

PARISH OF LINTON.*



THE modern parish of this name, almost insulated by the different members of Burnsall, which appear to have been separated from it, consists of the townships of Linton, Threshfield with Skire † (*i.e.* Scar) Thorns, Grassington, and Hebden.

At the time of the Domesday Survey these townships were enumerated as follows:—

TERRA REGIS. ‡

IN CRAVE. ⅞ In Ghersintone Gamebar . III . car^h ad gld.

⅞ In Freschefelt . Gamelbar IIII . car^h ad gld.

TERRA GISLEBERTI TISON.

IN CRAVE.

⅞ In Ghersintone . In Lipton^{IIIc} In Freschefelt^{IIIc}

TERRA OSBERNI DE ARCHES.

⅞ . 7 In *HEBEDENE* . 7 Torp h̄b Dringel . IIII . car^h træ
7 II . boū ad gtd. §

After this general statement I will begin with the township of Linton, which, according to the Coucher Book of Fountains, was of the Percy Fee, || and reckoned twelve carucates to a knight's fee. But I know not by what means it was acquired by that family from the first Norman grantee, or when and how it was alienated to the mesne lords who appear below.

Small, however, as a manor consisting of two carucates only must have been, it was

[* The area, according to the Ordnance Survey, is 13,224 a. 2 r. 20 p. In 1871 the Census return showed a population of 1,557, living in 378 houses. An Inclosure Act was passed in the 30th George III.]

† This word is pure Danish, "Skier," *scopulus*.

[‡ Land of the king. In Craven. Manor.—In Ghersintone (Grassington) Gamelbar had three carucates to be taxed. Manor.—In Freschefelt (Threshfield) Gamelbar had four carucates to be taxed.

Land of Gislebert Tison. In Craven. Manors.—Gamelbar had in Ghersintone (Grassington) three carucates; in Lipton (Linton) two carucates; in Freschefelt (Threshfield) two carucates.

Land of Osbern de Arches. Manor and Berewick.—In Hebedene and Torp (Hebden and Thorp) Dringel had four carucates and two oxgangs to be taxed.]

§ I have endeavoured under Gisburne to account for the very inaccurate spelling of Domesday, of which in this short extract we have two instances, Freshfelt and Lipton—the latter probably occasioned by mistaking the old capital **Þ** for P.

[|| Ric. and Wm. de Percy were found to have been possessed of the manors of Linton, Langstroche, Setell.—Inq. *post mortem*, 43 Henry III. (1258-9).]

In the Survey of Norton's Lands, in 1603, the whole manor, both portions being then vested by forfeiture in the Crown, was included under that title.

NORTON'S LANDS.					
A.	R.	P.	Old Rents.	Clear Value.	Fee Simple at 15 years' purchase.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lintone.	579	2 10	12 15 1	98 8 9	1667 17 6

The ancient customs of the manor were, that the tenant paid, every tenth year, a year's rent by way of gressome, and, at the death of every tenant in possession, the best living or dead chattel of the deceased was taken as a heriot. During the time in which this manor was vested in the Crown these customs were gradually falling into disuse, on which account the tenants, in 1592, petitioned the Lord Treasurer Burleigh for a confirmation, when he commanded the auditors to make a rate of what each tenant ought to answer for, "and despatch the poor men away." But whether the rate was ever made, or the confirmation granted, I do not know.

At this time the town of Linton consisted of nineteen tenements, and was estimated at forty oxgangs; of which the glebe of the two rectories, one consisting of fifteen acres, and the other of eleven, was evidently the twentieth part, or only half the general endowment of the Craven churches.

A little meadow ground was inclosed, but the greater part lay in common, as well as the arable land.

The common pasture, measuring 240 acres, was stinted to 160 beasts' gaits, or four to every oxgang.

No account of wood at Linton was taken in this survey, excepting that the depredations are estimated at 2*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* A proof that the township, which from its situation is naturally unfavourable to the growth of trees, was not much better clothed two centuries ago than at present.

The several tenements in Linton were sold off by Francis Earl of Cumberland, Henry Lord Clifford, his son, and the Earl and Countess of Cork. The first of these alienations bears date in 1608,* the last in 1651. A single estate is still the property of the Duke of Devonshire, who is also proprietor of the manor; for in all the conveyances of these lands the purchasers were discharged of heriots and boons, but suit of court and mill, free warren

advowson through this Isabel, induces me to believe not only that she had a sister who, though married, died *s. p.*, but that she herself had a former husband, who died childless also:—"17 Edw. III. Between Sir Thomas de Burn, knight, and Isabel his wife, plaintiffs: and William de la Pole, knight, and Katharine his wife, defendants; of the manors of Stodelay and Linton, in Craven, &c. and of the advowson of a moiety of the church of the said manor of Linton, whereby the said Sir William and Katharine remised whatever right they had in said manors, &c. for the lives of the said Sir William and Katharine to the said Sir Thomas and Isabel, and to the heirs of the said Isabel for ever."

[LINTON.—In eadem villa sunt IIII car. terræ quas Johannes de Treycotes (Draycotes) et uxor sua tenent de Roberto le Grey, et idem Robertus de hæredibus de Percy, et iidem hæredes de rege in capite; et redd. ad finem prædictum 11*s.*—Kirkby's "Inquest."

In the 9th Edward II. Johannes le Graas was Lord of the Manor of Linton.—"Nomina Villarum."

In the 22 Henry VI. (1443-4), William Tempest was found to have held the manor of Lynton in Craven.—Inq. *p. m.*]

* I think the old occupiers generally purchased their respective farms. Among these original purchasers appear the names of "Funtance" (Fountain), Deane, and Hewitt, whose ancestors in the condition of tenants may be traced by the light of old rentals up to the reign of Henry VIII.

and chase, with all the royalties and mines of copper, lead, coal, &c., were specially reserved to the lord.*

Out of the grant of the manor the two advowsons must have been excepted, as they have been presented to by the Crown from the time of the forfeiture to the present day.

The only testamentary burial which I have met with in this church is that of Wilkin Radcliff of Threshfield, A.D. 1450.

RECTORES UNIUS MEDIETATIS DE LINTON.

Temp. Inst.	Rectores unius Medietatis.	Patroni.	Vacat.
3 kal. Dec. 1279.	Dns. <i>Rob. de Swinlington</i> , Diaconus.	<i>Joh. de Draycotes et Isabella Uxor.</i>	
16 kal. Apr. 1289.	Dns. <i>Hugo de Symundeston.</i>	Dns. <i>Joh. de Draycote.</i>	
3 id. Dec. 1310.	Dns. <i>Nic. de Moreby</i> , Cl.	Dns. <i>Joh. De Gray</i> , mil.	per resig.
6 Maii, 1353.	Mr. <i>Ric. (vel. Rald.) Blaykeston</i> , Cap.	Idem.	per mort.
24 Oct. 1358.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Brikenhall</i> , Cap.	Idem.	per resig.
5 Aug. 1361.	Dns. <i>Rog. de Dalton</i> , Cl.	<i>D'na Amicia de Tanfeld.</i>	per resig.
24 Dec. 1380.	Dns. <i>Joh. Gamelyn</i> , Presb.	{ Dns. <i>Rob. Gray</i> , mil. Dns. <i>de Rotherfeld.</i>	
11 Oct. 1409.	Dns. <i>Joh. Coke</i> , Presb.	<i>Alicia D'na Deincourt.</i>	per mort.
27 Julii, 1438.	Dns. <i>Rad. Hewyke</i> , Cl.	Dns. <i>Rad. co. Westmoreland.</i>	per resig. pro Eccl. de Slingsby.
27 Junii, 1457.	Dns. <i>Ric. Knott</i> , Presb.	Idem.	per resig.
17 Dec. 1462.	Dns. <i>Joh. Toller</i> , Presb.	Idem.	per mort.
19 Sept. 1483.	Dns. <i>Hen. Walton</i> , Cl.	<i>Franc. Dns. Lovell.</i>	per privat.
29 Ap. 1486.	Mr. <i>Rob. Este</i> , in Decr. Baccalaureus, ob. 1493.	{ <i>Rad. com. Westmoreland.</i>	
	Dns. <i>Joh. Burgh.</i>		per mort.
4 Sept. 1508.	Dns. <i>Joh. Procter.</i>	<i>Tho. Dns. Darcy.</i>	per mort.
7 Maii, 1536.	Dns. <i>Tho. Stephenson</i> , Cap. Dns. <i>Nic. Paver.</i>	Assign. <i>Rad. co. Westmoreland.</i> Idem.	per mort.
2 Sept. 1551.	Dns. <i>Hen. Dayne</i> , Cl.	Idem.	per mort.
10 Jan. 1596.	<i>Gualt. Currer</i> , Cl. A.M.	<i>Elizabetha Regina.</i>	per mort.
1 Mart. 1602.	<i>Ric. Burton</i> , Cl. A.M. ob. 1615.	Eadem.	
25 Mart. 1615.	<i>Tho. Topham</i> , Cl. A.M. ob. 1651. <i>Matthew Hewitt</i> , † Cl. A.M. ob. 1674.	<i>Jac. Rex.</i> Idem.	per resig. per mort.
20 Maii, 1674.	<i>John Tennant</i> , Cl. A.M. ob. 1715.	<i>Car. II.</i>	per mort.
5 April, 1716.	<i>Thomas Gale</i> , ob. 1750. <i>Tobias Croft</i> , A.M. ob. 1767.	<i>Geo. I.</i> <i>Geo. II.</i>	per mort. per mort.
14 Dec. 1765.	<i>Thomas Welch</i> , A.M. ob. 1805.	<i>Geo. III.</i>	per mort.
18 Feb. 1806.	<i>Edward Unwin</i> , 1806. <i>Charles Wray Haddlesey</i> (non-resident).	Idem.	per mort.
19 June, 1833.	<i>Henry Crofts.</i>	<i>William IV.</i>	per mort.
20 July, 1855.	<i>Alexander Dawson Nowell.</i>		per mort.

