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KIRKBY OVERBLOW AND DISTRICT

By

H. SPEIGHT.

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KIRKBY OVERBLOW

AND DISTRICT.

BEING A RECORD OF THE HISTORY,
ANTIQUITIES, FOLK-LORE, AND OLD CUSTOMS
OF THE
ANCIENT PARISH OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW,
IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

WITH
BRIEF NOTICES OF ADJACENT PLACES.

BY
HARRY SPEIGHT,
AUTHOR OF "LOWER WHARFEDALE," "UPPER WHARFEDALE,"
"NIDDERDALE AND THE GARDEN OF THE NIDD," "TWO THOUSAND YEARS
OF TADCASTER HISTORY," "CHRONICLES OF OLD BINGLEY," &c.

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PREFACE.

IT is remarkable that if we except the upland and scattered township of Stainburn, with its quaint Norman church, and the neighbouring picturesque heights of Almes Cliff, the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow has been almost ignored by the topographer and tourist. Yet despite this neglect it possesses a more than ordinary importance and interest. Part of its large extent was embraced in the Royal Forest of Knaresborough, while among its illustrious landowners were the lordly Abbots of Fountains (the parish having given an Abbot to that wealthy monastery), the noble houses of Percy and Mowbray, the great Earls of Albemarle and Devon, the Barons Cantilupe and Aldburgh, the De Lancasters, the powerful Barons of Kendal and lords of Lancaster, the famous Bishop-statesman, Chancellor Burnell, the veteran Lord Fairfax, the Nevilles of the days of chivalry, the Vavasours, Nortons, Plumptons, Stapletons, and many others. The story of these connections with the parish, as well as of the many distinguished incumbents of its valuable rectory,—reaching far back almost to the Conquest,—should give to this ancient parish an almost national interest.

Originally it had been my intention to have included this long life-story in the volume on "LOWER WHARFEDALE," into which it properly falls, but as that work had greatly exceeded the prescribed limits, there was no alternative but to make a supplementary volume of the work now submitted. Short as the story may appear, it has involved no inconsiderable research among original archives.

My thanks are especially due to the present indefatigable rector of the parish, the Rev. Charles Handcock, who has been unremitting in his attentions on behalf of this project. He has, I fear at much personal inconvenience, conducted me about the parish, assisted in the transcription of the parish documents, looked over most of the proofs, and in many other ways manifested a generous interest in the progress of the work, that I cannot but ever gratefully remember.

To Mr. Hugh Bateson, Clerk to the Parish Council, I am also greatly indebted for much useful literary help and for his particular efforts in bringing this work to the notice of the inhabitants of the district, whose patronage and support are heartily appreciated.

Much interesting information has been received from outside quarters, and especially from the late Chas. Macro Wilson, Esq., of Bolsterstone, to whom I am indebted for very many particulars derived from the Wilson MSS. which have enabled me to construct most of the Dodson pedigree given on page 78.

H. SPEIGHT.

Bingley, 1903.

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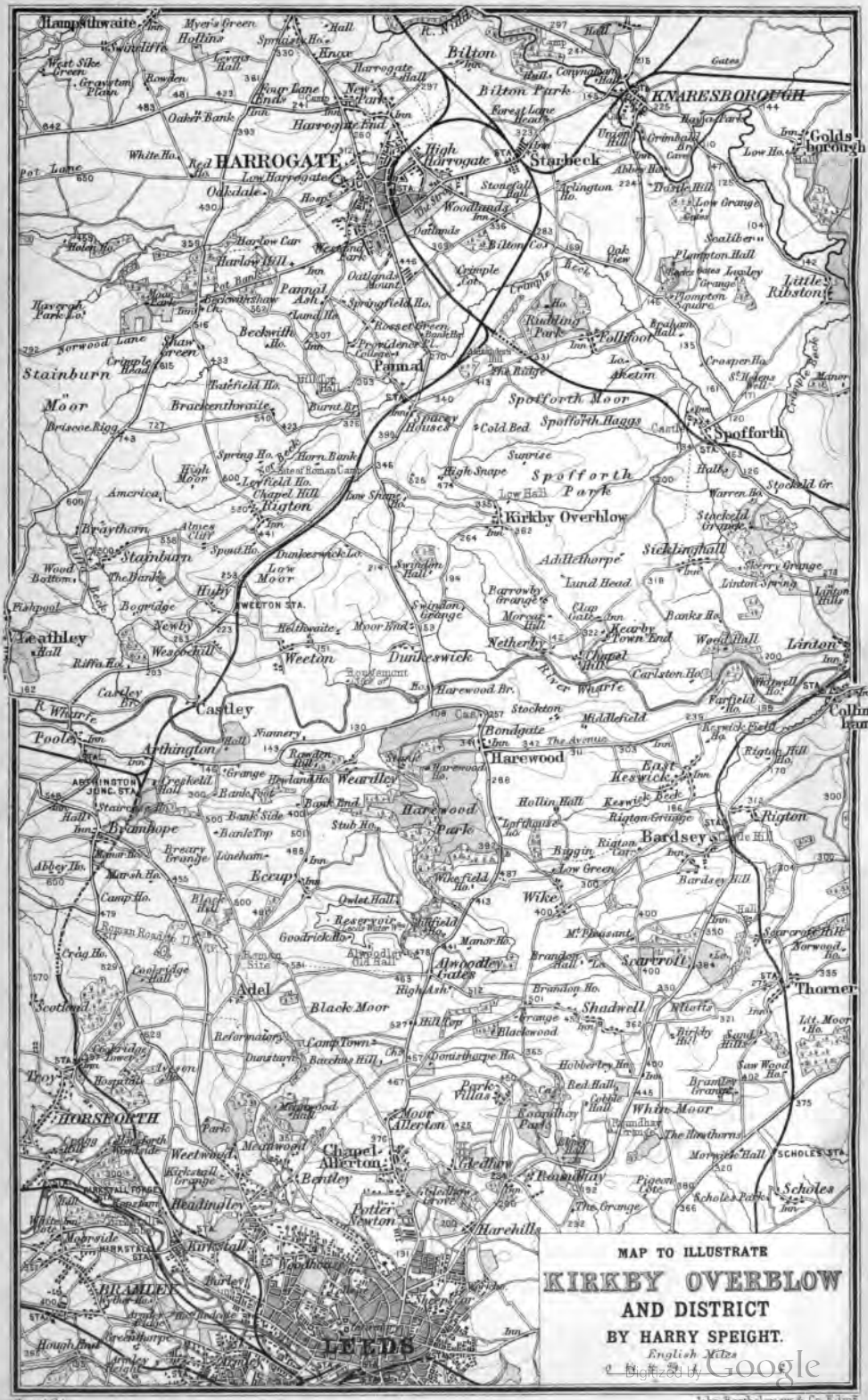

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Kirkby Overblow and District.

CHAPTER I.

Relics and Vestiges of Prehistoric Times.

THE ancient holy-well at Kirkby Overblow, called St. Helen's well—a name appertaining to the prehistoric era—offers interesting testimony to the acceptance of Christianity in the parish at an early period. The old well occupies a niche in the south-east wall of the rectory garden (*see* the initial sketch) close to the public road in the village, and near a house called after it, St. Helen's cottage. How long it has borne this ascription it is, of course, impossible to determine, but as the earliest known church of the parish was built close beside it in the eleventh century, or earlier, it is highly probable that the beautiful and copious spring,—ever flowing like the great wave of Christianity!—has retained its present name from the time of the State establishment of Christianity in the fourth century.

When the Emperor Constantine sanctioned Christianity as the national religion in the year 312, the old pagan holy-wells, like the rude monoliths of the stone-worshippers, were "purified" and consecrated to the worship of our Lord and Master. Thus we find that many of our most ancient churches are built near to the old decayed stone pillars and springs, which were sacred places of assembly in remote pagan times. Under the varying fortunes of Christianity it was not, however, until the reign of King Edgar (959-75), that stone and well worship was finally forbidden by canon law.

No religious person was more popular in the north than St. Helena, the mother of him who gave to the faith its final triumph, and accordingly temple and cross and sacred spring were dedicated in

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her honour. In Yorkshire she was exceedingly popular, probably owing to the connection of her illustrious son with the city of York. Constantine, as we gather from Eusebius, raised his mother's memory by innumerable honours, and encouraged the people to bless and perpetuate her name. Constantine granted her power over the imperial treasures, and golden and other coins were stamped bearing her image. Such coins of this earliest Christian Empress have been found near St. Helen's Chapel, at the famous ford of the same name on the Roman road across the Wharfe at Newton Kyme.* In Yorkshire more than forty ancient churches and holy-wells are still known by their dedications to St. Helen.† Around York may be mentioned the churches of Skipwith, Escrick, Healaugh, Bilton, and Stillingfleet, while 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. But the grand sarcophagus of St. Helen (or Helena) herself is in the Vatican Museum in Rome, a rare example of Roman-Christian art, pagan though it be in design and execution.

Of holy-wells dedicated to St. Helen, we have in the Wharfe valley, in addition to the one at Kirkby Overblow, those near Newton Kyme, Bramhope, Denton and Burnsall; while St. Helen's Chapel at Holbeck, and St. Helen's well at Adel amply testify to the great popularity of St. Helen in our immediate district. The local prevalence of these ancient dedications shews also a strong probability of their common origin at a period when the country was experiencing a great Christian revival, and eager crowds came flocking to the sacred springs by the way side to be baptized in the Faith. And what period more likely than that which marks the triumph of Christianity over paganism, when the Roman city of York was at the zenith of its spiritual influence? May we claim, therefore, for the church of Kirkby Overblow, that Christians have worshipped upon or near its site since the days of the good St. Helena? There is a belief current among the people of Watchet in Somersetshire, that their church has stood hard by the holy-well at that place since the year of our Lord 400. And similar stories prevail of many another holy shrine.

But what was the condition of the district before these golden days of Roman York, and its far-reaching civilisation? The great Plain of York and the fertile portions of the river-vales that emerge upon it, were, no doubt, the most populous parts of our county for a very long time preceding the Roman conquest. Camp and cairn and tumulus have been thickly strewn over its surface, and many

* *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 384. † *Ibid.*, page 385.

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relics of pre-Roman age have been discovered within these limits. In this immediate district the cup-marked rocks at Almes Cliff, certain finds about Tadcaster and Wetherby,* the tumuli in Haverah Park at "Pippin Castle," also in Ribston Park, North Deighton, Thorp Arch,† Rudding Park, Follifoot, and near Kirkby Overblow; the discovery of a fine flint spear-head at Kirkby Wharfe,‡ and of another which Mr. F. Carver, of North Rigton, tells me was found while excavating at the brick-works near Harewood Bridge, are mostly, if not all, memorials of an age when stone and flint were fashioned for common use by the local inhabitants. But the barrows it should be noted, are of the round type and are probably relics of the British contest with the Romans.

In a fertile district like this, however, continuously occupied from a remote epoch, and subject to all the changes of race and language, it is not surprising to find very few traces, if any, of place-names surviving of the pre-Roman inhabitants. In those early times each family or tribe dwelt on its own land, within well-determined boundaries, so that every man of his tribe recognized the land to which he belonged, and was bound at all times to answer to the name of his lord or chief. No doubt many of these old tribal divisions were adopted by later invaders and became eventually the lines of demarcation of our most ancient townships and parishes.§ It does not seem improbable that the name "Black," whatever may have been its original spelling, possesses some such significance. I have found this word occurring on the boundaries of almost every parish in Wharfedale, as well as on many boundaries of townships, parishes, and shires in Ireland and North Britain.‖ I have therefore come to look upon this word as the survival of a Celtic boundary-term, existing as it does sometimes side by side with the Teutonic *mearc*, and *mythas*, meaning the same thing.

This name occurs in two places close to the boundaries of the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow, (1) Black Wood separating the townships of Follifoot and Kirkby Overblow, and (2) Black Hill near the river at Woodhall, on the boundary of the townships of Sicklinghall and Linton in Spofforth parish.

On many of our most ancient boundaries were raised large mounds of earth, a practice which appears to have been brought from the East and adopted in this country by the ancient Celtic inhabitants. Sometimes the grave of a warrior would be raised on an old tribal

* *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, pages 231, 430, &c.

† *Ibid.* page 400, &c., and my *Nidderdale*, page 196.

‡ *Lower Wharfedale*, page 178. § *See* Stubbs' *Constit. Hist.*, i., page 60.

‖ *See* my *Old Bingley*, page 65.

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division, thus increasing the chances of it perpetuating his glory and renown. It was the old Roman policy to bury their illustrious dead in places of frequent resort that aspiring youth might emulate the achievements of these past conquerors, and earn for themselves so conspicuous a sepulchre. "When thou hast gone out of the Capena gate," remarks Cicero, "and beholdest the sepulchres of Calatinus, of the Scipios, of the Servilii and the Metelli, canst thou deem the buried inmates wretched?"

Such a mound of the illustrious dead has existed on the bounds of the parish of Kirkby Overblow, on Follifoot Moor, some 600 yards north of the Black Wood above mentioned. This immense mound has been known for many centuries as Alexander's Hill, and is mentioned in the 14th century boundary commission, hereafter cited. How it acquired the name is not known, but a reasonable explanation may perhaps be found in connection with the Scottish invasions of North England in the time of Alexander II. Many of our local magnates are mixed up with the doings of this doughty monarch. William de Stuteville, a famous soldier in the wars of Henry II., had assisted his kinsman, Ralph de Glanville, in the capture of the Lion King of Scotland, Alexander's father, and shortly afterwards, A.D. 1177, the King confirmed to him the lordship of the castle and Forest of Knaresborough.* A little later, when the English Barons were in revolt against the tyranny of King John, Alexander of Scotland came to their assistance and afterwards claimed extensive possessions in the north, including the whole of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland. This claim was admitted by William de Mowbray, a large landowner at North Rigton, and Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, a large landowner in Kirkby Overblow, and other of the Yorkshire Barons, who did homage to Alexander after the signing of Magna Charta in 1215.† And in 1237 William, Earl of Albemarle, whose daughter-in-law, Isabel de Redvers, succeeded to the manor of Kirkby Overblow, was witness to the agreement between King Henry III. and Alexander of Scotland, respecting these northern possessions. Alexander gave certain property to his sister Margery, who bequeathed a portion to David de Lindesay, a kinsman of William de Lindesay, who married Alice, sister of William de Lancaster, who presented to the church of Kirkby Overblow in 1242. King Alexander, again, received the Castle and Barony of Skipton during the minority of Aveline, daughter of Isabel de Fortibus, lady of the manor of Kirkby Overblow.‡ Alexander's son, Alexander III., subsequently came to

* *See Plumpton Correspondence*, (Camden Soc.) page xii.

† *See* Bates's *Northumberland* (1895), p. 133. ‡ *Coll. Top. et Gen. I.*, pp. 63 and 262.

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York to be married to the daughter of King Henry III. of England, and he did homage to the English King in 1251 for all lands held of him in England.*

But however "Alexander's Hill" obtained its name, it is certain that its contents were prehistoric. The mound was fully 150 feet in circumference, composed of earth and stones, and at the base were found several large slabs, in all probability composing a kistvaen. But it is now more than fifty years since the mound was removed, for the sake of loose stones, which were broken up for the repair of the highways, and no accurate account has been preserved of its contents. A local smith obtained several weapons and other articles of bronze from it, which had been thrown out by the workmen in course of excavation, and fragments of broken urns and pieces of bone were also picked up on the site.† But of the exact nature of the finds nothing now seems to be known, and the very site of the tumulus, a little to the west of the old wind-mill on Follifoot Ridge, is hard to determine.

In following the road from Pannal station to Follifoot this site is passed on the left hand, and the wide plain below, now enclosed, was formerly known as Bicker Flat, and the name is still preserved in Bicker, Becker, or Beaker Cottages (as it appears on the Estate Map) by the roadside near Follifoot. Perhaps it was the scene of some great contest in prehistoric times. The name suggests the Anglo-Saxon *Becca*, which Somneri (1659) and Lye (1772) render as a mattock or pick-axe. Though *bicker*, according to Prof. Wright's *Dialect Dictionary*, has the several meanings of to fight, quarrel, contest, to pelt, hurry or move noisily. Tennyson says of the brook:

> "And sparkle out among the fern,
> To *bicker* down the valley."

There are several other tumuli in the adjoining Rudding Park.

Another large circular tumulus still exists by the wayside leading from Kirkby Overblow over Spofforth Haggs towards Spofforth, near the junction of the two roads, and is shewn on the Ordnance Map. I have no knowledge that this mound has ever been examined. It is raised five or six feet above the natural ground-level, and is

* Bates's *Northumberland*, page 138. Royal visits were not infrequent in this district in early times. On one occasion, September 25th—26th, 1323, Edward II. stayed at Haverah Park, probably at "John o' Gaunt's Castle," about six miles to the west of Alexander's Hill.

† Although it is doubtful whether any bronze articles found in North England are older than the Roman occupation, it should be remembered that bronze weapons are rarely or never found on Roman sites. The Celts or natives carried them away.

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upwards of 150 yards in circumference, but owing to the slope of the ground the precise dimensions of the thrown-up mound are difficult to determine. It has been known in recent times as Hannah Lee's Hill, after an old widow woman who for many years lived in an adjoining cottage, the ruins of which still remain.

Of works constructed during the Roman occupation the parish of Kirkby Overblow contains but the scantiest traces. At a place called Horn Bank, near Rigton, on the west side of the parish, on the crest of the hill on the north side of the Horn Bank farmhouse, there were formerly to be seen very distinct indications of three camps, each encompassed with fosse and rampart. Hargrove supposed them to be Danish, but as two of them were of a square or rectangular form, and the other circular, they were in all probability relics of the Romano-British contest, at first occupied by the native tribes and subsequently as a temporary camp and look-out post by their conquerors. The site commands a wide and uninterrupted view in every direction, while close at hand is a copious spring of good water. This spot many years ago was converted into a bathing-place, but is now broken down and abandoned. Hargrove states that in May, 1787, "a large boss of a bridle and several other fragments of gilt brass" were discovered near the entrenchments, but what became of them is not stated. The site has long been ploughed, and little or no trace of these earthworks is now discernible.

It is, however, quite possible that so advantageous a point may have been occupied by later invaders, and there is abundant evidence in local place-names of Anglo-Saxon and Danish conquest. Horn was a well-known Anglo-Saxon patronym, and occurs in the name of Hornington, *i.e.*, the settlement of the sons of Horn, in the parish of Bolton Percy, lower down the Wharfe valley. This Hornington was, moreover, lorded before the Norman Conquest by one Gamelbar, who was also at the same time lord of Rigton, embracing Horn Bank. There is, of course, nothing to shew that this Horn was ever in possession of the Horn Bank camps, or even that the name was derived from that of any chief.* These protective works had in all probability, as I have suggested, originated in Romano-British times, and the old Roman road running north and south from Adel to Ripley, lies just below Horn Bank on the west. This road appears to have been connected with the Roman road to Aldborough, Catterick, and over Stainmoor to Brough and Kirkbythore to Carlisle, and was protected along its whole course by numerous forts or camps. In the famous 10th century battle of Stainmoor we read of the prowess of one Horn, son of an Anglian prince Haltheolf

* *See* Thos Holderness's *East Riding Place Names*, s.v. Hornsea, page 35.

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who lived in the North Riding of Yorkshire. After repelling at Allerton Moor a Danish invasion Haltheolf held a feast at Pickering, and then marched with his army towards Westmorland, but was himself soon afterwards slain by King Malkan, a Viking, on the plain of Stainmoor. Malkan eventually returned to Ireland, and at the battle of Yolkil the death of Haltheolf was avenged by Horn, his son, who slew the Viking with his own hand!*

In their marches Haltheolf and Horn doubtless traversed the Roman road from Aldborough over Stainmoor, which is connected with the road coming out of Lancashire and over Addingham Moor to Ilkley,† thence by Watling Street House over Blubberhouses Moor to Ripley,‡ where it is joined by the road coming north from the camps at Adel and Horn Bank, Rigton. Mr. John Thorpe says evident traces of these roads are still in existence (1865) on Wipley Moor and in Hollingbank Wood, near the end of which the junction seems to have been formed, thence passing northward to Catterick.§

The Roman road from Ilkley to Adel runs over the south side of Otley Chevin in a south-easterly direction through fields between Cross Lane and York Gate road, about 600 yards west of the York Gate plantation. Thence it may be traced above Cookridge Hall, close to the north side of the fish-pond. It crops up again on the south side of Green Gates, on Carlton Moor, running east and west to the high road from Bradford to Otley by Pool Bank, and is lost on this road between the bench-mark of the Ordnance Survey, 649-7 feet and 673-6 feet, about 300 yards south of the four-lane ends, where is the Bramhope camp and St. Helen's Wood before mentioned.

From Adel the road went almost due north by the camps at Castley and Horn Bank to Ripley. This road is not shewn on the Ordnance maps, and running through enclosed lands little or no trace of it is now visible in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. But according to the map prefixed to Grainge's *History of Harrogate*, it appears to have been crossed by the railway just above Weeton station and thence taking east of Rigton Moat by Horn Bank across Nor Beck at Maw Hill, and over Pannal High Ash and Harlow Hill it went through Killinghall, where are traces of another Roman camp described in my *Nidderdale*, page 316.

* *See Trans. Cumb. and Westmd. Antiq. Soc.*, vol. v., page 69; ix., 448, and vol. ii. (New Ser., 1902), pages 231-33.

† *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 272.

‡ *See* Grainge's *Timble*, page 84

§ *History of Ripley*, page 6.

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CHAPTER II.

The Parish of Kirkby Overblow: The Norman Settlement.

HE original parish of Kirkby Overblow embraced the five ancient townships of Kirkby Overblow, Stainburn, Rigton, Kearby-with-Netherby, and Sicklinghall, covering an area of about 10,900 acres, and extending east and west a distance of nine miles, with an average width of two miles. In 1871 the township of Stainburn was severed from the parent parish, and now forms a separate ecclesiastical parish. No doubt the original parish was formed before the Norman Conquest, and its church ministered to these townships until the existing daughter church at Stainburn was erected in the 11th century, owing to the remoteness of this township from the mother church. The two churches are six miles apart, and serving a wide and exposed upland district, the need of a chapel-of-ease at Stainburn, on the western extremity of the parish, was felt at an early time.

Although no church at Kirkby Overblow is mentioned in the *Domesday* inquest, there can be no doubt of the existence of such an edifice in the Saxon era, as the place is described in that invaluable testimony as "Cherchebi," that is, the "church village."

By this name or its equivalent "Kirkby," the place continued to be known down to the 13th century, which it is well to remember in the much-discussed name of the modern version "Overblow." Those who argue for a Danish interpretation of this adjunct "Overblow," forget that it is not until nearly two centuries after the Conquest that the addition which is now spelled "Overblow" first appears in written evidences. It is clearly an English addition. In the grant by Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid in 1212 it is "Kirkby Hornblower;" in the Charter Rolls for A.D. 1280 it is written "Kirkeby Orblawere;" in Kirkby's *Inquest* (1284-5) it is "Kyrkeby Orblauers," and in the *Feoda Militum* (1302-3) it is "Kyrkby Orblauers." But—and this is important—in the *Nomina Villarum* (1315) the affix is explained thus: "Kirkeby Feres."

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This adjunct I take to be the Latin *ferrum*, iron, whence *ferreus*, pertaining to iron (forges), the art of making iron. Consequently the name 'Overblow' is obviously a corruption of the plain English 'Ore-blowers,' an addition to the original name intended to distinguish the place from the numerous other Kirkbys in Yorkshire and elsewhere.

This deduction is moreover abundantly supported by documentary and other evidences. The monks of Fountains appear to have enjoyed the liberty to take wood to make charcoal for the use of their forges within the townships of Stainburn and Rigton, and Roger de Mowbray, chief lord of Rigton, gave to the same monks a similar right in his forest of Kirkby Malzeard.* In other parts of the parish of Kirkby Overblow, as well as in the adjoining forest of Knaresbro', similar privileges were also enjoyed. John Blomere (forgeman) and wife appear at Rigton in the Poll Tax of 1378, and John of Kirkeby, *blomer*, also appears in the Poll Tax of 1378 for Knaresbro'. The entire district bears evidence of the former existence of these open-air bloomeries, and the refuse may be picked up almost anywhere on the hill-sides facing the wind. Near some of the old smelting-pits, not large enough to hold green-wood, small heaps of carbonized charcoal have been found. Great mounds of scoriæ also existed in various places in the district, but some of these have been quite recently removed or dispersed for the repair of neighbouring paths and roads. Within the parish of Kirkby Overblow, as well as at Spofforth, and in the adjoining Crimple valley, traces of these accumulations are abundant. At Mill Hill there are evidences of a refuse-heap of an iron-forge containing several hundred cart-loads. At Spofforth two forges are mentioned in 1258, and ironworks in Creskeld Park in 1352.† Old Michael Stanhope, a physician who lived in the time of Charles I., in describing the Harrogate waters, observes:

"The whole soil where the water rises is full of ironstone, and the former ironworks here have occasioned the total consumption of wood in the Forest. Within a mile of the Spaw are still to be seen the ruins of a great iron-work; and by digging a little you may still find plenty of ironstone in most places, even exposed to the day in broken banks on the earth's surface."

This was written in 1632, and as the ironworks were then apparently long obsolete, it is evident that they originated in monastic times. At Horn Bank, a little below the Roman camps, before described, were to be seen many and good remains of these

* *See* Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 175; Thoresby's *Diary*, May 17th, 1703; and my *Nidderdale*, page 483.

† *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 221, and *Lower Wharfedale*, page 502.

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old blast-furnaces.* Iron scoriæ and other relics of these ancient furnaces are likewise found on the hill-sides of every township in the parish, and quite recently much ironstone debris was come upon in making the new carriage-road to Low Hall from the Knaresborough road at Kirkby Overblow. Consequently it cannot be doubted that this late affix to the original name of the parish is a modern corruption of the compound "Ore-blowers," in allusion to the prevalence of iron-smelting in the locality in early times.

Turning now to what we know from actual records of the occupation of the parish at the Norman Conquest, it will be pertinent to refer to the invasion of Yorkshire by Tostig, the barbarous Earl of Northumbria, in 1066. Earl Edwin, with his brother Morkar, marched from Laughton and Barwick to York, and the opposing armies met at Fulford, some two miles down the Ouse. Edwin and Morkar were routed, and a few years afterwards, when the whole of England was in possession of the Normans, the two earls were virtually prisoners of the Conqueror, but according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, they eventually escaped, and wandering in the woods were treacherously slain by their own people A.D. 1071. Tradition points to a place in Kearby, in the parish of Kirkby Overblow, where the once-powerful Earl Morkar lay encamped or took refuge from the pursuit of his enemies. It is still known as Morkar Hill. Kirkby Overblow was thus lost to the old Saxon or Danish proprietors, and the next testimony is that of *Domesday*.

I propose to record here all that is said of the places in the ancient parish in the order in which they appear in this important survey. Thus it will readily be seen by a reference to this place to whom the various lands belonged at this critical period, when I come to trace the history of the several townships.

BORGESCIRE WAPENTAE (Claro Wapentake).

LANDS OF WILLIAM DE PERCI.

Manor. In Cherebi (Kearby) Wibert had four carucates of land for geld, where two ploughs may be. Now William [de Perci] has it. Wood pasturable, there, two quarenteens in length and one in breadth. The whole one leuga in length and one in breadth. In King Edward's [the Confessor] time it was worth twenty shillings; now sixteen pence.

Manor and berewick. In Cherchebi (Kirkby Overblow) and Todoure (lost†) Gamelbar had six carucates of land for geld, where three ploughs may be. Now

* For a description of the construction and method of working these ancient iron furnaces and kilns *see* J. Hunter-Duvar's book on the *Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages*, pages 205-7; *see* also *Yorks. Archæl. Jl*, i., 110-15.

† Three of the carucates were in Todoure. Two fields in Kearby township called Todd Close and Todd Garth, and a Todd Close at Sicklinghall, are the only places in the parish that carry any suggestion of the site of this lost village.

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William [de Perci] has two ploughs there and eleven villanes and four bordars, with four ploughs, and two acres of meadow. Wood pasturable, one leuga in length and one in breadth. In King Edward's time it was worth forty shillings, now twenty-four shillings. The whole manor two leugæ in length and two in breadth

Soke of this manor is in Walton (Walton Head) one carucate of land for geld.

Manor. In Berghebi (Barrowby) likewise soke of Chirchebi (Kirkby Overblow) one carucate of land for geld, and one plough may be there. Five villanes are there with one plough.

WESTREDING. LANDS OF GISLEBERT TISON.

Manor. In Ristone (Rigton) Gamelbar* had two carucates for geld. Land to one plough.

LANDS OF THE KING'S THANES.

Manor. In Ristone (Rigton) Archil had two carucates of land for geld. Land to one plough. The same has it now, and it is waste. In King Edward's time it was worth ten shillings.

BORGESCIRE WAP' (Claro Wapentake).

LANDS OF ERNEIS DE BURUN.

Soke. In Berghebi (Barrowby) three carucates, and Distone (North Deighton) four carucates, and Gemunstorp (Ingmanthorpe) one carucate and a half. The soke is in Holsingoure (Hunsingore). Together for geld, eight carucates and a half. The land is to four ploughs. Ernegis has there one sokeman and four villanes and two bordars with two ploughs. In King Edward's time they were worth twenty-eight shillings; now, five shillings.

WEST TREDING (West Riding) LANDS OF THE KING

Two manors. In SIDINGALL (Sicklinghall) Eghebrand Uleric had six carucates for geld. Land to three ploughs. Twenty-five shillings.

Four manors. In Stanburne (Stainburn) four thanes had five carucates for geld. Land to two ploughs. Forty shillings.

BORGESCIRE WAPENTAE (Claro Wapentake).

In Cherebi (Kereby) W. de Perci four carucates.

In Berghebi (Barrowby) Erneis [de Burun] three carucates. In the same place W. de Perci one carucate.

In Cherchebi (Kirkby Overblow) W. de Perci three carucates.

In WALTONE (Walton Head) and TODOURE (lost) W. de Perci four carucates.

In SIDINGALL (Sicklinghall) the King six carucates.

In RISTON (Rigton) the King two carucates. In the same place Gislebert Tison two carucates

In STAINBURNE (Stainburn) the King five carucates.

It will be seen from this enumeration of lands within the parish in 1083-6 that the total cultivated and pasturable area was then thirty carucates, worked by thirteen ploughs, though the number of ploughs of De Burun's holding in Barrowby is not stated. It would

* Also at this time Gamelbar and Ulf had each a manor in Rosset (Pannal), but at the final adjustment of the *Domesday* inquest these two manors are stated to be held by the King and Gislebert Tison.

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seem, however, that each two carucates was worked by one plough, consequently these manors must have been worked on the three-field system of husbandry. By this system the carucate contained 180 acres, of which one-third lay annually fallow. Thus, while 120 acres, or only the cultivated area,* was annually taxed, the whole area of 30 carucates, each of 180 acres, was regularly and systematically under cultivation. We are therefore to conclude that the large extent of 5400 acres was subject to taxation in 1083-6, or very nearly one-half the land of the whole parish, which included considerable woodland. This is a surprising quantity, and shews that the parish must have been populous and long cultivated before its acquisition by the Normans.

The question of woodland is one of significant importance in this parish, where so much of its area was thus appropriated. Not less than one-half the land comprised within the manor of Kirkby Overblow was in 1083-6 woodland, providing food and mast for man and beast, while a large proportion of the manor of Kearby was similarly engaged. If the square leuga contained, as it is calculated, 1440 statute acres, these two manors must have embraced between them an area of nearly 2000 acres of woodland, but as there were only ten carucates, or 1800 acres, of land *taxable* within these two manors in 1083-6, it certainly looks as if only the arable land was taxed. For these two townships contain together an area of 3630 acres, and their boundaries have probably remained unaltered since Norman times.† It should, however, not be forgotten that the *Domesday* carucate for geld was a variable quantity, and was intended essentially to be a unit of assessment, rather than a certain measure of the extent of a manor.

At the final adjustment of the returns of the surveyors in 1086, it appears that of the 30 carucates that had been held by Anglian or Danish proprietors in the time of Edward the Confessor, 13 were now in the hands of the King, viz., 6 in Sicklinghall, 5 in Stainburn, and 2 in Rigton ; 12 carucates had been granted to William de Perci,

* The fiscal hide [or carucate] of *Domesday* contained (or often did) 120 fiscal acres, and the normal areal hide 120 actual ones, which perhaps accounts for the statement that a like quantity was tilled by each plough per annum, which is opposed to the common experience and knowledge of any English farmer of arable, and would predicate weather suitable for constant aration ; whereas 30 weeks in the year is perhaps a high estimate of the period during which land can be worked, and 40 to 60 acres may be roughly taken as the present land of one plough. A. N. Inman's *Domesday and Feudal Statistics* (1900), page 41.

† But Mr. Inman considers that no doubt can exist that wood and rough pasture were included in the carucate in 1086 (*Domesday*, page 41). Canon Isaac Taylor contends that only arable land was taxed, not woodland. *See Domesday Commemoration* volumes (1888), page 349, &c.

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viz., 4 in Kearby, 3 in Kirkby Overblow, 3 in Todoure, 1 at Walton Head, and 1 at Barrowby; Erneis de Burun had 3 carucates in Barrowby, and Gislebert Tison had 2 carucates in Rigton. This was how the land of the parish was apportioned twenty years after the conquest of England by the Normans, and I purpose in the ensuing chapters tracing the history of the several townships forward from these *Domesday* owners. And in this recital many of our most distinguished northern families will be found identified with the story of local life here from this early period.

As to the ancient boundaries of the parish it will be proper here to exhibit these as pourtrayed in the oldest record extant. This is preserved among the parish papers, and is a description of the boundaries and landmarks as they existed in the year 1362. The document, however, appears to be a 17th century recapitulation of a grant or confirmation made by Archbishop Thoresby in the eleventh year of his pontificate. It is as follows:

THE BOUNDERS OF THE PARISH OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW IN 1362.

To all true people to whom this present writing shall come to be heard or seene, be it knowne that these be thee bounders of the parish of Kirkby Overblowes granted by our hollie Farther John the Arch Bishope of Yorke in the yeare of our Lord 1360 *(sic)* Beginning with the same at the bounders of Woodhall as it lyeth by the watter of Wharfe unto the bounders of the Lordshippe of Kearby as it lyeth on both sides of Wharfe unto the bounders of Wetherby and from these bounders of Wetherby unto the bounders of barraby Grange and so by the Sand Beed to the foot of Hobsike with Eight Acarrs of Land lying on the west side of the said sike within the Ridding and soe unto the freer flosh betwixt Swindon and the parish of Harwood and so upp the sike to Tenny pitt and so upp unto Kringle pitt betwixt the feild of Kesuicke and Swindon and so by right line unto Swindon Becke and so uppe the becke running betwixt Helthwate Hall and the lane unto the Smith Steades and from the Smith Steades upp the Slacke on the west side of the Broddells unto the heade of the Slacke turning west downe the sike betwixt Rigton and Helthwate Hall into Meerbecke and so following the bounders betwixt the Lordshipp of Rigton and Helthwate Hall and so furth by the bounders betwixt Rigton and Hubye and so upp the Meerdike above Hubye and so upp by the bounders of Hubye by the becke running betwixt Kirkhowe and Normared and from thence to Lingcroft Brigge and from Lingcroft Brigge into Staineborne Becke and from Stainborne Becke unto Thruffen and from Thruffen unto the well besides the way that goeth from Staineborne to ffarnley and from the well to Hellyne Hurst sike and so upp by the becke which divideth Staineborne and Linley and so upp by the same bounders unto East Hillshowe and from thence unto Sandwates and from thence into Renfast staves beside Craven guit and so unto Standing Stone upon the moore and Beckwith Shaw and so downe the hollowe sike that falleth into Crimple and so downe Cremple betwixt Brackenthwate and Beckwith Shawe and furth as the Becke runeth betwixt Rossitt and the Stonie Rigge with certaine places on the north side of Cremple called litle Rossett of the which the parson of Kirkby overblowes shall receive the tenths of Wool and Lame and Calfe as due to the Kirke for certaine causes as it appeareth in the Bull when the parish

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of Pannell was divided from the parish of Kirkby overblowes, the said person of Kirkby overbloues shall divide his tenths eavenly to two parts, the one part to himself and the other to the person of Pannell, and downe Cremple by the foot of Butte sike unto the beunders of the parish of Spofforth and soe turne upp the sike by right ljne to Swarthowe and from thence even East to the Mere Cross into Brackinhurst and soe furth by right ljne unto Anne well and soe upp Alisander Hill betwixt the bounders of Walton Head and ffollifoot by right ljne into Hee Snape Becke and soe followinge the bounders betwixt Spofforth parke and the Hall Moore unto the bounders of Tettlene by the out paill of Spofforth parke unto the bounders of Horshouse and so furth eaven to the Lund Head and then turne even East by the bounders betwixt Horshouse unto the East nooke of the March and soe turne even south to Sicklinghall Moore and then turne East by the bounders betwixt Sicklinhall Moore and Addethorpe into Kicker and so downe Kicker into Rosseing and soe upp the becke betwixt Stokeld Wood and Todd Closse unto the bounders of Skirik and then turne eaven East from Skiricke becke by the wood side by Stockeld to the head land of the New Closse then turne even south by right ljne to the Marle pitt and so to the pitt in the Land Closse and soe downe between the bounders of barraby and Ljnton and soe down by the bounders betweene Ljnton and Wood Hall unto Apple Garth and from the Apple Garth unto the water of Wharf.

The following note is appended:

And thus for Causes and Artickles shewed and declared before our holly ffather aforesaid they have given and granted clearly unto Robert Edey person of Kirkby-overblowes aforesaid and all his successors all manner of duties that is duable without any interupcon of any of these parishes that bounders upon him as appeareth openly in the Bull under the Lords Seall and in witness whereof Sr Henry Percye Lord of thee Lordshipp of Spofforth and the Patrone of the aforesaid Kirk of Kirkbyoverblowes Sr Richard Tempist Knight Sr William Newport person of Spofforth and Sr Robert Edey parson of Kirkby and many others being present in the mannor of Cawood at ye deklaration of this Bull before our holly ffather John aforesaid the Arch Bishop of Yorke the tenth of November in the year of our Lord God 1362 and in the eleventh year.

The statement that "when the parish of Pannell was divided from the parish of Kirkbyoverblowes" must refer to the division for tithes. Pannal was an ancient rectory, but was appropriated to the House of St. Robert of Knaresborough, and a vicarage was ordained in 1348. The church stands on the edge of the parish, away from the principal population, as if it had been intended to serve some other place. The first rector on record became Archdeacon of Rochester, and resigned the living of Pannal in November, 1271. Pannal, I may add, is not mentioned in *Domesday*, though Beckwith and Rosset (cited in the above grant) are both named.

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CHAPTER III.

Kirkby Overblow: Early Manorial History.

HAVING stated on page 16 that Kirkby Overblow formed part of the possessions of William de Percy in 1086, I shall now endeavour to trace its ownership through the succeeding centuries. But its transmission during the first two centuries following the Conquest is not without complexities, this period not being very fruitful in genealogical evidences. Yet the story, though complicated, I have construed as follows.

William de Percy, the original grantee, died in the Holy Land in 1096, and his heart was buried in Whitby Abbey. One of his grandsons, Walter de Percy, was of Rougemont, in the parish of Harewood, and Kirkby Overblow, I may here observe, has always been reckoned as an appurtenance of the manor of Harewood. This Walter appears to have left no issue, and was a younger brother of William de Percy, whose son William, the founder of Sallay Abbey, died in 1168. He left two sons, who both died unmarried, and two daughters, co-heiresses, who shared the estates.* The younger sister, Agnes, was mother of Henry de Percy, who married Isabella, daughter of Adam de Brus, son of Robert de Brus, founder of Guisbrough Priory, and ancestor of the famous Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. The elder sister, Maud, married William de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, who died *s.p. ante* 1184, and was son of Roger de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, who died in 1153. The latter married Gundreda, daughter of William, second Earl of Warren, by whom he had a daughter Gundreda, who became the wife of William de Lancaster, first Baron of Kendal. Most probably she or her son, William de Lancaster, inherited Kirkby Overblow or a moiety thereof on the death of Maud de Newburgh, daughter and co-heiress of William de Percy.

It appears to have been in this way that Kirkby Overblow descended, as a member of the Percy fee, to the great Barons of Kendal. The first Baron died before 1170, and was succeeded by

* *See* pedigree in my *Lower Wharfedale*, and *Two Thousand Years of Tadcaster History*, page 18.

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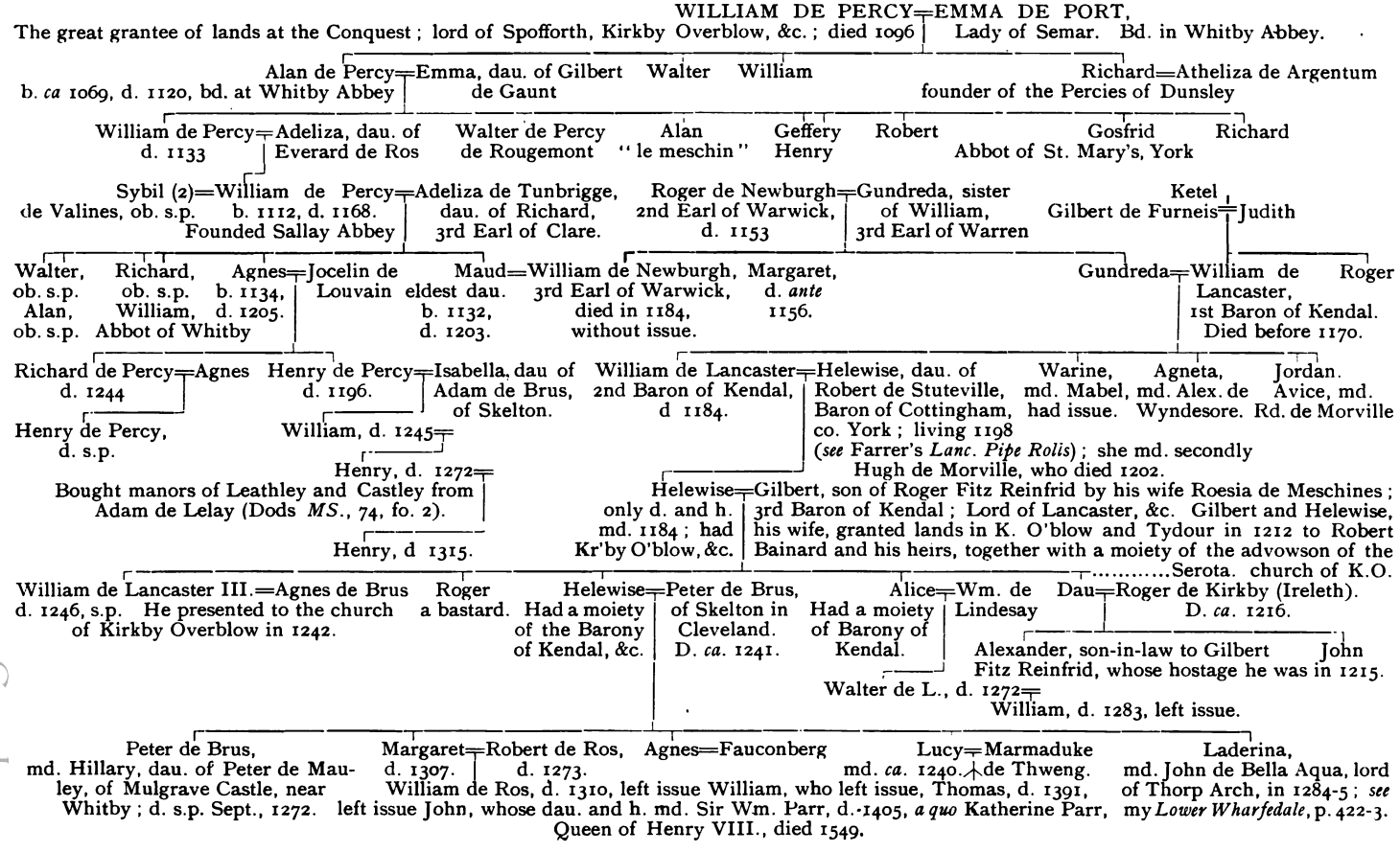
PEDIGREE OF THE EARLY LORDS OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW.



