

PARISH OF KETTLEWELL.*



ETELWELL is the "Well of Ketel," a personal name often occurring in the earlier charters of this country.†

The survey of this manor in Domesday is as follows :—

Ṿ In Chetelwell h̄b Ulf 1 . car' ad gr̄d^{dim c'} Huburgeham . Stamphotone. ‡

It was then a part of the vast possessions of Roger de Poitou ; and soon after alienated to the Percies. By them it was granted out at an uncertain, though undoubtedly an early period, to the family De Arches, who held it in the latter end of Henry I. or in the beginning of Stephen. The witnesses to the Charter of Arnford,§ which is certainly of that period, are all inhabitants of Ketelwell and the neighbourhood ; and, as they are mostly Saxon, it is by no means improbable that some of them were born before the Conquest. Those who know the place in its present state, and who love to indulge their imaginations in views of distant antiquity, will not be displeased with the following catalogue of its principal inhabitants, and those of the neighbouring villages, at the date of that Charter ; Ralph the dean, and Ralph his chaplain, and Gregory the scribe, and Henry de Bukdene, and Pain de Ketelwell, and Horm de Littun and Ulph his brother, and Swane the prepositus (bailiff) of Ketelwell, and Harnold his brother, and Randulph, Berner, and Richard, sons of the dean, and Hornold son of Amfrid, and Fulcher. These were the friends and principal dependents of the De Arches in this place more than seven hundred years ago. I am unable to connect the later descents of this family with Osbern de Arches, one of the great proprietors of Craven at the Domesday survey. The first who occurs afterwards was Peter, who certainly resided at Kettlewell. and was probably father of—

[* The parish includes the township of Starbottom, and contains, according to the Ordnance Survey, 8,412a. 3r. In 1871 there were in the parish 498 inhabitants in 119 houses. In the 41st and 56th George III. Inclosure Acts were passed for Starbottom and Buckden.]

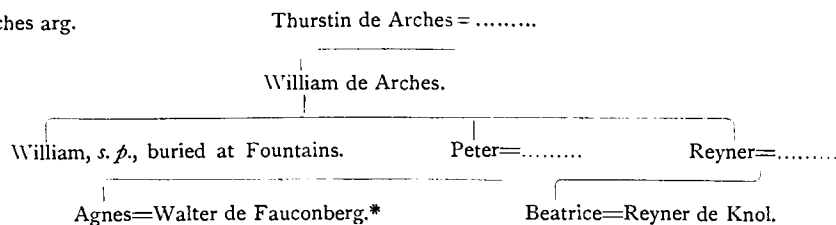
[† KETELWELL CUM STAUERBOT.—In eisdem villis sunt VIII car. terræ ; de quibus Elyas de Knoll tenet II car. terræ de Roberto de Grey et Abbate de Coverham, et iidem Robertus et Abbas de Osberto de Archis, et hæ' de Archis ten' de hæredibus de Percy, et iidem hæredes de rege in capite ; et residuæ VI car. terræ, quarum Abbas de Coverham tenet III car. terræ, et Robertus de Grey alias III car. tenentur de hæredibus de Archis, et iidem hæredes de prædictis hæredibus de Percy ; et tota villa redd. ad finem prædictum IIIIs.—Kirkby's "Inquest."

The Lords of the manor of Kettlewell in the 9th Edward II. were the Abbot of Coverham, John de Gisburn, and John Lord Gray. (John Lord Gray of Rotherfield died in 5th Edward II. His heir was his son John.)—"Nomina Villarum."

[‡ Manor.—In Chetelwell (Kettlewell), Ulf had 1 carucate to be taxed. Huburgeham (Hubberholme), half a carucate. In Stamphotone (Starbottom), half a carucate.]

§ Vide Arnford, p. 155.

Arms: Gu. 3 arches arg.