[On the death of the Rev. Alexander Nowell, M.A., the two medieties of Linton were consolidated and made into one rectory by an Order of Council, 4th July, 1866.]

1866. *John Walker.*

The Lord Chancellor.

* Linton Inq. 16th Car. II. [1664-5]. Bolton MSS. [There was a grange here belonging to the priory of Old Malton.—Lawton's "Collections," p. 262.]

[† He founded the grammar-school in the parish of Linton, at Threshfield.]

RECTORES ALT. MEDIETATIS DE LINTON.

Temp. Inst.	Rectores.	Patroni.	Vacat.
7 kal. Jan. 1229.	Dns. <i>Walter de Hedon.</i>	<i>Joh. le Aleman.</i>	
6 kal. Mar. 1251.	Dns. <i>Joh. le Gras</i> , Cl.	<i>Joh. le Gras.</i>	
5 kal. Sept. 1254.	Dns. <i>Ric. de la Turri</i> , Presb.	Dns. <i>Walter de Gray</i> , mil.	} per resig.
... Nov. 1268.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Gray</i> , Cl.	{ <i>Rob. de Gray</i> , fil. et her. <i>Walteri</i> , militis.*	
16 kal. Jan. 1295.	Dns. <i>Wm. de Caumpeden</i> , Aco.	Idem <i>Rob.</i>	
14 kal. Oct. 1310.	Dns. <i>Symon de Graas</i> , Acoly.	Dns. <i>Joh. le Gras</i> , mil.	per resig.
3 id. Dec. 1310.	Dns. <i>Nic de Morby</i> , Cl.	Idem.	
5 id. Maii, 1316.	Dns. <i>Wil. de Gras</i> , Cl.	Idem.	per mort.
8 kal. Nov. 1337.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Skypton</i> , Cl.	Idem.	
	Dns. <i>Joh de Gillings.</i>		{ perresig. provic. de Alverton.
29 Jan. 1382.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Hayton</i> , Cap.	{ D'na <i>Isabella</i> , quondam ux. <i>Ric'i</i> <i>Tempest</i> , mil.	
	Dns. <i>Henric. Pollys.</i>		per mort.
30 Oct. 1409.	Dns. <i>Joh. Dene</i> , Cap.	Dns. <i>Wil. Tempest</i> , mil.	
	Dns. <i>Joh. Sherburne.</i>	Idem.	{ prores. pro cant. mon. de Rypon. per resig.
3 Aug. 1436.	Mr. <i>Rob. Pyke</i> , Cap.	Idem.	
7 Mart. 1436.	Dns. <i>Tho. Gednay</i> , Cl.	Idem.	
13 Dec. 1438.	Dns. <i>Joh. Ingleby</i> , Cap.	Idem.	{ perresig. provic. de Beverley.
2 Feb. 1453.	Mr. <i>Wm. Lowe</i> , in Decr. Ba.	<i>Joh. Doreworth</i> , Arm.	per resig.
27 Apr. 1468.	Dns. <i>Petr. Toller</i> , Cap.	<i>W. Mallory</i> , ar. et ux. ejus.	per mort.
20 Jun. 1492.	Dns. <i>Petr. Toller</i> , Presb.	Dns. <i>W. de Mallory</i> , mil.	
	Dns. <i>Joh. Torne.</i>	Idem.	per mort.
20 Maii, 1498.	Mr. <i>Tho. Bakehouse</i> , Pr.	Idem.	per mort.
23 Sept. 1521.	Mr. <i>Humph. Gascoigne</i> , A.B.	Dns. <i>Joh. Mallory</i> , mil.	per mort.
3 Maii, 1540.	Dns. <i>Wm. Cumberland</i> , Cap.	Idem.	per mort.
8 Dec. 1570.	<i>Anthony Proctor</i> , Diac.	Assign. <i>Ric. Norton</i> , arm.	per resig.
30 Aug. 1607.	<i>Tho. Squire</i> , Cl. A.M.	<i>Jac. Rex.</i>	per resig.
11 Feb. 1607.	<i>Ric. Burton</i> , † Cl. A.M.	Idem.	per mort.
14 Apr. 1615.	<i>Henr. Hoyle</i> , Cl. A.M.	Idem.	
29 Aug. 1621.	<i>Joh. Akeroyd</i> , Cl. A.M. ob. 1653. <i>Thomas Lancaster</i> , ob. 1700.	Idem. ‡	per mort.
9 July, 1700.	<i>James Roberts</i> , ob. 1733.	<i>William III.</i> Rex.	per mort.
15 Jun. 1733.	<i>Benjamin Smith</i> , B.D. ob. 1776.	<i>Geo. II.</i> Rex.	per mort.
15 Jul. 1777.	{ <i>Christopher Naylor</i> , A.M. re- signed circ. 1780.	{ <i>Geo. III.</i>	per resig.
8 Oct. 1780.	<i>John Preston</i> , A.M.	Idem.	per mort.
29 Sept. 1821.	<i>Edward Coulthurst.</i>		
26 June, 1850.	<i>John Walker.</i>		

[The two medietyes were consolidated in May, 1866, by Order in Council, and since then the Rev. John Walker has been sole rector.]

* From the names of the patrons I suspect these two incumbents to belong to the one mediety.

† He was the only person that held both the medietyes; for it is plain that this is the same person with the Ric. Burton mentioned in the former catalogue, as both the medietyes were filled at the same time after his decease: for he died in March, 1615.

‡ In Torre's MS. Akeroyd appears as rector of the one mediety; but in the list of West Riding Clergy, 4 Car., Nalson's MS. of Tenth and Subsidies, as of the other: and I think the latter account is right.

The following account of the Rev. Benjamin Smith, B.D., late rector of the other mediety of Linton, was communicated to the author by a respectable and learned friend, who was personally * acquainted with him :—

" Benjamin Smith was nephew by the half-blood, to Sir Isaac Newton. Robert Newton, of Colsterworth, father of that great man, died soon after the birth of his son ; Mrs. Newton then married the Rev. Benjamin Smith, rector of North Witham ; and one of her sons, by her second husband, was father to the subject of this narrative.

" He was born at or near Stamford, about the year 1700. When about eighteen years old his uncle sent for him, and at his house he chiefly resided till the death of Sir Isaac, in the year 1726.

" In many conversations with him on the subject, I could not learn much more than was known already with respect to Sir Isaac's habits, company, &c. ; but he generally confirmed what had been told by others.† He said that his uncle, when advanced in years, was rather corpulent, but not so much so as to diminish his activity ; that he was in general silent and reserved ; but when he gave his opinion on subjects of literature, it was peremptory and decisive. He confirmed the account that the Princess of Wales, afterwards Queen Caroline, when Sir Isaac, from his age and infirmities, could not wait upon her, frequently visited him : that Dr. Samuel Clarke, whom he called his chaplain, dined at his table very often ; and that of all his uncle's intimate friends he should say he (Sir Isaac) had the greatest regard for Dr. Clarke. Mr. Smith himself always mentioned Dr. Clarke's mild, accommodating manners and lively conversation, and particularly his condescending attentions to himself, with much respect and gratitude.

" He said that Dr. Bentley was, when in town, frequently at Sir Isaac's table, and that his behaviour was singularly haughty and inattentive to every one but Newton himself ; that he had heard his uncle mention Roger Cotes with much regret, and Dr. Halley with disapprobation, on account of his infidelity and licentious conduct.

" A little before his uncle's death, Mr. Smith was admitted Fellow Commoner at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, and went to reside there for a short time.

" Sir Isaac left him about 500*l.* *per annum* ; consisting, so far as I understood him, of estates in Nottingham and Rutlandshire.

" Soon after the death of his great relative he left England, and resided at Paris about two years ; there he became acquainted with Mr. Philip Yorke, afterwards Earl of Hardwicke, and Lord Chancellor. He then went to Rome, where he stayed about three years more.

" About the year 1732 he returned to England, having greatly diminished his fortune, and sold whatever interest remained in his estates to Sir Robert Clifton, a Nottinghamshire baronet, for an annuity of 200*l.* *per annum* for their joint lives—a bargain which might have left him without bread to eat.

" As another resource to increase his scanty income, he took orders ; and having in his possession the MS. of Newton's Commentary on Daniel, he was advised by his friends to publish, and inscribe it to the Lord Chancellor, assured that the dedication of any work written by an author so illustrious would procure for him some good preferment in the Church.

" Soon after the publication, Lord King, the Chancellor, sent for him, and addressed him as follows : ' A mediety of the rectory of Linton, in Yorkshire, stated to me as worth £100 *per annum*, is now vacant : will you accept it ? ' Mr. Smith remained silent some minutes. The Chancellor repeated exactly the same words in a stronger tone of voice. He now saw this was the only thing he should ever have offered, and that, from the look and tone of his patron, he had nothing farther to expect.

" He therefore accepted the living ; but always mentioned the interview and the offer as a cruel mockery, having fixed his own expectations upon £500 at least, and that in a situation more fitted to what he thought of his own taste and manners.

" In 1742,‡ compelled by necessity, he came to reside at Linton, and, after boarding in his own house three or four years, he took it into his own possession, and, fitting up a chamber for a study, with a bedroom adjoining, and a closet contiguous to it, for a man-servant, continued to live in it, with little variation, for the remainder of his life.

