Rookes assumed the name of Leeds,

* *Gærsuma* is an Anglo-Saxon term signifying store, riches, a premium, fine, an earnest (*vide* Bosworth). In a survey of the manor of Steeton, in Airedale, made in 1583, it is stated that the lord's tenants of the said manor have been accustomed time out of memory of man to pay unto the lord at every ten years' end, one whole year's rent besides their accustomed rent. This is commonly called "town-term," which, together with other heriots mentioned, is paid in consideration of the fines on the *GRASSEMES* of their tenements. Clough's *Steeton*, page 17. In Mallerstang, in the North Riding, by *grassams* is understood a fine paid for grassing on the common, and the large pastures at the present time are divided into *grassams*.

† Otters and badgers have been long extinct in this neighbourhood. Patefield Wood, between North Milford and Scarthingwell, was doubtless an old haunt of the badger, the word *pate* being a local name for a badger. See Lucas's *Studies in Nidderdale*, page 270.

‡ Heywood's *Noncon. Register* (ed. J. H. Turner), page 230.

§ See *Bradford Antiquary*, vol. i., pages 20—25.

upwards of 35,000 brave and stalwart Englishmen brought to their last account on that unhappy day.* The old English aristocracy was all but annihilated by this disastrous war.†

The battle was fought on Palm Sunday, March 29th, 1461, upon the then unenclosed land between the villages of Saxton and Towton, bounded on the west by the small river Cock, which enters the Wharfe at Kettleman Bridge, about a mile south of Tadcaster.‡ Old chroniclers affirm that this stream was choked with the pierced bodies of the dead and dying, and that for more than a mile below its effluence with the Wharfe, the water was "collored with bloud." Old Drayton (1563—1631), referring to this incident, little more than a century after the battle, says,—

Small Cock, a sullen brook, comes to her succour then,
Whose banks received the blood of many thousand men.§

Great trenches were dug to receive the bodies of the slain, (one of which is on the north side of Saxton churchyard, a few feet from the wall),|| and occasionally, in various places, during digging operations, bones and remains are come upon. About twelve years ago, while excavating the upper part of the lime works at Newthorpe, near South Milford, some trenches were found containing many human skulls and other remains. Ralph, Lord Dacre, lies buried in Saxton churchyard under a "mean tumb," which long continued in a broken and neglected state, without palisade or railing, until 1883, when through the bounty of Lord Carlisle, of Castle Howard, it was carefully restored and erected on a bed of concrete, and enclosed with a kerbstone and iron rail.¶ The tomb bears on each side a

* Fenn's *Paston Letters*, vol. i., pages 219—221, gives the Heralds' report as 28,000 slain.

† See *Trans. of the Royal Hist. Soc.*, vol. i, (1875).

‡ The Rev. G. F. Townsend, M.A., Vicar of Brantingham, writing in 1846, says a road runs between two stone quarries, where great slaughter took place. There were many mounds about here, which "through the lapse of four centuries have worn nearly down to the level of the soil; but you may see a kind of circles in the field, above the quarry mentioned, and these circles are covered with patches and clusters of rose-trees."

§ A full account of the great fight, with a plan of the battlefield, will be found in Dr. Leadman's *Prælia Eboracensia: Battles Fought in Yorkshire* (1891); see also *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. x., pages 1—34.

|| They appear to have been removed from the Common where they originally lay. Leland says "they lay afore in 5 pittes, yet appering half a mile of by north in Saxton Feldes."

¶ An account of the Dacre Tomb by T. M. Fallow, M.A., F.S.A., appears in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. x.

shield of arms, and the ancient black-letter inscription upon it is as follows :

Hic jacet Ranulph' dñs de Bakar et gillesland beru miles & strenuus in bello pro rege Henrico VI. anno domini MCCCCLII. xxix die mensis marcii videlicet dominica ramis palmarum cujus animæ propicietur deus. Amen.

It is stated that Lord Dacre's "gallant grey" was buried with him, and that the warrior himself was interred in a standing position, similar to those old warriors of the same era, recorded to have been buried upright in the Clapham vault at Bolton Priory.* The Rev. S. G. M. Webb, the present vicar of Saxton, possesses a portion of the skull of a horse taken from Lord Dacre's grave in 1861.

Many relics have been found upon and about the site of the battle. Drake records† that he and two others were present at the opening of one of the burial mounds, when a large number of human bones were disinterred, together with portions of swords and arrow-heads. Several groat-pieces were also found of Henry IV., Henry V., and Henry VI., which had evidently remained in the owner's pocket when he was buried after the battle, and there they rested until the purse or garment had perished, and the coins had dropped close beside the thigh bone, where they were found in quite fresh condition. In 1789 a massive gold signet-ring was found while ploughing a field at Towton. Its weight was 1 oz. 4 dwts. 9 grains. It had no stone, but upon the circular bezel was engraved a lion statant, gardant, with the motto: *Now vs Thus*. The crest of Percy being a lion statant, it is conjectured to have belonged to the fallen Earl of Northumberland. But the Percy lion is statant only with tail extended, and their motto: *ESPERANCE*.‡ Four years later a fine gilt spur was discovered bearing the inscription: *EN LOIAL AMOUR TOUT MON COER*.§ Subsequently a miller found a 15th century battle-axe in the river, a relic no doubt of the famous fight. The

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 317; also Wheater's *Sherburn* (1865), page 178.

† *Eboracum* (1736), page 111.

‡ The Sovereign of England bears as a crest the lion passant, gardant. It is also the charge of the Bromfield and Consul families, while the Fairfaxes of Newton Kyme have also the same crest, which appears on the tomb of the great Lord Fairfax in Bilbrough church. Sir Guy Fairfax, of Steeton, was on the Yorkist side at Towton, while Sir Wm. Talbois, Kt., then lord of Newton Kyme, fought for the Red Rose, and was attainted and had his lands confiscated. The motto: *Now Thus*, is ascribed to the families of Pilkington and De Trafford, but I can discover no instance of the motto adduced above.

§ Two other Towton spurs are in the Bankfield Museum, Halifax. One of iron was dug up on the field of battle, and the other of copper was found on the line of retreat.

haft of oak was much decayed from long submergence in the water. It is now in the Duke of Northumberland's museum at Alnwick Castle. By his Grace's kindness I am enabled to present the accompanying view of it, from an excellent photograph specially taken for this work by Mr. Ruddock, of Alnwick. The handle of the weapon is not, I should add, the original one.

Much has been made of a local belief, that a certain dwarf rose-bush, once plentiful on the Field of Towton, has produced roses



BATTLE-AXE FROM TOWTON FIELD.

white and red ever since the great battle. There are people foolish enough, even in our own days, to believe in a miracle, which, had it originated in the Middle Ages, might be excused, but as it is wholly a modern invention, the notion of this floral oddity must be discountenanced in the light of scientific fact. These bushes, no doubt, grew about Towton long before the White and Red fight

between King Edward and King Henry, and produced the same kind of roses then as they do now. The plant is the little Scotch Burnet Rose (*Rosa spinosissima*), which grows not only at Towton, but all over the great belt of magnesian limestone which divides our county in half, from north to south. I have found it in many places just the same as at Towton. The plant is common to this formation, and its blossoms vary, like all roses, according to age, soil, and situation, from pure white to flesh-colour, that is, with more or less pink or red in the bud or open flower.*

The run on these roses at Towton has been tremendous, especially within living memory, and a man at Saxton once told me that he had got as much as 2s. 6d. a root for them within the last ten years! Very few now remain; nearly all having been stubbed up; more the pity, for there is nothing in the least peculiar about these Towton roses, and no botanists, before the 19th century, have commented upon them. Furthermore, we have been told in prose and poetry that the "blooms do fade and the tree doth wither and die" when removed from its native heath! Exactly; so will most flowering bushes when removed at the wrong time of the year or planted in uncongenial soil. In Saxton gardens the plants may be seen thriving vigorously, but it is useless attempting to grow them in Leeds, Manchester or Bradford. Scores of songs and poems and magazine articles have been written on this aspect of the Towton blooms; but the following beautiful verse must suffice as a fair example of this popular fallacy:

There is a patch of wild white roses that bloom on a battlefield,
 Where the rival rose of Lancaster blush'd redder still to yield;
 Four hundred years have o'er them shed their sunshine and their snow,
 But in spite of plough and harrow, every summer there they blow;
 Though rudely up to root them with hand profane you toil,
 The faithful flowers still fondly cluster round the sacred soil;
 Though tenderly transplanted to the nearest garden gay,
 Nor cost, nor care, can tempt them there to live a single day.†

Of the "great chapel" erected at Towton by Richard III. in memory of the "men slayn at Palmsunday Field," nothing now remains, but the site of the building is preserved in the name of a field called Chapel Garth, situated behind Towton Hall. An indulgence of 40 days for two years was granted 22nd July, 1486, to all who would contribute to the building and endowment of the chapel, and again in 1502 there was a further indulgence of 40 days in aid of the same "capella de Toughton," then newly edified. There was a similar indulgence granted in 1484 for the new chapel at Aberford, which John Brown of Abirforth intends to erect."‡

* See W. West, F.L.S., on the Towton Rose in the *Journal of Botany* (1891), p. 346.

† Vide J. R. Planche's "Flowers of Towton Field" in *Songs and Poems from 1819 to 1879*.

‡ *Surtess Soc.*, vol 35, page 241.

CHAPTER XIX.

ABOUT SAXTON AND ABERFORD.

Scarthingwell Hall—Catholic chapel—Village of Saxton—A wayside cross—The Cock Beck—Lead Hall and church—Peculiar endowment of the church—Around Aberford—A wealth of wild-flowers—Roman road—Name of Aberford—Charter for a market The church—Its unusual dedication—Murder of a vicar—Aberford on a main highroad—Local plagues—Registers of the church—Effects of plagues, &c.—Abstracts from registers—Tithe-barn—Local pin trade—"Sammy Hick"—Table of former occupations at Aberford—Pinfold and ducking-stool—The bridge—Aberford longevity—Barwick-in-Elmet—Old hall—Lotherton—Sturton Grange—Becca Hall—Old inn—Supposed Roman bridge.



FROM Towton the main road to Sherburn passes near to Scarthingwell Hall, previously referred to as the property and seat of the late Lord Hawke, from whom it was purchased by the Hon. H. C. Maxwell-Stuart in 1848. It is now in the occupation of his son, Charles Maxwell-Stuart, Esq. The mansion had been previously leased for some years by the Hon. Mrs. A. D. Bland, of Kippax Park, and afterwards to John Kendall, Esq. Sir William Maxwell, Bart., who died in 1877, married in 1833, Helenora, daughter of Sir Michael Shaw-Stuart, Bart., who was 17th in direct male descent from Sir John Stuart, son of Robert III., King of Scotland.

The mansion, part of which is very old, was built of stone from the famous Huddlestone quarry, elsewhere mentioned, but considerable additions were made to it about fifty years ago, shortly after the purchase by the Hon. H. C. Maxwell-Stuart. The mansion stands in a very pleasant park, and has a large lake (about 16 acres), made about the year 1770, and there is a beautiful Catholic chapel attached to the house, attended by a few families in the neighbourhood. It is in the Byzantine style, but much of it has been copied from the Royal Chapel at Munich. The chapel was opened by Cardinal Wiseman in 1854.

A short distance to the west is the historic and pleasantly rural village of Saxton, with its venerable church (All Saints).*

* The Woodhouse family were living at Saxton in 1378 and founded a chantry in the church. See *Surtrees Soc.* vol. xcii., page 226.

junction of Saxton Lane with the Great North Road is the stump of a wayside cross. The old hall or manor-house, formerly the seat of the Hungate family, lords of the manor, was pulled down early in the 19th century, and the present building, now a farm-house, was erected on the site. Of other ancient buildings the old soke-mill at Saxton is mentioned in 1207-8.* The ancient forge, too, which furnished mallets, wedges, and other implements of iron for the quarries at Huddlestone in the 15th century, is mentioned in the Archbishops' books at York.

The famous Cock Beck, which rises in the neighbourhood of Barwick and flows eastwards through Aberford, here makes a sharp bend to the north, and at the picturesque *Crooked Billet* inn, a good half-mile from Saxton, the beck is a tolerably broad stream. Here are old Lead Hall and Lead Church, previously mentioned. The former is now a ruin, but the quaint little church is still used for worship twice a year. These services, by immemorial custom, are held, the one on the Sunday following St. Mark's Day and the other on the Sunday after St. Luke's. Their origin does not seem to be known, but it has been conjectured that they may have been originally intended to commemorate those who fell at the neighbouring battle of Towton. There was, however, a special memorial chapel erected in the village of Towton, but how long it existed is not known. The only endowment belonging the chapel of Lead consists of the tithe of the Chapel Garth, in Lead, a field of about 17 acres, which tithe in 1845 was commuted for a modus of £1 18s. 8d., payable annually to the rector of Ryther, who is responsible for the bi-annual services held in the chapel within his parish. In the Parliamentary Survey (*ca.* 1652), the chapel is stated to be four miles from Ryther, and but half-a-mile from Saxton; has no minister and only 30s. per annum for maintenance. The Commissioners recommend that it be dissolved and the chapelry annexed to Saxton.

Round about Aberford the country is very pleasant and picturesque, and, being undisturbed by manufactories, there is a great abundance as well as variety of plant-life. Mr. Ben. Spencer, the well-known botanist of Bradford, who was schoolmaster at Aberford from 1860 to 1865, tells me that within a radius of three or four miles of Aberford Bridge, he collected, at that time, upwards of 300 species of flowering plants. The whole of the parish is situated on the magnesian limestone, but towards Bramham the gritstone crops up.†

* See *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. xciv., page 115.

† It is worthy of note that Mr. Geo. Webster, of York, has recently added a moss, new to the British Flora, from the magnesian limestone near Aberford. See *Naturalist*, 1901, page 1.

There are many indications of prehistoric works in the neighbourhood of Aberford, and the old Roman road from Tadcaster to Cambodunum* passed through the town, though its presence here is nowhere indicated. The town, notwithstanding its high antiquity, is not recorded in *Domesday*, unless we are to assume that Cuford (that is cow-ford; A.-S. *cú*, cow†) is intended, which was in the vicinage of the Cock Beck. Here Ilbert de Lacy had two carucates of land and in Perlintune (Parlington), he had a further six carucates. They both lay within the soke of Kippax, and the tenants owed suit of court to the lords of that manor. Parlington was the more important place, and in the 14th century its population was more than double that of Aberford. Aberford was, no doubt, so called from the name of its first Anglo-Saxon colonist, Aba or Abba, a very common name in Saxon times.‡ In the Aberford registers the name is frequently written Abbaford and Abaford.

The place is comprised within three townships, situated within the parishes of Aberford and Sherburn. In 1250 Henry le Grammarie, then lord of the manor, obtained a charter for a weekly market on Wednesday, at Aberford, and also for an annual fair to be held on the eve, day, and morrow of the feast of St. Richerius. This market and fair were confirmed by Edward I. in 1306 to Hugh le Despencer, and again in 1335 to William Grammarie. The church was formerly in the patronage of the knightly family of Walkingham, lords of Ravensthorpe, and was appropriated to Oriel College, Oxford, and a vicarage ordained 9th March, 1331. The Provost and Fellows of this College are still impropiators.

The church bears the uncommon dedication to St. Richard, a fact which seems to bespeak a Saxon origin, as St. Richard was King of the West Saxons, *ca.* A.D. 720, though it seems equally likely that the name is derived from St. Ricarius, whose life was passed in the parts of Picardy about Abbeville.§ The old church, pulled down in 1860, certainly bore traces of great antiquity in the herring-bone masonry of the lower walls and in the zig-zag ornament of the chancel-arch, but one ancient window has been retained, previously in an outer wall and now between the chancel and the vestry. The ancient tower also remains, now surmounted with a spire; the east end being likewise allowed to stand as it had been rebuilt only some twenty years previously. The new church was erected through the

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 28.

† This is the *Domesday* interpretation, but Cuford may be the house now called Cocksford, written in 1286 Cokesforth. See *Yorks. Inq.*, ii., 42.

‡ See Aba and Abba in Birch's *Saxon Charters*, No. 242, &c.; also in Kemble's *Codex*, 1266, &c.

§ See Miss Arnold-Forster's *Studies in Church Dedications*, vol. ii., page 43.

munificence of the Gascoigne family of Parlington and other residents in the neighbourhood, and was opened by the Archbishop of York, April 29th, 1862. There is also a beautiful Catholic Church, originally erected in 1788, and since restored; also a Wesleyan Chapel, and a good Almshouse, with chapel attached, founded in 1844 by Mrs. Gascoigne and Lady Ashtown.

The list of vicars of Aberford commences with the year 1230, and in 1346 it is recorded that John de Byngham, then, or shortly before, vicar, was in the church bent upon his knees in prayer, when a gang of violent persons entered the sanctuary and forthwith slew him on the spot.* The motive for this crime is not stated, but it happened during the terrible and unsettled season that led to the Black Death, when famine and misery were abroad. Aberford, situated upon one of the most important highways in the kingdom, would certainly not escape the dreadful consequences of that calamity. Some places and even whole parishes were entirely depopulated. Indeed the position of Aberford on this busy thoroughfare has no doubt led to its being victimised by many contagious outbreaks originating in other parts of the country, as the ancient and interesting registers of the church apparently testify.

The registers of the church are amongst the oldest in England and commence with the year 1540. In 1551 I find there was a great plague at Aberford, when probably one-sixth of the entire population succumbed to its ravages. Who can picture the deprivation and wretchedness that must have prevailed during that dreadful period? The monasteries had been dissolved and the roads were full of freebooters and wandering beggars. The sere pages of these old registers tell a sad tale of the conditions of life in the parish at this distant time. It was hard fare for the bulk of the inhabitants, who were ill-clothed and ill-housed, and when they fell sick they mostly relied for recovery on the herbs of the field. Life indeed was held in little respect; the hardness of the times begot a callousness and indifference and self-interest almost brutal, which led everywhere to oppression and greed. What are we to think of such an entry as this in the Aberford registers: under the date July 10th, 1551, appears the burial of John Carter and Jennet, his wife, and two days later were buried Margaret, wife of Richard Carter, Alice, Elizabeth, Richard, and Margaret, children of the said Richard Carter. A husband deprived by death of his wife and four children, if not also of his father and mother, probably all inmates of the same house, who were taken and buried all in the space of three days!† There

* See Raine's *Fasti. Ebor.* page 444.

† The Carters were an old local family and were settled at Parlington in 1378.

were evidently no means of isolation employed and so the whole family perished, leaving the desolate husband to mourn his miserable fate. What a sad life-story is there not contained in the above few lines! Yet it was nothing unusual in those dreadful days. Only two months after the record I have mentioned, I find a similar case, a whole family confined, no doubt by force, in one house, and all perished of the plague!—

1551. Sept. 6th. William Stamper, Matthew, Elizabeth, and Anne, children of the said William Stamper, buried.

Again in December, 1609, there is this mournful entry,—mournful yet touching in the irony of its brief statement that only one house (thank heaven!) was infected. That house had been under a ban, and was no doubt watched and guarded that no one came out alive:*

1609. Dec. MEMORAND: that four persons died of the plague in the house of Robert Gawthorpe of Aberford, namely his daughter, December 5th; his wife, December 8; his son, December 12; and his mother-in-law December 13. Beside these there died not any more in the said Town.

The Aberford registers also relate to other notable events and circumstances, with many particular references to old local families, such as the Wests, Hilloms, Milners, Thompsons, Alisons, &c., who were resident in the parish as long ago as the time of Richard II. There are also many early references to the extensive coal workings at Parlington and Sturton. Such for example among the burials:

1629. Jan. 11. Francis Lawson, slaine with a fall into a cole pitt at Parlington Hollings.

1744. July 20. A woman, unknown, found dead in a coal pit at Sturton.

1750. Apl. 22. Wm. Smith, slain in a pitt at Sturton.

It would appear that at these times the pits were not adequately fenced round, and must have been a source of danger, not only to strangers, but also to the men and youths employed there. In some districts, at this period, public complaints were made of the danger of these unfenced coal-pits.†

In 1615 there is a reference to the old tithe-barn, which is also called tithe-lair at the *Pig and Whistle*, near Hook Moor, now pulled down. In 1647, Henry Burne, the miller, was buried, and in 1707, George Trickett, "miller of Abbaford Mill," was buried. Again in 1737, Edward Jackson, miller, was buried. In 1827 a boy named Michael Wood, aged 9 years, was killed by the machinery at the Aberford Water Mill.

* During the great plague in London, in 1665, the infected families were similarly dealt with. The inmates were compelled to remain under one roof, communicating death to one another. Upon the doors of the stricken houses a large red cross was painted, with the words "Lord have mercy on us."

† See my *Old Bingley*, page 337.

The registers contain also many references to the local clergy and those connected with the parish. The following burial-entries appear:

- 1607 March 14. Mr. Christopher Newell, minister of Saxton.
 1608 Feb. 9. John Bennet, clerk, late vicar of Abberford.
 1630 Mar. 30. Sara, wife of George Thompson, clerke, vicar of Aberford,
 1650 Nov. 18. George Thompson, vicar of Abberford, was buried.
 1689 James Waters, vicar of Aberfoarth 38 years, aged 101.
 1711 Mr. Bains, vicar of Abberford, died at Sherburn, March 22nd, 1711-12,
 and was buried there.
 1732 Xber. 6 Mr. David Dawson, vicar of Abberford and curate of Barwick-
 in-Ellmet, buried at Barwick.
 1765 Feb. 15. Elisabeth Phillippa Bentham, daughter of the Rev. Mr. James
 Bentham, minor Canon of Ely.*

Aberford had in former times a great reputation for the manufacture of pins,—a trade now long extinct here,—and the registers contain many entries relating to local pin-makers, or “pinner” as they are sometimes described. In 1708 I find the burial entry, on Jan. 3rd, of one industrious pin-maker, named “John Hick, of Abbaforde, a Pinner” who “left Fifty Pounds to ye Poor of ye p’ish of Abbaforde; the interest or clear rent whereof (after a purchase made), is to be divided amongst them three times every year for ever.” He was ancestor of the famous “Sammy Hick,” Methodist preacher,† who died in 1829, aged 71, and to whom there is a well-deserved memorial in stained glass in the church.

As illustrative of the various trades and occupations carried on within the parish of Aberford for about 250 years (1600 to 1850), the following compilation from the registers provides interesting matter for reflection on life in our rural villages in former times. The dates are those which occur in the registers.

TABLE OF OCCUPATIONS AT ABERFORD.

Alekeeper, inn-holder, inn-keeper, 1762, 1763, 1771, 1802, 1806.	Gauger, 1735.
Apothecary, 1802.	Hatter, 1772.
Basket-maker, scuttle-maker, 1746, 1763, 1769.	Heelmaker, 1746, 1747, 1771.
Baker, 1756, 1757.	Horse-rider, 1756.
Barber, 1747.	Labourer, 1766.
Bitt-maker, 1788.	Miller, 1629, 1647, 1707, 1735.
Blacksmith, 1714.	Molecatcher, 1758.
Canon, clerk, 1607, 1608, 1627.	Pinner, pin-maker, 1708, 1732, 1743, 1765,
Curate, minister, vicar, 1630, 1643, 1650, 1710, 1711, 1725, 1732, 1741, 1765, 1768.	Porter, servant, 1607, 1624, 1632, 1634. 1727, 1749.
Clothier, 1745.	Plasterer, 1843.
Cook, 1752.	Rake-maker, 1755.
Clockmaker, 1767, 1769.	Roper, 1739.
Drummer, 1733.	Skinner, 1714.
Excise Officer, 1769.	Schoolmaster, 1804.
Foot-post, post-boy, 1634, 1825.	Schoolmistress, 1767.
Farmer, 1811.	Soldier, 1643, 1644, 1727, 1764.
	Tallow chandler, 1778.
	Weaver, 1733, 1743.

* He was vicar of Aberford. See also *Upper Wharfedale*, page 426.

† See R. V. Taylor's *Leeds Worthies*, page 313.

Entries of the burial of "strangers" are numerous, and occur early in the registers;—in 1548 is the first,—and the same circumstance happens in most places situated upon important high-roads. Aberford lay on the great coaching-road between Doncaster and Wetherby, and at the old *Swan* inn they generally changed horses. The old Town Book bears silent witness to the importance of Aberford on the great thoroughfares of traffic. In 1746, after the Stuart rebellion, there is an entry, dated September 25th, of a payment of 1s. to George Longley for carrying soldiers' baggage, and in 1748 the sum of 6d. is paid "to four soldiers following a serjeant." Then in 1762 "Mr. Warin" is paid £1 13s. 5d. for going to Boroughbridge with the King's baggage.

Other entries of a more domestic character occur, such as a payment in 1746 of 6s. 6d. for wood, ironwork, and setting up of the parish stocks; likewise in 1752 a new lock for the pinfold, 1s. 3d. In 1768 a ducking-stool was provided at a cost to the parish of 18s. It seems there were uproarious women at Aberford in those days, who needed public correction by immersion in the ducking-pond. The sum of 2s. was paid by the parish in 1754 for scouting the neighbourhood about a "fond woman," who may have become the victim of such a public ducking. In 1766 a letter was posted on parish business to Durham, which cost 4d., and in the same year Sylvia Bates is taken to the infirmary at York, and the parish pay 5s. 11d. for "loosing" her clothes, which she had pawned. There must have been something strangely wrong with the said Sylvia, for the parish expend 11s. on salve (ointment) for her. In 1782 two wheels to spin at Barwick workhouse cost 7s. In 1751 the bridge at Aberford is paved at a cost of £1 1s., and in 1768 there is a first payment of £2 10s. 8d. for "bridge money." The terrible murrain among cattle, which happened in the middle of the 18th century,* is alluded to in the following entry:

1747. April 10. For 2 letters about the distemper in cattle, 10d.

This was the most disastrous cattle-plague on record.

Happily in these days of universally better dwellings, and improved sanitation and drainage, these fearful plagues and pestilences, of which Aberford seems to have had more than its share in the past, are now only matters of history. Indeed the natural situation of Aberford, its soil and climatic conditions are exceedingly favourable to health, and there are probably few parishes of equal extent and population in England that have such a bede-roll of longevity as this pleasant and picturesque locality. The following particulars compiled from the registers give ample proof of this:

* See my *Richmondshire*, pages 336-7.

ABERFORD LONGEVITY.

Date of Burial in Registers.		Name.	Age at Death
1778	March 4th ..	John Hopwood, <i>Tallow chandler</i> ..	98
1780	August 22nd ..	Anne Smith, <i>widow</i> ..	91
1783	April 27th ..	Sarah Taylor, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1784	..	Mary Braithwaite ..	101
1791	December 2nd ..	Gabriel Tomlinson, <i>sexton</i> ..	87
1795	November 7th ..	Hellen Hick, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1798	June 21st ..	Mary Giles, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1802	July 29th ..	Ann Bloome, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1806	December 1st ..	Thomas Wood, <i>innkeeper</i> ..	90
1807	..	Ann Smith, <i>widow</i> ..	92
1812	January 31st ..	Elizabeth Cullingworth, <i>widow</i> ..	92
1822	..	Ann Scholefield, <i>widow</i> ..	91
1824	..	Mary Emmet, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1833	..	Mary Johnson, <i>widow</i> ..	94
1837	..	William Cox ..	90
1838	..	Elizabeth Hewitt, <i>spinster</i> ..	91
1840	..	Elizabeth Dunbar, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1841	..	Hannah Taylor, <i>widow</i> ..	91
1843	..	Elizabeth Battersby, <i>widow</i> ..	102
1844	..	William Taylor ..	92
1845	..	Robert Hick, <i>mason</i> ..	92
..	..	Mary Garnett, <i>widow</i> ..	92
1847	..	Ann Wilson, <i>widow</i> ..	90
1850	..	Abraham Stead ..	97
1851	..	John Preston ..	90
1852	..	Mary Paine ..	93
1853	..	William Hirst (of Micklefield) ..	107
1860	..	Joseph Groves..	91
1863	..	Elizabeth Johnson ..	92

We have here the names of 29 persons who have died in the parish within a period of 85 years, whose age at death averages $93\frac{1}{2}$ years, and this remarkable record of longevity might have been very considerably extended had all the octogenarians been included. It will be observed that a large proportion of these aged persons are recorded as widows who had survived, in many cases, their octogenarian husbands.

The whole of this pleasant vale is well wooded and is full of archæological and historical interest. Some three miles above Aberford is the ancient village of Barwick-in-Elmet, about which so much has been written, while here and there along the green flanks of the vale are old historic mansions enclosed with still older parks and gardens.

Two miles north of Barwick is Kiddall Hall, which in 1216 was the property and home of William Ellis, whose famous descendants continued to reside there down to the year 1725.* Hazlewood Hall, the ancient home of the Vavasours, stands a short distance from the Roman road, about two miles north of Aberford. About a mile away in an opposite direction is Parlington Hall, a large and

* See the author's *Airedale*, page 79.

beautiful mansion standing in a park of 200 acres, well-wooded and stocked with deer. This is the home of the Gascoigne family, lords of the manor and sole landowners.

The road hence to Aberford goes through a fine avenue of beeches and elms, and on the opposite side of the valley we see the luxuriant ascending woods about Potterton Hall (formerly the home of the Wilkinson family, and now of Sir Theo. Peel, Bart., D.L.), and Becca Hall. Eastwards stands Lotherton Hall. The Raper family lived here for many years down to about 1835 when the Hall was occupied by Capt. Wm. Ramsden, and afterwards the estate and manor came to Frederick Mason, Lord Ashtown, whose second wife was Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of R. Oliver Gascoigne, Esq., of Parlington Hall. His lordship died in 1880. Lotherton is in the parish of Sherburn and a chapel-of-ease was erected here before the Reformation. Barnbow Hall and Sturton Grange are other old houses to the south of Parlington.* Sturton is one of the townships in Aberford parish, and is also the property of the Gascoigne family. The estate anciently belonged to Holy Trinity Priory, York. The Priors erected a chantry in their chapel at Holbeck, Leeds, and endowed it with a rent from Sturton Grange. In 1379 there were three carucates of land here belonging to this Priory, the greater part of which is stated to lie in pasture, and to be then worth £5 6s. 8d. annually, "and no more, because the said land is stony." In the vicinity of the old Grange there were formerly extensive traces of a moat, which at one period doubtless encompassed it.

Becca Hall stands in a park of about 100 acres, and is at present occupied by A. T. Shreibner, Esq. This is a very ancient property, spelled in early documents Beckhaw and Beckay. In 1243 Richard le Gramary obtained a charter of free-warren in his lands at Bechaye and Bykerton, and in 1248 he had a grant of a market and fair within his manor of Aberford. The market and fair were confirmed to his successor, Baron Despencer, as before related. Alan Sampson, of York, had also granted from the house of Gramary, the sites of certain wind and water-mills at Aberford and "Beckhawe." In the 17th century the Carvill family resided at Becca Hall, and more recently the estate became the property and home of the Markham family. The Hon. William Markham, of Becca Hall, who died in 1815, was son of the Archbishop of York (1777 to 1807) and grandfather of Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., to whom reference has been made on page 151. The Hon. William Markham's youngest

* Barnbow Hall and Shippon Hall, in the parish of Barwick, were places of meeting of the plot for the establishment of the post-Reformation Nunnery at Dole Bank in Nidderdale. See my *Nidderdale*, pages 376-7.

daughter, Lucy, married Henry L. Wickham, Esq., a native of Cottingley in the parish of Bingley,* and their eldest son, William Wickham, who was born in 1831, was High Sheriff for the county of Southampton, and died in 1897. Becca Hall is still the property of this family, and is now held by trustees of the late Col. Markham.

Following the Cock rivulet downwards to the Wharfe, we may pass Lead Hall to Towton, already described, and so on to the old London road at Cock Bridge, a short mile from Tadcaster; or we may take the north road from Aberford past the old *Black Horse* inn.



BECCA HALL, NEAR ABERFORD.

This hostelry will always be associated with the name of Nevison, the notorious highwayman, who used to make this house his occasional retreat and where it is said he always called to bait his favourite mare on his famous journeys from London to York.

The old bridge, at the embouchure of the Cock Beck with the Wharfe, appears to be very ancient, and some have declared it to be Roman. It consists of a single round arch without key-stone and of undoubted early construction. The width of the arch is 13 feet and its height seven feet. The stones are squared after the

* See the author's *Old Bingley*, pages 347-8.

Roman manner, and several of them bear old mason-marks. The *voussoir*, or wedge-shaping of the stones used in the construction of the arch, is almost invariably present in Roman bridges, as is also the projection of the piers supporting the arch below the springing-line. Drake, I believe, was the first to designate the old arch in Micklegate Bar Roman; the superstructure having been repeatedly rebuilt. The arch faces the old road to Calcaria (Tadcaster). It is constructed of millstone grit, though here and there stones of another kind have been inserted where the old ones have failed.

Locally this is known as Kettleun Bridge (sometimes written Kettleman), but the earliest mention I can find of this interesting structure is in 1415, when the Dean and Chapter of York grant 3s. 4d. for the construction of a stone staith at "Ketilmyrebrygg," and again in 1432 the sum of 53s. 4d. is disbursed for the carriage of 64 loads of stones from the Minster quarries at Huddleston to "Ketilbarnbrigg super aquam de Qwerff." The stone seems to have been transported in wains to this spot and then conveyed by boat to York.

1



CASTLE HILL AND PREHISTORIC MOUNDS, TADCASTER.

CHAPTER XX.

TADCASTER IN PRE-NORMAN TIMES.

Prehistoric Tadcaster—A British station—British footways—Situation of the early church—The Calatum of Ptolemy—Celtic origin of the Roman Calcaria—Discovery of skeleton and stone weapon—St. Heiv and Tadcaster—Kelbar *als.* Kelbar—Newton Kyme not Calcaria—Was "Tatha" in 1066 Tadcaster?—Name of Tadcaster—Tadcaster on Ermyn Street—Position and extent of Roman camp—"Castle Hill"—Roman finds—A remarkable bronze ringed celt found at Tadcaster—Other discoveries The "Street of Tombs"—Roman interments—Details of direction of the Roman road through Tadcaster—Notes on occupation of district by Saxon and Dane—Tadcaster a Danish mint—The castle mounds—Evidences of a stone-built castle.



ALL comparative evidence on the early settlement of our country points clearly to the importance of Tadcaster in prehistoric ages. Century after century, dynasty after dynasty, have come and gone and left us with but the husk of all their achievements, out of which—the scattered record, the lost relic and forgotten tomb—we must try and construe local life in the distant past. When the old Brigantian cities of York and Aldborough were in their prime—at a period dating back at least two thousand years*—Tadcaster, too, like Ilkley in the Upper Dale I have elsewhere described,† was a place of great esteem; both Ilkley and Tadcaster being, no doubt, important vanguards in the approaches to those cities. Between each of these places lay well-beaten trackways over the natural earth, for the Britons did not learn the art of paving until the Romans came, and these old British foot-roads were, when laid between important stations, utilized by the Roman conquerors as the lines of their wonderfully-constructed highways throughout the realm. Unlike the Saxons, the Romans too, conquered the British strongholds, appropriated the sites and raised their camps upon the older settlements.

* Cæsar's conquest of the Britons is given by Nennius as 47 B.C., but that conquest did not extend to Yorkshire

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 185-90.

The Saxons and Angles rarely appropriated British or Roman sites, but preferred to stake out *tons* or enclosures of their own, yet in Yorkshire there are several proven instances, as at Aldborough and Ilkley, where Saxon churches have been raised within the areas of Roman camps. At Tadcaster, I opine, the original church was erected outside the area of the camp, probably for the reason that the site had been a pre-existing burial-ground, and so was chosen for its sacred associations, as we know was the case for the same reason in other places. Else there could have been no motive for erecting the church in such a low-lying position beside the river (unless, as I have explained elsewhere, the river was venerated), rendering the building liable to inundations, when higher and drier sites could have been got close at hand.* The Roman town at Tadcaster no doubt extended, as at Ilkley and other places, beyond the walls of the camp.

It can, therefore, as I have said, hardly be doubted that Tadcaster was a British outpost to York, connected with that city by an unpaved road, and as such an outpost it continued during the Roman occupation. It has been conjectured that it was the *Calatum* of Ptolemy,† though this is not confirmed by Nennius, no very reliable authority, however, who flourished in late Saxon times. Nennius mentions 33 British cities, on the authority of "Mark, the anchorite," a British Bishop. Amongst those named in the north are *Caer Ebrauc* (York), *Caer Daun* (Doncaster), *Caer Caratauc* (Catterick), and *Caer Luilid* (Carlisle), but singularly there is no mention or suggestion of Aldborough, in Yorkshire, which was beyond all question one of the most important Brigantian strongholds. Some, indeed, hold it to have been the capital settlement of the Brigantes, taking even precedence of York.

Moreover, there is other evidence that Tadcaster was a British city. I concur with Mr. Boyle in believing that its Roman name of *Calcaria* was but a Latinised form of a pre-existing Celtic name; exactly as we know was the case with the majority of the Roman towns mentioned in the Antonine *Itinerary*. In the first portion of the word there is a marked suggestion of the Celtic *calch*, lime, indicative of the character of the ground upon which the station is built. Kelso, in Scotland, anciently Calkou, has a precisely similar meaning, and so has Cealchythe, in Kent, where the great council of

* Sometimes, however, the nearest site to a pre-existing holy-well was selected, as at Burnsall in Upper Wharfedale. I have not heard that the Popple Well at Tadcaster, which is on the river-bank about fifty yards north of the churchyard, had any sacred associations, though this well had formerly a great repute for the coldness and purity of its water.

† But according to the latitude given by Ptolemy *Calatum* must have been much further north.

Bishops was held in 816, and where the interesting enactment took place that all new churches should have inscribed on the wall or upon a tablet or else on the altar, the name of the holy person to whom the church was dedicated. Again a trace of the Celt may possibly be referred to the circumstance that about 1886 a human skeleton was discovered in the neighbourhood of the Applegarth, though the period to which it belonged cannot be stated with certainty. It was unearthed in the vicinage of the Civil War entrenchments, but as a stone adze or axe-head was found in the skull, the interment may possibly belong to the Stone Age. The discovery was made in the course of excavations at the extension of Braime's (Victoria) brewery. Dr. Tordoff, who examined the remains, informs me that the skeleton was that of an adult male person, but as the wisdom teeth were not cut, the unfortunate victim of the blow would not be more than 20 years of age. The weapon is formed of a hard bluish stone.

From the era of Antoninus (A.D. 138—161) to the time of the Venerable Bede, who died in 734, we have no mention of Tadcaster; then we learn from this famous northern historian that the pious lady St. Heiv, after she had established a monastery at Hartlepool, *ca.* 649, retired to the city of Calcaria, which he states is called by the English (Angle) people *Kælcacestir* (*quæ a gente Anglorum Kælcacestir*), where she founded another monastery (*mansio*). (See HEALAUGH.) This is the only allusion to Tadcaster in Saxon times, but it plainly shews that the place was known by its Roman-British name in the 7th century; Bede merely adding the A.-S. *ceaster* or *caster*, meaning a city or site, "applied from the first to any place that bore signs of Roman building or fortification."* Camden, who appears to have derived some portion of his local information from a Mr. Robert Marshall, of Bickerton, also observes that an eminence near the town is called Kelcbar, which retained in his time (1551—1623) something of the old name of Calcaria.† This Kelcbar is at Smaws, on the road to Newton, where is a very old quarry of limestone. Bishop Gibson, the 18th century editor of Camden's *Britannia*, refers to Newton Kyme as a probable site of the Roman Calcaria, in which, however, he is not supported by modern authorities. At Newton, he tells us, many Roman coins have been ploughed up, particularly of Constantius, Helena, and Constantine; also an urn or box of alabaster with only ashes in it; melted lead and rings; one of which had a key of the same piece joined with it. The road to York, he says, is firmer ground than that from Tadcaster, which

* See Pearson's *Historical Atlas*, page 40.

† Written by Thoresby in 1702, Kel Bar, *vide Diary*, i., 369.

would hardly be passable were it not for the causeway made over the common between Tadcaster and Bilbrough, and he further adds that Newton was so called by the Saxons because they erected *new* buildings upon the foundations of the Roman town. But this I hold to be highly improbable for the reasons already stated; the Anglian settlers having chosen this site and named it Newton (new town) in contradistinction to the *old town* of Calcaria, about a mile lower down the river.* Some have even suggested that the old *caster* or station at Tadcaster was called "T'aud caster," which gave Calcaria its later name; the dialectal form of the A.-S. *cald* (old) being *aud*. This rendering, however, is one which might be shortest described as a good joke but a bad guess!

Our next probable reference to Tadcaster is in 1066, when, according to one of the latest contributors to the *Saxon Chronicle*, King Harold advanced towards York with his army to oppose the invasion of Tostig and Harald Hardrada. On Sunday, the 24th September, he is stated to have reached "Tatha," and the next day marched to York, and afterwards to Stamford Bridge, eight miles further east, where a great battle was fought. This "Tatha" is presumed to be either Tadcaster or Pontefract, but as the former is only 9 miles from York and as Pontefract is 22 miles from York, it certainly seems more likely to be Tadcaster than the *ha'*, *hall* or abode of one *Tata* at Pontefract, the *Tateshalle* of *Domesday*.† But this *Tatha*, if it be Tadcaster, is a great stumbling block in the derivation of the *Domesday* name of *Tatecastre* (Tadcaster). If Tadcaster were actually known by the name of *Tatha* so soon before the Conquest (which I very much doubt), then the prefix *Tate* cannot be a personal name, although I hold this *Tatha* as the place Tadcaster not proven. I contend that in the prefix *Tate* is the name of the pre-Conquest owner of the *caster* or camp at Tadcaster, equally with the belief that *Ebchester* was *Ebba's chester*, and *Godmanchester* *Godmund's chester*, or that *Tatham* in *Amounderness* was the obvious *home* or abode of one *Tata* or *Tate*. Thus we find in 1083-6 the old names of Calcaria and *Kælcaster* as completely changed as were those of *Isurium* to *Aldburch* and *Streanæschalch* to *Whitby* in the *Domesday* survey.‡

* This is further confirmed by the discovery of a mile-stone near the south end of Beacroft road, Castleford, about twenty years ago. The stone, now in the Leeds Museum, is inscribed M.P.XX., *i.e.*, 20 Roman miles from Castleford to York, which is exactly the distance measured by way of Tadcaster.

† In 1201 written *Tateshal'*. *Surttees Soc.*, vol. xciv., page 10.

‡ I find that Dr. Bosworth, quoting Somneri (1659), gives *Tadu* as Tadcaster; in the original, "Tadi, = Tadcaster, oppidum in agro Eboracensis."

It is now almost needless to contend for Tadcaster as the Roman *Calcaria*, in opposition to the opinion formerly advanced in favour of Newton Kyme. There is no Roman road from Newton Kyme to York. Newton Kyme lay on Watling Street, one of the four royal highways called in the Norman laws *Quatuor Chimini*, which traversed the country from south to north, and which from Doncaster lay through Aberford across the Wharfe at Newton Kyme direct north to Aldborough (*Isurium*). Tadcaster was on Ermyn Street, which crossed Watling Street in the neighbourhood of Stutton, near to Headley Bar; the latter highway going due north by the road known here still as Rudgate to St. Helen's ford. On the other side of the river the name of Rudgate is also retained for the old road by Wharton Lodge, east of Bickerton, which runs northwards through Chapel Hill to Aldborough. Tadcaster consequently lay more than a mile east of Watling Street, and this is confirmed by Leland, the State topographer (*ca.* 1540), who remarks "Tadcaster standeth a mile from Watling Street, that tendeth more toward Cairlvel (Carlisle) and crosseth over Wherf at a place called St. Helensford, a mile and a half above Tadcaster, and on the other ripe (bank) is St. Helen's Chapel." Speaking of the situation of Tadcaster he observes "it standeth on the hither ripe of Wharf river and is a good thoroughfare. The bridge over Wharfe hath eight fair arches of stone. Some say that it was last made of part of the ruins of the old castle of Tadcaster.* A mighty great hill, dykes, and garth of this castle on Wharfe be yet seen a little above the bridge. It seemeth by the plot that it was a right stately thing."

"The mighty great hill" mentioned by Henry VIII.'s observant antiquary, has been unfortunately since his time so much destroyed, altered, and encroached upon by the growth of the town that it is at this day a matter of impossibility to define the precise extent and appearance of the old Roman camp. It seems to have been utilized by the Danes and converted into moated mounds, though originally it may have extended about 100 yards north and south from the river, a short distance above the bridge, but it is difficult to define its limits east and west, as it has been destroyed on the east side, but there is little doubt that the old Grammar School stands on its eastern verge, and that the school-playground has been excavated out of it. Judging from actual remains the camp or mounds do not appear to have extended more than 140 to 160 yards to the eastwards and not more than 100 yards towards the south: of similar extent, in fact, to the camp at Ilkley, and in all probability from its small

* Dodsley, in his *Road Book* (1756), says the bridge was built out of the ruins of the Castle 140 years ago.

size built at the same time, on the first Roman invasion of Yorkshire by Agricola in A.D. 79.*

Whether the Tadcaster camp was re-constructed in stone in the time of the Emperor Severus, as was the case at Ilkley and other stations in Yorkshire, cannot now be determined. Every vestige of foundation or of stone walling has disappeared, and the only evidence of the existence of an ancient wall I have heard of is the discovery some forty years ago of a strong and rudely-constructed wall, four feet thick, bordering the river on the east side of the churchyard. But this wall I judge was merely a staith erected in later times to resist encroachments of the river upon the burial-ground. The present so-called "Castle Hill" extends from the north side of the church parallel with the river, and a good section of it is exposed behind the Castle Terrace. It is a thrown-up bank or earth-work, 20 to 30 feet high, composed of soil mixed with angular fragments of local stone, and there are no indications of its having been raised on an old glacial-mound as is the case in some places. It is wholly artificial. I learn that many Roman coins, urns, pottery, and other relics of early occupation have been found upon or near the site from time to time, but these have been dispersed. This is much to be deplored, as a single local collection possesses not only an antiquarian interest,



REMARKABLE RINGED CELT FOUND
NEAR TADCASTER.

but has historic value. But Tadcaster is not the only place that has failed to realize the importance of this, though doubtless here as elsewhere were local museums formed, many private collectors would be willing to part with their treasures to the care of places where they were found. About a century ago a very perfect bronze

* There can be little doubt that Agricola was at Tadcaster, as well as at York during his governorship of the province of Britain. His main route from Chester to York lay through Tadcaster, where in all probability the first camp was constructed under his direction. Two years ago a piece of lead-piping was unearthed at Chester bearing the inscription: CNAEVS IVLIVS AGRICOLA. This is believed to be the only known inscription to the great Roman General in Britain. See the *Antiquary*, vol. xxxvi., No. 251 (Oct., 1900), page 292.

celt was found near the town, and is now, I understand, in the British Museum. It possessed the peculiarity of having a ring of the same metal inserted through the handle of the celt, to which was also attached a small bead of jet.* The appended engraving shews the combined objects exactly as found. It is hardly possible that the celt could have been worn as a charm; indeed Mr. Geo. Du Noyer thinks the bronze ring which was looped to the ear of the celt, might have assisted in fastening it, while the second ring might be applied to either of two purposes, (1) as a catch for a string-guard to be fastened to the wrist, or (2) to render the tying of the larger ring to the handle more easy and direct.

Single coins, but no hoards, I understand, have been turned up at different times, particularly in the churchyard while digging graves. One of these, in possession of the vicar, I have seen. Though much defaced I read it as follows:

Obv. IMP. C. M. CL [Caes. Marcus Claudius] TACITVS P. [Pius] F. [Fel.] AVG. (Head of Emperor).

Rev. TEMPORVM FELICITAS. (Standing figure holding an ensign in right hand and a cornucopia in the left).

This is an interesting coin of the senator Tacitus, who traced his descent from the great historian of the same name. The senate elected him Emperor in 276, at the age of 75, but he reigned only 6 months and 20 days. His short reign, however, was one of great activity, and though little historic value can be adjudged to the record of a single coin, it proves however that Tadcaster was occupied after the reign of this Emperor, and doubtless continued a stronghold of the Romans until the evacuation *ca.* A.D. 418.

Furthermore a Roman wine or water-jug was found in Jan., 1893, by Mr. Wm. Dyson, of the *Britannia* inn, Tadcaster, while dredging for sand and gravel close to an island about 40 yards below Tadcaster Bridge. Its greatest circumference is 38 inches, and height 18 inches. The jar is enamelled a dark green colour, the enamel being almost perfect, and there are looped handles on two sides. This relic is now in possession of Dr. H. A. Allbutt, Leeds. In March, 1895, some men in the employ of Mr. C. Hodgson, were also getting sand from the river when they unearthed a similar kind of jar, but this was made of rough earthenware, unglazed, and is 14 inches high, and 37 inches round its widest part. Mr. Hodgson also possesses a smaller enamelled jar obtained from the same spot in 1897.†

* See Dr. Evans' *Ancient Bronze Implements*, page 118.

† Since the above was printed I am informed that another large Roman water-jug has been discovered (Oct., 1901) about 150 yards below the bridge. This also was found while digging sand at a depth of fully 15 feet below the river-bed. It has a single loop handle, is 18 inches high, 41 inches at its greatest circumference, and around the upper half is enamelled a dark greenish yellow. It was very soon afterwards purchased by Mrs. Fielden, of Grimston Park, and will therefore happily remain in the neighbourhood.

I may also add while discussing the subject of antiquities, that I have seen an ancient anchor, also dredged out of the Wharfe at Tadcaster. It is made of wrought-iron, much decayed; the bow of the anchor between its two extremities measuring 35 inches, and the shaft of oak being 57 inches long. It is evidently mediæval.

It is very probable, for the reasons stated, that the site of the parish churchyard was a burial-ground of the Romans, and of their successors the Saxons and Danes, although many interments in Roman times were made beside the highway leading between Tadcaster and York. So plentiful have been such discoveries on this road that it has been called the "Street of Tombs." In 1897 a stone-coffin was dug up in the grounds attached to the residence of Mr. E. P. Brett, on this road. It is fashioned out of a single block, and has a roof-shaped lid, and is now in the Museum at York. A complete skeleton was found in it. Another tomb, no doubt containing coeval remains, lies undisturbed beneath one of the houses in the Mount, close beside the last-named.* A tomb, 7 feet 6 inches long, composed of 18 ridged tiles, was also discovered in 1833 on the same road near Dringhouses. The tiles bore the impress of the Sixth Legion.†

The direction of this road, I may further point out, affords proof of the position of the Roman *Calcaria* at Tadcaster and not at Newton Kyme. The road came down Garnett Lane, Station Road, and along the north side of the Parish Church, across the Wharfe, where I am told remains of an old pavement have been observed, and up Rosemary Lane on to the York Road, which it leaves at Tadcaster Bar. Thence it continues in a straight line by the Old Street, passing Street Houses, where it leaves the highway again, and continues through fields to the north of Copmanthorpe, joining the highway again at the inn known as the old *Ginger Beer House*, and so into York by Micklegate Bar, and crossing the Ouse by a bridge near the present Guild Hall enters Westgate, York.‡ All about Stutton and Hazelwood are very ancient quarries, whence no doubt much of the material was obtained for building Roman York.

* See *Yorks. Archaeological Jl.*, ii, 435.

† The Britons were slow to adopt cremation, and buried their dead entire. Though many important interments of the body took place during the Roman occupation of England, yet cremation was almost universally practised. During the erection of the North Eastern Railway Company's Hotel, at York, a few years ago, nearly 300 Roman cinerary urns were discovered.

‡ I learn that during the long drought in the summer of 1901, the Wharfe was so low that an ancient stone pavement was disclosed in the river below Easedyke, between St. Helen's ford and Tadcaster. There appears to be no record of this forgotten ford-way, but it is doubtless mediæval.

I shall refrain from any lengthy reflections on the Saxon and Danish occupation of the neighbourhood of Tadcaster, as at best the evidence is obscure. Coins of Olaf, who reigned in Northumbria between the years 940 and 951, have been found bearing the name "Tod;" the place where they were coined. One such bears the legend: ANLAF REX TOD; the moneyers being RADULF and WADTER. The late Rev. Daniel Haigh thought that owing to the frequent interchange of the letters A and O on these coins (*cf.* Anlaf, Onlaf, Onlof) there could be little difficulty in recognizing in the name TOD the old city of Tadcaster. In this case the city having a mint proves it to have been a royal residence, for the moneyers invariably accompanied the King from place to place. A relic of Olaf or Anlaf, I may observe, was discovered some years ago in the Leeds Parish Church. It is part of a Runic cross bearing his name, and it would appear that much of the time of this Danish monarch had been passed between York and Tadcaster and Leeds.*

Mr. Geo. T. Clark, the well-known writer on military architecture in England, observes that at Tadcaster there are a group of earthworks, which he refers to the same Danish period. I will quote at once what he says :

"These earthworks are of considerable size and extent, and occupy a portion of rather low land on the right bank of the Wharfe, a little above the town and close to the parish church. The group contains three isolated conical mounds, about 30 to 40 feet high, and about 40 feet in diameter on the flat top. The most western of the three is very distinctly a moated mound, but it has been much mutilated to supply materials for banking out the river. From the other mounds it is divided by a very deep and broad ditch, which evidently was filled from the river, and is still (1880), when the river is full, flooded by water which rises through the gravelly bottom.†

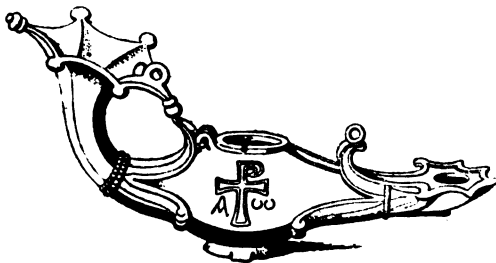
The other two mounds are also separated by a very formidable ditch. Of these the one nearest to the river is the most considerable, and probably bore the shell keep of the castle, of which, however, no traces are now visible. In the skirts of the third mound, that nearest to the church, are two vaults, entered through a sort of pigstye or shed. Upon a very superficial view they did not appear to be very old, but they may have been the receptacles beneath a garderobe."

Finally Mr. Clarke concludes that the earthworks are not British, and notwithstanding the Roman history and name of Tadcaster, can scarcely be attributed to that people. They are more likely, he says, to be of northern origin and not improbably the work of Danish settlers, "of whom Anlaf or Olaf seems to have had a residence here towards the middle of the 10th century."

* See Calverley and Collingwood's *Early Sculptured Crosses in the Diocese of Carlisle* (1899), pages 267-8.

† It is so still (1900). Old inhabitants can remember three permanent separate pools here, one of which had an outlet to the river.

The term "castle hill" applied to pre-historic earthworks, where no castle of masonry has ever stood, is not uncommon in this county and elsewhere. But in the case of the Tadcaster earthworks there are just grounds for assuming the existence, at some time, of a stone-built castle on these thrown-up mounds. A tradition of this kind seems always to have prevailed in the neighbourhood, and Leland, whom I have quoted a page or two back, refers to it in the 16th century. It is very probable that the castle was of pre-Norman date, but no documentary proof of a castle after the Conquest, nor any evidence of a license to crenellate is forthcoming, though it is not unlikely the Percies resided here before their local strongholds were built at Spofforth and Bolton Percy. William de Percy's famous grant to the monks of Sallay, before 1168, was made *in magno placito apud Tadcastre*, while King John, with his court, was at Tadcaster in 1209. Also in a grant by Edward II. of certain lands to the Priory of Knaresbro', in the year 1318, the document is signed by the King at Tadcaster (*Teste rege apud Tadcastre*), which certainly supports the idea of a strong house or castle here at that time. Certain plants, now wild, also favour the idea that there were cultivated gardens about the old Castle Hill. The green hellebore, particularly, is said to be very partial to old ruins, and used at one time to grow very plentifully on this spot.



CHAPTER XXI.

TADCASTER: RECORDS OF EIGHT CENTURIES. PART I.

Tadcaster a royal residence before the Conquest—The castle of King Olaf—William the Conqueror at Tadcaster—His capture of York—Tadcaster spared from devastation—Its rapid development—*Domesday* testimony—System of cultivation—No church at the Conquest—Manor of Malchitone—Large grants to Percy—Early records of the Percies—Percy pedigree—King John at Tadcaster—York Minster built of Tadcaster stone—Charter for market and fair in 1270—Grant of free warren in 1295—Antiquity of local quarries—Leased by the monasteries—Early toll at Tadcaster Bridge—Local enquiry in 1258—Mills, manor-house, and public oven—Bond-tenants, &c.



T would also appear that Tadcaster was a royal residence in Danish times from the extent and quality of its manors on the Norman settlement. It is noteworthy that it escaped the fury of the Conqueror's vengeance, while the country around York and the county generally was sadly harried. The castle of King Olaf, if we are to believe that it stood here, was, doubtless, also the resting place of the English King Harold on his famous and victorious march to Stamford Bridge in 1066. His conquest, however, was of short duration, inasmuch as only three weeks later the fate of England was decided by his fall at Hastings, in October, 1066. Three years afterwards the army of the Conqueror, led by the monarch himself, advanced northwards, and having taken possession of the moated mound at Castleford and ordered the building of the castle at Pontefract, he went on to Tadcaster.* If the castle or any part of it existed then, he probably directed its renewal here too. Thence he marched in the full vigour of conquest, to the capital city of York, where the native garrison at once laid down its arms, and he entered the city unopposed. Here also he ordered the castle to be rebuilt, probably as at Tadcaster, upon a Roman or Danish foundation. This was in 1069. Then followed that terrible devastation of our county, to which the enquiry instituted some fifteen years later bears such bitter testimony.

* See *Ordericus Vitalis* (Bohn's ed.), page 27.

From the time of Olaf (*ca.* 950) to the reign of Edward the Confessor (1041—66) Tadcaster had been slowly progressing, but in the twenty years following the death of the Confessor, the town had advanced in importance by "leaps and bounds." From this it would appear as if it had been intended to maintain the town as the prime stronghold of the new Norman lords, ere the licence was given to them to fortify their neighbouring manors at Spofforth and Bolton Percy. The *Domesday* record is this :

TWO MANORS. In Tatecastre, Dunstan and Turchil* had eight carucates of land for geld, where four ploughs may be. Now, William de Perci has three ploughs and 19 villanes and 11 bordars having four ploughs, and two mills of ten shillings (annual value), and one fishery of five shillings (annual value). Sixteen acres of meadow are there. The whole manors, five quaranteens in length and five in breadth. In King Edward's time they were worth forty shillings; now one hundred shillings.

According to modern calculations these manors were cultivated on the three-field system, and the eight carucates were equivalent to 1440 statute acres, one-third of which lay annually fallow, and the other two-thirds, or 960 acres, paid tax.† The land, it should be noted, had more than doubled in value within a period of about twenty years, a period of great devastation and depreciation to the bulk of the country. Singularly, no church is mentioned, although in a place so prosperous and populous, having two mills, we may be sure the worship of God would not be neglected. We may therefore take it that services were then held, as they often were in early times, in the open air, and that only a beautifully-wrought preaching-cross stood here until the new lord found time to arrange for the erection of a proper building after the completion of the survey in 1083—6. Had not Tadcaster been returned in the King's great inquest as of such high value, I should have claimed a pre-Conquest church for the town, as the laws of Canute and his successors expressly support the view that in those reigns there were many churches which, owing to the destruction and loss of revenue caused by the Conquest, are not mentioned in the survey. But Tadcaster, like Percy's manor of Spofforth, suffered no such loss.‡

In the Recapitulation the above 8 carucates are said to be still held by William de Percy. But there seems to have been another manor over the water, on the east side of the bridge, and this was probably the MALCHETONE of *Domesday*, where Ligulf had four carucates of land worked in the same manner by two ploughs. William de Percy had these too, besides four acres of meadow here

* See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. v., page 297. † See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 134.

‡ See the author's *Nidderdale*, page 220.

and half a fishery. In 1065-6 this manor had been worth 20s., and in 1083—6 its value remained the same.

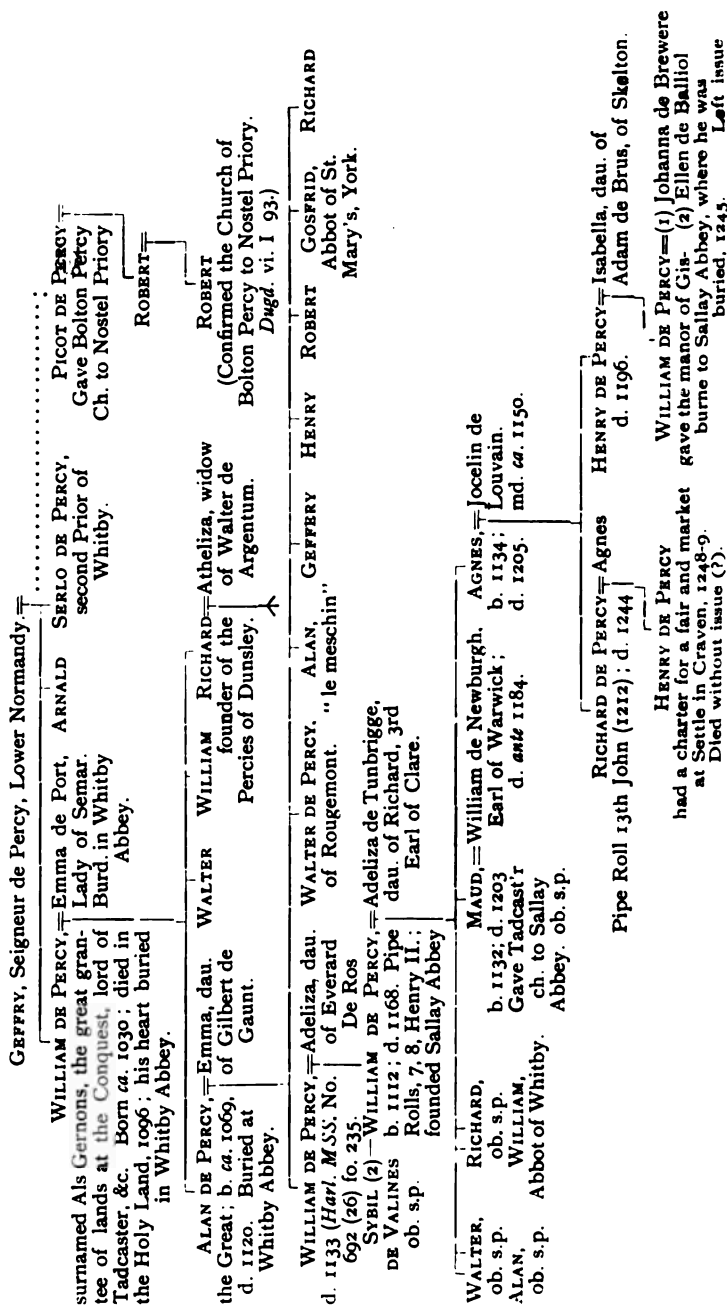
There seems to have been some uncertainty, as I have before pointed out, with respect to the right of William de Percy to a number of his Yorkshire manors, and the men of Barkston came forward and affirmed that William Malet, the Sheriff, had "all Stauton (Stutton), three manors, three carucates of land, and one mill, and in Tatecastre (Tadcaster) two manors, two carucates, and two bovates, and one portion of the land of Turchil." But as events proved, all three manors on both sides of the Wharfe fell into the hands of Percy, and Tadcaster became the most valuable of all his possessions. This potent companion-in-arms of the Conqueror received more than 100 manors in different parts of Yorkshire, besides many others in Lincolnshire. His brother Serlo was Prior of Whitby, and William gave to him "and the monks," the town of Whitby and the port there, &c., wherewith to re-build and endow the monastery in that town. William accompanied the famous expedition to the Holy Land in 1096, but died at Mountjoy, near Jerusalem, where he was buried, yet the heart of the great warrior, say the old chroniclers, was brought back to Whitby. His eldest son, Alan the Great, married Emma, daughter of Gilbert de Gant, and from whom in the female line, the present Duke of Northumberland derives his descent.

Alan de Percy died in 1120 and was buried at Whitby Abbey. His eldest son and heir, William de Percy, married a daughter of Everard de Ros,* and died in 1133, leaving an only recorded son William, who was the founder in 1147 of Sallay Abbey, and died in 1168. The pedigree in Whitaker's *Craven* omits William, the father, and names only one son of Alan, whereas Alan had at least eight sons, as is shewn on the annexed pedigree.† William left two daughters, co-heiresses, the elder of whom, Maud, married William, Earl of Warwick, and gave Tadcaster Church to Sallay Abbey; but in a Calendar of Papal Letters, dated 1218, recently transcribed from registers in the Vatican, it is stated that the right of patronage had been granted to the monks by Matilda, Countess of Warwick, and William de Percy, a document I shall refer to again in dealing with the church.

* See my *Nidderdale*, page 171.

† I am not aware that any Yorkshire book contains a full or reliable pedigree of the great land-owning house of Percy. I am therefore printing, by permission, the early descents of this family from Mr. Fonblanque's *Annals of the House of Percy*, privately printed for His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. Some additional authorities are given, likewise the descent of Picot, reputed brother of William de Percy, the original grantee, who figures so curiously in the early history of Bolton Percy.

PEDIGREE OF PERCY, LORD OF TADCASTER, &c.



Whether the Percies still maintained the old castle at Tadcaster is problematical, but on April 14-15th, 1209, the town was visited by King John, and there must have been a house of importance to accommodate the monarch and his retinue. At this time the Norman Barons were actually, if not in name, the greatest power in the land, and they resented the grinding imposts laid upon them by the despotic King. John's visit to Tadcaster would be countenanced but not welcomed, and there is small doubt he would be received with mock joy. The Barons were shortly afterwards in open rebellion, and the King was compelled to acknowledge their power and many common grievances, by publicly signing Magna Charta (1215), which restored and confirmed the liberties of his subjects in all cities, towns, and ports in the kingdom. Suitors were no longer, by this grand concession, compelled to follow the King in his progresses; assizes were to be taken in authorised places, and justice by fair trial, brought home to every man's door. In 1206 the King's Court was at Doncaster and William de Percy was one of the six justices who sat there. In 1208 the Court was held again at Doncaster and also at York, and among the eight justices present was Robert de Percy.* This Robert was not lord of Tadcaster, as according to the Red Book of the Exchequer giving Knight's Fees in 12th and 13th John (1210-11), William de Percy is declared to be then seized of 15 Knight's Fees (a very large and remarkable holding) of the Honour of Tadcaster.

There was a Robert de Percy living at Bolton Percy in 1276, and he it was who granted to Archbishop John Romanus free passage for the transport of stone from the quarries at Tadcaster to York. The charter is printed in the *Monasticon* (iii., 163), and though undated, must have been written before 1290-1, when Archbishop Romanus began the building of the noble nave of York Minster. But long before this date the old quarry in Thevedale had been granted to the Chapter by William de Percy for material to erect the Minster, that is the south transept, begun early in the pontificate of Archbishop Gray (1215—1255). A right of free passage along an ancient cart-road to the quarry, was also granted to the Chapter by Robert le Vavasour, about the same time. This William de Percy, who was the justice, above mentioned, died in 1244, and his son Henry, who died and was buried at Sallay Abbey in 1272, obtained a charter from King Henry III. in 1270, to hold a market and fair at his manor of Tadcaster. The charter, preserved in the

* *Surtess Soc.*, vol. 94, pages xi. and xii. There was an Alan de Percy who married Beatrice Ingram (living in 1224). See Mr. Brown's pedigree of Ingram in *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xvi., 155.

Public Record Office, is so much stained and in such bad condition, that I am unable to present a transcript of it. It is, however, ratified to be held weekly, on Tuesday.

Henry, son of Henry de Percy, in 1295 obtained a further royal concession, in that he had granted the right of free warren, that is to take conies, pheasants, woodcock, and other game in his demesne lands at Tadcaster. So jealous were the feudal monarchs of encroachments upon the royal forests, that a Crown license was necessary before any man could take as much as a rabbit off his own land.

I have just mentioned the old quarries at Huddleston, which have, doubtless, been worked, as already explained, from Roman times. When the Minster was commenced, traffic along the old Roman road, between these places, would be considerably increased, and a bridge over the Wharfe at Tadcaster would be a necessity. Although the bridge did exist, I find from the *Fabric Rolls* of the Minster that the stone was conveyed in wains from the quarries in Thevedale to the water-side at Tadcaster, and thence transported by *boat* to York (*per navem a Tadcastre usque Ebor*). In 1419 I find the large sum of £6 paid for the transport by boat of 200 measures of stone from Tadcaster to York. In the will of William Barker, of Tadcaster, dated Oct. 22nd, 1403, a bequest is made to the fabric of the Minster for "caryyng unius shypfull petrarum per aquam;" a curious admixture of English and Latin, by the way; but the statement shews that the river and not the road was the common highway of goods traffic in those days.

The quarries named had a wide reputation, and stone from them was sent to many other places in England besides York.* Sculptured fragments of the Tadcaster stone may be found here and there in Yorkshire, built into church and monastic walls of millstone-grit and other stone. In the gritstone walls of Bingley Church, in Airedale, are several such odd pieces. In 1281 the canons of the church of Howden had a quarry "in Tevesdale, adjoining the King's quarry".† In 1291 the Abbot and Convent of Selby obtained a charter, entitled *Carta de Quarera*, from the Prior of Marton, in the Forest of Galtres, granting them permission to work three acres of a quarry in Thevedale, near Tadcaster, between the quarry of the Abbot and Convent of Thornton and that of the Prior and Convent of Drax.‡ We have

* These old excavations, locally known as Jackdaw Crag Quarry, are very rich in plant life. Mr. Wm. Ingham, B.A., of York, tells me that he has collected about 100 species of mosses at this one spot.

† *Ad. quod damn.*, 9th Edward I.

‡ *See Coucher Book of Selby*, No. DL., vol. i., page 317.

here evidence that at this time the quarries were being worked by at least three monasteries, in addition to the Canons of Howden and the Chapter of York. That Drax Abbey was one of them is interesting because it shews that the fragments in Bingley Church, above alluded to, came from these quarries, as the church, down to the Dissolution, was a possession of that Priory.

But while discussing the subject of these quarries and the transport of material, let me once more turn to the bridge. William de Percy, I have observed, was lord of Tadcaster in 1272, and in the following year, I find from the records in the Hundred Rolls, that upon a



TADCASTER BRIDGE.

commission issued 2nd Edward II., it was found that toll was taken by John le Vavasour, at his lime-mill at Sutton (? Stutton), near Tadcaster; also by Baldwin Wake at Kirkeby (Wharfe); while the bailiff of the lady the Queen took toll at the bridge of Tadcaster, but by what warrant the jurors know not. The bridge had, doubtless, been erected by one of the early Percies, and on the death of Henry de Percy, Queen Eleanor became the guardian of his heir, who was a minor. But *Magna Charta* had, by one of its clauses, expressly prohibited the erection of new bridges so as to burden and oppress the neighbourhood, and it would appear that Tadcaster Bridge had

then existed "time out of memory," for the jurors, in 1273, were ignorant as to the origin of the toll that was then levied upon those who used it. It was not until 1530 that the first statute was passed relegating the custody of the principal highways and bridges to the county. Many of the old roads and bridges had been constructed by private bounty, and their owners exacted tolls, which in some cases have been maintained irrespective of successive statutes regulating the conduct of more recent public highways. Thoresby, in his *Diary*, says that he "returned by Scholes over another part of Winmoor," where he "observed the toll-gatherer's booth, where the agents of Sir Thomas Gascoigne are ready to receive toll of the carriages, which at a penny a pair of wheels, amounts to a considerable sum."

But to continue the story of Tadcaster from the prosperous reign of Edward I. An enquiry had been held in 1258 to ascertain the extent and value of the manor, from which it would appear that many of the tenants had been enfranchised, and that a large part of the estate had been disposed of. In 1284 the Percies held only four carucates of land in Tadcaster, where ten carucates make a knight's fee, which they held of the King *in capite*, paying 4s. annually to the Sheriff's fine. When King Edward's eldest daughter was married, in 1290, Henry de Percy contributed 16s., being his quota for Tadcaster, of the levy of 40s. on every knight's fee in the kingdom. Thus the Percies had been well disposed towards their Tadcaster tenantry, giving them every encouragement, and they now owned only half the quantity of land here which they did in 1083. There seems to have been no local grants to the monasteries.

It is interesting to note that in 1258 there were three water-mills here (two mills had sufficed for the population in 1083), which with fishing, yielded to the lord 8 marks annually. He had also a court with garden, let out to farm, which produced 50s. yearly. Though no hall, manor-house or castle, is specified by name, the reference to a manor-court and garden, suggests the existence, past or present, of a capital-mansion, perhaps then in decay, and worth nothing beyond reprises. Six of the tenants were bond in body and goods to the lord, just as the dog and his kennel are to his master at the present day, to be destroyed or disposed of as the master pleaseth. The lord had also an oven or bakehouse in the town, where the tenants were obliged to bake their bread and pay for so doing. Many of these old feudal bakehouses can still be traced, as at Leeds and Skipton.*

* See the author's *Old Bingley*, page 111.

CHAPTER XXII.

TADCASTER: RECORDS OF EIGHT CENTURIES. PART II.

Local effects of the battle of Bannockburn—Invasion of Scots—Destruction at Tadcaster in 1318—Depreciation of the church living—A calamitous era—The Black Death and its ravages—Social and economic comparisons with Tadcaster—Fourteenth century taxation—Local taxpayers—Trade and progress stifled—Vicar of Tadcaster succumbs to the Black Death—Terrible mortality—No Parliament—Scarcity of labourers—The status of Tadcaster in 1378—Local breweries and hostilers—Tadcaster and the war in 1408—A local attainder—Wars of the Roses—Scene on Tadcaster Bridge—Edward IV. at Tadcaster—Progress of Princess Margaret through Tadcaster—The Catholic rebellions of 1538 and 1569—The Tadcaster gallows—The Duke of Somerset and the Reformation—The manor of Tadcaster—Tadcaster in the peerage—The Civil War—Lord Fairfax at Tadcaster—Local evidences of the battle at Tadcaster—Plague in 1645—Annihilation of feudalism—Progress of Tadcaster—Local Protestantism—The rating of Tadcaster in 1690—The Stuart rebellion—Importance of Tadcaster in coaching times—Local inns.



HE accession of the hapless Edward II. brought the serpent out of his lair, and for a long period it hung relentlessly upon mart and cross. The disasters of this reign brought misery and poverty to the town. The victory at Bannockburn in 1314 brought the marauding Scots like locusts into the district, who ate up the best they could find, carried off the cattle, and brutally ill-treated the inhabitants, many of the stronger of whom fled for their lives, conveying as much corn away as they could. The Scots also entered the church, sacked, and nearly destroyed it; the manor-house, with its chapel, in Tadcaster East also went, as the pre-existing castle or manor-seat of the Percies, near the church, would appear to have been not then in existence. This was in 1318, when the Percies had already, ten years before, built and strongly fortified their castles at Spofforth and Leckonfield.

In the year of Bannockburn an inquisition had been made touching the possessions of the Yorkshire lordships, when it was found that Percy held Tadcaster of the King *in capite* by knight service. The Percies were in the thick of the campaigns that followed, but the English army, under the weak direction of Edward II., was unable to stem the ever-flowing devastation of the stalwart Highland

invaders into north England. "The condition of Northumberland," observes Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates, "was terrible in the extreme. For fifteen years after 1316 the whole country remained waste, no one daring to live in it except under the shadow of a castle or walled town."* The church at Tadcaster, which had been valued in 1290 at £43 6s. 8d., was reduced to £28 6s. 8d. in 1318, while the annual value of the vicarage was worth only £6 13s. 4d. Owing to the ravages of the Scots the inhabitants could not pay their accustomed tithes and taxes. Old Froissart relates in graphic detail, the sorry plight of Edward's army during its expeditions in vainly endeavouring to allay the waste caused by the marauders. Men and horses were often without food or drink for days together, or they carried but one ill-baked loaf strapped to their back. In the rage of hunger, men in their madness fought and killed those who had been the companions of their long and miserable marches. Nobles and knights fared little better, and the whole country was in a state of despair and anarchy. Such were the fruits of the second Edward's government.

The misery caused by all this loss was accentuated by an outbreak of murrain among cattle; the land had become soured by excessive rains and the want of proper tillage. This had its effect upon the people, and the annals of the next thirty or forty years abound with the horrors of famine and pestilence, which carried off thousands of the struggling poor. A special and new form of disease known as the Black Death, which I have previously mentioned, was the means of still further reducing the population, sparing neither rich nor poor; it being especially fatal to the Yorkshire clergy. An extended dissertation might be written on the social and economic changes that took place in the 14th century in parts of Yorkshire compared with Tadcaster. I find it evident from certain hitherto unpublished Lay Subsidies for Tadcaster at this period, that the town and district had enjoyed a high degree of prosperity down to the beginning of the 14th century. Even the depredations caused by the incursions of the Scots in 1318-19 did not leave the neighbourhood of Tadcaster in that state of cruel bankruptcy so observable in many other places. The *tenths* and *fifteenths*, which were the temporary aids issuing out of personal property, continued to be paid by the people of Tadcaster with surprising regularity. The *tenths* are said to have been first granted in the reign of Henry II. in order to defray the religious expeditions against Saladine, Emperor of the pagan Saracens, whence it was at first denominated the *Saladine tenth*. Subsequently a *ninth* was imposed by the Crown on all cities and boroughs, that is to say the ninth part of all their goods and chattels were to be taken

* See *Hist. of Northumberland* (1895), page 156.

and levied by lawful and reasonable assessment, "in aid of the good keeping of this realm as well by land as by sea." "Poor booraile people," that is those who like the boors or farmers and labourers had to live by the sweat of their brows, were exempt from the tax, but all those who make profit by trade, as merchants, and "such who dwell in forests and wastes," were to be taxed at a *fifteenth*.

Originally, says Blackstone, the amount of these taxes was uncertain, being levied by assessments new made at every fresh grant of the Commons, a commission for which (A.D. 1232) is preserved by Matthew Paris. This at length was reduced to a certainty, when by virtue of the King's commission, dated 8th Edward III. (1334), new taxations were made of every township, borough, and city in the kingdom and recorded in the Exchequer. This rate was at the time the *fifteenth* part of the value of every township, the whole for the kingdom amounting to about £29,000, and therefore it still kept up the name of a *fifteenth*, when, by the alteration of the value of money and the increase of personal property, things came to be in a very different situation. So that when of later years, the Commons granted the King a *fifteenth*, every parish in England immediately knew its proportion; that is the identical sum that was assessed by the same aid in 1334, was raised by a rate among themselves and returned it into the royal Exchequer.*

The rateable value of Tadcaster was then, about fifteen years after the Scottish ravages, 45s. 5d., made up of a fifteenth of all taxable property. The following unpublished particulars give the names of the inhabitants of Tadcaster who contributed to the levy, with the amounts :

Rad' de Normanville, † 4s. 1d. ; Will' Call, † 5s. ; Thom. Ayr, 3s. 6d. ; Simon Hardicors, 3s. ; Ad. Borchor, 5s. 1d. ; Thom. Frer, 3s. ; Will. Wynter, 3s. 6d. ; Walt' de Batherton, 2s. 6d. ; Joh' Pollard, 2s. 6d. ; Marg'. his wife, 3s. 6d. ; Thom' le Barker, 3s. 6d. ; Robert Pistor, 3s. 6d. ; Rog' fabro, 2s. 6d. Sum' 45s. 5d.

Assessors and venditors were appointed for every district to assess and sell the movable goods ; and this came very hard in times of scarcity or when great sickness prevailed. People in our own day can hardly realize the severity of life, hard fare and impoverishment which these constant drains on the goods of a township meant to its upholders. Many sank under the burden, and famine and disease followed. There had been great mortality amongst the poor throughout the reign of Edward II., and from the next assessments I meet with concerning Tadcaster, it is apparent that the parish had

* Blackstone's *Commentaries* (1783), I., 309.

† See chapter on OLD FAMILIES. ‡ See also *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, viii., p. 124.

a hard struggle to maintain its credit when the Bailiffs called upon the town to deliver its quota of taxes in the 18th or 20th Edward III. (1344—1346, the exact year is doubtful). William de Scargill and John de Burton were appointed collectors, and this is their report for Tadcaster :

Rad' de Normanvill, 5s. 4d. ; Thoma ffrere, 3s. ; Marg' wife of Ad' Barcar, 6s. 4d. ; Thom. Bercar, 4s. ; Robert le Bakester, 3s. ; Simone Hardicors, 4s. ; Richard de Kirkeby, 3s. ; Marg' wife of Joh', 3s. ; Ad' fabro', 3s. ; Will' de Ledes, 3s. ; Joh. Cokesford, 16d. ; Summa, 38s. 10d.

The amount thus paid in 1344-6 was 6s. 7d., or about one-seventh less than was raised about a dozen years earlier. It undoubtedly indicates a diminution of population or a reduction of the trading-class in the town to the condition of farm labourers. The status of the town had unmistakably suffered. It exhibits, however, a very different state of affairs from that which prevailed even four or five years previously, when according to the *Inquisitiones Nonarum* of 15th Edward III. (1341), there were only two men in the parish able to pay above 1s. towards the fifteenth of movable property. One was Simon Hardicors, whose goods were worth 5 marks (£3 6s. 8d), and he contributed to the imperial taxes the fifteenth value of them, or 4s. 5d.; the other was Benedicto de Grymeston, who paid 20d. The eleven others contributed sums from 3d. to 10d. each. It will be observed that the above Simon Hardicors contributed 4s. in 1344-6; and there were ten other taxpayers. Everybody else in the parish was either a farmer or a labourer, and thought too poor to contribute to the imperial levy.

Then four or five years afterwards there broke out the terrible Black Death, and our records of Tadcaster for many years following are ominously silent. Three successive pestilences followed in this century, but they were not so destructive as that of 1348-9; for one reason the population was so much reduced there were fewer left to destroy. One Tadcaster vicar, Richard de Sourby, died in December, 1349, no doubt of this fell pestilence. The records of York shew a terrible mortality among the local clergy at this time. In the city of York it must have been a difficult matter to find people to bury the dead, as more than half the population is recorded to have succumbed. No Parliament assembled between January, 1349, and the same time in 1352, and many peers were absent owing to the *plaga pestilencie mortalis*. When the plague was over the Government made a serious drain on the able-bodied men of the country, who were called out to serve in the wars. As a consequence the land suffered greatly, men were scarce, and the price of labour rose enormously. In places like Tadcaster where there was a large number of freeholders, besides

villein-tenants who had their services to the lord commuted for a fixed quit-rent, these warlike times were certainly in favour of such freeholders and copyholders, as the fixed money payments did not represent even a sixth part of the value of such services due to the landlords, who had therefore good reason to complain. When the Poll-Tax was levied in 1378, which is the next record we have of Tadcaster, it is obvious that the contracted population had profited by the scarcity of the preceding years, and many of the inhabitants formerly in the position of mere labourers, were now tradesmen or merchants of moderate standing in the town. It is not likely, however, they were silent or neglected to demur to the oppressive taxation which that warlike monarch imposed on his subjects. When the tax was raised from a groat to three groats (equivalent to about 20s. of present currency), on all able persons above 15 years of age, there was a loud cry of resentment which ended in open rebellion; and when at length the insurrection was crushed the inhabitants of York had to pay 1000 marks before a pardon was granted to them.

These Poll Tax returns of 1378, when compared with the subsidies already cited, shew, that while Tadcaster had not escaped the terrible ordeals of famine and pestilence of the preceding generation, it was then, if not one of the most influential, at any rate one of the most populous and opulent towns in the county. There were 60 married couples then living in the town, besides 23 single adults; and allowing for absentees in war, &c., the total population would be not less than 400. This enumeration includes the township of Tadcaster and possibly Oxtun and Catterton, which are not separately specified, and their population may have been annihilated by the Black Death. But Toulston is mentioned as having 11 married couples and 8 single above the age of 16; likewise Huddleston-cum-Lumby had 12 married couples and 4 single adults, and Stutton had 24 married couples and 5 single adults.

