

ART. XIV.—*Greenthwaite Hall*. By JOHN F. CURWEN,
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Read at Greenthwaite Hall, September 14th, 1906.

THIS perfect little example of its period was built by the last of the Haltons of Greenthwaite in the year 1650. There was a Halton of the manor of Greenthwaite as early as the time of Richard II., but Immanuel, who succeeded the builder of this hall, became steward to the then Duke of Norfolk, and was sent to take charge over the duke's Derbyshire estates at Winfield, which he finally bought and removed to in 1678.

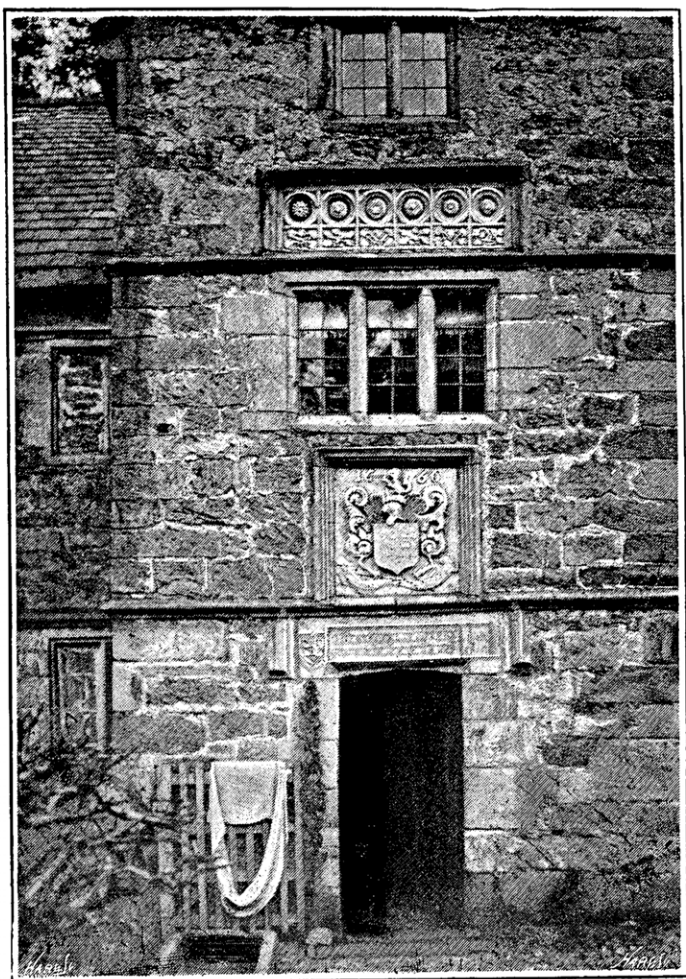
You will notice the L-shaped plan, built on the south and west sides of the court, as we noticed at Catterlen, which with a range of farm buildings to the north enclose three sides of a quadrangular courtyard. The elevations are distinctly of Elizabethan character, bound together with continuous string courses, beneath which the low, broad, and mullioned windows snuggle under for protection; whilst the three carved stone horizontal panels are peculiarly Tudor in design.

The entrance is through a projecting porch, which is carried up, as usual, a story higher than the rest of the buildings. Here again we meet that splendid custom of the age—the builder's coat of arms and legend set up above the doorway. The lintol is divided into three panels; upon the first is carved a shield with the lion rampant for Halton; the centre one contains the legend

PERIGRINOS HIC NOS REPVTAMVS. 1650.