" He always kept an attendant, who could read to him Greek and Latin. When he could not sleep, he rang his bell ; his reader then arose, procured a light, and read to him two or three hours, till he found himself disposed to sleep. This was his custom five or six nights a week for many years.

" Circumstances now fell out, which drove him to the necessity of a long course of law to recover his annuity ; and during seven years of poverty and distress, he frequently applied to the Lord Chancellor, then Lord Hardwicke, for additional preferment ; but always met with a refusal. These repulses he never mentioned but with great asperity and indignation. §

* The Rev. William Sheepshanks, A.M., prebendary of Carlisle.

† Voltaire, in a small treatise on the character of Newton, ascribes his promotion in the Mint to an improper attachment of Lord Halifax to Mrs. Conduit. In order to investigate this point, I asked Mr. Smith what was the age of his cousin, Miss Smith, afterwards Mrs. Conduit. He answered, she was born in the same year with himself. He always declined to tell his age, but allowed me to conclude that he was born within two or three years of 1700 ; and, upon being told of Voltaire's calumny, said, that when his uncle was made Warden of the Mint by King William, Mrs. Conduit was not born ; and when he succeeded to the office of Master, she was only a child. S.

‡ In 1746 he took the degree of B.D. at Cambridge, under the statute " De his qui majores 24 annis, &c."

§ As Lord Hardwicke is known to have been an excellent patron, there is reason to believe that Mr. Smith over-stated the former intimacy with him, in his conversations on the subject with a person to whom he was desirous of magnifying his own importance.

"It seems probable that Lord Hardwicke disapproved of his conduct and character in early life. In no part of his life, so far as I know, had his conduct been so regular as that a patron who was acquainted with it could find any satisfaction in promoting him.

"His temper was very unamiable: he always considered his situation at Linton as a species of banishment. He despised his parishioners, and took no pains to conceal his contempt for them. Their habits, their general poverty, and, above all, their dialect, were the perpetual objects of his derision. He called them 'baptised brutes;' and they, in return, regarded him with dislike, and treated him with disrespect.*

"Among Mr. Smith's papers were several letters from Sir Isaac Newton. In these he addressed his nephew by the familiar name of Ben, and pressed him to choose a profession. There was some vulgar phraseology in them, which induced me to burn them, when I arranged his papers after his death."

He died in January, 1776, and was interred in the chancel of his own church. [His tombstone only bears his initials and the date, Jan. 1st, 1777.]

The church of Linton, dedicated to St. Michael, is a living in charge, of which the two mediety are valued in the King's Books at 16*l.* each; an estimate which, having been made when much more corn was grown in Craven than at present, has disappointed many successful candidates.

In the village are two parsonage-houses, nearly adjoining to each other.

The glebe has certainly been no more than one oxgang to each mediety; for, as the whole town consisted of forty oxgangs, and the gaits on the common pasture amounted to 160, each rector had an allotment of four. But the glebe belonging to the rector of the first mediety consists nearly of fifteen acres; and that of the second of eleven; which is to be accounted for by supposing that the first portionist stands in the place of the original incumbent of the benefice, and therefore that the berbage of the churchyard and the church-holme adjoining were permitted to remain with him. The tithes are equally divided.

The two incumbents discharge the duty alternately, week by week, and each performs it from his own stall, at the entrance of the choir; but the first portionist, for the reasons already assigned, has the right-hand stall. There is only one pulpit.

The church has been placed in a solitary situation, on the south bank of the Wharf, for the equal accommodation of the different townships which compose the parish. Nay, before the foundation of the parish of Burnsall, which is generally understood to have been taken out of it, the situation of Linton church was almost equally central. Of that fact, beside the tradition, there is very strong circumstantial evidence; for one-third of the corn-tithe in Burnsall and Thorpe is still paid to the rectors of Linton; a modus of 1*l.* 5*s.* out of Hartlington for corn and hay; of 6*s.* 8*d.* out of Appletrewick; of 13*s.* 4*d.* from the demesne of Rilston Hall; and 6*s.* 8*d.* for hay in Thorpe; besides that one house in Appletrewick is now in the parish of Linton, and pays Easter dues accordingly.†

* As a contrast to this, let the reader turn to my account of Father Tempest, under Bracewell.

† Baptisms at Linton.	Burials.
1600. 18.	16.
1700. 24.	23.
1800. 32.	29.

An increase entirely confined to the town of Grassington, out of which, in 1700, were baptised 3, and buried 6; but in 1800, baptised 17, buried 12.

But to return.

The basis of the church of Linton has been a low Norman building, without tower or clerestory, with a nave, single choir, and north aisle only.

On the north side are two semicircular arches, supported by a short cylindrical column, and a demi-column of the same shape and proportion inserted in the square pier west of the choir.

The font is of the same shape and antiquity.

These are the remains of the primitive church.

In the reign of Henry VIII. this church, like most of its neighbours, underwent a thorough repair, and was greatly enlarged. The south aisle and clerestory of the nave were added; but no tower was ever built.

The choir is low, but spacious, with a flat roof, neatly moulded, and of the same date.

There are north and south chapels, with the original railing still entire.* [These screens are now removed, but a stone screen has been erected to enclose the north chapel and form a vestry.]

[The registers commence in 1562, but are defective to 1609.]

In the south wall of the nave are two arched recesses, and one in the north wall, for tombs; of which, however, there are no vestiges.

[The church, originally built *circa* 1150, consists of nave, with clerestory, and two aisles, with chancel arch and arches across aisles, a bell-turret of wood, for two bells, and a modern porch. The chancel has two bays of pointed arches on octagonal piers, all of decorated character. The chancel arch is plain and pointed, but upon Norman piers. In the north arcade the two eastern bays are Norman, *circa* 1150, with circular piers, one of which is built into the north respond of chancel arch. The two western arches are pointed, added when the church would seem to have been lengthened, in the fourteenth century, and part of the original nave taken into the chancel. The south arcade, built in the fourteenth century, has four arches, with three octagonal piers. The piers in the two arcades are not opposite to each other, which has a curious effect. The west window is of three lights, with flamboyant tracery. There is a sepulchral recess in the north wall, and another in the south, but no remains of any effigy or tomb.

In 1861 the church was restored by Mr. John Varley, of Skipton, architect; the porch was built, and all the roofs and seats renewed, the original Norman cylindrical font being retained.

In the south chancel aisle is a piscina, and during the alterations in 1861 an altar stone marked with the usual five crosses was discovered. This is now placed under the communion-table.

There is a bell, with the legend, "GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO, 1692."

There are some slabs in the floor, marked with initials and dates—R. T. 1644, and A. L. 1665.

A brass on the screen is inscribed—

Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Ann Hewitt
the wife of Mr. George Hewitt of Linton
buried the 11th of September 1678.

On another—

Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Redmayne of Linton
Who departed this life the tenth day of November in 1718 aged 77.

* Without the aid of the press, posterity, and no very late posterity, would be at a loss to know what parish churches once were. Alas, since the paragraph here referred to was written, all the lattice-work and railing of this church have been swept away by the rude hands of modern innovators. At the same time the handsome fluted oak roof of the choir has been covered by a ceiling of plaster!

On a brass plate under the east window of the south aisle is the following inscription :—

HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF
MR. THOMAS HAMMOND OF
THRESHFIELD HALL WHO DY
ED THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH
AN^O DOMINI 1685. AND
WAS BURIED THE 27TH OF
THE SAID MARCH ANNO
DOMINI 1686.

The above puzzling difference in the dates, would at first lead us to infer that his body remained unburied for a year and three days, when the time was really only three days. This is accounted for because in England, from the fourteenth century until the 1st Jan. 1752, the civil, ecclesiastical, and legal year commenced on the 25th of March. The Act for the reformation of the calendar is the 24th George II., c. 23.*

There are also inscriptions to—

Mr. William Fountaine, of Linton, who died the 2nd of May, 1733, in the 55th year of his age.

Richard Fountaine, Gent., died 3 Sept. 1779, æt. 78. With shield—a fess between three elephants' heads erased.

Anthony Fountaine, son of Richard Fountaine, Sen^r, of Linton, died 4th Jan. 1822, aged 72.

The Rev. George Fletcher, of Grassington, died 24th Aug. 1791, aged 50. Elizabeth, his wife, died Pridie Kalend Decembris (the 30th Nov^r), 1789, aged 40.

The Rev. Henry Crofts, for 20 years Rector of this Parish, died at Munich the 23^d April, 1857, aged 48 years.]

From Archbishop Holgate's "Surveys of Chantries" in this diocese, it appears that the ancestors of Sir John Tempest (the Hebdens, or their descendants in the female line) had left a yearly rent-charge of *xiii*s**. for the support of a lamp in the parish church of Linton. It seems most probable that the niches in the walls of the nave were intended for some persons of this family, the only ones of any great consideration who were ever interred there.

A church of this antiquity would no doubt have been rendered more interesting by cumbent statues of its ancient patrons, or rich brasses † of its incumbents; but, in the place

* See "The Chronology of History," by Sir Harris Nicolas, p. 41.

† One brass, however, though neither rich nor ancient, deserves to be copied, for the merits of the man whom it covers [It is now fixed against the vestry screen] :—

M. S.
Matthæi Hewitt, clerici,
Unius Medietatis hujus Parochiæ Rectoris,
Qui Novissimo suo Testamento
Ludū literariū instituit Atque ditavit,
Necnon Eleemosynā perpetuā annuatī
Pauperibus distribuendam dedit;
Atque etiam quatuor scholaribus Succedaneis
In collegio Divi Iohannis
Cantabrigiæ instituendis Exhibitiones
In perpetuum Solvendas Donavit.
Ejusdem ipse Collegii Quondam Alumnus
Ricūs Hewitt Nepos illius
Hunc lapidem
Amoris Ergo posuit
Ob. 4to die Maii,
A^o. Salutis M DC LXXIIII.

