

ART. I.—*The Townfields of Cumberland.* Part II. By
T. H. B. GRAHAM.

Communicated at Carlisle, April 11th, 1912.

THERE still survive in Cumberland (*a*) at least four arable enclosures held in *rigg and rean*;

(*b*) Seventeen enclosures wholly or partially laid down in grass, which nevertheless continue to exhibit the characteristic ranes; and

(*c*) Fifteen old meadows divided in shares among several owners.

In the description of them which follows, those enclosures are marked *a*, *b*, or *c*, according as they fall within one or other of the above categories, and their situation is noted, so that those who take an interest in the ancient mode of husbandry may visit them before the last spark is extinguished.

Carlisle is the *focus* of the belt of common fields which I am going to notice, and I begin the circuit at Ellonby, thirteen miles due south of the city.

SKELTON PARISH.

Ellonby quarry field (b).—At the north end of the village is a long field containing a lime-kiln, and known as "Quarry field." It is divided longitudinally into two shares. That nearer the village, occupying about one-third of the frontage to the road, and containing $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, belongs to Lady Vane. A grass rane, three feet broad, divides it from the other share, which belongs to Mr. Wilson of Highhead. The whole is let for hay-making to one tenant, Mr. Nelson, who pointed out how the grass growing upon the old turf of the rane differed in appearance from that on the formerly arable shares.

B

Ellonby Allotments (b).—On leaving the south end of the village, the first gate on the right gives admission to some very perfect remains of a townfield, known as the "Allotments." The enclosure is numbered 493 on the old Ordnance Survey, and contains 14 acres 0 roods 37 perches statute measure. My guide reckoned the contents of the field by "riggs."

Professor Wright says (*English Dialect Dictionary*) :

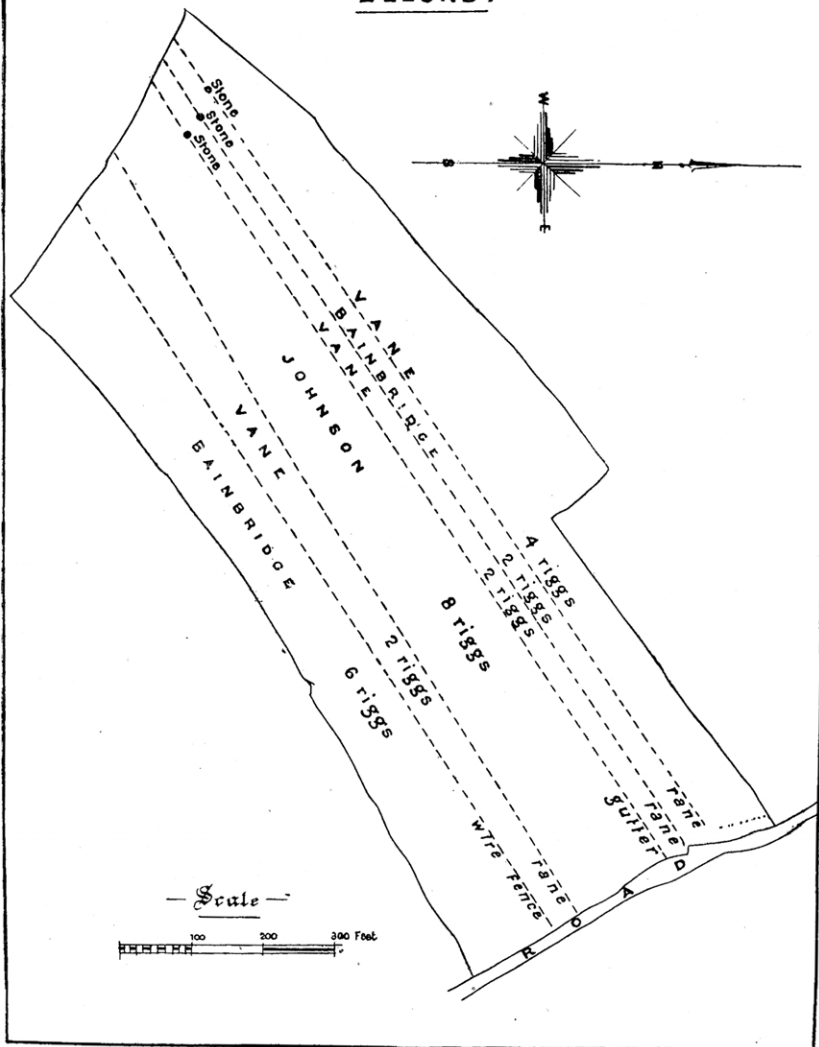
A specified number of furrows, generally ten, constitute a "rigg," and are marked off from each other by a larger furrow being formed at uniform distances throughout a field.

Cumbrians in particular applied the term "six times about rigg" to the area covered by six turns of the old plough at the foot of the field, and "rigg of oats" to the crop growing upon 12 such parallel furrows.

But the superficial area of a rigg of oats varied according to the shape and size of the specific share in which it was included. The Orton and Hutton terriers of 1704 mention reputed acres which contained only two riggs apiece (these *Transactions*, N.S. x., pp. 125-6). The arable fields of a modern farm are not cramped by ranes, as were the old townfield shares, and their riggs comprise a greater number of parallel furrows. There is a delightful air of hap-hazard about the arrangement of a townfield, but one feature is constant, and that is the rane, which is jealously guarded. Large stones are frequently set in it to prevent encroachment by the plough, and it is consequently a landmark of some antiquity. Modern landowners seldom regard their shares in a townfield as curiosities worthy of the attention of an Antiquarian Society, though such they are in fact. The acquisition of one of these last relics of mediæval agriculture, and its permanent preservation as an object lesson, would be desirable, but, if that were accomplished, the *form* only of the townfield's constitution would remain. The

THE ALLOTMENTS

ELLONBY



animating spirit departs at the moment when all the shares become vested in one person, sole or corporate.

The share at the north side of the "Allotments" is the most remarkable. It contains 4 riggs (about two acres) and belongs to Lady Vane. When I saw it last summer, it was under various crops. Its grass head-rigg had a frontage to the road of 90 feet, and was 20 feet long. Then came a length of 500 feet in oats, bounded south by a three-foot rane. Next to it 36 feet length of meadow; and here the share suddenly expands northward, and the rane for the rest of its course becomes 6 feet broad. Then came 540 feet length of turnips, followed by 210 feet of hay, and the rane terminates at a boundary stone. The share however continues, as meadow land, for another 90 feet to the western end of the field, where the ground is very rough with an outcrop of rock.

The accompanying *plan* gives other details of the arrangement of the townfield. The 2nd, 3rd, and 5th shares are evidently original acres, containing 2 riggs apiece. The entire area is mown for hay, except the aforesaid portions of the 1st share which are arable, and the 6th share which is pasture.

Rigg-dike farm (b).—The occupation roads meet at a point nearly half a mile behind Skelton church. "Dale field," the fourth in a north-westerly direction from that point, is divided into two shares by a three-foot rane. That on the north side contains one acre and three-quarters, and belongs to Mr. Cooper of Carleton Hall, Penrith. That on the south side contains 4 acres, and belongs to Mr. Armstrong of Cockermouth. A stone is fixed about half way along the rane.

Little Blencow (c).—Close to the village of Little Blencow, but in Skelton parish, is a meadow divided into two shares. It is bounded on the west by the stream called Lambeck, and on the north by an aban-

doned portion of the highway. Planted in line across the middle of the field are six stones, the first near the bank of the stream, and the others at intervals of 20, 46, 27, 28 and 14 yards respectively. They serve to divide the share of Mr. Riley of Ennim on the north from that of Mr. Brown on the south.

GREYSTOKE PARISH.

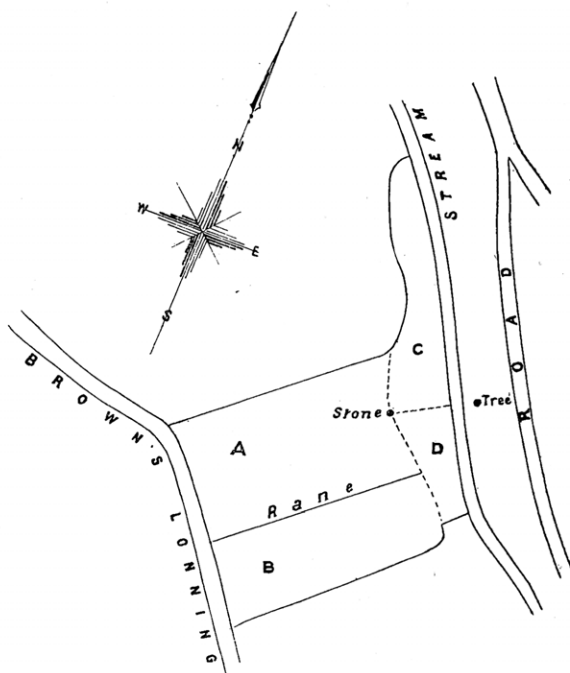
Saughtree Roods (b).—A curious enclosure called "Saughtree Roods" (see *plan*), formerly arable and now pasture, lies three-quarters of a mile north of Little Blencow. It is bounded west by an occupation road known as "Brown's lonning," and east by the Lambeck. The western portion of the enclosure is a plateau of considerably higher elevation than the eastern portion. At the north side of the plateau are two acres, marked A on the accompanying plan, and belonging to Mr. Riley. Then comes a three-foot rane, and then an acre, marked B, belonging to Mr. Brown. The last-named acre shows plough-marks, which prove that it formerly comprised ten old-fashioned riggs, each about eight feet in width. On the eastern edge of the plateau, 78 feet north from the extremity of the rane, stands the boundary stone, resting upon three other stones inserted beneath it in the face of the bank, and an imaginary line drawn from that boundary stone to a sycamore tree, growing upon the bank of the stream, divides the lower portion of the field into two other shares. But the ownership is here counter-changed, for the northern share, marked C, belongs to Mr. Brown, and the southern share, marked D, to Mr. Riley.

HUTTON-IN-THE-FOREST PARISH.

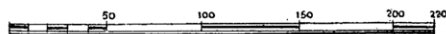
Blencow bank (b).—Hutchinson mentions (vol. i., p. 512) the finding of two urns containing ashes at "Blencow

SAUGHTREE ROADS

GREYSTOKE



— Scale of Yards —



bank in Hutton common fields." On the west side of the road leading from Hutton End towards Hutton Hall, and half a mile distant from the former place, there is an enclosure which continues to bear the misleading name of "Blencow bank," and, on the opposite side of the road, a hay-field contains traces of ranes. So does the corner of a pasture field 100 yards further south, on the same side of the road.

LANGWATHBY PARISH.

Easyfitt (c).—Half a mile due west from Little Salkeld railway station is a meadow called "Easyfitt," bounded north by the river Eden, and including the dry bed of "Old Eden." It belongs to Mr. Thompson of Nunwick Hall and other landowners of Great Salkeld, for it formed part of that parish, until it was severed from it by a change in the river's course and a readjustment of the boundary. The shares are divided by boundary stones, but, when I visited the spot, only one of them remained fixed in the ground. The others had been laid in lines upon the surface, and certain bushes and trees are used as convenient marks when it is being mown. The first three shares at the east end have a length of 284 yards, and a frontage to the river bank of 32, 28, and 10 yards respectively. Our Editor suggests the Old Norse *esju-fit*, "clay-meadow," as the derivation of the name.

Langwathby Mill (c).—On the west bank of the Briggie beck, close to Little Salkeld station, is a meadow belonging in common to Sir Richard Musgrave and Edenhall glebe. It is approached by an occupation road, leading from the south end of Langwathby Mill bridge, and traversing two small intervening fields.

MELMERBY PARISH.

Melmerby Village (a).—From Melmerby a steep highway ascends to Hartside summit, and at the mile-stone

on the right, close to the village, a lane leads to a common field divided longitudinally by a three-foot rane. The long narrow share on the north side, containing only two roods and 32 poles, belongs to Mr. Airey. The remainder of the field, containing about 7 acres, belongs to Mr. Close. The western portion of both shares is in tillage, and the eastern portion is at present cut off for pasture by a wire fence, but the grass rane runs uninterruptedly throughout both portions.

Todhills (a).—Immediately east of Todhills farmhouse, on the road from Melmerby to Gamblesby, is a good example of a *rig and rēan* field in two shares. The smaller one at the north side, containing a reputed acre, belongs to Mrs. Workman, while the larger one, containing 2 acres 3 roods statute measure, belongs to Mr. Close. Between them runs a rane three feet high and of the same breadth, covered, when I saw it, with high flowering weeds, and forming a very conspicuous object.

Todhills (b).—The third enclosure on the roadside north of it was lately in two shares, but is now the property of a single owner. It is pasture, but the old grass rane remains distinctly visible.

Lanty (b).—Eastward of the last-mentioned enclosure, and separated from it by the old field-way, is another called "Lanty," about 90 yards in length and comprising three shares. The northern share, which is still arable, has a head-rigg 50 yards broad, and belongs to Mr. Airey. A wire fence has been erected along its inner side, to protect the crop. The middle share is 32 yards in breadth, and belongs to Mrs. Workman, while the southern share is 23 yards broad and belongs to Mr. Houghton of Melmerby Hall. The two last-mentioned shares are pasture. Every share is divided from the adjoining one by boundary stones and three-foot ranes.

All the above-described lands have once formed parcel of Melmerby townfield.

ADDINGHAM PARISH.

Ingmire (c).—Between the village of Gamblesby and the steep escarpment of the eastern fells is the site of the old townfield. Opposite the church at Gamblesby a road leads through a farm-yard to the fells, and the third turning on the right is a green lane called “Ingmire,” which follows two sides of a meadow bearing the same name. That meadow was recently held in common by two proprietors, the shares being separated by a stream, now enclosed in a culvert, though its course is clearly traceable.

Greenhow (b).—The same lane leads to a remarkable open field known as “Greenhow” or “Greena,” which is worthy of a visit. It is a hillside on which a series of level terraces, backed by steep banks, rise one above the other like the seats of a hippodrome. At the foot of the hill is a half-acre belonging to Mr. Westgarth of Gamblesby, who kindly supplied me with this information. Above it rise three terraces containing half-an-acre apiece, belonging to Mr. Thompson; while the plateau on the top, exhibiting traces of other terraces and comprising three acres of land, belongs to Mr. Jackson of Crozier Lodge, Penrith. As in the case of many other open fields, the whole area has been laid down in grass, but it was formerly arable land, and I cannot do better than quote Mr. Seebohm’s lucid explanation (*English Village Community*, p. 5) of how such terraces were formed:—

When a hillside formed part of the open field the strips almost always were made to run, not up and down the hill, but horizontally along it; and in ploughing, the custom for ages was always to turn the sod of the furrow downhill, the plough consequently always returning one way idle. If the whole hillside were ploughed in one field, this would result in a gradual travelling of the soil from the top to the bottom of the field, and it might not be noticed. But as in the open field system the hillside was ploughed in strips with unploughed balks between them, no sod could pass in the ploughing from one strip to the next;

but the process of moving the sod downwards would go on age after age just the same within each individual strip. In other words, every year's ploughing took a sod from the higher edge of the strip and put it on the lower edge; and the result was that the strips became in time long level terraces, one above the other, and the balks between them grew into steep rough banks of long grass, covered often with natural self-sown brambles and bushes.

Similar terraces, known as the "Hanging walls of Mark Anthony," occur at Kirkland, at the site marked "Camp" by the Ordnance Survey close to the Nook farmhouse, Bewcastle, and elsewhere. In such cases the formation is doubtless due to the long-continued action of the plough.

Unthank (b).—Three furlongs north of the village of Unthank in Addingham parish, upon the left hand side of the road leading towards Renwick, is a pasture field called the "Ranes." It is "ancient land," and there is a single terrace upon the hillside. The steep banks which flank the terrace are locally reputed to be ranes, but, beyond the name of the field, there is nothing which deserves notice.

HESKET-IN-THE-FOREST PARISH.

Nunclose (a).—Proceeding three furlongs westward from the hamlet of Nunclose, one arrives at a farmhouse occupied by Mr. Heslop, and the second field beyond it, on the opposite side of the road, is arable and divided into two shares by a three-foot grass rane. The eastern share, containing one acre, is owned by Mr. Irving, the western share, containing two acres, belongs to Mr. Milburn.

Old Town (b).—At Old Town, three-quarters of a mile distant from the last, and on the western side of the farmhouse occupied by Mr. Ferguson, is a field divided into three shares, of which the middle one belongs to

Mrs. Robley, and the outer ones to Mr. Ecroyd. The whole area is pasture, but the three-foot ranes are still very distinct.

Court Thorn (extinct).—The position of the old arable field of Hesket is further disclosed (these *Transactions*, N.S. v., p. 307) by an informant who, speaking in 1822 of the destruction of the Viking tumulus about 67 yards south of the Court Thorn, said that 50 or 60 years previously the adjoining enclosures, as they then existed, were lying in one common field divided by landmarks. "Field house" may derive its name from its proximity to the townfield.

CUMWHITTON PARISH.

Hornsby gate (b).—There is a field called "Riddings," on Foulpool farm, with a high three-foot rane, situate on the south-west side of the occupation road and opposite the bend in it. The share adjoining the occupation road is meadow belonging to Mr. Ecroyd, and contains 2 acres and 1 rood. The other share, containing an acre, belongs to Mr. Liddle of Hornsby, and has not been ploughed for five years.

WETHERAL PARISH.

Acre-head (b).—In travelling from Cotehill to Cumwhinton one passes a turning, on the left hand side, leading to a dwelling-house called Acre-head—a suggestive name, and the second enclosure beyond that turning exhibits an instance of the old mode of cultivation. The enclosure contains an acre and a half, but is clearly divided into three reputed half-acres of nearly equal extent, that in the middle belonging to Mr. Coulson of Cumwhinton, and those on either side of it to Mr. Pattinson. The whole is farmed by one tenant, and has been in grass for several years past, but, as the field

lies upon a slope, the three-foot ranes present the appearance of steps.

Stripes (extinct).—Proceeding a quarter of a mile further along the same road, and immediately after passing the cross-way leading to the hamlet of “Stripes,” one sees, on the right-hand side, two adjacent pasture fields with a frontage of 150 yards to the road. These, within the recollection of many of the inhabitants, were divided into shares among five or six different proprietors. It is said that disputes arose as to the time and manner of cultivation, the sale of the shares, and the apportionment of the purchase money; and I have never known a farmer who had a good word to say for tenure in *rig and rëan*, and the inconvenient circumstances which everywhere attend it.

CROSBY PARISH.

Walby (c).—Half a mile due north of Walby, adjoining Brunstock beck, is a ten-acre meadow divided into two equal shares. That on the west belongs to Mr. Thompson, that on the east to Mr. Jefferson.

SCALEBY PARISH.

Common wood (extinct).—Half a mile south-east of Scaleby Castle there is a lane, the lower part of which is known as “Common wood lonning,” and the land abutting upon both sides of it was recently open meadow land. Some of the large stones, which separated the “darks,” are still lying in a group near the lane. Dark is the local pronunciation of day-work. Jamieson spells it thus, and the rolled r practically adds a syllable, but in the Wigton district it is pronounced “darrick.”

Scaleby hill (c).—Near this hamlet is a meadow, abutting north upon one at which the occupation road known as “Meadow lonning” terminates. It is divided into

two shares. The western, containing about an acre, is owned by Mr. William Watson, the eastern, containing about two acres, belongs to Mr. Mattinson. A boundary stone in the south dike and a bush at the north end mark the dividing line.

The Swangs (c).—A green occupation road runs north-east from the sharp elbow of the highway a quarter of a mile north of Scaleby hill, and at its further end is a common meadow called the "Swangs," measuring about 120 yards each way, and divided into two equal shares by a shallow gutter, along which a wire fence has been lately erected. One half belongs to Mr. Wilson of Barclose and the other to Mr. Bailey. Our Editor compares the Old Norse *svangr*, "narrow," with the name of these strips of meadow.

Brighten flat (b).—Here is a field divided into two shares. The western share, containing one acre, is 27 yards in breadth by 213 in length, and recently belonged to Mr. Watson, but it has been purchased by Mr. Graham of Brighten Flat, the owner of the eastern share, which comprises four acres. Between them runs a rane four feet wide, in which are set two great stones, one 30 yards from the north fence, the other 72 yards from the south fence, and a footpath follows the top of the rane. The field has not been ploughed of late years.

OVER DENTON PARISH.

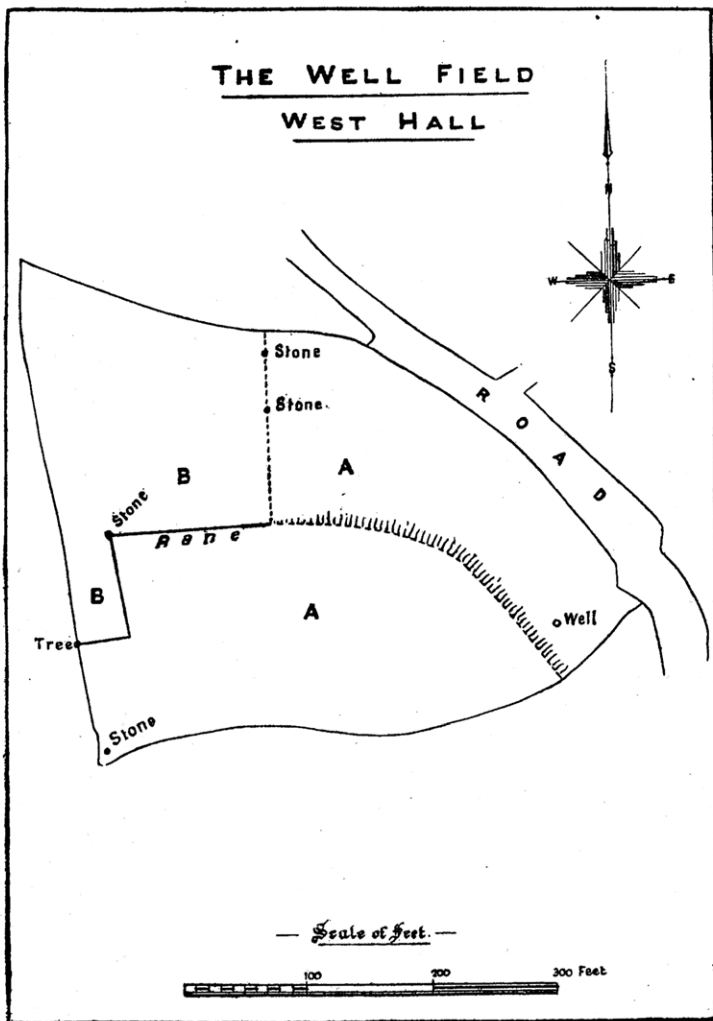
High Denton village (b).—Behind the church, and hemmed in on three sides by the Irthing, is a fragment of the townfield now used as meadow. The central portion belongs to Lady Carlisle, and is bounded east by a long rane, and south by a line indicated by 5 boundary stones. The south-east corner of the field, containing half an acre, belongs to Miss Dugdale, and is bounded by a line drawn from the said rane eastward to an ellow tree upon the river bank.

The north-east corner belongs to Mr. Ferguson, whose share tapers to a point at the same ellow tree. At the foot of Miss Dugdale's share is one belonging to Mr. Birkett. It is separated from that of Mr. Ferguson by a rane, and abuts upon that of Lady Carlisle, until it meets an imaginary line drawn, from her said boundary marked by stones, northward to a thorn bush on the river bank. The north-west corner of the field belongs to Mr. J. Richardson of Brampton, and is separated from Lady Carlisle's share by a line drawn from a low mound near the river at the north side of the field, in a south-westerly direction, to an ellow tree further down the stream.

LANERCOST PARISH.

Well field (b).—Adjoining the village street of West Hall, 13 miles north-west of Carlisle, is a common field of complicated arrangement (see *plan*). The share thereon marked A belongs to the Misses Harding of Brampton, that marked B belongs to Mrs. Milburn of Hayton. The division is a zig-zag rane, three feet broad, from the eastern extremity of which an imaginary line is drawn in a northerly direction so as to pass two stones, set at distances of 84 and 134 feet respectively, and to meet the boundary of the field. The higher ground at the south side of the field is arable, but the remainder is mown for hay. The shape of the rane suggests that it has once enclosed the head-riggs of older sub-divisions.

Heugh brae (b).—On the north bank of the river King, half a mile from West Hall, lies a meadow called "Heugh brae" (No. 402 Old Ordnance Survey), divided into three shares. The middle share, about half an acre, is owned by the Misses Harding. It is bounded east and west by ranes, and was probably arable at one period. The two outer shares are owned by Mrs. Milburn. The meadow is reached by entering the gate at the guide-post and crossing two intervening fields.



C

ROCKCLIFF PARISH.

Halltown (extinct).—Our president called attention, in 1891 (these *Transactions*, o.s. xii., p. 133), to an existing fragment of common field at Halltown, but it has been enclosed within the past ten years, and the ranes have been ploughed up. It lay within the right angle formed by the road immediately westward of Halltown farmhouse. Mr. Edmund Park of Rockcliff, a native of Halltown, remembers the common field there. The shares were of somewhat irregular shape, and the furrows sinuous. The ownership of the field was intermixed, but it belonged for the most part to the Cartner and Park families. It was cropped continuously from year to year, and there was no right of common pasture over the whole area. Mrs. Cartner, who lives upon the spot, can point out the position of several shares, and a wire fence near her house stands upon an old rane.

BURGH-BY-SANDS PARISH.

Thurstonfield (b).—On the south side of the road leading from Thurstonfield to Kirkbampton is a four-acre field, divided lengthwise into three shares by grass ranes three feet in breadth. It is the first field on the left after passing the turning to Longburgh. The middle share belongs to Mr. Stordy of Thurstonfield, and those on either side of it to Mrs. Harrison. The first-named probably consists of two original shares thrown into one, for its area is greater than both the outer shares together. The whole is pasture and let to one tenant. Mr. Stordy tells me that there was never any common right of pasture over the shares, but they have by agreement been occasionally laid under grass simultaneously.

THURSBY PARISH.

Parton mire (c).—Adjoining the river Wampool, west of Parton, is a meadow, containing some 32 acres, held

in common by five or six owners. The boundaries of the shares are marked by squared stones bearing the incised initials of former proprietors. For instance, S.R.B. stands for Sir Robert Brisco.

Parton hope mire (c).—This is a meadow which lies a quarter of a mile south of the last-named, and is held in six shares; late the property of Sir Musgrave Brisco and others.

WIGTON PARISH.

The broad dales, Oulton (c).—This is a very large meadow, containing 80 acres and more, divided into shares termed "darricks." Most of the shares are rectangular, but some are five-sided, and others triangular. The darrick is a reputed acre, but, if the statute measure is applied to it, it is here found to contain in general half, and sometimes only a quarter, of an acre. The meadow lies between Oulton and Gamblesby, and there is an approach to it from Tarnrigg moor. The hay is of poor quality, and everybody is agreed that the land would be more productive in the hands of a single owner, who would have an interest in draining and manuring it.

Oulton (c).—There is a green lane half a mile west of the village, and the last enclosure but one on its south side is a meadow held in three shares. The middle share, reputed to contain $2\frac{1}{2}$ darricks, is bounded on the west by a wooden post near the hedge. In Wigton parish darricks of meadow are sold and let, like the stints of a common pasture.

Oulton (b).—Inside the gate at the foot of the same lane is a meadow divided into two equal shares by a broad five-foot rane. The eastern share is owned by Mr. Timperon, and the western by Mrs. Johnson.

Colmire (c).—Half a mile due south from Oulton, but on the opposite side of the Sow or great open sewer of Wigton, is an extensive tract of common meadow called

"Colmire." The name occurs in the Pleas of the Forest 1285 (these *Transactions*, N.S. vii., p. 21). It is intersected by deep gutters crossed by plank bridges, and is subdivided by stones into darricks. It is approached by an occupation road from Lessonhall. An interesting share is one situate at a point opposite Oulton House, where the *Sow* makes a sudden bend northward. Twenty-six yards east of the bend is a stone, and at a similar distance east again is another stone; these mark the boundary of four darricks abutting north and south upon them. Three of those darricks are owned by Mr. Timperon of Blencogo, while the fourth is owned by Mr. Mandel. But the latter has the right of mowing in rotation a different darrick in every succeeding year, and thus enjoys a roving right over the whole share. When I visited Colmire, the hay was in different stages of making, and it was thus possible to distinguish the exact extent of many darricks. For instance, in a four-acre share lying a short distance westward of that first described, a breadth of 21 yards of mown hay represented one darrick, a breadth of 34 yards cleared comprised two more darricks, while a breadth of 22 yards in cock made the fourth darrick. The great Colmire meadow abuts westward upon a very rushy piece of land used as a common horse-pasture, in which six or seven persons are owners of stints.

Colmire (c).—A quarter of a mile north of the hamlet of Lessonhall, bounded on the west by the road leading to Oulton, and on the south by the *Sow*, is a large meadow divided into three shares by very shallow gutters. The middle share belongs to Mr. Nicholson, and those on either side of it to Mr. Messenger.

Colmire (c).—Immediately south of the last-mentioned meadow is another divided into two shares, of which the western has a breadth of 72 yards, and is mown by Mr. Balfour, and the eastern, with a breadth of 100 yards, is mown by Mr. Dixon.

Meadow lonning (extinct).—I am informed that the meadow situate at the western end of "Meadow lonning," Lessonhall, formerly belonged to two owners, each of whom occupied the alternate share in succeeding years. That arrangement resembled the Scottish *run-rig* (these *Transactions*, N.S. x., p. 132).

BROMFIELD PARISH.

Kelsick (c).—On the southern bank of the Waver, behind the hamlet of Kelsick, 13. miles south-west of Carlisle, is a thirteen-acre meadow called "East meadow," held in common by Mr. Martindale of Highmoor and three others. It is divided into many darricks of varying size, marked by boundary stones which are not visible, for it is the custom here to bury such stones beneath the surface, in order that they may not interfere with the free passage of the mowing machine. It is difficult to describe the darricks accurately without the aid of a plan.

HOLM CULTRAM PARISH.

Ellercar (c).—A mile and a half north-west from Lessonhall is another old common meadow, access to which is obtained by entering the last gate on the left before reaching Ellercar bridge, and traversing an intervening field. The meadow is bounded north and west by the Waver, and is divided into five shares by wooden posts driven into the ground at intervals of about 50 yards.

Aldoth (a).—Here is an enclosure which I regard as the gem of this collection, for it comprises three shares, or "acre-dales" as they are locally termed, all arable and the property of different owners. It lies on the south side of the road leading from Abbey town to Aspatria, and is the second field after passing the guide-post, numbered 818 on the Old Ordnance Survey. The share furthest from the road, containing 2 roods 35

perches, belongs to Mr. Tordiff. It has a frontage to the head rigg of 12 yards, and is bounded north by a three-foot grass rane. The middle share, containing 2 roods and 3 perches, belongs to Mr. Wilson. It has a frontage of only 9 yards, and is bounded by a similar rane. The third share, containing 1 acre 3 roods and 29 perches, belongs to Mrs. Rook. It has a frontage of 36 yards, and probably includes three or four original acre-dales. The acreage is taken from the Tithe Commissioners' Map of 1846, and I am indebted to Mr. Francis Grainger for the particulars. He has described (these *Transactions*, N.S. ix., p. 123) the ancient mode of cultivating the once extensive common field of Holmcultram. Its component acre-dales were permanently grouped into three main divisions (p. 124), each subject in turn to three successive grain crops, and six years fallow pasture for recuperation. The main division for the time being in tillage was subject to a general right of pasturage, from the time when the grain crop was removed until the season for re-ploughing arrived.

SEBERGHAM PARISH.

Upper Welton (extinct).—The Ordnance Survey marks "townfields" at Welton. The farm buildings at Ling, otherwise Lingside, are, as the name suggests, built upon the very edge of the waste, and all the land which intervenes between them and the village constituted the ancient townfield, but it retains no trace of its former condition.

CALDBECK PARISH.

Nether Row (extinct).—A narrow lane connects Nether Row with Hesket Newmarket, and the land which slopes from its western end towards the village of Caldbeck was the old townfield. Mr. Bell of Nether Row remembers the ranes in this field, and the right of common pasture upon it, before its enclosure half a century ago.

Lest the foregoing details may appear superfluous, I will add that the Ordnance Survey takes no cognizance of surviving dales and darricks. In connection with the subject of this paper, I will notice certain old ramparts of earth, known as "dikes," which were probably constructed to protect the precious townfields from the ravages of cattle, turned out to pasture on the waste. When enclosure came into vogue, those dikes were no longer an aid, but a hindrance to agriculture, and their material was carted away to form modern field hedges.

BISHOP'S DIKE, DALSTON.—In a field by the roadside, immediately opposite to Dalston Hall, is the north-western angle of a great earthen dike, which has been carefully described by the late Chancellor Ferguson (these *Transactions*, O.S. vii., p. 271). The Ordnance Survey shows a furlong of its northern, and half a mile of its western side, and it is believed to be identical with the "Bishop's dike" alluded to in the Orders of the Watches 1552, "From the head of Cardewmire to Little Dalston bars, the lordship of Dalston to watch and keep the Bishop-dyke, according to their ancient custom in the same"; and further alluded to in the parish register of 1576. The bishop's connection with the manor began in the thirteenth century, but the earthwork may possibly belong to a still earlier period. It consists of an outer rampart four feet high, and an inner rampant of half that height, with a broad level road between them. The earthwork forms a sharp line of demarcation between the "ancient land" and what was formerly Dalston common. The road which it contains may have been an avenue of approach to Dalston Hall, and also, like the "back-lane" at Orton, a field-way. The Orton back-lane varies in breadth from 8 to 12 feet; the road now being described is 15 feet broad where it abuts upon the highway, 37 feet broad at the north-west corner, and 83 feet at the south-west corner of the pasture field

which it bounds. According to the Ordnance Survey, the earthwork continued in a south-westerly direction across what has been a morass, but if so, a tangle of bushes, brambles and briars conceals its traces. It is unlikely that the road and inner rampart followed it there. But in a strip of wood beyond the morass the outer rampart is well preserved, and aims straight for the foot of "Barras brow" on the road to Cardewlees.

Now *barras* is an obsolete term meaning an earthen outwork, and hence a bar or boundary. The *Catholicon Anglicum*, 1483, gives *antemurale* and *vallum* as equivalents. It occurs locally at Barras top, Barras house, and Barras lodge, all near Lanercost, Barras gate, Orton, and frequently at Dalston. The road leading from the last-named village past "Barras house" towards the railway station was formerly known as "Barras lane," and after crossing the railway bridge arrives at a spot called "Barras gate," situate at the foot of "Barras brow," which spot, as Chancellor Ferguson took pains to ascertain, lies at the very edge of the "ancient land" (these *Transactions*, O.S. vii., p. 271). Here may have been a gate in the earthen dike (the prolongation, as I submit, of the first-named earth-work), giving egress to the common which lay beyond it. A passage in Whellan's *Cumberland* (p. 161) gives a clue to its further course.

In the rich vale of Dalston there was a large earthen embankment, called a bar or barrow, extending from Dalston Hall to Cumdivock, a distance of three miles, raised for the purpose of protection against the incursions of moss troopers.

Its purpose may therefore have been primarily a military one, and I understand that our vice-President, the Rev. James Wilson, Vicar of Dalston, takes that view in an account of Rose Castle which is about to be published. An examination of the Inclosure Award Map at the office of the Clerk of the Peace suggests that the

old dike followed very closely the line of existing lanes to "Fountain head," near Cumdivock, where it may have joined a cross-dike fencing off Hawksdale common. Chancellor Ferguson, in his above-mentioned paper, refers to "Barras oak," near Hawksdale lodge. The tree lies prostrate on the ground.

BISHOP'S DIKE, CROSBY.—This earthwork is mentioned in an old delimitation of the barony of Gilsland, which was probably copied (Nicolson and Burn, vol. ii., p. 479) from Lord William Howard's Field-book, 1603.

Down Levin, unto the nether end of Sparlin holme, streight overthwart to the great grey stone of Crosby moor, *within* the end of the bishop's dyke, and from the said grey stone unto the Picts' Wall, streight forth unto the *joining* of the bishop's dyke, and so following that dyke unto the *west end of Newby*, and, from the said end of Newby, down Forscue sike until it fall into Irthing.

The boundary of the barony, identical with that of Irthington parish, is there being traced southward along the Highberry beck, and so "within the end" means northward of the extremity of Bishop's dike, and the "joining of the Bishop's dike" means the *point d'appui*, where its northern extremity rested on the remains of the Roman Wall. The great grey stone referred to is probably that which lies almost buried in Highfield Moor farm-yard and marks the parish boundary. The dike did not cover the entire front of the bishop's barony from Brunstock beck to the Irthing, but only the part which abutted on Newby common, where cattle were wont to graze, and it is probable that it constituted the eastern fence of Crosby townfield. It forms the boundary between Crosby and Irthington parishes, and the dotted line on the Ordnance Survey is therefore a guide to its route. The white gate, hung across the road which follows the line of the Roman Wall, is the starting point. A sike draining White Moss marks the division of the

parishes, and on the Irthington side of it is the Bishop's dike—a low bank measuring 10 or 12 feet across the top. The sike flows in what has perhaps been the accompanying ditch. It is a principle of law that a ditch belongs to the land upon which its excavated material has been thrown, and it would seem therefore that this portion of the dike was made by and belonged to the lord of Gilsland. The dike continues onward for a quarter of a mile, and suddenly comes to an end just where the sike makes an elbow westward and again turns south.

The moss itself was here an impassable barrier, and if the rampart was constructed across its spongy surface, it has sunk beneath the mire.

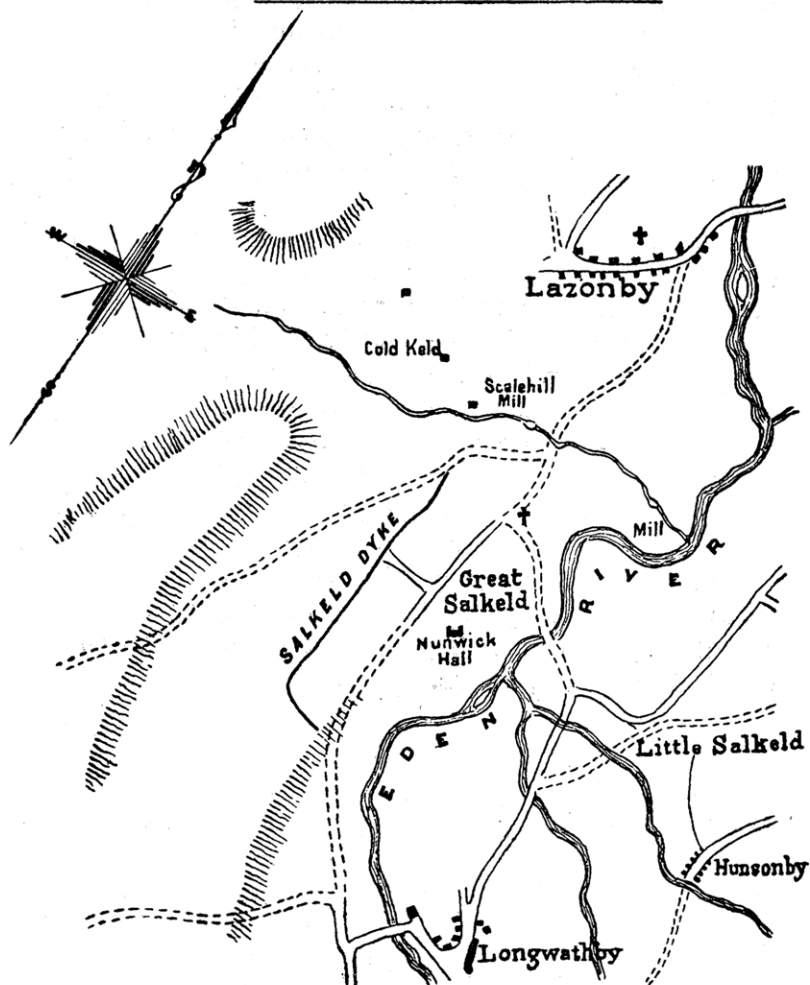
But at the further side of the moss is a narrow plantation, which contains a fragment (60 feet long and about two feet high) of the Bishop's dike, which has meanwhile crossed from the eastern to the western side of the parish boundary. Wherever the plough has run freely on both sides of the dividing line, both rampart and ditch have been effaced or reduced to the dimensions of ordinary field boundaries. But, at a distance of a mile from the said elbow, another section of the original dike occurs in a plantation belonging to Mr. Little of Watchcross. Here, as our president has noted (these *Transactions*, O.S. xiv., p. 144), the earthwork consists of an outer rampart on the east four feet high, and an inner rampart of from two to three feet high, with a space of ten feet between them, and it therefore bears a great resemblance to the Bishop's dike at Dalston. Half a mile further south it reached its terminus—the sike which formed the manorial boundary “at the west end of Newby.”

The contained road may have served as a means of access to Crosby townfield, and as a driftway for the cattle to the waste of Crosby Moor, which abutted north upon that field. The name of “Bishop's dike” does not survive locally. Several old residents inform me

that the remains of the earthwork are known as "Barras dike," and the sike at its northern extremity as "Barras beck." Our President is of opinion that Barras dike is here a corruption of "Baron's dike," that is to say, the boundary of the barony of Gilsland, but with great deference I would call attention to the analogous application of the term *barras* at Dalston.

SALKELD DIKE.—The *plan* here given is enlarged from Jollie's very minute and accurate map contained in Hutchinson's *Cumberland*. If it is compared with Donald's map it appears that the dike started from a point about one mile south of Nunwick Hall, where the upper road, which has there been diverted, used to meet the lower road, which passes through the village. From that point the dike ran due west for half a mile, still following the upper road, along whose eastern side stood the hamlet of "South Dyke." As it approached the latitude of the church, it dipped eastward, so as to exclude the gravel ridge, near the hamlet of "North Dyke," and a small tract of adjacent common, but rejoined the upper road at the cross-ways. There is another reason for supposing that Great Salkeld was formerly surrounded by a ring fence, in which occurred "bars" or gates, giving egress to the common, for Canon Loftie states in his handbook on the parish (p. 109) that there were, within memory, gates on the highroad, at either end of the village, that on the north being known as "Hogg's gate," and that on the south as "Oliphant's gate." There were similar "bars" at Little Dalston, Nealhouse, and Great Orton. Salkeld dike must have been made to protect the townfield from the ravages of man and beast. Raiders were thereby impeded, when attempting to drive off the villagers' cattle. The oxen pasturing on the common, and the wild deer of the forest, were thus kept at bay, and the property of the inhabitants rendered more secure. Outside the dike all was waste,

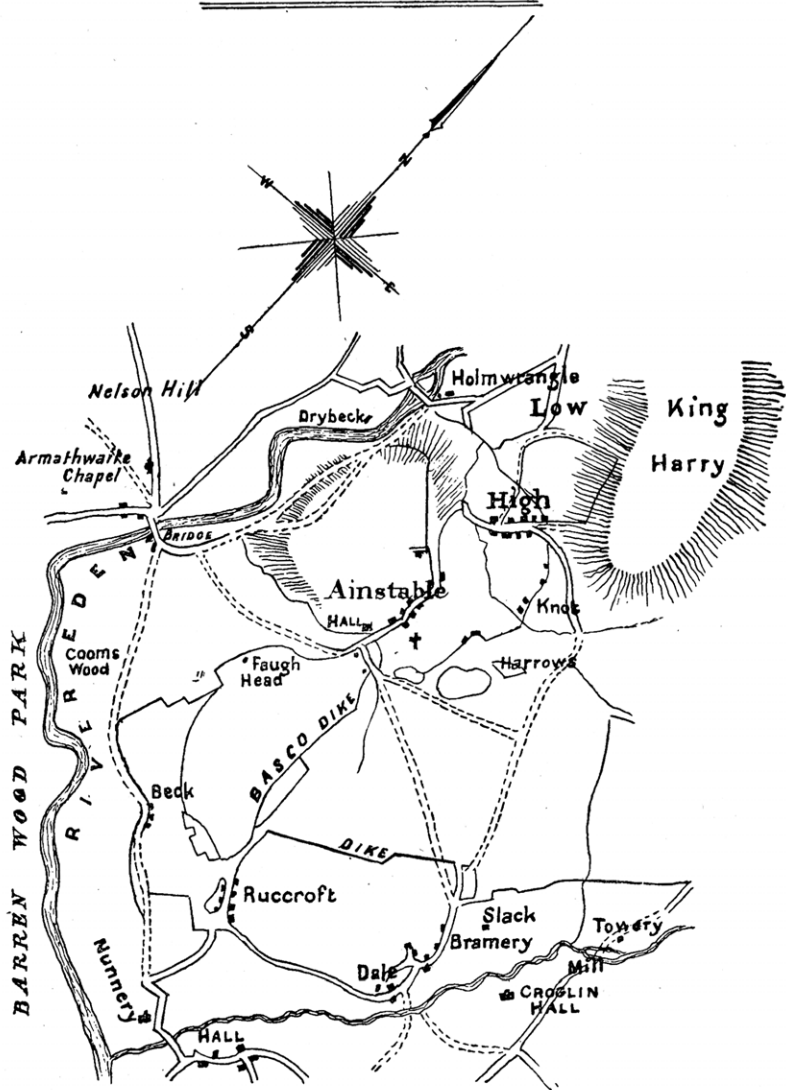
SALKELD DIKE.



as is testified by such names as Scale Hill, Wan-fell, and Fell cottage.

BASCO DIKE, AINSTABLE.—Donald's *map* here reproduced shows a boundary called "Basco dike," running from Ainstable towards Ruckcroft, and its vicinity is indicated at the present day by the names "Bascodyke-foot" and "Bascodyke head." At the latter place it was joined by a cross-dike, whose extremities were equidistant from Ainstable church, and whose memory is preserved in the place-name "High Dykes." Cumbrians have an inveterate habit of adding the plural termination. Canon Thornley observes (these *Transactions*, O.S. xv., p. 48) "In many cases the letter s turns a merely descriptive word into a field-name, and has nothing to do with the plural number." For example, rose tree is the name of a bush, but Rosetrees is the locative case—the place where the rosetree grew. All traces of dike and cross-dike have vanished, but their object was evidently to fence the cultivated land, near the Eden and Croglin water, from the open waste which adjoined King Harry. It may be interesting to compare the accompanying maps with an old plan of the country lying between Armathwaite and Great Salkeld, contained in Hutchinson's *Cumberland*, vol. i., p. 312.

— BASCO DIKE. —



Scale.