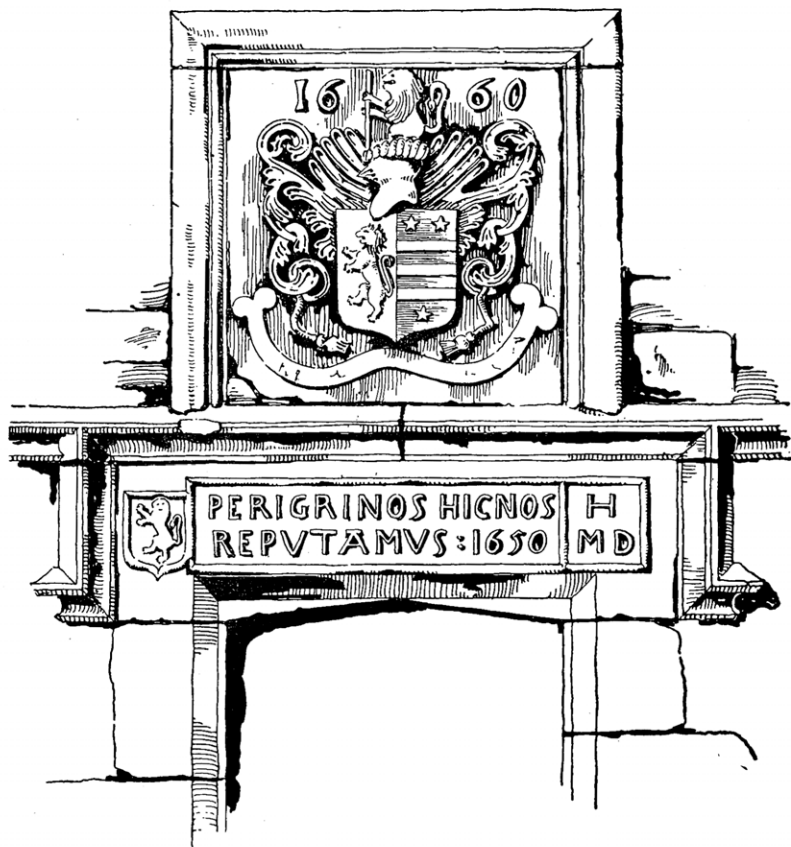
("Here we reckon ourselves pilgrims"); and the last panel bears the initials "M.D.H." for Miles and Dorothy*

* A daughter of Sir Jeffery Wybergh of Clifton.

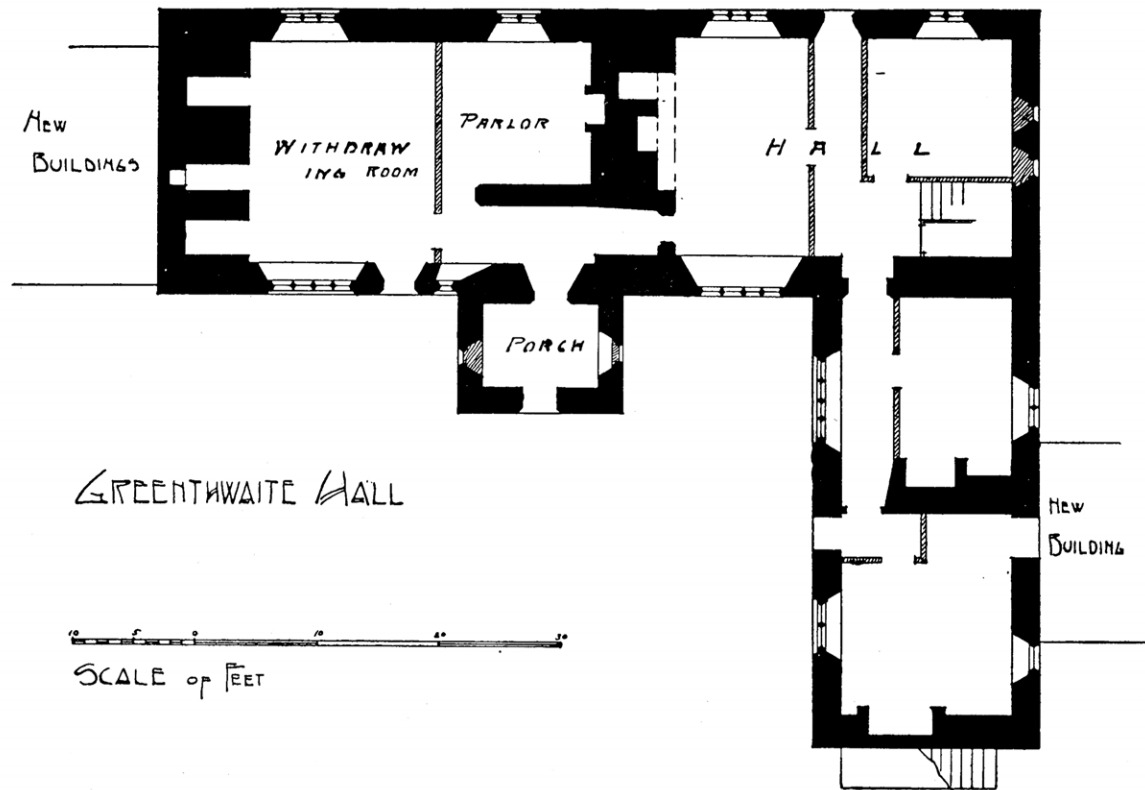


GREENTHWAITE HALL.

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DOORHEAD, GREENTHWAITE HALL.