It is interesting to observe that the town, situated on a great highway, was at this time (1378), famous for its brewhouses and good inns, there being two breweries, mentioned in 1341, and no fewer than five married *hostilers*, each rated at 18d., in the town, and one other at Toulston, but these *hostilers* were not exactly innkeepers as the term is understood to day. There were also three merchants, a draper, four wrights and blacksmiths, a walker or fuller, and a dyer, a tailor, a mason, and two shoemakers. The rest were employed in agriculture, and paid 4d. each to the war tax. One can understand the presence of four blacksmiths on such a busy thoroughfare, but these smiths also obtained a good deal of outside work, in the manufacture of iron fittings for ox-wains, ploughs, chains, &c. In

1404, for example, I find William Marshall, of Tadcaster, was paid 6s. 2d. by the Chapter of York for 20 iron wedges for service in the quarries, probably at Thevedale. It may be noted that there is no suggestion of a castle or manor-house existing at Tadcaster at this era.

The disaster of 1314, it has been said, put back the dial-hand of civilisation fully two centuries, and during the whole of this period, and even longer, the annals of Tadcaster are full of the records of war and alarm, poverty and heavy taxation. It was hardly possible to obtain more than the barest existence, so constant and oppressive were the levies made upon the people during this long and troubled era. Contrasting life at that time with events at present, well may the English people rejoice at the wise counsels that have prevailed during the era of our late Sovereign Lady Victoria, the close of whose glorious reign found them in a condition of security and comfort never equalled in the nation's history.

The close of the 14th century found Tadcaster again plunged in the excitement caused by the downfall of Richard II. The Bloody Assize, following the rebellions of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, was scarcely over, when the ill-starred King was thrown into Pontefract Castle, and there, in the language of Shakespeare, he was "hacked to death."* Henry of Lancaster had landed in Yorkshire, and from Ravenspur, he reached London at the head of 60,000 men. The Earl Marshal, Thomas Mowbray, who was lord of Wighill, near Tadcaster, together with Archbishop Scrope, raised a rebellion in 1405, but through the strategy of the Earl of Westmorland, they were taken prisoners, and both soon afterwards were beheaded at York.† The execution of these nobles created much ferment. Never before had an English prelate died by the axe of the public headsmen. Hot with rage the Earl of Northumberland, old Henry Percy, mustered what men he could, and donning them in his livery marched through Wetherby to Tadcaster, where he added to his ranks, and thence on to Bramham Moor.‡ Here he was met by the King's troops in command of the High Sheriff, Sir Thos. Rokeby, when a sharp battle followed, and the Earl was slain, 19th February,

* But according to Sir John Froissart, the contemporary chronicler of Richard's time, the King died a prisoner in the Tower of London and was buried at Langley, "thirty miles from London." Some authorities, however, maintain that the King escaped from Pontefract to Scotland, and in the Scottish accounts of this era are entries for the maintenance of "the King of England." See "Historical Traditions of Pontefract Castle," in Kenrick's *Archæological Papers* (1864), pages 69—99.

† See Stubb's *Constit. Hist.*, iii., 26.

‡ *Ibid.*, iii., 535.

1408. His lands were all confiscated, together with those of at least one of his Tadcaster tenants, who had joined the Earl on his last march. The following particulars relating to this disaster have not before been printed :

ATTAINER OF ROBERT ESYNGWOLD, OF LANDS IN TADCASTER, 1408.

INQUISITION indented taken *ex officio* at Tadcaster xxvij. day of the month of february the eighth year of the reign of King Henry the fourth after the conquest (1408) before Thomas Egmonton Escheator of the lord King in the county of York. By the oath of Robert Dryffeld of Tadcaster, William Parson of the same, William Skelton, William Marshall, Richard Ednel, John Colingham, John Warde, William Walker, John Wryglye, John Bolton, John Warde, junr., and William Banaster, jurors, who present that Robert Esyngwold traitor was in arms against the lord King and his allegiance in company of Sir Henry Percy late Earl of Northumberland the vijth day of the month of May the sixth year of the reign of the King above-said in the County of Northumberland and afterward the said Robert about the feast of St. John Baptist the sixth year of the said King was an adherent of the Scots enemies of the lord King against his allegiance which said Robert Esyngwold was seized on the day aforesaid on which he as a traitor rebelled against his King, of one waste piece of land, thirty acres of land, two shillings of rent, three acres and three roods of meadow with their appurtenances in the township of Tadcaster in the County of York which piece of land, thirty acres of land, two shillings rent, three acres and three roods of meadow, with their appurtenances in Tadcaster aforesaid by occasion of the rebellion and treason of Robert Esyngwold aforesaid belong and are forfeit to the lord King. Also they present that aforesaid waste piece of land, xxx. acres of land, ijs. rent, three acres three roods of meadow, are held of aforesaid Henry late Earl as of his manor of Spoford by the service of paying to the said manor per ann. vijd. ob. for all services and worth per ann. according to the true value of the same beyond reprises xiijs. iiijd. Also they present that aforesaid piece of waste land, xxx. acres of land, ijs. rent, three acres and three roods of meadow with appurtenances from the day of rebellion and treason of aforesaid Robert to the day of this Inquisition have laid waste and are held in default useless and uncultivated. In witness whereof to this Inquisition the jurors above-said have set their seals. Given the day place and year above-said.*

The old Earl's valorous and famous son, young Harry Hotspur, had fallen in the same cause at Shrewsbury in 1403; while his younger brother, Sir Ralph Percy, had also been slain in battle with the Saracens two years before. The great House of Percy was therefore now all but extinct; there being but one male heir left, namely, Henry, son of Hotspur, who was restored to his grandfather's honours and became Earl of Northumberland in 1414.† He fell at St. Albans in 1455, leaving a son and heir, Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, who as already related, died with his brother, Sir Richard Percy, on the bloody field of Towton in 1461.

* *Inq. ad. quod. damn.*, 10th Henry IV., No. 35.

† *Rot. Parl.*, 2nd Henry V., m. 12.

Never was excitement so high at Tadcaster as on the memorable day of this terrible conflict between the White Rose and the Red. The inhabitants of the town were kept in a state of supreme suspense, awaiting the issue of this mighty battle, for the noble and valorous Percy, who sided with Lancaster, was their lord, and many must have thought that if the day was lost to him, their own lives would be in peril. What was their consternation, then, on witnessing at the close of that dreadful Palm Sunday, thousands of flying Lancastrians swarming wildly into the town, many unarmed and capless and covered with wounds, leaving trails of their blood in the streets, crowding on to the bridge, then a much narrower structure than it is now, and falling a prey to the savage onslaught of the Yorkists. No quarter was given, it was useless crying for mercy. Many of the oppressed, however, managed to reach York, others shut themselves up in the old Priory at Helaugh. The Stapletons at Wighill, being like many of their neighbours, staunch Lancastrians, it is supposed took refuge in Cumberland.* Henry Percy, who was a minor at his father's death in 1461, was restored in blood and honours by Edward IV. He died in 1489 and was buried at Beverley. He must have had a residence or strong-house at Tadcaster, for after the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire rising, instigated by Warwick, the King came to York, and, says Stowe, reached Tadcaster on 19th March, 1471, and next day proceeded to Wakefield.† Within a month of this time fell the great Earl of Warwick, the king-maker, "last of the Barons," by whose death was extinguished the stirring age of feudal chivalry.‡

Tadcaster, though crushed with heavy taxation during most of the life-time of the above Earl Percy, seems to have felt something of the effects of returning prosperity in the intervals of peace. Henry Tudor was now on the throne (1485), and he decided to make a grand tour through his dominions, with the object of conciliating the people. He rode in great state, attended by numerous nobles and followers, all glittering in scarlet and gold. What impression the ceremony made upon the people of Tadcaster, as the lately-crowned King and his retinue passed through the town, history does not relate. The Earl Percy met his Highness on the road, as old Leland quaintly describes it: "By the way in Barnesdale, a little beyond Robin Hudde stone, th'erle of Northumberland with a right great and noble

* See *The Stapletons of Yorkshire* (1897), page 189.

† See *Chronicles of the White Rose of York* (Bohn's ed.), page 42.

‡ The life of this puissant chief, at Middleham Castle, is recorded in my work on *Richmondshire* (1897), pages 285-7.

company, mete an gave his attendance upon the King, with 38 knyghts of his fee'd men, besides esquires and yeomen * * * At Tadcastel the King, richly besene in a gowne of clothe of gold furred with ermyn, took his courser. His hensheman and folowers also in goldsmythes work were richly besene. And so to York."*

Tadcaster has, indeed, had a large share of royal visits, for as we have seen, monarchs and princes were here before the Conquest, and for many centuries afterwards it continued to be a royal highway to and from York. In the summer of 1503 the Princess Margaret, wife of James IV-, of Scotland, passed through the town with much pomp. She was attended by the young Earl of Northumberland, "with many lords, ladies, knights, esquires, and gentlemen," all finely mounted and richly caparisoned, to the number of full five hundred. The party dined at Tadcaster and then went on to York.

Tadcaster was also destined to occupy a prominent place in the great religious rebellions known as the Pilgrimage of Grace and the Rising in the North. The monasteries were threatened with immediate destruction, when Sir Robert Aske, of Aughton, near Howden, who was in the company that attended the Princess Margaret, at Tadcaster, I have just mentioned, resolved to organize a stout resistance to such a cruel and high-handed desecration as that which the King's measure implied. It had also got noised abroad that some of the parish churches were to be put down, so that no two should be nearer than five miles apart. Either Tadcaster or Bolton Percy was to be retained, but Wighill, Walton, and Thorp Arch would have to be given up. A commissioner appearing at Tadcaster and requiring the churchwardens to render an account of the church-plate, awakened a suspicion that it was going to be seized and chalices of copper substituted for those of gold.†

Sir Thomas Percy, younger brother of the Earl of Northumberland, in common with most of the Yorkshire gentry, joined Aske in this futile attempt to stem the tide of the Reformation. Speed says the rebellious were all "rustics," but the castles of Scarborough and Skipton alone in this county held out for the King, so universal and bitter was the resentment of such an outrage on men's consciences. Aske took York, and also Pontefract, while Skipton, too, appears to have temporarily fallen into the hands of the rebels.‡ Their success, however, was of short duration, for within a few months resistance became useless, and the leaders of the rebellion were taken; the Abbots of Whalley, Sawley, Jervaux and Fountains were all

* See Canon Raine's *Historic Towns*, YORK, page 193.

† See *The Stapeltons of Yorkshire*, page 208.

‡ See Dawson's *Skipton*, page 110.

executed; Aske was hanged at York; Sir Thomas Percy, Sir John Hammerton, and Sir John Bulmer suffered at Tyburn; Lady Bulmer was burnt; Lord Darcy, of Templehurst, was hanged on Tower Hill;* Sir Nicholas Tempest was hanged at York; and Sir Robert Constable, of Flamborough, suffered at Hull.

But the rancour was still in men's hearts; their bodies might be smitten, but the spirit of old creeds could not be crushed. Again they rose in rebellion; this time Percy's son, Thomas, created in 1557 Earl of Northumberland, and Charles Neville, Earl of Westmorland, were in the forefront of the rising. At the very outset of the campaign Earl Percy had been nearly taken unawares while sleeping at his manor of Topcliffe, near Thirsk, but he escaped by a stratagem. This was in the autumn of 1569. A large number of brave, willing, and determined followers were soon gathered under the banners of the two Earls. Their standard-bearer was old Richard Norton, of the ancient family of Norton Conyers and Rilston in Craven, to whom, in the words of an old ballad, Earl Percy addressed a letter soliciting his assistance,—

Come thou hither, my little foot-page,
Come thou hither unto mee,
To maister Norton thou must goe,
In all the haste that ever may bee.

The letter is successful, for not only does the head of the house decide to assist the Earl, but he is joined in his resolve by "his eight good sons." The story of this family is full of tragic romance, and their unhappy fate forms the theme of Wordsworth's beautiful poem, *The White Doe of Rylston*.

Many of the incidents of this unfortunate rebellion took place about Wetherby and Tadcaster, and many a local man paid dearly for his temerity. The prime object of the movement was the irrevocable restoration of the Catholic religion, and the placing of Mary of Scotland on the English throne. Setting out with this determination, they besprinkled their faithful army with holy-water, as had confirmed and encouraged their forefathers in the brave days of the monasteries. Then they marched triumphantly to Darlington and Richmond and back to Ripon, where mass was said in the Cathedral. Picking up fresh adherents as they went along, by the time they reached Wetherby they were several thousand strong. There they heard that a detachment of footmen was on the way to assist the Queen's forces at York, so a strong, armed party set out from Wetherby and intercepted the Protestants at Tadcaster, taking 200 of them prisoners. Next day they mustered on Clifford Moor and their

* See the Rev. J. N. Worsfold's *History of Haddlesley*.

numbers were found to consist of 1600 horse and 4000 foot. But they were not yet able enough to attack York, so they waited about Tadcaster, gathering recruits, and Sir Thomas Wentworth writing on Dec. 3rd, 1569, to the Marquis of Winchester, says they were "lying between York and Tadcaster for a week or upwards." Their object was eventually to capture York, which was then held for the Queen by Lord Sussex, and they also sent out spies along the roads towards Selby and Ferrybridge to intercept, if possible, the strengthening of the York garrison by any fresh supplies from the south. On Dec. 4th, however, Lord Darcy and Sir Thomas Gargrave agreed to convey treasure and ammunition from Doncaster to York, and within the next few days they succeeded in reaching that city.

The Papist army now retired northwards and laid siege to Barnard Castle, which capitulated after a gallant stand made by Sir George Bowes and his brother, Robert Bowes. Sir George could have held out possibly until the arrival of reinforcements from York, but the bulk of his men were at heart for the old faith, and owing to the daily desertion of the garrison over the walls, he was obliged to evacuate the place; thence he proceeded with the remnant of his supporters to York. Here a Council of War was held, and on Dec. 15th the Earl of Sussex and Sir George Bowes returned with a well-equipped army to Barnard Castle. The Catholics were then put to flight, and their two leaders, with old Richard Norton, fled into Scotland,* leaving their disconsolate adherents to make the best escape they could. Earl Percy was afterwards captured and brought to the scaffold at York 22nd August, 1572. Thus he died, leaving four daughters, co-heiresses, but no male issue.

By the end of the year every spark of the rebellion had been extinguished, and many hundreds of its unhappy partisans were thrown into foul gaols. Wetherby, like Cawood and Sherburn, had been a garrison of the Queen for some time, and on Jan. 6th, 1569-70, Lord Admiral Clynton writes from there that "all the army is discharged excepting 1500 men." On Feb. 1st, Captain Thomas Leighton begs for allowance of conduct-money and other charges for the officers and 500 common soldiers on a march from Wetherby to London. Meanwhile the unfortunate victims of the rebellion were sadly awaiting their doom. Sir George Bowes, who had charge of "this business," now ordered gibbets to be erected in nearly every market-town and public place between Newcastle and Tadcaster. He gave out warrants to the constables of the several townships where gibbets were erected, and ere many weeks were spent, crowds of anxious onlookers witnessed the sickening sight of hundreds of

* See Ferguson's *Hist. of Westmorland* (1894), pages 206-7.

ill-starred men and youths "swinging for their religion." There is an enclosure on the York road, just out of Tadcaster, called Gallows Field, which in all probability marks the site of some such gibbet.

During the month of February, Queen Elizabeth issued a Declaration "to all her loving subjects," setting forth the malicious libels both from abroad and at home, which led to the rebellion in the North. The principles on which her government had been conducted were pointed out, and the "unexampled prosperity" enjoyed by England since her accession, as also her determination to continue in support of the true Christian religion, and to administer the laws with moderation, but at the same time with severity against disturbers of the public tranquillity. She appealed to all classes to continue in loyalty and obedience to the Throne and the laws of the realm. It is needless here to dwell upon the troubles that followed, although England under the laws passed in the reign of Elizabeth, was, no doubt, all the better for the new constitution.

To the able and steadfast Duke of Somerset, Baron Seymour of Hacke, must be attributed a large measure of the difficult work of promoting the Reformation. The government needed a "strong man," who brooked no gainsay, and in his Protector Somerset the King found a staunch and even destructive partisan. The great Duke was ancestor of Charles Seymour, sixth Duke of Somerset, who married in 1682 Elizabeth, only surviving child and heiress of Joceline Percy, Earl of Northumberland, by whom he had Algernon, seventh Duke of Somerset, whose only surviving child, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Hugh Smithson, Bart., was mother of Algernon, fifth Duke of Northumberland. By the above marriage of Charles, Duke of Somerset, with the heiress of the Percies (who was twice a widow before the age of 16*), the manor of Tadcaster came to this noble House. The Duke of Somerset's daughter, Elizabeth, having married Henry, 8th Earl of Thomond, and Viscount Tadcaster, the property in Tadcaster passed to him. He died in 1741, without issue, and was succeeded by his nephew, Percy, son of the eminent statesman, the Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Wyndham, Chancellor of the Exchequer. He assumed the name of O'Brien, and in 1756 was created Earl of Thomond, but dying in 1774, unmarried, the Earldom expired. The Tadcaster estates came to Col. George Wyndham, of Petworth, Sussex, who in 1859 was created Lord Leconfield, and he sold the manor, with lands, together with the advowson of the church, to the first Lord Londesborough, who died in 1860. In 1873 the manor of Tadcaster, with its royalties, fines, quit-rents, and privileges, together with the advowson of the church of Tadcaster,

* See *Coll. Top. et Gen.* (1839), page 282.

was purchased by Colonel Fairfax, of Bilbrough, for £23,000. The trustees of the late Samuel Varley, Esq., are the present lords of the manor as well as patrons of the church, but the land is held by various owners.

In the 17th century Tadcaster was again one of the head-quarters in the broil of Civil War. Century after century, era after era, her peace had been destroyed and her progress impeded by entanglement in war; the ancient town—on the highroad to York—having always been regarded as a place of great strategical importance. Here in November, 1642, was begun that fateful campaign which led to the extinction of the English monarchy in 1649. Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, commander of the Parliamentary forces, "with an eye on York," had entrenched himself on the west side of the bridge, while his gallant son, Sir Thomas, afterwards the "great Lord Fairfax," was sent with 40 horse and 300 foot to hold the bridge at Wetherby. The Earl of Newcastle set out from York with a force of about 8000 men, of whom 2000 were horse and dragoons, and marching along the old Roman road by Street Houses, approached with seven pieces of cannon the old bridge at Tadcaster. Lord Fairfax had been obliged to relegate a considerable part of his force to Selby and Cawood, and when the Royalists came in sight he had not 800 men in his call.* Nevertheless he resolutely commanded his little army to stick to the trenches, and when the battle began in the morning of Dec. 7th they maintained their ground till sunset with deadly purpose, counting many dead in the fields on the opposite side of the Wharfe. A sortie was then made by the Royalists to take the bridge by storm, but in this they were repulsed, though in the struggle, Captain Lister, one of Lord Fairfax's most gallant officers, was shot through the head.† Henry Calverley, Esq., head of the house of Calverley Hall, near Leeds, a staunch Royalist, who had to compound for his estates, was probably captured in this engagement, as we find him shortly afterwards a prisoner at Cawood Castle.‡ Eventually the troops of the Parliament were obliged to withdraw from sheer disparity in numbers, leaving the town in undisputed possession of the Royalists.

Evidences of these past events are not wanting in the remains and traditions of the fight existing at Tadcaster at the present day.§ The

* Drake says there were 2000 men in the trenches, but Sir Thomas Fairfax, in his *Memoirs*, says only 700.

† A touching story concerning this incident is related by Thoresby in the *Ducatus Leodiensis*. See also Markham's *Life of Lord Fairfax*, page 75.

‡ See Mr. Margerison's article on "A Yorkshire Royalist Squire" in the *Bradford Antiquary*, vol. i., page 61.

§ A cannon-ball, discovered some years ago near the foundations of the old Manor House, is in possession of Mr. J. Varley.

But as King his rule was not destined to live long. He had been greatly influenced by reading Dr. Heylin's powerful *History of the Reformation*, a work of much note at that time, which was the means of winning many back to Rome, and the King now felt it his duty to further in every possible way the interests of the Catholic religion. He proceeded to convert one of the larger rooms in the old Manor House at York into a Chapel, in which Roman Catholic services continued to be celebrated for some time, and in other ways he endeavoured to promote the amenities of Catholics in the district. But the men of York and Tadcaster were not slow to resent such an intrusion upon their growing liberties, and when the news arrived that William, Prince of Orange, was about to land in this country, in order to champion the Protestant cause, the soldiers of York and Tadcaster were called out, and the cry went forth "A free Parliament, the Protestant religion, and no Popery!" Great was the rejoicing when William, with his Princess Mary, was proclaimed at York on Feb. 17th, 1688-9.* Bonfires blazed from many a Yorkshire hill-top, and high festival prevailed in town and country, many a place in the land being known to this day as Orange Hill, William's Hill, Orange Rock, &c.†

Shortly after the accession of William and Mary a readjustment was made in the rating of the inhabitants of Tadcaster. They had no doubt suffered greatly through the inclemencies of war, and in 1653 the old 10d. rate, based upon a statute of 44th Elizabeth, was reduced to 6d., and the 4d. thus taken off was put on other places, which had been less affected and had developed proportionately more than had Tadcaster. Indeed there seems to have been no extension of agriculture, in point of acreage, within the parish since the time of the war, while a number of other places had sped on wonderfully. This was the case at Drax, which had been all "tied land," that is held by the Priory of Drax, and after the dissolution of the house, developed its resources amazingly. About 1690, Drax was stated to be worth £1500 annually. In the parish of Burne, again, it was stated that there had been 200 acres of common lately improved, which remained unassessed. So of other places. The West Riding authorities therefore decided to make the following readjustment, and Tadcaster was to continue a 6d. town. Drax was raised from 11d. to 11½d.; Cawood 9d. to 9½d.; Wistow 9d. to 9½d.; Barlow 3d. to 4d.; Burne 4½d. to 5d.; Carleton with Camblesworth 7½d. to 8d.; while Selby was reduced from 12d. to 11d.

The wars of the Succession kept the country in a state of ferment for many years, and with the land and property tax now at 4s. in the

* See page 116.

† See the author's *Airedale*, page 177, &c.

pound, public progress was during this time thwarted. The cry that Queen Anne was dead, and had left no heirs, once more gave the Catholics their opportunity. Had any of the Queen's children lived to be able to succeed to the throne (she had 18 children and all died young), it is very probable, that neither of the Jacobite rebellions, with their terrible consequences, would have taken place. The people of Tadcaster, whose town had always been imposed upon for military purposes, and suffered accordingly, more than most other places, were prevented from carrying out many needed improvements. Wearied with war and heavy taxation, public indifference grew into culpable neglect. The roads about Tadcaster at the commencement of the 18th century, appear to have been left to take care of themselves and in 1704 I find that £20 was estreated upon the inhabitants for the repair of Tadcaster Lane. When in 1715 the spirit of religious rebellion broke out, and James, "the Pretender," hoped to achieve what the Pilgrims of the 16th century had failed in, the people of Tadcaster were called upon to provide foot-soldiers for the militia to serve in the King's service. Their names are enrolled in the contemporary register of Sir Henry Goodricke, now at Bolton Abbey, which I have previously alluded to.

During the second Jacobite rising of 1745 the army of Marshal Wade appears to have passed through Tadcaster, or what seems more likely, to have taken either the road from Leeds through Harewood to Ripon,* or the North Road through Wetherby to Boroughbridge, where the forces arrived on Dec. 24th, *en route* for Newcastle.† Wade, however, despatched a flying column under General Oglethorpe from Wetherby, *via* Leeds and Bradford,‡ in order to intercept, if possible, Prince Charles's northward retreat. An old woman named Betty Jackson, who died at Holbeck, near Leeds, in 1828, aged 106, used to relate that when she was a young woman she accompanied the pack-horses with rations to Marshal Wade's army, lying about Tadcaster.§ The squadron, on arriving at Leeds, was billeted upon the able inhabitants, and it is said that the General was the guest of the Wades at the house now known as Kirkstall Grange.||

* Swindon Hall, near this road, in the township of Kirkby Overblow, is traditionally believed to have lodged a troop of the King's horse on this march. *See post.*

† *See Ewald's Life and Times of Prince Charles Stuart*, page 282.

‡ *See Handbook of British Association (BRADFORD MEETING)*, 1900, page 27

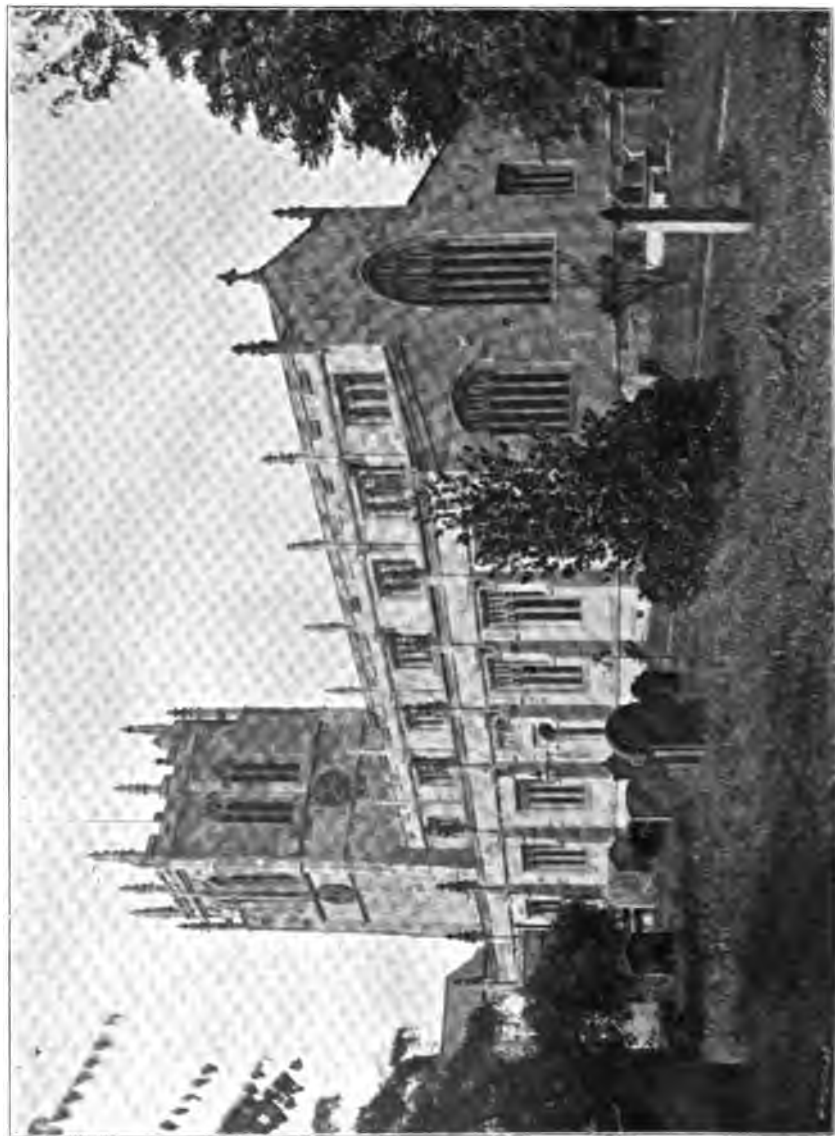
§ *See Taylor's Supplement to Leeds Worthies*, page 685.

|| *See Supplement to Leeds Mercury (N. & Q., 900)*, April 4th, 1896

A firm and wise-dealing government, led by Sir Robert Walpole, gave much security to the country under the House of Hanover, and many public works were now begun. Yet the bulk of the people felt little concern in these measures, and having begun to taste the fruits of prosperity, were loth to part with that which they were now reaping, on the improvement of roads and water-ways, and other notable and important works. Roads were still in a wretched state, and had we all the records of disasters on the great way to and from Tadcaster at this time, a sorry tale it would be. The establishment of coaches in the latter years of the reign of George II. led to a widening and amending of the highways, to which, however, there was so much opposition that gangs of violent men and youths, not realizing the ultimate value of such improvements, destroyed the new roads in many places, and wrecked the toll-bars.

But the new roads were certainly not "all loss," as many had foolishly imagined. It was found that the cost of transport was very considerably lessened, and that trade and public business were greatly facilitated. Tadcaster was one of the oldest post-towns in the country, and when the coaches started running, its business greatly increased. The town also obtained such renown that many persons were tempted to settle here and in the neighbourhood, and build houses for themselves, especially the gentry. Arthur Young, in describing his six months' tour in the North of England in 1768, speaks of the Tadcaster road as excellent. In the hey-day of the coaches there were nearly fifty stage-coaches passing through and more than thirty of them changing horses in the town daily; the old *White Horse*, now the *Londesborough Hotel*, the *Angel*, and *Rose and Crown* being the three great coaching-houses. But this number, as Mr. Bradley tells us, was greatly augmented "by the usual contingent of post-chaises and private chariots," while at Assize times, as was the custom, "the Lord Mayor of York and his attendant aldermen and councillors, met the Judges at the boundary of the city, whilst outriders were sent forward as far as Tadcaster to herald their approach, and their lordships in their State carriages passed through the town and over the old bridge, whilst the long, straggling street would be literally lined on both sides from end to end with chaises bearing barristers, lawyers and their clients, witnesses, constables, and numerous other concomitants natural to crime and litigation."

The subsequent development of the woollen industries in such towns as Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, and the introduction of railways, left the old historic town of Tadcaster behind in the race for wealth. Of its later history and position I will speak in the chapter on the TOWN AND TRADE OF TADCASTER.



TADCASTER CHURCH.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE PARISH CHURCH, TADCASTER.

Roman Christianity—The church a foundation of the Percies—Supposed manor-house chapel—Discovery of a piscina—Local chapels and oratories—Dedication of the church—Chantry of St. John the Baptist at Bridge end—Situation of the church and liability to inundations of the Wharfe—A memorable flood—Historical records of the church—Tadcaster in the Vatican archives—A curious indictment—Ordination of the vicarage—An unpublished record—A 13th and 14th century contrast—The tax of the Ninths—The Black Death—A local jury—Some peculiar emoluments of the early vicars—The 17th century: a scene in the church—Its present appearance—Some archæological features—The chantry-chapels—Their foundation and history—List of chaplains—Local family memorials—The registers—List of vicars, with biographical notices—The old churchyard.



MEMORIES of unnumbered centuries gather round the Church of Christ in the old parish of Tadcaster. I have elsewhere given evidence of the prevalence of Christianity in York and in Wharfedale during the Roman occupation.* Situated on the great military way between Chester and York, and beside a river sacred to the gods, as the Wharfe is known to have been, it is more than likely that a temple in honour of pagan deities would be very early erected here, and that this temple would be superseded by a Christian structure before the Roman evacuation of Tadcaster in the fifth century. I have said that the Roman town embraced the site of the existing church and churchyard in Tadcaster, where in all probability burials had taken place, if not in Roman, at any rate during the Saxon or Danish hierarchy, though burials within the precincts of the church are certainly as old as the 4th century. This would also form another motive for the erection of the subsequent Norman church on such a low-lying site beside the river.†

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 30, 191, &c.

† Since the information respecting the finds of Roman coins was communicated on page 235, I have seen a number of Roman and other coins, in possession of Mr. James Varley, of Tadcaster, which have been found at various times in the vicinity of the church and Castle Hill, and particularly about the Applegarth. The Roman coins range from Hadrian to Constantine, but several are obliterated. Also while laying the cable for the electric light, in Oct. 1901, on the north side

This church owed its foundation to the benevolence of William de Percy, or to his son, the great Alan, at the close of the 11th or early in the 12th century, as existing remains prove. The extent and importance of the parish also led to the foundation of other chapels and oratories in after times, and the discovery, in 1881, of a 15th century piscina, while digging in the cellar of the old Manor House, in Tadcaster East, belonging to Mr. Varley, leads me to believe that a chapel was also attached to a later manor-hall of the Percies, pulled down when the present house was built. The value of this sacred object does not appear to have been sufficiently ascertained, but I find it bears three shields of arms sculptured on three of its four sides, the fourth being plain, from its having been erected against a pillar or a wall.* One of the coats is the Neville saltire displaying a crescent for difference, (both Henry Percy, first Earl of Northumberland, who fell at Bramham in 1408, and Henry, the second Earl, slain at St. Albans in 1455, married daughters of the house of Neville), another, the chequy shield of Warren (also a Percy match), while the third bears the lion rampant of the Percies, a charge shewn in the Roll of Arms to have been first borne by Henry de Percy, who died in 1318.† The Scottish ravages after Bannockburn were the probable cause of the wreck of this chapel; the Scots almost levelled the church.‡ But the Percies, after 1309-10, resided at Spofforth, where a chapel was attached to the castle.

Owing to the bad state of the roads in early times, and in low-lying districts to the prevalence of floods, there were frequent petitions for the erection of convenient oratories or new chapels, so that the inhabitants might attend such places dry-shod in bad weather or when the waters were out.§ One such chapel is mentioned at Catterton,

of the church, across the river, several portions of human skulls were found together with a small earthenware ball (? stone shot), near the Grammar School steps, opposite the church tower, but from their proximity to the churchyard it cannot positively be stated that they are relics of prehistoric interment. Lower down, nearer the river, a much corroded iron object, not unlike a spear-head, was dug up at the same time, five feet from the surface, by a man named McLea. Mr. Callum, the Grammar School master, also informs me of the discovery of a human skeleton in the garden behind the School.

* The stone is of a rectangular form, 2 feet 4 inches high, without base. The plain flat top is 21 inches by 18 inches and has a circular holed cavity in the middle, 9½ inches in diameter. Save for the smallness of the bowl it has almost the appearance of a font, but there is nothing to shew that it has ever been in the church. It may possibly have come from the old chapel of St. John close by. See post.

† Prior to about 1290 their arms were five fusils in fesse.

‡ Mr. J. Varley has a small silver coin of this period which was found in the vicinity of the church. § See *Ninth Report Comm. on Hist. MSS.*, page 40.

and another chantry was built by private bounty at "Todecaster Townesende, distaunt from the parysshe church a quarter of a myle." It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and seems to have been much needed, as it became very popular. In 1414 licence had been granted to the Abbot and Convent of Sallay to have the dedication of Tadcaster Church translated from the 28th August, upon which the feast was held, over to the Sunday next after the feast of St. John the Baptist's decollation, then to be solemnly celebrated every year, because of harvest time, in which it happened before.* This chantry of St. John the Baptist was not, however, built and endowed until 1504, through the piety of William Vavasour of Cudsworth and William Cleveland, clerk, of Tadcaster. The necessity for it arose from "that there is a great water between the said parysshe and the chauntery, so that when it cresit with waters, the people there cannot come to the said parysshe church."

The unfortunate situation of the church so close beside the river has always rendered it liable to inundations, and the damp and vapours arising from frequent incursions of water must have been the cause of many pains and rheums to those worshipping there. It must be remembered that our Catholic forefathers used their parish churches not on Sundays only, but every day of the week, and the old chantry-chapel at Tadcaster town-end had services performed in it four days in the week.†

I cannot trace any serious flood in the church previous to the Reformation, though undoubtedly inundations must have been not infrequent in early times. Among the West Riding Sessions Rolls I have found the following record of an alarming state of the church arising from these floods in 1758. As will be seen water occasionally lay in the church to a depth of three feet or more.

PETITION RESPECTING INUNDATIONS OF TADCASTER CHURCH.

(*Pontefract Sessions, 3rd April, 1758.*)

Upon the Petition of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and others, the Inhabitants within the Parish of Tadcaster, in the said Riding, setting forth that the Parish Church of Tadcaster aforesaid is situated very nigh the River Wharf, which very often overflows its banks and frequently the Church yard, and breaks into the said Church and makes such a depth of water therein that the petitioners cannot assemble to Divine Service therein without imminent danger of their lives, the water sometimes rising in the said Church to the height of three feet & upwards, and breaks down, removes and displaces the Closets, Seats and Pews within the said Church, and leaves so much wreck & dirt therein that the petitioners cannot assemble therein sometimes for near a month after such overflowing, and that the replacing the said Closets, Seats & Pews, and cleansing the said Church from

* See Bishop Kennet's *Par. Antiq.*, page 611.

† See *Yorkshire Chantry Surveys*, ii., page 225.

dirt & wreck has frequently lost the petitioners large sums of money. That in order to prevent the said river from overflowing and breaking into the said Church it will be necessary to raise the floor, walls & roof of the said Church three feet higher or more than the same are at present. That the walls of the said Church, by reason of the overflowing of the said river, are decayed, marked and shattered to such a degree that they are quite irreparable, and the roof so much shattered that the same must entirely be taken down & rebuilt, & that the pulling down, rebuilding & raising the said Church will cost upon a moderate computation the sum of one thousand & eighty-nine pounds over & besides the old materials, which sum the petitioners cannot raise amongst themselves without the assistance of charitable & well-disposed persons. The Truth of the allegations in which petition being proved to the satisfaction of this Court, IT IS ORDERED that a Certificate be made thereof from this Court to the Lord Keeper of the great Seal of Great Britain, in order to procure for the said petitioners His Majesty's most gracious letters patent to enable them to ask, collect & receive the contributions of religiously and charitably disposed people for the encouragement & carrying on of so pious a work.

The Brief referred to in this petition was granted, and the church was restored, but to what extent is not stated. In 1776 a faculty was also granted to erect a gallery, and in 1802 another gallery was erected. A barrel-organ, at that time, stood in the chancel.

But before I describe the church, let me briefly review events connected with its early history. The church, as I have stated, was granted to Sallay Abbey by Matilda or Maude, Countess of Warwick, *ca.* 1180,* and confirmed by charter of Agnes, her sister. That monastery had been founded by William de Percy, their father, who died in 1168, and in the chapter-house of the Abbey many of the family were buried with all the pomp and solemnity of ritual befitting their high station. As one stands within the ruins of that once great and stately monastery, and looks upon the place where neither stone nor brass remains to mark their long-revered burial-place, how the reflection is forced upon one of the vanity of all things human. The deeds of the mighty great are often buried with them; and well may we see in graven brass or sculptured tomb the hands uplifted towards Him who is their surest trust!

The grantee of Tadcaster Church to Sallay Abbey had also by charter endowed the same and the Chapel at Hazlewood, with a carucate of land in Catton, where the Lady Matilda was born; likewise a yearly pension for perpetual masses for the souls of her husband and family "by the advice of the Lord Vavasour and other of our faithful lieges, and of the whole court."† Had we but a full catalogue of the magnificent series of Papal Regesta preserved in

* The *Coucher Book of Sallay* is now in the Harleian Library at the British Museum.

† A very minute account of the ancient Chapel at Hazlewood has been written by Dr. Leadman, F.S.A. See *Yorks. Archaeological Jl.*, vol. xiii., pages 537—54.

the Vatican at Rome, doubtless much of value and interest would be forthcoming respecting our ancient churches in Yorkshire, and particularly of those appropriated to the monasteries. There is at Rome an almost unbroken series of contemporary letters, orders and instructions of the Papal Court from the time of Innocent III. (A.D. 1198), contained in upwards of 2000 volumes.* This vast mine of archæological treasure has only partially been searched, and through recent investigations I am enabled to present the following interesting transcript relating to Tadcaster from one of the early Papal Letters contained among the Vatican archives, and not before published. It is a somewhat serious reflection on the depravity of the times during the troubled era of King John. The clergy, it seems, who ought to have been the guardians of public morals, were often as bad or worse than the common people. Polygamy, to which the paper alludes, had been strictly forbidden by canon-law at a remote period, and in the early ages of Christianity, as we gather from Tacitus (*De mor Germ.* 18), it is plain that a plurality of wives was then considered repulsive and incompatible with a well-ordered State. He says, *prope soli barbarorum singulis uxoribus contenti sunt*, being strictly accordant with the divine fiat at the Creation. And upon this doctrine that a man must be content with one wife the marriage laws of this and other countries were ratified at a very early date, and he who broke this law was in some states punishable by death. But let us see what our Tadcaster parson had done.

DECREE 3RD HONORIUS III., A.D. 1218.

Mandate to the Abbot of Fountains, the Prior of Marton, in the Diocese of York, and Master J. Romanus, Canon of York, to take proceedings on the showing of the Abbot and monks of Sawley against Robert de Lelleia, clerk, of the Diocese of York, who has had three wives and has publicly pleaded cases of bloodshedding in the secular Courts, taking no notice of church censures, and presuming unlawfully to hold the Church of Tadcaster, and many others, with cure of souls.

The document concludes by stating that the Pope had already ordered them to report on the case, but his letters having been stolen or lost in transit (a not uncommon occurrence at this time) they were unable to act, and thus at the date of this order nothing had been done. Whether the parson had been kept in prison in the interval, or what was the ultimate verdict upon him, there are no present records to show.

Among the same Vatican archives there is an order from Pope Gregory IX., dated the 13th year of his pontificate (1239), authorizing the Abbot and Convent of Sallay, in the diocese of York, to enter into possession of, and hold to their uses, the church at Tadcaster, of

* See *Foreign Quarterly Review*, August, 1839.

which the right of patronage had been granted to them by **Matilda**, Countess of Warwick, and **William de Percy**, patrons of the same, the indult to take effect on the death or resignation of the rector. A vicar's portion to be reserved enough to support all charges of the Bishop, Archdeacon, and their officials. This hitherto unrecorded testimony to the ordination of a vicarage is important. **Lawton** says the vicarage was ordained 7th Ides August, 1290, but this refers to the Apostolic grant of certain tithes hereafter mentioned.

The living of the church was at this era very valuable, and in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV. (ca. 1292) it is set down as worth by the year 65 marks (£43 6s. 8d.);* the grant of a tenth of the possessions of the Church in England having been made to King Edward I. towards the expenses of an expedition to the Holy Land. In the New Taxation of his unfortunate son and successor, Edward II., made in 1318, the annual value of the church was reduced to £28 6s. 8d., and the vicarage was worth £6 13s. 4d., or about £120 of present money. Hammer and torch had made a wreck of Tadcaster; the church was "demolished and laid waste," these being the words of Archbishop Melton to the King in 1318. At the Reformation the vicarage was worth only £8 4s. 7d. per annum; such was the capacious maw of the monasteries, which left to the oft half-starved vicars but the crumbs of their rich gains.

The reduction of the living in 1318 indicates the extent of the Scottish forays into the affluent domains of the old parish of Tadcaster. But despite this great havoc, the industry of the inhabitants soon made the fertile lands yield their wonted stores; and though many districts in Yorkshire continued in a state of terrible poverty almost all through this century, Tadcaster suffered less from the effects of intermittent plagues and heavy taxation than most other places. The *Nonarum Inquisitiones* of 14th—15th Edward III. (1340-1), exhibit in the clearest manner the state of the parish before the irruption of the Black Death. The commission directed by statute at this time for a subsidy of the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece, and the ninth sheaf, to be levied on the goods of all prelates, earls, and barons in the realm, shews us that the value of the church had improved somewhat since 1318. A jury composed of the best men of the district was empanelled, their names being John Pollard, William Calle, William Vint, Hugo fil Sym (Simpson), Thomas Person, William de Ledes, William fil Thom (Thompson) de Strutton (*sic*), Richard fil William (Williamson) of the same, Hugh fil William de Heslewood, Henry Grayne of the same, Adam fil Ivonies de Oxton, and William Chapman of the same, who affirm on their oath that the ninth of

* Lawton says £36 13s. 4d.

corn, wool, and lambs of the whole parish is worth this year £30 3s. 4d. and no more, because the profits of the church are in glebe-rents of the tenants. The tithe of mills was set down as worth 30s.; tithe of hay 60s.; in oblations, Lent tithes, and other small tithes £6 13s. 4d.*

The vicars of Tadcaster enjoyed the fruits of some peculiar and special tithes, such as servants in Lent, viz., "of mercenaries, merchants, bakers, carpenters, stone-diggers or quarrymen, masons, cupars, and lime burners, within the parish." Also by later grant the tithe of malt-makers, together with bread offered at the altar, with the tithes of the consecrated bread; also the siraget† and candles offered on the feast of the Purification, with mortuaries, espousals, fishings, and the annual rent of 12d. in the chapel of Catterton. Also the vicars had the tithe hay of Smaws, Scotton and Haslewood, with the tithe meadow of Wm. le Vavasour in his meadow of Tadcaster; and the tithe hay of the "oxgang meadows on that side of the water whereon the church is situated, but of the demesne meadows and the meadow of the Grange he shall have nothing." The vicars were also to have free use "of that mansion for which the Abbot and Convent of Sallay were wont to receive half-a-mark yearly without pension." These concessions were made by Apostolic authority in 1290.

In the Parliamentary Survey (*ca.* 1654) the living is returned as worth £25 per annum, including a rent of 16s. 8d. out of Haslewood. The Commissioners say that Mr. William Warren was then vicar, "a constant preaching minister." There is a curious indictment contained among the Depositions from York Castle, concerning this vicar. George Barker, innholder, of Tadcaster, said that on 25th July, 1654, being a Sunday, Barbara Siddall interrupted Mr. Warren whilst preaching in Tadcaster Church, "utteringe speeches of her owne, soe much that the said Mr. Warren was forced to forbear preachinge, and to come out of the pulpit; at whose comeinge forth she told him that the Bible was not the Word of God, but onely a dead letter." The incident, doubtless, refers to the difference that existed at this period between the Evangelical party and the growing influence of Puritanism. Evidently they were not all Puritans in Tadcaster. The Puritan parson had probably been preaching on the exclusive authority of the Bible as a guide to faith, whereas the old church of the Episcopacy, which the woman thus boldly stood up for, relied largely on the teachings and traditions of the Fathers.‡

* I have referred in the previous chapter to the lay tax at this time imposed on the Tadcaster merchants, brewers, &c.

† *Ceragium*, a payment to find candles in the church. *Matth. Paris.*

‡ See Dr. Stoughton's *Religion in England*, vol. i., page 42.

The floor of the church, as I have remarked, has been several times raised, with the object of placing it above the reach of floods. But this was not rendered perfectly effectual until the church was rebuilt so recently as 1875-6. Inundations from the Wharfe have been in past times not infrequent, and down almost to the year of rebuilding, the floor of the church has been covered to a depth of five or six inches. At the time named the whole of the building was taken down, and re-erected on the same site, with the same material and in the same style as before. By this arrangement the floor was raised nearly five feet, and the original level may be gauged by the position of the capitals of two piers near the tower-arch in the church. These columns were not disturbed at the rebuilding.



TADCASTER CHURCH BEFORE 1875

Originally the church was built in the form of a cross, but in 1398 a chantry was added which filled up the south-east recess, and in 1343 (? 1477) the north-east angle had been similarly taken up with the chantry of St. Catherine. There were also indications of a parvise having been over the porch, which in pre-Reformation times had doubtless been used as a school. The tower is high and massive, rising in three tiers, and has double belfry-windows. The parapet is handsomely embattled, with crocketed pinnacles at the four angles,

and the tops of the buttresses are also elegantly pinnaced, likewise the buttresses round the church. On the south side of the tower, at the intersection of the first and second stages, is a handsome canopied niche.* The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is rather unfortunate that the ancient south doorway (Norman) was not restored to its original position at the rebuilding in 1875. This doorway has been patched up from an old doorway and other stones found in the walls, and built up against the west wall of the south aisle, covering a modern window fitted with fragments of old glass. It bears chevron mouldings, and the shafts have square abaci supporting a semi-circular arch. This doorway is doubtless in great part a relic of the first building after the Conquest.

The interior also presents some other features of good antiquity. On the north side the piers separating the nave from the aisle are massive and circular; those on the south side being octagonal, but all the arches are pointed. The north aisle was enlarged four years ago, by pulling down and setting back the out-wall to the extent of eight feet. A beautiful five-light window was likewise inserted at the west-end, and a leaden roof, with open oak rafters, was substituted for the old slated roof. The two vestries were also enlarged, and have now oaken doors, on which is carved a representation of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, with traceried panels, designed by Mr. Thorman and executed by Mr. G. W. Milburn, of York. The cost of these improvements, about £1300, was defrayed by subscription. A neat brass plate has been placed at the east end of this aisle, commemorating the auspicious event. It reads :

This Aisle was extended by the Parishioners for the Service of God in the Sixtieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, 1897.

Near it has been fixed a very small and beautifully-incised 14th century cross-slab; its measurement being 27 inches by 10 inches.

The chancel is reported in 1623 to be in a state of "great decay." It was subsequently amended, and it is now in excellent repair. The large east window of five lights, which occupies almost the whole width of the chancel, is filled with a very beautiful design in stained glass. The subject of the window is the worship of Christ as King, while the background is made up of foliage work symbolical of Paradise. A brass beneath states that it was erected as a memorial to Anna Elizabeth, wife of Alfred Harris, of Oxton Hall. She died 18th December, 1876. This handsome window is the work of Morris & Co., and a framed description of it is kept in the vestry.

* The Sallay Abbey accounts for 1381 shew an expenditure of £3 2s. at Tadcaster, but the nature of the outlay is not explained.

In the chancel there are also a number of monuments of interest, (1) a tablet inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Wm. Rhodes, B.D., who was 27 years curate of Tadcaster, 18 years vicar, and 38 years master of the Grammar School. He died 31st Dec., 1829, aged 67 years. Also to Ann, his widow, who died 2nd March, 1848, aged 91; (2) a tablet dedicated to the memory of Honor Shann, wife of Thomas Shann, of Tadcaster, who died 3rd June, 1814, in her 40th year; also of the above Thomas Shann, who died 9th Feb., 1852, in his 84th year; (3) an elegant brass plate placed to the memory of the Rev. Theophilus Clarke, B.A., curate of this parish 15 years, and vicar 22 years. He died 24th July, 1893, aged 82 years.

The east end of the south aisle, behind the choir screen, has been a chantry-chapel, dedicated, like the chapel in Roman Ilkley, to St. Nicholas. Upon the east wall is a curious old bracket, which no doubt at one time supported an image of this saint. The chantry was founded in 1399 by William Baker (? Barker*) and Agnes, his wife, and before the Dissolution it was held of the King by reason of the purchase of the late Earl of Northumberland, whose ancestors had obtained it on the demise of the founders, *temp.* Henry VI. It was endowed with certain lands and tenements in Tadcaster in the holding of divers persons, one of the messuages being called the "Sign of the George," with nine acres of arable land, five acres of meadow, and one close called St. John's Close, containing six acres of ground, with appurtenances, "within the town and fields of Tadcaster," in the holding of Ottwell Warderope, paying by the year to the incumbent of the chantry 76s. 8d. The total amount of the endowment was £6 16s. 8d., out of which was payable 18s. 6d., including a charge of 5s. 4d. to the township of Tadcaster for the above-mentioned close, called St. John's Close.

LIST OF CHAPLAINS OF ST. NICHOLAS'S CHANTRY, TADCASTER CHURCH.

12 Feb., 1400.	Henry Turnor (<i>presented by Wm. Barker</i>).
25 Aug., 1418.	Joh. Martyll (resigned) (<i>Agnes Barker</i>).
9 Nov., 1424.	Tho. Gaynesburgh (resigned), (<i>Eadem</i>).
23 Dec., 1437.	Joh. Acastre (resigned), (<i>Hen. E. of Northd.</i>).
14 Nov., 1474.	Joh. Atkynson (resigned), (<i>Idem</i>).
26 Jan., 1482.	John Esingwald (resigned for a chantry in York Cathedral), (<i>Idem.</i>)
1 Apr. 1483.	Tho. Copley (resigned), (<i>Idem</i>).
27 May, 1486.	Tho. Diconson (died), (<i>Idem.</i>)
24 May, 1505.	Will. Warter, (died), (<i>Idem</i>).
6 June, 1523.	Rad. Norham (resigned), (<i>Idem</i>)
28 July, 1534.	Joh. Heworth, (<i>Assignees of Hen. E. of Northd.</i>).

* See *Certificates of Chantries*, part ii., page 223.

An altar and piscina were placed in this chantry, the piscina being now in the wall of the south aisle. Prior to the re-erection of the church in 1875-6, the floor of this chapel was covered with memorials of the founder's family, and these are now in the baptistery. Also adjoining the chapel was a very rich carved oak pew, upon the frieze of which was this inscription: "This pew belongeth to their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Somerset." The screen is now at the west end of the church, and the escutcheon, which was fixed to the wall at the east end of the pew, is now in the belfry.* There were also some fragments of ancient glass in one of the windows, which have been placed in the new window near the south entrance. In this chapel the east window is of stained glass, being a memorial of the Rev. William Rhodes, B.D., who died 31st Dec., 1829, aged 67 years, and of his widow, Ann Rhodes, who died 2nd March, 1848, aged 91 years; also of John Bromet, who died 9th March, 1850, aged 60, and of his widow, Elizabeth, daughter of the above William and Ann Rhodes, who died 13th March, 1861, aged 73. Near this window is a brass inscribed to the memory of Wm. Rhodes Bromet, born 28th Nov., 1824, died 24th Aug., 1886. Another stained window of three lights is dedicated to the memory of (1) Frederick H. Ramsden, Captain Coldstream Guards, died 5th Nov., 1854; (2) Frederica Selina Ramsden, died 16th April, 1879; (3) Rev. Henry James Ramsden, M.A., died 8th December, 1862.

On the north side was the chapel of St. Catherine, founded by John Twybell, 17th Edward IV. (1477), to the intent to say masses for the soul of the founder and Monden, his wife, and all Christian souls.† It was endowed with lands and tenements to the yearly value of £6 5s. 4d., which was "put in feoffment to divers persons to find

* The chantry of St. Nicholas does not appear to have been dissolved at the Reformation, but was recommended by the Crown surveyor, Henry Saville, to be continued. See *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 92, page x.

† In the Returns of Yorkshire Chuntries at the Dissolution, this chapel is stated to have been founded 17th Edward III. (1477), though I suspect it is an error on the part of the scribe for 17th Edward III (1343). In the very remarkable will of Sir Bryan Stapelton, of Wighill, dated 16th May, 1394, he requests to have a "herce" (a lattice or open frame-work of wood or metal placed round the body while lying in state), with five tapers, each five pounds in weight, and thirteen men in blue liveries, with thirteen torches. If the torches are not burnt out they are to be distributed among various neighbouring churches, including *two to the chapel of St. Catherine at Tadcaster*. The testator, it may be remarked, who lived in an age of great superstition, evinces no concern for the traditionally unlucky number 13. It is also curious to observe that all his servants on the day of the funeral, and apparently others too, were to be dressed in *blue*.

The chantry returns also mention a hermitage or chapel, covered with stone, in the parish, wherein a poor man, sometime hermit thereof doth dwell, A.D. 1548.

a priest." The property was situated in Tadcaster and Ulleskelf, and there was also a barn belonging to the chantry, likewise two chambers, and a "mansion-house, with an orchard, of the said incumbents." A sum of 10s. 10d. was payable out of the revenues of the chantry, including 3s. to the Archbishop of York, and 4d. for suit of court at Spofforth, the founder being a socage tenant of the Percies. In the respond of the north pier of this chapel is a piscina, a sure indication that an altar once stood there. The original window here doubtless also contained the coloured representation of St. Catherine, with black-letter inscription, which is now in the window near the south doorway. For many years, I am told, this interesting old fragment was preserved in one of the windows of the dining-room at the vicarage, and was restored to its present position in the church at the re-erection in 1876. St. Catherine was the patron of linen-weavers, an industry anciently of some consequence in the district, and the portraiture in Tadcaster church shews the wheel symbolical of the martyr-saint. It appears on the seal of old Nun Monkton Priory, which lay some nine miles to the north-east of Tadcaster.*

At the west end of this north aisle (rebuilt in 1897) is a stained window, placed to the memory of Adelaide, wife of Edward Archibald Ramsden, who died 20th Nov., 1879. Next to it is another memorial window to the Rev. B. Maddock, who was nearly forty years vicar of this parish, and who died 16th December, 1871, in his 90th year. Another is dedicated to the memory of William Smith; and a fourth is a memorial of James Bradley, who died 16th Feb., 1877, aged 61. There are eight memorial tablets to the families of Dawson, Blaydes, Taylor, &c., restored to their former positions upon the north side of this aisle. In the south aisle there are also two stained memorial windows; (1) to James Upton, of Tadcaster, who died 14th Feb., 1844, and to Mary, his wife, who died 7th Jan., 1845; (2) to Thomas and Sarah Farrer, of Tadcaster, and Ann, their eldest daughter, erected by their surviving children, 1877. Near the south door is a handsome marble mural monument erected to the memory of John Potter, of Tadcaster, who died in 1758, and of Ann, his wife, who died in 1762; also to their sons John, and Sir Thomas Potter, the latter of Manchester, and of his eldest son, Sir John Potter, who died in 1858, and was then M.P. for Manchester, and had been Mayor of Manchester three years in succession.

Built into the west wall of this south aisle are various fragments of sculptured stone-work, some Norman, together with an early Calvary cross, having a plain incised shaft with wheel head enclosing

* See the author's *Nidderdale* (1894), page 117.

four obovate arms; an interesting survival of the Celtic style in Norman times. In the tower there is also a fragment of a later cross, and in the same place is a quaintly-worded old brass plate, which was formerly on the south side of the chancel-arch. It reads :

Elizabeth, the relict of Edward Marshall of this town, gentleman, and daughter of W. Rowe, of Higham Hill, in Essex, esq., who died March 9th, 1788, aged 83. She could boast excellence of parts, when young she was beautiful; when young did I say, she was so till she was seventy-nine, and she was highly good.

There is a very beautiful font placed on the ground-floor of the tower, which was presented by John C. E. Ramsden, Esq., in 1877, in memory of his father, Henry J. Ramsden, late of Oxtou Hall. The old font is a plain octagon. The tower is well-lighted by a handsome coloured window of five lights, which was erected in 1878 by the inhabitants of Tadcaster, as a deserving tribute to the many benefits conferred on the town by the late Thos. Shann, Esq., and his sons, the Rev. Thomas Shann, George Shann, M.D., and Charles Shann, J.P. There are also here two marble memorial tablets to members of this family; (1) to the Rev. Thomas Shann, 7 years curate of Wighill and 16 years vicar of Hampsthwaite; born 26th January, 1807; died 4th March, 1869 at Boston Spa; (2) to George Shann, M.D., born 18th May, 1809; died 3rd Oct., 1882. A brass in the tower records that the clock was erected in the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, in 1887. There are six excellent bells, which came from Skipton in Craven in 1760, when the parish church of that town got a new peal. They were re-cast by Dalton, of York, in 1784. In the belfry there is the following rhyming injunction to ringers :

He that a bell doth overthrow
 Shall two-pence pay before he go,
 And he that rings with spur or hat,
 Shall four-pence pay, be sure of that.
 And he that doth these fines refuse,
 No less than six-pence shall him excuse.

The Registers of the church commence with the year 1570, but there are some breaks, notably, from 1625 to 1652, which are wholly missing. The first recorded vicar or chaplain is one Dom. Nicholas, "parson of Tatecaster," who witnessed the charter of Agnes de Percy, confirming the gift of the church to Sallay Abbey, *ca.* A.D. 1200. Following this comes the nuncupative vicar, Robert de Lelleia, mentioned in the Roman archives for 1218, previously quoted. Then I find mention of a "Dom. Petro de Thadcaster, *capellano*," who was witness to a charter, dated 1254, of his nephew Thomas, son of William son of Gregory of Hunsingore, concerning lands, &c., in

Hunsingore belonging to the Knights Templars.* Torre supplies a catalogue of the vicars from 1290 to 1662, and it will be seen that there was a Roger de Hunsinghorne (*sic*), who was instituted vicar in 1291.

At the dissolution and attainder of Sallay Abbey the rectorial tithes fell to the Crown, and in 1542 they were granted out to Sir Arthur Darcy, Kt., the same fine including the manors of Leeds and Holbeck (parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster), and other properties. The rectory of Tadcaster was next farmed by the family of Hungate, of Saxton, and in the reign of James I., Francis Wood, of Tadcaster, gent., was lessee of the rectory. Subsequently the Duke of Somerset became possessed of the advowson, through whom it descended to the Earls of Egremont, and in the middle of the 19th century it came to the first Lord Leconfield, as related in the history of the manor.

LIST OF VICARS OF TADCASTER.

<i>Date of Inst.</i>	<i>Name of Vicar.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>	<i>How vacated.</i>
28 May, 1290.	Roger de Saxton .. ..	.. Abbot and Convent of Sallay .. ..	.. Resig.
24 Dec., 1291.	Roger de Hunsinghorne	Do. .. ..	..
22 April, 1317.	Galf. de Hoveton	Do. .. ..	..
	.. Joh. de Patrington	Do. .. ..	.. Resig. for the vicar- age of Wistow
15 Nov., 1341.	Will de Shireburn	Do. .. ..	..
	.. Joh. de Pathorne	Do. .. ..	.. Died†
23 Dec., 1349.	Ric. de Sourby	Do. .. ..	.. Do.‡
18 Jan., 1366.	Will de Kaberry	Do. .. ..	..
	.. Will de Pulhowe	Do. .. ..	.. Resig. for the church of Marton
6 Sept., 1381.	Ric. Rae de Blaktoft	Do. .. ..	..
	.. Tho. de Popilton	Do. .. ..	.. Resig. for the church of Berwyk
4 Feb., 1392.	Rog. de Pykering	Do. .. ..	..
4 June, 1394.	Robt. Bramley	Do. .. ..	.. Died
23 Feb., 1411.	Joh. Montford	Do. .. ..	.. Resig. for the church of Adel
7 Nov., 1426.	Will. Catelyn, L.B.	Do. .. ..	.. Resig. for the church of Gerford
14 May, 1434.	Robert Bedale	Do. .. ..	.. Resig.§
23 Jan., 1442.	Joh. Raper	Do. .. ..	..
	.. Joh. de Redeburne	Do. .. ..	.. Died||

* See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, viii., 447.

† Probably of the Black Death, 1348-9. More than half the clergy in Yorkshire succumbed to this dreadful pestilence.

‡ Nicholaus Soureby and Wm. de Soureby were farmers at Tadcaster in 1378.

§ There was a Robert Bedale, vicar of Catterick, 1429, and of Garforth, 1430, probably the same person.

|| John Redeburn dying intestate, administration was granted to William Hungate, Esq.

<i>Date of Inst.</i>	<i>Name of Vicar.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>	<i>How vacated</i>
9 May, 1467.	Will Ricroft	Do.	..Died
22 Aug., 1467.	Ric. Lancaster	Do.	..Resig.
12 June, 1469.	Will Clyveland, M.A. ..	Do.	..Died*
23 Dec., 1504.	Will Radclyff	Do.	..
23 Feb., 1527.	Tho. Parke	Henry, Earl of North- umberland, by con- sent of the Abbot of Sallay†
14 Sept., 1557.	Tho. Swayne	Philip and Mary ..	..
	..Edw. Stampe		Died
6 Aug., 1575.	Roger Stowyng	Henry, Earl of North- umberland.. ..	..Died‡
9 Aug., 1609.	Henry Grene, M.A. ..	Do.	..Resig.
31 Dec., 1613.	Tho. Clyfton, M.A. ..	Do.	..§
	..Will Toyer		Died||
19 Nov., 1660.	Joh. Holte	Algernon, Earl of Northumberland	..
	..Ric. Crossdale.. ..	Do.	..Died¶
	..John Greenfield	Duke of Somerset..	..Died in 1702
	.. — Gyrling	Do.	..
	.. — Simcoe	Earl of Thomond ..	..Died in 1734
1734.	John Wickens, D.D. ..	Do.	..Died in 1744**
	..John Crosley	Do.	..Died in 1790
1790.	Jon. Ashbridge	Earl of Egremont..	..
1811.	Wm. Rhodes, B.D. ..	Do.	..††
1830.	Benj. Maddock, M.A. ..	Do.	..
1869.	Theophilus Clarke.. ..	Lord Londesboro' ..	..

* 16 Dec., 1504. Will. Cliveland, vicar, to be buried in the church.—*Torre*.

† John Bell, Bishop of Worcester, had probably been vicar of Tadcaster before the institution of Thos. Swayne. Thomas's *Survey of Worcester Cathedral* says "he bequeathed very liberally to the poor of several places where he had been benefited." His will is dated 10th August, 1556, and fills nearly forty folios. He makes bequests to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and amongst others £5 each to the poor of Stratford-on-Avon, TADCASTER, Alchurche, and Bromsgrove.

‡ 31 March, 1609. Roger Stowyng, vicar, dying, administration was granted to the use of his children.—*Torre*

§ See *Yorks. Archaeological Jl.*, vol. v., page 401.

|| "Mr. Wm. Warren" was "minister" during the Commonwealth. See p. 271.

¶ 10 Jan., 1662. Richard Crossdale, vicar, dying, administration was granted to Anne, his widow.—*Torre*.

** He was the son of the Rev. Edmund Wickens, rector of Kirkby Thore, Westmorland, and Canon of York, and his sister, Hannah, married John Head, merchant, of Liverpool, and was mother of Sir Edmund Head, Bart.

†† Mr. Rhodes died in 1829, aged 67. He had been 27 years curate, and 18 years vicar of Tadcaster, and was Master of the Grammar School for 38 years.

<i>Date of Inst.</i>	<i>Name of Vicar.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>	<i>How vacated</i>
1891..	Francis Bartlett Proctor, M.A.	Col. Fairfax*	
1895..	Wilfrid Robinson, B.A.	Trustees of late Sam. Varley, Esq	.. Resig. 1901†
1901..	J. Rowland Jones, B.A.	Do.	.. Present vicar‡

One might linger long in that sacred "God's acre," where through unnumbered centuries the fathers of the old town and parish have found their last resting-place. Many of the head-stones unfortunately have been carved from friable local limestone, and their inscriptions are now in many instances illegible. One such memorial of a bygone worthy formerly stood near the church porch. Miss Ann Bellhouse, daughter of a former master of the adjoining Grammar School, tells me that she well remembers the quaint and interesting lines that appeared on this old sexton's tomb. They were as follows :

Beneath this Stone lies Thomas Wood,
Who Sexton here hath been,
And without tears, sixty-six years,
That awful trade hath seen.
At last grim Death did him assail,
And thus to him did say :
" Forsake thy Trade, lay down thy Spade,
Make haste and come away ! "
Without reply, or asking why,
The summons he obeyed,
And aged eighty-eight resigned
His shuttle and his spade.

The parish, in gratitude for his long services,
Erected this stone at his death in 1804.

He was by trade a weaver, and few sextons, long-lived as those ancient patriarchs of the churchyard usually have been, can compare with him in length of service. Old Scarlett, who died at the wonderful age of 98, and was sexton at Peterborough Cathedral, and where his effigy and epitaph may be seen, may possibly be the only rival of our venerable Tadcaster sexton.

About fifty years ago the churchyard was enlarged and enclosed with a wall and iron palisades, and a substantial entrance-gate was erected. Before that time part of the old burial-yard was open. The cost of these improvements was about £350.

* Mr. Proctor resigned in 1895 on his appointment by the Archbishop to Helmsley and Warthill, near Stamford Bridge.

† Mr. Robinson had been previously rector of East Acklam, near Malton (1889-95), and vicar of North Cave (1883-89). He was instituted vicar of Kirkby Wharfe in November, 1901, in place of the Rev. G. S. Allen, who has retired from advancing years. See page 191.

‡ Mr. Jones was curate of Tadcaster for about five years (1896 to Jan., 1901), and afterwards senior curate of Rotherham Parish Church.

CHAPTER XXIV.

TADCASTER NONCONFORMIST AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

The Grammar School—Its origin in Saxon times—Originally held in the church Re-founded by Bishop Oglethorpe—The Bishop's will—Some schoolmasters and pupils—The Hospital or "Bead Houses"—An ancient cross-slab—Chapel of St. John the Baptist—The old Friends' Meeting House—Quaker persecution—George Fox at Tadcaster—Some local Meeting Houses The Presbyterians—Morley Hall - Oliver Heywood at Tadcaster—Local Congregationalism—John Wesley and Benjamin Ingham at Tadcaster—The Inghamites—Wesleyans—Reform Methodists—Primitive Methodists—Roman Catholics—Town Hall—Eight Schools in the town—The oldest Sunday School in England—Present Schools—Tadcaster Union.



N point of antiquity the Grammar School claims precedence among local institutions after the church. Though popularly founded by Bishop Oglethorpe in 1556-7, the school at Tadcaster was but a continuation of a scheme of education which had unquestionably been carried on from a very early period. I have shown how important was the status of Tadcaster in the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods, and there can be little doubt that a school for the instruction of the young was established here at that time. Indeed the Anglo-Saxon law enjoined the mass-priests in properly authorised towns to keep schools in their parish churches, and this custom was confirmed by the laws of the Conqueror and his immediate successors. Doubtless the school was originally held in the church, and afterwards, as I have remarked in the account of the church, in the ancient parvise over the porch. In the Trinity College Psalter there is a curious and interesting picture of a Norman school, shewing the pupils seated in a circular row round the master, who appears lecturing to them from a long roll of manuscript. Also sitting beside a desk are two writers, each of them occupied with a copy similar to that in the teacher's hands. Subsequently these early schools appear to have been held in a little room over the porch called the parvise. Chaucer, in the 14th century, speaks of a serjeant-of-law "ware and wise, that had often been at the pervise."

The old free schools, often popularly described as of the pious foundation of Henry VIII. or Edward VI., were generally the outcome of the revenues of the dissolved chantries appropriated at the Reformation. Where private greed rose above the good of the community, as appears to have been the case at Tadcaster, such schools were founded by the charity of outside and more considerate benefactors. Dr. Owen Oglethorpe, the worthy Bishop of Carlisle, continued the good work at Tadcaster, where, in all probability, he himself had received the first rudiments of that eminent scholarship which qualified him for the high position he afterwards held in the Church. He was of the family of Oglethorpe of the ancient place of that name, in the parish of Bramham, which I have described at some length in a separate chapter. He obtained a license or grant, dated at Westminster, 7th March, 4th and 5th Philip and Mary (1556-7), to found at Tadcaster "one grammar school together with a certaine hospitall or Almshouse nere unto the same scoole," and in his will, proved at York 15th May, 1560, he recites the conditions of his useful benefaction.

I the said Owyn fearing myne infirmitie and sickness and myndinge above all things to have the saide grammar scoole and hospitall or almes howse to procede or goe forwarde will and charge myne executors to erect and bilde one strong and able howse yn Tadcaster aforesaide with xii lodgings in the same hansom and warme for xii. yonge people, together with a common howse or hall to dine yn and a common kitchen for the saide xii. poore people. The same howse and other bildinge to be caste and devised a good distance from the scoole towards the Castle hill with a retorne at th'ende to make the same quadrant with a faire door into the Churchyarde betwixt the scoole and the hospetall above the place where the holde barne standeth, and no other doore into thospitall but that with a faire image of Christe standinge upon the toppe of the doore and the same howse erected made and finished to have to name and be cawled Christis hospital.

My exors, to purchase lands to the clear yearly value of xl. to the use of the Informer or Scoolemaster. I give my exors. in plate and money 600*l.* to pay for the bilding of the howse and also for the fulle and absolute purchase of so moche landes and tenements as will make the full som of xl., with the manor of Badcrofte in possession of the saide informer or scoolemaster and the rent of Smedallie, co. York, towards making up the aforesaide rent of xl., which rent I charge my brother Andrew Oglethorpe to limit and appoint as my exors. shall advise.

According to the Report of the Charity Commissioners the school was endowed with a farm at Womersley, let for £120 per annum, the whole of which was decreed to belong to the schoolmaster, who is appointed by the Archbishop and Dean of York.

The schoolmasters were to be graduates and without cure of souls, unless as vicars of Tadcaster. Under a scheme issued by the Charity Commissioners in 1877 the old school-house was rebuilt, and has now excellent provision for boarders. The management consists

of nine governors, chiefly represented by the Archbishop and the Dean and Chapter of York, and the local magistrates. Since 1795 there have been but four head-masters of the school, viz., Rev. Wm. Rhodes, B.D., 1795—1833; Rev. William C. Bellhouse, B.A., 1833—1873; Rev. J. Carter Browne, B.D., 1874—1879, when he resigned, and the present able and energetic master, Mr. William Callum, B.A., was next appointed. Mr. Callum had been previously master of the endowed school at Long Preston, in Craven. Among pupils of distinction who have been educated at this school mention may be made of Thomas Stothard, R.A. (1755—1834), of whom some account will be found on another page, and Dr. Smithson Tennant, F.R.S. (1761—1815), the famous experimental chemist and botanist. Dr. Tennant in 1813 was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the University of Cambridge, and was a man of wide culture. It is also stated that Captain Maitland, who escorted the Emperor Napoleon to St. Helena, was educated at this school.

The ancient Hospital mentioned above, originally consisting of twelve almshouses, had at the time they were pulled down only four dwellings for as many poor and aged men, two of them being chosen by the Archbishop and Dean of York out of Tadcaster, Newton and Bramham, and two by the heirs of the manor-house of Easthall, in Rawdon, out of the poor of that township. There had been some abuse of the charity during and subsequent to the Civil War, and in 1667 an enquiry, I find, was held at York Castle, when it was stated that Francis Layton, Esq., late of Rawdon, co. York, by deed dated 21st October, 1652, between himself on the one part, and Walter Hawksworth, Esq., of Hawksworth, Walter Calverley, Esq., of Calverley, Robert Hitch, parson, of Guiseley, and others, on the other part, did give to the same charity an annuity of £40 out of his manor of Horsforth and out of all his messuages in Horsforth between a lane leading from Horsforth Mill to Rawdon on the south, and the Cold Well on the north. The said Francis Layton had made his will, 10th April, 1653, and whereas he had for some years then past paid £5 4s. per annum to the Hospital of Tadcaster for the maintenance of two poor men, he had willed the same to be paid out of the above. There were at the time of this enquiry £16 6s. in arrears and in the hands of the trustees.*

* Francis Layton had been Keeper of the Royal Jewels in the Tower of London, an appointment which he received from Charles I. and which he retained to the time of his death in 1661, aged 84. He aided the King in the martial contest with the Parliament, and had to compound for his estates. In his petition to the Commissioners he remarks that his estate "is burdened by an annuity of £20, payable to Mrs. Frances Oglethorpe for life; also by a rent-charge in perpetuity of £54 to the poor of the Hospital of Tadcaster; and that he owed debts to the amount of £3550." See *Bradford Antiquary* (1886), vol. i., page 179.

The four almshouses, or "Bead Houses," as they were locally called after the old Catholic style, were each endowed with 1s. per week, charged as a fee-farm rent on an estate belonging to the Earl of Cardigan.* On account of the distance of Rawdon from Tadcaster, that township entered into an agreement about the year 1770 by which it abandoned the claim to appoint two of the alms-people, retaining instead the income of one of the houses, the occupant of which continued henceforth to have no stipend. The houses were pulled down some years ago, and part of the existing playground belonging to the Grammar School occupies the site. They were very plain stone buildings, evidently reconstructed at some time out of the old material, and there was a very fine 12th century sculptured slab bearing a floriated cross, built into the front wall between two of the doors, but what has become of this stone I have not made out. An engraving of it is here reproduced. The stone was only 30 inches in length, and about 10 inches in width. The design, especially in the banding, is very similar to the cross figured upon the tomb-slab of Archbishop Kinton (who died in 1264) in York Minster. In the latter sculpture, however, the flower pattern appears in the centre of the cross-head, and not below it. There is also a similar one at Nun Monkton.

Following the records of the church, castle or manor-house, grammar school and hospital, the next building in sequence of antiquity I find note of is the ancient chapel of St. John the Baptist, which probably stood near the east side of Tadcaster Bridge. It was erected in 1504 by William Vavasour, of Cuddesworth and William Cleveland, clerk, of Tadcaster, and was suppressed in 1547, but how long the building continued in existence there is no evidence to show. It was endowed with lands and tenements in Oxton, and had a clear yearly revenue at the Dissolution of £4 3s. 6d. It is not



CROSS-SLAB AT TADCASTER.

* The first Earl of Cardigan also suffered severely for his adhesion to the Royal cause, and for some time was kept a prisoner in the Tower.

improbable that the piscina in Mr. Varley's garden, opposite, came from there.

About twenty years ago, an old decayed building at the corner of Mill Lane, near the Bridge, was pulled down in order to enlarge the yard belonging to the adjoining *Bay Horse* inn. The material, I am told, was used in building the existing shed there. I gather that at one time it was used as a place of worship by the Unitarians, and afterwards by the Society of Friends. When it was abandoned by the latter body, the old building was converted into a smithy and as such continued in use many years.

The Friends are the oldest of the Nonconformist societies in the town, and at one time they were a rather numerous and influential community here. They have an ancient burial-ground in Oxton Lane, not far from the Grange, though it is nearly a century since any interment was made there. No stone is now to be seen and the ground has long been occupied as a garden and orchard, which for a number of years has been in the tenancy of the Fairbourns of Tadcaster. I have inspected the old Books of the Society at York, and find that in 1670 Tadcaster was included in the York Monthly Meeting, but a complaint was laid, in the year named, that the Friends of Tadcaster had neglected to attend that Meeting and were to be requested to do so in future. Early in 1677 the indefatigable George Fox visited Tadcaster, and soon afterwards he sailed for Holland to "spread the truth" in that country. Before the end of the year he had visited, preached, or attended meetings at upwards of 150 towns at home and abroad. His mental and physical vivacity were marvellous, in spite of twenty years' persecution and frequent imprisonment in an age hardened with civil broil, when ignorance and bigotry were pitted against the nobler gospel of toleration.

But at length good sense prevailed, and at the Quarter Sessions held at York, the last day of July, 1st year of William and Mary (1689), I find that a licence was granted, according to the Act ordained for that purpose, that "the people of God called Quakers," shall have and hold one Meeting House, "in ye ffar Water Lane in ye parish of St. Mary's in Castlegate in this city, and one at Tadcaster in the county of the same city [that is within the Ainsty], and one in Tockwith in the parish of Bilton in the county of the same city." As the outcome of a proposal to hold week-day meetings, the house of Alex. Hopwood, in Tadcaster, was registered in 1694 for Quaker assemblies, and so was the house of John Wharton in the same place in 1696.* The Tadcaster register of births, marriages, and burials extends from 1654 to 1792.

* See Heywood's *Noncon. Registers*, ed. by J. H. Turner, pages 152-4.

A Monthly Meeting was held at Tockwith on the 6th day of 6th month, 1697, when it was agreed that the Friends of Tadcaster particular meeting do keep their week-days meeting every sixth day of the week as follows; namely, at Wetherby one day, at Tockwith the next day, at Wetherby next, and at Tadcaster next, and so to continue from week to week, and that Friends "do take care to observe ye same and yt these meetings doe begin at ye tenth hour in ye forenoon." But at the Monthly Meeting held at York in the 4th month, 1711, it was stated that the particular meeting at Tadcaster had formerly and until this time gone by the name of "Tadcaster Meeting." Inasmuch, however, as Wetherby lay in the centre of the said Meeting or near it, and as there was a public Meeting House provided in that town, it was recommended and agreed that in future it be called by the name of "Wetherby Meeting," and so entered in the Books.

The Friends at this time were numerous in York and the Ainsty, as well as in Barkstone Ash, and they had places of worship not only in York and Tadcaster but also at Sherburn, Tockwith, Skipwith, and Selby, with a burial-ground at the latter place in Lundscroft. Though now practically extinct about Tadcaster, the Society has increased somewhat in other places, and according to a recent return their total membership throughout the world is now 114,006, or 446 more than in 1890.*

On the whole the Fairfax country does not seem to have been much noted for its nonconformity after the Uniformity Act of 1662. When Charles II. issued his famous Declaration of Indulgence in 1672, many thousands of applications were made to the local authorities for licenses to assemble and preach. In that year the Justices granted two licenses in Tadcaster; one certified for the house of Robert Morley for Presbyterian worship,† and another for meetings in the house of John Tod, Congregationalist. This John Tod, or Todd, was most probably a brother of Cornelius Todd, of Healaugh, only three miles from Tadcaster. He was one of the ejected ministers. The Presbyterians and Congregationalists had during this era of persecution stood well together, and had in fact, says Mr. Peel, in many places united in one communion.‡ Oliver

* It appears that the Friends had erected a Meeting House at York as early as 1674. Many honoured names are connected with the York Society. In their burial-ground in Bishophill, rest the remains of Lindley Murray, the grammarian, and good John Woolman, who first roused public attention in America to the crying disgrace of slavery. See Mr. J. S. Rowntree's brochure and the new *Life of Samuel Tuke*, by Charles Tylor.

† Is this the old "Ark" in Kirkgate, at one time known as "Morley Hall"?

‡ *Nonconformity in the Spen Valley* (1891), page 75.

Heywood, however, himself the pioneer of Independency in the West Riding, made no distinction between the two bodies. At Tadcaster it would appear that only one denomination was recognized under the evangelical labours of Heywood. Heywood came to Tadcaster on August 26th, 1695, and again on Sept. 1st in the year following he was at York, and in the evening went on to Tadcaster, where he lodged at a Mr. Taylour's. For some years after this I find no mention of Independency at Tadcaster, but in 1715 an old Nonconformist congregation is alluded to at "Tadcaster and Clifford," as sustained partly by the funds left by Lady Hewley.

During the great religious awakening in the middle of the 18th century public enthusiasm ran very high. John Wesley and Benjamin Ingham, of Ossett, roused the languor of religious life by their fervid oratory. Both these dons of the great republic of Dissent were early at Tadcaster. In April, 1759, John Wesley preached to "a well-behaved congregation in a garden" at Tadcaster, and again in August of the same year he visited the town, and "distant thunder did not lessen the number of his congregation."* In 1765 he again preached in Tadcaster. Eventually the Wesleys built a large chapel in the High Street in 1827, at a cost of about £3000.

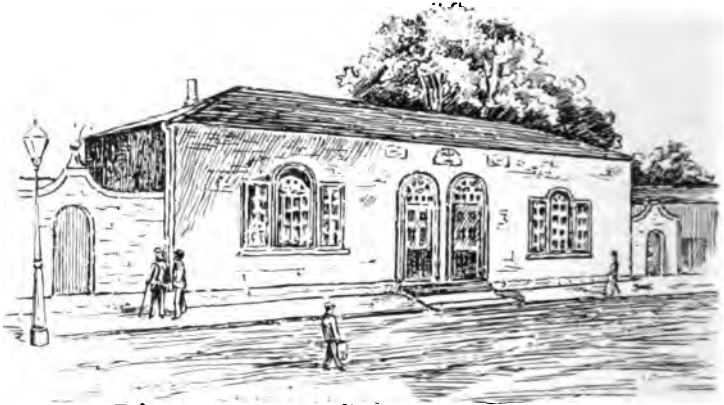
The Rev. Benjamin Ingham, too, was instrumental in forming in 1762-3 what became a very flourishing community in the town. He himself settled at Tadcaster as minister of the new organization. A convenient place of worship was erected in 1814 in Chapel Lane, which has a small burial-ground attached. The Reform Methodists have a chapel in Kirkgate, which originally belonged to the Primitive Methodists, and subsequently to the Independents. The Primitive Methodists were inaugurated here about the year 1835, and they have a neat chapel in Rosemary Row, Tadcaster East.

In 1864 the Congregationalists, whose existence at Tadcaster, it has been shown, goes back to the time of the ministrations of Oliver Heywood in the 17th century, erected a place of worship in Chapel Street, under the auspices of the West Riding Home Missionary Society. Its minister was then the Rev. B. B. Haigh, LL.D., who was born August 17th, 1803, at Gunthwaite Hall, near Penistone. He was educated at the Rotherham Independent College, and became highly skilled in languages. Eventually he founded the well-known Middle Class School at Bramham, called Bramham College. He died in 1869. After his removal to Bramham in 1844 the chapel was sold and the proceeds applied, according to the trust deeds, to

* *Life and Times of the Rev. John Wesley, M.A.*, by the Rev. L. Tyerman (1890), page 330.

the Colleges of Rotherham and Airedale. In 1889 the Congregational minister at Boston Spa, the Rev. P. M. Eastman, gathered a small congregation, and rented the old Inghamite Chapel, near the bridge, the Inghamites at this time having joined the Congregationalists. In a few years, however, this was given up, and the old building, as before stated, was pulled down, and the Congregational body is now practically extinct in the town.

