

HISTORY OF CRAVEN.

INTRODUCTION.



THE District which I have now undertaken to describe is almost equally interesting to the Botanist, the Mineralogist, the Antiquary, and the Lover of Landscape: but with the provinces of the two former I presume not to interfere.

Contiguous to the parish of Whalley on the south, this country assumes, from the very boundary, a new character and complexion, of which the environs of Clitheroe alone partake in the former district. The Deanery of Craven extends about thirty miles southward from the sources of the Ribble and Wharf, and the interval between those rivers includes the first twenty miles in the course of the Are.

The basis of the country may be considered as one vast aggregate of calcareous matter, which, however generated, or wherever collected on the surface of the earth, seldom fails to produce a set of features in the face of Nature, at once singular and beautiful.

No mineral substance perhaps is ever found in unmingled masses of the same extent with limestone, and none is so well adapted to take picturesque and magnificent forms from great natural convulsions. Mixed or softer minerals are shattered by the earthquake and the volcano, while these stubborn and uniform strata are sometimes broken into vast disruptions on the surface, and sometimes scooped into spacious caverns beneath—forms which, having once acquired, they retain for ever.

But from such tremendous operations of Nature little more could be expected in forming the scenery of a country than ruggedness and horror: to soften down, therefore, the general surface from deformity to grandeur, and from grandeur to beauty, or, what is of more importance, to reduce the earth to a tractable and productive shape,

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another operation seems to have been carried on in this country, not so easily explained; for by what process of natural chemistry a substance so hard and stubborn as limestone-rock should have been smoothed into shapely knolls, or moulded into soft and regular alternations of hill and valley; how upon a surface which must at first have consisted of angles and right lines only, nothing but graceful curves should now appear, as if some plastic hand had formed the original surface over again for use and beauty at once: these are among the many questions relating to the theory of the earth, which the restless curiosity of man will ever be asking without the hope or possibility of a solution.

It is enough for us, however, that we enjoy the result of these hidden operations, that we find in Craven a country fertile in pasturage, and rich in landscape, of which the complexion is equally pleasing with the features, for the vegetable and mineral systems are ever nearly connected; and experience, for the last century or more, has co-operated with Nature in producing the same effect. Tillage is almost universally exploded, and it would now be difficult to point out in Great Britain a tract of equal extent and of equal verdure.

But a great extent of country clad in unvarying green, or waving in an unceasing succession of hill and valley, however delightful when properly contrasted, would singly have been monotonous and tiresome. And here again Nature has interposed with the happiest effect. The strata of limestone, nowhere found upon very high levels, are here surmounted by black and rugged fells of grit and sand-stone, often of the boldest forms; so that the whole landscape may be compared to a bed of native emeralds encrusted with ferruginous matter.

I have already assigned a reason why calcareous rocks are generally observed to abound in caverns; accordingly many of these subterraneous excavations are found in Craven, several of which appear to have been the haunts of ancient banditti, or perhaps the retreats of the first inhabitants. In some of these human bones still remain; in the rest those of deer and other animals.*

It might have been expected that a tract of country where the streams sometimes wind along sedgy bottoms, and sometimes struggle for their passage through bars of native rock, should have abounded with pools, which, though they could nowhere have been of great extent, would have greatly embellished the valleys; but the Are has long since worn away every impediment to its lazy progress, and the lively and impetuous Wharf seems to have been assisted by earthquakes in rending asunder the great ramparts which once opposed its passage, and in producing everywhere a narrow and interrupted but an adequate channel for its waters.

Whatever may have been the cause, three native pools† alone are found in the whole compass of Craven, one only of which is of any considerable extent.

The climate is cold and rainy, though greatly improved since the twelfth and thirteenth

* In a cave near Malham were discovered, not many years ago, the skeletons of a herd of red deer, which had probably taken refuge there in severe weather, and perished from the obstruction of the entrance by snow.

† Malham, Eshton, Giggleswick.

century, when common grain, if we believe the complaints of the monks, seldom arrived at maturity.*

Throughout the whole district there is some deficiency of native wood ; but the ash, which from its general and spontaneous growth, and the various uses to which it is here applied, has often been called the Craven Oak, by its pale and elegant foliage forms a charming accompaniment to the light verdure of the pastures ; while the deep green of the indigenous yew, and the hoary leaves of the whitebeam,† diversify the surfaces of the most inaccessible rocks.

So far as the hand of man unwarily contributes to improve the scenery of a country, little is here to be desired : the population of the district is almost entirely collected into pleasant villages, which are generally distributed at convenient distances, and often placed in the most advantageous points of view, embosomed in aged trees, and surmounted by the towers of their little churches.

Where the basis of limestone ceases, the appropriate character of the country is instantly lost ; and perhaps it may be needless to point out one or two uninteresting parishes of this description, which I could willingly have omitted had my plan allowed me. As it is, I shall probably be detected by the attentive reader in moving over that ground with more speed and less pleasure than usual.

There are, on the other hand, some scenes so beautiful to the eye, or interesting to the imagination, or both, that I must be permitted to linger over them with a fondness which cold tempers are incapable of feeling, and fastidious critics of enduring. Of these there are two in Ribblesdale, one in Aredale, and two in Wharfdale ; the environs of Sallay and Giggleswick in the first, those of Malham in the second, of Bolton and Kilnsay in the last. Had these been wanting, the history of Craven would not have been written.

The villages of this country are for the most part neat, healthful, and pleasant. The great dispersion of property, which will be accounted for in the ensuing work, has given rise to an uniform style of building in stone, suited to the condition of yeomanry ; and of the old thatched cabins, which two centuries ago were universal, few remain, except on the estates of the great lords,‡ who are slow in building for their tenants, while they treat them with a liberality which, as it well enables, ought to encourage them to rebuild for themselves.

But independently of the general improvement which has taken place in building, the ancient appearance of the villages, and their environs, must have been very different from the present. We learn from the decisive evidence of charters, that for three or four centuries after the Conquest there were no enclosures, excepting that the “tofts,” or insulated messuages, had each a “croft” annexed to them ; even the meadow grounds lay in common : next to these was the cornfield of the township, occupied in the growth of wheat, barley, oats, flax, and hemp : at a greater distance, and separated by a wall, was the common pasture for cattle ; and beyond, a wide waste of moor and fell, grazed by sheep. This arrangement undoubtedly took place on the general distribution of property after the Saxon conquest, and with the exception of enclosed meadows, it subsisted in some parts of Wharfdale within the last thirty years.

* *Vide infra*, under Sallay Abbey.

† The *Cratægus Aria*.

‡ Particularly in Barden.

Yet enclosures, however convenient for occupation, or conducive to improvement, have spoiled the face of the country as an object; the cornfields, which by the variegated hues* of tillage relieved the uniformity of verdure about them, are now no more; and the fine swelling outlines of the pastures, formerly as extensive as large parks, and wanting little but the accompaniment of deer to render them as beautiful, are now strapped over with large bandages of stone, and present nothing to the eye but right-lined and angular deformity. These remarks apply particularly to the upper parts of Wharfedale. The broad interval between the Ribble and the Aire consisting principally of large properties, though enclosed, would, by the help of plantations judiciously disposed, assume a very park-like appearance; yet the round clumps which crown knoll after knoll, employed, perhaps, from the vanity of displaying the extent of estates, resemble tufts of hair left upon shaven crowns, and ought to be removed. But by a well-managed concealment of boundaries, by the removal of unnecessary fences, and the retaining of a sufficient number of hedge-row trees and aged hawthorns, this part of the country is capable of great embellishment at a small expense. Artificial plantations do not abound in Craven: the oldest and most valuable are at Gisburne Park and Broughton: the most extensive and best-disposed modern ones at Gledstone House. In all these the king of forests,† the oak, excepting some particular spots, grows slowly and with reluctance; the beech succeeds much better: but I am sorry to see no more attention paid to the broad-leaved wych-elm, the companion of the oak, as a forest-tree, in our old laws, of which the huge decaying trunks in hedge-rows might teach the proprietor, not only that it is indigenous, but capable of outgrowing in such situations all its brethren of the wood.