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his son William de Lancaster, second Baron of Kendal, who died in 1184. This notable family, it may be stated, held the Barony of Kendal of the De Mowbrays, and not of the Crown, but of the Honour of Westmorland. Roger de Mowbray, the famous founder of Byland Abbey, who among his vast possessions held Rigton in Kirkby Overblow parish, was in rebellion in 1173, and his lands were confiscated. In 1189 the Barony of Kendal was granted by charter of Richard I. to the celebrated and powerful noble, Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, who had married Helewise, only daughter and heiress of William de Lancaster, second Baron. Her mother, Helewise, was a sister of another local landholder, William de Stuteville, who had served with his father, the sheriff of Yorkshire, as one of the leaders of the royal forces in the wars with Scotland, and was rewarded in 1177 with the wardship of the Honour and Castle of Knaresborough, a lordship bounded on the south by the parish of Kirkby Overblow. So that the territories of Fitz Reinfrid and Stuteville adjoined.

This great Baron, Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, also succeeded in 1205 to the Honour of Lancaster, and was High Sheriff of Lancaster in 1206, and of Yorkshire in 1211-14. Having by his marriage with Helewise de Lancaster, succeeded to the estates of that heiress, he became one of the wealthiest and most powerful noblemen of his time. The bulk of his properties lay in Lancashire and Westmorland, but he also held lands in Yorkshire. They are enumerated in the *Black Book of the Exchequer*.* He had an estate at Monckton† in Yorkshire, and he held the manor of Kirkby Overblow. In 1212 a fine was levied between Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid and Helewise, his wife, plaintiffs, and Robert Bainard, deforciant, respecting 3½ carucates and 2 bovates of land in Kirkby Hornblower (*sic*) and Tydour (*see* page 14). The said Robert recognized the right of Helewise to the land and thereupon Gilbert and Helewise granted it to him, Robert, to be held by him and his heirs from them, and the heirs of Helewise in perpetuity, together with a moiety of the advowson of the church, the other moiety of the advowson to remain with Gilbert and Helewise. Homage to be done to Gilbert and Helewise by the said Robert, with the assent of William de Percy, chief lord of the fee.‡

It would thus appear that in 1212 a moiety of the manor of Kirkby Overblow was granted by the heiress of the De Lancasters, Barons of Kendal, and that the presentation to the church was also in moieties, the common practice of that age. But before the end of the century the Bainard moiety appears to have been absorbed by

* *Lib. Nig Scacc*, page 340. † *See Surtees Soc.*, vol. 67, page 42 n.

‡ *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, page 83.

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the owner of the other moiety. As will be seen by the prefatory pedigree, Gilbert's mother was a daughter of Ranulph de Meschines, Earl of Chester, brother of William de Meschines, who married Cecily de Romelli, by whom he acquired the lordships of Skipton and Harewood.* Gilbert is stated by Jones† to have married Helen, only daughter and heiress of William de Redman (whose posterity succeeded to Harewood) who died in 1160, but I can find no authority for this statement. Nor does there appear to be any evidence of the existence of a William de Redman at this time.‡ Henry de Redman, lord of Levens, in Westmorland, a valuable property granted to him by Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, Baron of Kendal and lord of Kirkby Overblow,§ married *ca.* 1184, a daughter of Adam, Dean of Lancaster.‖ Mr. William Greenwood thinks that this Adam, the Dean, was a Pennington, a member of the ancient and illustrious family, now represented by Josslyn Pennington, fifth Baron Muncaster.¶ This Henry de Redman, conjointly with Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, was Sheriff of Yorkshire 12th to 15th John.**

Both Henry de Redman and Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid were in the Barons' rebellion, and in 1215 both were taken prisoners at the surrender of Rochester Castle to King John. Gilbert was eventually fined in the enormous sum of 12,000 marks for release and relief of his lands, and among the hostages he provided for his future fidelity were Benedict, son and heir of Henry de Redman, and the heirs of Roger de Kirkby (Ireleth) his son-in-law, including William de Wyndsor and others.

Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid died in 1220, having by his marriage with Helewise de Lancaster left one son and four daughters. The son, William, assumed his mother's name and became William de Lancaster, third Baron of Kendal. He was High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1233. In 1242 we find him presenting to the church of Kirkby Overblow.†† He had consequently succeeded to his mother's interest in the manor and advowson. He was a party to many property transactions in Lancashire and Westmorland. He enfeoffed Sir Robert de Leyburne, a knight in the service of Walter de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in the manor of Skelsmergh in West-

* *Vide* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 462. † *Vide History of Harewood*, page 40.

‡ *See* pedigree of Redman of Levens and Harewood in my *Lower Wharfedale*, pages 470-1.

§ Trans. *Cumb. and West. Antiq. Soc.*, Vol. iii., (N. S.), page 277.

‖ Farrer's *Lancashire Pipe Rolls*, page 52.

¶ Trans. *Cumb. and West. Antiq. Soc.*, Vol. iii., (N. S.), page 277.

** *Dodsworth MSS.*, 79, fo. 115.

†† Archbp. Gray's *Register*.

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morland,* and the same Sir Robert de Leyburne was a witness to William de Lancaster's grant of lands at Preston, &c., to Patric, son of Thomas, son of Gospatric.† These Leyburnes were a notable family long resident in Westmorland, and from them descended the titled families of Bellingham, Pennington, Bulmer, and Curwen, as also the Lords Dacre, Mounteagle, and Howard, Dukes of Norfolk.‡

William de Lancaster (III.) married Agnes de Brus, of Skelton, but he had no issue. He died in November, 1246, having given to Furness Abbey, for the health of his soul and that of Agnes his wife, and as compensation for the sacred soil which his body was destined to displace within the walls, the whole of Scaithwaite and Egton, together with the fishing in the lakes of Thurstonwater (Coniston) and Winandermere, &c., his body to be buried in the choir of the Abbey, close to that of his grandfather, the first Baron of Kendal.§

Thus slumbering within the ruins of the beautiful Abbey of Furness lies this old lord of Kirkby Overblow. Little should we have expected looking among the mouldering tombs of that distant monastery for one of the bygone nobles of our parish! Leaving no issue his patrimony was divided between his two sisters, Helewise, wife of Peter de Brus, and Alice, wife of William de Lindesay. There appears to have been one other sister, possibly two, viz., Serota, wife of Alan de Multon, who died without issue, and another, the wife of Roger de Kirkby (Ireleth).‖ The Barony of Kendal was then divided between the families of De Brus and De Lindesay. The heirs of the latter were the De Courcies,¶ and it was apparently through this family that the lands in Kirkby Overblow were transmitted. Margery Fitz Gerald had inherited Harewood through De Courcy,** and De Courcy had a moiety of the Barony of Kendal, &c., obtained by marriage of Alice, sister and co-heiress of William de Lancaster, who presented to the church of Kirkby Overblow in 1242. This Margery Fitz Gerald married Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon, who died in 1216, leaving a son of the same name, who was father of Isabel de Redvers, wife of William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle, who became heir of her brother, Baldwin, Earl of Devon, at his death in 1262,†† and was lady of the manor of Kirkby

* Nicholson and Burn's *Westmorland*, i., 133. † *Yorks. Archæl. Jl.*, page 87.

‡ *See* also my *Romantic Richmondshire*, pages 364-5.

§ *Furness Coucher Book*, fo. 208-9.

‖ *See Trans. Cumb. and Westmd. Antiq. Soc.*, vol. iii. (N.S.), page 278.

¶ *See* Ferguson's *Westmorland*, page 118, and for pedigree of De Courcy *see* Baker's *Northampton*.

** *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 462. †† *Cal. Inq., p.m.*, i., 23.

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Overblow in 1284-5.* Lady Isabel had also half the manor of Rigton, in the parish of Kirkby Overblow, which she confirmed to the monks of Fountains.†

But the precise time of the acquisition of the manor of Kirkby Overblow by the Lady Isabel, Countess of Albemarle, is not very clear, as four years before the return made by John de Kirkby, viz., in 1280, I find this manor held in trust by the celebrated Lord Chancellor, Robert Burnell, who had been Archdeacon of York, and who was at the time he held the Chancellorship of England, Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was lord of Acton Burnell, near Shrewsbury, and was not only a capable and energetic church dignitary, but was likewise one of the most prescient statesmen England has ever known, and is spoken of as "beyond doubt the most able man that ever held the office of Lord Chancellor."‡ Kirkby Overblow, no doubt, was a very small holding among the vast possessions owned or held in trust by this great State dignitary. He had no doubt a great deal to do with the framing of the many legislative acts which mark the reign of Edward I. as the most progressive and prosperous between the Conquest and the Reformation; indeed in no era has public jurisprudence made such rapid and important advances. Edward I. has been aptly described as the English Justinian, a title to which it may be conceded he is in no small measure indebted to the legal acumen and open-mindedness of his great Lord Chancellor Burnell. He was appointed Chancellor, 21st September, 1274, and held the office for 18 years until his death in 1292, and it was during this period, as Sir Matthew Hale observes, that more was done to settle and establish the distributive justice of the kingdom than in all the ages since that time put together!

Chancellor Burnell, as I have said, held the manor of Kirkby Overblow in trust for Joan Burnell, who appears to have been a daughter of one of his younger brothers. On October 25th, 1275, he entered into an agreement with William de Graystock to farm this manor, and in it contemplated a marriage of William with Joan Burnell. William son of Thomas, Baron Graystock, bound himself to this Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, or to Joan Burnell, to pay the large sum of £109 for corn and stock which he had received from them at Michaelmas in 1275, from the manors of Morton-on-Swale and Kirkby Oreblawer. This sum was to be paid or credited to the Bishop or Joan Burnell if John, son and heir of William de Graystock, or any of the heirs of the said William, marry Joan

* Kirkby's *Inquest*. † Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 196.

‡ Introd. to *Visitation of Shropshire* (1623), Part I., page 15 (1889).

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Burnell, but if they do not marry the said Joan, then William de Graystock, or his heirs, shall pay £500 at the end of five years from Michaelmas aforesaid (1275), together with the aforesaid £109. For payment William de Graystock charges his lands, goods, and chattels to the distraint of the Bishop and Joan. This deed is dated at London on the eve of SS. Simon and Jude, 3rd Edward I.*

William de Graystock died in 1288, having married Mary, daughter of Roger de Merlay, Baron of Morpeth in Northumberland, and by her left several sons, the eldest of whom, Thomas, died *s.p.* The second son, John de Graystock, who was assigned to marry Joan Burnell, was in the Scottish wars, and in 1287 claimed the inheritance of his grandfather, Roger de Merlay. Leaving no issue he settled his estates on his brother Ralph, who was summoned to Parliament as Baron Graystock in 1295.† He was also in the wars with Scotland, and was concerned in the quarrel between the King and his favourite Hugh le Despencer and the peers headed by the great Earl of Lancaster, which led to the Battle of Boroughbridge in February, 1322. Ralph, Baron Greystock was present at that battle, having previously been ordered to abstain from attending a meeting of the rebellious peers to be holden at Doncaster on the 29th November preceding. He died a few months after the execution (22nd March, 1322), of the unfortunate Earl of Lancaster.‡

I can discover no evidence that either of the brothers Graystock married Joan Burnell. Ralph married Margery, widow of Nicholas Corbet, and daughter and heiress of Hugh, Baron Bolebeck, by whom he had a son Robert, who paid subsidy for lands at Morton-on-Swale, 1st Edward III. (1327). Perhaps the differences between the Graystocks and the Despencers, favourites of the King, may account for the marriage not taking place. Sir Edward, son of Sir Philip Burnell, heir of Bishop Burnell,§ had married Olivia, daughter of Hugh le Despencer, and died *s.p.* in 1315. The Bishop himself had always espoused the Royal cause and to King Henry and his son Edward I., he was indebted for his many advancements. But neither Dugdale nor the Visitations of Shropshire indicate a Joan Burnell, who appears to have been the ward of her uncle, the Chancellor and Bishop, and heir to the manor of Kirkby Overblow, &c.

That the marriage of Joan did not take place within the stipulated five years from 1275 seems also evident from the fact that the Bishop

* *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 3rd Edward I., m. 4 d.

† Dugdale's *Baronage* i, 740.

‡ *See* Leadman's *Battles fought in Yorkshire*, page 49.

§ *Cal. Gen.*, ii., 464.

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in 9th Edward I. (1280), obtained from the King a charter of free warren "*in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Morton-super-Swale, Kirkeby Orblawere et Osmunderle in com. Ebor.*"* Thus we find in 1280 the Bishop claiming, by virtue of this charter, all game found within the manors of Kirkby Overblow, &c. Previous to this time it had been royal property, and no doubt trespassing and appropriation had been frequent.

Within five years of this time, 1284-5, Isabel, Countess of Albemarle, was returned as lady of the manor of Kirkby Overblow, which she held of the heirs of Percy for the fourth part of a knight's fee. She had long been a widow. Her husband died in 1255, and on the 20th November Henry III. (1268), the King granted the marriage of the widow Isabel, then aged 31, to his second son Prince Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, but the marriage did not come off. The Prince instead was married in 1269 to her youngest daughter, Aveline de Fortibus, eventually the sole heiress of her father.† She died in 1272 and the Prince married (secondly) Blanche, Queen of Navarre. He died in 1297 leaving no issue, and his vast properties reverted to the Crown. He had succeeded to the great Honour of Lancaster in 1267, and in 1272 on the death of his father, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., he succeeded to the lordship of the Castle and Honour of Knaresborough.‡ In the same year that Bishop Burnell obtained his charter of free warren in Kirkby Overblow, the famous writs of *Quo Warranto* were issued, and the Prince was called upon to shew by what warrant he claimed free chase in Knaresborough Forest, including its appurtenances in Plumpton, Folyfayt, Kirkebi Orblawre, Kesewyk, Wytheton, Westhow, Hubie, Ryghton, Lindeley, Tymble and Blubberhuses &c. He produced the charter of Henry III., granting to his father, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, free warren throughout his demesne lands.

The Prince, at any rate, by his marriage with the daughter of the Countess of Albemarle had a *primâ facie* claim to the manor of Kirkby Overblow. But the Countess was then living and survived all her issue, and she disputed his claim to free chase, &c., within her manor, and a costly suit followed, but at length the court found in her favour, only excepting that the Prince was to have the right to hunt in Swindon Wood and to all attachments and amercements of the same, by the metes and bounds following, namely: "beginning from the bank of the Werf and so ascending by the beck which runs through the town of Witheton [Weeton] between the wood of Rigton and of Swindon, enclosing Holker, and so by the said beck

* *Cal. Charter Rolls*, 9th Edward I., and *see* Gale's *Reg Hon. de Richm.*, p. 136.
† *Coll. Top. et Gen.* (1839), page 264 ‡ *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 276.

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up to the ditch (syke) which runs through the middle of the town of Waleton and so descending between the covert of Swindon Wood from the field of Kirkeby as far as the bank of Werf, taking all the esplees thereof forthcoming from the said wood, as in herbage, pannage of hogs, as well demesne as foreign, minerals found, honey and wax, animals said to be waifs, if any chance to be found, and eyries of birds of prey, to take, give and sell estovers at will, and all other esplees which appertain to the same wood, without view or livery of any Forester of the said Earl or of his ancestors, and doing all other things as of her own demesne wood. And that the said Earl or his ancestors ought not to have anything in the wood, save hunting and attachments of the same and this within the metes and bounds aforesaid." This was the Lady's petition in 1279-80.

The Countess died at the age of 56 in 1293, having conveyed most of her property to the Crown. This included Harewood and Kirkby Overblow, and the events following the acquisition of these valuable properties by the Crown, form a remarkable episode in their history.

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CHAPTER IV.

Kirkby Overblow: Manorial Records from the Fourteenth to the Present Century.

THE galaxy of illustrious names hitherto connected with our parish has perhaps few equals in local history, and succeeding events also form a curious and engrossing story. For seventeen years following the death of the Countess of Albemarle the King retained the manors of Harewood and Kirkby Overblow in his own hands. Here I may state that it was one of the prerogatives of royalty that on the death of a peer without surviving issue, or whose heirs were under age, the lands of such subject were appropriated by the Crown and so held until the heirs attained their majority. In the case of males this seems always to have been at the age of 21, and of females at the age of 14, but by the Statute of Westminster, passed in the time of Chancellor Burnell, a trustee of the manor of Kirkby Overblow from about 1275 to 1280 (*see* page 24), two additional years were granted in the case of the heir-female, extending her majority to the age of 16, for no other reason apparently than to benefit her ward.

The Countess having left no surviving issue, the King enjoyed the fruits of these manors with but little concern as to their rightful heirs, nor do I find any record of an enquiry upon the subject until after the death of the puissant King Edward I. In 1309 a jury was empanelled on the petition of Warin de Insula and Hugh de Courtenay, as heirs-at-law of the late Countess, and it was then declared that the said Warin and Hugh were the rightful heirs to the manors of Harewood and Kirkby Overblow, &c. In the next year (1310) it was found that Robert, son of Warin de Insula, and Hugh de Courtenay, were heirs of the said manors, but the Crown was not disposed to part with them until both heirs were of full age. The circumstances are explained in the following original document which I find among the Close Rolls of 4th Edward II.:

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GRANT OF MANORS OF HAREWOOD AND KIRKBY OVERBLOW, A.D. 1310.

To Walter de Gloucester escheator this side Trent. Order to deliver to ROBERT DE INSULA son and heir of Warin de Insula seizure of the manors (among others) of Harewood and Kirkby Oreblower co. York upon the death of ISABEL DE FORTIBUS, late Countess of Albemarle, a tenant in chief of the late king which the said Warin prayed the late king to deliver to him as next heir of the said Isabella, but the late king retained them in his hands on account of the minority of Hugh de Curteney then in his wardship, by reason of the claim thereto that his nearest relations made for him before the king and his council, which Hugh, upon attaining his majority, prayed to have livery of the same as his inheritance, but he was answered that they must remain in the King's hands until the said Robert, then a minor in the King's wardship, came of age, for the same reason as they were retained in the King's hands during the minority of the said Hugh; the said Hugh and Robert, having both come of age, have sought to have livery of the same manors and have appeared before Robert de Brabazon and his fellows, justices of Oyer and Terminer; it was found by process before them that the said Robert and Hugh acknowledged that the manors of (Heyford Waryn, &c.) Harewode and Kirkeby Oreblower with the exception of a messuage and carucate of land in Loftehous within the said manor of Harewood ought to descend to the said Robert as next heir of said Isabella as of the inheritance falling to her from the part of Margery, late wife of Baldwin de Vernon, grandmother of the said Isabella and kinswoman of said Robert because the said Isabella died without an heir of her body, as appears by the said process, the king having taken homage from the said Robert for the said manor.

The like to John de Hothum escheator beyond Trent to deliver seizin to the said Robert of the manors of Harewod and Kirkbye Oreblower, co. York, excepting a messuage and a carucate of land in Lofthous within the manor of Harewod.

To Walter de Gloucester Escheator. Order to deliver to Hugh de Curteneye seizin of . . . and a messuage and carucate of land in Lofthous. Robt. de Insula and said Hugh having acknowledged the same ought to descend to said Hugh as nearest heir to said Isabella, as of the inheritance falling to her of the part of Baldwin de Vernun her grandfather and kinsman of said Hugh, because she died without an heir of her body, the king having taken homage of the said Hugh for the premises.

The like to John de Hothum escheator beyond Trent to deliver to said Hugh seizin of said messuage and carucate of land in Lofthous.

Next among the Close Rolls of 6th Edward II. (1312) I find the following mandate concerning these same manors:

To him who supplies the place of the Treasurer and to the Barons of the Exchequer. Order to acquit Master Andrew de Tang of 80*l.* yearly from July 18th in the 4th year of the king's reign for the manor and borough of Harewood and the manor of Kirkby Urblawere, committed to him by the late King on Feb. 15th in the 28th year of his reign, during the minority of Robert, son and heir of Warin de Insula, rendering therfore the above yearly sum, the present King having, on July 18th aforesaid, taken the homage of the said Robert, then of full age, for all the lands that his father held in chief which he ordered Roger de Wellesworth escheator this side Trent to deliver to him

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By these orders the manor of Kirkby Overblow passed to the family of De Insula or De Lisle of Rougemont in Harewood parish. In 1348 John de Insula, who was one of the founders of the Order of the Garter, released to Sir Richard Tempest, Knight, all his rights in the advowson of the church of Kirkby Overblow.* This distinguished noble, John de Insula, who was a commander in the wars of the Black Prince, died from the effects of an arrow-shot in Gascony in 1356. He left a son Robert, who died without issue, and a daughter Elizabeth, married to William de Aldburgh, the builder of Harewood Castle, who succeeded to the lordships of Harewood and Kirkby Overblow.† He died in 1377 and was buried in the old church at Aldborough near Boroughbridge. Neither the Aldburghs nor their predecessors the De Lisles, appear to have ever resided at Kirkby Overblow. In 1378 their principal tenant here was a John de Rodon, who, in the poll-tax imposed in that year, was assessed at the rate of an esquire, viz., 3s. 4d. He had then in his service a man servant and two maid servants, each of whom were taxed at 4d. He was no doubt a member of the old family of Rawdon, of Rawdon, in the parish of Guiseley. In the ancient church at Guiseley is a memorial window inscribed to Francis Rawdon and his wife Dorothy daughter of William Aldburgh, *armiger*, who died in 1660 after a wedded life of 57 years. The arms of Rawdon, Follifoot, and Beckwith appear in the window together with this coat: argent, on a fess, sable, three escallops of the first, a canton ermine, impaling argent, a fess between three cross crosslets azure (Aldburgh).

William de Aldburgh's son William dying without issue in 1391, the estates descended to the two daughters of the elder William, as co-heiresses. The eldest, Elizabeth de Aldburgh, married (1) Sir Brian Stapylton of Carlton, near Snaith, and (2) Sir Richard Redman of Levens in Westmorland, who was Speaker of the House of Commons, and who died in 1426.‡ Her sister Sybil de Aldburgh was the wife of Sir William Ryther, of Ryther Castle, who died in 1440, and of whose illustrious family I have already discoursed at length in the chapters on Ryther in my LOWER WHARFEDALE volume.

In 16th Richard II. (1393), a fine was entered between Sir Robert Constable, of Flamborough, Kt., and Sir Peter Tilly, Kt., plaintiffs, and William de Ryther and Sybil his wife, and Elizabeth, late wife of Sir Robert Stapelton, Kt., defendants, respecting 40 marks going out of the manors of Harwode and Kereby, with the appurtenances,

* *Dodsworth MSS.* 85 fo. 121 b.

† *Dodsworth MSS.* 159 fo. 194 b.

‡ For pedigree of Redman *see* my *Lower Wharfedale*, pages 470-1.

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and of 60 messuages, 20 tofts, 100 acres of meadow, 1000 acres of pasture, with appurtenances in Harewood, Kereby, East Keswick, and Kirkby Overblow.*

By the will of Sir Richard Redman, dated May 1st, 1424, the manors of Kirkby Overblow and Kereby were bequeathed to Brian Stapilton, son of Sir Brian Stapylton, first husband of Elizabeth de Aldburgh, when he should come of age, but conditionally that neither he nor his heirs should disturb or dispute with his successors, the Redmans, in their possession of the castle and manor of Harewood. In the event of any such disturbance or litigation ensuing, the two manors of Kirkby Overblow and Kereby were to revert to the heirs of Redman. Both families, however, continued to enjoy their respective estates in peace for many generations, and Kirkby Overblow, with Kereby, remained with the Stapeltons until its sale by Sir Richard Stapelton, Kt., to Sir Wm. Mearing in 1564.

In 1567 there was a final concord made between Brian Stapelton, son and heir apparent of Sir Richard Stapelton, and Sir William Babthorp, Kt.,† Christopher Twyselton, Esq., Thomas Meyring and John Langton, gents, respecting the sale of the manor of Kirkby Overblow, including 18 messuages and 12 cottages, 20 tofts, one dovecote, with some 1300 acres of land and 20 acres of wood in the same and in Kereby. The sum of £300 was paid for the same by the four parties named. The Mearings were closely related to the Stapeltons; Sir Richard Stapelton, of Carlton, having married for his second wife, Elizabeth, widow of William Mearinge, by whom he had two sons, William and Richard. The latter was born at Kirkby Overblow in 1562, and in his 18th year was admitted a fellow commoner of Caius College, Cambridge. The first wife of his half-brother, Brian Stapelton, of Carlton, was the Lady Eleanor, daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, whose kinsman, George Neville, esquire, was party to the purchase of lands in Carlton and Snaith from the above Sir Richard Stapelton in 1564.

The Stapeltons of Carlton and Wighill were, as related in my *Lower Wharfedale*, of the same stock, and Katherine,‡ daughter of Henry Stapelton, of Wighill, who died in 1631, married Sir George Twisleton, of Barley, near Selby, who was created a baronet in 1629. He left no issue, and his widow married Sir Henry Cholmley and had several children. The Cholmleys were lords of the manors of Ingleton and Bentham, co. York.§

* *Harl. MSS.*, Vol. 802.

† He was one of the Queen's Council in the North, a famous lawyer, and son of William Babthorp, of Osgodby, gent.

‡ The pedigree in the Wilson MSS. gives her name as Mary.

§ *See* my *Craven and North-West Yorkshire Highlands*, pages 187, 205, &c.

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Sir Richard Cholmley was brother-in-law to Henry Neville, 5th Earl of Westmorland, whose vast possessions were forfeited by his son, the 6th Earl, for having joined in the great religious rebellion known as the "Rising in the North." The Nortons of Norton Conyers, the Percies of Spofforth, and the Johnsons of Lindley and Walton Head, at Kirkby Overblow, were all concerned in that disastrous enterprise. Thus we see that the families of Neville, Stapelton, Cholmley, and Twisleton were all related, and all had a greater or lesser interest in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. The Twistletons were of the same stock as the Barons Saye and Sele. John Twisleton, Esq., of Drax, near Snaith, married the Hon. Elizabeth Fiennes (elder daughter and co-heiress of James, second Viscount Saye and Sele, by his wife Dorothy, elder daughter and co-heiress of John Neville, Lord Latimer), by whom he had an only child, Cecilia, who became the wife of George Twisleton, Esq., of Woodhall, in the parish of Womersley.* A Philip, son of Robert de Saye, of Moreton Saye, and rector of Hodnet, near Market Drayton, appears to have acted as a trustee of lands belonging to the Leyburnes at Great Berwick, co. Salop, in 1308. This manor had been the property of the Despencers, a daughter of which house had married the heir of Bishop Burnell, as previously related (*see* page 25), a trustee of the manor of Kirkby Overblow in 1275.

The Twisletons were in all probability descended from the Twisletons of Twisleton, near Ingleton, in the Hundred of Lonsdale, where a Dominus Willelmus de Twisleton, and a Reginald de Twisleton, are recorded as living at Ingleton in 1297.† John Twisleton, alderman and goldsmith of London, married Alice, daughter of Ralph Latham, goldsmith, of Upminster Hall, in Essex,‡ who purchased the Barley Hall estate, near Selby, and died in 1525. His son, Christopher Twisleton, who was party to the purchase of the manor of Kirkby Overblow in 1567, married Anne, daughter of John Beer, Esq., of Dartford, Kent.§ He died in 1581.‖ Fiennes Twisleton, only son of the above George Twisleton, was, I may add, a captain on board the *Phœnix* at the ever-memorable relief of Derry in July, 1689—a siege heroically defended by the Rev. George Walker, D.D., whose father had been for some years vicar of Stapelton's manor of Wighill, near Tadcaster.¶

* *See* the Case of Col. Thos. Twisleton, of Broughton Castle, co. Oxford, in relation to the Barony of Saye and Sele, to be heard before the Lords' Committee for Privileges, June, 1781, with pedigree of Twistleton and Fiennes, Minutes of Evidence, &c. Printed in 1847. *See* also *Yorks. Archæl. Jl.*, xv., page 166.

† *Yorks. Record Series*, xv., 9. ‡ *Plumpton Correspondence*, page 235.

§ *Ibid.*, page 245. ‖ *Inq. p.m.*, 24th Elizabeth.

¶ *See* my *Two Thousand Years of Tadcaster History*, page 99.

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After the death of Christopher Twisleton the manor passed in moieties and was again divided as the lands were sold and descended through various owners. In 1581 Edward Wright and Agnes his wife, conjointly with Richard Coates and Margaret his wife, purchased of William Yaxley, Esq., certain property in Kereby, together with a moiety of the manor of Kirkby Overblow. Then in 1590 Richard Coates disposed of his moiety of the moiety of the manor to James Hird and Agnes his wife, and next year the Stapeltons disposed of their interest in the manor to Henry and Robert Norton. The latter parted with his share of the manor, and certain property in Whitkirk, at Michælmas, 1591, to Leonard Brough, gent., and Henry Fourd. In 1598 the Nortons' portion was in possession of Lawrence Edwards, who in the same year purchased of the Wrights and Knaptons a messuage and lands in Kirkby Overblow.

Thus the manorial interests have gradually dwindled, having been parted with as the lands have passed to different owners. Early in the 19th century the Shore and Sheepshanks families were the principal landowners. The Shores are an old Sheffield family, from whom descended William Shore, for many years a banker in Sheffield. He died in 1822. His son took the surname of Nightingale in pursuance of the will of his maternal uncle, Peter Nightingale, Esq., of Lea, and was father of the celebrated Florence Nightingale. The elder brother of William was Samuel Shore, who was High Sheriff of Derby in 1761 and died in 1828, aged 90. His second wife was the only daughter and heiress of Freeman Flower of Gainsborough and Clapham, who died in 1797, having left the Low Hall estate, Kirkby Overblow, to his son-in-law, the above Samuel Shore. Mrs. Jane Shore, his widow, died about 1850. The Low Hall property, with the manorial rights, was sold to William Fenton Scott, Esq., of Woodhall. It may be noted as affording a remarkable instance of the survival of an ancient feudal custom, now rendered obsolete by the Game Acts, that at this time the manorial title included the right to shoot six pheasants annually in Swindon Wood. This was a prerogative doubtless derived from the 13th century concession to Prince Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, to have free chase in Swindon Wood, which lay within the lordship of Kirkby Overblow, though reckoned parcel of the Forest of Knaresborough (*see* page 26 . The history of the interesting old Low Hall homestead will be separately described.

At the present time the most considerable landowner in the township is the Earl of Harewood. But in addition to Lord Harewood's estate and the Low Hall lands, now owned by Thomas Lister Ingham, Esq., there are many smaller freeholders.

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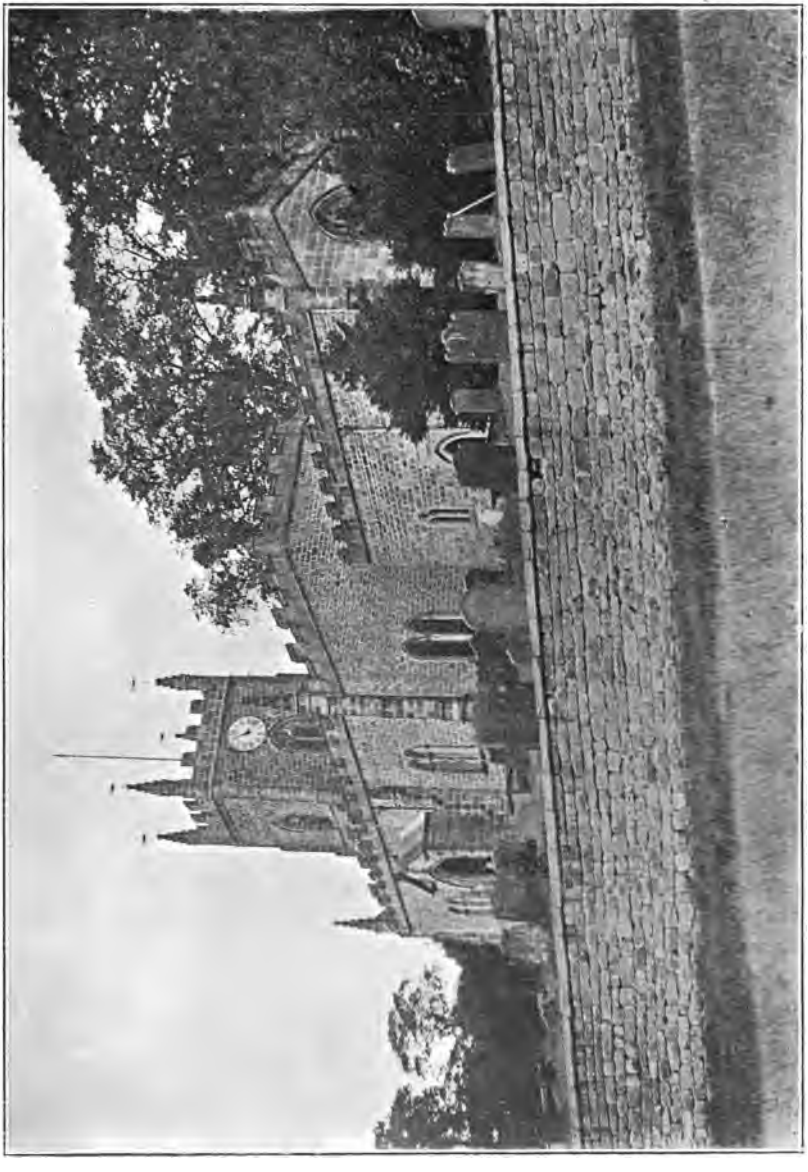

THE PARISH CHURCH, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

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CHAPTER V.

The Parish Church of Kirkby Overblow.

THAT memories of bygone races, of changes of life and dynasty, of quaint ceremonies, manners and customs rooted, perhaps, deep down in the dim ages of superstition, gather round our old parish churches! Their crumbled stones seem to embody the records of the parish from its very birth, and upon their walls we read the stories of the living past, while in the dust around the sacred piles are gathered the centuries of weal and woe that make up the life of every ancient parish.

When the parish of Kirkby Overblow was first formed we have no definite knowledge. But we know that upon the division of the dioceses the parishes were formed on the lines of the old territorial or tribal arrangements, which had preceded the creation of the heptarchic kingdoms.* These might consist of a single township, or, as in the case of Kirkby Overblow, of a cluster of townships constituting a parochial division, the priest's share or parish of a single priest. But long before this happened in the eighth century, or earlier, Christianity had been, I doubt not, preached in our midst. In the opening chapter I have referred to the old holy-well of St. Helen, and the existence of this ancient tutelary spring so near the mother church is specially interesting, as it enables us, perhaps, to trace the springs of local Christianity to their very source in far-off Roman times. And what a picture of holy teaching and of long-continued worship on one spot does not this favoured site suggest! This is no haphazard or fanciful speculation. Haddan, indeed, regards the attestation of the British Bishops at Arles in 314, as proving the existence of diocesan episcopacy in the British church, and testimony is not lacking to the existence of a priesthood at that time.

Often in later times a beautiful preaching cross was erected close to the holy-well, or if the old well failed or fell into disuse, as at Bisley in Gloucestershire, the cross was erected directly over it.

* *See* Stubbs's *Constit. Hist. of England*, i., 225.

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For this in turn was substituted a building of wood or stone, and if erected in Norman times, the older cross, if of stone, was often broken up and built into the walls of the later church. But in any case it was, as a rule, not far from the holy-well where the people had first gathered, perhaps in the old pagan days.*

The inhabitants of Kirkby Overblow have always been proud of their historic holy-spring, and in 1811 a sum of £32 11s. 5d. was expended by the surveyors in repairing it and walling it round. Perhaps the original church was dedicated to St. Helen, but in the 14th and 15th centuries the tendency seems to have been towards superseding purely local saints by the favourite names out of the service-books. Subsequently it seems to have been the policy of the Reformers to do away with the ordinary calendar-saints and to adopt the very non-committal dedication to All Saints.† A great many of our most ancient churches have changed their ascriptions to All Saints, and this is notably the case in Wharfedale. For many centuries, at any rate, the church at Kirkby Overblow has borne the dedication to All Saints.

That the church existed before A.D. 1083 is evident from the fact that while it is not specially mentioned in *Domesday*, the vill itself is described as CHERCHEBI. Hence the inference that the Saxon church was of no value in 1083, owing to the Norman ravages and depopulation which had reduced the taxable lands of the manor by nearly one half. The *Domesday* inquest was intended merely as a table of values, and what was of no value at the time of the inquisition was not entered. As elsewhere explained it by no means follows that where a priest or church are not mentioned in the *Survey*, none existed.‡ There are well-ascertained Saxon churches now existing wholly or in part, unrecorded in the Conqueror's rate-book. And as regards the parish of Kirkby Overblow there is one feature of the church, which I will refer to presently, that seems to suggest a probability that in the 8th century when the church at York with its thirty altars was rebuilt, church extension was going on in the surrounding district. The existence also of a Norman chapel-of-ease (the present church) at Stainburn, affords additional evidence of the pre-existence of the mother church at Kirkby Overblow.

Following the *Domesday* record the earliest documentary allusion

* It is noteworthy that the populous and flourishing town of St. Helens in Lancashire was not known by that name as late as the 17th century. In the *Commonwealth Church Survey* it is spoken of as in the town of Windle, where is "a chapell called St. Ellen chapell."

† *See* Miss Arnold-Forster's *Studies in Church Dedications.*

‡ *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 63, &c.

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to the existence of a church, appears in an attestation of one "Henry the priest of Chircabi," to a charter of St. Peter's Hospital, York, *ca.* 1150.* The rectory at this time was probably held in moieties as there is evidence it was a little later, when in the reign of John, the De Lancasters, Barons of Kendal, presented to it.†

But in the actual building, just referred to, there is ocular proof of the existence of a church in the Saxon style. The north wall looks early and is very thick — the later window-splays being forty inches wide, but the internal face has long been concealed beneath a thick coating of plaster and limewash.‡ Upon the exterior, however, near the west end, there is a very rudely constructed doorway, now blocked; the base stands 24 inches above the level of the present flagging of the church which is 29 inches above the original earth-level. Thus from the bases of the jambs to the earth-level inside there is a space of 53 inches. The head of this doorway consists of a single stone, bow-shaped, 6 inches thick on the face, having a simple moulding, resting on equally plain jambs, without impost or capital. It has a very crude Saxon look about it; the four stones composing the jambs being of different dimensions and roughly dressed. The uppermost one on the left measures 15 by 11½ inches, the lower one 27 by 11 to 12 inches; the upper one on the right is 16 by 11 inches, and the lower one 25 by 12 inches; all face measurements, as the thickness of the stones cannot be gauged.

SAXON DOORWAY, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

It will thus be seen there is a crude representation of "long and short work," and consequently this doorway may be ascribed middle

* The charter is given in the *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. ix., page 232.

† *See ante*, page 20.

‡ Saxon walls are rarely more than 30 inches thick, and are usually built solid, with no interior rubble between the two faces. But at Heysham this is not the case, the two faces are formed of roughly-squared blocks of gritstone, with an intermediate rubble of 6 to 9 inches composed of fragments broken off the face-stones, and filled in with a hard cement made of lime, sand, sea-shells and small stones The walls vary in thickness from 27 to 32 inches

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or late Saxon. It has probably undergone some alteration at the base, as the foundation-stones are laid in even courses below it (*see* sketch), and the ground of the churchyard has also been raised for a roadway on this side of the church. The space between this later coursed-masonry and the inner face of the arch is only 53 inches high, and between the jambs 27 inches wide. Saxon doorways are usually small, or rather high and narrow, and no original doorway can have been constructed with so low an entrance as this one. But as the three courses of masonry measure 19 inches to the bases of the jambs this would give a doorway 6 feet high. The well-known Saxon doorway of the ruined church of St. Patrick, on the headland at Heysham, in North Lancashire, is about 7 feet high and 27 inches wide; the tower doorway at Kirkdale, which Rickman believes to be a portion of the original building, is a little wider, but is 8 feet high; the true base being concealed below ground. There are also similar Saxon doorways at Kirk Hammerton, Ledsham, and Laughton-en-le-Morthen in Yorkshire.

As might be expected in a large and populous parish the church underwent alteration and extension at an early period. Considerable rebuilding appears to have taken place in the 14th century. The north transept is of this date and appears to have been a private chapel, although I can find no evidence of the endowment of any chapel or oratory within the church.* In its south wall is a piscina having a plain trefoil-head, an indication that an altar has stood here, which must have joined it on the east. The window above consists of two plain lights, having a quatrefoil head, containing two fragments of ancient coloured glass. On the north side is a large window of three stained lights; in the centre is a representation of the Crucifixion, and on either side are figures of St. John and St. Mary. Beneath this window is a neat brass inscribed as follows:

In honour of the Holy Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in memory of John Walker and Ann his wife, Thomas their son, and Isabella Farquharson, their daughter. Ann Walker, by her last will and testament has caused this window to be dedicated, A.D. MDCCCXCIII.

John Walker died 5th January, 1854, aged 55, and Ann his wife, daughter of John Purchon, of Moor Allerton, died 20th August, 1844, aged 39. Both are interred in the churchyard beside the tower on the west side.

On the same north wall is a tablet of wood, painted black and

* In the Metropolitan Church of York was the Chantry of Our Lady, of the foundation of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland (d. 1537) and Mary his wife, which was maintained by a yearly rent of 100s., coming out of the parsonage of Kirkby Overblow. *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 91, page 22.

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surmounted by the arms of Dodson of Low Hall, of whom I give some account in a subsequent chapter. This memorial is to Miles Dodson, Esq., who lived through the troublous era of the Civil War and died 19th September, 1657, aged 68, and is interred here. He is piously described as "a man fearing God, charitable to the poor, and a peace-maker amongst his neighbours." Adjoining this memorial is another to a worthy woman, Elizabeth Banks, daughter of John Banks of Wetherby, and for forty-eight years a servant in the family of Mrs. Jowett of Bradford. She died in 1798, aged 70.

The church is now a substantial and spacious edifice, consisting of chancel, nave, south aisle, north transept, and massive western tower. In 1778 the building was new-roofed, repaired, flagged and paved, and Mrs. Cooper, wife of the rector, gave the communion table. In 1780 the church was again repaired, and shortly afterwards the old tower was largely rebuilt and restored, at a cost of about £250, which was met by voluntary subscriptions. The following inscription recording the circumstances appears on the south face of the tower.

TURREM HANC LABENTUM
REFICI CURAVIT
CS. COOPER, S.T.P.,
HUJUSCE ECCLESIÆ RECTOR.
ANN. DOM. 1781.

[Chas. Cooper, S.T.P., rector of this church took care to reconstruct this falling tower, A.D. 1781.].

On the same side is an octagonal sun-dial bearing the motto and date: "VIVITE, ECCE FUGIO, 1712." [Live, lo! I fly.]

As appears by a document among the parish papers, a covenant was made between Nathan Drake (rector from 1713 to 1729) on the one part, and Albany Dodson (of Low Hall) on the other part, that the parishioners should purchase a church clock, and that ten acres of land should be enclosed from the waste by Albany Dodson, and should belong to him and his heirs for ever, on condition that he regularly paid a man to wind up the clock and keep it going. Albany Dodson was also to pay £1 to the schoolmaster. A new clock was put up in 1782. In 1816 the clock was repaired at a cost of £15 by Mr. Goodall of Tadcaster; in 1823 a new face was put on and in 1831 it was repaired and cleaned by William Moorhouse of Birstwith.* In May, 1850, the churchwardens agreed that Mr. Richard Snow have two months allowed to make the church clock go in a satisfactory manner, and that the churchwardens have one month from that time to judge of its efficiency. Snow apparently did the work satisfactorily, for in that year and in 1851 he received

* *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 394.

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£6 5s. for repairs to the clock, and in 1852-4, he received £1 per annum for attending to it.