The Roman Catholics have never, I believe, been wholly extinct in the parish of Tadcaster, and are now a flourishing community, having a handsome church on the west side of the town. The church (St. Joseph) was opened by Archbishop Manning, 31st August, 1869. There was Pontifical High Mass in the forenoon, the Bishop of Beverley being the celebrant.



OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL. TADCASTER.

Of other buildings and institutions mention must be made of the Town Hall, in the High Street, which was erected at the cost of the first Lord Londesborough. The County Courts are held in the Town Hall bi-monthly. The Kirkgate Room was built by the late Charles Shann, Esq., J.P., and the Petty Sessions were transferred here from the Town Hall in May, 1880. There are also four branch Banks in the town. In 1820 there were eight schools in the town, viz.: (1) the Grammar School; (2) Ladies' Boarding School at the Vicarage house, kept by the Misses Tasker, and six day-schools, one in Vicarage Lane, another in High Street, two in Chapel Street, one at Bridge Foot, and another in Rawcliffe's Yard on the east side of the Bridge.

Tadcaster moreover claims the distinction of having the oldest Sunday School in England. It was expressly erected for that purpose by subscription in 1788, and remains to day almost the same as when

first built, close to the left of the road on leaving Westgate towards the station. Although it was originally built for a Sunday School it was for many years used as a Church of England Day School. A correspondent observes that "among the many painstaking masters who laboured here with unflagging industry, may be mentioned Messrs. Thompson, Woodward, and Fletcher, gentlemen held in the highest esteem by the scholars. The last master who officiated at the school (Mr. Philip Howell), was transferred to the Board Schools, shortly after the Education Act necessitated the erection of more commodious buildings. Its continuity as a Sunday School, however, has remained unbroken. The weekly attendance ultimately became so large that it was decided to make more adequate provision for the scholars, and a handsome Sunday School was erected near the Parish Church. Since then the old building has been used as a Sunday School for girls."*

The present Middle Class Girls' School originated from a bequest of Mrs. Henrietta Maria Dawson, who was a daughter of Edward Marshall, Esq., of Tadcaster, and wife of Thomas Dawson, Esq., of Clare Castle, Ireland. She died in 1795, leaving the dividends of £11,629 14s. 5d., reduced three-per-cents, and £915 18s. consols, to be applied to various charitable uses, including the education of 40 girls to be taught by four of the pensioners of the charity. Through measures inaugurated by the Charity Commissioners, the trustees received power to "build, endow, and efficiently carry on" the school as at present constituted, and with the aid of voluntary subscriptions the new scheme was put into effect in 1890.

A Catholic School was erected in 1875, and another at Wingate Hill, Stutton, which had been built in 1831, was reconstructed in 1877. A School Board for Tadcaster, consisting of seven members, was formed in 1875, and the Schools (for boys, girls, and infants), together with master's residence, were erected in 1877, on the Wetherby Road, at a cost of about £4000.

Tadcaster Union comprises 41 townships, embracing an area of nearly 110 square miles. The present rateable value is close upon £200,000. The Workhouse, occupying a very pleasant site on the Leeds road, was erected in 1872 for 120 inmates, and for thirty years has been under the management of Mr. and Mrs. John Constantine. The public Cemetery, also in a pleasant spot on the Leeds road, was opened in 1876, and covers an area of over six acres. There are two mortuary chapels, and the place is very nicely kept.

This completes the history of public buildings and institutions in Tadcaster from ancient times to the present.

* *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, (N. & Q., No. 477), July, 23rd, 1898.

CHAPTER XXV.

TADCASTER OLD FAMILIES.

The Percies and De Tadcasters—Baron and Viscount Tadcaster—Some local families deriving their names from local trades and places—Two Tadcaster merchants—The Normanvilles, Hardys, and Barkers—Will of John Barker, 1680—The Tukes and Battys - A local pedigree—The Marshalls—The Fosters of Smaws—Hartleys, Sheriffs of York—Family of Morley and "Morley Hall" The Bellhouses and Woods—An unpublished pedigree—Other local families—Siddells and Moorhouses—Family of Potter—An Archbishop of Canterbury · Families of Shann, Smith, Bromet, &c.—Local celebrities.



FOLLOWING the famous Norman record of the local possessions of the great house of Percy, we have mention of a family of some consequence who took their name from the town. This was the family of Tadcaster. In 1295 a Peter de Tadcaster occurs in an action against Walter de Wessington and other members of the same family for trespass. A William de Tadcaster, shipman, was a freeman of the city of York in 1310. In 1321 William, son of John de Tadcaster, of Bubwith, gave 15 acres in Gunby to Selby Abbey. There does not appear to be any evidence of the family having at any time held lands in Tadcaster; they were no doubt originally vassals of the Percies, some of whom would appear to have settled at a subsequent period on the Percies' estates in Northumberland. In the Hexham Court Rolls for 1547 there occurs among the copyholders in that manor the name of Gilbert de Tadcaster, who with two others, holds two tenements called Netherley, Spetell and Watthouse.* The family-name has long been extinct at Tadcaster, but the town gave title in 1714 to Henry O'Brien, the last Earl of Thomond, in Ireland, who was created Baron and Viscount Tadcaster. He died in 1742, without issue, when the title became extinct. He was succeeded in his estates by his nephew, Percy, youngest son of Sir Wm. Wyndham, by Catherine, his wife, second daughter of Charles, sixth Duke of Somerset, and who in 1756 was created Earl of Thomond, but dying unmarried in 1772, the Earldom expired. The Barony of Tadcaster was again conferred by patent, 3rd July,

* See Hodgson's *Northumberland* (1899), vol. iii., page 72.

1826, on William, second Marquis of Thomond, but he died without male issue, 21st August, 1846, when the dignity expired, but his Irish honours devolved upon his brother, James, third Marquis of Thomond, who dying without issue in 1855, the Marquisate also became extinct.

Most of the old families of Tadcaster took their patronyms from the places whence they sprung, or from the occupations they or their ancestors had followed. In the time of Edward III. we have such names at Tadcaster as Thomas of the Brewhouse, Richard of the Brewhouse, William the Carter, Robert the miller, William son of the smith, Thomas the Chapman of Sutton, William the Chapman of Oxton, Benedicto de Grymeston, &c. In 1378 we have the names of two Tadcaster merchants, Wm. Dryffeld and Wm. Hardy, each of whom paid 2s. to King Richard's war-tax, and they were the highest taxed in the town.* Before this time the Normanvilles appear to have settled at Tadcaster. I have already mentioned them in the Lay Subsidies of Edward III. They were of an old Yorkshire family, long seated at Kilwick Percy and Little Haughton. John Normanville lived at Smaws Hall, and made his will 13th Oct., 1408, desiring his body to be interred in the church of the Blessed Mary at Tadcaster, nigh unto the tomb of Brian Normanville, his father. The family were benefactors to Appleton Nunnery.† The Hardys were also important folks at Tadcaster in the 13th and 14th centuries. One Robert Hardy, master carpenter, was buried in the middle of the nave of Tadcaster church in 1428.

The Barkers were also settled at Tadcaster at an early period. Thoma' le Barker of Tadcaster, occurs in the Lay Subsidies of Edward III., and Wm. Barker and his wife were *hostilers* in Tadcaster in 1378. It was William Barker and his wife, Agnes, who founded the chantry of St. Nicholas in Tadcaster church in 1399. He died in 1403,‡ and the Fabric Rolls of York Minster record a payment by his widow in 1415 of 2s. 11½d. to the Dean and Chapter for one tenement in Tadcaster. The family continued amongst the most prominent in the town for several centuries. The following hitherto unpublished will is of one John Barker, of Tadcaster, dated 7th Nov., 1680:

WILL OF JOHN BARKER, OF TADCASTER, 1680.

In the name of God Amen. I John Barker of Tadcaster in the County of York husbandman being sick and weake of body but in perfect memory blessed be God revoakeing all former wills and deedes doe hereby make & ordaine this my last

* For list of Tadcaster taxpayers at this time see *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. vi., p. 142.

† See also Hunter's *Hallamshire*, vol. ii., page 127.

‡ See *York Wills, Surtees Soc.*, vol. iv., page 327.

will and testament in manner and forme as followeth first I give and bequeath my soule into the handes of Jesus Christ my onely Saviour and Redeemer and my body to be buried in the parish Church yeard of Tadcaster aforesaid. Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Isabell Rawson ten shillings a yeare to be paid her yearly and every yeare dureing her life out of the rent of my house in the back laine in Tadcaster aforesaid. Item. I give unto Anne and Mary daughters of my aforesaid (sister) Isabell Rawson either of them twelve pound. Item. I give unto George Barker sonne of my sister Mary Barker twelve pound. Item. I give unto Grace Parkinson five shillings. Item. I give unto Francis Sainor twenty shillings which he oweth me upon bond. I give and bequeath unto my sister Jane Barker one Cottage house or tenement in Tadcaster aforesaid now in the tenure and occupation of Richard Young with all the premises and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging and to her heires & assignes for ever onely paying ten shillings a yeare to my sister Isabell as before bequeathed. Item. All the rest of goods and Chattels moveable and unmoveable undisposed of my debts and funerall expenses discharged I give and bequeath unto my said sister Jane Barker and doe make her full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. Witnesse my hand and seale the seaventh day of November in the 32th yeare of his ma'ties Raigne anno dom 1680 witnesse hereof John Barker his X Rob.^{rt} Ruddall his X Grace Parkinson her X Francis Sainor.*

The testator would seem to have been piously attached to the "murdered monarch," Charles I.; it is noteworthy he dates his will in accordance with the royal practice, "in the 32th yeare of his ma'ties Raigne, anno dom' 1680." These Tadcaster Barkers were probably connected with the York and Otley family, from whom descends the present Viscount Halifax.† Thomas Barker, Esq., of Otley, studied the law at Lincolns Inn, in the time of Charles II. He afterwards settled at York, where he practised successfully until his death in 1724.‡

The Tukes and Battys were other old families in the district. The Tukes are well known for their many charitable works in connection with the Society of Friends. A John Tuk, taverner, was a freeman of York in 1323. The chief seat of the family was, however, at Kelham, near Newark, where, as well as at many other places in the county of Notts., they had held land from the time of Richard I. to that of Henry VI. A tabulated lineage of the family is given in Foster's *North and East Riding (Yorkshire) Pedigrees*: likewise another of the Tukes of Thorner, near Leeds, and also of Stillingfleet, where they were resident in 1374; also one beginning with a Robert Tuke of Scotton, near Knaresborough, *temp.* Elizabeth, from whom descend the Darlington and Bradford Tukes. The annexed original pedigree has been kindly supplied by Mr. William Murray Tuke, of Saffron Walden.

* The family of Francis Sainor mentioned in the will most likely gave name to the thoroughfare known as Senter Lane.

† See my *Upton Wharfedale*, page 86.

‡ *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xv., page 145.

PEDIGREE OF BATTY AND TUKE, OF TADCASTER AND CAWOOD.

WILLIAM BATTY = Jane Mountain, descended from Mountain, Archbishop of York, died at the house of the Grange, Tadcaster, ob. æt. 90, in 1765. of her daughter, the Dowager Lady Anderson, relict of Sir E. A. Anderson, Bart., Interred at Tadcaster Church. of Kilnwick Percy, co. York, interred near her husband at Tadcaster, 1773, æt. 90.

FRANCES = Sir Ed. Anderson, Kt., MARGARET = Jonathan Hopwood
 Batty of Kilnwick Percy, Batty of York (Bishop Hill), ob. 30 May, 1790, æt. 67, son of William Tuke, of co. York. Cawood. MARY = Geo. Wilson Batty }
 Son, ob. inf.

FRANCES = Nicholas Smith, FAITH = Wm. Gray, LUCY FRANCES, JOHN BATTY TUKE = (1) Catherine = (2) Ann WILLIAM TUKE
 of Stanmore, and Hopwood of York, Beverley, daughter of THOMAS TUKE
 s.p. 42, Great Gower Clark Rev. uxur of York, and Weiton, William JANE TUKE, ob.
 Street, London, Robinson, co. York Epworth, Epworth, NANCY TUKE, ob. ca. 1815.
 Accountant-Genl. of York, of Hull.
 to the Court of s.p.

JONATHAN GRAY, EDMUND, Rector LUCY, Wm. EPWORTH TUKE, JOHN BATTY TUKE = Mary CATHERINE, MARY,
 of York, of Kirby Moor- ob. of London, born at Beverley, uxur uxur
 attorney. side. unmarried. Wine Merchant. died at Birmingham Ed. Sellars
 of Brotherton, MARGARET, uxur Rev. — Hey, May 28th, 1874. of
 co. York. son of Dr. Hey, of London.
 of Leeds.

SIR JOHN BATTY TUKE, M.P.

Perhaps the oldest local family continuously resident in Tadcaster is that of Marshall, who as deriving their patronym from the ancient and important vocation of smiths and forgers, have been settled in the neighbourhood from near the time of the Norman Conquest. William Marshall, *marschall*, occurs in the Tadcaster Poll Tax for 1378. The family supplied many of the implements and iron-work required in the construction of York Minster, about this time. There are some late memorials of this family in the church.* The Hartleys another old Tadcaster family, intermarried with the Marshalls, and were, in conjunction with the Backhouses, the real founders of the brewing trade in Tadcaster.† Thomas, son of John Hartley, innkeeper, of Tadcaster, married (1) Jane Colbeck, who died in 1742, and (2) Margaret, daughter of Edward Marshall, *gent.*, of Tadcaster. By the latter marriage, which was celebrated in York Minster, April 21st, 1743, there was an only child, Edward Marshall Hartley, born in 1744. John Hartley, innkeeper, brother of the above Thomas, died at Tadcaster in 1804, aged 93. He left a family of sons and daughters; two of the sons, Stephen and Thomas, joined the old brewing business in Tadcaster, and grew very rich. Thomas, who died in 1808, was Lord Mayor of York in 1789 and 1803, and he was Sheriff of York in 1791-2. His son held the same office in 1810-11.

The Fosters, too, were another respectable old stock, seated in the district in early times. They held land at Tadcaster in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Robert Foster, *gent.*, of Tadcaster, was buried in the church there in 1567. He was living at Smaws, near Tadcaster, which estate he had purchased from the Normanvilles in 1560, and he also bought a messuage and land at Oxtou the year before he died.‡ By his will he left £5 "towards the mending of the cawsey and hyeway from my house in Tadcaster unto Bowebriidge." When the family left Smaws I have not learnt, but the following indenture, dated 1658, shews they were living there at that time.

SALE BY THE FOSTER FAMILY OF A COTTAGE AND PREMISES
IN TADCASTER, 1658.

This Indenture made the twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord God 1658, Between Thomas Foster of Smaws in the County of York *gent.* and Robert Foster sone and heire apparent of the same Thomas Foster on the one ptie. and John Barker of Tadcaster in the County of York on yè other ptie. witnesseth that the said Thomas F. and Robert F. for & in consideratn. of the some of nine

* See also page 289 (Dawson Charity).

† William Backhouse kept the *White Horse* inn, about 1820—1830, and he had about a dozen men employed in the yard for posting and like purposes. This inn was the principal coaching-house.

‡ See also *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 41, page 32.

pounds of good & lawful money of England to them in hand paid by ye said John Barker his heirs . . . by these present have granted sold . . . and do sell . . . unto ye said John Barker all that cottage or tenement situate . . . in Tadcaster in one Laine comonly called ye backe Layne comonly called Flockton Cottage & now in ye tenure & occupn. of ye said Jn. Barker or his assignes And all and every the houses orchards gardens and waiesides thereunto belonginge . . . and all deeds writings wh. touch or concerne the said premises . . . to be made at the coste . . . of the said John Barker his heirs . . . To have & to hold the said cottage . . . to the onely proper use & behoofe of the said J. B. his heirs & assignes .or ever . . . Soe the said Thomas Foster Elizabeth his wife and the said Robert Foster be not compelled to travell further than the city of York or Castell of ye same for doeing & executing of the same . . . In witness whereof ye above said . . . have sette ther hands and seales the day and yeare ffirst above written

THO. FOSTER.

ROBERT FOSTER.

(seal)

(seal)

The Morleys of Tadcaster and York were no doubt of the same stock as the Morleys of Wennington in Lonsdale, and Beamsley in Upper Wharfedale, as both families bore the same arms: *sable*, a leopard's face, *or*, jessant-de-lis, *argent*, and the Newton-on-Ouse family quartered (1665-6) *gules*, a fess between three catherine wheels, *argent*,* (Streete), though in the earlier Visitation Morley bore *sable*, three catherine wheels, *or*. The first recorded of this family is William de Wennington, lord of Wennington near Lancaster, about A.D. 1260. A descendant of this early landowner was Francis Morley, born at Wennington in 1588, and he married Cassandra, daughter and co-heiress of Josias Lambert, Esq., of Calton-in-Craven,† and cousin to the celebrated John Lambert, Commander of the Parliamentary Forces in the great Civil War. His grandson Josias Morley, settled at Scale House, Rilstone,‡ which in the 17th century became an important centre and scene of one of the early General Meetings of the newly-formed Society of Friends. This Josias Morley was born in 1651, and purchased the manors of Beamsley and Clapham, co. York. He died in 1731, aged 80. Robert Morley, of Tadcaster, also took an active part in the religious revival in the middle of the 18th century, and I have already mentioned the family's probable connection with the "Ark" or "Morley Hall," in Tadcaster, which was licensed for a Dissenters' preaching-place in 1672. Robert Morley of Newton-upon-Ouse, was a famous barrister in his day, and died in 1651, leaving four children; the eldest son, James, being aged 38 when the family lineage was recorded by the Heralds in

* See Dodson of KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

† See my *Craven Highlands* (1892), page 314.

‡ See *Upper Wharfedale* (1900), page 341.

1665.* Robert Morley and Robert White, of Tadcaster, were among the score Wharfedale gentlemen who were appointed in 1657 under-conservators of the Wharfe for the protection of the fishing.† At this time the Taylors were people of some standing in the town, and one John Taylor, was with the exception of Sir Walter Vavasour of Hazlewood, the only landed person in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster, who was in arms against the Parliament in the great Civil War. He had to compound for his estates, but prayed to be freed from sequestrations as his whole property was declared to be not worth £200. Some of this family, in the next century, were well-to-do provision merchants in Tadcaster, and supplied groceries to lesser shops for many miles round.

Another family of old standing in the district, was the Bellhouses, Bellhuses, or Bellars, as variously spelled. A William Bellars was a freeman of York in 1413. In the Recusant Roll of 35th Elizabeth (1592), John Bellhouse and Jenetta, his wife, of Saxton, appear along with William Bellhouse of the same place, among those who were fined for non-attendance at the Parish Church. The family is believed to derive its patronym from Bellhouse, in Essex, but a branch of the family has been long settled in Yorkshire. A John de Belhous was rector of Whiston, near Rotherham, from 1316 to 1318. Francis Bellhouse was the first Town Clerk of Leeds under the charter of incorporation, granted to that town by Charles I. in 1626. The accompanying descents are derived from a larger pedigree I have compiled of this family, and shew various connections of the Woods of Tadcaster, together with the ancestors of the Rev. Wm. Cocker Bellhouse, who was educated at the Leeds Grammar School and was for more than forty years Head Master of the Tadcaster Grammar School. The Woods, I may add, were a very respectable family, settled in Tadcaster before the Reformation. They were lay proprietors of the rectory early in the 17th century.

Many other old Tadcaster families, such as the Chapmans, Carters, Hillams, Aldersleys of Paper Mill Bar,‡ Milners, Ryders, Siddells, &c., might be noticed at more or less length. Sarah Siddell, of Tadcaster, who died in 1799, married Christopher Moorhouse, surgeon, of Keighley, who inherited considerable property on the death in 1780 of his brother, John Moorhouse, a wealthy lawyer. According to the Marriage Bonds of the Archbishop of York, 15th Nov., 1750, he is described as of Keighley, gent., bachelor, licensed to be married at Hunslet to Susanna Fenton, of Hunslet, spinster, then aged 23. He had an only son, Thomas, born 1752,

* See *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 36, page 176. † See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xv., 466.

‡ See my *Airedale*, page 215, and *Upper Wharfedale*, page 339.

(There is a John Bellas, d. 1772, buried at Fulneck, stone No. 440, believed to be the same).
 JOHN BELLHOUSE

James, builder, of Leeds, d. 1806, aged 69 (see Armley Baptistal Registers), buried at Leeds Parish Church burial-ground.
 =Ellen Pemberton, d. 1816, aged 83 (interred in the Leeds Parish Churchyard)
 Hannah, =George Pemberton, b. 1743, d. 1812 d. 1805.

John = Susannah Ann = Coates Mary = Joseph Nicholson, d. 1844, d. 1844, aged 71. aged 72.
 (one of the founders of the 'Fidelity' Lodge of Freemasons), d. at Manchester

Ann = Coates Mary = Joseph Nicholson, d. 1844, d. 1844, aged 71. aged 72.
 (one of the founders of the 'Fidelity' Lodge of Freemasons), d. at Manchester

Sarah = Benjin. Wood, Tadcaster = David = Peter & Elizabeth Wainwright, of Widnes; b. 1761, d. July, 1837 (she was sister to the late Bishop W. Road Cemetery. ↘ of New York).

Sarah = Benjin. Wood, Tadcaster = David = Peter & Elizabeth Wainwright, of Widnes; b. 1761, d. July, 1837 (she was sister to the late Bishop W. Road Cemetery. ↘ of New York).

Samuel = Margaret, dau. of Captain William Cocker, Quartermaster 65th Regiment of Foot, d. Jan. 25, 1816, aged 39.
 James, d. Dec. 31, 1797, aged 20.
 Catherine, d. May 16, 1803, aged 15.
 William Benjamin John Ann
 All died under 3 years of age.

Mary = Carver Cuffley, of Manchester.
 Charles, John Samuel Martha Ann = Charles B. Worsnop (her cousin), Curator of the South Kensington Museum.
 d. 1838, aged 19. (went to Australia).
 d. 1838, aged 19. (went to Australia).
 d. 1838, aged 19. (went to Australia).

Mary, Catharine, Rev. Wm. Cocker, B.A. = Susannah, Margaret = W. O. Geller, Artist Henry, Ann, Ann = John Hard- b. 1798, b. June 18, of Magd. College, Camb., b. dau. of Thos. b. Mar. 29, b. 1810, b. 1812, b. 1814, castle, d. 1815. 1802, Oct. 26, 1804, d. Oct. 10, 1873 & Susannah 1807, Scarbro', 1881, aged 77 d. 1810, d. 1813. d. 1886. of York. James, died at (41 yrs. Head Master of Tadcaster Grammar School). Silvester, of d. Jan., (See Biography in Frederick, Bradford Antiquary, b. 1810, 1 daughter and 2 sons living in 1900. b. 1800, S. Yorks., 1890. 1894, pp. 200-2.) d. 1813, (Twins.) d. 1802, unmarried, May 9, 1895. 2 sons and 2 daughters living in 1900.

Harriet = Rev. Thomas Emily = Wm. Emsley, William = Jane Mitchell, of of Charles = C. C. Silvester Anne, Margaret = J. P. Wilson, Samuel, d. 1894. Craven Hum-frey, Vicar of Leeds, Ald. & Mayor of Leeds, 1880-90 5 sons, 2 daughters, living in 1898. d. 1894. 2 sons, 3 daughters, in Manitoba in 1898. d. 1875. d. 1871, unmarried, Susannah, Edith Eleanor d. 1852. Henry d. 1852. d. 1852.

who married Mercy Fenton, and their only son, Fenton Moorhouse, died in 1809, leaving an only son, Thomas, who died an infant in 1809. Their extensive properties about Keighley and Utley by some means got into the hands of the Cravens, of Keighley, on the death of Stephen Moorhouse, who died an imbecile, without issue, at Tadcaster, in 1825, aged 75.*

Other families of more recent connection with the parish are the Potters, Shanns, Smiths (of brewing fame), Bromets, Harrises, Varleys, &c. The last-named purchased the manor. The Potters have long been seated about York and in the Forest of Knaresbro', and one Thomas Potter was a freeman and chamberlain of York in 1346-7. In recent times some of the family settled at Wingate Hill, near Tadcaster, and from them descend Sir Thomas Potter, of Manchester, and his son, Sir John Potter, M.P. for Manchester, who died in 1858. There was a John Potter, a native of Wakefield, born 1664, who became Archbishop of Canterbury, and died in 1747, but whether connected with this family I am unable to say. An account of the Manchester Potters will be found in Mr. H. R. Fox-Bourne's *English Merchants*. The name of Shann is as a "household word" in Tadcaster, and I have already referred to the well-deserved tribute to this family in the church. They had a freehold near Tadcaster Bridge in 1755, and were sometime owners of the great tithes of Tadcaster. The Bromets are now among the principal landowners at Tadcaster, and in various capacities members of the family fill useful positions in the town. Mr. John Addinell Bromet is Clerk to the Rural District Council, and he has also been Clerk to the Board of Guardians for the long period of forty years.

The town does not appear to have produced many persons specially distinguished in the arts or sciences. But one may be mentioned, the celebrated Professor of Music in the University of Cambridge, Dr. Charles Hague, who was born here in 1769, and died in 1821. His eldest daughter, Harriet, also an accomplished pianist, died in 1816, aged 23. On page 160 of my *Upper Wharfedale*, I refer to "the Wharfedale poet, Charles Kirby," about whom it is stated nothing is known. I gather, however, that he was a native of Tadcaster, and for many years, about 1840—50, lived with his parents in a cottage on the west side of the churchyard, where now stands the Parish Room. He afterwards removed to Leeds, and in addition to his *Harp of Wharfedale* (now a scarce little book) he wrote and published in 1874 a similar volume of verse, entitled *Wayside Flowers*, which was dedicated to the then Mayor of Leeds, H. Rowland Marsden, Esq.

* For pedigree of Moorhouse see *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 338-9.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE TOWN, TRADE, AND OLD INNS OF TADCASTER.

The parish of Tadcaster and Parliamentary Divisions—The Bridge, originally of timber - Its re-erection in stone—The bill of costs—Families of Etty and Cockshott—Alterations about the Market Place—Former aspects—The old Market Cross - Gunpowder Plot celebrations—The coaching-days—Old inns—The *Ark* and its history—Other pre-Reformation inns—Some proceedings in Chancery—Ancient inn-signs—Local survival of Roman inn custom—Queen Elizabeth and the "savage"—Armorial signs—Warburton at the *Roebuck*—Some local innkeepers - Tadcaster an ancient post-town—The old post-office—The first mention of Tadcaster post-office—The old "running-post"—Royal messengers—Horsemen and archers guard the King's treasure through Tadcaster—Local ancient breweries—The assize of ale—Local industries - The manufacture and dyeing of cloth—The markets and fairs—Decline of Tadcaster—Opening of local railways—Revival of brewing and malting trades—The Smith family—Tadcaster water—"Popple-wells"—Local longevity—Events, customs and traditions—John Wilkes and Tadcaster.



At present constituted the parish of Tadcaster includes Tadcaster West, Stutton-with-Hazlewood, Tadcaster East, and Oxton. West Tadcaster and Stutton are in the Parliamentary Division of Barkston Ash, while Tadcaster East and Oxton lie within the Ainsty of York and Parliamentary Division of Thirsk and Malton. The centre of the Bridge over Wharfe forms the boundary of the two divisions.

This large and massive stone bridge, which has consumed, it is said, more material in its construction than any other bridge in the county, consists of nine arches, and was originally built in 1698-9. It was subsequently, through the increase of coaching traffic, widened, as appears by the difference of the masonry under the arches. Some early references to the bridge, which was originally of timber, have already been given. Subsequent to the Reformation the bridge of stone was maintained in repair, the east half by the Ainsty and the west half by the Ridings. The expenses of the rebuilding at the end of the 17th century were raised by a general tax of 3d. in the pound, laid by Act of Parliament on all lands, &c., within the city and Ainsty of York and the West Riding. John Etty, of York, ancestor no doubt of the celebrated painter, was appointed

superintendent of the work, and at the Pontefract Sessions, held in April, 1699, the bill of costs was certified amounting to £1124. It is doubtless the same John Etty whom I find commemorated in All Saints' Church, North Street, York :

To JOHN ETTY, Carpenter, who died Jan. 28th, 1709, aged 75.

His Art was great, his Industry no less,
What one projected, th'other brought to pass.

Whether the Cockshott family had a hand in building any previous bridge here, there are apparently no records to prove, but at least one local member of the family had a reputation for this kind of work. When Barden Bridge was swept down by the flood of 1674,* Thomas Cockshott, of Tadcaster, agreed to rebuild it for £660. There seems to have been some obstacles to the speedy undertaking of this work, and whether Cockshott actually rebuilt this bridge is not very clear. The Cockshotts are an old family in the neighbourhood of York.

After the rebuilding of the Bridge extensive structural alterations appear to have taken place in the town, and its old aspects changed. Doubtless many of the antique half-timber dwellings and old thatches surrounding the Market Place would be swept away and the existing buildings erected on the site. There is every appearance that the original Market Place was a large open square, extending some fifty yards northwards from Bridge Street along Kirkgate, and the modern character of the houses on this side of Bridge Street fully confirms this. About half-way between the bottom of Kirkgate and the Bridge, there is a narrow passage on the north side of Bridge Street which runs parallel with Kirkgate about the breadth of four houses or shops, and then becoming wider, turns at a sharp angle to the left and comes out into Kirkgate, nearly opposite the ancient tenement known as the Ark. All the buildings below there on the west side of Kirkgate to Bridge Street are also of modern date, and the space is still kept open opposite Askey's shop. This was the ancient Market Place where the markets were held weekly by charter mentioned on page 243. Whether the old stone base now standing in Westgate at a place called The Cross, is part of the original market-cross no one now knows. But the old stone cross was certainly existing little more than a century ago, and is referred to in a scarce little book printed at Wakefield in 1782. Some lines in rhyme, by "J. Fretwell, mercer, Tadcaster," appear in the form of a Letter from the Cross at Wingate Hill to the Cross at Tadcaster, and begin as follows :

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 357

Dear Cousin Cross, my near relation,
 I'm sorry for thy situation ;
 'Mongst brawling, fighting, yelping, clamouring,
 And Vulcans at their horse-shoes hammering ;
 With " haave," " gee-up," and " wo-a-aa," stop,
 But holy water not a drop !
 Thy steps heap't up with whins and sticks,
 And scaling-rods and broken bricks,
 Thy bonfires, too, of stolen wood,
 Disturb me and the neighbourhood.

And so on for more than a half-a-hundred lines in like refrain. The old Gunpowder Plot anniversaries would appear to have been celebrated in the Market Place, near this old Cross. This venerable relic I find alluded to as far back as the time of Henry III. In an inquisition, dated 1260, of the properties of William de Kyme, of Newton Kyme, &c., one of the jurors was "Thoma' ad Crucem" (Thomas at the Cross), of Tadcaster, shewing that a cross existed even before the markets were established by charter in 1270.*

In the height of the coaching days, about 1820—30, there were no fewer than 24 registered inns and posting-houses in the town, and some of these are or were of high antiquity. The old *Falcon*,† the most ancient building now remaining in Tadcaster, is a quaint pre-Reformation structure, having its lower story built of stone while the upper portion is of timber and plaster. The antique wooden corbels projecting from the roof in front of the house are curiously carved with a male and female head. I give a view of this interesting old building. It is often irreverently called "Noah's Ark" or the "Ark," but formerly, when Mr. England owned it, he always spoke of it as "Morley Hall," probably because the old Independents assembled here when Robert Morley had his house in Tadcaster licensed for public worship in 1672.

Another pre-Reformation inn was the *George*, which is probably now represented by the *George and Dragon*, opposite the Post Office. In one of the windows of this inn there is preserved a piece of old painted glass bearing a Tudor rose and a representation of cupids, &c., while below are the initials and date, "W. K., 1592." This seems to be the "syne of the George" mentioned in 1548 as belonging to the chantry of St. Nicholas in the Parish Church, previously mentioned.

* See observations on Market, Wayside, Weeping and Corpse Crosses, in my *Nidderdale*, pages 365-70.

† This sign probably came into existence after the Wars of the Roses, the falcon and fetterlock being a Yorkist badge. Edward IV., who had the falcon with the lock closed, ordered his son Richard to bear it with the lock open.

The *White Hart* is another sign of uncertain antiquity at Tadcaster, but there can be little doubt that it, too, was existing before the Reformation. The White Hart was the favourite badge of Richard II., whose reputed mysterious end at Pontefract I have before alluded to. The sign is one of the oldest recorded in England, and its existence may be traced back to the days of ancient Rome. The legend of the White Hart, collared with gold, appertains to several districts in England and on the Continent. One is supposed to have been caught at Rothwell Haigh, an old park of the Lacies, about a dozen miles to the south-west of Tadcaster. I find the *Hart* at Tadcaster mentioned as apparently an old patrimony in the time of Queen



THE "ARK," TADCASTER.

Elizabeth. In some unpublished Proceedings in Chancery it is recorded that Jane Bailey was seized in fee of "a messuage called the Hart in Tadcaster," and other tenements there, and after her decease the premises came to one Francis Bailey, son and heir of the said Jane. But the deeds concerning the same having come casually into the hands of one Thomas Belbroke, yeoman, he in 1569-70 had entered into the premises and refused to give them up. Litigation followed, and Thomas Bilbrough came forward and affirmed that

one-third of the "Hart" with the other premises which were divided, was rightfully possessed by Robert Blancherde, gent., who by his deed enfeoffed the defendant thereof.* And another third part the said defendant holds at will of one Leonard Foster, to whom the inheritance belongs, and the residue Robert Hudleese and his wife were seized of, and about St. Martin's Day two years since demised the same to defendant for a term of years now enduring. How the matter ended is not stated, but Francis Bailey wholly repudiated the statements of the defendant.

As five innkeepers are mentioned in Tadcaster in 1378, it is more than likely that the *White Hart* was one of the signs then in being. But whether we are to refer the existence of this or any other Tadcaster inn to the time when the Romans ruled here, as above suggested, is highly problematical. It is, however, deserving of record that a conspicuously Roman inn custom prevailed in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster, at any rate down to the 17th century. This was the hanging out of a bush or garlanded "ale-pole" over a house door to indicate the sale of meat and drink; or the bush might be painted or cut in wood and so portrayed above the entrance, as is recorded to have been found in Rome, and also among the ruins of Pompeii. Chaucer, writing in the 14th century, says :

A garlond hadde he sette upon his hede,
As gret as it were for an alestake.

I have mentioned this usage in Wharfedale elsewhere,† but the following is the first record I have met with of its actual occurrence upon a Roman highway in Yorkshire. The reference to it will be found in the Depositions from York Castle,‡ wherein one Abraham Ibbitson, of Leeds, was charged in 1674-5 with feloniously taking away two geldings belonging to Wm. Hutchinson, Esq., and also one gelding the property of Joseph Ibbitson, gent.§ It appears that a man named Bancroft persuaded him to turn highwayman, and they went together to a certain ale-house at Street Houses, "in the way betwixt Tadcaster and York, *where there was a bush as a signe.*" Although it is not distinctly stated that a green emblem was hung out in front of the door, yet the wording of the indictment does not

* See also *Yorkshire Fines* (1570), vol. i., page 377.

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 433.

‡ *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 40, page 214.

§ Horse-stealing was a common offence at this time. I find in the same records that a man named Joseph Hetherington was executed at York for stealing four horses at the *Hand and Whip* public-house in Tadcaster, on the night of March 4th, 1623.

lead us to believe anything to the contrary. It does not say that the inn was called the *Sign of the Bush*, but that a bush was used as a sign. This Roman bush, which was generally of ivy, no doubt originated the present name of the inn, the *Wild Man*. Nicholls in his *Progresses of Queen Elizabeth* (vol. i., page 494), says that when Queen Elizabeth was at Kenilworth Castle in 1574, "on the x. of Julee met her in the Forest as she came from hunting one clad like a savage man all in ivie," who addressed Her Majesty in a neat speech. The man "clad like a savage in ivy," was intended to typify the Roman Bacchus, to whom the ever-green ivy-plant was dedicated, hence our inn signs of the Bush and Wild Man are synonymous.

After the Wars of the Roses Henry Tudor visited Tadcaster, and perhaps left us the sign of the *Rose and Crown* as a consequence of that visit. It was the royal badge of the Tudors. The inn, an old coaching-house, previously referred to, is not now existing. The *Roebuck* was another good old inn, and it was here that Warburton, the antiquary, lodged during his Yorkshire tour in 1718. Other well-known hostelries were the *Angel* and *White Horse*, the latter sign being almost invariably associated with coaching in our old Yorkshire towns, and perhaps elsewhere. The *White Horse* at Tadcaster, which was the head posting-house in the town, has lost its famous sign, the inn having been transformed into the *Londesborough Hotel*, now the principal open house in the town.*

Besides the *White Horse* and *Rose and Crown* there were other coaching-houses in Tadcaster, notably the *Angel* and *White Swan*. The latter was kept for many years by the late Mr. Jos. Middleton, who entered upon the premises during that busy era when licensed houses were kept open all night. Few Englishmen have been able to boast that they have lived in five reigns in this country. Mr. Middleton, however, claimed that distinction. He was born in 1815, a fortnight before the famous battle of Waterloo, and died at Wetherby Feb. 13th, 1901, having therefore lived in the reigns of George III., George IV., William IV., Victoria, and Edward VII. He was always very temperate in his habits, and, I am told, never smoked an ounce of tobacco in his life. The old coaching-houses needed steady managing men, who knew the wants of their customers, and were prompt and active in emergency. None of the old school of landlords possessed these qualities more than the late Mr. Matthew Kidd, who was born at the *Angel* in 1815, the same year as Mr. Middleton, and lived through the busiest era of Tadcaster coaching. Afterwards he became landlord of the *Londesborough*, and

* See Mr. Bradley's *Coaching Days in Yorkshire*, pages 62-63.

remained there until about 1879, when he retired into private life. He was well-known to commercial travellers and others, almost throughout the country, and was greatly respected, having filled various public offices, and for many years he had officiated as a sidesman at the Parish Church. Many another well deserved tribute might be penned about similar worthies of the old coaching times did space permit.

The old Post Office at Tadcaster, the house afterwards occupied by Dr. Ireland, was, says Mr. Bradley, almost as important as any of the coaching inns in the town, and there were large stables connected with the place. In 1786 the mails began to be transmitted by coach; before that time they were conveyed by mounted carriers to and from Tadcaster. The Post Office was on the east side of the Bridge, and the cost of letters from Tadcaster to Bradford or Doncaster, in 1820, was 6d. † to Halifax the postage was 7d., and to Leeds 4d.

Tadcaster is a very old post-town, though it would not appear to have had a registered post office before the time of Charles I., when regular communication was established between London and York. The "running-post," between London and Edinburgh, was inaugurated in 1635, but it was not until the accession of Charles II. that the General Post Office was established by Act of Parliament (1660). The earliest distinct reference to the Tadcaster Post Office I have met with, is in a letter of Robert Fairfax, dated Feb. 27th, 1685, and addressed to "My Honoured Mother, Mrs. Katherine Fairfax, at Newton, near Tadcaster, to be left with the Post Master of Tadcaster."*

The first English postmaster, of whom there is any particular account, is one Sir Brian Tuke, but whether he is of the York and Tadcaster family I do not know. He is described in 1533 as "*Magister Nunciorum, Cursorum, sive Postarum*;" though in the 13th century there are entries in the wardrobe accounts of the English sovereigns, of payments to royal messengers for conveying letters and packages to various parts of England. In the Rolls of the Exchequer for 7th Edward III. (1313), there is a record of a messenger who was despatched from Berwick to London, and performed the journey in nine days. He travelled by way of Newcastle, Darlington, and Poundsborough (*sic*), to Wetherby; thence to Rouford, Leicester, Northampton, and Dunstable. In 1319 the sum of 2050 marks was conveyed from London to York; ten days being occupied in the journey from Huntingdon to York. From London to Huntingdon eight horsemen acted as guard, but on reaching the town of "Robin

* Markam's *Life of Robert Fairfax*, page 46.

Hood," or "Robert ye bolde Erle of Huntingdon," the guard to York, through Doncaster and Tadcaster, was increased to eleven horsemen and twelve able archers on foot, all armed and equipped with tipped arrows. But for five or six miles out of Huntingdon a special guard of six score men was delegated to accompany the bearers of the royal treasure, with the object of overawing the desperate outlaws in those parts from following in pursuit. The whole journey was apparently performed without any serious encounter. Safe lodgings on journeys of this kind must have been a source of concern, but no doubt two men, in turns, would act as watch through the night, while the others snored heedlessly in tavern or manor-house.

I have already mentioned the ancient Tadcaster inns. There were also two brew-houses in 1341, evidently doing a good business. One of them paid 8d. to the imperial taxes in that year, and the other 4d. In some places the lord of the manor at this period imposed a fine or charge of 4d. or 6d. upon every brewing of ale, according to its strength,* but I cannot find that the Tadcaster brewers were ever subject to such a toll. At Tadcaster, however, the lord had mulcture of corn and furnace or toll on the bread obliged to be baked at the manorial oven.

There were also many kinds of artificers, at an early period, flourishing in the town. The weaving, fulling, and dyeing of woollen cloth was carried on in the town in the 14th century, as also at other places in Lower Wharfedale, particularly at Wetherby. There was usually in the principal towns a fulling-mill and a corn-mill, sometimes together or they might be a little distance apart. The Tadcaster mills are mentioned in 1245.† Tallow-chandling was also an old local industry, which continued to flourish here down to the introduction of gas. The Mountain family were widely-known tallow-chandlers in Tadcaster in the middle of the 18th century. There were also other minor industries, such as the hat and cap trade, which for many years was carried on here by the families of Bean and Crossley, down to about the middle of the century just closed. At the same time a good many straw hats and bonnets were

* Some time previous to the Reformation only two kinds of beer were allowed by statute to be made, namely, "strong" and "double" (meaning probably a double quantity of water): the latter being sold at exactly half the price of the "strong." About the year 1400 the best ale sold for 1½d. a gallon and a century later the price was fixed at 3d. a gallon. In 1600 the West Riding Justices ordered that no ale or beer was to be sold at more than one penny per quart. See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.* (Rec. Ser.), vol. iii, page 59. See also my *Richmondshire*, page 130.

† See *Yorks. Inquisitions*, vol. i., page 4.

made in the town. The printing trade was also introduced here in 1855, and is still carried on. But in an agricultural district there is little inducement to develop this industry, and the local newspaper, the *Tadcaster News*, has long been printed at Wetherby.

Of course the inhabitants have mostly lived by agriculture, and the weekly (Wednesday) markets at Tadcaster, for the sale of agricultural produce, at one time attracted large gatherings from the surrounding districts. About 1850 an attempt was made to revive the market, and the day was changed to Monday, but it did not continue very long. A fortnightly fair was established for all kinds of cattle, on alternate Mondays, and this is still kept up and is well attended.

With the passing of the coaching-days Tadcaster began to decline. One by one, old inns that once did a thriving business, had to close their doors, and many houses were without tenants. A great change came over the place, and for a time the town wore a slumberous and lethargic aspect that boded ill for the future. The last forty years, however, have witnessed a resuscitation of life and activity, and the old town of Roman and mediæval England appears again to be as flourishing as ever. Since the opening, on August 10th, 1847, of the North Eastern Company's railway from Church Fenton through Tadcaster to Spofforth,* and between Leeds and Wetherby (opened May 1st, 1876), connecting Tadcaster with all the main arteries of railway traffic, the town has become accessible from every direction, and there is no reason why it should not have a very prosperous future.

But the chief incentive to local prosperity has been in the marked revival in the brewing and malting trades, for which Tadcaster was, as I have shown, famous in the Middle Ages. There are now four or five extensive breweries in the town, besides several malt-kilns and a large corn-mill. Though Messrs. Backhouse and Hartley had established a brewery in Tadcaster so long ago as 1758, it was not until the representatives of that firm disposed of the business, in 1847, to the late Mr. John Smith, that any headway was made in developing this great local industry. When Mr. John Smith died in 1879, he left the brewery to his brother William, who died in 1886. The business had then wonderfully developed, and has done so still more under the capable management of his two nephews, Messrs. Herbert H. Riley-Smith and Frank Riley-Smith, who are now the proprietors. New concerns have sprung into existence, and the total output of the Tadcaster breweries, I am informed, now amounts to about 10,000 barrels per week. The great success of this important

* The extension from Spofforth to Harrogate was not opened until the following May (1848).

industry is no doubt largely due to the excellent and suitable quality of the water, of which the supply seems practically inexhaustible, and is derived from numerous wells sunk in the magnesian limestone strata. The water is naturally rich in sulphate of lime, and in point of hardness is said to be superior to that of Burton-on-Trent. Some of these springs come up very copiously at the surface, and for centuries have been the source of water supply to the town. The springs are locally known as "popple-wells," and one of them, situated about fifty yards from the north side of the wall of the churchyard, and close to the river, had such repute, that in the coaching-days, the people at one or two of the principal inns would use no other than this "popple-water" for the table.

In our walks about Tadcaster certain odoriferous breezes make us conscious of the presence of these famous breweries. But if Tadcaster ozone is surcharged with the extract of malt it has certainly not proved prejudicial to either the animal or vegetable life of the district. On the contrary, few districts in England are more fertile, or have produced a larger number of instances of human longevity. For its size and population, Tadcaster has probably surpassed, for a long period, every other place in the broad-acred shire in the number of its octogenarians, Aberford not excepted. Many have also reached the century. Two of the most notable instances may be recorded, namely, John Shepherd, of Tadcaster, who died in 1757, aged 109, and William Hughes, of Tadcaster, who died in 1769, aged 127. The time and place of their birth or baptism I am unable to verify, the Tadcaster Registers for the Civil War period being missing. My authority for these cases is the *Mirror* for Dec. 11th., 1822.

But if the inhabitants of Tadcaster have been long-lived, they have also been, so far as past history sheds light on the subject, a right-lived, law-abiding people. They have rarely been charged with crimes of a serious nature, and in the space of nearly five centuries (1379 to 1862) there are but four recorded instances of persons resident within the parish having suffered the extreme penalty of the law. Perhaps the most memorable of these cases was that of George Foster, a young man of 25, who had been taken and tried for false coining at Tadcaster, and being found guilty, he was executed at Tyburn, without Micklegate Bar, York, April 8th, 1582. The circumstances excited considerable interest at the time, and it is said that fully 10,000 people were present to witness the culprit's untimely end. There are, however, records of many highway and other robberies committed within the limits of the parish by "foreigners" who had followed in the wake of the coaches that daily passed through the town. For example, on the evening of

November 10th, 1801, a Mr. Wm. Midgley, of Tadcaster, was riding home from Leeds Market, when he was stopped by two foot-pads at Bramham Lane End, about three miles from Tadcaster, and robbed of bills to the amount of £55. The rascals got clear off. This road had a bad repute in the coaching times. A story is related of a Mr. Scott, an attorney, of Knottingley, who while on his way to York was attacked by two armed footpads on the London road about a mile out of Tadcaster. He at once gave them what money he had in his pockets, but knowing the evil character of the locality had taken the precaution to put a number of bank-notes, &c., into one of his boots. Happily in our days of pleasure-tours, and driving and cycling, the times, like the public roads, have greatly improved (about £8,000,000 per annum having been of late years expended on the maintenance of streets and roads in England and Wales), and there is little to fear from such marauders on our old rural turnpikes.

The subject of crime is not the most attractive to dwell upon, though it is unfortunately an element to be reckoned with in the life of most communities. But if we except the lawlessness consequent upon rebellion, political and religious (of common occurrence in former times), the parish of Tadcaster has in the past a good record. Even the dissolution of monasteries—that most corrupt of all revolutions—does not seem to have inveigled the inhabitants into rebellion as in many other places, notwithstanding its always-unfortunate position as a gravitating centre of the opposing parties. Perhaps this may be owing in a large measure to the early enfranchisement and consequent independence of the bulk of the inhabitants, who declined submission to either cause, and were content to abide by the issues of the unhappy feud. There can, however, be no doubt that for a lengthened period this revolution fermented much poverty and distress in the district. The times, indeed, were long out of joint. Men, and women too, declined to follow any useful occupation, and the roads were full of rogues and idlers. Rewards were offered for the apprehension of all beggars, gipsies, fiddlers, pipers, tinkers, petty chapmen, and others wandering abroad. Indeed many such were sham-peddlers and freebooters, who went about in the disguise of strolling minstrels.

I may mention a very remarkable incident illustrative of these troubled times, which is related in the old chronicles of York Castle. It appears that a man named Bartendale, a piper or strolling musician, had been apprehended for felony, and was condemned to be hanged at the York gallows. The penalty was actually carried out on March 27th, 1634, and when the man had hung the better part of an hour, he was cut down and interred near the place of execution. A

short time afterwards one of the Vavasours, of Hazlewood, near Tadcaster, while riding with an attendant to York, thought he saw the earth move at the spot. Both he and his man dismounted, and proceeding to remove the earth, they found to their dismay the unfortunate victim alive, and looking them in the face! They conveyed him to the Castle, where he was tended, and at the next Assizes he obtained a reprieve. That eccentric rhymers, "Drunken Barnaby," alludes to the incident when he says :

Half alive or dead he rises,
Got a pardon next assizes,
And in York continued blowing,
Yet a sense of goodness showing.

But the real facts seem to be that he discontinued "blowing," but became a hostler at a local inn and lived honestly afterwards.

Much might be written on other local events, customs, stories and traditions of a neighbourhood boasting the antiquity of Tadcaster. These may sometime form the subject of a separate volume. One event of more than a century ago may, however, be recalled, as it helps to typify the strong democratic spirit of the people at a time when local Nonconformity was rousing the people to a right understanding of the national freedom. John Wilkes, the self-elected "champion of the people" had been outlawed for his libellous opposition to measures of the Government, but in 1768 he was reinstated and elected by a large majority member for Middlesex. But being again expelled, the indignation of the people rose to such a pitch that they returned him again and again, and in 1774 the House of Commons allowed him quietly to take his seat. The joy of a great many of the inhabitants of Tadcaster knew no bounds. A meeting was called, and afterwards a procession, with music, was formed at the old Cross. A "hymn of rejoicing," specially composed for the occasion by a local poet, was sung to instrumental accompaniment, the crowd cheering at the conclusion of every verse. The verses are now rarely met with, but the following must suffice as a sample of the rest :

Ye honest hearts of Tadcaster,
Come hither, with us join,
And drink to Wilkes and liberty
In bumpers of good wine ;
And merry we will be, will be,
We will, now Wilkes gains liberty !

Come hither, Sons of Liberty,
Here's wine and punch and ale ;
Come hither to number 45
In hopes the cause won't fail !
And merry, &c.



T O U L S T O N L O D G E . T A D C A S T E R .

CHAPTER XXVII.

AROUND TADCASTER.

Pleasant scenery—Wealth of vegetable life—The nightingale, a visitor—The road to Oxton—Ouston and Oxton—The old Hall—Local families—Wild flowers—Smaws Hall—A notable quarry—Meaning of Smaws—Its ancient families—About Stutton—Geological aspects—Thevesdale—Antiquity of Stutton corn-mill—Local families and celebrities—A famous painter—A monumental work—History of Toulston—Ancient inn at Toulston—Local families—The Fairfaxes—Sale of Toulston—The old Hall—Toulston Lodge—Present and former aspects—Its owners—George IV. at Toulston—Recent extension and improvements of the mansion—Some old yews.



THE district of Tadcaster is, as I have said, exceedingly healthful and pleasant, and from the higher parts of the parish there are delightful prospects over a luxuriant and well-wooded country, almost park-like in its aspects. It also abounds with plant-life. There are trees, wild flowers, and mosses in great variety, many of the rarer species occurring here in comparative profusion. At one spot five or six species of orchids have been collected within a radius of a few hundred yards. In the *Naturalist* for 1881 there is also a list of 104 species of fungi, collected by Mr. George Masee and others between Church Fenton and the famous Jackdaw Crag Quarry, near Tadcaster. To the ornithologist and conchologist there is likewise provided a rich field of investigation. In bird life many uncommon species have been observed or taken here. The nightingale has visited the neighbourhood three years in succession, and on fine evenings it has often been a great treat to listen to the flowing cadence of this most musical of English songsters:—

The night-warbling bird, now awake,
Tunes sweetest his love-labour'd song,

as Milton describes it.

The walks about Tadcaster also contain much of historic interest, as already pointed out. There are likewise a number of interesting houses which may be conveniently mentioned in this place. Crossing the Bridge and following the road to Oxton, we pass the Grange, for

many years the residence of the Smith family. The District Council has lately secured about ten acres of land between the Oxton Road and the Wharfe for the purposes of a sewage farm. It was previously the property of Mr. Saml. Smith. About a mile beyond the Grange is the single farmstead of Ouston. Whether there has ever been more than one house here is uncertain, but in ancient times it was a place of considerable importance, and was a large well-cultivated farm long before the Norman Conquest. It is mentioned in *Domesday* under the names of Ulsitone and Wlsintone, and in the 13th century was held by the family of Kyme, of Newton Kyme, &c. In the time of Henry III. it was subfeud to the Vavasours, and William le Vavasour, in 1260, held it immediately of William le Kyme. It would appear that the family then resided here.* Later the ancient local family of Hill was living here, and in a deed dated at Wadlandes (parish of Calverley) the signature (interlined) of Johanne de Hille de Wulstone, appears among the witnesses.†

Oxton, or Ositone, Ossetone, and Oxetone, as it occurs in three different forms in *Domesday*, was in two holdings. Osbern de Arches had four carucates which were in the soke of Marston, and William de Percy had half-a-carucate, which was given to Sawley Abbey. In 1281 Symon de Kyme was lord of the manor, from whom it passed through the Percies to the Duke of Somerset. The manor-house is a very ancient foundation, but of its early history little can be related. In the 17th century the Hill family lived here, and one John Hill, son of Robert Hill, of Oxton, received from Lord Fairfax in 1671, a legacy of £10 towards his maintenance at the University, —another instance of the old Fairfax interest in education. The Dawsons were also an old yeoman family long resident at Oxton, one of whom married the eldest daughter of William Hill, of Oxton, and had an only child, Eliza, who was born there in 1770. She was a very attractive and highly accomplished lady. Having broken off an engagement with Lord Grantley she married at Tadcaster church, in 1791, an able lawyer named Archibald Fletcher, with whom she lived happily for nearly forty years. She died at Edinburgh in her 89th year. Her *Autobiography* was published at Edinburgh in 1875, under the editorship of her only surviving child, the widow of Sir John Richardson, the famous Arctic explorer. A pedigree of the Fletchers of Towton is recorded in the Visitation of 1665, but I have not been able to connect this family with the Oxton Dawsons.

The present Hall has for many years been the property and residence of the Harris family, whose lineage is entered at Heralds' College.

* See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 169.

† See *Archæol. Jl.*, xviii., page 65.

Prior to 1872, when it was sold, it was the property of the Ramsdens of Byrom and Longley Hall. William, second son of Sir John Ramsden, Bart., was born in 1789, and resided at Oxton Hall after his marriage with Annabella, daughter of the Marquis of Winchester. He was a distinguished naval officer, and died at Byrom Hall, Dec. 30th, 1853. His brother, Henry James Ramsden, sometime Captain in the 9th Lancers, afterwards lived at Oxton. He had a family of sons and daughters; three of the sons were in the army, and the eldest, who was a Captain in the Coldstream Guards, displayed great heroism in the Crimean War, but was mortally wounded at the Battle of Inkerman, 5th Nov., 1854. One of his sisters, Isabella Anne, was married in 1858 to Richard Silver Oliver, Esq., of Bolton Lodge, elsewhere mentioned.

The road from Oxton by Hornington Bridge to Bolton Percy station (three miles) is very pleasant. At one time the wild white hyacinth used to grow rather plentifully near this old road. But going this way we enter the large parish of Bolton Percy, which I have elsewhere described; therefore let us return either by the pleasant walk along the south side of the river to Newton Kyme, about two miles from the church, or we may take the highway by Smaws and Toulston, obtaining fine views of the surrounding country.

Smaws is a very old estate, and though long reduced to a farm house, it was in former times the seat of several notable families. Portions of the old Hall (pulled down 25 years ago) are still standing at the back of the present dwelling. I give a view of the building as it was in 1718 from the original in the Lansdowne Collection in the British Museum. The house stands on the crest of an eminence on the south side of the railway. Round about the scenery is very picturesque, due to the hilly and uneven surface of the denuded limestone as well as to a narrow defile extending some distance on the east side of Smaws Hall. Near here the rock has been quarried at a very early period. The Smaws limestone is a very durable stone of fine grain, and has long been used in the repair of York Minster. This celebrated quarry now belongs to Mr. Samuel Smith. The depression named is all grown up with trees and a thick vegetable undergrowth, and there is no doubt, that to the peculiar configuration of the ground here, Smaws owes its name. It is an old Scandinavian word, observes Mr. Boyle, brought hither by the Danes who colonised so largely in Yorkshire in the 9th century. In Icelandic its form is "smuga," defined by Fritzner as a "narrow opening, through which one can come forth; a hiding-place or haunt, a nook, corner, a by-place." Cleasby and Vigfusson give the definition "a narrow cleft to creep through," and Aasen, "a hole made by

excavation." How the "g" was lost and the word softened to Smaws may be found explained in Prof. Skeat's *Principles of English Etymology* first series, page 364.

In feudal times Smaws was the seat of two important local families, the Normanvilles and Calls. I have mentioned William Call in the Tadcaster Lay Subsidies of the time of Edward III. Alan Calle, of Smaws, was one of the jurors at an enquiry held in York concerning a rent due to the Prioress and Nuns of Appleton from the mill at Newton Kyme in 1268-9.* In 1260, as appears from the



SMAWS HALL, TWO CENTURIES AGO.

inquisition previously quoted of William de Kyme, Ralph de Normanville held of the said William, $3\frac{1}{2}$ carucates of land in Smaws and in Cold Coniston, in the parish of Gargrave in Craven. Other records of this family I have already given. Smaws now forms part of the property belonging to the family of Varley, and is rented by Mr. Francis Colley, who resides in a good house on the Station Road.

It is a very pleasant walk hence to Stutton, or we may continue the road to Newton Kyme between the rich parks of Toulston Lodge (H. H. Riley Smith, Esq., J.P.) on the left and Newton Kyme Hall (Misses Bethell) on the right. Many kinds of wild flowers may be gathered in season about this pleasant neighbourhood; the sweet-odoured, large-leaved violet occurring in some profusion in many sheltered places about Smaws and Stutton. The pretty autumn-crocus also grows wild about here.

* See *Yorkshire Inquisitions*, vol. i., page 106.

Around Stutton the landscape assumes a very picturesque character, and where the historic Cock Beck flows towards the Wharfe, on the east side of the railway, the ground rises to a considerable elevation and is nicely wooded. A somewhat important 'fault' may be traced northwards towards Tadcaster, keeping parallel with and close to the railway, which from the north of Towton to Tadcaster, runs over the Middle Red Marls and Lower Magnesian Limestone. This fault throws out several beautiful springs in the neighbourhood of the village, and it seems to be the cause of the remarkable (dry) little valley which extends for about a mile south-west to Headley Bar, and embraces the ancient Jackdaw Crag quarry. It is, I have no doubt, the Thevedale or Thevesdale, so frequently mentioned in the early records of York Minster. The picturesque little dale and quarry are on the Hazelwood estate of the Vavasours, but the quarry has not been worked for many years. It was formerly a very popular place for picnics. From it an ancient road led down to the Cock Beck, whence the stone for the Minster was transported by boat to York from the staith at Kettleman Bridge (*see* page 228). A little below Jackdaw Crag is another smaller abandoned excavation, locally known as the "Abbey Rash" quarry, a name that carries with it a suggestion of its having been worked by one of the monasteries mentioned on page 244.

Stutton in Saxon times consisted of three separate manors, afterwards held by the Percies and the De Arches families. The old corn-mill below the village on the Cock Beck (where it still stands) appears to have been in working order in 1085-6, and was then worth 5s. There are now no houses of any particular antiquity in the village. In former times several notable families resided here, and the place also gave name to the ancient family of Stutton. Stutton Grove, at one time the residence of Captain Markham, was about fifty years ago converted into a Boys' Boarding School, conducted by Mr. Wm. Stacey, but it is now a farm-house.*

The Masons, Milners, and Williamsons, were living here at least two centuries before the Reformation, and resided here long afterwards. Many of them are buried within the old church at Tadcaster. The Stothards, too, are an old local family, recorded in the Poll Tax of 2nd Richard II. (1378) as living at Wighill-cum-Esedyke. Members of the family were resident at Stutton nearly two centuries ago, and produced several remarkable men. Thomas Stothard was

* In the spring of 1901, while ploughing near here, in a field belonging to the Wingate Hill farm of Mr. J. Cundall, an iron spear-head, about a foot long, was turned up. It is now in possession of Mr. J. W. Deans, of the Steam Plough Works, Selby.

a farmer and innkeeper at Stutton, and in 1754 removed to London, to the *Black Horse* inn, in Long Acre, where he died in 1760. His son, Thomas, who was born in 1755, was sent to be educated at Stutton, and he remained there till he was of age to be apprenticed. Having a liking for art, he studied drawing and painting with great assiduity, and subsequently achieved considerable distinction as an artist. He was elected a member of the Royal Academy in 1794. He died in 1834, and afterwards his *Life with Personal Reminiscences*, was written by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bray, and published, with portrait, in 1851. His son, Charles Alfred Stothard, F.S.A., who married Eliza Kempe, a well-known authoress (afterwards the wife of the Rev. E. A. Bray, rector of Tavistock), became a celebrated antiquarian draughtsman. His magnificent work, *The Monumental Effigies of Great Britain*, embraces drawings of all the important historical monuments dating from the Norman Conquest to the Reformation, and was published in 1817 at 19 guineas. A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, speaks of the minuteness, delicacy, and accuracy of Mr. Stothard's representations, which he says, "cannot be surpassed. They are specimens of sculpture, which for grandeur, simplicity, and chastity of style, are not to be surpassed, if equalled, by any nation in Europe." He was also author of a work entitled *Seals Illustrative of the Reign of Elizabeth*. He died in 1821, at the early age of 35.

About a mile to the west of Stutton is the famous Smaws Quarry, whence a road runs to Toulston, a very old property, mentioned in *Domesday* as Togleston. Osbern de Arches had seven carucates and seven bovates in Toulston, Newton Kyme, and Oglethorp, and there was also a carucate here within the fee of Laci. In the 13th century 1½ carucates in Toulston were held by William de Elkenton immediately of the superior lord, William de Kyme, who died in 1260. At the same time Thomas de Katherton held also a carucate of land in Toulston of William de Katherton, and the Prior of Helaugh held another half-carucate there of the said William de Katherton, and he held of William de Kyme. The boundaries of Toulston were afterwards the object of extended litigation, as will be related in the next chapter.

In 1378 there were twelve married couples and seven single adults living at Toulston, of whom Oliva Danyl, *hostiler*, was the chief taxpayer. From the high rate at which she was assessed (18d.) she must have been something more than an innkeeper; in all probability she was a general brewer as well. Her husband was dead before 1378, and the business seems to have been then carried on by herself and children (apparently), two of whom, Cassaunder and Teffan, are

mentioned in the same Poll Tax. The Arthingtons, or Ardingtons, were also seated at Toulston before the Reformation, and probably were a branch of the family long settled in the parish of Snaith. John Ardington of Wolston (Toulston), died in 1562, and his widow Jane, died at Toulston in 1564. Francis Ardington and Janet, his wife, were both buried at Tadcaster in 1604.

Toulston eventually came to the Fairfaxes, and the gallant Sir William Fairfax, shortly after his marriage in 1630, took up his residence here with his beautiful and accomplished lady, who was a daughter of Sir Thomas Chaloner, of Guisborough, in Cleveland.



TOULSTON LODGE IN 1828.

In 1640 it was sold to Sir Robert Barwick, the Recorder of Doncaster, who was knighted by Charles I. in 1641. and died in 1660. His wife, Lady Barwick, was Ursula, daughter of Walter Strickland, and sister of Sir Wm. Strickland, Bart. Robert Barwick, their son and heir, did not marry, and was accidentally drowned in the Wharfe, on June 16th, 1660. Lady Barwick died Oct. 4th, 1682, aged 81; the eventual heiress of Toulston being her daughter, Frances, who married, Henry, fourth Lord Fairfax.* The estate was

* See Markham's *Life of Robert Fairfax*, page 12. For pedigree of Barwick see vol. iv. of Hunter's *Familie Minorum Gentium*, edited by Mr. J. W. Clay, F.S.A., for the Harleian Society. See also *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. xxi. (1844), page 28.

kept in the family till about the year 1775, when, in consequence of the American War, it was sold by the Hon. George William Fairfax, of Belvoir, Virginia, who died at Bath, in April, 1787.* He was half-brother to Brian, 8th Lord Fairfax, to whom the title was confirmed by the House of Lords. His son Thomas, of Varcluse, was 9th Baron, and he was father of Charles, 10th Lord Fairfax, who was Speaker of the House of Commons in California, and Clerk of the Supreme Court of that State from 1857 to 1862. He died in 1869. Through the courtesy of the present Lord Fairfax I am permitted to append his portrait.

The village of Toulston is now reduced to a couple of farms, the Old Hall Farm (Mr. W. D. Stephenson), which was tenanted by the



CHARLES, TENTH LORD FAIRFAX.

late Mr. Wm. Smith for about fifty years; and St. Helen's Grange (Mr. John Watson). There is also an old abandoned smithy, standing beside the now little-used thoroughfare leading into Rudgate. The old Hall of the Fairfaxes was pulled down many years ago. From the particulars given in the great boundary dispute, elsewhere mentioned, it appears that it was erected by Sir Thomas Fairfax

* At Toulston Lodge I have seen an interesting plan of the Toulston estate, dated 1760, at which time it belonged to the same George William Fairfax. On this map all the old field-names and boundaries are clearly indicated.

about the year 1603, and the material for the purpose was obtained from the neighbouring Robshaw Holes quarry. The house stood upon an elevated site a little to the south of the present Hall Farm, and on a piece of open grassy ground below, are a number of old fruit trees, survivors no doubt, of the home orchard. On the gable of an old cow-shed appeared the date 1653, with the initials of Barwick, and a drawing of this, made in 1841, is at Toulston Lodge.

Toulston Lodge, doubtless a dower-house of the Fairfaxes, is a pleasant old-fashioned country mansion, having an extensive front very prettily covered with creeping plants. It has been much improved and enlarged during the last century, and particularly during the past few years, by the present owner of the estate. The view on page 317 exhibits the south front as it appeared in 1828, and another view, from a recent photograph by Lemaire & Co., prefacing this chapter, depicts the same front as it is at present. A shield of arms, formerly over the north door, and now inserted in the south front, exhibits Barwick empaled with Strickland. There is also in the yard behind, a large alarm-bell, inscribed "HY. FAIRFAX, OF TOULSTON, 1773,"* which is inexplicable, as Henry Fairfax died in 1759, and his brother George William, who settled in America, succeeded to the property, which passed out of his family, as stated above, about the year 1775.

About the end of the 18th century, Peregrine Wentworth lived at Toulston and he appears to have occupied the house for a period of over forty years. He was of the family of Wentworth of Woolley, a branch of which was long seated at West Bretton.† Sir Butler Cavendish Wentworth, Bart., who died without issue in 1741, married Bridget, daughter of Sir Ralph Milbanke, Bart., of Halnaby. She was married again in 1748, in York Minster, to John Murray, Esq., and died in 1774. Sir Frederick Milbank long resided at Toulston Lodge, and he is stated to have been honoured with a visit by George IV., who dined at the Lodge, and a large portrait of whom, painted in oil, hangs in the handsome entrance hall. Afterwards the house was occupied as a ladies' school, kept by Mrs. Stoney, and subsequently as a boys' school. At that time it was the property of

* During a recent visit to Toulston I had pointed out to me an oaken door lintel, which had formed part of a beam in the old stable, and had cut upon it: "17 H. F. 33," obviously the initials of the same Henry Fairfax.

† Peregrine Wentworth was the eldest son of Matthew Wentworth, of Wakefield, and was born in 1722, and was sometime Captain of a Company of Grenadiers in the Fourth Regiment. He died in 1809 and was interred in York Minster, having married (1) Mary, eldest daughter of Beilby Thompson, Esq., of Escrick, co. York, and (2) Mary, eldest daughter of Ralph Ashton, Esq., of Cuerdale, co. Lanc., and widow of the Rev. John Whitton, of Lupsett.

the Brown family of Leeds. From them it descended to the trustees of Yorke Scarlett, Esq., of the island of Gigha, West Scotland, who about 1890 sold it to the present owner and occupant of the Lodge, Herbert H. Riley-Smith, Esq., J.P., principal of the great firm of brewers already alluded to. Mr. Riley-Smith has very largely extended and improved the house, as well as laid out and beautified the surrounding grounds. He also added the present porch on the principal or south front, and placed his arms, cut in stone, above it. In this porch has been placed a small stone inscribed "E. C. 1729," found in a rubble-wall of the old stable, pulled down about five years ago. In the grounds, to the east of the mansion, are two very large old yew-trees, an apparent indication of the site adjoining having been occupied at an early period. The planting of yew-trees by the side of dwellings and in churchyards was greatly encouraged by our feudal monarchs and landowners, as the wood of that tree was highly esteemed in the manufacture of bows, and in several of our early statutes the yew is specially mentioned for this purpose.

The present mansion, as suggested, in all probability occupies the site of an older building. A coin of Queen Elizabeth, perhaps lost by a former resident on the site, was dug up in front of the house a few years ago. I have already remarked that the present proprietor has very greatly enlarged and beautified the old house, and the modern fittings and decorations of the interior are such as few English country houses may rival. These extensive improvements display wonderful versatility and executive skill, and it is worthy of note they are the sole design of a local architect, Mr. Thorman, of Tadcaster. The ornate and massive oak-carving in the grand entrance-hall is particularly handsome, and bears many a suggestion of the sturdy Puritanism of the former historic owners of the estate, the Fairfaxes. Standing, for example, on the staircase newels, are to be seen, carved in heart of oak, "moss-troopers" of the Cromwellian period and quaintly-garbed Puritans, holding lamps of light, and seeming to act as sentinels to the rooms above. The oak-panelled walls and carvings, ornamental ceilings, and mantel-pieces of rarest marble and alabaster, are all treated in the same antique and expressive manner, and in a variety of original forms.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

TADCASTER V. NEWTON KYME : A GREAT BOUNDARY DISPUTE.

Protracted dispute—Purchase of Toulston in 1640—Reputed encroachments by Sir Robert Barwick—Toulston warren-house—The Fairfaxes at Toulston—The Earl of Northumberland's claim—An action for trespass—Reputed boundaries of Toulston manor—Toulston coney-warren—Evidence of 28 witnesses—Riding the bounds—Some old boundary-marks—Sir Thos. Fairfax rides the bounds—Trial at the Assizes—Enclosure of the common in 1790—The dispute revived—Rev. Henry Wray and his tithes—The case put to arbitration—Settlement of the dispute.



THE following particulars of a protracted disagreement respecting the boundaries of the parishes of Tadcaster and Newton Kyme, at Toulston, I have gathered and abridged from some rather voluminous records preserved among the Parish Papers at the rectory of Newton Kyme. The dispute began in 1654, and does not appear to have been finally adjusted until 1809. Apart from the historical importance of the controversy, the documents are instructive for the information they afford on the many old yeomen and other families then living in the district, as well as for the many interesting allusions to ancient boundary-stones and other places and objects, which, in some cases, may happily still be identified.

As stated in the previous chapter, Sir Robert Barwick had bought the manor of Toulston in 1640, at which time he was living at York. In the Bill of Complaint which was brought against him in 1654, by Algernon, Earl of Northumberland, it appears that certain encroachments were reputed to have been made on the wastes of the manor of Tadcaster. The complainant did not admit that the manor of Toulston had any wastes at all. But Sir Robert claimed to be well acquainted with the history and aspects of the place long before he purchased it, affirming that one, Edmund Fairfax, Esq.,* son and heir of Sir Philip Fairfax, of Steeton, died seized and possessed of the manor or lordship of Toulston, and as parcel thereof of an important coney-warren, with burrows stored with coneys, also the

* He married a daughter of Sir William Irwin, and died in 1636, leaving a daughter, Mary, who died in infancy. Sir Philip Fairfax died in 1613.

lodge or messuage called Toulston Warren House, which had then as now (1654) a warrener's dwelling there.* Then the same descended to William Fairfax, his brother and heir, and that in the right of these two brothers, or the survivor of them, from the year 1618 till 1630, when Sir Wm. Fairfax married and came to live at Toulston. Sir William Sheffield, as lessee or farmer, had enjoyed the said lodge and warren, and disposed thereof without interruption, and received a yearly rent for the same of his subfarmer thereof.

It was, however, contended for the Earl, that the said coney-warren was on the wastes of Tadcaster, and yet it appears that matters were allowed to proceed as formerly for many years after the purchase of the estate by Sir Robert Barwick in 1640. Ultimately, however, on some provocation, it was decided to test the validity of Sir Robert's title to the waste which he claimed as parcel of the manor of Toulston. Henry Favel, gent., his lordship's steward, and William Moorefield, his bailiff of the manor of Tadcaster, authorised about a score men to assemble on the said waste and there to dig up and destroy some of the burrows belonging to the said coney-warren, for the doing of which the said Sir Robert was obliged to bring an action for trespass at the common law in order to maintain his rights.

The real issue of the dispute was whether the Earl's manor of Tadcaster extended, as was affirmed, to a certain point called the Ox Pasture hedge, and so included the coney-warren. Sir Robert, however, held that his manor of Toulston extended southwards to an ancient boundary-stone or meetstone, erected in the form of a cross composed of two great stones, called Emcross,† and which had stood in its then (1654) position "before ye memory of any man now living," about half-a-mile distant from his enclosed grounds of Toulston. He further affirmed that "overthwart the said wastes of Toulston there doth lie a common highway leading directly from Headley Grange to the end of Rudgate Lane, which way is yearly much frequented by country people, especially in the summer season, both night and day, with carts and wains for carriage of coals from the coal-pitts in sundry places beyond Headley aforesaid. And in that space, namely between the highway and the said enclosed ground of Toulston do lie all the said coney-burrows and Lodge, and there neither is nor can be any abiding or burrows conveniently for conies whereby to enlarge the warren beyond that highway."

Sir Robert also denied that he had erected a tenement or cottage upon any part of the said wastes, for such cottage as he hath is the

* The old warren-house is still standing, but has been raised a storey, and converted into two cottages.

† A very similar old cross is illustrated in my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 243.

ancient Lodge of the said coney-warren, "anciently builded before the time of his memory, and being the habitation of the warriners there for the time being." He also denied that the said Warren House or coney-burrows were or ever were parcel of or belonging to Tadcaster, or formed any part of the demesnes thereof. And Sir Robert prays for a fair trial.

The Earl of Northumberland brought forward sixteen witnesses to dispute Sir Robert Barwick's statements. They were sworn and examined 11th January, 1655, and their depositions fill about thirty folios of MS. George Badman, of Wakefield Outwood, yeoman, then aged 60 years, had been formerly warrener at the said Warren House for about 20 years, and John Barker, of Askham Richard, yeoman, aged 66 years, declared that he had heard Thomas, late Lord Fairfax, say that he would ask leave of the Earl of Northumberland to build a house for a warrener, and if the same should be noisome or troublesome to the said Earl or his tenants, he, Lord Fairfax, would pull it down. Thomas Cawood, of Askham Richard, aged 56, said that when he was a schoolboy, about 40 years ago, at the town of Tadcaster, he did with his then master and a great many other inhabitants of the said township go on perambulation for two or three years together from certain thorns near Headley, over the Moor leaving Robson Holes on the left hand and Smaws quarry on the right hand, and so over to the dwelling called Smaws House, and he supposed that to be the boundaries of the manor of Tadcaster for that "ye ancient men then (1615) walked the said Perambulation, and declared the same so to be." Robert Boone, of Tadcaster, yeoman, aged 82 (in 1655) declared the perambulations for 40 years and above to be :

" From the White Quarry to Headley Thorns and so to a place called Humes Nooke, and from thence down to ye Moor within six score yards of a parcel of ground called ye Oxclose, and then down to ye place where ye Warren House now standeth, ye same being within the bounds of Tadcaster, on ye right hand, and from thence to ye Quarry called Robson Holes, ye same being within ye bounds of Toulston, he conceiveth, and so all along ye moor to ye place called Smaws Sheep Loane, and he further saith that the burrows of the defendant have been made or cast at least twelve score yards within the manor of Tadcaster."

William Turpin, of Stutton, yeoman, aged 63, and George Dibb, of East Keswick, yeoman, aged 54, confirmed the above. Anthony Horner, of Tadcaster, yeoman, aged 61; Matthew Daniel, of Wighill, grassman, aged 61; Joshua Haworth, of Wressell, gent.; and Robert Beane, of Ouston, yeoman, aged 58, gave similar evidence, stating that the Warren House was always taken as being about a hundred yards within the limits of the manor of Tadcaster. James Dallamore, warrener, of Bramham, aged 40; Thomas Hudson, of Stutton, aged 47; and George Turpin, of Stutton, aged 60, said that

the acre of ground enclosed belonged to the inhabitants of Tadcaster, who had privilege for their cattle to take common by bit of mouth. Ottiwell Wilson, of Tadcaster, aged 62, and Wm. Bell, of Tadcaster, linen-webster, aged 76, said that 60 years ago (*i.e.*, before 1600) there was no warren-house standing on the ground now (1655) occupied. He further said that he had perambulated the bounds with the minister and parishioners of Tadcaster, and they first went to Stutton and so to Wingate Cross, and then came down Hesslewood Warren to the White Quarry, and thence to Headley Thorns, and there set several marks on the trees, and so to a hill called Earle Hill, leaving the place where the said Warren House now standeth on the right towards Tadcaster, and then hard by Robson Holes, leaving them on the left hand, to the Smaws. Edward Morley, of Newton Kyme, blacksmith, aged 73, said the parishioners of Tadcaster took the said Warren House within the bounds of the parish of Tadcaster, and the parishioners of Newton Kyme on their perambulations did also take the same within their parish.

Twelve witnesses were sworn and examined (same date, 1655) on behalf of Sir Robert Barwick. George Boardman, of Wakefield Outwood, yeoman, aged 60, said that 24 years ago he had farmed for six years the said coney-warren at a yearly rent of 4s. a year, paid to Sir Wm. Fairfax, the reputed owner thereof, without interruption. Francis Jefferson, of Eskrigg, yeoman, aged 70 years, said he "did know Sir Thos. Fairfax, Kt., then of Denton (about 1605), afterwards Lord Fairfax, and grandfather to ye Lord Fairfax that now is (1655), and that the said Lord Fairfax, ye grandfather, about fifty or sixty years ago, and after him Sir Philip Fairfax, of Steeton, Kt., and after him Sir William Fairfax, of Steeton, Kt., son of ye said Sir Philip Fairfax, were several and successive owners of ye lordship and manor of Toulston, and of ye coney-warren upon Toulston Moor, as parcel of the same, and had the profits thereof in their several times." He further declared "the said coney-warren was kept by one Thompson as a warrener and servant to ye said Lord Fairfax, ye grandfather, to his own use, and that afterwards ye owner of Toulston lett ye same coney-warren to farm to divers persons, as namely to one John Dibb, and after him to one Weatherhead, and after him to one Boardman, and divers others, and that during the same time the burrows were kept up by ye several and successive owners and farmers of the said warren, without any interruption of any of ye Lords or owners of Tadcaster that ever he heard of." He further saith "that ye Lordship of Toulston and ye Lodge and Warren be within ye parish of Newton Kyme, and that he hath ridden ye bounds about 47 years ago, and ye said warren and lodge were taken in as belonging to Toulston in ye said parish."

The rector of Newton Kyme, Thomas Clapham, clerk, aged 60 years (born 1595), said he was induced to believe that the said coney-warren is within the parish of Newton Kyme, for that the late inhabitants of the Warren House have buried such as did die there, and have published marriages of such as lived there, in the parish church of Newton, and they also were accustomed to receive the sacrament at the same church of Newton, and not at Tadcaster, during those four years last past that he was minister at Newton. He also stated that the inhabitants of the Warren House do pay assessment within the parish of Newton, and that he claims to have a right of common in Toulston and Newton in respect of his glebe. John Laycock, of Steeton, yeoman, aged 72, said that he was servant to Lord Fairfax fifty years ago (about 1605), and about forty-three years ago Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Denton, afterwards Lord Fairfax, did on the occasion of some difference betwixt himself and the inhabitants of Headley, call the most ancient freeholders and tenants of Newton and Toulston to set forth the boundaries of the said manor of Toulston by him claimed, and to distinguish the same from Tadcaster Moor. Accordingly the said Sir Thomas Fairfax, in his own proper person, did with the said freeholders and tenants, ride and go the said bounders, that is to say, "from a boulder-stone near unto Emcross up towards Headley to another boulder near Headley Lodge, and so to Oglethorpe Moor, and he saith that from the said boulder-stone near Emcross to ye enclosed ground of Toulston called Oxclose is near half-a-mile, and that the said coney-warren and lodge lie betwixt ye said Oxclose and ye bounders aforesaid." William Armstrong, of Bramham, aged 62; Anthony Horner, of Tadcaster, yeoman, aged 60; Matthew Daniell, of Wighill, grassman, aged 61, confirmed above, and the latter stated that about 43 years ago he was Parish Clerk of Newton for several years, and did receive his yearly clerk's wages from the inhabitants of the Lodge belonging to the said coney-warren. George Dibb, of East Keswick, yeoman, aged 54, said that the assessments payable within the constabulary of Newton-cum-Toulston have been usually paid for the said coney-warren and lodge to the Constable of Newton-cum-Toulston, and never to the Constabulary of Tadcaster that he had ever heard of. Richard Burley, of Bramham, mason, aged 61, said that he was accustomed to join the processions of the parishioners of Newton on their perambulations yearly, ten days before Whitsuntide, and they went to a place called "Wool wha Gap," and thence to Emcross and so towards Headley Lodge and "ye Windmill Nooke, and so to Toulston Oxclose End, and in these perambulations or walks they did always take in Toulston Lodge and Warren," and so it hath

been yearly and anciently continued. William Kitchingman, of Toulston, aged 22, deputed he was present at a trial at the Assizes held in York Castle last Lent [1654], when after two or three hours spent in debating the matter, Sir Robert Barwick had obtained a verdict. But whether the controversy in 1655 had a similar termination the papers before me do not clearly indicate.

Matters seem to have gone on pretty much as before, and it was not until the great common was enclosed in 1790, that any serious dispute arose. The parishioners of Tadcaster then laid claim to the whole common, and in consequence proceeded to lay and levy their parochial rates and assessments on many acres of land claimed by the people of Newton Kyme to be within their parish. The latter who, time out of memory, had right of common before the enclosure, and afterwards had allotments of fields, and those allotments as also the whole of the enclosed lands, their more powerful neighbours claimed to be in their parish to the great injustice and detriment, it was declared, of the inhabitants of Newton Kyme.

Since the enclosure of the common and the commencement of proceedings in 1804, the minister and inhabitants of Newton had frequently travelled their parish boundaries, and had always given public notice of their intention to the minister and churchwardens of Tadcaster. And their perambulations had never been disputed until the present year, when the inhabitants of Tadcaster for the first time since the enclosure had traversed their boundaries and had taken in all the allotments belonging to Newton Kyme. The minister and inhabitants of Newton seem to have been well aware that if they had assessed the occupiers of the disputed lands, the said occupiers who live in the town and parish of Tadcaster, would refuse to pay the assessments, and would refer to the judgment of the Justices at the Quarter Sessions. But the Justices would certainly have refused to determine the case, as they were, by law, not empowered to determine the boundaries of any parish.