On the subject of domestic architecture, as it applies to houses of a superior rank to those of the yeomanry, there is little to observe. Bolton Hall, which, after Skipton Castle, is the oldest mansion in the district; Hellifield Peel, which is the second; and Bracewell, which is the third, will all be considered in their order.

But upon the architecture of the churches I have several remarks to offer.

The original Craven Church was a plain Saxon or Norman building, consisting of one, or sometimes two aisles, and no tower; but with a semi-circular doorway and an handsome arch of the same shape between the nave and choir. Many specimens of this early architecture are yet remaining; but not one exhibits a zigzag or angular moulding, or any of the enrichments of the same period, which are found in more splendid erections. In some instances this style remains entire, as at Kettlewell, Coniston, and nearly so at Hubberholm. In others it is mixed with later additions, as at Addingham, Linton, Horton, Bracewell, Broughton. In almost every other instance through the deanery the original structure has been completely destroyed. This first era of church building extended from the end of the Conqueror's reign through that of his two sons;‡ afterwards a very long interval took place, in which the rude inhabitants, though lavish in their bounty to the religious houses, were contented at home with the mean and narrow ecclesiastical edifices

* This is not inconsistent with my observation on page 2, line 14. Picturesque effect in the face of a country, as far as man is concerned in producing it, evidently lies in the interval between too much tillage and none at all.

† The builder oak, sole king of forests all.—*Spenser*.

‡ This will be farther explained under Arncliffe.

of their forefathers. But in the reign of Henry VIII., when the monks had in some degree lost their credit, the devout liberality of the people took a new and more rational direction, and applied itself to the restoration and ornament of their decayed parish churches. Entire specimens of this period in Craven, or nearly entire, are the churches of Kildwick, Sladeburn, Giggleswick, Gargrave, Burnsall, Gisburne, and Kirkby Malghdale,* all uniform, spacious, and handsome. The additions made to the old Norman churches, which were not entirely pulled down, are of the same period. All the steeples in Craven are nearly of this date; six of them—viz., Thornton, Carlton, Gargrave, Kirkby Malghdale, Gill, and Bolton Abbey, have inscriptions which verify the assertion, and the rest prove their age by similarity of style to those which are ascertained. In the next place, all these, excepting Sladeburn, have, or in the last century had, remains of painted glass evidently contemporary with the enlargement or rebuilding of the church; and every specimen of these is either dated in the reign of Henry VIII., or may be proved by circumstances to have belonged to that reign. I must add, that the monastic appropriators were nowhere backward in improving and adorning their chancels, those of Bingley, Gisburne, Giggleswick, Barnoldswick, and Skipton having kept pace with the improvement of the nave.

Another discriminating feature of the first and second style of building is the masonry, which, in the Norman buildings, consisted of rude but most durable groutwork without courses; in the latter it almost uniformly consists of fell-stone, well hewn and handsomely coursed. This observation, however, is not meant to apply to religious houses, which were constructed of the finest masonry from the beginning.

I might probably be pardoned by others, I should scarcely pardon myself, were I to omit the following observations:—

The number, situation, and endowment of the churches in this deanery is one of the best elucidations of the wisdom of our ecclesiastical establishment in its primitive state with which I am acquainted. Excepting, indeed, the endowment of vicarages, which has rarely had a bad effect, and in some instances, perhaps, a good one, the primitive model of our ancient establishment here remains entire. In every considerable village, perhaps at the first colonisation of the country by the Saxons, the lord, while he marked out a mansion and demesne for himself, and cantoned the rest of his little territory among his followers, never lost sight of the duty and necessity of religious worship; or failed to provide for both the means of future happiness, as well as of present comfort. In this institution the Mosaic law was very properly imitated, and in parishes of moderate extent, adapted to the inspection of one man and to the facility of assembling in one place, no mode or measure of provision was so convenient as that which the Almighty himself had chosen for the subsistence of the Jewish priesthood. At the first establishment, indeed, of the English Church, when tithes formed a common fund for the bishop and clergy of the whole diocese, the resemblance between the Jewish and Christian model was much more exact; but in these observations I mean to confine myself to that later modification of the great ecclesiastical fund which may, perhaps, be considered as the inducement for founding much

* Perhaps this church was restored in the reign of Henry VII. See Kirkby Malghdale.

the greater part of our parochial churches—namely, a right of patronage in the founder, and a specific provision for the minister out of the tithes of his own manor.

If it be allowed that this mode of providing for the Christian priesthood is, strictly speaking, of Divine institution, such a concession will supersede all reasoning, even in favour of the appointment. But waiving for the present a point which I mean not either to affirm or deny, I would ask, whether at the foundation of parishes, and for many centuries after, it were possible to devise a method of supporting an incumbent equally wise and proper with that of a manse, glebe, and tithes. The pastor was not to be a vagrant among his flock; a house therefore was to be provided for him: he wanted the common necessities of life (for it was held at that time that even spiritual men must eat and drink), and money there was none to purchase them; a moderate allotment, therefore, of land was also required. But the growth of grain, a process which demands much care and attention, would have converted the incumbent, as it has been well and frequently urged of late, into an illiterate farmer. It was proper, therefore, that the glebe should be restricted within such limits as would suffice for the production of milk, butter, cheese, animal food, and such other articles as require little labour, while the bread-corn, and other grain of the minister, should be supplied by the industry of his parishioners. And if the minister fed the people, as it was his office to do, with “the bread that endureth,” there was an harmony, as well as equity, in requiring that *they* should feed him in return with that “which perisheth.” But this primitive and pleasing reciprocation of good offices too quickly ceased to be universal; and the common corruption of our nature will supersede the necessity of inquiring whether the evil began with a subtraction of tithes or teaching. The declension would be mutual; and law, not love, would soon become the measure both of the one payment and the other.

These circumstances are hinted at only as matter of unhappy experience, not as affording any objection to established endowments, which does not equally affect all human institutions.

I have already commended the distribution of churches, and the moderate extent of parishes in this deanery: and it is really a circumstance of great importance in more views than one; for—

First, The immoderate extent of parishes in many parts of the north of England, which is to be ascribed to the original barrenness and poverty of the country, gave occasion, in the progress of improvement, to the foundation of numerous chapels, ill endowed, or perhaps not endowed at all. Hence the dioceses of Chester and Carlisle, in particular, have long swarmed with indigent ecclesiastics; and no one circumstance has more powerfully contributed to degrade the clerical character.