Agnes de Arches had issue Walter and Peter. Walter gave to Peter half the manor, and a mediety of the advowson of Kettlewell. In the 21st Edward I. Robert de Gray held the said moiety of Sir Walter de Fauconberg,† for homage and service and one pair of gloves at Easter. John de Grey was heir, and of the age of 23 years.‡ At the time of Kirkby's Inquest, which must have been made before the death of Robert de Gray of Rotherfield, or 23rd Edward I. [actually in 13th Edward I.], it appears that there were eight carucates of land in Kettlewell (an eightfold increase in two centuries), of which Elias de Knol held two of Robert de Gray and the Abbot of Coverham, and they of Osbert de Arches, and he of the heirs of Percy, and they of the king *in capite*: and the Abbot of Coverham held three other carucates of Robert de Gray:§ and the remaining three carucates were held of the heirs of the Arches, who held them as before. Robert de Gray was grand nephew of Walter Gray, Archbishop of York, the founder of this branch of the family. By inquisition, after his death, it is found that he died seised of a moiety of the manor of Kettlewell; and the monks of Coverham appear to have held the other; but it nowhere appears how either the one or the other acquired their portions from the Arches. The remaining three carucates were held of this family by several inferior proprietors, who granted considerable portions of them to Fountains Abbey, which the Arches confirmed.

Free warren in Kettlewell was granted to the abbot and convent of Coverham, 55 Henry III. [1270-1] and long after—namely, 4 Edward III. [1330-1], to Sir John Gray of Rotherfield.¶ Each of these, though referring only to its own moiety, is expressed as if it extended to the whole manor. After the extinction of the Grays of Rotherfield, by the death of the last heir male, 11 Richard II. [1387-8], leaving an infant daughter Joan, afterwards married to Sir John Deincourt, I find nothing more relating to this moiety of the manor till the reign of Henry IV., when it passed into the family of the Nevilles, Earls of Westmoreland. No intermarriage took place between that family and the Deincourts which will account for this transfer; but Sir John Deincourt above-mentioned was born at Middleham; most probably a posthumous child, under the care of the Nevilles; his elder brother, who died *s. p.*, being only one year old at his father's death. I am inclined therefore to believe that this manor was obtained in the way of grant, or purchase, from this

* Coucher Book of Fountains.

[† Walter de Faukenbergh gave to the monks of Fountains his pasture in Kettlewell lying between Grasp and Dimlingdale.—Burt. "Mon." 174.]

‡ MSS. J. C. Brooke, in Off. Arm.

[§ John de Grey de Rotherfeld, and Margaret his wife, were found to have owned the manor and church of Ketelewell.—5th Edward II. (1311-12) Inq. *post mortem*.]

young man, by the Neviles; for in the Patent Rolls of Henry IV., an. 6 and 7, and again, in the 11th year of the same reign [1409-10], are two successive licences granted to Ralph Earl of Westmoreland, of free warren in the vill of Kettelwell in Craven, together with a licence to inclose three hundred acres of land within the same for a park, and to build and kernel a lodge within it.

This is the origin of Skale Park, now divided into two large inclosures, and so called from a long and steep ascent within it from Craven into Coverdale.

If the reader will attend to the chronology of these two licences, he will find that John Deincourt was aged about 17 years at the date of the first, and 21 at that of the second. The Neviles, therefore, had just cause to doubt the validity of their former title, and to ratify it after the full age of Deincourt.

I have only to add, that this portion of the manor continued, without any other alienation, in the Westmoreland family till the attainder of the last unfortunate earl, A.D. 1569, when it became forfeited to the Crown, and has since been broken into many inconsiderable properties.*

The other moiety, belonging to the monks of Coverham, was already vested in the Crown; and had, in all probability, been granted out already, as well as the estates in the parish belonging to Fountains. The manor is now claimed by the freeholders at large, and no considerable family has ever arisen in the parish to unite the dispersed members of it again.

In Kettlewell twelve carucates constituted a knight's fee.

Of the foundation of the church at Kettlewell there is no account. There can be little doubt that it was founded by the Arches in the time of Henry I., or perhaps a little before.† The canons of Bolton had the advowson at a very early period, and continued long after to receive a pension out of it of *1l. per annum*.

Among the attestations of some very ancient charters appears a Radulphus de Ketelwella, and about half a century later an Adam Decanus de Ernecliff.

I had once conjectured that the word Decanus was improperly used in these places for Deacon, and was not displeased to find that the same idea had struck so able an antiquary as Mr. Brooke; but am now convinced that we were both mistaken. For, first, in the original grant of Arnforth, which, from the names of the witnesses, was plainly made by Peter de Arches at Kettlewell, the first of the number is Radulphus Decanus, the second, Radulphus Capellanus Radulphi; which proves the first to have been an ecclesiastic of consequence. Secondly, in the year 1186, I meet with an Adam Decanus de Craven, of whom there is the strongest reason to believe that he was the same with Adam Dean of

* It was sold off by Queen Elizabeth.—MSS. J. C. Brooke, Off. Arm.