It was evidently a very anxious time to the then rector of Newton Kyme, the Rev. Henry Wray, in whose name the proceedings were instituted and with whom most of the correspondence concerning the dispute was carried on. He appears to have been indefatigable in his efforts to prove the justice of the claims of his parishioners, and as the sequel shews was largely successful. In 1797 he had tithed certain corn lands in front of Toulston Lodge by setting a bough in every tenth stook of corn, but next morning one James Heptonstall carried away the tithe, so marked, to Tadcaster. For several years about this time, it may be observed, Mr. Wray had taken tithe in

kind, and for the three years last past, Peregrine Wentworth, who had lived at Toulston Lodge now (1802) forty-two years, compounded and paid Mr. Wray for the tithes thereof.

The late Mr. Girling, who was vicar of Tadcaster 22 years, and afterwards rector of Newton Kyme 42 years, and other rectors since, had perambulated the boundaries, and they had always included the lands they now claimed to be within the parish of Newton Kyme. The bowling-green belonging to Toulston Lodge, lying south-west some distance from the front of it, was, they affirmed, always included in Newton Kyme.

Finally it was proposed to submit the case for arbitration to two counsel. The Earl of Egremont, patron of the living of Tadcaster, Mr. Ashbridge, vicar, Messrs. Shann and Todd, impropiators of the great tithes of Tadcaster, were to nominate one counsel on their part, and Robert Fairfax, Esq., patron of the living of Newton Kyme, Henry Wray, rector of the same, were to nominate the other counsel. Lord Egremont wrote from Petworth, Feb. 23rd, 1802, proposing one legal gentleman to be agreed upon by all parties, as not only less expensive, but avoiding the chance of disagreement of the two. The difference, however, was still in abeyance in 1807-8, when the vicar of Bramham, Mr. Bownas, objected to a settlement before the boundary of the parishes of Bramham and Newton Kyme had been settled over part of the common near to Headley Warren House, and the Enclosure Commissioners were called on to settle the point.

At length the whole matter terminated by the equal division of the disputed lands between the two parishes of Tadcaster and Newton Kyme, as appears by the following note :

Tadcaster, 13 Oct., 1808.

It is proposed that for settling the Boundary on Tadcaster High Moor at present disputed between the Vicarage & Parish of Tadr. & the Rectory & Par. of Newton Kyme, the Lands containing about 170 acres comprised within the Line of Boundary disputed between the two parishes on their differt. perambulations, be divided in equal moieties as to value between the Parishes & Tithe Owners of each Parish & that the comparative Value & consequent extent & the situation of each moiety of the Land so to be allotted to the several Parishes be referred to an indiffert. Person to be agreed on by the Patron & Vicar of Tadcaster and Messrs. Shann & Todd, as owners of the great Tithes of Tadcaster and the Patron & Rector of Newton Kyme.

Present : REV. H. WRAY.
MR. THOS. SHANN.
MR. TYLER.
MR. ADDINELL.

Messrs. Thorpe & Gray, of York, were the solicitors for the Rev. Henry Wray, against Peregrine Wentworth, Esq., George

Addinal, Leonard Jewison, and James Robinson, and Messrs. Thorpe and Gray's Bill of Costs from Dec. 17th, 1807, to Jan. 25th, 1809, amounted to £23 6s. 9d. On the last-mentioned date there is this entry :

" On receiving draft of intended agreement for dividing and assigning the disputed lands to the respective parishes, perusing the same on behalf of yourself (Rev. H. Wray) and Mr. Fairfax. 10s."

Toulston Lodge is now, as heretofore, within the parish of Newton Kyme, but the land is in Tadcaster ; and Headley Warren House, also mentioned above, is included in the parish of Bramham.

CHAPTER XXIX.

ABOUT WIGHILL.

Pleasant approaches to Wighill—Antiquity of Easedyke—An ancient peel-tower—Hay Dike—Plan of Easedyke—A separate manor—Feudal reservations—Importance of Wighill before the Conquest—Its character and population in Saxon times—Old field-names—Manor of Hagenby—Meaning of Wighill—Conjectured murder of an Earl of Northumbria at Wighill—Moat House—Early history of Wighill—Knights Templars at Wighill—The Stapleton family—Some interesting records—The Stapletons hold Wighill for nearly 450 years—Its sale to the Wilsons—The Hawke family—Ancient aspects of Wighill—Curious customs—The church—Its History and architectural description—Recent vicars—The Rev. Dr. Hiley's *Memories of Half-a-Century*.



ROUND about Wighill the country is very charming, and in approaching the village from Walton the waysides are rank with wild flowers, the golden-rayed fleabane (*Inula dysenterica*) being especially conspicuous. From Tadcaster, too, the road to the village (2 miles) is very pleasant, and tall trees offer an agreeable summer screen over a great part of the way. Going over the bridge and ascending the hill, we take the first turn to the left, and crossing the site of the old Roman road at the top of Rosemary Lane, follow the open highway past Fircroft (J. H. Ingleby, Esq.), and a little beyond is Healaugh Manor (Edward Brooksbank, Esq., J.P.), which is situated in an extensive park containing some magnificent timber. A great fire took place here on July 20th, 1901, when nearly half the hall was burnt down.

Next we pass the large farm of Easedyke (Mr. M. Thomlinson), lately the property of Lord Harewood, and now of Mr. Brooksbank. The tithe from this one farm amounted to a full third of the emoluments of the living of Wighill. Easedyke has been an important place in former ages, and no doubt derives its name from having formed the eastern boundary of the old parish of Tadcaster. The dyke, known as Hay Dike (A.-S: *hæge*, a hedge, boundary) runs into the Wharfe on the east side, and is crossed by a foot-bridge to the site of an old manor-house or peel-tower, illustrated on the

accompanying plan. Standing between the woods of Healaugh Priory and a bend of the river Wharfe, the site, observes Mr. H. E. Chetwynd-Stapylton, was well chosen to guard the road between Wighill and Tadcaster against cattle-lifters and forays. In front of the long-demolished tower, and just below it, are traces of extensive buildings, being the remains of the ancient stronghold of the Fitz Alans and Stapletons, and this building appears to have been occupied down to the commencement of the 17th century.



PLAN OF EASEDYKE.

Sir Brian Fitz Alan, whose father was Sheriff of Yorkshire from 1235 to 1247, had the Easedyke property, together with estates at Healaugh, Wighill, &c., from his mother, Agnes Haget, whom Dodsworth calls Agnes of Bedale, daughter or granddaughter of Scolland, lord of Bedale.* Clarkson states that Sir Brian died in 1301, and was buried with his wife Anne, daughter of John Baliol, King of Scotland, in the south aisle of Bedale church, under a mausoleum very beautifully covered with gold and various colours.† Easedyke subsequently came, with Wighill, to the Stapletons, and in the assignment of dower to Joan, widow of Sir Miles Stapleton,

* See my *Richmondshire*, page 56.

† See *History of Richmond*, page 54 n., and Blore's *Monumental Remains*.

A.D. 1400, it appears that the tenants of the manors of Easedyke and Wighill were obliged to bake their bread, as at Tadcaster, in the lords' ovens. Easedyke was quite a separate manor from Wighill, and each had its public bakehouse; in Wighill there was also a wind-mill and a forge. The tenants of these manors were therefore, for a long period, under the feudal obligation to grind their corn, bake their bread, repair their ploughs, shoe their horses, &c., for the particular benefit of the lord, and these separate offices produced a yearly revenue, one-third of which formed part of the dower of widow Stapelton in 1400.* According to the inquisition of Sir Robert Stapelton, taken after his death in 1606, he was living and apparently died at Easedyke, and was buried at Wighill on October 3rd. His widow was living at Easedyke in 1607, but the time of her death is not recorded. She was Sir Robert's second wife, and was daughter of Sir H. Sherington and widow of John Talbot, Esq., of Salwarp. The eldest born of this marriage was Brian Stapelton, of Myton, who married Frances, daughter of Sir Henry Slingsby, of Scriven and Red House, near York. A letter from Queen Elizabeth to Mrs. Talbot will be found in the second volume of Nichols' *Progresses of Queen Elizabeth*, page 628.

From the large area of land that was under cultivation before the Norman Conquest, it is evident that the parishes of Wighill and Healaugh have been occupied and farmed at a very remote period. The *Domesday* inquest tells us that Hailaga (Healaugh) and two Wicheles (Wighill) formed originally one manor, and that one Tochi, son of Outi, an English thane, in the time of the Confessor, had 18 carucates of land there taxed. The land was for 9 ploughs. In 1083-6 it was held by Goisfrid Alselin, a wealthy Norman, who had 2 ploughs there and 18 villanes and one bordar with 7 ploughs. There were, too, very large and valuable wood pastures for swine, &c., comprising together an area of two square leugæ, or by estimate 2880 acres. The cultivated lands within the manor also embraced a similar area, two square leugæ. In the Confessor's time the whole was worth 8 pounds, now (1083-6) 60 shillings. No church is mentioned, but it is improbable that in so important a centre of population there was no Christian place of worship. The church, most likely, was included in the wasted area and not valued.

The parish of Healaugh contains 2800 acres of land, and that of Wighill 2320 acres, together 5120 acres. According to Canon Isaac Taylor the manor must have been worked on the three-field system, each field containing 60 acres, one of which lay annually fallow. The geldable carucate was therefore 120 acres, making a total of

* *Rot. Claus.*, 1st Henry IV., ps. 2, m. 7.

3240 acres, or 2160 acres annually cultivated and taxed in 1066. Twenty years later the cultivated area within the manor comprised two square leugæ, or 2880 acres, according to Mr. Pell.* It may be possible to approximate the population of this important manor from a calculation of the extent of the taxable lands. Assuming, as we must, that one-third of the sown land went to the manufacture of beer, or in other words that every human mouth annually consumed the wheat of two acres and drank that of one acre, an estimate based on carefully-adduced averages in the 12th century,† there must have been 700 persons living in the two parishes shortly before the Norman Conquest. But this is probably too high an estimate, as allowance must be made for the feed of oxen, sheep, and horses. These, however, were poor and lean, and subsisted largely on straw and stubble, while the swine also for only one part of the year were turned into the woods. The latter also yielded pottage and fruit for human consumption, and in times of scarcity the woods, indeed, constituted an important reserve. At any rate it is evident that Healaugh, with the two Wighills, was an ancient and populous holding even in Saxon times.

There seems to have been two large open fields at Wighill, and the third probably lay northwards nearer Healaugh. These were the Westfield, towards Walton, and the Eastfield, towards Healaugh Priory. These fields were subsequently divided and bore such names as Wranglandes, Kelbergh, Uplandes, Bawling-flatt, Langrengates, Shortgrengates (the Healaugh road is still called Green Lane), and other lands rented by the Prior of Healaugh Park.‡ Then there was the Hall demesne, and near the village a plot of five acres, "between the church and the windmill;" and two acres called Hobbercortlane, now Hob Lane, lay also near the village on the east. There were in addition several large holdings, amounting to three carucates, or 540 acres, the chief of which was possessed by the Abbot and monks of Kirkstall. There was also in Hagendebi (Hagenby) three carucates of land which before the Conquest had belonged to Archil, son of Ulf, and afterwards came to the Percies. This place, evidently a settlement of the Danes, is now lost, but from an undated charter, conveying ten acres of land *in territorio de Haggandebi* from the Prior and Convent of Healaugh to William de Percy, it was situate to the east of Wighill, between the Foss and Catterton Beck and Wood.§ One of the carucates lay within the

* *Domesday Commemoration* (1888), page 227 *et seq.*

† Maitland, *Domesday Book*, page 440.

‡ See H. E. Chetwynd-Stapylton's *The Stapeltons of Yorkshire*, page 180.

§ See *Kirkby's Inquest* (Surtees Soc.), page 26 n.

soke of Healaugh. Within the area named there are traces of a large rectangular moat, which, no doubt, has at one time protected a hall, house or grange of some consequence.

Mr. H. E. Chetwynd-Stapylton, in his exhaustive and very valuable treatise on the Stapletons of Yorkshire,* thinks that the name of Wighill comes from its situation "on a hill overlooking the windings of the Wharfe;" and the same opinion is held by the present respected vicar of Wighill.† But had this derivation been possible, the two elements composing the name would, I think, have been reversed, namely, as Hill-wick, or "hill-village," not "village-hill."‡ The prefix Wig occurs as a single place-name near Bangor in North Wales,§ and I am of opinion that it is to be interpreted by the very common A.-S. *wig*, meaning war, warfare, which in its various compounds of *wigmann* (a warrior or soldier), *wigród* (war-road), *wighús* (a war-house, tower, or fortress), *Wigsteal* (a war-place or stronghold), &c., is also often met with. Hence I take Wighill, or Wyghall, and Wicheles, as otherwise spelled, to be the halls or seats (for there were two) of war, or recognized places of military strength in pre-Conquest times.

But in the elucidation of ancient place-names assistance is often afforded in the appositeness of the site, or other local circumstance, to the meaning given, and in this respect the A.-S. *wig*, in its double meaning of holy, applies with equal fitness to Wighill. The old Norman church on the hill here, it is quite possible in view of what I have said of the early peopling of the district, may occupy the site of a pagan temple, and the name we know as Wighill may have its origin in the *hall* or *hill* of the *idol* or *temple*, just as *wig-bedd* means an altar-table or place of an idol, and *wig-gild*, holy tribute. In Kemble's Glossary to the Anglo-Saxon poems on Beowulf, we have the compound word, *wig-weorþung*, meaning temple-worship or divine service; and Wigan, in Lancashire, is no doubt from this source, being anciently written *Wibiggan*, that is, holy building. But from the excellent military position of our Wharfedale site, commanding

* Published by Longmans, Green & Co. (1897), pp. 333, and Append. 51 pp.

† *Vide Memories of Half-a-Century*, by Richard W. Hiley, D.D., page 313.

‡ The adjective precedes the substantive, e.g., Wigton, the war-town or enclosure, situated between the two Roman stations of Maryport and Carlisle. Wigton, in the parish of Harewood, has probably a similar meaning; coins and urns having been found there, and two stone coffins were also dug up in the vicinity, at Black Hill, in 1760. At Wigmore, near Leominster, there is a large moated eminence upon which stand the remains of an old Norman castle: no doubt previously an Anglo-Saxon stronghold.

§ See *Saga Book of the Viking Club*, vol. ii., page 20.

a wide extent of the surrounding country, I am disposed to hold that war and not religion has to do with the origin of Wighill. It is also important to add that it was at a place called Wiheal (which Sir James Ramsay thinks may be our Wighill) that Uchtred, third Earl of Northumbria,* was treacherously slain by Thorbrand and a posse of armed men, who had secreted themselves behind a curtain in the audience-chamber of the Hall of Cnut, whither the Earl had come to render homage, A.D. 1016. It may be noted that Earl Uchtred had a house in York, and that one Kilvert, son of Ligulf (possibly the Ligulf who was lord of Rigton in the parish of Bardsey at the Conquest), took Ecgfrida, daughter of Bishop Aldun (990—1020) to wife, "when Earl Uchtred had sent her away," to quote Simeon of Durham.

Perhaps the ancient Moat House, now a cottage on the Walton Lodge farm, situated about a mile south-west of the village, and not very far from St. Helen's Well, near the Roman road to Aldborough, may be the site of one of these Anglo-Saxon war-halls or fortresses. Nothing is known of the origin or history of the place, but that it has been anciently a place of consequence is evident from the ground enclosed by the moat covering fully half an acre. There is also another moat situated behind the farm-buildings at Parkgate, but this is much smaller than the above, being square, and measuring on the outside little more than 20 yards each way. The centre forms a small island, and the enclosing dike is ten to twelve feet deep in water, being fed by never-failing springs, which in the warlike Middle Ages, would prove a strong inducement to the selection of such a site.

Goisfred Alselin, the first Norman owner, left a daughter and heiress, married to Robert de Calz or Caux, who shared her father's extensive possessions with the descendants of his nephew, Ralph Alselin or Halselyn. This daughter died before 1131, as Robert de Caux, her son, had her lands, and the same year Ralph Halselin renders account of 200 marks of silver and one of gold to have relief of his father's lands.† This Ralph, says Mr. Ellis, was evidently the heir of the nephew.‡ It is not very clear how Wighill came into possession of the Mowbrays and Fitz Alans. But Gundreda, granddaughter of William de Warrene, married Nigel de Albini, of the house of Mowbray, and Gundreda, wife of Bertram Haget, founder of Healaugh Priory, was probably her daughter.§ In 1185 the

* For pedigree of Earl Uchtred see my *Old Bingley*, page 74.

† *Pipe Roll*, 31st Henry I.

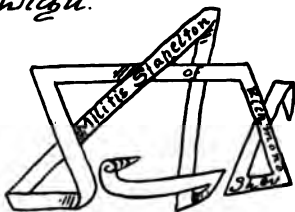
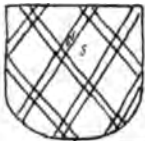
‡ See Mr. Stapleton's Preface to *Liber de Antiquis Legibus* (Camden Soc.), page xcix. n. This Preface, observes Mr. Ellis, is a very valuable genealogical memoir

§ See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, iv., page 152.

*Life of the potiguro of Chyffour
Stapleton Esquior of Wighil.*

Barl. Ms. 1412. p. 63.

*S^r John bolloquo knight.
A Ladorino his wif da. and
Loir to hoodle Berufe the second*



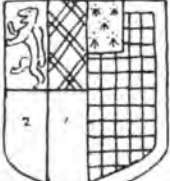
*S^r nicolas stapleton = Soboll daughter
soun to lord mylor = 4 s^r John de Bolloquo*



*John de Brotagne = Boastres da. of
Earl of Richmond King Henry 3*



*S^r mylor Stapleton = wife da. son of the herow
knight Pan of the = 4 s^r John de Brotagne
founders of the garter Earl of Richmond*

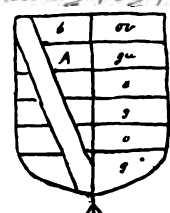
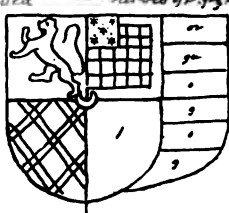
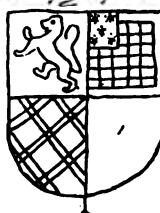


*Annas daughter = S^r Bryan
to the King fitz allen
of Scots knight.*

*S^r nicolas Stapleton
hoir to mylor
founder of the garter*

*S^r gilbert Stapleton ann. da. Pan of the
wedded = herwed of B. p. galen*

*Ratrin married John
lord Guy of Rotherfield*



Knights Templars held three carucates of land in Wighill of Robert, Lord Mowbray ; * and about 1200, Lucia, daughter of Bertram Haget, inherited part of Wighill and Easedyke from her father. She married Turet, grandson of a Saxon lord of that name at Wroxeter, in Salop, and demised her estate to her son Bartholomew. This Bartholomew dying without issue, his sister, Lucia Turet, succeeded to Wighill, and conveyed it by marriage to the Blancmonsters, an old Cornish family, long resident in the Scilly Islands.† With this family it remained for about 150 years, when Guy de Blancmonster, *clericus*, sold it to Sir Brian Stapleton in 1375.‡

Sir Brian, in all probability, built the hall at Wighill, which, with the estate, he gave to his second son, Sir Miles Stapleton, who was living at Healaugh in 1378. The sale to Sir Brian included the manors of Wighill and Calneton in Ryedale (Carlton, near Helmsley), with appurtenances, and certain rents in Wyghall (Wighill), Edlyngton, Skelbrook, York, and Soureby-juxta-Thresk (Thirsk), for which he paid Blancmonster one thousand pounds sterling, equal to nearly £20,000 of present value.§ He had also other estates, namely the manor of Clifford, in Bramham parish, held of the Earl of Kent ; two parts of the manor of Farlington ; the manor of Langton Parva on the Swale, opposite Kirkby Fletham ; and lands and houses at Skelbrook, Frythby and Askham Brian, but all these afterwards went to the Stapletons of Carlton, near Snaith, now represented by the family of Lord Beaumont.¶

The Stapletons of Bedale and Norfolk were of the same stock as the Wighill family, and by a singular reversion of the family property, Wighill, which had anciently belonged to the Fitz Alans of Bedale, was afterwards, by purchase, the property of their descendants, the Stapletons, for nearly 450 years. Sir Gilbert Stapleton, of Cotherstone, second son of Sir Miles, the first Baron, married Agnes, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Brian Fitz Alan, lord of Bedale, and from this match the Stapletons of Bedale and Norfolk, Carlton, Wighill, and Myton are all descended. In the valuable Memoirs of the family of the late Mr. H. E. Chetwynd-Stapylton, a descendant of the family, the history of its various branches are carefully and succinctly traced. The family at Wighill did much to improve the estate, and shortly after their purchase of it, in 1375, it was set down as worth only £10 a year, while in the Subsidy Roll of 1523 it is valued at £80. In the will of "Christopher Stapulton, of

* Dugdale's *Mon.* vi., page 830.

† See Parker's *Domest. Archit.*, iii., page 107.

‡ See the *Stapletons of Yorkshire*, page 173.

§ *Ibid.*, Append., 30.

¶ *Ibid.*, page 174.

Wyghall," proved in 1538, are many interesting references to family heirlooms and furnishings of the old church at Wighill. The testator was twice married: (1) to Alice, daughter of William Aske, of Aske, near Richmond, and (2) to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Neville, of Liversedge, co. York. See illustrative pedigree on page 335.

To Robert Stapulton, his son and heir, he bequeaths a gilt cup with a cover, called a pear, and another cup covered in the fashion of a nut called grypeg, both of which are to remain from heir to heir as long as they will endure. The seal of his arms in silver, and a ring called a signet, with a Saracen's head graven on it, are also to remain as heirlooms. Likewise to his said son, two new cups of silver gilt, with covers, for ale. To the parish church of Wighill he gives a pair of organs, "that standeth in the high quire of the said



WIGHILL HALL A CENTURY AGO.

church."* He also mentions a "vestment of red damask with a cross of green satin brigges, embroidered with flowers of gold, and an albe, an amice, a stole, and a faynell thereto belonging," in his chapel of Our Lady within the said church, where he is buried. In the will of Mary, widow of Henry Stapleton, of Wighill, dated 9th Feb., 1656, she bequeaths to her grandchild, Miles Stapleton, Esq., one great silver bason and ewer and two silver cans (probably the two ale-tankards mentioned in 1538), and her will is that the Library left by Mr. Richard Burton shall continue to the heirs of the house of Wighill. The last male descendant of the Wighill family was Henry Stapleton, a Captain in the Yorkshire Militia, who died in

* The first mention of an organ in England occurs in a poem of Aldhelm (who died in 709). *De laude virginum*, in which he refers to the pipes, bellows, &c.

1779, leaving an only child, Martha, who married, in 1783, Capt. Granville Anson Chetwynd, second son of the fourth Viscount Chetwynd. He then added by royal license, the name of Stapylton to his own, and in 1811 the estate at Wighill was sold by him to R. Fountayne Wilson, Esq., of whom Dr. Hiley relates some amusing anecdotes in his *Memories*. Mr. Wilson was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1807, and M.P. for the county in 1826, but he resigned his seat in 1830. He was succeeded in his estates by his son, Andrew, who took the name of Montagu, and who long resided at Ingmanthorp Hall.* The Hall, which was rebuilt on higher ground in the park in 1791, was afterwards tenanted by the York family, who remained there till the death of Mrs. York in 1871, when the house was taken by the Hawke family, the present tenants. John Warburton, the antiquary, visited Wighill in 1718, and made a poor drawing of the Hall. The annexed cut shews its aspects shortly before its removal in 1790. Warburton's sketch is similar in outline, shewing the square form of the building, with four leaded turrets at the angles. He remarks on the size of the park, which had then (1718) ninety head of deer in it.

The original 14th century Hall of the Stapletons was, no doubt, a picturesque half-timber structure, as in 1400 there is particular mention of a "great stone chamber behind the Hall," proving that wood formed the chief part of the main building at that day. Mr. Chetwynd-Stapylton describes the then aspects and position of it, remarking that "the outer-gate would face the village green and the road to Healaugh," and that the "messuages" purchased of Blancmonster [1375] are still represented by modern cottages on the green. The name of an old cottage called "The Vicarage," pulled down twenty years ago, points to the "Lodge in the garden," as the priest's lodging; and "Parsonage Lane," which leads from it to the village green, "may have been the passage through the house from the outer gate, free to the parishioners to use when they visited the Father Confessor at the Hall."

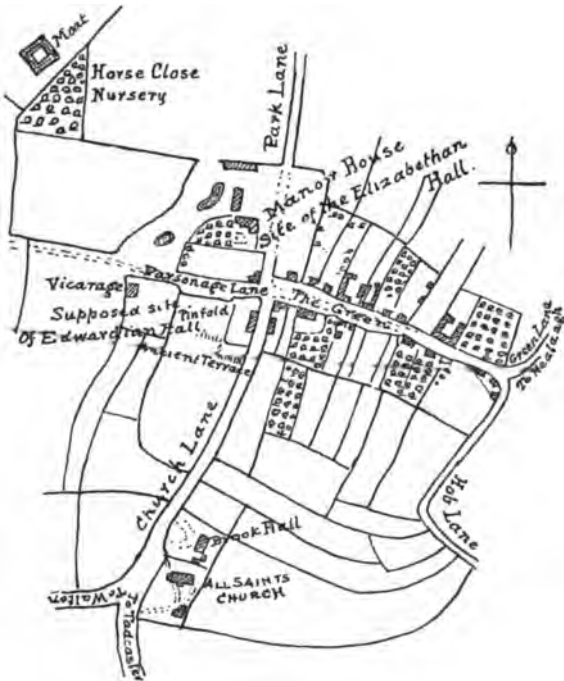
Wighill Park, since 1874, has been the residence of the noble family of Hawke, a family that was raised into distinction through the great naval successes of the famous Admiral, Sir Edward Hawke, previously alluded to, upon whom the title of Baron Hawke of Towton was conferred in 1776. The present and seventh successor to the title is the well-known cricketer, Martin Bladen, Lord Hawke, † whose prowess in that healthful pastime is of almost world-wide

* See my *Nidderdale*, page 217.

† Second son of the sixth Baron, whose eldest son, Edward, died in 1871. On page 213 he is erroneously stated to be the seventh Lord Hawke.

renown. The game of cricket, as at present played, it may be interesting to note, does not date beyond the year 1702; while the present form of the bat only came into use in 1746, and up to 1775 the wicket was composed of two stumps only; the third stump being added in that year. The first recorded cricket match in Yorkshire was played on Chapeltown Moor, near Leeds, in August, 1765, between gentlemen of that town and gentlemen of Sheffield. It is stated to have been won by the latter "with great difficulty."

In the York Visitation Books are many references to past events and customs of the parish. One of these, under date 1590, alludes



PLAN OF WIGHILL.

to the prevalence of sports and pastimes that were tolerated in and about the churchyard in monastic times, but which the laws of Queen Elizabeth rigorously repressed. Robert Potter, Percival Atkinson, Richard Skelton, Thos. Bewyke, Jas. Taylor, Anthony Symson, jun., Wm. Watson, John Scarr, and Richard Stryngfelowe, are all charged for that they did dance after Percival Grave, a piper, of Walton; on Sunday, the 3rd of May, 1590, in service time. They were ordered to repair to the churchyard and there to declare their offences before

the curate and six honest persons. No doubt this had often occurred before, and the vicar, as head of the reformed Church, was determined to put a stop to such "heathen practices." In 1596 Christopher Thwaites, of Wighill, was declared to be a recusant, and in 1663 Roger Stowin, and Elizabeth, his mother, were charged for not coming to church, because they were Quakers. The village contains few other buildings of interest besides the old Norman church. There is one inn, the *White Swan*, and a Wesleyan chapel was erected here in 1828.

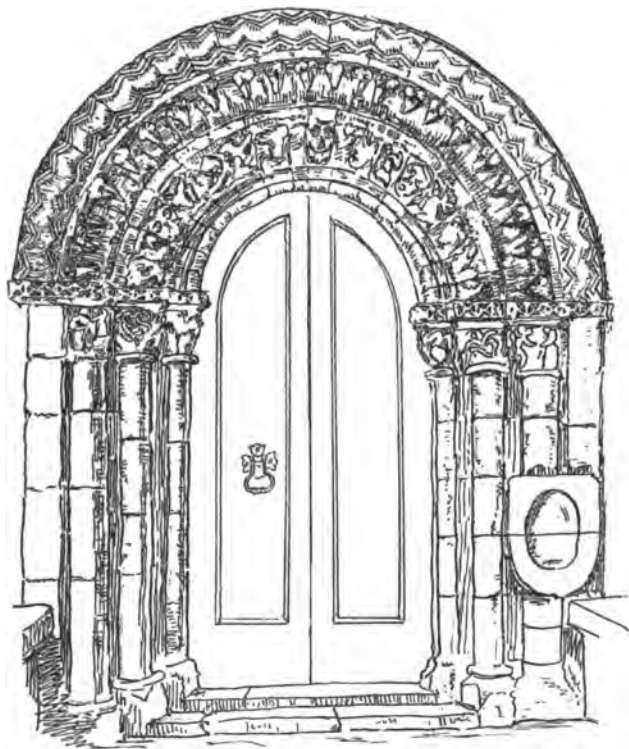
The church at Wighill (All Saints) was appropriated to the Priory of Healaugh, and a vicarage ordained, which was endowed with the "tithes of Esdyke and Folihyt," in or before A.D. 1288. The same monastery had also two oxgangs of land in Wighill, and Alice, daughter of Henry, *clericus*, of Wighill, formerly relict of Benedict de Merston, sold two acres of land here to the same Prior and Convent for two marks (26s. 8d.). In Pope Nicholas' taxation, *ca.* 1292, the church is valued at 12 marks or £8, but the district suffered greatly by the invasion of the Scots after Bannockburn, and in 1318 its value was reduced to £3 6s. 8d. The *Inquisitiones Nonarum* of 1340 show that the ninth of sheaves, wool, and lambs were then worth £6 13s. 4d. per annum, but the place could not support a merchant, and there was no one living in the parish except by agriculture. Matters however began to improve, and forty years later a merchant named William Russell, was established at Wighill, and there were also a brazier, a smith, and an arrow-maker, living in the village at the same time. The oldest register book runs from 1717 to 1749 but has been missing many years, so that there are now no available registers of the parish prior to 1750.*

The ancient fabric stands upon an eminence composed of glacial drift, and commands a very wide and beautiful prospect. Its venerable tower is an object of interest for many miles round. The church is entered by a very fine south doorway, having a semi-circular arch of four orders supported upon cylindrical shafts with square abaci, three of them richly sculptured. The outer arch has a bold flowing chevron; the next consists of a beak-head ornament, whilst the third arch is sculptured with various devices of human heads and animals; the fourth or innermost being plain. There is a holy-water stoup in a rather curious position cut out of one of the shafts upon the right side of the door on entering. From the sculptures of this fine Norman doorway, though the tooth of time is apparent upon them, we are still able to glean something of the habits and costumes of the Conqueror's day. The masonry of the south wall has also a

* See Dr. Hiley's *Memories of Half-a-Century* (1899), pages 373-4.

Norman look about it, and the wall is fully a yard thick, but the windows are later (Perpendicular) insertions. Above the Norman door there hangs an ancient shield of Stapelton, in oak (argent, a lion rampant, sa.), square in form, and of unknown antiquity.

The interior of the church consists of a nave and north aisle, a chancel and north choir or chapel of Our Lady, which for a long period was the burial-place of the Stapletons. A vestry was added



NORMAN DOORWAY. WIGHILL CHURCH.

about 1850. The aisle is separated from the body of the church by four circular arches, supported by massive cylindrical columns, having octagonal capitals. The tower arch is pointed. The Perpendicular east window consists of three coloured lights, and is a memorial to Richard York, Esq., who died in 1843, aged 64, and his wife, Lady Mary Anne, daughter of Edward, Earl of Harewood. She died in 1831, aged 55. As Dodsworth notes the arms of Pickering (*or*, a lion rampant, azure) in the "north quier east window," it would appear that the fabric of the church was restored

subsequent to 1459, when Sir Wm. Stapleton took to wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir James Pickering, of Oswaldkirk. Sir William died in 1503. The glass was all apparently perfect in 1661. In the south window of the chancel is a shield, *argent*, three lozenges, *gules* (), and in the east window of the chapel appears *or*, a maunch, *gules* (). No doubt long after vicar Burton left 10s. for the paving of the choir in 1498, the body of the church retained its hard, earthen floor, without provision for seating any but the aged and infirm. Although the church needs judicious restoration, it is interesting to discover in these days of universal renovations and modern church-furnishings, a building which still retains the original oak seats. On one of the old worm-eaten oak pews I observed the initial and date "1674 P."

Drake gives transcripts of the ancient monumental inscriptions in the church, including one of the above-mentioned William Burton, vicar of Wighill, who died in 1498, and six inscribed tombstones of the Stapletons. Vicar Burton made a will ordering his body to be buried in the churchyard of "Allhallows, Wighall, a litell from the qwher dore, opon the sowth sid." He left 10s. to the paving of the choir, and 10s. to the buying of a chalice;* also 10s. to the high altar of the monastery of St. John of Healaugh Park, and to the adornment thereof 20s. He was a canon of the monastery, and had been presented to the living of Wighill by the Prior and Convent thereof in 1481-2. The Stapleton slabs have been placed in the north aisle to make way for the Hall pew. The oldest of them has a black-letter inscription, as follows :

Orate pro anima dom. Willielmi Stapilton militus et pro anima dne Margaretete uxoris sue qui quidem Willielmus obiit xvi. die mensis Decem. an Dom M.D. tertio. Cujus aie ppitietur Deus.

There is also a fine 17th century altar-tomb, with cumbent effigy, now within a railed enclosure at the west end of the aisle, which was also removed from Our Lady's chapel to make room for the Hall pew. This monument represents Robert Stapleton, Esq., who served on the Continent in the cause of the Protestant Elector Palatine, son-in-law of James I. He married in 1622 Catherine Fairfax, of Walton, and died 11th March, 1634-5, at the early age of

* This chalice is evidently the same that is mentioned in an inventory of church goods, 7th Edward VI. (1553), wherein the commissioners say they have left in the parish church of "Wighell in the Aynstie," one chalice of silver, "pondring by estymacion iii. unces, to remayne for th'administracon of the Holie Comunion in the same, and also iii. belles, pondring by estimacion twenty hundreds." There are still three bells, dated respectively 1636, 1658, and 1699. The two latter were re-cast in 1840.

33. He is represented clad in the armour of the period ; the feet resting against a large Saracen's head, that being the crest of his family, for we are told, "Sir Bryan Stapilton, Knight of the Garter, slew a Saryson in plane batell, in the presence of three Kings, of England, Fraunce, and Scotland, and for that Acte, desiring for Beauty his head in his Creaste forever moor."* On the south side of the tomb are four Ionic columns in dark marble, with an inscription in Latin, and on either side of it are the kneeling figures of three boys and three girls. The least of the boys is shewn holding a skull intended no doubt to indicate the second born of his family, Henry, who died in infancy. The eldest son, Sir Miles Stapleton, the "unparalleled Roialist," succeeded his father at Wighill, and died in



TOMB OF ROBERT STAPLETON, WIGHILL CHURCH.

1668, being buried for some unaccountable reason at Fewston in the Washburn valley. At the east end of the monument is a shield of nine quarterings, with supporters.

In the chancel is a mural monument to the last of the Stapletons of Wighill. The inscription states that Henry Stapylton, of Wighill Park, Esquire, died 4th April, 1779, aged 38, and Harriet, his widow, died in 1791, aged 53, leaving an only daughter, Martha, who married Captain Granville Anson Chetwynd, as previously related. She died in 1822, and was buried at Hadley in Middlesex, being the last of the ancient name of Stapleton whose family had lived at Wighill almost uninterruptedly from the year 1375.

* *Harl. MSS.*, 1412, fo. 63 (sub. A.D., 1530).

Adjoining this tablet is another inscribed to the memory of Helen Webb, of Beverley, second daughter and co-heiress of Bernard Webb, Esq., of Clovenmilcon, co. Cork, descended by Elizabeth, daughter of George Healey, Esq., of Burringham, co. Lincoln, and relict of Henry Stapylton, Esq., of Wighill Park. She was born in 1755 and died in 1777. On the south wall is a memorial to the above Henry Stapylton, Esq., who died in 1746, aged 23. In the chancel, on the south side, is a sedilia of three seats and a piscina, covering a blocked doorway. There is also a memorial tablet to Christopher Wilson, Esq., of Oxton House, Tadcaster, who died in 1842, and was interred at Fulham, Middlesex. Also another to John Dawson, of Wighill Grange.

The east end of the north aisle was the chapel of Our Lady, where many generations of the ancient lords of Wighill are interred. I cannot find that this chapel was ever separately endowed. It has been furnished with an altar, and a piscina is yet there. Probably it was served by the lords' chaplains of the private oratory at the manor-house, for the founding of which license was granted to Wm. Stapleton, Esq., in 1456. In 1459 there was a further license from the Archbishop to have "an oratory for three years at Wighill" and other places. The grants were renewed from time to time subsequently.

There is a beautiful window on the south side of the church to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Jessop, S.T.P., vicar of Wighill from 1839 to 1863. He was a man of great culture, and many accomplishments; his skill in languages being especially remarkable. He was not only an excellent Latin and Greek scholar, but almost equally well read in Hebrew, Syriac, and Arabic. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, the present esteemed vicar, the Rev. Richard W. Hiley, D.D. Dr. (then Mr.) Hiley, had for two or three years previous to 1863, managed the Thorp Arch Grange School, established by his father. He continued the school for many years (to 1889) at the same time as he held the living of Wighill. But during this period he was assisted by his brother, the Rev. Alfred Hiley, M.A., who was resident curate at Wighill, and who, for the past twenty years, has been the respected vicar of the adjoining parish of Walton.

The long and useful life of Dr. Hiley has been one of untiring energy. He has recently published an excellent volume of *Memories*, a well-printed book of over 400 pages, in which he recounts the story of his career, interspersed with incident and anecdote grave and gay, and many interesting personal recollections of events of the past fifty years.

CHAPTER XXX.

HEALOUGH: ST. HEIV'S MONASTERY.

Numerous local dedications to St. Helen—Local continuance of Celtic monasticism—St. Heiu settles at Tadcaster in 649—Annexation of Elmete by King Edwin—His acceptance of Christianity in 627—St. Heiu's monastery supposed to have been established at Healaugh—St. Hilda's ancestry—Meaning of Healaugh—Supposed memorial of St. Heiu at Healaugh—A curious discovery—Comparison with other early memorials—The early dioceses and growth of monasticism.



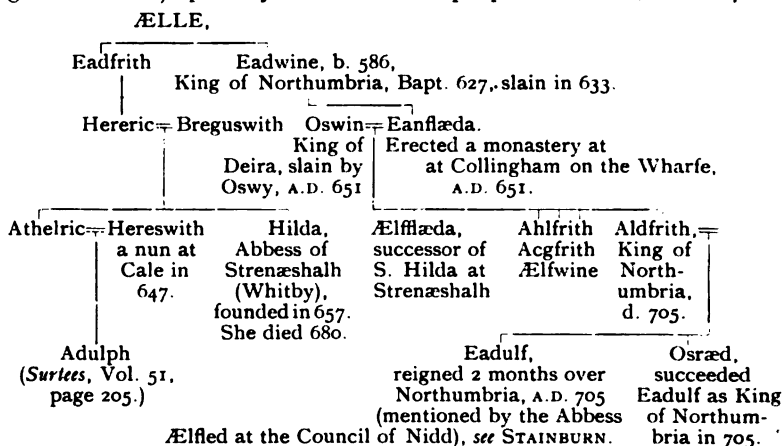
HE many dedications to St. Helen,—both churches and holy-wells—in the vale of the Wharfe, and particularly around York,—the church at Healaugh being amongst them—strongly suggests local obedience to the desire of the Emperor Constantine, to honour his revered mother on the legal establishment of Christianity in 325.* It is of course impossible to assign any definite dates to these dedications, but the probability is that most of them are very early. Moreover, from the remarkable five-fold dedication-names preserved on a pre-Norman tablet in the church of St. Mary, Castlegate, York, previously alluded to, it is clear that the old Celtic method of forming groups of churches, often widely separated, under one monastery, continued in this neighbourhood apparently after the synod of Whitby abolished the Celtic priesthood in 664.

The Abbess Heiu, or St. Heiv, daughter of Hereric, who was the first woman in Northumbria to embrace the monastic life, founded the monastery at Heruteu (Hartlepool) shortly before 649, in which year, we further learn from the venerable Bede, she retired and fixed her abode at Kælcacæstir, or Calcaria (Tadcaster). At Heruteu she was succeeded by St. Hilda, who is stated to have been born in 614, and of whom an interesting account will be found in Miss Arnold-Forster's recent *Studies in Church Dedications*.† Hereric, the father of

* See post, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

† It is believed by some that the name of this famous abbess, Hilda, is retained in the ancient Hheldetunes of *Domesday*, &c. Like the chapel at Hartlepool, dedicated to St. Hilda, there was a chapel at Wistow also dedicated to St. Hilda, which in the Fabric Rolls of York Minster, is stated to have become "almost an utter ruin" in 1481. It was embraced in the great Liberty of Cawood, Wistow, and Otley, which formed part of the grant of Athelstan to the See of York.

Hilda, and according to Dr. Bright, also of St. Heiu,* is recorded to have been waylaid and poisoned in the country called Elmete, governed by Cerdic or Ceretic, and this treachery, resulting in the death of the noble Hereric, led Eadwin to expel Cerdic and annex Elmete to his kingdom of Deira, *ca.* 620. The following descents shew the relationship of St. Hilda with Eadwin or Edwin, King of Northumbria, who, with his whole court, embraced Christianity by public baptism in the church or small wooden oratory (parent of the great Minster) specially erected for the purpose in York, A.D. 627.



The annexation of Elmete and the establishment of Christianity throughout Northumbria, had probably induced St. Heiu to found cells and extend her influence in various parts of our Yorkshire, and herself to quit Hartlepool and reside nearer York, the scene of Edwin's triumph.† Bede says she chose Kælcacestir or Tadcaster, and there opened a monastery, but whether this was actually in Tadcaster, or somewhere in the neighbourhood, will probably never be known. The opinion was hazarded by the late Dr. Bright, and also by the late Rev. D. H. Haigh, the well-known Runic scholar, that Healaugh, about three miles north-east of Tadcaster, was the site of the original monastery, and that in the name of Healaugh lurks the name of the woman who made the place famous.‡ This "Heiu-laeg," or Heiv's territory, is also believed to be at the root of other places of the same or similar names in Yorkshire, such as

* *Early English Church History*, page 164.

† Remembering, too, that the illustrious Bede founded the monastic school at York, which afterwards sent out Alcuin to reconstitute European learning under the fostering hand of Charlemagne (*see Encyclopedia Britannica*, s.v. "Monachism," page 707), it is very likely the district had already attained some fame for its Christian piety and institutions.

‡ *See Dr. Bright's Early English Church History*, page 164.

Healaugh (*Ha-le* in *Domesday*) in Swaledale (the river Swale being the scene of great baptisms by Paulinus), Heeley near Sheffield, Healey near Batley, and Healey near Masham, as well as other places in the ancient Northumbria bearing perhaps corrupt forms of the original name of Heiu.*

In the exterior walls of the church at Haile, in Cumberland, is a fragment of a cross-shaft of the spiral type, like that of St John's (Beckermet) and St. Bees, and there is also in the vestry of the same church, a "Roman-looking ring-cross, part probably of a mediæval grave-slab."† In the churchyard at Healaugh, near Tadcaster, the subject of this chapter, there was dug up in 1842 a curiously incised grave-slab, bearing, according to the Rev. Father Haigh, the name of St. Heiu, in Roman lettering, whose monastery he supposed had stood upon the site in the 7th century.

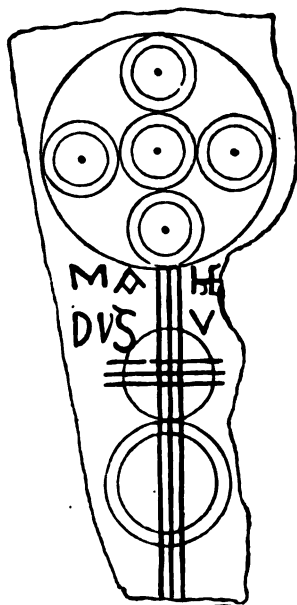
"In the course of digging a vault in the cemetery at Healaugh many years ago," observes Father Haigh, "the broken tomb-stone of which the figure is here given, was found six feet below the surface. The design is very peculiar, —a composition of circles, all scratched slightly with a compass, and a cross roughly formed by triple lines. The inscription gives two names, disposed like those of

VER	TORHT
	ET
MVND	SVID

on one of the Hartlepool tombstones to be noticed in the sequel. The name to the left is MADUG, certainly Celtic, and (whether it be British or Scottish) as certainly referring the antiquity of this monument to the seventh century, when some British population may be believed to have still remained in the not very distant territory of Elmete, and Scottish monks, at least before A.D. 664, formed a part of the community in many of the Northumbrian monasteries.

* See also the author's *Old Bingley, of. ST. IVES*

† Illustrated in Calverley and Collingwood's *Early Sculptured Crosses in the Diocese of Carlisle* (1899), pages 180, 182. In the *Life of S. Begu*, written in the 12th century by a monk of St. Bees, the two Christian ladies, Heiu and Begu, are identified. *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, v. 349.

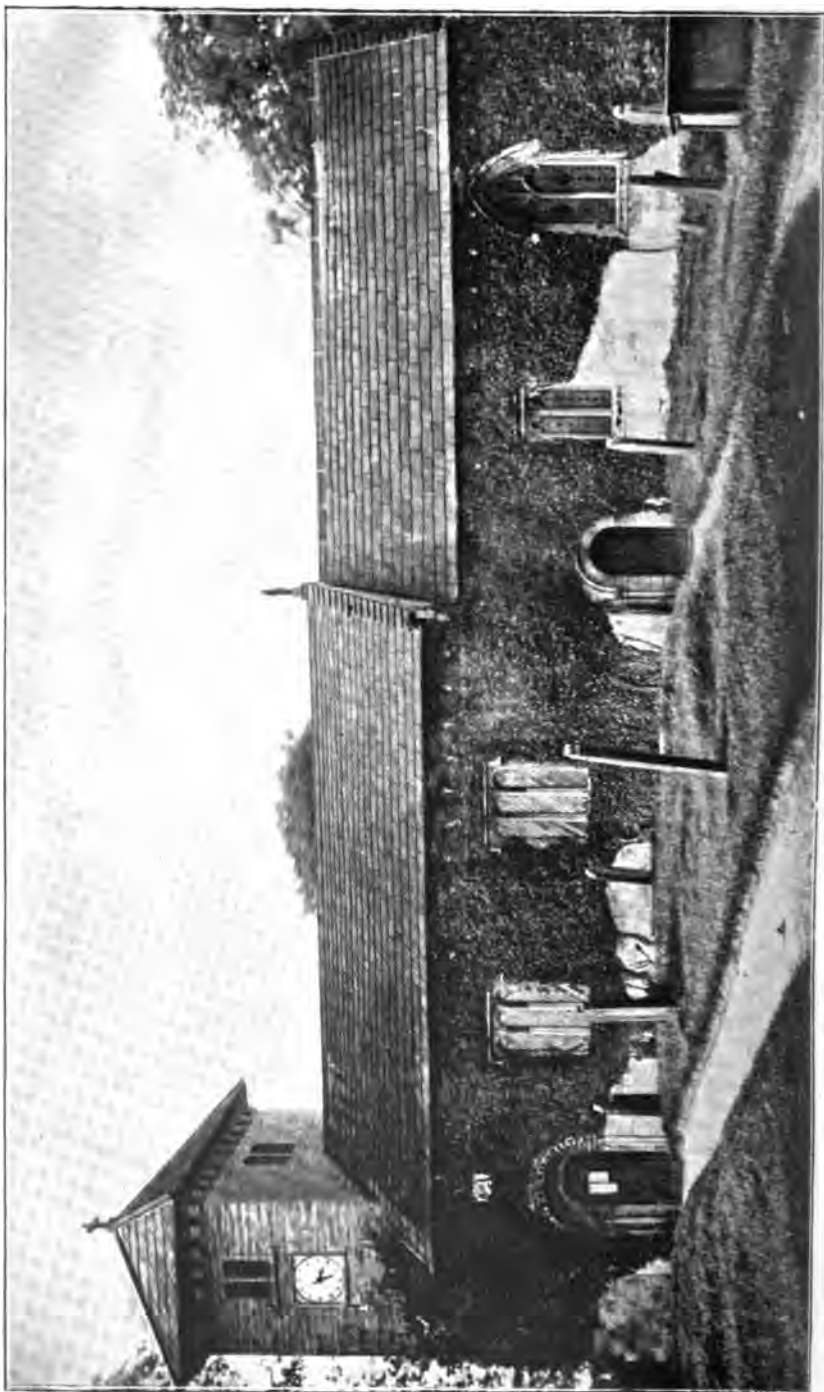


THE ST. HEIU STONE FOUND AT HEALAUGH.

The name to the right wants but one letter (to correspond with those on the left) to complete HEIU, and thus confirms what I have advanced with regard to the locality of St. Heiu's latest settlement.* An inscribed stone of St. Begu, who died in 681, the year following the death of St. Hilda, was found at Hackness in 1140. It bore these words: HOC EST SEPULCHRAM BEGHU, a remarkable inscription (if original), for a 7th century grave-cover. The Runic alphabet was then in use, though during the 7th century the Roman character appears to have been employed in inscriptions, yet it is not until the beginning of the following century that we meet with parchment manuscripts. It is also noteworthy that the form of the lettering on the Healaugh stone greatly resembles that of the mixed Latin and Saxon inscription on the St. Mary's stone at York. The six parallel straight lines probably represent the six censings, and there also appears the celebrant's wafer on a paten and behind it the chalice, and behind it again the five wafers for the people on a large paten. The large bread is in front of the chalice, the five smaller behind; just as two breads, one before the chalice and the other behind, appear on the altar in the representation of the typical sacrifice of Melchizedek at San Vitale, Ravenna.†

* *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. iii., page 365. One has continually to lament the removal of relics from the places or neighbourhoods where they were first found. What has become of this interesting Healaugh monument of (apparently) the time of S. Heiu, no one now seems to know. The late worthy vicar of Healaugh (the Rev. R. H. Cooke) greatly lamented its removal from the church. He informed me that the stone was found while digging a grave for the burial of a parishioner who was interred Sept. 27th, 1842. Mr. Cooke had never heard of the stone until he was visited by Professor G. F. Browne (now Bishop of Bristol) about five years after he had been settled at Healaugh. The interested Professor had come to see the stone, but it could not be found. This would be about the year 1879. Mr. Cooke thought there might be a possibility of recovering it, as at that time there was living at Boston Spa an old clergyman (Rev. E. Peacopp) who had been curate of Healaugh for 30 years, and who had officiated at the funeral of the person who was interred in the grave where the stone was found. Unfortunately, however, the aged parson could throw no light on the matter. He clearly remembered the circumstance of the discovery, but like everyone else who also remembered it, did not know where it went, or who had removed it. It was a small stone, barely two feet long.

† See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. v., pages 223-6.



HEALOUGH CHURCH.

CHAPTER XXXI.

HEALAUGH: ITS HISTORY, CHURCH, AND "BIBLE LANDS."

Antiquity of socage rights—Comparison with Beverley—*Domesday* testimony—Extent of soke of Healaugh—Descent of the manor—Records of the church—Its original dedication to St. Helen—The Norman doorway—Description of the church—The late Rev. R. H. Cooke—The Whartons of Healaugh—Philip, fourth Lord Wharton—His great Bible Charity—Wrongful diversion of the trust—Memorial of the Rev. Bryan Dale—Rearrangement of the charity—The present trustees—Sale of the "Bible Lands"—Purchase of Healaugh by the Brooksbank family—Picturesque aspects—The old "castle."



SUCH were the extensive and important socage rights belonging to Healaugh at the Conquest that their existence anterior to the survey of 1083—6 cannot be doubted. They may be also applied with equal certainty to other places in Yorkshire, whose ecclesiastical history sprang from the seeds of the old monasticism of St. Heiv's time. St. John of Beverley, for example, who had been trained under the venerable Abbess of Strenæshalh, the good St. Hilda, is reputed to have founded a monastery at Beverley, where he is said to have died in 721.* A charter of the Conqueror notifies "to all the men of Yorkshire, Norman and English," that he has "given to St. John of Beverley sac and soc over all the lands which were given to the church of St. John in the days of King Edward," &c.† The soke of Healaugh, there is little doubt, was confirmed in 1083 by virtue of a similar pre-existing heritage.

Domesday tells us that in Hailaga (Healaugh) and two Wicheles (Wighill) there was a manor of 18 carucates of land for geld, held by one Tochi. Now Goisfrid (Alselin) has it. William de Percy had also 3 carucates in Hagendebi and Hailaga. To the soke of Hailaga belonged one carucate in Haghedenbi (Hagenby), now Easedyke),‡ also half a carucate in Ulsitone (Ouston); 5 carucates in Bodeltune

* See *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 98, pages 15—28.

† *Ibid.*, page xxxi., also pages 253, 257.

‡ Haghedenbi is ascribed by Mr. Stapleton to Angram, in the parish of Long Marston, in the *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Archæological Institute at York in 1846*, page 140.

(Bolton Percy); 12 bovates in Waletune (Walton); 1 carucate in Acastre, 1 carucate in Ruforde (Rufforth), and 1 carucate in Ascham (Askham Bryan). All these lands, now comprised in various parishes, were, as appears by this valuable testimony, originally within the great soke of Healaugh.

At the time that St. Heiu settled in the neighbourhood of Tadcaster the dioceses were coextensive with the Heptarchic kingdoms, but shortly afterwards the subdivision of the dioceses was followed by a great development of monasticism. There were then but few village churches. In this district there can be no doubt the influence of St. Heiv's monastery,—be it at Tadcaster or at Healaugh—was very wide and effective, and on the suppression of the Celtic church in 664, it had already sown the seeds of a devotion which grew and clung to the district continuously afterwards. Of course there were intervals of repression, as when the heathen Danes, in the 9th and 10th centuries, destroyed all or nearly all of these early monasteries. But considering, as Bishop Stubbs has so ably expounded, the thorough harmony of Church and State in these ages—the parish being but the civil township in an ecclesiastical sense,—one may be tempted to believe that the wide franchise extended to the township of Healaugh in Norman times arose from its early importance in an ecclesiastical sense. Socage tenures were undoubtedly the relics of Saxon liberty, and what had existed in Saxon times was not withdrawn by William on the settlement of property at the Conquest. And in the case of ecclesiastical holdings, observes Mr. Freeman, the will and seal of Edward the Confessor stood inviolate and was reckoned in all transactions as good as William's.*

The half carucate in Ulsitone (Ouston in the township of Oxtou) was held of Percy by one Fulk, son of Reinfrid, who with the help of Earl Hugh and William de Percy re-established the old monastery of St. Hilda.† The above Tochi, who was lord of the manor, with its soke rights, of Healaugh before the Conquest, was son of Outi, and a large landowner in Northants., Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Notts., and Lincolnshire, with his chief seat in Lincoln.‡

The lands of Goisfrid Alselin descended to his daughter and heiress, wife of Robert de Calz or Caux, by whom they were divided with the descendants of his nephew, Ralph Halselyn.§ Healaugh came to the Hagets, and in 1201 William fil Hugh de Lelay quitclaimed to Jordan de S. Maria and Alice his wife, three hundred

* See *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 98, pages xv.—xxviii.

† See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. iv., page 154, and v., page 302.

‡ *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. iv., page 227. § *Ibid.*, page 227.

acres of woodland in Helage (Healaugh) Park, for which the said Jordan and Alice gave to the said William 20 marks of silver.* This Alice is stated to be a daughter of John de Friston, or Fryston, by Alice, one of the four sisters and co-heiresses of Geoffery Haget, lord of Healaugh, and founder of Healaugh Priory in 1218.† But in the particulars of the coats quartered in the Earl of Strafford's achievement‡ the above Alice, daughter and heiress of John de Friston is stated by Mr. Ellis to be the [first ?] wife of Sir Richd. Walleys. Then he says Sir Richard Walleys and *Agnes* had Stephen Walleis,§ who married Nora, daughter and co-heiress of Robert de Umfraville, "Earl of Angus," descendant of Robert de Umfraville by Aveline, daughter and co-heiress of the Justicier Richard de Lucy, through their grandson Gilbert de Umfraville of Prudhoe, and Matilda his wife, daughter and heiress of Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, in Scotland. Nicholaa, sister of Sir Richard Waleys, married Sir William le Vavasour, of Hazlewood, and in 1315, she then a widow, with John Waleys, was returned as joint possessor of the manor of Helage. In 1282 Sir Stephen Waleys received a grant of free warren in Burgh Waleis, Newton Waleis, Hauley (Healaugh), Cottingeley, and Dunesford, and his grandson, Stephen, son of Richard de Waleys, obtained a similar charter in 1331. Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of the above Stephen Walleis, was twice married, (1) to Sir William Neville, and (2) to Sir John de Depeden, Kt., and her daughter and heiress, Margaret Depeden, married Sir William de Mowbray, grandparent of Sir Alexander de Mowbray, whose daughter Elizabeth married the famous Judge Gascoigne of Gawthorpe.|| Sir John Depeden was lord of Healaugh, and in 1402 left by will to the Prioress and Convent of Esholt in Airedale, to pray for his soul and that of Elizabeth, his consort, and those of all the faithful departed, the sum of 20 shillings. For a like purpose a similar sum is also left to each of the Nunneries of Arthington, Kirklees, and others, as well as bequests to Healaugh. Sir John was one of the executors of the will of Sir Brian Stapleton, of Wighill, in 1394.

The church, says Torre, formerly belonged to the patronage of the family of Waleys and from them to the Depedens. It was afterwards appropriated to the Priory of Healaugh by Sir John Depeden and Elizabeth his wife, the King's license being first obtained therein 5th February, A.D. 1398, and a vicarage ordained, which was

* *Surtess Soc.*, vol. 94, page 10. † *Ibid.*, page 10 n.

‡ *Harl. MSS.*, 1047, fo. 48.

§ Sir Stephen le Waleys, of Burgh Waleys, was living in 1294. He was returned in 1284-5 as joint lord, with Alice le Vavasour, of the manor of Bilton.

|| *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. vi., page 371.

augmented 27th April, 1425. According to Pope Nicholas's Taxation (1292), the church was valued at 10 marks (£6 13s. 4d.) In the King's Books the vicarage is valued at £6 per annum; and in 1818 at between £80 and £100 per annum. In the Survey, authorised during the Commonwealth, it is stated that there is at Healaugh "neither parsonage nor vicarage, nor any maintenance for a minister, save that Philip, Lord Wharton, formerly paid gratis £5 to a curate for reading there. Mr. Oxley doth now officiate there every Lord's Day at the benevolence of the said Lord Wharton. We find cause to enlarge this parish. The town of Catterton we find in the parish of Tadcaster, a mile and a half distant from Tadcaster, and bad ways, oftentimes stopped by the overflowing of the river of Foss, running betwixt. Which said town of Catterton is not half-a-mile off Healaugh, therefore we think fit it be divided from Tadcaster and annexed to Healaugh, and made of that parish, together with the profits thereof."

Torre supplies a catalogue of the vicars to 1530, and "since the Dissolution," says Archbishop Sharp (1691—1714), "no vicar hath been instituted." In 1715 the living was augmented with £200, and in 1761 with a further £200, both by lot; and in 1763 with £200 to meet a benefaction of £200 from the executors of the Rev. M. Buck, and in 1798 again with £200 by lot. The registers begin with the year 1687. The present patron and impropiator is Edward Brooksbank, Esq., who is lord of the manor and resides at Healaugh Manor.* In the gardens of the Old Hall, near the church, are a number of sculptured stones, many of them ornamented with coats of arms.

Like most of the churches in the generally-flat and low-lying district of the Ainsty, the church at Healaugh has been raised on the highest and most commanding site in the village. It is a very old and interesting structure. The original dedication appears to have been to St. Helen,† which Father Haigh identifies with the name of St. Heiu.‡ It is now, and probably has been for many centuries, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is entered by a descent of one step (see page 97). The principal or south doorway is a rich example of Norman sculpture, consisting of a semi-circular arch of four orders supported by cylindrical shafts having square abaci, enriched. The outer arch bears a fine chevron moulding terminating on plain corbels unsupported by shafts; the next is composed of various grotesque figures and human heads; the third consists of

* Mr. Brooksbank has proved himself a good Churchman as readers of Dr. Hiley's *Memories* may learn. See page 386 of that work.

† *Yorks. Arch. Jl.*, vol. ii., page 185. ‡ *Ibid.*, vol. iii., page 364.



NORMAN DOORWAY, HEALOUGH CHURCH

beak-heads, and the inner arch is plain, with enriched capitals. The dragon-twist on the capitals shews a Scandinavian influence, and one of the capitals bears a design of several animals, which may be explained by the ancient bestiaries or books upon creatures with a religious symbolism. The old oaken door is noteworthy, and bears marks of what may be bullet-shots. Dr. Leadman records a tradition of a dragoon who, while hastening to Marston Moor, cast a shoe, and stopped at the village smithy to get it replaced. Bullying the blacksmith over his tardiness he soon galloped off, and terrified the villagers by discharging his carbine at the church door! Above the doorway there is a shield of the Wharton arms, but the strong ivy-plant now climbing in front of the entrance needs keeping in check, part of the sculpture being overgrown. Much of the building, it should be stated, was taken down and restored about 1790, and the church was further repaired in 1860, and a new organ added in 1890.

The interior consists of nave, chancel, and north aisle, the latter being separated from the body of the church by three circular arches carried upon columns formed by the union of four large cylinders, each of the capitals bearing a transition leaf ornament. The chancel-arch is also of similar age, the supporting shaft being ornamented with a beautiful design of true-lovers' knots and net-work. The east window is of three pointed lights, with cinquefoil heads. This window and two others are filled with beautiful stained-glass, and are memorials to members of the Brooksbank family. A single arch of wide span separates the chancel from its north aisle, and here is a fine altar-tomb bearing the cumbent effigies of Thomas, first Lord Wharton (1495—1568) and his two wives, (1) Eleanor, daughter of Sir Bryan Stapleton, of Wighill, and (2) Anne, widow of Lord Bray and second daughter of Francis Talbot, fifth Earl of Shrewsbury. The tomb bears this inscription :

Gens Whartona genus, dat honores dextera victrix
 Tres Aquilonares regni finesque guberno
 Bina mihi conjux. Stapleton juvenem Eleonora
 Prole beat ; fovet Anna senem, stirps clara Salopum.
 Nati equites bini. Thomam Sussexa propago
 Anna facit patrem. Sine prole Henricus obibat.
 Binae itidem natae, Penletona Joanna Gulielmo
 Agnes Musgravo conjux secunda Ricardo.*

The handsome brass lectern is also a notable object in the church, and was designed and made by the late venerable vicar, the Rev. R.

* Sir Thomas was Lord Warden of the West Marches, and "gave so great a defeat to the Scots at Solemn Moss, A.D. 1542, that their King, James the Fifth, soon after died of grief. With 300 men he not only defeated their army but took above 1000 prisoners, for which service he received several marks of honor." Bishop Gibson in Camden's *Britannia*.

H. Cooke. It is of very chaste design, being composed of beautifully fashioned emblems of the Evangelists, and is suitably inscribed. Mr. Cooke was an adept in all kinds of metal work which he practised almost to the end of his life. The lectern in Bolton Percy church was also his work. He took a deep interest in his ancient church and had studied its every feature, and being of affable and engaging conversation, his presence was always welcomed by all who knew him. He had been vicar of Healaugh about 25 years and died November 5th, 1899, in his 80th year. He is succeeded as vicar of Healaugh by his son, the Rev. R. H. M. Cooke.

The Whartons were living at Healaugh about the time of the Reformation. Thomas, the first Lord Wharton had, it is stated,* in 1531, bought the manors of Healaugh and Catterton from the Earl of Northumberland for £500, and in 1541 he purchased from Sir Arthur Darcy, Kt., the rectory of the church of Healaugh, with all the tithes, offerings, oblations, profits, and emoluments of the same church and the advowson of the vicarage thereof. He also purchased at a later date many other estates, including the site of the monastery of Sinningthwaite, and lands in Walton, Bickerton, and Bilton, which were long afterwards known as "Bible Lands." His chief seat was Wharton Hall, in Ravenstonedale, which had belonged to the family "beyond the date of any records extant,"† and which he rebuilt in 1559, that date being over the great gateway. A few years after this time he found it expedient to leave that quarter and settle at Healaugh, near Tadcaster, where he died in 1568, as mentioned above.‡ Philip, the third Lord Wharton, who died in 1625, and who was buried at Healaugh, sat in the House of Lords for more than forty years. His younger son, Sir Thomas Wharton, who became heir to the Wharton title and estates, resided at Aske Hall, near Richmond, in the North Riding, and died there in 1622, in his father's lifetime. The successor to the title and property, was Philip, fourth Lord Wharton, elder son of Sir Thomas, of Aske. He was born in 1613 and was thrice married, leaving a numerous progeny. He was a zealous Puritan, "much concerned," says Carlyle, "with preachers, chaplains, &c., in his domestic establishment, and full of Parliamentary and politico-religious business in public." He was very friendly with Cromwell, and it was intended to marry his daughter Elizabeth with Henry Cromwell, but the event never came off, owing to some "just scruples of the lady," who eventually became the wife of Lord Willoughby.

* But see *Feet of Fines* for 1536-7.

† Camden's *Britannia*, page 988.

‡ See *The Good Lord Wharton*, by the Rev. Bryan Dale (1901), page 13.

Lord Wharton, who occasionally resided at Healaugh, died in Feb. 1695-6. He will always be remembered for his great Bible Charity, founded by indentures dated 11th and 12th July, 1692, by which 1050 Bibles, "with the singing Psalms bound up therewith," were to be yearly purchased and distributed among children of poor people in certain specified towns in Yorkshire, Westmorland, Cumberland, and Buckinghamshire. The income appropriated for this purpose was derived from an estate of about 470 acres, situated in Sinningthwaite, Bilton, Walton, and Bickerton, which lands had been purchased by the family in 1560. (*See above.*) It was truly a noble gift, or as his lordship's friend, Thoresby, the antiquary, who was at that time a Protestant Dissenter, describes it, "a most excellent spiritual Charity, whereby many poor families not otherwise provided, became acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make them wise unto salvation." Oliver Heywood, one of the founders of Independency, was deeply interested in the Charity, and in the summer of 1693 visited Lord Wharton at Healaugh, and says that he "prayed four times with my lord."* At Healaugh and Catterton 30 Bibles were to be annually distributed, but if the poor children of these places were sufficiently supplied the surplus copies were to go Bilton. Tadcaster, Wetherby, and Knaresbro' were to have 10 each, and other towns in proportion; the largest number (100) going to the city of York.

Down to 1782 the Bibles were regularly sent to Dissenting ministers, and the trustees were composed partly of Dissenters and partly of Churchmen. But after the date named there appears to have been a serious diversion of the Charity to the *exclusive* use of members of the Church of England, contrary to the instructions of the original Trust and the intentions of the founder. This appropriation by the Church of the Establishment has continued without contradiction almost to the present time. But in January, 1897, the Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A., Secretary of the Yorkshire Congregational Union and President of the Bradford Historical Society, published a short history of the Charity, and eventually laid a memorial before the Charity Commissioners setting forth the main facts of the case and urging further enquiry. This led to a new scheme being established for the regulation and administration of the Charity under an Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division), dated 5th August, 1898, by which *half* the funds of the Charity, after payment of necessary expenses, is henceforward to be distributed by a Committee of Church of England Trustees, and *half* by a Committee of Nonconformist Trustees. The Trustees are to be nine

* *See also Rev. M. Pearson's History of Northowram (1898), pages 168-9.*

in number; five members of the Church of England, and four Nonconformists, representing respectively the Presbyterian Church of England, the Congregational Union, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and the Baptist Union. But until the next vacancy among the six existing Trustees there shall be only three Nonconformists. The following were the names admitted under the New Trust (1898); the first six being members of the Church of England:

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. C. Rowley Hay, Sunninghill, Staines.
 Rev. Canon F. H. Murray, Rector of Chislehurst.
 J. A. Shaw-Stewart, Esq., London.
 Col. Francis Haygarth, London.
 J. G. Talbot, Esq., M.P., Westminster.
 John Stewart, Lord Medway, Benenden, Kent.
 Wm. Carruthers, Esq., F.R.S. (Presbyterian), Norwood, London.
 Robert Wm. Perks, Esq., M.P. (Wesleyan), London.
 Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A. (Congregationalist), Bradford
 Rev. John Howard Shakespeare, M.A. (Baptist), London.

The "Bible Lands" at Sinningthwaite and neighbouring places were sold in 1871 to A. F. W. Montagu, Esq., of Wighill Park, for £30,000, and the total income of the Charity for the year ending December, 1900, amounted to £1323 4s. 8d., and the expenses of management amounted to £98 15s. One half of the residue in this year, viz., £612 4s. 10d., was applied by the Church of England Trustees to the purchase and distribution of 2800 Bibles, and the same number of Prayer Books; the other half by the Nonconformist Trustees to the purchase and distribution of 6600 Bibles.

Lord Wharton in 1658 removed to the old Manor House of Wooburn, which had been at one time a Palace of the Bishop of Lincoln. He is said to have expended nearly £40,000 in its enlargement and repair, and to meet this great outlay he was obliged to mortgage his Healaugh estate. He died at Wooburn in 1696, and was buried in the parish church there. His estates at Healaugh had been managed by the Rev. John Gunter, LL.B., who had formerly been "minister" at Bedale, in the North Riding. This valuable benefice had been given to him by Oliver Cromwell, who also made him his chaplain, and who said, according to Calamy, that he respected his name for his uncle Gunter's sake. Mr. Gunter, at the Restoration, lost Bedale, and eventually retired to Healaugh.

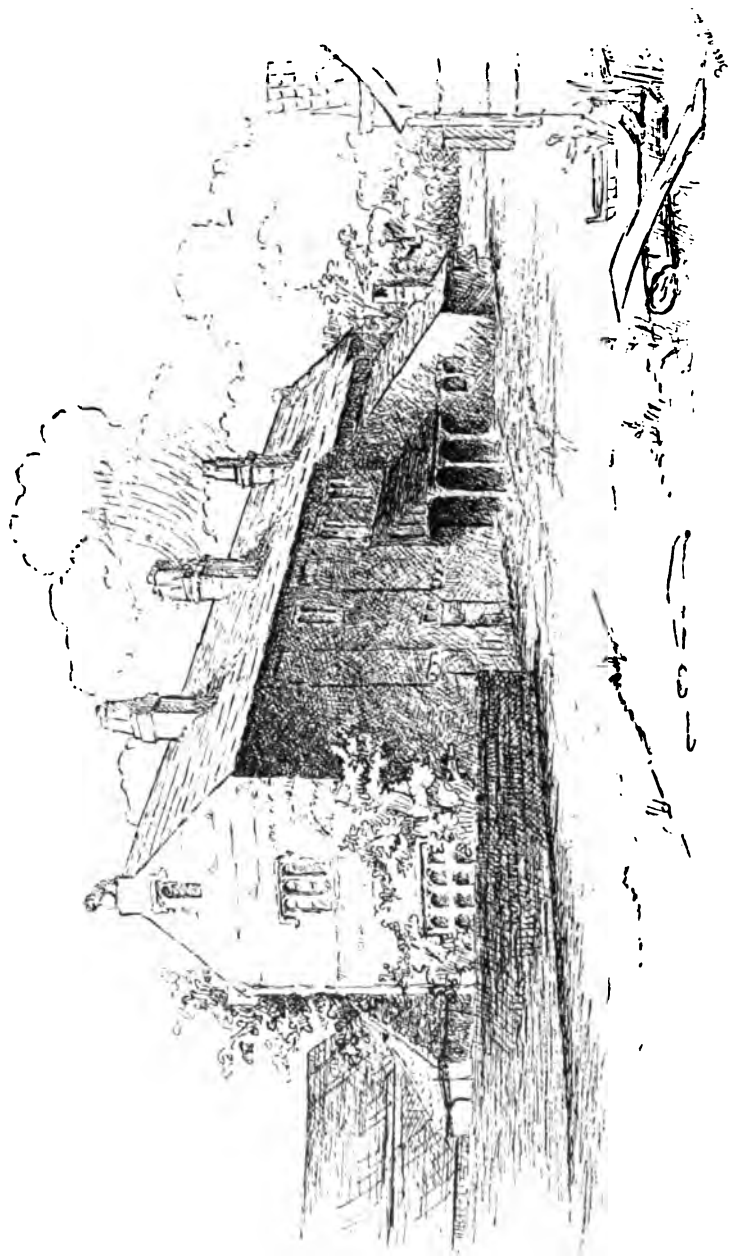
In the year 1673, Philip, Lord Wharton, had settled upon the marriage of his eldest surviving son, Thomas, the fifth Lord Wharton and first Marquis, with Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Lee, Bart.,* the manors of Healaugh in the county of the city of York, called the

* *Vide* Schedule of Papers in Trustees' Book, communicated by the Rev Bryan Dale, M.A.

Old Manor and the rectory of Healaugh, and the advowson of the vicarage there, and the tithes of corn, grain and hay, and other tithes, &c., within the parish or precincts of Healaugh. The Marquis died in 1715, when the manor and estate of Healaugh were subsequently purchased by Stamp Brooksbank, Esq., of Hackney, Middlesex. He was of an old Nonconformist family of Elland, near Halifax, Yorkshire, and was baptised at the Independent Chapel, Stepney, in 1694, and became a Governor of the Bank of England and M.P. for Colchester and Saltash. In 1747 he was appointed a trustee of Lord Wharton's Bible Charity, at which time he resided at Hackney. His father, Joseph Brooksbank, who married Mary Stamp, of Reading, was also the founder of a Bible Charity, he having in 1712 given certain property in trust "to pay £10 yearly for the teaching of 40 poor children at Elland, and £30 for the distribution of Bibles." This charity was afterwards supplemented by a provision made by his son Joseph for a schoolmaster, and £10 a year to the Protestant Dissenting minister there. The Brooksbanks still own the Healaugh estate.

The village of Healaugh, only 80 feet above sea level, lies warm and sheltered in a picturesque, well-wooded district. Almost every house has a large garden in front, prettily stocked with flowers and fruit-trees. Standard roses may sometimes be found in nice bloom here when the blustering winds and night frosts of "chill October" have blighted every flower in the higher parts of the dale.

Near the vicarage is the stump of an old cross, having a square base and octagonal shaft, and a little to the north-east of the church are the remains of an old castle or manor-house, the same apparently, referred to by Leland in the following note (about 1538): "From Helagh Priory scant a mile to Helagh village. There I saw great ruins of an ancient manor-place of stone, with a fair woodid park therby, that 'longed to the Erl of Northumberland. It was as far as I can perceive sumtyme the Hagets lande." This old-time antiquary also speaks of the country between Healaugh and York as "meetyly woody" and "fruitful of corn and grass."



THE OLD MANOR FARM, HEALAUGH.

CHAPTER XXXII.

HEALAUGH PRIORY.

An alien Priory - The present manor-house erected from the conventual buildings
 An Early-English Chapel—Early records of the Priory--Timber used in its
 erection brought from Idle—Appropriation of Healaugh Church—Local
 families—The 15th century vicarage—The Dissolution and sale of the estate.



IT is now difficult to form any correct idea of the plan and extent of this once stately religious house. It was originally founded in the 12th or early 13th century as an alien hermitage or priory, connected with the great abbey of Marmoutier at Tours in France. The conventual buildings were in great part pulled down at the Dissolution and used in the erection of the existing 16th century manor-house, formerly the home of the Lords Wharton. It is now a farm house and in its original state must have been a very handsome and spacious building. The design is that of a quadrangle, the east side of which alone remains. It consists of two stories, having good square-headed windows, each of three lights, and the parapet above is embattled. The appended view of it is from an original sketch by Miss Cooke, sister of the present vicar of Healaugh.

There are remains of a large moat, enclosing about three acres, and within it is another house, erected about 1830; the two homesteads being known by the names respectively of the East and West Manor House. In the West Manor House there were formerly good evidences of an Early English chapel, but no traces of this are now visible. In the surrounding gardens many skeletons and other remains have been found, attesting probably the site of the Priory cemetery.

In 1203 the monks of Marmoutier disclaimed any right in the hermitage of Healaugh, whereupon a church was built to the honour of Saint John the Evangelist, and some religious were established here by Geoffery, son of Bertram Haget, the original founder. Some years later, about 1217, an Austin Priory, or house of regular Black Canons, was begun and in due time completed and endowed by Jordan de St. Maria and Alice, his wife, who was one of

the four sisters and co-heiresses of Geoffrey Haget.* Healaugh was her portion. The Priory was defined as situated in the wood or park, "towards the east, as the water runs from the bridge called Lairbrig to the passage anciently called Langwat." Placed about two miles north of Tadcaster and a mile south of the village of Healaugh, it is not unlikely that the site, partially cleared, was chosen by virtue of its early associations with the religious settlement of St. Heiu in the district in the 7th century. The Celtic monasteries did not consist of a single cell but of groups of cells or churches, often widely separated, as already explained on page 193. This was no doubt within Heiu's *lagh*, or jurisdiction, which seems to justify Father Haigh's deducing the existing name of Healaugh from this circumstance.

The possessions of the Priory lay principally in the neighbourhood of the house. But it is somewhat singular that in a district anciently so abundantly wooded, a large part of the timber used in the construction of the monastic buildings should have been transported from the neighbourhood of Idle, beyond Leeds, a distance of more than twenty miles. The canons evidently found themselves short, so enlisted the generosity of their friend and patron, Robert de Plumpton, who gave them all the timber they required for their church and choir out of his wood at Idle. His brother, Peter de Plumpton, who was one of the Barons who opposed King John, had given the advowson of the church of Cowthorpe to the Canons, a circumstance not noticed by Burton in the *Monasticon*. Robert's son Nigel de Plumpton, had a son and heir, Robert de Plumpton, who questioned the Canons' right to the said church, and eventually by charter dated at Healaugh in 1274-5, they released all their right and claim to the same. Among the witnesses to this release was Sir Stephen Waleuse, or Waleys, lord of the manor of Healaugh, whose heiress married Sir John Depeden.†

Sir John Depeden in 1391, and Elizabeth his wife, obtained the King's license to give the parochial church of Healaugh to the Canons *de Parco* (Helagh Park), and Richard le Scroop, Archbishop of York, in 1398 appropriated the same, and ordained that the said Prior and Convent, after they had possession of it, should receive the fruits thereof to their proper use, and then should sustain for ever out of the same, two of their canons regular in priests' orders, over and

* How long their descendants remained in the neighbourhood is uncertain, but the Hundred Rolls for 2nd Edward I. (1273) contain the entry of a plea against the Lady Nicholaa de St. Maria of obstructing the road between Healaugh and Wighill.

† See Plumpton *Cartulary*, No. 90.

above the number of five other priest canons regular of their house. These should celebrate daily divine service at St. John's altar, and St. Anne's, for the good estate of the said Sir John Depeden and Elizabeth, his wife, during their lives, and after their decease for their souls. And also they should celebrate their obits yearly on the days of their deaths, with exequies of the dead, commendation and solemn mass, in the choir of their conventual church, and on each of these obits distribute to the poor parishioners of the church 13d. The Archiepiscopal Register (1352 to 1426, page 146), continues this note with reference to the appropriation, as follows :

In recompence of the damage done to the Cathedral church of York, the Archbishop reserved out of the fruits thereof, to himself and successors, the annual pension of 6s. 8d. and to his Dean and Chapter 3s. 4d., payable by the said Prior and Convent at Pentecost, by equal portions. Furthermore he appointed and ordained, that there be in the parish church of Halagh, a perpetual vicar, who shall be one of the Canons of their Priory, and have cure of souls of the said parishioners, and celebrate all divine offices of the church, presentable by the said Prior and Convent to the Archbishop, to be instituted and admitted upon every vacation ; which said vicar canon, for the time being shall have and receive for his portion, his victuals, clothing, and other necessaries entirely, as much as any other canon of their Priory has allowed to him, and £1 over and above the same, payable by the said Prior and Convent at Martinmas and Pentecost yearly. And as to the burdens ordinary and extraordinary, incumbent on the church, the said Prior and Convent shall bear them for ever ; and also shall distribute among the poor of the parish 3s. 4d. per annum, out of the fruits of the church.*

But in 1425 the Dean and Chapter, ordered that the vicar by virtue of the above ordination of his portion, shall have instead £5 at Pentecost and Martinmas, and " he shall also have for his habitation that house or place in Helagh with half of the garden on the east side of the town, which the Prior and Convent had assigned to the vicar before." And the Prior and Convent shall build to the said house, with six posts for kitchen and stable, and shall cause to be made to the vicar's use likewise, a draw-well, and a way to it. And with this portion the vicar shall be content, and receive no fruits, profits, oblations, or emoluments, appertaining to the church.† Burton cites the donations to the Priory, and the Priors had also the right of fishing in the Wharfe.‡

Among the testamentary burials within the precincts of the Priory occur the names of Sir Stephen Waleys in 1347; Sir Brian Stapleton, lord of Wighill in 1394: Sir John Depeden, lord of Healaugh manor,

* *Register of Archbishop Henry Bowet*, page 23.

† *Regist. Vacat. Archiep. Ebor.*, A.D. 1297 to 1554.

‡ *Vide Mon. Ebor.* (1758), pp. 281-4; see also *Surtees*, vol. 49, page 26, and *Mr. Chetwynd-Stapylton's Stapeltons of Yorkshire*, page 173, &c.

1402, and John Russell, rector of Harworth in 1477. Sir Brian Stapleton, sometime about 1350, had married the Lady Alice, widow of the above Sir Stephen Waleys, of Healaugh, who was daughter and coheirss of Sir John St. Philibert. When the poll tax was levied in 1378 he was living in his wife's dower-house at Healaugh, near the church; the building, perhaps, that is mentioned by Leland. He with his wife, is taxed at 20s., and his son, Sir Miles Stapleton with his wife was also living at Healaugh at the same time. Sir Miles had married the rich heiress, Joanna, relict of William Brecknells, and daughter of Sir Gerard Usflete, by Lora, sole heiress of the second branch of the Lords Furnival, of Worksop.

At the Dissolution it is recorded there were 14 canons in the Priory, and the net revenue was £72 10s. 7d. The site, with buildings, was granted in 1539 to James Gage, and in the same year license was granted to the said James Gage to alienate the same to Sir Arthur Darcy, Kt. According to the Patent Rolls of 32nd Henry VIII., the latter on Dec. 1st (1540), had license to alienate the Priory, with its appurtenances, to Sir Thomas Wharton, whose family continued in possession until the sale of the manor and estate of Healaugh to the Brooksbanks about 1715.

The Chartulary of Healaugh is among the *Cotton MSS.* Vesp. A.iv. in the British Museum. The first few folios contain entries of the election of Priors, the body of the volume being filled with various grants of lands to the Priory, for the record of which I am unable to find space.





REMAINS OF CASTLE, NEWTON KYME.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

NEWTON KYME.

Picturesque aspects—The old castle—"Black Tom's" well—Early history—Family of De Kyme—Reputed descent of Robin Hood from the lords of Kyme—Family of Talbois—Local families in the 14th century—The manor obtained by the Fairfaxes in 1602—Their long residence at Newton Kyme—Admiral Robert Fairfax—Records of the church—The rectors—Description of the church—The church-plate—The old churchyard—Descent of the manor—The Hall rebuilt The avenue in the park—Former aspects of the Hall—The arms of Queen Elizabeth, and autograph at Newton Kyme.