From this evil, however, the deanery of Craven is in a great measure exempt, as the body of the clergy consists of parochial ministers seated upon benefices of moderate value, which, even in the present day, with prudence and economy, will preserve an incumbent from contempt. There are, indeed, two vicarages sordidly poor, of which their wealthy and noble patrons, who are also improprators, ought to be admonished.*

* Bracewell and Kirkby Malghdale. The consciences of many noble and wealthy improprators, in the reigns of James and Charles I., and perhaps later, were wrought upon to restore the great tithes, or some portion of them, to impoverished

Secondly, Were Christianity yet to be planted, and the whole country lying a blank before the wisest founder of an establishment, I know not that he could choose better, as to the number or situation of his churches, than our ancestors in this district have done. Had they been more numerous, their endowments must have been either insufficient or oppressive; had they been less so, the advantages of public worship must have been too partially distributed. Some parishes consist of a single village, and there are instances where it consists of more, in which the church is impartially placed at an equal distance from all. In the former case it is impossible for a serious mind to contemplate the venerable fabric of the church, the relative situation of the ancient parsonage, and the collected population of the parish clustering around them both, without conceiving the idea of a numerous family gathered about their common parent for the united purposes of comfort, instruction, and devotion.

Could weight of character and due authority be recalled from their long extinction on one hand, and ancient reverence and submission on the other, every part of this now visionary theory might yet be realised in the deanery of Craven. Above the temptations of poverty, and beneath those of dissipation, constantly resident among his flock, and attentive to the duties of his office, there is no part of them, public or private, which a minister might not discharge, according to the ideas of Herbert or Burnet, where scarce an house is more than a mile from his own residence, and the objects of his care do not exceed two or three hundred persons.*

In such a situation no character would need to be unknown, no piety unnoticed, no enormity unreproved. I allow that the present temper of mankind is unfavourable to clerical exertions; yet a faithful discharge of duty, without eccentricity or imprudence, even under circumstances the most unpromising, will never be wholly lost. But it must not be dissembled that this district, till very lately, has not been distinguished for the piety or the labours of its clergy; and one fact is certain, let the cause be what it will, that in few parts of England have the churches been more negligently attended, in few has there appeared a more general indifference to religious duties. Happily both for ministers and people, there have always been some exceptions to this rule, though perhaps never so many as at present.

One circumstance in the ecclesiastical history of Craven deserves to be remembered. There never was a period when the consciences of ecclesiastics were more harassed by impositions than in the civil wars of the last century; yet such was the flexibility of principle displayed by the incumbents of this deanery, under all their trials, that not a name in the

vicarages. See Spelman, "De Non Temerandis Ecclesiis," and Bishop Kennett's "Case of Improvements." This is not the proper string to be touched at present; but though the ears of great persons are generally shut against the antiquated claims of the clergy, there never was a time when their hearts were more open to representations of their wants; and there exists not an ampler field for the exercise of liberality in patrons than in the augmentation of small benefices. This may be so managed as to double the sum actually bestowed by quickening the slow operation of Queen Anne's bounty. Many colleges set a laudable example, in leasing the great tithes at low rates to their vicars; and it ought not to be forgotten, though it is little understood, that the Ordinary has all the power which he ever possessed of augmenting vicarages.

* It is none of the least evils attending the enormous increase of population in manufacturing districts, that it often takes place, from circumstances of local convenience, at a distance from any place of worship; and even where it is otherwise, all possibility of intercourse and acquaintance between a clergyman and his people is taken away by numbers. The next step to estrangement is aversion. Hence manufacturing towns and villages are the seed-beds of dissent.

whole number appears in the catalogue of sufferers exhibited on the two opposite sides by Calamy and Walker.

The surplice or the gown, the liturgy or directory, Episcopal, Presbyterian, or Congregational government; a king, a commonwealth, or an usurper; all these changes, and all the contradictory engagements which they imposed, were deemed trifling inconveniences in comparison of the loss of a benefice.

A century before, from the time of the Six Articles to the final establishment of Protestantism under Queen Elizabeth, I have reason to think that the predecessors of these men were no less interested and compliant.

It would be equally unjust and disrespectful to dismiss this part of my subject without mentioning the respectable state of repair to which the churches of this deanery have been generally restored in consequence of the continued attention of the present archdeacon. Ecclesiastical authority, however weakened by disuse, may yet be revived and applied to the most salutary purposes by steady and temperate exertions.

In addition to parochial endowments, Craven had once its full share of monastic institutions. "No less argument of piety," saith our old topographer Speed, "are the religious houses that have been placed in this country, which, while they retained their own state and magnificence, were great ornaments unto it; but since their dissolution, and that the teeth of time, which devours all things, have eaten into them, they are become like dead carcases, leaving only some poore ruines and remains alive, as reliques to posteritie, to shew of what beauty and magnificence they have beene. Such was the abbey built by Bolton, which is now so razed and laid level with the earth as that it affords no appearance of its former dignitie.* Such was Bernoldswick, or Kirkstall Abbey, of no small account in time past (such, I may add, that of Sallay, omitted by Speed); and such the wealthy abbey of Fountaine, founded by Thurstin, Archbishop of York." All these will be particularly considered in the following work.

The deanery of Craven consists of the parishes of Mitton, Slaidburne, Gisburne, Bolton juxta Bowland, Long Preston, Giggleswick, Horton, Bracewell, Bernoldswick, Thornton, Marton, Bingley, Kighley, Kildwick, Skipton, Carlton, Broughton, Gargrave, Kirkby Malghdale, Ilkley, Addingham, Burnsal, Linton, Arncliffe, and Kettlewell. Of these the two first belong to the fee of Lacy, and connect the subject of this work with the history of Whalley, of which it is intended as a continuation; the nine following belong to Ribblesdale, as they are situated either on the banks of that river, or upon streams which fall into it.† The second nine are contiguous to the Are; and the remaining six adjoin to the Wharf. The parish of Skipton alone stretches from the Are to the Wharf, and occasions some embarrassment in the arrangement of my plan.

The deanery is more extensive than the Wapontake of Staincliffe, which excludes the

* The engravings of Bolton Abbey in this work, as it appears two centuries after Speed, will show how widely the old geographer was mistaken.

† Excepting Marton, which was a part of the old parish of Bernoldswick, and is therefore classed with it. With respect to Thornton, one rivulet, which has its source in that parish, runs into the Ribble, and another into the Are. In this trifling difficulty I have been guided by tradition, which reports that parish also to have been severed from Barnoldswick; and the situation of the latter church confirms the opinion.

parish of Horton, part of Addingham and Kighley, and the whole of Bingley and Ilkley. I could have been contented had the ecclesiastical division been circumscribed within the same limits, as the civil district comprehends almost all that is peculiar in the natural character of the country, and, excepting Ilkley, almost all that is interesting in antiquity.

[The deanery of Craven is now (1877) a portion of the archdeaconry of Craven, and is divided into three divisions—northern, western, and southern.