† No account appears of their donation of this church to the priory of Bolton; but among Mr. Brooke's papers is an abstract of a charter, by which Peter de Arches grants to that house 2 bovates which Seward held, and another bovat in his demesne, which he had given to Adam de Bukdene in marriage with his sister, and one essart of 16 acres, with a third part of the liberties and services which he held in Woods and Feedings in Ketelwell. With respect to the assignment of this advowson, there is the following entry in the Comptus of Christopher Lofthouse, Prior of Bolton, 12 Edward IV. :—

“Ketylwell.—Abbat de Coverh'm pr. Advocacio'e Eccle'ie de Ketylwell xxs. per an. pro qui' quidem xxs. idem Abbas obligavit villam de Wallerburne, &c. ad districtionem, &c. si in solucio'e dict. XXs. defecerit pro anno. D'ns Ric' Dux Gloucest' ten't libe' ib'm div. ten't ut patet in cartis D'ni Walt. Gray.”

Arncliffe. From these premises my conclusion is, that these two ecclesiastics were respectively rectors of Kettlewell and Arncliffe, who, being also rural deans of Craven, were denominated not from the district over which they presided, but from the place of their residence.

At that early period the office of rural dean was of considerable use and authority. It has since been in a great measure superseded by the office of archdeacon.*

In the 6th of Henry III. [1221-2], six years before the first presentation of the Abbot of Coverham, is a fine between Con.... abbot of that house, and Robert prior of Bolton, his disturber, of a moiety of the advowson of Ketelwell, which the prior acknowledges to be the right of the said abbot; receiving in consideration of the same one oxgang in Kettlewell, and paying in return to the abbot one pound of pure incense. I suppose this was afterwards commuted into a rent-charge of 20s.

The next document, which also points to the era of married priests, I shall give in the words of the charter itself—

“Lecia quondam uxor Alex. clerici de Ketelwel, in purâ viduitate d. &c. Agneti filie Helie de Ketelwell unum toftum inter Domos Canonicorum de Coverham et Domum Randolph’ Mutte, reddendo lumini Beate Marie in Ketelwel 1 den. in Natale Domini. Test. Rob. clerico avunculo meo.” †

RECTORS OF KETTLEWELL.

Radulphus decanus de Ketelwella circ. A.D. 1140.
Ricardus persona de Ketelwell, S.D.

ABBOT’S MEDIETY.

Temp. Inst.	Rectores.	Patroni.	Vacat.
6 kal. Maii, 1229.	<i>Tho. fil. Mathei</i> , nepos. <i>Tho. titulo Se. Sabine</i> , Presb. Cardinalis. ‡	Ab. et Conv. de <i>Coverham</i> . Æ’pus per lapsum.	
6 kal. Oct. 1280.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Blunham</i> , Subdiac.	Ab. et Conv. de <i>Coverham</i> .	
14 kal. Feb. 1283.	Dns. <i>Rob. de Lydington</i> , Diac.	Iidem.	
2 kal. Aug. 1306.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Mirks</i> , vel <i>Monkton</i> , Cl.	Iidem.	per resig.
1307.	Dns. <i>Wm. de Sherburne</i> , Cap.	Iidem.	per resig.
8 id. Oct. 1310.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Sutton</i> , Acoly.	Iidem.	
3 non. Oct. 1315.	Dns. <i>Rog. de la More</i> , Presb.	Iidem.	per resig.
2 kal. Aug. 1331.	Dns. <i>Adam de Aynho</i> , Presb.	Iidem.	{ per res. pro eccl. de Berningham.
1333.	Dns. <i>Hen. de Ascryks</i> .	Iidem.	per resig.
1348.	Fr. <i>Tho. de Burton</i> .	Iidem.	

GREY’S MEDIETY.

4 kal. Jul. 1300.	Dns. <i>W. de Moreby</i> , Presb.	Dns. <i>Joh. Grey</i> , miles, de <i>Rotherfeld</i> .
3 id. Feb. 1301.	Dns. <i>Baldwin de Stonore</i> , Subd.	Iidem.

* See Bishop Kennet’s learned and accurate Dissertation on Rural Deans, “Paroch. Ant.” p. 685 & seq.

† Townley MSS.

‡ This obscure and diminutive parish is the only one in the Deanery which has been honoured with a Cardinal for its incumbent. The scarlet hat was little to be expected at Kettlewell.