RARELY can we claim for Old England a fairer shrine of rural beauty than that which lies about the quiet domain of Newton Kyme! The handsome old Hall in its ancestral park, the ruins of the ancient castle of the Kymes, the venerable church, hallowed with the history of the ages, the pleasant rectory, mantled over with blossoming greenery, and the quiet fields and lanes that lie around them are full of a wholesome charm.

In the bright sunshine of a summer's day, how sweet and restful it is to feel the influence of such a rural spot as this, away from the bustle and grime of town, the hurry and rush of the crowded street! We stand awhile beneath the tall spreading trees which cast their shadows over the smooth verdure of lawn or gravelly path, while no sound breaks the wonted tranquillity of the place save the sombre cooing of doves or the hum of bees among the flowers. About us far extends the well-wooded park, with well-kept lawns and paths, stately trees and luxuriant gardens, too, gay with myriads of bloom, the whole giving to the place such an air of privacy that one feels something of an intruder in approaching even the time-honoured House of God.

The old castle or manor-house of the Kymes still stands, a long crumbled fragment near the present Hall. The following lines from the great Lord Fairfax's poem on *Solitude* might fitly apply to this deserted place :

These ancient ruinated towers,
 'Gainst which the giants did of old
 With insolence employ their powers.
 Now satires here their sabath kepe,
 And spirits which our sense inspire
 With frightening dreams whilst we doe sleep.
 In thousand chinks and dusty holes
 Lie ugly bats and scritchinge owles !

* * * * *

And harths, that once were used for fires,
 Now shaded o'er with scratchinge bryers.

The ruins, of which I present a view from Mr. Hepworth's photograph,* have an early pointed doorway and the walls are of great thickness, in one place they are 4 feet 7 inches, and these well attest the original strong character of the building. The principal remains consist of an outer wall about 25 feet high, containing two pointed windows. The buildings have extended a good way southwards, and have been enclosed with a moat, which appears to have included the church also. A considerable portion of the moat has been preserved to the south of the Hall and church. The top stone of a large quern or stone hand-mill, found among the ruins, may also be seen here.

Below the castle is *Black Tom's Well*, a curious, low, dark building covering an ancient well, which is approached through a passage of stout masonry, having an arched roof. Whether the well has ever been within the old castle courtyard, or has had any sacred associations with the church, which is not far away, no one now knows. When I visited the place some years ago, I was told that "Black Tom" Fairfax had once hid himself in this watery vault when he was being closely pursued, and that old people had often heard uncanny sounds there, and they even averred that Black Tom's ghost haunted the place.† A large block of freestone forming the lintel of the entrance to the old well is inscribed with the family motto: FARE ✠ FAC.

The history of Newton Kyme goes back far into the past, although I have already disproved its claim to be the *Calcaria* of the Romans. Its annals properly commence with the Conquest, and the *Domesday* inquest tells us that there were four manors and berewicks in Togleston (Toulston), Neuueton (Newton Kyme), and Oglestorp

* All the views illustrating this chapter have been specially taken for this work by Mr. George Hepworth, of Brighouse.

† I have heard the same doubt cast upon the last resting place of bold Tom Fairfax as upon that of his great compeer Cromwell. No one, the knowing country-folk tell you, can say positively that "Black Tom" was buried at Bilbrough, although his tomb there distinctly records that the bodies of himself and wife lie beneath it.

(Oglethorpe), where four thanes had seven carucates and seven bovates of land for geld. Also there were five manors and berewicks in Newton and Oglestun where five thanes had three carucates of land for geld. The whole of these lands were given to Osbern de Arches, lord also of Thorp Arch, and were subfeud by him to one Fulk, son of Reinfrid (first Prior of Whitby), and sewer to Alan de Perci. Fulk, on these previous nine holdings, employed 12 villanes with 3 ploughs, and he had also himself 2 ploughs and 24 acres of meadow and the site of one mill. He died about 1125. Robert son of Fulk, of Newton, by his wife Adeliza de St. Quintin (founder of



THE OLD TITHE BARN, NEWTON KYME.

Nun Appleton Priory), had a son Robert Dapifer, who married Roesia, Countess of Lincoln, and whose two daughters, coheirresses, married two brothers, William and Simon de Kyme. The powerful Count of Mortain had also soke of one carucate in Newton belonging to his manor of Bramham, a claim no doubt based on some pre-existing holding.

By these descents the manor of Newton came thus early to the family of De Kyme. William de Kyme, grandson of the above Simon and Roesia, daughter of Robert Dapifer, married Matilda, daughter of William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, and was coheirress of

her mother Sybill, coheiress of her brother, and daughter of William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, a house greatly distinguished in the peerage of England. Robert the Dapifer, and Roesia, wife of Simon de Kyme, were benefactors to Sallay Abbey, and Philip de Kyme, their son and heir, appears as witness to a charter granting the monks of Sallay certain property and rights in their manor of Ilkley. Simon de Kyme died about 1220, and the manor of Newton descended to William de Kyme, who died in 1260. The latter had subfeud much of the property at Newton, and at the time of his death the following were his tenants there, viz.: Hugh de Brinkel, John de Oycombe, Elias, son of William the clerk, John Broket, and John Clerk. Lucy, his widow, was living in 1268-9.* Philip de Kyme, probably a son of William and Lucy, was Lord of Newton Kyme in 1284-5. The said William de Kyme had also an estate at Newton in Craven (Bank Newton in the parish of Gargrave), where William de Katherton held of him in 1260, four carucates of land, and at the same time Ralph Darel held at Elslack in Craven two carucates of the said William de Catherton, and he of William de Kyme. In 1315 Simon de Kyme held the manor of Newton Kyme of the family of Brus. Philip, lord of Kyme, was trained to arms and bore himself bravely in the wars of the first Edward. He was with the famous Sir William de Rither (*see* page 66) at the siege of Carlaverock (1299), and his shield was "rouge un chevron de or croissillie tot environ," that is red with a chevron of gold surrounded with crosslets.† The Kymes were large landowners in Lincolnshire, and in Dr. Stukeley's *Paleographia Britannica* (ii., 115), is a pedigree of Robert Fitzooth (commonly called Robin Hood), pretended Earl of Huntingdon (died 1274), shewing his descent from these lords of Kyme.‡

On the death of the second Baron de Kyme in 1338, the heiress of the Kymes married into the family of Umfraville, Earls of Angus, through whom the manor of Newton Kyme passed also by marriage to the Talbois. Sir Henry Talbois, Kt., was lord of Kyme, co. Lincoln, in right of his wife, Alianora, daughter and heiress of Gilbert de Burdon by Elizabeth his wife, sister and heiress to Gilbert de Umfraville, and niece and heiress of William de Kyme. He

* *See writ touching the mill of Newton-upon-Querffe, 53rd Henry III., Yorks. Inquisit. vol. i., page 106.*

† *See Nicolas's Siege of Carlaverock in the xxviii. Edward I., with the Arms of the Earls, Barons, and Knights, who were present on the occasion, with a Translation, a History of the Castle and Memoirs of the Personages commemorated by the Poet (1828).*

‡ *See also Ritson's Robin Hood, page xxviii.*

died in 1369, and was succeeded by his son Sir William Talbois, Kt., who died seized of various lordships, including the manor of Newton Kyme, 1417.* His grandson, Sir William Talbois, Kt., lord of Hephale, and Otterburn, Northumberland, Hurworth-on-Tees, Newton Kyme, &c., sided with the house of Lancaster during the Wars of the Roses. He was in action at Towton but escaped with his life and was attainted 1st Edward IV. (1461). He died in 1464. His lands being confiscated the manor of Newton Kyme was granted to Brian Talbot.† Sir William died in 1464, and his younger son,



ADMIRAL ROBERT FAIRFAX.

Sir Robert Talbois, died in 1494. He was seized of the manor and advowson of Newton Kyme, worth 20 marks, which he held of Sir Thomas Metham, Kt.; likewise six acres of meadow in Uskell, worth 8s., held of the same, and he gave these lands to the Bishops of Durham and Lichfield, to perform his last will.‡ George Talbois,

* See *Harl. MSS.*, 54 G., 22.

† *Vide MSS.* at Bilbrough Hall.

‡ *Vide Cal. Inquis p.m.*, 10th Henry VII

then aged 28, was his son and heir. He married a daughter of Sir William Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe (Harewood).

The old manor-house or castle of the Kymes had now long ceased to be occupied, and for a long period no family of note resided at Newton Kyme. In 1378 there were 18 married couples and 14 single adults living within the township, evidently upon farms, for all of them paid the agricultural tax of 4d. each. There was no lord or squire resident here at that time.

In 1602 Lord Burleigh transferred the manor and estate to Sir Thomas Fairfax, of Denton, and in 1609 Sir Thomas again conveyed them to Sir Philip Fairfax, of Steeton, who died in 1613, and with whose descendants the property remained for 275 years. The Fairfaxes, observés Sir Clements Markham, were descended from the Talbois and Kymes; Sir William Fairfax's mother, Lady Frances Sheffield, was a daughter of the Earl of Mulgrave, by Ursula, daughter of Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, and Sir Robert's grandmother was Maud, daughter of Sir Robert Talbois, of Newton Kyme, and so descended from the Burdons, Umfravilles, and Kymes.

From 1630 to 1641 the Rev. Henry Fairfax was rector of Newton Kyme.* Undisturbed by the commotions of the Civil War, his quiet home became "a refuge and a sanctuary to all his friends and relations." Here, too, he was occasionally visited by his old college friend, the "gentle Christian poet and parish priest," George Herbert. Good parson Fairfax was younger son of the first Lord, and he afterwards became rector of Bolton Percy. He was succeeded at the rectory of Newton Kyme by the Rev. Thomas Clapham, and afterwards by the Rev. Nicholas Rymer, who died in 1725, and who had married Frances Fairfax, against the wish of her father, the fourth Lord Fairfax. The old manor-house and rectory must have been very dear to the Fairfaxes, where generations of them were born, and where happy days of childhood and youth were passed, carrying with them in times of estrangement memories of the beautiful old Wharfedale homes.

It was in the same dear old manor-hall at Newton Kyme that the Admiral, Robert Fairfax, was born in 1666, and where he passed the first years of his life. Says Sir Clements Markham, "in the summer he made hay with his brothers and sisters, in his mother's rich pasture fields; in the winter he found amusement on the frozen floods of the "Ings." Mr. Clapham taught him the first rudiments of learning, and his mother instilled into him the principles of religion. But he appears to have been of a roving disposition, and was no doubt fonder of the boat moored to a stake at the end of the garden

* See *Add. MSS.*, 1795-6, British Museum.

than of his books at the rectory."* A portrait of him as a young man, for a long time hung in the rooms of the Hall, and is reproduced on page 367.

The Rev. Nicholas Gyrling succeeded Mr. Rymer at the rectory in 1725 (the year that Admiral Fairfax died), and he died in 1767, at the age of 92. He was a good classical scholar and great reader, and had collected a large number of valuable books at the rectory. These he left to Thomas Fairfax, the Admiral's son. He also left money for recasting the three ancient bells of the church. His successor was the Rev. Guy Fairfax, grandson of the Admiral, who was born in 1725 and died in 1794 while performing service in the



THE RECTORY, NEWTON KYME.

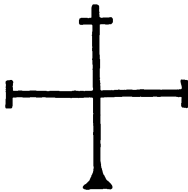
church. It was he who built the present rectory-house, and the faculty authorising its reconstruction is dated 5th December, 1768. Subsequently the Rev. E. Duncombe, rector, greatly improved the house and added the kitchen wing, and he also restored the old tithe barn, illustrated on page 365.

In Pope Nicholas' Taxation (1291), the church is valued at £13 6s. 8d., and in the King's Books at £14. In the Parliamentary Survey (ca. 1650), the impropriate rectory is stated to be worth £50 per annum, and to belong to General Lord Fairfax. A portion of

* *Vide Life of Robert Fairfax, page 40.*

tithes, worth £10 per annum, called St. Mary's tithes, are said to belong to William Jackson, of Leeds. The patronage continued with the Fairfax family until 1884. It is now held by the representatives of the late Samuel Varley, Esq. Torre supplies a catalogue of the rectors, to which I may add the name of Elyas, *clericus*, of Newton (Kyme), who was one of a jury sworn to try a case of trespass on lands belonging to Roger le Peytevin, 53rd Henry III. 1269.* The late respected incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Chaloner, was succeeded in 1894 by the present active rector, the Rev. Henry Toovey, M.A. (Oxon.). In the cause of religious education he has rendered good service as Diocesan Inspector of Schools for the Archdeaconry of York, an appointment which he has held since 1879. He is also chaplain to Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, and was installed a Canon of York Minster, January 25th, 1899. Canon Toovey is a native of Wiltshire, and was curate of Helmsley in Ryedale from 1868 to 1870, and from 1870 to 1880 he was vicar of Ingleby Greenhow.

The interesting old church is dedicated to St. Andrew, an ancient ascription in the North of England, which some have supposed due to Scottish influence across the border. This inference is, however, scarcely likely, as the dedications to St. Andrew in the northern counties are quite 50 per cent. below the average of the rest of England. Moreover St. Andrew's, Hexham, was so named by its seventh century founder, St. Wilfrid.†



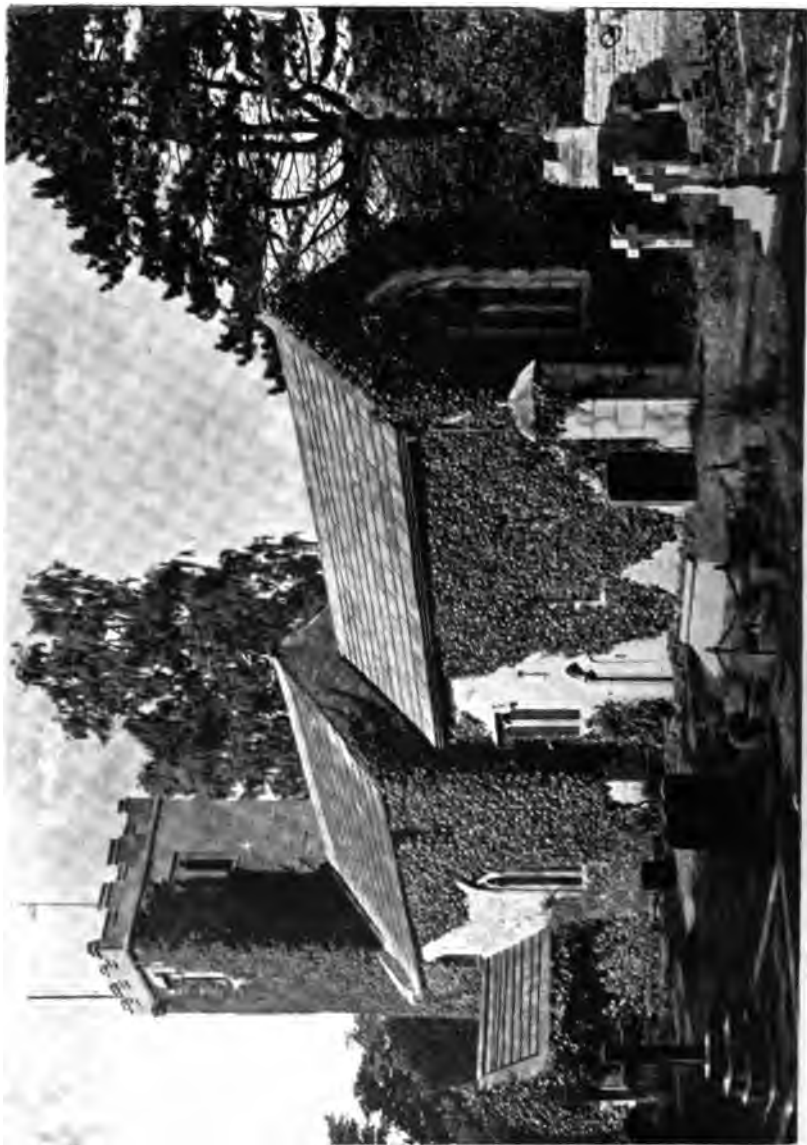
A small cross possibly a consecration-cross (of rare occurrence in Yorkshire),‡ appears on the right side of the porch on entering the church at Newton Kyme. It is incised in the stone, and is one inch long and the same in width, as represented on the annexed cut. Above it is a small canopied niche, nine by five inches, containing a rude sculpture in relief of the Virgin and Child. Adjoining this is a shield bearing the arms of Talbois, a saltire cross of St. Andrew, with three escallops in chief. On the left side of the porch appears a mutilated figure of the patron saint of the church, St. Andrew. There is also here a rude device of a St. Andrew's cross in relief, together with an incised representation of a boar's head with its snout pierced by an arrow. All these remarkable sculptures I judge to be of 14th century date.

The inner Decorated doorway is ornamented with a small four-leaved pattern and the hood-moulding is finished with a male and

* *Yorks. Inquisit.*, vol. i., page 110.

† See Miss Arnold-Forster's *Studies in Church Dedications*.

‡ In this part of Yorkshire the only other consecration crosses known to the writer are at Spofforth and Collingham churches.



NEWTON KYME CHURCH

female head, presumably of the builder or patron and his wife. The interior comprises a chancel and nave with north aisle. There is, too, a west tower, which prior to the restoration of 1894 was so thickly covered with ivy, that scarcely any portion of the masonry, with the belfry windows, was visible. The excessive growth of the ivy had also obscured other features of the building, including a small arched recess above the priest's door in the chancel, which has no doubt at some time contained an effigy. The restoration inside likewise brought to light another interesting feature, namely, an opening or "squint," about 18 inches deep, commanding a view of the high altar from the west side of the Hall Chapel. It had been



NEWTON KYME HALL.

bricked up and plastered, evidently for a considerable period. Some mutilation of the column at the west end of the aisle had also been made by the erection of a gallery, now happily removed. This column consists of two engaged shafts with plain capitals and square abacus. The other two columns separating nave and aisle are octagonal, and carry semi-circular arches all chamfered. The chancel arch is lofty and pointed. Within the chancel are two Early English windows, having pointed heads and broad inner splays. Beneath the south light is a flat-headed piscina, and a sedilia of two seats, divided by a circular shaft, detached, moulded, and on a square base.

West of these is another pointed light ; but not so deeply splayed as the others named. Adjoining is the ancient priest's door, which shews on the outside marks like old arrow-grooves.

The east window, in the Decorated style, consists of three beautiful stained lights, having trefoil-heads and quatrefoils in the intersections above. In the chancel is a coat-of-arms in stone (Barwick empaled with Strickland), and there are numerous memorials here and in the nave of the Fairfaxes and other families. The Fairfax or Hall chapel, which is separated from the choir on the north side by a nearly round arch of considerable span, contains many other family memorials. Among them is a lengthy inscription to Admiral Robert Fairfax, previously referred to, who died at Newton Kyme in 1725, in his 60th year.

The east window of this chapel contains three beautiful coloured lights, and commemorates (1) Louisa Emma Lane-Fox, wife of the Hon. Chas. Lane-Fox, who died in 1870, aged 32 ; (2) Thos. Fairfax, who died in 1875, aged 71 ; (3) Isabel Augusta, wife of Edward A. York, of Hutton Hall. She died in 1875, aged 32. In the windows of this chapel, as well as in those of the north aisle, are various fragments of ancient coloured glass, some with shields of arms, &c. One of the stained windows is a memorial to the Rev. John Chaloner, rector, and his wife, parents of the late rector, the Rev. J. W. Chaloner, who was instituted in 1851 and died in 1894. The font (Norman) is a plain circular bowl, its external circumference 7 feet 2 inches, and thickness 3 inches. The edge is chamfered. The base is modern. The church plate consists of the following pieces : (1) a large silver chalice, the gift of Robert Fairfax, Esq., inscribed, *Calicam salutis accipiam et nomen Domini invocabile* ; (2) a small silver chalice, inscribed, *Ex dono Elizabethæ Marshall, viduæ, de Newton Kyme, ad ecclesiam ibidem. Obiit 29th Die Octobris, Anno Dni, 1708* ; (3) a large silver paten, on the edge of which appears, *Deo et Altari de Newton* (then the arms of Fairfax), *Kyme, D.D.D., F.F., 1704* ; (4) a small silver paten, inscribed round the middle of it, "The gift of Robert Fairfax, Esq., to the Church of Newton Kyme in Yorkshire, 1704," and on the under side, *Quid tibi retribuam Domine pro omnibus misericordius tuis 1704.*

In the venerable tree-shaded churchyard there remains the stump of an old cross, and there are several ancient floriated cross-slabs. The following note respecting the churchyard I find preserved among the parish papers :

This is to certify that during the incumbency of the Rev. Edward Duncombe, Thomas Fairfax, Esq., did alter the churchyard wall on the north side of the Parish Church of Newton Kyme, and did take unto his pleasure-grounds about

200 square yards of consecrated ground and that the boundary-stones to the said ground were in existence on 25th June, 1872, and finding upon looking at the Tithe Map that there is an error in the said Map, it being made to appear that the above-mentioned consecrated ground belongs to T. Fairfax, Esq., I think it my duty as the present Rector of the Parish to attach this Memorandum to the Tithe Map or place it in the Iron Chest containing the Parish Registers.

JOHN WILLIAM CHALONER,

June 28th, 1872.

Rector of Newton Kyme.

On the death of William Fairfax at Steeton, in 1695, his brother Robert, the Admiral, became possessed of the estates at Steeton and Newton Kyme. The old manor-house at Steeton was, however, abandoned, and Newton Kyme henceforward became the family home.



AVENUE IN THE PARK, NEWTON KYME.

The story of the Admiral's life has been well told by Sir Clements Markham. The Admiral's name will always be memorable in connection with the capture of Gibraltar by the English in 1704; he was also present at the battle of Malaga and at the siege of Barcelona. An Order Book belonging to him is preserved at Bilbrough, and it contains autographs of the principal Admirals of the reign of Queen Anne, including Sir George Rooke, Sir Cloudsley Shovel, Sir John Leeke, &c., and also of Prince George of Denmark.

Having about 1711 given up his naval career, Admiral Fairfax settled in Yorkshire. In 1713 he was elected M.P. for York, and he was some time Lord Mayor of that city. He made many improve-

ments on the family estate at Newton Kyme. In 1712 he obtained from Lord Fairfax at Denton, a number of young lime tress, which he planted in a double row from the Tadcaster highroad in a straight line to the Hall, and these trees form the noble avenue still existing across the park.* Formerly this avenue was the principal approach to the house, but it was long ago abandoned and the way throughout its length is now covered with the same rich sward that distinguishes the park.

Robert, son of Thomas Fairfax, and grandson of the Admiral, built the school at Newton Kyme in 1787. He died unmarried in 1803, aged 71. The school is supported by money derived from the original endowment of 17 acres of land at Bilbrough, and now vested in the Funds in the names of the Charity Commissioners and the rector. Lady Ursula Barwick, whose daughter and eventual heiress, married the fourth Lord Fairfax, also left money to purchase land to provide for a weekly distribution of bread in the church, and also for apprenticing poor children of Newton Kyme. She died in 1682, aged 81, and Mr. Corlase preached her funeral sermon, commending her for piety, humility, and charity. She was a daughter of Walter Strickland, and sister of Sir William Strickland, Bart., and she married Sir Robert Barwick, who died at Toulston in 1660. A monument to Sir Robert and Lady Barwick is recorded by Torre as being in the church at Newton Kyme, but it is not now there.

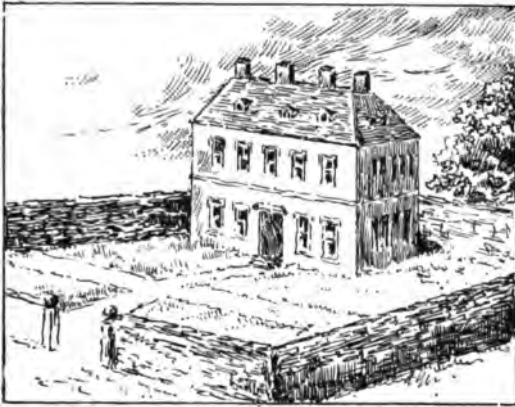
The bread dole is still distributed, but the old cupboard in the church, in which the bread was kept, is no longer used, being now concealed by the organ.

Admiral Fairfax built the new Hall, and placed the shield of arms of Queen Elizabeth above the entrance, which also bears her initials at the upper angles. This east end of the present enlarged mansion, was sketched by Warburton in 1718, and is here reproduced from the original in the British Museum. The south front, built by Thomas L. Fairfax, Esq., has a handsome portico formed by a colonnade of Ionic columns, and since Warburton's time additions have also been made on the north side, giving this side a much longer frontage than that shown in his sketch. The Hall for some years past has been tenanted by the Misses Bethell.

The arms of Queen Elizabeth on the Hall, were, perhaps, placed there to commemorate the Queen's visit to the neighbourhood in 1572. The good Bishop of Carlisle, Dr. Owen Oglethorpe, was a native of the parish, and on the refusal of Dr. Heath, Archbishop of York, to act at the Queen's coronation, Bishop Oglethorpe performed the ceremony. He was subsequently deprived of his See

* *Notes and Queries*, vols. v., page 490, and vi. (1852), page 111.

for adhering to the Roman Catholic religion. There is preserved at the rectory a rare old Commentary, dated 1534, which is always included amongst the belongings of the rectory of Newton Kyme, and which it is not improbable was a gift from the Queen, at the time of her coronation, to Bishop Oglethorpe, who may have left it to his native parish. It has been suggested in an early part of this work (page 40) that the old Commentary may have been presented on the occasion of the Queen's visit. But it must have been before



NEWTON KYME HALL IN 1718.

this time, as Bishop Oglethorpe died in 1560. On the fly-leaf of the book is the Queen's signature, apparently her own autograph, the form of the letters being identical with her well-known writing, although the letters do not display the vain and inordinate flourishes so characteristic of her later years. The signature is noteworthy, and a tracing which I have been permitted to make of it is here reproduced.

Elizabeth

CHAPTER XXXIV.

OGLETHORPE.

Antiquity of Oglethorpe - Parcel of the lordship of Bramham and Newton Kyme—Ancient family of Oglethorpe—The 12th century homestead—Some notable scions of the family—Bishop Owen Oglethorpe—He built Headley Hall—The Brandesby family—Pedigree of Bishop Oglethorpe—The family property—The founder of Georgia—General Oglethorpe's antecedents—Arms of Oglethorpe—Oglethorpe acquired by the Fairfaxes—Oglethorpe Hall two centuries ago—Recent history.



ABOUT half-a-mile south-west of Newton Kyme station stands Oglethorpe Hall, now a large and valuable farm, which for the past three generations has been in the occupation of the Wright family. Although little or nothing has been recorded of this place, its history goes back into distant centuries, and around it cluster memories of departed greatness. For more than five centuries Oglethorpe continued the residence of a family of the same name, until fortune was denied them, and ruin fell upon their house for their loyalty in the unhappy wars of King Charles' time.

Oglethorp, or Ocelestorp and Oglestorp as it appears in *Domesday*, had long before the Conquest been parcel of the lordship of Bramham, and its inhabitants owed suit to the lords of that manor. But, as related in the history of Newton Kyme, there was also an undefined quantity of land in Oglethorpe appurtenant to that manor held of the family of De Arches. Nostell Priory subsequently acquired a small estate in Oglethorpe which was given to the canons by Ralph [Ryther], son of John de Touton, and confirmed to them in 8th Edward I. (1280).* The earliest mention of the famous family that derived its patronymic from the place, is of one who is said to have been reeve in the county of York at the time of the Conquest. The next record of the name which I have met with is in the person of one William de Occllethorp, who with Ranulph de Rigton and William de Withetuna (Weeton), and others, appears as a witness to a charter of William de Paganel granting land in Cookridge to Kirkstall Abbey, A.D. 1172.†

* *Vide Rot. Hund.*, 2nd Edward I. † *Thoresby Soc. Pub.*, vol. iv., page 263.

The home or farm-hold of the family is mentioned shortly after this time, and also in 1282 when Nicholas de Okelestorp pleads against Peter de Mauley (Malolacu) and John de Reygate, that they and the Abbot of St. Mary's, York, and the Prior of Nostell should permit him to have the common of pasture in Bramham which belongs to his free tenement in Okelstorp.* Nicholas claimed his farm as freehold, but by what license is not stated. Two or three generations before, his family were certainly in bondage to the Stutevilles, for in a charter of the first year of King John (1199) that monarch confirmed to William de Stuteville, Bramham, with the appurtenances, and with the essarts of the gift of Ranulph de Glanville and of William Paganel, together with the services of certain tenants, including the service of William de Oglethorpe of the whole tenement which he held of William Fossard in Bramham and in Oglethorpe.† It would, however, appear that his land in Oglethorpe had by 1282 become freehold, and the family having been enfranchised was consequently in a position of honourable standing at this early date. And with respect to the above Nicholas, it is stated in the inquisition p.m. of Nicholaus fil Domini Anketini Malore that Nicholaa, wife of Nicholas de Oclestorp' and Sarra, wife of William de Glenton' and two others, are his next heirs and are of full age.‡

The head of the family was evidently living at Oglethorpe in 1378 when the capitation tax was levied for carrying on the war with France. Johannes de Okilsthorp, *marchaunt*, and his wife, were rated at 2s., being the second highest taxpayers in the township of Bramham-cum-Okelstorp. Sir Thomas Oglethorpe was curate of Bilbrough in 1506, and he is probably the same person who was rector of Ryther from 1506-13. His will is dated 3rd Nov. 1513. One of the family became vicar of Bramham and in 1510 he is charged with neglecting the duties of his office. It is stated that "ye chauntre is not occupied nor servyd as it aght to be by parson Oglethorpe," and moreover he "hays beyne absent fro his benefys a yer and more."§

The exact relationship of Bishop Owen Oglethorpe, with the parson of Bramham, I have not been fortunate enough to discover. He is stated in the *Dictionary of National Biography* to be a son of Owen Oglethorpe, but it is more probable he was the third son of George Oglethorpe, of Newton Kyme, and was born there about the year

* *De Banco*, 10th Edw. I., m. 32.

† *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Archal. Inst. at York* in 1846, page 119.

‡ *Rot. Fin.*, 4th Edw. I. in *Calend. Geneal.*, vol. i., page 221.

§ *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, page 266.

1500, was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford; B.A. in 1524; Fellow in 1526; M.A. 1529; D.D. in 1536, and was made President of his College in 1550, Canon and Dean of Windsor, and in 1557 Bishop of Carlisle. As previously recorded he officiated at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1558, and was deprived of his see for refusing the oath of supremacy in May, 1559. He built Headley Hall, now a good farm house on the east side of Bramham Moor, afterwards a seat of the Winns, one of whom, Sir George Winn, in 1797, was created in the peerage of Ireland, Lord Headley, Baron Allanson and Winn. The house, situated in the midst of a large and well-cultivated estate, is conspicuous from the Leeds and Tadcaster highroad, opposite Headley Bar, and is still the property of Lord Headley.

Bishop Oglethorpe died Dec. 31st, 1559, and was interred in the church of St. Dunstan, Fleet Street. In the Calendar of State Papers, there appears a letter, dated from London, Sept. 27th, 1550, from Wm. Turner to Sir Wm. Cecil (Lord Burleigh), praying to be preferred to the Presidentship of Magdalen College, Oxford, if the Archdeaconry of the East Riding of York, vacant by the death of Thomas Magnus, should be given to Dr. Oglethorpe. The latter, however, received the Presidentship, as stated.

From the Bishop's will,* proved in London, 15th May, 1560, it appears that his father had at least one brother, in all probability John, of Oglethorpe, whose son Robert was living at Rawdon, in 1585. This Robert, cousin to the Bishop, was one of the executors to the will. The descents of this branch of the family are recorded in the Visitation of 1612, and I have found a very similar pedigree amongst the Hailstone Papers in the Minster Library at York.

The family at Brandesby was also descended from John of Oglethorpe, as recorded in the Visitation of 1665. This John had Richard, of Oglethorpe, and a son Thomas, of Beale. The latter married a daughter of Vavasour, of Haselwood, and two sons are recorded of the marriage, William Oglethorpe, rector of Kellington, and Henry, of Beale, who married Eleanor, eldest daughter of Francis Percy, of Scotton, near Knaresbro', of the family of Percy, of Stubbs Walden.† Henry Oglethorpe by this marriage had two sons, Richard and Thomas. Of the latter it is recorded in the Calendar of State Papers, May 10th, 1579, that he has left Douay, and entered the English seminary at Rheims. He encloses in the letter addressed to his father, Henry, of Beale,—

* Printed in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xiv., pages 402-3.

† See Clay's *Addits. to Dugdale* (1894), page 28.

An Exhortation to his well-beloved uncle, Mr. William Oglethorpe, parson of Killington, advising him to consider his woeful and damnable case, to leave vice and follow virtue and honesty, whereby he may come to the eternal and everlasting Kingdom of Heaven.

This is scarcely the language one might have expected to find addressed by a young college student to his parent at home, and still less does it appear creditable to the moral status of the parson of Kellington.

The following descents (*see* page 380), compiled chiefly from his will, indicate Bishop Oglethorpe's immediate kindred.

From these particulars it appears that Bishop Oglethorpe had four brothers and four sisters, who lived to be upgrown. The Roundhay family held considerable property at Clifton, near Brighouse,* and they also succeeded to a good deal of property at Steeton in Craven, formerly held by Wm. Bevercotes, whose widow afterwards married Clement Oglethorpe. When the spendthrift Earl of Cumberland, lord of the honour of Skipton in Craven, sold a great part of his estates in 1599-1600, William, son of Clement Oglethorpe, bought from him the manor of Glusburn and one-fourth part of the manor of Steeton. These he soon afterwards disposed of, chiefly to the Garforths of Steeton Hall.

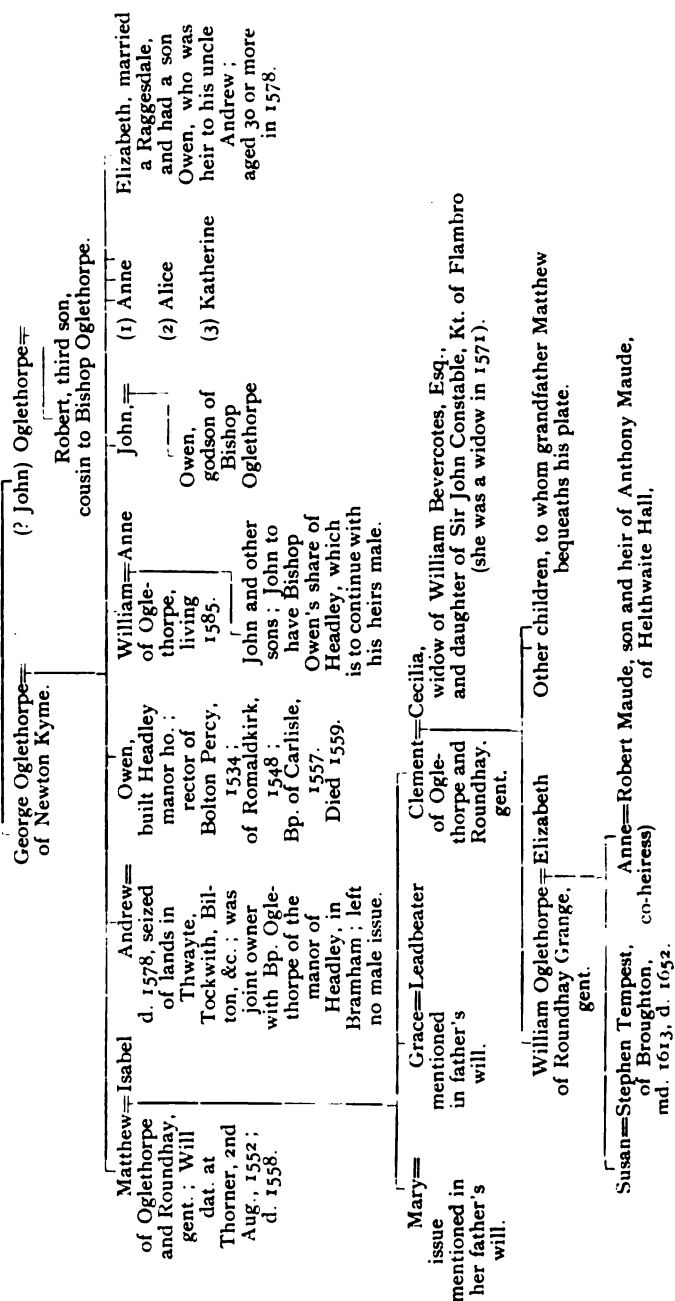
The descent of William Oglethorpe, of Oglethorpe, is given in the Visitation of Sir Wm. Dugdale (1665). He would appear to have been a younger brother of Bishop Oglethorpe, and was living in 1585. He married in 1580, Anne, daughter of Robt. Sotheby, Esq., of Pocklington, co. York (an alliance not given in the Visitation), and his arms: *argent a chevron between three boars' heads coupéd, sable*, are to be seen empaled with those of Sotheby, on a monument in Pocklington Church. From him descended the Oglethorpes who suffered so disastrously for their loyalty to King Charles during the Civil Wars, and also the distinguished General Oglethorpe, the colonist of Georgia, who was the third and youngest surviving son of Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, a native of Oglethorpe on the Wharfe, and afterwards of St. James's parish, London. A long account of him will be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He was 32 years M.P. for Haslemere. During the Jacobite conspiracy in 1745, he was suspected of covertly assisting the aims of the Young Pretender, and was eventually tried by court martial (Sept. 29th, 1746) but was acquitted.† His father, Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, was in 1681, Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Richmond, and married Eleanor Wall,‡ an Irish lady, who is frequently mentioned by Swift in the *Journal to*

* *See Yorks. Archl. Jl.*, vol. vi., page 78.

† *Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1900), page 346.

‡ *Ibid.*, page 49.

PEDIGREE OF BISHOP OGLETHORPE.



Stella. The pedigree on page 382 is taken from the Visitation of 1665, with additions continued to the time of the General's death in 1785. Soon after the birth of Sir Theophilus, in 1650, the family left Oglethorpe, after a residence there of probably not less than six centuries. On the sequestration of the estate after the Civil War, it was given to General Lord Fairfax, who sold it to Lord Bingley, and with whose descendants, now the Lane-Fox family, it is still vested.*

Upon their acquisition of Oglethorpe the Fairfaxes lived at the Hall some time. The Rev. Henry Fairfax, second son of Sir Thomas Fairfax, first Lord Fairfax, of Denton, removed from Bolton Percy to Oglethorpe in 1662, "and there," says Brian Fairfax, his son, "spent the remainder of his life in a pious and contented solitude." He died April 6th, 1665, aged 77.



OGLETHORPE HALL TWO CENTURIES AGO.

John Warburton, F.R.S., Somerset Herald, visited Oglethorpe in October, 1718, and made a rough sketch of the old Hall, which is here reproduced. He speaks of it as "belonging to Burnet, seated amongst trees." In this or the year previous it had been rented by Mr. Richard Waddington, of an old family long resident in the neighbourhood of Boston Spa. Mr. Waddington's grandfather, also named Richard, was married at Bardsey in February, 1625, but it is not known where he was born. It has been suggested that he may

* The arms of the Oglethorpe family, as recorded at the Visitation of 1665, are: argent, a chevron between three boars' heads coupé, sable. The arms of the Brandesby branch, entered at the same time, are: argent, a chevron engrailed between three boars' heads coupé, sable. But in the west window of the Founder's Chapel in Magdalen College, the arms of Bishop Oglethorpe are shewn thus: argent and sable a cross ermines and erm. counterchanged between four boars' heads, proper, each bearing in his mouth an oak branch, being empaled with the arms of the See of Carlisle. See also *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. ii., page 117.

PEDIGREE OF OGLETHORPE, OF OGLETHORPE, IN THE PARISH OF BRAMHAM.

William Oglethorpe=Anne, daughter of Robert Sotheby, Esq.,
of Oglethorpe, of Pocklington, co. York.
living in 1585.

William=Susan, daughter of John, died unmarried.
of Oglethorpe, Sir Wm. Sutton,
d. 1629. of Averham, Notts.

William= Frances, daughter of Anne Dorothy
of Oglethorpe, baptised at J. Mathew, son of
Bramham in 1612 Tobie Mathew, Arch-
bishop of York.

Sir Theophilus=Eleanor, daughter Ursula
of Bramham of R. Wall, aged 26 in Elizabeth, Ursula
in 1650; of Tipperary. Sept., of Rev. Arthur, son
md. before 1681, d. 1702. 1665. of Squire, of
of Rev. T. Escrick, co.
York.

James, Lewis, Theophilus, Sutton,
born M. P. for Haslemere, died young
1st June, died at the Hague. 32 years M. P. for
infancy. Haslemere.

General James Edward=Elizabeth, daughter of
bap. in London, 1696; Sir Nathan Wright.
died 1785;
founder of Georgia;
32 years M. P. for
Haslemere.

Aide-de-camp to
the Duke of
Ormond

have been the Richard Waddington, baptised at Gisburn in 1601, who belonged to the same family as Dr. Waddington, Bishop of Chichester (born in 1670), and that of Walter Waddington, of Waddington, whose daughter Alice married a Tempest, about the year 1260. A son of Mr. Richard Waddington continued to occupy the old Hall for about 40 years after the death of his father there in 1744.

Subsequently the house was taken by the Wright family, who have lived there during the greater part of last century. Mr. John Holmes, the well-known railway contractor, who built the North Eastern railway-bridge over the Wharfe between Newton Kyme and Thorp Arch, was uncle to Mr. Richard Wright. He rebuilt the central portion of the Hall about 70 years ago, and is said to have used over 60 tons of grey stone in the re-slating of the extensive roof of the building. It is of two stories, but with the exception of portions of the outer walls at the east and west ends, the whole house has been re-constructed, and its aspects have quite changed since Warburton's time. It is now approached from behind through a massive Jacobean gateway, enclosing a spacious yard, while to the front or south side of the house lie the gardens and orchards; the front walls of the dwelling being completely covered with luxuriant fruit trees.

In the gardens are some fragments of old gable finials, the stand of an ancient sun-dial, and a much-used stone quern, or hand corn-mill. There was also dug up some years ago a much-decayed iron prick-spur, apparently of the 12th or 13th century, doubtless a relic of some early armour-bearing member of the house. In a field on the east side of the house are indications of extensive foundations, with traces of a wide moat, which has possibly enclosed the original homestead of the family in feudal times. About half-a-mile to the east is the site of another Fairfax home, old Toulston Hall, of which I have already furnished an account.



CHAPTER XXXV.

ROUND ABOUT WALTON.

Roman road—Discovery of Roman relics—St. Helen and Christianity—St. Helen's Church at York—St. Helen's Well and Chapel on the Wharfe—A local shrine—Dedications to St. Helen in Wharfedale—Moat House and Nevison—Walton, the first home of the Fairfaxes—Walton Old Hall—Remarkable mounds—Walton during the Civil War—Mill Hill—Aspects of the village—Early history—Records of the church—Old custom—Some 16th century families—The last Fairfaxes of Walton—Vicars of Walton—Description of the church—Ancient bells—A curious symbol—Restoration of the church—Parish School—Opening of a local tumulus—Thorpe Arch School and the Hileys.



HAVE already alluded to the Roman road which crossed the Wharfe at St. Helen's ford, about a mile north-west of the village of Newton Kyme (*see* page 233). In this neighbourhood have been found many Roman silver and copper coins, as well as an urn of alabaster which contained ashes, melted lead and rings. I cannot learn what has become of these relics. The coins were chiefly of Constantius, Helena, and Constantine, who re-founded Christianity early in the 4th century. Much honour was done to St. Helena in Yorkshire and in many places elsewhere in celebration of the State sanction of Christianity by her august son in the year 312.

Many old pagan holy-wells were re-dedicated in her name, and her fame and repute lingered for centuries afterwards, so that many churches, particularly in the neighbourhood of York, were likewise dedicated in her honour. The old York church of St. Helen-on-the-Walls traditionally claims to hold the tomb of her husband, the Emperor Constantius, who died at York in 306. It is stated that the urn containing his ashes was discovered in a vault about the time of the Reformation, along with an "everlasting lamp," but the lamp, so the old folk used to say, immediately disappeared on daylight being admitted to the tomb!*

* Several Roman lamps, with the Christian monogram, found about York, are preserved in the Museum in that city. *See* illustration on page 238.

On the north side of the Wharfe and close to Rudgate (the Roman road above mentioned), stood St. Helen's (or St. Helena's) Cross, which is somewhat crudely represented in Dr. Whitaker's *History of Craven*. It is 23 inches high and nearly rectangular, each side being from 8 to 10 inches wide (similar in size to the cross of St. Heiu found at Healaugh), and is sculptured on all four sides. On one side engraved appears the figure of a female (presumably St. Helen), holding in her right hand a cross. In the top of the shaft is a hole or mortice for the cross-head, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. This interesting relic of the ancient faith was discovered here, hidden among brushwood near the celebrated spring which bears St. Helen's name. Whitaker thinks that the distinguished lady had crossed the ford of Wharfe, and that in all probability she had drunk at this well, which for centuries afterwards became a very popular resort of religious votaries, particularly from the vicinity of York. Subsequently a chapel was erected on the spot, which was standing in Leland's time, but the Reformation did away with most of these wayside oratories, and not a stone now remains.* Such, however, was the fascination of this time-honoured spot, that down even to our own time pilgrimages continued to be made to the holy fountain, and bits of metal or pins were thrown into the water, or ribbons were attached to the adjoining bushes (as many as forty or fifty have been seen within living memory), in propitiation of the good cause of St. Helen and Christianity. The water is beautifully soft and clear, and in former times was much resorted to as a specific for sore or weak eyes. There are two other springs close by, which were also held to be sacred, but they do not bear any particular dedications. An old plantation a little north of the well is known as Chapel Wood, which commemorates St. Helen's chapel and the ancient church at Bilton, three miles further north, and about a mile to the east of the Roman Rudgate, is also dedicated to St. Helen.

In Yorkshire there are more than forty ancient churches and holy-wells consecrated to St. Helen. Many of these lie about York, which was the early capital of Christianity in the north, and the centre of Constantine's greatest influence. In the Wharfe valley I have noted too, the following St. Helen's Wells, viz.: near Newton Kyme, Kirkby Overblow, Bramhope, Denton, and Burnsall. There is also another at Adel. Possibly others are now lost.† Whitaker, more-

* In outlying districts one may occasionally find an old shrine of St. Helen. At Park Farm at Dalton in Furness, is an ancient holy-well, and the remains of an early 13th century chapel dedicated to St. Helen. It is illustrated in the *Trans. of the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club*, vol. 3, No. 2 (1900), page 37.

† Thoresby believes the old medicinal spring at Holbeck, Leeds, near St. Helen's bridge, had been dedicated to the same saint, and that St. Helen's Chapel, close by, had been built in consequence.

over, affirms that to the fame of St. Helen of Tadcaster may be attributed the dedication of the two sister springs at Eshton (with its chapel), and Farnhill in Craven. All these ancient dedications bespeak the zeal that was manifested in promoting Christianity in early ages.*

Following Rudgate towards Walton we leave at some distance on the right the Moat House, where were formerly traces of a large rectangular moat, which has no doubt enclosed a building of some consequence in former times. The house is now a farm-cottage, and has memorable associations with the bold outlaw, John Nevinson, or Nevison as generally pronounced, who was called by Charles II. "Swift Nick." Dr. Hiley tells us that when the Government offered a reward for his arrest, the whole of the population of Walton sallied forth, armed with sticks, forks, spades, &c., with the object of surrounding the moat-house and taking the highwayman alive. On hearing the noise Nevinson came out and forthwith presented his blunderbuss, when the whole body turned tail and fled! This is said to be the reason why the people of the village were afterwards called "Walton Calves," or in the dialect of the district, "Wooton Coves." Nevinson, who was hanged at York in May, 1684,† was of respectable parentage, and there are many tombstones of his family in Wortley churchyard, near Barnsley.

Round about Walton the aspects are very pleasing, and here is the original home of the great house of Fairfax, where the senior line was seated for several centuries, and from whom descended the Viscounts Fairfax of Gilling Castle, a branch of the family now extinct. As early as the reign of Edward III. William Fairfax obtained from Peter de Brus nine oxgangs, one acre, and three perches of land, with tofts and crofts in Walton of the fee of Mowbray.‡ William Fairfax was living here in the reign of Edward III., and his widow, Elena, appears in the poll-tax as contributing 3s. 4d. in 1378. At this time Walton was evidently a place of good trade, and its taxable value was at any rate equal to that of Thorp Arch. One man followed the occupation of **cissor** (tailor) et **pandexator** (brewer or beer-seller), two others were **tailors**, another was a miller, another a shoemaker, two were **carpenters**, and three were weavers. As I have stated in the records of Steeton it was from the house at Walton that the famous Sir Guy Fairfax

* For some further account of these early influences of local Christianity, see the author's *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 29—31, &c.

† But see *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 65, page 457.

‡ See *Drake's Ebor.*, page 360, &c.; *Surttees Soc.*, vol. 49, page 220 n, and *Yorks. Archl. Jl.* (Rec. Ser.), vol. 17, page 233.

descended, who was prominent in the Wars of the Roses, on the Yorkist side, and from whom sprang a race of men who had much to do in the moulding of the future England.

Walton Hall occupies the site of the old Fairfax home. Much of it was rebuilt out of the material of the former homestead early in the 18th century, and the west end was added afterwards. For a number of years down to about 1885 it was used for a ladies' boarding-school, conducted by the Misses Treadwell. Their father, Mr. James Treadwell, was for many years huntsman to the Bramham Moor pack, and when he died in 1865, the members of the Hunt placed a neat granite monument on his grave in Walton churchyard.

The original portion of the homestead has walls five feet thick, and the old worm-eaten oaken staircase remains, together with some 17th century oak-panelling in the rooms above. The ancient bake-



THE OLD HALL, WALTON.

house is also standing. The original hall has been built over an arched cellar containing a well of excellent water, a safe provision often found in old halls. Formerly there was a small slab here (now at Bilbrough), exhibiting a shield of six quarterings, successively : (1) Fairfax, (2) Malebis, (3) Etton, (4) Mauley, (5) Calthorpe, (6) Arghom, and above it the date, 1684. The house is completely environed by earthen banks, which extend for some hundreds of yards, and have the appearance of a breastwork or earthwork, on the south side coming close up to the building. They are doubtless lateral moraines of the Vale of York glacier, and belong to the same series as the Healaugh mounds. Near the road side, north-east of Walton village, a good section is exposed shewing about 20 feet of **dark clayey marl**, full of various rocks, many well rounded, and including sandstones, grits, trap, and carboniferous limestone. The

long bank or mound here, beyond Walton House, extends northward for several hundred yards, and rising in a double scarp, with intermediate terrace, presents the appearance of having been artificially treated for occupation by primitive races. A large protuberance or knoll rises prominently from the centre of the bank, and from it there is a splendid look out over the generally flat landscape for many miles around. This knoll is known locally as Mill Hill, and possibly at some time a windmill may have stood here. The level terrace approaching has the appearance of having been a cart-road to and from the village.

I have heard no tradition of Walton Hall having been occupied by the King's troops during the Civil War, though it is not unlikely that it was. When Fairfax was at Selby in the spring of 1643, and had decided to fall back on Leeds, the Earl of Newcastle despatched a part of his army from York to invest both sides of the Wharfe near Thorp Arch. A portion of the force lay at Walton, and it is very probable that these gravel mounds were utilised by the soldiers upon the investment of the place. Sir Thomas Fairfax was sent to engage the King's troops near Tadcaster, endeavouring by this means to foil the enemy, while his father, the Lord Fairfax, was moving with his men and ordnance towards Leeds. In this he succeeded, although in an encounter, on the retreat over Whin Moor, he lost a good many of his men.*

There are some very old thatched houses in the village, some of them having stone foundations, with a superstructure of bricks and stout old oak props. The bricks are small, hard, and apparently as durable as those fashioned by the old master Romans. Several of these thatched cottages, which gave an air of much quaintness to the village street, and which are depicted on the next page, were pulled down about twelve years ago, and some spick-and-span cottages erected on the site. The history of the place goes back to Saxon times, when it was held by six thanes in as many manors, and these in the Confessor's time were worth £4, or just as much as the three manors of Thorp Arch. The whole of this territory came at the Conquest to Osbern de Arches, whose descendant Ivetta, daughter of William de Arches, carried the estate by marriage to Adam de Brus, who died about the year 1200. Peter de Brus, his son, confirmed to the canons of Healaugh Park, a croft and certain rights in Walton, which his mother, the Lady Ivetta, had given them, and he also gave the same canons eight acres here in his new essart or clearing beside the Wharfe, for the good of the soul of his said mother,

* See Fairfax's *Short Memorials*, pages 23—28.

Ivetta de Arches.* Most of the land in the parish, with the manor, is now held by the Lane-Fox family, of Bramham Park.

The ancient church here (St. Peter's), appears to have been originally a chapel subject to the mother church of Thorp Arch, and was served by the vicars of Thorp Arch. The first mention of it occurs in a grant, made about the middle of the 12th century, to the Nunnery at Monkton, by William de Arches and Ivetta, his daughter, afterwards wife of Adam de Brus, of lands in Monkton and Hammerton, with the churches there and at Askham, and the chapel of Walton. This grant was confirmed, about a century later, by



OLD COTTAGES, WALTON.

John de Bella Aqua, who married one of the heiresses of the house of Brus.† In 1226 Archbishop Gray confirmed an agreement made between the sacrist of St. Mary's in York, and the convent of Monkton, concerning certain claims made by the latter.‡

The church was originally appropriated to the chapel of St. Mary, and the Holy Angels in York, but no vicarage was ever ordained. In 1369 a composition was effected between the said sacrist and the

* *Cotton MSS.*, Vesp. A iv., 54.

† *Dodsworth MSS.*, vol. ii., page 57.

‡ Cited in my *Nidderdale*, vide NUN MONKTON, page 111.

convent of Monkton, from which it appears that children born at Walton, and the bodies of the deceased there, had anciently been baptised and buried in the parochial or mother church of Thorp Arch. Considering, however, the distance between the two places, and the difficulty of passing to the said church with their children and corpses, it should be lawful for the chaplain of the chapel of Walton to baptise and bury. For this concession the convent of Monkton agreed to pay to the vicar of Thorp Arch an annual pension of 3s. 4d.

In the Parliamentary Survey (*ca.* 1650), it is recorded of the church :

A parish Church, heretofore a chapel to Thorpe Arch, now a Vicarage, the profits consisting of small tithes, amounting to about £10 per annum. The great tithes are impropriate, belonging to Sir Wm. Snawsdell. Mr. Robert Chambers is incumbent there, a man of evil life and conversation, who preacheth not above four times in a year, and he frequently useth the book of Common Prayer. We think fit that Thorp Arch be annexed to Walton and made both in one parish, and Walton Church to be the Parish Church, and the other church to be demolished.

This was not the first time that the old historic church at Thorp Arch had been threatened with destruction. After the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1538, William Stapelton, one of the Captains of the general insurrection is reported to have said that "divers parishe churches in that countre (Yorkshire) shulde be putt downe and taken to the King's use, so that of severall parishes shuld be but one. And it was named that the paryshes of Wyghell, Walton,* and Thorp Arche shuld be putt downe, and they to be eyther of [united to] the parishes of Tadcaster or Bolton Percy."†

There were a good many Papists in the District long after the Reformation, and many old Catholic customs were kept up. The Visitation Books at York contain many entries of local recusancy down to the end of the 17th century, and from an entry in 1575 it would appear that services were held at Walton only once in three months, and a complaint was then lodged that they could not even get that. This apparently justifies the affirmation of the Parliament's visitors some seventy years later, that there were sermons at Walton "not above four times in a year." This is the record in 1575 :

WALTON They have not their quarter sermons, the living is so small. Sir John Page, their curate, is vicar of Thorp Arch.

In 1523 Dame Anne Fairfax, widow, paid 20s. subsidy on lands

* Sir Nicholas Fairfax, of Walton, joined the same insurrection. He was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1532, 1545, and 1561, and died in 1570.

† *Chapter House Papers*, vol. B. 2:21, also vol. A. 1:21 (in the Public Record Office).

at Walton worth £20. In this year the following contributed to the same subsidy at Walton: John Walker, Wm. Ellys, Robert Farand, Richard Hewe, Wm. Shastun, Lyonell Cowper, Wm. Snay, Richard Jackson, John Chamb', and Thos. Thirlthorp. The total amount raised in this township was 32s. 6d.

In 1590 Percival Grave is charged with piping at Walton in service-time and drawing people after him. He did the same thing at Wighill. His family were perverse Papists, and in 1674 Thomas Grave and his wife Grace, are returned among a score others at



WALTON CHURCH BEFORE THE RESTORATION.

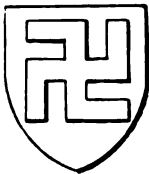
Walton for absenting themselves from church and not receiving the sacrament. At this time the old Hall at Walton was occupied by the Lady Alatheia, one of the recusants, widow of Thomas, second Viscount Fairfax. She died in 1677 and was buried at Walton. Probably her son John and his wife, who was a daughter of Francis Hungate, of Saxton, also lived at the Hall at the same time. He died, leaving no issue, and was also buried at Walton, January 26th, 1692-3, and his widow, Mary, followed him to the same grave about four years afterwards.

The living of Walton in 1707 was valued at £7 13s. 4d. In 1744 it was augmented with £200 by lot, and in 1761 with a further £200

to meet a benefaction of £200 from the Rev. Christ. Atkinson. This was again increased in 1770 with £200 to meet another benefaction of £200 from the Rev. Christ. Atkinson, and in 1828 with a further £200 by lot. The patrons are the Lane-Fox family. No catalogue of the incumbents has been preserved. The Rev. John Wilson Atkinson was vicar at the time of his death in 1836 (see ATKINSON pedigree), and the Rev. Thos. Wilson was vicar for about 20 years to 1879, when the Rev. W. H. Gooch, M.A., was instituted, and he was succeeded in 1882 by the present vicar, the Rev. Alfred Hiley, M.A., brother of the Rev. Dr. Hiley, vicar of Wighill (see page 344). Baptisms and burials have taken place here since 1369, but the earliest register-book of the parish commences with the year 1619.

The old church stands picturesquely on an eminence in the village, and consists of chancel, nave, porch, and west tower, the latter having been raised and its summit embattled and pinnacled. There are no buttresses, and the tower-arch with its plain, chamfered imposts, looks distinctly Norman, and the foundations are also very shallow (a circumstance of frequent occurrence in Norman buildings), but the tall massive plinths are continuous from the tower round the west end of the church. On the north side of the tower, about ten feet from the ground, is an incised cross, about two inches long each way, but the lower limb has partly weathered away.*

There are three ancient bells in the tower, one of them inscribed



“Hugo,” preceded by a small shield bearing the singular device of a fylfot, Thor’s hammer, or mystic cross of the pagans, but in this and other instances where it occurs on church bells, as at Owston and Badsworth in Yorkshire, it is clearly intended as a Christian symbol.† Dr. Brinton traces this remarkable symbol back to the Neolithic or New Stone

Age period in Europe, and it was discovered beneath an accumulation of peat on a rock upon Rumbald’s Moor above Ilkley.‡ There is an ornamental holy-water stoup at the south entrance into the nave. The south doorway into the chancel was built up about twenty years ago, and the north or “devil’s doorway,” has been bricked up at some time in the last century.

The church underwent a thorough and much-needed restoration ten years ago, when the roof was raised to its former pitch and new

* Consecration crosses are usually in the east wall of the church beneath the east window.

† It may be seen upon the bells of many of our parish churches in places settled by the Northmen, as at Appleby in Lincolnshire, Mexborough, Waddington, Bishop’s Norton, &c., where it was placed as a magical sign to subdue the vicious spirit of the tempest. See page 13 of Mr. Waring’s *Ceramic Art in Remote Ages*.

‡ Described and illustrated in the author’s *Upper Wharfedale*, page 237

slated. The very commonplace flat plaster ceiling was also taken down, a vestry and organ-chamber added, and other improvements effected. Altogether the work was completed in a very careful and efficient manner, and credit is due alike to the architect and present vicar, to whose efforts the scheme of restoration is largely due. The principal contributors to the expense incurred,—about £1250,—were the patron and landowner, the late George Lane-Fox, Esq., of Bramham Park, the late Thomas Fielden, Esq., M.P., Walton House, his wife, Mrs. Fielden, now of Grimston Park, and the late W. C. Vincent, Esq., the Lodge, Boston Spa. When the work was commenced the exterior walls were almost entirely concealed by an old growth of ivy. The restoration also brought to light a small



THORP ARCH GRANGE.

pre-Reformation squint, commanding a view of the altar from the north angle of the nave. Above this interesting opening a neat brass plate has been fixed, inscribed as follows :

This church supposed to have been built early in the 14th century was enlarged and restored in 1890-1, at a cost of about £1200. Alfred Hiley, M.A., vicar, W. M. Fawcett, M.A., architect, Cambridge; J. G. Blanshard, I. Clough, churchwardens.

But from historical proofs already given, and the existing evidences in the tower, it is clear that a chapel had existed at Walton long before the 14th century. On the north side of the chancel there is

an unusually large canopied niche, holding a cumbent effigy of a man in armour. The recess is 7 feet 3 inches wide inside, and 7 feet 9 inches high, or measured to the top of the finial, the total height is 12 feet 4 inches. The effigy is six feet long, and is represented with hands uplifted as in prayer; clad in a close-fitting short tunic, or jupon, fringed on the lower edge, with a camail or tippet of chain-mail covering the neck and shoulders, and plain, acutely-pointed bascinet or (steel) cap. The head is laid upon a tilting helmet, but the crest is unfortunately broken off. The feet rest against a lion. The sword is broken away on the left side, but the misericorde, or dagger of mercy, remains on the right or dexter side. There are no armorial signs now visible, nor are there any records that enable us to identify the monument. The style is of the latter part of the reign of Edward III. (1327—77), when Sir John Fairfax, Kt., died seized of the manor of Acaster Malebisse, &c., and whose father, Thomas Fairfax, of Walton, by marriage with the heiress of Ivo de Etton, had acquired the castle and manor of Gilling in Ryedale.*

Sir Nicholas Fairfax, of Walton and Gilling, was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1532, 1545, and 1561. He died in 1570 and was interred at Gilling, where his recumbent effigy may still be seen. His son, Sir William Fairfax, was Sheriff in 1557-8. He was twice married, leaving issue by his second wife, a son and successor, Sir Thomas Fairfax, created Viscount Fairfax in 1626. He died at Howsham 23rd Dec., 1636, and was interred at Scrayingham in the East Riding. His son, Sir Thomas, the second Viscount Fairfax, died in 1641 and was buried at Walton Sept. 25th., according to the entry in the register. He married Alathea, second daughter of Sir Philip Howard, Kt., of Naworth Castle, by Mary, daughter of Sir John Carryl, Kt., which Sir Philip was eldest son of Lord William Howard, commonly known as "Belted Will." The Lady Alathea was also interred at Walton. A slab (now illegible) in the church was inscribed :

Here lyes the bodye of Thomas, Lord Viscount Fairfax, who dyed Sept. 24th. 1641, and of Alathea, his wife, who dyed the second of the same month, 1677.

Those who read this pray for their souls.

* There is a monument of similar age in the old church at Gilling. On the dexter side is a hind's head erased (probably intended for Malebisse), and on the sinister is a shield bearing 3 martlets on a bend within a bordure engrailed. A bend between 3 martlets was formerly to be seen on old glass in Walton Church, probably intended for Anne of Frickley. Christopher, son and heir of John Anne, Esq., of Frickley, married (ca. 1544), Ann, daughter of Nicholas Fairfax, of Gilling. See Clay's *Addits. to Dugdale*, part v., page 86. But in the Arms of Yorkshire Knights who went with Edward I. to Scotland, the arms of Anne are given as: gules 3 bucks' heads, cabossed, or; and in the Visitation of 1584-5 the arms of Anne are given thus: Quarterly, 1 and 4, gules, 3 bucks' heads, cabossed or; 2 and 3, arg. on a bend sable, 3 martlets of the field.

Their son, Sir William Fairfax, the third Viscount, died in 1648, and was also interred at Walton. By his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Alex. Smith, Esq., of Stutton, co. Suffolk, he left a son Sir Thomas, the fourth Viscount Fairfax, but where he died or was buried I have not learnt. At least two of the Lords Fairfax were, however, interred at Walton, as also the Hon. John Fairfax, younger brother of the third Viscount, who died in 1692-3.

Near the above-mentioned effigy there was a floor-slab inscribed to the memory of Nicholas Fairfax, nephew and heir of Charles, Viscount Fairfax, of Gilling Castle, who died in February 1702-3, aged 44. He was the last of the Fairfaxes buried at Walton, and it was probably he or John Fairfax (*see* page 391) who rebuilt or greatly restored the old home, ruined during the Civil War.* This slab had been carelessly placed close above the crocketed recess, which it had partly destroyed, but was removed to its present position on the north side of the chancel in 1893, when the canopy was restored. At the top of the tablet is a scroll over a knight's helmet, enclosing a crest of a lion couchant, with a lion rampant represented beneath. The following arms were also to be seen in a window on the north side of the nave, but they are now gone :

(1) Or, three bars gemelles, gu., surmounted by a lion rampant sable [Fairfax] ; (2) Argent, a chevron between three hinds' heads erased gules [Malebisse] ; (3) azure, a lion rampant, argent ; † (4) gules, a lion rampant azure ; ‡ (5) barry of six, argent and gules, on a canton, sable, a crosslet, or (? cross moline, or) [Etton] ; (6) or, a bend, sable ; § (7) vair, a bend gules ; (8) per pale, azure and gules, a lion rampant, argent ; || (9) as No. 6 ; (10) argent, a bend between three martlets, sable [? Anne] ; (11, 12, 13) gone ; (14) argent a fess between three lions passant, sable ; ¶ (15) argent, a lion rampant, sable [Stapleton] ; ** (16, 17, 18) gone.

* The Walton registers contain the entry of the burial of his first wife Elizabeth, August 31st, 1665. His second wife was Mary, only daughter of Nicholas Weld, Esq., of Lullworth Castle, Dorsetshire.

† These arms were also in the south window. The arms of Peter de Brus (ob. 1272) were : argent, a lion rampant, azure, but it may be noted that successive generations of the family of Brus or Bruce bore different coats. *See Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xiii., page 258.

‡ The arms of Roger de Mowbray (1240-5) were : gules, a lion rampant, argent. *See Ellis's Antiquity of Heraldry*, page 207.

§ Lord Hawkesbury thinks this is not correctly recorded, and should be, or, a bend, azure, the arms of Caythorpe, whose coheiress brought this quartering to the Fairfax family about 1400.

|| Per pale azure and gules, a lion rampant, guard. or (Hatton). *See Whitaker's Craven*, 3rd edition, page 393.

¶ Lord Hawkesbury also suggests a possible error in this record, for argent, a fess between two lions passant gardant, sable (Folifait). The Rev. Christopher Atkinson (1671-1736), vicar of Walton, bore a chevron between three lions passant.

** Robert, son of Henry Stapleton, of Wighill, married at Walton, in 1622, Catherine, daughter of Sir Thos. Fairfax, of Walton. The Stapletons in the 14th century were also joint lords of the manor of Thorp Arch

In the north wall of the chancel is a small locker or aumbry, to hold the sacred vessels. It is 24 inches long, 15 inches high, and 18 inches deep, and was formerly lined with oak and had an oaken door with lock. There are similar curious lockers of wainscot in the chancel of Selby church.

There are also memorials to the families of Goodall, Wright of Cattall Grange (formerly of Walton Manor House), Fielden of Walton House (now of Grimston Park), &c. There is an interesting Jacobean oak pulpit (restored by Mr. Vincent in 1890), probably the first pulpit ever used in the church, and the 14th century font (octagonal) has a singularly shallow bowl.

In the vicinity of the church is the Parish School built by the lord of the manor in 1847. Walton House, a modern mansion, was some years the seat of Mathew Amcotts Wilson, Esq., and recently of Thos. S. Brogden, Esq. It is now tenanted by George Jackson, Esq., son of the Rt. Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P. There is little else of interest in the village. A large garden attached to the house now occupied by the verger, Mr. James Waite, fifty years ago had a good reputation for the superiority of its roses and variety of other bloom, the soil being apparently well adapted to the culture of the rose. Mr. Joseph Richardson, the then tenant, who died in 1859, took great delight in tending this beautiful garden, and in the summer season it was much frequented by visitors from Boston Spa.

Midway between Walton and Thorp Arch station stands the Thorp Arch Girls' Industrial School. The pleasantly-situated buildings were originally erected for a boys' boarding-school, known as Thorp Arch Grange (*see* illustration on page 393), erected by Mr. Hiley, and subsequently managed by his son, the Rev. Richard W. Hiley, M.A., now D.D. and vicar of the adjoining parish of Wighill. Ably assisted by his brother, the Rev. Alfred Hiley, M.A., now vicar of Walton, the school was very prosperously maintained for a period of nearly thirty years (1861—1889), and many an old scholar, now settled in distant places, must cherish happy recollections of his early life and training at this once famous Yorkshire school. Its history has been related in a graphic and interesting manner by Dr. Hiley in his recent volume, *Memories of Half a Century*, previously referred to on page 344.

In 1890 the buildings, with an estate of 14 acres, were sold to the Leeds School Board for the sum of £3500. Their internal arrangements having been to a large extent reconstructed, the premises were re-opened for their present purpose on Jan. 16th, 1896. The school is certified to accommodate 100 girls.



NORMAN DOORWAY, SYNNINGTHWAITE.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

SYNNINGTHWAITE PRIORY.

A Cistercian Nunnery—Existing remains—Early history—Local possessions—
Other properties—Some interments within the Priory—Grant at Dissolution
Later history—Family of Synningthwaite.



BETWEEN Walton and Wighill Park, a little to the east of Rudgate, stood the small Cistercian Nunnery of Synningthwaite, in the parish of Bilton. The establishment was destroyed some time after the Dissolution and the present farm-house was erected on the site. The Priory was surrounded by a moat enclosing about eight acres, but of all the original buildings only a single doorway, with adjoining masonry, remains. It has been a principal entrance, and exhibits a very rich example of late Norman work, as shewn in the accompanying illustration. This beautiful doorway undoubtedly dates from the original building of the Priory, about the middle of the 12th century.

The Priory was founded 6th Henry II. (1160), by Bertram Haget, the founder of Healaugh Priory, and father of Ralph Haget, Abbot of Fountains, who died in 1203, and was buried in the chapter-house there.* Bertram Haget gave the site of the monastery at Synningthwaite, a gift that was confirmed by Roger de Mowbray, chief lord of the fee. Pope Alexander III., in 1172, granted to Christian, then Prioress, and to the convent, a confirmation of their then possessions, with what might afterwards be given to them, and enjoined that none of the sisters, once professed, should depart without license, and they were to be exempt from the payment of tithe on all land they occupied or tilled at their own costs. This was confirmed by Pope Lucius III. in 1185, who also decreed that none should commit any theft within their cloisters or granges. And King Henry II. further confirmed the founder's donation, forbidding all persons from doing them any injury. As the nuns were of the Cistercian order, they believed themselves to be exempt from any visitation of the Diocesan, or his commissary, and in 1176 they

* *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 42, page 124

appealed to Pope John XXI., against Walter, Archbishop of York, who died in 1179, but this action, says Burton, does not seem to have been in favour of the nuns, because in an original deed, dated 10th Edward I. (1282), mention is made of a visitation by Archbishop Walter Giffard, and also of his successor, William Wickwane, laying down very strict rules to be observed by these nuns.



SYNNINGTHWAITE PRIORY FARM.

Burton enumerates the lands, rents, and liberties enjoyed by the house, which lay principally in the immediate neighbourhood, and included the advowson of the church of Bilton. Only a small part of their property was situate at a distance, and this comprised lands

and pasturage at Esholt, Menston, Alwoodley, and Bedale, and at Berwic-upon-Teyse (Ingleby-Barwick, near Yarm). Alice, daughter of Adam de Staveley, gave, with her corpse, nine oxgangs of land there, which afterwards the nuns exchanged. Alice de Staveley was interred within the Priory cemetery (the site now known as Chapel Garth), likewise Agnes, daughter of Ralph Fitz Hugh, of Borough-bridge, and Richard de St. Maria, a descendant of the Hagets. The Fitz Hughs of Richmondshire, had a keep-tower at Cotherstone in Teesdale, the "Pendragon's lonely mound," of Sir Walter Scott's *Rokeby*. The Fitz Alans of Bedale, whence the nuns derived a small annuity, were also descended from the Hagets.

At the Dissolution the Priory was returned as of the annual value of £60 9s. 2d., and the site was granted in 1539 to Sir Thomas Tempest, Kt., to hold of the King *in capite* by military service. Subsequently it became the property of Lord Wharton, by whom it was bequeathed to Nonconformist trustees for the support of a Bible charity, as related in the history of Healaugh. There is a Synningthwaite, Synethwaite, or Swinethwaite, as variously spelled, in Wensleydale, which gave name to a family of some consequence, several of whom were witnesses to charters in the time of Edward II.* At this place, near West Witton, the Knights Templars had a preceptory, to which the family of Siclinghall, originally of Sicklinghall, near Wetherby, were benefactors.†

The Priory Farm at Synningthwaite was for many years early last century in the occupation of Mr. John Wilson, whose son, Francis Wilson, also farmed the adjoining lands of Wharton Lodge. They were active Methodists, and an unmarried daughter of Mr. John Wilson, named Isabella, became well-known as a very pious, self-denying, and benevolent woman, who rendered lasting service to the cause of Methodism. She was born at Synningthwaite, and her biography was written by a Mr. J. S. Pipe, and printed at Manchester in 1825. It includes many of Miss Wilson's letters, and fills a small octavo volume of 180 pages. It is now a scarce book. There is a copy of it among the Hailstone collections in the Minster Library at York.

The Wilsons had been settled at Synningthwaite for at least two centuries. From them spring several families who have produced men who have worthily served in various capacities in the Wesleyan body. Also the Haswells, of North Shields, and Metcalfes, of Pateley Bridge, are maternally descended from the same stock.

* *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 67, p. 65, &c.; Harrison's *Gilling West*, pp. 47, 59, 62, &c.

† See the author's *Richmondshire*, page 420.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

AROUND BRAMHAM.

The Bramham Moor grit-rocks—Special stone for York Minster—Early occupation of district—Local discoveries—*Domesday* testimony—A church and priest in 1083—The soke—Manor-house at Clifford—Count of Mortain—His portrait on the Bayeux tapestry—Bramham subfeud to the Fossard family—Curious grant—Early history—A valuable property of Nostell Priory—The Winn family—Lord Headley—Antiquity of the church—Some architectural features—The vicars—Bramham Park—The famous Bramham Moor Hunt—The late Mr. George Lane-Fox—His geniality and popularity—A magnificent testimonial—His death and funeral—Recognition by the Prince of Wales—Bowcliffe House—The Battle of Bramham Moor—A pleasant country—Some notable mansions—Bramham College.



FROM the middle of Bramham Moor, observes an old writer, a man may see ten miles around him, and within those ten miles he claims there is as much freestone as would build ten cities, each as large as York. The freestone of Bramham is extensively developed, and has an old repute for special classes of stone-work where quality and durability are essential. It was used for the pendants or hanging ornaments on the vaults and ceilings of York Minster, and in the records of the building of the Minster the Bramham Moor stone is specially referred to as being employed for this purpose.

Before Bramham Park was made early in the 18th century, a great part of this famous hunting country was unenclosed, with no villages upon it, and little population to speak of. Nearly 2000 acres were then taken in and improved; a wild uncultivated tract that had long remained a silent witness to the many changes in local life and manners which had taken place since the first peopling of the district. Native Briton, Roman, Saxon, and Dane had each in turn left indications of their presence in the neighbourhood. In 1675, five or six British brass celts were ploughed up in a place called Osmond Thick, near the moor,* and at the enclosure referred to a very

* Described and figured in Hearne's ed. of *Leland's Itinerary*, vol. i., and see also vol. iv. (1711) Preface; also Thoresby's *Diary* for 1709.





ROBERT, COUNT OF MORTAIN, LORD OF BRANHAM. &c., A.D. 1086.

remarkable "magic-ring," inscribed with Scandinavian runes was turned up, which in 1790 passed into the possession of Mr. T. Gill, of York.* This and the curious "magic-ring" of later date found near Wetherby, are singularly interesting relics of early local superstition.

From having been the vantage-ground and highway of the Roman legions travelling between Castleford, Aldborough, Tadcaster, &c., Bramham Moor remained a "no-man's land," until the great Count of Mortain claimed it as part of the fief bestowed upon him by the Conqueror at the survey of England in 1083-6.† An English village community had, however, been settled at Bramham long ere this, and around the village the land had long been tilled. Says *Domesday* :

In Bramha' (Bramham) Ligulf had one manor of twelve carucates for geld, and eight ploughs may be [there]. Nigel [Fossard] has three ploughs there, and fifteen villanes with five ploughs and a half. The site of a mill is there. A church and a priest. Wood, pasturable, two leugæ in length and half [a leuga] in breadth. The whole manor, two leugæ in length and one leuga and a half in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth eight pounds; now fifty shillings.

To this manor belongs soke in Monechet‡ () one carucate; in Toglestun (Toulston) three carucates. in Ocelestorp (Oglethorpe) one carucate, and in Niueton (Newton Kyme) one carucate. Together six carucates for geld.

The importance of the manor in the Saxon times is attested by the high value at which it was rated. A mill was about to be built, to which the tenants of the lands within the soke were bound to bring their corn to be ground. The places named were probably at that time single farmsteads. There was an endowed church, but singularly no demesne lands. The lord's demesne was at Clifford, where he had two ploughs, and three villanes with two ploughs, and one mill worth annually two shillings. There must have been a manor-hall at Clifford at the Conquest. There was a Ligulf who was permitted to retain his manor of Rigton, and who had a priest there. He was probably the same Ligulf who was dispossessed of Bramham.

Robert, Count of Mortain, in Avranches, to whom the Conqueror

* See *Archæologia*, vol. xxxi., pages 25—30, and *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, ii., 286; Drake's *Ebor.*, page 101. For Notes on Coins found on Bramham Moor see *Trans. Lancs. and Chesh. Antiq. Socy.* (1887). An example of gold ring-money or rude earring, weighing 336 grains, was found in a ploughed field at Cawood. It passed into the hands of a goldsmith at Leeds. See *Proc. Geol. & Polytech. Soc. of W. R. Yorks.*, vol. v. (1869-70), page 35. See also Dr. Whitaker's edit. of the *Ducatus Leodiensis*, *CURIOSITIES*, page 31.

† He was a younger son of Herleva, mother of the Conqueror, by her husband Herlwine de Conteville.

‡ [Nun] Monkton appears in *Domesday* as *Monechetone* belonging to Osbern [de Arches]. See my *Nidderdale*, page 110.

gave Bramham, fought at Hastings, and he is represented on the Bayeux tapestry (*see* illustration facing page 401),* sitting upon the left side of his great chief at the royal feast; Bishop Odo, his brother, appearing on the right (their names being over them). Though owning immense properties in England his possessions in Yorkshire were comparatively few, and were before 1083 subfeud to Richard de Sourdeval and Nigel Fossard, the latter being lord of Bramham. The Fossards held a good deal of property about York and Doncaster.† The heiress of the family, Johanna, daughter of William Fossard, was married to Robert de Turnham, a great soldier and crusader, who in 1191 was one of the commanders of the fleet at the siege of Cyprus. Shortly after the death of Cœur-de-lion, King John, his brother, restored to Robert de Turnham the lands that had been taken from him. But it was not until 1208 that he appears to have recovered Bramham. In that year he presented the King with two beautiful Spanish war-horses, whereupon the King was pleased to grant his manor of Bramham to its former owner.‡

Bramham has long been famed for its hunters, but it cannot be known that the whole of its valuable lordship was once obtained at the price of a couple of chargers. Where are the two horses now that would purchase the manor of Bramham? Robert de Turnham lived to enjoy his estate but a short time after this gift. He died in 1210, leaving a daughter, Isabella, who in 1214 became the wife of Peter de Malolacu or Mauley,§ a famous man in his time. His son, also named Peter, married the eldest daughter of Peter de Brus, lord of Skelton in Cleveland. In 1284-5 Peter de Malolacu was lord of the manor, and in 1315 the Prior of Nostell, Peter de Malolacu, and John de Ocklethorp were returned as joint lords. The manor or some part of it had belonged to the Hertlingtons, but was forfeited by Henry de Hertlington, who joined the victorious King of Scotland, Robert Bruce, and was treasonably associated with Gilbert de Middleton at the spoliation of the Cardinals, legates of Pope John XXII., in 1314, while on their way to Durham. He died in 1335. William de Hertlington, his son, had in 1368 the whole of the family inheritance restored, which included the manors of

* The second illustration depicts the future Lord of Bramham, &c., directing the raising of the fortifications before the decisive battle of Hastings. These illustrations are reproduced by permission of Messrs. Geo. Bell & Sons, from Mr. Fowkes' interesting monograph on the Bayeux Tapestry.

† *See* Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, vol. i., page 12, &c.

‡ *Rot. fin. temp. John*, page 419.

§ *See* *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 94, page 1, 44, &c., and *Archæologia*, xxxi., pages 238-48, for pedigree, &c., of Malolacu, &c.

Bramham and Hertlington in Upper Wharfedale, and lands in Burnsall, Thorpe, Rilstone, &c.*

By this time the canons of Nostell Priory had acquired considerable property at Bramham, including the advowson of the church, given to them, with 14 oxgangs of land at Bramham, by Robert Fossard. William, his son, also gave them the mill,† and they had also the mill at Hertlington. It is also recorded by Dodsworth that Nigel Fossard, father of Robert, had given to the church of the Holy Trinity at York a certain site in Bramham Wood called Hedley, and all the ground to the hill at Oglethorpe. This was early in the 12th century, as Robert, the son, appears in the Pipe Roll of 31st Henry I. (1130).‡ It also appears that Alexander, son of Ralph Paganel, or Paynel, who married Agnes, daughter of Robert Fossard, gave after the death of the said Robert, 20 acres of land in Bramham to the canons of St. Oswald, Nostell, in compensation for certain tithes of corn owing.§ Hedley, or Headley, became a cell to Holy Trinity Priory, York, and the same was confirmed to the Prior and brotherhood by Pope Alexander III. (not Alexander II. as stated by Drake), who died about 1180.¶ In 1254 the monks obtained a grant of free warren here, and having stocked the ground with conies, it continued a valuable preserve for many centuries.*

In 1409 King Henry IV. granted license to William Nicholas, Richard Gascoigne, John Amyas of Shitlington, Robert Mauleverer and John Mauleverer, to give that part of the manor of Bramham not held of the Crown, to the Prior and Convent of Nostell. Eventually Bramham became the most valuable of all the possessions of the Priory, and at the Dissolution the rents, &c., accruing from the Bramham property amounted to £52 17s. 10d. per annum.

At the Suppression the site of Nostell Priory, together with much other property that had belonged to the monastery, was granted at a low price to Thomas Legh, LL.D., one of the Crown commissioners appointed to visit the religious houses. This grant included the site of the manor of Bramham called Bramham Bygginge [A.-S. *byggan*, see page 91], with its appurtenances, and all lands and tenements

* See my *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 379-80.

† See also *Yorks. Archæol. Jt.*, vol. xiii., page 101.

‡ According to Tanner the Priory at Headley was founded by Ypolitus de Braam, *temp.* Henry I., or at least "he was an early and considerable benefactor." See also *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., pages 213-14.

§ See also *Rot. Hund.*, 2nd Edward I. (1273), and *Surtees Society*, vol. 94, p. 23.

¶ St. Robert, of Knaresbro', was a friend to the same fraternity, and by the record of his visit to the "monks of Adley," is no doubt meant the cell of Hedley. See my *Nidderdale*, page 262, and also *Surtees Society*, vol. 42, page 167.