In 1789 the rector, Dr. Cooper, presented the communion plate, the silver cup excepted. In 1790 the chancel was new roofed, the east window repaired with stone, a new door made, and the battlement added; the cost, about £200, being borne by Dr. Cooper. He also in 1795 re-paved the chancel, and in 1802 generously added a new porch. The south front of the church was also raised. In 1803 he placed a stained glass window at the east end of the chancel, which was removed when the present handsome window was erected in 1882. It consists of three lights filled with beautiful full-length figures representing Faith, Hope, and Charity. The ground-work is composed of stars, with the sacred monogram alternating. The design at the base of each light is a shield bearing an emblem of the Christian virtues. The tracery lights contain the letters in Greek of Alpha and Omega, together with the sacred monogram. This window was raised by voluntary subscriptions at a cost of about £100.

A thorough restoration of the fabric took place in 1871-2, under the direction of Mr. G. E. Street, whereby many structural alterations were made and 140 additional sittings obtained. The old square deal pews were removed and handsome open benches of pitch-pine were substituted. Two new windows were made in the north wall of the nave, the chancel-arch was rebuilt, and the tower-arch and west window were thrown open. The flat plaster ceiling was also removed and replaced by an open roof. A new stone pulpit, executed by Messrs. Freeman of Sicklinghall, was also placed at the north-west end of the nave. The total cost of this important restoration was about £1200, all raised by public subscription except a grant of £35 from the Incorporated Society. The church was re-opened by the Bishop of Ripon on the 30th January, 1872.

A further improvement was effected in 1885, when the church was heated on the hot-water principle, and in 1890 the interior was first lighted with oil-lamps, suspended from the ceiling, thus doing away with the old system of candles placed in hanging brackets. In the same year a new doorway was put in the chancel by the Rev. J. J. Toogood, then rector. The chancel unfortunately took fire on the night of Dec. 3rd, 1891. The flames were observed about 10-30 p.m. and Dr. Wilson of Kirkby Overblow at once rode to Harrogate for a fire engine, which arrived at midnight, and in about three hours the flames were subdued. Much injury was done to the organ and several monuments were either destroyed or spoilt, but singularly the stained east window and the altar-table completely escaped. The damage, covered by insurance, amounted to about

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£400. The fire is supposed to have originated from the overturning of a lamp by a dog not observed in the church, as next day the charred body of a dog was found among the debris in the church. The work of restoration was done by Mr. John Hall Thorp of Leeds, at the expense of the insurance company. A new memorial tablet was put up and two new windows were erected on the south side of the chancel, and filled with cathedral glass, and cathedral glass was also put in the north window of the south aisle at the same time.

On the north wall of the chancel is a brass tablet inscribed :

In memory of the Rev. J. J. Toogood, M.A., Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, for 34 years rector of this parish, who died August 11th, 1892, aged 84. The lectern was placed in the church by the friends and parishioners who erected this tablet

Beneath this is another brass inscribed :

Erected by the parishioners in memory of the Rev. Edmund Snowden, M.A., Hon. Canon of Wakefield and Proctor of Convocation, for nearly two years rector of this parish. Died July 21st, 1894, aged 62.

In the chancel there are also memorial tablets to the Rev. William Bethell, D.D., rector, who died in 1685; the Rev. Francis Rogers, rector, who died in 1712; the Rev. Chas. Cooper, D.D., rector, who died in 1804; Christopher Bethell, Esq. and Ann his wife, of Swindon, in this parish, who both died in 1797; and William Symondson, Esq., son of the Rev. Lister Symondson, vicar of Pannal. Mr. Symondson was secretary to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and treasurer to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He died in 1775, aged 54 years.

On the north wall there is a 17th century memorial to Dame Bridget, daughter of Sir John Bouchier, of Beningbrough, co. York, the Parliamentarian and M.P. for Ripon during the Commonwealth. She was wife of the Rev. Wm. Bethell, D.D., rector of the parish, and akin to Sir James Bourchier of Felstead, Essex, whose daughter Elizabeth married, in 1620, Oliver Cromwell, the Protector.*

The inscription, though a little effusive and characteristic of the time, is in excellent Latin and it seems almost perfidy to offer a translation of it. The late Bishop Wordsworth, whose family was connected with the Favells of Kearby, told the late rector, Mr. Toogood, that it was one of the most beautiful pieces of Latin *in memoriam* which he had ever read. It appears on the tablet extended in the following form :

* One can understand the Bethells, of Swindon, siding with the Parliament during the strife with King Charles, and also for the special effort that was made by the Royalist troops to sack their family mansion at Swindon. Eventually in a daring exploit of the Royalists from Knaresborough the house was completely wrecked.

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Sep. 12, 1662. Evita decessit charissima mea Conjux Brigeta.

Epitaphium.

Brigeta Johannis Bouchier Militis,
Filia natu maxima,
Gulielmi Bethel Presbyteri,
Uxor unica,
Nobiliore tumulo digna,
Jacet hic.
Parentibus semper morigera, Conjugi suo fidelis amans obsequens,
Undecim bonæ spei tiberorum mater indulgens,
Domi custos, et curatrix sedula :
Liberorum nutrix, educatrix pia, prudensq,
Non iracunda, superba, tumens,
Sed omnibus facilis, fidelis amicis.
Proquinquis chara, dilecta proximis ·
Conjuge suo quindecim annos vixit, sine lite, sine rixa,
Nunquam simul irati, semper jucundi simul :
Quibus una eademq mæstitiæ gaudiiq materia ;
Hanc immatura mors hinc rapuit infælix puerperium !
Pariundo periit : imo : non periit sed ad cœlum pie et placide emigravit :
Maritum suum mæstum relinquens, Liberos præ ætate dispendii sui non,
Sat capaces in posterum heu, nimum capaces futuros.
A marito nunquam satis dilecta nec deflenda satis,
Qui erepto sibi unico vitæ solatio,
Exitum suum gemens præstolatur,
Et tantum sub spe resurrectionis ad vitam,
Se consolatur in Deo suo.

H. S. E.
Reverendus Vir
Gulielmus Bethel S. T. P.,
Hujusce Ecclesice per annos xxxviii.,
Rector
Qui familiam unde ortus est Ingenuam
Ingenius exornavit moribus
Obit Ann. Dom.
MDCLXXXV.

Sept. 12th, 1662. My most beloved wife Bridget departed this life.

EPITAPH.

Bridget, eldest daughter of John Bouchier Knight,
Only wife of Wm. Bethel Presbyter,
Worthy of a nobler monument,
Lies here.

To her parents always obedient, to her husband faithful, loving and submissive, | The indulgent mother of eleven hopeful children, | The guardian and careful manager of her home, | The prudent nurse and pious instructress of her children, | Not swollen with anger or pride, | But courteous to all, faithful to friends, | Dear to relations, Beloved by neighbours, | She lived fifteen years with her husband without quarrel or dispute, | Never angry together, always rejoicing together, | To whom the occasions of grief and joy were one and the same. | Untimely death snatched her away, unhappy time of travail! | She perished in child-birth, nay, she perished not, but departed piously and peacefully to

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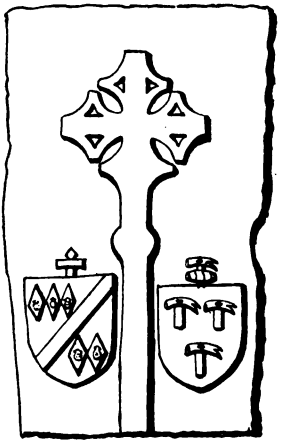
Heaven, | Leaving her sorrowing husband and children, on account of their age, not capable of grasping their loss, | But, alas, will be too capable in the future. | By her husband never enough beloved, nor enough to be mourned, | Who, his only consolation in life being snatched from him, | Sighing, awaits his departure, and only in the hope of the resurrection to life | Consoles himself in his God.

H. S. E

The Rev. William Bethel, S.T.P., Rector of this church for 38 years, who, upright, by his manners adorned the noble family from which he sprang, died A.D. 1685.

A brass on the north wall of the nave worthily commemorates a hero of the late war, Francis Henry Snowden, Corporal South African Light Horse, son of the above Canon Snowden. He was wounded near Elandslaagte, April 17th, 1900, whilst rescuing a comrade under fire, and died at Fort Napier Hospital, Maritzburg, on the 27th April following, aged 37 years. "Quit you like men, be strong," is the apt motto on his epitaph.

At the east end of the south aisle is a marble tablet surmounted with a beautifully sculptured head in alto-relievo, with the arms: *sa.* an escutcheon, *ar.* within an orle of owls, *or.* (Scott) quartering *gu.* a cross *ermine* between four fleurs-de-lis (Fenton). It is a memorial to Wm. Lister Fenton-Scott, Esq. of Woodhall, in this parish, Registrar-General for the West Riding during a period of 16 years, who died 8th October, 1842, aged 61. Near it is another tablet commemorating Wm. Fenton-Scott, Esq., who died in 1813, aged 66, and Mary his wife, who died in 1815, aged 58. Against this east wall is placed a 15th century tomb-slab bearing the device of a floriated cross, with a shield of arms on each side of the shaft. On the dexter side the shield has a bend sinister between five fusils, three on the dexter side and two on the sinister side of the bend, surmounted by a lozenge (?) for a crest, and on the other the shield bears three hammers (sable) two and one with crest: a hammer through a tun (Hamerton). This stone was recovered from the church floor during the restoration in 1871. The stone is much worn in parts and several of the fusils are nearly obliterated. This shield is curious; the bend sinister being of rare occurrence in armorial bearings; it is regarded as a stain or abatement in family honours. I conclude it commemorates William Plumpton, Esq., of Kirkby Overblow, brother of Robert Plompton of



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York, both illegitimate sons of Sir Wm. Plumpton, Kt. Sir William married in 1415 a second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Brian Stapleton, Kt., by whom he had a numerous family, and one of his daughters, Isabel Plumpton, became the wife of Sir Stephen Hamerton, of Hamerton and Hellifield Peel, in the parish of Long Preston. If William Plumpton, of Kirkby Overblow, also matched with a Hamerton, the fusils on the shield should properly bear each an escallop shell, and there are faint appearances of this distinction upon the stone. These arms were first adopted by Sir Robert de Plumpton, who died in 1295, the five fusils being the arms of Percy, and they were differenced by the bearing of an escallop, gules, for Plumpton, in token of this family's subordination to the Percies.* William Plumpton, the bastard, is described in 1490 as "of Kirkby Overlars, gent."†

The top of the church is rather difficult of access, being ascended by a series of ladders. The roof of the tower is slated and ridged, not covered with lead as is generally the case. There are three bells, the oldest and largest being inscribed "GOD IS MY DEFENDER, 1598," and the others "JESUS BE OUR SPEED, 1634," and "Pack and Chapman of London, Fecit, 1769."

The appurtenances of the church in 1786 comprised one silver cup (dated 1717), a pewter chalice with two plates and a scarlet velvet cushion for the pulpit. In 1789 the following additions were made; one plated chalice, one plated paten, one large plated dish and two plated plates, all dated 1789. The brass lectern was placed in the church in 1893 as a memorial of the Rev. J. J. Toogood, rector of the parish. In 1898 the brass font ewer was presented to the church by the children of Kirkby Overblow in memory of a worthy lady, Mary wife of Robert Burton, of Spacey House, who died 8th January, 1898. In the winter of 1898-9 the floor of the sacrarium was laid with encaustic tiles at the expense of Miss Snowden, as a memorial of her brother, the Rev. Canon Snowden, and during his incumbency the altar-cross, vases, and frontals and credence-table were placed in the church.

The church is said to stand equi-distant between the eastern and western oceans, and from the ample churchyard, which is 370 feet above sea-level, there is an expansive and beautiful view over the valley of the Wharfe and surrounding hills. The old terriers of the

* There is a similar anomaly upon the tomb-slab of Laurence Hamerton (d *ca.* 1470), in Long Preston Church. The slab was probably placed there by his grandson, Sir Stephen Hamerton, who married Isabel Plumpton, and died in 1500, and upon it are 5 shields of arms, one being of Hamerton empaled with *three plain* fusils, doubtless intended for Plumpton.

† *See Camden Soc. Pub*,, vol. 4 (1839), Plumpton Corres , lxxxiv., 98, &c.

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church describe the burial ground as comprising exactly one acre, which is happily suggestive of Longfellow's poetical lines :

I like that ancient Saxon phrase, which calls
The burial-ground God's-Acre ! It is just ;
It consecrates each grave within its walls,
And breathes a benison o'er the sleeping dust.

The western portion of the churchyard was added in 1849, the land for the purpose having been given by the Rev. Mr. Blunt, the rector. Opposite the porch, on the south side, is the stump of a dial-stone, probably the gift of Joshua Waite, a churchwarden in 1745, whose initials are cut upon it. He was a benefactor to the parish in various ways.* On this side of the ancient burial-ground lie generations of the oldest yeoman families of the district, including the Stables of Field House, Harlands of Lund Head and Kearby, Brearcliffes of Barrowby, Ridsdales of Low Hall and Walton Head, Dunwells of Brackenthwaite, &c. Upon the stones within the sacred enclosure are many examples of the poet's craft of varying merit. Among the older ones, the following to the memory of a young woman may be cited as perhaps the best :

Like flowers that open with the morning sun,
And die away before one course is run,
So bloomed this flower and promised much delight,
But oh ! she withered with the shade of night !
Transplanted now she ever shines
In better soil and far more happier climes.
Young people all prepare to die
As life is short and death is nigh,
Repent in time, make no delay,
I in my bloom was called away.

Neither remiss is the following metaphysical flight :

Involved in this dust, lo, here I lie,
Reader. mistake me not, it is not I,
It is my dust that in this dust remains,
My better part the heaven of heaven contains.

Another interesting old tombstone commemorates Richard Burdsall, of Chapel Hill, Kearby, who was buried on 9th March, 1766. He was a buckle-maker by trade and was father of the Rev. Richard Burdsall, the founder and pioneer of local Methodism, of whom some account will be found in the chapter on Kearby. The quaint

* This stone has been mistaken for the base of an old cross, but the present rector and myself had the soil removed and we found the initials I. W. upon it. In the churchwardens' accounts for 1751 is also an item for " Raising the dial post," which doubtless refers to this.

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and rudely-cut inscription on the stone was almost obscured by the soil having accumulated around it. It reads:

Death
Hath me [ear
Summond & i must app
Before the bar of god
My doom to hear
May thou that reads
Take notis of this text
If death wonce seaz the
Judgement is the next
August the 9th 1769.

As Burdsall died in 1766, the date below the inscription must indicate the time when it was carved.

Under the east window is the family tomb of the Fenton-Scotts of Woodhall, and near the rectory grounds, behind the chancel, are the burial-places of the Rev. J. J. Toogood and Rev. E. Snowden, rectors. On the west side of the tower is the family vault of the Walker family, of whom there is a memorial in the church. In the old portion of the ground, adjoining the west wall, is a monument to the memory of Jeremiah Bourne Faviell, of Sawley Hall, late of Stockeld Hall, who died June 19th, 1876, aged 65. His widow, who was a daughter of the late Edmund Dawson, of Barrowby Hall and Rothwell Haigh, died August 1st, 1902. All the stones in the churchyard are of local sandstone with the exception of two slabs of limestone. One of these, near the south wall of the church, commemorates the Rev. Lyster Simondson, curate of Kirkby Overblow, and in 1745 instituted vicar of Pannal, who died 9th November, 1750, aged 72.

The church and churchyard walls, stiles, and gates are repaired by the parish. The chancel is maintained by the rector. New gates for the churchyard were set up in 1816 at a cost of £3 10s., and again in 1831 three new posts were put up at a cost of £2 15s. and new gates for £3 2s. In 1786 the rector's fees for every marriage with license was 10s.; by banns 1s.; every churching 8d.; every burial 1s. 4d.; if in the south aisle of the church 3s. 4d., or in the great aisle 6s. 8d.; if in the chancel by the liberty of the rector, usually 13s. 4d. In 1817 the charge for making a grave was 1s. 6d. and mortuaries were paid throughout the parish, according to law, at 10s. each.

The old churchwardens' accounts contain many references to the provisions made for those coming to church in carriages or on horse-back from distant parts of the parish. Thus we find such entries as these:

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1754.	Spent when we asked leave to get stones for the church stable				?
1755.	Spent when we met about the church stable ...	o	1s.	od.	
1757.	Paid for church stable building	£4	4s.	1½d.	
1758.	Spent when ye stable was reared	o	1s.	od.	
1759.	Paid for stones and leading for horseing-stone ...	o	2s.	6d.	

In 1787 16 tons of slate were used in roofing the church stable, which cost £1 5s. 2d., and William Faviell was paid 19s. 9d. for doing the work. In February, 1874, it was decided to offer the stable to Mr. Rinder, to enable him to improve his cottage property, and shortly afterwards Mr. Rinder bought it for £30, and the money was devoted principally to the building of a convenient coal-house in the churchyard.

The registers of the church commence with the year 1647 but they do not contain anything which calls for particular mention. The entries, with one or two exceptions, are made without comment. They commence with this observation: "Sept. 5, 1647. William Bethell, Parson of Kirkby-overblows, took possession of the said church, since which time have been christenings, burialls, and weddings as follow."

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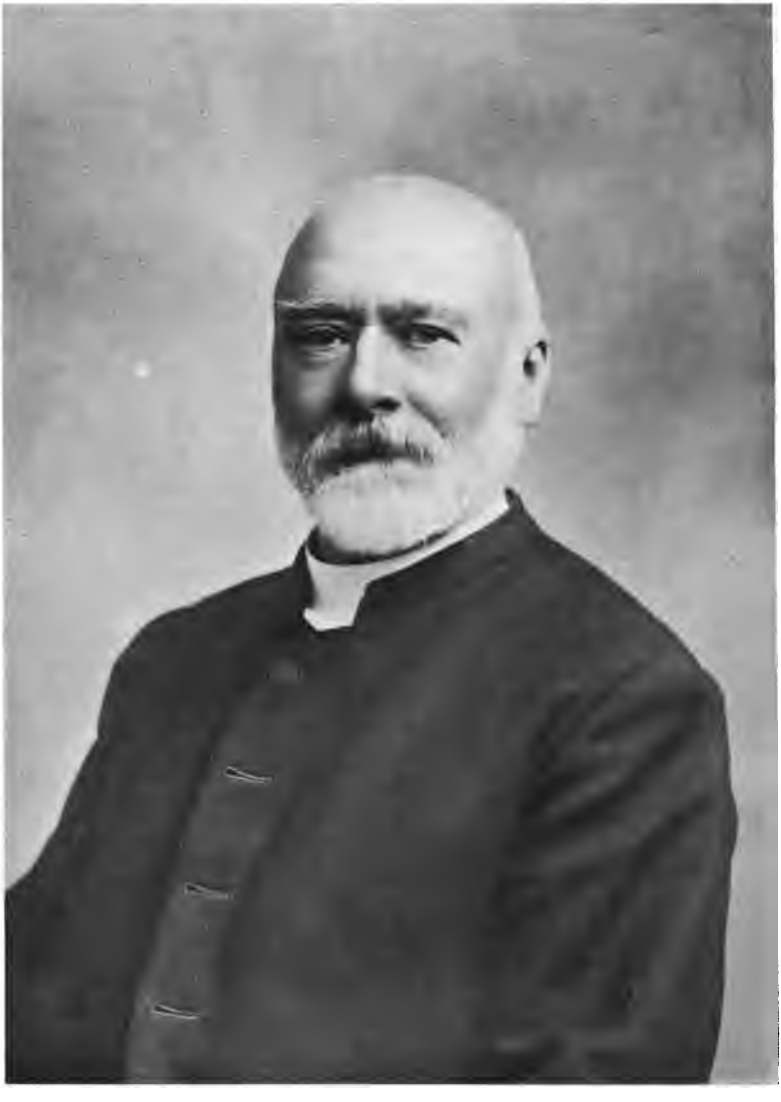

THE REV. CHARLES HANDCOCK.

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CHAPTER VI.

The Rectory and Rectors of Kirkby Overblow.

I HAVE stated that early in the 13th century, and probably earlier, the rectory was held in medieties, consequent upon a division of the manor. This splitting of benefices in rich livings like that of Kirkby Overblow—one of the most valuable in Yorkshire—is not to be deprecated in the same manner as in the case of small livings, where one incumbent may, without burthen, discharge the whole duties of the parish. But the rectory of Kirkby Overblow was richly endowed in early times by irrevocable gifts, the parish is also of wide extent, and in the provision of its spiritual needs has many charges upon it. The incumbent's position can therefore by no means be regarded as a sinecure.

When the living was consolidated I have not ascertained, but in the reign of Edward I. the advowson was held by the Crown, during the minority of the heirs of the Countess of Albemarle. Subsequently it reverted to the Percies, chief lords of the fee, and in 1348 it was conveyed by John de Lisle, of Rougemont, to Sir Richard Tempest, as executor of Henry, Lord Percy, father of the first Earl of Northumberland, who was slain at Bramham Moor in 1407.

On November 5th, 1362, according to Torre, at the supplications and submissions of Sir Richard Tempest, Kt., and William de Newport, rector of Spofforth, executors of the testament of Henry, Lord Percy; and also on the 7th November, 1362, at the submission of Robert de Ede, then rector of the church, made to the ordination of John, Archbishop of York, he the said Archbishop, by virtue of the King's license upon this account obtained, that the said Robert de Ede, rector of the church, and all his successors shall be called Provosts of the same church, and shall have all cure of souls of the parishioners thereof, and receive and dispose of all the fruits and profits thereof to be converted to the use of the church, and bear all burdens pertaining to the same:

Item: That there be four fit chaplains to celebrate masses and other divine offices in the church for ever in this subsequent form, viz.; Whereof one chaplain to be in the Cathedral Church of York, bearing the name, state and habit of one

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of the parsons of the church, amongst whom he shall be present at divine offices celebrated therein for the souls of the Archbishops and of Lord Henry de Percy and of Mary his consort, their progenitors and successors.

And the three other chaplains shall have their perpetual chantries to which they shall be presented on every vacation by the said Sir Richard Tempest and William de Newport, and the heirs of the said William, which said chaplains, being canonically instituted by the Archbishop (in reverence to the bodies of the said Lord Henry de Percy and Mary, his consort, interred in the monastery of Alnwick) shall celebrate masses and other divine offices perpetually in this manner, viz.: in the castle of Alnwyk, nigh the said monastery. That on Sundays one shall celebrate the office of the day; the second the mass of S. Trinity, and the third for the souls of the said Henry and Mary deceased. On Mondays one shall celebrate the office for the day; the second the Mass of Holy Angels, and the third for their souls aforesaid. On Tuesdays every of them shall celebrate for their souls aforesaid. On Wednesdays one shall celebrate the office of the day; the second the Mass of St. John Evangelist, and the third for their souls aforesaid. On Thursdays one shall celebrate the office of the day; the second the Mass of Corpus Christi, and the third for their souls before specified. On Fridays one shall celebrate the office for the day; the other the Mass of St. Crux, and the third for their souls aforesaid On Saturdays one shall celebrate the office of the day; the second the Mass of St. Mary the Virgin, and the third for their souls aforesaid, unless the Feasts of Nine Lections or other lawful cause do hinder. And on all holy days they shall say in the said chapel for their souls a *placebo*, *dirige*, and full offices of the dead.

Which said four perpetual chaplains shall have for their sustentation £40 of silver, viz.: to every one 50s., paid out of the fruits of the Church of Kirkby Overblow by the said Rector or Provost and his successors, quarterly in the year in the church hereof And in recompense of the damage done to the Cathedral Church of York by this appropriation, which by a lawful custom used to receive the fruits of the said Church during its vacancy, the Archbishop ordained that the said Provost for the time being do pay to him and his successors the annual pension of 20s. and to the Dean and Chapter 1s. per annum at Pentecost and Martinmas by equal portions.

After the Reformation the advowson came to the Crown and was exchanged with the Duke of Somerset.* It transpired, however, that the Duke of Somerset was not entitled to the advowson, and that it belonged to the Earl of Egremont, who therefore continued to present.† George Wyndham, Esq., the adopted heir of George O'Brien, 3rd Earl of Egremont‡ (with whose nephew, George Francis, 4th and last Earl, that title in 1845 became extinct), was created 14th April, 1859, Baron Leconfield, of Leconfield, in the East Riding. His son Henry, second Baron Leconfield, died in January, 1901, when his second son, Charles Henry, third Baron Leconfield, succeeded to the proprietorship of the advowson.

According to Pope Nicholas's Taxation (1292) the rectory is

* *See* Act of Parliament, 3rd and 4th William and Mary.

† *Ibid*, 3rd William, 383.

‡ *See* my *Two Thousand Years of Tadcaster History*, page 34.

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valued at £26 13s. 4d., and in the revised taxation (1318), consequent upon the destructions of the Scots, it is reduced to £10. In the King's Books (26th Henry VIII.) it is valued at £20 1s., and in the Parliamentary Survey (1649-53) at £60 per annum. The following pensions are recorded as payable out of the profits of the church, viz.: to the chaplain at Stainburn £4;* to the chaplains in the chapel at Alnwick £15; to the Archbishop £1; to a chantrist in York Minster £5; to a chamberlain in the same 10s.

There are a number of interesting terriers relating to the property of the church. The earliest of these is dated November 1613 and is signed by Thomas Edwards (rector), William Harrison (churchwarden), and Thomas Wilkes. It enumerates the parsonage-house with its barns, stable, dove-cote, oxhouse, waynehouse, and swine-cote, also a garden, orchard, and yard; the whole embracing an area of 1 acre 1 rood and 7 perches. There are lands and tenements in Kirk Field, Swindon Field, Cross Field, the Common Ing, and tenements in Kirkby Overblow, covering together 57 acres and 5 perches. There are also other rights in the township of Kirkby Overblow, together with "houses, lands, and tithes of corn, hay, wool, lamb, geese, ducks, chickens, calves, pigs, bees, eggs, with other privy tithes in Sicklinghall, Kereby, Netherby, Barraby and the Low Grange, Stainburn and Rigton." To the church also belongs the feed of the chapel-yard at Stainburn. There are 100 acres of glebe, and the gross income was returned in 1902 as amounting to £818, with house.

There are seven houses belonging to the glebe, with about an acre of land attached to each, which in 1786 were in the possession of Elizabeth Lawn (widow), Robert Cocket, John Blakey, Robert Drury (these in Kirkby Overblow), Hugh Bethel, Esq. (Swindon), Joseph Tate (Sicklinghall), and Peter Harland (Rigton). Each of these houses pays 4s. a year rent to the rector, and 40s. at the entrance of every new rector for admitting them tenants; as also 12s. at or upon the exchange of every tenant. Only Mr. Bethell, and after him the Earl of Harewood, pays for his farm per year 3s. 4d., and he pays 5s. more yearly for a little piece of Swindon Field taken off. These all pay at Lady Day, although the rents are due half-yearly.

The list of rectors and provosts, as recorded by Torre, begins with the year 1243. But a century before this time there is recorded, "Henry, the priest of Chircabi," who was witness to a charter of

* In the Returns of the Dissolved Chantries (1548) it is stated that the parson of Kirkby Overblow gave to the priest of Stainburn Chapel five marks (£3 6s. 8d.) yearly for his stipend. There were then 500 communicants in the parish of Kirkby Overblow.

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grant of land in Bramhope to the Hospital of St. Peter, York, *ca.* 1150.* And in 1228 there appears "Jernegan, parson of the church of Kirkby Orblawers," who was one of four defendants in an action brought by Roger de Creswell, 13th Henry III., touching the advowson of the church of Panhale.† The following records to the institution of Thos. Jaggard, 1639, are from Torre, and from that date they are continued from the registers, &c.

Instituted.	*Name.*	*Patron.*	*How vacated.*
4 Aug.. 1243	Will. de Brettegate	Will. de Lancaster	
7 May, 1305	Joh. de Fontibus	Edward I.	
12 Dec. 1313	Will. de Boresworth	Rob. de Insula, *mil.*	Res.
11 May, 1316	Joh. de Clatford	ditto.	
29 June, 1323	Ric. de Otringham	ditto.	Res.
14 Mar. 1347	Joh. de Asseby		Died‡
20 Feb., 1355	Edm. de Spynel	Ric. Tempest, *mil.*, exec. of Lord Percy	Died
1 Mar., 1361	Robert Ede	ditto.	
15 Dec., 1362	Peter de Wellom	ditto.	Res.
10 Feb., 1364	Will. de Woderove	ditto.	Res.
10 Mar., 1364	Robt. de Spytell	ditto.	Died
7 Oct., 1373	Thos. de Watton	Hen. Percy, *mil.*	Res.
21 Dec, 1382	Thos. Sparrowe de Watton	ditto.	Res.
17 Jan., 1383	Will. Sparrowe de Watton	ditto.	Died
8 June, 1387	Thos. de Anlaby	ditto.	Res.
24 July, 1394	Joh. Whitwell	ditto	Res.
17 April. 1397	Will. Farman	ditto.	Died
9 Oct , 1428	Joh. Nesse	ditto.	Res.
24 Nov., 1428	Robt. Staynley	ditto.	Died
19 May, 1442	Joh. Dene	ditto.	Died
3 Jan., 1451	Will. Bowre	ditto.	Died
Mar., 1462	Nic. Rawdon	Geo. Duke of Clarence	Res
4 Mar., 1466	Ric. Nunde	ditto.	Died
17 May, 1475	Geo. Oughtred	Henry, Earl of North.	Res.
24 Sep., 1496	Thos. (vel. Ric.) Poole	Feoffees of the Earl of Northumberland	Died
	* * * * * *		
20 Dec., 1573	Thos Lakyn, S.T.P.	Leonard Turner	Died
22 Jan., 1575	Will. Tallentyre	Hen Earl of Northbd.	Died
1588	Richard Dodson	ditto.	Died
2 June, 1613	Thos. Edwards, M.A.	ditto.	Died
27 Sep., 1639	Thos. Jaggard, M.A.	Algernon, Earl of N.	
	Will. Bethell, D.D.		Died
28 Jan.. 1685-6	Francis Rogers, M.A.		Died 1712
9 April, 1713	Nathan Drake, M.A.		Died
23 April. 1729	Thos. Hayter, D.D.		Res.

* *Thoresby Soc.*, vol ix., page 231.

† Harrison's *Gilling West*, page 61.

‡ During the two years 1347-48 half the clergy in the West Riding succumbed to the Black Death.

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Instituted.	*Name.*	*Patron.*	*How vacated.*
8 Dec., 1749	..Thos. Chapman, D.D.		
27 Nov., 1769	..Thos Metcalfe, M A.	..	..Died
4 May, 1774	..Chas. Cooper, D.D.	..	..Died
25 Oct., 1804	..Hon. Jacob Marsham, D.D. ..	..	..Died
1843	..James Tripp, B.A.	..	..Res.
18 Oct., 1847	..Hen Geo. Scawen Blunt, M.A..	..	..Res.
21 Dec , 1858	..Jon Jas Toogood, M.A.	..Lord Leconfield	..Died K.O.
Dec., 1892	..Edmund Snowden, M A. ..	ditto.	..Died K O.
Oct., 1894	..Charles Handcock	ditto.	Present rector

Such a catalogue of names can have little interest unaccompanied with biographical details. Although necessarily brief, yet some notice is requisite, especially in view of the fact that the important living of Kirkby Overblow has been held in the course of centuries by many learned, able, and distinguished men.

Of the first on the list we know nothing excepting that he was presented to the living on the nomination of William de Lancaster (not "Ancaster" as Torre writes it), the third of that name, who was Baron of Kendal, &c. A Nicholas de Brettegate appears in 1202 as party to a quitclaim concerning a free tenement in York,* where the Percies, first lords of Kirkby Overblow, had a residence in Walmgate, nearly opposite the ancient church of St. Denis.

Little can I say either of Joh. de Fontibus, rector in 1305. But as William de Rigton was Abbot of Fountains in 1311 it is possible that the above John of Fountains was in some way connected with the Abbot, who sprang from Rigton in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. Perhaps he was the Joh. de Hou'ton, a monk of Fountains, who was ordained deacon by Archbishop Gifford in 1274.†

Richard de Otringham, who was rector in 1323, no doubt took his name from the ancient village and manor of that name, near Patrington, which was an old property of the Lascelles.‡ Richard de Oteringham founded the chantry in Otteringham church *ca.* 1220, and he was the seventh Abbot of Meaux. A Richard de Otringham was ordained acolyte in Beverley Minster, 16th September, 1309, and in 1318 he was made vicar of Kneveton in the diocese of York.§ Most probably he was the same person who became rector of Kirkby Overblow.

In 1364 Will. de Woderove was rector, as he was also of Spofforth, and if he be of the Woolley family it is perhaps the earliest record of a Woodruffe of Woolley. The first mention of this family of

* *Pedes Finium Ebor*, ii., page 70.

† *Memorials of Fountains*, vol. i, page 139.

‡ *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 472.

§ *Beverley Chapter Act Book*, i., pages 253, 361, &c.

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Woolley, says Hunter, is in a deed of Stainton in 1378, to which Richard Woderouffe is a witness. The pedigree in *South Yorkshire* starts with a John Woodruffe, of Woolley, esq., Receiver of King Edward IV., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Lawrence Hammerton, of Wigglesworth in Craven. And these Hammertons, as I have shewn on page 43, were related to the Plumptons of Kirkby Overblow.

Peter de Wellow resigned in 1364 for the church of Almondbury.

Thos. de Watton, rector in 1373, was so named from Watton near Driffield, where was a Gilbertine monastery, founded in 1148 by Eustace Fitz John, lord of the Honour and Forest of Knaresborough. The site of the Abbey passed by marriage to the Bethell family, who long resided at the mansion known as Watton Abbey. In the 17th century a member of this family became rector of Kirkby Overblow.

In 1382 and 1383 we have two rectors of the name of Sparrowe, also of Watton. Whether they were father and son I have no information.* Although clerical celibacy was insisted upon throughout the Continent, and after the Norman Conquest in England also, it was strongly opposed and constantly evaded.† At Kellington, near Pontefract, for example, we have the remarkable fact of a grandfather, father, and son holding that rectory from about 1185 to 1244, when Archbishop Gray interrupted this parental succession and the rectory was put into other hands.‡

Thomas de Anlaby was rector from 1387 to 1394 when he resigned. He was rector of Spofforth in 1404. He was doubtless one of the Etton family, whose pedigree, only from the 17th century, is given in the *Heralds' Visitation* at Beverley in 1666. Jordanus de Etton and William, son of Peter de Anlaby, were benefactors to Watton Abbey. Robert, son of Lawrence de Etton, and Will. de Ferrarius of Groby, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Henry, second Lord Percy, had certain manorial rights in Cottingham,§ an ancient property of the Stutevilles, and afterwards of the Lords Wake. Joan, wife of Hugh Wake, was a niece of Helewise de Lancaster, whom I have mentioned as holding part of the manor of Kirkby Overblow.

The next rector on Torre's list is Joh. Whitwell in 1394, but as appears by the last will of Dame Margery, relict of Sir William de Aldburgh, Kt., lord of the manor of Kirkby Overblow, a Richard de Bilesfeld was rector in 1391.

* A William Sparrow, chaplain, occurs in 1396. *See Plumpton Corres.*, p. 29.

† *See* Asplin's *English Church History*. ‡ *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. ix , page 49

§ *See* Poulson's *Beverley*, i., 393, and Oliver's *Beverley*, page 463.

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Will. Farman was rector in 1397, and he was party to a feoffment of the estates of Sir Robert Plumpton in 12th Henry IV. (1411).* It would be interesting could we connect him with "Farmon the priest of Harewood," in the 9th century.† But the genealogy of a family of this name appears a little involved. I find among the freemen of York in 5th Edward III. (1331), a William Farman who is stated to be father of John. de Thornton [in Lonsdale?], and singularly at the same time are entered as freemen also William Sele and Thomas Kydd de Twisilton, names that occur in the manorial records of Kirkby Overblow. The Kidds were an old Ingleton family, and one Rich. Kyd was living at Sicklinghall in 1378.

The next rector was Joh. Nesse, in 1428, and a Joh. Nesse likewise appears among the freemen of York in 1432. This rector resigned the living within seven weeks. He was followed by Robert Staynley or Stanley (as written in his last will). In 1441 he gave 6s. 8d. towards the building of Harewood Bridge. He died in June, 1442, committing his soul "to God Almighty, St. Mary, and All Saints, and his body to be buried in the Quire before the High Altar, under a marble stone there lying."

William Bower was instituted rector in 1451, and is recorded to have died intestate, and administration was granted to Richard Redman, Esq., 24th January, 1462. Apparently he was not rector at the time of his death, as in 1452 the following transaction took place. William Medilton, esquire, gave to John Vavasour of Newton, James Hamerton, Robert Roos of North Dyghton, esquires, William Vavasour, rector of the church of Kirkby Oreblawers, and Thomas Galloway, his manors of Stockeld, Stubham, and half the manor of Bemesley, &c., in trust. Dated at Stockeld, 1452.‡ This William Middleton married a Hammerton, and his descendant, Peter Middleton, was buried in the churchyard of Kirkby Overblow, as appears by his will dated 20th September, 1549.

In 1466 we have the name of Ric. Nunde as rector. He died intestate and administration was taken 12th April, 1475.

In the 300 years preceding the Reformation we have the names of 25 rectors, or to include omissions, 27 rectors; and in the 350 years following this event the names of 18 rectors are recorded. As many of the rectors resigned the cure, this information provides no proof of their greater longevity in the second period, though it does afford some testimony to the improved conditions of life in this period as compared with the first.

* *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 239.

† *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 463.

‡ Turner's *Yorks. County Mag.*, 1891, page 271.

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The first name on Torre's list after the Reformation is Thomas Lakyn, in 1573, but it would appear that he succeeded a Richard Poole, who is stated to be rector of this church, and on 23rd January, 1573, administration of his effects was granted to his sister Agnes Hanley, widow.

The rector instituted in 1575 was Will. Tallentyre, and upon one of the beams in the choir was this inscription: "Gulielmus Talentyre, rector, Oxoniensis Coll.: Reginæ, quondam Socius, hanc fabricam construxit." He died in 1588 and by his will recommended his soul to God Almighty, and his body to be buried in the chancel nigh to his brother. The Talentyres were related to the ancient family of Coghill of Coghill Hall, Knaresborough.* Thos. Coghill, gent, of Knaresborough, who died in 1585, married Isabella Talentyre of Carlisle, sister of the rector of Kirkby Overblow.

This rector was succeeded by Richard Dodson, of the family of Low Hall, whose pedigree I record on page 78. He died in 1612 and was buried in the chancel "on the north side of the bluestone."

Before the outbreak of hostilities in King Charles's time, Thomas Jaggard was rector, and he was followed by the Rev. Wm. Bethell, D.D., who first appears as rector in 1647, when the registers commence. He was of a local family who had sided with the Parliament during the war. They were long resident at Swindon Hall in this parish, "a goodly house," which had been almost totally wrecked by the Royalist soldiers during the great strife. In the Parliamentary *Survey* of *ca.* 1652 it is recorded of Kirkby Overblow that William Bethell "diligently performeth the cure." He died in March, 1685, but apparently he did not hold the rectory after the Restoration, as I find by an inquisition made in 1672 that a Francis Sherwood is described as "vicar of Kirkby Overblow." It appears that Sir Edwin Sandys, prebendary of Wetwang (1568—1602), with consent of the Archbishop, his father, had bequeathed (among others) to the *vicar* of Kirkby Overblow and his successors an annuity of £20.† In 1672 it was affirmed that his son and successor, Richard Sandys, who had been a colonel in the Parliamentary army, had not paid the same to the then *vicar*, Francis Sherwood, for seven years past. Another of the many instances of the misappropriation of a local benefaction at this period. It has probably to do with the dissolved chantries, which may concern the origin of the school. Lawton says the four chaplains received £20 annually out of the profits of the church (*see* page 38).

The next institution was in Jan., 1685-6, some ten months after the

* *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 312.

† The vicars of Wetwang and the vicars of the prebend were distinct.

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death of Dr. Bethell. Francis Rogers, the new rector, was apparently of a York family, as he is described as of York at the time of his marriage with Elizabeth Aikeroyd of York, in the Minster, April 1st, 1684.* The date readily suggests the inference that Mr. Rogers ran the risk of making an "April fool" of himself on his wedding-day. But the sequel from the registers is that he lived happily with his wife for over eleven years, when she was taken from him by death in July, 1695, having borne him six children. Mrs. Rogers was apparently of a less robust constitution than her husband, whose health perhaps had given way through the bringing up of so many children. But the rector himself seems to have been a man of exceptional vigour of body and firmness of nerve. Thoresby, for example, tells us in his *Diary* for May 17th, 1703, that he once came to Kirkby Overblow on a visit to parson Rogers, "whose furious dog," he remarks, "I was the less concerned for, because of his master's art, who when a young spark at the University has frequently boxed the fiercest mastiffs they could set upon him, and can even yet by a peculiar cast of his eye make the stoutest turn tail, or if by chance one madder than ordinary venture to encounter him, a few cuffs make him retreat yelling." This is a remarkable statement, for any human being voluntarily attacking with his unaided fists the "fiercest mastiff," is a deed of daring probably never before heard of.†

Mr. Rogers in 1709 was collated to the prebend of Grindall in York Minster. He died in 1712, and was buried at Kirkby Overblow Oct. 24th. He was succeeded by the Rev. Nathan Drake, M.A., son of Joseph Drake by his wife, a Pulleyn of Burley. He had been master of the Grammar School at Snaith, and vicar of Market Weighton from 1689 to 1695, and of Sheffield from 1695 to 1713, when he was instituted to the rectory of Kirkby Overblow. Before his death in April, 1729, aged 69, he appears to have been assisted by Francis Drake, a relative, whose name appears as "curate" in the registers for 1727. Mr. Drake was a differently-tempered man

* A family of this name, whose pedigree is given in Hunter's *Deanery of Doncaster*, was long seated at Netherthorpe, near Rotherham.

† The Rev. M. B. Wynne, M.A, himself a parson who has had considerable experience with fierce dogs, and is author of a well-known book on the mastiff, tells me the story is incredible He says no dog, however savage, will meddle with a man if he have some particular strong-smelling drug about his clothes; otherwise it is impossible to frighten a sound, untamed, and savage mastiff. He tells me of an incident that happened at Stathern in the seventies; a strong man offered to fight a keeper's night-dog (a bitch) for half-a-crown. The encounter took place. The dog was muzzled, and the man had a strong ash-plant to thrash her with. Immediately she was let loose she flew straight at his throat, and felled him backwards, breaking his thigh. He regarded this as pure accident, and vowed that as soon as he was well he would have another turn with her. And so he had. The dog again made a quick and savage leap at his head, knocked him down and again broke his thigh! "And," adds Mr. Wynne, "any well-trained night-dog would have served your parson Rogers just the same."

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to his predecessor, the dog-fighting parson Rogers. He was fond of rural contemplation, devoted to literature and antiquities, and was a kinsman of the celebrated historian of York, Francis Drake.* He was well acquainted with Thoresby, the antiquary, in whose *Correspondence* there is a letter dated Sheffield, 27th November, 1707, from which we learn that the rector of Kirkby Overblow was "second cousin to Mr. Nathan Drake, my late dear namesake, and brother to cousin Drake of Pontefract." This Nathan was an officer in the Royalist army during the Civil War, and assisted in the defence of Pontefract Castle during the siege. A descendant of the same name, Nathan Drake, M.D., was author of a four-volume work entitled *The Gleaner*, being essays selected and arranged from scarce and neglected volumes. It was published in 1811. He was also author of two volumes entitled *Evenings in Autumn* (1822), which refers to the beautiful country about Rievaulx Abbey and Helmsley, and in one part he speaks of his relatives in the North. The family was long seated in the old parish of Halifax, being a branch of the Devonshire family which produced the famous Elizabethan navigator, Sir Francis Drake.

Mr. Drake was succeeded by the celebrated divine, the Rev. Thos. Hayter, D.D., who, upon his resignation of the rectory of Kirkby Overblow in 1749, became Bishop of Norwich, and in 1761 he was translated to the Bishopric of London. He was a native of Chagford in Devonshire, and was one of the executors and one of the three residuary legatees of Archbishop Blackburn in 1743. Bishop Hayter died at Cambridge in 1762, leaving a fortune of about £25,000.

In 1760 the living was sequestrated, and in the parish register Thomas Metcalfe signs as sequestrator in 1762. His death is recorded in the registers in the following form: "The Rev. and Worthy Thomas Metcalfe, rector of this parish, died at Busby Hall, 1774."† He was descended from the famous Chancellor Metcalfe, of Nappa Hall, Wensleydale.