[Collation of Thos., son of Matthew, nephew of Thos., cardinal-priest of S. Sabina, to the church of Kettlewell, which has come to us through a dispute about the patronage.—Archbishop Gray’s Register, Sireburn, 6 kal. *Martii*, 1228.]

Temp. Inst.		Rectores.	Patroni.	Vacat.
2 id. Mart.	1308.	Dns. <i>Joh. Kent de Campedon</i> , Acolythus. } Dns. <i>Ric. de Wethby</i> .	Dns. <i>Joh. Grey</i> . Idem.	
9 kal. Sept.	1339.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Brygenhall</i> , Acolythus. } Dns. <i>Wm. de Wyntringham</i> , Cl.	Idem. Idem.	per resig. per mort.
29 Aug.	1349.	Dns. <i>Wm. de Wyntringham</i> , Cl.	Idem.	per resig.
26 Maii,	1362.	Dns. <i>Wm. Cayham</i> , Presb.	Idem.*	

Thus much for the rectory of Kettlewell, of which it is altogether uncertain when it was divided into two mediety; though the probability is that the separation took place when the two portions of the manor itself were severally alienated to the Greys of Rotherfield, and the abbey of Coverham by the family De Arches.

It is remarkable that no presentation on the part of the Greys appears to have taken place till more than seventy years after the first appointment by the monks; but this is far from proving that no mediety then existed, as the four nominations by the latter which took place in that interval refer to a mediety only. The difficulty may be solved by supposing that the anonymous institution in the former catalogue (anonymous with respect to the patron as well as the clerk), A.D. 1280, has been misplaced, and belonged to the portion of the Greys.

I must also remark another error in Torre's MS., whence the foregoing catalogue was extracted, as it appears from the register of Archbishop Zouch that Askrig was rector of Grey's mediety; and this observation brings me to the endowment of the vicarage; for, on the 4th of December, 1344, this mediety, which must have been previously bestowed upon the abbey of Coverham by the Greys, was appropriated to the said house after the cession or decease of Henry de Askrig, then rector of that portion, the archbishop ordaining that there should be in the church of Kettlewell a vicar, presentable by the said house for ever; and that the vicarage should consist in the mansion of the rectory and in seven marks sterling, payable out of the fruits of the said mediety. And, in the year 1388, the whole church was once more appropriated by the commissary of Archbishop Alexander Neville, who ordained the vicarage to consist in the manse, as above, and in 5*l.* sterling, payable by the abbot and convent at Pentecost and Martinmas, in equal portions.

A third endowment, which is the present one, must have taken place; but I have not met with it.

The reduced taxation of this church in the year 1318, after the ravages of the Scots, is XII marks.

VICARS OF KETTLEWELL.

Temp. Inst.		Vicarii.	Patroni.	Vacat.
10 Nov.	1348.	Fr. <i>Tho. de Bruton</i> , Canonicus Domûs de } Coverham.	Ab. et Conv. ejusd.	per resig.
24 Aug.	1367.	Dns. <i>Joh. de Ryply</i> , Can. ib'm.	Idem.	per resig.
29 Maii,	1412.	Fr. <i>Rob. Monkton</i> , Can.	Idem.	

* By this is only meant that all these presentations run in the same name; but, in the period of sixty-two years, it denoted the grandfather, father, and son.

Temp.	Inst.	Vicarii.	Patroni.	Vacat.
		Fr. <i>Joh. Cartmell</i> , Can. ib'm.	Ab. et Conv. ejusd.	per mort.
5 Feb.	1476.	Fr. <i>Joh. York</i> , Confrater Mon. de Coverham.	Iidem.	per mort.
19 Junii,	1495.	Fr. <i>Tho. Wensley</i> ,* Can. Dns. de Coverham.	Iidem.	per mort.
30 Maii,	1511.	Fr. <i>Christopher Hilton</i> , Can.	Iidem.	
2 Maii,	1521.	Fr. <i>Joh. Gysburgh</i> , Can. mon. ib'm.	Iidem.	per mort.
26 Aug.	1521.	Fr. <i>Ger. Marrick</i> , Can. ib'm. <i>Henr. Hill</i> , Cl.	Iidem.	per mort.
7 Maii,	1585.	<i>John Lyndoe</i> , Cl. A.M.	A'ep'us per laps.	per mort.
4 Jan.	1593.	<i>Edm. Tatham</i> , Cl.	<i>Geo. Lister</i> , Gent.	per mort.
13 Mar.	1603.	<i>Hen. Motley</i> .	Iidem.†	per mort.
7 Maii,	1632.	<i>Ric. Tennant</i> , Cl. A.M. <i>Tho. Motley</i> , Cl.	<i>Hen. Hoyle</i> , Cl. A.M.	
27 Aug.	1670.	<i>Henry Motley</i> , Cl.	<i>Wil'mus Currer</i> , Gent.	per resig.
12 May,	1699.	<i>Henry Birch</i> .	<i>William Fawcett</i> , Gent.	per mort.
28 Jan.	1740.	<i>John Currer</i> , A.B.	Rex <i>Geo. II.</i> per laps.	per mort.
29 Sept.	1760.	<i>W'm Tennant</i> , Cl.	<i>Rich. Tennant of Hebden</i> , Gent.	per mort.
18 Dec.	1786.	<i>Joh. Norton</i> , A.B.	<i>Richard Tennant of Rothwell</i> .	per mort.
1 Nov.	1822.	<i>Jonathan Foster</i> .	<i>R. Foster</i> , Esq., of <i>Beggamans</i> .	per mort.
25 March,	1867.	<i>Dickens Haslewood</i> .	<i>Miss Bolland</i> .	

The only testamentary burial which I have met with in this church is of John Cartmell, vicar, by will dated 4th October, 1476.

In the last Computus of Coverham Abbey the rectory of Kettlewell is valued at 8*l.* 10*s.*, of which 6*l.* arose out of the tithes of wool and lamb, and only 15*s.* from that of corn. This shows how small a proportion of land was then in cultivation, though more, perhaps, than at present.

The vicarage of Kettlewell is a discharged living, valued at 22*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* clear.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is of high antiquity. The nave in particular, which has neither columns nor side-aisles, has narrow, round-headed windows, and cannot be later than the time of Henry I. The whole building is covered with lead, and has no tower. The Norman doorway and capitals of the two side columns remain. As no family of any considerable antiquity or wealth has ever been seated in the parish, here are no sepulchral memorials within the church or without which deserve to be recorded.

[A faculty was granted 21st August, 1819, and the church was entirely pulled down and rebuilt in 1820, in the worst style of even that period, and is now utterly uninteresting.] ‡

The font is extremely curious. It is cylindrical, like all others of the Saxon or Norman era, but with this peculiarity, that it has an aperture in the bottom for the purpose of drawing off the water when it grew foul. Beneath is another opening in the floor, by means of which the consecrated element might sink and be absorbed in holy ground; and, in order to keep this, too, open, the font itself is not placed, as usual, upon a solid base, but is mounted on four

* Al. Spensley.—Grose, vol. vi. p. 86.

† In the 4th of Charles I. [1628–9], Henry Kettlewell was vicar of this place.—Nelson's MS. Account of Tents and Subsidies paid by the Clergy of the West Riding in that year. I do not know how the omission happened, or whether it were the fault of the registrar, of Mr. Torre, or of my transcriber.

‡ There is a tombstone to the Rev. Jonathan Foster, forty-five years vicar of this parish, died 26th September, 1855, aged 82.]

square pedestals of stone, with large intervals between them. [This font is the only relic of the old church now remaining.]

This parish consists only of the townships of Kettlewell and Starbotom, anciently Stanerbotom, the latter of which has nothing remarkable about it but the stony course of a rapid mountain torrent, from which it derived its name; for Staner, in the dialect of Craven, like Stannary in that of Lancashire, signifies the stony bed of a torrent.

[Solomon Swale built a school-house on the waste at Kettlewell, and gave five sheep-gates on Middles Moor for keeping the buildings in repair. An allotment of about two acres was given on the division of the moor (some years before 1826) in lieu of the sheep-gates.]

The old registers of this parish being lost,* I am unable to derive my account of a dreadful catastrophe which once befel these villages from any clearer source than the "Magna Britannia Antiqua et Nova," a compilation published about the year 1720, of which the following paragraph may serve as a specimen:—

"In 1686, by a tempest, with thunder, the inhabitants of this village and Starbotom were almost all drowned with a violent flood. These towns are situate under a great hill, from whence the rain descended with such violence for an hour and a half together, the hill on the side opening, and casting up water into the air to the height of an ordinary church-steeple, that it demolished several houses, and carried away the stones entirely;" (after which it) "filled them with gravel to the chamber-windows, drove the inhabitants away" (they had almost all been drowned before), "filled the meadows with stones and gravel," &c. &c.†

The northern boundary of Skale Park, which is also that of Craven and the West Riding, has been a deep and broad trench, cut with infinite toil out of the limestone rock.‡ It seems rather the work of an army than of common labourers, and to have been intended to defend this important pass between valley and valley. I do not know that it is distinguished by any name, or that there is any tradition with respect to its use or antiquity.

At the bottom of this park, and on the margin of the brook eastward from the entrance, is Dove Cove, the finest cavern in the district. Its proportions are those of a lofty vaulted Gothic chapel, and the stalactites which adorn the sides and roof prove, I think, beyond controversy from what source the later enrichments of that order were derived.

From a late attempt to ascertain the height of Wherside, above Kettlewell, by the

* For the same reason it is impossible to give a comparative table of baptisms and burials. [This is not so; only a portion is missing; the registers commence in 1698.]

† For the clearness and consistency of this story the writer seems to have been indebted to the old saw—

"It so fell out they all fell in;
The rest they ran away."

[‡ This intrenchment is a long, irregular line, facing down the valley to the south-east, south, and south-west, and forming a barrier to any invader from the south.

It can hardly be called a broad trench, for though there is a trench, the scaur is the main noticeable feature. It would seem that, when there was no natural perpendicular face, one had been made artificially, so that the whole line is made to follow and utilise the natural escarpment of the rock to a height of from five feet to fifteen feet. At the base, all along the line, the trench or fosse has in many places been cut out of the solid rock, and above, on the top of the scaur, a rampart or vallum of stones and earth erected, of varying height, but even now from two to ten feet. The whole presented a somewhat formidable front, including the fosse, the scaur, and the vallum. The works commenced at the south-east end, on the very flank of Wherside, and were continued to the north-west for not less than about a mile and a half, to the Cam or top of the little Skale Park Gill. At the extreme south-east end of the intrenchment, towards Wherside, are about fifteen inclosures of rough stones, running at right angles to the vallum, and about twenty yards in length. They were probably inclosures for cattle.—From Notes by the Rev. Canon Boyd and Mr. R. Sidgwick.]

barometer, it appeared that the descent of the mercury from that village to the summit of the hill was only $1\frac{5}{10}$ inches, and consequently that the height of the mountain, from its immediate base, is only $1,305\frac{4}{100}$ feet.

From Bolton Abbey to Kettlewell the mercury fell $\frac{3}{10}$, which makes the ascent 255 feet. If, therefore, 150 feet be allowed for the elevation of Bolton above the sea, the whole height of Whernside above the universal level will not exceed 1,710 feet.*

It has often been matter of regret with me that I have been unable to retrieve any remains of traditionary poetry written by natives of Craven.† Their country was romantic, their manners pastoral, their dialect poetical,‡ and their amusements not devoid of imagination. But their efforts of invention seem to have been confined to the composition of rude dramatic performances such as have been already described. To remedy this defect I shall transgress—if, indeed, it be to transgress—the limits of the present work; for the parish of Kettlewell, since it fell into the hands of the Nevilles, has often been considered as a member of the fee of Middleham, and therefore of the honour of Richmond.

This must be my excuse for introducing here an ancient poem, the author of which has told his story, such as it is, with great spirit, and in a vein of flowing and harmonious verse. The manners are strictly correct. A mendicant friar would fight for a bacon-hog as eagerly as a knight would encounter a wild boar. The ideas and terms of chivalry, too, are everywhere kept in view. The circumstances of the poem do not enable me to fix its date. It does not appear when Freer Theobald was warden; and if it did, the poem may have been written long after the incident happened. From the style, I should suppose it to be prior to the reign of Henry VII. It is printed from a manuscript in my possession.

The Felon Sowe and the Freeres of Richmonde.

FIFTE THE FIRSTE.

Ye men that wylle of auncestors wyne §
That late within this land hath bin
Of on I can yow telle ;
Of a sowe that was sae strang,
Alas ! that ever shee lived sae lang
For fell folke did she whell.

Shee was mare than other three,
The grizeliest beast that ever mote bee,
Her hede was gret and gray :
Shee was bred in Rokebye Woode,
Ther were few that thither yood
That cam on live awaye.

Her walke was endlang Greta Syde,
Was no barne that colde her byde
That was frae heven to helle,
Ne never man that had that myght
That ever durste com in her syght,
Her force y^t was so felle.