¶ *Yorks. Archæol. Jt.*, vol. v., page 316, and vol. vii., page 278.

belonging to the manor. Also pasturage for 360 sheep on the common moors of Bramham, together with the rabbit-warren belonging to the late monastery of St. Oswald, Nostell. Also two parts of one meadow called the Applegarth, in Bramham, and the wood called the West Wood and the wood called the Rakes in Bramham.

Dr. Legh, who had no interest in Bramham beyond the mere land speculation, soon afterwards disposed of the property to Sir James Blunt, Kt., who in 1566 sold it to John Browne, Esq.* Subsequently the descendants of Sir John Winn, Bart., of Nostell, acquired the property, and of this family Edward, second son of Sir Rowland Winn, Bart., of Nostell, was long resident at Bramham. He died, unmarried, in 1832, aged 92. George Winn, Esq., son of Pelham Winn, Esq. (whose mother, Elizabeth Allanson, was great granddaughter of Sir William Allanson, Lord Mayor of York in 1633), succeeded in 1763 to the estates of his cousin, Mark Winn, Esq., of Little Warley, co. Essex, and in 1775 to those of his cousin, Charles Allanson, Esq., of Bramham Biggin. The latter was some time M.P. for Ripon, and died at Bramham, September 17th, 1775, aged 54. He was buried in York Minster eleven days later with great funeral pomp.† Mr. George Winn was created a Baronet in 1776, and assumed in that year by royal licence the name and arms of Allanson. Sir George, as previously related, was raised to the peerage in 1797, by the style and title of Lord Headley, Baron Allanson and Winn, of Aghadoe, in the county of Kerry. Lieut.-Col. Charles Mark Allanson-Winn, fourth Lord Headley, succeeded his father in 1877.

The church (All Saints) at Bramham occupies an open and elevated site in the midst of a spacious burial-yard, wherein the fathers of the parish have found a last resting-place no doubt from Saxon times. The *Domesday* church, probably of wood, has disappeared, but there still remains abundant evidences of the building that was erected by the Norman lords in the century following the Conquest. The north piers of the nave are apparently of the time of Stephen (1135—54), having plain round arches carried upon cylindrical columns with square abaci. The south piers are octagonal, and carry pointed arches. The tower is also Norman (three of its foundation walls being five feet thick), with later additions, battlemented, and supporting a 13th century octagonal

* See my *Nidderdale*, page 130. In the reign of Queen Anne, Bramham Biggin was the seat of Christopher, son of Sir John Armytage, of Kirklees. He afterwards resided at Hartshead Hall, and died in 1727.

† For pedigree of Allanson see *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 36, page 230.

spire.* The principal or south entrance into the church is Early English, having a pointed arch borne upon slender shafts at each side of the doorway. The door itself is of massive, solid oak. Of similar age to the doorway are the buttresses, of flat projection, each with a single set-off and having a triangular pediment. On the south side of the chancel are three lancet lights and a piscina. The church was restored in 1853-4, and contains many memorials of the Lane-Fox† and other local families.

The living is a vicarage, with a pleasant residence (the oldest part of which dates from 1678), and 80 acres of glebe-land, in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Oxford, to whom the great tithes, amounting to £900, were given after the Dissolution of Nostell Priory, *temp.* Henry VIII. Torre has supplied a list of the vicars from the year 1330.‡ The present vicar is the Rev. E. G. Wadson, M.A., who in 1898 succeeded the venerable Mr. Mare, who had been vicar of Bramham for 36 years. The registers of the parish date from 1586.

Bramham Park, the old seat of the Lane-Fox family, is in recent years best known as the home of the late worthy and popular squire, Mr. George Lane-Fox. The extensive area covered by the domain was granted by the Crown to Robert Benson, father of the first Lord Bingley, for his eminent public services. The large and stately mansion was built by Robert Benson, first Lord Bingley, in the reign of Queen Anne.§ He died in 1731.|| In the spacious park is an obelisk erected in memory of Robert Lane-Fox, Esq., grandson and

* It is a mistake to assume, as most authorities do assume, that towers had no spires before the 13th century. Square towers with spires are represented in illuminations as old as the Confessor's time, if not older. I may mention that the Bramham church spire was struck by lightning during a terrific storm in 1827. Several of the stones were dislodged, and the bell-stays were broken.

† The late Lieut.-General Augustus H. Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c., some time High Sheriff of Dorset, a Crimean veteran and distinguished archæologist, was of this family. He was the son of W. A. Lane-Fox, Esq., and on the death of his great uncle, Baron Rivers, to whose estates he succeeded, he took the surname of Pitt-Rivers. He died at Blandford, May 4th, 1900, aged 72.

‡ Parson Oglethorpe (1510) is omitted from the list, and *see Calend. of State Papers: Domestic, James I.*, vol. lvii. (1610), No. 116.

§ The mansion, with most of its costly furniture, plate, and paintings, was destroyed by fire on the night of July 29th, 1828; the loss being estimated at over £40,000. The library, together with the family records, &c., was happily preserved. *See Mayhall's Annals of Yorkshire.* The house has never been wholly restored, but the fine old gardens and pleasure grounds have been continuously and well maintained.

|| *See my Chronicles of Old Bingley, page 144, &c.* A large portrait, in oils, of Lord Bingley, may be seen at the Guildhall, York.

heir of the second Lord Bingley, who died in 1768. Before Lord Bingley enclosed the estate and commenced planting, it was an uncultivated heath, and the transformation from its original bleak aspects, has indeed, been marvellous. The beautiful velvety lawns, the green and ample park, with its fine beech avenue and well-grown trees, and the extensive laid-out grounds and gardens are exceedingly attractive. Sir John Goodricke, who married the heiress (for life) of Bramham in 1731, is said to have preferred Bramham Park to his beautiful paternal estate at Ribston.* After Lady Goodricke's death in 1792, Bramham passed to James Lane-Fox, Esq. (cousin to the Hon. Robert Lane, lord of Bingley, &c., died 1768), nephew of George Lane-Fox, second Baron Bingley. He died in 1825, leaving his extensive estates strictly entailed upon his eldest son George Lane-Fox, Esq.†

Bramham will always be remembered for its famous old Hunt, which was one of the first established in the north of England. Lord Bingley first hunted the country in the time of Queen Anne, and a pack of hounds has been kept here continuously since. But the real history of the Hunt did not commence until his Lordship was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. James Lane-Fox, "Jemmy Fox, of Bramham," as he was familiarly called, at which time the district covered by the Hunt was much more extensive than it is now. It reached from Skipton and Bingley to Leeds and Selby, and even up to the walls of York, a fine open country, embracing vast tracts of moorland and unenclosed grasslands, with but a scanty population and no railways. Having obtained permission of the landowners they were allowed to hunt and claim the fox-hunting right throughout the whole of this large territory. But in 1816 Mr. James Lane-Fox conceded to the then newly-formed York and Ainsty Hunt that portion of the country which lies to the east of the Tadcaster road.‡

Since those early days the face of the country has very much altered, enclosures have gone on, fields have been fenced, and most of the land is now in a high state of cultivation. For this and other reasons it has been now for many years gravely asserted that hunting is doomed. But this is incredible! It is too much to expect that the time-honoured "sport of Kings" will be altogether wiped out of the national pastimes. Hunting, says our old and estimable friend, Sir Roger de Coverley, "is the best kind of physic for mending a bad constitution and preserving a good one." Like touring, too, in

* Sir John Goodricke was cousin to Lord Bingley through his mother, Dorothy Jenkyns. See my *Nidderdale*, pages 188-9.

† See Mr. H. Murray Lane's *History of the Lane Family*, in the *Genealogical Mag.*, published by Mr. Elliot Stock; also my *Old Bingley*, page 144.

‡ See Mr. W. Scarth Dixon's *Hist. of the Bramham Moor Hunt*.





GEORGE LANE-FOX, ESQ.

one's own country, it develops patriotism, and, as Dr. Hiley well observes, the sporting taste makes our gentry reside much of the year in the country; they are known by their own people, and spend among them their incomes instead of crowding to the Continental cities.*

It was this hearty appreciation of his own dominions that helped not a little to form the sturdiness of character and individuality of the late Mr. George Lane-Fox. Though a keen sportsman and politician, he was above all a patriot, and it was his proud boast that during the whole of his fox-hunting life he had never spent a penny out of his own country. A typical Tory of the old school, intensely conservative, he had little sympathy with democratic tendencies, and he was as much opposed to local government reform as he was to the extension of the franchise. But that was his own marked way of viewing things, no lover of change—the old is the best—and so he always clung to the hope “when there will be one man one gun, one man one horse, one man one wife, and when we shall all live in the country!”

Mr. Fox loved Bramham, and knew almost every stone and tree for many miles round the home domains. He was an excellent landlord, liberal to a fault; in fact, it is well known that so considerably had he treated his tenantry that about the year 1856 the whole body came forward and offered to raise their rents for him.† Since that time, of course, there have been many changes, and farmers cannot easily afford to be so generous. But the old sympathy has been well maintained, and no landlord was ever held in greater esteem by his tenantry than was Mr. Fox. The magnificent service of plate, accompanied by an address, presented to him in November, 1872, affords striking testimony to the respect in which he was held by friends and neighbours alike. This valuable service comprises 57 pieces of ornamental and useful plate, in addition to over eleven dozen pieces of small plate, purchased by members of the Bramham Moor Hunt and other friends, at a cost of about 3000 guineas. The address is enclosed in a gilt-edged volume, very richly illuminated, containing a full-length photograph of Mr. Fox in hunting costume, together with many clever water-colour vignettes illustrative of well-known localities in the district covered by the Bramham Moor pack, such as Bramham Park, Riffa Wood, Woodhall Bridge, Stockeld, Harewood House, Parlington, Thorp Arch Bridge, &c. To the address is appended the signatures of Lords Harewood, Abergavenny, Feversham, Ashtown, and Wenlock, followed by the autographs of about 170 others.

* *Memories of Half-a-Century*, page 379; see also my *Airedale*, page 45.

† See my *Chronicles and Stories of Old Bingley*, pages 144-5.

Mr. Fox began to keep hounds in 1848 by taking back the pack which his grandfather had given to Lord Harewood six years before. Having been made into a subscription pack, he continued to hold the position of Master of the Hunt until the time of his death, November 2nd, 1896, a period of nearly fifty years. He was a true sportsman, loving the fine old English pastime for its own sake. He was no gambler, and perhaps it is not so well known that he never made a bet in his life. Singularly death bore him away on the opening-day of the hunting season, and within a few days of attaining his 80th year, Nov. 13th. The funeral at the old church of Bramham was witnessed by a very large gathering, and many persons, despite the chilling effects of a raw November morning, had come long distances to pay their last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased gentleman. The King, then Prince of Wales, sent Mr. Christopher Sykes, as his representative, who laid upon the bier a superb floral wreath, which was inscribed as follows: "In memory of a fine old English sportsman and gentleman, and as a mark of true regard and respect from Albert Edward, P." A great many other beautiful wreaths and floral tributes were also received, and the funeral, at which the Rt. Rev. Dr. Crosthwaite, Bishop of Beverley, officiated, was, indeed, an historic event in the neighbourhood. Such a large gathering of nobility and gentry had probably never been seen in a country churchyard in Yorkshire before.

Mr. Fox died at Bowcliffe House, the family seat since the destruction of the old mansion by fire in 1828. It had previously been occupied by the Smyth family.* It is now the residence of Mr. Fox's second son, James Thomas Richard Lane-Fox, Esq., D.L., J.P., who had previously resided at Hope Hall, Bramham, formerly the sporting seat of Lord Neville. The eldest son of Mr. Fox, George Lane-Fox, Esq., D.L., J.P., is Vice-Chancellor of the Primrose League, and a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He married a cousin of the late Cardinal Vaughan. The neighbourhood of Bramham and Wetherby has, ever since the Reformation, had many adherents to the Romish Church, and there are now handsome churches upheld by that body at Clifford and Sicklinghall. But during the religious anarchy that prevailed in the time of Charles II., there were in 1680 but six persons in Bramham and two in Clifford who were declared Papists. Under the Toleration Act dissenters greatly multiplied, and some local followers of George Fox, already then known as Quakers, had in 1691 a license to hold services and preach in a house called Petty House, in Clifford.†

* See pedigree in Thoresby's *Duc. Leod.*, page 360.

† Within ten years after the passing of the Toleration Act (in 1689), over fifty chapels were erected in Yorkshire, in addition to the numerous preaching-places licensed to the various denominations.

From the Sessions Records I gather further that Bramham raised many foot-soldiers for the West Riding Militia, who were called out to oppose the Jacobite rising in 1713. The Bramham Constables were on several occasions ordered to pay various sums in the relief of disbanded soldiers about this time.

During the later rebellion of 1745, elsewhere referred to in this work, General Wade's army was encamped on Bramham Moor. The greatest excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood at the time, and young Henry Wickham, afterwards Lieut.-Colonel Wickham, escaped from school at Heath, near Wakefield, and enlisted in one of the infantry regiments. His discharge was easily procured, but not until he had marched some time with the corps. He afterwards settled at Cottingley Hall, near Bingley, where he lived in great style, and the fact is still remembered there that every Sunday, when at home, he was accustomed to drive to Bingley Church in a handsome coach drawn by four horses with postilion.*

Bramham Moor was also the scene of a skirmish between the forces of the Earl of Northumberland and Sir Thomas Rokeby, Sheriff of Yorkshire, in which the Earl was slain and his army routed, 19th Feb., 1408. This conflict, which took place at a site still known as Camp Hill, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Tadcaster, helped to secure the crown to Henry IV.† A monument, marking the site, stands midway between Oglethorpe and Headley, but the inscription has gone.‡

Round about Bramham the country is delightfully fresh and the air invigorating, while the landscape is pleasantly diversified with gentle alternating hill and dale. There are several handsome residences in the neighbourhood, including Bowcliffe House, or Bramham Hall as it is now best known, and Hope Hall, already referred to. Hope Hall, two centuries ago, belonged to Mr. Marshall postmaster of Tadcaster. Bramham House was at one time the seat of Captain Preston, and is now owned and occupied by Chas. Stuart Robson, Esq. Bramham Lodge, formerly the seat of the Wright family, and later of J. H. Whitaker, Esq., is now occupied by Mr. Edmund Harrison, steward to Mr. Lane-Fox. John Lloyd Wharton, Esq., P.C., M.P., D.C.L., &c., is also a many years' resident at Bramham. He has gained a national reputation, and of his Parliamentary experience it may justly be said that no one is

* See the author's *Old Bingley*, page 348.

† See the author's *Nidderdale*, page 247.

‡ I have seen in possession of Mr. James Varley, of Tadcaster, a small iron cannon-shot, no larger than a cricket ball, which was discovered in this neighbourhood more than a century ago.

better conversant with procedure in the House of Commons, and he has been named as a possible Speaker.* Mr. Wharton, who is son of the late Mr. J. T. Wharton, of Dryburn, Durham, represented Durham in the House of Commons from 1871 to 1874, and since 1886 he has been Conservative Member for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire.

Bramham College is situated a short distance from the village, being the mansion formerly known as Bramham Biggin (*see page 91*), the ancestral seat of the noble house of Headley, previously referred to. This house, with the estate, was leased by the Rev. Benj. Bentley Haigh, LL.D., and for about 25 years, until his death in 1869, was conducted as an educational establishment with conspicuous success. Dr. Haigh was born in 1803 at Gunthwaite, near Penistone, and prior to opening his establishment at Bramham, had kept a school at Grimston Lodge, Kirkby Wharfe (*see page 202*). He was a skilful linguist, in which respect, observes the Rev. Wm. Bownas, B.A., it "would be difficult to excel or even to match him."† His Classical master about 1856 was the Rev. R. V. Taylor, B.A., the present incumbent of Melbecks, near Richmond, in the North Riding, and well-know as author of *Biographia Leodiensis* (1865), *Ecclesia Leodiensis* (1875), *Yorkshire Anecdotes* (1883), &c.

* *See also Dr. Hiley's Memories of Half-a-Century*, page 384

† *See Boston Spa, a Poem* (1858), page 49 *See also Some Account of Bramham College*, by an Oxford Graduate (1854).

This is indeed a neighbourhood to calm the hurry and anxieties of life, and with its well-known salubrity, the records of local longevity are very numerous.* There are now about 400 houses in the township, with a population of about 1500. In 1851 there were about 250 houses, and the population was 1049. At that time it had but lately become known as Boston Spa, the name Spa having been added soon after the introduction of the penny post; some confusion having arisen between this place and Boston in Lincolnshire.† Most of the houses are well built of stone, obtained from the Clifford and Bramham Moor quarries, while many of them are large and handsome and have beautiful gardens attached. In digging for the foundations of one of the houses in 1848, a vessel was found containing 172 Roman silver coins of various reigns down to Hadrian (117—138), when the hoard had probably been concealed in a time of alarm. The vessel is now in the York Museum.

Most of the houses have been built within the past century, when the place began to obtain repute for the excellence of its chalybeate spring, which was discovered in the year 1744, by a labourer named John Shires, while cutting brushwood on the banks of the river. Shires, it is said, drank of the water regularly and lived to a good old age.‡ It was not, however, till 1784 that the water was submitted to analysis, when it was found to contain a large proportion (about 70 grains in a pint) of chloride of soda, combined with small quantities of lime, magnesia, and carbonate of iron. The water is very useful in cases of general relaxation, bilious disorders, and stomachic complaints. The original spa, owing to its nearness to the river was frequently overflowed, and to remedy this inconvenience, neat and commodious Baths were erected in 1834 by R. O. Gascoigne, Esq., lord of the manor.

This valuable saline aperient spring has never been known to fail, and often as many as thirty to forty baths a day have been obtained from it, besides what has been supplied for drinking purposes. The water, when taken fresh from the pump, has a limpid, sparkling

* Mrs Isabel Moscrip, who died here Sept. 25rd, 1893, aged 104, and Mr. Wm. Banks, who died at Sunny Side, in the Low Lane, Dec. 11th, 1892, aged 98, may be cited among recent instances. It is also worthy of note that a medical gentleman at Boston Spa states that on April 14th, 1890, he visited 8 patients in the neighbourhood, whose united ages amounted to 693 years, or an average of 87 years each! This is striking testimony to the healthfulness of the neighbourhood.

† In the 1838 *West Riding Directory* it is described simply as Boston.

‡ I find in the Thorp Arch registers the baptismal entry, in June, 1715, of "John son of Thomas Sires" (presumably the same), and in the burial register appears under date Feb. 20th, 1794, "John Shires, who found the Spaw." He would thus be in his 80th year.

appearance, and a saline and slightly bitter taste, resembling the Cheltenham waters. The Baths are particularly recommended in cases of rheumatism and rheumatic gout. During the past forty years they have been kept by Mr. Alfred Nicholls.

The fame of the Spa waters, combined with the pure air, beautiful scenery, and good and ample accommodation and provision—there being numerous lodging-houses, hotels, and good shops,—now attracts a great many visitors annually, who usually derive much benefit from a sojourn at the Spa. Its situation upon table land or on gentle



BOSTON SPA CHURCH IN 1870.

acclivities, is especially suited to those unable to bear the strain or exertion of climbing hills. Its warm and sheltered situation is also well suited for winter residence, much more so than its famous neighbour, Harrogate, ten miles distant.

The very neat church was built by subscription, on land given by Mr. Samuel Taite, whose father, Mr. Joseph Taite, is said to have built the first house (now the *Royal* hotel) that was erected at Boston Spa in 1753. The first stone of the church (St. Mary's) was laid 28th March, 1812, and it was opened for public worship Dec. 26th, 1814. It has since (1872) been almost entirely rebuilt.* There is

* See *The Builder* for 1872, page 551.

also an Independent Chapel, erected in 1836, and a Wesleyan Chapel dating from 1847.

Clifford, including Boston, forms an ancient township within the parish of Bramham, and is separated from the parish of Thorp Arch by the Wharfe, yet Boston Spa, as I have said, was hardly known by that name a century ago, and in many publications down to the middle of the 19th century, places properly within the township are described as within Thorp Arch.* The stone bridge over the Wharfe, connecting the two parishes of Thorp Arch and Boston Spa, was erected near the old ford and ferry at the expense of the local landowners in 1770. Its surrounding aspects have greatly changed since then. The view prefacing this chapter, from a photograph by the late Mr. Maffett, of Boston Spa, depicts the locality from thirty to forty years ago.

Several good houses have been erected within the past two or three years, including those above the bridge, and a large and handsome mansion called Four Gables, situated beyond the church to the south, built by John H. Whitham, Esq., of an old Craven family long resident in the neighbourhood of Keighley. One of the oldest villa residences in the district is the house known as St. Kitts, which was built on land purchased by the Rev. Christopher Atkinson in 1773. The house was occupied for many years by his unmarried daughters, and at the death of the last of them in 1826, Mr. Joseph Milner Atkinson went to live there. He died in 1855, and was the last of the Atkinsons to reside at Boston Spa.

During the most eventful century in the whole history of the township, the family had taken a prominent part in promoting the progress and welfare of Boston, and had witnessed its growth from the erection of the first house (*see above*) until it became a large and flourishing community. The Rev. Christopher Atkinson, who was the first of the family to reside in the neighbourhood, was born at Troutbeck, in the parish of Windermere, and was appointed vicar of Thorp Arch in 1749. He was also incumbent of Walton and chaplain to Lord Bingley. He had held the living of Troutbeck for about two years before 1745, when he became Head Master of Macclesfield Grammar School, and this position he retained until his settlement at Thorp Arch. By his wife Jane, daughter of William Johnson, Esq., of the Old Hall, near Kendal, he had a family of four sons and eight daughters. Four of the daughters married, and four died unmarried. His eldest son, Johnson Atkinson, Esq., M.D.,

* In Baines's *Flora of Yorkshire* (1840), Thorp Arch is very frequently mentioned as a plant locality, but Boston Spa not once. The same remark applies to the *Supplement* published in 1855. Even Jackdaw Crag is spoken of as in Thorp Arch.

married the heiress of the Busfelds, of Ryshworth, in the parish of Bingley, a lady possessed of large properties in various parts of Yorkshire, and in 1772 he assumed the surname of Busfeld, and died in 1817. He was father of William Busfeld, Esq., M.P. for Bradford from 1837 to 1851, and was grandfather of the late Wm. Busfeld Ferrand, Esq., M.P., of St. Ives, Bingley, the largest landowner in that parish.*

The Rev. Christopher Atkinson partly rebuilt and restored Thorp Arch church in 1759, at which time his mother presented the font. He erected the family burial-vault at the north-east corner of the churchyard, and was himself interred there in 1774. His second son, the Rev. Miles Atkinson, became vicar of Kippax, and incumbent



THE REV. WM. ATKINSON.

of St. Paul's, Leeds. The latter church was built principally through his exertions and almost at his own expense. In the first of the two volumes of his sermons, published after his death, there is a memoir of him, and another of his father is also prefixed. His portrait, in oil, was painted by John Russell, R.A., and engraved by Skelton. William, the fourth son of the Rev. Christopher Atkinson, was born at Thorp Arch in 1758, and became rector of Warham, Norfolk, and afterwards Lecturer at the Bradford Parish Church. He was author of many political and other pamphlets, and his election to the Lectureship at Bradford caused violent and protracted controversy.†

* See the author's *Old Bingley*, pages 360-67.

† A long but probably incomplete list of his writings will be found in the *Bradford Antiquary* for 1881. See also under BALDWIN, and see Wm Scruton's *Old Bradford*, pages 267-8, &c., and Taylor's *Yorkshire Anecdotes*, page 18.

PEDIGREE OF ATKINSON, OF TROUTBECK (WINDERMERE), AND THORP ARCH, CO. YORK.

MYLES ATKINSON=Mabel —
 of the Howe, in Applethwaite, who died November, 1638.
 Westmorland, buried at Trout-
 beck, 28th Jan., 1638.

William, John=Isabella Robinson.
 b. 1596. bap. 1st May, 1600.

Agnes, Margaret, Christopher=Isabel, daughter of
 bd. 1638. bap. 1633-4. baptised 1st Jan., 1638, Thomas Hird, of
 buried 30th Oct., 1723. Troutbeck.

John, Thomas, Miles=Agnes, daughter William, Isabella, James,
 baptised died in bapd. 14th Feb., of R. Cookson. b. 1677. Christopher, Isabella, James,
 22nd May, 1667. 13th December. 1675. 1675, M.D., died She died 2nd b. 1683. b. 1685. b. 1686.
 died in 1723. 1668. 13th Sept., 1736, March, 1758.

unmarried. Sold the Howe, 1737. buried at Troutbeck.

John Christopher=Jane, daughter of Wm. Thomas Rowland Agnes Isabella Ann
 born at Troutbeck, 13th April, 1713, Johnson, of Old Hall,

M.A. Queen's College, Oxford, Vicar
 of Thorp Arch, Incumbent of Walton;
 Chaplain to Lord Bingley; buried
 13th July, 1774, in the family vault at
 Thorp Arch.
 died 17th Dec., 1791,
 buried in the family
 vault at Thorp Arch.

Johnson=Elizabeth, Miles=Mary, d. Jane=Jas. Drake, Agnes=Samuel Margaret=George
 of only child born 28 of Edw. died of Horley died Goodall. d. in Swiney. Catherine
 Myrtle Grove, of Wm. Kenyon, 22 Green; 19 1778. d. of Sir
 Bingley; as- Busfield, 1741; d. of Leeds. July, 1820. March 19 One daughter. low & Tutor Byrne
 sum'd the name of 6 Feb., D. July, 1820. 1828. s.p. Dorothy, of Trinity Leicester,
 of Busfield in Ryshworth 1811. 1798. Ann, bap. Hall, Camb. Bart.
 1772; died 26th Hall, Bingley. Eleven sons and daughters. b. 4 January, 1748, d. 18 Mar.,
 March, 1817. ley. d. 1798. d. 17 Feb., 1826. 1752. 1795.

A

William, Wm. (Busfield)=Caroline, d. b. 1767, of Upwood, par. of Capt. C. Bingley, b. 1773. Wood, R.N. d. 1770. M.P. for Bradford d. 1839. Bd. at Carlton-in-Craven. 1837-51; d. 1851.

Elizabeth Sarah=Matthew Thompson, b. 12 May, 1793; d. Feb., 1792, md. J.P., D.L., Maningham Lodge, B'd'f'd 1819, 1794.

Jane Maria, Charles Wm. Harriet, Christopher Joseph Milner=Mary John Wilson, Johnson Miles William Atkinson, born 2 Thompson, b. 16 Feb., b. 7 July, Cottam, B.A., Vicar of Walton, b. 24 May, 11 Sept., Feb., 1792, md. J.P., D.L., Maningham Lodge, B'd'f'd 1819, 1794.

Sir Matthew William=Mary Ann, d. of Benjamin Thompson, J.P., created a Baronet, 1890; d. 1st Dec., 1891.

Peile, b. 1844, 2 sons 2 daughters

M.A. Trin. Coll., Camb.

William Fletcher=Fanny Beckett, Milner, younger of John Smith, of Burley House, Leeds. b. 23 Dec., 1838, d. 18 Mar., 1848. the Hon. John Henry Roper-Curzon.

Miles Fletcher Helen Mary William Milner Frances Isabel

B

Currer=Sarah Ferrand, Elizabeth, d. 1821. William=Mary, d. Mary, b. 14 April, 1758, M.A. Rector of Warham Cottam, 21 Norfolk; died 1846, bd. at Thorp Arch. 1760.

Joseph Milner=Mary John Wilson, Johnson Miles William Atkinson, b. 22 Nov. 1800, Fletcher. B.A., Vicar of Walton, b. 24 May, 11 Sept., d. B.A. Catherine d. 24 Mar., b. 23 Nov. 1800, 1810, 1815, d. 12 Hall, Camb.; 24 Mar., b. 23 Nov. 1800, 1810, 1815, d. 12 Nov., 1802. d. 2 Mar., 1855. C 1895. d. Nov. 1836. d. 1 Aug., 1831 Sep. 1815

Agnes Harriet=James Benjamin Peile=Rosa, daughter of Stoddart b. 5 Feb., 1826, of Grevis James, R.N.; M.A. Catherine of Ightham d. 1824, Hall, Camb.; Court, Kent; Incumbent of died 7th May, 1896. in 1892. St. Lawrence, 1894. Seal, Kent.

Edward, b. Frederick Charles James=Bertha b. 15 Jan., b. 3 Jan., 1850, Mary, 1848, M.A. Trinity younger d. md. College, of Sir M. Cambridge. W. Emily Richard Thompson, Richardson. Rector of Dorsington, 1895.

C

Robert Andrew Allison, d. 27 April, 1892. Carlisle. Scaleby Hall, Cambridge Rector of Dorsington, 1895.

William James Lumsden, of Balmedie, Aberdeen. d. 10 May, 1896.

Robert Andrew Allison, d. 27 April, 1892. Carlisle. Scaleby Hall, Cambridge Rector of Dorsington, 1895.

Robert Andrew Allison, d. 27 April, 1892. Carlisle. Scaleby Hall, Cambridge Rector of Dorsington, 1895.

For many years he resided at Boston, in a house of his own, then called Clifford Lodge, and it was mainly by his efforts that the first church at Boston was built. He died in 1846 aged 88, and was buried at Thorp Arch. I append a portrait of him from an original painting by W. O. Geller,* in possession of the family of Sir M. W. Thompson, Bart, Park Gate, Guiseley.† His wife's family, the Cottams, I may add, were relatives of the Milners, lords of the manor of Pudsey, near Leeds.‡ The annexed new pedigree of Atkinson traces the descent of this prominent local family and its immediate connections to the present time.

Many other genteel houses might be noted in this beautiful neighbourhood, including Boston Lodge, the pleasant home of the Vincent family,§ and Chestnut Grove, which at one time was occupied by Mr. George Lane-Fox. The ancient and distinguished family of Wickham has long been connected with this house. Lamplugh, second son of Col. Henry Wickham, of Cottingley, near Bingley, and brother of the eminent statesman, the Rt. Hon. Wm. Wickham, was born in 1768, and married a daughter of Richard Hird, Esq., of Rawdon, near Leeds. He took the name of Hird, and died in 1842. He was father of Mr. Lamplugh Wickham (Hird) Wickham, of Chestnut Grove and Low Moor, near Bradford, a partner in the great trading concern known as the Low Moor Iron Company. He died in 1883, and was buried at Boston Spa. His eldest son, William Wickham Wickham, Esq., now resides at Chestnut Grove. He married in 1868, Katherine, daughter of Thomas Fairfax, Esq., of Newton Kyme, and their eldest daughter, Miss Alice Wickham, was married at Boston Spa Oct. 19th, 1897, to Captain Charles Algernon Sidney Warner, of the 17th Lancers. The officiating clergymen were the Rev. C. H. Fairfax (uncle of the bride) and the Rev. J. Dodd (vicar), and the picturesque ceremony was witnessed by a very large gathering, and will long be remembered in the neighbourhood. Among the company of invited guests were the Prince and Princess Adolphus of Teck.

Wharfedale House is also another picturesque residence, "with

* See BELLHOUSE Pedigree, page 297.

† Sir Mathew Wm. Thompson, Bart., lineally descended from the Rev. Chris. Atkinson, vicar of Thorp Arch (1749-74), was M.P. for Bradford, 1867-8, and was created a Baronet in 1890 for his great public services, especially in connection with railway enterprise. He was at that time Chairman of the Forth Bridge Co., and Chairman of the Midland Railway Co.

‡ See Berry's *County Genealogies: Kent*.

§ Vincent, of Boston Lodge, see Burke's *Landed Gentry*, also *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. v., page 191 n. Mr. Wm. Clarke Vincent, of Boston Lodge, who had been a liberal benefactor to the neighbourhood, died 30th Sept., 1896, aged 67.

clematis and roses mantled o'er,"* which must be noted as the birthplace of the distinguished poet and littérateur, Mr. Samuel Waddington. He is of the Oglethorpe Hall family (see page 381, and was born at Boston Spa in 1844.† Among his many published works, the *Century of Sonnets*, issued in 1889, and collected *Poems*, a tasteful little volume published in 1896, contain so much that is choice and original in thought, as also perfect in expression, that it is difficult to single out any particular piece for its superior merit. The distinguishing characteristic of these poems seems to be their high moral purpose, written so simply and withal in such faultless metre that wisdom and melody bear us unconsciously onward from stanza to stanza through the pages of the book. His sonnets are models of their kind. "They reveal," says the *Saturday Review*, "a sense of form and an avoidance of mere sonority of language that are exceedingly rare in the sonnets of the day." Mr. Waddington is also a not infrequent contributor to the magazines, and has lately written a very able and suggestive article on *The Cradle of the Human Race*.‡

The Rev. William Bownas, B.A., has also written much and attractively in poetical form on Boston Spa, while another local writer of good repute was Mr. John Emmett, F.L.S., who settled at Boston Spa on account of ill health some forty years ago, and died there in January, 1901, in his 80th year. He was for some years a regular contributor to *Chambers' Journal*, the *Naturalist*, *Science Gossip*, and kindred publications. As a naturalist he was well known, and his abundant records of the fauna and flora of the neighbourhood of Boston Spa have added not a little to the interest in and value of the natural history of the county. He had made a thorough study of the conchology of the district, and was the discoverer, in 1858, of the peculiarly local Needle-agate shell (*Achatina acicula*). Also *Acme lineata* has been found here in its only known station.

Just as Harrogate in modern times has exceeded in population and importance the mother parish of Knaresborough, so has Boston Spa surpassed its ancient parent manor and township of Clifford.§

* *Vide* Mr. Waddington's sonnet, entitled *In the Piazza di S. Marco*, where he makes this allusion to his old home.

† See Mr. Miles's *Poets and Poetry of the Century*; Mr. Eyle's *Popular Poets of the Period*; *Who's Who*, 1900; Andrews' *North Country Poets*, &c.

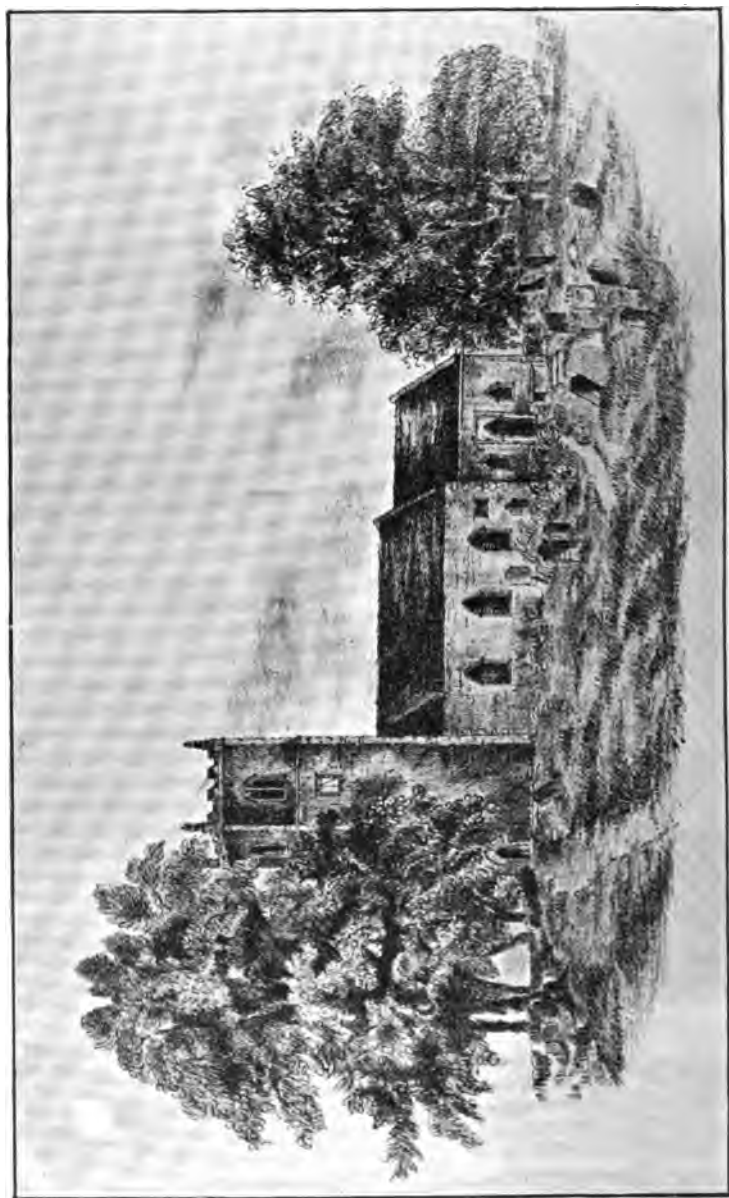
‡ See *Nineteenth Century* for November, 1900.

§ In *Domesday* spelled *Cliford*. It must not be supposed that the place takes its name from the ancient family of Clifford, as this family was originally seated in Herefordshire, and had no property in Yorkshire until long after the Conquest. They took their name of De Clifford from Clifford on the Wye. Our Clifford doubtless derives its name from the A.-S. *clyf*, a cliff, and *ford*, a ford, that is from some ancient ford at or near the cliffs on the river.

The latter manor originally embraced the whole territory of what is now Boston Spa. It is no doubt, like Bramham, a Saxon settlement, and the old soke-mill at Clifford, according to *Domesday*, has existed from at least the days of King Edward the Confessor. The Clifford (flax) mills have long been vacant; not having been worked since the great fire on June 15th, 1867, when damage was sustained to the amount of upwards of £2000.

There is a beautiful Protestant church, opened in 1842, but the district has a numerous Roman Catholic population, and there is here an imposing and very handsome Catholic church, which would be a notable building in any of the largest towns or cities in the kingdom. It is dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor, and is in the purest Norman style with apsidal termination. It was opened in 1848. The interior is almost cathedral-like in its size, loftiness, and impressiveness. The Lady Chapel and Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament are most superbly decorated, and there is a magnificent statue of the Blessed Virgin, executed in Carrara marble, by Hoffman, which is reputed to be one of the best works of Christian art in the world. It is said that the eminent sculptor became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith while engaged on this beautiful statue.

Between Boston Spa and Clifford are the extensive buildings of the St. John's Institute, where at the present time about 200 deaf and dumb youths belonging to Roman Catholic families in all parts of the country, are taught various useful trades. The buildings are well built and spacious, and in every way adapted for the good work carried on in so deserving an institution.



THORP ARCH CHURCH IN 1870.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

THORP ARCH.

Antiquity of the settlement—*Domesday* testimony—The Arches family—Descent of the manor—Fourteenth century trades—Local woollen industry—The old corn-mill Historical records—The Gossip family—Picturesque aspects—The "old castle"—Thorp Arch Hall—Manor-house—Records of the church The vicars—Description of the church—Pre-Norman relics—The churchyard—The parish registers.



CONTRASTED with its more populous neighbour, Boston Spa, over the water, the pretty village of Thorp Arch looks small and insignificant, though it possesses a far superior interest in point of antiquity. Actual remains prove it to have been occupied in British times, while a Christian community was established here in the Saxon ages, and in 1083 the township possessed an endowed church and had a resident priest. The following is the testimony of *Domesday* :

THREE MANORS. In Torp (Thorp Arch), Orm, Godwin, and Tor had three carucates of land for geld. The land is to three ploughs. Now Osbern has there three ploughs, and six villanes and seven bordars and two ploughs. A priest [is] there, and a church, and the site of a mill. [The whole land] one leuga in length and half [a leuga] in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth four pounds ; now ten shillings less.

This Osbern, who took the name of De Arcis (so written in *Domesday*) or Arches, a place in Normandy,* a name that must not be confounded with that of the family of De Arcubus (or Bowes, whose arms were three bows—*arcus*), had very large grants made to him at the Conquest. He received 66 manors in Yorkshire, the most valuable of them being Thorp (Arch), Walton, (Nun) Appleton, Poppleton, Oglethorpe, and Newton (Kyme), all situate in the lower vale of the Wharfe. He had also some few possessions in Lincolnshire.† The arms of this family were three arches of masonry.

Osbern de Arches was Sheriff of Yorkshire about A.D. 1100, but when he died is not known. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

* See *Archæologia*, xxxi., page 216 : On the Barony of Arques.

† See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. iv., page 244.

William de Arches, who with Ivetta, his wife, founded about 1150 the Benedictine Priory at (Nun) Monkton.* There being no male issue of this marriage, the manor of Thorp (Arch) passed to his daughter Ivetta, who was twice married, (1) to Roger de Flamville, (2) to Adam de Brus, of Skelton, in Cleveland, who survived her. She died in 1152, and was buried at Gisburn or Gisburgh Priory, which had been founded by Robert de Brus in 1119. Adam de Brus, his son, died in 1162,† having some time previously given the church of Thorp Arch, held by him in the right of his wife, to the chapel of the Blessed Mary, St. Michael, and the Holy Angels, near the cathedral at York.

In a pedigree of the family of Brus, of Skelton,‡ the above Adam de Brus, who married Ivetta de Arches, is said to have died shortly before 1200, and his son Peter de Brus, who died in 1222, left a son Peter, who died about 1241. This Peter de Brus, who succeeded to the manor of Thorp Arch, married Helewise de Lancaster, widow of Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, a favourite of King John, who was descended, according to Cockersand, from Ivo Tailbois, Earl of Anjou, as well as from the famous Fitz Warrens. She was one of the coheireses of William de Lancaster, whose family had taken this name by virtue of their descent from William de Warren, governor of the important castle at Lancaster.§ Peter and Helewise had a numerous offspring. All their sons, including the eldest, Peter de Brus who died in 1272, left no issue,‖ therefore the family patrimony was divided among four sisters, (1) Agnes, wife of William de Fauconberg; (2) Lucia, wife of Marmaduke de Thweng; (3) Margaret, wife of Robert de Ros, of Wark; and (4) Laderina, wife of Sir John de Bella Aqua or Bellew.¶

In 1284-5 there are stated to be four (? three) carucates of land in Thorp Arche (then so written), held by John de Bella Aqua of the fee of Roger de Mowbray, who held the same of the King *in capite* by the rent of 2s. 11½d. per annum. In 1302 it is recorded (*vide* Knights Fees, 31st Edward I.), there are three carucates of land in Thorp Arches, which are held by two heirs of Laderan de Brus. Sir John de Bellew survived his wife, leaving, in 1300, two coheirs, (1) Nicholas Stapelton, then aged 15, son and heir of his daughter

* See my *Nidderdale*, pages 110-11.

† *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Archæol. Inst. at York in 1846*, page 107.

‡ *Vide Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xiii., pages 52, 258.

§ See *Archæological Journal*, vol., vi., page 194.

‖ See my *Nidderdale*, page 111.

¶ Of Kirklington, Notts., where is a moated farm-house still known as Belle Eau Park. The arms of this family were *sable, fretty, or*, which appears among the Metham quarterings (No. 5) and No. 6 is *arg. a lion rampant azure* (Brus). See Foster's *Yorks. Visitations*, page 252, and *ante* page 395.

Sibilla, deceased, who had been wife of Sir Miles Stapelton, and (2) Joanna, another daughter then living, aged 24 years and upwards, the wife of Fitz Henry. A son of the latter, Aucherius filius Henrici, and Nicholas de Stapelton are returned in 1315 as joint lords of Thorp D' Arch. This Aucher left a son Henry, who succeeded to his father's interest in Thorp Arch, and this Henry Fitz Aucher, in 18th Edward III. (1345), enfeoffed Richard de Depeden in his manor of Thorp Arches, with reversion to himself and his heirs.*

In 1378 John de Stapelton and his wife, and Magota, widow of Richard Depeden (*see* page 360-1), were among those at Thorp Arch who contributed a groat to the tax levied for carrying on the wars with France. It would appear that Thorp Arch was a place of some trade at this time; among the 14 married couples and 38 single adults comprising the population, there were two carpenters, one ploughwright, one brazier, two walkers or fullers, and a tinctor or dyer, so that a good deal of woollen cloth must have been brought to Thorp Arch in the course of the year to be dyed and fulled. The city of York, at this period, had a great fame for the manufacture of woollen fabrics, especially for coverlets, of which it possessed the sole monopoly till 1552, and they continued to be made there until early in the 18th century. At many places, too, in the Lower Wharfe valley, especially at Wetherby, a brisk trade was carried on in the 14th century in the manufacture of cloth, and in 1396 the West Riding collector of the tax on woollen cloth resided at Tadcaster (*see* WETHERBY.)

The manorial corn-mill at Thorp Arch (on the site of what is now known as the Old Mills above the bridge), which had not been built at the time of the Norman survey, also became a valuable trade property, and in 1401 Sir John Depeden, Kt., quitclaimed to Thomas Hulott and William Flaxton, chaplains, all his right in lands and the mills at Thorp Arch, &c.†

The manor of Thorp Arch subsequently came to the Gascoignes, and early in the 18th century it had descended to the famous Lady Elizabeth Hastings, daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, by Elizabeth his first wife, who was daughter and coheir of Sir John Lewis, Bart. Lady Hastings inherited the manors of Ledston, Ledsham, Thorp Arch, Collingham, Wheldale, Wyke, and Shadwell. She died in 1739, aged 57.‡ The manor of Thorp Arch was next acquired by the Gossips, who have long been seated at Thorp Arch. William Gossip, Esq., of Thorp Arch, who was born

* *See Coll. Top. et Gen.*, vii., 161, and *Yorks Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xiii., page 61 n.

† *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xiii., page 61.

‡ *See also Mr. Wilson's Sedbergh School, Register*, page 21.

in 1704-5, married Anne, daughter and coheirress of Geo. Wilmer, Esq., of York, and died in 1772.* His second son, Wilmer Gossip, Esq., lived at the present Hall at Thorp Arch (which was built by his father), and died there in 1790. His nephew and eventual successor at Thorp Arch, Randall Gossip, Esq., was born in 1800 and married in 1825, Christiana, only daughter of William Marshall, Esq., of Newton Kyme and Laughton-en-le-Morthen. She was sister and sole heiress of William Hatfield, Esq., of Laughton and Newton Kyme. He assumed by royal license 16th Oct., 1844, the surname of Hatfield on succeeding to the estates of his wife's brother, the above Wm. Hatfield, Esq. (formerly Marshall). He died, in 1853, and was succeeded by his youngest son, John Hatfield, Esq., J.P., of Thorp Arch Hall, who married in 1869, and died in 1889, aged 43, and was interred in the family vault in Thorp Arch churchyard, and his wife, who died in 1894, aged 45, was interred beside him. He left a son John Randall Hatfield, Esq., and a daughter Lilian Frances, recently married to Harry Rochfort, only son of the late Gen. Charles Elmhirst, C.B., of Horncastle. Mr. J. R. Hatfield married Oct. 23rd, 1901, the youngest daughter of W. Hyde, Esq., of the Grange, Market Stainton. The Hall with its beautiful park, has been tenanted now some years by Thomas Bright Matthews, Esq.

Round about the village of Thorp Arch the aspects are very picturesque. Though most of the houses are comparatively new, they look beautiful in summer time, with their mantles of roses and clematis, while nearly every gable is covered with a good-bearing fruit tree. Formerly most of the cottages had roofs of stout old thatch, but only two such now remain. At the top of the village is the entrance to the beautiful Hall park, the family seat of the Hatfields. Sir Thomas Widdrington quotes some old Latin verses referring to this park, which it seems in former times was but poorly stocked with game. The words of the sportsmen (translated) are these: "Hence (from York) we take our way to a small forest called Thorpe, a long journey and to no purpose, for there both our hope and our day are lost; we have little or no pleasure; it is fuller of bushes than bucks." Close to the park gates is a large rocky mound-like eminence, which I gather is the site of the manor-house of the early lords of Thorp Arch. The site is known as the "Old Castle," and is now occupied by the waterworks-tower, whence the village is supplied with water.

There is also in the village a pleasant, substantial residence, called the Manor House (John T. Lee, Esq.). It is not very old, but in the gardens are a number of sculptured stones, including part of a large

* See Foster and Green's *History of the Wilmer Family* (1888).

moulded archway, and a heavy octagonal block of millstone-grit, which from the central hole in it may have supported a stone shaft or cross. One of the lesser stones is inscribed, "R.F.E., 1618."

The church was given by Adam de Brus and his wife, Ivetta de Arches, to the chapel of St. Mary and Holy Angels, near York Minster, then founded by Archbishop Roger. In May, 1258, Archbishop Sewell ordained a vicarage in the church, the vicar to have the whole altarage of the said church and mansion thereof, saving to the sacrist of the said chapel his easement of going to and returning from his grange there, to lay up his corn. Likewise the vicar shall have the tithe of the tithe pertaining to the sacrist, or two marks out of his purse, and other two marks shall be yearly distributed by the sacrist among the poor of the parish. Furthermore the vicar shall repair the chancel of the church, and find all things necessary thereunto, and pay the procurations to the Archdeacon.* At the general dissolution, *temp.* Henry VIII., the value of the living was stated to be £3 15s. 5d. per annum, and in the Parliamentary Survey (*ca.* 1650) at £20 per annum. The poorness of the living was characteristic of the time, and called for remedy. By indenture, tripartite, made Feb. 19th, 1730, the whole of the tithes or tenths of corn and grain, as also every tithe great and small of whatsoever kind, arising out of the township fields and territories of Thorp Arch, were purchased from Wm. Wrightson, Esq., of Cusworth, co. York, for the sum of £1250, to be laid out "for the perpetual augmentation of the vicarage of Thorp Arch." The Rev. Christ. Wetherhead (who died in 1746) was then incumbent, and this augmentation was made and conveyed to him "and his successors, vicars of Thorp Arch." Towards this benefaction the Lady Elizabeth Hastings contributed £450.†

The list of vicars, cited by Torre, commences with the institution of Adam de Lund in 1280, the Sacrists of the Chapel of St. Mary's, York, being patrons from the ordination of the vicarage to the Dissolution. Afterwards the advowson, with patronage, passed to the Savilles, of Wakefield, and subsequently to the Lady Elizabeth Hastings, of Ledstone.‡ The patron is now Granville C. Hastings

* These liabilities are not exclusively appurtenant to a rectory, where the rectorial tithes have never been appropriated. A vicar, as in this instance (*see* also COLLINGHAM), may be liable for repairs to the chancel, &c., and though he have the benefit of the great tithes of the parish he may not claim the title of rector without an Order in Council. *See* also *ante* page 175.

† Copied from the indenture at Thorp Arch vicarage.

‡ Several 17th and 18th century deeds concerning the advowson and patronage are preserved among the parish papers.

Wheler, Esq.,* of Ledstone Hall, and the present vicar, the Rev. Wm. H. Jackson, M.A., was instituted in 1875. He is of an old Staffordshire family and related to the Congreves of Congreve in that county, from whom descends the well-known poet of that name, who was born at Bardsey, a neighbouring parish to Thorp Arch. At Thorp Arch vicarage is preserved a large portrait in oil of a Dr. Congreve, who lived in the time of James II., and a descendant of whom, Anna Maria Congreve, was great-aunt to Mr. Jackson, the vicar of Thorp Arch. Mr. Jackson has been energetic in his services to the church, and for many years has been organising secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for the Archdeaconry of York.†

The ancient church (All Saints) stands in a most isolated position, about half-a-mile from the village, and on the way to Walton. The site was doubtless chosen for the convenience of both places at a time when there was no church at Walton. It was no doubt the assembling-place for Christian worship of a wide district, but when the first church was built we have no exact knowledge. The church is first mentioned in the Conqueror's famous survey (1083—6). There is, however, a fragment of what may have been a preaching-cross built into one of the walls of the porch. It measures on the surface 18 inches long and 11 inches wide, and bears on the side exposed a debased form of interlaced work, probably of the 9th or 10th century. It is not improbable that the *Domesday* church was of wood, and made way for a stone building in the early part of the 12th century.

The fabric of the church has undergone many alterations and restorations since it was first built. Little of the original edifice now remains, save the south door, and this was formerly an entrance at the west end of the tower (as shewn in the prefatory illustration), but was re-erected in its original position when the church was restored and the north aisle added in 1871-2. The doorway is somewhat 'strait' or narrow in proportion to its height, and comprises a semi-circular arch ornamented with a fine and well-preserved series of Norman beak-heads. The single shafts at the angles have square abaci, also ornamented. It is to be regretted that so many sculptured fragments have been built into the walls of

* Catherine Maria, sister to Theophilus, 9th Earl of Huntingdon, married the Rev. Granville Wheler, of Otterden Place, in Kent, son of the celebrated traveller, Sir George Wheler. She was grandmother of the late Granville-Hastings Wheler, Esq., who inherited the estates of Ledstone Hall from his great-aunt, the above-mentioned Lady Elizabeth Hastings. A copy of Barnard's *Life of Lady Elizabeth*, published in 1742, is kept among the papers at Thorp Arch vicarage.

† See page 87 n.

the porch, covering this fine doorway. In their present position no just idea can be formed of their dimensions, nor whether they are sculptured on more than the sides exposed.

In addition to the above pre-Norman cross fragment, there is in the west wall of the porch what may be some Norman filling from the spandril of the original doorway removed in 1756, though it looks like part of a stone-shield of arms. The stone bears a number of small squares, alternately hollow and raised, perhaps intended to indicate the chequy arms of the Earls of Warren, alternately *or* and *azure* (see page 422).*

Another small stone (about two feet high), in the east wall depicts a headless human figure, clad in plain kirtle, without belt or weapons, and as the feet are represented naked it is probably a memorial to an infant. The long lean arms, the right one raised on the breast and the other bent to the side, seem to indicate Saxon workmanship.

The interior of the church contains a few memorial tablets, including one on the north wall enumerating seventeen descents of the Gossip (now Hatfield) family of Thorp Arch Hall. Within an arched recess on the north side of the chancel is a small well-preserved memorial slab, 31 inches long, 15½ inches wide at the head and tapering to 12 inches at the foot. It is sculptured in relief on the top with a short calvary-cross, having an ornamental head of the latter part of the 13th century, and on two sides of it is this inscription in Longobardic:



TOMB-SLAB IN THORP ARCH CHURCH.

HIC JACET JOHES FILIVS JOHIS DE BELEWE. The stone was discovered in one of the walls of the church

at the rebuilding in 1756, and doubtless commemorates a son and heir of Sir John de Bellew, who died in 1300, leaving, as previously stated, two daughters to divide his inheritance of the manor of Thorp Arch. On the opposite side of the chancel is a piscina. The coloured east window is a memorial to the late

* See Ellis's *Antiquities of Heraldry*, page 179; see also arms on tomb of Lord Dacre illustrated in Whitaker's *Duc. Leod.*, page 155.

Col. Henry Lane and his wife, the Lady Frances Harriott Lane, and was placed here by relatives and friends in 1880.

The tower of the church (Perpendicular) is battlemented with crocketed pinnacles at the angles, and there is a small shield of arms on each side on the uppermost string-course, but the bearings are all too much weathered to be now distinguishable. The lower part of the tower was partly rebuilt in 1756 when the south doorway was removed to its west front. There were two bells in 1553.* Within the tower is a brass tablet referring to the local benefactions of Lady Elizabeth Hastings, lady of the manor and proprietor of the advowson. She was the founder of the School in 1739.

In the churchyard are the sepulchres of the Hatfields, Atkinsons, and other local families. It may not be generally known that here is interred Mr. Samuel Hailstone, father of the late Mr. Edward Hailstone, F.S.A., the well-known antiquary, of Walton Hall, near Wakefield. On the north side is also the vault of the family of the Rev. R. Hemingtou, 45 years vicar of the parish, who died in 1820. It was while making this vault in 1820 that the stone coffin now in the churchyard was found. In 1817 the fee for burials in a coffin was 1s. 6d., and if without a coffin 11d. A Terrier in which this is cited, records the existence in that year (1817) of the tithe barn (long ago pulled down), together with an orchard, late in the tenure of James Clark, situated on the north side of the vicarage, and on the south side was a large garden.

The registers of the church commence with the year 1595, and contain several entries of the burial of soldiers and soldiers' children, &c., during the period of the Civil War. There is also recorded among the burials in 1656 the fate of one Thomas Scott, a labouring man, who is stated to have been bringing down a boatful of stones to the "new mill," when the boat sank and he was drowned. There is also an interesting reference in one of the books to the repair of the churchyard wall by the parishioners in 1732; some 37 families being then responsible for the rebuilding of the wall. This wall still exists and the lines of demarcation shewing each man's portion may still be detected in the masonry. The wall has been repaired at various times since.

In 1575 it is recorded that there had been no sermon in the church at Thorp Arch for about twenty years. Who was responsible for this is not stated. Humfray Dixon is mentioned as vicar from 1544 to 1552, and John Page from 1576 to 1580. Both of these vicars are omitted in Torre's list.

* See *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 97, page 93.

CHAPTER XL.

WETHERBY.

Importance of Wetherby—A famous coaching town—Highways filled with cattle—Old inns—An ancient settlement—Local discoveries—Castle Garth—Antiquity of the bridge—A royal messenger at Wetherby—A remarkable ring—Early history—Grant of market to the Knights Templars—Ancient trades—Local woollen industry—Antiquity of Wetherby Chapel—Chapel at Follyfoot—Local records—The chapel rebuilt—Discovery of human remains—Sale of the town by the Duke of Devonshire—Manorial rights—Local trades—Recent building operations—Former aspects and old customs.



THE pleasant old market-town of Wetherby was, like Tadcaster, a place of much life and bustle down to the end of the coaching days. No fewer than seven main roads enter the town, and it was a wonderful sight at certain seasons of the year to witness the immense droves of Scotch and other cattle filling these roads. David Hartley, a bygone blacksmith, grandfather of the present Bilbrough blacksmith, used to have busy times shoeing footsore cattle on their long marches through Wetherby to south-country markets. Sometimes the herds were led by Scotch pipers, whose lively airs had a stimulating effect on the tired creatures.

Situated, as the town is, on the great coaching route, exactly midway (or within about a mile)* between London and Edinburgh, the daily traffic was considerable. An old inhabitant tells me he remembers 27 inns in the town fifty years ago. There are now 16. The old *Swan and Talbot* and the *Angel*, were the two great coaching inns; part of the latter premises having been, now for many years, absorbed in Mr. Crossley's printing works. But notwithstanding that the railway-whistle sounded the death-knell of the coaches, horse and wheel traffic through Wetherby increased rather than diminished for some time after the first iron-roads were laid. Long after the opening of the Leeds and Selby railway in Sept., 1834, a coach was run daily from the *Elephant and Castle*, Knaresborough, at 5 a.m., by way of Wetherby and Bramham to Micklefield, where it met the train to Selby, arriving in time for the steam packet to Hull.

* See my *Nidderdale*, page 160.

From quite recent discoveries it is evident that the neighbourhood has been settled at a very early period. During draining operations at Spofforth Hill, just outside Wetherby, in the summer of 1901, at a point about 300 yards above the railway and 60 yards from the Wetherby and Harrogate highroad, some workmen came upon human remains, including portions of a skull, leg and arm bones and teeth, together with an earthenware vessel (broken to atoms with the pick) and a piece of flint, cone-shaped, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. They were found deposited in a curious excavation in the magnesian limestone at a depth of nearly five feet from the surface, and the hole so made for the interment had been filled up with loose stones and earth.* Soon afterwards a second skeleton, or portions of two, were found in Raby Park, opposite Wentworth Terrace, about 100 yards from the river and 28 feet from the Wetherby and Harrogate highway. They were found buried in the gravel about 2 feet from the surface. The arms were bent towards the head, with the elbows projecting in the early Celtic fashion,† and the remains lay east and west, with the head to the west. These discoveries were on the north side of the bridge. Upon rising ground on the same north bank of the river above the bridge the foundations of a large and evidently ancient building were removed some years ago, but of its origin or history nothing is known. The site is known as Castle Garth, and is now occupied by market-gardens.

Several of the roads as well as the bridge at Wetherby are no doubt of high antiquity. The bridge over Wharfe has existed from at least the time of Edward II., and is mentioned in the will, dated 1314 (the year of Bannockburn), of Sir William Vavasour, of Hazlewood. I find it also referred to in the following inquisition, A.D. 1315:

Inqn. taken at York Thursday in the week of Pentecost the 9th year of the reign of Edward son of King Edward before Simon Ward Sheriff of York & Thomas de la Bruyere concerning the repair of Wetherby bridge ruinous and broken. Jurors say that no one is bound to repair the same except of their charity & free will. But that Eleanor who was the wife of Sir Henry de Percy executrix of the will of Rich. de Arundel now of late for the health of the soul of the said Richard & his ancestors well and competently began to construct & repair the said bridge.‡

* A similar curious discovery was made in 1859 on Thorp Moor, about a mile from Thorp Arch and a like distance from Walton. A cavity about a foot deep, covered with a cairn of stones (computed to comprise fifty cart-loads), contained calcined bones, charcoal and red earth, shewing signs of fire. Along with these was a flat bronze ornament, about the size of a shilling, and several fragments of white flint. Doubtless a Celtic burial in Roman times of the second or third century, A.D.

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 406, 428, &c.

‡ *Inq. ad quod. damnum*, 9th Edward II., No. 37.

In 7th Edward II. (1313) a King's messenger was despatched from Berwick-on-Tweed to London, and he lodged at Newcastle, Darlington, and Wetherby, travelling thence by way of Leicester and Northampton. At this time the manor of Wetherby had long been a possession of the religious fraternity of Knights Templars, which had then lately been dissolved, and its properties were afterwards transferred to the kindred order of Knights Hospitallers. The King's messenger no doubt sojourned with one of the farmers of the manor (two are mentioned in 1378, as they would be the principal residents at Wetherby at that time, and would be responsible for his safe custody.*

A curious and interesting relic of this period was ploughed up in a field just outside Wetherby in 1880. It is one of those mediæval magic finger-rings which are occasionally found with various mysterious inscriptions upon them. The ring is in possession of the present rector of Kirkby Overblow, to whom I am indebted for an inspection of it. It is a plain hoop of gold with this inscription, beginning with a cross: † TONVS. SANIAS. GOTNOVN, engraved in bold Roman lettering around its external face. The relic is in good condition, and the inscription, saved doubtless by more than five centuries of concealment in the earth, is well preserved. The inscription is apparently meaningless, and it is impossible now to explain its real significance, or the import of any similar legends which occur on such mediæval rings. Mr. Wm. Jones, F.S.A., says they are in many cases ungrammatical, and the original orthography of the legends has been corrupted and changed to others, but no doubt they had a talismanic meaning.†

Wetherby came to the Knights Templars through the zeal and interest in their cause of one William, son of Robert de Denby, who is described as of Woodhall, and also of Sicklinghall. About 1220 they acquired from him the mill at Wetherby, with all its soke rights, which had formerly belonged to the Percies. At the dissolution of the Order in March, 1312 (proclaimed at Cawood August 14th, 1312), they had 740 acres of land at Wetherby, two water-mills and various rents there. They had large possessions also at Ribston, a few miles north of Wetherby, with a preceptory and granges there, and for many years they held a chartered market weekly, and an annual fair at Walshford Bridge, where also the brotherhood had a chapel.‡

* By the same road also travelled Mary, Queen of Scots, who was detained a few hours at Wetherby on 28th Jan., 1569. She was on her way from Bolton Castle to Pontefract.

† *Vide Finger-Ring Lore* (1877).

‡ See my *Nidderdale*. page 178.

Their subsequent acquisitions at Wetherby made it desirable to hold the markets and fairs in that town, and therefore they obtained license to transfer the same from Walshford Bridge to Wetherby in 1240. The following is the King's charter :

GRANT OF MARKET AND FAIR AT WETHERBY, 25TH HENRY III. (1240).

For the brethren of the Knighthood of the Temple of Solomon.

The King to his Archbps. Bishops &c. greeting Know ye that we have granted & by this our present charter confirmed for us & our heirs to the brethren of the Knighthood of the Temple of Solomon that in place of the market which afore we had granted them to have at Walesford on Tuesday they may have in future a market at Werreby every week on Thursday & that in place of the fair which afore we had granted them to have at Walesford for iiii days to wit on the vigil of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, the day itself of the Nativity & the two following days they may have in future a fair at Werreby every year for iij days to wit on the vigil, the day & the morrow of St. James Apostle unless such market & fair be to the hurt of neighbouring markets & fairs. Wherefore we command & firmly charge for us & our heirs that the brethren aforesaid may have & hold the aforesaid markets & fair at Werreby for ever well & in peace quietly & wholly with all franchises & free customs to such markets & fair belonging as is aforesaid. These being witnesses W. Bp. of Carlisle & P. Elect of Hereford G. Marshall Earl of Pembroke S. de Segrave Hugh de Vinon John son of Geoffrey William de Cantilupe Bertram de Cryol Geoffrey de Langelegh & others. Given by our hand at Westminster xv. day of November.

Many documents exist relating to their properties and privileges at Wetherby. Among these is an inquisition, dated 1st Edward II. (1307), of lands in the wapentake of Claro, and an inventory of same date of the manor of Wetherby. Likewise a Writ of Privy Seal, dated 3rd Edward II., directing the Sheriff of Yorkshire to deliver to Adam de Hoperton, the King's steward, various manors, including Wetherby, with all goods and chattels therein. Also a writ to deliver the custody of the manor of Wetherby to Margery, widow of Duncan de Fiendagh, and an indenture and inventory, dated 5th Edward II., of delivery of the said manor. These documents are in the Public Record Office.*

The Wetherby properties afterwards passed, as stated, to the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who held them to the general Dissolution. Among the Rolls of the Duchy of Lancaster, also in the Public Record Office, is a complaint dated 25th Henry VIII. (1533), against one Miles Staveley, of Ripon Park, bailiff and toll-gatherer for the Archbishop of York, and Richard Laughton, of Wetherby, toll-gatherer of Wetherby for the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem in England, made by the tenants of the honour of Knaresborough, who claim to stand in Ripon and Wetherby

* See also Le Neves' *Indexes*, vol. 19.

market-places and to be exempt from all tolls and stallages there and at all other places in the realm of England as by royal prerogative enacted.*

Wetherby at an early period was a place of considerable trade, estimated from a comparison with other places at the same time, and the weekly markets and fairs, which continued to be held for many centuries, stimulated public interest in the prosperous old town. In 1378 we find there were no fewer than three walkers or cloth-fullers in the town, two weavers, a tanner (*pelliparius*), and a dyer, besides the usual followers of other trades, such as brewers, bakers, butchers, tailors, and carpenters. One was an arrow-maker, and another had charge of the fishing in the river. The well-to-do character of the place at this era is also indicated by the unusual number of householders who had men and women servants in their employ, over and above their own families. The cloth trade seems to have been especially good. In 1396-7 there were at least six householders in the town who were engaged in the manufacture and sale of cloth, and in this year these paid subsidy and ulnage (a fee for measuring the cloth) to the Crown collector for the West Riding, one William Barker, who resided at Tadcaster. His successor in the office was William de Hoperton, a kinsman, doubtless, of the above Adam de Hoperton.

Of the 13th century chapel on Wetherby Bridge little or nothing is known. It was dedicated to St. Mary. In 1338 I find a payment by the Knights of St. John of 66s. 8d. "for stipend of the chaplain at Wetherby;" also a payment of 13s. 4d. "for wine and oil for the chapels of Wetherby and Rybstain." A William, chaplain of Wetherby, also appears as witness to a deed concerning lands in Stockeld in 1316.† But the chapel continued to exist down to the period of the dissolution of monasteries, and is referred to by the commissioners in 1548. They say that there are two chapels in the parish of Spofforth, one at Wetherby and one at Follyfoot, but they have no endowments, and services are only held therein at the will of the parishioners. It is very probable that the bridge chapel was destroyed about this time, and another place of worship erected in the Market Place. The latter edifice was pulled down in 1760. The following order I find was granted at the Sessions held at Skipton, 29th July, 1755 :

WETHERBY CHAPEL.

Upon the petition of the Minister and others the Inhabitants of Wetherby in the Parish of Spofforth in the said Riding setting forth that the Chappel of Wetherby aforesaid (being a Chappel of Ease to the Parish Church of Spofforth aforesaid) is by length of time become so very ruinous that it cannot be repaired

* See my *Nidderdale*, page 277. † *Ibid.*, page 180.

but must be entirely taken down & rebuilt and that the Parishioners cannot assemble therein for the publick Worship of Almighty God without manifest danger of their lives and that by reason of the great increase of Inhabitants within the sd. Chappelry the said Chappel will not at present contain one half of the Inhabitants within the sd. Chappelry who are desirous to a tend divine service in the said Chappel. That an Estimate hath been made of the charge of taking down rebuilding and enlarging the said Chappel by an able and experienced workman and that the same amounts upon a moderate computation to the sum of eleven hundred and fourteen pounds and upwards which is too great a sum for the petitioners to raise amongst themselves in regard they are most of them tenants at * * * * and Cotagers employed in the spinning of wool and burthened with a numerous poor. The Truth of the allegations in which said Petition being proved to the satisfaction of this Court IT IS ORDERED that a Certificate be made thereof from this Court to the Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain in order to procure for the said Petitioners his Majesty's most gracious letters patent to enable them to ask collect and receive the contributions of religiously & charitably disposed people throughout England Wales and Berwick upon Tweed for the encouragement and carrying on of so pious a work.

The old chapel had a low thatched roof, a very primitive-looking structure, placed in orthodox fashion east and west, with the entrance at the west end. The new chapel, built soon afterwards on the same site, stood, however, in a contrary direction, the nave or body of the church being placed north and south. This building continued to serve its sacred purpose until 1841, when it was removed soon afterwards to make way for the Town Hall. It is obvious that many interments have been made here formerly, as in the course of excavating between the Town Hall and the Court House a great many human bones, most of them much decayed, were found on the site.

The present handsome church (St. James') was built in 1840-1 on ground given by Edwin Greenwood, Esq. It cost upwards of £4000, raised by public subscription, chiefly through the exertions of the incumbent, the Rev. William Raby, who died in 1868, after 35 years' service in the parish. The foundation-stone was laid by Quintin Rhodes, Esq., of Wetherby, and a bottle containing coins was placed at the south-east corner of the tower. The same gentleman also gave four of the bells, which were first rung on Trinity Sunday, May 18th, 1845. In 1878 the chancel was enlarged and a new organ was put in. The parish was formed out of the mother parish of Spofforth, Oct. 8th, 1869, and Linton was annexed in 1887. The patron of the living is Lord Leconfield, and the present vicar (since 1887) is the Rev. Charles A. Durrant, M.A. The first baptism recorded at the Wesleyan Chapel took place in 1826, and the new Chapel was opened in 1829. There is also a Primitive Methodist chapel, erected in 1874, and a Roman Catholic church built in 1872.

Up to 1824 the whole of the town, with the manor of Wetherby, was owned by the Duke of Devonshire, who effected a great many improvements in the place. It was then sold by public auction in 174 lots. The manorial rights, including market-tolls, &c., were purchased by Mr. Wilson of Wetherby Grange, and were subsequently inherited by his nephew, the late Andrew Fountayne Wilson Montagu, Esq., of Ingmanthorpe Hall, near Wetherby, a gentleman of great wealth, who will always be remembered for his munificent benefactions to the old town. Soon after the sale in 1824 many alterations were effected in and about the Market Place. The bridge over the Wharfe was also widened. A good trade was being done at that time at the old corn-mills, then tenanted by Messrs. Greenwood, who purchased the property for £8100. Brewing was also extensively carried on by the Rhodes family, as it is still by Messrs. Braime. The printing business was begun by the late Mr. Crossley, about 1852, and he became the proprietor of the *Wetherby News*, which is now owned by his son.

Many good houses have been erected within the past few years, occupied chiefly by gentlemen and tradespeople from Leeds. The antique look of the town has now almost disappeared. The last of the thatched houses, which stood in Grafton Square, were pulled down in 1877, and three cottages now occupy the site. In 1885 the old pinfold was taken down and the fire-engine station erected on the site. The old market-cross, mentioned in early charters, has also disappeared. There was likewise a pillory, but the exact site of it is not known. Then there were the old town stocks, and the last person who was committed to sit in them was one Frank Ingal, June 8th, 1832. Cock-fighting was a common pastime in the locality during the coaching-days, and passengers were often regaled with what we should regard now as an offensive spectacle of a battle in the old cock-pit at the back of the *Blue Anchor* public-house.

I must also mention that there was a curious dog-whipping custom formerly prevalent here, the origin of which is not known. On the fourth of August, the day before St. James' Fair, all the boys in the town who could get a whip used to assemble in the market-place early in the morning and whip every dog found in the streets on that day. The custom died out about sixty years ago.

Wetherby, at is well known, has an old fame for its Steeplechases, which are still held annually on Easter Monday and Tuesday.

CHAPTER XLI.

MICKLETHWAITE AND WETHERBY GRANGE.

The *Drovers'* inn—Grant of Micklethwaite to Kirkstall Abbey—The grant rescinded, and again restored at a fee-farm rent—History from the Dissolution—The Paver and Beilby families—Old names of the Grange—Sale of the estate by Lord Wenlock—The Browns of Liverpool—Purchase of Micklethwaite by the Gunter family—Col. Sir Robert Gunter, Bart., M.P.—New water-works—The Wetherby shorthorns—A notable herd—Some remarkable prices.



CROSSING Wetherby Bridge we enter the township of Micklethwaite and parish of Collingham, where the monks of Kirkstall had their most valuable possessions. The buildings on the south side of the bridge, close to the road, were formerly well-known as the *Drovers'* inn, which ceased to be an inn about thirty years ago.

Micklethwaite, though not specially mentioned in *Domesday*,* may have formed part of the Conqueror's donation of Collingham and Bardsey to Robert de Brus, founder of Guisborough Priory in 1119. How it passed to the Mowbrays is not known. (*See BARDSEY.*) But it was next granted by this family, about the year 1152, to the Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall, who had a granger and many servants employed here, and the estate was cultivated with much advantage to the monastery. But Roger de Mowbray, with his tenant Richard de Morevill who had farmed Micklethwaite, joining in the rebellion against Henry II. (1173), that monarch deemed it politic to rescind the royal grant and dispossess the monks of their rightful possessions in this territory. This proceeding naturally provoked much murmuring and resentment. But the King was obdurate. He took away Bardsey and Collingham, with Micklethwaite, and gave them to his partisan, Adam de Brus, in exchange for the estate of Danby Castle. Abbot Roger did his utmost to retrieve this misfortune to

* Micklethwaite, *i.e.*, the great clearing, (brushwood or forest cleared for cultivation) is an old Norse word, though names in *thwaite* are not always indicative of ancient Norse settlements. They might be compounds formed in later times when such words as *thwaite* and *thorpe* and *royd* had found their way into the dialect

his house, and even approached the King with a rich present of a golden chalice and a beautifully illuminated manuscript of the Gospels, in the hope of winning back the royal favour, but without avail. Sometime, however, after the King's death in 1189, the family of Brus, who were lords of the neighbouring manor of Thorp Arch, &c., and great benefactors to the religious houses, prevailed upon John "Lackland" to restore to the monks their former interests in these territories. The petitioner, Peter de Brus, in the year 1200, agreed to cede all his rights in Collingham, &c., in exchange for his ancestral domains in the town and forest of Danby, and for this quitclaim he promised to the King the large sum of one thousand pounds sterling. The King, however, would not consent to part with the Collingham lands except at a fee-farm rent of 90 pounds, payable annually. Whereat the monks, seeking the assistance of their noble patron, Roger de Lacy, constable of Chester (d. 1211), the estates of Bardsey and Collingham, with the grange at Micklethwaite, were taken over at the said rental, as the King's charter sheweth.*

For some years after the dissolution of Kirkstall Abbey, the manors of Bardsey and Collingham rested with the Crown. Eventually in 1558 they were granted to Sir Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, whose descendants retained them until the year 1620, when they were sold to Sir Thos. Wentworth, of Wentworth Woodhouse. Micklethwaite Grange, however, had been granted soon after the suppression to Richard Paver, the head of a family long seated at Braham or Brame Hall, in the old parish of Spofforth.† This Richard Paver is said to have possessed land in fourteen townships, having been a large purchaser of monastic properties from the Crown.‡ He died in 1549, leaving three sons, the eldest of whom, Bernard, died in 1573, and left two daughters, co-heiresses. The elder, Jane, was married to Thomas Tancred, of Boroughbridge, and she died in 1586 and was buried at Aldborough. She inherited the Brampton estate in that neighbourhood, and from her descended Sir William Tancred, of Brampton, and Thomas Tancred, the founder of the Whixley Hall family. The younger daughter Lucy (? Frances) married Richard Beilby, of Micklethwaite, and received for her dower the Grange estate, which afterwards became known as Beilby Grange. It was long the property and home of this family.

* See *Kirkstall Abbey Coucher Book*, fo. 64. Some confusion has arisen in these transactions between the above Micklethwaite, and Micklethwaite in the parish of Bingley. See *Shaw's Wharfedale* (1830), page 174.

† See my *Nidderdale*, pages 234-5.

‡ See *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 42, pages lix., 124, 309, and see *Fines*, 1545, &c., Record Series, *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*

The other sons of Richard Paver (d. 1546) were John Paver, of Braham Hall,* and Nicholas Paver, who held medieties of the rectories of Burnsall and Linton-in-Craven, and died in 1551. From John Paver, of Braham, descend the Paviers of Steeton Hall, in the township of South Milford, and parish of Sherburn-in-Elmet, which is still a possession of the family. Richard Paver, of Steeton, who died in 1812, was vicar of Ledsham, and his younger son, Richard, was vicar of Brayton. His son, Richard Paver, Esq., J.P., of Ornhams Hall, Boroughbridge, in 1872 assumed by royal license the name and arms of Crow, in addition to those of Paver.†

The Beilbys, of Micklethwaite, no doubt derive their patronymic from the ancient township of Beilby, near Pocklington, in the East Riding. A Hugh de Beilby was High Sheriff of Yorkshire, 1292-4. It is not, however, until the year 1450 that we have any connected history of the family, at which time its different members were resident only in the North and West Ridings of the county.‡ Robert Beilby, born about 1450, lived at Kellerby Grange, in the parish of Catton, four miles from Scarborough, and was succeeded by a son Thomas, whose son Guy, of Kellerby, was father of "Richard Beilby de Clifford, gent., de la Grange juxta Wetherby," who recorded his lineage at the Visitation in 1612. This Richard was married three times, (1) to Frances, daughter of Robert Foster, by whom he had one daughter; (2) to Frances, daughter and co-heiress of Bernard Paver, of Micklethwaite Grange, by whom he had a son Thomas, who succeeded him;§ and (3) to Isabel, daughter of Robert Fletcher, by whom he left four sons and a daughter. At his death in 1614 the estates of Kellerby and Micklethwaite Grange passed to his son, Thomas Beilby, who appears at the head of the pedigree recorded in 1665.¶ He was succeeded in 1639 by his son William, who was born in 1591, and married Susanna, daughter of Richard Sunderland, of Coley Hall, in the parish of Halifax, and grand-daughter of Sir Richard Saltonstall, Lord Mayor of London. He died in 1665.¶ The elder of his two sons, Richard Beilby, died in 1660, in the lifetime of his father, leaving no male issue, so the estates descended to his brother John.

* See *Surtrees Soc.*, vol. 92, page 236; also Glover's *Visitation of Yorks.*

† The arms of Paver, a chevron between three fleurs-de-lis, occurs in the west window of Sherburn Church, and also over the door of Steeton Hall.

‡ See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. ii., p. 373. and vol. iv., pages 191, 200, &c.

§ See Fine, 1574. in *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.* (Record Series).

¶ Kellerby, a possession of the family for nearly 300 years, passed from the Beilbys on the death of Barbara, second surviving daughter of John Beilby, who died in 1702.

¶ Susanna, his wife, died in 1664; see her epitaph in St. Martin's Church, York.

From the Collingham registers it appears that John Beilby, who died in 1702, and was buried at Cayton Church, had two sons and four daughters. Both the sons died young, and also the second daughter, Elizabeth. The eldest daughter, Maria, married Henry Thompson, Esq., M.P. for York. By this marriage the Micklethwaite Grange property passed at the death of John Beilby to the Thompsons, and when Henry Thompson died in 1730, it passed to his eldest son, Beilby Thompson, who married Lady Dawes, daughter of Richard Roundell, Esq., of Hutton Wansley. By her he left an only daughter, Jane, wife of Sir Robert Lawley, Bart., who assumed the surname of Thompson. Sir Robert died in 1793, and the estates



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eventually passed to his youngest son, Sir Paul Beilby Lawley-Thompson, Bart., who was born in 1784, and who in 1839 was raised to the peerage by the name and title of Baron Wenlock, of Escrick, co. York.

Through its long connection with the Beilby family the old house was known as Beilby Grange down to the early part of the 19th century.* A painting of the former homestead is in possession of

* I have seen an old broad-sheet in the Minster Library at York, which describes a "Horrible Tempest of Thunder and Lightning," with an account of how the "Top of a Strong Oak, containing one load of wood, was taken off by a Sheet of Fire," carried half-a-mile, and seriously damaged Squire Beilby's house, &c., near Wetherby.

the present owner of the Grange. I have not ascertained who was the builder of the present large and handsome mansion. Over the principal entrance is a shield of the Beilby arms, with the date 1660. It appears on a map of Yorkshire dated 1817, as Wetherby Grange, although the most ancient and original designation of the house was Micklethwaite Grange, under which name it is found as late as 1822.* Since then the mansion has been called Wetherby Grange, and by this name it is still known. The estate was sold by Lord Wenlock, grandfather of the present peer, in May, 1840, at which time it was tenanted by Mr. Christopher Wilson, the well-known sportsman, "Father of the Turf," who died in May, 1849. The estate had been purchased by Wm. Brown, Esq., of Liverpool, who in 1860 presented the city of Liverpool with a handsome building for a free public library and museum, at a cost of £42,000. He was created a baronet in 1863. His son, Alexander Brown, Esq., M.A., for whom the estate was purchased, resided here until his death in 1849, and it continued with his family until 1856, when the trustees of the late Robert Gunter, Esq., bought it as a home for his son, the present Col. Sir Robert Gunter, Bart., who at that time was serving in the Crimea, and did not see the place until his return at the close of the war.

Col. Sir Robert Gunter, Bart., is still the owner of the Wetherby Grange estate, and is the active and respected Member of the Parliamentary Division (Barkston Ash), in which he has resided for the greater part of his life. He was created a Baronet about a year ago (1900), and considering his notable ancestry and his various public services, no landed gentleman could have more richly deserved the honour.† Born in November 1831, at Earl's Court, near London, he was educated at Rugby under the able mastership of Dr. Tait, late Archbishop of Canterbury. On leaving school he joined, in 1851, the 4th Dragoon Guards, in which regiment he served about twelve years, and was out, as stated above, in the Crimea, serving through the whole of that memorable campaign. In 1862 he married Jane Marguerite, daughter of Thomas Benyon, of Gledhow Hall,

* *Vide West Riding Directory* for 1822, and in *Langdale's Topographical Dictionary* (1822), it is indexed under both names.

† The Gunter family is of great antiquity and traces its descent to one Sir Peter Gunter, Knight, aide-de-camp to the Conqueror, who in 1079 went to Wales and received the manors, called after him, Tregunter, Gunterstone, Gilstone, &c. The arms of his family were a chevron between three gauntlettes d'or, hence the name Gounter or Gunter. The present Baronet is the direct descendant in the male line of the above Sir Peter. A branch of the family afterwards settled in Sussex. See *Jones's History of Breckonshire*, vol. ii., page 343, with pedigree and arms on page 405; also *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol. xxiii. page 2, &c.



COL. SIR ROBERT GUNTER, BART., M.P.



near Leeds, when he settled down to the life of a country gentleman at Wetherby Grange. But he did not relinquish his interest in the army, as for some years he was Captain of the Harewood troop in the Yorkshire Hussars, a post he held until 1871. Then he received the appointment of Lieut.-Col. Commandant of the 5th West Yorkshire Militia, having its head quarters at Knaresbro', an office he still retains. The accompanying portrait, which I have the pleasure to add, is from a photograph taken within the last few years.