As will be gathered from the text, the succeeding rector, the Rev. Dr. Cooper, was a great benefactor to the church and parish. He was a prebend of Durham Cathedral, and died at the age of 80, leaving behind him the memory of a good and honoured name. The parish register has this entry: "In 1804 the Rev. and Worthy Chas. Cooper, D.D., rector of this parish, died Oct. 9th. Buried the 18th, 1804, by me John Metcalfe, curate."

* A Memoir of Francis Drake, F.S.A., F.R.S., appears in the *Yorks Archæl. Jl*, vol. iii., pages 33-54.

† *See* my *Richmondshire*, page 148. In the church of St. Maurice, York, is a memorial to Elizabeth, his daughter, who died in 1772, aged 15.

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His successor, the Hon. and Rev. Jacob Marsham, D.D., was the third son of Robert Marsham, 2nd Baron Romney, F.R.S., D.C.L., &c., by his wife Priscilla, daughter and heiress of Chas. Pym, of the Island of St. Christopher. His grandmother was the eldest daughter and co-heiress of the celebrated Admiral, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Kt. He was born in 1759, and married the only daughter and heiress of Joseph Bullock, Esq., of Caversfield, Oxon. He was a canon of St. George's, Windsor, prebend of Rochester and Wells, and vicar of Wateringbury, Kent. During his incumbency of Kirkby Overblow his nephew, the Rev. Jacob J. Marsham, acted as curate, and built for himself a house here called Castle Cottage. Dr. Marsham died in 1843, having been rector of the parish for a period of nearly forty years.

The Rev. J. Tripp, next rector, was of an old Somersetshire family, from whom descend the Barons Tripp, of Holland. It did not seem likely on his appointment to Kirkby Overblow that he would live very long. He had never been very strong, and when near middle life was obliged, through some affection of the lungs, to go to Madeira. On his return and shortly before he settled here, a certain nobleman had asked Lord Egremont to give the rectorship to his son. Lord Egremont answered that he was sorry, but could not, as he had just given it to Mr. Tripp. "Ah," replied the noble lord, "then we shall have to wait but a few months as poor Tripp is broken down and cannot last very long!" The bracing air of Kirkby Overblow, had, however, a wonderful effect on the new rector's health, and gradually he "picked up" and became a hale and comparatively vigorous man. On leaving Kirkby Overblow in 1847 he became rector of Spofforth, and remained there till his death in 1880, at the surprising age of 92.

The Rev. Mr. Blunt, who was rector about twelve years, was a nephew of the patron of the living. The first Lord Leconfield married the only daughter of the Rev. William Blunt, M.A., of Crabbett, Sussex, who was descended from the Blunts or Blounts of Bolney, Sussex. Mr. Blunt was the eldest son of the Rev. Henry Blunt, rector of Chelsea. He took his B.A. degree at Pembroke College in 1845 and M.A. in 1849. During his incumbency of Kirkby Overblow he instituted services at Sicklinghall and at Rigton on Sundays, and generally a lecture in the week. He was also the means, with Lord Harewood's help, of causing the present school at Rigton to be built, and Mrs. Blunt at her own expense built the adjoining master's house. On leaving Kirkby Overblow in 1858, Mr. Blunt became rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and was chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London. He died in 1899.

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He was a man of wit and resource, and of him many anecdotes are related. It was often said that he was the most marrying parson in London, and being fond of a joke he used to relate the particular satisfaction he had on one occasion of raising money for his parochial wants. It appears that the famous politician, Benjamin Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield), was, when twelve years old, baptized at his parish church of St. Andrew. When the controversy about the great statesman's Christianity was at its height, Mr. Blunt seized the opportunity of writing to the papers, and stated that proof would be given on applying to him. So numerous were the applications for certificates with which to refute all doubters, and the profits so fortunate, that when some years later the question was again raised, Mr. Blunt was more than suspected of starting the subject!

Mr. Blunt in 1858 exchanged livings with the Rev. Jonathan James Toogood, M.A., Balliol College, Oxford, Prebendary of Wells, and who was also for many years Rural Dean of Wetherby. He died at Kirkby Overblow 11th August, 1892, aged 84, having been rector of the parish for 34 years.

The Toogoods are an old south-country family, who in monastic times held lands in Dorset under the Abbots of Sherborne. Their name is found in the Sherborne parish registers as early as 1541. Our rector, though descended from this family, was a native of Bridgwater in Somerset, and was educated at Harrow School, where he gained the second prize of Sir Robert Peel, and stood second for the first medal given by Sir Robert Peel. From Harrow he went to Balliol College, Oxford, where he became an active member of the boat clubs, and rowed in the first race between Oxford and Cambridge, when his crew proved victors. Many stories are told of his prowess as an oarsman and in the hunting-field. He was a tall athletic man, yet of heavy build, and in his first boat-race rowed at 14 st. 10 lbs. But this was only obtained by starving, and after the race it is said he ate a couple of ducks and then walked back to Oxford! On his leaving school he had a grey horse called "Forester" given to him by his father as a reward for good work done. Mounted on this famous animal he did wonderful deeds. He once jumped a wall 5 feet high, and cleared 29 feet in the spring. It was nothing unusual to see him jump hedges sitting backwards, holding to the animal's tail. I am also told on good authority that he once rode over 100 miles, through three counties, in one day, to see his future wife. Such was love's young spell! It is remembered, too, at Spofforth how he once gave the lead to some members of the Bramham Moor Hunt whose horses had refused a high hedge.

He was passionately fond of the country, and when resident in

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London used to walk in the parks and sitting under a tree would shut his eyes and, with his feet rustling in the dry leaves, imagine himself back in the country. Upon exchanging the living of St. Andrew's, Holborn, with the Rev. Mr. Blunt, he entered upon his duties at Kirkby Overblow with much earnestness of purpose and evident appreciation of his changed position. In his later years he was unhappily subject to fainting-fits, but determined to die at his post. The leather-covered iron bar at the entrance to the pulpit,

REV. PREBENDARY J. J. TOOGOOD, M.A.

and the brass hand-rail above the pulpit steps, were put up in 1891 for the aged preacher's assistance. Of a naturally vigorous constitution, he had also a kindly disposition, and was an earnest preacher, and, with the exception of the occasional sickness that befel him in his last years, he retained his faculties to the end. Indeed his constitutional alertness was remarkable. I am told that

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on one occasion, when above 75 years of age, he went pluckily to the assistance of a farmer who was being savagely attacked by a bull in a field at Swindon. The animal had knocked the man down and was kneeling on him and trying to gore him with his horns. At that critical juncture Mr. Toogood, who usually carried a heavy walking-stick, approached the infuriated beast and dealt it two severe blows on the head, which caused him to desist, look round and shake himself. The aged parson then helped the farmer to get up and out of the field, the animal following at a safe distance behind.

Mr. Toogood left two daughters, the eldest of whom was married to the Rev. Edmund Snowden, M.A., fourth son of John Snowden, Esq., J.P., of Somersetshire.* He was Hon. Canon of Wakefield and became rector of Kirkby Overblow shortly after his father-in-law's decease in 1892. The appended short pedigree shews the several family connections.

JONATHAN TOOGOOD, M.D. in Bridgwater. b. 1784; d. 1870; bd. at Torquay. = Ann, dau. of — Giles.

- Jonathan James, b. at Bridgwater, Somerset, Feb. 20, 1808; rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, 1850-58; rector of K. Ov'rblow from 1858 to 1892; Rural Dean of Wetherby, Prebendary of Wells Cathedral; d. at Kirkby Overblow, Aug. 11, '92 = Harriet, dau. of George Lovell, Esq., of Rookley House, Hants. Died at Kirkby Overblow, Christmas Day, 1884.
  - Alice Ann, b. June 20, 1835; md. at St. Andrew's, London, 1858 = Edmund Snowden, b. at Bishops Hull, near Taunton, March 30, 1832; vicar of St Thomas's Ch., Huddersfield, from 1859 to 1892; rector of K. Overblow, 1892-4; Hon. Canon of Wakefield Cath. Died 21st July, 1894.
    - Charles E., md. Helen Leigh, d. of General Holmes. Has 1 dau. Arthur James b. and bd. at K. O., 1861.
    - Francis Henry. Percival Lovell, curate at Almondbury (1903) Cecil John, Ernest George, S. A. C. as Sergeant. and 7 daughters.
    - John Henry Herbert, md. Elizabeth Boucher. Two sons.
    - Edmund Lovell. Waters Edward. Frederick James, died young.
    - Reginald Guy Charles Ernest, and four daughters.
  - Edith Emma, b. 1836; married at Kirkby Overblow, 1864. = John Hy. Copleston, rector of Offwell, Devon, and Rural Dean of Honiton.
- John Giles, M.D. at Bridgwater. Isaac Baruck, M.D. at Torquay. — two sons
- Charles Henry, md. and has issue.
- William, in the law, London. Octavius, (md.) India Civil Service. Alexander, (md.) 2nd Bengal Fusiliers, and Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms.

Although Canon Snowden lived to enjoy his new charge but two short years, his good offices and friendly bearing at Kirkby Overblow

* *See* notes on Snowden family in *Lincolnshire Notes and Queries*, January, 1894.

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will long be a happy recollection. It is, however, as vicar of St. Thomas's Church, Huddersfield, for a period of 33 years that he is best known. Full of a natural enthusiasm and energy, he infused such earnestness into the work of the parish as made, it is said, his church the most popular place of worship in the town. He was a High Churchman, and was practically the pioneer of the High Church movement in and around Huddersfield. As the *Guardian* of August 1st, 1894, truly observed, the strong position which the Church to day holds in Huddersfield and neighbourhood, and the

REV. CANON E. SNOWDEN, M.A.

marked growth of Church principles there, are largely due to the work and influence of Edmund Snowden. But over thirty years of unflagging labour in a smoky manufacturing district had its effect upon a naturally good physique, and it was hoped that the purer air and comparative quiet of Kirkby Overblow, might produce a revival of bodily vigour, and enable him to minister here usefully for many years. But it was not to be. Canon Snowden's health was too far

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spent and he died at Kirkby Overblow, 21st July, 1894, aged 62. He lies interred in the churchyard here. There is a memorial to him in the church, and also one to his second son, Francis Henry, a Corporal in the South African Light Horse in the late war. Corporal Snowden had previously been prospecting on the veldt when the Matabele war began, and greatly distinguished himself. He was awarded the Matabele medal. Under Lord Dundonald he was one of the first to enter Ladysmith, subsequently doing scouting beyond Elandslaagte. There he got into ambush, with another officer and ten men, when the Boers fired among them, killing one man and wounding three. Among the latter was brave Snowden, who would have escaped, but he rode back to rescue a comrade, and in getting him on to his horse was shot. The shot proved fatal, for the gallant Corporal died in hospital ten days later. He had received the South African medal with three clasps for Cape Colony, Tugela Heights, and the Relief of Ladysmith, now in the possession of Mrs. Snowden, his mother.

Canon Snowden was succeeded at Kirkby Overblow by the present capable and energetic rector, the Rev. Charles Handcock, whose activities and long residence in this and the neighbouring parishes have made his personality well known over a very wide district. It will be a pleasure therefore to his parishioners and many friends to see his portrait, from an excellent photograph by Mr. Davey, of Harrogate, permanently preserved at the opening of this chapter.

The rector is descended from an old Northumberland stock—the present head of the house in that county being Mr. William Handcock, of Leazes Hall*—and his family settled in Yorkshire about the middle of the 18th century. He is the fifth son of Mr. Robert Handcock, F.R.S.A., and was born at Cad Beeston, Leeds, in 1842; received his education at the Leeds Grammar School, and afterwards proceeded to the London College of Divinity. He was ordained deacon 1870, and priest 1872, by the Bishop of Manchester. He held the curacy of Milnrow, Lancashire, 1870-3, and after a curacy of six months at Pulborough, Sussex (1873), was preferred by the Hyndman's Trustees to the vicarage of Holy Trinity, Macclesfield, a benefice which he held until 1877.

After his varied clerical experience he settled in 1877 in the Deanery of Wetherby, in his native county of York, where he has laboured with characteristic energy and success ever since. He was vicar of Wetherby from 1877 to 1887, where his zeal, affable bearing, and

* *See Notes on the History, &c., of the Valley of Derwent* (1891), pages 35-37, published by G. and T. Coward, Carlisle.

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special adaptability for church work marked him for a larger and more important sphere of action. In 1887, on the presentation of the Rt. Hon. Lord Leconfield, he was promoted to the valuable living of Spofforth, in which parish he laboured for seven years, and then again on Lord Leconfield's patronage he became rector of the adjoining parish of Kirkby Overblow.

This is not the time or place to speak of Mr. Handcock's faithful pastorate in the three neighbouring parishes where he has spent the best years of his life. He is happily still with us, and as a clergyman of wide and ripe experience it may be said of him, that in all public matters appertaining to the church and parish he is always consulted. He is a capable organizer, and endowed with that restless industry which is so useful and even necessary to the successful carrying on of the work in a widely scattered rural district. As a friend and sympathiser with every deserving movement he is well known, and in all endeavours to promote any good object he is courteous and obliging to a fault. It is indeed largely by his help and encouragement that this story of his ancient parish has been undertaken, but as some acknowledgment of this help is expressed in the Preface, I need only remark here that I have found in him a friend faithful, painstaking, and reliable, qualities which have enabled me to fulfil my task with pleasure and also with a fuller measure of completeness than otherwise could have been the case.

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THE VILLAGE STREET, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

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CHAPTER VII.

The Village of Kirkby Overblow: its Institutions and Old Customs.

THE village of Kirkby Overblow stands in a most pleasant and healthful upland district, amid scenes and places of great historic interest, as may be gathered from the text. Though it cannot boast of ocean breezes, yet its naturally open and elevated situation, nearly 400 feet above the sea,* renders its atmosphere singularly pure and bracing, and the district, which includes Harrogate, only five miles distant, is well-known for its health-giving properties. Drawing a line from Bridlington Bay to Morecambe Bay the village stands equi-distant between the eastern and western seas. It occupies a ridge of high land formed by an escarpment of the "Third Grits," of the Millstone Grit series of rocks. From Addingham Edge by the "Cow and Calf," Ilkley, the famous Otley Chevin, and onwards along the south side of the Wharfe by Harewood to Collingham, these Third Grits form a more or less bold and lofty escarpment above the valley, and extending northwards to Kirkby Overblow are a characteristic feature of the scenery. Copious springs of pure soft water are frequent in the formation where the grit rock overlies the shale, and doubtless where these occur, as at Kirkby Overblow, they have been a prime factor in the early settlement of the villages.

From whichever direction we approach the village the views are fine and of wide extent. From Stainburn Hill, the highest point, on the way to Sicklinghall, the prospect is remarkably fine; the eye ranging eastwards over a vast extent of country, scattered with village, and spire, and farm, away to the blue haze of the Wolds and the moors even beyond Helmsley. From a field-gate here looking due east, the Minster towers at York rise conspicuously in the middle landscape, at a distance of 17 miles. Southwards a dozen miles away, lies the far spreading city of Leeds. Nearer us may be seen the old Castle and Bridge at Harewood, with Col. Cust's house con-

* The church and rectory stand 365 feet above sea-level, while by comparison the church and rectory at Spofforth are only 120 feet above the sea.

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spicuous, while westward rises the top of Otley Chevin with Rumbalds Moor beyond. We are also able to distinguish the towers and spires of many churches, including Spofforth, Hunsingore, Kirk Deighton, Weeton, and Knaresborough. Many a country town and hamlet may also be descried; while the silvery Wharfe for many miles may be seen meandering through green and fertile pastures, and by ancient hall and homestead in its devious course towards the picturesque districts of Boston Spa and Tadcaster. Rarely, indeed, anywhere in England, may one discover so fine a view from the king's highway.

Much has been said in recent years about improving the aspects of our rural villages by making the houses and cottages not only comfortably habitable but attractive and picturesque. In these days of much travelling the sight of a pretty village gives zest and delight to the visitor or passing tourist, and leaves a favourable impression on the mind, which memory loves to dwell upon. Local builders, in many places, have not been slow to realise this idea, nor have the villagers themselves failed to perceive that their houses, open spaces, and roadsides may be made attractive for very small outlay, and that such outlay has in many ways proved a real benefit to the villages encouraging it. Though much of the old village of Kirkby Overblow may not lend itself to such outward picturesqueness, yet it is pleasing to observe that many of the cottages, with their little garden strips before them, make a really pretty show in the fine season. This is especially the case at the eastern approach to the village, illustrated at the beginning of this chapter, where for several years past the cottage fronts have made quite a charming display, nor has even the village smith been lacking in the happy discernment which seeks to convert the necessarily grimy environment of his rustic abode into a thing of beauty and sweetness.

All the land of the township has been cultivated from an early period, but in the adjoining township of Rigton a considerable area was enclosed in the year 1774, and in 1799—1800 enclosure acts were obtained for Kearby. There were 60 inhabited houses in 1901 having a ratable value of about £3500. The population of the parish in that year (1901) was 1047, apportioned as follows: Kirkby Overblow 308, Rigton 370, Sicklinghall 225, Kearby 144. This is an increase of 79 on the population of the parish in 1891. The highest point reached was in 1841 when there were 1375 inhabitants in the four townships. In 1787 they numbered 1058.

The village of Kirkby Overblow, as already observed, has a clean and healthy appearance, and cases of exceptional longevity have been numerous. Epidemics of any kind are happily of rare occurrence. There is a resident doctor, but his practice covers a

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wide circuit. The village has also a post office, issuing money orders with savings bank, and telegraph office, and there are several inns. Letters are addressed: Kirkby Overblow, Pannal S.O., near Leeds.

The first Parish Meeting was held on December 4th, 1894, and Dr. M. A. Wilson was appointed chairman. On April 11th, 1895, a meeting was held to elect the first Parish Council, and a poll resulted in the return of Messrs. George Wardman, M. A. Wilson, Nathan Barrett, Joseph Myers, and Joseph Ridsdale.

The trade of the district is chiefly agriculture, but it is worthy of note that at Field House, the home of the Stables family, a modern dairying business has been established by Mr. Alfred Rowntree, a kinsman of the well-known firm of cocoa manufacturers. A large business is now being done with all parts of the country. The making of Wensleydale cheese is one of the specialities, and for several years in succession the cheese made at the Kirkby Overblow establishment took the first prize at the British Dairy Farmers' Show at Islington. Also in 1902 the first prize was obtained at the Royal Agricultural Show and also at the Yorkshire Agricultural Show.

Turning now to the village itself, the dominant feature is the old parish church, already described. Adjoining it is the pleasant and spacious rectory, a building for the most part dating from the 18th century, with its large, well-kept gardens in front. During a high wind in February, 1903, a large elm tree was blown down against the drawing-room window, breaking one of the panes, and in the grounds, at the same time, a magnificent old cedar of Lebanon was brought down and was removed with some difficulty.

Of the village School its early history is a little obscure. About the time of Charles II. eleven acres of land were given for the education of four poor children, and on the first page of the oldest register it is stated that the Rev. Francis Rogers, rector from 1685 to 1712, gave £18 to "building of ye school house." In 1780 the new school room was built, and the Rev. Dr. Cooper, rector, gave the timber for the building, and Mrs. Cooper generously contributed six guineas towards its erection. The master's house was erected in 1790 at a cost of about £105, raised by subscription, in consideration of which he educated two poor children. Four others also receive instruction from the above bequest of eleven acres of land given for that purpose. At the visitation in 1809 the following report was presented:

We have an English School. There is a house for the Master to live in and about 11 acres of land belonging to the said school, annual value thereof ten guineas. The school is taught by Ralph Snowball. The schoolmaster is regularly licensed by the Archbishop or ordinary. He is a man of sober and honest conversation, diligent and careful in the duty of his place. He teacheth the scholars

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the church catechism. He causeth them to come to church on Sundays and Holy Days and sees that they behave themselves quietly and decently. The number of children taught are four for the land and two for the house They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, and are generally put out to husbandry and sometimes to trade or to service.

According to Lawton £1 per annum is also paid by the rector, and there is £1 1s. per annum out of the Swindon estate, towards the maintenance of the school, but nothing is known as to the origin of these grants. The master and children were appointed by the rector, and the overseers were responsible for keeping the school in repair. There are no deeds or writings relating to the land.* The school is now conducted as a Public Elementary School. In 1871 the schoolroom was rebuilt at the expense of the late Earl of Harewood. The guinea from the Swindon estate has long been discontinued, and in its place the Earl of Harewood contributes an annual donation of £5. The rector also contributes £2, and other subscribers £4 annually, and there is in addition to the rent of the land, an annual grant from the Education Department, making up a total of about £60. The Earl of Harewood and the rector for the time being are joint trustees of the property.†

The schoolmasters and mistresses have been during the past century, Ralph Snowball (in 1809); James Weeks, 1837; John Christian Brooke (son of the schoolmaster and parish clerk of Harewood), 1837 to 1871; George Barr, 1871 to Dec. 21st, 1883; Thomas Lawrence Drinkwater, Jan. 7th, 1884, to Dec. 16th, 1887; Ann Branwood, 9th Jan., 1888, to 18th Nov., 1893; Benj. Frederic Brooke, 21st Nov., 1893, to 14th July, 1894; Mrs. Annie Thomas, Oct. to Dec. 18th, 1894; John Evans, 4th Feb., 1895, to Nov. 5th, 1896; Walter Henry Tooby, Nov. 10th, 1896, died Dec. 16th, 1901; Harold Berry, 1902 to the present time.

The Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1843, chiefly, if not entirely at the cost of Mr. Wm. Stables, of Field House, to whose memory there is an inscription in the chapel. He died in 1862. But the seeds of Methodism were first sown in the neighbourhood a century before this date at the adjoining village of Pannal. A class was established there as early as 1760. According to the Memoir of Mr. Bryan Proctor it appears that he, Mr. Proctor, was at that time living with an uncle at Stank, near Harewood, and he went to hear a sermon from a local preacher, "a poor man out of the West Riding of Yorkshire." Soon afterwards he became converted. About the same time his widowed mother, who was living at Pannal, began to entertain travelling ministers, and especially Christopher Hopper,

* *Vide Charity Report* for 1820. † *Vide Charity Commiss. Report*, 1894.

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who was one of the earliest Methodist preachers. He proposed to form a class, and in this proposition he was supported by John Pawson, of Harewood, and Richard Burdsall, of Kearby. Altogether some seventeen persons offered themselves and formed the first Methodist class in the neighbourhood.

At Kirkby Overblow the Stables and Ridsdales were the pioneers of local Methodism. A class was formed in 1778 in connection with the Society, which at that time was in the Leeds Circuit. About 1790 the Otley Circuit was formed and Kirkby Overblow was taken into it, and thenceforward services were held regularly. For some time the members assembled in one of the rooms at Low Hall, occupied by the Ridsdales, and afterwards they met for worship in an outbuilding at Field House, the home of Mr. Wm. Stables. Here they continued until that gentleman gave the land, &c., for the new chapel which was opened in 1843. Old Mrs. Ridsdale, of Low Hall, for 36 years the widow of Mr. James Ridsdale, who died in 1810, took an earnest part in promoting the cause of early Methodism, and remained a consistent member of the Society up to her death. For a long time she had charge of a class of females who used to meet at her house for devotional exercise. For more than 65 years she resided at Low Hall, and then in 1846 she removed with her son William to Walton Head, where she died in October of that year at the age of 91. Her equable temper, upright bearing and simple heartedness were an example to all who knew her through a life more than ordinarily prolonged, and her memory will ever remain sacred. Since her time many have been the good and faithful here in this cause.

The overseers in 1806-7 built a row of cottages at the north entrance to the village, for the purpose of providing apartments for poor persons. They usually went by the name of Brigg Hall, and continued in use down to 1862, when they were sold by auction. Over and above this provision the overseers had occasionally rented separate cottages in the village for the accommodation of the poor, or had them through the bounty of private owners rent-free. The following record preserves an interesting example of this kind:

MEMORANDUM of an agreement made between Mrs Sarah Harland of the one part and the Overseers of the Poor of Kirkby Overblow of the other part. The said Mrs. Harland doth hereby agree to let the said Overseers put a poor person and his family into her house called St. Helen's Cottage in Kirkby Overblow rent-free, for such time as the said Mrs. Harland shall think proper. The said family to live in the kitchen in the day time, and to have a room upstairs to sleep in. And the said Overseers for the time being shall deliver up possession to the said Mrs. Harland, or to whom she shall appoint at the end of a week's notice. Witness our hands this 8th day of February, 1822, &c.

At a meeting held 6th April, 1827, it was resolved that no more

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cottages should be taken by the overseers for the poor, so long as the township was incorporated with Carlton Workhouse. The meetings for parish business were originally held at one or other of the inns, but in 1837 they were transferred to the village school and have been held there ever since.

The onerous duties of the overseers are apparent in the many and divers concerns they managed. Their old accounts also illustrate many curious and now obsolete customs of the place, which help us to picture village life in the past. Let me mention some of these.

> "Old customs! how I love the sound,
> However simple they may be,
> Whate'er with time has sanction found.
> Is pleasant and is dear to me,"

exclaims the author of the *Farmer's Boy*. To begin with I find the township is charged in 1801 with the expenses attending the death of Susannah Hartley, viz.: a coffin tire 10s., crape 4s. 8d., tea, sugar, and butter at the wake, 3s. 3d., and 1s. given to Mr. Close and Esther Burniston for sitting up with the corpse. In Peacock's list of Yorkshire papists for 1604, only two persons are returned as recusants in Kirkby Overblow, viz.: Thomas Gilstripp, gent., and Elizabeth his wife. There is nothing to shew that the above Susannah Hartley was a Roman Catholic, and it is not improbable that the items refer to a custom which has survived from very early times. The old English "wake," from the A.-S. *wæccan*, to watch, a vigil, arose from the custom of reckoning church festivals from sunset to sunrise, the night being passed, more particularly in ancient times, in watching and prayer. The "wakes" partook very much of a public character, all the village being often present. In the above instance the relatives of the deceased provided bread and cakes, and the town subscribed for "tea, sugar, and butter."

The overseers were likewise under the obligation of providing medicine and attendance for such persons as were unable to pay. In 1787 appears a charge to the town of 6d. paid to John Renton for bleeding one Marshall. In 1809 the sum of £3 5s. was paid to Dr. Richardson for inoculating the poor children, and they are careful to make it known that "they all did well." The accounts again contain entries of amounts paid to men working by what was locally called House Row. The ratepayers were compelled to find work for men who owing to advanced years or other causes were unable to do the same amount of work as young and able-bodied men. This work was paid for by the employer at its value, the Overseers supplementing it to a living wage. Each House Row man had a certain number of days to work at each house, according to the

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ratable value of the farm, settled by the overseers. There had been various ways of reckoning, but in 1827 it was decided that the House Row men should find their own victuals, and receive their wages entirely in money. Then there were other forms of relief. In 1811 a cow is bought for Joseph Renton at a cost of £11, at which excellent gratuity one may be tempted to exclaim, "Well done, Joseph!" In the same year James Marston receives £3 to buy a horse, and in 1812 John Briggs is presented with a scythe at a cost of 8s. In 1810 Michael Steele gets a full bottle of the best gin, costing 4s., ordinary medicine, apparently, having failed. This seems to have been poor Michael's only bodily salvation, and may we hope it gave ease and perhaps length to his days?

The old Constables' Accounts likewise throw light upon many bygone things and customs. In 1741, the first year of which the accounts are extant, the Constable was sworn in at Spofforth, the charge being 1s., evidently the custom of the court-leet. At this time there is an entry of "three monthly searches" at a charge of 1s. each, and a further charge of 7s. for conveying the King's baggage to Pontefract. There are also similar entries in the succeeding years, which have no doubt reference to the rising of the Young Pretender, and the pursuit of him by the Government troops through Yorkshire, as I have related in the *History of Tadcaster*. A troop of cavalry is reputed to have lodged at Swindon Hall, near Kirkby Overblow, during the northward march of General Wade's army, and a room in the hall was afterwards always called the "Captain's Chamber." In 1745, or shortly before the decisive battle of Culloden, there is a charge of 3s. 6d. for going to Boroughbridge about Papists; likewise in the same year a charge of 6s. for Wm. Symondson and two horses to Ferrybridge.

Among the many duties that fell upon the churchwardens or overseers in the early part of the 19th century were those attendant upon the charge and payment of prize and bounty-money due to petty officers, seamen, marines and soldiers. In the overseers' accounts for Kirkby Overblow appears an item in 1794 of "expenses to navy-men, £21 17s. 1d." In 1802 the sum of £8 13s. 10d. is entered for "substitutes wages to serve in Militia for Kirkby Overblow and Kearby-cum-Netherby." In 1803-4 for "wages and expenses relating to the Militia and the Army of Reserve, £64 9s. 11d." In 1805 "paid the quota of a man for the Army of Reserve, £7 7s." This was collected by a special rate. In 1804 the following had one horse each in the Harewood Troop of Volunteers: Hugh Barrett, Henry Burniston, Robert Drury, Thomas Issott, and Samuel Wilkinson.

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The churchwardens had been also long accustomed to visit the streets and public houses on Sunday mornings and drive loiterers to church, a practice which continued here till 1858, when it was decided to stop it "unless there be a law to compel them."

The accounts also contain many references to the ancient pinfold and stocks. Of the antiquity of the pinfold we possess no certain knowledge, though it would appear to have existed many centuries. In 1378 Alice, daughter of William the Pynder, was living at Kirkby Overblow, which seems to premise the existence of a pinfold at that era. The pinders were appointed at the annual court-leets, and in 1775 the swearing in of a pinder cost 1s. In 1785 Robert Whitehead was paid 8s. for a pinfold door, and in 1793 a lock was provided at a cost of 1s. A new lock in 1827 cost 1s. 6d. In 1853 the door was renewed. Next with regard to the stocks, also of high antiquity, a new pair was provided in 1750 at a cost of 6s. and colouring them cost 5d. In 1814 the sum of 15s. 6d. is paid to S. Whitehead for stocks making and wood, and in 1817 a further expense of 17s. was incurred in repairing the stocks, and 6d. for setting them up. They appear to have been wilfully broken, as an item follows in this year of 10s. "received from the young man who broke the stocks." In 1798 2d. is paid for armorial bearings on the constable's staff. In 1819 a pair of handcuffs cost 2s. 6d., and a lock 1s. 4d. In 1836 a new staff turning costs 9d. and a brass plate and engraving 5s. 6d. In 1755 there is a charge of 1s. for a "hue and cry" to Rigton. In 1761 2s. 6d. was spent "when the dogs was killed." In 1743 there is a charge of 6d. "when viewer came to view the windows." This of course has reference to the obnoxious window-duty, when rich and poor alike were taxed for the light of heaven! The duty was first imposed in 1695 and continued till 1850, when it was happily repealed. The shutting up of windows brought about by this objectionable impost was no doubt the cause of much sickness and ill-health. The Spaniards have a wise old saw which says, "Where the light (or sun) never enters, the doctor must!"

In 1802-3 there were only four persons in Kirkby Overblow who paid duty for more than six windows, viz., the Rev. Dr. Cooper (rector), 52; Hugh Barrett (Walton Head), 9; Samuel Wilkinson, 12; and John Stables, 7. The annual tax on Dr. Cooper's 52 windows amounted to £30 15s., and besides that he had inhabited house-duty to pay, 16s.* He was also taxed in 1802-3 £14 for four male servants;

* It may be noted that in the year following, by the new assessed Tax Bill, which took effect 14th April, 1804, all windows 11 ft. high or 4 ft. 6 in. broad, including the whole opening of the wall in which the window is fixed, was charged as two windows, unless erected prior to April 5th, 1785; excepting also the windows of shops or warehouses.

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£10 for one four-wheel carriage; £10 16s. for three riding-horses; £1 5s. for two other horses; £1 10s. for three dogs; £2 2s. for armorial bearings; £3 3s. for hair-powder; and £2 11s. 8d. for land-tax; total £76 18s. 8d. This amount, however, was exceeded by his successor at the rectory, the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Marsham, whose year's taxes for the same things amounted in 1808 to £93 7s. 11d. Dr. Marsham had fewer windows (38), but kept more horses, carriages, and dogs. In 1827, Robert Marsham, Esq., Henry Marsham, Esq., Jacob Marsham, Esq., George Marsham, Esq., and William Style, Esq., held game certificates at a charge of £3 14s. 6d. each.

Among the following entries in the old churchwardens' accounts we are reminded of many customs and usages now obsolete.

1743. Paid to ringers for ringing nine o'clock.
[This occurs annually up to 1800, when the custom apparently changed to ringing at 8 o'clock. The custom of ringing at 8 o'clock on Sunday mornings is still maintained. The bells were also rung on the anniversary of Gunpowder Plot, and they were also rung every 29th May, being the King's birthday.]

1746. Paid to Ringers on thanksgiving-day for the victory over rebels at Culloden More, 1s.

1755. Paid for widening Burnt Bridge. 16s.

1758. Paid to the Ringers when the King of Prussia gained a complete victory, 1s.

1765. Spent upon Tong singers, 1s 1½d.

1769. Spent when old bell was taken down and new one put up, 4s. 6d. Carriage and expenses of new and old bells, 8s.

1782. Church whitewashing and ale, 1s. 4d.

1795. Spent upon Birstal singers, 5s.

1798. Dog whipper's salary, 6s. 6d.

1809. Woodwork and paint to keep birds and pigeons out of steeple, 3s. 7½d.

1810. Oct. 25. Ringers for King's Accession when he entered into the fiftieth year of his reign, 5s. 3d.

1813. Iron chest, £6 15s.

1820. Black cloth for hanging the church when George III. died, £4 15s.

1826. Wm. Harland for writing music for the use of the singing seats, 5s.

1829. Wm. Harland's bill for writing church music, £1 10s.

1831. Black cloth, £1 6s. 6d.; expenses when George IV. was buried, 2s. 3d.

1837. Black cloth for pulpit and desk, £1 2s. Wm. Pool for putting it up, 2s.

1850. Candles for evening service, £1 6s. 3d.

The mediæval method of conveying the corpse by horse-litter to the place of burial does not appear to have prevailed at Kirkby Overblow for a long period. There are many references to the parish hearse from the 18th century down to 1854, when it was decided that the churchwardens procure a fresh funeral carr with four wheels and springs, and also procure fresh harness. The new hearse was purchased at a cost of £26.

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LOW HALL, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

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CHAPTER VIII.

Kirkby Overblow: Old Homes and Families.

I. Low Hall and the Dodsons.

OW Hall, the principal house in the township, was long the seat of the Dodsons, a family of position and influence in former times, but of whom we possess no connected record. After much fruitless correspondence with persons of this name in various parts of the world I have had to remain content with the following particulars and pedigree, which have been collected from Hunter, the *Wilson MSS.*, the parish registers, as well as other sources. The difficulty of compilation will be apparent when it is remembered that nearly one-third of the whole number of northern gentry disregarded the summons of Sir Wm. Dugdale, the King's Herald, to appear before him (in 1665) with proofs of their arms and pedigrees. As a consequence of this indifference many law suits and much uncertainty with respect to family descents and inheritance have arisen in later times. In Claro Wapentake there were no fewer than seventeen genteel families who neglected to answer at the *Visitation*; among those in this district were Mr. Dodson of Kirkby Overblow, also Mr. Gale, Mr. Fran. Steele, and Mr. Thomas Dickenson of Kirkby Hall; and Mr. John Wood and Mr. John Catherall of Wetherby. In Barkston Ash there were sixteen contumacious, including Mr. Hen. Drewell of Bramham-cum-Oglethorpe, Mr. Plant, Mr. Lekringhall and Mr. Geo. Rhodes of Lotherton and Aberford, and Mr. Wm. Marshall of Tadcaster.

The first mention of a Dodson in the parish I have met with is of the Rev. Richard Dodson, who was instituted to the rectory of Kirkby Overblow in 1588. In 1591 he purchased a messuage with land at Kirkby Overblow, of James Hird and Agnes his wife. He died in Jan., 1612-13, and on March 28th, 1614, there is a receipt for dilapidations from Miles Dodson, executor of Richard Dodson, late parson of Kirkby Overblow, to Thomas Edwards, the then rector. Though no relationship is stated there is no doubt he was his son. This Miles Dodson appears to have been an important personage in his time, and there is a monumental tablet to his memory in the

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PEDIGREE OF DODSON, OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

REV. RICHARD DODSON = Rector of Kirkby Overblow, 1588. Died Jan., 1612-13. Will proved 25th Jan., 1612-13.

THOMAS DODSON = Kate
Rector of Goodmanham, 1592—1612 (died).

Miles Dodson = Lucy, dau. of Rev. Peter Cooke, Rector of Sutton-on-Derwent. She was a writer of verse, and was living a widow in 1660.
gent., of Leathley to 1624; afterwards at Kirkby Overblow. Will dated 19th April, 1657; died 19th Sept., 1657, aged 68, and buried at Kirkby Overblow.

Thos. Dodson, = Ellen, dau. of Thomas Norton, Esq., of Langthorne, co. York.

Peter = Abigail, dau. of Albany Fetherston, of Fetherstonhaugh.
of Gray's Inn, London. 1638

Thomas Isabel = Anthony Ward, of Otley, gent.
Lucy Ward d. 1708, aged 70

Michael Idle, merchant; b. 1638. Mayor of Leeds, 1690; d. 1696 (*see* tablet Leeds Parish Church).
six children.

Joanna = John, son of John Gale. Esq. of Scruton; b. 1601; d. 1685-6.

Louie or Lucie. Ann. Elizabeth.

Margaret = Harrison. Other daughters d young (5 daughters mentioned in settlement dated Aug. 22, 1656, by Miles Dodson, of property in K.O.

Mary = Griffith Standeven. Md. at K.O. in 1647, July 19.

Dorothy Norton. Katherine Norton. Ellen Norton.
[Several sons, the eldest of whom enjoys his father's lands, and has to pay £5 to his sister Mary, which was lent to his father, Thomas, by the father of Miles D.]

Thomas = Hellen Ellis, Recd. £500 from md. at K.O. in Feb., 1666. his grandfather, Miles D., on certain conditions. He was a minor in 1657; will dated 7 Feb., 1706-7; bd. at K.O. 13 Feb., 1706-7.

Lucy = —. Hinde

To receive £100 by the will, dated 1657, of her gran'father Miles D., when 21.

*Son =

Hellen Beckwith (1) = md. at Masham, 1706; bd at K.O. 27th April, 1711.

Albany = (2) Mary, dau. of Rev. Nathan Drake, rector of K.O. 1713-29; md. at K.O., Jan. 17, 1714.
of Low Hall, K.O. bn *ca.*1686†

Albany = Ann, dau. of Rowland Smithson, assumed or Roundell Esq., of Millfield, nr. Harewood.
mother's name of Beckwith. Died *s.p.*

Rev. Miles Gale, born at Farnley Hall, Leeds; rector of Keighley, 1680-1720; md. dau of Rev. Chr. Stone, D.D., Chancellor of York. Their eldest son was Christ. Gale, Attorney-General and Judge of the Admiralty of North Carolina, 1712; in 1721 was Chief Justice of Providence and all the Bahama Islands. Thomas, another son of Rev. Miles Gale, was rector of Linton in Craven; d. 1750.

Henry Francis

Edith = Dawson. Frances = Moreton.
[Each of these two daughters of Mrs. Lucy Hinde receives £250 by will of their uncle Thomas.

Thomas, bapt. at K.O., 1709.

She md. (2) Sir Thomas Denison, Judge in the Court of King's Bench, who d. at Ham, nr. Richmond, in 1765, and was buried at Harewood. She died 1st July, 1785, aged 71.

Mary, bapt. K.O in 1716; d. in 1719

(1) Albany, bap. June 4, 1716; bd. K.O. Feb. 17, 1719 (2) Albany, bap. June 8, 1717. K.O. Feb. 2, 1727 bd K.O. Jan. 3 1733

Peter, bapt. at K.O., 1719

Mary, bap. K.O. Dec. 4, 1718. bd. Mar., 1719 (2) Mary, bap. K.O., Jan., 1724.

Elizabeth, bap. K.O., Apl., 1722. Penelope, bap. K.O., 1725. John, bap. K.O, June, 1720

* Name not ascertained.

† Executor of the will of his uncle Thomas; bd. K.O. March 13, 1727.

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church. In a letter dated October, 1649, Albany Featherstonhaugh addresses him as his "loving brother." He does not, however, appear to have resided at Kirkby Overblow before 1625, as before this time he is described as of Leathley. He had property at Beckwith and Rossett, and owned a mediety of the rectory of Sutton-on-Derwent, obtained through his wife, and in 1641 there appears a lease to him of part of the tithes of Kirkby Overblow, made by the rector, the Rev. Thos. Jaggard. He had also previously leased the tithes of Garton and Grimston in Holderness, and from an old terrier at Goodmanham, near Market Weighton, it appears that certain lands belonging to the glebe there had been made over by the rector, Thomas Dodson, M.A., to Marmaduke Grymston of Grimston Garth in Holderness, and that they were then (1637) lost to the rectory. A family relationship existed between the Dodsons and Grimstons, as Marmaduke Grimston, of Garton in Holderness, had licence in 1609 to marry Lucy Alured of Sculcoates, and in 1603 a similar licence was granted to Henry Alured, gent., son and heir of John Alured, Esq., of Charter House, to marry Frances, daughter of Francis Vaughan, Esq., late of Sutton-on-Derwent, deceased. Her brother, Sir Henry, son and heir of Francis Vaughan, had licence in 1596 to marry Susan, daughter of Edward Stanhope, Esq., of Grimston* (*see* page 85), and a daughter of the above Marmaduke Grimston married in 1642 Leonard Beckwith, Esq., of Handale Abbey, kinsman of Edward Beckwith, whose daughter was the first wife of Albany Dodson of Low Hall.

Miles Dodson was a near neighbour of Richard Goldsborough of Walton Head, who, in 1612, released to Richard Hutton, sergeant-at-law, and Agnes his wife, the manor, &c., of Goldsborough.† Thoresby, the antiquary, relates that he had in his possession an embroidered coif, or cap, worn by Judge Hutton's lady, which had been given to him by Albany Dodson, *armiger*, of Kirkby Overblow.‡ The Judge resided at Goldsborough and died there in 1638-9.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Miles Dodson, in common with most of the local gentry, sided with the King, though he managed somehow to escape punishment and the confiscation of his property. In July, 1648, he and Francis Steele, of Barrowby, were indicted for that they had acted as Commissioners of Array and had collected moneys for the Earl of Newcastle, and had also ridden in his army. These charges they confuted, and on the 11th January, 1650, they were dismissed. But Dodson's sympathy, if not very truculent, was decidedly for the Royal cause, and he was implicated in the charges

* *Harl. MSS.*, 2156 and 7060.

† *Yorks. County Mag.*, 1894, page 43.

‡ *Duc. Leod.*, *s. v.* "Antiquities," page 42.

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brought by Sir Richard Hawksworth, of Hawksworth, in the parish of Otley, against Sir John Goodrick of Ribston, his brother-in-law. Sir John, who was a Colonel in the King's army, had in October, 1642, sent one of his Captains with a squadron of horse to Hawksworth Hall to arrest Sir Richard. The latter thereupon was taken to York and kept a prisoner for nearly two years. Sir Richard had married a sister of Sir John Goodricke, from whom he was separated, and Miles Dodson, it was stated, had been active in fomenting the feeling of animosity that existed between the Goodrickes and Sir Richard Hawksworth. He had persuaded Lady Hawksworth to live apart from her husband, who seems to have been a man of peculiar temper, and contrary to every tradition of his house, had taken up arms against the King. It was further stated that Miles Dodson and others had been party to the appropriation of lands, &c., at Mitton in Craven, belonging to Sir Richard Hawksworth, and that they had compelled the tenants to pay their rents to them during the time of the hostilities, and moreover it was affirmed they had been to Hawksworth Hall and carried away all the deeds and writings appertaining to the above property.* These charges were wholly denied, and although Hawksworth recovered the property, yet Sir Richard and his wife were never reconciled. Let us hope, however, that the character borne by Miles Dodson was justified by the terms of his epitaph in the church, before quoted, that he was "a peace-maker amongst his neighbours." At any rate the verdict of the Commonwealth judges was in his favour. He died in 1658, and his will, a copy of which I append, was proved in London before the Judges for Probate, 20th May, 1658, by Lucie Dodson, his widow. This was during the Commonwealth.