1. The northern division contains the parish of *Arncliffe*, which is a vicarage, with perpetual curacies of Halton Gill and Hubberholme; *Burnsall*, which is a rectory; *Gargrave*, a vicarage, with the vicarage of Cold Coniston; *Giggleswick*, a vicarage, with the vicarage of Langcliffe and the perpetual curacies of Rathmel, Settle, and Stainforth; *Horton-in-Ribblesdale*, a vicarage; *Kettlewell* and *Kirkby-Malham*; both vicarages; *Linton* with *Hebden*, a rectory; *Long Preston*, a vicarage; *Rylstone*, a rectory, with the chapel of ease of Conistone.
2. The western division contains: *Barnoldswick*—St. Mary-le-Gill, a vicarage, and St. James, chapel of ease; *Bolton-nigh-Bolland*, a rectory; *Bracewell*, a vicarage; *Broughton*, a rectory; *Carleton*, a vicarage, with the vicarage of Lothersdale; *Gisburn*, a vicarage, with the vicarage of Houghton or Tosside; *Marion*, a rectory; *Mytton*, a vicarage, with the vicarages of Grindleton and Hurst Green, and the perpetual curacy of Waddington; *Skipton*, a rectory, with the vicarages of Christchurch and Embsay; *Slaidburn*, a rectory, with the vicarage of Dale Head; *Thornton-in-Craven*, a rectory, with the perpetual curacy of Kelbrook.
3. The southern division contains: *Addingham*, a rectory; *Bingley*, a vicarage, with the vicarages of Holy Trinity, Cullingworth, Morton, and Riddlesden; *Bolton Abbey*, a rectory; *Ilkley*, a vicarage; *Keighley*, a rectory, with the vicarages of Eastwood, Ingrow-with-Hainworth, and Oakworth; *Kildwick*, a vicarage, with the vicarages of Cononley, Cowling, and Sutton, and the perpetual curacy of Silsden.]

With respect to the etymology of the word Craven, I cannot acquiesce in Camden's conjecture that it is simply derived from the British *cragen*, or "rocks;" but *craigvaen*, or "the stony crag," would be gradually softened by pronunciation into Crayvain, and next into Craven. A rocky village in Longstrothdale still retains the name of Cray. On this supposition, Staincliffe,* the name of the Wapontake, will appear to be a Saxon translation of the word.

But the spelling of Domesday, our oldest authority, is uniformly Crave^b, with a mark of contraction. Of the antiquity of the rural deanery we know nothing, but that it existed as early as the reign of Henry II.; and Crave^b, in that work, denominates the Wapontake, as Staincliffe was then unknown.

I shall make this great national record the basis of a general investigation into the ancient state of property in Craven, of which a summary view will be given in this introductory discourse.

* Yet as the names of Wapontakes are often derived from places now become obscure, and sometimes entirely forgotten, and as I meet with a Staincliff juxta Stainton in one of the charters of Sallay Abbey among the Townley MSS., I am inclined to believe that the hundred took its name from that village, which might be destroyed at a later period by the Scots.

When the Domesday Survey was made, the Villare of Craven was very nearly the same as at present, and the whole district was surveyed under the several titles of Terra Regis, or land not yet granted out by the Conqueror, and out of which the original fee of Skipton was soon after taken: Terra Will'mi de Perci, which consisted of the lower part of Ribblesdale, and a small portion of the two other valleys of Craven; Terra Gislebert Tison, consisting of some scattered lands in the two last; Terra Erneis de Burun, lying in the neighbourhood of Bingley; Terra Osberni de Arches, principally about Burnsall; Terra Tainorum Regis, entirely in Wharfedale; and lastly, Terra Rogeri Pictaviensis, which formed the remainder of Ribblesdale not included in the original fee of William de Perci, but soon after incorporated with it, together with many other detached manors, which were about the same time united with the fee of Skipton.

Of these the king held 115, of which 77 were waste. William de Perci 63, all waste. Gislebert Tison 16, and 2 oxgangs. Erneis de Burun 19½. Osb. de Arches 12½. The King's Thains 35; and Roger of Poitou 197, 2 oxgangs, of which 4 only were waste; and 37 in the manor of Gretlinton, now Grindleton, consisting of the modern parishes of Mitton and Sladeburn. The whole number of Carucates, therefore, was 495½. But to these are to be added, under the lands of W. de Perci, out of the bounds of the ancient Craven but within the present deanery, Illecleia III Car. and an indefinite quantity belonging to the Archbishop of York, as parcels of his fee of "Othelai," in Stube' (Stubham), Middle-tune, Bungelai, and Illeclaia, as also of Erneis de Burun in Bingeleiâ.

The proportion of the Oxgang to the Carucate was invariably that of eight to one; but the number of acres in an oxgang varied according to the quality of the land, and appears to have diminished in proportion to its fertility. I have seen one instance in which the oxgang did not exceed six acres; but if we fix the average at twelve statute acres, or nearly so, I believe it will come nearer to the truth than any other number. However, for the sake of round numbers, we will take every Carucate at 100 statute acres, which will assign to meadow, pasture, and ploughed land (for nothing but moor and absolute waste, as I conceive, was rejected in the admeasurement of Domesday) 49,500 acres. Again, from Ponden south to the head of Long Strother north are about thirty-six miles; and from Craven Cross east to the boundary of Bowland west, rather more than twenty. But twenty may be considered as the general width of Craven, except at the northern and southern extremities. Allow therefore 20 × 30, or 600 square miles for the whole district, and it will give a total extent of 384,000 acres; so that more than six parts out of seven lay waste in the reign of the Conqueror, besides the parts which had once been in cultivation, and had probably been depopulated by the Danes.

It seems probable that Roger of Poitou alienated his great possessions in Craven at the same time with the hundred of Blackburn, and for the same reason—namely, that he had fixed the seat of his barony at Lancaster, and was building the castle there, as well as extending his domains in that quarter. At all events the 197 Carucates belonging to this grantee under the Conqueror soon became accessions to the Skipton and Percy Fee, and continue such to the present day.

These two great superiorities nearly divided the whole district between them; but the

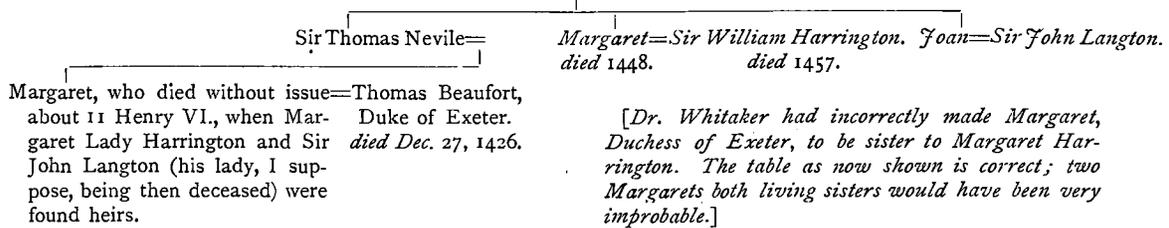
Colling, or Exeter Fee, which was in reality dependent upon the former, claimed, during a long time, paramount rights over the manors of Gargrave, Conondley, Colling, and Ikornshaw, which appear to have been purchased back by the Cliffords.

The history of this fee, real or pretended, was briefly as follows:—

At a very early period lived Swain Fitz Alric,* lord of these manors, whose son Adam had two daughters, one of whom married Adam de Montbegon; who also left two daughters, of whom Clementia married — de Longvilliers, whose great-granddaughter and co-heir Margaret married Geoffrey de Nevile, in whose family these manors rested during several descents, when the heiress of this branch marrying Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter, occasioned what was before termed the Colling Fee to be denominated the Exeter Fee, by which it is thenceforward described in inquisitions.

But the Duchess of Exeter dying without issue, her estates descended to Sir John Harrington and Sir John Langton, Knights, as follows:—

[ARMS. *Argent a saltire gules.*] Sir Robert Nevile of Hornby=*Margaret daughter of Sir William de la Pole.*



I have said, however, and am now to prove, that the Colling or Exeter Fee was always dependent upon the Fee of Skipton:—

“Margaret de Nevile held on the day of her death, *inter alia*, one manor, called Gargrave, of Roger de Clifford, by knight service, as of the honour of Skipton Castle; also at Collyne, Farnhill, and Conyngely, divers lands there specified, by the same service.” —Esch. 12 Edward II.†

With this exception, if it can be so called, and three others—viz., the manor of Hebden and 1 Car. in Elslack, held of the Mowbray Fee;‡ the town of Bernoldswick, contested between Lacy and Bigod, and the ancient manor of Grinleton, belonging to the Fee of Lacy: the whole of Craven, within the limits of the Domesday Survey, was held under these two great superiorities, which in due time became united in one.