Sir Robert owns most of the land in the parish of Collingham, including the whole township of Micklethwaite, and he also owns a good deal of land in the parish of Wetherby, and also in Middlesex. He is Chairman of the Wetherby Petty Sessions, as well as Chairman of the District Council and Board of Guardians, positions in which he is ably supported by other local gentlemen.* Also in the management of the home farm, which embraces an area of about 600 acres, his activities have long found another useful exercise. Wetherby is known the world over for its famous breed of shorthorns, established by him so long ago as 1854. The first purchases were made from the Earl of Ducie's famous herd, which was dispersed at the great Tortworth sale in that year. He then obtained "Duchess 67th," a yearling, for 350 guineas, and "Duchess 70th," a six weeks old calf, for 310 guineas. Subsequently "Duchess 79th" was purchased from Mr. Tanqueray for 500 guineas, that gentleman having bought her at the Tortworth sale. Other important purchases followed, and in a few years Col. Gunter was acknowledged to be the proud possessor of perhaps the finest family of shorthorns ever held by a single owner. In 1860 he began to show, and his celebrated "Duchesses" carried off all the premier honours. He won the 100 Guineas Challenge Cup of the Durham Society at Bishop Auckland in 1860 with "Duchess 77th," and at four years old this magnificent animal had won 19 valuable prizes and 7 cups. The owner, however, found it desirable to desist showing, as the necessary fattening of of the animals deteriorated their qualities for breeding purposes.

The herd still maintains its reputation as one of the best in England, and though the females have rarely been parted with, the Wetherby bulls, on the other hand, have been shipped to all parts of the world. Many have also gone to stock the most celebrated herds in our own country. In 1870 the Colonel was induced to part with "Duchess 101st" and "Duchess 103rd" to Mr. Cochrane, the well-known shorthorn breeder in Canada. For these he received 2500

* In 1899 the District Council obtained power to supply Wetherby with water, and on August 1st, 1900, Col. Gunter formally inaugurated the works. An adequate quantity of excellent water has been found by boring at Bardsey, and three reservoirs at Rigton, in that parish, are to receive the supply.

guineas, and the same gentleman also bid 2000 guineas for "Duchess 92nd," but the offer was declined. The Wetherby bulls have commanded equally historic prices, but it is impossible to mention them all. The "5th Duke of Wetherby" was sent to Holker, the Duke of Devonshire's beautiful seat in Furness; the "5th Duke of Tregunter" went to the Earl of Feversham, for the Duncombe Park herd; and the "3rd Duke of Collingham" was sold to Mr. Allsopp, M.P., for the Hindlip herd. For each of these splendid animals the sum of 2000 guineas was paid. The herd, as I have said, still continues to flourish on the rich, well-kept pastures of Wetherby Grange, and is as sound and good as ever it was.

CHAPTER XLII.

COLLINGHAM.

"Dalton Parlours"—A Roman villa—Local finds—Apsidal buildings—Roman Christianity—Evidences of local coins, &c.—An early Saxon settlement—The story of King Oswin—His 7th century memorial-cross at Collingham—Site of monastery—A Norman cross—Early history of Collingham—The church—Its appropriation in 1258—Description of the fabric—Restoration in 1898—Further discoveries—Local memorials—The churchyard, a burial site since the 7th century.



THE parish of Collingham is rich in memorials of its remote occupation. On the breezy heights of Compton, about midway between the village and the Roman road from Ilkley to Tadcaster, are traces of an important discovery that was made here some fifty years ago. The site is known as "Dalton Parlours," in Collingham parish, about three miles west of Boston Spa. An old road, called Dalton Lane, most likely of Roman construction (it is still paved with large stones), leads up to it from the Leeds and Bramham highways.

The field adjoining this lane, in which the remains were found, belongs to the farm at Compton, the pleasant old home of the Dalby family for the past two or three hundred years. Before the enclosure this field formed part of Clifford Moor, and in a copse of hazels and brushwood were the remains of walls, a circumstance that had given rise to its former name of Abbey Field. Dr. Wm. Procter states that the stones composing these remains were removed about the year 1806, to furnish materials for the building of some outhouses at Compton. Over a portion of ground, seven or eight acres in extent, Roman coins, tiles, and fragments of pottery have been from time to time ploughed up. There was also found a very fine and massive silver ring set with an intaglio engraved on a pale blue onyx, and bearing the device of a winged Victory standing upon a globe.

In the spring of 1855 a thorough excavation was undertaken, when the remains of a Roman villa were laid bare, together with large and

very perfect portions of two hypocausts. Dr Procter describes these interesting features as follows. See annexed plan.

The hypocaust of the western room (A) when first seen by me, measured 8½ ft. by 8 ft. 2 in., and contained five rows of pillars, each row consisting of five pillars, built of the ordinary flat Roman tiles, 8, 9 and 10 inches square, with layers of concrete, made of mortar and powdered brick, between them. These pillars, especially towards the lower part, showed the action of fire, and in the spaces between them bones of various animals and the skulls of one or two sheep were discovered. The floor is a cement composed of brick and lime.

Beyond this ruined room were the remains of a præfurnium or furnace, likewise imperfect, but when discovered appearing to be of similar construction to the one found at the York baths, and containing a large quantity of wood ashes. At the east end the hypocaust was bounded by a well-built wall of sandstone (of which material all the other walls were constructed), communicating with the second hypocaust (B) by a small opening (a) like a flue, which was stopped up on one side by Roman concrete. This second chamber was on the same level as the first, measuring 8 ft. 4 in. by 7 ft. 10 in.; it contained five rows of pillars, each row consisting of five pillars, eleven being of sandstone (shaded on the plan), and the remainder of brick. A floor of thick concrete has been laid on flat tiles placed across the top of the pillars.

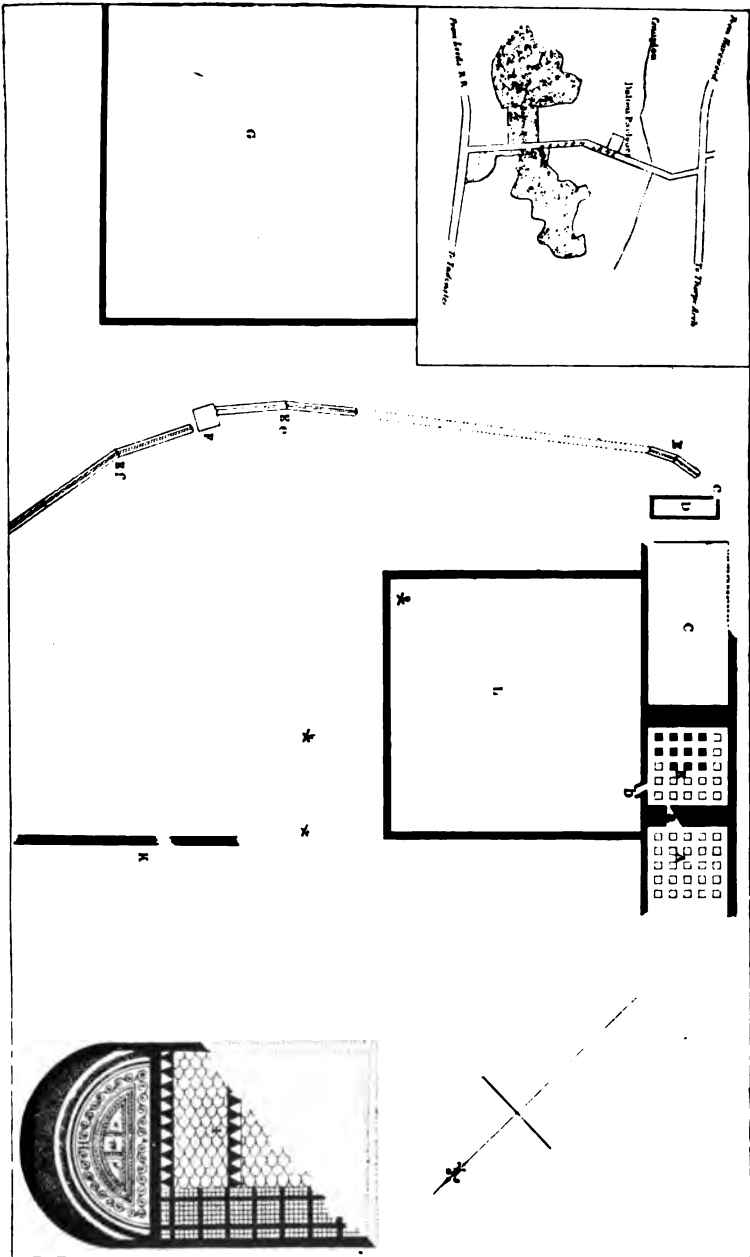
Pursuing the line of excavation to the east, there was a space (c) 18 feet long and of the same breadth as the hypocaust, through which trenches in several directions were dug. Beyond this, at a distance of 2 feet 4 inches, was a slab of concrete (D), 7 feet long and 2 feet broad, and of considerable thickness, furnished with raised edges, with a groove (c) in one corner. Little doubt can exist that this was the bottom of a bath or cistern, and that it was for the purpose of holding cold water, may be inferred from the absence of any means of heating. Connected with the grooved corner was a channel of stone (E), apparently for the purpose of carrying the water from the bath. This channel went north for about 26 yards, terminating in a square cistern (F) 18 inches deep, 22 inches broad, and 27 inches long, made of flags, one to each side and end and two to the bottom. An opening connected with a channel (E f) similar to the channel (E c) was traced for 40 yards, and both the channels appeared to have a fall towards the tank. Nearly in a line with this tank, and to the north-east of it, a large square of foundations (G) was excavated. It was formed of the best worked stone that was met with, and measured 10 by 18 yards. The west wall showed traces of a fire-place.*

Adjoining the north wall of the hypocaust (B) is a third chamber (L), of which the foundations alone remain, measuring from north to south 28 feet, from east to west 27 feet, and on the same level as the other two rooms. It communicates with the second of these by an opening like a flue (b), apparently for the escape of the smoke from the hypocaust. In the north-east corner, about one foot from the surface, the skeleton of a child was discovered; with the bones were several large nails with small portions of wood adhering to them, leading to the idea of their having been part of a coffin.

In addition to these remains of Roman baths,—interesting evidences of primitive luxury,—there was found, about 100 yards to the west, a very fine tessellated pavement, which with the pillars, &c., of the

* Compare the description of the hypocaust at Middleham in my *Romantic Richmondshire*, pages 289-90.

PLAN OF ROMAN VILLA, NEAR COLLINGHAM.





hypocaust, have been carefully removed to the museum at York. The room was divided into two unequal portions (H and I) by the foundations of a wall, and had an apsidal termination, the extreme length being 37 feet 11 inches, and width inside the wall 20 feet 6 inches. The tessaræ, composing the very beautiful design, were of various colours and the product of natural substances. The white ones were made of cubes of chalk, lias and sandstone formed the blue and drab colours, whilst the pink and yellow were derived from different beds of marl, stone, and magnesian limestone.*

The round or apsidal end is common to the Roman basilicæ or halls of justice, and these were without doubt the types which the early Christians followed in planning their places of worship. Dr. Bruce has described rooms with similar apsidal recesses in connection with the baths at Cilurnum, Hunnum, and Lanchester on the Roman wall. The like has been noted at Isurium (Aldborough) in Yorkshire; also about a century ago while digging in a field near Fishergate Bar, York, the foundations of a large rectangular building were come upon, having an apsidal recess at one end. But whether we are warranted in concluding these foundations to be the remains of a Roman Christian building is doubtful.†

Though the evidences of Roman Christianity in this country are not plentiful, there can be no question of its legal establishment here by Constantine in the first quarter of the fourth century. The late Mr. Thomas Wright was very sceptical on the question of Roman Christianity in Britain, and knew of but one relic of the kind extant, namely in the rare mosaic pavement at the Roman villa at Framton, in Dorsetshire, which contained the Christian monogram (the X and P) surrounded by figures and emblems, all of which were plainly pagan.‡ But similar crosses have been found on Roman pavements elsewhere as well as upon Roman lamps, examples of which may be seen in the museum at York.§ It cannot, however, be accepted that this form of cross was a purely Christian symbol, as it is found in countries widely separate as a merely secular ornament.||

The early Saxons destroyed every trace of Christian buildings, if

* Dr. Whitaker describes the remains of a Roman villa near Gargrave, where the tessaræ were formed of similar cubes of various colours. See his *History of Craven*, 3rd edition, page 229.

† Recent excavations at York have disclosed an apsidal foundation on the site of St. Mary's Abbey, evidently the remains of the original Abbey of St. Olaf, erected in the 10th century. It is built almost north and south, near the entrance to the choir of the Abbey ruins.

‡ *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, page 229.

§ See early Christian lamp, formerly at Grimston Park, illustrated on p. 238.

|| See Haddan & Stubbs, 39, &c.

such existed in this county.* But within fifty years of the evacuation of the country by the Romans, Ambrosius, prince of Armorica, was sent for by the Britons, and was made welcome before York, A.D. 466, as the conqueror of the heathen Saxons. Very shortly he summoned "all the princes and nobles" to appear at York, and directed the speedy restoration of the Christian churches, and their worship, which the Saxons had destroyed and suppressed. That the Christianity of York had a recognized position and had spread to other places in the diocese, in the fourth century, cannot now be doubted. Ample evidences of this fact I have elsewhere adduced, although it may be questioned whether any but the upper classes conformed to the faith before the missionary efforts of St. Augustine extended it among the people. Notwithstanding the absence among the remains at Collingham of anything that might justify the belief that the villa had been occupied by Christians, yet from what we actually know of the local circumstances, we may judge that it was. Dr. Procter has described nine coins found on the site, and these are in possession of Mr. Dalby, of Compton, where I have seen them. One of them (No. 4), is described as a Constantius, but it is undoubtedly a Constantine, which I read as follows :

Obv. : CONSTANTINUS P.F. AVG. ; *rev.* : SOLI, INVICTO, COMITI.

In the field T.F., and in the exergue STR.

There is, moreover, a very interesting silver coin of Julian, which has hitherto escaped identification, and which suggests a possible date to the occupation of the site. I read it as follows :

Obv. : D.N. FL. CL. IVLIANVS [Flavius Claudius Julianus], P.F. AVG. ; *rev.* : Within a wreath surmounted by a cock enclosed in a circle, the word MVLTI; in the exergue CONST.

The Emperor Julian was born in 331, and in 355 he was created Cæsar. He died in 364. Though an apostate from Christianity, he was tolerant, and the religion was revived in the time of his successor. This coin, found on the site of the Roman villa near Collingham, may therefore be presumed to have been circulated during the latter part of the fourth century, when Christianity flourished in these parts, and when in all probability it was lost or left here on the evacuation of the villa early in the fifth century when the Romans left the country.

Possibly some early religious associations may have led to the site being chosen for a Saxon settlement, as appears to have been the case at Tadcaster and Ilkley, in the Wharfe valley. At the latter

* Bede tells us that the church of St. Martin at Canterbury was built while the Romans were still in the island, but as the dedication was to St. Martin, its erection must have been subsequent to A.D. 400.

place the 11th century church stood in the midst of the Roman camp. There are at any rate good grounds for assuming that the pleasant village of Collingham on the Wharfe has been a settled English village from at least the middle of the 7th century.* The venerable Bede tells that at Ingætlingum, Oswin, King of Deira, was treacherously slain by order of Oswi, King of Bernicia, A.D. 651, and that Eanflæd, daughter of the good Christian King Edwin (who fell in battle with the pagans, A.D. 634), and wife of King Oswin, caused a monastery to be erected in this place, where prayers were daily offered up to God for the repose of his soul as well as for that of Oswi, the murderer. The two armies of Oswin and Oswi had assembled in the neighbourhood of Catterick, near Richmond, but Oswin being unable to cope with the overwhelming numbers of the Bernician King, told off his men at a place called Wilfaræsdun,† and flying southwards by the old Roman road through Aldborough, was, as stated, overtaken and slain at Collingham, which probably at that time was a royal residence.‡

Dr. Whitaker, following Camden, had fixed the site of the above monastery at Gilling, near Richmond; § there can, however, at this day be little doubt that the Ingætlingum als. Gætlingum,|| of Bede,

* There are many places called Colling, Collingham, and Collingholme, *Coll* is *hazel* in Gælic. It is an Irish Viking name, and "Coll" was one of the primitive Irish heroes; thus *Coll-ing-ham* may be the *home* of the *sons* or *tribe* of *Coll*. In England it is probable that all the primitive villages in whose names the patronymic syllable "ing" occurs, were originally colonized by communities united either really by blood or by the belief in a common descent. See *Stubbs' Constit. Hist.*, vol. i., page 92.

† There is a place called Ulfardun in *Domesday*, now Wolfreton, 5 miles from Hull; but Bede says the place was "ten miles distant from the village called Cataract [Catterick, the Roman *Cataractonium*] towards the north-west." Professor Stephens ascribes Wilfaræsdun to Wilbarston in Northamptonshire. See *Old Northern Runic Monuments*, Part ii., page 390. Again the Rev. D. H. Haigh thinks it not improbable that the Ven. Bede's *Cataract* and *Cataracta* may be Catterton, in the parish of Tadcaster, and at a distance of about 10 miles W.S.W. is Wilfrey Well, Bardsey, and that Wilfareisdun may be the remarkable Castle Hill there. See *Proc. of the W. R. Yorks. Geol. Soc.* vol. v., page 204.

‡ Though Driffield is not on this route it is not improbable that the massive gold finger-ring, inscribed with Anglo-Saxon runes, found at Driffield in 1867, has belonged to the family of King Oswin. See *Proc. W. R. Geol. and Poly. Soc.*, vol. v., page 204.

§ See my *Richmondshire*, pages 172-3.

|| See the Rev. D. H. Haigh in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. ii., page 253. There is a valuable *Life of Oswin*, written in Latin by a monk of St. Albans, afterwards (A.D. 1111) of Tynemouth, preserved among the Cotton MSS., (Julius AX., fo. 2 *et seq.*) in the British Museum. In this 12th century MS. the place (Collingham) is written Gethlingum.



founded monastery at Kirkstall. Its subsequent fortune is that of Micklethwaite and Bardsey, elsewhere related. The trustees of the many charities of Lady Elizabeth Hastings are the present lords of the manor. Some of the Kirkstall Abbey charters, it may be noted, are dated from Collingham, probably at its chief manor-house or grange at Micklethwaite.

The Church, still bearing its ancient Saxon dedication to St. Oswald* (who died in 642 and was the predecessor of King Oswi, above mentioned), was given by Richard de Morville to the Chapel of St. Mary and the Holy Angels at York, who appropriated the same, and ordained a vicarage therein, A.D. 1258. Like the church at Thorp Arch, a possession of the same Chapel, the vicars of Collingham were charged with the repairs of the chancel. In 1291 a decree was made for the Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall with respect to their tithes here, and a composition was further made with the house in 1373 relative to the tithes of Micklethwaite. At the Dissolution the vicarage is valued at £3 11s. 4d. per annum. In 1715 it was augmented with £200 to meet a benefaction from Lady Elizabeth Hastings, lady of the manor, of tithes to the value of £400. At the enclosure in 1813, 140 acres were allotted in lieu of vicarial tithes. The nett value of the living is now £275; in 1831 it was £414. The list of vicars commences with the institution of John de Swillington in 1275, and is continued to the present time. The patrons are now the trustees of the late Chas. W. Wheler, Esq., and the present vicar is the Rev. Edward T. Gwynn, M.A., who succeeded the late Rev. G. L. Beckwith, M.A., in 1899. The registers date from 1579.

Traces of the original church are still evident in the nave and chancel, and the tall, thin south wall (only two feet thick) has an early look about it. Turning to the interior I find that a gallery was erected in 1760, but this, with the quaint old pews, was removed in 1834. The church, furthermore, was subjected to so destructive a "restoration" sixty years ago, and so much of the original masonry was replaced by a poor stucco, that it is not easy to define the former aspects of the building.† The Early English lights in the south

* The ancient church of North Collingham, in Notts, is dedicated to All Saints, also a Saxon dedication. See my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 32. Colonel (now Sir Robert) Gunter in 1899 placed in the chancel a beautiful memorial window to his mother, which depicts a very happily conceived figure of St. Oswald, the patron saint of the church.

† A consecration cross, now in the vestry, has no doubt originally been in the east wall of the church. I have referred to the consecration crosses at Spofforth, Newton Kyme, &c. A very remarkable lead consecration cross was discovered in 1898 during the excavation at the Kingston Baths, Bath. The cross is of Saxon age, and worked on a circular plaque about three inches in diameter, and bears the names of the four Evangelists together with a Latin inscription.

wall were then put in, and a square-headed (Perpendicular) window was blocked up, and new buttresses added. The porch was also erected at the same time, but much of it, including the mouldings, being of friable stucco, has greatly perished. The only original window is on the north side, and is late Decorated; all the others on the north side are modern insertions. The nave is separated from its north aisle by three late 12th century cylindrical columns carrying pointed arches, but the latter, with the moulded capitals, are of the same modern stucco. In 1870 some further repairs were made, and the chancel was re-roofed. The large west window was at the same time presented by Colonel Gunter, and a new oak pulpit was also provided.

In 1898 the building was again renovated, and a new vestry was built on the north-east side. In pulling down the old coal-hole on this site there was found a plain semi-circular archway, having a deeply-cut moulding continued through the sweep of the arch. It has doubtless formed part of an original doorway of the same age as the columns of the nave. There has also been recovered from beneath the eaves over the porch another fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft. This and the other interesting relics of early Christianity in the parish have been carefully looked after by the present vicar, and they are now in the church.

In 1899 Col. (now Sir Robert) Gunter, M.P., placed at his own cost the excellent organ in the church, and in 1900 he also presented three new bells and a clock. Within the church there are several memorials of the Gunter family, of Wetherby Grange, in this parish. The east window was erected in 1879, and is a memorial to the Rev. Henry A. Beckwith, late vicar of Collingham, who died in 1838, and Mary, his wife. There are also memorials to the families of Eamonson (vicar), Benyon, Whitterson, Medhurst, Cotesworth, and one (almost defaced) to the memory of the Rev. Matthew Dunwell, vicar, who died in 1662. There are also several 17th century memorial tablets (decayed) to the Beilby family, of Micklethwaite Grange.

The old churchyard has probably been a place of sepulchre for at least 12 centuries; indeed it is more than likely that Oswin, the murdered King of Deira, would be interred here in 651. His remarkable monument preserved here, I have already noted. With the exception of the stone crosses, nothing of pre-Conquest value is known to have been discovered on the site. But a few years ago an Irish silver-penny of the reign of Edward III. was dug up in the churchyard. It is in possession of the Rev. H. B. Beckwith, formerly curate of Collingham, who has kindly submitted it to my inspection.

CHAPTER XLIII.

BARDSEY.

An ancient settlement—The Castle Hill—Discoveries on the site—Formerly an island—The name of Bardsey—*Domesday* evidence—Early history—Monastic property—Later history—Appropriation of the church—Description of the church—Some curious features—The tower: comparison with St. Mary's church, Bishophill, York—Memorials in the church—Antiquity of the registers—Local families—Congreve, the dramatist, a native of Bardsey—The old Town Books.



LIKE the neighbouring places, already described, this ancient parish possesses many evidences of its early settlement. The "Castle Hill" is a large curious mound, or rather double mound, for it is divided into two parts by a neck of ground, about a cartway in width, connecting the east and west portions. The general form of the two portions is oblong or oval, something like that of a figure 8; the western or upper half measuring about fifty yards from east to west, and 30 yards from north to south at the summit of the mound. The eastern portion is rather longer, and measures over 60 yards east and west and 30 yards north and south. The north and south indentures between the two parts slope away to lower ground, where are good evidences of a platform or terrace from 12 to 20 yards wide, from which the earthwork again slopes to the natural ground-level. The hill is mostly natural, but has undoubtedly been scarped and adapted for settled occupation. Mr. Geo. T. Clark says it has some of the characteristics of a small British camp, but if so it has certainly been occupied and altered by some English lord.

Apparently there have been stone erections on the hill, at any rate on the eastern section. Mr. Young Alan Mawson, who occupies part of the adjoining Bardsey Grange, informs me that some years ago during a very hot season, when the grass was thin, he could have drawn a plan of the foundations of buildings on the larger or eastern mound. These were indicated by lines of thin burnt grass, which contrasted distinctly with the fresher verdure of the surrounding parts. With the object of testing these conclusions a trench was

dug in the direction of the embrowned turf, and his suspicions were soon confirmed by the discovery of broken down walls, while towards the north-west extremity some human remains were come upon, including part of a collar bone; also other stones, with mortar, and bits of charred wood. The excavations, however, were carried no further and were shortly afterwards filled up. Mr. Mawson has also obtained several old coins from the site, but unfortunately these have been lost. A number of ball-shaped stone-shot, 5 to 6 inches in circumference (several, I understand, with lead inserted) and other missiles, have also been recovered from the site.*

The great earthwork has apparently been encompassed with water; the beck-bordered land around lying low and marshy. Some years ago while draining on the east or deepest side of the hill, a bed of loose earth and stones was come upon, about 7 or 8 yards wide. It gave one the impression that this was part of a filled-up trench or moat, which in all probability in ancient times was carried round the hill. If such were the case, this circumvesture of waters, partly natural, partly artificial, would give the hill quite the appearance of an island, to which circumstance the ancient name of Berdesie or Bardesei, may possibly be due. Bard, Barda, and Berda are well-known Saxon and Norse personal names, which compounded with the A.-S. *ea, ey* (an island), would explain the word as Barda's island. Battersea (St. Peter's isle, because belonging to St. Peter's Abbey, Westminster), and Portsea (the island of the haven) are similar instances; likewise Bermondsey (formerly an island) now included in the metropolis, along the east side of which King Canute made a canal (A.D. 1016) in order to render his attack on London more effectual.†

In *Domesday* Bardsey appears as "Bereleseie" (the Norman scribe having erroneously made "d" into "l"), where Ligulf had two carucates of land worked by one plough. It was worth 20s., and in

* Some stone-shot was discovered in a subterranean passage at Knaresborough Castle in 1890. See my *Nidderdale*, page 285.

† For "Bardi" see Ellis's *Introduction to the landowners and tenants in Domesday*. List B. The Norse termination of Bardsea in Furness, suggests that the island derived its name from its probable founder, Bard, a common name in the Sagas. See *Saga Book of the Viking Club*, 1898, page 21. See also *Trans. Cumb. and West. Antiq. Soc.*, 1895, page 411, where Bardsea is said to be the *Berretseige* of *Domesday*, meaning the edge or cliff at the head of the road called the Red Lane, through Furness. But the earliest authenticated spelling of the name occurs in the person of Ranulph de Bardsey who was witness to a grant of land in Millom to Furness Abbey in 1127. The male line of this family ended with Nicholas Bardsey, of Bardsey Hall, who died in 1642, leaving two daughters, the eldest of whom, Dorothy, married James Anderton of Clayton-le-woods, and Elizabeth, the younger, married Lancelot Salkeld, of Whitehall in Cumberland. See *North Lonsdale Magazine*, vol. iii., page 3.

1083-6 was in the King's hands. The same Ligulf had also three carucates of land in Rigton, in the parish of Bardsey, but worth only 16s., and in 1083-6 only 10s. He was permitted to retain his manor of Rigton and maintain a priest there, who in all probability had served the old Saxon church of the parish of Bardsey, whose quaint tower still stands. The body of the church was then most likely constructed of wood, and had been either burnt or destroyed during the ravages of the Conquest, or was pulled down when the church was rebuilt of stone early in the 12th century. But it is not mentioned in the survey of 1083-6, being then obviously of no value.

Though we possess no actual record of the transfer, it would appear that Bardsey and Collingham, with Micklethwaite, had been granted by the Crown before 1108 to Robert de Brus, whose grandson, Adam de Brus, by his marriage with Ivetta de Arches, succeeded to the manors of Thorp Arch and Walton. Robert de Brus, about the time named, exchanged with Henry I. these manors of Bardsey and Collingham for the vill and manor of Danby in Cleveland, together with lands at Gransmoor, &c., in the East Riding.*

About the middle of the 12th century Bardsey and Collingham were in the hands of the Mowbrays, as related in the chapter on Micklethwaite. They bestowed these lands on Kirkstall Abbey,† and in the Pipe Roll for 13th Henry II. (1166-7), I find in "Micheltweit" the monastery of "Kirkestal" renders account of half-a-mark to the Exchequer; likewise in the same year "Femina p'bri [presbyteri] de Bardesea" renders account of 20s.‡ The trouble attending Mowbray's quarrel with Henry II. and the loss and ultimate recovery of the estates to Kirkstall Abbey has already been related.§ After the dissolution of the Abbey the manor was granted to Sir Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, and in 1620 it was sold by his grandson to Sir Thomas Wentworth, of Wentworth Woodhouse, with whose family it remained till 1654. The manor and estate were then purchased by Sir John Lewis, of Ledstone, at whose death they descended to his younger daughter and coheirress, Mary, wife of the Earl of Scarsdale. Nicholas, Earl of Scarsdale, sold them in 1720 to Robert Benson, first Lord Bingley, and in his descendants, the Lane-Fox family, of Bramham, they are still vested. They are also patrons of the church.

* See Atkinson's *Hist. of Cleveland*, vol. ii., and *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, page 273, &c.

† See Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 290.

‡ See also the Pipe Roll for 12th Henry II.

§ See Coucher Book of Kirkstall Abbey, fo. 64, for King John's charter of the re-grant.

The church (All Saints) was given in 1258 by Richard de Moreville to the chapel of St. Mary and Holy Angels, at York; the advowson of the church having been previous to the appropriation in the hands of the Archbishop of York. A vicarage was ordained, which at the Dissolution was valued at £4 1s. 8d. per annum, synodals 4s. and procurations 6s. 8d. In the Parliamentary Survey (*ca.* 1652) it is stated to be worth £13 yearly. The living was augmented in 1732 with £200 to meet a benefaction of tithes of some farms at Wyke, &c., worth upwards of £200, from Lady Elizabeth Hastings, and in 1792 with £200 by lot. Torre and Dr. Whitaker supply a list of the vicars.* The present vicar is the Rev. Balfour Straton, A.K.C.L., who was inducted in November, 1895, and who had previously been assistant curate of Knaresborough parish church.

The building itself is a highly interesting structure, and possesses features worthy of particular consideration by the student of early church architecture. The excessive use of paint and coloured wash is, however, much to be deplored in a building that retains so many evidences of antiquity. All the walls are thickly coated with yellow wash and the character of the masonry is thereby obscured, while the noble old columns of the aisles are also coated with paint; their true character—the stone tooling, jointing, and any mason-marks that may exist—being wholly concealed. The columns of the north aisle are short massive cylinders, with heavy cushion capitals and square abaci, supporting semi-circular arches. They are certainly not later than of the time of Stephen (1135-54). The principal or south doorway is also of the same period. The piers on the south side are somewhat later, approaching the Early English style, the columns being lighter, the arches pointed, while the square abaci have plain line mouldings, with ornaments at the angles of the capitals.

It is evident that these Norman aisles have been built up to the existing tower, and not contemporaneously with it, as the masonry of the west walls is quite distinct from that of the tower, which originally must have been entirely outside the fabric of the church. The tower is peculiar. It is not square, but longer on the north and south sides than it is on the east and west. The west face, outside, measures 12 feet 2 inches wide, and the walls are nowhere more than two feet thick. There is a very curious example of the so-called herring-bone masonry in the upper part of the east face, and the belfry windows, one above the other, are large—quite 4 feet wide and from 7 to 8 feet high—each consisting of two openings, with central baluster shaft, and impost of a single stone, chamfered.

An interesting comparison may be made between this tower and

* See also the Rev. R. V. Taylor's *Churches of Leeds* (1875), page 143.

that of St. Mary's Church, Bishophill, the Younger, York, which has been frequently stated to be Saxon. It contains rude herring-bone masonry, large belfry windows, having a central baluster shaft, with chamfered impost, supporting rudely constructed arches, and the jambs have the usual long and short work affecting the Saxon manner. But despite these appearances it is perfectly evident that the tower has been rebuilt of old materials, at a period clearly subsequent to the 12th century. Some of the stones, in the interior of the tower, bear Norman sculptures, and on the exterior, but built into the walls, are many bricks of the shape of the modern or Flemish bricks, a form not used before the 13th century. Likewise the corbels throughout the tower supporting the floors are of the ogee form, and look like the work of the 15th century.*

I venture to think that the Bardsey tower has undergone a similar rebuilding in the 15th century, at any rate the upper portion of it; the corbel-table a few feet above the belfry windows seem to be of that period as well as the battlements. It is also noteworthy that the lowest portion of the tower, up to about 16 feet from the ground, is built of massive ashlar. A clerestory (very rarely found in churches before the 15th century) of three lights in the church appears on the south side only. The tower arch is round and has been restored, with hood moulding terminating in male and female heads. There are two doorways into the tower, on the north and south sides, the south one being now blocked. Both these doorways have been originally external, and at the rebuilding and enlargement of the church have been made to open into the aisles. The ancient north door with its large nail-studded cross-bands is noteworthy. There are some curiously-placed corbels in the west wall of the south aisle, which, as Whitaker suggests, may have supported the stone ribs of a groined roof.

The church has undergone an extended restoration in the 15th century, but some of the original square-headed windows have been replaced by modern monstrosities. The east end of the north aisle has been the Mauleverer chapel, founded in 1515 by Sir William Mauleverer, Kt., of Woodsome, in Bardsey parish. The organ now stands there, a memorial of Mrs. Holroyd. The chapel at the eastern

* See *Memoirs of the Archæol. Inst., York Meeting*, 1846, page 47. Compare also with the tower of the church at Appleton-le-Street, near Malton, which is very similar and generally stated to be Saxon, but the Rev. H. Ward, vicar, in answer to my enquiry, informs me that the walls from the ground-level to a height of about 15 feet are 2 feet 6 inches thick, then they narrow from about 2 feet to 21 inches; and this "battering" or diminution in the thickness of the walls is certainly a characteristic of Norman or even Early English builders. See also LEATHLEY in my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 115.

termination of the south aisle (now the vestry), I find from the Town Books, was erected by Robert Benson, the first Lord Bingley, in 1724, and was known as the "Bingley Chapel." There is an Early English low-side aperture, erroneously called a "lepers' window," on the south side of the choir. It is a single lancet 3 feet 5 inches high to the apex of the trefoiled-pointed head, and 16 inches wide at the splayed sill. This window or opening, doubtless for the reception of messages during service, is on the low side of the chancel, between a pointed doorway now blocked, and the chancel-step. On the south side of the chancel is a piscina and three sedilia, restored, also a stained memorial window to the Rev. John Holroyd, vicar, who died in 1873.

On the chancel floor are a number of ancient memorial slabs, but much decayed; one bears a cross and crozier, with chalice and paten, and it may be the tomb of John de Bardsey, who was Abbot of Kirkstall in 1390, though it was usual to inter the Abbots within their monasteries. On the south wall of the chancel are tablets to a former vicar, the Rev. Wm. Andrew, who died in 1731, and Elizabeth Thorpe, who died in 1666, aged 78. She had been the wife of the notorious Francis Thorpe, Baron of the Exchequer, and M.P. for Beverley, 1656-7, who when divested of power at the Restoration, retired to Bardsey, where he died, and according to the register, was buried at Bardsey, 7th June, 1665. But there is no memorial of him in the church. His widow, who was a daughter of William Oglethorpe, Esq., of Rawdon (*see* page 378), had previously been twice married (1) to Wm. Denton, Esq., and (2) to Thos. Wise, Esq., of Beverley, whose son, William Wise, erected this memorial to his mother. On the north wall is a memorial to the Rev. Richard Capstick, who died in 1785, and near it is a beautiful epitaph, inscribed in Latin, to the memory of Charles Lister, who died in 1684, aged 23. This family lived at Rigton, and made various benefactions to the poor of the parish.

There are some other antiquities of interest in the church. On the floor (sadly out of place), at the west end of the north aisle is a mutilated stone altar, doubtless the altar-table of the original Norman church. It is 6 feet 4 inches long, and has been consecrated with the usual five symbols, but some of these have been ruthlessly chiselled off, when the church was repaired in 1868. Moreover, part of the ends have been cut away to adapt it for its present purpose as a flag-stone. In the tower are several early Christian memorial-stones of small size. They bear plain incised crosses. There are also several fragments of the original Norman font, bearing a design of interlaced arches, with bead ornament, *ca.* 1150. The stone seems to be much burnt in parts.

The registers of the church are specially interesting, inasmuch as they are amongst the oldest extant in our county.* The first entry of baptism is dated the 29th September, 1538, the very day that the Act ordering such registers to be kept, came into force. Among the earlier entries are many relating to the ancient family of Mauleverer, who lived at Woodsome or Wothersome in this parish. Edmund Mauleverer, Esq., died there in 1488, and the registers record the burial at Bardsey of Robert Mauleverer "ye last of Januar," 1540 Sir Wm. Mauleverer, Kt., who founded the chantry in the church, was buried there 13th August, 1547. In 1542 John Kaye, gent., and Dorothy Mauleverer were married 21st Jan., "being both xv. yeares olde." Attached to their old manor-house at Wothersome was a chapel, where divine services were held, and in which many of the family marriages took place. The family maintained their own chantry-priest, who served not only in the private chapel of Woodsome, but also at St. Mary's altar in the church. In the register for 1556 is this entry: "xxofer Banks, preyst, was buried the ij. of August." He had survived the dissolution of private chantries, and was doubtless the family's chaplain until his death.

But perhaps the most interesting record in these old registers is this:

William, sonne of Mr. William Congreve, of Bardsey Grange, was baptized, Feb. 10th, 1669.

This has undoubtedly reference to the birth at Bardsey of William Congreve, the celebrated poet and dramatist, one of the first literary geniuses our county may claim amongst her distinguished natives. By his plays of "The Old Bachelor," "The Double Dealer," and "The Mourning Bride;" the latter opening with the well-known line: "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast," Congreve achieved at a remarkably early age a literary reputation second to no one of his time. "No English writer, except Lord Byron," observes Lord Macaulay, "has at so early an age stood so high in the estimation of his contemporaries." And this is surely high praise of one who lived in an age that produced such luminaries as Swift, Pope, Dryden, Addison, and Steele. Congreve died January 19th, 1728-9, and was buried with great pomp in Westminster Abbey. The date of his birth, as recorded on his monument, viz., 1672, is obviously erroneous.

* The oldest Registers in Yorkshire are the following: *West Riding*: 1537, Snaith; 1538, Aldborough, Brodsworth, Cantley, Carlton, Dewsbury, Halifax, Hooton Pagnell, Melton, Monk Fryston, Normanton, Rossington, Rothwell, Saxton, and St. Olave's, York; *East Riding*: 1537, Langtoft; 1538, Atwick, North Burton, Wharram-le-Street; *North Riding*: 1538, Crayke, Oswaldkirk, Skelton, and Wensley.

Neither the place nor the time of his birth appear to have been then known. The poet himself seems to have been in equal ignorance of the facts, though he always declared himself to be a native of England and not of Ireland, where much of his early life was passed.* He came of an old Staffordshire family (*see* page 426), his father being a Colonel in the army, and his birth at Bardsey would appear to have happened during his mother's visit to her uncle, Sir John Lewis, father of the celebrated Lady Elizabeth Hastings, and owner of the Bardsey estates, which he had purchased from the Wentworth family, as already related.†

The old Town Books are not less interesting than the registers, but space prevents me from making any extended abstracts. In 1729 I find new stocks were erected. In 1759 the sum of 3s. 6d. was expended on the pinfold. This old-time relic still stands nearly opposite the school-house. The latter was erected at the cost of the parish in 1726, and was then endowed by Lord Bingley with 26 acres of land farmed upon lease by Nicholas Gibson. At that time Matthew Naylor was master.

At Christmas every house through the whole parish, excepting Sheepcoat, paid to the vicar a hen, or sixpence. The fee for a funeral sermon was 10s., but if the friends of the deceased chose their own text the fee was 21s. The vicarage house was then on Bardsey Hill. The present vicarage was erected in 1849. In the vicarage gardens are several curious stones, including half-a-dozen ancient querns, or hand corn-mills, which have been found in the immediate neighbourhood.

The old tithe-barn stands near the old vicarage. It presents some curious features although the building is now only about half its original height. Some years ago the roof being in a state of decay fell in, when it was taken down, together with the upper portion of the walls, and the remaining room was turned into store-places, &c., for the inmates of the old vicarage.

The old corn-mills at Bardsey were tenanted by the Midgley family for many generations. William Midgley ran the mills in 1800. John Midgley of Bardsey Grange, went to Australia and died there at Gangery Grange, September 6th, 1864, aged 64. His eldest son, William Midgley, was married at Bardsey in 1862. Since about 1870 the mills have been run by the Mawson family, of the Grange.

* *See* Charles A. Read in *The Cabinet of Irish Literature*.

† Among the Duke of Devonshire's muniments of Bolton Abbey I have seen a letter, dated August 11th, 1666, written by Wm. Congreve to Richard Graham; the writer's seal shewing his arms: a chevron between three battle-axes.

CHAPTER XLIV.

ABOUT EAST KESWICK AND WIKE.

A sunny site—Early history of the manor—Local monastic possessions—The old Hall—Places of worship—The Society of Friends—Local pastimes—Good roads—Wike school—A famous find of ancient coins.



FROM Bardsey we may cross the Keswick Beck and ascend the sunny slope to the pleasant and prosperous-looking village of East Keswick. It is mentioned in *Domesday* as *Chesuic*, where Tor had five carucates of land to be taxed. This was a large holding for that period, at least 800 acres being then in cultivation, proving that this genial sunny site had been occupied and under the plough long before the Normans settled on it.

In 1083-6 it was still in the hands of the King, but shortly afterwards it formed part of the grant with Harewood (in which parish it is situate) to the family of Romille, lords of the great honour of Skipton-in-Craven. The lords of Harewood subfeud the manor to the family of Monte Alto, or Maude, and Simon de Monte Alto, in the 12th century, gave two tofts and two bovates of land here to Pontefract Priory. The Priory of Bolton had, however, the chief monastic interest in this township, as the early owners of the Skipton fee were mostly concerned in the welfare of that monastery, which was of their foundation. The canons of Bolton obtained many donations from their patrons in Harewood parish, including the rent of the mill in East Keswick. The monasteries of Kirkstall and Fountains had also possessions in the township.

In 1284-6 Simon de Monte Alto is stated to hold East Keswick of the house of Albemarle, but thirty years later (1315) the manor was held conjointly by four persons, viz.: Wm. de Ilkeley (Ilketon), Brian de Thornhill,* the Rector of Bedale, and Peter de Marthley. The last mentioned family took their name from the ancient manor of Marley, in the parish of Bingley, which they held probably as under-tenants of the Montaltes or Maudes. The arms of both these families are in Bingley church. Alice, daughter and coheirss of Simon de

* Wm. de Ilketon and Brian de Thornhill, see *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., pp. 161-2.

Montaltes (living in 1254), married Thomas de Martley, and it was doubtless in consequence of this marriage that Peter de Marthley succeeded to a share of the property at East Keswick. The same Peter de Marthley with Ralph de Ilkton was lord of the manor of Morton, near Bingley, at the same time (1315) as he held East Keswick.

The manor subsequently came to the Gascoigne family, and is now, with most of the land, held by the Earl of Harewood. The site of the ancient manor-house is still indicated by the presence of part of the moat that enclosed it, but the hall itself was demolished about two centuries ago and the stone employed in building the adjoining Old Hall farm. There are no other buildings of historic antiquity in the township. The beautiful church erected in 1856-7 from designs by Messrs. Mallinson and Healey, of Bradford, is a chapel-of-ease to Harewood. The cost was about £1500, raised entirely through the efforts of the vicar of Harewood, the Rev. Miles Atkinson, M.A. The site was given by the Earl of Harewood, who also gave the site and he likewise met most of the expense of the new schools in the village, which were opened in January, 1872. The Wesleyans have also erected a well-designed place of worship in the village. Originally the Methodists assembled for worship in private houses or in barns (as at Linton near Wetherby), and in 1779 the house of Thomas Wright, in Keswick, was licensed for such purpose. The first chapel dates from 1792, but at Thorner they had a chapel in 1770, if not earlier. The Society of Friends was at one time well represented in the neighbourhood, and they have an old burial-ground at Keswick. In the Books of the Society at York I find this entry :

EAST KESWICK ; 1668 The purchase of ye Buryall place att Shearburn bought in the name of Wm. Knapton wch. he is to make over to freinds belonging to this Mo. Meeting, cost 7*li.* 10*s.* wch. was paid Marm. Morley 7*li.* 10*s.*, the charges about itt cost pr. writings 3*s.* 4*d.*

Part of the land in the township is farmed by various owners, and altogether the village has a pleasant prosperous look. There are two good inns. Situated in a fertile and picturesque district, about midway between Harewood, Collingham, and Bardsey, and accessible by good driving roads from Leeds, as well as from stations on the Leeds and Wetherby railway, the place is much visited in the summer season. The annual Village Feast, held at the same time as Harewood, is the chief local event of the year, and is generally very well attended, and accompanied with a good deal of fun and animation. In former years, when the writer was an occasional witness of the day's enjoyment, various Old English games were played, and there

were well-contested foot-races, as well as donkey-races, and other sports, in which the juvenile portion, especially, took a rollicking delight.

The roads around this charming district are well maintained and there are splendid long level runs that must delight the heart of the wheelman. From East Keswick we may take the lane which emerges on such a highroad at the *Traveller's Rest*, 2 miles from Harewood and 4 miles from Collingham. Or we may take the southward road, through the pretty *Domesday* village of *Wich*, now Wike, and so to Alwoodley Gates, and by the ancient Roman route to Adel. Wike is partly in Harewood and partly in Bardsey parishes, and it was from lands at Wike-in-Harewood that the old Clerk's School, at Skipton-in-Craven, was originally endowed (1556), and was continued until 1814, when the National School commenced. The Free School at Wike was established by Lady Elizabeth Hastings in 1739.

Wike, however, is chiefly memorable to the archæologist for the discovery that was made here in February, 1836. A working-man named James Dent, whilst planting a pear tree at the end of a house in the centre of the village, struck upon an earthen vessel choke-full of small silver pennies of the early Edwards. It is computed there were nearly 2000 in all, or probably 500 more than in the similarly famous hoard found at Tutbury in 1831.* From Messrs. Sharpe and Haigh's paper, communicated through Edward Hawkins, Esq., F.R.S., I gather that in 1831 the existing homestead at Wike was built upon the site of the old one, but was not continued so far as the original in length. It was in or under the plastered floor of the ancient tenement that these coins were concealed. They consisted principally of types as well as many varieties of the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II., from the mints of Berwick, Newcastle, Durham, York, Kingston, Lincoln, Chester, Canterbury, Bristol, Bury St. Edmunds, and London. There were also numerous Scottish, Irish, and foreign pieces. Among the latter was one of Louis IV. of Bavaria, struck at Aix-la-Chapelle, after his coronation at Rome in 1329. It may therefore be asserted that the coins were not concealed until after this date, when Edward III. was in the thick of his troubles with Scotland. But for many years before this time the district had been overrun by the marauding Scots,—they had been at Harewood in 1316, and sacked the church—so that doubtless the bulk of this great hoard had found similar concealment during these destructive invasions.

* *Vide Archaeologia*, vol. xxiv., page 148.

PEDIGREE OF THE EARLY LORDS OF HAREWOOD, CO. YORK.

ROBERT DE ROMELLI=

Had granted the great Fee of Skipton-in-Craven and lordship of Harewood, shortly after the completion of *Domsday*. Built Skipton Castle.

William de Meschines (1)= Cecily de Romelli, sole heiress of=(2) William de Traches Earl of Cambridge *ante* 1139 (*vide* charter of Haverholme Nuntery) : Lord of Copeland and Egremont, co. Cumberland : gave Skipton Church to Embsay Priory, 1121 ; he was brother of Ranulph, Earl of Chester, who founded Wetherall Priory in Cumberland, *ca.* 1090 (*Yorks. Archæol. J.*, iv., 395)

Adeliza or Alice de Romelli= William Fitz Duncan, son of Earl Ralph, co-heiress, owner of the Skipton Murray & nephew of Malcolm, King Matthew, of Scotland : vanquished King Stephen's army at Clitheroe, *ca.* 1150. young. Robert de Courcy (2)= Avicia, inherited Harewood & Irby, co. Lincs. Lord of Leeds, Fee, removed Embsay Priory to Bolton *ca.* 1154. Colchester, both died of Arthington Priors. Bingley, &c., co. York, dead in 1138

William, the " Boy Cecily [de Romelli], inherited Alicia, in-herited lands in Egremont, .. with the Skipton Fee ; md. (1) Alex. Fitzgerald, d. *ca.* 1170 ; (2) Wm. Cumberland : d. *ca.* 1160. tion charter of Emb- le Gros, Earl of Albemarle, and md. (1) Gilbert say to Bolton *ca.* 1154 d. 1179. Lord of Holderness. Pipard, (2) Died soon after, s. p.

William de Courcy, Lord of Harewood, d. without issue, 1197 (arms of Courcy [quart] by the Baroness Clifford in 1734) arg. 3 eagles displayed gules, crowned ; and also Fitz Gerald : arg. a saltire, gules (*see* Whitaker's *Craven*, p. 393).

Lord of Harewood, obtained charter of free warren, market and fair at Harewood, 1208.

Fulk de Breant (2)= Margery Fitz Gerald, Lady of Harewood,=(t) Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, left issue by her first husband : divorced from her second husband, *ca.* 1225. (*Yorks. Archæol. J.*, vol. xiii., 120 n. d. 1216.)

Emb say Priory in 1121, and gave authority of a single charter (Whitaker's *Craven*, 3rd ed., page 297).

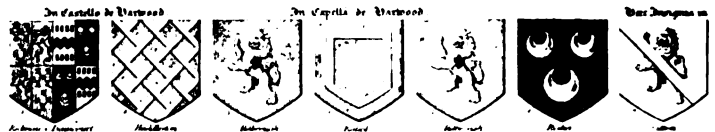
Robert de Courcy (2)= Avicia, inherited Harewood & Irby, co. Lincs. Lord of Leeds, Benefactress to Bolton Bingley, &c., co. York, dead in 1138

Robert de Matilda, dau. of (2)= William de= (1) Gundreda Adelia, d. 1182 ; Roger Guldifre. Courcy, con- de Warren. md. (1) Richard of his grandmother Cecily, and of his de Courcy, d. *ca.* 1150, mother Avicia, of the mill of Harewood and (2) Robt. de Gaunt, Lord of Bolt on Priory (*Harl. MSS.* 802). D. 1185. Leeds in right of his wife ; answered for 12½ Kts. Fees, 1168.

Alice de Courcy= Warin Fitz Gerald, inherited Harewood and Chamberlain to King Stoke Courcy ; living in 1217 John ; bd. at Southwark

Henry Fitz Gerald.





Notes and descriptions for the coats of arms, including names and heraldic details.

ARMS FORMERLY IN HAREWOOD CHURCH AND CASTLE.

CHAPTER XLV.

HAREWOOD.

Rural charm of Harewood—An illustrious record—Antiquity of Harewood—Meaning of the name—Harewood a Danish mint—*Domesday* evidence—A large parish—Grant to the Romilles—Descent of the manor—Market-charter—The Rythers and Redmans—Pedigree of Redman—The Gascoigne family—Gawthorpe Hall—Chief Justice Gascoigne—Subsequent owners of Harewood—The Lascelles family—Harewood House—The late Lord Harewood—Royal visits.



LOOKING back through a long vista of years there is solace in the recollection of many quiet saunterings and happy hours spent about the rich domains and pleasant by-ways of dear old Harewood! Few places possess the historic heritage of this charming and sequestered parish. Even Roman Tadcaster, with its twenty centuries of stirring record, pales before it in the lustre of great names that encircle like a halo its long life-story. But whereas Tadcaster, so fully dealt with in this book, has strangely received but the scantiest recognition in printed word, historic Harewood on the other hand, has been so exhaustively dealt with in chapter and volume that little new can be added. I shall, however, endeavour to supplement what has been already written.

Harewood seems to have lain out of the way of the old legions who occupied such places as Tadcaster and Ilkley, and in early times would appear to have been more sought for peaceable seclusion than for the din of war. Its Saxon name seems to me to imply as much, for in the Anglo-Saxon *hærh*, we have the *temple* raised for holy meditation and retirement in the *wood* of sacred oak and ash for which the district has been renowned. Early associations of this "temple in the wood" doubtless hallow the spot exactly as they do at Bardsey and Collingham in this neighbourhood. But neither relic nor writing remain to tell us of the manner of people who had settled here in that remote age. Our first record, perforce, goes no further back than the last quarter of the 9th century, when "Farmon the priest of Harewood," was active in his ministry here.* His name and that

* *Surtess Soc.*, vols. 39, 43, and 48.

of his friend Owun are recorded in the *Liber Vita*, although, says the Rev. D. H. Haigh, not in the original text, which was interrupted in 875, but amongst the entries which were made after the Lindisfarne community were settled at Durham. Father Haigh is disposed to conclude that the letter "H" on some coins of King Olaf (*see* page 237) stands for Harewood, and that "Farmon, the moneyer" was the Harewood priest. The coins are of two types: (1) ✠ ONLAF REX (round a small cross) ✠ FARMON MONE; and (2) ✠ ANLAF CVNVNC (round a triquetra) ✠ FARMON MONETA (round a standard). It is on the latter that the initial "H" appears, while on the former an "S" and "T" occur, which he conjectured to be abbreviations for Sherburn and Tadcaster.* To accept such an interpretation of these valuable memorials would imply that Harewood had been sanctioned as a royal mint towards the middle of the 10th century, when Olaf reigned in Northumbria. The original Abbey (afterwards St. Mary's) at York, it will be remembered, was dedicated to him.

But not to dwell longer on these interesting surmises let us turn to actual written testimony. *Domesday* tells that there were in 1066 three manors in Harewood, with its berewick, Newhall, where Tor, Sprot and Grim had ten carucates for taxation, worked by five ploughs, hence there were 1800 acres under cultivation at the time of the Norman invasion (*see* page 107). The parish originally embraced eight townships, situated on both sides of the river, viz.: Harewood, Alwoodley, East Keswick, Weardley, Wigton, Wike, Dunkeswick and Weeton, an area of 12,180 acres. It is obvious that all these places were in an advanced state of cultivation prior to the Norman usurpation. Besides the 10 carucates in Harewood, there were in Aluoldelei (Alwoodley) 5 carucates; in Chesuic (East Keswick) 5 carucates; Chesuic (Dunkeswick) 4 carucates; Wic (Wike) 6 carucates; Widitun (Weeton) 8 carucates; Niuuehalle (Newhall or Gawthorpe?) 1 carucate; Stochetun (Stockton Farm) 5 carucates and 6 bovates; Lofthuse (Lofthouse Farm) 2 carucates; Stubhusun (Stubhouse Farm) 1 carucate; together 47 carucates 6 bovates; thus, assuming that the lands were wholly worked on the three-field system, there would be upwards of 8500 acres in cultivation in 1066, or about two-thirds of the whole land in the parish. This is excellent testimony to the early settlement, fertility, and large population of the parish before the Norman conquest.

It had not been decided how to dispose of these valuable lands at the time the survey was completed (1083—5), but shortly afterwards Harewood and its dependencies were given to Robert de Romelli, together with the extensive, though in great part barren and

* *Yorks Archaeol. Jl.*, vol. iv., page 452.

mountainous, fee of Skipton-in-Craven. The earlier descents of these important manors have been much confused, hence I have prepared the pedigree on page 462 shewing through whom these several estates passed. Robert's daughter, Cecilia, wife of William de Meschines, gave the mill of Harewood to the newly-founded Priory of Embsay, afterwards (1154) translated to Bolton-on-Wharfe. The canons of Bolton had large possessions in the parish. They had the mill at Alwoodley, with suit of the mill through the whole parish of Harewood, and lands with rents, in Helthwaite, Lofthouse, Roudone Weardley, Weeton, Wigdon and Brandon; also in 1354 they had granted and appropriated under the Archbishop's seal the valuable fruits of the church of Harewood.*

The manor descended by marriage to Warin Fitz Gerard or Gerald, who in 1205 obtained from King John a charter of free warren for all his lands here. This was confirmed a few years later, when the same monarch granted him the privilege to hold a weekly (Saturday) market at Harewood, and a three days' annual fair. The following is a translation of the original charter :

GRANT OF MARKET AND FAIR IN HAREWOOD, 10th JOHN (1208).

John by the grace of God, &c. Know ye that we have granted and by this our charter confirmed to Warin son of Gerald and his heirs that they may have a warren at Harewood in the co. of York and a fair there every year lasting for three days to wit the first day of July and two days following and that they may have there a market every week on Saturday so that aforesaid fair and market be not to the hurt of neighbouring fairs and markets. Wherefore We will and firmly command the aforesaid Warin and his heirs may have and hold in his aforesaid manor of Harwood the aforesaid Warren with the liberties and free customs to the said Warren belonging and may have the aforesaid fair and market in peace freely and quietly with all liberties and free customs which the township of Harewood hath as is aforesaid. Witness the lord Bp. of Winchester G. Bp. of Rochester J. Bp. of Bath G. son of Peter Earl of Essex W. Earl of Salisbury Earl Albric Robert son of Walter William Briw William de Cantelupe John Marshall John son of Hugh G. Luterell. Given by the hand of Henry de Wells Archdeacon of Wells at Lambeth xvj day of february in the x year of our reign.

From the Fitz Gerald, De Redvers, and the Earls of Albemarle, the manor descended to the Lords Lisle (De Insula) of Rougemont, whose lordly mansion on the north bank of the Wharfe, stood a mile to the west of Harewood. The manor was then (1336) worth 400 marks per annum. John, Lord Lisle, of Rougemont, one of the founders of the Order of the Garter, died in 1354.† By the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth with William de Aldburgh, the castle and manor in 1364 passed to this great family.‡ He was summoned to

* In 1324 the Prior travelled from Bolton to Harewood to see about repairs to the fish-pond. The expenses of the journey were charged to the monastery. 3s. 1d.

† Burke gives date of death as 1356.

‡ *Fines*, 38th Edward III.

Parliament as Baron Aldburgh in 1371, and died in 1377, leaving two daughters, co-heiresses, (1) Sybil, wife of Sir Wm. Ryther, of Ryther (*see* page 69), and Elizabeth, wife of Sir Richard Redman. The arms of Redman quartering Aldburgh (shewn on the plate prefacing this chapter) were to be seen in the great chamber of Harewood Castle.*

It is worthy of record that in a warlike age of many vicissitudes, when family disputes respecting the title to property were of constant occurrence, the two families of Ryther and Redman maintained their relations in perfect harmony, and the Harewood estate continued in undivided moieties in the posterity of the Redman family for seven descents, and in that of the Rythers for nine generations. Both of these honoured families were alike distinguished in the annals of their country. Of the Rythers I have already, on pages 66—71, told the story of their achievements in the eventful reigns of Edward I. and his successors. Both families apparently occupied the great castle together, or perhaps alternately, and never do we hear of any disagreement between them, or cause of quarrel in respect to their several possessions.

The arms of Ryther (three crescents) are still discernible amongst the shields carved on the walls of the little chapel high up in the castle ruins, and together under imperishable monuments the two brothers-in-law, with their wives, whose harmonious life was so happily continued in their posterity, rest in the old church at Harewood. Sir Richard Redman died in 1426 and Sir Wm. Ryther in 1440. Upon their effigies is shewn the collar of SS., the distinguishing badge of the Lancastrians.

The above Sir Wm. Ryther died seized of the manor of Cotes, co. Lincoln, held as parcel of the manor of Bolingbroke. His son, Sir Robert Ryther, married (1) Isabel, daughter of Sir W. Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe, son of the great judge, and (2) Eleanor, daughter of John Fitzwilliam, of Sprotborough. He died in 1475, and was buried at Ryther. His eldest son, Sir Robert Ryther, died unmarried in 1490. The following unpublished recital, dated 3rd August, 6th Henry VI. (1490), from the recently-indexed *Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem* in the Public Record Office, shews that his brother Sir Ralph Ryther, aged 40 and more, was his next heir :

Robert Ryther, Knight, died seized of a moiety of the manor of Harwood worth £24 held of the King in chief by service of one-fourth of a knight's fee ; of the manor and advowson of Ryther, worth 100 marks, held of the King by service of one-eighth of a knight's fee ; a moiety of the manor of Kirkby Overblow,

* *See* Sir Geo. Duckett, Bart., on the arms of Aldburgh, in *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. vi., page 420-4.

worth 4 marks, held of Henry, Earl of Northumberland; three messuages and 40 acres of meadow and pasture in Kirkby Wharfe, worth 40s, held of the King. He died June 30th last. Ralph Ryther, aged 40 and more is his brother and next heir.

James Ryther succeeded to Harewood, &c., on the death of his father, William, in 1563. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Atherton, of Harewood, and was succeeded by his son Robert, who married (1) Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Swift, of Rotherham, from whom he was divorced, (2) Eleanor, daughter of William Oglethorpe, and (3) in 1626, Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Thomas Browne, of Belton, in the Isle of Axholme, co. Lincoln. He was the last of the Rythers who lived at Harewood Castle.* In all probability he retired to Belton, where he died in 1637, doubtless having retained his moiety of the estate.

The length of this volume now obliges me to deal in the briefest possible manner with the numerous manuscripts before me relating to the notable house of Redman or Redmayne, whose connection with Harewood dates from about the year 1393.† The founder of the family in England appears to have been a Norman de Redman or Redeman, of Redman, in Cumberland, which now forms a joint township with Isell. He appears to have joined the second Crusade to the Holy Land in 1147, and died about 1150. His son, Henry de Redman, had granted partly by Ketel, son of Uchtred, 34th Henry II. (1187), and partly by Gilbert, son of Roger Fitz Reinfrid, a man of large possessions and influence, the important manor of Levens, in Westmorland. Here the Redmans resided for more than three centuries, but the hall and manor were not sold until 1561 (according to Dodsworth),‡ when Sir Alan Bellingham purchased the same, in whose family they remained for two centuries more. In the first Roll of Arms, *temp.* Henry III., Sir Matthew, son of Henry de Redman, bore: *Gules, 3 cushions ermine, tasselled, or*, and these arms were to be seen in the church and castle at Harewood.

While at Levens the Redmans were conspicuous in many military enterprises, especially in the North, during the trying period of the Scottish wars, serving their country with fidelity and honour, and

* A genealogy compiled by Wm. de Ryther, Esq., of Dublin, probably the last male descendant of the Rythers, lords of Harewood, shews clearly the descent of the lords of Harewood from Orgar, father of Elfrida, as well as from King Alfred. See *Brit. Archæol. Assoc. Journ.*, 1864, page 227.

† For the loan of these manuscripts and the accompanying original pedigree I am indebted to Wm. Greenwood, Esq., Barrister-at-law, of the Middle Temple, a descendant of the Harewood branch of the family.

‡ Probably correct, as Sir Richard Redman died seized of the manor of Levens, &c., 35th Henry VIII. (1544); inq, taken 14th August.

also representing their county of Westmorland in Parliament. They were likewise Sheriffs of Yorkshire, Cumberland, Westmorland and Roxburgh. They held large properties in Westmorland, Cumberland, Northumberland, and North Lancashire, including the manors of Levens, Selside, and Lupton,* and when Sir Richard Redman married about 1393 the co-heiress of Harewood, a moiety of that estate was added to the family patrimony. A few years later we find them landowners at Thornton-in-Lonsdale, and in that romantic district, under the shadow of the mighty Ingleborough, the family long resided.

There can be no possible doubt of the common origin of these several families of Levens, Harewood, and Thornton-in-Lonsdale. Their arms were alike, with of course the usual signs for difference. The coat-of-arms of the Thornton family is identical with those of Sir Richard Redman, the first of the Harewood branch, who was Speaker of the House of Commons in 1415, and whose armorial insignia still exist in the Speaker's House at Westminster. The will of this Sir Richard Redman, who was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1403, is dated 1st May, 3rd Henry VI. (1424), and he died two years later. With his two wives he lies interred in the old church at Harewood, where a noble effigied monument commemorates their names and fame.

The second Sir Richard, of Harewood, is stated by Whitaker to have married Elizabeth Gascoigne, but she appears to have been the second wife of the previous Sir Richard. The second Sir Richard married a daughter of the house of Middleton, of Middleton, co. Westmorland, who is of the blood of the De Ferrers, Earls of Derby, the Lords Berkeley, and the Musgraves, who according to Burke, are descendants of the old German Emperors. This Sir Richard is said by Sir George Duckett, Bart. (who claims descent from the Redmans of Harewood), to have had 13 children, but of many of whom nothing appears to be known.† Sir Richard's great-grandson, Richard Redman, became in succession Bishop of St. Asaph, Exeter, and Ely, and it was he who restored the cathedral of St. Asaph after it had been burnt down by Owen Glendour in 1402. He died in 1505 and was buried in Ely Cathedral, where a magnificent altar-tomb perpetuates his memory.

* This Lupton, in Westmorland, would appear to have given name to the old family of that name, which first appears in Wharfedale about the time the Redmans came to Harewood. In Knaresbro' Forest and about Pool and Bramhope the Luptons were numerous. Thomas Lupton, of Bramhope, was a tenant of Kirkstall Abbey in 1540 (*Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 282). Many of the ancestors of Mr. William C. Lupton, three times Mayor of Bradford (1899—1902), are interred in Denton churchyard, in Wharfedale.

† See *Duchettiana*, page 24. For Redman wills see *Surtess Soc.*, vols. 45 and 79.

Matthew Redman was the last of the family to reside at Harewood, and in 1549 he recorded his possessions to the escheator of Yorkshire as follows: Lands in Malynghall, Birthwaite, and Kirkby-in-Kendall, Hind Castle, a moiety of the manor of Harewood and the castle there, and lands in Selside, Layton, Keswick, and Calton in Yorkshire. His brother Cuthbert appears to have settled in the neighbourhood of Whitby, and from his grandson, Giles, who migrated to Ireby, near Thornton-in-Lonsdale, the Redmaynes of Newcastle and Gateshead claim descent. Matthew married a daughter of Sir Wm. Gascoigne, of Gawthorpe, and as he left no issue, Harewood seems to have passed to the Gascoignes. But neither the time nor the manner have been clearly determined. The Gascoignes intermarried with the Redmans several times. It is probable that Joan Gascoigne, daughter of Henry Redman, of Harewood, succeeded to a reversion of the manor, and dying without issue, the property reverted to her uncle, Richard Redman, and from him to his son Matthew, the last of the Harewood Redmans.* The Ryther moiety must have been sold either to the Gascoignes or Redmans. The estates eventually became united in Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of William Gascoigne, Esq. Her marriage with Thomas Wentworth, Esq., of Wentworth Woodhouse, in the reign of Elizabeth, carried them into that family, and they became the patrimony of her grandson, the unfortunate Earl of Strafford. In 1613 he sat in Parliament for the County of York, and again in 1621, at which time he appears to have passed most of his leisure at his pleasant seat at Gawthorpe.

The old home of this distinguished nobleman is said to have stood about 350 yards south of the present Harewood House, near to the margin of the lake. It was pulled down about 1771, and not a vestige of the mansion is now to be seen. The house or village, whichever it may have been,† gave name to an ancient family of consequence, whose heiress married William Gascoigne, ancestor of the Gascoignes of Sudbury, Lazingcroft, Parlington, &c.‡ A son of this union, William Gascoigne, is described as a merchant of Kirkby Wharfe, at the time of Edward II. From him descends the celebrated Sir Wm. Gascoigne, Chief Justice of England in the time of Henry IV, a man of great wisdom and magnanimity, of whom Lord Campbell remarks, "never was the seat of judgment filled by a more upright or independent magistrate." Shakespeare has

* See *Correspondence, Henry VIII.* (F. and D.), vol. ii., page 1071; also *Fines*, 32nd Elizabeth.

† See "Gawthorpe Hall," in the author's *Old Bingley*.

‡ A pedigree of Lascelles of Brakenburgh, Hinderskelf and Eryholme, co. York (with arms, &c.), was privately printed in 1869. See also Foster's *West Riding Pedigrees*, and Whitaker's *Ducatus Leodiensis*, &c.

PEDIGREE OF REDMAN, OF LEVENS, WESTMORLAND, AND HAREWOOD CASTLE, Co. YORK.

NORMAN DE REDMAN=

ob. ca. 1150.

Dapifer Guarini, ministr., Sancti Hosp., Jerusalem.

SIR HENRY=Margaretha

ob. ca. 1216; Sheriff of Yorkshire, 1211-14;

Seneschal of Kendal, Lord of Manor of Levens.

BENEDICT, ob. s. p.

SIR MATTHEW=Anabel

ob. 1270; Seneschal of Kendal, &c.;

1st Roll of Arms, 1243-6.

NORMAN

HENRY=Goditha

HENRY

SIR MATTHEW=

ob. ca. 1324;

Knight of Shire for Lancashire and

Westmorland (1295—1313);

Commanded Forces against Bruce and Balliol.

SIR MATTHEW=Margaret.

ob. 1360;

Knight of Shire for Westmorland, 1357-8.

Sheriff of Cumberland, and Governor of

Carlisle Castle, 1359.

WILLIAM.

ADAM=

of

Yealand

SIR MATTHEW=(1) Lucy.

Governor of Roxburgh and Berwick, (2) Joan, daughter of Henry, Lord

1388; fought at Otterbourne,

and in France and Spain under

John of Gaunt.

JOHN,

ob. s. p.

inq. p. m.

1340-1.

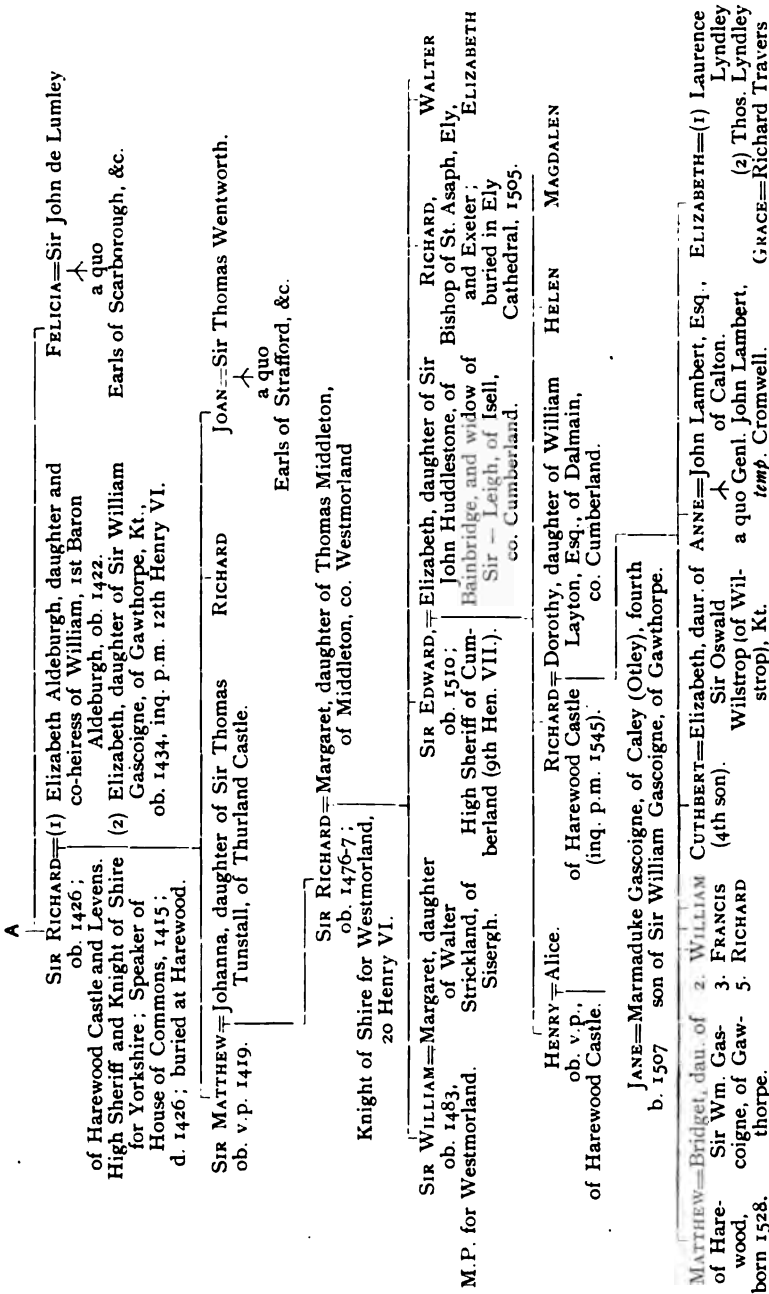
MARGARET=Adam

de

Yealand.

ELIZABETH=Roger

de Croft.



immortalised the well-known incident in the life of this Judge, of committing to prison the young Prince of Wales, afterwards (1413) Henry V., for "contempt and disobedience" while in the exercise of his high office.* He died in 1419, and a noble tomb at Harewood perpetuates his memory, and that of his first wife.

After Lord Strafford's execution in 1641 his property descended to his son, who sold Harewood in 1657 to Sir John Lewis, Bart., and Sir John Cutler, Kt., two London merchants. Sir John Cutler, who had Harewood, died in 1693. He devised his property to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of the Earl of Radnor, with remainder, should issue fail, to John Boulter, Esq., his kinsman, who succeeded to the estate on the death of the Countess in 1696. His son's trustees in 1738 sold the manor with all its privileges and appurtenances to Henry Lascelles, Esq., who died in 1753. His son and heir, Edwin Lascelles, Esq., was in 1790 created Baron Harewood, and on his death, without issue, in 1795, the property passed to his cousin, Edward Lascelles, Esq., created Baron Harewood in 1796, and Earl of Harewood and Viscount Lascelles in 1812.

The Lascelles family is of great antiquity in England, being mentioned in the Conqueror's survey, as holding of Earl Alan in Richmondshire the manors of Scruton, Kirkby Wisk, Sowber, &c., and in 1108 the same Picot de Laceles is returned as holding lands at Fulston, in Lincolnshire. His son, "Roger fil Pigot," appears as a witness to the charter of Osbern de Arches to St. Mary's Abbey,† and it is the same Roger de Lasceles who appears in the oldest Pipe Roll (1135) as a vassal of the Earl of Brittany, rendering account of 10 marks of silver to the King's exchequer. There is a village named Loucelles, near Caen, in Normandy, which most likely gave the family its name. Whitaker says that a grant of the whole village and manor of Lartington (Teesdale) was made about 1182 to Robert de Lascel, in which deed he observes the name of La Scel or De Sigillo, occurs for the first time. Other early references might also be cited.

After Henry Lascelles had acquired the Harewood estate in 1738, his second son, Daniel Lascelles, bought Goldsborough from the Byerleys about 1755, and Plumpton was purchased subsequently for £20,000. Edwin Lascelles, the heir of Harewood, who died in 1795, built the existing large and stately home of the family known as Harewood House. This magnificent mansion, one of the largest

* More than a century elapsed before this incident was first recorded in Sir Thos. Elyot's book called *The Governour*, published in 1531, and dedicated to Henry VIII. See also Campbell's *Lives of the Chief Justices*.

† Drake's *Eboracum*, page 602.

and finest "ancestral homes" in England, is a monument of the skill of its architect, John Carr, the designer of Grimston Park, Denton, and Farnley Halls in Wharfedale, as well as many others in Yorkshire.* The mansion, overlooking a spacious and beautiful park, occupied about twelve years in building, and was completed in 1771.† It is open to visitors on one day weekly during the summer months—a rare privilege granted now for many years by the noble owners—and contains a priceless collection of Sevres and Oriental china, together with a variety of other art treasures.

There have been several royal visits to Harewood, but the most memorable was when the Duchess of Kent and her daughter, the Princess (afterwards Queen) Victoria, were entertained by the second Earl on the occasion of their attending a great musical festival at York. The royal party reached Bishopthorpe on Sept. 5th, 1835, and remained the guests of Archbishop Harcourt for a whole week. On Saturday, Sept. 12th, they went to Harewood, travelling in State carriages by the pleasant highways that lie between the capital city and the rich domains of Harewood. Never had these country roads witnessed such large and interested throngs before. Almost every village was deserted for many miles around, while many had driven long distances on the chance of obtaining a glimpse of the royal visitors. Also an immense crowd, chiefly from Leeds and neighbourhood, had assembled near the entrance to the noble park at Harewood, where, on the approach of the royal carriage, the cheering was most hearty and prolonged.

Next day (Sunday), there were 10,000 persons (so it was computed) in the park when the royal party went to service in the venerable parish church. The sermon was preached by the Archbishop. The late Rev. John Grundy, who died last November, aged 94 (at the time of his death being the oldest beneficed clergyman in the Church of England), was then curate of Harewood, and he read the prayers. It is interesting to record in connection with this circumstance—and is also characteristic of our late Queen's kindness of heart—that on the celebration of Mr. Grundy's diamond jubilee as vicar of Hey in 1898, the Queen ordered a letter to be forwarded to the venerable vicar with a portrait of herself as a souvenir of the occasion.

* It has been stated that at least four architects had a hand in planning and decorating the noble pile. But it is evident from the original plans and working drawings (now in possession of Messrs. Atkinson, architects, of York) that the design of the building was the sole work of John Carr. Messrs. Robert and James Adams, architects to George III., carried out the decorative parts of the interior, and the emblematical medallions on the wings were designed by Zucchi. Sir William Chambers also had some share in the design of the exterior offices, including the extensive and well-arranged stables, but Carr designed the Lodge and gateway in 1801, probably one of his latest works.

† An original reproduction of the admirable drawing of it by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., forms the Frontispiece to the large edition of this work.

CHAPTER XLVI.

THE CASTLE, CHURCH, AND VILLAGE OF HAREWOOD.

Origin of the Castle—License to fortify it—Arms of Aldburgh and Balliol—Description of the castle—Its last occupants—Its destruction by Cromwell erroneous—The parish church—Its dedication—Historical records of the church—Omissions in Torre's list of vicars—The Rev. Richard Hale, M.A.—Description of the church—Its unique collection of effigied monuments—Ancient armorial bearings in the church—The village.



IN picturesque ruin the old castle of Harewood occupies a fine commanding site on the south side of the Wharfe, and looks majestic and impressive even in decay. There is a good deal of supposition as to the time when it was first built. Camden would lead us to suppose that it had existed from Norman centuries, though his account has reference rather to the history of the lords of Harewood than to direct testimony upon the fabric of the castle itself. But neither in charter, fine, nor inquisition can I find any distinct mention of a castle (*castrum*) at Harewood before the acquisition of the manor through the marriage of Sir Wm. de Aldburgh with the heiress of the De Lises, or Insula, in 1365. Jones supposes the castle to have been mostly built about the time of Edward I. (1272—1307). and to have been completed in the reign of Edward III.* But in a charter of the Prior of Bolton, dated 26th Edward III. (1352), respecting a chantry of six chaplains in the church of Harewood, John de Insula, to whom the grant is made, is described as “Lord of Rougemonte,” and there can be little doubt that the ancient moated manor-hall of Rougemont, on the north bank of the river, remained the seat of the lords of Harewood down to the change of ownership, as above stated, in 1365. Moreover, in the year following (1366), Sir William de

* Jones figures two apparently late Norman windows, in the castle, from King's *British Castles*, but it is very doubtful if these ever existed here, or if they did it is very probable they were old stone-work brought from the previous seat at Rougemont. I may mention here that there is a Harewood parish near the river Wye, in Herefordshire, with a Harewood House and a Castle of Earl Ethelwold. There are six Harewoods in England; 3 in Lancashire, 1 Yorkshire, 1 Durham, and 1 in Northumberland; several of them being on the sites of Roman camps

Aldburgh obtained license to crenellate or fortify his manor of Harewood, and this is the first distinct intimation of a castellated building within the manor.

Over the east or principal entrance to the castle, Sir William Aldburgh (Baron Aldburgh in 1371), placed his arms of the rampant lion, with a fleur-de-lis on the shoulder, along with those (an orle) of Edward Balliol, King of Scotland. The motive for adding the arms of the Scottish King has never been adequately ascertained, though it must have been well-grounded and sanctioned. Whitaker and others have assumed that the King was entertained here when an exile from Scotland. But there is no evidence of this. On the other hand there is abundant testimony to the spirited and successful manner in which the Aldburghs bore themselves during the protracted difficulties with Scotland. Sir William's father, the celebrated Ivo de Aldburgh, took a foremost part in the Scottish wars, and Edward Balliol granted him certain lands, which were confirmed by Edward III. in 1347 and 1354 to his son and heir, the lord of Harewood, who built the castle. The latter, William de Aldburgh, was also employed in many confidential negotiations between the English and Scottish monarchs. We also find him at Wheatley, near Doncaster, whither Balliol had retired on his forfeiture of the Scottish crown, attesting the charter by which Balliol ceded to Edward III. (1362) the castle and town of Helicourt in Veymont. These and similar important services rendered in connection with the acquisition of the Scottish crown by Edward III., doubtless furnish us with the true reason for the appearance of the Scottish King's arms at Harewood. It is also noteworthy that a William de Balliol had been a vassal of Robert de Gaunt, husband of Alice, daughter of Avicia de Rumelli, lady of Harewood, so long ago as 1168 (*see* pedigree). The Balliol arms were to be found in various parts of the castle, as well as over the great doorway, and were also worked on a piece of tapestry, bequeathed in 1391 by Margery, wife of William de Aldburgh, to her son by her first husband.

The ground-plan of the Castle is rectangular in form, more than 100 feet long in one direction, north and south, and 60 feet broad, east and west. Near the main entrance are some ancient mason-marks and arrow-grooves. In the great hall is a remarkable canopied recess, mistaken by some writers for a tomb, but as this was the assembly-place for banqueting and conviviality, there can be no doubt it is a handsome stone sideboard. It is in the west wall. The beautifully crocketed canopy is enclosed in a rectangular (Perpendicular) frame of carved stone, represented in the accompanying engraving, but the view (which is reproduced from Whitaker),

omits the cruciform apertures or *balistraria* in the machicolations of the parapet. The foils of the arch are cusped, plain, with leaf ornaments in the spandrils, and there is an excellently-wrought vignette of foliage at the base, terminated in mask-heads. One must lament the decay of so beautiful and unique an example of 14th century sculpture, now a prey to the elements and the gnawing tooth of Time. The ivy-plant, too, has spread its strong and sturdy



ANCIENT STONE SIDEBOARD IN HAREWOOD CASTLE.

branches over the high crumbled walls, and from its stout and luxuriant growth looks centuries old. It is, however, little more than a century ago that it was planted there by the first Earl of Harewood. The fortress appears to have been kept in tolerable repair till the time of Robert Ryther, who was the last to reside here and he died at Belton in 1637 (*see* page 467).

But let us now direct our thoughts and steps to more peaceful scenes than this fallen fortress suggests. Hard by the public highway between Tadcaster and Otley stands the venerable Church, not in proximity to a contemporary manor-house, as we often find such pious foundations, but in the most convenient part of the parish. In all probability it owes its foundation to the heirs of the Romilles early in the 12th century. Jewel (who died in 1823*) even fixes the foundation in 1116, because in the year 1793, when the church was repaired, an old roof beam was taken down, bearing, it is said, the following inscription, apparently in old Latin, which translated reads :

We adore and praise Thee, Thou Holy Jesus, because Thou hast redeemed us by Thy Holy Cross. 1116.

But dates in this form are unknown in this country before the 15th century ; previous to that time they are always recorded in the year of the reigning monarch.† This date must therefore have been defaced and misread.