WILL OF MILES DODSON, ESQ., OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

All glorie honour praise power and thanksgiving be given to God the father sonne and holy ghost. I Myles Dodson of Kirkby Overblow in the county of York esquier doe make constitute and ordaine this my last will and testament this nineteenth day of Aprill in the year of our Lord God 1657 in manner and forme following. ffirst I bequeath my soul to God hoping to sing praises to him everlastingly in his heavenly kingdom. And my desire is that my bodie be buried in the chancel or quire of the church of Kirkby Overblow so near as may be on the northside of the bluestone in the said quier. And I doe give and bequeath unto the persons hereafter mentioned these gyfts and legacies hereafter following. ffirst I give and bequeath unto Lucy Dodson my wife horsehowse lease in being from the Right honourable the Earl of Northumberland and lease to her disposing the use and benefit of the lease I have in Whitwell for her life. Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas Dodson my grandchild ffive hundred pounds of lawfull English money, to be paid unto him when he shall accomplish two and twentie yeares of age, Conditionally if he do not enjoye the estate which is conferred upon him by Indenture by me formerly made and redeemable by Peter

* *See* my paper on Hawksworth Hall in the *Bradford Antiquary* for 1903.

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Dodson his father upon the payment or satisfaction of fifteen hundred pounds in money or lands to that worth and value at the judgment of the ffeoffees imployed and intrusted in the said Indenture for setling the estate upon the said Thomas Dodson. Also I give and bequeath unto Lucie Dodson daughter unto Peter Dodson my grandchild one hundred pounds of lawful English money, To be paid her when she shall accomplish one and twentie yeares of age. I give and bequeath unto Mary Dodson, my cousin Thomas Dodson his daughter, tenne pounds of lawful English money. And whereas my father did lend five pounds unto Thomas Dodson her father I desire her eldest brother who enjoys his father's lands to paye the said five pounds unto his said sister Mary Dodson. Also I give to all my grandchildren every one severally tenne shillings a piece to buy them Bibles. And I give and bequeath unto Edmond Wood my servant five pounds of lawfull English money, And to all the rest of my household servants that live in my family at the time of my death everie of them five shillings. I doe make constitute and ordaine my faithfull and loving wife Lucie Dodson executrix of this my last will and testament, In witnesse hereof I have put to my hand and seale the day and yeare above written. MILES DODSON.

Witnesses hereof the day and year above written we whose names are hereunder written, MILES STEILE JANE GRAY
ANNE DODSON WILLIAM ADCOCKE his mark)

The cousin, Thomas Dodson, mentioned in the will, married a Norton of Langthorne, in the parish of Bedale, of the same family who, as previously recorded, purchased the manor of Kirkby Overblow in the time of Queen Elizabeth. In 1667 Thomas Dodson of Kirkby Overblow, and Ellen his wife, obtain leave to bring an action to recover money due to the said Ellen by a settlement made by her father, Thomas Norton, late of Langthorne, in 1648. There are three daughters recorded of the marriage, Dorothy Norton, Katherine Norton, and Ellen Norton, and the last mentioned was married, apparently, to a kinsman, Edward Dodson.

I find two sons of Miles Dodson recorded as well as five daughters, one of the latter, Joanna, married John, son of John Gale, Esq., of Scruton, near Bedale, whose mother was a Thwaites of Marston, and whose aunt Dora married for her second husband, Sir Thomas Fairfax, father of the first Lord Fairfax.* It was this "Mr. Gale" who neglected to report his family lineage at the *Visitation* in 1665. He was then evidently living at Kirkby Overblow, and had purchased or obtained an estate there from his father-in-law, Miles Dodson, as in 1656 a fine was levied whereby John Gaile, Miles Steele, and George Pickering appear as plaintiffs, and Miles Dodson, gent., and Lucy his wife, as deforciants, respecting several messuages with lands in Kirkby Overblow.†

* *See* pedigree of Gale in Thoresby's *Duc. Leod.* (Whitaker's ed. 1816), p. 203.

† Miles Gale was rector of Keighley 1679—1720. He was cousin-german of Dr. Thos. Gale, Dean of York. A Thomas Gale was rector of Linton in Upper Wharfedale, 1716—1750; and there was a Humphrey Dogeson (Dodson ?) rector of the adjoining parish of Burnsall in 1570—16—, at the same time as Richard Dodson was rector of Kirkby Overblow.

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Peter, eldest son of Miles Dodson, appears to have died in his father's lifetime, leaving a son Thomas, heir to his grandfather, who married but apparently left no issue.* The following particulars are taken from his will, dated 7th February, 1706-7, and proved at York:

WILL OF THOMAS DODSON, ESQ., OF KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

All my personal estate to be sold for payment of my debts.

Sister Lucie Hinde £10 a year for life out of my real estate.

Aunt Margaret Harrison's annuity of £10 for life to be continued out of my real estate.

Rest of profits of real estate to go for payment of debts till all paid, and then I give it to Albany Dodson my nephew for 99 years subject to said annuities, he also paying to Edeth Dawson and Francis Moreton my sister Hinde's 2 daurs. £250 each, and after the sd. 99 years I give sd. real estate to the heirs male of sd. Albany Dodson and to their heirs for ever.

Servant Mary Green 20s,, and to Ruth Wood 10s., Edward Higgins 10s., Matthew Holmes 10s., and Jason Theaker 5s.

Martin Dawson £5 for the business he hath done for me.

Nephew Albany Dodson executor.

Supervisors, my kinsman Wm. Pickering of Yorke gent., and Abraham Goodgian formerly my servant £5 each.

If it happen that any of my creditors wd. have their moneys sooner than it can be raised either out of the personall or yearly profitts of my reall estate, I impower my sd. exor. and supervisors to mortgage part of the lands for same.

Witnesses: Fran. Rogers, Robt. Watson, Josh. Sharp, Mart. Dawson.

No probate in Register [1706].

The Registers of Kirkby Overblow contain an entry in 1651 of the marriage of Sarah Dodson with George Pickering. I have not been able to prove the identity of this daughter, but in the above-cited will of Thomas Dodson he mentions as supervisor "my kinsman Wm. Pickering," possibly a son of this match.

Albany Dodson, of Low Hall, in early life made a voyage from Cork to the West Indies, and published an account of it. He was executor of his uncle Thomas Dodson's will and was residuary legatee. In February, 1718-19, he was visited by John Warburton, F.R.S. and F.S.A., who was shortly afterwards appointed *Somerset Herald*. Warburton made a poor and very insignificant drawing of the hall, hardly worth reproducing. It is preserved in the *Lansdowne Collections* at the British Museum. Albany was twice married, his first wife being a daughter of Edward Beckwith, of Nutwith Cote near Masham, an old property of the Beckwiths and their seat for several centuries. Her mother was Ellen, daughter of Welbury Norton, Esq., of Sawley, sister of Thomas Norton, grandfather of the first Lord Grantley. Albany left a family, but I am unable to say whether

* Among the *Wilson MSS.* at Bolsterstone, are two letters, dated 1639 and 1646, from Peter to Miles Dodson; likewise a "Prayer by Miles Dodson," and an Inventory of the goods of Miles Dodson, dated 1657.

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any of them continued to reside at Low Hall. But probably they did, as Ann Smithson, who was born in 1714, married Albany Dodson his son, who is described as of Kirkby Overblow. These Smithsons, says Mr. Grainge, were accounted the wealthiest family in the Forest of Knaresborough. After Albany's death, Ann was married again to Sir Thomas Denison, Judge in the Court of King's Bench. He died in 1765 and his lady in 1785. Albany took his mother's name of Beckwith and died without issue. Low Hall appears shortly afterwards to have been sold to (Sir) Henry Ibbetson of Leeds, who married Catherine Foljambe in 1736. After the elder Albany's death in 1727, his widow went to live near Leeds, and there her son Albany died in 1732.

There is a strong probability that the Rev. Dr. Charles Dodson, who rose to eminence in the church, was a close connection of the family. He was apparently living in the district in the time of Albany Dodson, as in his youth he was at Threshfield Grammar School, near Grassington.* Having been educated for the Church he became Bishop of Ossory in 1765 and was translated to the See of Elphin in Ireland in 1775, where he remained till 1795.† Little is recorded of him and I have only been able to learn that he died in Dublin, January 21st, 1795, and was buried at St. Bridget's in the city.‡. There is no memorial of him in Elphin Cathedral which was largely repaired in his time. According to Burke he bore for arms: *sable*, a chevron between three Catherine wheels, *or*, and his crest was the head of Janus couped at the neck proper. These are the arms and crest which appear on the 17th century oak mantel-piece at Low Hall, and they differ completely from the arms and crests of any other family of Dodson.§ The Yorkshire descent of Bishop

* *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 426.

† Elphin in co. Roscommon, was formerly seat of a Bishopric, said to have been founded by St Patrick in the 5th century. The Bishopric was amalgamated with Kilmore and Ardagh in 1833.

‡ Since the above was written I have received a communication from the Deputy-Keeper of Public Records, Dublin, quoting Cotton's *Fasti*, which says that Dr. Dodson "was an Englishman, educated at St. John's Coll., Cambridge, where he took his degree of M.A., and that for some years he kept a school at Stanwix in Cumberland" The old town of Stanwix (an important Roman station) stands north of the Eden, and is a suburb of Carlisle. But neither the county histories nor local pedigrees contain any reference to him or the school.

§ Lord Monkbretton, whose family name is Dodson, bears *arms:* a fess raguly, plain cotissed between six fleurs-de-lis, all gules, a sword fess-wise, point to dexter ppr. pomel and hilt, or; *crest:* two lions gambs erased, and in saltire gules entwined by a serpent head to dexter ppr. The arms of the Rt Hon. John George Dodson, M P.. are; arg. a fess nebulé gu., between six fleurs-de-lis; *crest:* two lions gambs in saltire, gu. The latter crest is borne by the Westmorland and Sussex Dodsons. Fairbairn also gives the crests of two other families of Dodson; (1) a demi griffin, segreant, (2) three faces, two male and one female, conjoined in one neck, male face on top, and male and female to sinister and dexter. *See* also *Chambers's Journal*, 1892, page 460.

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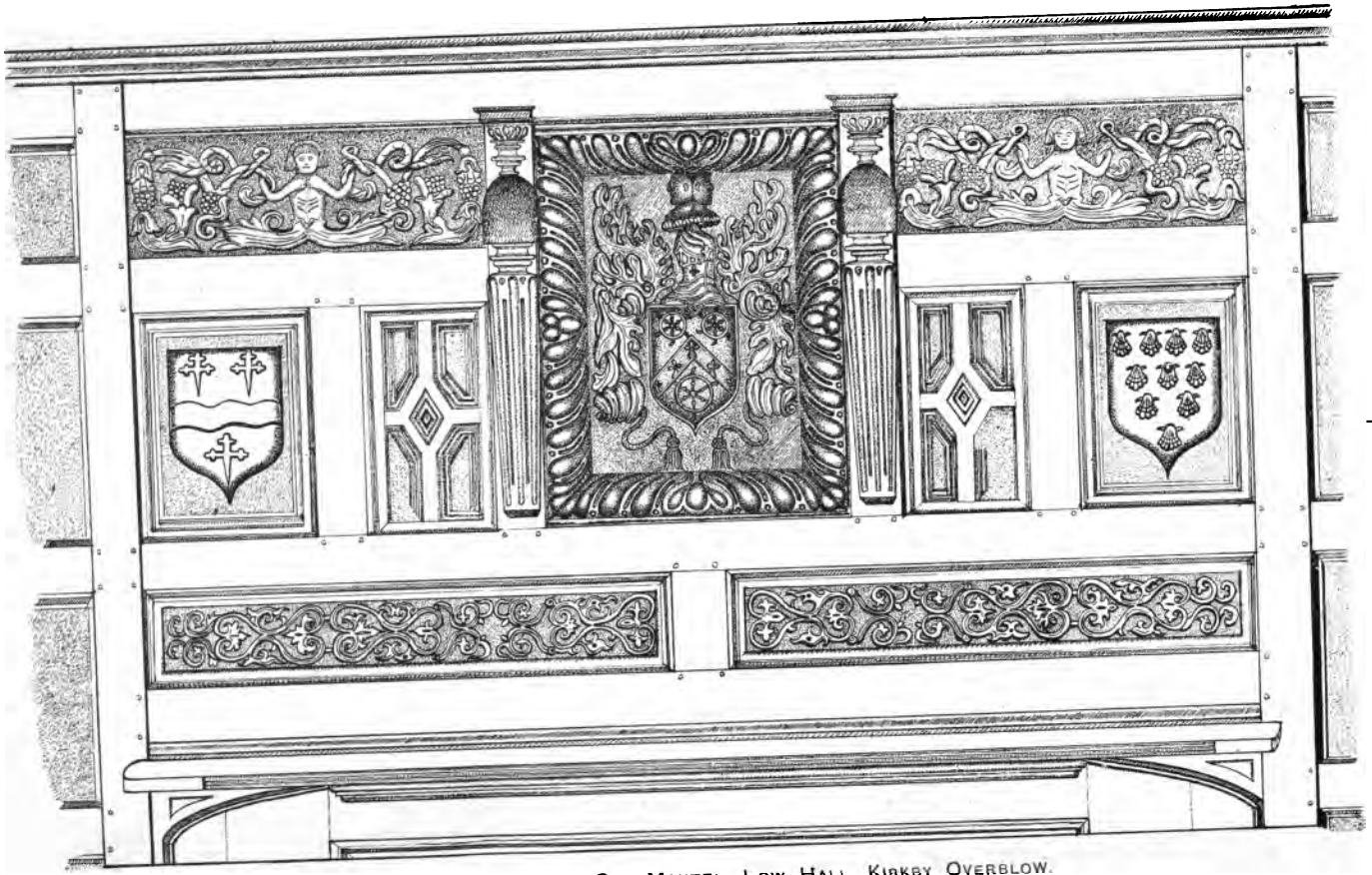

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY OAK MANTEL, LOW HALL, KIRKBY OVERBLOW.

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Dodson needs, however, confirmation, inasmuch it is well known that at that time arms were often assumed without official authority. The good Bishop must, however, have had fair reasons for the adoption of this coat, and the probability is he belonged to the Low Hall family.

It would appear that after the Dodsons left the Low Hall about the middle of the 18th century, it was occupied by a well-to-do yeoman family named Stables. They were in all probability connections of the Stables of Tanshelf who recorded their lineage at Dugdale's Visitation in 1665. Of this branch was Wm. Stables, of Pontefract, a Lieutenant of Horse for Charles I., who had to compound for his estates after the war. He married, in 1656, Jane, daughter of Gervase Hammerton, of Alborough, co. Lincoln, a connection of the Hammertons whom I have noticed among the memorials in the church of Kirkby Overblow. A daughter of this Low Hall family in 1780 became the wife of the Rev. Rd. Burdsall, the founder of local Wesleyanism, of whom some account will be found in the notice of Kearby. The Stables became prominent Wesleyans, and in the large room on the ground floor of the Low Hall services were held some time before the chapel was erected at Kirkby Overblow in 1843.

In this room there is a very handsome Jacobean carved oak mantel-piece, admirably wrought with various armorial devices and other ornament. Through the courtesy of the present owner, T. L. Ingham, Esq., I have been permitted to make a drawing of this unique work, an engraving of which is here appended. In the centre appear the arms of Dodson, (or) a chevron, ermine, between three Catherine wheels (gules), surrounded with an elaborate scroll pattern. On the right is a shield of 10 escallop-shells, the centre one bearing a crescent, for a second son, possibly of Thurland, though I can discover no match with this family. The Gales, however, who intermarried with the Dodsons, were long resident at Farnley Hall, near Leeds, the old home of the Danbys; and Robert Danby, Esq., married Cassandra, daughter of Edwd. Thurland, Esq., by whom he had a son and successor, Wm. Danby, Esq. But this goes back to the 14th century.*

To the left is another shield also cut in oak, bearing, apparently, the arms of Sandys: a fess dancettée between three crosses crosslet

* Since the above was written I find a more immediate connection of Thurland with Kirkby Overblow. Mary, daughter of Robert Plumpton (died 1546), was wife of Edmund Thurland, Esq, of Gamston-on-Idle, co Notts., and consequently brother-in-law to Wm. Plumpton, who died in 1601, and was buried at Spofforth. *See* pages 44, 96, &c. The probability is there was a match between this family and the Dodsons, which accounts for the Thurland arms on the old oak mantel.

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fitchée (gules). Edwin Sandys was Archbishop of York at the time that Richard Dodson was rector of Kirkby Overblow, and Edwin Sandys, prebendary of Wetwang, bequeathed to the rector of Kirkby Overblow and his successors, an annuity of £20, possibly as I have elsewhere suggested, towards the founding of a school. What became of this annuity, or whether its payment was continued I have not discovered. There is no such sum as £20 included among the local charities, but in the composition made with the Parliament by Sir Henry Vaughan, of Whitwell, in the parish of Ecclesfield, after the Civil War, I find mention of an annuity of £20 due to one Miles Dodson for his life. But as the Vaughans were also of Sutton-on-Derwent, and as Miles Dodson married a daughter of the rector of Sutton, the annuity has probably to do with a marriage settlement.*

In addition to this fine old mantel-piece, the entrance hall and other parts of the house are panelled with old Forest oak, some of which is carved. Formerly there was a beautifully-executed frieze in one of the bedrooms, as well as other fine specimens of carved work, which have been removed by a former owner. Externally the house is a picturesque 17th century building, entered from a spacious courtyard, having a very massive and imposing gateway. On the south side is an old orchard.

The Hall, as related in the records of the manor, was, with 130 acres of land, sold by the Scotts of Woodhall, in 1899, to Thomas Lister Ingham, Esq., the present lord of the manor and owner of the house and estate. For more than a century prior to the sale in 1899, the old hall had been tenanted as a farm, first by the Ridsdales, and afterwards by the Thorntons and Wardmans. *See* page 100.

Mr. Ingham's family originated in Norfolk, and settled at Ossett in Yorkshire early in the 17th century. From this branch descends the Rev. Benjamin Ingham, who married in 1741 Lady Margaret Hastings, fifth daughter of Theophilus, seventh Earl of Huntingdon, and was father of Ignatius Ingham, Esq , of East Marton, in Craven. The Rev. Benj. Ingham's nephew, Joshua Ingham, resided at Blake Hall in the parish of Mirfield, an old patrimony of the Inghams, and notable as the birthplace of Dr. John Hopton, the famous Bishop of Norwich in the reign of Queen Mary. Joshua Ingham, Esq., D.L., &c., of Blake Hall, married in 1831 Mary Cunliffe, eldest daughter of Ellis Cunliffe Lister-Kaye, Esq., of Farfield Hall, Addingham. He died in 1866. He was father of the present proprietor of Low Hall, who, as stated above, is lord of the manor, and who has recently made many alterations and improvements about the manor-house where he resides.

* *See Yorks. Record Series*, vol. xx., page 45.

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CHAPTER IX.

II. Walton Head.

ALTON Head is the range of high land lying to the east of the turnpike road between Harewood Bridge and Harrogate. Near Buttersyke Bar (3½ miles from Harrogate), there is a guide-post at Dawson Lane end (1½ miles from Kirkby Overblow), and in the perambulation of 1577 mention is made of two stones standing in this lane, the spot being now marked by one stone bearing the letters and date, "K. F., 1767," on that side of the stone next to the lands of the Forest. Mention is also made of "ye Wynd Mill at Walton Head, adjoining upon ye common of Swindon." Following this lane (in the perambulation of 1767 stated to be "the church-way from Rigton to Kirkby Overblow"), we pass in half-a-mile the solitary farm of Walton Head, the representative of the capital mansion of the manor of Walton mentioned in *Domesday*. It is now the property of the Earl of Harewood, and is known as Low Sneap House. The original mansion has apparently stood within a piece of moated ground situated on the south side of the existing homestead. The space encompassed by the moat measures about 100 yards by 80 yards, and there is also a smaller area of about 45 yards by 30 yards, similarly enclosed by a broad ditch and inner rampart formed by the soil thrown out of it.

At the period of the Reformation a family named Pool was living here, and one Henry Pooll of Walton Head, died in 1550, and his will was proved August 7th. It was doubtless a member of this house who became rector of Kirkby Overblow in 1496. In the 16th century the estate was held by Sir Thomas Johnson, Kt., of Lindley, one of whose daughters married Richard Fawkes, of Farnley, who died in 1587, and was brother of Anthony, whose widow married Philip Bainbridge of Scotton, kinsman of Guy Fawkes. Henry Johnson inherited large properties from his father,* most of which he sold during the troublous times of the Catholic conspiracy that led to the great northern rebellion in 1569. Joining the insurgents,

* *See Surtees Soc.*, vol. 106, page 205.

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he was in consequence attainted, and his lands forfeited. Subsequently however, he obtained a pardon and his lands were recovered. The commissioners, at the instance of Lord Sussex and the Attorney and Solicitor General, surveyed various confiscated properties in this district, including Tadcaster and Spofforth, parcel of the Earl of Northumberland's possessions, and they also surveyed Walton Head, Leathley, and Farnley, part of Henry Johnson's lands. Writing to Sir Wm. Cecil from Ripon, April 21st, 1570, they say of Johnson, that having sold the greater part of the land his father left him, the rest he has conveyed by fine to himself and his wife and their heirs. They also add that "he has built a small house at Walton Head." He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Norton, of Norton Conyers, a family similarly implicated in the same disastrous cause; the melancholy downfall of this old Catholic family forming the subject of Wordsworth's pathetic poem of the *White Doe of Rylston.*

There is, indeed, more than a suspicion that the mother of Guy Fawkes, the Gunpowder conspirator, was a Johnson of Lindley or Walton Head. Margaret Johnson, Henry's sister, married Richard Fawkes of Farnley, a cousin of Anthony Fawkes, whose widow married Philip, father of Dionis Baynbridge, step-father of Guy Fawkes.* It will also be remembered that when Fawkes was accosted in the cellar under the House of Lords on the eve of the Plot, November 4th, 1605, he said his name was John Johnson, and that he was a servant of Thomas Percy,† and came from near Spofforth in Yorkshire. Six out of the seven principal conspirators came from the surrounding district, or had family connections there. Percy was akin to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, lord of Spofforth, and patron of the church of Kirkby Overblow, who was fined £30,000.‡ He married a sister of Christopher and John Wright, two of the band of confederates. Although I can discover no evidence to connect these Wrights, who were both natives of Yorkshire, with the Kirkby Overblow family of that name, it is very probable that they were related. In 1534 I find Sir Everard Digby§ and others concerned in the purchase from Guy Wright, esq., of the manors of Kereby, Scotton (the home of Guy Fawkes), and Sutton, &c., with lands there; and in 1598-9 a Christopher Wright, and Agnes his wife, sold a house with lands in Kirkby Overblow to Thomas Wright. About the same time the said Christopher Wright was party to the sale of messuage, &c., in Kirkby Overblow to Laurence Edwards, a relation no doubt of the Thomas Edwards, who was

* *See* my paper on Hawksworth Hall in the *Bradford Antiquary* for 1903, p. 271.

† *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 343. ‡ *Ibid.*, page 345. § *Ibid.*, page 344.

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instituted to the rectory in 1613. Again, in 1590 James Wright, gent., obtained the rectory of Farnham in Nidderdale, together with lands in Farnham, Scotton, Kirkby, and Kereby in the parish of Kirkby Overblow.

Edmund, third son of above Richard Norton, the insurrectionist, in 1569, purchased the manor of Sallay in 1589, while Henry Norton, his younger brother, is stated to have purchased the manor of Kirkby Overblow.* His father's sister, Anne, had married in 1538 Robert Plumpton of Plumpton, great-grandson of Sir Wm. Plumpton, Kt., who had two illegitimate sons, Robert Plumpton of York, and William Plumpton, gent., who is described in 1490 as "late of Kerkeby Orblaes.†"

Henry Johnson, of Walton Head, old Norton's son-in-law, left two daughters, coheiresses one of whom, Elizabeth, named after her mother, Elizabeth Norton, became the wife of Richard Goldsborough, son of the unfortunate Richard Goldsborough, of whom some account will be found in the chapter on Creskeld in my LOWER WHARFEDALE volume. The Visitation of 1585 describes Richard Goldsborough as of Walton Head; as in an inq. p.m., dated September 24th, 1588, Henry Atkinson (one of the Creskeld family), he is described as late of Walton Head, and he died possessed of various properties in Kirkby Overblow. Perhaps there were two good family seats at Walton Head.‡ Also by a licence dated 1602, authorizing the marriage of Robert Mitford, gent., to Susan, daughter of Richard Goldsborough, it appears that the latter was then still resident in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. He died in 1612, leaving a son Richard and four daughters. It was doubtless this Richard who was living at Walton Head in 1612, when he ceded all his claim and rights in the manor of Goldsborough, &c., to Richard Hutton. He afterwards lived at Stainburn, and in 1618 his marriage licence informs us that he was then about to be married to Mary Cooke of Middlesmoor in Nidderdale.§ He was in all probability the progenitor of the Baildon branch of the Goldsborough family.

The Goldsborough interest in Walton Head went to their kinsfolk the Goodrickes of Ribston. The other daughter of Henry Johnson, of Walton Head, named Frances, was the first wife of Sir Francis Baildon, of Kippax Hall. She died in 1587, and was buried at Kippax 21st May. Sir Francis married secondly Margaret, daughter

* Plantagenet Harrison's *Gilling West*, Norton ped., page 109.

† *Plumpton Correspondence*, page 98.

‡ At the present time there are 11 inhabited houses at Walton Head.

§ *Yorks. Archæl. Jl.*, xiv., 469.

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of Richard Goodricke by his wife Clare Norton. Consequently Sir Francis Baildon's wives were cousins, and granddaughters of old Richard Norton, who was attainted in 1570, as before related.* Richard Goodricke was High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1591, and he purchased Walton Head from his brother-in-law, Sir Francis Baildon, in 1582-3.† His wife was a daughter of the second Lord Eure, who was lineally descended from Baldwin, Earl of Flanders, by his wife Alfuth, one of the daughters of Alfred the Great, and through her ancestors, Katherine de Aton, Eleanor Greystock, Muriel Hastings, and Margery Bowes, she could claim descent from William the Conqueror, Henry III., Edward I., and Edward III., Kings of England.‡

The second son of this illustrious match, William Goodricke, of Skidby and Walton Head, was a colonel in the Parliamentary army. A long account of him will be found in Mr. Goodricke's valuable history. He was concerned in the disputes with Sir Richard Hawksworth and his wife, the friend of Miles Dodson, of Kirkby Overblow (*see* page 80). Colonel Goodricke married Sarah, daughter of Mr. William Bellingham, of Bromby, in the parish of Frodingham, co. Lincoln, by his wife Frances, only daughter of Alex. Amcottes, of Aisthorp, co. Lincoln, Esq., and sister of Rich. Bellingham, Esq., who became Governor of Boston, New England. By indenture, dated 20th August, 1613, Sir Henry Goodricke, of Ribston, settled upon William Bellingham, Esq., Sarah's younger brother, and Sir Francis Baildon, as co-trustees, a moiety of the manor of Walton Head for the use of Sarah Goodricke during her life. Col. Goodricke died in January, 1663-4, at the age of 80, and in his will describes himself as of Walton Head, in the county of York. Apparently he resided there during the latter years of his life.

By inquisition taken after the death of the above Sir Henry Goodricke in 1641, it appears that he died possessed of, among other property, the manors of Hunsingore and Great Ribston, a capital messuage called Trinities in Micklegate, York, and the manor of Walton Head with other premises there, which latter were held of the "Very Noble Algernon, Earl of Northumberland," as of his manor of Spofforth by fealty only in free and common socage, and are worth per annum (clear) £5. Sir Francis Goodricke, Kt., his son, by his will dated 31st July, 1671, ordered £3000 to be raised for the payment of his debts out of his manors and lands in the counties of York and Lincoln, and his manor of Walton Head and certain lands in Little Ribston were, among others, to be sold for that purpose.

* *See* C. A. Goodricke's privately-printed *Hist. of the Goodricke Family* (1897) *Append.*, page 7. † *Ibid.*, page 8. ‡ *Ibid.*, page 14.

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All his manors and lands he devised to his nephew (Sir) John Goodricke, younger son of his late brother Sir John Goodricke, Bart., of Ribston, the Royalist commander before mentioned, whose manor-house at Hunsingore was entirely destroyed during the great war. Sir John Goodricke died in 1705.

As before stated Walton Head now forms part of the estates of the Earl of Harewood. For many generations it has been the home of the Barrett family, who were living at Harewood early in the 18th century. Abraham Barrett, of Harewood, and Hannah Waite, of Kirkby Overblow, were married at Kirkby Overblow Dec. 27th, 1734, and in 1762 Abraham, son of Hugh and Elizabeth Barrett, was baptised. Hugh Barrett, who was overseer in 1770, died at Walton Head in 1808. His grandson, David Barrett, was in 1854 presented with the best of two old bibles then in the church at Kirkby Overblow, as some acknowledgment of his services as churchwarden, &c. He was very conservative of the old ways and customs, and strongly resented the formation of the Burial Board for Kirkby Overblow and the making of the new cemetery. When he died he was at his request interred in the Wesleyan burial-ground, the then rector taking the first part of the service in the church, and concluding it at the grave-side.

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CHAPTER X.

III. Swindon.

IN a schedule to the act of 51st George III. (1811) for taking an account of the population, it is stated that that part of the township of Kirkby Overblow called Swindon is in the Constabulary of Pannal. There are eight inhabited houses in Swindon that pay poor-rates and church-rates to Kirkby Overblow, but they pay land-tax, assessed-taxes, property-tax, and constable-rate to Pannal; they repair their own highways and join with Pannal relating the militia. The number of inhabited houses is at present six.

The principal of these is Swindon Hall, now a farm-house. The original hall has been moated, and traces of the moat are still apparent. When Knaresborough Castle was garrisoned for the King many disastrous forays were made into the surrounding district, and Swindon Hall, which at that time was occupied by Sir George Marwood, of Busby, in Cleveland, was almost totally wrecked and its contents stolen or destroyed. Sir George had married a daughter of the owner, Sir Walter Bethell, father of the then rector of Kirkby Overblow, whose wife was related to Oliver Cromwell (*see* page 41). The Bethells, being in this way connected with the family of the redoubtable Cromwell, had raised money and forces in the cause of the Parliament during the great war.

Formerly and doubtless for a long period anterior to the Civil War, the cattle and stock belonging to the estate were in the night-time, as well as during periods of national disorder, kept within a large fold or enclosure, adjoining the moated (hall) enclosure. This ancient cattle-fold included an area about 100 yards by 80 yards, and consisted of a flat field encompassed with a high earthen rampart, having an outer ditch or trench, similar to that at Rougemont and Rigton, but not so large.

After the Civil Wars the Hall was re-built, and was the occasional residence of the Bethell family, owners of the estate, whose name occurs amongst the earliest entries in the parish registers. In the middle of the 18th century it was however let to the Waites, and

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Hugh Waite died there 16th Sept., 1761, aged 55, and was succeeded by his brother, Joshua Waite, a prominent inhabitant of the township, and a churchwarden, whose initials appear on the old dial-stone in the churchyard, elsewhere mentioned. He died at Lead in 1789, aged 81, leaving by his last will three several sums of £80 each, the interest whereof was to be employed in teaching and clothing two poor boys and in the distribution of bread at Candlemas annually to the deserving poor of the three townships of Kirkby Overblow, Rigton, and Kearby-cum-Netherby. The two executors were to divide equally the £240 if the bequests were not carried out. One share only seems to have been thus appropriated, and was applied to the purchase of £200 three per cent. consols, the interest of which, together with 5s. issuing out of the Scalebords rent-charge, is paid annually in this form: 20 poor persons in Kirkby Overblow receive 3s. each, 12 in Rigton 2s. 6d. each, and 12 in Kearby and Clapgate 2s. 6d. each. The distribution in kind was given up some years ago.

Joshua Waite's nephew, Hugh Gill, was, with his cousin, Joshua Collett, executor of the above will. He was one of the leaders of the early Methodists, and was born at Swindon Hall 26th March, 1753. Subsequently, when a young man, he went to reside with his father at Lead Hall, near Towton, where he lived for nearly thirty years, and then removed to Weeton. There he died 27th April, 1827, having been for nearly half-a-century an active and capable local preacher.

A former owner of Swindon was Sir Walter Bethell, Kt., of Alne, co. York, one of whose sons, Sir Slingsby Bethell, was M.P. for Knaresborough in 1658, and Sheriff of London in 1680. He was a friend of Pope, the poet, and a writer of various political tracts, one of which, entitled *The World's Mistake in Oliver Cromwell*, published in 1694, subjected not only the author and his book but his family's relationships with the late war to the liveliest criticism. He was a man of undoubted ability, but of very singular habits, and his parsimony was such that when Sheriff of London he was publicly censured for the frugality of his entertainments.

Another of Sir Walter's sons was the Rev. Wm. Bethell, D.D., rector of Kirkby Overblow, who married Bridget, daughter of Sir John Bouchier,* by whom he had a family of eleven children. Her beautiful epitaph in the church I have already noticed on pages 41-43. Their eldest son, William Bethell, Esq., was born at Kirkby Overblow in 1650,† and he married (1) Mary, daughter of

* For pedigree of Bouchier *see* Clay's *Dugdale*, page 305

† The registers record the baptism of William, son of William Bethell 24th November, 1650

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Bevercotes Cornwallis, Esq., of Lincoln, who died in 1687; and (2) Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir John Brooke, Bart., of York. There is a memorial to his first wife in the north aisle of the choir of York Minster. He died in 1699, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Hugh Bethell, Esq., of Ellerton, near Pocklington, who died in 1747, aged 58. His kinsman, Christopher Bethell, Esq., of Durham Park, Middlesex, obtained the Swindon property. He was the fourth son of Sir William Codrington, Bart., of Dodington Park, co. Gloucester, and was born in 1728. He died in September, 1797, and his body was brought from Grosvenor Square, London, and buried with great funeral pomp in the family vault at Kirkby Overblow. He married the Hon. Ann, only daughter of Samuel, Lord Sandys, of Ombersley Court, Worcestershire. Lord Sandys in 1741 was appointed Chancellor and Under Treasurer of the Exchequer, and was sixth in descent from the Rt. Rev. Dr. Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York, who died in 1588. It was his son, Sir Edwin Sandys (died 1629) who left an annuity of £20 to the rector of Kirkby Overblow, possibly the fruits of the dissolved chantries, which may have been intended for the purposes of local education.* The Hon. Ann Bethell died in June, 1797—three months before her husband—and was also buried at Kirkby Overblow.

The Hall was pulled down about 1830, and the present substantial farm-house was built on the site. The ancient gateway, however, still remains to testify to the character of the house in former times. Round about the trees and flowers grow luxuriantly, and the spot altogether is one well favoured by nature. The surrounding district is charmingly picturesque, and is especially attractive in the spring-time when the hawthorn blooms and hedge-row and coppice are enlivened with song. Big game was also at one time abundant in the neighbourhood, and the wild stag gambolled over mead and hill. At a Sheriff's turn held at Knaresborough Castle before Sir William Haryngton in May, 1422, one John Bolton, of Pannal, was indicted for that he "did shoot with an arrow one stag at Swyndon."

Part of this district lying between Riddings Barn on the Wharfe and Swindon Grange is called Holy Land. The whole of this neighbourhood now belongs to the Earl of Harewood.

* Educational institutions survived the Reformation with some difficulty. Many schools, however, were continued with the profits of the dissolved chantries, but there were many that disappeared simply because the benefactions were in the hands of courtiers who wanted the money, and often very inadequate sums were set apart for supporting those that were continued (*see* page 86).

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CHAPTER XI.

IV. Other Old Families in the Township of Kirkby Overblow.

THE poll-tax levied by Richard II. in 1378 for carrying on the costly wars with France is the most valuable directory of local names that has come down to us from ancient times. It is not only a census of all able and respectable inhabitants in the country—beggars and criminals being excluded—but it furnishes us also with many of the trades and occupations of the people at that time. At Kirkby Overblow we learn that there were then 31 married couples and 30 single adults above the age of 16, including two widows, living in the township. Reckoning an average of four under 16 years of age in each family, we arrive at an approximate population of 225 for the whole township 525 years ago, or very nearly what it was thirty years since. No doubt this had been much larger a century earlier, as the Scottish wars after Bannockburn, and the plagues and famines that followed, greatly diminished the population throughout the country.

The principal resident in the township in 1378 was John de Rodon, esquire, taxed at 40d. (*see* page 30). But as we have to do with all classes in the life of a parish it will be useful to know that there were two smiths, one paying 12d. and the other 6d., one tailor, 6d., one weaver, 6d., and one shoemaker, 6d. The rest paid 4d. It will thus be seen that after the squire the blacksmith was the principal layman in the village in 1378. A smithy, the indispensable appurtenance of village life, has existed at Kirkby Overblow for a long period. The oldest smithy known was that which existed sixty or seventy years ago near the centre of the village, and was a thatched building which time had greatly decayed. The present smithy is of no antiquity. Isaac Barker, of a respectable family, was blacksmith in 1780, and he was followed by James Blaker, who was here in 1820. The present intelligent representative of that useful handicraft is Mr. Hugh Bateson, who, in February, 1902, succeeded Mr. W. H. Tooby as Assistant Overseer and Clerk to the Parish Council. He is an enthusiastic reader and compiler of

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ancient lore, and to him the present writer is grateful for many a useful note. The Batesons are of an old and respectable local family, and one of them, the Rev. Leonard Bateson, was rector of Spofforth, 1567-73.

Among the principal landed families who had seats at Kirkby Overblow were the Plumptons, Middletons, and Stapletons, whom I have already alluded to. Several marriages took place between these families. Thomas Middleton, of Kirkby Overblow, "sometime man of law," J.P., married in 1468, in the chapel at Plumpton, Joan, daughter of Sir William Plumpton, and Peter Middleton, their son and heir, also resided at Kirkby Overblow, and died there in 1549 without issue.

Another old family of some note was the Amplefords, a name that is found in the Poll-tax of 1378 for Little Ribston, where they continued to reside down to the 16th or 17th century. Several members of this family were freemen of York in the 14th century, and left wills. A John de Ampelford was living at Kirkby Overblow early in the reign of Henry VI., and his will was proved Nov. 10th, 1427. Richard Ampleforth was one of the witnesses to the will of William Plumpton, Esq., who was buried at Spofforth in 1547, aged 62, and was grandson of Sir William Plumpton, the father of Wm. Plumpton, of Kirkby Overblow. This Richard was doubtless a son of the "Rychard Ampilforth of the parish of Kirkby overblaws," whose will was proved March 7th, 1530. In 1536 Richard's widow, "Katherine Ampulforthe of Kyrkby Ouerblowes," along with her sons, John and Richard Ampulforthe, sold a messuage with lands in Ribston to George Pulleyn. The Pulleyns or Pullans were long resident at Kirkby Overblow, and their name occurs frequently in the oldest register commencing in 1647.

So also the Bramleys, who were living at Kirkby Overblow before the Reformation, and of whom there are several early wills preserved. A Peter Bramley was buried at Kirkby Overblow Oct. 18th, 1774. These Bramleys were of the Fewston stock, and were living at Timble in 1378. John Bramley, who was born in 1775, married Ann, daughter of Thomas Simpson, of Felliscliffe, by whom he had a son, John, who died in 1853, and two daughters. One of the latter, Mary, married James, youngest son of Benjamin Kent, of Tatefield Hall, in Rigton township, and the other, Ellen, was the wife of John Yeadon, of the Nunnery, Arthington. The only son of the above John Bramley, also named John, married Mary, daughter of Simeon Moorhouse, of Gill Bottom, Norwood, an old estate of the Fairfaxes, who sold it to the Moorhouses.* The latter were of an

* *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 394.

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old Craven stock, and were akin to the Archers and Elsworths of Sicklinghall.

I have mentioned on page 87 the Pooles of Walton Head, a family which in its several branches continued at Kirkby Overblow down to quite recent times. The name is frequent in the registers. On 30th November, 1698, is the burial entry of one Elizabeth Poole, whose death is recorded at the age of 100 years. The Halls, noted in the Poll Tax of 1378, occur frequently in the registers from 1653 to 1686, and again in the 18th century. The wills of a William Haule, dated 1566, and of John Haule, dated 1568, both of Kirkby Overblow, are preserved at York.

In a Survey of the possessions of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland, in the counties of York, Westmorland and Cumberland, taken upon their attainture in 1569, it is stated that to the manor of Spofforth belongs a Leet Court. At this court sue "all the tenants and inhabitants of Spofforth, Lynton, Kereby, Wetherbye, Kirkby Overblowse, Sicklynghall, Follyfett, and Lyttle Ribston, within all which places the lord of Spofforth hath all wayfes, estrayes, felons, goods, and all other amercemente and profitts belonging to the said court." Then follows a list of all tenants, with their holdings and rents, which fill some 16 folio pages. Among the free tenants appear the names of George Paver, Alice Parke (farmer of the chantry of St. Mary), the Rector of Spofforth, John Vavisour (manor of Woodhall in Kirkby Overblaws), Richard Stapleton and Wm. Hall of Kirkby Overblow (a descendant, doubtless, of John of the Hall, at Kirkby Overblow, in 1378), Thos. Goldsburgh, William Plumpton, the Constable of Kirkby Overblow, 2s. yearly, the Bailiff of Follyfett, renders 10s. 10d. yearly, and many others. Among the "cottagers" are Christ. Wryght, Steph. Parke, Richard Mydelbroke, Nich. Gell, &c., and among those at Lynton appears the name of Robt. Pearson, who pays 6s. 8d. for the use of two acres of land and an ancient chapel. This chapel at Linton was perhaps an early foundation of the Percies, and the site is known as Chapel Garth. All the tenants of the manor pay yearly to the lord for a pasture in which they have common pasture for their cows, according to a rate assessed among them, 33s. 4d. They have also a piece of ground called Crakeflatts, occupied by two tenants in turn paying 2s. 6d.

Among the Linton tenants are James and John Wylson. A John Wilson of Kirkby Overblow married Mary Key of Leeds, July 22nd, 1652. They were connections, doubtless, of the Wilsons of Walton Head, and of Wm. Wylson of Swinden in Kirkby Overblow, who died in 1595. In his will he mentions his wife Elizabeth, his brother Thomas, and daughters Maud and Jane Wylson. The witnesses

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are Thomas Gellstroppe, Richard Cullingworthe, and Robt. Sotheran. This Thos. Gellstroppe, gent., was living at Barrowby Grange, and he and his wife Elizabeth are returned as Papists in 1598—1604, and were the only recusants so declared at this time in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. There were, however, a hundred others in the surrounding district.

The Favells were a family of some consequence in the parish in the 17th century, who sprang from the Favells of Burnsall in Craven, in which district they were large landowners at an early period.* Christ. Favell of Burnsall, who died about 1630, married Elizabeth, widow of Wm. Shute, of Shutenook in the Forest of Knaresborough, and they had a son James who lived at Kearby, and died in 1658. A son of this James was Henry Favell of Kirkby Overblow, who was steward to Algernon, Earl of Northumberland, lord of Spofforth, &c., and patron of the churches of Spofforth and Kirkby Overblow. This nobleman was interred at Petworth in 1668. Mr. Henry Favel was also secretary to Oliver, Lord Grandison, and brought up a family at Kirkby Overblow. He died in 1656, having married Dorothy, daughter of Christ. Wright of Maltby, solicitor to George, Earl of Cumberland, father of the celebrated Lady Anne Clifford, Countess of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery. From the above match descend the Favells of Normanton, to whom there are many memorials in Normanton church.