In the churchyard, on a black marble slab, is the following inscription, which I am compelled to quote from memory,

of these durable and costly works of art, true taste will contemplate with equal pleasure a series of frail memorials inscribed to youth and innocence.

These are paper garlands, carried at the funerals of young unmarried women, inscribed with the name and age of the deceased, which are hung in this and most other churches of Wharfedale, upon the lattice-work of the choir. Short-lived as these records are, they have been substituted, as more durable, to the garlands of flowers which were anciently used on

and have forgotten the dates; though I well remember, and greatly esteemed, the subjects of it [The inscription, which is very erroneously given by Dr. Whitaker, is here corrected from the stone, which is now (1877) much broken]:--

H. S. E.
 RICARDUS SHEEPSHANKS,
 Vici Linton Indigena,
 Et per Vitam perpetuus incola.
 Ibi obiit Decem. 22^{do} 1779
 Etatis 69^{no}.
Septem Filii Superstites
In exiguum
Tam patrii erga Se . . . as
Quam Pietatis suo Tes . . . ium
 H. M. P. C.
Ejusdem Jam Tumuli,
 Ut et olim lecti particeps
 Hic Individuum quoque condit
 SUSANNA Uxor Fidissima
 Fovendis, regendis, provehendis,
 Mater provida, sagax, strenua.
Harum memores virtutum
Idem filii,
Pari in utrumque parentem observantiâ,
 T. I. C.
 Obiit Jul 15^{to} 1784
 Ætatis 63^{no}.

[There are also in the churchyard the following :—

Sacred
 to Memory in this
 Sepulchre lies interred the
 Body of RICHARD SHEEPSHAN KS
 late of Linton who departed
 this Life universally lamented
 the 11th Day of February 1780
 in the 72^d year of His Age
 leaving him a respectable
 Character among all his
 Neighbours Friends and
 Acquaintance (*sic*)
 A pale consumption gave the fatal blow
 The stroke was certain the effect was slow
 With wasting pain Death found me long opprest,
 Pity'd my sighs and kindly brought me rest.

Here lieth
 The Remains of
 WILLIAM the son of
 JAMES SHEEPSHANKS
 of Linton who departed
 This Life June 15th 1808
 Aged 71 Years.

the same occasion, not only in the Middle Ages of Christianity, but among the Romans themselves :—

“Sertisque sepulchrum
Ornabit custos ad mea busta sedens.”*

In the earlier times of Christianity this custom was indeed forbidden ; † but at a later period the specific practice of crowning the heads of virgins at their interment is mentioned by Cassalio : ‡ “Fuit quoque mos ad capita virginum apponendi florum coronas.” These, too, were the “virgin crants” §—the maiden strewments allowed to Ophelia. ||

From this circumstance, however, little can be inferred with respect to the transfusion of the rites of Paganism into those of the Christian Church.

Poets of every age and country have delighted to compare the frailty of human life to that of the flowers of the field ; the Christian Scriptures have not disdained to adopt the same idea ; and where is the wonder if, without traduction, without communication of any kind, successive religions should have been led to express their regret for those who are cut off in the *flower* of youth and beauty by emblems so natural and affecting ?

To enliven dry details of mere topography, the author has in this work uniformly mingled well-authenticated anecdotes of ancient manners in the district of which it treats : and in that view some new lights have been thrown on the habits of the religious houses

In Memory
of Anthony Fountaine
Son of Richard Fountaine
Sen^r of Linton who departed
this Life Jan^y 4th 1822 aged
73 Years

Shield of arms : a fess between three elephants' heads erased.

S. M.

RICHARDI FOUNTAINE Generofi

Obiit Sep 5 1779.

Æt. 78.]

* Propertius.

† As appears from a passage which I recommend at once to the classical and the Christian reader—to the one for its elegance, to the other for its solemnity : “Nec mortuos coronamus. Ego vero in hoc vos magis miror quemadmodum tribuatis aut sentienti facem, aut non sentienti coronam ; cum et beatus non egeat, et miser non gaudeat floribus. At enim nos exequias adornamus eadem tranquillitate quâ vivimus, nec adnectimus arescentem coronam, sed a Deo æternis floribus vividam sustinemus, quieti, modesti, Dei nostri liberalitate securi, spe futuræ felicitatis, fide præsentis ejus majestatis animamur.—Minucius Felix in Octavio, juxta Emend. Ouzelii—in Animadv. p. 211.

‡ Not to commit the paltry fraud of quoting from a book which I have never seen, I am bound to acknowledge that this passage is taken at second-hand from Burn's “Antiquities of the Common People,” 1st edit. p. 57.

§ To confirm the reading of the old quarto editions, which had been displaced by Bishop Warburton, and was restored by Dr. Johnson, I must inform the reader that, in the Islandic, or old Danish, “krans” signifies a garland. The practice is alluded to in the “Bride's Burial :”—

“A garland fresh and fair,
Of lilies there was made,
In sign of her virginity,
And on her coffin laid.”

Dr. Percy's “Old Songs,” vol. iii. p. 150.

For the kindred practice of strewing graves with flowers, see Walton's “Life of Dr. Donne,” ed. Zouch, p. 101, and “Cymbeline,” act iv. sc. 5. There is something pathetically pleasing in this tribute of affection. It is still continued in the churches of North Wales ; and such, in some instances, is the fidelity of surviving grief, that I have seen it annually renewed on gravestones of forty years' standing.

|| “Hamlet.”

and of our old nobility. Another part of the subject yet remains in the antiquated modes of life which prevailed till within the last eighty years among the yeomanry of Wharfedale. These may be illustrated by the manners of Linton in particular, and may to some readers appear equally curious with either of the former.

I suspect them to be of high antiquity; for though the race of independent yeomanry, the happiest, and probably the most virtuous condition of life in the kingdom, arose in Wharfedale, partly from the dispersion of the estates of monasteries, and partly out of the vast alienations made by the Cliffords, yet, before either of those eras, the tenantry lived in so much plenty and security, the tenements descended so regularly from father to son, and the control exercised over them by their lords was of so mild a nature, that the transition from occupancy to property would not be marked by any violent change of manners and habits. But to be more particular.

There was a considerable quantity of hemp, and more anciently of line or flax, from which the place derives its name, grown within the township of Linton, which the inhabitants spun and prepared for themselves. Almost every woman could spin flax from the distaff, or rock, as it was called, and card and spin wool from the fleece. The women were principally dressed in their own homespun; they wore no ribbons, and the men no shoe-buckles. There were no poor's rates and no public-houses. In 1740 every house-keeper in the township, excepting one, kept a cow. The estates were small, and the number of little freeholders considerable in proportion; almost all of these farmed their own property, and lived upon the produce.

At this time tea was scarcely introduced; for I remember a very sensible man, who declared that when he first saw the schoolmaster drinking this beverage he could not conceive what refreshment he was taking.

Every landowner had a small flock of sheep, and fattened one or two hogs every winter. They all grew oats, which formed the principal article of their subsistence. The kiln, in which the grain was parched previously to its being ground, belonged to the township at large, and when in use was a sort of village coffee-house, where the politics of the place and the day were discussed.

Their bread, and most of their puddings, were made of oatmeal; and this, mixed with milk, or water when milk was scarce, supplied them with breakfast and supper. Each owner, too, grew his own barley, and manufactured his own malt. The large steeping-trough, which belonged to the village in general, remained within my recollection. Very little fresh meat was eaten excepting at their annual feasts, when cattle were slaughtered and sold by persons who never exercised the trade at any other time. Indeed, under such a system of manners there could scarcely be any tradesmen; every man exercised, however imperfectly, almost every trade for himself. The quantity of money in circulation must have been inconceivably small. One great advantage of these simple habits was, that superfluous wealth and abject poverty were equally excluded.

The number of openly profligate characters also bore a much smaller proportion to the general mass than at present.

But to return.

Almost everything was in common. There was a stone called the *batting-stone*, where the women of the place beat their linen with *battledores* after having rinsed it in the brook; a necessary process, as it had been previously washed in a certain animal fluid,* a very disgusting substitute for soap and water. Their linen was rarely smoothed with heated irons.†

Their early hours rendered the consumption of candles, excepting in the depth of winter, very trifling, and those were merely rushes partly peeled and dipped in coarse fat.

Cheeses were almost universally made at home; but as few kept a sufficient number of cows for this purpose, village partnerships were formed, and the milk of several farms thrown together in succession.

Few hired servants, male or female, were kept, but where this was done little distinction was kept up between the different members of the family; they invariably ate and worked together, the only effectual method to insure diligence and prevent waste in dependants. The wages of labourers were very low, not exceeding twopence halfpenny a day with board. The facilities of learning were great. A grammar-school prepared many natives of the village for the University at no expense but of part of their time. The price of a day-school was two shillings per quarter, and an excellent writing-master attended for some weeks every year at the free school for sixpence a week per scholar. Young people of both sexes availed themselves of his instructions, and the time was considered as a sort of carnival.

But to proceed to the subject of amusements.