Halton. The late Thomas Lees relates a very amusing incident concerning this strong-minded wife. He tells how she enticed the red deer from the unenclosed Greystoke Park on to her own land by scattering green oats, and then shot them with a cross-bow for food for her domestics, who in consequence protested against being fed on what they called "black mutton" for more than four days in the week. The story goes on to say how she was summoned at the Assizes at Cockermouth to answer for her poaching proclivities. When she entered the Court the counsel for the prosecution exclaimed, "Here comes Madam Halton with her traps and her gins!" to which she promptly replied, "There sits Counsellor Fletcher with his packs and his pins," alluding sarcastically to the commercial pursuits by which the Fletchers had risen to eminence.

Ten years later Miles inserted another stone above the lintol with his full coat of arms elaborately carved upon the panel—viz., parted per pale *azure* and *gules* a lion rampant *or*; impaling his wife's coat, *sable* 3 bars *or* and 3 mullets *or* two in chief and one in base, for Wybergh of Clifton. The crest a demi-lion holding a spear on a helmet, with wreath mantlings, and the date 1660.

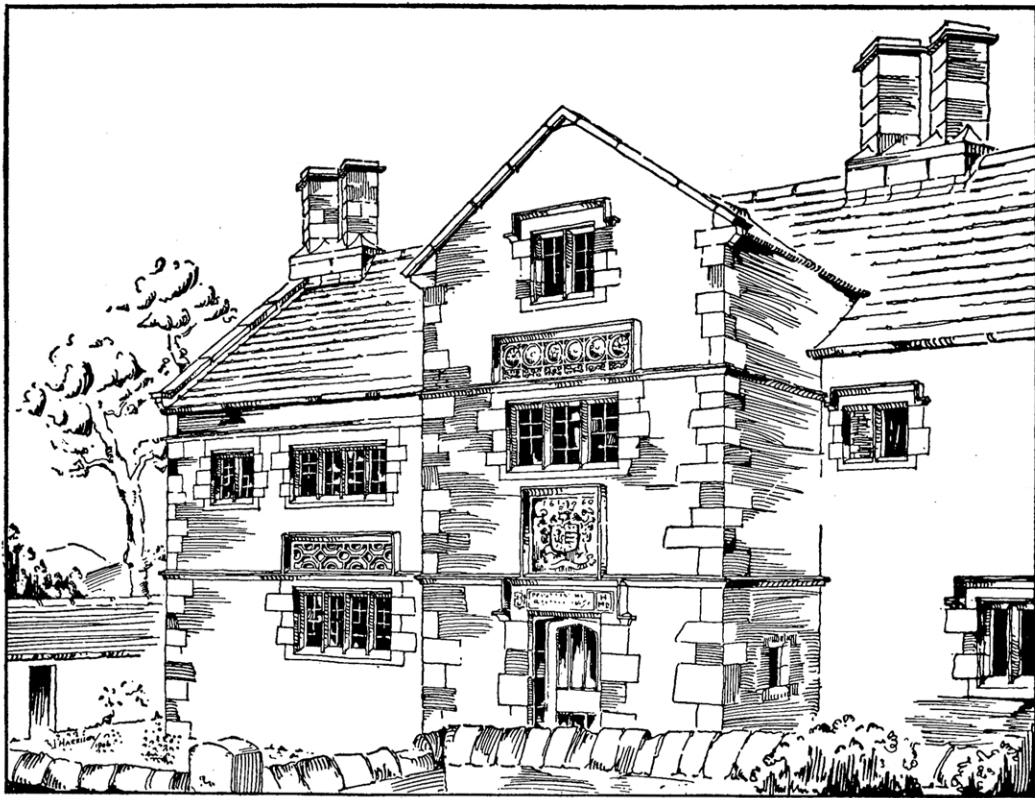
The ground floor contains the hall, a room measuring 29 × 18 feet, the small parlour, and the withdrawing room, just in the same position as we found them at Blencow. Adjoining the lower end of the hall the kitchens and offices are situated in the short wing on the western side.

In seventeenth century buildings of this kind the upper room above the porch was often used for the purposes of a chapel; it is true that here we find a small recess in the wall that might be taken for an aumbry, but otherwise there is no sign to distinguish the room as such.

There is one other small feature upstairs that is worthy of attention, and that is the method of laying the floor. It will be noticed that instead of the usual wooden joists

and floor boarding, the floors are made of a kind of cement which is laid on a bed of laths. The practice, so far as I know, is purely a local one,* and may have originated in the facility with which the material can be procured, as numerous deposits of a native plaster occur in the Eden valley, where the mineral has been worked from early times.

* Is not this concrete floor borrowed from Italy? The period was one of Italian influence, and such floors are seen in Italian palazzi.—ED.



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