The Cullingworths, who no doubt took their name from the *Domesday* village of Cullingworth in the parish of Bingley, are of long standing in the parish of Kirkby Overblow, and numerous entries of the family appear in the oldest register. Griffith Cullingworth, who died in 1811, aged 80, was overseer at Kirkby Overblow in 1767, and was grandfather of Griffith Cullingworth, bookseller and publisher, of Leeds, who died in 1860, aged 55. The latter married in 1836, Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Gledhill of Eddercliffe, Liversedge, in Birstal parish, and left two children, Sarah and Charles James Cullingworth, M.D., Hon. D.C.L. Durham, Obstetric Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

The first entry in the baptismal register, commencing 1647, is of Roger son of George Spacy. This family no doubt originated the name of the well-known Spacey Houses, between Kirkby Overblow and Harrogate. Among the older families entered in the registers, other than those already mentioned, are those of Wood (mentioned in the Poll Tax of 1378), Wray, Young, Harland of Barrowby, Reynolds, Lowson, Dibb, Walker, Mallory, Addison, Lupton, Swale, Norfolk, Denison of North Rigton, &c. From the middle of the

* *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 297 and 302.

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18th century the following names occur, Hudson, Wardman, Dunwell, Stables, Brearcliffe, Ridsdale, &c. The Stables have been located in neighbouring parishes from an early period and in 1378 were living at Kirk Deighton. The Stables of Low Hall I have mentioned, and they were also living at Field House, in Kirkby Overblow, which was their own property. Mr. William Stables built the Wesleyan Chapel at Kirkby Overblow almost if not wholly at his own cost, and there is a tablet to his memory in the chapel. He died October 7th, 1862, aged 68. There are also memorials in the chapel-yard to him and Martha, his wife, who died 26th October, 1873, aged 73, as also of Matthew their son, who died at Barlow Hall, Selby (*see* page 32), 21st April, 1860, aged 37, and Sarah his wife, who died 13th January, 1852, aged 30, and several of their children. William Stables, the elder, resided at Heatherwick (now Stank), removing from there to a house called Sandy Gate, or "Stables' House," in the parish of Harewood, which was built for him in 1761. He died in 1787, leaving issue, Elizabeth, John, William (named above), and Mary. The three last mentioned resided some time on a farm belonging to their father at Kirkby Overblow. Mary married the Rev. Richard Burdsall, of Kearby, and on their marriage they went to live at York. Their daughter Mary became Mrs. John Lyth, who died in 1860, aged 78, and was mother of the eminent Wesleyan divines, the Revs. R. B. Lyth and John Lyth, D.D.

The Ridsdales, who are still at Kirkby Overblow, have also been settled in the surrounding villages for a long period. At Low Hall they resided from at least 1777, when James Ridsdale, who was then living there, married Frances Squires of Lofthouse, Wakefield. His father, James, died in 1790, aged 68. But in 1771 a William Ridsdale was overseer of Kirkby Overblow, and it is very probable the family was at the Low Hall at that time. The above James Ridsdale, of Low Hall, died in February, 1810, and was a prominent Methodist. A memoir of him appeared in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1811. He was succeeded by his son William, who removed to a farm at Walton Head in 1846, where he died 2nd May, 1859 aged 76. For some time after 1846 Low Hall was tenanted by William Thornton, who was followed by Charles Wardman. He removed to Paddock House, Sicklinghall, leaving Low Hall in the hands of his son, George Wardman, who died 30th December, 1865, aged 39. His widow, who was a Harland of Lund Head, carried on the farm till the spring of 1900, assisted by her son George, when a change of ownership necessitated a removal, and a farm was taken at Kearby.

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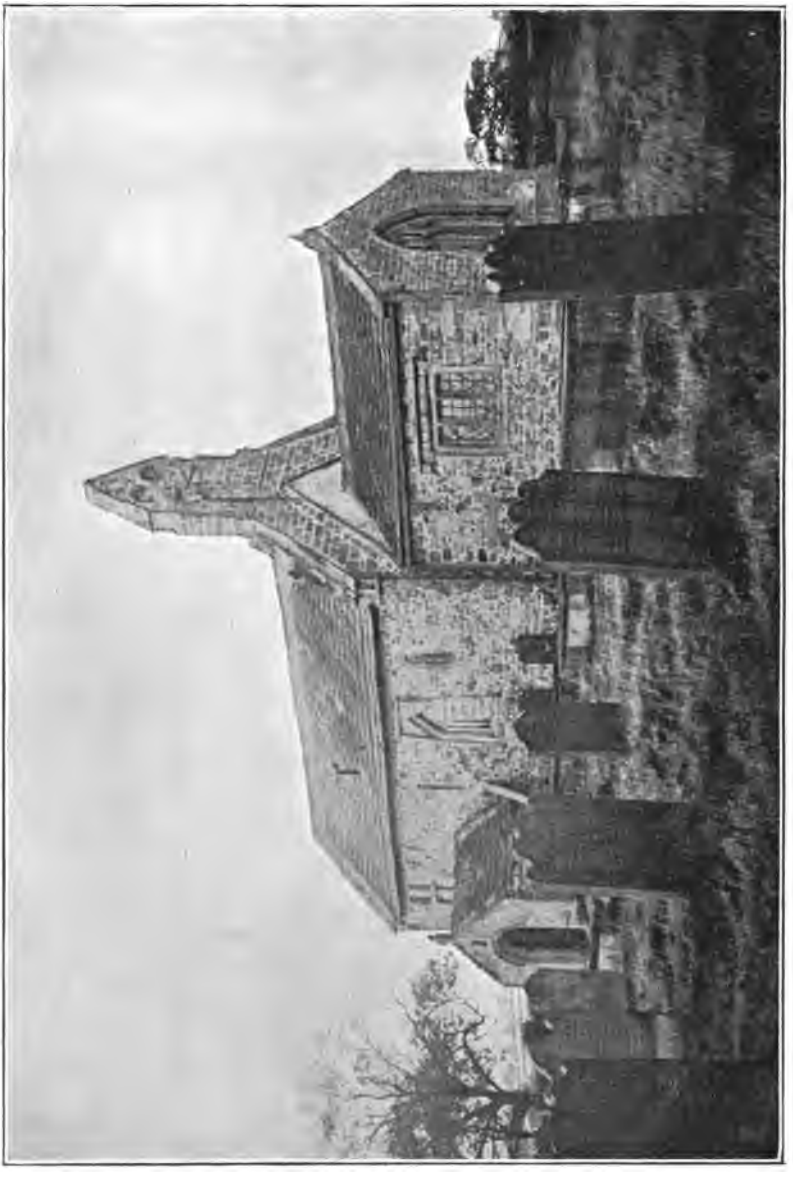

STAINBURN CHURCH BEFORE THE RESTORATION.

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CHAPTER XII.

History and Aspects of the Townships of the ancient Parish of Kirkby Overblow.

I. Stainburn.

THE old Saxon township of Stainburn* continued to form part of the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow so recently as 1871, when it was constituted a separate ecclesiastical parish. There would, however, appear to have been a chapel and resident priest here at an early period, for not only have we the evidence of the existing Norman building, but in early grants of local property to Fountains Abbey we have the records of several chaplains of Stainburn. William, clericus, de Staynburn, gave among other donations to the Abbey, three acres in the territory of Stainburn, namely those which are most to the east in the culture of Eadolfriding, in frankalmoign. He also confirms to the monks 30 acres of land in Stainburn, with the common pasture of the said vill outside; corn and meadow for 200 sheep, which they had of Robert de Lelay; and they may have the 30 acres next the three acres which he gave them in Eadolfriding, to wit, furrow to furrow.† The said William, clerk, of Stainburn,

* In my *Upper Wharfedale* (page 108) it is suggested that the suffix "burn" in Stainburn and Washburn may be derived from the Norse loan-word "borran" (meaning a site abandoned or in ruins). There appears, however, to be no recorded instances of place-names compounded with "borran" (so spelled), and therefore it seems more reasonable to assume that the A.-S. *burn* (a stream) is implied in all places compounded with this substantive in Yorkshire; though nowhere in Yorkshire is it used in this sense, the Scand. word "beck" having supplanted it.

† This interesting field-name, Eadulfridding, apparently connects Stainburn with the stirring epoch of St. Wilfrith and the great religious revival of the 7th century. Eadulf, who had family connections with this district,—his grandfather having being buried at Collingham (*see* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 346), succeeded Aldfrith as King of Northumbria in 705, and though he reigned but two months, his name was a "household word" throughout the northern kingdom so long as he lived. He is mentioned at the Council of Nydd, and in Wensley church is a

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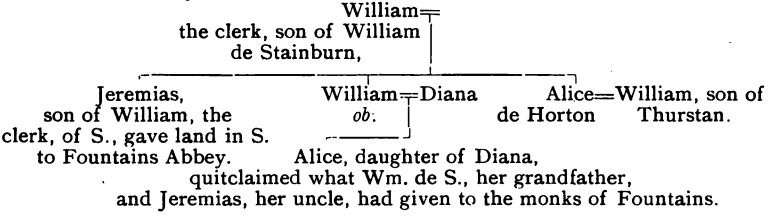
also gave the monks two acres and one rood which abut on the cemetery of the chapel of Stainburn, and three roods which abut on the lands of the church [of Kirkby Overblow]. This cannot have been much after the year 1200, and the clerical grantor was in all probability a member of the original Lelay or Leathley family, whose descendants assumed the patronym of Stainburn.* The subjoined descents are proven by their grants recorded in the Chartulary of Fountains Abbey.



Probably of this family, too, was Adam, son of Thomas, son of Hugh, the chaplain, who gave an oxgang of land in Stainburn, with his body there to be buried, to the same monastery. The above Robert de Lelay was, together with his father William (living in 1201) and his brother Hugh, a witness to the charter of Gundreda de Haget to Bilton in the time of Henry II. (*ante* 1189).

Isolda, daughter of the above Hugh de Lelay, married Roger de Poictevin,† who died *ca.* 1224, and in her widowhood (she was living in 1235) gave the same monks of Fountains the whole village of Stainburn, containing five carucates of land (exactly the quantity that was taxed in 1066), as well in demesnes as in service, which grant was confirmed by Roger Paytevin, the younger, her grandson, who was living in 1276.

memorial of two of his sons, Eatbereht and Aruni, *ca* 740 (*see* my *Richmondshire*, page 380). In Northumberland the name is perpetuated in the village of Edlingham, anciently Eadulfingham and Eadwulfincham (*i.e.*, *home* of the *descendants* of *Eadulf*), *vide Surtees Soc.*, vol. 51, pages 68, 143. A monument bearing his name is preserved at Alnwick Castle. It was found in 1789 in the ruins of St. Woden's Church at Alnmouth. *See* Bishop Browne's *Theodore and Wilfrith*, page 288.

* Although grants continued to be made to the Abbey, Stainburn and Rigton were reckoned in the Forest of Knaresborough, and were subject to the forest-laws, and were not finally disafforested until 12th Edward II. When the lordship of the Forest of Knaresborough reverted to the Crown on the death of the Earl of Cornwall in 1300, the King appointed Miles Stapelton and John de Insula wardens of the Forest; the latter family having been lords of Rigton probably induced the King to disafforest the manor in favour of the monks.

† *See Upper Wharfedale*, page 110. The arms of the family of Poictevin or Paytefin were those adopted by the monastery of Kirkstall. *See Thoresby Soc.*, vol. iv., page 178, and for pedigree of Lelay *see* vol. xi., page 2.

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Before the Norman Conquest there had been four manors within the township, held by as many thanes, and the whole contained five carucates which were worked by two ploughs. In 1086 the entire estate was in the hands of the Crown and had not then been granted out, though it must have been shortly afterwards. The fact of the manor being returned in 1086 as worth so much as 40s., and no church being then mentioned, offers strong testimony to the supposition that no church had been built or at anyrate endowed. Subsequently when the whole of the estates at Leathley passed to the Percies at the end of the 13th century, who were also lords of Kirkby Overblow, we find them presenting to the church of Kirkby Overblow from the 14th to the 17th centuries. The advowson was then settled on the Crown, and in 1536 a pension of £4 per annum is stated by Lawton to have been payable out of the rectory of Kirkby Overblow to the chaplain at Stainburn, no doubt an ancient provision of the Percies.* There are, however, some curious complications in the early history of this manor and the origin of the church that need explaining. The latter has frequently been stated to have belonged with the whole vill or township of Stainburn to Fountains Abbey, and Burton in the *Monasticon Eboracense* (page 211), makes the same assertion, but there are no records to confirm these statements. Stainburn manor, as I have said, was at the Conquest a Crown possession, and subsequently came to the De Lelays,† and afterwards to the noble house of Albemarle, while Rigton, in the same parish, came to the family of De Insula or De Lisle, of Rougemont, who had succeeded, partly by descent, partly by marriage, to the lordship of Harewood in 1274. Shortly after this time Stainburn and half Rigton were lorded by the Abbot and Convent of Fountains.

But the parish had undoubtedly been formed before the Conquest, and evidence in support of this fact is to be found in the *Domesday* name of *Cherchebi* (Kirkby Overblow), and in the establishment of the existing chapel-of-ease at Stainburn, by the Norman lord of the manor of Kirkby Overblow, long anterior to any grant in Stainburn to Fountains Abbey. Indeed about the same time that Fountains Abbey became possessed of the village of Stainburn, I find by an undated charter, though obviously written between the years 1303 and 1313, that one John, son of Adam de Wytegift, gave to John de Gillings, Abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of York, 5 tofts

* In the Certificates of the dissolved chantries the stipend allowed by the parson of Kirkby Overblow to the incumbent of Stainburn is given as 5 marks or £3 6s. 8d. *See Surtees Soc.*, vol. 92, page 398.

† *See Thoresby Soc.*, vol. xi., page 23, &c.

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and 4 bovates of land in the vill of Staynburn. There were also other religious houses possessed of lands in the township besides Fountains Abbey.

Indeed, little doubt can exist that the Percy family, who were lords of the manor of Kirkby Overblow at the Conquest, and undoubtedly founders of the Norman church there, had obtained a site in Stainburn whereon to erect a chapel-of-ease to the mother church. And this was to remain within the ecclesiastical liberty of the parish of Kirkby Overblow (as it had been before the Conquest), and the rectors of the mother church were to continue to serve the cure or provide a chaplain, which they have continued to do down to the present time. They had also the feed of the chapel-yard.

There are many early references to the church property at Stainburn in the grants to Fountains Abbey, and although the latter might own land, which they evidently did, that came up to the very edge of the kirk-garth or cemetery at Stainburn, yet no further; their proprietary interest stopped there. The original of the following grant, in proof of this, is among the archives at Farnley Hall.

STAYNBURN, 14th EDWARD III (1340). Laurence son of William de Castelay gives to Adam, son of Robert del Cote of Stainburne, and Margery, his wife, and the heirs of Adam, a toft in Staynburn between the land of the rector of the church of Kyrkeby on the one part and the land of the Abbot of Fountains on the other part

On the other hand in the only charter (*temp.* Richard II.) of confirmation by the Crown of grants to Fountains Abbey, cited by Dugdale,* in which the name of Stainburn occurs, there is no mention of a chapel, nor from the circumstance of its being an appanage of the church of Kirkby might we expect such. In the same sentence, however, that contains the allusion to Stainburn, it is expressly stated that the monks have the vill of Crosthwayt in Cumberland, with the church of the same vill, but they have only certain rents in Stainburn, which at the Dissolution were returned as amounting to £24 4s. 3d. per annum.†

Nearly the whole of the township of Stainburn passed by grants at various dates and by various owners to the great Abbey of Fountains. The principal donors were the Lelays and Poictevins, including William, the clerk, of Stainburn, who, in addition to the grants recited, also gave the monks one messuage here, with pasture for 100 sheep, and common pasture of the same village, with all that he had on the west of the land of Robert de Lelay, and all his meadow about Esekelde.‡ Stainburn, like Leathley, descended, as

* *Mon. Ang.*, v., 310. † *Ibid.*, page 318.

‡ Burton's *Mon. Ebor.*, page 291.

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stated, to the house of Albemarle, and Isabel, Countess of Albemarle and Devonshire, and Lady de Lisle, confirmed to the monks the village of Stainburn, with a moiety of Rigton, and one toft and one oxgang in Huby, &c., of the fee of Harewood. King Edward III., in the 23rd year of his reign, confirmed this grant,* and in 1315 the Abbot of Fountains was returned as lord of the manor of Stainburn.

In 1318 the Scots, following up their success at Bannockburn, entered Yorkshire in strong force. They set fire to Northallerton and Boroughbridge, and then came on to Knaresborough, which was also plundered and burnt. The authorities at Ripon held hasty council, and paid the marauders 1000 marks to spare their town from robbery and destruction. The large property-owning monastery of Fountains was a heavy loser by this disastrous invasion.† By a writ tested at York, 13th Edward II. (1319), the Abbot of Fountains stayed the execution of the collection of the eighteenths due from the tenants in the townships of Rigton, Stanyburgh (Stainburn), Rippelay, Sedbergh in Lonesdale, Burton, Thornton, Twysilton, Ingleton, &c., as the tenants were great sufferers through the depredations of the Scots, and were unable to pay their accustomed rents and taxes. Similarly, the King, as lord of the adjoining Honour and Forest of Knaresborough, excused the tenants of all the townships in this territory from the like obligation. The marauders turned Pannal church into a temporary garrison, and when they quitted it almost razed and burnt it to the ground.

It is impossible to gauge accurately what the population of the township of Stainburn was in the period preceding the fateful invasion of the Scots. But it must have been considerable as population was reckoned in those days, and in all probability equal to that of many of our present large towns and cities, such as Dewsbury, Halifax, and Bradford. The Black Death of 1348-9 had greatly reduced the numbers in Yorkshire, so that when the second terrible outbreak occurred in 1361-2, there were naturally fewer left to destroy. This second visitation appears to have been particularly bad in the neighbourhood of Stainburn, and in 1362 the Archbishop of York, as apostolic legate, and chief lord-spiritual of the parish of Kirkby Overblow and its dependent chapels, granted the inhabitants of Stainburn a license to hold services in their cemetery during the

* *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 67, page 33.

† So, too, was Bolton Abbey, which was so impoverished that the monastery could not maintain its regular inmates. Several of the canons were boarded for some time at other of the Austin Priories.

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continuance of the pestilence.* Possibly a cross was erected for the purpose in the churchyard (*see* page 112).

One can understand the bad effects and greater difficulty there would be in getting rid of the contamination in close and low-lying villages in the valleys, but in a high, open and naturally salubrious locality like Stainburn it may be supposed the inhabitants would sooner recover. Perhaps this was the case;† at any rate the Poll Tax returns of A.D. 1378 shew that Stainburn was then accounted among the more important places in the West Riding. Its population exceeded either Dewsbury or Halifax, and its taxable value was also higher than these places, and not far behind that of Bradford. There were 16 householders, married and with families, then living in the township of Stainburn, and there were 25 single adults, many of whom were servants in the employ of the principal tenants. Amongst these were two carpenters, evidently in a large way of business from the amount, 12d., they contributed to the King's levy; one weaver who paid 12d., another weaver who paid 6d., and a mason or builder who paid 6d. The rest worked on the land and paid 4d. each.

The Abbot of Fountains having the chief interest in Stainburn had a resident bailiff here, and about the middle of the 15th century there is an entry of 4d. paid to one Adam Faucyd‡ for the expenses of a journey to Stainburn. The same messenger also travelled to Crosthwaite in Cumberland at an expense of 3s. 4d., and to Kendal for 6s. 8d. The route taken from the Abbey to Stainburn would no doubt be by the old road through Killinghall and Beckwithshaw, a distance out and home of about thirty miles.

In a return of the possessions of the Abbey, certified in May,

* The *Archiepiscopal Registers* at York contain many references to the great fatality prevailing in that city in 1349 In July and August of that year there are no fewer than six entries of commissions to consecrate burial-grounds in and around York, in order that the victims of the plague may at least find rest in hallowed ground.

† The mortality in the low-lying districts of York and East Riding was certainly much greater than among the western hills. Among 95 registered clergy in the East Riding, for example, there were in 1349 no fewer than 60 deaths; while of 96 clergy in the West Riding only 45 died. *See* the *Antiquary*, May, 1901. The district of Kirkby Overblow has never been much troubled with serious epidemics. After the hardships and privation of the Civil War there was a local outbreak at Rigton, and in 1645 the sum of 20s. was allowed by the West Riding authorities for the continuance of a watch there to prevent the spread of the disorder. In that year 1325 persons died of the plague in Leeds alone

‡ A member of the old family of Fawcett, who were long in the service of the monastery, and became afterwards freeholders on the monks' lands in Littondale in Craven.

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1535, to the King's Commissioners, according to the statute of 26th Henry VIII., we have under the heading of "Feoda" this entry of the payment of the bailiff's salary at Stainburn:

"Radulpho Lealome, ballivo de Stanburn, 33s. 4d."

Soon after the suppression of the monastery, Stainburn was acquired by the Palmes family, of Lindley, who about this time had intermarried with the Johnsons, Vaughans, and Beckwiths (*see* Low Hall), connections of the Dodsons of Kirkby Overblow. Subsequently it came to the Fawkes's, of Farnley, who are now sole landowners.

The township, as part of the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow, has always from time immemorial contributed its quota towards the expenses connected with the mother church. All five townships within the parish paid equal shares towards the cost of repairs to the church, care of the bells, ringing and chiming, surplice-washing, plate-cleaning, &c. The smaller townships, however, were often obliged to lay a 1½d. rate, when a 1d. rate was sufficient to meet the proportion in the larger townships. There appears to have been a good deal of trouble with the people of Stainburn during last century, in obtaining their proportion of the levies. In April, 1809, the sum of £4 4s. was paid for the repair of the churchyard wall at Kirkby Overblow. The churchwardens at Stainburn objected to pay a fifth portion of this expense, presenting the excuse that they had a chapel and services of their own to provide for. The amount, however, was paid on Jan. 1st, 1810. Yet the same difficulties went on, and on one occasion, in 1845, legal proceedings were instituted, but eventually the advice of Archdeacon Musgrave was sought, and he wrote to Mr. Fawkes and advised his tenants to pay the accustomed rate, which they did. But legal fees amounting to £4 4s. 8d. were incurred, and by an oversight on the part of the Kirkby Overblow churchwardens they failed to secure the costs of the case, and had to pay their solicitor £1 15s. 8d. more than the total amount of the rate due from Stainburn.

In 1871 the township of Stainburn was, as already stated, made a separate parish, and henceforward became exempted from such exactions of the mother church. In the 17th century the Parliamentary Commissioners recommended this to be made a distinct parish, adding, "that although the merit and ability of Mr. Bethell be such as we cannot advise the lessening of his present maintenance during his life, yet the £20 which he alloweth at Stainburn may be augmented by the State, out of the public allowance for the present." The cure was augmented in 1775 with £200 by lot, and in 1778 with £200 to meet a benefaction of a rent-charge of £12 per annum from the

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Rev. Charles Cooper, D.D.; and in 1826 with £400 by lot. The register of baptisms and burials, which have taken place here since Norman times) begins with the year 1803: but up to 1871 marriages were celebrated only at the mother church of Kirkby Overblow.

The oldest of the church terriers relating to the property of the rectory of Kirkby Overblow, is dated 1613, and it sets forth the names of the houses and lands, with their tenants, in Stainburn, the whole embracing an area of about 22 acres. The feed of the chapel-yard also belongs to the rectors of the mother church; also the tithes of corn, wool, lamb, at Midsummer; of geese and ducks at Michaelmas; of chickens at the Feast of All Saints; of calves at Martinmas; of eggs at Easter, with other privy tithes then also due; likewise tithes of bees and of pigs, and of hay at a certain stint.

In 1776 an Act of Parliament was obtained by which the rector of Kirkby Overblow had a composition for the then enclosed land of Stainburn, and also an allotment of land out of Stainburn Common adjoining to his allotment on Rigton Common, which allotment was accounted at 100 acres and in 1786 was let to Francis Fawkes, Esq. It is further stated in a terrier for this year (1786), that the rector is possessed of the corn tithe throughout the parish of Kirkby Overblow, except at Rigton and Stainburn, by the two late Acts of Parliament; and also except at Woodhall, where a *Modus decimandi quo jure quare injuria*, has obtained, so that all that great lordship pays only a mark (13s. 4d.) a year as a composition, "which only had been paid as a personal agreement for the tithe of the Park, as the Rev. Dr. Bethel, one of the former rectors (1647 to —) hath deposed."

The ancient church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, occupies a fine, elevated position, and from its surrounding "God's acre" commands a lovely view of the far-extending Wharfe valley. Notwithstanding necessary renovations, from time to time, it is highly interesting to find the venerable building retaining almost the same aspects it wore when first erected, nearly eight centuries ago. The last important restoration was very carefully carried out in 1894 during the incumbency of the late vicar, the Rev. Walter Hall, the work having been entrusted to Mr. C. Hodgson Fowler, F.S.A., of Durham. The roof of the building was raised to its original pitch, new floors of stone and wood on concrete were put down, the old gravestones being relaid, new oak fittings for the chancel were introduced and those in the nave were repaired. An entirely new vestry was also added. Thus, while modern comforts and conveniences have been obtained, there has been no interference with the original character of the building itself, and it remains an almost unique example of an original village church of Norman times. Moreover,

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it affords ample testimony of the importance of the township and of the necessity that existed so early for a chapel-of-ease to the mother church of Kirkby Overblow. Indeed, it may be questioned whether such towns as Bradford and Halifax had so good and commodious a place of worship at this early time. The comparatively large (*see* page 106) population had no doubt grown upon an old Celtic stock, and remained strongly tinctured with Celtic customs and traditions, down to and even beyond the Norman Conquest.

The dimensions of the building apparently bear out the deductions I advanced with respect to the Celtic influences that are evidenced in the old church in the adjoining parish of Leathley.* At Stainburn we have a nave 40 feet long and a chancel 20 feet long by 15 feet 4 inches wide (same as at Leathley), though the width of the nave, 18½ feet, is smaller than that given by William of Malmesbury for the original British church at Glastonbury, which was 26 feet wide and 60 feet long. Of course it is only by the collection of a great many data from other places that we may expect to arrive at any satisfactory explanation of the significance of these measurements. Consequently it would be unsafe to lay it down as a properly ascertained fact that our ancient churches were built on some recognized principle, as our earliest Christian churches, and particularly those that originated under the Romish rather than the Celtic priesthood, are so various both in form and size. The small choir in these early buildings is also to be noted. The shortness of the choir, in comparison with the nave, is one of the distinctive features in early monastic as well as in parish churches, and is in marked contrast with the fashion of the 13th to 15th centuries, when the choir was made nearly as long as the nave.

The nave and chancel at Stainburn are alike early Norman, but there is an impression that the chancel was the original church, because of the peculiar position of the existing bell-turret at its west end. There can, however, be no question as to the coeval age of both nave and chancel; the bell-turret being merely an early Decorated addition set upon the original chancel-arch gable; the old Norman coping of which was very apparent alongside that of the later turret. *See* the prefatory illustration.

In the east wall is a Perpendicular window of three good lights. These are interesting for their chaste, simple outline, unaffected by the fashion of cusping which had been introduced more than a century before this late end of the church was rebuilt. With the exception of this east end, the external walls of both chancel and nave present the usual characteristics of the early Norman style, a

* *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 115-116.

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strongly-built solid mass of well-jointed masonry, but without a single buttress or pilaster.* It may be noted that there are four or five flat-faced stones, circular in form, which bear groove-marks on their surfaces. These have been described as Saxon sun-dials, but they may be the worn bottom-stones of disused or broken querns, or primitive hand-mills, many of which have been found in the neighbourhood.

The chancel-arch consists of two plain orders having simple abaci,† and the chancel no doubt was originally lighted by narrow, splayed windows of similar design to the Norman slits still existing in other parts of the church. These lights are identical in form with those in the tower at Leathley. The wide splays are wholly internal, and their external bases consist not of finished stones, but of the usual coarse wide-jointed masonry. The larger one of these Norman windows at the east end of the south side (no windows were made on the north side) apparently has been placed in a higher position than the others, in order to light the original holy-rood or rood-loft, which seems to me rather remarkable evidence of the existence of such a feature in an English country church so early. There is much, however, to be said in favour of this rood-loft supporting the usual figures of our Lord crucified and the Blessed Virgin and St. John. Moreover it is not improbable that in early times, in the absence of a lattice, there would be a movable curtain suspended to the rood-loft or beam, which would serve as a screen during the celebration of the holy mysteries. It is also likely that the bell, which was suspended as now, above the chancel-gable, would serve as a sanctus or mass-bell, as most singularly it occupies the position of the sanctus-bell in large churches. The bell was, of course, rung at the most solemn part of the service, as at the conclusion of the ordinary, or upon the elevation of the host and chalice after consecration.

There is, moreover, a deed preserved at Farnley Hall which throws some additional light on this subject. It is dated 18th Richard II. (1394), and recites that one John de Esshe, and Agnes his wife, gave to Thomas Tromp and John Sotheron, a toft and a croft in Stainburn, in length and breadth between the land of the

* This church, as also the tower of Leathley church, are often stated to be Saxon because of the absence of buttresses, a circumstance, however, which is no criterion of age, as buildings of every style and period are to be found without buttresses or pilasters.

† The abacus in Saxon architecture is usually a plain flat stone without either chamfer or moulding, while the Norman abacus has generally a plain chamfer on the lower edge.

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Abbot of Fountains on the east, and the land of St. Leonard on the west. This property was to be held by them in fee, on condition that they paid yearly to the *prepositus* of the chapel of Stainburn, at Christmas, the sum of 18d., to be spent in two torches for the elevation of the body of Christ in each mass there celebrated, and to do other things necessary in the chapel. A special grant of land for such a purpose shews the importance of the ritual and the regard in which it was held at this place, and it is therefore highly probable that a holy-rood existed over the entrance to the chancel. Rood-lofts, indeed, have been rarely noticed, or at any rate preserved, in this country before the 14th century, while only two, I believe, now exist in Yorkshire, namely at Hubberholme and Flamborough, and both these are 16th century work.

The curious, triangular-headed late Decorated window, between the two Norman lights on the south side, has evidently been intended to light an altar connected with some private obituary service on that side of the chancel-arch. It appears from the chantry certificates of 1548, that one Percival Lindley* had granted certain freehold land of the annual value of 18d., for the maintenance for ever of a light in the chapel of Stainburn, but whether for an obit or for the high altar is not stated. The most western window in the nave is obviously a late insertion made to light one of those modern, but often necessary, disfigurements in many of our ancient churches, a west gallery. The large square-headed window, of three lights, in the south wall of the chancel is also a late insertion, apparently of the 17th century. The porch is Decorated work of the middle of the 14th century, and has a singularly interesting roof of that age, but which, judging from the apices of the principal timbers, was repaired probably when the east end of the church was rebuilt about a century later. Above the south front of the porch is a small trefoil-headed niche, but minus the effigy of Our Lady which no doubt originally filled it. The walls of the porch are formed of large squared blocks of millstone grit, upon two of which on the east side is some strange lettering, but what it signifies I am unable to determine. One of the inscribed blocks measures on the face 22 by 12 inches, and the other adjoining it is 18 by 12 inches.

The font is noteworthy. The bowl, which is 4½ inches thick, is polygonal, and has on its upper edge a bead moulding. The base is circular, and in the intersections of the interlaced arcading are sculptured various rude designs. The ancient oak-cover is said to be of the same age as the font, which dates from about the middle of the 12th century. The cover consists of four attached boards, not

* Of the old local family of Lindley. *See Upper Wharfedale*, page 63, &c.

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planed but adze-hewn, and the cross-handle is of very curious design.

In the church-yard is the socket of an old cross, in shape quadrilateral, externally expanding towards the base. It is 22 inches high, and is 6 feet 4 inches in circumference at the top, and 8 feet at the base. The square, straight-sided cavity is 13½ inches in diameter and 8 inches deep. Its large size proclaims its post-Conquest origin, although if the old rune-stone in Bingley church, which is much larger, be the base of a Saxon cross, as contended by the Rev. D. H. Haigh,* mere dimensions cannot be accepted as an infallible guide to the age of such monuments. I can, however discover no reason why a preaching-cross may not have stood here contemporaneously with the first church at Kirkby Overblow. But *see* page 106.

There are two tomb-stones near this old cross-base which bear the unusually early date of 1636. Interments have been infrequent on the north side of the burial-yard doubtless for the reason stated in my UPPER WHARFEDALE volume, page 212. There is an ancient right of way, still maintained, across this portion of the sacred enclosure.

The township embraces an area of nearly 3000 acres with a sparse population (about 300), living chiefly on scattered farms. The whole district is elevated and salubrious and is celebrated in the records of family longevity. Take for example the single family of Holmes. Abraham Holmes died January 28th, 1868, aged 85, and his father, Charles Holmes, when he died was 87, and his mother, Mary, was aged 91, while his brothers Thomas died aged 87, Charles aged 86, Abraham 85, and sister Mary 86; thus the six total 522 years, or an average of 87 years each of father, mother, and four children. They were all born at Stainburn.

The Poll-tax of 1378 shews that there were two wheelwrights or carpenters then living at Stainburn, besides two weavers and a stone-mason. The old wooden and thatched dwellings were apparently giving way to erections of stone, which has always been plentiful in the neighbourhood. Evidently the township and district found work enough to employ a mason and builder. No public inns existed at that time, but each house might brew ale of proper quality according to law and the custom of the manor. In 1835 there were two licensed victuallers in the township, a wheelwright and a blacksmith.

In addition there was a school then (1835) conducted by John Emsley. The old school, which was built about 1786, continued in existence for some time, and the squire of the parish at that time gave £10 a year towards the education of the cottagers' children.

* *See* my *Old Bingley*, pages 150—152.

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This school was discontinued about 1858, and the children attended the school at Leathley until 1861, when the present school at Stainburn was erected by Francis Hawksworth Fawkes, Esq., lord of the manor. The head teachers have been Miss Elizabeth Fox, 1871-80; Miss Elizabeth Charlesworth, 1880-3; Miss Mary H. Shepherd, 1884-8; Mrs. A. E. Lumby, 1888-95; Mrs. Naylor, 1895-7; Miss Maria Moore, 1897-1900; Miss Annie J. Clough, 1900 to the present time. A Wesleyan chapel was built in 1836.

There is no vicarage house at Stainburn. The incumbents have generally been curates of Kirkby Overblow, and men who have been respected for their integrity, scholarly aptitude, and high moral purpose. But as in lay life so in clerical life there have been exceptions among them. One of the incumbents of Stainburn who lived near the end of the 18th century, is well remembered for his eccentricities and unfortunate love of strong drink. He was a bachelor and allowed no woman about his house, which continued for many years in a very dirty and unseemly state. The door was generally kept locked, and no one could see inside as the windows were never cleaned. The incumbent, however, is said to have been an earnest man, but his abilities in this direction were greatly marred by his appearance in the pulpit, for he generally stood up in a pair of old stockings mended by himself with a piece of his shirt. In other respects, too, his personal attire was remarkable. He might, indeed, have employed himself usefully to supplement his income, but no! he preferred to pass his time within the precincts of the public house. Sometimes he would enter the inn rubbing his hands with a sort of glee on his haggard countenance, then settling down declare he would have a whole pint of the best! He was long a curiosity at Stainburn.

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THATCHED HOUSE IN THE BACK LANE, RIGTON.

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CHAPTER XIII.

II. North Rigton.

THE pleasant upland township of North Rigton* (so called to distinguish it from East Rigton in the parish of Bardsey), is not only the largest and most populous of the five townships embraced by the ancient parish of Kirkby Overblow (*see* page 68), but possesses more features of archæological interest than any other of the parochial divisions. It is also particularly memorable for having given an Abbot, William of Rigton, to the great landowning monastery of Fountains, who was lord of a moiety of the manor as well as of all Stainburn. Abbot William of Rigton reigned during the troublous era of the Scottish wars that led to Bannockburn and its disastrous sequel, when all building operations at the great monastery were at a standstill. Shortly after his election in 1311 he was summoned by writ tested at Berwick-on-Tweed, to a Parliament held at London on August 8th, 1311. He died after a reign of 5 years, 1 month and 27 days, and was buried within the Abbey, but the stone laid upon his grave must either have been removed or is uninscribed.

Rigton appears to have been originally included in the Royal Forest of Knaresborough, which was certainly afforested at the time of the *Domesday* survey, and was subject to an assized rent of 20 shillings. But in the reign of King John, the "Forest of Wherndale" (Wharfedale), so-called, was disafforested. Henry III., in 1256, confirmed this, stating moreover, that "all woods which have been made forests by King Richard, our uncle, or by King John, our father, unto our first coronation, shall be forthwith disafforested, unless it be our own property." In 1318 a further order was granted for the disafforesting of "Stanburn et Ruggeton in Foresta de Knaresburgh."† It was in this year that the victorious army of Scots ravaged the north of England, and the Abbot of Fountains in consequence pardoned his tenants at Rigton and Stainburn from

* The name of this place is generally supposed to mean *ridge town*, but the prefix Rig is probably a personal name. It is also interesting to note that the oldest document in which the word *Edda*, as a genealogical term occurs, is the *Lay of Rig*, a poem which in editions of the older Edda is included in the group of its mythic songs. *See Saga Book of the Viking Club*, i., 219-39.

† *Rot. Pat.*, 12th Edward II., pt. i., m 15 d.

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paying their rents. The church at Pannal during this raid was burnt to the ground. The Percies had also to excuse their tenants at Spofforth, Wetherby, Linton, Kirkby Overblow, Kearby, &c., who could not meet their accustomed dues.

Rigton, which had been granted to Gilbert Tyson at the Conquest, subsequently came to Nigel de Albini,* father of the celebrated Roger de Mowbray, the Crusader, and lord of a hundred manors, who, it is not generally known, had in addition to his several castles, a town-house in Ousegate, York. Whitaker cites a charter of this Roger, granting the manor of Hebden in Craven to Ughtred son of Dolphin, son of Gospatric de Rigton. But no authority is given for these descents, nor is the early date mentioned, *ca.* 1120, probable. Roger de Mowbray was a minor in 1120 and was living in 1181, and his grant is probably nearer the latter date than the former. In 1187 Ketel the son of Ughtred, along with Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, granted to Henry de Redman certain lands at Levens and elsewhere in Westmorland. The Mowbrays were lords paramount thereof, who had granted the great Barony of Kendal to the Lancaster family, whose heiress in 1184 married the above Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid. It is not unlikely that this Ketel son of Ughtred, father of Simon de Hebden (a relationship amply proved in the Chartulary of Fountains), was the Asketel de Furneys, who had the manor of Ainderby near Northallerton, and was father of Gilbert de Furneys, father of William de Lancaster, first Baron of Kendal (*see* page 20). William de Lancaster, son of Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, confirmed a grant of lands at Preston, Holme, and Hutton, made by Patric grandson of Gospatric,† possibly the Gospatric de Rigton, ancestor of the De Hebdens.‡ At any rate we find that one Robert de Furneys was holding in 1284-5 one carucate of land at Ainderby-Fourneaux of the Honour of Richmond, and the same Robert was also holding conjointly with the heirs of William de Plumpton, at this time a moiety of the village of Rigton, of Roger de Mowbray, who held *in capite* of the King. In 1315 Richard, son of Robert Furneaux, and the Abbot of Fountains are returned as joint lords of Rigton. This Richard died before 1331, leaving several sons, and the family continued to reside in the district for several generations afterwards. Alice Fourneys appears at Kirkby Overblow in the Poll-tax of 1378, and there were families of the same name living at this time at York and at Wadworth, near Doncaster. The family probably sprang from Fourneaux, near St. Lo, on theborders of Brittany.

* *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 135. † *Hist. MSS. Com. Report*, 10, part 4.

‡ *See* also an original charter of Gospatric, the Earl, *ante* 1090, in the *Scottish Historical Review*, vol. i. (1903), page 63.

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Upon the sequestration of the possessions of Fountains Abbey the lands at Rigton were valued annually at £7 18s. 5d., and John Fowler was then (1539) bailiff. The manor, but not all the lands, was retained by the Crown until 1556, when it was sold for £226 7s. 6d. to Sir William Fairfax, of Steeton, grandfather of the first Lord Fairfax.* Among the tenants of the manor in 1568 were Sir Thomas Wentworth, Francis Palmes, gent., Laurence Kighley, gent., John Pudsay, George and Robert Wilkes, John Hardistye, Jacob Johnson, Wilfrid Harrison, John Robinson, Robt. Thompson, of Wetherby, and others. When the great Lord Fairfax of Civil War fame died in 1671, it was stated in his will that he was seized of the manor of Rigton, among others, which he devised to his only daughter, Mary, the Duchess of Buckingham, for the term of her natural life, and after her decease to the heirs male of the body of Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the testator's grandfather. A codicil names a bequest to his uncle, Charles Fairfax, of Menston (died 1673), and the heirs of his body, £50 per annum out of the following farms. In the manor of Rigton, one farm called Spoute Farm, now (1671), in the occupation of Francis Ingle, and one farm in Rigton called Mawson's farm, now in the tenure of Thos. Topham, and one farm called Hardistyes, now in the tenure of Richard Hardistye, and also out of the farm in Rigton belonging to William Smith, and also the warrant upon the common there. Lord Fairfax also gave to John Mawson, his bailiff at Rigton, the annual sum of £5 during his life, out of William Ingle's farm at Rigton.

The heirs of the first Lord Fairfax, mentioned in the will, were the American line,† and Catherine, widow of the fifth Lord Fairfax, who died in 1710, sold all the Yorkshire property, at a great sacrifice, to pay off the debts on her estates in Kent. She died in 1735, and her son Thomas, when he grew up and succeeded to the title, was very wroth to find that all the Yorkshire property had passed away from his family. Robert Wilkes, Esq., a descendant of the Wilkes family who were living in Rigton during the time of the monasteries, bought Rigton under a decree in Chancery in 1716.‡ The manor eventually descended to his great-granddaughter, the only daughter and heiress of Charlton Palmer, Esq., of Beckenham, Kent, and wife of the Rev. Thos. Pollock, D.D. The latter sold it to Lord Harewood in 1796. He is now the principal landowner, but there are, besides, many lesser freeholders.

Among the old landowning families in the township, besides the

* The Fairfaxes were landowners at Rigton before this time.

† *See* pedigree in my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 169.

‡ *Ibid.*, page 168.

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ancient families of De Lelay and Middleton, elsewhere named, were those of King (a William King, yeoman, bought lands in Rigton of Sir William Fairfax in 1543), Hill, Hardisty, Wilkes, Dibb, Watson, Gill of Brackenthwaite, Brerecliff, and Thompson. These were all property owners at Rigton in the time of Queen Elizabeth, as may be gathered from the feet of fines of that period.

Of the ancient manor house no knowledge is preserved, but the enclosure known as Hall Green probably marks the site. In the poll-tax of 1378 appears the name of Walter of the Hall and his wife, at Rigton, but whether he was a Furneys, a descendant of the lords of the manor, we have no means of ascertaining. Richard Furneys of Rigton, died in 1331 and left three sons, Richard, Robert, and William.

Opposite the Hall Green farm (Mr. H. Rathmell), and behind the school-house, is a remarkable moated enclosure, which is generally believed to mark the site of the ancient manor-hall. A field lower down by the Otley and Harrogate road is known as Castle Banks, but no tradition attaches to it, nor does it seem to be connected with the moat. The area within the moat is about 50 yards north and south and 30 yards east and west, and on the outer scarp it is about 80 yards by 60 yards. The moat is from 10 to 12 feet deep, and about 40 feet wide, but at the south-west angle it is nearly 60 feet wide, and the two elevations have probably been connected with a drawbridge. A large oak beam of some such structure was found at the bottom of the moat in the course of draining some years ago. No stone or foundations of any kind have been discovered on the site, which is significant. It seems to me, therefore, highly probable that no building has ever stood there, and that the enclosure is one of those places which I have elsewhere noted, as having been made for the lodgment of cattle, &c., in a warlike era. Such defences were especially needed also in times when wolves and other wild creatures infested our dales, while at the same time they afforded some security against the raids and forays that were frequent in a former age of civil war and strife. Such moated enclosures are occasionally found remote from any house or farmstead, as near Marple and Offerton, and at Heaton Norris in Lancashire.