Raphe of Rokebye wth full gode wyll
The freers of Richmonde yaf her tyll
Full wele to gar thayme fare ;
Freer Myddeltone by name
Hee was sent to fetch her hame,
Yt rewed hym syne ful sare.

[* For the heights of various parts of Craven above the level of the sea, see p. 277. Great Whernside is 2,310 feet, Kettlewell churchyard is about 700 feet, above the sea.

† The poetry of the canons of Bolton, already given, is neither traditionary nor of a popular nature.

‡ At least, it is the dialect which has been made the vehicle of much delightful poetry in the Border Minstrelsy, and to which it certainly adds most of its graces.

§ I do not understand this expression. Probably kynne or kenne. Mr. Hamper:—It may mean, “profit by the recital of your ancestors’ valour.”

Wth hym tooke he wyght men two,
 Peter of Dale was on of tho
 Tother was Bryan of Beare,
 Y^t wele durst strike wth swerde and knife
 And fyght ful manfully for theyr lyfe
 What tyme as musters wer.

Thes thre men wended at theyr wyll,
 This Felon Sowe qwhyl they cam tyll
 Liggand under a tree,
 Rugg'd and rustie was her here
 Scho rase up wth a felon fere
 To fight again the thre.

Grizely was scho for to meete.
 Scho rave the earthe up wth her feete,
 The barke cam fro' the tre :
 When Freer Myddelton her saugh,
 Wete yow wele he list not laugh,
 Ful earnsful loked he.

Thes men of auncestors were soe wight *
 They bound thayme bauldly for the fight
 And strake att her ful sore,
 Until a kilne they garred her flee,
 Wolde God sende thayme y^e victorye
 They wolde ask him na meare.

The sowe was in y^t kiln hole down,
 And they wer on the banke aboone
 For hurting of theyr feete ;
 They were so sauted wth this sowe
 That 'mang them was a stalwarth stewe
 The kiln began to reeke :

Durste noe man nighe her wth his hande,^{*}
 But put a rope downe wth a wande
 And heltered her ful meeke.
 They hauled her furth agayne her wyll
 Whyll they cam until a hill
 A little from y^e Streete, †

And ther scho made y^m such a fray
 As had they lived until Domesday
 They cold y^t nere forgete.
 Scho brayded up on every syde
 And ranne on thayme gapyng ful wyde,
 For nothing wolde scho lete.

Scho gaf such hard braydes at the bande
 That Peter of Dale had in his hand
 Hee might not holde hys feete.
 Scho chased thayme soe to and fro,
 The wight men never wer soe woe,
 Ther mesure was not mete.

Scho bund her boldly for to bide
 To Peter of Dale scho cam aside
 Wth many a hideous yell,
 Scho gaped soe wide and cryed soe high

 As if a fiend of hell.

(*Desunt nonnulla.*)

Thou art comed hider for sum trayne,
 I conjure the to go agayne
 Wher thou art wont to dwell,
 Hee signed hym wth crosse and creede,
 Took furth a booke, began to reade
 Of saint Ihon hys gospels. ‡

The Sowe scho wold noe Latyn here,
 But rudely rushed at ye Frere
 Th^t blinked al hys ble ;
 And when scho shuld have taken holde
 The Freer lapt as I. H. S. wolde
 And bealde hym wid a tre.

Scho was brim as anie boare,
 And gave a griezly hideous roare,
 To thayme y^t was no bote ;
 On tree and buske y^t by her stode
 Scho venged her as scho were woode
 And rave y^m upp byth roote.

He sayde, Alas that I were Freer !
 I shal be lugged asunder here,
 Hard ys my destinie !
 Y wist my breder in this houre
 That I was set in sike a stoure
 They wolde pray for mee.

This wicked beast y^t wrought y^s woe
 Twan the rope from tother two,
 And then they fled al thre ;
 They fledd away by Watling Strete,
 They had noe succor bud ther fete,
 It was the more pittye.

FITE SECOND.

When Freer Myddelton cam home,
 His breder wer ful faine ilchone
 And thankt God for his lyfe ;
 He tolde thayme al unto y^e end
 How he had foughten wth a fiend,
 And went through mickle strife.

And Peter of Dale wolde never blinn,
 But as faste as he colde rinn
 Till he cam till his wyfe :
 The Warden sayde I am ful woe,
 That yow should bee tormented soe
 And had wee wth yow bene—

Had wee bene ther yowr brether al,
 Wee wolde have garred the Carle fal,
 That wrought yow all this teene.
 But Myddeltone he answered naye,
 In faythe ye wolde have ren away
 When most mis-stirre had bin.
 Yow can al speke wordes at home,
 The fiend wold ding yow downe ilk one,
 An y^t bee as I wene.

* *I.e.* descended from fighting families.

† The great Roman road from Catterick to Bowes.

‡ Which was of approved efficacy on these occasions.

He loked soe grizely al y^t nyght,
The warden sayde yon man wol fight,
If ye saye ought but gode :
The beast hath grieved hym soe sare,
Holde y^r tongues and speke nae meare,
He lukes as he were woode.

The warden waged on the morne
Two boldest men that ev^t was borne
I weyne or ere shal bee ;
Tone was Gilbert Griffin's sonne,
Full mickle worschip had he wonne
Both by land and sea.

Tother a bastard sonne of Spaine,
Many a Sarasen had he slain
His dint had garred * y^m flee.
Theis men ye battell undertoke
Against the sowe as seith y^e boke
And sealed securitye.

That they should boldly bide and fight,
And scomfit her in main and might,
Or ther for shuld they dye.
The Warden sealed to y^m agayne,
And seid, yf ye in field be sleyne
This condition make I.

Wee shall for you syng and reade
Untill Domesdaye wth heartye speed,
With al our progenie.
Than y^e lettres were wel made,
The bondes were bounde wth seales brade
As dedes of armes should bee †.

These men at armes were soe wyght,
And wth ther armour burnished bright,
They went y^s sowe to see ;
Scho made at y^m sike a roare,
That for her they feared sore,
And almost bounde to flee.

Scho cam runnyng them agayne
And sawe y^e bastard son of Spayne,
He brayded out his brand,
Full spiteously at her he strake,
Yet, for the fence that he colde make,
Scho strake y^t fro his hande,
And rave asunder halfe his shielde,
And bare him backwarde in y^e field
He mought not her gainstande.

Scho wolde have riven
But Gilbert wth his swerde of warre
He strake at her ful sore ;

In her schulder he held the swerde,
Than was Gilberte sore afearde
Whan the blade brak in twang.

And whan in hand he had her tane,
Scho took him by the schulder bane
And held her hold full fast.
He strave soe stify in that stowr
Scho bit through al his rich armour,
Till bloud cam out at last.

Than Gilbert grieved was so sare,
That hee rave off the hyde of haire,
The flesh cam fro the bane,
And wth force hee held her ther,
And wan her worthilie in warre,
And band her him alane.

They hoisted her on a horse so hee
On two of tree,
And to Richmond anon.
Whan they sawe the Felon come,
They sang merrilye Te Deum
The Freers evrichone.

They thankyd God and Saynte Frauncis
That they had wonne y^e beste of pris,
And nere a man was sleyne ;
Ther nev^t didde man more manlye,
The Knyght Marous or Sir Guye,
Nor Louis of Lothraine.

Yf † yow wol any more of y^s,
Ith' Frees at Richmond written yt is
In parchment gude and fyne ;
How Freer Myddeltone so hende
Att Greta Bridge conjured a fiende
In lykenes of a swyne.

Yt is well knowen to manye a man
That Freer Theobald was warden than,
And this fel in his tyme.
And Chryst them bles both ferre and nere
Al that for solas this doe here,
And hym y^t made the ryme.

Raphe of Rokeby wid ful gode wyl
The Freers of Richmond gave her tyll
This Sowe to mend ther fare :
Freer Myddeltone by name
He wold bring the Felon hame
That rewed hym sine ful sare. §

* Giora, *facere*—Danish.

† Alluding to the old indentures of military service, which were executed with every legal formality.

‡ The Gray Friars, whose house is thus described by Leland: "At the bakke of the Frenchgate is the Grey Freres a litel withowte the waullis. —Ther house, meadow, orchard, and a litel wood is waullid yn. There ys a conduite of water at the Grey Freres, else there ys none in Richemont." —"Itin." vol. iii. p. 109. Had Leland read "the parchment gude and fyne?"

§ This tale, saith my MS., was known of old to a few families only, and by them held so precious that it was never intrusted to the memory of the son till the father was on his death-bed. But times are altered, for since the first edition of this work a certain bookseller has reprinted it verbatim, with little acknowledgment to the first editor. He might have recollected that, as "The Felon Sowe", had been already reclaimed, *Property vested*. However, as he is an ingenious and deserving man, this hint shall suffice.