The Catholic religion was admirably calculated to lay hold on the imagination and senses of the vulgar. It was a religion of shows and festivities. Nor was its influence forgotten in Craven at the end of two centuries after the Reformation. The great holidays of the church, the feast of the patron saint, parochial perambulations, and religious epochs in private families, such as baptisms, thanksgivings after child-birth, marriages, and even burials, were all celebrated with carousings. To these may be added the masks, mummeries, and rude dramatic performances which evidently arose out of the mystery-plays anciently exhibited in parish churches by the ministers and clerks. And when we take into the account another class of feastings purely rustic, such as the sheep-shearing, hay-getting, and harvest-home, it cannot be denied that the life of a Craven peasant was sufficiently diversified and cheerful.

Many of these festivities, at least of the former kind, are well enumerated by an old poet in the dialect of the North of England:—

“At Ewle we wonten gambole, daunce, to carol and to sing,
To have gud spiced sewe and roste, and plum pies for a king;
At Fastes Eve Pampuffes; Gangtide Gates ‡ did alie Masses bring,

* From the word *lotium* I presume that this fluid was used for the same purpose by the lower order of people among the Romans.

† Heated irons for the purpose of giving a gloss to clean linen are rather a late invention. About the reign of Elizabeth and James I. large stones inscribed with texts of Scripture were used for that purpose. The late Sir Assheton Lever had one of these, and another was remaining in an old house in this neighbourhood when I was a boy.

‡ Gangtide Gates are perambulations. For “alie” I was once inclined to read “halie”—*i.e.*, holy; but on such occasions, even when accompanied with some of the forms of religion, there is usually a greater abundance of ale than sanctity. The old reading, therefore, is not to be *solicited*.

At Paske begun oure Morris, and ere Pentecoste oure May,
 Tho' Roben Hood, liell John, Frier Tucke and Marian deftly play,
 And Lard and Ladie gang till Kirk with lads and lasses gay ;
 Fra Masse and Een song sa gud cheere and glee on ery greene,
 As, save oure wakes twixt Eames and Sibbes, like gam was never seene.
 At Baptis day, with ale and cakes bout bonfires neighbors stood ;
 At Martlemas wa turn'd a crabbe, thilke told of Roben Hood,
 Till after long time Myrke when blest were windowes, dares, and lightes,
 And pailles were fild, and harthes were swept, gainst Fairie elves and sprites ;
 Rock* and Plow Monday gams sal gang with Saint feasts and Kirk sights." †

Many of these amusements, derived from the same source of Catholic superstition, were long after in use at Linton; while others, which were not connected with it, had a very pastoral and pleasing air.

The cows of the village being fed in a common pasture were placed under the care of a single herdsman, and driven morning and evening to the Green Loaning, ‡ to be milked during the summer months.

Once every summer was "gud cheere and glee upon the greene;" vast syllabubs being mixed in pails at the place of milking; to which all the inhabitants contributed; and of which, if they thought proper, all partook. At the same time the young people danced upon the greensward, and the public intercourse of the two sexes promoted by these means was favourable to the morals of both :

"Quid nisi secretæ læserunt Phyllida sylvæ?"

Among the seasons of periodical festivity was the rush-bearing, or the ceremony of conveying fresh rushes to strew the floor of the parish church. This method of covering floors was universal in houses while floors were of earth, but is now confined to places of worship. The bundles of the girls were adorned with wreaths of flowers, and the evening concluded with a dance.

Merry nights, as they were called, were often held in private houses, where young people were admitted without any particular invitation, and often danced in masks. The habits of the great always descend, and this was once a regal amusement. The maskers were very ludicrously dressed, and brought with them, as the *tessera* of admission, what was called a pass;—*viz.*, a copy of verses, which they delivered in writing.

But the most popular of their amusements was the practice of acting old plays; continued, I have no doubt, from the old "Kirk Sights," and Clerk plays, though I can trace

* St. Rocke's day, as I learn from the Enchiridion of the church of Sarum, printed by Kerver in 1528, was August the 16th (equivalent to the 27th now), which, I suppose, was celebrated as a general harvest-home: "For," saith the Calendar of that work :

"The goodes of the ertþe be gethered evermore
 In August."

St. Rocke was also an *antiseptic* saint; as it appears from a marginal note in a missal once belonging to Whitby Abbey, and now in my possession, that "whosoever will saye y^s prayer following to God and St. Rock, shul not dye of y^e pestilence, by y^e grace of God." [St. Rock is shown in mediæval drawings as a pilgrim with a plague-spot on his thigh; an angel is talking to him and pointing to the spot. He is so represented upon the rood-screen at Stalham, in Norfolk, in Caxton's "Golden Legend," 1512, and in a primer of 1516.]

† Warner's "Albion's England," p. 121, ed. 1597.

‡ "Flowers of the Forest."

it in Craven no farther than 1606, when I find the following article in the accounts of Francis Earl of Cumberland :

“Item, paid to the yonge men of the town,* being his lps tenants and servants, to fit them for acting plays this Christmas, 1111s.”

In the interval of a century from this time it does not seem that they had much improved their stock of dramas; for, within the recollection of old persons with whom I have conversed, one of their favourite performances was “The Iron Age,” by Heywood, a poet of the reign of James I., whose work, long since become scarce, and almost forgotten, had probably been handed down from father to son, through all that period. But, in every play, whether tragedy or comedy, the Vice constituted one of the *dramatis personæ*, and was armed, as of old, with a sword of lath, and habited in a loose parti-coloured dress, with a fur cap and fox’s brush behind. In some parts of Craven these personages were called clowns, as in Shakespeare’s time, and too often and too successfully attempted to excite a laugh by ribaldry and nonsense of their own; a practice which is very properly reprehended in “Hamlet.”

In the “Destruction of Troy” this personage easily united with Thersites; but he was often found in situations where his appearance was very incongruous.† These rustic actors had neither stage nor scenes, but performed in a large room, what is called the “house” of an ordinary dwelling.

Sometimes they fabricated a kind of rude drama for themselves; in which case, as it is not likely that the plot would be very skilfully developed, the performers entered one by one, and each uttered a short metrical prologue, which they very properly chose to call a “forespeech.” For why should these honest Englishmen be indebted to the Grecian stage for the word “prologue,” when they were certainly beholden to it for nothing else?

In these fabrications, I believe, the subjects were frequently taken from printed plays; but the texture was of very inferior workmanship. For this I must beg my reader to give me credit; though, if all readers had the same relish for what, in the language of dulness, is called low, with Dr. Farmer and Mr. Wharton, I could excite more than a smile by their travestie of the “Merchant of Venice.” An old inhabitant of this place, whom I well knew, had the reputation of a dramatic manufacturer, though he had, in reality, no talents beyond those of an actor. But his fame drew upon him an awkward application, which, as the stated price of these services was three half-crowns, he parried very dexterously by demanding half-a-guinea. Thus much for the chapter of Amusements.

The great ornament of this village is an hospital founded by Richard Fountaine, Esq., a native of the place, who, having acquired a large fortune in London, by will dated July 15, 1721, ordered an estate to be purchased, out of which 26*l. per annum* should be equally divided among six poor men or women of this parish, to be appointed by his executors, and their representatives for ever.

* Skipton. The earlier notices on this subject which I have introduced into the present edition most probably refer to Londesborough.

† As, *e.g.*, in “George Barnwell.”

He also left the sum of twenty pounds to the minister or ministers of the parish of Linton, provided they constantly reside in the parish, and read prayers twice every week to the poor persons in the hospital.

He farther directed the building to be erected on his estate at Linton, and the expenses to be defrayed out of his personal effects.

This was accordingly undertaken, and finished within a few years after the founder's decease. Though rather heavy, and in Sir John Vanbrugh's style, it is a handsome building, of red moor stone, with a centre, two wings, and a lofty cupola in the middle. Beneath is a small, well-proportioned chapel, now neglected and in decay. On each side are comfortable apartments for the poor people, with little gardens behind. It is said to have cost 1,500*l.*

Craven does not want a due proportion of eleemosynary foundations: it would be well, however, if the funds allotted to their support were always administered aright. But such is human nature, that the appointment of active and honest trustees seems to be attended with difficulties almost insuperable. It implies no ordinary measure of virtue to unite unrewarded attention to the concerns of others, more especially of the ignorant and unprotected, with fidelity and honour. The two last of these qualities may indeed be secured, or at least their opposites may be avoided, by the appointment of men of rank; and the name of a duke, a chancellor, or an archbishop, while it soothes the vanity of a founder, will always sound well in the recital of a foundation-deed. But this is nearly all; for it is not in the nature of things that persons in these exalted stations, the two last of which are also situations of continual engagement, should take a frequent or active part in trusts so numerous and unimportant.

On the other hand, *attention* in trustees may easily be obtained by nominating persons of small property upon the spot, rendered keen and vigilant by habits of minute investigation into their own concerns. But what will be the probable object of that attention? Their own accommodation and emolument.

In this view, the worst of all trustees are the founder's kin; who, generally conceiving themselves to be robbed by the foundation itself, have few scruples to restrain them from robbing the trust in return, to reimburse their own families.