There are not any very old houses remaining in the village, although there is plenty of visible evidence of its ancient occupation in the number of stone querns, and other objects, which have been turned up in the neighbourhood. In 1890 one ancient quern was found three feet below the surface while draining on the north side of Spout House (Mr. F. Carver). Traces of mediæval iron-works (*see* page 13) are also found on the hill slopes at the west end of

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Rigton and near the top of the hill on the north side, while much iron scoriæ has been dug up at various places, especially in the gardens of Mr. Isaac H. Robinson.

A generation ago many of the houses wore an antique look with their rude masonry and thick roof-thatches. The village inn, the *Square and Compass*, had such a covering down to 1896, when it was partly rebuilt and modernized. Six thatched houses, however, still remain, an interesting survival exceeding in this respect any other village of similar population in Wharfedale, if not in Yorkshire. Among these it is curious to note His Majesty's Post Office, which

THATCHED POST OFFICE, NORTH RIGTON

stands cosily down by the wayside, with its roof of dry thatch as durable as, and distinctly more picturesque than the common-place slates of our own time. I present a view of it from a photograph by Mr. R. Dobson, of Urswick, brother of the North Rigton schoolmaster. Also the prefatory picture shows another picturesque old thatch in Rigton Back Lane, on the road leading to Beckwithshaw.

Modern ideas have done away with such antique features as thatched roofs in dwelling-houses, though they are still not uncommon among old churches, and one may count a dozen such well-thatched churches in the county of Norfolk alone.

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At the highest point of the village is Chapel Hill. The site is now occupied by cottages. Tradition says that an ancient chapel once stood here, but of its origin and history nothing is recorded. Jones, however, in his *History of Harewood* (page 217), in explaining the name of Almes Cliff refers to a belief that the name arose "from the distribution of almes at certain times, agreeably to the tenor of legacies left to the chapel which stood there in the 16th century, and was at that time dedicated to St. Mary. The site of the chapel now goes by the name of Chapel Hill." I can discover no confirmation of this statement, but as Almes Cliff and Chapel Hill are fully a mile separated, can this "distribution of almes" have reference to the chapel at Stainburn, which was dedicated to St. Mary? Jones cites no authority. But in the massive stone-work of the adjoining walls it would appear that a building of some consequence had formerly stood here. One of these stones, measuring 30 inches long and 13 inches broad, I observed bore on its surface portions of a sculptured cross. It had evidently been used for a gate-post, and was afterwards broken for a wall-stone. Many human bones have been dug up in the vicinity.

At the north-west of the Chapel Hill there stood an old tithe-barn. It was pulled down about forty years ago. In a terrier of church property at Kirkby Overblow, dated 1693, I find mention of this interesting structure, also in 1809 I find it stated: "Rigton has a tithe-barn 49 feet by 29 feet, and a fold before the same 45 feet by 30 feet, bounded on the south and west by the glebe in possession of Peter Harland, on the north by Wm. Beck, and on the east by Rigton Town Street." An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1775 whereby in lieu of all tithes, both great and small, due to the Rev. Dr. Cooper, then rector of Kirkby Overblow, certain lands were allotted.

Since the formation of the ecclesiastical parish of Stainburn in 1871, North Rigton, although in the parish of Kirkby Overblow, has been served by the vicars of Stainburn. There is no church at Rigton, services being held in the school-room. The last vicar of Stainburn, the Rev. Walter Hall, is succeeded this year (1903) by the Rev. Ernest H. Stott, curate of St. Clement's Leeds, and formerly curate at Otley and Spofforth, who will also have the spiritual charge of North Rigton. He will reside at the Clergy House at Rigton, as there is no vicarage at Stainburn. For a few months before Mr. Stott's appointment the duties at Rigton had been taken by the Rev. Wm. E. Taylor, M.A., a clergyman who has done valuable mission work in equatorial Africa, and is well-known for his translations of the Gospels and other religious works in Swahili.

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The National School occupies a pleasant and convenient site at the low end of the village. It was built in 1851 by the Rev. Mr. Blunt, rector of Kirkby Overblow, and the Earl of Harewood, and has accommodation for about 100 scholars. The rector of Kirkby Overblow and the Earl of Harewood are joint trustees and there are four managers. Prior to the erection of the present edifice, the village school was held in the small building at the south-west entrance to the village, where the road branches off to Stainburn. It is now used as a Sunday School by the Wesleyans. Since the passing of the Education Act in 1870, there have been six masters of the National School, the present master, Mr. Joseph G. Dobson, having held that position for the past fifteen years, and under his able guidance the results have been of a highly satisfactory character.

The neighbourhood of Rigton is healthy and bracing, and there is still a large extent of moorland in the township, well stocked with grouse. Formerly the wild bracken grew in considerable quantities in some parts of the township, a circumstance which no doubt gave name to the ancient hamlet of Brackenthwaite here, overlooking the Crimple. In former times no one might mow or take brackens from these lands without leave of the lord of the manor. The court-rolls of the manor contain many indictments for taking brackens without the lord's licence.

Brackenthwaite is not mentioned in *Domesday*, but a Plumpton charter of the time of Henry II. is witnessed by a Henry de Brakenthwaite and Adam de Brakenthwaite, shewing that there were farmholds here at that time. The Plumptons owned this place, and afterwards the Middletons, of Stockeld.* Several good old yeoman families are also connected with the place, and from their wills we learn that the weaving of home-spun was carried on here in olden times. Soon after the Reformation hand-loom weaving seems to have been the chief vocation of some members of the Gill family. A Christ. Gyll, of Brackenthwaite, died in 1566, and in his will is described as a webster. Other well-to-do members of this family living here about this time were engaged in husbandry, and perhaps combined home-weaving with their trade as farmers. A Thomas Gyll, of Brackenthwaite, who left a will dated December 4th, 1554, is described as sherman (A.-S. *scirman*, shireman, an overseer, bailiff),† and others of this name, who left wills, are referred to as husbandmen. These Gills were descendants of the families which were settled at Blubberhouses and Little Timble in the 14th century.

* *See Camden Soc.*, vol. iv., page 20, &c.; Burton's *Mon Ebor.*, page 201.

† An interesting survival of a very ancient office. Before the Conquest the "shireman" acted as judge for hearing of disputes concerning lands.

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Mr. Robinson Gill, of New York, U.S.A., a native of Blubberhouses, built and endowed the Library and Free School at Timble in 1891-2. *See* Mr. Grainge's *History of Timble.*

Other families living here were the Dunwells (also of Stainburn, one of whom left three pounds annually for the poor of Stainburn), Sutills, Brerecliffs, Norfolks, Robinsons, and Isles, all of them old Forest families. Grace Isles, of Brackenthwaite, who was born in 1724, married a Joshua Hanson, descended from the ancient family of Hanson, of Norwood and Woodhouse, Rastrick, who bore arms, or, a chevron counter-compone, argent and azure, between three martlets, sable. Their pedigree is recorded in Sir William Dugdale's *Visitation*, 1666. Several of the houses here are of respectable age, and one of them bears the initials and date, B.M.S., 1687.

Another substantial old farmstead in the township is Tatefield Hall, which has undergone much alteration and improvement during the past thirty years. About the older parts of the house are many curious mason-marks. In 1560 the property was bought by William Hill of Richard Aldburgh, Esq., and Eleanor, his wife, who was a daughter of Thomas Goldsborough, of Goldsborough. Richard's mother, it may be noted, was a daughter of Sir Ralph Bourchier, of Beningbrough, whose family were nearly related to Oliver Cromwell, the Protector. Whether the Hill family ever resided at the Hall is uncertain. In the sixteenth century they lived at a house in Rigton called Woodhead, and a Wm. Hill resided there in 1590. For a considerable period Tatefield Hall has been the property and home of the Kent family. Indeed there is a tradition that the last Prior of Knaresborough, whose name was Thomas Kent, died at the Hall in Richard Aldburgh's time.* Benjamin Kent was living at the Hall early last century, and his wife Dinah died there in 1827, aged 48. Mr. B. B. Kent, the present owner and occupant of the house, is now chairman of the Parish Council.

Horn Bank is another large farm in the township which has been in the occupation of the Wilkinson family for many generations. The present house was built about seventy years ago. It is the property of Lord Harewood. On the north side of the house are traces of the Roman camp mentioned on pages 10-11.

At the south-western verge of this township are the picturesque heights of Almes Cliff, locally pronounced Aulms or Orms Cliff. The name is doubtless of good antiquity, although I have met with no earlier mention of it than in Saxton's Map (1577), where it is spelled Almosclyffe, and in a fine of 1591, when one William Gille purchased two messuages with lands "in Rygton near Almnscliff."

* In the Pannal registers the name of Kent appears as early as 1665. Perhaps they were in that parish earlier. A Will. de Kent was vicar of Pannal 1349-64.

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Many guesses have been made about the meaning of this name, but the true derivation will, perhaps, never be known. Hargrove derives it from the Celtic *al*, a rock, and *mias*, an altar, quoting Shaw's *Celtic Dictionary* as his authority. Another 18th century writer believes that the principal high rock, with its holy-water cavities on the surface, has served as an altar to the Druids, and that Almnus and Alumnus are titles of Jupiter, to whom this high altar was dedicated.

If the present one-syllable pronunciation was originally a compound, thus Al-mes, I should have little hesitation in referring its origin to the Anglo-Saxons, who undoubtedly named the adjoining townships of Stainburn and Leathley. Æl or El in Anglo-Saxon is fire, whence perhaps Ælmightiga, the Almighty, originally fire-mighty, in allusion to the pagan sun-god. "Ælmesse" is also literally fire-mass, a fire or burnt offering, alms or alms-offering (*see* page 120). As there is no evidence of any ellipsis in the compound it is impossible to construe it into Ælmetes, that is foreign bounds, or one might be tempted to define Almes Cliff simply as the cliffs of Elmete.

These majestic crags, which form so conspicuous a feature in the landscape for many miles round, stand upon an ancient boundary, and have for a long period separated the two great lordships of the Earls of Harewood and the Fawkes's of Farnley. Geologically they belong to the lowest bed of the millstone-grits, that is the Kinderscout grits, which are well exposed in the Pannal quarries, and in various parts of upper Wharfedale, notably at the well-known Strid in Bolton Woods. The Rev. H. T. Simpson, M.A., a former rector of Adel, thought there was no other spot in the kingdom which exhibits clearer testimony to the existence of Baal or sun-worship than at Almes Cliff, where, he says, bonfires are still lighted (1879) on the first of May, a memorial of the old fire or sun-worship. At the summit of the great Altar-rock (so-called), which stands about forty yards south of the chief group, are various shallow cavities and ducts. The former are generally believed to have received the sacred water used in the Druidical rites as it fell unpolluted from heaven.*

Many stories and traditions hover about this place. On the west side several caverns have been formed by the tumbled rocks, and one of these, which has never been penetrated to its extremity, is known as the Fairies' Parlour. At one point the fissure narrows, and is inaccessible, but standing up against it and listening, you may, *it is said*, hear a noise as of rocking, and the older country-folk around will tell you it is the fairies in their rocking-chairs whiling away the time!

* One of these natural basins (which many believe to be the originals of the Christian holy-water stoup) is 3 feet across and about 18 inches deep, and another smaller one, near it, has in late times been called the Wart Well, because its water was supposed to be a sure cure for warts

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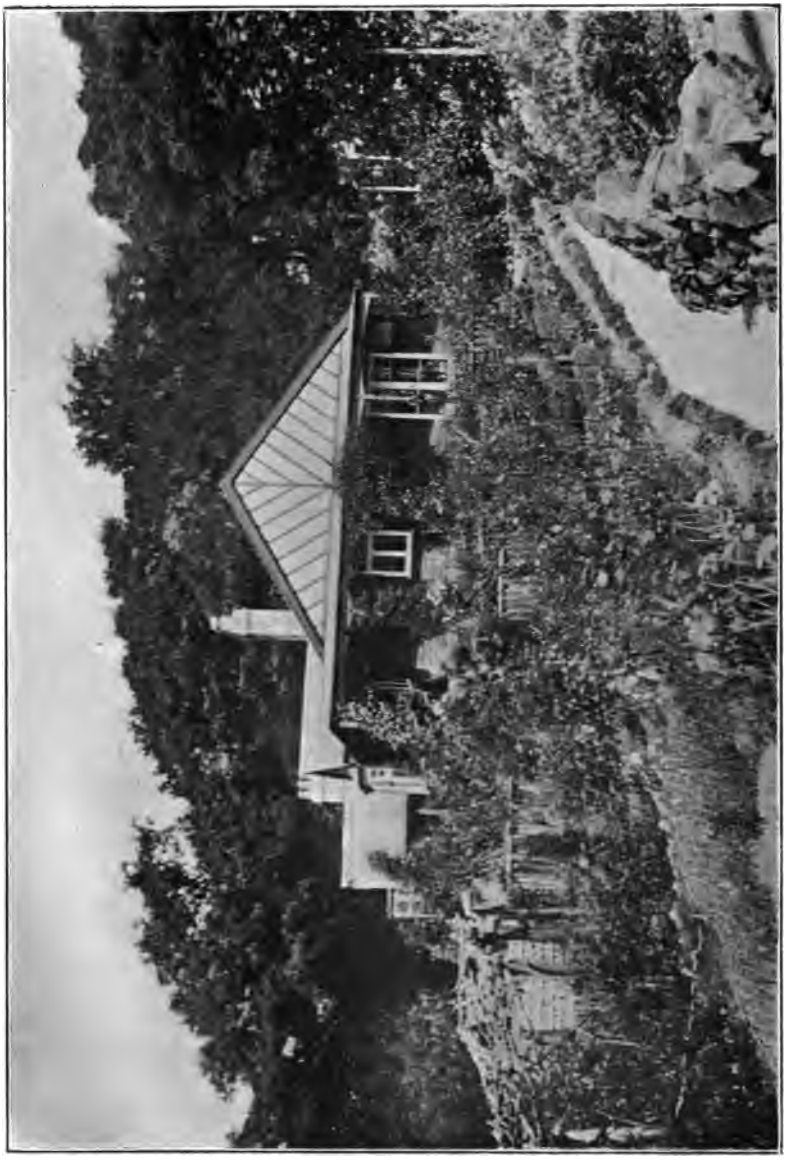

THE BUNGALOW, BARROWBY BROW.

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CHAPTER XIV.

IV. KEARBY-WITH-NETHERBY.

ALTHOUGH this is the smallest township in the parish it is by no means the least interesting, and one might fill a whole book with the story of its illustrious lords and other families, notable sites, objects, anecdotes, and traditions. It was probably in this township or in the township of Kirkby Overblow, that the lost Todoure of *Domesday* was located. Assuming that about half the land in the parish was taxable in 1083-6, as it appears to have been, and allowing for the less exposed and better tilled character of this place, as compared with Rigton and Stainburn, the three carucates at Todoure might very well have been embraced in either of the townships of Kirkby Overblow (2289 acres) or Kearby (1340 acres). Among the curious old field-names at Kearby there appears the suggestive one of Todd Garth, a narrow field on the roadside leading from Clapgate to Chapel Hill. No family of this name is known to have ever resided in the township, so that we are compelled to conclude that it preserves a lingering element of the ancient Todoure, or that it may be a survival of the Scand. word *tod*, a fox. In the latter sense it is occasionally met with in Old English.* There is also on the same farm a Todd Close, now thrown to a field called the Nun Ing. How the latter got its name is not known, as there was no land in this township belonging to any monastery, or is there known to have been any ancient building on the site. But in this field there are two wells, one of which was reputed sacred, and in former times young and old resorted thereto with votive offerings, as they were wont to do in former times at the famous St. Helen's well near Newton Kyme.

Another enclosure in the same neighbourhood is Cross Field, and below Barrowby is Burn Field, which may preserve a corrupt form of the word Borran, meaning ruins, or the site of a deserted camp. Then there is the singular name of Morcar Hill, which I have explained on page 14. Silva Acres Lane is the road that leads from

* *See* Hymn 4 of *Pan's Anniversary*, by Ben Jonson.

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Netherby to the river, and I find an interesting reference to this old thoroughfare in the *West Riding Sessions Records* for 1597-8 to 1602. By statute of 18th Elizabeth the Justices were empowered to inquire into and determine the offences of not amending the highways, and at the time above written the local authorities were indicted for not keeping the "Silvacre loane" in proper repair. Lidget Closes, on the north side of Clapgate, preserves the old Anglo-Saxon Lidgate or Ludgate, a postern-gate. March Lane, a very old lane (now no longer used as a cart road), leading from Kirkby Overblow to Clapgate and Sicklinghall, suggests the A.-S. *mearc*, Fr. *marche*, a boundary, which it is, lying beside the boundary of the townships. Clapgate, which generally occurs near river-fords, I have never seen explained. Can it explain the use of clappers to warn horsemen-travellers after dark that the waters were out? Bells were also used for the same purpose. There is a ford at Netherby and another lower down the river called Cartick Ford. The old road from Harewood to Spofforth crossed the river here and continued up Street Road to Clapgate and over Kearby Moor. This common was enclosed in 1801, and shortly afterwards its first crop was sown and reaped. At the same time several gates were placed across the various lanes leading from the townships to mark the extent of common-right. The old Saxon Lidgate served a similar purpose, and when the common was taken in a five-and-a-half acre field was denominated the Lidget Closes. These are very interesting survivals of Saxon ownership.

Kearby at the Conquest came to the Percies (*see* page 15), and it was afterwards held by the Arches family, lords of Thorp Arch, &c., and founders of the Nunneries at Monkton and Appleton. Thomas de Arches, in 1258, held Kearby, or Kereby as then written, as of the manor of Spofforth at an annual rent to the Percies of 6s.* In 1262 Osbert de Arches paid yearly 6s. 8d. for the use of the mill pond at Kerbi, which was then attached to the manor of Harewood. By the marriage of Eva, daughter of the said Osbert de Arches, with William, Baron Cantilupe, the manor of Kearby came to the latter family, and in 1284-5 they are returned as the owners thereof. These Cantilupes were already well known in our district. They were very distinguished people, who derived their patronym from the manor of Cantilupe in Shropshire. William, lord of Kearby, was summoned to Parliament from 1299 to 1308, and he presented to the rectory of Cowthorpe in 1303 by reason of the dower of Eva, his wife.† He was cousin to the famous Thomas de Cantilupe, rector of Kirk Deighton, and afterwards Bishop of Hereford, and

* *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 221. † *Ibid.*, page 135.

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Lord Chancellor of England. He was canonized in 1320, being, it is said, the last Englishman to receive that honour.

In 1292 William de Cantilupe and his wife were summoned to shew by what right they claimed to have free warren in all their demesne lands in Aston, Kereby, Ravensthorpe, Boltby and Trilleby, and infangtheof and gallows in the same places.*

One would like to know where the old gallows stood at Kearby, claimed by the Cantilupes, no doubt, by virtue of a pre-existing custom, which gave to them the right to seize all goods of felons taken and executed within the manor. It is, however, very probable that while the old lords of the manor claimed and exercised this privilege at Kearby, there were no established gallows, which even in those days would be required but seldom, and when the necessity arose, the unfortunate culprits would be hanged on some particular tree.

William de Cantilupe died in 1309, and his son and heir, William, the second Baron, died without issue. At his death a dispute arose as to the rightful heirs to his various properties.† Kearby went to the family of De Insula, or De L'Isle, lords of Harewood, and in 1315 Robert del Hill [De L'Isle] was returned as lord of the manor. From them it passed to the Aldburghs, Redmans, and Stapletons, who held it until after the Reformation, as related in the history of Kirkby Overblow.

In 1378 the principal resident in the township was William son of Thomas de Nesfield, esquire, who paid 3s. 4d. poll-tax. In 1361 William de Nesfield was Escheator of the King in the city of York, and in 1368 he was M.P. for county York. In 1349 he endowed the chapel of St. Mary at Scotton, and in 1370 William de Nesfield and Christiana his wife, had seizin of their manors of Scotton, Brereton, &c., and lands in York, Burton Leonard, Scotton, Knaresborough, Stockeld, &c.‡ It was, doubtless, this William who was living at Kearby in 1378. At this time there were in Kearby 17 married couples and 17 single adults above the age of 16. These included a weaver and a mason, and one William Fletcher, whose trade is not specified. The rest were engaged in agriculture.

A century later we find both the Redmans and Favells, previously mentioned, living at Kearby. In 1598 one Elizabeth Armistead, formerly of Kearby, was charged with stealing certain sheets, &c., from the house of Christopher Favell of Kearby, and likewise the same woman did feloniously take certain articles from the house of

* *Plac. de Quo Warranto*, 225.

† Hunter's *S. Yorks.*, ii. page 161.

‡ *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 337 and *Upper Wharfedale*, page 269.

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Richard Redman at the same place. For these larcenies the poor woman got a severe punishment. She was ordered to be delivered to the Constable of Kearby, and he to cause her to be stripped naked from the middle upwards, and "soundlie whypped throwe the said towne of Keerbie," and by him next to be delivered to the Constable of Kirkby Overblow, and he was to see to like execution within his town. But this was not enough. She was then to be handed over to the Constable of Wetherby and publicly exhibited with her stripe-marks and lacerations in the market-place on market-day, as an example to all beholders, and finally to be again whipped with the cat through the town in manner similar to the foregoing.

Such disgraceful public chastisement, alike on men and women, continued in force almost within living recollection. Happily, however, common decency no longer tolerates such exhibitions.

I have already mentioned the Favells of Kirkby Overblow (*see* page 98). Edward de Fauvell held Thoralby manor and a capital messuage of the King *in capite*, and of the Honor of Skipton as long ago as 1284-5. From this family came the Favells of Burnsall and Kirkby Overblow. Christ. Favell entered his pedigree at York at the Visitation in 1666. Katherine, wife of Henry Favell, gent., of Pontefract, his brother, who died in 1699, was daughter and sole heiress of John Stocks, of Doncaster, and widow of Richard Layton, of Barrowby Grange, in Kearby township. James Favell, who died in 1714, married Lydia, heiress of Christ. Redman, and Redman Favel, of Normanton, married Ann, daughter of Richd. Wordsworth, of Normanton, who died in 1700. She was great-aunt to William Wordsworth, poet-laureate. There are many entries of the family in the registers of Kirkby Overblow. In 1701 it is recorded that "Mr. William Favell from Kearby," was buried Sept. 21st, and in 1745 the marriage is recorded of Edward Stead and Susanna Faivil, Nov. 11th. Members of the family continued to reside in the parish down to the present century.

In 1657 the Rt. Hon. Wm. Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, sold the manor of Harewood, with Kearby, Swindon, &c., to Sir John Lewis, Bart, and Sir John Cutler, Kt., two London merchants, who had married two sisters, daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Thos. Foote. The manor of Kearby subsequently came to the noble House of Harewood, but in the meantime a good deal of property in the township had changed hands, and the families of Crompton-Stansfield and Wilson are now large landowners in the township.

Barrowby in this township was a separate manor at the Conquest, or rather in two holdings owned by De Burun, ancestor of the poet Byron, and De Percy (*see* page 15). In 1302 there were two

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carucates here of the fee of De Ros, lords of Ribston, &c. This is called Berghebi in *Domesday*, and indicates a *village* settled by Danes upon a *hill* (bergh), or in connection with a fortress or encampment which may be of older date.* Indeed the aspects of the isolated eminence on which the old Grange at Barrowby stands suggest its adaptation for such a purpose. On the north-west the *berg*, locally known as Barrs Hill, descends very abruptly to the valley, and upon this verge there is an ancient spring, of great importance in the maintenance of prehistoric and mediæval strongholds. Several ancient querns have been found in this vicinity. The eminence extends for nearly half-a-mile, parallel with the valley, and at its south-eastern extremity has the appearance of having been artificially scarped, perhaps for a stockade. It commands a fine look-out, and I have heard a tradition that from this point Harewood Castle was stormed during the Civil War. But there is no evidence of any such destruction, and I consider the story very improbable.†

The Crompton-Stansfield family are the principal landowners at Barrowby, their estate comprising an area of about 500 acres, including two large farms. Miss C. A. Crompton-Stansfield has recently built a handsome bungalow here, picturesquely placed in the screen of sheltering woods, and commanding a beautiful view of the Wharfe valley. In their summer glory of leaf and blossom the surroundings of the bungalow are very charming, as will be seen from Miss Handcock's excellent photograph engraved at the beginning of this chapter.

The estate came to the family through the Rookes of Royds Hall.‡ Elizabeth Rookes, only daughter and heiress of Marmaduke Rookes, married Christopher Hodgson, M.D., of Wakefield, and dying in 1789 left her estate at Barrowby to Wm. Rookes, Esq., of Royds Hall. He married Ann, sister and heiress of Robert Stansfield, of Bradford, who purchased in 1755, the ancient estate of Esholt Priory in Airedale, and by this lady he left an only daughter and heiress, who in 1786 became the wife of Joshua Crompton, Esq., of York. Mr. Crompton died in 1832, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William Rookes Crompton, Esq., who having inherited his mother's estates assumed the additional name and arms of Stansfield. He died in 1871, having bequeathed his property to his nephew,

* The root may be in the Old Norse *berg*, Dan. *bjaerg*, a stony eminence or elevated rocky ground, often selected for a camp or look-out post. Borrowby in the parish of Leake, and Borrowby in Lythe parish, are both written *Bergebi* in *Domesday*. Burythorpe, in *Domesday Bergetorp*, in the East Riding, is situated near the Roman road south of Malton. Also at Barugh, in *Domesday Berg*, a little north of Malton, is a Roman camp.

† *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 476, &c.

‡ For early notices of the Rookes family of Royds Hall, *see Bradford Antiquary*, 1881, pages 20—25.

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William Henry Crompton-Stansfield, Esq., of Esholt Hall, Colonel in the army and M.P., whose daughters are the present owners of the Barrowby estate.

Barrowby Grange (Mr. John Town) was almost entirely rebuilt on the site of an older house in 1828. In the course of excavating the kitchen many human bones were come upon, of which no satisfactory account could be given. In the 16th century the house was in the occupation of a family named Gelstropp, who appear among the Roman Catholic recusants as resident here in 1604. They were the only declared Roman Catholics living in the parish at that time. But in 1679 I find a William Shillitoe avowing himself a Popish recusant at Barrowby. A family of this name were lords of the manor of Ulleskelf, near Kirkby Wharfe, down to about 1840.

At the time of the great Civil War, a family named Steele, from Leeds, was living at Barrowby, and Frances Steele of Barrowby, at the close of the war, was indicted, along with Miles Dodson of Low Hall, for collecting aid for the Royalist army, but the charge was eventually dismissed. About this time, or shortly afterwards, the family of Harland were living here. Robert Harland died here in 1669, and his son John married and brought up a family at Barrowby. These Harlands eventually owned a good deal of property at Kearby. They were a branch of the Sutton-on-the-Forest family, who were lords of that manor, and resided at Sutton Hall near Easingwold. Coming down to recent times, a Peter Harland of Barrowby Grange, died in 1766 aged 52, and his son Peter died in 1813, aged 69. In the yard at Barrowby Grange an old pump bears his initials and date 1792. He left a son Peter, who died in 1832, aged 56.

The Harlands of Lund Head were of the same stock. James Harland of Lund Head, died in 1877, aged 95. He had a son James who succeeded him there, and who now lives at Harewood. Another son, Thomas Harland, settled in Leeds, and has been successively a Councillor and Alderman of that city. Miss Ann Harland, who lately died at Kirkby Overblow, September 26th, 1903, aged 80, was his sister. The Lund Head farm forms part of the Barrowby estate, above mentioned, belonging to the Misses Crompton-Stansfield. It has been tenanted for several years past by Walter H. Fawkes, Esq., third son of the late Rev. Frederick Fawkes, M.A., the squire of Farnley Hall.

The Brearcliffes were also an old local family who long resided in another house at Barrowby Grange. Toby Brearcliffe died there in 1828, aged 62, and William, his son, died in 1859, aged 61. Matthew, another son, died in 1892, aged 83, leaving a son William, who died in 1893, aged 57.

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At Low Barrowby, the property of Lord Harewood, there is also a good old house, which has been the home of the Mallories for many generations. They are a branch of the knightly family of Mallory of Studley, near Ripon, and were landowners at Grimston near Tadcaster, in the 13th century.* The present Mrs. Mallorie of Low Barrowby is a sister of the above Mr. James Harland of Harewood.

One might extend these notes on Kearby families almost indefinitely. The Ridsdales, Wrays, Wardmans, Steads, and others might be noted. The Wrays kept the well-known *Clapgate* inn early in the 19th century, and were followed by the Browns, who remained there for the best part of a hundred years. The Wardmans have now three farms in the township, namely Carlston House (with its curious round hill of the name close by), Carlshead House, and Paddock House. The Steads have lived at Town End or Owl End Wood, locally Hooley Head, Kearby, for about a century. Mr. Michael Stead has lately started a brewing business there under the style of the Wharfe Spring Brewery. On his farm are the Todd Close, Nun Ing, and Cross Field enclosures, previously mentioned. Strange stories of sorcery and witchcraft are associated with this locality. Some years ago, while digging in the garden in front of Michael Stead's house at Town End, a curious old bottle full of needles was found buried. It is generally thought to have been deposited there by one of the old wizards of the neighbourhood. They had a wonderful reputation for fortune telling at one time. Richard Burdsall, the founder of local Methodism, tells us that he once went with a friend to consult with an astrologer as to their future life. The wise man told them that by tracing the planets he was able to tell men's destinies. Burdsall was thereupon told that he was born under a watery planet, and was in danger of being drowned, were it not that the Moon's house, the house next to that under which he was born, was a dry one! Much more follows, showing how far superstition had hold of the minds even of intelligent people. At that time there were two well-known witches living at Kearby, who, I am told, were consulted by young and old, but chiefly by the female kind anxious to settle comfortably in life. One of these was Jinny Pullan, who lived down at Netherby, and the other was Joan, or better known as Jan Janson, who traded in poultry, and woe betide the unfortunate beings who did not accept her price when she went to make her purchases! They were sure to find their feathered ones dead on the morrow! The knowing ones of the neighbourhood used to declare that they once beheld the startling spectacle of old Jan crossing the

* *See* my *Lower Wharfedale*, page 194.

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Wharfe in a riddle, supported only by a broom stick! Many other wondrous tales are told about her.

And this reminds me of another local story of the Wharfe I have heard, which may be here repeated. A man from Clapgate had occasion to visit the *Travellers' Rest*, a public-house on the opposite side of the valley. The iron bridge at Woodhall was not then built, and the river had to be forded. On his return, half-seas over, in crossing the river he fell amongst the stones and was unable to extricate himself. He lay in such a position that the water soon began to trickle into his mouth. Apparently this was not the stuff for his palate, so imagining himself in a cosy corner he exclaimed: "Not a sup more, thank you!" But the water still flowed in, and his voice rose to a higher pitch: "I don't want a drop more, thanks!" But still the water entered his mouth unheeded, and he then tried to raise himself, at the same time shouting with an oath, "I want no more!" A farm labourer who had witnessed the proceeding then came to him and assisted him safely out of the "sups."

Kearby Feast, on which occasion the above incident is said to have happened, used to be a big affair, and was attended by people from most of the surrounding villages. It was commemorated on the first Sunday after the 8th of May, and continued for several days. The sports which are now held at Clapgate were, in the early part of last century, held in the Town's Pasture down by the river-side, where horse-races and other festivities were indulged in.

At that time there was a boarding-school at Morcar Hill, kept by a Mr. Samuel Hodgson. He had as many as fifty or sixty boarders, chiefly from about Leeds and Bradford, but some of the boys came from long distances, the school having a good repute. This was in the thirties or early forties. The school was then given up, as the proprietor, for some unaccountable reason, failed. His son Alfred continued to farm the adjoining land, but eventually gave it up and emigrated to America. If one had the full record of this long-deserted academy what an interesting story it would be! Indeed, what changes, what vicissitudes of human fate are compassed in the life of a public school! How reminiscent too of many lives and fortunes would be the fast-vanishing story of the old deserted school at Morcar Hill! But few, doubtless, of the pupils are now living. Amongst them, however, is the printer of this book, Mr. George F. Sewell, who has been good enough to put together the following interesting sketch of his recollections of the school sixty or more years ago. Mr. Sewell, it may be added, as Honorary Secretary of the Bradford Festival Choral Society, is well known in the musical world about Bradford, and his impressions of the quaint music

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of the parish church at Kirkby Overblow are of more than passing interest.

Among the earliest recollections of my youthful days are those connected with the school at Morcar Hill. It was about the year 1840 that I became a pupil at this school. The master, Mr. Samuel Hodgson, was a man of imposing presence, much given to the use of words of "learned length and thunderous sound," and by no means unmindful of the ancient proverb, "Spare the rod and spoil the child" Many of his pupils were from Leeds and Bradford. One portion of the curriculum deeply impressed itself upon my youthful mind. Once or twice a week the boys were mustered in regular order in front of the school-house, and each boy in turn was compelled to drink a tumbler of that potent sulphureous liquid yclept Harrogate water, a compound which, whatever its health-giving properties may be, is a most nauseous draught. Probably it had its due effect upon us, though I cannot say, but it reminds one forcibly of Dotheboys Hall and Mrs. Wackford Squeers. In those days, too, the Earl of Harewood's hounds often had a meet in this neighbourhood, and when they chanced to pass the school-house in full cry, there was a perfect stampede amongst us, study was at once abandoned, and the boys rushed out wildly in pursuit of the hunt!

On Sunday mornings the pupils were marched in solemn procession to the church at Kirkby Overblow, and the quaint and primitive appearance of the interior, and the rude fashion of the singing is strongly impressed on my mind even at this distance of time. These were the days when the organ had not yet supplanted the bass viol, the clarionet, flute, and bassoon. Well do I remember one of the strange, old tunes which was often sung. It is known by the name of "Peru," and is of a peculiarly weird character. It is still to be found in some old collections of psalmody, but I have never heard it sung since those days. Chanting the psalms was then to be heard only in cathedral churches, and at Kirkby Overblow they were read in alternate verses by the parson and clerk. The *Te Deum* and the other canticles were sung to florid Anglican chants, and the "amens" at the end of the prayers were uttered in sonorous fashion by the clerk.

The existence of the school was abruptly terminated by the bankruptcy of Mr. Hodgson, and all the boys were sent home. A few months ago I paid a visit to the old school, but how changed was the scene! The building erected as a temple of the Muses was then tenanted by poultry, and filled with rubbish of all descriptions. Where had formerly been heard the voice of learning, was now to be heard only the quacking of ducks and the cackle of poultry. Altogether the place had a melancholy and neglected appearance, and one which contrasted strongly with the recollections of my youth.

Looking now upon the ruined and abandoned school, amid its rustic surroundings, one is irresistibly reminded of the "vain transitory splendours" pictured by Oliver Goldsmith in his poem of *The Deserted Village.*

> "Besides yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
> With blossom'd furze, unprofitably gay,
> There in his noisy mansion, skill'd to rule,
> The village master taught his little school;
> * * * * * *
> But past is all his fame. The very spot
> Where many a time he triumph'd is forgot!"

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But these few notes, it is hoped, will rescue the spot from complete oblivion. Part of the old academy is now, as Mr. Sewell observes, used as an outhouse attached to the farm occupied by Abm. Harper, whose late father, Isaac Harper, was schooled here in the old days.*

Still another site of traditional note at Kearby is Chapel Hill, a name it has borne from time immemorial, yet the origin thereof is lost in obscurity. Tradition says that a chapel once stood there, but I can discover no records of such a foundation. It was probably a private oratory like many such still existing in the Yorkshire Dales, of which the origin and history are unknown.† Mr. John Bateson, blacksmith, of Clapgate, has a few old notes on the district, and from them I gather that about the year 1735 the river-course at the foot of Chapel Hill was altered in consequence of a curve or bed. Some twelve acres of land were then added to the Harewood side, yet the owners and tenants of the land still pay rates to Kearby. In the great frost of 1814 large quantities of stone for building purposes were carried across the river, which was hard frozen here for several weeks.

The Wesleyans built their chapel at Kearby in 1809. But they were a strong force in the district long before that time. The pioneer of the sect, Richard Burdsall (*see* page 45), was born at Kearby, and was the son of Richard and Judith Burdsall. He was baptized at the parish church of Kirkby Overblow 22nd March, 1735. His mother died in 1786. He died at the age of 88. He was a remarkable man, of indomitable energy and perseverance. For 62 years he was

* Since the above was printed an interesting note has reached me from Mr John Rigby, of Blackburn, who was a pupil at the school so long ago as 1834-5. Mr. Rigby was born at Liverpool in 1822, and states that he was the only boy from Lancashire at the time he attended the school. The lads he remembers as boarders came from about Leeds and Huddersfield, and there were also two sons of a Mr. Holmes, postmaster of Market Weighton. Recalling his boyhood days, he writes: "The two years which I spent at Morcar Hill are among the pleasantest in my recollection. The master was a generous man and had a very kind and engaging manner. He was fond of music, and on one occasion I remember, he mounted his favourite cob 'Jonathan' and rode to York to attend the Musical Festival there, and was absent several days. The boys visited all the nice places round about, and the district is very dear to me. In October, 1876, I walked from Spofforth to Morcar Hill and saw my old master's son, and then went on to Harrogate. I have also vivid recollections of going to the old church at Kirkby Overblow, nearly seventy years ago. The clerk, named Snowball, was an aged man with a quavering voice, and we boys used to try and imitate his 'amen.'" It was doubtless this old clerk who filled the post of village schoolmaster in 1809 (*see* page 70). Mr. Rigby gives other reminiscences, remarking that he was one of twenty boys from this school who were privileged seats during divine service in Harewood Church in 1835, on the occasion of the visit of our late Queen, then Princess Victoria. *See Lower Wharfedale*, page 473.

† *See* my *Richmondshire*, pages 218, 368, &c.

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in the Wesleyan ministry, and continued to preach regularly up to within 14 days of his death. He preached his first sermon in his own house on the descent of Chapel Hill, and the pulpit he used was kept there until about 1860. His home at Kearby was eventually licensed for preaching, and services were regularly held there from about 1760 to 1782. At Linton, too, he preached in James Dalby's barn some time about 1762, and Methodism has continued there ever since.

I have previously alluded to the thoroughly superstitious character of the time, and in further illustration of this the following incident is related in connection with the rebellion of 1745. Many wild rumours had got abroad, and much excitement prevailed in the country, especially in those parts actually invaded by the armies. "To add to the public fear and amazement," says Burdsall, "a blazing comet appeared every night in the west, which all considered as a presage of approaching devastation and ruin. At the same time," he goes on to say, "a great noise was raised in our neighbourhood about a people called Inghamites, and the general opinion was that under the pretext of religion their intention was to join the Pretender. It was even reported that they were on their way for this purpose, and only eight miles from our village, and that many of them had been put in a pond. I was not a little troubled at the thought of their approach, and concluded that if those who had been cast into the pond had been drowned, it would have been what they richly deserved." As it happened part of General Wade's army passed through Swindon and Kirkby Overblow in pursuit of the retreating Jacobites.

Another strange story is related of a dream Burdsall had about three months before he died. He was going, we are told, from Kirkby Overblow to Kearby, the place of his birth, when he met a coffin moving towards him, but how it moved he could not tell. He asked whose coffin it was, and being answered that it was for Richard Burdsall, he cried out: "Glory! glory! glory!" and so awoke himself. He died Feb. 25th, 1824, and was interred in the churchyard of St. Lawrence without Walmgate Bar in York. The funeral was very largely attended, there being several thousand persons present, including the ministers of the circuit and many local preachers, besides a large concourse of singers from New Street and Albion Street chapels. He wrote a simple and unaffected memoir of himself, which was re-issued with an appendix in 1838. It is now a rather scarce book. He was spared to outlive all the obloquy and opposition to which his denomination was so long subjected, and also to see it become a vigorous and flourishing branch of the great Church of

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Christ. He himself had done not a little to promote that end, and as time went on found that in place of gibes and sneers and the persecutions of his early life a generous catholicity of spirit grew up among church-folk and dissenters, which has continued to the present time.

Mr. Burdsall's family was of respectable standing in this part of the country. One of the family, the Rev. Thomas Burdsall, was presented to the living of Cawood by Richard, Lord Protector, October 27th, 1659, but was ejected by the Act of Uniformity in 1662. The Rev. Richard Burdsall, of Kearby, had a daughter Mary, who married Mr. John Lyth, who died in 1853, and was descended from the ancient family of Lyth or Leyth of Whitby, Scarborough, and Newton Pickering. Several of the children of John and Mary Lyth were greatly distinguished in the Wesleyan ministry. Richard Burdsall Lyth, of York, was one of the first Wesleyan Methodist missionaries to Fiji, and he translated portions of the Holy Scriptures into the native tongue. He worked hard among the islanders and lived to see the whole population converted to the faith of Christ. His brother, William Robert Lyth, of York, was author of a poem in four books, published in 1854, and a younger brother was the famous Rev. John Lyth D.D., who was more than forty years a Wesleyan minister, and for some time a superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions in Germany. He died in 1886, aged 65. The story of his life is told in the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*, and an account of him and his lineage (with portrait), appears in Turner's *Yorkshire Genealogist*, vol. i., pages 54—57.

Among other notable local Methodists mention should be made of the Rev. Isaac Denison, who was born at North Rigton in 1797. He died in 1859. *See* the *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* for July, 1861. Wm. Denison, of Huby, was also born at Rigton in 1786. His father was the friend of Richard Burdsall, and one of the earliest members of the Wesleyan community. He himself was a member of the body for 44 years, of which period he was 27 years a class leader. He died in 1859.

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CHAPTER XV.

V. SICKLINGHALL.

THIS ancient township lies at the eastern extremity of the parish, and its eastern boundary, a little beyond Woodhall, is nine miles distant from the western boundary of the township of Stainburn. Thus the outermost limits of the old parish of Kirkby Overblow are nine miles apart, with an average breadth of two miles, and as previously explained, this wide area was embraced in the original "priest's share" or parish.

The village and township enjoy a pleasant southern aspect on a wide verdant slope reaching down to the Wharfe towards East Keswick and Collingham. The name of Sicklinghall is peculiar, and may indicate the hall or seat of the sons or family of the original Anglo-Saxon owner. In *Domesday* it is written Sidingale and Sidingal;* in Kirkby's *Inquest* (1284-5) it is Siclinghalle; in the *Knights' Fees* of 1302 it is Sykelynghall, and in the *Nomina Villarum* (1315) it is written Sigglinghall.†

In 1083-6 the manor was in the hands of the King, and it seems probable that it formed part of the Conqueror's original grant of the Honour of Skipton and Harewood to Robert de Romille. The manor of Addingham, in Wharfedale, was included in this grant, and early in the 13th century this manor was in the hands of the Vavasours. John le Vavasour obtained a charter of free warren there in 1251, and John le Vavasour, presumably the same person, was lord of Sicklinghall at the same time. According to the *Hundred Rolls* he was living at Woodhall in this township, 2nd Edward I. (1273). He died soon afterwards, and his widow, Alice, daughter and heiress of Robert Cockfield. was returned as lady of the manor of Sicklinghall in 1284-5. She was succeeded by Walter le Vavasour (apparently not her son), whose widow, Elena, was lady of the manor

* Not Sidingall as printed on page 15.

† Silsden, which occupies a sunny slope on the north side of the Aire valley, is usually written in ancient documents Siglesdene, most probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon *sigel*, the sun, gen. *sigles*, hence the valley of the sun, or sunny valley.

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in 1315. These Vavasours were large landowners in Wharfedale, their principal seat being at Hazlewood Castle, near Tadcaster, and they were also long resident at Weston, near Otley, a manorial property held by them for nearly five centuries. Sir John Vavasour of Weston, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Peter Middleton, High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1334-5. He died in 1356, and according to his inquisition p.m., he died seized of Stubham, Stockeld, Sicklinghall, Newsam near Spofforth, and Ireby in Cumberland. There were other marriages subsequently between the Middletons and the Vavasours of Hazlewood and Weston. For many centuries members of the latter family resided in the parish of Kirkby Overblow.

