

R I B B L E S D A L E .

L A C Y F E E .

P A R I S H O F B E R N O L D S W I C K . *

[ALSO CALLED GILKIRKE.]



THE ancient parish of Bernoldswick comprehended Bracewell, Marton, and perhaps Thornton also. The manor and township are thus surveyed in Domesday :---

ƿ In Bernulfesuic . Gamel xii car ad gtd . Bereng de
Todeni tenuit . s; m . ē in castellatu Rog^h Pictuauensis. †

By which I suppose is meant that Gamel had been the Saxon possessor at the time of Edward the Confessor's Survey, that Berenger de Todeni was the first Norman grantee, and that he had transferred it to Roger of Poitou. But what is the castellate of Roger, and why is Bernoldswick said to be included within it? There can be no doubt that this is the castellate of Clitheroe, to which Bernoldswick was understood to belong more than half a century afterwards. It will necessarily follow that Clitheroe Castle was already in existence, and that, while I corrected the general error in assigning it to so late a period as 1179, I had myself committed a second in ascribing it to the first possessor of the family of Lacy. ‡ But it may be urged that Roger of Pictou was at this time lord of Lancaster, and that the word castellate may refer to the fee depending upon "that" castle. To which I reply, that there was at this time no castle and no fee of Lancaster; for it may be proved, on the decisive authority of Domesday, that Longcastre and Cherchlongcastre, far from being at the head of any dependent manors, were then nothing more than berewicks, holding under the manor of Halton.

I suppose, therefore, it will no longer be doubted that the castellate of Roger was that of the castle of Clitheroe.

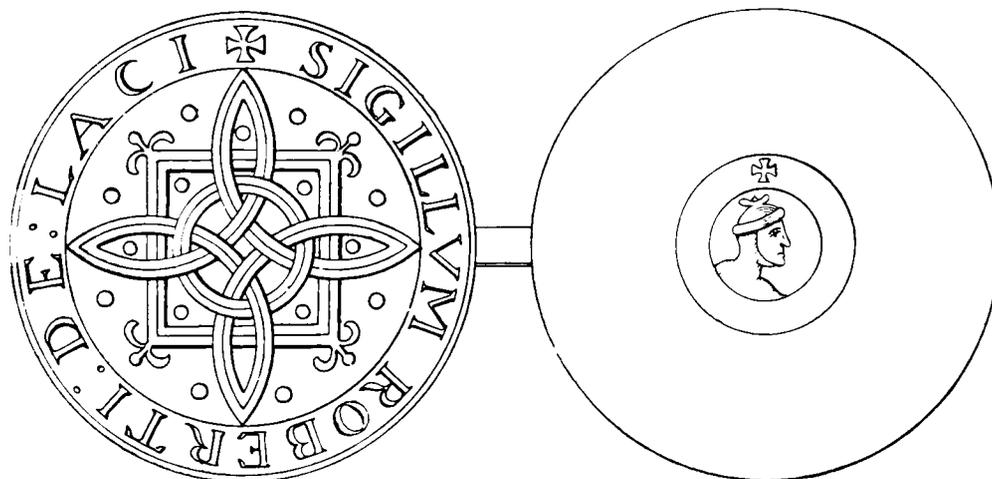
The ecclesiastical history of this parish is much more interesting.

* The parish includes the townships of Bernoldswick, Salterforth, Coates, and Brogden-with-Admergill, and according to the Ordnance Survey contains 6,306 a. 1 r. 2 p. The township of Bernoldswick contains 2,129 a. 1 r. 7 p. According to the Census of 1871 there were 3,819 persons in the parish, living in 779 houses. An Inclosure Act was passed in the 54th George III.]

[† One manor.—In Barnulfesuic Gamel had twelve carucates to be taxed. Berenger de Todeni held it, but now it is in the castellate of Roger of Poictou.]

‡ *Vide* "History of Whalley," in Clitheroe. See also Mitton in this volume.

MONĀS SCE MARIE DE BERNOLDSWIC.



Notwithstanding the silence of Domesday, which really proves little or nothing, there is the strongest presumptive evidence that here was a church at least as early as that survey; for Serlo, the monk who wrote an account of the foundation of the monastery in this place, and was himself one of the ten who were translated from Fountains to Bernoldswick, expressly declares, "quod fuit ecclesia de Bernoldswick * antiqua nimis et ab olim fundata, habens villas parochiales quatuor, viz. Martonam, et aliam Martonam, Bracewellam, et Stokam, exceptâ villâ de Bernoldswick et duabus Villulis appendentibus, Elwynstrop et Brocadene, quas, amotis habitatoribus, jam dicti monachi possidebant." The church of Bracewell, however, must have been already founded; for in the charter of feoffment in which that benefice was conveyed to Kirkstall by Richard, son of Roger Tempest, all the right is conveyed, "quod ego et antecessores mei habuimus in advocacione." Now it is certain that Roger Tempest lived in the reign of Henry I. and the very beginning of Stephen's reign.

From another circumstance it seems equally certain that the church of Marton was erected, and the parish severed from Bernoldswick, *after* the foundation of the monastery here, and by consent of the monks; for, when the rectory of that place was given to the priory of Bolton, a pension out of the profits was regularly paid by the canons of that house to the abbot and monks of Kirkstall.†

* Leland, who found the name of Bernoldswic in the Chronicle of Fountains, mistook it for Berwick in Elmet—Bernolfwic, al. Berwick in Helmet, 11 mil. p. ab. Abberforth.—"Coll." vol. iv. p. 105.

† "Coucher Book" of Bolton from 1291 to 1335.