The church from the same inscription is also inferred to have been dedicated to the Holy Cross. It is indeed not improbable that this was actually the original ascription as the village Feast has always been annually celebrated on the first Sunday after Old Holy Rood. I have also pointed out that St. Helen (who is reputed to have discovered the true Cross), was much commemorated in Wharfedale.‡ Moreover many of our ancient churches had their dedications changed when they were rebuilt, after the Scottish destruction in the time of Edward II., and many, too, during the church-building era of the early part of the 16th century. Nearly all the old churches in Wharfedale, including Harewood, are now dedicated to All Saints.§

Although the church is not mentioned in *Domesday*, there can be little doubt, from what I have already stated, that Harewood was a centre of religious assembly before the Norman conquest. There are, however, no remains of the present fabric which might lead us to infer the existence of a church before the first half of the 12th century. But about this time we find the church for the first time historically recorded. When Archbishop Roger (1154-81), founded (*ca.* 1160) the chapel of St. Mary and Holy Angels at York, which adjoined the north aisle of the Cathedral, Avicia de Romelli, widow of Robert de Courcy, (who was previously widow of William de Paganel, lord of Leeds), gave the church of Harewood towards the maintenance of the said chapel. But in the reign of King John, Warin Fitz Gerald appears to have recovered the advowson from the monks or chaplains

* See stone in churchyard. † See *Upper Wharfedale*, p. 320. ‡ *Ibid.*, p. 207.

§ See *Ibid.*, page 32, and also my *Old Bingley*, page 154.

of St. Mary's.* The patronage henceforward rested with the lords of the manor, until Sir John de Insula, of Rougemont, obtained Apostolic letters, 2nd Ides, March, 1353, whereby the church was appropriated to the Prior and Convent of Bolton-in-Craven, and a vicarage was ordained. This appropriation was made on condition that the said lord of the manor and his heirs, should receive an annual grant of £100 a year out of Rawden, Wigton, and other lands,



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also that a chantry of six priests should be founded at Harewood or one of seven priests in the church of Bolton, to sing masses daily for the souls of his father, his mother, his brothers and sisters, besides a special collect for himself and children.† The canons of Bolton

* *Dodsworth MSS.*, vol. 129, folio 59.

† A charter of the Prior of Bolton, overlooked by Whitaker, shews that the conditions of this grant were fully carried out and that at the Dissolution there

were to present a vicar and they were to repair the chancel, and be responsible for all extraordinary burdens dependent upon the proper maintenance of the fabric, while the vicar should bear the ordinary burdens only.* Torre has supplied a list of the rectors from 1275 till the ordination of the vicarage, followed by a catalogue of the vicars to 1614, and continued by Whitaker. There are a number of omissions in Torre's and Whitaker's lists, cited by Jones, and one, Thomas, "now parson of Harwode," occurs in a charter of Hugh de Creskeld to Arthington Nunnery, *ca.* 1250. Also in a charter of William de Curcy, steward to King Henry II. (*see* pedigree on page 462), confirming the donation of Helthwaite to the nuns of Arthington, I find that one of the witnesses was "William, parson of Harewood," being the earliest rector on record. It further appears from the same charter, *ca.* 1170, that Avicia de Romelli had resided at Harewood, and had maintained a private chaplain, who is also a witness to this her son's charter.

Of recent vicars mention should be made of the Rev. Richard Hale, M.A., who was born at Guisborough, October 10th, 1773, and was vicar of Harewood for 53 years (1801-54). He likewise held the living of Goldsborough for almost the same long period (1803-54). He was the sixth son of General John Hale, (1st Col. of the 17th Light Dragoons), son of Sir Bernard Hale, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, by his wife Mary Chaloner,† and was a staunch Whig and a man of strong individuality. In early life he had the misfortune to lose one of his legs, caused by the growth of a wen on the foot, which proved incurable. He is said to have been an able preacher, and a man of wide reading, with a penchant for science, particularly astronomy. He was also a good artist and sketched many of the houses, &c., in the neighbourhood. One of these, a well-executed water-colour drawing of the old *Ship* inn (now pulled down), near Harewood Bridge, I have engraved on a subsequent page. The original was presented to Mr. James Eastburn, son of John Eastburn of Horsforth, who on his marriage in 1818, took up his abode at the Gothic Lodge in the Church Lane, and who for many years was the respected verger and parish clerk at Harewood. He died in 1870. A nephew of Mr. James Eastburn, the Rev. Chas. Fryer Eastburn, M.A., is now rector of Medbourne, near Market

were six chantry priests in residence at Harewood. Their college or residence in common is believed to have stood about 50 yards south of the church, where some foundations and ruins formerly existed. *See Surtlees Soc.*, vol. 92, pp. 222, 394.

* In the Comptus of Bolton Abbey are many entries of disbursements by the canons on behalf of this church.

† Mrs. Hale's portrait, as "L'Allegro," by Sir Joshua Reynolds, is at Harewood House. Her sister Anne married Edward, first Earl of Harewood.

Harborough, and rural dean. The elder of his two daughters was married in 1895 to Augustus, elder son of the late Thos. Hardcastle, Esq., High Sheriff of Lancashire.

The church at Harewood is most remarkable for the number and well-preserved character of its ancient monuments, in which respect no other parish church in the county can compare with it. There are no fewer than six superb altar-tombs, all bearing beautifully-wrought effigies. There were also other tombs and inscriptions which have unfortunately disappeared. The most notable of these, now in the church, commemorates the famous Judge Gascoigne and his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Alexander Mowbray, of



TOMB OF LORD CHIEF JUSTICE GASCOIGNE IN HAREWOOD CHURCH.

Kirklington, co. York. Dodsworth records a Latin inscription which formerly surrounded the tomb, and which translated reads :

Here lies William Gascoigne, late Chief Justice of the Bench of Henry the Fourth, King of England, and Elizabeth his wife. Which said William died on Sunday, the 17th day of December, Anno Domini 1419.

Adjoining this is the effigied tomb of Sir William Ryther, Kt. (d. 1440), and Sybil, his wife (daughter of Sir Wm. Aldburgh, Kt.); also the tomb of Sir Richard Redman, Kt. (d. 1426), and Elizabeth, his wife (d. 1422), the other daughter and coheirress of Sir Wm. Aldburgh. There is also another tomb of Sir Richard Redman, and his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Gascoigne (she d. 1450).

This tomb exhibits a marvellously fine series of sculptured saints, which Gough (*vide Sepulchral Monuments*) declares is the most complete and perfect collection he ever saw. Likewise a tomb, with effigies, believed to represent Sir John Neville, of Womersley, Kt. (1482) and his lady, whose daughter Joan married Sir Wm. Gascoigne. Another tomb, with effigies, commemorates Sir Richard Franks and his wife, of Alwoodley Hall. There are also other monumental memorials of interest within this historic fabric; notably one of Sir Thos. Denison, Judge in the Court of King's Bench, who died s.p. Sept. 8th, 1765; he was ancestor of the Rt. Hon. John Evelyn Denison, late Speaker of the House of Commons. Another inscription commemorates Fairfax Fearnley, Esq., of Oakwell Hall, near Birstal, who died in 1791. He was eminent in the law and a friend of the Harewood family. There are, moreover, many memorials to the Lascelles and other local families, as well as of some former vicars of the parish. There is also a neat memorial brass to the Rev. Chris. Wordsworth, D.D., for 16 years Bishop of Lincoln, who died at Harewood, March 21st, 1885, aged 77.

Formerly there was much armorial glass in the church, but it appears to have been wholly removed during one of those unsparing "restorations" for which the era of the Georges was notorious. According to Dodsworth the families whose arms were blazoned in the windows were these: Gascoigne, Mowbray, Pickering, Clifford, Aldburgh, Redman, Ryther, Nevile, Frank, Stapleton,* and one or two others. The font (Norman) is a plain bowl, with cable moulding at the base of the supporting shaft.† It is the only relic belonging to the original church now remaining. The church appears to have

* Stapleton, of Wighill, bore argent, a lion rampant, sable, and the Ingham branch the same, charged with a mullet on the shoulder of the lion. These were the arms, only differenced in the tinctures, of the Rev. George Walker, D.D., the famous defender of Derry during the memorable siege of 1689. His father, the Rev. Geo. Walker, was some time vicar of Wighill (*ca.* 1644-54), in the patronage of the Stapletons. At the Restoration he was made Chancellor of Armagh, and died at Kilmore, co. Armagh, in 1677. Fr. Percival Walker (de Otley) was vicar of Harewood for nearly 50 years (1517-1566), and was buried in the chancel at Harewood (will proved 10th July, 1567). He was a Canon of Bolton Priory, and may have been a member of the ancient family of Walker, of Bingley-in-Airedale, who purchased the manor of Bingley from the Astleys in 1596. Nicholas Walker, of Gawthorpe Hall, Bingley, was probably a connection, and was interred at Bolton Abbey, March 22nd, 1618. See my *Old Bingley*, pages 143, 294, &c. The Headingley Walkers married into the Frank family of Alwoodley, in Harewood parish, at this time, whose arms were also in Harewood church (*see* pedigree of WALKER in the Wilson MSS. at Leeds).

† Very unusual in the north, but not uncommon in the west of England, *e.g.*, the font-base at Mevagissey in Cornwall is very similar to the one at Harewood.

undergone extensive alterations in the 15th and 16th centuries, but the walls look old, and the buttresses have decorated pediments. The iron-band work on the north doorway is also noteworthy. The church, it may be added, underwent a very efficient restoration by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1862-3. The ugly west gallery was taken down, the body of the church re-seated, and a panelled roof of stained pine was substituted for the old flat plaster ceiling. Many other improvements were effected. The cost was about £3000, of which £500 was subscribed in the parish and neighbourhood, the remaining sum having been provided through the bounty of the Earl of Harewood. The late Earl, I may add, who died in 1892, was for many years an officer of the famous Yorkshire Hussars—his regiment being the Princess of Wales' Own—and when he resigned the Lieut.-Colonelcy, the Queen allowed him to retain his rank, a gracious act of Her Majesty's recognition of loyalty and patriotism.

The village of Harewood is a model of neatness and good order. The houses and cottages look clean and well kept, and the gardens about them are often pictures of summer beauty. In the hey-days of coaching there were no fewer than six hostleries in the village: now there is but one. Formerly, too, when the ancient town was the common centre of a wide district for the sale and purchase of market produce, it must have been a place of considerable bustle and activity. For several centuries down to the era of the Reformation, the markets were regularly held. Then they appear to have been neglected, but about the year 1633, the great Earl of Strafford, who at that time was living at Gawthorpe, obtained a fresh charter for a market at Harewood every Monday, and two fairs annually. The weekly market for produce, however, has long been obsolete, but it may be noted that a new market-cross was re-erected in 1703, and continued to stand in the middle of the Wetherby road, just below the crossing, down to 1804, when the road was mended and the old cross was removed. The weekly market for calves and lambs is referred to by Thoresby in his *Diary* for 1690, as "one of the most remarkable in these parts." It continued to be held at Harewood Bridge down to about 1850.

CHAPTER XLVII.

AROUND WEETON.

Weardley—Rawdon Hill—Harewood Bridge—The old *Ship* inn—Township of Dunkeswick - Rougemont—Helthwaite Hill and the Maude family—Pedigree of Maude, Barons de Montalt—Weeton—Old families—Name of Weeton—Touhouse in Harewood Park - Weeton church—Almscliff Crag.



LEAVING the picturesque village of Harewood let us step westward by the quiet little village of Weardley, which may be noted as the birthplace (in 1790) of the Airedale poet, John Nicholson. The old thatched house in which he was born stood a short distance from the road, between two large elm-trees, while a third elm in the field screened with its luxuriant foliage the back part of the house. In this rustic abode, which was removed in 1894, the poet's family had dwelt for more than a century. Proceeding hence towards Arthington, through a pleasant fertile country, we pass Rawdon Hill, a partially-wooded eminence from the summit of which there is an extensive view of a very attractive part of Wharfedale. Near the western extremity of the hill is a large and handsome residence (H. Appleton, Esq.), the property of the Rev. T. Sheepshanks, M.A. It was built by his father about 1856, from designs by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A., who was also architect of the beautiful church at Weeton.

But leaving Arthington for the present we will return to Harewood, and taking a farewell glimpse of the great castle, cross the famous bridge over Wharfe, which connects the two townships of Harewood and Dunkeswick. An inscription on the bridge records that it was built by the county in 1729, but a bridge had existed here for many centuries previously. On the north side stood the old *Ship* inn (*see* page 479), which a century ago was kept by the Scott family, generations of whom rest in the quiet churchyard at Harewood. Outside, against the bridge, there was a stone fixed in such a manner that a person seated thereon might fancy himself suspended over the river enjoying the cool breezes from the water.*

* *Vide* MS. *History of Wharfedale* (1807).

I have mentioned the castle or manor-hall of the De Lises of Rougemont, which stood in this township of Dunkeswick (*see* page 474). The site is now known by the name of Ridgman Scar. There are also several other places of interest in this pleasant neighbourhood, notably Helthwaite Hill, where the nuns of Arthington held a moiety of the manor. The old hall here was long the seat of the ancient family of Mohaut or Maude, from whom descends the Barons de Montalt, Viscounts Hawarden.* The first of the family to hold property here appears to have been Edmund Maude, gent., who bought of Matthew Redman, Esq., two messuages, with lands, in



THE OLD SHIP INN, HAREWOOD BRIDGE.

Helthwaite and Dunkeswick, in 1550. Anthony Maude, of Helthwaite, was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1564, and was sole executor under the will of his cousin, Thomas Maude, of Hollin Hall, Ilkley, 8th Feb., 1602.† The subjoined pedigree shows the descents of this family to Sir Robert Maude, Bart., of Dundrum, whose son, Sir Thomas Maude, Bart., was created in 1766 Baron de Montalt.

About Weeton are many new and handsome residences, occupied principally by families from the busy mercantile centres of Leeds and

* *Old Bingley*, page 308.

† *See my Upper Wharfedale*, page 247

PEDIGREE OF MAWDE, OR MAUDE, OF HELTHWAITE HILL.

Arms :

3 bars gemelles, sa.,
over all a lion ramp-
ant, gules.

ANTHONY MAWDE = Cecilia, 3rd daughter of Wm. Atterton, of Harwood.
Inq. p. m. Wards and Liv., 1607 ; 6 Jac. ; Bund.
12, No. 66 ; Robt. s. and h. ; aged 25.

Catherine Coates = Francis (see will of William Tempest, of Harwood, 18 Oct., 1575) will 26 March, 1632.
Robert Maude = Ann, dau. & co-heiress (with Ellen, wife of Hy. Saville, and Susan, wife of Stephen Tempest) of Wm. Oglethorpe, of Roundhay ; Dods. MS., 102, f. 109 b. and 117, f. 133.
Bridget, wife of George Green, 4th son of Thomas Green, of Caw horne.
..... wife of John, 3rd son (see will of Thomas Mawde, of Holling Hall, 8 Feb., 1602.
Richard Leyland.

Maud, baptised at Harwood, 12 June, 1614.
Anthony, baptised at Harwood, 1617, of Ripon, Yorks, and Kilkenny, Ireland ; Col. in the Army ; also of Dundrum, Tipperary ; d. 21 April, 1685.
Robert Maude = Frances, daughter of Sir Chris. Wandesford, Bart., by Eleanor Lowther, his wife (see will of Richard Palmes, of Ripon, 6 Nov., 1650).
Dorothy. Anne.
? Son Marie. Jane.
Elizabeth.

Anthony Maude = Alice, eldest daughter of Standish Hartstrong, of Bruffe, co. Limerick ; afterwards a Baronet.
Anne, wife of Stephen Wilks.
son and heir of Robert Mawde, of Ripon, Esq., admitted Gray's Inn, 28 May, 1655.

Sir Robert Maude, of Dundrum, Bart. = Eleanor, daughter and heiress created 9 May, 1705 ; of Cornwallis, died 4 August, 1750 ; buried at of Acton, Middlesex, Esq. St. Anne's, Dublin.

Sir Thomas Maude, 2nd Baronet, created Baron de Montalt 8 July, 1766 ; died s. p. 1777.
Sir Cornwallis Maude, Bart., created Baron Montalt 4 May, 1785, and Viscount Hawarden, 10 June, 1791.
Alice, Emma, mnd. Major Charlton Leighton, Esq.

Bradford. The oldest family connected with the township, of which we possess records, is one that took its name from the place, spelled variously Widetun, Witun, Wytheton, &c. In *Domesday* the name appears as *Widetun* and *Widetone*, although the original Saxon name was doubtless Witheton (A.-S., *withie*, a willow), the enclosure or place where willows were grown.* In the famous *Black Book of the Exchequer* there appears the name of William de Witun, one of several vassals holding land in 1166 of William de Paganel, a nephew of the William de Paganel who married Avicia de Rumelli, heiress of the manor of Harewood (see pedigree on page 462). This William de Witheton or Witun had an estate of ten bovates near Eccup, namely, in Burdon and Iveker, adjoining, which he gave to Kirkstall Abbey. This family for several generations resided at Thouhouse or Touhouse, a house or hamlet which must have disappeared two or three centuries ago. It is mentioned by Dodsworth as having been parcel of Harewood Park. Adam (living in 1245-6), son of Hugh, son of William de Wytheton, is described as of Tofthouse, and likewise as Adam de Wytheton he witnesses several grants by charter to Kirkstall Abbey.

The church at Weeton, dedicated to St. Barnabas, is one of the handsomest modern churches to be found in the West Riding dales. It is sometimes spoken of as the "Wharfedale Cathedral." It is in the Early English style, from designs furnished by Sir G. G. Scott, of London, and is an imperishable memorial of the munificence of the late Earl of Harewood, at whose sole cost the church was erected and endowed. It was opened on the 12th October, 1852. The elegant font with its exquisitely-wrought oaken cover, is especially noteworthy.

From Weeton station the famous Almscliff Crags are most conveniently visited, and not very far away is the unique little Norman church of Stainburn, in the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow. The inordinate length of this work, however, prevents me from dealing with the voluminous records of this ancient and extensive parish, to whose active and obliging rector, the Rev. Chas. Handcock—incumbent for a long period in this and the neighbouring parishes—I am under many obligations. The interesting mother church of his parish, the remarkable holy-wells, old halls and home-steads, quaint customs, traditions and family life, reaching far back into the dim ages of history, may well form the subject of a separate volume.

* It frequently happens the Norman scribes, unfamiliar with the sound of the Saxon 'th,' wrote 'd' instead; such for example, Leathley (see my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 110). It may also be noted that Widdington, near Borough-bridge, is spelled like our Weeton, in *Domesday* *Widetun*.

CHAPTER XLVIII.

ABOUT ARTHINGTON.

A charming landscape—An early settlement—*Domesday* record—The Count of Mortain—Paganel family, and their local benefactions to the monasteries—Descent of the manors of Adel and Arthington—Holy Trinity Priory, York—Mediæval hospitality—Rise of freeholders—Local family of Arthington—Nunnery at Arthington—Its local possessions—The Creskeld family—Pedigree of Arthington—Arms of Arthington—Worsley family connections—Purchase of Arthington by the Sheepshanks—Arthington Hall and Church—Site of the Nunnery granted to Cranmer—The Nunnery buildings—Plan and description of the establishment—Local remains—The Nunnery house and local families.



THE valley of the Wharfe around Arthington is very delightful in the vivid freshness of spring and early summer. When we gain the Tadcaster and Otley highroad and proceed towards the old Nunnery house, amid the cawing of rooks and the song and twitter of many birds, with fair hall and farmstead and tall trees casting long shadows on the rich sward, which here and there is cropped by sleek-skinned cattle, the scene around us appears the perfection of a fine old English landscape.

The valley here is very fertile, and one can easily realize the rapid manner in which the district recovered from the impoverishment of the Conquest. In the Confessor's time the manor of "Hardinctone," owned by one Aluard, consisted of 3 carucates and $2\frac{1}{2}$ bovates, and was then worth 30s., but such was the loss of population, or loss caused by the land lapsing into "waste," that the whole manor "one leuga long and four quarentens wide" (equal to 2160 statute acres),* was valued at only 5s. in 1086. It was given by the Conqueror, along with other vast territorial possessions, amounting in the whole to nearly 800 manors, of which nearly 200 were in Yorkshire, to his half-brother, the powerful Count of Mortain, whose portrait from the ancient Bayeux tapestry accompanies the chapter on Bramham. The Count subfeud Arthington, with Burdon, Eccup, Adel, and Cookridge, to Richard de Surdeval, a Norman, whose daughter and heiress, Matilda, became the wife of Ralph Paganel or Paynel, lord

* The present stated area of the township is 2162 acres.

of Leeds, &c., and High Sheriff of Yorkshire, *ca.* 1110. The Count of Mortain for conspiring in 1088, with his brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, to depose William Rufus, was banished and his great possessions were confiscated. The greater part of them were, however, restored to his only son, William, second Earl of Cornwall and Count of Mortain.* But Arthington and other manors which had been enfeoffed to Richard de Surdeval, continued to be held by the Paganels direct from the Crown, as tenants-in-chief.†

Ralph Paganel was the founder of Holy Trinity Priory, York, and he endowed it with considerable property, including the church of St. John at Adel and one carucate of land, and the tithe of Arthington and of all the vills which belong to it, and the tithe of the demesne. And these grants were confirmed by Henry I., in or before 1108.‡ Alexander, youngest son of Ralph Paganel, succeeded to the estates at Arthington, &c., which were about 1150 inherited by his son, William, whose chief seat in Yorkshire was at Hooton Pagnell, near Doncaster. He was a liberal benefactor to the Cistercian monastery at Kirkstall, then lately removed from Barnoldswick, and by a charter of the date 1162, he confirms to the monks there half a carucate of land in Cookridge, which Adam son of Hucke held, and the same is warranted against Roger Musteile and his mother. This clearly shews that the Mustels were feudatories at Cookridge before this time but they do not appear among the vassals of William Paganel in 1166, named in the Black Book of the Exchequer, yet Mr. Lancaster regards it as certain that they subsequently held both Arthington and Adel of the Paganels by military service. By a charter of this period Roger Mustel conveyed Cookridge, with his men there and their houses, to the same monastery, in pure alms, a grant which was confirmed by his son, William Mustel, who added all the town of Adel, with the soke, together with the advowson of the church, and the service of the freeholders in this soke, *viz.* : of half a knight's fee of the lordship of Arthington, and of two carucates in Brerehage and Thosum, with the mill of Wyke.§

The manors of Adel and Arthington descended to Frethesant, daughter and coheiress of William Paganel, who died about 1203. She married (1) Geoffrey Luterel, and (2) in 1217, Henry de Newmarch, and her sister Isabel, married William the Bastard.|| This Geoffrey Luterel resided in the county of Nottingham, and in 1210 the King advanced him 20 marks as his messenger into Ireland.

* See *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, xiii., 507.

† Vide Mr. Lancaster in *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 149.

‡ *Proc. Archæol. Inst., York* (1846), part i., page 20.

§ Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 288.

|| *Surtess Soc.*, vol. 94, page 87.

He had charge of the royal navy on the occasion of King John's expedition to that country in the same year. He died in 1216 while on a mission to Rome, leaving a son Andrew, and the year following his widow married a second time, but had no issue by this second marriage. Andrew Luterel took to wife Petronilla, daughter of Philip Mare, and in the 14th year of Henry III. (1229), had livery of his lands; and in the Pipe Roll for this year renders account of 30 pounds for 15 knights' fees, which included all the lands inherited by his mother, Frethesant de Paganel. He had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by Henry III., and was Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1250, when he answered for 15 knights' fees, as of his Barony of Hooton. He died in 1265, being succeeded in his lordship by his eldest son, Sir Geoffrey Luterel (b. 1235), whose father in 1252 had a grant from the King to have a weekly market and annual fair at his manor of Hooton Pagnell in co. York. This estate had been given to him by his father on the occasion of his, Sir Geoffrey's marriage, in his 18th year, with the daughter of William de Grey, lord of Codnor, &c., co. Derby.

Sir Geoffrey died *non compos mentis* in 1270, and was interred at Irnham in Lincolnshire. He left two sons, Robert and Andrew, and two daughters. In 1275 the Yorkshire property was held by this Robert, eldest son of Sir Geoffrey Luterel. In an inquisition taken 15th August, 1379, in the lifetime of Sir Andrew Luterel, the jurors say that of the possessions of the said Sir Andrew, there is at York a certain Priory of the Holy Trinity, alien, in which are halls and divers other houses, which are worth nothing yearly beyond reprises. Also the manor of Holbeck, with appurtenances, is worth yearly £5 6s. 8d.; also the church of Leeds, appropriated to the same priory, as in tithe of grain and hay, is worth annually £80. And that the Prior and Convent of the aforesaid Priory receive annually from the vicar of the same church of Leeds one pension of £10. Also from the church of Adel a certain annual pension of £6 14s. 4d.; besides numerous other pensions, lands, granges, &c., amounting together to about £190. They also say that the reparation of the churches and chapels and houses of the aforesaid Priory amounts annually to £26. Also the support of the Prior there, of three English monks, of two chaplains celebrating daily divine service in the church of the Holy Trinity, and of two deacons and of four clerks ministering in the said church, together with the hospitality to divers guests visiting there, amounts annually to £100.

From these particulars we obtain a little insight into the daily life of an alien priory at this time, and of the constant hospitality that was dispensed to stranger-wayfarers and messengers from near and

distant parts. Guest-houses were attached to all our monasteries, and the function of entertaining visitors was a very important one, usually, if not always, discharged by the Abbot or Prior.

But we must now return to Arthington. There had arisen under the early manorial regime a race of freeholders, of whom one family of great local consequence had taken its name from the township, and for a long period continued as under-lords of the Luterels, and subsequently as sole proprietors of the manor. The first recorded mention of the family occurs in a charter of date 1162, wherein Peter de Arthington and Roger, son of Peter de Arthington, appear as witnesses to a grant by William Paganel to Kirkstall Abbey of half a carucate of land in Cookridge.* Also in the Pipe Roll of 12th Henry II. (1166), there is an entry stating that William, son of Robert, owed 100 shillings to the Crown, because he failed of his appeal respecting the murder of his sister. His sureties were Roig', son of Peter de Ardint', and Hugh de Horsetona.

The Peter de Arthington mentioned in these records was the founder of the Cluniac Nunnery at Arthington, an appanage of the famous Priory of Cluny in the diocese of Auxerre, in France, which had many hundreds of branches spread over Europe.† According to a transcript made by Dodsworth of an original document dated 1450, preserved among the Arthington Evidences, it appears that Pope Alexander had confirmed the grant of the site of the Nunnery made by Piers or Peter de Arthington. The said Peter, the record goes on to say :

" gaffe them the place the whilk the said abbey was byggan on [A.-S. *byggan*, to build], with all the appurtenances, and the gyft of the said Serle, Peer's son, of Bedesholm and Hubardholm, and all the lands betwixt Tebecroft and Souterkeld, and half a ploghe-land in Litell Burdon, and of the gyft of Peer's, the said Serle son, one acre of land next his land in Tebecroft, and half an acre of land of the gyft of his moder, in the hede of Lincroft."

Two sons of the founder are recorded, the above Serlo de Arthington and Roger his brother, who attest a grant of land in Allerton made by Sampson de Allerton to Kirkstall Abbey, *ca.* 1160. The family, however, does not appear to have been large or frequent benefactors to the local monastery, and such evidences as we possess of the earlier members of the family are met with chiefly as grantors or witnesses of grants to the wealthier and more important monastery at Kirkstall. The Paganels were early and liberal supporters of this

* *Vide* Dodsworth's *MSS.*, vol. viii., fo. 81 d.

† The first house of this order in England was established at Lewes in 1078, but its popularity was greatly outstripped by the Cistercian order, which originated in 1098. The first Cistercian monastery in England was begun at Waverley in Surrey, in 1128.

monastery, and their mesne tenants, the Arthingtons, would appear to have followed suit. Peter, grandson of the founder of the Nunnery, gave to Kirkstall Abbey a half carucate of land in Arthington, together with the land and house of Hugh the shepherd (*bercarius*) in Arthington.* Peter de Arthington also granted the monks pasture for 300 sheep on the brow of Arthington Bank, in the length and breadth of the parish. He also gave them 8 acres and a rood in the common-field at Arthington,† likewise two carucates and half an acre, with Adam, son of Aschetin, and his family, likewise two other oxgangs, with William, son of Berengar, and his family; together with the land lying between Wharf and Routanford; and also one acre of meadow in Siwardmar, with the land called Calnesall, and the meadow lying between Pyckel and Michelholme, all in Arthington.‡ Ralph, son of Geoffrey de Arthington, also gave to the said monks two oxgangs of land in Arthington.

The Nunnery at Arthington appears to have been founded about the same time as the establishment at Barnoldswick was translated to Kirkstall in 1152.§ The Nunnery was encouraged by other benefactors than the family of the founder. Adeliza de Rumelli, owner of the Barony of Skipton, with Harewood, who removed the Priory at Embsay to Bolton on Wharfe in 1155, gave to the nuns of Arthington a mediety of the place called Helthwaite, which was confirmed by Warin Fitz Gerold, the King's chamberlain, and William de Courcy, the King's sewer, (*see* pedigree on page 462). The same benefactress likewise gave the nuns leave in the harvest time to have forty hogs in her wood at Swinden, with common pasture for their cattle in the said wood, upon condition that she and her heirs should always place one nun in the said house, which grant was also confirmed by Warin Fitz Gerold and William de Courcy, her son, sewer to the King.

In Helewic or Helwick the nuns had also pasture-rights; likewise in Wyton (Weeton), Thomas son of Henry de Scriven, gave to the

* Kirkstall Coucher Book, fo. 28.

† The *Domesday* record for Arthington is three carucates and two bovates for three ploughs; hence a two-field manor where the carucate contained 160 acres. The two fields lay alternately fallow, and every tenant of the manor held a strip, generally a furlong (a furrow long) in each field. All the strips were ploughed and cropped at the same time, and all became common pasture at Lammas Day, and so continued till Candlemas Day following. The "common-field" meant land common to the use of the tenants, sometimes it might be to the copyhold tenants (the original bondage-tenants) only, of a particular manor, and not that which was common to all occupiers. *See* Elton's *Law of Copyholds*, chap. 8.

‡ Burton, *Mon. Ebor.*, page 290.

§ *See* Mr. E. K. Clarke in *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., pages 172, 174 n.

nuns the land called Paynescroft, lying near the road to Deighton.* The ancient local family of Creskeld also gave of their bounty to the Nunnery. In 1262 Alan, son of Adam de Creskeld, gave half a bovate of land in Arthington; and Hugh de Creskeld gave the service of Jordan de Bingley, clerk, which service is stated to be a pound of incense yearly. The latter gift is witnessed by Geoffrey de Arthington (who died before 1251) and Alan, rector of Adel, and Thomas de Wick (? Wike), rector of Harewood; two incumbents not included in Torre's list.†

Peter de Arthington was living in 1200, and had married a lady whose baptismal name was Hawise as appears from a charter (dated 1186), by which he gave two bovates of land in Arthington to the Crusading order of the Knights Hospitallers. He had besides two sons, Geoffrey and Henry, a daughter Amabilis, who in her widowhood gave 7½ acres to Arthington Nunnery. There is also a grant by Alexander, son of Peter de Arthington, to Matilda, daughter of dominus Geoffrey de Arthington, of the bovate of land in Arthington which William son of Berning held.‡ This Geoffrey seems to have died before 1251. I have seen at Creskeld Hall also, two or three beautifully-written deeds, with seals attached, of grants to Kirkstall Abbey by the De Bramhope family, which are witnessed by this Geoffrey de Arthington. Likewise among the Wentworth muniments at Woolley Park, there is a deed dated on the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross (May 3rd) 1298, whereby John, called Russelle, vicar of the church of Knaresborough,§ leased to Sir Richard de Goldesburgh, Kt., all the land, with appurtenances, which the said John had in the town and territory of Pouel (Pool) of the demise of the Prioress and Convent of Arthington. The deed is witnessed by Laurencio de Arthingtone (who held half a knight's fee in Arthington in 1302), William le Hunte de Adel, William de Adel de Arthington, and others.

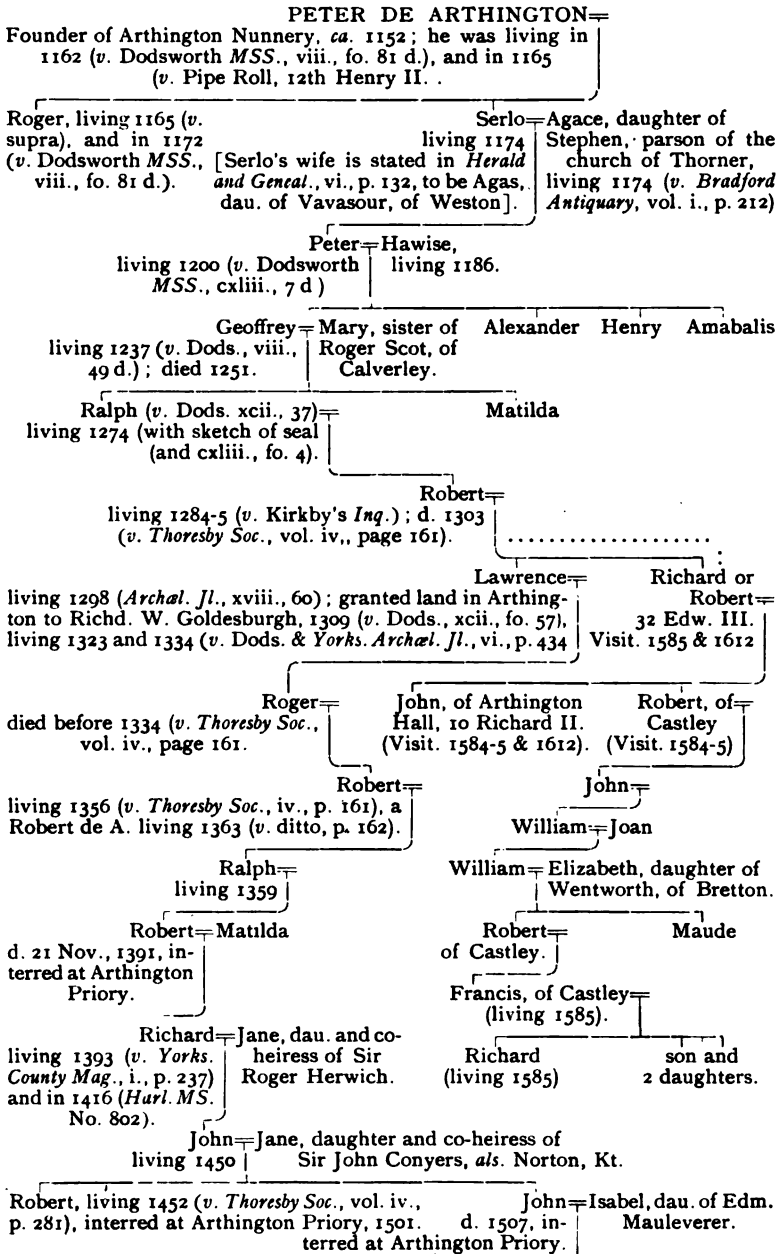
These are important additions to, as well as corrections of the many recorded genealogies of this ancient and honourable family. The best and evidently most trustworthy of these Arthington pedigrees is that recorded by a contributor who signs himself "A. E. W.," in the *Herald and Genealogist*.|| To this pedigree I have in the annexed descents made a number of additions and corrections.¶

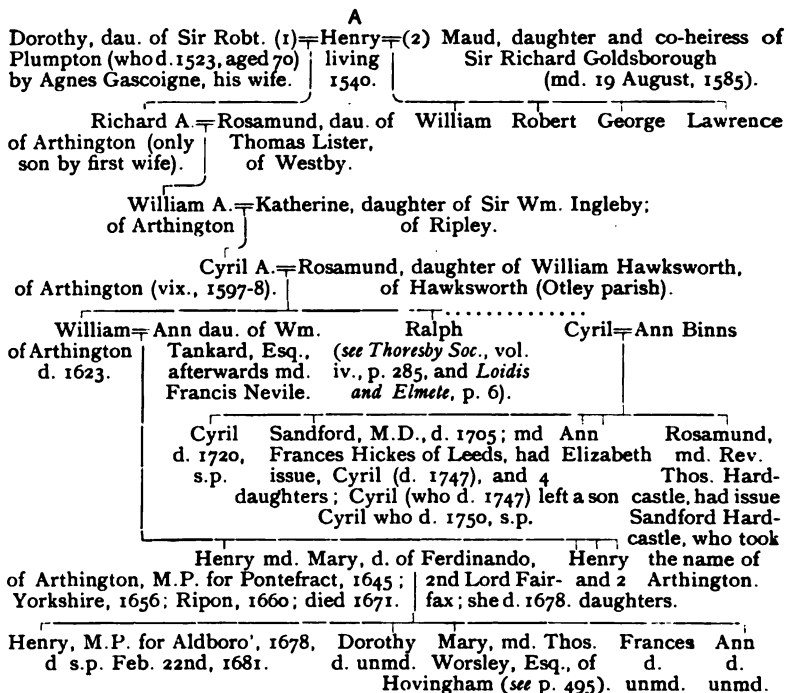
* Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, p. 89. † *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., p. 157. ‡ *Ib.*, p. 155.

§ This is an early addition to the list of vicars of Knaresborough. See my *Nidderdale* (1894), pages 294 and 494. || Vol. vi., pages 132-7.

¶ Based largely upon the evidences furnished in the volumes of the Thoresby Society. See also Foster's *Stemata Britannica*, page 44. For other pedigrees of Arthington see *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 41; *Harieian Soc.*, vol. 16 (Visit. 1563-4), page 7; Foster's *Visit. of Yorks.* (1585), p. 272; and Jones's *History of Harewood*, p. 233.

PEDIGREE OF ARTHINGTON, OF ARTHINGTON.





There is a similarly imperfect authority for the correct blazon of the family arms. It is given as *or*, a fesse between three escallops, *gules*, and also as *sable*, a fesse between three escallops, *argent*; the former being returned in the signed pedigree in Glover's *Visitation* (1585).^{*} But while in this return the main line at Arthington is given, the persons who sign are Francis and Richard Arthington (father and son), of Castley, near Leathley,† of a younger branch, which separated from the main line about the time of Edward III. Then again the Worsleys of Hovingham, who represent the senior line, have the coat tinctured in their pedigree, *argent*, a fesse between three escallops *sable*, and so quarter it with their own arms.‡

^{*} The original is in the Herald's College, 2 D 5, 156.

† See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 124.

‡ Upon the monument in Kirkthorpe Church to the memory of Dorothy, daughter of Cyril Arthington, Esq., of Arthington, and wife of John Armitage, Esq., of Kirklees, who died in 1673, aged 83, the same tinctures appear, viz.: *arg.*, a fesse between three escallops *sable*. There is a charter now in the British Museum (Add. Ch., 16,583) which bears part of a seal of Robert de Arthington, who died in or before 1303. This seal does not exhibit the three escallops of the family, but only a knight on horseback, from which circumstance it may be inferred that the coat was not originally hereditary but derivative. It is however, quite possible to be an impression from the reverse of the seal. See "Examples of Mediæval Seals" in the *Archæol. Jt.*, xviii.

As the Worsley lineage in Foster's *North Riding Pedigrees* is incorrect, it may be useful to append the following particulars, shewing their connection with the Arthingtons of Arthington.*

William Arthington=Ann, daughter of Wm. Tankard, Esq (living 1620), son of Cyril Arthington and Rosamund Hawkesworth, his wife.		She married (2) Francis Neville.			
Henry=Mary, daughter of Ferdinando, of Arthington, D.L., J.P., d. 19th June, 1671.	2nd Lord Fairfax, sister (and in her issue co-heiress) of Thomas, 3rd Lord Fairfax, the Parliamentary General.	Francis	Rosamund md. Richard Thornton.	Ann	
Henry, of Arthington, d. unmarrd. 22 Feb., 1681, when his second cousin, Cyril Arthington, suc- ceeded as heir male.	Mary=Thos. Wors- ley, Esq., of Hovingham.	Frances, d. unmd. at Hovingham. 2 May, 1716, aged 65.	Anne, d. unmd. at Hovingham. 1 May, 1692.	Dorothy Ferdin- ando, d. young.	
Mary=Francis Foljambe, eldest surviving son b. 1684; and heir of Francis Foljambe, of md. Aldwark, by Elizabeth, eldest daughter 1701. and co-heiress of George Mountaigne, of Wistow.†	Thomas, of Hovingham, md. Mary Frank.	Three sons, died young.			

The above-mentioned Mary Fairfax (the last Mrs. Arthington) was born at Scow Hall, in Fewston parish, 4th May, 1616, an old home of the Brearhaughs, who also owned Menston.‡ She was married at St. Mary's, Bishophill, York, 24th May, 1638, and she was also interred there 21st Dec., 1678.§ Three of her children, Mary, Frances, and Anne, are mentioned in the will of the great Lord Fairfax, 1671.

On the death of Thomas Arthington in 1801, the Arthington estate passed to his daughter, Mrs. Carruthers, of Dormont, N.B., afterwards Lady Davie. Her son, Wm. T. Arthington Carruthers, Esq., of Arthington Hall, sold the estate about 1848 to Wm. Sheepshanks, Esq., who died at Harrogate in 1872, aged 86. He erected and endowed at his sole cost the large and beautiful church at Arthington, one of the handsomest modern churches in the diocese. It was consecrated Aug. 17th, 1864. Arthington Hall, (E. A. Brotherton, Esq.) is the property of the Rev. Thos. Sheepshanks, M.A., and is a large mansion in the Italian style, dating from the early part of the 18th century.¶ Considerable alterations and improvements have, however, been made to it, and in 1877 a wing was added from designs by Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, R.A.

* From original papers at Hovingham, kindly furnished by Lord Hawkesbury.

† See Hunter's *Deanery of Doncaster*, vol. ii. (sub. Aldwark).

‡ See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 161. § *Vide* Fairfax Family Bible.

¶ See also Cartwright's *Chapters in the History of Yorkshire* (1872), page 155.

The Nunnery at Arthington was surrendered 26th Nov., 1540, when the principal occupants were a Prioress, Elizabeth Hall (who had a pension of £5 per annum granted to her), and nine nuns, viz.: Elizabeth Vavasour, Katherine Coke, Joan Thompson, Agnes Pettye, Dorothy Procter, Efracin Ratcliff, Elizabeth Wombwell, Isabel Whitehead, and Joan Hales, each of whom received an annual pension of £1 6s. 8d. The site of the Nunnery, together with certain messuages, was granted in 1547 to Archbishop Cranmer, reserving 12s. yearly; and he in 1550 had licence to alienate the same to Peter Hammond and others, as trustees for his son, Thomas Cranmer. In the 1st year of Queen Mary (1553), Cranmer was attained and the estate reverted to the Crown. In 1568 Thomas Cranmer leased or let the estate to one Brigg and others, and in 1575 Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, granted to Thomas Cranmer all the manor and site of Arthington Priory, with all manner of royalties and all rents reserved, &c. In 1583 Mr. Christopher Osburne did give his acquittance to Brigg for the receipt of £3 12s., which was all the arrerages (*sic*) due for that rent [six years arrears at 12s. yearly], as appeareth by that acquittance, and by an order of the court made upon a plea put into the court by Cranmer. So that from the first reservation of the rent (1547) until it was determined (1575) amounteth to 28 years.*

The estate was sold by Thomas Cranmer to Robert Mitchell of Arthington Grange, whose descendant, Sarah Mitchell, only daughter and heiress of Francis Mitchell (she died in 1673-4, aged 23), married in 1668 Thomas Fawkes, Esq., M.P. for Knaresborough, 1688-95,† and from that time the property continued with the Fawkes family until its sale by Walter Fawkes, Esq., to Lord Harewood. The following are the names of the fields which formed parcel of the estate granted to Cranmer: Pease Croft, Tib Croft, Ryehill, Howland Coateflatt, The Haggess, Wordley feilde, Pulley, Brackenwhaite, Cow Close, Ox Close, ffattenowle or Fattenowle *als* Fattenete, Fattenowle Close *als* Fattenete Close, Est Burdon, Burdon Spring, Stubb Close, and Pix *als* Pykes in Arthington, 1½ acres in Whitton field beyond Wharfe, and Redestone.‡

The Priory buildings occupied a warm and beautiful site not far from the river, opposite Rawdon Hill, but unfortunately no portion of the premises have been permitted to stand. The precise situation and extent of the Priory have not therefore at this day been identified with certainty. The Nuns' Well, where water for the use of the the convent was obtained, is mentioned by Mounsey in 1813, and

* *Vide* MSS. at Creskeld Hall.

† *See my Upper Wharfedale*, page 101

‡ From the Creskeld MSS.

still exists; while Dr. Shaw (1830) states that the Nunnery house still retains the original walls in the body of the building, but the out-offices, having been not so well built, have been taken down, and modern ones erected. "A small part of the ivied walls about the well," he goes on to say, "remain at some distance east from the Priory, as well as some part of the extensive boundary walls." He also adds that the ancient walls of the Nunnery "are good and well cemented."* In these "extensive boundary-walls," Mr. Darwin, of Creskeld, pointed out to me a single-carved stone, being part of a semi-circular door-head, with nail-head ornaments, of the middle of the 12th century. With the exception of a cross tomb-slab in one of the barns, this is the only sculptured stone that can be found. The tomb-slab is doubtless a memorial of an early Prioress. The stone measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 12 inches broad, but is imperfect at the foot. The stem or shaft of a cross and floriated cross-head are in relief, and of early 13th century design, the shafts and border having a rude square ornament.

From an interesting and very valuable description of the Priory, made at the Dissolution,† it appears that there was a cloister, forming part of the premises, which measured 64 feet by 10 feet broad. Singularly the chapter-house is stated to have been on the *north* side of the church, while the frater stood to the north of the cloister. It was 16 feet by 12 feet, and had two unglazed windows. The dormitory was 60 feet by 14 feet. In the choir of the church were "eighteen olde stalles for nunes," and "a roode lofte of tymbre." The church had also a wooden steeple. One fact in connection with the church deserves special remembrance. Its measurement is defined as 60 feet long and 24 feet wide, and was perhaps planned according to the dimensions authorised by the rules of the Order. But singularly these are the dimensions of the original church at Leathley, as well as of other early Christian buildings, erected on a plan apparently approved and adopted by the ancient British Church, and which seems to point to one important influence of the Celtic Church continuing in Wharfedale even beyond the Norman Conquest.‡

Only one seal of the Priory is known to exist, which is attached to a deed among the Duchy of Lancaster records. It is $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, and bears the device of the Virgin, standing, and holding in her right hand a lily, with the partly-defaced legend: *Sigillu' See Marie de Arthington*.§ (See illustration at the end of this chapter.)

* *Vide History of Wharfedale*, page 154.

† *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. ix.

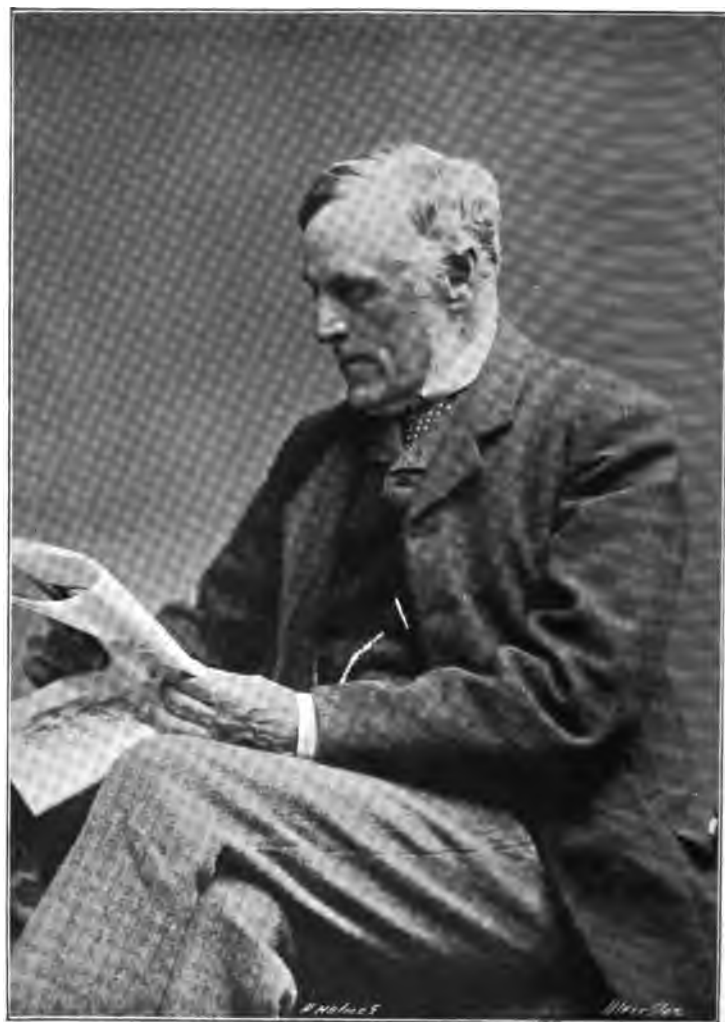
‡ See *Upper Wharfedale*, page 116.

§ Thoresby says there was at Arthington Nunnery a seal of the Grey Friars at Bedford, but how or when it came there is not recorded. See *Duc. Leod. Append.*, page 52.

The present Nunnery house is a picturesque roomy old residence (now a farm-house), in all probability erected from the monastic buildings. It is of three stories, and appears from the thickness of some of the walls, &c., to be grafted on an older building. From an angle in one of the rooms in the second story there is a curious narrow stone stair, which winds into a spacious oak-raftered garret, but originally it would appear to have ascended to an outside roof, probably forming part of a tower attached to an older structure. This last portion of the stair is now partly blocked. It may be noted that there is a similarly-placed stone-stair in the Elizabethan manor-hall at Bolling, near Bradford. Two of the second story chambers have upon the plaster ribs or joists of the ceilings well-executed vine-pattern ornamentations. The front elevation consists of three rows of mullioned windows, having square heads.

Over the main or south entrance are two small stones bearing the initials and date "T.B., 1585, I.B.," but the stones seem to be insertions. No person having such initials has ever belonged this property. Above the garden-door are the partly-obliterated initials and date, "T. [F?] M., 16—," doubtless referring to the before-mentioned Mitchell family. The only transaction in the 16th century concerning local property, which helps to elucidate these unknown initials and date (among the oldest dated stones in Yorkshire), is to be found in a fine registered in 1564. In this year Robert Beiston purchased from Nicholas Wheler and Edith his wife, three messuages, with lands, in Brearhaugh, Cookridge, Arthington, and Adel. Possibly the initials "T.B." represent a member of the Beiston family who built a house in the neighbourhood long since pulled down.





FRANCIS DARWIN, ESQ.

CHAPTER XLIX.

CRESKELD.

Antiquity of Creskeld—Meaning of the name—Family of Creskeld—The De Bingleys at Creskeld—Notes from the Wentworth MSS.—Local possessions of Kirkstall Abbey—The Goldsborough family—Early ironworks at Creskeld—The manor at the Dissolution—A family dispute—Destruction of Goldsborough Hall—Sale of Creskeld, &c., to the Wentworths—Bond-tenants and old customs—The Atkinson family—Conveyance of Creskeld to the Thornhills—Its purchase by William Rhodes—The Rhodes and Darwin families—Pedigree of Darwin—Mr. Francis Darwin, J.P.—Antiquity of Creskeld manor-house—The present Hall and Chapel—The Park.



HIS ancient Saxon hamlet in the old township of Arthington has for a long period been conspicuous in local annals. Although not mentioned in the *Domesday* inquest, it retains in its pure Anglo-Saxon name, *cressa* or *cerse* (cress) and *held* (a spring) substantial proof of its pre-Conquest origin.* In documents of the 15th century and later the name occasionally appears in the alternative form of Kirskill or Kyrskell. The earliest recorded mention of the place I have met with occurs in an attestation of one Roger, son of Peter de Creskeld, to a charter of Stephen, parson of the church of Thorner, in 1174.† Hugh de Creskeld also appears as a witness to an agreement between the Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall and Robert de Monte Alto, in 1189. To Kirkstall Abbey he gave all his land in Creskeld, lying in a culture or flat called Rispehirste, with half a carucate, and the service and homage of Richard, the priest, and of Henry de la More, also an annual rent of 6d. and common pasture for 260 sheep.‡ His

* This natural water still exists a short distance south of the Hall. It is a beautiful copious spring, flowing down a little dell, and is full of deliciously-fresh water-cress (*Nasturtium officinale*), just as we may expect it to have been a thousand or more years ago. The plant, indeed, has a very ancient reputation, and among the Greeks was not only highly esteemed as an agreeable vegetable but as a valuable medicine. It was particularly commended in disorders of the brain, and hence arose the proverb, "Eat cress and learn more wit."

† *Bradford Antiquary*, vol. i., page 212.

‡ *Burton's Mon. Ebor.*, page 293.

name likewise occurs in various other charters of the latter part of the 12th century, as a benefactor to Kirkstall, Arthington Nunnery, and Adel Church.* The mention of a priest in bondage is interesting, and implies the existence of a chapel or oratory attached to the squire's residence at Creskeld before the end of the 12th century. The record is moreover noteworthy in that it furnishes an early instance of advancement to the priesthood of the son of a villein tenant. The son of a villein might be educated for the minor orders, but he could not be ordained priest without the sanction of his lord, and for this privilege a fine or fee was demanded.† Richard, the priest, of Creskeld, was by the above grant of his lord, henceforward the servant of the Abbey of Kirkstall, and no doubt he performed the duties of his sacred office on occasions when the Abbot or monks visited the neighbourhood.

Another clerical family of some consequence was also possessed of lands in Creskeld early in the 13th century. Jordan de Bingley, clerk, obtained from Simon Curthose a bovate of land in Creskeld, which was confirmed by Emma, Simon's widow, in 1244. This lady also confirmed to the same cleric a bovate in Creskeld which Walter de Lanaria had held from Kirkstall Abbey; and to William de Bingley the croft in which she had dwelt in the same vill.‡

There are several deeds of this period preserved among the Wentworth MSS. at Woolley Park, from which it appears that the monks of Kirkstall had, early in the 13th century, leased out parcels of land in Creskeld to different persons. One of these recites that Maurice, Abbot of Kirkstall (1226—1249), granted to Richard Curtehanche, and Emma his wife, one oxgang of land in Creskeld, namely that which Walter de Wodehouse held of the Abbot and Convent, in exchange for which the said Richard and Emma gave one oxgang in Wodehouse§ and one oxgang in the court of Dom. Henry de Burley. Likewise by a deed, date about 1260, Ralph, son of Galfrid de Ardington, granted to Master Gilbert de Bingley, one oxgang of land in Creskeld, namely that which Peter de Curtehanche formerly held of the same Ralph, to be holden by the aforesaid Gilbert and his assigns of God and the Blessed Mary, and of the Nuns of Arthington there serving God, by paying annually at the Feast of the Blessed Mary, one penny. Witnesses: Ada' de Wytona, Robert de Pouil, Robert Uilan de Bramhop, Walter son of Hugh, William de Lanaria [seal in red wax with fleur-de-lis and inscription: S. RADULFI DE ARDINGTON.]

* *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 275.

† The fine varied from 12d. to 2s. See *Rogers' Hist. of Prices, &c.*, i., 129, &c.

‡ *Dodsworth MSS.*, vol. 143. § See also *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 158 n.

By the end of the 13th century the De Creskeld family appear to have ceded all their proprietary interest in Creskeld. By inquisition held in 1245-6, Hugh de Creskeld is stated to be seized in demesne as of fee,* of two bovates of land, with appurtenances in Creskeld, the day that he died; which land Jordan de Bingley and Amice, daughter of Henry de Blakeburne, hold. But Jordan and Amice present themselves and Jordan says that he holds none of the said land, and Amice says she holds all of it, and she vouches to warranty Robert, her son.† Subsequently eight acres of their demesne lands in Creskeld were granted to the said Jordan de Bingley, and Ralph, son of Hugh de Creskeld, gave the same Jordan all Bramflats, *ca.* 1270. This seems to be the last local transaction with which their name is associated. In 1284-5 one fifth part of a knight's fee in Creskeld and Arthington was held by the heirs of the said Jordan; and the Abbot of Kirkstall is returned at this time as holding half-a-fee in "Adell, Thouhouse, and Creskell," besides half-a-fee in Arthington of Thomas Musthell, at fee-farm for 40s. yearly. Jordan de Bingley had two brothers, William and Thomas. The former appears to have taken the name of Harwood,‡ and was doubtless a near relative of the Osbert de Harword who with his corpse gave an oxgang of land in Micklethwaite (Bingley) to Drax Priory.§ Isabel de Benygley (no doubt of the same family) was Prioress of Arthington in 1349.||

The Bingley family property in Creskeld passed to their kinsfolk the Goldsbroughs apparently before the end of the 13th century. About 1290, Gilbert, Abbot of Kirkstall, confirmed to Richard, son of Richard de Goldsburgh, all the land in Creskeld which he had given to him by Master Gilbert de Bingley. It is not very clear how the Cromwell family, who held of the manor of Tickhill, came to be possessed of lands in Creskeld. But in a (French) deed at Woolley Park, dated at Lambley 27th Edward III. (1353), to which is appended the seal of Sir Richard de Goldesburgh (an escutcheon with a cross pattee), there is a conveyance by Sir Ralph de Cromwell

* Land held in fee-simple, in contradistinction to the Saxon allodial tenure, or property held absolutely of no superior. Under the feudal system all land was held either immediately or by subinfeudation of the King, as lord paramount of the soil, and a subject holding "demesne as of fee," meant that while the property was legally his own and descended to his heirs for ever, he could not declare it to be his own absolutely, since it was held of a superior lord, to whom in default of heirs, or of escheat, it would pass.

† *Assize Roll, York*, 30th Henry III.

‡ *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 160.

§ *Burton's Mon. Ebor.*, page 102.

|| For an explanation of the name Bingley, see the author's *Old Bingley*, p. 101.

to Sir Richard de Goldesburgh of the park at Creskeld.* The deed enjoins that the woods in the said park shall be in no manner injured by cattle placed therein on agistment or otherwise, whereby the young growth after periodical cutting might be destroyed. There is also a grant by John de Yreby to Richard de Goldesburgh of the whole of his meadow as it lies in length and breadth in the plain of Creskeld in a place which is called Senedalehyenge, in exchange for three acres of arable land. Witnesses: Will' de Haukesword, Walt' de Midleton, Ric' de Wyetona, Robert de Carlyton, Henry Forester de Creskeld, &c. Another deed, witnessed by Robert de Arthington (d. 1391) and others, quitclaims from John de Yreby to the said Richard de Goldesburgh and his heirs, all right he has in six roods of land lying in the plains of Creskeld between Hasockberenge and the croft of Margery, and one rood and a half of meadow in the same place.

The Goldsborough family long continued the principal residential family at Creskeld. Among the Wentworth muniments at Woolley Park is an indenture in Norman-French, of date 1352, whereby Sir Richard de Goldesburgh, Kt., leased to Robert Totte (q. Tottie?) "deuz Olyveres contenaunz vynt quatre blomes" in his park of Creskeld; the rent to be paid being the large amount of 14s. a week, "duraunt lez deuz Olyveres;" the lessee was, however, to be supplied with fuel, on condition that no tree should be felled without consent of the lessor. This is a very early allusion to iron-works in Yorkshire, though what the term "olyveres" may mean is not very certain.† Sir Richard also covenants to provide "urre suffisaunt pur les ditz olyvers." "Urre" may signify ore, or it may be fuel.‡

The same Sir Richard de Goldesburgh in 1354 granted to John de Haln and Robert de Cheworth, his park of Creskeld "cum claustura et fossata," and all other appurtenances, to hold to them and their heirs of the chief lords of the fee by accustomed service. The poll-tax of 1378 shews that no one of the name of Goldsborough was then resident in the township. The head of the house was then living at his manor of Goldsborough, near Knaresborough.§

* A Ralph de Cromwell died in 1399. See Waylen's *House of Cromwell* (197), p. 1.

† Smiles (*Industrial Biography*, page 31), thinks that "olyveres" were forges or erections, each of which contained so many bloomeries or fires, but were of limited durability, and probably perished in the using. But my own impression is that the rent was only due so long as the wood on the estate lasted to supply the two "olyveres" or forges. See also Prof. Miall on "Ancient Bloomeries in Yorkshire" in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. i., pages 110-115.

‡ See *Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xviii., page 62.

§ See my *Nidderdale*, pages 206-7.

The manor of Creskeld at the Dissolution was held in free socage of the Abbot and Convent of Kirkstall at a yearly rent of 8s. In 1566, by inquisition held on the death of Thomas, son of Richard Goldsborough, the jury found that he had died seized in his demesne as of fee, of the manors of Goldsborough, Kyrkelde and Powle, &c.; the manor of Kyrskelde being held of the Queen as of her manor of Adel in free socage. By his will dated April 18th, 1566, Thomas devised the whole of this property and the reversion thereof to his second son Richard, and his heirs for ever.*

William, the eldest son of Thomas Goldsborough (who died in 1566), had died (1563) in his father's lifetime, leaving an only daughter and heiress, Anne, who married Edmund, son of Lawrence Kighley, of Newhall, Otley. She was only a little girl on her grandfather's death, in 1566, and her uncle Richard appears to have quietly succeeded to nearly the whole of the family property. But shortly after Anne's marriage considerable litigation followed respecting her uncle's rights to the manors of Goldsborough, Creskeld, Pool, &c. There are numerous bills of complaint and other proceedings to be found among the Common Rolls and evidences of the Court of Star Chamber, of the latter part of the reign of Elizabeth, respecting this bitter and protracted dispute. The contending parties were not only for many years actively embroiled in costly suits of law but occasionally employed the most hostile measures to assert their rival claims. In 1584 Creskeld Park was broken into, some closes at Pool stripped of growing woods, &c., and other violences perpetrated for which Richard Goldsborough claimed 100 marks damages of Edmund Kighley, who is described in the bill as "of Kriskeld, gentleman," and several others. Eventually in 1586 Kighley and his wife obtained judgment in their favour so far as the Goldsborough property was concerned, and they let the hall and estate to one Raynold Jake, but very soon afterwards Richard Goldsborough, aided by divers others, did enter the said premises and eject the said Jake and his family. Not only did they do this but they also "did utterlie deface and pull downe to the ground the foresaid capital messuage callid Gouldbisborough Hall, and all the barnes, stables, dovescotes, brewhouses and kilns, and one new buildinge callid Aldborough Parlour, and all the edyfices and buyldinges thereunto belonging," &c., leaving not a stone standing. The company next were proceeding to pull down the park palings when an affray ensued, in which Kighley's park-keeper, one Thomas Waid, was struck with a dagger, receiving a wound which resulted in his death.†

* See W. P. Baildon in *Yorks. County Mag.*, 1893, page 218.

† See *Yorks. County Mag.*, 1893, pages 217—225, and 1894, pages 33—46.

While no evidence is forthcoming of any express limitation by Thomas Goldsborough to his heirs male, there had been certain gifts made in his lifetime to his second son, Richard, to which it would appear from the information already given he must have been well able to prove his title. Yet the Kighleys set up a counter-claim, and as will be seen presently were not pacified until a substantial acknowledgment had been made in their favour. The manors of Creskeld and Pool, and certain property at Castley, mentioned in the inquisition and will of 1566, were claimed by and apparently remained with Richard Goldsborough after the death of Anne Kighley in 1589.* Richard Goldsborough had married a daughter of Henry Johnson, of Lindley, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Norton, of Norton Conyers, and both himself and his wife were parties to the sale of Creskeld and Pool in Hilary Term, 1596-7, to Michael Wentworth, Esq., who was then living at Creskeld. In 1599 the latter purchased Woolley Park, near Wakefield, from the Woodroves, and went to reside there.†

But the dispute begun by Edmund and Anne Kighley was now continued between Lawrence, their son and heir, and Michael Wentworth, concerning the Creskeld and other neighbouring properties. The matter, however, was finally adjusted by an indenture, dated 31st May, 7th James I. (1609), made between Lawrence Kighley, Esq., of Cawdor, co. Westmorland, on the one part, and Michael Wentworth, Esq., of Woolley, co. York, Wm. Wentworth, of Wentworth Woodhouse, Thos. Wentworth, of Elmsall, and Mathew Wentworth, of Bretton, esquires, and Francis Arthington, gent., of Castley, co. York, and Richard Arthington, son and heir apparent of the said Francis, on the other part, whereby the variance and controversy depending between the said parties in the Court of Chancery is now settled. That is to say, the manors and lordships of Kirskeil als. Creskeld, and Pool; likewise the manor of Castley, late in variance between the said Lawrence Kighley and the said Francis and Richard Arthington, assignees of the said Michael Wentworth, are for divers valuable causes and in consideration of the sum of 400 marks paid to the said Lawrence Kighley, released and for ever quit-claimed for himself and his heirs and assigns unto the parties above-mentioned, namely, the said Michael Wentworth, William Wentworth, Thomas Wentworth, Mathew Wentworth, Francis Arthington, and Richard Arthington, to whom the right, title and claim in all and each of the said premises shall henceforth rest.

There is an old rental preserved at Woolley, commencing with the year 1608 and continued to 1652, of sums due to Mr. Wentworth

* *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. ii., page 126. † *See Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xii., page 5.

from his tenants in Creskeld and Pool. From the first year's rental it appears that Henry Atkinson paid £15 for Creskeld Hall, and William Atkinson 10s. for his farm. In 1611 Caley, it appears, was held of the manor of Pool by George Gascoigne, second son of Marmaduke Gascoigne, of Caley Hall, and he paid an acknowledgment of 1s. for the right of fishing in the river. In 1615 Marmaduke Rogers pays for his house 12d. together with a boon hen to the lord. In 1621 appears a note that there is yearly paid out of Kirskell to Mr. Arthington a pound of cumming seed, or 9s. 6d. There is also paid unto him out of the same for a water-course, but no land is holden of him. The Dunwells were succeeded at Pool by the Battys and in 1640 John Batty pays a half year's rent of £10 3s. 4d. for the demesne at Pool. At Creskeld the hall and demesne appear to have been held in moieties about this time. In 1652 William Atkinson pays £10 17s. for his part of the hall and demesne, and George Coates £6 3s. for his part of the same. The Atkinsons continued at Creskeld down to the beginning of the following century. William Atkinson, gent., died at Creskeld in 1682, and by his will dated Dec. 5th, 1682, left to his eldest son, Henry, the paternal estate at Pool called Hardcastle Farm. The second son, William Atkinson, continued to reside at Creskeld.*

Michael Wentworth died in 1631, leaving Creskeld to his son, Sir George Wentworth, who died in 1660, bequeathing his property to his two daughters. The eldest of these co-heiresses was Everild, who was married 7th Sept., 1650, to John Thornhill, Esq., of Fixby, a major in Sir George Savile's regiment. By indenture dated 20th September, 1650, or thirteen days after the marriage, Sir George, in consideration of the sum of £500, granted, conveyed and confirmed unto his said son-in-law, John Thornhill and Everild his wife, one third part of the whole manors or lordships of Kirskell, Pool, Maltby, Leathley, and Arthington. This Major Thornhill was one of the executors of Sir George Wentworth's last will, under which the manors of Creskeld and Pool, with lands in Leathley, &c., came to his wife Everild. She died 8th May, 1708. The last male descendant of the family, Thomas Thornhill, Esq., died in 1844, leaving by his marriage with Clara, daughter of Henry Peirse, Esq., of Bedale, an only daughter, Clara, who married William Capel Clarke, Esq., who assumed the name of Thornhill, and is the present owner of Fixby. The estate at Creskeld was sold to Christopher Smith, a Leeds merchant, who died in 1846. He left an only child, Ann, wife of William Rhodes, of Bramhope Hall, to whose family the property thus descended.

* See my *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 128-9

The Rhodes family have been connected with this part of Wharfedale for many centuries, and were originally of Menston in the old parish of Otley. A Johannes del Rodes and his wife were living at Menston in 1378; also an Agnes del Rodes, probably their daughter. Peter, younger brother of Richard Rhodes, who re-built Menston New Hall, went into business in Leeds, and his great-grandson, Peter Rhodes, married Elizabeth, daughter of James Armitage, merchant, of Farnley Hall, Leeds. The latter amassed a large fortune, and a considerable portion of it was left to the daughter named. William, his second son died in 1869 and was buried at Bramhope.* He left a family of four sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom, Caroline Esther, married 2nd July, 1838, John St. Vincent, third Baron de Saumarez, and was mother of the present Baron. James, the eldest son, was never married, and spent his last years at Surbiton, where he died in August, 1901, in his 83rd year, and was interred in the family vault at Bramhope. The youngest son, Francis Rhodes, assumed the surname and arms of Darwin after his marriage in 1849 with Charlotte Maria Cooper Darwin, sister and heiress of Robert Alvey Darwin, Esq., of Elston, co. Notts.† The unpublished pedigree of the family, given on the next page, will no doubt be referred to with interest.

Mr. Francis Darwin, whose portrait precedes this chapter, was born at Bramhope Hall in 1825, and was educated at Eton and Cambridge, where he graduated in 1848. Having been trained for the law he became a Member of the Inner Temple, though he did not practise, preferring to exercise an inherited energy in other ways congenial to the life of a country gentleman. He was made a West Riding magistrate in 1858, and for more than 40 years he has regularly and with conspicuous ability discharged the duties of this position. For some years, moreover, he was Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and he was likewise Chairman of the Highways Committee of the Quarter Sessions before the formation of the County Council, and did a great deal of excellent work on it in respect to the improvement of roads and bridges in the West Riding. He became one of the first Aldermen of the County Council, and was made Chairman of their Highways Committee. Indeed, few, if any, Yorkshire gentlemen can shew a longer or more useful record of public work than Mr. Darwin, of whom it may truly be said that for nearly half a century he has faithfully discharged these and other responsible duties, seeking neither honour nor reward. Advancing years have, however,

* See my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 136.

† Descended from the Darwins, of Fern, co. Derby, who trace to John Darwin, of Marton, in Lincolnshire, *temp.* Henry VIII., from whom also descends Erasmus Darwin, M.D., F.R.S., of Lichfield (1731-1802), grandfather of Charles Robert Darwin, the celebrated naturalist

PEDIGREE OF RHODES, OF MENSTON AND BRAMHOPE, CO. YORK.

PETER RODES, of Mensington (Menston), 1534

John, 1560
James, 1607

Richard, b. 1626; d. 1723 Jane Peter, b. 1634; d. 1677 Thomasine Barr, 1660
re-built Menston New Hall

James, b. 1660; d. 1689 Elizabeth, 1684

James, b. 1720 Lydia Metcalfe

James, b. 1758; d. 1843 Isabella Hankins (no issue) Peter, merchant at Leeds, b. 1759; d. 1837 Elizabeth Armitage, of Farnley Hall, Leeds

James Armitage, b. 1785; Elizabeth, b. 1788; d. 1833 William, Capt Ann, only child of Caroline Lydia, b. 1795; Thomas, b. 1798; d. 1826; d. 1864; md. Richard 1798; d. 1826; of Leeds; no issue of Abm. md. Jas. Armitage, of Farnley, Leeds (leaving 7 sons) b. 1791, d. 1869 Christopher Smith, of Bramhope Hall Hobson, M.D.; no issue unmarried

Caroline Esther, Ann Elizabeth, William, Capt. Godfrey, b. 1823, West-Charlotte (1) Francis, M.A. (Camb.) as (2) Georgina Hunt-Sarah Gay b. 1818; d. 1846; md. 68th Regt., b. 1821 haugh, Pontefract, & Maria Cooper, sumed by royal licence 17y. d. & heiress of Forbes, m. 4 Dec., 1849, the surname Huntley Geo Gor- 1848 Edw. md. Lord de Capt. Patrick m. Anne, dau. of Ambleside; Capt. Goth b. & arms of Darwin; b. 12 don Duff, of Murrion Andrew Saumarez (see Durham, 37th W. Dunne, Que- Rifles, and Lt.-Col., m 25 July, 1849 June, 1825, J.P. for Notts Inverness, md. 12 Noel, Out- Peerage). Regt. (who died bec, Canada; d. retired; md. Sarah, d. d. 22 June, 1885 interred at and West Riding, D.L., June, 1889. woods Hall, James, b. 1819; 1881 of Wm. Sheepshanks, interred at vix. 1901 at Creskeld, Arthington. Derby* + d. unmd. 1901 Quebec. + Arthington; no issue Bramhope

Francis Alvey Edith Mary, Gerald Charles Waring Mary Dorothea, Arthur Wm., Mary Eleanor John Chas. Griffith, Caroline Edith M.A., Barrister dau. of Wm. Lascelles, b. 28 Aug., 1855. only daughter of b. 30 Oct., md. 23 June, of Prior's Mesne, Sydney, md 19 March, at-law; b. 19 A. Fairbairn, b. 25 Nov., Lt.-Col. Durham Rt. Hon. John 1864, Rector 1880; d. 13 Feb. 1890 co. Gloucester. Bagnall, eldest son of Charles Bagnall, M.P., of Bagnall, M.P., of Whitley; she died 22 July, 1891. No issue. Gerard Alvey Murray, 9 Jan., 1894 Reginald Charles, b. 7 July, 1881 b. at Hornby Hall, nr. Lan- 1875, Lieut. in Yorks. Regt. Charlotte Elizabeth Anne, d. unmd. 23 Sept., 1868 caster, Aug., 1895. Charles John Wharton, Francis Wharton, Gilbert William, b. 1899 b. 1896 b. 1896

* See Burke's Peerage, sub. GAINSBOROUGH.

suggested the prudence of withdrawing from all active services, and he has lately resigned all his public appointments. Yet this has not been allowed to interfere with his life-long interest in the work of the Church, and he is still an active member of the House of Laymen. Locally he has proved himself a good churchman and munificent benefactor; the handsome new church at Bramhope having been built largely through his interest and liberality. His practical sympathy, in fact, has never been withheld from anything which had for its object the good of the district.

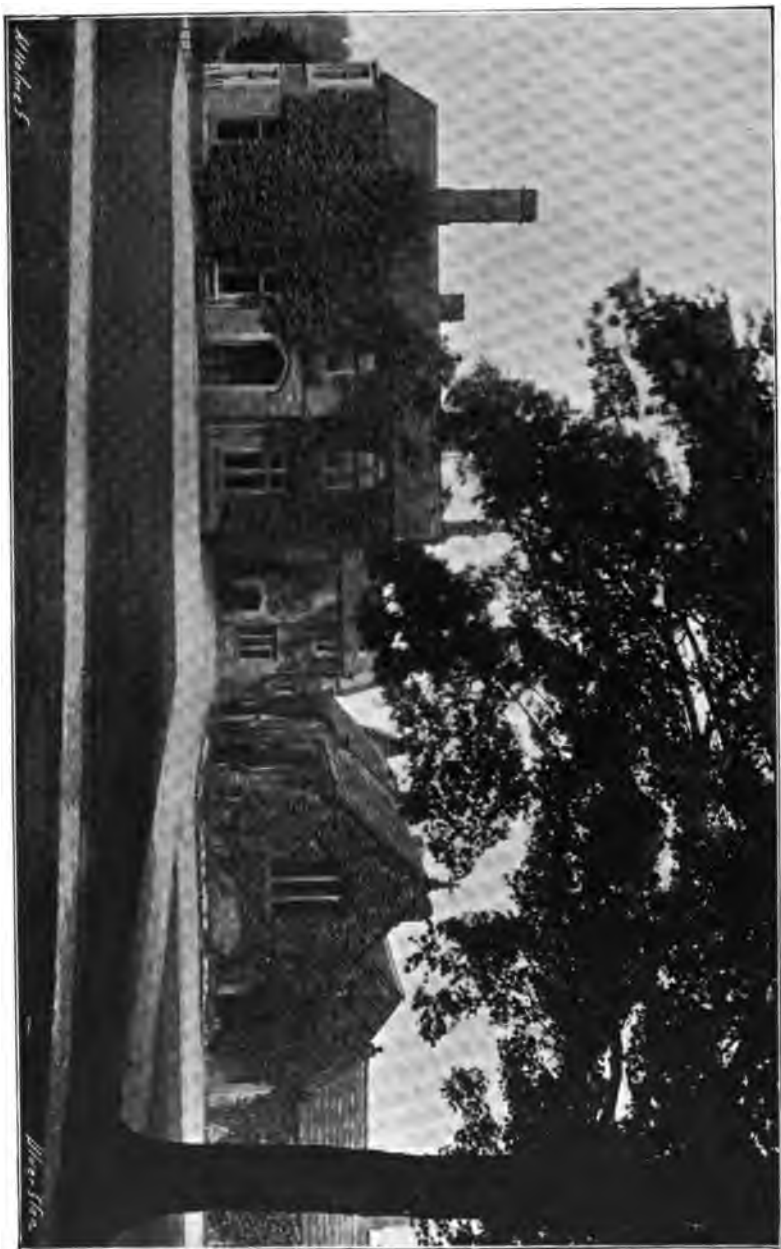
The present hall at Creskeld—the property of Mr. Darwin, and for a long time his residence—doubtless occupies the site of the original Norman manor-house, which from its low-lying and naturally defenceless position required the protection of a moat. This moat completely environed the house, and portions of it, filled with water from springs that rise in the adjacent wood, still exist on the south and west sides of the mansion. The greater part of the existing buildings have been erected within the last century or thereabouts, and include numerous large, well-lighted apartments suited to the needs of modern times. Many improvements to the house and grounds have been effected during the lifetime of the present owner, and the whole now presents, in combination with the older portions and chapel abutting at the east end, a very charming and picturesque aspect. The annexed plate shows the principal or south-east front.

The walls of the oldest portion are random built, and are evidently distinct from the old kitchen, whose walls are built in courses, and has had a chamber subsequently raised over it. The present kitchen, originally the hall (situated between the chapel and main building in the view), consists of a large room in the form of a parallelogram, measuring 37 feet 8 inches in length, north and south, 21 feet 8 inches wide at the south end, and 18 feet 3 inches wide at the north end. The ceiling of this apartment is noteworthy, and presents an interesting example of the transition from the flat wooden roofs of Tudor age, with their various ornaments at the intersections of the panels,* to the plain plaster ceilings of the succeeding era, covered with massive oak beams, arranged in the same manner in squares, but perfectly plain.† The beams here are roughly chamfered on their lower edges, and appear to be wholly adze-hewn, and not planed.‡ The entrance

* Such as exists at Synningthwaite Priory farm. See page 398.

† The cross-beams were subsequently discarded and substituted for parallel wooden beams. A roof of this kind exists in the so-called "Tudor House," at Bewerley, near Pateley Bridge, a small 17th century building, whose upper chamber has a handsome ornamental plaster ceiling.

‡ The adze continued to be used for plain work down to the 18th century. Country cabinet work of the 17th century is frequently adze-hewn. Old Tusser, *temp.* Queen Elizabeth, recommends the husbandman to use "an ax and a *nads* to make a troffe for his hogs." See *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*.



CRESKELD HALL.



has been on the east side by a lofty porch, carried from the ground-level to the eaves of the roof, and has a stout oaken door, well studded with small-headed iron nails, and with plain, straight hinge-bands. The windows on this front consist of plain, square-headed mullions, without transoms. There are no cellars; the large hall occupying the whole of the ground floor, with a corresponding chamber above, originally consisting of a single undivided dormitory or sleeping apartment, occupied by both sexes, as was the custom in pre-Reformation times. This upper story was formerly reached by an inner staircase, ascending at an angle near the porch. The style continued well into the 17th century, and there is little doubt this part of the house owes its origin to the Wentworths, who purchased the property in 1596-7.

The present chapel was erected about forty years ago on the site of the ancient manorial chapel, before mentioned, which was in such a ruined and irreparable condition that its removal was a necessity. Though originally intended for religious services, the present building has never been used for the purpose. The large east window is of beautiful stained glass, erected to the memory of Charlotte Maria, first wife of Mr. Francis Darwin. She died June 22nd, 1885. The arms of Darwin and Rhodes, borne quarterly, are depicted at the base of the window.

The park and gardens, and beautifully-kept lawns about the house are of great extent. The naturally warm and sheltered situation of the estate supports an abundance of bloom, and many plants, which in more exposed places would succumb, survive the frosts of winter unharmed. A pretty sight for many years, in the early spring, has been the view from the front windows of the hall, of a thousand blooming daffodils, which like a sheet of gold, sweep up from the lawn to the verge of the woodlands! It was the contemplation of such a sight of early daffodils that evoked from the poet Keats the well-remembered lines :—

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever,
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness!



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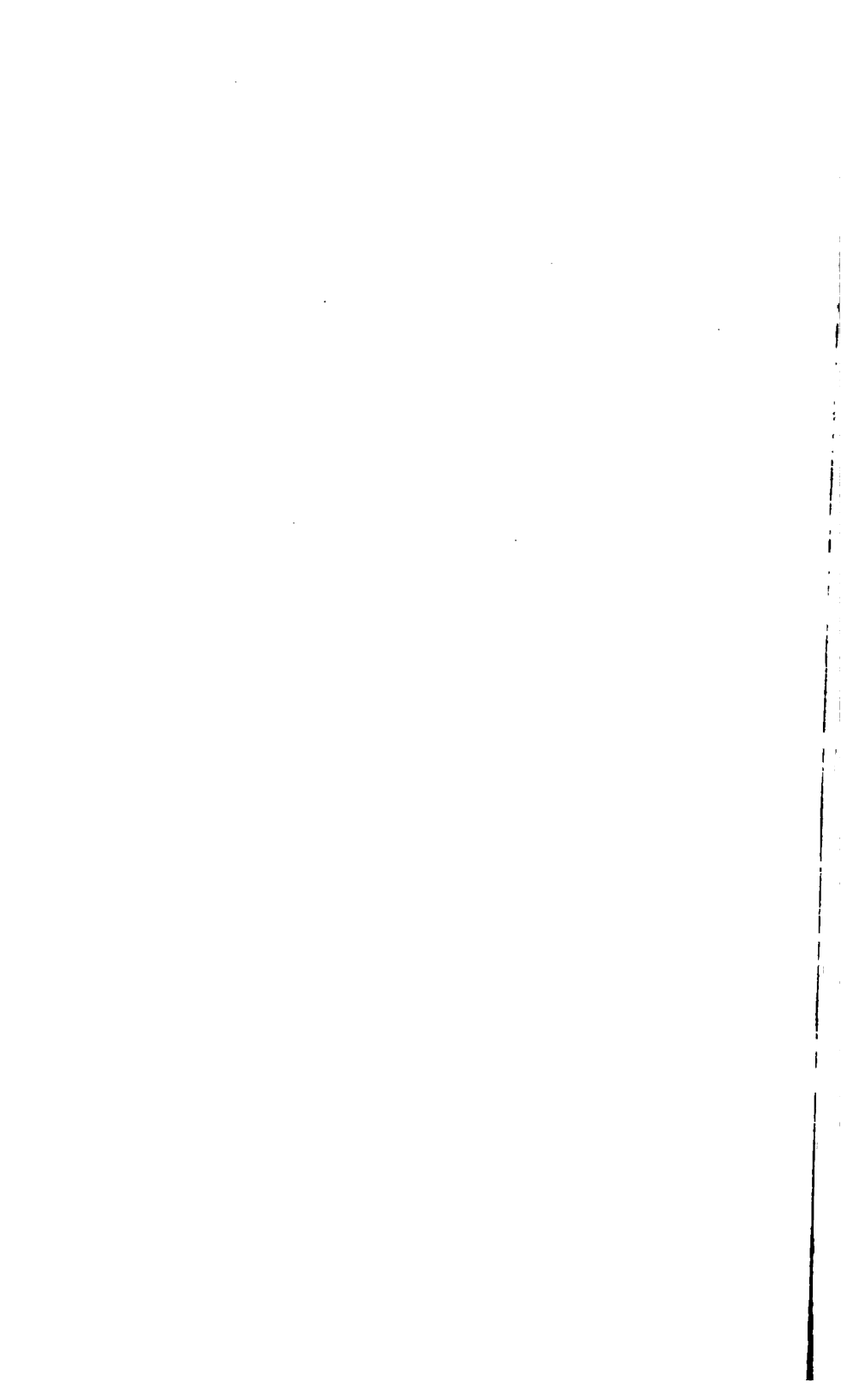
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