Among the Stockeld Deeds* are many references to an ancient family who took their name from this place, and whose arms were the same as those borne by Gervase Paganel or Paynel.† In the 13th century Nicholas de Secelinghall was a witness to a deed of John fil John de Stockeld, of lands in Stockeld, and his brother, Robert de Sicklinghall, gave lands in Azerley, near Kirkby Malzeard *ca.* 1244, to provide a light in the Knights Templars' Chapel on Penhill, in Wensleydale.‡ John fil Nicholas de Secelinghaw is witness to a quitclaim by Radulphus de Stockelde and others to Henry de Cas (tley ?). In 1321 Robert de Sicklinghall is witness to another quitclaim of lands in Stockeld. And it is apparently a son of this Robert, namely William fil Robert de Sicklinghall, who is concerned in a grant of land in Wetherby to Simon de Werreby.§ A Thomas de loft de Sinclinghall also appears in 1344.‖

The Knights Templars had an old property in Sicklinghall, and in 1307 a writ was issued commanding the Sheriff of Yorkshire to attach all the Templars in his jurisdiction, seize all their lands and goods, together with their charters, writings, and muniments, and certify the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer of his proceedings. Immediately following the issue of this mandate, an inventory was taken of all the possessions of the Templars in Neusom, Wythele, Etton, Westerdale, Wetherby, Sikklinghale, Coupemanthorpe, &c. These properties were transferred to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and in an account of their possessions, made in 1338, they are stated to hold a carucate of land in Sicklinghall.¶

The population in 1378, as derived from the Poll Tax returns for Sicklinghall (or Syglynghale as then written) consisted of only about a dozen families, and none of the names enumerated in this tax now

* Cited in the *Yorks. County Mag.*, vol. i., page 35, 269, &c.

† *Yorks. Archæl. J l.*, vii., 446. ‡ *See* my *Richmondshire*, page 420.

§ *Ancient Deeds*, vol. 3, d749 (Public Record Office).

‖ *Yorks. Co. Mag.*, page 270. ¶ *See* my *Nidderdale*, page 179.

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occur in the township. The principal local resident, and presumably lord of the manor, was Richard de Midelton, *franklain*, doubtless of Stockeld, who paid 3s. 4d.; the rest paid 4d. each. Among the names are Crokebayn, Diconwyfdowson, Hardy, Lyghfote, Golias, Redeberd, and Pynder. The latter patronym was derived from the office or occupation followed by its owner, and the old pinfold still stands by the road side at the west end of the village.

Among the older local families were those of Longfellow and Pullein. The former were yeoman farmers at Stockeld early in the 17th century. But their name is found in the earliest registers of the neighbouring parishes of Otley, Guiseley, Ilkley, Leathley, &c. John Longfellow, a Sicklinghall benefactor, had a younger brother, William Longfellow, of Horsforth, who died in 1704. He was lineal ancestor of the famous American poet, and his daughter Mrs. Timothy Stables, succeeded to an interest in the Horsforth property. John Stables, a descendant of Timothy, it is sad to note, committed suicide in October, 1805, through trouble brought on by the murder of his brother William Stables, in the July previous. Whether they were related to the Kirkby Overblow Stables I have not ascertained. The Longfellows owned various properties about Horsforth* and in Wharfedale. John Longfellow, above mentioned, was a property owner at Ilkley, but he died at Stockeld in 1605-6, and made various charitable bequests to the local poor. He left 10s. annually to the poor of Spofforth, 3s. 4d. to Follifoot, and 5s. to Sicklinghall. In the Charity Commissioners' Report there is mention of a rent-charge of 13s. 4d. for the benefit of the poor of Spofforth parish, but the donor is said to be unknown. Probably it is John Longfellow's gift.

The Pulleins were living at Sicklinghall in the 17th century, if not earlier, and their name occurs frequently in the oldest registers of the parish. A branch of the family, which sprang from Scotton in Nidderdale, was long resident at Burley in Wharfedale, which manor they purchased of the Middletons early in the 17th century. Some of the family were living at Ribston before the Reformation, and George Pulleyn bought of the Ampleforths of Kirkby Overblow, a messuage with lands at Ribston in 1536. A Francis Pullein of Sicklinghall, died in 1638, and a copy of his inquisition p.m., is preserved among the Yorkshire MSS. (No. 173) at the Leeds Public Library.

Two of the oldest families in the township of Sicklinghall were the Archers and Elsworths, whose names are very frequent in the parish registers. There are no Archers in the parish now. This, it

* *See* my *Airedale, Goole to Malham*, pages 94-5.

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may be stated, is one of the oldest surnames on record, and is found in Yorkshire at an early period.* It was clearly given to a family or to families who originally shot or fought with a bow, and the latter, as a forester's weapon rather than as a warlike one, is of high antiquity.† The first Archer of Sicklinghall I have met with is one John Archer, who was buried "in the Kirke of Alhallows of Kirkeby Overblowers" in 1521. By his will, dated 13th July, 13 Henry VIII., he bequeaths 3s. 4d. to the said kirke for 2 torches: to the high altar, 12d.; to the chantry altar, 4d.; and to Our Lady's altar a whie or young heifer. These bequests are interesting, and show that there were at least two altars in the church, the third altar of Our Lady being in the Metropolitan Church of York. This chantry was of the foundation of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland (who died 1537), and among other property was endowed with a yearly rent of 100s. coming out of the parsonage of Kirkby Overblow.‡ The testator also leaves to *Sir* William Nowitt, chaplain, 10s. for a trentall of masses, and the said priest, with Richard Bilburgh and William Gristhwaite, are witnesses to the will. He leaves a widow and two children, but their names are not stated. There was a Ralph Archer, of Thorp Arch, who died in 1609, and of whose effects administration was granted to William Archer, his natural and lawful son. Martin Archer was buried at Kirkby Overblow, April 14th, 1677, and his widow, Bridget, in 1682. Their eldest son, Matthew Archer, of Sicklinghall, was baptized at Kirkby Overblow Jan. 16th, 1652, and married at Skipton-in-Craven Sept. 26th, 1680, Mary, daughter of Thomas and Ann Moorhouse, of Close House, in the parish of Skipton, lineal ancestors of the present writer.§ Matthew Archer's children are mentioned in their grandmother's will, dated 1698, in my possession.

But the Moorhouses seem to have been living in the parish of Kirkby Overblow long before this time. I find that in April, 1591, a marriage license was granted for John Brerey, of Fewston, to be married to Elizabeth Morehouse in the church at Stainburn. The Brereys were a good old family resident at Menston, in the old parish of Otley, for many centuries.‖

The above Mary Archer had a sister, Ann Moorhouse, who likewise married a Sicklinghall yeoman of good family, named John Elsworth, whose children are also mentioned in their grandmother

* *See Memorials of Families of the surname Archer*, quarto (1861).

† *See Genesis*, xxi., 20. ‡ *Surtees Soc.*, vol. 91, page 22.

§ For pedigree of Moorhouse, from 1378 to the present time, *see* my *Upper Wharfedale*, pages 338-9.

‖ *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 161.

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Moorhouse's will. For nearly two centuries they lived in one house, which was pulled down a few years ago and a new one was erected on the site by Mr. Foster, of Stockeld, and is now tenanted by Mr. Groves. John Elsworth died in 1711, and his wife Ann in 1702. Both are buried at Kirkby Overblow. They left a numerous progeny, and their descendants have continued at Sicklinghall and neighbourhood as yeoman proprietors to the present time. A daughter of Mr. Elsworth, of Dun Keswick, was recently married to the son and heir of Sir James Swales, Bart., of Rudfarlington.

Roman Catholicism has never been wholly extinct in the district from the time of the Reformation, although only one family is mentioned for the parish of Kirkby Overblow in the returns for 1604. But Richard Burdsall, in referring to events of more than a century ago, says that there were then many families of this persuasion living at Sicklinghall. They then attended the Catholic chapel at Stockeld. Some still remain here, and in the village they have now a handsome church, with a monastery attached, called the Lys Marie Monastery, of the Order of the Immaculate Conception. The church, together with the house, was erected in 1852, at a cost of about £8000, by Peter Middleton, Esq., son of the "good Mr. Middleton," of whom some account will be found in my volume on UPPER WHARFEDALE. They have also a church at Wetherby, opened in 1872, which is served from Sicklinghall.

Since the building at Sicklinghall was put up, two wings have been added by the Order for the monastery, and a beautiful Lady Chapel has also been annexed to the church in memory of the founder and his wife, who are interred there. All the windows are richly stained, the east window of three lights being particularly handsome. In the churchyard there are many beautiful memorials, including a stone monument in the form of a wayside-cross, which was erected to the memory of Rev. Dr. Cornthwaite, the first Catholic Bishop of Leeds (1878), who died in June, 1890, aged 72.

The village is pleasantly and picturesquely situated on the sunny side of the Wharfe, and lies on a favourite round for carriage drives by Harewood Bridge, Wetherby, and Harrogate. There were formerly three inns in the village, but now there is only one, the *Scott Arms*, a very picturesque-looking building, with a long front of four projecting bays, and between each window there usually hangs in the fine season very prettily-arranged baskets of flowers. In the heat of summer it is difficult to resist the temptation to leave the dusty road and step beneath its overhanging eaves for a brief respite in its well-shaded rooms. The design of this pretty wayside hostelry might be imitated with advantage in many other country places.

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No doubt in former times, and probably down to near the close of the 17th century, most of the houses were "post-and-pan" or half-timber structures, with thatched roofs, dating perhaps from the 14th or 15th century. A terrible conflagration broke out among them in 1684, when no fewer than 23 houses and 2 large barns, with kilns, &c., together with their contents, were almost totally destroyed by the fire. The buildings were valued at £1180, and the goods lost at £843. It was a sad affair, and the cause of much distress. Letters patent were issued soon afterwards, and collections were made throughout England on behalf of the unfortunate sufferers.* A similar disastrous fire occurred at Follyfoot a few years later (1690), when nearly a dozen houses and other buildings were destroyed, and the inhabitants had to petition the country for relief. In a terrier of glebe lands, &c., belonging to the rectory of Kirkby Overblow in 1693, I find the Sicklinghall fire alluded to in the following reference to the church appurtenances:

ITEM. In Sicklinhall, one house wch. was burnt down, to wch. belongs one acre of ground.

Much rebuilding and improvement have taken place within the last fifty or sixty years, and the village now presents a quite up-to-date aspect. Long after the great fire some of the houses retained their roofs of picturesque old thatch. A tenement of this description stood at the back of the post-office, and for a long time was tenanted by Thomas Batty. It was removed about 1830, and the houses adjoining, including the post-office, were built on the site. There was also an old thatched building where the school stands at the top of the village, while the cottage at the bottom of the village, now occupied by old Mrs. Linfoot, was also thatched. The pinfold, near the pond, is not used now, and the old village stocks, which disappeared thirty or forty years ago, stood opposite the east entrance to the burial-yard of the Roman Catholic Church. Before the latter was built the site was occupied by an old cottage and smithy.

In 1830 an agreement was made between the guardians of the poor of the townships of Sicklinghall, Rainton, Skipton, Baldenby and Marton-le-Moor, to house their poor at Great Ouseburn, and in order to better maintain and employ them, they decided to rent certain buildings and land there suitable for a garden. The Wetherby Union Workhouse was not opened till 1862.

Besides the Catholic church, at Sicklinghall, there is a very neat Protestant church (St. Peter's), which was built about twenty years

* The Leathley parish accounts contain an entry of 14s. 10d collected on July 12th, 1685, for the benefit of the sufferers.

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ago. From about 1850 the church services at Sicklinghall were held in the school-room. Thirty years later, a strong desire for a more suitable building for divine service, ripened into a determination by Mrs. Johnstone Scott, of Woodhall, to raise funds for the purpose, and her exertions were crowned with success. The foundation stone of the church was laid by H. R. Johnstone Scott, Esq., on Sept. 12th, 1881, on land given for the purpose by that gentleman, and the building was dedicated to the service of Almighty God on September 20th, 1882. It is built of stone in the Gothic style of architecture, —ashlar lined--with apsidal chancel (after the manner of the early Christian churches), vestry, bell-turret, &c. It accommodates about 100 persons. The pulpit was given by the Rev. J. J. Toogood, rector, and the church in 1901 was lighted, by subscription, with a four-light lamp, corona and brackets.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, SICKLINGHALL.

The School at Sicklinghall was built by Mrs. Fenton Scott, of Woodhall, in 1850, and the building is the property of the owner of the Woodhall estate, H. R. Johnstone Scott, Esq., in whom it has always had a generous supporter. Since 1871 it has been carried on as a Public Elementary School under the Act. The head teachers have been: Mr. Haigh, 1864-6; Mr. J. Wilkinson, 1866-8; Miss Anne Brooke, 1868-70; Miss Whiteley, 1871-84; Miss Hannah Mary Stather, 1884-93; Miss Elizabeth Healey, 1893.6; Mrs. Dykes, 1897-8; Miss Florence Roundhill, 1898 to the present time.

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The church occupies an elevated position near the main road leading to Kirkby Overblow. All the country traversed by this upland road towards Clapgate was for centuries a wild open moor, and was not enclosed till 1801. Round about were several gates placed at the various lane-ends to prevent cattle straying from the open common. No gates are there for that purpose now, although there is one in front of the comfortable old hostelry at Clapgate, which, however, "hinders none." Upon it we read the legend:

> This gate hangs well and hinders none,
> Refresh and pay and travel on.

And as we travel on towards Sicklinghall, enjoying the fresh breezes, we give a wide berth to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, clean, tidy, and well managed though it is known to be. This airy institution, which was built at a cost of £3000, was opened two or three years ago and serves a wide district round Wetherby. Leaving it on our right we soon come in sight of the way-side pond, with the gable and turret of St. Peter's Church rising picturesquely beyond, as displayed in the engraving on page 143.

Sicklinghall has also a Wesleyan Chapel dating from 1822. Before the chapel was built, services were held in a house in the village. Richard Burdsall tells us that for nine years in succession, from 1763 to 1772, he preached once a week there in a house specially licensed for the purpose. The society suffered much persecution in its early efforts to promote the cause of Methodism in the village. One night in particular, observes Mr. Burdsall, much opposition and annoyance was experienced while he and his friends had assembled for worship. The mob collected and made fast the door; they then surrounded the house with kids of whin or furze as outworks, after which a dead sheep was let down the chimney. Other unseemly opposition to their services took place at different times though happily these ungodly proceedings are now long of the past. With that catholicity of spirit which should govern every well-regulated community we have wisely learned to yield our prejudices to the nobler cause of the Master.

Although any irreverence or interruption in the proper exercise of the divine offices has always been punishable by law, yet it often happened in former times of perfervid animosity in matters of religion that the people took the law into their own hands, and did pretty much as they liked. Other breaches of public discipline and misconduct were generally amenable to the Church. This was especially the case in criminal offences, as ordained by the very old law of sanctuary,* though in later times when the parties were

* *See* my *Upper Wharfedale*, page 37.

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admitted guilty, it was customary to go through the ordeal of a public confession in the church. If the offender refuse, abscond, or suffer apprehension for further misconduct, recourse was had to excommunication, with its divers civil and ecclesiastical penalties.

The registers of Kirkby Overblow illustrate a case of this kind. It is therein recorded that on November 1st, 1729, one John Beane, of Sicklinghall, was excommunicated for contumacy in a case of immorality. It was evidently necessary in this case to resort to this extreme indictment. Ordinarily such offences were punishable by public penance, as above stated, before the congregation in church. On a certain Sunday or festival the penitent, clothed in a white sheet, walked, candle in hand, barefooted, in front of the procession at the church, then kneeling before the high altar uttered a prayer for forgiveness. This ordeal was inflicted on male and female alike. But for particular offences, severer measures were adopted, and a law enacted in the time of the Commonwealth ordered the culprit to be publicly whipped at the church on Sunday. Although I have met with no record of the exercise of this custom within present recollection, the act remained in the Statute Books so recently as 1876, when it was repealed. In some churches there was a special penance-chair provided for the offender to occupy during divine service. Thus at Kildwick-in-Craven I find it stated that among the appurtenances of the church in 1695 was "one Pennance stool." But I have not discovered that any such penitential chair was ever in use at Kirkby Overblow.

The country round about Sicklinghall is very pleasant, and is well cultivated. Among the old field-names I have noticed Black Hill (*see* page 7), Great and Little Gilbert (has this any connection with the famous old lord, Gilbert Fitz Reinfrid, mentioned on page 21 ?), Temple Spring, Kilsyke, Tod Garth, and Skerry Grange, the two latter forming part of the old estate of the Middletons. The principal family seats in the neighbourhood are Stockeld Park (Robert J. Foster, Esq., D.L.), which, however, is in Spofforth parish, and Woodhall, situated near the south-eastern verge of the township of Sicklinghall.

Woodhall—a name significant of the picturesque old style of building,—is a very ancient residential property, and though not mentioned in *Domesday*, it appears in written evidences as early as the 13th century. In the *Hundred Rolls* of 2nd Edward I. (1273), John le Vavasour is recorded as then living at Wodehall in Claro Wapentake, and there is every probability that it was the manor-house of the lords of Sicklinghall from a much earlier period. William fil Robert de Wodehall gave lands in Wetherby to the

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Knights of the Temple, but whether he was of the Vavasour family is uncertain. But the Vavasours were lords of the manor of Sicklinghall in the middle of the 13th century, and probably, too, when the Knights Templars founded their preceptory at Ribston in 1217. The Vavasours were long resident at Woodhall. One of the family was rector of Kirkby Overblow in 1452 (*see* page 55), and the manor of Sicklinghall, including Woodhall, was theirs, apparently, at that time, and continued in their possession till after the Reformation. In 1569 a fine was entered between Thomas, Earl of Northumberland, and others, plaintiffs, and John Vavasour, defendant, touching the "manors of Hassylwood, Freston, Kelfeld, Sykelynghall, Addyngham, Leyde, Newstede, and Wodehall, and the advowsons of Tyrnscue and Addyngham churches." It will thus be seen that they had very extensive properties in Wharfedale at this time. John Vavasour died without issue in 1610, and was succeeded by his brother Ralph, who is described as of Woodhall. He seems to have been the last of his family to reside there, and left a son who succeeded him at Haslewood, and a daughter Frances, who married a Percy of Scotton. There was also a Robert Vavasour, a wealthy London haberdasher, who in his will, proved in 1575, describes himself as of Kirkby Overblow.

Woodhall eventually came to the family of Scott, who were resident there about a century ago. Wm. Fenton Scott, of Woodhall, died in 1813, aged 66, and was buried at Kirkby Overblow, and his widow died at York in 1815, and was interred with her husband. William Lister Fenton Scott, who up to the time of his death in 1842, was Registrar of the West Riding for a period of 16 years, married in 1821, Charlotte, daughter of Richard Johnstone, by his second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Scott, Esq., of Charterhouse Square. Mr. Johnstone, in 1793, assumed the surname and arms of Vanden Bempde, and was created a Baronet in 1795. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John Vanden Bempde-Johnstone, Bart., of Hackness Hall, co. York, who married Louisa Augusta, daughter of the Most Hon. and Rt. Rev. Edward Vernon Harcourt, D.D., Archbishop of York. He had issue two sons and three daughters; the eldest son, Harcourt, was in 1881, created Baron Derwent of Hackness, and the second son, Henry Richard, assumed the surname and arms of Scott, of Woodhall, on succeeding, in 1860, to the property of his uncle, the late Mr. William Fenton Scott. He is the present squire of Woodhall. He married in 1866 Cressida Elizabeth, third daughter of William Selby-Lowndes, Esq., of Whaddon, Bucks., and has issue three sons and one daughter. The present Hall is a plain Georgian building of no architectural interest.

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The foundations of the older homestead are traceable below the present house near the river.

The old family of Scott was long connected with the famous Bramham Moor Hunt. The late Mr. Fenton Scott will long be remembered for his exploits in the hunting field; his striking presence having become quite historic in connection with the old Bramham Meets. He was a tall, and rather thin, but very sprightly gentleman, standing considerably more than six feet in height, and as I have heard it said in the district, he was a nonesuch after the hounds. Many stories are told of his hunting feats. On one occasion when sly-foot was hard pressed and had swam the Wharfe at a well-known dangerous spot, the horses were brought to a sudden standstill,—all but that ridden by Mr. Scott, who, not hesitating, leapt into the deep water. Lord Harewood, who was close by, called out, "My dear fellow, you will surely drown." "No, no, my Lord," replied the daring huntsman, looking round, "a man will never drown so long as he can see Collingham Church steeple." And he got safely across.

Other stories might be related, but this volume has already exceeded the prescribed limits. I have now traced, mostly from unpublished sources, the history of every township in this wide and interesting old parish, and given some account of its old families and homesteads, antiquities, traditions and folk-lore, together with a narrative of events illustrative of bygone manners and customs. In the ensuing pages will be found a short account of a few notable places in the neighbourhood.

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CASTLE WALK, KNARESBOROUGH.

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Brief Notices of the District.

Knaresborough.

UCH of the territory embraced by the parish of Kirkby Overblow was formerly included in the Forest of Knaresborough, as already shewn, and the wardens of the royal Forest had anciently divers relationships with the old lords of Kirkby Overblow. As Knaresborough and its Castle have also been intimately associated with the life-story of the same ancient and wide parish described in the preceding pages, a rare and curious view of the Castle as it appeared when complete, has been deemed worthy of preservation in the Large Paper edition of this work. It is reproduced from an old draught preserved in the Duchy of Lancaster office, and engraved in 1735. Though a crude and characteristic drawing of the time, it shews the lofty battlemented towers, and keep, with drawbridge, apparently as they existed before the great Civil War.

In 1083-6 the manor and Forest of Knaresborough included eleven berewicks or villages, farming 41½ carucates of land, worth in the Confessor's time six pounds. After the Conquest it was declared all waste (unproductive), and yet it renders an annual income of 20s. This premises that the manor was afforested in the Conqueror's time, although no stone castle was then in existence.

The first reference to the existence of a castle at Knaresborough is found in the oldest Pipe Roll (1130), where it is stated that Eustace Fitz John held the manors of Burc (Aldburgh) and Cnaresburg (Knaresborough), at an annual rent of 22 pounds, and of this sum one half had been spent on the King's works at Knaresborough. This expenditure clearly indicates that the royal stronghold was then in course of erection. The building went on for a long time. The great keep was not built till the early part of the 14th century. Edward III., in 1371, bestowed all the profits and privileges of the castle, manor, and honour of Knaresborough, together with the Priory of St. Robert, at Knaresborough, on his son, the great John of Gaunt, first Duke of Lancaster. From that time to the present they have belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster. It is interesting to note that in John of Gaunt's time, his nephew, Thomas Chaucer, son of the illustrious poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, was Constable of the Castle.

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During the Civil War the castle was garrisoned by the Royal troops, who made many disastrous forays into the surrounding district. On one occasion they entered the township of Kirkby Overblow, and nearly annihilated the homestead of the Bethells, kinsfolk of Oliver Cromwell. Eventually, after a stout resistance, the castle was taken by Lord Fairfax, and in 1647 it was ordered, with many other Yorkshire castles, to be made untenable, and no garrisons to be maintained therein. The order was carried out at Knaresborough by destroying the great curtain wall, seven to eight feet thick, and blowing away part of the keep.

MARKET PLACE, KNARESBOROUGH.

Before its destruction the castle must have presented a very massive and imposing front. The buildings and walls enclosed an area of nearly two-and-a-half acres, and were flanked with eleven or twelve lofty towers, of which only portions of six now remain. *See* the large plate in the best edition of this work. The existing ruins appear but scant and fragmentary, with the exception of the King's Tower or Keep (which includes the dungeon), and this has been a very strong building of large proportions. The Keep is in form a rectangle, about 62 feet by 52 feet, and consists of three floors or stories. The dungeon is below and has a singularly

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arched roof. In the centre is a large and plain circular column from which spring twelve groins or ribs, arranged in groups of three, some of the intermediate spaces being filled with cross ribs, the whole forming a well-proportioned octagon. The design is believed to be unique. Another remarkable feature of the castle is a subterranean tunnel or sally-port, 72 feet long, which was opened out in 1890. In it were found 33 solid limestone-balls, or ancient stone shot. Many relics of interest are preserved in the castle, and are shown to visitors on payment of a small fee.

Besides the castle there is a good deal of other interest in and about the picturesque old town. The Parish Church is a very old foundation, and is mentioned in A.D. 1114 among the donations to Nostel Priory. The church, which was thoroughly restored in 1870-1, contains many beautiful memorials in sculpture and in stained glass. Among them is a superb altar-tomb bearing a full-length effigy by Boehm, of Sir Charles Slingsby, who was accidentally drowned in 1869. He was the last heir-male of the ancient family of Scriven Park.

The oldest houses in the town are those surrounding the Market Place; some of the cellars beneath them being hewn out of the solid rock, and are no doubt of great antiquity. The foundations and presence of disused socket-holes shew that buildings before many of those now existing have occupied the sites. Markets have been in all probability held here from Saxon times, as Knaresborough, being a *burgh* town, would be the most suitable centre for the collection of the produce of the district. It was not, however, until Edward II. visited the town in 1311, that it was chartered for a weekly market and one fair annually, with the assize of bread and ale.

There are many ancient inns and noteworthy buildings in this vicinity, which are described at length in my large work on NIDDERDALE. The old bay-windowed house over the entrance to Savage Yard is notable as the place where the invincible soldier and statesman, Oliver Cromwell, lodged at the siege of Knaresborough Castle. The bed in which he slept is preserved at the picturesque old Manor House down by the river-side. In a small cottage in the *White Horse* yard lived the notorious Eugene Aram, who settled in Knaresborough in 1734. After his removal to Lynn the dwelling was made into a weaving-shop, and afterwards into a brew-house.

Other objects of interest are the celebrated Dropping Well, and Mother Shipton's Cave. The famous sorceress is reputed to have been born here in 1488. On the opposite bank of the river is St. Robert's Chapel, a very curious excavation in the rock, and originally known as the "Chapel of our Lady" and "Our Lady's Chapel in the Crag."

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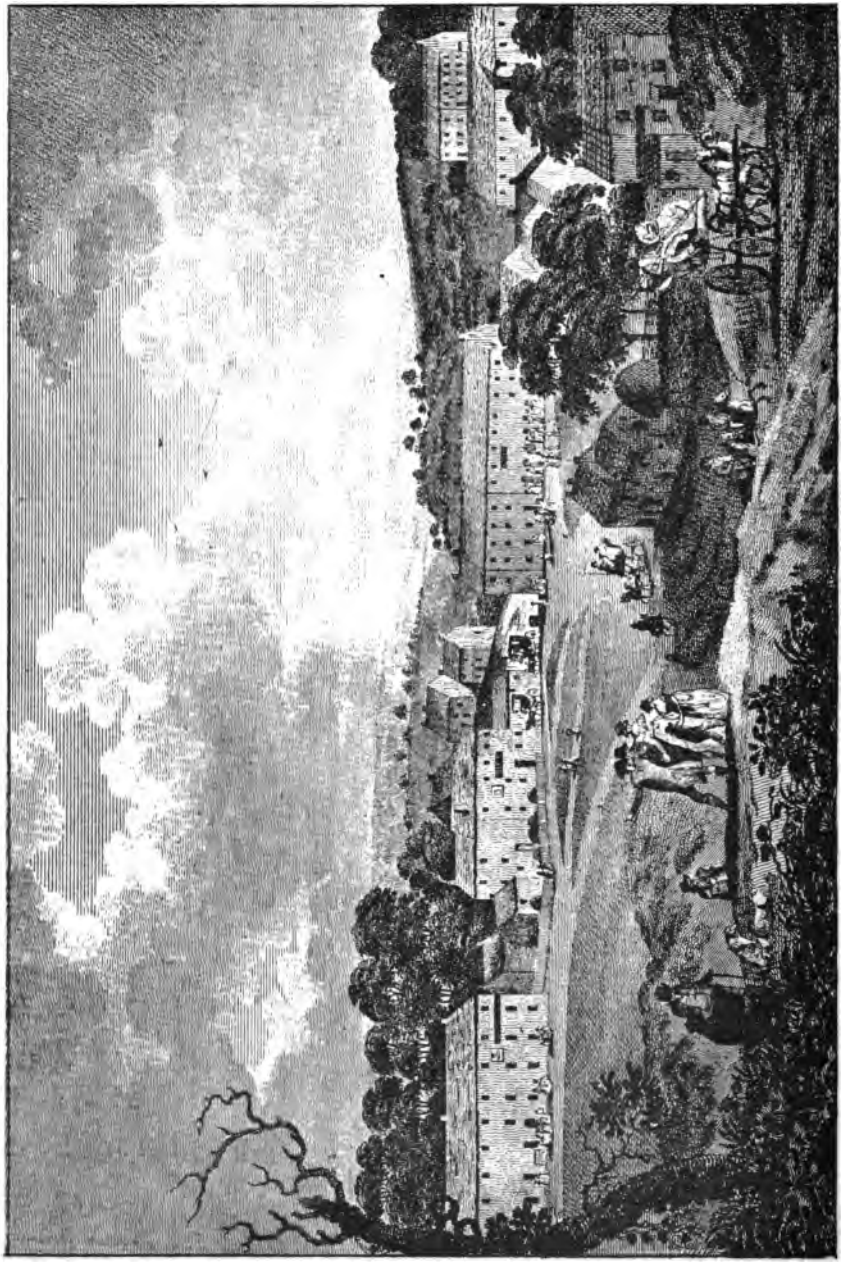

LOW HARROGATE A CENTURY AGO.

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Harrogate.

IT is hardly beyond living recollection when "Harrogate, the magnificent," was a "wild common, bare and bleak, without tree or shrub, or the least signs of cultivation," for so wrote Smollett in the last quarter of the 18th century. And Thomas Pennant remarks in 1777 that the place contained "several excellent inns scattered along the edge of a dreary moor." Remotely bleak and tenantless it lay on the road to nowhere in particular, only excepting it was on the old hunting "gate" or way from the town and castle of Knaresborough to the royal park at Haverah, anciently *Heywra*, *Hayra*, *Hawra*, &c. From this circumstance, I opine, Harrogate or Hawragate, obtains its name. In 1461 and 1502 (*vide Plumpton Correspondence*) it is written "Harrygate."

In 1786 the estate belonging to Lord Loughborough, on the south side of the Stray, began to be planted with oak, ash, hornbeam, American chestnut, &c., and from that time to the present not a year has gone by without some improvement having taken place in planting, building, laying-out, and generally increasing the attractions of this great Yorkshire Spa. In 1796 Nicholson's drawing of Low Harrogate was engraved, and I give a reproduction of it. The appearance of the place at that time possesses now a real historic interest, when the whole ground and its aspects have been so completely transformed. No fewer than five inns are shewn in this valuable picture; commencing on the left side we have the old *White Hart* (rebuilt in 1846), then the *Blue Bell* (where the saddler's shop was afterwards built), next the *Crown* (where Lord Byron wrote a characteristic poem, *To a beautiful Quaker*), and then the *Crescent* (a century ago known as the *Half Moon*), and lastly the *Swan*. A stream ran in the hollow below the tall tree in the view. Cold Bath Road was at that time called Robin Hood's Lane.

Sir William Slingsby, of Scriven Park, has the credit of being the first to discover the medicinal qualities of the Harrogate waters. Hargrove gives the date 1571, but it was probably near 1600 when he ordered the old Tewit Well (the spot being a favourite haunt of the moorland lapwing) to be walled in and protected. He was born in 1562, and was the seventh son of Francis Slingsby, Esq., and Mary his wife, who was sister of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, lord of Spofforth, and patron of the rich livings of Spofforth and Kirkby Overblow.

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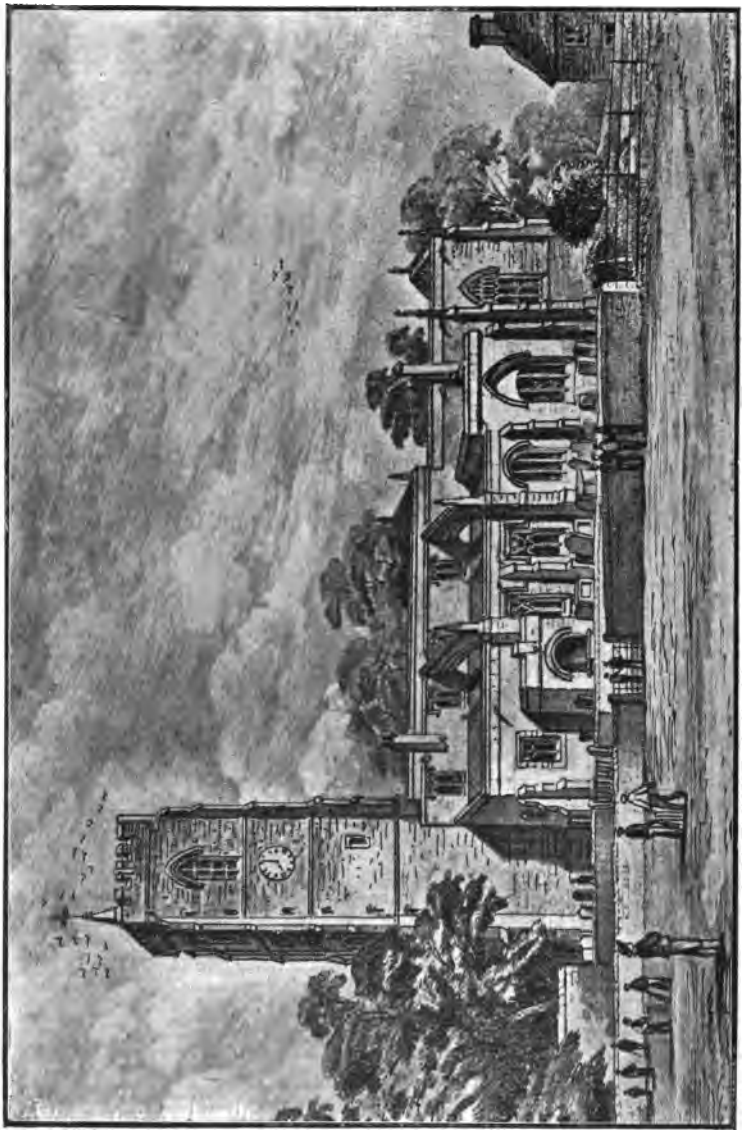

SPOFFORTH CHURCH BEFORE THE RESTORATION IN 1855.

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Spofforth.

HIS ancient and interesting parish has a long and notable history, which might well form the subject of a separate volume. The parish formerly embraced the townships of Follifoot, Linton, Plumpton, Little Ribston, Stockeld, and Wetherby. For many centuries the manor belonged to the Percies, Earls of Northumberland, and here they resided before either Alnwick or Warkworth came into their possession. In 1223 Spofforth was chartered for a weekly (Friday) market. In 1309 Henry de Percy obtained a license to rebuild and fortify his manor-houses at Spofforth and Leconfield. This was the origin of the once stately castle here, which is now a picturesque ruin. Twice has the old fortress suffered destruction at the hands of conquering enemies. During the Wars of the Roses it was "sore defaced," as Leland quaintly puts it, for Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, a partizan of the House of Lancaster, fell on the blood-stained field of Towton, and the victorious Yorkists subsequently marched on to Spofforth, where they wrecked the castle and much of the surrounding park. In 1559 it was restored and made habitable by Henry, Lord Percy, and it continued to be occupied up to about the time of the Civil War. During that stormy period the castle again suffered at the hands of the destroyer, since which time it has gone steadily to decay, the wild birds sheltering in its crumbling recesses, and the grass growing in its once stately halls. Before the railway was made in 1847 it was possible to trace the former extent of the ancient pleasure-grounds, with their spacious vivary or fish-ponds, and many encompassing walks.

From the relative value of the manor before and after the Conquest, it would appear that no church existed at Spofforth in Saxon times. But a Christian community undoubtedly existed here long before the Norman invasion, and a few years ago there was found in the church—forming a step in the tower,—a fragment of a sculptured Saxon cross. Though small, it is a precious relic of early Christianity.

The church no doubt owes its origin to the early Percies, by whom it was richly endowed. From its foundation the rectory has been in their gift and that of their heirs to the present time. The church was largely rebuilt, with exception of the tower, in 1855, and is a spacious and imposing edifice, possessing in its architectural details and memorials of the past, much historic interest. There was

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formerly a great deal of ancient armorial glass in the windows, and on the external walls there are two consecration crosses. I present a view of the old church from a rare original, very kindly lent to me by the Rev. Chas. Handcock, rector of Kirkby Overblow and formerly rector of Spofforth.

In the north wall of the choir (formerly in the south wall), is the recumbent figure in stone of John de Plumpton, who died early in the 14th century. He is represented clad in chain-mail, and holding a shield bearing his paternal arms: five fusils in fesse, each containing an escallop shell. Other members of the Plumpton family are interred here, likewise the Middletons of Stockeld and Spofforth Park, and the Pavers of Brame. There were two chantries within the church: (1) that of Our Lady of Pity, founded in 1503 by the executors of Nicholas Middleton, of North Deighton, brother of Thomas of Kirkby Overblow, and (2) the chantry of Our Lady founded by one of the parsons and others. William, the father of Nicholas Middleton, died in 1474 and was buried in the chapel of St. Anne in Spofforth Church, and he left £5 towards the building of the bell-tower. There was also a pre-Reformation chapel at Wetherby and another at Follifoot within the parish, likewise at Plumpton Towers was the chapel of the Holy Trinity, and at Rougharlington, in the same township, was the ancient chapel of St. Hilda, the home or heritage for some time of St. Robert of Knaresborough.

The country around Spofforth is very picturesque and diversified with many features of interest. Plumpton Rocks, in this parish, is a remarkable place much visited in the summer season. The grounds enclosing the rocks cover some twenty acres, and are attractively laid out with walks, and planted with a variety of trees and shrubs. They were begun by Daniel Lascelles, Esq., who bought the estate from the last of the Plumptons in 1760.

Follifoot is also a pleasant village in the old parish of Spofforth, about which little hitherto has been written. It should not be confused with the Folyfait or Follithwaite in the parish of Wighill, which like our Follyfoot or Folyfait, as often spelled, gave name to a family of some consequence in early times. Alan de Folifait granted lands by the Wharfe side, near Wighill, to the monks of Kirkstall,* and in 1313-14 he had license to found an oratory in his manor of Folyfait in the liberty of the Ainsty. In 1315 he was joint lord of that manor with John de Bekethorp. A Jordan de Foliot is witness to a grant by Henry de Lacy to the Abbot of Kirkstall, and the

* In 1786 they were Crown lands known as Kirkstall Ings, *alias* Follyfoot Ings in Wighill parish.

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name of Sir Richard Foliot appears as the first witness to a deed of Joan de Stuteville, the heiress of the Stutevilles, and niece of Helewise de Stuteville, who married William de Lancaster, Baron of Kendal and lord of Kirkby Overblow. He died in 1184.* In 1315 the manor of Folyfait (in Spofforth), as then written, was held by the Austin Prior of Newburgh, in Coxwold parish.

There was an ancient corn-mill in the township, and in 1300 the Master of the House of St. Robert of Knaresborough complained that Henry de Percy and Richard Somer had unjustly disseised him of a water-mill in Folyfayt near Spoford. The Percies were chief lords of the fee and the Plumptons held under them, but the inhabitants of Follifoot owed suit of court at Spofforth. From the Plumptons their lands in Follifoot went to the Middletons, and in 1598 William Middleton, Esq., and Ann his wife, conveyed this manor with others, by fine, to William Ingleby, Esq. and Sampson Ingleby, gent. The latter was then steward to Earl Percy, and lived at Spofforth Castle.

The village of Follifoot is thoroughly rural and retired, but modern improvements have done away with almost every feature of ancient interest. No very old houses remain. The oldest is one which was formerly thatched and bears the initials and date B. S., 1681. The present manor-house is not very old, while opposite stands the Poplars, the residence of Miss Leak, a substantial 18th century dwelling, in which the Roman Catholics at one time held services, now nearly a century ago. Father Laycock is said to have been the last priest to reside there. Near this house and at the back of the *Harewood Arms* is the Follifoot cricket field. While digging a trench in this field, about nine years ago, five or six human skeletons were discovered lying together, along with the remains of a horse. They are supposed to be relics of a fray during the Civil Wars.

The old stocks and pinfold are still in evidence, and on the main road in the village is a good inn, the *Radcliffe Arms*. There is a neat modern Church and a Wesleyan Chapel. Rudding Park, close to the village, is the seat of Sir Joseph P. P. Radcliffe, Bart., and is an extensive estate beautifully laid out and containing much fine timber as well as many uncommon trees and shrubs. The estate also possesses a rare archæological interest. *See* page 9. On the top of one of the ancient tumuli stands a curious late Saxon cross. The property was purchased by Lord Loughborough, in 1788, from the executors of Thomas Wilson, Esq., brother to the then Bishop of Bristol. The present Hall was erected in 1807.

* The family expired in an heiress, Olivia de Folifaite, who married John, ancestor of the Marquis of Hastings, who was son of the celebrated benefactress, Lady Elizabeth Hastings, of Ledstone.

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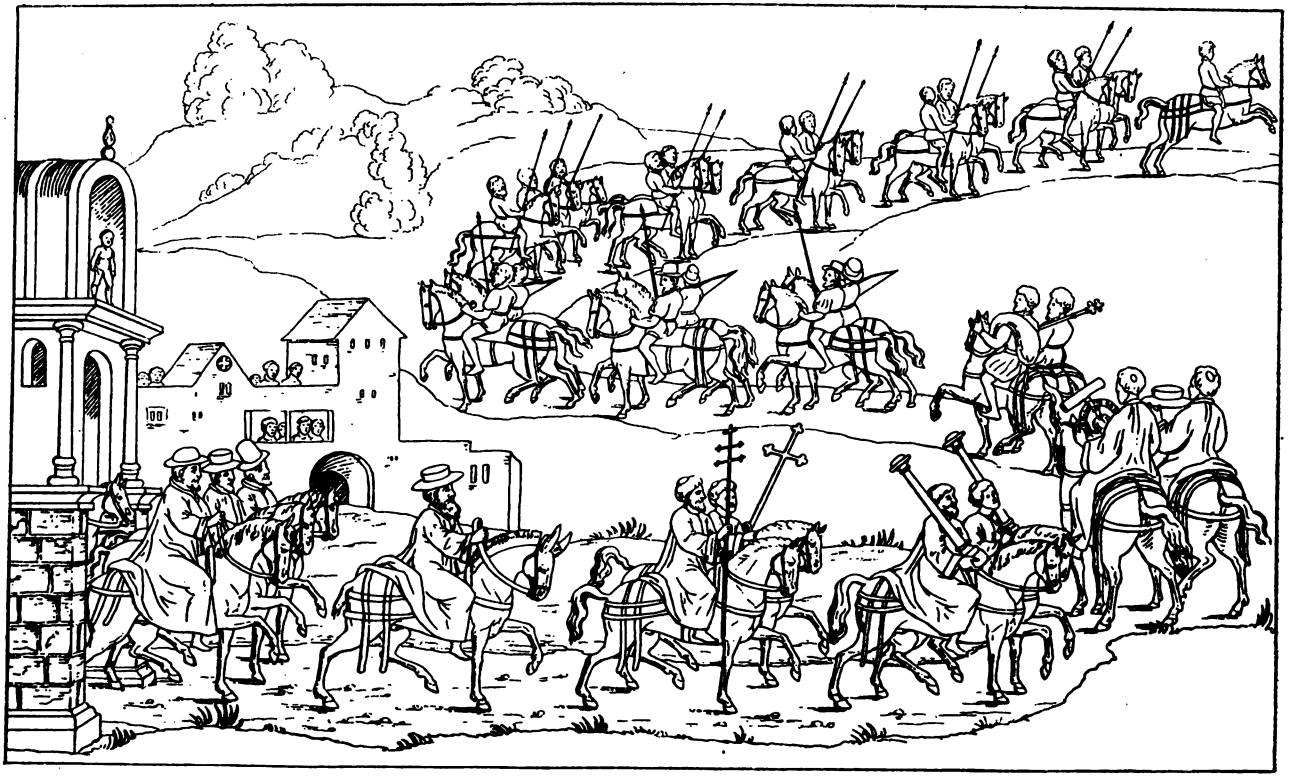

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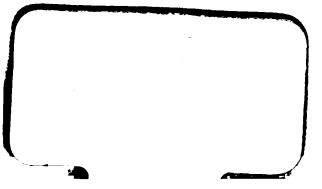

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