Neither, as it will sometimes happen, ought trustees of any rank to be situated at too great a distance; as, in that case, the administration of the charity will generally be committed to some inferior retainer of the law; who, if inaccessible to a pecuniary bribe, may not be entirely free from the poet's imputation (very unjustly applied to the magistracy of the kingdom),—

“ Wild fowl or venison, and his errand speeds.”*

After all, amidst so many difficulties, the most eligible persons for the discharge of these trusts are gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood; men who, to some sense of honour, unite habits of business; who will neither take profitable leases of hospital estates to themselves; nor, by their negligence, permit others to do so; who will neither employ

* Cowper.

without wages the almsmen and women under their charge, nor connive at such a conduct in their agents. These hints will be *vocal* to the *intelligent*. [In 1812 new trustees were appointed by the Court of Chancery. The income arises from the rents of 280 acres of land.] Adjoining to Linton is

THRESHFIELD* *with* SKIRETHORNS,

ONE of the ancient manors of the Nortons ; which was surveyed, in 1603, as follows :—

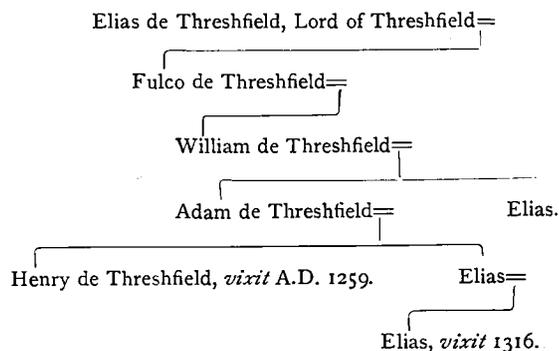
A.	R.	P.	Old Rent.	Clear Value.	Fee Simple at 15 years' purchase.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Threshfield,	872	2 30	33 7 6	112 12 1	2,188 18 5

The ancient customs of the manor were, that at every change of the lord one year's rent was paid by way of fine, and at every change of tenant an arbitrary fine, as lord and tenant could agree. Heriots were paid as at Linton. The tenement always descended to the eldest son, or, failing male issue, to the eldest daughter of the deceased.

Here was a town ing, or meadow, an arable town-field, a common-pasture, and common right on the moors.

In Threshfield, including Skirethorns, there were forty-two tenements. The oxgang averaged nearly sixteen acres.

The first lords of this town who are recorded, bore, as in most instances, the name of the place. The descents which have been collected are these :



It is most probable that the estate passed into the Rilleston. family by marriage with an heiress of the Threshfields. But of this I have no proof.

Here the Nortons had a park, noticed by Harrison in his "Description of Britain," where they kept their fallow-deer, of which, in 1603, the number was 120. The park measured eighty acres, and must have been filled with valuable wood, as it was estimated

[* The canons of Bolton had lands here, and the tithes in this territory.—Burt. "Mon." p. 119.

THRESFELD.—In eadem villa sunt III car. terræ quarum Abbas de Fontibus tenet I car. in puram elemosynam de Elia de Thresfeld ; et residuas II car. terræ tenet idem Elias de Henrico de Amerton, et Henricus de hæredibus de Percy, et idem hæredes de rege in capite, et dat villa prædicta ad prædictum finem, XII^d.—Kirkby's "Inquest."

In the 9th Edward II. Elias de Threschefeld was lord of the manor of Threshfield.—"Nomina Villarum."]

at no less than £400. While in the Crown, Sir Stephen Tempest was ranger. After it came into the possession of the Cliffords, it was still preserved.

* In 1634 I find a servant of Sir John Hotham † sent to kill deer in Threshfield Rise ‡ for his master ; and, in 1639, £2 10s. were paid by the Earl of Cumberland's agents at Skipton for toils to catch the deer at Threshfield ; and then it was, in all probability, that they were finally destroyed.

I have now done with the Norton lands, of which I have only to add, that they were alienated, partly in fee simple, and partly for long terms of years, by the two last Earls of Cumberland.

But, during the siege of Skipton Castle, I find that the old rents of these lands, payable to the Crown, were levied by Sir John Mallory,§ under the king's warrant, for the use of the garrison. After which the Parliament's Commissioners thought proper to demand them again. This produced the following petition :—

“ To the Hon'ble Co'mittie for the Publicke Revene,

“ The humble petition of us underwritten

“ Sheweth,

“ That your petitioners, being awed by y^e power of Skipton garrison, paid their rents due for y^e yeares 1643, 4, and 5, unto such officers as that garrison sent to collect them, which they durst not refuse, for feare of greater mischief.

“ That y^r petic'ors suffered much by living under the power of that garrison, being plundered both by Scotch || and English of all sides, and paide double sessments a great space during the warre and two several seeges of Skipton Castle ; notwithstanding all which, your petic'ors are now threatened with a second leavy of those rents by order from this co'mitte, bearing date Feb. 8, 1650, [though they were paid, as aforesaid, by constraint, as will appear by an affidavit and acquittances hereunto annexed.]

“ The pr'mises considered, y^r petic'ors humbly pray y^t, in considerac'on of their great impoverishm't by the late warre, as also that though your petic'ors lived under the power of y^t garrison, yett they were alwaies well affected to the Parliam't, [this hono^{ble} co'mittie will be pleased to grant us particular order that may exempt us from the prejudice of the above said order of the 8th Feb^r for the leavying of those rents, and y^r petic'ors shall ever pray].

“ Signed by,	“ EDW. RADCLIFFE,	GEO. HEWETT,	[JOHN SLINGER,	RICHARD LIGHTFOOT,
	“ FRANCIS HEWETT,	THO. LUPTON,	RALPH PROCTER,	RICHARD COOK,
	from Threshfield.	JA. ATKINSON,	RALPH HARGRAVES,	THOMAS TOPHAM,
				from Linton.”]

Much is not to be inferred from the latter clause of this petition with respect to the principles of the petitioners. It was now their interest to say that they had been always well affected to the Parliament, and therefore they chose to say so.

* From the family account-books.

† The following extract from the MS. memoirs of Sir Henry Slingsby, who suffered for his loyalty under the Usurpation, will prove the Earl of Cumberland's intimacy before the civil wars with the elder Hotham, as well as throw considerable light on the character of the latter :—

“ I have often heard my Lord of Cumberland say, that he (Hotham) would be often talking to him many years before when we were happy in knowing nothing, and secure in believing never to find the effects of it here, that, if he had Hull, he would bring all Yorkshire into contribution. But it seems my lord of Newcastle knew how to work upon his distemper when he once found his pulse. But I rather think it was his son's journey, and disagreeing with my Lord Fairfax, that made him weary of being of one side, and more easily drawn to hearken to reason. He was one that was not easily drawn to believe as another doth, or hold an opinion for the author's sake, not out of judgment, but faction ; for what he held was clearly his own, which made him but one half the Parliament's : he was mainly for the liberty of the subject and privilege of Parliament ; but not at all for their new opinions in church government.”

‡ Rise is properly a wood, from the Islandic *hþura*. I take this opportunity of retracting my etymology of Crookrise, which I have now no doubt was so called, qu. the crooked or stunted wood. Chaucer used the word for a single bush : “ As white as is the blossome on the Rise.”

§ See this warrant under Skipton [p. 413].

|| Perhaps by Leslie's army, in 1644, and Duke Hamilton's, in 1648.

The principal grantees of the Threshfield estate from the Cliffords seem to have been the Hammonds and Hewitts; of which latter family was Matthew Hewitt, Rector of the one mediety of Linton, who founded a grammar-school at Threshfield, endowing it with 20*l.* *per annum* for the master, and 10*l.* for the usher, and four exhibitions of 12*l.* each to scholars of St. John's College in Cambridge. But the great depreciation of money which has taken place in the last century proves the impolicy of such pensionary endowments; and the school has been so little distinguished, either for able masters or hopeful scholars, that it has not been unusual in St. John's College to apply to it the text, "Out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." In this opprobrium the author of the "History of Craven" must be content to partake. Yet a few exceptions might be mentioned. The late Bishop of Elphin, Dr. Dodgson, as well as the present learned and venerable master of St. John's College,* were among the number of Hewitt's exhibitioners; and, if delicacy would permit me to pay so public a tribute to private friendship, I could name a whole family of very superior attainments who owe their school education to this neglected seminary. But vigorous plants will thrive under every disadvantage of soil and exposure.

The propriety of this reserve is now in part removed by death.

William Sheepshanks was born in the village of Linton, on the 18th of March, 1740, of respectable parents. His father, who, having no trade or profession, lived upon and farmed his own estate, was a very sensible and intelligent man, so far superior to those among whom he lived, and so disinterested in the application of his talents, that he was highly popular and useful in his native village. His mother was a woman of very superior understanding.

He was educated at the grammar-school of the parish, and in 1761 was admitted of St. John's College, Cambridge.

His singular facility in the acquirement of philosophical knowledge quickly became so conspicuous in this situation, that, at a time when other undergraduates find sufficient employment in preparing for their own exercises and examinations, he had no less than six pupils.

At this time also he laid the foundation of a lasting friendship with two young men of great promise in the university, John Law and William Paley, both of Christ's College; the one afterwards Bishop of Elphin, the other wanting no addition, and above all titles. In St. John's he lived upon terms of almost equal intimacy with Mr. Arnald, the senior wrangler of his year, whose genius, always eccentric, after a short career of court ambition, sank in incurable lunacy. His academical exercises also connected him more or less with the late Lord Alvanley, the present Mr. Baron Graham, and the learned and pious Joseph Milner, afterwards of Hull; all of whom, as well as Law, took their first degrees at the same time with himself. Such a constellation of talent has scarcely been assembled in any single year from that time to the present.

In January, 1766, he took the degree of A.B.; and in 1767 was elected Fellow of

* Dr. William Craven, born at Gowthwaite Hall, in Netherdale.

his college, on the foundation of Mr. Platt. In 1769, he took the degree of A.M. In part of the years 1771 and 1772, he served the office of Moderator for the university with distinguished applause. During this period he numbered among his pupils several whom he lived to see advanced to high stations in their respective professions, particularly the present Bishop of Lincoln, and the Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

In 1773, he accepted from the university the rectory of Ovington in Norfolk; and, having married a highly respectable person, the object of his early attachment, settled at the village of Grassington, where he received into his house a limited number of pupils, among whom, in the years 1774 and 1775, was the writer of this article.

In the year 1777, he removed to Leeds; and in the same year, by the active friendship of Dr. John Law, then one of the Prebendaries of Carlisle, he was presented by that Chapter to the living of Sebergham in Cumberland.

In 1783 he was appointed to the valuable cure of St. John's Church, in Leeds.

In 1792 he was collated, by his former pupil Dr. Pretymann, Bishop of Lincoln, to a prebend in his cathedral, which, by the favour of the present Archbishop of York, he was enabled to exchange, in 1794 or 1795, for a much more valuable stall at Carlisle, vacated by the promotion of Dr. Paley to the Subdeanery of Lincoln. This was the last of his preferments, and probably the height of his wishes; for he was in his own nature very disinterested.

After having been afflicted for several years with calculous complaints, the scourges of indolent and literary men, he died at Leeds, July 26, 1810, and was interred in his own church.

In vigour and clearness of understanding Mr. Sheepshanks was excelled by few. His spirits were lively, and his conversation was inexhaustibly fertile in anecdote and reflection. His knowledge of common life, in all its modes, was that of an original and acute observer—his eyes were the most penetrating and expressive I ever beheld. In short, Nature had endowed him with faculties little, if at all, inferior to those of the two great men with whom he lived in habits of most intimate friendship. His conversation had much of the originality and humour which distinguished that of Dr. Paley; and, when he thought proper, it was equally profound and sagacious with that of Dr. Law. When he could be prevailed upon to write at all, he wrote with the clearness and force peculiar to *his School*; so that, if his industry had borne any proportion to his natural talents, and if these had been sedulously applied to elucidate and expand those branches of science in which he so much excelled, he would have wanted no other memorial. But a constitutional indolence robbed him of the fame which he might have attained; the privation, however, occasioned neither a struggle nor a pang; for his want of ambition was at least equal to his hatred of exertion; and, as far as could be gathered from a conversation in the highest degree open and undisguised, he was equally careless of living and of posthumous reputation. Had the same indifference extended to his surviving friends, this short account would not have been written.



NETHERSIDE HALL, THE SEAT OF THE REV. THOMAS WHITAKER NOWELL.

[A branch of the family of Radcliff was settled at Threshfield.]

Arms: Argent a bend engrailed sable.

Anthony Radcliffe=
of Threshfield, in Craven,

Rafe Radcliffe=
of Threshfield,

“Was at the Assizes holden at the Castle of Yorke upon Monday the third of August, in the 38th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, before John Clarke and Thomas Walmesley, then Justices of Assize, chosen and nominated to be one of the High Constables in the Wapentake of Staincliffe.”

Charles Radcliffe=Dorothy, dau. of Mr. Spencer,
of Threshfield, of Langtofte.

Clerk of the Peace in the West Riding, and Associate before the Judges of Assize in the Northern Circuit.

Edward Radcliffe=Elizabeth,
of Threshfield. dau. of Thos. Hesketh,
of Heslington, near
Yorke, Esq.

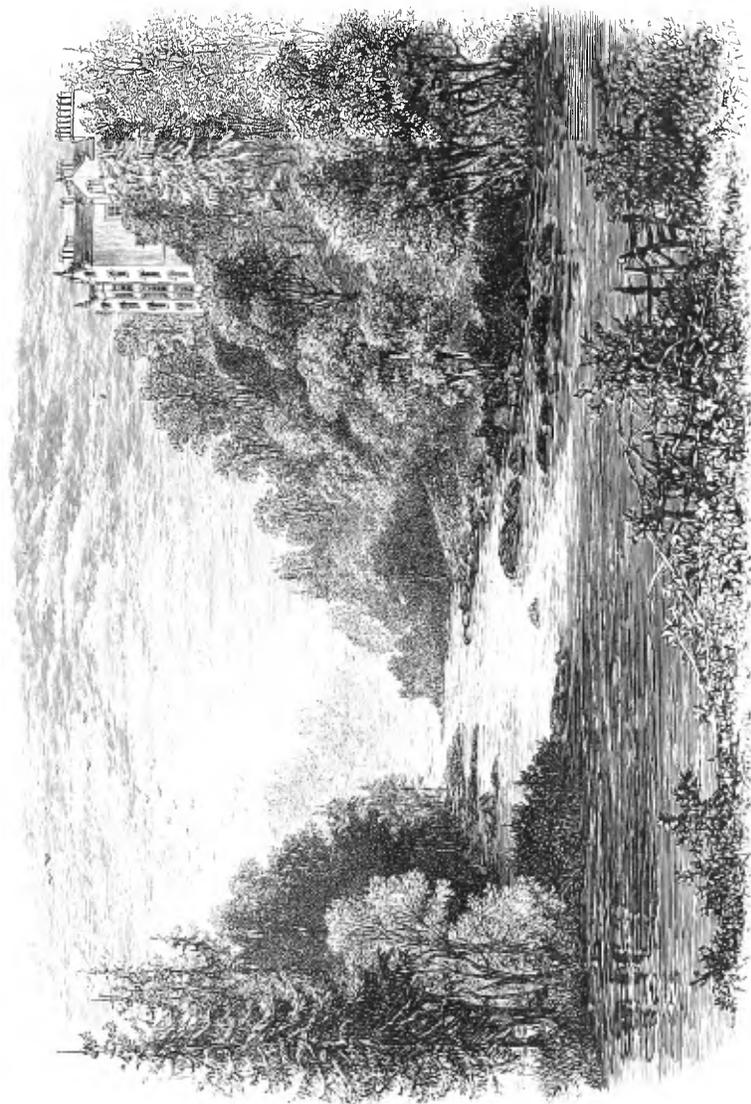
Francis=Elizabeth
Radcliffe dau. of Roger
had no Nowell, of Read,
issue. co. Lancaster, Esq.

Charles
Radcliffe,
Citizen of
London.

1. Anne Radcliffe, married Mr. Theophilus Braythwaite.
2. Mary Radcliffe, mar. to Major John Hughes, of Rilston, who did good service to his late sacred Ma'tye, and was slain in the wars.
3. Susan Radcliffe, married to Mr. Richard Baxter.

Jane Radcliffe,
dau. & heire.

From Harl. MS. 4,630, p. 481.



VIEW ON THE RIVER WHARFE, NETHERSIDE GLEN.

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GRASSINGTON.*

WERE I to say that this word signifies the town of Grassy Ings,† almost every reader would acquiesce in the conjecture. But it has been variously written Garsington, Gersinton, or Girsington; and I have already shown the syllable “ing,” in the composition of English local names, to be generally epenthetical. It is vulgarly pronounced Girston; which comes nearest to the truth. But the word is really Garston, the town of Garr or Garri, a personal Saxon name, from which Gargrave is also derived. The surname Gars is yet remaining in Craven.

Grassington is of the Percy fee; but the first mesne lords after the Conquest were the Plumptons. Of these the earliest on record was Nigel, who, from the known date of his grandson's death, must have been born about the year 1140. He had a brother Gilbert, who, in the 21st of Henry II. [1174–5] committed something like an Irish marriage with the heiress of Richard de Warelwast, and thereby incurred the displeasure of Ranulph de Glanville, Great Justiciary, who meant to have married her to a dependent of his own. Plumpton was, in consequence, indicted and convicted of a rape at Worcester; but at the very moment when the rope was fixed, and the executioner was drawing the culprit up to the gallows, Baldwin, Bishop of Worcester, running to the place, forbade the officers of justice, in the name of the Almighty, to proceed, and thus saved the criminal's life.§ An odd exertion of episcopal authority!

The grandson, either of Nigel or this Gilbert, was another Nigel, to whom R. de Stutevil granted leave to hunt in his forest of Knaresborough, reserving to himself *Cerfe et Bisse,|| et Chevruiil*. Nigel died 55 Henry III. [1250–1]. The roe was therefore extant on the borders of Craven at that time; and if so, probably in the forests of Craven itself. His son was Robert, who obtained a charter of free warren in Grassington, 9 Edward I. [1280–1] about which time I find there were many neifs in that town. A figure with yellow hair and in armour, marked with the letter R, and ascribed by the family to this person, was remaining in the windows of the chapel at Plumpton in 1613; but I suspect it to be of much later date. What I know further of him is, that he obtained licence to have a chapel in his manor-house of Nesfield, on condition of offering annually a pound of frankincense on the high altar of the parish church of Ilkley.

This Robert had William, who had another Robert, who being on board the king's fleet, 46 Edward III [1372–3], was licensed to return home, on account of bad health, with his esquire and two valets.

His son was another William, who suffered in the same cause with Archbishop Scroope, and was interred at Spofforth, with this epitaph :—

[* GERSINGTON.—In eadem villa sunt VI car. terræ; de quibus Robertus de Plumton tenet V car. et di. de hæredibus de Percy, et iidem hæredes de rege in capite; et Thomas Botte tenet di. car. de prædicto Roberto de Plumton, et idem Robertus de prædicto hæredibus de Percy.—Kirkby's "Inquest."

“Isabella quæ fuit uxor Roberti de Plumpton, et domina de Kyghley,” were ladies of the manor of Gersington, *temp.* 9th Edward II.—“Nomina Villarum.”

The township of Grassington contains 5,801*a. 1r. 37p.*]

† Still I hesitate about this etymology. Pasture grounds are called grassings, and Grassington may mean “The Town of Grassings.” The character of the place is certainly favourable to this opinion.

§ This story is told by Roger Hoveden, Plumpton's countryman, in anno 21 Henry II. [1174–5].

|| The Hind.

*Miles ex am dudum Plumpton Cæcilium vocitatus,
 Præsulis atque nepos Le Scroopi hic tumultus.
 Mortis causa suæ mihi causa fuit moriendi,
 Flors capitis quippe nostri male præstat utrunque.
 Anno milleno quat' centum sit quoque quinto
 Pentecostes me lux crastina sumpsit ab oꝛbe.*

Robert, son of this William, was killed in France, 9 Henry V. [1421-2], leaving a son, William, who, in the 27th of Henry VI. [1448-9], as saith the Chartulary, engaged and routed 300 men of the Cardinal of York, who were plundering the foresters of Knaresborough, on which occasion no less than 4,000 arrows were discharged. In the 39th of the same reign [1460-1] he was commissioned, along with Lord Clifford, to assemble as many men as possible, and fight the king's enemies. He died in 1480.

Sir Robert Plumpton, his son, seems to have been active in suppressing the Yorkshire insurrection, in which the fourth Earl of Northumberland lost his life at Cock Lodge; for to that event I suppose the following letter addressed to him by Henry VII. to refer :

“TRUSTIE AND WEL BELOVED, &c.

“Wher we understande by o'r squyer N. K. y^r true minde and faithful leegiance towards us, wth y^r diligent acquittal for y^e reducyng our people ther to o'r subjection and obediaunce, wee heartilee thanke yo' for y^e same, assuring yo' y^t by this y^r demeynng yo' have ministryd unto us cause as gaged to rememb'r yo' in anie thinge y^t maie be for y^r p'ferment; and as anie office in o'r gifte ther falles voide, wee shal reserve them unto suche tyme as wee maye bee informyd of suche men as maie be meet and able for y^e same; prayinge yo' y^t if ther shal happen anie indisposition of o'r seid people, ye wyl, as ye have begon, endeavor, from tyme to tyme, for y^e spedie redressing therof.

“Yeven under signett, at o'r man'r of Sheene, the xxx Oct.” (no year).

This Sir Robert seems to have had two sons, William and Robert, the latter of whom lost the manor of Grassington; for, after a long contest with three heirs female, one of whom was Margaret, wife of Sir John Roccliffe, Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, and others, chosen arbitrators between the parties, awarded the manor of Plumpton alone to Sir Robert, and eighteen other manors to the heirs general. Among these Grassington became the purparty of Margaret, wife of Roccliffe, whose daughter and heiress married Sir Ingram Clifford, younger son of the first Earl of Cumberland, and [Elizabeth] married to Henry Soothill, Esq.,* whose daughter Elizabeth, having married Sir William Drury, knight, sold her moiety to Henry second Earl of Cumberland.

Margaret and her sister were daughters of William, who appears to have been elder brother of Robert, the other party; and the point at issue was, whether the manors in question were or were not entailed upon the male line.†

Lastly, Sir Ingram Clifford entailed ‡ the manors of Grassington and Steeton on the issue of his own body, remainder to Henry Earl of Cumberland, his brother, who, by will, dated May 8, 1569, devised the said remainder to George, afterwards the third earl, and his heirs.

This nobleman first mortgaged all the tenements in the township to the respective tenants, and afterwards sold the equity of redemption for the most part to the same persons. And this is the origin of all the titles to estates within Grassington.

[* Sir John Sothill, Knt.: “Visitation,” 1585.]

† All these particulars are extracted from the Chartulary of Plumpton. Townley MSS. G. 24.

‡ It should have been only the moiety of Grassington.

The manor, however, was reserved, together with Grass Wood (the ancient *Silva Gars* of the Chartulary), the latter for the browse of deer,* to which I find, from the Skipton Papers, it continued to be applied in 1609.

I cannot discover from the Chartulary, or any other authority, at what time prædial slavery ceased in this manor. There were many neifs in the reign of Edward I. In 1579 it was wholly demised to tenants for life, each of whom paid a Gressom at the end of every five years.

Immediately before the alienation, two surveys of this manor were taken, from which I extract the following particulars.

The township then (A.D. 1603 and 1604) consisted of thirty-eight tenements. Many hemp-plots are mentioned; whence I conclude that plant to have been in general cultivation. The old crofts about the houses were called cagarths—that is, calf-garths.† Cattle-gates were valued at 5s. each, and sheep-gates at 6d. Does not this prove the breed of cattle to have been large, and that of sheep small?

The number of oxgangs was sixty and a half, besides a pasture sold separately. The price of each oxgang, with three exceptions only, was 80l. The whole rental was 415l. 6s. 8d., of which twenty marks are deducted for grass-wood: and the other woodlands reserved for the browse of deer. The purchase-money for the whole township, with this single exception, amounted to 5,279l. 13s. 4d.

The rents appear to have been racked, as they are much above the average of the times.

The reservation of the manor was a fortunate circumstance. In 1638 the clear profit of the lord's portion to Francis Earl of Cumberland was 308l. 15s. 10d. In some years it may since have exceeded this in a fivefold proportion.

At what time lead-mines were first wrought in Craven I have no means of being informed. From a pig of that metal, discovered on Knaresborough Forest, the Romans appear to have carried on such works at no great distance; but they have left no vestiges of their industry in Wharfedale.‡ Neither is it probable that these treasures were disturbed during the uninquisitive era of the Saxons and Danes. But the Norman churches and chapels in this valley are uniformly covered with lead, which, for such humble foundations, would scarcely have been purchased at a dear rate, or conveyed from any great distance.

* As late as 1632 "Gressington P'ke, wherein is redd deer, in possession, was valued at xl."

† Ca, in the language of the Scottish ballads, is a calf:

"And sax poor cas stand in the sta."—*Border Minstrelsy*, vol. i. p. 100.

‡ The ancients were certainly unskilful miners. It has even been conjectured, from some appearances about their works in Derbyshire, and elsewhere, that they wrought only in open trench. But this is impossible, as not a hundredth part of the metals which they used could have been thus obtained. Besides, Pliny assures us, that the silver got in Spain was generally brought up *per puteos* (lib. xxxiii. 6). The same author mentions (ib.) a tunnel carried 1,500 paces into the side of a hill, and against the water, which they had no method of removing but casting it up with buckets. But the most extraordinary instance of their mismanagement is recorded in the attempt of Claudius to drain the Fucine Lake into the Garigliano, a distance of three miles. Here the workmen, instead of beginning in the bed of the river at the lowest point, and thus tapping the water as they proceeded, chose to work downward from the lake, which compelled them to raise the water by pumps "in verticem montis." The work was partly open trench, and partly tunnelling, "partim effosso, partim exciso," says Tacitus. In this undertaking, if the figures in Suetonius are right, that emperor employed 30,000 men for eleven years. Twenty English miners, by the help of gunpowder, which has given to the moderns a new empire over the mineral as well as animal world, would have accomplished it in a third part of the time. See Sueton. in Claudio, xxi., Tac. Ann. lib. xii., Plin. lib. xxxvi.—xv.

About the end of Edward I.'s reign we have seen that the canons of Bolton had lead-mines within their own estates. From the accounts of the Percy fee it appears that they were wrought in the upper parts of Wharfedale in the reign of Henry VII.

I can discover no vestiges of these works at Grassington before the reign of James I., when, from circumstances (one in particular, which I do not hold myself at liberty to disclose), I believe them to have been first undertaken, and principally, by miners from Derbyshire.

The first discoveries of this valuable metal consisted in great perpendicular trunks of ore called pipes, which sometimes appeared on the surface, and conducted the fortunate discoverer to sudden wealth without skill, and almost without effort.

When these were exhausted, the spirit of adventure, which they had excited, continued, as, indeed, it still continues, to the ruin of many families. For henceforward the veins of ore, irregular and capricious in their ramifications, gradually diminished, while the cost of pursuing them increased.

Expensive levels also became necessary, of which it is difficult to conceive how they were conducted before the application of gunpowder to the purposes of mining; an improvement of infinite importance, which, though it had taken place in subterraneous works for military purposes at least two centuries before, was unknown among the miners in Staffordshire and Derbyshire as late as the reign of James II.* A reasonable inference is, that it was introduced into Craven still later.

From two letters of Charles Earl of Burlington to his agent at Bolton, dated in the years 1683 and 1685, I learn that the Marquis of Worcester, a great projector in those days, had taken a lease of some of the *rakes* of lead in this manor, the term of which he wished to extend to a hundred years.

The lead on Grassington Moor is extremely rich, a ton of ore sometimes yielding sixteen hundred pounds weight of metal. But it is poor in silver; for a very skilful mineralogist (Mr. Sheffield) lately employed by the Duke of Devonshire, after eighty different assays, found that the poorest specimens contained not more than half an ounce of silver per ton of lead, and the richest only four ounces and a half.†

I have only to add, that the miners who carry on these works—a collection from Derbyshire, Alston Moor, &c.—have contributed much more to the increase of population than to the improvement of order and good morals.

Excepting, what must always be excepted, the introduction of manufactories, I do not know a greater calamity which can befall a village than the discovery of a lead-mine in the neighbourhood.

A brass celt found some years ago on Grassington Moor was given to me by the late worthy and respectable Thomas Browne, Esq., of that place.

* See Dr. Plot's remarkable account of the rocks in Staffordshire, which the miners had no means of breaking but by kindling fires upon them. The art of blasting, therefore, must have been unknown in 1686, when that work was published.—"History of Staffordshire," p. 134.

† About 200 men are employed in these mines, and 700 tons of lead raised annually. One of the shafts is about 100 fathoms in depth, and the drainage is effected by an adit which was commenced in 1796, and completed in 1830, at a cost of 30,000*l.*]