The Skipton Fee, which passed successively from the houses of Romille and Albemarle to the crown, and thence to the family of Clifford, consists at present of the following towns, which owe suit and service to the court leet of that place.

* “The castell, town, and landes about Brokenbridge (Pontefract), longgid afore the Conquest to one Richard Aschenald. Richard had Ailrick, and he had Swane, of Swane cam Adam; of whom cam two doughtters, whereof one of them was married to Galfrid Nevile.” Such is Leland’s account of this obscure and early descent. Itin. Vol. I. p. 41.

† Dodsw. MSS. V. 72.

‡ Townley MSS.

Skipton,* Silsden, Stirton, and Thoraby. These were never granted out, and are properly demesnes of the castle.

Hawswick-cum-Ouldcoats, Conistone-cum-Kilnsey, Burnsal-cum-Thorpe, Appletrewick-cum-Woodhouse, Addingham, Halton, Cracoe, Rilston, Hetton-cum-Bordley, Draughton-cum-Berwick, Embsay-cum-Eastby, Gargrave,† Eshton, Airton, Hanlith, Scotsthorpe, Calton, Hellifield, Otterburn, Broughton-cum-Elslack, Conistonecald, Bracewell-cum-Stock, Morton-cum-Riddlesden, Keighley,‡ Sutton, Cowling-cum-Ikornshaw, Kildwick, Glusburn, Farnhill-cum-Conondley, Bradley.

Portions, however, of some of these manors seem to have been transferred, by mistake, to the Skipton Fee from that of Percy after the acquisition of the latter by the Cliffords, which happened upon this occasion. Henry Clifford, first Earl of Cumberland, having married to his second wife Margaret, daughter of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, had issue by her Henry Lord Clifford, afterwards the second Earl of Cumberland; and Henry Earl of Northumberland, son of the former, having no issue, in the twenty-sixth of Henry VIII. settled the whole Percy Fee in Craven upon his said nephew, which settlement was confirmed by Act of Parliament in the year following.§

This great seignory, comprehending all the western part of Craven, consisted of the following townships: Remington, Crooke, Midhope, and Stratsurgam (now Strasergh), Bolton, Ragill, and Holme, Pagenhale, Gisburne, Pathorne, Horton, Newsome, Elwythorp, Nappay, Thornton, Kelbrooke, Swinden, Hellifield, Malham, and Conistone, Glusburne, and Cheldis (or Melsis). These were the original Fee surveyed under the Terra Wil' de Perce in Domesday; Halton West, Litton, Ketelwell, with the hamlet of Stanerboton; Buckden, with the hamlet of Longstrotherdale, Arnecliffe, Gersinton, Linton, and Threshfield, Wicklesworth, Preston, Setle, with the hamlets of Claytop and Lodge; Giggleswick, with the hamlet of Stacus, Rathmel with the hamlets of Winstal and Cowside, Stainford with the hamlet of Stainford altera and Kirkby.||

In point of manorial and forest rights this was an acquisition to the family far beyond its pecuniary value, which consisted, with a few exceptions, in ancient reserved rents alone.¶

The power and influence of the Cliffords in Craven was now nearly complete; for the bailiwick of the wapontake of Staincliffe, with all escheats and other rights incident to it, had been already granted by Henry VI. (A.R. 25) to Thomas Lord Clifford and his issue male.** This was repeated by James I. (A.R. 4to), during pleasure, to Francis Earl of Cumberland, and is still continued in his noble descendant, the Duke of Devonshire.

* I do not know why Carlton cum H. Lothersdene are omitted, unless they are considered as parcels of the manor of Skipton, which they certainly were not in 1577.

† But a moiety of this manor always belonged to the Percy Fee.

‡ Cum Laycock and Hamlettis Uttley, Okeworth, Hawksworth, and Newsome. Inq. A.D. 1577.

§ Skipton MSS.

|| In this account of the Percy Fee I have followed an inquisition taken at Skipton, before John Lambert, of Calton Esq., October 12, 1577.

¶ It appears, by a survey of the Percy Fee taken in 1502, 17 Henry VII., that the rental of Longstrother was, £140 15s. 9d., and that of Ribblesdale £31 os. 8d. The whole annual value of the great estate belonging to the Northumberland family at that time in Yorkshire was only £1348 19s. 4½d. Bolton MSS.

** Townley MSS. Skipton MSS.

This may be a proper place for introducing an Index Villaris of the wapontake, as it was returned into the sheriff's office by the Earl of Burlington, and according to which all processes are directed by the sheriff to the bailiff of the liberty of Staincliffe.

Addingham.	Conondley.	Gaytop.	Long Preston.	Swinden.
Appletreewick.	Cosh.	Greenfields.	Martons (ambo).	Scotsthorp.
Arncliffe.	Cray.	Glasburne.	Malham.	Stirton.
Arneforth.	Crossyates.	Grunsgagill.	Malhammoore.	Sutton.
Ayrton.	Cracoe.	Grangemeer.	Martin Tops.	Swaites.
Arncliffe Coates.	Crookrise.	Hartlington.	Mitton-cum-Bashall.	Silsden on the Moor.
Bank Newton.	Draughton.	Hebden.	Middup.	Stainsforths (ambo).
Broughton.	Deepdale.	Hawkswick.	Newsholme.	Sawley.
Bradleys (ambo).	Dearnbrook.	Horton.	Naphey.	Skirethorns.
Burnsall.	Deepdalehead.	Halton, East.	Neal's Ing.	Skireholme.
Bolton in Cannons.	Eshton.	Halton, West.	Newton.	Skibden.
Barden.	Elslack.	Holden.	Northcoate.	Stainton.
Brownthwaite.	Eastburn.	Howgill.	Newton-in-Bolland.	Salterforth.
Barnoldswick & Coates.	Embsey.	Halton Gill.	Old Coates.	Scaleshole.
Bracewell.	Eastby.	Hubberholme.	Otterburn.	Swartha.
Brogden.	Earby.	Hesseldens (ambo).	Oughtershaw.	Skirden.
Barwick.	Easington.	Hetton.	Oakworth.	Slaidburn.
Bolton-juxta-Bolland.	Flasby.	Hanlith.	Oldfield.	Starbottom.
Begermonds.	Farnhill.	Hellfield.	Paythorne.	Thornton.
Bordley.	Feazer.	Kighley.	Parkhouse.	Thorlby.
Buckden.	Foxup.	Kettlewell.	Rimmington.	Thorpe.
Braithwaite.	Floss.	Kilnsey.	Raisgill.	Tosside.
Bradford West.	Grindleton.	Kildwick.	Rathmell.	Threshfield.
Browsholme.	Giggleswick.	Kirby Malhamdale.	Rawhedd.	Utley.
Carleton.	Gisburn.	Kelbrook.	Rilston.	Winterburne.
Coniston in Kettlewell-dale.	Gaisgill.	Litton.	Skipton.	Wigglesworth.
Coniston Cold.	Gillgrange.	Langcliffe.	Stackhouse.	Westside House.
Calton.	Gargrave.	Lothersden.	Settle.	Waddington.
Cowlinghead.	Gressington.	Laycock.	Skiracks.	Woodhouse.
	Grinwith.	Linton.	Steeeton.	Yockenthwaite.*

To this introductory account I have little to add which will not appear with greater propriety under the Parochial Survey; but that Craven, though eighty miles from the Scottish border, was infested by the incursions of those banditti from the earliest periods of which we have any memorials to the reign of Edward II., and perhaps later. One account of their devastations, given by an old historian, is so affecting, and paints in such lively colours the sufferings of the weaker sex from a brutal rabble, that I shall insert the passage at length.†

* But this enumeration has been made with such ambition of exactness that it includes many names which belong neither to villages nor hamlets, but to single houses only.

† The original is as follows:—"Dumque ibi (apud Norham) in obsidione moraretur, Willielmum filium Dunecan, nepotem suum, cum Pictis et parte exercitûs sui in expeditionem ad Eboracensem Scyram transmisit. Quò prevenientes, et propter peccata populi victoriam optinentes, possessiones cujusdam nobilis Cænobii quod in Suthernessâ situm est et provinciam quæ Crafnâ dicitur ex magnâ parte ferro et flammâ destruxerunt. Igitur nulli gradui, nulli ætati, nulli sexui, nulli conditioni, parentes, liberos et cognatos in conspectu parentum suorum, et dominos in conspectu servorum suorum et è converso, maritos ante oculos uxorum suarum, quanto miserabilius poterant prius trucidaverunt, deinde, proh dolor! solas nobiles matronas et castas virgines mixtim cum aliis fœminis et cum prædâ pariter abduxerunt. Nudatas quoque et turmatim resticulis et corrigiis colligatas et copulatas lanceis et telis suis compungentes ante se illas abegerunt. Hoc idem in aliis bellis, sed in hoc copiosius fecerunt. Deinde illis cum prædâ dispartitis, quidam eorum misericordiâ commoti aliquas ex eis ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ in Carlel liberas tradiderunt. Verum Picti et multi alii illas quæ eis obvenerunt secum ad patriam suam duxerunt. Denique illi bestiales homines adulterium et incestum ac cætera scelera pro nichilo ducentes, postquam more brutorum animalium illis miserimè abuti pertæsî sunt, eas vel sibi ancillas fecerunt, vel pro vaccis aliis barbaris vendiderunt."—Ricardus Prior Hagustald, p. 318.

“In the year 1138, while David, King of Scotland, was engaged in the siege of Norham, he detached the Picts, and part of his (Scottish) army, under the command of William, son of Duncan, his nephew,* into Yorkshire. Here they laid waste the possessions of a celebrated monastery, called Suthernesse,† and the province called Crafna, with fire and sword.

“In this work of destruction no rank or age, and neither sex, was spared; children were butchered before the faces of their parents, husbands in sight of their wives, and wives of their husbands: matrons and virgins of condition were carried away indiscriminately with other plunder, stripped naked, bound together by ropes and thongs, and goaded along with the points of swords and lances. Similar outrages had been committed in former wars, but never to the same extent. In their march northward, however, some of the captors, touched with compassion, set their prisoners at liberty, as offerings to the church of St. Mary, at Carlisle; but the barbarous Picts dragged away their wretched captives without mercy into their own country. In short, these brutal savages, to whom adultery and incest were familiar, after having fatigued themselves with acts of lust and violence, either retained the females as slaves in their own houses, or sold them like cattle to the other barbarians.”

I have translated this shocking passage literally, and at length, that those of the same sex who now adorn this country may be thankful to Providence for the security and happiness which an excellent government has hitherto afforded them; and that the other may, by a faithful representation of the miseries of invasion and conquest, be stirred up to defend them from an enemy no less barbarous and insulting by whom they are threatened at present.

In this expedition was fought the battle of Clitheroe, between the same William Fitz Duncan and the troops of King Stephen, who attacked him in four divisions, but were routed with great slaughter. This engagement happened on the 15th day before the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, A.D. 1138.‡

Fourteen years after this event David, King of Scotland, established by force this William Fitz Duncan in the honour of “Skipton and Crafna,” and destroyed a small fortress which his enemies had erected to oppose him.

In this expedition the Scots rifled some churches in Craven of their sacred utensils; and David, whose devotion was greater than his humanity, by way of atonement for these

* In Anderson's "Diplomata Scotiæ," Pl. XIX., is a charter of David I., dated anno 2do quo Stephanus Rex Angliæ captus est, Test. Will'o nepote ejus. I think the word "nepos" here means nephew.

† This should undoubtedly be read Futherness, as it can only be meant of Furness Abbey, which, however, is not in Yorkshire. The word "Furness" has never been explained; but thus expanded it will at least be proved to have no connection with the Furnaces of the country. However, the peel, or small castle of the Foodra, at the point of this peninsula, is always called the Peel of Futher, and Futherness is evidently nothing more than the ness, or promontory of Futher. Perhaps the last word is a Saxon personal name (that of some ancient owner of the district), like Fecher, and many others which enter into the composition of local appellatives.

‡ Interim Willielmus filius Dunecan circa Clitherou cædens et persequens procinctum militiæ Anglorum in turmis quatuor sibi occurrentem exceptit. Quem primâ congressionis constantiâ in fugam actum internecioni dedit, multamque prædam et multitudinem captivatis abduxit. Hoc bellum (the monkish "bellum" always means battle) factum est apud Clitherou feria vi. die xv. ante Nativitatem Sancti Johannis Baptistæ anno prædicto, id est MCXXXVIII.

Johannes Prior Hagustald, 260, 261.

I take shame to myself for having overlooked this passage in the "History of Whalley." But there are neither remains nor tradition of this engagement at Clitheroe. The dreadful ravages mentioned above evidently took place after the battle, and it afforded some alleviation to the sufferings of the poor naked captives, "that their flight was not in the winter."

acts of sacrilege, presented each of them with a silver chalice.* I should not be sorry to learn that any of these propitiatory offerings were yet in existence.†

Thus, like many other conquerors, the author of all these outrages became peaceably possessed of the country which he had undone, and spent the remainder of his life surrounded by objects whom he had reduced to misery.

The fate of his posterity in the honour of Skipton will be related in its proper place.

From this time forward the general history of Craven is marked by few events, and, excepting one illustrious family, by few characters of national importance. It cannot be doubted that the vassals of two warlike houses like the Percies and Cliffords would often be summoned to the field; and it is as little to be suspected that a race of hardy knights and esquires would disgrace their chiefs; but beside John de Longstrother, Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, and John Clapham of Bethmeslay, both conspicuous in the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, their deeds are forgotten, and their names are only preserved in the attestations of charters.

From the twelfth to the fifteenth century the property of this district was nearly divided between the lords of two great fees already mentioned, the mesne lords of manors holding under them, and four religious houses—Bolton, Fountains, Bernoldswick, and Sallay. The rank of tenantry, therefore, was numerous; that of yeomanry almost unknown. The order of knighthood was then conferred with great facility, and the families of Tempest, Midelton, Hammerton, Lister, Marton, Malham, Stiveton, Hebden, Hartlinton, Rilston, Pudsay, Eshton, and, perhaps, some others, were ambitious of that rank, and able to support it.‡

But excepting the four first of these houses, which still remain, the possessions of the rest are broken into moderate and numerous properties; the dissolution of the religious houses, and the cantoning out of their vast estates by the first grantees, operated powerfully in the same direction; and the profusion of the three last Earls of Cumberland, accompanied by the emancipation of their numerous dependents, completed the work. Several opulent and respectable families, indeed, have since arisen; yet, on the whole, there are few districts in the kingdom where so much of the happy mediocrity and independence of the English yeomanry still subsists as in Craven.

Before I close this introductory account it may not be improper to take a short view of what has been already done towards illustrating the present subject.

* A.D. 1152. Et rex tunc cum exercitu suo confirmavit Willielmum filium Dunecani nepotem suum in Honorem de Sceptun et Crafnā, munitiunculamque ab hostibus constructam effregit, ejectisque militibus diruit. Peccaverunt ibi Scotti in direptionibus ecclesiarum, pro quibus rex dato unicuique ecclesie calice argenteo satisfecit.

Joh. Prior Hagustald, 279.

There are no vestiges that I know of this munitiuncula. It seems most probable that the enemies of William would hold Skipton Castle itself against him; but the Prior of Hexham would scarcely call it a munitiuncula; and still less would David destroy the seat of his nephew's barony.

† Another irruption of the Scots into Craven will be noticed under Sallay, and many particulars of a third will be given under Bolton. The foregoing narrative was introduced here merely because it referred to no particular portion of the district.

‡ This fact is proved from the attestations of many charters. Yet in the return of the nobility, gentry, and yeomanry of Yorkshire, made A. 12 Henry VI., and preserved by Fuller (*See* his "Worthies" under Yorkshire), the following names only occur of the Craven families:—Joh. Tempest, Chevalier (of Bracewell), Edm. Talbot, Chevalier (of Bashal and Halton), Radulph Pudsay de Craven, Arm. Roger Tempest de Broughton, Arm. Baynard Tennand de Craven, Yeom. Roger Tennand de Longstroth, Yeom. That return was made as defective as possible on a political account.

Leland, the father of English antiquaries, though he completely surrounded Craven, never did it the honour of a visit. This omission is unaccountable, as well as unfortunate; for the first Earl of Cumberland, one of the favourites of Henry VIII., was then resident at Skipton, and would have communicated all the intelligence in his power to an inquirer who came recommended by the king's commission. The few and meagre hints which Leland has left on the subject are these:—"Ribil risith in Ribilsdale above Sally Abbey, and so to Sawley. A IIII miles above Sawley it resevyth Calder that cummith by Walley, and after resevyth another water cawllid Oder. Byshopsdale lyeth joynynge to the quarters of Craven. Cover River risith, as I here say, in Craven Side, near Skale Park. Richmontshire lieth harde on the borders of Cravenland. Craven lyith south-weste from Richemontshire."

About forty years after Leland, this district was partly surveyed by Harrison, a topographer whose general accuracy and copiousness of intelligence are truly astonishing, when we recollect the want of accommodation and the difficulty of access which lay in the way of his inquiries at that time in countries less remote than Craven. Ribblesdale, however, he never saw, and it is curious to observe how faithfully he has copied the errors of Leland; errors such as the best antiquaries will always be liable to fall into when they trust any other evidence than that of their own eyes:—"The Rybell ryseth in Rybbesdale, about Salley Abbey, and from thence goeth to Salley, and a lyttle beneath Salley it receiveth the Calder, that cometh by Whaley, and then the Oder."—L. I.—Again, L. II. "The Rybell, as concerning his heade, is sufficiently touched already in my first booke; beyng therefore come to Gisborne, it goeth to Salley, or Sawley, Chatburne, Clitherowe Castell, and beneath Mitton, meeteth with the Odder."

The Wharf is, however, traced by Harrison with the minute exactness of a surveyor who had traversed every foot of its course.*

"The Wharfe, or Gwarfe, ryseth above Oughtershaw, from whence it runneth to Beggermons, Rasemill, Hubberham, Buckden, Starbotton, Kettlewell, Cunnistown-in-Kettlewell (dale), and here it meeteth with a rill coming from Halton Gill Chapel by Arnecliffe, and joyning withal north-east of Kilnesey Cragg, it passeth over the lower grounds to Gyrsington, and receyveth a ryll there alsoe from Tresfelde Parke; it proceedeth on to Brunsell Brydge. Furthermore, at Appletrewic it meeteth with a ryll from the north, and thence goeth to Barden Towre, Bolton, and Bethmesly Hall, where it crosseth a ryll coming from the west, thence to Addyngham, taking in there also another from the west, and so to Ilkley."

"The Air ryseth out of a lake south of Darnbrooke, wherein, as I here, is none other

* Of the six rivers of the north, enumerated in Spenser's celebrated distich,

"Still Are, swift Wherf, with Oze the most of might,
High Swale, unquiet Nydd, and troublous Skell,"

the derivations of Are and Wharf are incontrovertibly fixed by Camden. Ure and Ouse are the same word, both signifying water in general. Skell is simply a fountain. Swale is plainly to be derived from A. S. *rælan torrere*, the rapidity of flame having been transferred to that of water by the same figurative process which took place in forming the Latin *Torrentis*. Nid was originally Nidur, which ought to be retained in the name of the valley now very improperly spelt Netherdale. Nidur in Danish is *Susurrus*. Nidur, therefore, applied to a river, is the murmuring stream. For the reading of Are, or Ure, see "History of Whalley," p. 331.

fish but red troute and perche. Leland saith, it riseth neere unto Orton, in Craven, wherefore the odds is but litle. It goeth therefrom from thence to Mawlam, Hanlithe, Kyrby Moldale, Calton Hall, Areton, and so forth, till it come almost to Gargrave, there crossing the Otterburne Water on the west, and the Winterburne on the north, which at Flasby receiveth a ryll from Helton, as I here, and goeth forthe to Eshton, Elsewoode,* and so forthe on. Being past Gargrave, our Air first receiveth a brooke from south-west, whereof one branch cometh by Marton; the other by Thornet', which meeteth about Broughton, then another from north-east, that runneth by Skipton Castell. After this confluence it hasteth by Newbiggen, Bradley, and Kildwicke, by south-east, whereof it meeteth with one water from Mawsis and Glusburne, or Glukesburne, called Glyke; † another likewise a litel beneath from Sutton, beside two rylls from by north. After which confluence it runneth by Reddlesden, and overagainst this towne the Laycock and the Worthe doe meet withall in one chanell, as the Morton water doth on the north, somewhat lower; thence it goeth to Risheforthe Hall, and so to Bingley." ‡

Camden's account of the three valleys of Craven is classically elegant, though very concise; for which reason it is omitted here, but will be prefixed in the form of mottoes to the several divisions of the work.

Next follows our old poetical topographer Drayton, whose personifications and pleadings of rivers and districts, though often whimsical, are always amusing.

Let us hear, then, part of the speech of Ribble, contending with her rival Irwell:—

“From Penigent's proud foot as from my source I slide:
That mountain, my proud sire, in height of all his pride,
Takes pleasure in my course, as in his first-born flood:
And Ingleborough Hill, of that Olympian brood,
With Pendle, of the north the highest hills that be,
Do wistly me behold; and are beheld of me.” §

The praises of Are and Wharf are next sung by their impersonated mistress, the West Riding, in these strains:—

“Now speak I of a flood who thinks there's none should dare
Once to compare with her, suppos'd by her descent,
The darling daughter born of lofty Penigent;
Who from her father's foot, by Skipton, down doth scud.”

* * * * *

“Next guide I on my Wharfe:
Who her full fountain takes from my waste western wild
(Whence all but mountaineers by Nature are exil'd)
On Longstrothdale, and lights at th' entrance of her race;

* An account of this word, which is now lost, will be given in its proper place.

† This word is radically the same with the German *Gluck* and the English Luck, a name of good omen imposed on the stream of Colling by our Saxon ancestors, in remembrance of some fortunate event long since forgotten. The same scenes of slaughter which have taken place on the banks of rivers will cause them to be named or described, according to the feelings of the parties, in opposite terms—

—Adhuc infaustum interluit Allia nomen.

‡ Harrison's description of Britaine, prefixed to Holinshed's "Chronicle," 1st edition, 1577.

§ Song 27.

When, keeping on her course along through Barden Chace,
She watereth Wharfdale's breast that proudly bears her name."

* * * * *
"Ye thus behold my hills, my forests, dales, and chaces,
Upon my spacious breast; note to what Nature places
Far up into my West; first Langstrothdale doth lie,
And on the bank of Wharfe my pleasant Barden, by
Chevin and Kilnsey Craggs, were they not here in me,
In any other place right well might wonders be."*

I do not consider a rhyming vagrant of the same period as entitled to a place in this catalogue. The very name which he has assumed is equally offensive to delicacy and virtue.

About the year 1620 the churches in Craven were visited by the indefatigable Roger Dodsworth, whose valuable notes are incorporated with the following work. Sir William Dugdale perambulated this district more than once in the capacity of Norroy; and though he has preserved several monumental inscriptions, and other memorials of the Cliffords, which would otherwise have been lost, it is to be regretted that so accomplished an antiquary made no wider excursions beyond his own track of heraldic inquiries. •

But it has been the calamity of Craven to be neglected by antiquaries of real genius.† Stukeley, who, perhaps, above every Englishman is entitled to that eulogium, like Leland, made a circuit about this country, without approaching it nearer than Ribchester on the west, and Aldborough on the east. At a still later period it was visited by Bishops Pococke and Lyttelton;‡ the former of whom has left no memorials of what he saw there; while the notices of the latter, now in the archives of the Society of Antiquaries, are few and unimportant. Mr. Gough added much valuable matter to Camden and Gibson from a personal inspection. Mr. Pennant traversed part of Wharf and Aredale with his accustomed expedition, but described what he saw in them with ease and accuracy;§ and Mr. Gray, who united the eye of a painter with the fancy of a poet and the erudition of an antiquary, has left some masterly sketches of Craven.||

After this long enumeration of the labours which have been bestowed on an obscure district, and the promise of a bulky volume on the same subject, it may be asked, Why should even men of leisure devote so large a portion of time and attention to such an object? or what is the origin of that irresistible curiosity which connects the history of events otherwise uninteresting with familiar and domestic scenes?

It might suffice to reply that the instinct, though perhaps never fully accounted for, is original and universal; but the fact and the difficulty are stated by a great author

* Song 28. It is greatly to be regretted that Selden's learned notes on the "Polyolbion" extend not beyond the 18th Song. Had they been continued through the whole of the poem, his extensive and original information would undoubtedly have brought out some new and curious matter relating to Craven.

† See the "Iter Boreale."

‡ Bishop Pococke was accompanied in his excursion here by a medical gentleman, yet alive, at Skipton; and Bishop Lyttelton by his excellent friend the late Reverend Mr. Richardson, rector of Thornton.

§ The praise of accuracy must be confined to Mr. Pennant's account of what he *saw*. Had he traversed Wharfdale from Burnal to Bolton he would not have misapprehended the meaning of an old journal so as to suppose Barden Tower to have been one of the towers of Skipton Castle.

|| See memoirs of his life and writings by Mr. Mason, quarto edition, from p. 372 to 380.

little addicted to these pursuits in a passage which forms the best apology ever offered for topographical inquiries :—

“ It is not easy to discover how it concerns him that gathers the produce or receives the rent of an estate to know through what families the land has passed, who is registered in the Conqueror’s Survey as its possessor, how often it has been forfeited by treason, or how often sold by prodigality. The power or wealth of the present inhabitants of a country cannot be much increased by an inquiry after the names of those barbarians who destroyed one another twenty centuries ago in contests for the shelter of woods or convenience of pasturage.

“ Yet we see that no man can be at rest in the enjoyment of a new purchase till he has learned the history of his grounds from the ancient inhabitants of the parish; and that no nation omits to record the actions of their ancestors, however bloody, savage, and rapacious.”*

* “Rambler,” No. 161.

RIBBLESDALE.

BELLISAMA ESTUARIUM PTOLEMÆO ET NOSTRIS RIBELL APPELLATUM EX EBORACENSIS AGRI COLLIBUS, PROPERANTIBUS AQUIS PRIMUM IN MERIDIEM DEFERTUR PER TRES PRÆCELSOS MONTES INGELBOROUGH AD FONTES QUEM VASTO DORSO IN OCCIDENTEM SOLEM GRADATIM QUASI ASCENDENTEM ET IN SUI EXTREMO ALIO QUASI IMPOSITO COLLE ERECTUM DEMIRATI SUMUS. PENIGENT FORTASSE, AB ALBICANTE ET NIVOSO CAPITE, HOC ENIM BRITANNIS PENGWIN DENOTAT, QUI VASTA MOLE, SED NON PERINDE EXCELSA ATTOLLITUR. UBI VERO LANCASTRENSES ADIT RHIBELLUS (NAM HI SUNT INTER EBORACENSES) PENDLE SUBLIMI ADMODUM FASTIGIO ERIGITUR.

LACY FEE.

PARISH OF MITTON.*

THE south-western point of the deanery of Craven is at the confluence of the Ribble† and the Hodder; and from thence to Sallay, about six miles, it is bounded by the right bank of the former river. With Rimington Brook the parish of Whalley terminates; and the remaining course of Ribble is wholly in Yorkshire. Of this six miles every step has its beauties. The broad and rapid channel of the river, hung on either side with luxuriant woods, the half-monastic and half-castellated form of Stonyhurst, the insulated rock and castle of Clitheroe, the vast bulk of Pendle to the east, the fells of Bowland to the west, and the more distant but more majestic mountains of Penigent and Ingleborough to the north, combine almost every feature which is required to constitute a picture on the grandest and most extensive scale.

With respect to the etymology of the word Mitton, I adhere to my former conjecture, that it is so called, qu. Mid-town, from *Mid medium* and *tun oppidum*; but from a different reason to what was before assigned;‡ that is, not as being intersected and divided into two villages by the Ribble, but situated at the confluence of that river and

[* The parish of Mitton is in the district of Clitheroe, partly in Lancashire and partly in the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was once a part of the parish of Whalley, and contains the hamlets of Chaigley, Aighton, and Bailey, in Lancashire; and the townships of Mitton,¹ Bashall-Eaves, Waddington, West Bradford, and Grindleton, in Yorkshire. The portion in Yorkshire contains, according to the Ordnance Survey, 13,331 a. or. 6 p.]

† The first mention of Ribble by name, after the Roman Bellisama was forgotten, is in the beginning of the eighth century: *Terræ datæ S. Wilfrido à regibus juxta Ribel flu. id est Haemunderness.* Ex libro de vitâ S. Wilfridi.

‡ Vide "History of Whalley," p. 447.

Leland, Coll. vol. iii. p. 169.

[¹ The township of Mitton contains 1,720 a. 1 r. 36 p., an Inclosure Act was passed in the 52nd George III.]