But to return; Henry de Lacy, "vir magnarum rerum et inter proceres regni notissimus," as saith the monk, in performance of a vow made during a dangerous sickness, founded a monastery at this place, built the offices and necessary lodgings, and, in the year 1147, translated hither twelve monks and ten conversi, under Alexander, Prior of Fountains, who named the place *Montem S'cæ Mariæ*. For the support of his new foundation, he assigned the whole town of Bernoldswick, and probably the church too, as we are expressly assured that Henry Murdac, Archbishop of York, of whom there is no reason to suppose that he was the patron, by his pontifical authority confirmed it to the monks "liberam et solutam ab omni calumnia." But nothing is more blind and mischievous than liberality when it loses sight of justice; for here was a rector in possession of his benefice, and a parish with legal claims upon their own church, neither of whom, it seems, were disposed to make a compliment of their rights to these intruders. Accordingly, the priest and his clerks continued to perform divine offices in the choir, and the people assembled as usual; but the monks bore this inoffensive and even laudable conduct with such extreme impatience that the abbot, in a rage, levelled the church with the ground. Even our historian Serlo acknowledges that this was done "minus consultè." The dispute was now brought before the metropolitan, who had himself been Abbot of Fountains; but it seems probable that Alexander dreaded an impartial sentence, and therefore avocated the cause to Rome. This step had the intended effect. The rector and parishioners were put to silence, and their plea dismissed with contempt; for it seemed a godly work, and deserving of encouragement, that a church should be destroyed to make room for a monastery; that a lesser good should give way to a greater; and *that* cause prevail which would ultimately be most beneficial to the interests of religion. I never think of this sentence without astonishment. The pernicious doctrine, *that ends sanctify means*, prevailed, it seems, thus early in the Church; and a vile casuistry had silenced alike the voice of natural conscience and the precepts of Scripture. Such judges, though ecclesiastics of the higher rank, never reflected, perhaps did not even know, that a "woe" had been denounced in the Old Testament against him that "buildeth his house by iniquity, and his chambers by wrong;" or, that it had been forbidden in the New "to do evil that good may come."

The work thus inauspiciously begun did not prosper in the hands of the monks. The Scots ravaged their lands; the climate (certainly worse than at present) would not suffer their crops to ripen; and, after six years of labour and disappointment, they abandoned Bernoldswick in despair.

Their erections had probably advanced very little beyond the humble offices constructed for their first reception by the founder; yet, after six centuries and a half, the situation of the monastery is still remembered, and in some degree visible. It stood on the margin of the brook immediately to the west of the village, where tiles, lead pipes, &c. have been dug up within memory [the field is still called Monk Rood]; and the channel for the mill-stream, or the north-east, is still very conspicuous. [There is a spring near called St. Mary's Well, and a house in the centre of the village is yet called Monk's House.]

It often happens that a man remains insensible to the inconveniences of his present situation till he has fallen in love with a new one. This might in part be the case with

Abbot Alexander, who, journeying through Aredale on the business of his house, discovered a delicious retreat, embosomed by woods, and inhabited by a fraternity of poor and laborious hermits. The contrast between this situation and his own bleak and barren abode instantly struck him : the possibility of talking these simple men out of the exclusive possession of the place probably occurred to him at the same instant ; and he began, with much address, to inquire into their way of life, their native country, their rule, and lastly their title to the place.

The religious of those days practised a degree of bodily mortification which always exposes the mind to the fumes of fanaticism ; nor have the enthusiasts of the last or present age been more abandoned to the direction of dreams, visions, and secret impulses than the monks of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Accordingly Seleth, the principal of this brotherhood, informed Alexander that he was a native of the south of England, but had been admonished by a voice in his sleep crying, " Arise, Seleth ; go into the province of York ; seek for the valley called Aredale, and the place which is called Kirkstall ; * there shalt thou provide a habitation for me and my Son." Inquiring from whom the voice proceeded, he was answered, " I am Mary, and my Son is JESUS of Nazareth." Seleth added that, in obedience to the call, he had left his house and friends, and, after many difficulties, arrived at this place, which, as he learned from the shepherds, was named Kirkstall ; that he remained here many days alone, feeding on herbs and roots, added to the casual bounty of good people ; but that after some time he was joined by a few brethren, who put themselves under his government ; and that ever since they had subsisted by the labour of their hands, having all things in common.

During this reply the abbot sent his eyes round to contemplate the site and advantages of the place, the beauty of the valley, the river winding through it, the quarries of fine free-stone upon the spot, and the timber-trees in the adjoining woods. His mind was now made up on the subject of a translation. He entered into the character of the men whom he had to deal with ; hinted at the danger of their souls, from the want of a stricter rule ; the small number of the brethren (too small to constitute a religious society) ; the necessity of a regular superior ; and, above all, of the addition of priests to a fraternity of laymen. Leaving these insinuations to work, as he knew they would do, on the minds of simple hermits, he proceeded to his patron, Henry de Lacy, explained to him the inconveniences of his present situation, enforced the necessity of a removal, and intreated his assistance in obtaining a grant of Kirkstall from William of Poitou, the immediate lord of the fee. This affair being settled, the hermits were easily disposed of, some consenting to be incorporated with the new society, and others to transfer their title, such as it was, for a sum of money.

On the 14th kal. June, 1153, the convent finally abandoned Bernoldswick. The structure of a magnificent abbey was vigorously begun at Kirkstall ; their patron supplied them with grain, money, and other necessaries, laid the foundation of the church, which he

* The falsehood of this part of the story betrays itself from the inconsistency of the monk, who tells us, a little after, that Abbot Alexander named the place Kirkstall after he obtained possession. There was, indeed, no reason for the name before. For some time after the foundation I have reason to believe that it was called the abbey of Hedingley, the township in which it stands ; for in a very early charter, now in the Bodleian Library with many others (all original) once belonging to this house, is the attestation, " Monacho de Hedingleia."

finished at his own expense, and assisted in hastening the buildings which were necessary for immediate use. The whole was a work of thirty years, begun and ended under the superintendence of the same able and active superior, Alexander, of whose skill and taste * almost the whole of this noble fabric remains a monument to this day. To be the author or the instrument of progressive improvement is always delightful; and if anything could reconcile a man of spirit and activity to the life of a monk, it must have been the conduct of a magnificent building, with the command of a patron's purse; but the earlier monks often and generously submitted to great privations, while they carried on expensive erections from their own resources.

This active and useful man, having, in addition to his other merits, acquired the best estates belonging to his house, died, after a presidency of thirty-five years, "verus Abbas, et re et nomine." †

Alexander was succeeded by Ralph Hageh, originally a monk of Fountains, a just and holy man, and rigid observer of his rule. He set about the administration of affairs with better meaning than judgment, never reflecting, as his chronicler sagely observes, that a small income is inadequate to great expenses. The house, at his accession, was neither wealthy nor oppressed with debts; but his inattention soon involved it in great distress.

In his time also a great calamity befell the brethren from without; for Henry II., by the evil counsel of Roger de Mowbray, disseised them of their best estate, the grange of Micklethwaite. This occasioned great murmurs, and the monks imputed to their abbot, not only the loss of the estate, but of some sacred utensils and ornaments which he had disposed of; for, in order to conciliate the king's favour, he had presented him with a gold chalice, and a MS. of the Gospels. ‡

At length the convent was broken up for a time, and the brethren were dispersed in other houses of their order—partly on account of real distress, but principally for the purpose of moving the king to compassion. But this expedient failed of its effect. Henry's heart was obdurate, and death at length cut off from the monks all hope of recovering their grange, and from the monarch of redeeming his soul. §

* It is another proof both of his taste and foresight, that he spared the fine woods which surrounded the house, and brought the timber for the buildings from a distance.—"Mon. Ang." vol. i. p. 860.

† Chron. de Kirkstall. The style of one monk is so like that of another that I am unable to distinguish where Serlo's narrative ends and that of his continuer begins. I have hitherto been constrained to write from the printed narrative, "Mon. Ang." vol. i. p. 854, &c.; but from this period Dugdale and Dodsworth began to abridge that account: I shall therefore confine myself, for the future, principally to particulars which they have omitted, after premising that I write from a copy of the Chronicle of Kirkstall among the Townley MSS.

‡ This may be added to the instances adduced by Dr. Robertson ("Hist. Charles V." vol. i. note 10) of the extreme scarcity of MSS. in the middle ages. A copy of the Gospels here accompanied a golden chalice as a propitiatory offering to a king. I am pleased with the dissatisfaction of the monks on this account, and willing to hope they really prized the Gospels as gold. If it was their only copy, which is far from being improbable, their loss was indeed to be deplored.—Compare this with the following account of a contemporary fact:—

"Hugo Decanus Ebor. cum omnibus fortunis suis Fontes se contulit. Dives erat in libris scripturarum sanctorum, quos multis sibi sumptibus comparaverat. Hic primus Armariolum de Fontibus suscitavit." A library in the twelfth century, collected at a great expense, sufficed only to furnish a little closet, or perhaps even a small chest. It is to be supposed that, as books multiplied and wealth increased, the library of Fountains expanded in proportion.—Leland's "Collections," vol. iv. p. 105.

§ This hard sentence the chronicler could endure to pronounce on one of the best and greatest of our English monarchs. But he wrote with all the irritation of a sufferer.

These misfortunes at length taught the abbot to be more attentive to his secular duties; and the last years of his administration were frugal, and not unprosperous. Had this been otherwise, he would not have been translated to a much greater charge. After nine years he was removed to Fountains, where he died.

To him succeeded Lambert, a simple and innocent man, who had been professed forty-two years, and was one of the original convent sent from Fountains to Bernoldswick. He never attended to temporal matters, but confining himself to all the rigours of the cloister, chose, according to his historian, to sit with Mary at the feet of his Lord, that he might hear His word. But when a man has undertaken a charge which demands attention and activity, indolent meditation and incessant study become breaches of duty. It had been well if Abbot Lambert had, like Martha, been careful and troubled about many things which concerned him; for while he was dreaming in his cloister, enmity and self-interest were awake without, and another valuable grange* was lost. He died in the third year of his presidency.

Next followed Turgesius, a true ascetic, of whom his historian, a contemporary and companion, gives the following account:—"He was a severe chastiser of his own body, and of the motions of the flesh; ever clad in hair cloth, and frequently repeating to himself, 'They who are clad in soft raiment are in kings' houses.' His clothing was the same at all seasons, consisting of nothing more than a tunic and a cowl. His body was so habituated to this discipline that he appeared equally insensible to the heat of the dog-days and the cold of January. In the severest weather he endured the night watches without shoes, and when his well-clad brethren were almost stiff with frost he gave himself up to the praises of God, and repelled the cold without by the heat of devotion within. His abstinence was extreme. He never tasted wine, excepting where no other beverage could be obtained.† To say that he never touched flesh-meat would be superfluous. Fish he permitted to be set before him for the entertainment of his guests, but he himself beheld it only. Yet no one was more affable than Turgesius. His compunction knew no bounds. In common conversation he scarcely refrained from weeping. At the altar he never celebrated without such a profusion of tears that his eyes might be said rather to rain than to weep,‡ and scarcely any other person could use the sacerdotal vestments after him." Having governed nine years, Turgesius returned to Fountains.

The monks were by this time convinced that they wanted a man of business at their head, and therefore sought out a stranger—Helias, monk of Roch, who was well acquainted with common affairs, and soon reduced the concerns of the house into better order. Of his death or translation there is no account.

Next follows a rapid succession of abbots, concerning whom, with the exception of

* That of Cliviger.

† A difficulty which he would not often encounter, unless he travelled to Ravenna.

‡ We may admire, as did the satirist concerning Heraclitus, "Unde ille oculis suffecerit humor;" but constitutional differences in the power and in the manner of expressing our religious feelings are very great. Turgesius had the wish of Jeremiah—"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears!"—Jer. ix. 1.

Grimston and Birdsall, little is known beside their names and the time of their creations and deaths.

6. Ralph de Newcastle, who died a° . . . Hen. III. on the 8th of the ides of April.
7. Walter, ob a° . . . Hen. III. 2do id. Oct.
8. Maurice, elected in 1222, ob. 1249, 7 cal. Apr.
9. Adam, elected fer. 5ta post quindenae Paschæ eo anno.
10. Hugh de Mikelay, elected 17 cal. Apr. 1259, ob. cal. Jun. 1262.
11. Simon, el. 15 cal. Jun. eo an. ob. 13 cal. Mart. 1269.
12. Wm. de Ledis, el. 2do non. Mar. die Jov. eo an. ; governed till the Ass. of the B. V. 1275.
13. Gilbert de Cotes, el. in crast. oct. Ass. B. V. M. eo an. ; governed 3 years, 1 month, 4 days, when he resigned, or was deposed ; but was re-elected 2d id. Dec. the same year, and governed to the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 1280.
14. Henry Carr, el. in vig. S. Andr. Ap. eo an.
15. Hugh de Grimstone, el. in die S. Lamberti, 1284 ; ob. cal. Maii, 1304.
16. John Birdsall.

Under these two last abbots a transaction took place which will enable me to lay before the reader some specimens of the epistolary style in use among the religious at that period, as well as some instances of the difficulty of communication between neighbouring countries.

Ever since the time of Abbot Simon the house had been gradually sinking under a load of debt. Their affairs were now come to a crisis. Their revenues were exhausted by usurious payments, and their live stock had been nearly consumed for present support. Their creditors grew clamorous, and they were compelled to have recourse to Edward I. for his interposition to procure a suspension of payment. In the MS. from which I write are long details of their transactions with the king, the barons of the Exchequer, &c. relating to this affair ; but the numerals are so obscure, and where legible so incorrectly copied, that I am utterly unable to represent, or to understand, the principles on which they proceeded. Suffice it, however, to say, that Henry de Lacy, their patron, agreed to take their estates in Blackburnshire, together with some other lands, at ten years' purchase ; in which I am not sure whether he took any advantage of their necessity, or lands at that time really bore no higher value. This, however, will render intelligible the following letters. I do not often submit to the drudgery of translating monkish Latin, but in this instance I am anxious that the English reader may have it in his power to judge for himself whether the regulars of the Church of Rome have always had justice done them, and whether these original documents do not infer more piety and intelligence in the religious houses than he had been taught to expect. The first is evidently the composition of a man of business ; the second, of a saint.

“ Brother Hugh, called Abbot of Kirkstall, to his beloved in Christ the convent of the same house, health and blessing in the bond of peace.

“ Our distresses at the last general chapter with respect to Simon being ended ; on the morrow of St. Lambert we set out for Gascony, on an uncertain errand, and with a bitter and heavy heart, as our beloved brother and son, John de Birdsall, will inform you. But after many hindrances, and with great difficulty, both from the unexpected length of the journey and the extreme poverty of Burgundy, which we traversed through thickets rather than along highways,* we met

* Such was the state of this fine province in the end of the thirteenth century—overrun with woods, and destitute of highroads.

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with the king in the remotest part of Gascony.* On the way we were afflicted with a quartan fever, which reduced us so low that we despaired of life; but, blessed be the Heavenly Physician! nothing more than a trifling remnant of the complaint now hangs about us.

"Here we found our patron, the Earl of Lincoln, with other great men of the Court, attending upon the king; and to him we explained fully and to the best of our ability the distresses of the house. He was touched with pity at the representation, and promised us all the information and assistance in his power. . . .

Here follow several details, which are scarcely intelligible, for the reason assigned above.

"And that the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer aforesaid may faithfully execute these writs, we have letters of recommendation addressed to them from all the earls, bishops, barons, and other counsellors of the king attending upon him at this place. But because the king was not inclined to interfere with the debt due to the cardinal, or to Tockes, the Jew, or with the wool, although we had many intercessors with him; yet by the grace of God, obtained through the mediation of your prayers, and by the mediocrity of our own understanding, reflecting that, if either of these debts remained undischarged, it would be productive of great inconvenience to the house, we hit at length upon a remedy which is likely to be effectual.

"For, having shown to the earl and his council an extent of our lands in Blackburnshire besides Extwysell, and another of our lands in Roundhay, Schadwell, and Secroft, it appeared that the above-mentioned lands and tenements, with the addition of 4*l.*, which for several years last past we have received out of the exchequer of Pontefract, deducting everything which in reason ought to be deducted, would amount to 41*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* yearly. Now this revenue might be sold for 413*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* What need of more words? Let there be no buying or sale of these premises, but a dexterous exchange. So that instead of this 41*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* deducting uncertain and untried improvements, the possibility of which we are not convinced of, we shall receive yearly out of the exchequer at Pontefract twenty-four marks for ever, with this excellent condition annexed, that the said earl, in order to discharge the debt due to the cardinal and the Jew, engages to advance 350 marks, under the penalty of repairing whatever damage may accrue to us by any irregularity in the payment.

"But what it was that touched the Abbot of Fountains with compassion, by what reasons he was overcome, and how induced to give up a great deal for a little, it would not be prudent to trust to paper.

"And, that we might not be deceived in any of the premises, we have been careful to enrol in Chancery the obligations we have received for payment of the above sums, and the contract in like manner. Both these, moreover, are ratified by the king's confirmation, which is in our hands.

"And now, brethren, from what has gone before, ye may in some measure understand what trouble we have endured. If, therefore, we have done well, think of a recompence; if otherwise, or even if we have been lukewarm in your concerns, spare our infirmity.

"But we require you that ye labour day and night, to the utmost of your ability, that everything belonging to you (excepting the crops upon the ground, which cannot be removed without being destroyed), may be entirely taken away before the earl's messenger, whom we purposely detain here with his horse and groom, shall arrive to take livery and seisin of the lands.

"And whatever is incapable of being removed abandon peaceably, because the said earl, by his letters directed to Sir R. de Salem, which he will receive by the bearer of these, hath required him to purchase, at a fair price, whatever you are inclined to sell within his bailiwick, and to afford you every other accommodation consistent with the livery of the lands.—A similar commission is addressed to the steward of Cliderhow, for the lands in *his* bailiwick, by the bearer hereof.

"It will not be prudent to show these letters to any one; but, until you have all safe, keep your own counsel secret from every one out of the bosom of the chapter.

"And because we desire to be informed of what has happened since our departure before we make any new contract, which might possibly interfere with your present circumstances, we require you, on sight and reading hereof, to inform us of your situation by the swiftest messenger you have.

"Send some money too by the same hand, however you come by it, even though it be taken from the sacred oblations, that we may at least be able to purchase necessities while we are labouring in your vineyard. In this we earnestly intreat you not to fail; for in truth we were never so destitute before.

"Farewell, my beloved!—Peace be with you. Amen.

*"From Castle Reginald, on the morrow
of St. Martin, A.D. 1287."*

"To his reverend brethren the prior and convent of the Monastery of Kirkstall, John, styled Abbot of the same, wishes health and grace, and that they may labour more earnestly after the things which concern religion, peace, and charity.

"Beloved, we have written this letter in haste from Canterbury, knowing that an account of the success of our journey will be pleasing to you.

Edward was at St. Sever.

"In the first place, our dear brother, who was present, will inform you that on the morrow of St. Laurence we were met by letters from the king in a very threatening style; that we were apprised of robbers who laid wait for us in the woods, under a rock; and that we were bound, under the penalty of forfeiting all our goods, to abide the king's pleasure. However, having been at length dismissed from his presence with honour, we proceeded on our way; and, notwithstanding the delay in London, arrived at Canterbury on Monday evening, ourselves, our servants, and horses being all well. We are not without hope, therefore, that our feeble beginnings will be followed by better fortune. On Wednesday morning, the wind blowing fair, we put the horses on board a ship

"For the time to come we commend you, dear brethren, to GOD, and our bodily safety to your prayers. But especially pray for the salvation of our soul; for we are not greatly solicitous if this earthy part of us be delivered into the hand of the wicked one, so that the spirit be saved in the day of the Lord, which we hope for through your intercessions; yet we should wish, if it be the will of GOD, to be committed to the earth by your hands, wherever you shall dispose.

"But know assuredly that, if we return, whosoever appears to have been most humble in conversation and active in business during our absence shall receive an ample measure of grace and recompence from God, and shall every hour be more affectionately regarded by us.

"We entreat and enjoin brother R. Eckisley to prepare himself for the duty of preaching on the Nativity of our Lord, unless we return in the meantime, that so great a festival may not pass without a sermon, a thing which hath never yet happened, nor, by the grace of GOD, ever shall do.

"We wrote unto certain persons, 'abstain from every appearance of evil, and avoid it beforehand, whatever is or can be pretended in its behalf'

"GOD shall give you the knowledge of these things.

"We adjure you, brethren, by the bowels of mercy in Jesus Christ, that, if ye hear of our departure, ye will pray for us faithfully, remembering the labours and distresses which we endured in the beginning of our creation, and of which ye are now reaping the fruits in peace.

"Ye know, dearly beloved, that worldly occupations, such as we have long been entangled in for your sakes, are not without danger to the soul. But we derive great hopes from your compassion, seeing that we aim at no earthly advantage, nor consume the revenues of the monastery without cause.

"Salute our dear friends: and especially our dearest companion,* to whom we would have some one interpret this letter. When he hears it he will scarcely be able to refrain from tears, which he shed abundantly at our parting.

"We commend our poor mother to your compassion.—Salute one another with an holy kiss.

"The salutation of me, John, your minister, such as I am, and studying to do everything in my power for your advantage and honour.

"We commend you again and again to GOD and the B. V.

"Written at Canterbury, with many tears."

With this transaction the MS. Chronicle of Kirkstall ends; and little more is known of its history than the names of the abbots henceforward to the dissolution of the house. Abbot John de Birdsall, the pious and amiable writer of the above epistle, appears to have survived to the year 1313, when

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| 17. Walter was elected. | 24. Robert Kelingbec, conf. 21 Aug. 1499. |
| 18. William, el. in 1341, confirmed | 25. William Stockdale, conf. Dec. 10, 1501. |
| 19. Roger de Ledes, el. Dec. 15, 1349. | 26. William Marshall, conf. 5 Dec. 1509. |
| 20. John Thornberg occurs in 1378. | 27. John Ripley, al. Browne, the last abbot, conf. |
| 21. John de Bardsey occurs in 1396 and 1399. | July 21, 1528, who surrendered the house |
| 22. William Grayson, cessit. | Nov. 22, 1540. [The surrender is printed in |
| 23. Thomas Wimmersley, confirmed Apr. 6, 1468, | Dugdale's "Monasticon," vol. v. p. 550.]† |
| mort. | |

An imperfect catalogue of the abbots of Kirkstall, consisting only of fourteen, was first given by Thoresby.

This was afterwards enlarged by Browne Willis ("Mitred Abbeys," vol. ii. p. 276) to

* Some illiterate but affectionate friend, whom he does not name.

† "The site was granted in exchange to Archbishop Cranmer and his heirs, 34 Henry VIII., and 1 Edward VI."—Tanner, "Not. Mon. Yorkshire," lxxviii. In the 26th Elizabeth, "Regina concessit Edmundo Downynge et Petro Asheton gen. totum illum scitum nuper monasterii de Kirkstall alias Kyrkestall modo dissolut. in com. Ebor. habend eis et hæredibus suis in perpetua."—"Repert. Orig." The present owner is the Earl of Cardigan.]

twenty-two, and by Dr. Burton, from the archiepiscopal registers at York, to twenty-six. I have added John Thornberg from a charter of Archbishop Alexander Nevile at Skipton Castle, though it is not impossible that he may be the same person with John de Bardsey, as the monks often bore both a local and family name. The probabilities on each side are nearly equal; inasmuch from the election of Roger de Ledes to the first mention of Bardsey is an interval of forty-seven years, which may, without any violation of the common chances of life, be divided either into one or two entire reigns and an indefinite portion of another.

The following singular record, of which the original remains among the charters of the Cotton Library [Brit. Mus. Cart. Cott. iv. 39], will prove that the Abbot of Fountains continued in the fifteenth century to exercise a certain degree of jurisdiction over Kirkstall, as a filial house, and styled himself "Father Abbot" of the same:—

"Universis ad quos p'sentes Pre p'venerint Fr Rob'tus abbas Monast. Beate Marie de Fontibus, pater Abbas Monasterii beatae Marie de Kyrkestall ad plenariam jurisdictionem habens in eodem sal'm & fidem credulam in subscriptis. Licet per instit'a n'ri ordinis ingressus mulierum infra septa Abbatarum p'dicti ordinis sub pœnis g'vibus sit p'hibetis: nos tamen salutem animarum cupientes, quam tam viri quam mulieres indubiè consequenter qui ecclesiam dict' Mon' de Kyrkestall certis diebus in anno contigerit personaliter visitare, prout in quibusdam indulgenciis per Papam Bonifacium Nonum inde concessis planius est insertum, ingressum mulierum præscriptis diebus ad dictam ecclesiam solomodo, volumus pro tempore tolerare. Sic tamen quod ad nullas alias domos infra septa dicti Monast' neque per Abbatem neque per aliquem Monachum dicti Monast' introducantur, sub penis in institutis sepe dict' ordinis limitatis, quas videlicet penas volumus et decernimus per p'sentes tam Abbatem quam Monachos p'fati Mon', si in p'missis reperti fuerint culpabiles, irremissibiliter sustinere. In quorum omnium testimonium Sigillum nostrum presentibus apposimus. Dat' ap' Mon. n'rum de Fontibus quinto die Marcii Anno Domini millesimo quadringentissimo primo."*

The scriptural conditions of pardon have been vitiated at different times, and in different degrees, by unhallowed substitutions; but it was reserved for this bold abbot of Fountains by one stroke of his pen to abrogate the satisfaction of the Redeemer, the necessity of repentance, the obligation to good works, and to annex an assurance of salvation to the *opus operatum* of a visit to Kirkstall.

Among the monastic remains of the north of England Kirkstall may claim the second place, whether it be considered as a feature in a landscape, or as a specimen of architecture. In the former view it must perhaps yield the palm to Bolton; in the latter, indisputably to Fountains.

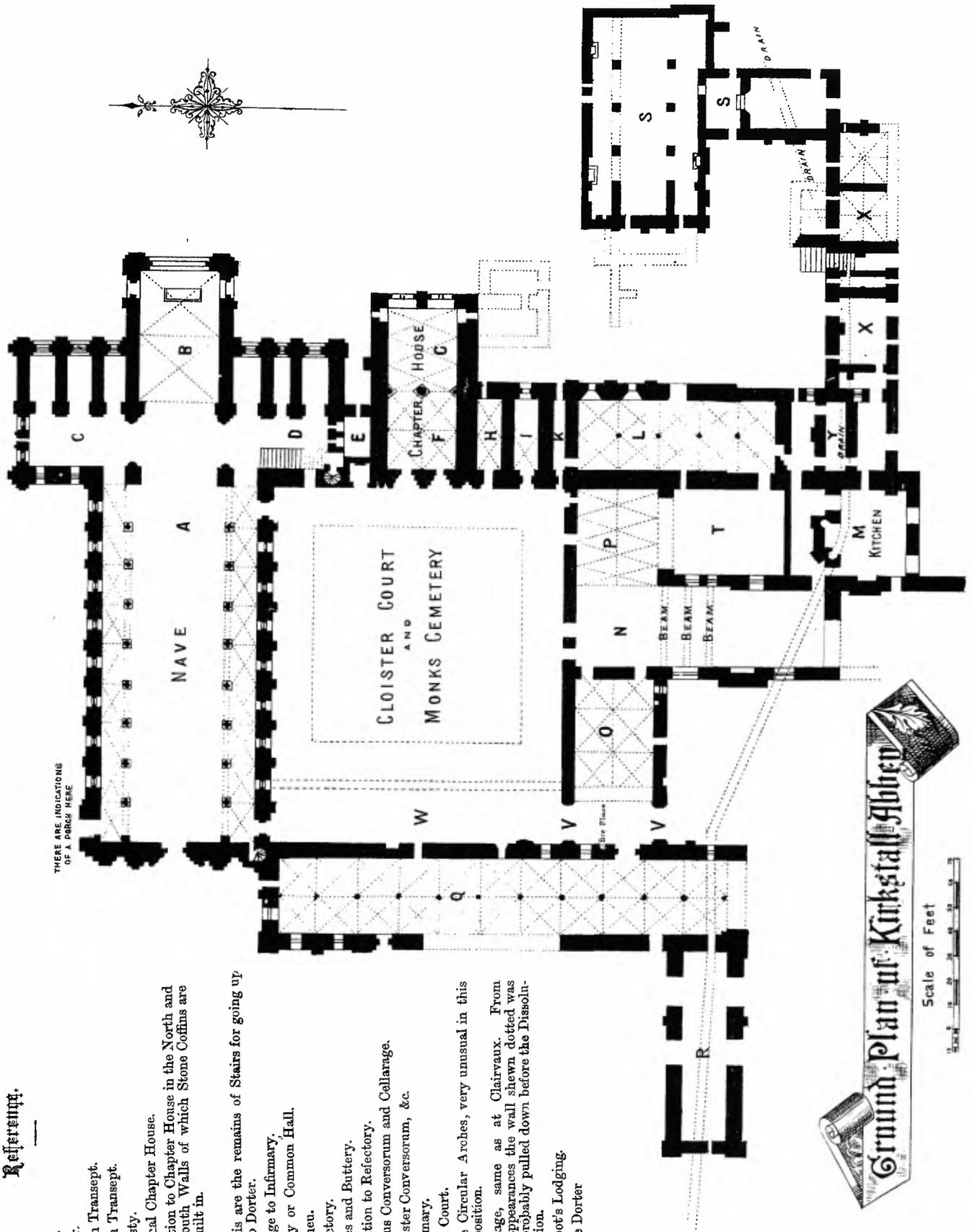
The lead and timber only were removed at the Dissolution, and nearly the whole building yet remains, with few additions to the structure of Abbot Alexander, and fewer losses by removal or decay.

The whole exhibits that struggle between the Norman and early Gothic styles which took place in the reign of Stephen. The windows are single, round-headed lights; the doors are of the same shape, adorned with zigzag or rectangular mouldings; the columns of the church massy, but clustered, with pointed arches and with Saxon capitals, each varying in pattern from the rest. The cloister quadrangle, with the various apartments surrounding it, is nearly entire. The original refectory (for there is another of much later date) has been a magnificent vaulted room supported on two fine cylindrical columns, each of a single stone. The chapter-house is partly of the original structure, and partly an enlargement, little prior to the Dissolution. The tower, according to the practice of the twelfth century, was carried

[* Corrected and enlarged from Walbran's "Memorials of Fountains Abbey," p. 205.]

Reference.

- A Nave.
- B Choir.
- C North Transept.
- D South Transept.
- E Sacristy.
- F Original Chapter House.
- G Addition to Chapter House in the North and South Walls of which Stone Coffins are built in.
- H Cell.
- I In this are the remains of Stairs for going up to Dorter.
- K Passage to Infirmary.
- L Fraternity or Common Hall.
- M Kitchen.
- N Refectory.
- O Stores and Buttery.
- P Addition to Refectory.
- Q Domus Conversorum and Cellarage.
- R Magister Conversorum, &c.
- SS Infirmary.
- T Open Court.
- VV Large Circular Arches, very unusual in this position.
- W Passage, same as at Clairvaux. From appearance the wall shewn dotted was probably pulled down before the Dissolution.
- XX Abbot's Lodging.
- Y Rere Dorter



THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF A PORCH HERE

Ground Plan of Kirkstall Abbey

Scale of Feet

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J. Wilson del.

N.W. view of Kirkstall Abbey

Theodor J. Geyl del.

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at first little higher than the roof; but a lofty and graceful addition made to it, apparently about the time of Henry VII., so loaded the columns on which it stood that, about twenty years ago, the north-west pillar suddenly gave way, and drew after it an enormous ruin of two sides of the whole tower, which has, perhaps, contributed to the picturesque effect of the whole. The cloister court was the monks' cemetery; and about six years ago the gravestone of one of the last of the society was found in fragments, though nothing more of the inscription was legible than,

m'nachus huius domus, A.D. MDCXX.

At the same time the remains of a coffin, consisting of plates of beaten iron, were discovered.

The morning sun, thrown full upon the eastern front, is here finely contrasted by the impenetrable gloom of the vaulted apartments within, and the fortunate neglect of two centuries and a half has spread over the walls a mantling of the most luxuriant ivy; while the aged wych-elms, whose roots twine about the foundations, rear their heads among the pinnacles, and produce a disposition of light and shade which have long rendered Kirkstall a favourite subject for the pencil and the graver.*

Though this abbey is at least ten miles from the extremity of Craven, its own merit and near connexion with Barnoldswick will, it is hoped, apologise for so long a digression.

After the translation it was probably not many years before the parish church [of Barnoldswick] was rebuilt, though at the distance of a mile and a half from the former. This change of situation was probably intended for the convenience of Marton, which did not long want it. The present church stands upon the brink of a deep glen, whence it has obtained the name of Gill Church. The choir, from its long lancet [early English] windows, three of which occupy their original position in the east end, together with its slender buttresses, which run out beneath the square, seems to be the identical building by which the monks replaced their own work of havoc about the reign of Henry III.; but it has been raised, and the stalls within repaired, at a much later period. On the north-east end of the stalls are carved the arms of Kirkstall—viz., three swords in fess. The steeple, which is strong and handsome, and, from its elevated situation, a good object on every side, has the following date, CCCCXXIIII., intended for 1524; and the only instance I ever observed in which the millenary numeral is omitted; but the omission was designed, for the stone is evidently entire. [The tower contains three bells. The first has the legend, "PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD;" the second, "RENDER THEREFORE UNTO CÆSAR THE THINGS WHICH ARE CÆSAR'S, AND TO GOD THE THINGS WHICH ARE GOD'S." The tenor is inscribed, "WILLIAM DRAKE, CHURCHWARDEN,"]

[The manor of Barnoldswick, in the parish of Gilkirke, in Yorkshire, was formerly parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, and never belonged to the abbey of Kirkstall, and therefore not tithe-free.—"Mitchell v. Brogden," 1; Wood, p. 354; quoted in Lawton's "Collections," p. 247.]

No vicarage was ever endowed in this church. The great tithes belong to Lord Petre.

* Passing by a herd of ordinary tourists and describers, see a charming account of this ruin by Mr. Gray, "Letters," ed. 4to. p. 379.

who exercises a subordinate ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the probate of wills and granting letters of administration, &c., and nominates a curate.* The church retains the original dedication of Barnoldswick to St. Mary, and its certified value is 5*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; but the actual endowment consists in an ancient pension of fourteen nobles, paid out of the great and small tithes; a tenement, valued at 12*l.*; the rent of the churchyard, or 5*s.*; 3*l.* for preaching two sermons; and one augmentation at least from Queen Anne's Bounty. In the register of Abp. Zouch is the following dimission, which will prove how early the church had acquired the name of Gill Church:—

“Will'mus, &c. Abb. et Conv. Mon. de Kirkstall, Ecclesiam sive Capellam de Gillkirke in usus proprios optinentibus, sal'm.

“Cum nos nuper in visitatione nostrâ quam exercuimus in Decanatu de Craven vos super retentione illius Eccl. sive capellæ et super p'ceptione decimar' et oblac'onum ac collac' sacramentorum et sacramentalium in eadem fecerimus coram nobis evocari; visisq. et exam. omnibus munimentis et evidentiis, &c. volentes super pr'missis gratiam facere specialem, ab ulteriori impetitione officii n'ri in hac parte pro toto tempore n'ro vos dimittimus. Dat. III die April, A.D. MCCCXXXV.”

In a ditch near this church was found, some years ago, an old English tankard of wood, with a broad rim of copper, gilt and richly chased, together with a small jar of bell-metal, which last, had it been found alone or in other company, I should have thought Roman; but they were probably thrown here in some of the plundering excursions of the Scots.

The present parish and manor of Barnoldswick are co-extensive;† but within these bounds are contained the hamlets of Salterforth, Brokden, and Barnoldswick Coates. Elwinthorp, mentioned by Serlo, the monk, is lost; and Salterforth has arisen since.

The freeholders are joint lords; but elect three of their own number to exercise their rights.

I have never been able to discover who was the first grantee of this manor after the Dissolution of monasteries. The first family who *appear* to be possessed of it after that event are the Banisters; for in the 23rd Elizabeth a pardon is granted to John Hammerton and Nicholas Middleton, for that they had purchased, without licence, of John Banester,

* INCUMBENTS OF GILL CHURCH, BARNOLDSWICK.

1596.	Robert Coldocke.
1612.	John Eastwood.
1626.	Francis Piell.
1643.	George Stott.
1671.	Thomas Garfort.
1678.	Isaac Lancaster, also Vicar of Bracewell.
1717.	Arthur Tempest, B.A., ditto.
1750.	Charles Pindar.
7 June, 1751.	John Riley.
21 July, 1772.	Wilfrid Burton, also minister of New Church, in Pendle. per mort.
5 Oct. 1785.	David Greenough. Presented by Edmund Starkie, of Huntroyd.
24 Aug. 1791.	Edward Capstack. Presented by Nicholas Starkie, of Frenchwood.
1820.	Mordaunt Barnard, B.A., also minister of Thornton.
26 Sept. 1836.	Richard Milner, B.A. Presented by R. Hodson, Esq.
19 Aug. 1870.	Samuel Henry Ireson, M.A. Patron, Josiah Ireson, Esq.

The parish registers commence in 1587; they contain a separate list of all Dissenters' baptisms from 1717 to 1776. In 1832 the Rev. M. Barnard made a careful index to them of 500 pages.

[† The lord of the manor has from time immemorial had the right of granting probates and administrations; but the steward returned in 1829 that no court had been held for twenty-three years last past, and he stated that the wills were then in the custody of the representatives of the late John Cockshott, Esq., of Bracewell.—Lawton's "Collections," p. 247.]

a capital messuage, parcel of the manor of Bernoldswick, in Craven, which is held *in capite*.*

Barnoldswick Cotes belonged to Sallay Abbey, and was granted, with the other estates of this house, to Arthur Darcy, by two charters, in the 35th and 37th Henry VIII.† It appears, however, to have been alienated to the Banesters, whom I find in possession of this estate from 4th to 30th Elizabeth, when it was found, by inquisition, that Ralph Banester‡ held ten messuages, ten tofts, ten gardens, 200 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, and 200 of pasture, in Bernoldswick Coates, of the queen *in capite*, by the fortieth part of a knight's fee.§

The next owners of the estate, and probably by purchase from the Banesters, were the Drakes,|| of whom Thomas Drake, second son of John, of the parish of Halifax, was Rector of Thornton, and had issue William Drake, Esq., justice of the peace in 1667. He had a son and grandson William, successively possessed of the estate, the latter of whom died in the year 1758. The present owner is Sir William Bagshaw, Knt., M.D. [See pedigree on next page.] There is a large hall house, now much neglected, which, from the style of it, appears to have been built by the Drakes about the middle of the last century but one.¶

Comparative state of population in the parish of Bernoldswick.

1600.	Baptized 12.	Buried 10.
1700.	" 29.	" 27.
1800.	" 26.	" 22.

* Tower Records, eo an.

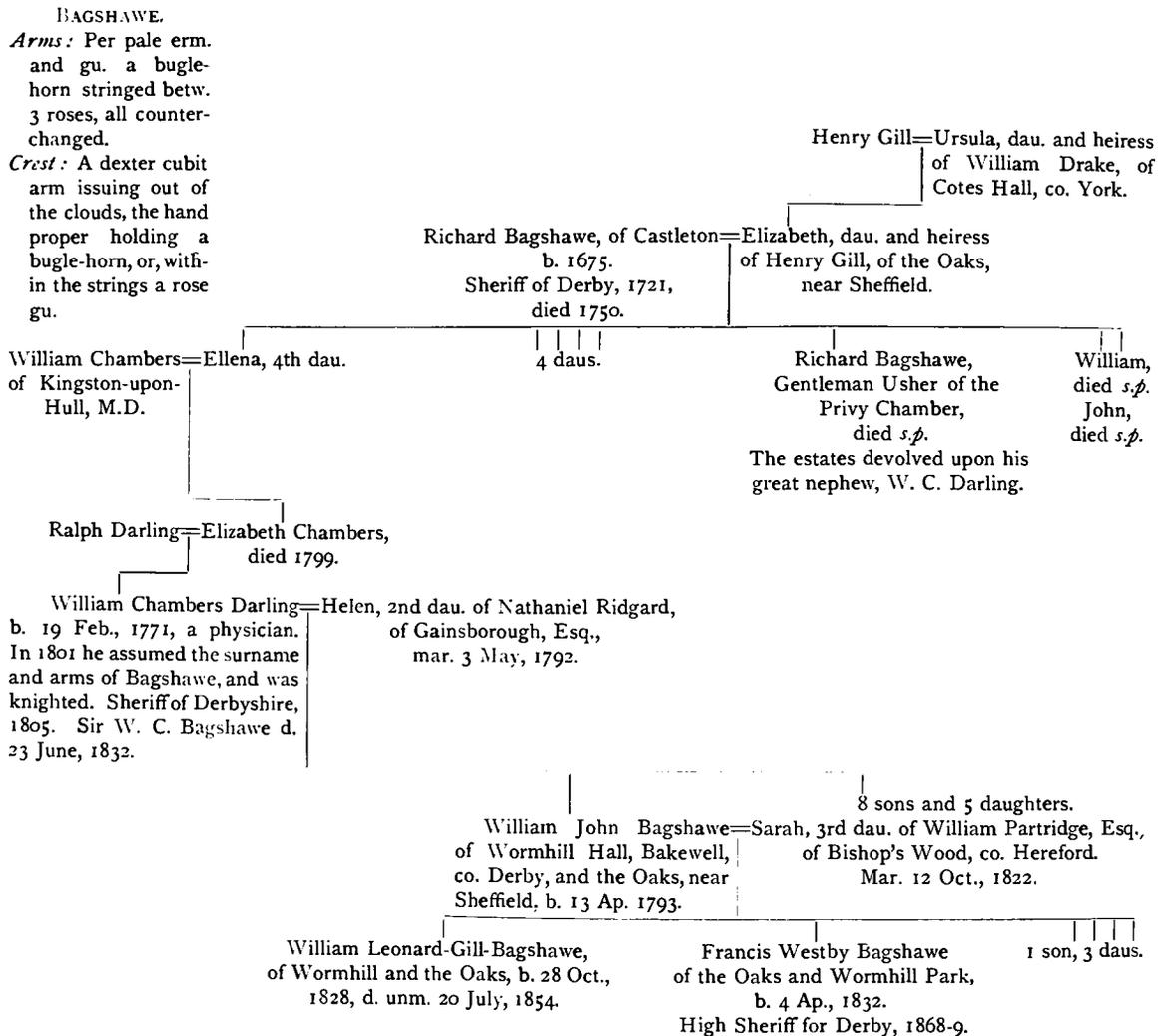
† Mr. Curren's "Collections."

‡ *Ibid.*

[§ The township of Coates contains 632 a. 3 r. 29 p., and the township of Brogden-with-Admergill 1,782 a. 1 r. 22 p. In these townships are the remains of a Roman road, and on the south side of it, near Brogden Hall, several querns have been found. In 1842 a chapel-of-ease, dedicated to St. James, was erected.]

[|| *Arms*: Argent a wyvern sejant gules.]

¶ For the old dispute relating to Bernoldswick, whether it was or was not within the chace of Blackburnshire, see "Mon. Ang." vol. i. p. 858; Stevens, vol. ii. p. 246; and many accurate references to the Tower Records in Tanner's "Not. Mon." ed. Nasmith. The reader will remember that it is my rule to repeat as little as possible from printed books.



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