

ART. VI.—*An Account of Sockbridge Hall, and of Askham Hall, Westmoreland.* By MICHAEL W. TAYLOR, M.D.

Read at Sockbridge and Askham, June 10th, 1874.

THERE is no part of the country in which old manor houses are more numerous than in that which is known as the “bottom of Westmorland.” These remains, many of them of an early date, are pretty thickly studded along the valleys of the Eden, and Lowther, and Eamont, and on the banks of the smaller streams. The presence of good old land, and of an ample supply of good water, have influenced the choice of a site, in some cases even beyond the consideration of a defensive position. The following paper will include the description of two of these houses, which are in the line of the excursion of the meeting, viz., Sockbridge Hall, the home of the Lancasters, and Askham Hall, the seat of the Sandfords.

The river Eamont, which forms the channel for the out-pour of Ullswater, after a short course of about nine miles, is received into the Eden, and throughout this distance it forms the boundary division of the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. Old Camden calls it the Ticinus of the two counties, comparing its course with that of the Ticino flowing out of Lago Maggiore to join the Po.

The verdant and attractive vale, through which flow the clear and rapid waters of this beautiful stream, has always been a favourite resort, and has been extensively occupied from the earliest times. The Kelt has left the record of his early possession, in the appellations, in the strong terse language of the Gael, which still cling to the chief features of the landscape, and the vestiges of his occupancy, in the earthworks and barrows, and sepulchral monuments, and cremated ashes of his race; the Angle and the Dane, first as plunderers, and then as abiding colonists, have marked their dominion in the place names of the neighbourhood; and the fortified houses of the lords to whom the valley was

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was apportioned in feudal times, still remain, many of them in tolerable preservation. Descending on the right bank, are the manorial halls of Barton, Sockbridge, Yanwath, Brougham, and Hornby. On the left, Dacre Castle, Carleton Hall, and Eden Hall.

The river Eamont formed an impediment, which lay across the great natural line of way and thoroughfare which has existed from the earliest ages between England and Scotland. The main Roman way from over Stanemore to Luguvallium, or Carlisle, traversed the river at the camp of Brocavum, or Brougham; and the Roman road from Amble-side over High Street and Barton Fell trended to the river, in the direction of the fords of Yanwath and Sockbridge; whilst the paths from the ancient British settlements at Woodhouse, Lowther, and Askham, probably sought the passage of the stream at these points. I question whether the Romans ever threw a stone bridge across this river. Anciently, the stream was traversed by but one stone bridge, at the village of Eamont, which hamlet is, by distinction, still known in common parlance, as "The Brigg."

The bridge now standing was built in the year 1425, in the reign of king Henry VI. Thomas Langley, Bishop of Durham, who seems to have been also a Pope's legate, conceded an indulgence, which runs as follows;—"omnibus parochianis nostris, et aliis quorum diocesani hanc nostram indulgentiam ratam habuerint, et peccatis suis vere pœnitentibus, contritis, et confessis, qui ad constructionem novi pontis lapidei, super et ultra aquam de Amot in parochia de Penrith Karliolensis dioceseôs aliqua de bonis sibi a Deo collatis grata contulerint, seu quovis modo assignaverint subsidia caritatis, quadraginta dies indulgentiæ concedimus per præsentem pro nostro beneplacito duraturas: Datas apud manerium nostrum de Aukland quinto die Aprilis Anno Domini 1425, et nostræ consecrationis 19."

It may be inferred from the words used, "a new stone bridge," that a bridge had previously existed, and this was indeed the case, for in referring to the record of the perambulation

perambulation of the forest of Englewood, dated at Penrith in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of Edward I., I find, that the bridge at Eamont is mentioned as one of the boundaries of the forest, “ et ita per idem iter per medium villæ de Blencowe, et item per idem iter usque ad Palat; et ita descendendo per idem iter usque ad pontem de Amote; et sic de illo ponte descendendo per ripam de Amote usque in Eden; et sic descendendo per aquam de Eden usque ad locam ubi Caldew cadit in Eden; &c.”

This bridge possesses an interest, not only on account of the dispensation conferred by the Bishop's brief in favour of its building, and from its antiquity of 450 years, but because it really presents an unusual architectural peculiarity. The bridge consists of three arches of moderate pitch, springing from two massive piers in mid-stream, and these arches are ribbed; four ribs are projected from the surface of each vault in a longitudinal direction, and these ribs are of plain square blocks; this style of square ribbing of the arch preceded, in Norman masonry, the moulded and ornamented ribs which give such effective relief to the groined roofs of our cathedral aisles and cloisters. From the inconvenience of the approaches and from the requirements of modern traffic, this fine old bridge has already been condemned to alteration or removal.

SOCKBRIDGE HALL.

Higher up the river, probably near where the iron foot-bridge now is, there must have been a plank or wooden bridge in Saxon times. For this bridge, this timber or Stock, or Stockenbridge has given its name to the manor, as in a similar way the passage at the ford close by, gave its name to the adjoining manor of Yamonwath, or Eanwath, or Yanwath.

All the extensive parish of Barton, with the exception of the domain of Yanwath, which was held under the Cliffords, was included in the great barony of Kendal, which, along with other large grants, was bestowed by the Conqueror

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on his Norman chief and follower, Ivo de Talebois. William de Talebois, the fifth in succession, by license of Henry II., took the name of De Lancastre. On the ninth succession, in the reign of Henry III., the male line failed in another William de Lancastre, and the inheritance descended to two sisters, Helwise and Alice, and was divided between them; one of them received for her share what was afterwards called the Richmond Fee; and the other what was afterwards called the Marquis and Lumley Fee.

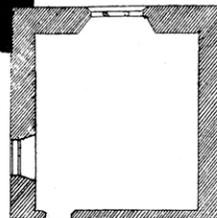
With this partition of the inheritance, fell the name and pre-eminent dominion of the Lancasters as barons of Kendal, and from thenceforward rose the power and influence of the able and gallant race of the Veteriponts and Cliffords of Appleby, barons of the other division of Westmorland. But the family of the Lancasters long continued to flourish in the county, at Rydal, Sockbridge, Howgill Castle, and other places, and by intermarriage with many of the considerable families, acquired other possessions and consequence.

The foundation of the Sockbridge branch occurred in this wise:— William de Lancastre, the last of the name in the direct line, gave to a relation, or half-brother, Roger de Lancastre, the manor of Barton and Patterdale, and other lands in Westmorland. To John, the grandson of this Roger, fell the inheritance of Howgill Castle, and of Milburn, a manor at the foot of Crossfell; and to the second brother, Christopher, went the manor of Barton. His branch of the family settled at Sockbridge, and continued there for many generations in the direct male line, till the reign of James the first, and then became extinct in daughters. The manor was then acquired, by marriage, by the house of Lowther.

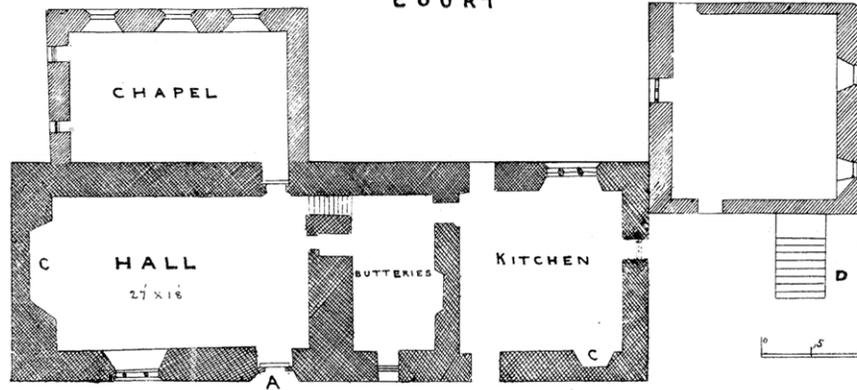
Sockbridge Hall is situated on the south bank of the Eamont, within a bow-shot of the river, closely adjacent to the two villages of Tirril and Sockbridge, and on the edge of what was 70 years ago the unenclosed waste of Tirril and Yanwath moors, stretching towards Askham
and

**SOCKBRIDGE HALL
WESTMORLAND**

- A** PASSAGE
- B** GATEWAY
- C** FIREPLACES
- D** MODERN STAIRS
TO UPPER DINING ROOM



COURT



and Lowther. The site is low, and not adapted for defensive occupation; in fact the premises present now as little pretence to fortification as to ornamental embellishment. But, originally, on one side of the quadrangular court inclosed by the buildings, there stood a defensive Pele Tower, similar to, but smaller than that at Yanwath Hall; and I think there is some evidence of the residence having been partially moated.

The object of the Society's visit to Sockbridge Hall, is not on account of its presenting any exceptional architectural peculiarities, but because it manifests the mode and fashion in which families of consequence, as were the Lancasters, lived and lodged in those times. In the plan of its domestic arrangements, it affords a very exact type of a fifteenth century manor house of small dimensions. You have the outer doorway opening directly into the hall, and the passage out of the hall, through the buttery, into the kitchen; the chapel adjoining the hall, and entered from it; all this is the usual arrangement. The central and older part of the building, which contains these apartments, has a frontage of 67 feet. The doorway, with a square moulded architrave, gives entrance into a hall of 27 feet by 18 feet, which has one wide window divided into three lights, with mullions and transoms, and surmounted with the usual square drip-stone. The chimney is deserving of notice, consisting of a wide flat segmental arch of 13 feet span. Doubtless, originally, the hall possessed a high open timbered roof, springing from corbels; one of these corbels may be seen in the passage.

The doorway leading out of the hall, to the buttery and kitchen, is massive, and flat-headed, with a shouldered lintel. In the thickness of the wall, on the inner side, there is a square aperture and shaft for the passage of the oaken beam or draw-bar, such as may be seen at Yanwath Hall, and other houses of that class.

The kitchen is about 18 feet square, and presents nothing remarkable. Nor is there anything worthy of note in the
upper

upper story, except that here you have examples of the manner in which sleeping chambers were sometimes divided, by oaken panelled screens or brattice work, not extending quite to the ceiling, but surmounted by an open carved railing at the top, which at all events would be conducive, if not to privacy, at least to the ventilation of these small sleeping boxes.

From the hall there is direct access to an apartment now used as the dairy. This has been a later addition to the central building. It is lighted on the east by three small windows, each of one light, with a pointed arch, and the edges plainly chamfered. This I take to have been constructed and used as a chapel, by the last generations of the Lancasters.

In the central part of the building the walls are three feet thick at least, well built, of well dressed ashlar, and every stone facing the court-yard bears its mason's mark. The principal windows are of three lights, square headed, with perpendicular mouldings. The gable to the south has some interest, in being surmounted with corbie steps, which give it a picturesque appearance. This was a fashion very common in Scottish houses of this period, but very rarely followed on this side of the border. There is a very good stone octagonal chimney, with a battlemented top, though far inferior to the beautiful chimney shaft at Yanwath. The date of this part of the building is probably about the end of the 15th century.

The wing which forms the south side of the quadrangle is in date a century later. It is set on, but not bonded to the inner angle of the central range. It is about 50 feet long, and about 21 feet broad. The basement is pierced in the centre by an archway and covered passage, giving entrance to the court-yard. A square tunnel has existed in the thickness of the wall, for the usual draw-bar behind the door. Two equally sized and well lighted chambers occupy the ground floor on each side of the passage of entrance. The upper story consists of one large apartment, which

which has been the new dining room, or guest chamber. It is approached by a flight of steps at the western gable, which are modern. It is $46\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. The whole character of the room is Elizabethan; it has an oak wainscot of excellent workmanship, in plain panels, rising to the height of 7ft. 9in.; the space above, 16 inches to the ceiling, is in plaster. It was common to have this space in some houses highly decorated by hangings or colour. On the ceiling, in plaster work, in Machel's time, were the arms of Lancaster quartering Hartsop, (three harts' heads caboshed) and impaling Tankard, viz., a chevron charged with three annulets between three escalops; and another coat, viz., a chevron charged with three fleur-de-lis. Launcelot Lancaster married a Tankard from Yorkshire, in the early part of the reign of James I., to which date we may reasonably assign the building of this wing. The character of the stonework is altogether inferior. The walls are only 20 inches thick, of rubble, with dressed quoins. The principal windows are of the Elizabethan age, divided by mullions and transoms.

Machel, in his MSS., gives a short account of Sockbridge Hall, and figures and describes the various coats of arms which existed in his day, in various parts of the building. Moreover, he notices the existence of "a little tower opposite the old entrance where you go into the halle. It fronts south, a little declining, with three descents into the court." Now this tower was the original Pele Tower, the nucleus which determined the occupancy of the site, and the erection of the subsequent domestic buildings. This tower was taken down about 50 years ago, and a gatehouse in Lowther Park (Buckham Lodge) was built with the masonry. I have been enabled, from information afforded by the kindness of Mr. Mawson, to represent on the plan, the position of this tower, which, as you see, stood on the north side of the quadrangle. *

* Mr. C. J. Ferguson made the following remarks upon an interesting feature of Sockbridge Hall.—“ Before leaving this interesting building, may I call your

ASKHAM HALL.

The ancient village of Askham occupies the slope of a hill, on the left bank of the river Lowther. The valley through which the river flows, is here contracted into a narrow gorge, and the stream is spanned by an early bridge of one arch. On the right bank are the woodlands, and picturesque park scenery of the Lowther domain; and on the left are the village of Askham, the church dedicated to St. Peter, and on a lofty knoll, rising high above the river's edge, stands the hall, the seat of the Sandfords, the ancient lords of the manor.

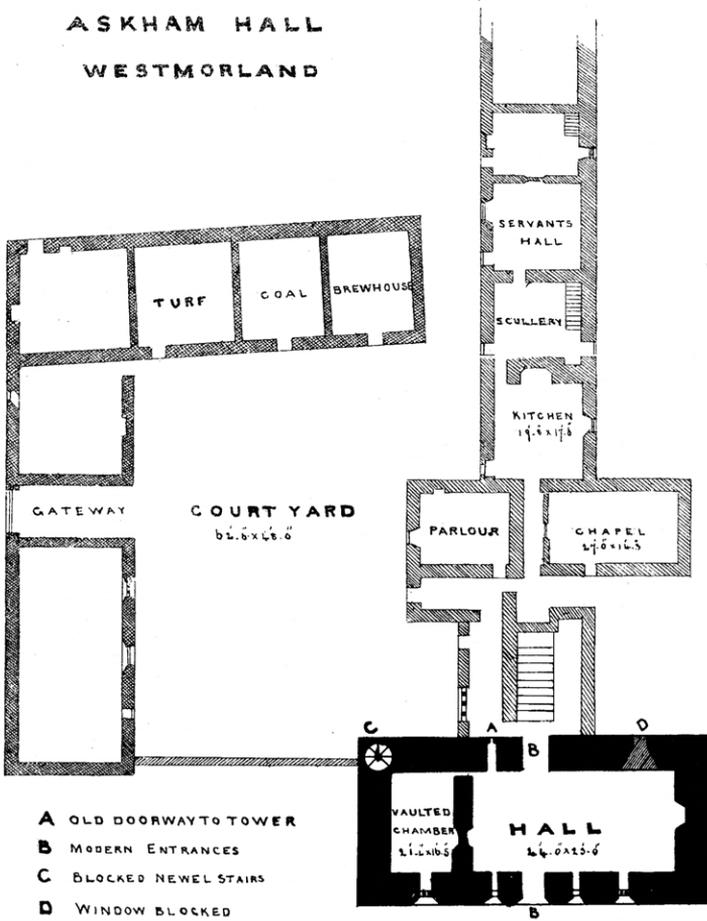
The site has been selected as a good defensive position; it is protected on the east by the deep and rapid waters of the rocky stream below, and on the north by a steep defile, through which a runner of water flows, to join the main stream: and it is probable that it had a partial moat on the other side, which is now arranged in a succession of garden terraces.

This building, as do others of the same class, presents in its parts two characteristic features:—first, the early or defensive portion, and second, the later or domestic portion. The tower which represents the former, is a massive, imposing, quadrangular building, of three lofty stories. It is in the form of a parallelogram, 79 feet by 34 feet; it has no cellarage, but stands on a projecting plinth of ponderous

attention more particularly to the very beautiful woodwork contained in it. For I see, to my regret, that portions of the beautiful Jacobean panelling of the hall have been removed, and used as a screen from the weather. It is almost impossible to reproduce such panelling, because you can hardly get such qualities of home grown oak timber to make it out of, and it is the advantage of the visit of such a Society as this that it may call attention to the great value of such panelling and be instrumental in preserving it. The panelling of the hall we are now in is not only valuable by being authentic and in its place, but will bear close examination. The delicacy of the mouldings, and the simplicity of construction, commend it as a model for modern work, for it may all be worked by machinery, and its variety is shewn by the fact, that where the panelling acts as a screen, the work is different on each side. The remains exist not only of screens and wail panelling, as Dr. Taylor has so ably pointed out, but what is much more rare, of the complete panelling of a window,—now unfortunately blocked up—and also of traces of the panelled chimney-piece over the fireplace. The oak staircase and charmingly turned balusters still remain, and the screens, pointed out by Dr. Taylor, which divide the rooms, are most interesting. I hope it does not savour of an intrusion if I also add that the furniture now in the house is of much interest, and portions of it coeval with the panelling.”

stones ;

ASKHAM HALL
WESTMORLAND



stones; the masonry is in regular courses of well dressed stones; the walls are from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 feet thick. Its defensive object is seen in the crenellated parapet surmounting the roof, which has six embrasures on the longer sides, and three on the shorter—moreover, at each angle there is a square turret, projected on shallow corbels, or false machicolations. These turrets are also crenellated, and are carried a few feet higher than the merlons of the roof parapet, and have been of two stories, divided by a timber flooring, not of stone as at Yanwath. Thus a cover, breast-high, would be afforded to the archers shooting from the banquette above, while the base of the turret was provided with loopholes for those engaged below.

This tower of Askham is of a later date than the other Pele towers of the neighbourhood. It was built probably at the end of the fifteenth century at a time when the character of the place as a fortress, was subordinated to the requirements of domestic accommodation and convenience, as we shall see when we examine the interior. It is an advance on the rude and simple and limited plan of many of the border Peles, with which you are familiar; it belongs rather to that class of tower built houses, such as Dacre Castle, of which the characteristic type is found in the moated brick house of Tattershall Castle, in Lincolnshire.

The barrel vaulted apartment, or chamber of security here, is at the western end of the building; it is lofty, and measures 22 feet by 16 feet, but its walls now are cased with lath and plaster; the well stair which gave access to the upper stories, occupies the angle nearest the court yard: it is now blocked; a thick partition wall separates this vaulted chamber from the remainder of the ground floor. This portion, now divided into an entrance hall and dining room, formerly constituted one noble hall, 44 feet by 23 feet. The original entrance, still visible, was at the back of the tower, by a low narrow doorway with a pointed arch, with the arris chamfered, surmounted by an arched cornice with grotesque

grotesque heads carved at each end. The tower has lost much of its aspect as a defensive place, by the insertions made in it to convert it into what it now is, a commodious and roomy country mansion. The main door and its architrave, the high mullioned and transomed windows, the handsome massive oaken staircase have the character of work done in the time of Charles II., or towards the very end of the 17th century.

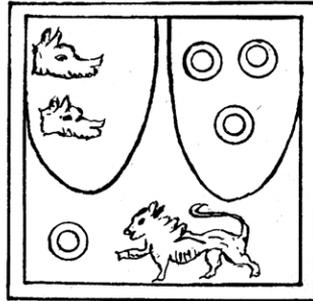
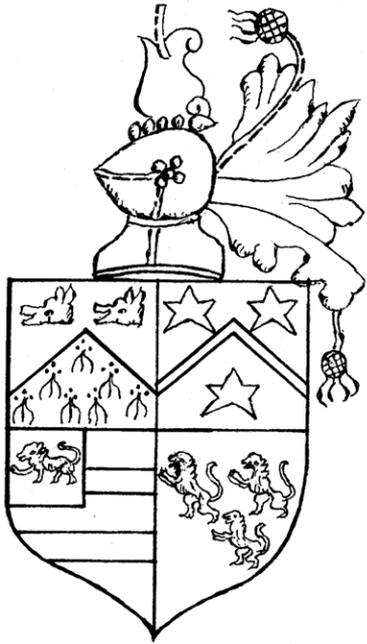
But about two hundred years had elapsed between these later restorations and the early habitation of Askham as a mediæval tower, and during all this time the hall had been the homestead of a powerful and wealthy family: more lodging room had been demanded than could be afforded by the scrimp and semi-barbarous accommodation of the old Border Pele. This introduces us to the range of Elizabethan buildings, raised in the back court, and about the date of these there can be no question, as the inscription over the gateway expressly records it. On a square tablet over the gate, surmounted by a wreath and helmet, are the arms quarterly of Sandford, English, Crackenthorpe, and Lancaster; and underneath, in capital letters, curiously raised, this inscription:—

**Thomas Sandford esqur
For this paid meat and hyre;
The year of our sabioure
XV hundrethe sebenty foure.***

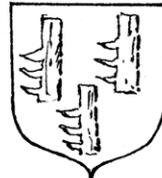
This Thomas was the son and heir of Sir Thomas, by his wife Anne Crackenthorpe, of Howgill. He married Anne, eldest daughter of Cuthbert Hutton, of Hutton John. He succeeded in the 6th of Elizabeth: he began the building in the back court, but died in the same year, and it was finished by his executors.

The Elizabethan partion of Askham Hall, consists of a long range of low storied buildings, occupying one side of

* See Appendix at end of this paper.



KITCHEN



CHAPEL

SHIELDS FROM ASKHAM HALL
GIVEN BY MACHEL



SHIELD OVER
DINING ROOM DOORWAY BY M.W. TAYLOR,

the court ; the passage of entry passes through the centre of the range ; it is about eleven feet wide, and presents a low circular gateway to the exterior. Above the gateway, surmounted with helmet, crest, and mantlings with tassels, are the coat of arms and inscription previously mentioned ; and the arch is encircled by a cornice or moulding of a very unusual description. The design is that of rope work, or of a cable, with a knot at each terminal, well carved in stone ; on the cut end of the knot, on one side, are the initials T.S, and on the other A.S, for Thomas Sandford and Anne Sandford his wife.

The windows in this part of the building are square-headed with mullions, and dripstones. To the left of the gateway are two small pointed windows of a very early character : one of them with an ogee arch and single light. It is an early English window, and I think both are insertions, having been removed either from the tower or chapel. A small window of a similar style still exists on the southern face of Yanwath tower, in the upper story. The basement of this building to the right of the gateway was doubtless used as the new dining room ; on the upper story there is a long apartment of the breadth of the building, of low elevation, with an open timber roof. It seems evident, that this has been a dormitory, and has been screened off into three or four chambers, for on the low transverse oak tie beams, which bind the roof, are seen the grooves to which the framework of the pannelling has been notched and pinned. The horizontal beams which support the flooring, seen from below, are worth inspection, as the original work and bead mouldings are preserved.

The shields which Machel noticed in his day, are still to be seen in the back court. "There is upon a mullion of one of ye windows of the gatehouse dining room, on a scutcheon, a Lyon passant, alluding to the English." Over the door of entrance there is a circular shield, bearing three boar's heads for Swinburne, and, I think, two lions rampant, for English. There is a stone built into the back

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wall

wall of the kitchen, exhibiting two escutcheons, one charged with two boar's heads, the other with three annulets, and below, a lion passant, and one annulet: Machel states that "The same coats were also on Cross which stood in midst of the town." An old inhabitant of Askham has informed me that he remembers, as a child, this cross, and the parish stocks, which stood close by, and I believe also the handstocks, and stretch-neck, and whipping post.

A chapel has existed here at least from the time of Henry IV., for Dame Idonea Sandford, whose curious will is preserved in the Sandford MS., bequeathed "8 oxgangs of land, and half of the mill in Ascome * * * upon condition that one chaplain be found to celebrate mass for the soul of her father and her ancestors, in the chapel of St. Mary, of Ascome,"—which chapel stood nigh unto the hall, distinct from other buildings. It is marked upon the plan; it is now the dairy. The site is verified by the discovery, as Provost Jackson informs me, within his recollection, of the piscina, and by the presence of the pointed arched doorway, still to be seen on the south side. Machel refers to it in his MS., by noticing that "the chapple window has two lights with coloured glass of our Saviour & Virgin Mary." The Sandfords were attached to the old religion to the end of their race here at Askham, which terminated in 1680.

The device of the boar's heads on the shields in the back court, was derived from the *Swinburnes*, who held the manor of Askham up to the 49. Ed. III., when it was conveyed to Edmund de Sandford in fee,* "which Edmund was founder of the family of the Sandfords, both at Askham and Howgill. He was younger brother of William de Sandford, lord of the manor of Sandford, in the parish of Warcop, descended of a family of the same name, who had been lords of the manor there for several generations, at least from the reign of King Richard I., and with this

* Burn and Nicholson, Vol. I. p. 423.

Edmund,

Edmund, we begin the pedigree of the Sandfords of Askham." This Edmund de Sandford married Idonea, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas English, Lord of Little Asby, of an ancient family there, by which he came, not only to the manor of Little Asby, but also to large estates of land at Askham, and Helton, all of which Dame Idonea shews forth in the schedule to her will, as her "herritake";—so what with the towns and manors of Ascome, of Helton Flechane, and Knipe, and the lands at Satrow Park, Butterwyke, Carholond, and the oxgangs and mills, and parcels elsewhere, it made up a brave estate, to maintain the honour and glory of Askham Hall through many generations. In fact, few knights in the two shires would do service in the field with a better power of horsemen and foot at his back, than the Sandford of Askham. When Sir Thomas Wharton, warden of the West Marches, in 34 Hen. 8. (1543) called out the gentlemen of the two counties, for service on the borders, according to the proportionable value of their respective estates, we find that Thomas Sandford stands fourth on the list, with a following of 80 horse, and 20 foot. His contingent was exceeded only by Strickland, of Kendal, with 200 horse; by Sir John Lowther, 100 horse and 40 foot; and by Blenkinsop, of Hellbeck and Brough, with 120 horse; while the smaller gentry brought their 6, 10, or 20 followers.

And so the Sandfords lived and flourished here in the direct male line for about three hundred years, full of possessions, and contracting alliances with many important families. But at the 12th generation, the race ended in daughters, as was often the case, and the property was sold in 1680, and even the name has almost entirely passed away out of the county. But to one of the last of the family, Edmund Sandford, this Society, and those interested in the local antiquities of this country, are indebted for much valuable and curious lore, collected by him in his journeys through Cumberland, two hundred years ago, and happily preserved to us in the Sandford MSS.

APPENDIX,

APPENDIX, *vide ante*, p. 40.

NOTE:—ON INSCRIBED DATES.

During the Elizabethan period, it was quite a passion to extend and enlarge the domestic buildings; many of the neighbouring squires were at work, about this time, busy with alterations, and adding to the gaunt grey walls of their border Pele Towers. Lancaster, at Sockbridge; Crackenthorpe, at Newbiggin; Cliburn, at Cliburn; Dudley, at Yanwath; