

RIBBLESDALE.

PARISH OF HORTON.*



HIS parish belongs neither to the Percy fee nor the wapontake of Staincliffe, though it is within the deanery of Craven.

But, had natural boundaries been attended to in the formation of civil districts, it could scarcely have been separated from the rest of Ribblesdale, to which it forms an interesting though obscure termination. Stretching along the valley about eight miles from north to south, and from the skirts of Ingleborough to the summit of Penigent, in the opposite direction, it contains within its limits the sources of the Ribble and the Wharf,† and is enclosed between two of the most distinguished mountains in the island.‡

The beauties of Ribblesdale may be said to expire at Horton;§ for, in tracing the course of the Ribble upwards, the woods gradually dwindle, the verdure of the fields diminishes, and the stream becomes a mountain torrent, hurrying along a shallow and desolate valley, which conducts the persevering inquirer to a spring in the ridge of Cam, the origin of Belisama. The respective characters of the same river at its source and outlet often lead to amusing comparisons; but the contrast is nowhere more striking than in the instance before us: the Dun of Dornadilla is scarcely more wild and solitary than the head of Ribble: the gay and peopled scenes on the Thames hardly exceed the environs of Penwortham, where it mingles with the sea.

Horton is so called (qu. Horetown?) as being often grey with sleet when the lower grounds are unsprinkled. Every village of this name with which I am acquainted stands comparatively high.

[* The parish is situated in the wapontake of Ewcross, and includes the hamlets of Birkwith, Studfield, and Thornes, and contains, according to the Ordnance Survey, an area of 17,256 a. 3 r. 2 p. An Inclosure Act was passed 54th George III. In 1871 there were in this parish 916 persons, living in 137 houses.]

† The Wharf rises in the very boundary of this parish and Arncliffe.

[‡ In the limestone about Horton are some curious water-caverns, of which Alum, Allen, or Helln Pot is the most important; it is situated at the foot of Simon Fell, and not far from Selside, and said by Phillips to be "a deep and gloomy cavern" connected with other remarkable and complicated caverns, called Long Churn and Diccan Pot, difficult of access, but rendered interesting by underground falls of water." These caves are most graphically described and illustrated by Boyd Dawkins in his "Cave Hunting," p. 41.]

§ And very abruptly. At Stainforth, a little below, is all the verdure and cheerfulness of a Craven valley.

This parish is not surveyed in Domesday;* and the first known facts in its history are several successive donations of land within it to the monks of Fors or Jorevall.† From its proximity to the parish of Aysgarth, it seems probable that these grants‡ were made before that house was translated to its more remote situation.

The names of these early benefactors, and the extent of their donations, are found in other collections,§ and therefore I forbear to repeat them; but it may be proper to mention that Henry III. confirmed the gift of six oxgangs in this territory, with the homage and service of Richard the clerk, to the monks of Jorevall, and Edward I. granted to them free warren in Horton.||

After the Dissolution the manor¶ was granted to Matthew Earl of Lenox, and in the reign of Charles II. was sold to certain persons in trust for the proprietors at large.**

When the church was founded, and how the monks of Jorevall became possessed of the rectory, does not appear.†† In the "Coucher Book" of Fountains an Adam Persona de Horton and Hen. Persona de Gukleswic attest a charter, in which Nigel de Plumpton is mentioned; and Nigel is known to have lived in the reign of Richard I. and John. No vicarage was ever endowed, and the cure was probably supplied, till the Dissolution, by a mere stipendiary. It is now a perpetual curacy [now, 1877, a vicarage], and was presented to till lately by the owner of the great tithes (the late Mr. Wilson Morley); but when they were parcelled out among the proprietors, the advowson was purchased by the Rev. George Holden, the present incumbent.

[From the institution-books at York and Ripon I find the following incumbents:—

Temp. Inst.	Incumbents.	Patrones.	Vacat.
28 July, 1745.	<i>Joseph Hudson.</i>	Rev. <i>Thomas Wilson.</i>	per resig.
11 March, 1769.	<i>William Paley.</i>	Rev. <i>Thos. Wilson, D.D.</i>	per resig.
28 June, 1788.	<i>William Hughes.</i>	Rev. <i>Thos. Wilson Morley.</i>	per resig.
21 May, 1798.	<i>George Holden.</i>	Rev. <i>George Holden.</i>	per mort.
21 June, 1821.	<i>George Holden, A.M.</i>	Rev. <i>George Holden.</i>	per resig.
18 Dec. 1825.	<i>William Bury.</i>	Rev. <i>George Holden.</i>	per resig.
16 Aug. 1866.	<i>Amos William Pitcher.</i>	The Bishop of <i>Ripon.</i>	per resig.
29 Nov. 1872.	<i>Joseph Senior, LL.D., Vicar.</i>	The Bishop of <i>Ripon.</i>	

* Unless this is intended:—"In the land of Roger of Poitou Torfin had in Hortune two carucates."—Bawdwen's "Domesday," p. 230.]

† Horton, in Ribblesdale, was also not surveyed in Kirkby's "Inquest;" but in the "Nomina Villarum" (9th Edward II.) the Abbot of Jorevall is described as being lord of the manor.]

‡ None of our monastic writers have mentioned the situation of Fors, from which this abbey was translated to the more genial climate of Witton, where it assumed the name of Gervaulx, Joreval or De Valle Uri. I have no doubt that it stood in the churchyard of Aysgarth, an area of eight acres near the Fors, and on a particular spot southward of the church, where there are considerable foundations remaining. The first sites of religious houses which were translated in the eleventh or twelfth centuries are become almost as obscure as Roman stations.

§ "Mon. Ang." vol. i. p. 879, and Burton, p. 369.

|| Cart. 18 Edw. I.

¶ The annual rent of this manor, and the estates annexed to it, was at the Dissolution 32*l.* 5*s.*—Burton, *ubi supra.*

** The demesne lands of the manor of Horton are tithe-free, as having been formerly parcel of the possessions of the monastery of Jervaux.—Case of *Wilson v. Redman*, 1 Wood, p. 64.]

†† "The presentation of the church of Horton having lapsed to us by reason of a contention between the abbat and convent of Jorevall and dom. Ranulph fil. Henr', we collate Robert de Fegeshe clerk to it."—Archbishop Gray's Register, Westm', 15 kal. Julii xxii. 1237. The archbishop appropriates the church of Horton to the nuns of St. Clement, York, "inducente nos paupertate et inopia;" the advowson of which has been given to them by "nobilis mulier" Alicia de Stavelay: reserving to the church of Gikleswic the pension therefrom.—Archbishop Gray's Register, Cawod. 7 id. Sept. 1249.]

The fabric of the church, excepting the tower, is of high antiquity (evidently of the first era of church-building in the deanery). Richard the clerk, mentioned above, who lived in the reign of Henry III., seems to have been the incumbent of this church, but the present edifice is probably as old as Henry I. It has a nave and three [two] aisles, all of the original structure: the door is plain Norman, the arches semicircular, the columns cylindrical, the font of the same figure, with zigzag ornaments like that of Burnsall. It is said to be dedicated to St. Oswald, but more probably to Thomas Becket, for in the east window is a mitred head, and beneath it *Thomas Cantuar'*, seemingly intended for that prelate. It is indeed of Henry VIII.'s time; but the monks of that day had little inducement to paint the head of their contemporary metropolitan, Thomas Cranmer. In the same window is a shield of arms, *vair gu. and arg.*, which I think belonged to Jorevall Abbey, as they did originally to the Barons Marmion, who, after the Earls of Bretagne, were accounted second founders of that house; for, whenever the first founders lived before the introduction of armorial bearings, it was usual for the monks to adopt those of some great benefactor of later date.

It was probably this bearing which misled Leland into an opinion that the Marmions were original founders of Jorevall; for saith that great antiquary,—

Urivallis	}	Apon ure	}	Lord Marmion was the first founder.*
Gervaux.		Abbay of White Monkes Ripa citeriore a 11 miles beneth Middleham.		

[The church—which is dedicated to St. Oswald, is in a neglected state, and of the roughest workmanship—consists of nave and *two* aisles, chancel, square tower at west end, and a south porch. The arcade consists of three circular arches with round piers, except one on north side, which is octagonal, and has a shield with a fleur-de-lis sculptured on the cap. There are two larger circular arches with octagonal piers, and then two others, which probably were in the chancel, very slightly pointed. The piers appear to be of Norman or transitional character, and are very rudely worked. The windows in north aisle are circular-headed, but appear to be modern, and have wooden frames; those in the south aisle are perpendicular, as is also the east window, which has three lights. There has been a clerestory, and the corbels of the low lean-to aisles still remain; but the church is now roofed all over, from the nave to the aisle walls, in one roof, so that the clerestory is enclosed. The font is circular, and of Norman character, with rude cable mouldings. There are three bells: 1. "GEO DALTON YORK FECIT 1770;" 2. "GEO DALTON YORK FOUNDER 1776" (he cast a peal of five bells for North Cave Church in 1772); 3. "In *Jucunditate Soñe Sonabo tibi Dñe* 1614 (shield with a bell, and above it the letters W O)." Of the three small remains of stained glass in the east window, one has the portion of a shield, *vairy arg. and gu., a bordure az. bezanty* (omitted by Dr. Whitaker in his description). This coat was borne by the families of De-la-River, Scarshall, Marlêy, and Marmaduke. The upper part of the third light has a few fragments of ornament. There are not any

* Leland's "Itinerary," vol. v. p. 113.

monuments, but four loose brass inscriptions of eighteenth century date, upon one of which, to the memory of Janet Dowbiggin, who died in 1797, are the lines—

“For this lost friend
A tear will trickle and a sigh ascend.”

The parish registers date from 1556, copied into a parchment book in 1607. In 1597 the large number of fifty-eight funerals are recorded. The entries for marriages are apparently defective from 1707 to 1718. In 1827 the church was under repair, for a licence was granted on the 25th April to hold service in the schoolroom during such repairs.]

I am not acquainted with any other antiquities in this parish than a very large and high barrow of stones near the road to Selside, which has been partially removed; but as the central part has not been explored, no discoveries have yet been made.

No families of much antiquity or consideration have arisen in this parish, as perhaps the whole consisted of abbey lands before the Dissolution, and was distributed into moderate properties since.

No manufactories have as yet found their way into this sequestered parish; and the following statement will show how conducive a fine mountain air and pastoral habits are to the extension of human life :—

1600. Baptised, 20. Buried, 12.
1700. No register.
1800. Baptised, 17. Buried, 11.

The population is stated to be 570; so that something less than one in fifty-five dies annually.

[There is on the north side of the churchyard a free grammar school, founded by John Armistead, Esq., by deed dated 25th January, 1725. He endowed it with land, and money with which estates were purchased by the then trustee. The master to be in holy orders. The school is open to the boys of the parish indefinitely, free of expense. They are admitted at any age, and may remain until they have finished a classical education. About 1818 the income from the endowment was 180*l.* *per annum.* It is now (1877) 320*l.*

The Rev. George Holden, LL.D., who died in February, 1821, in the 64th year of his age, was master of this school for nearly forty years, and during this time educated a greater number of clergymen for the Establishment than most men in a similar situation. He was a man of high classical and mathematical attainments. He was succeeded in September, 1821, by the Rev. Thomas Borrowdale.

In the parish of Horton-in-Ribblesdale the Abbot of Fountains owned Stodherd Hall and Fontaunce Scale.]

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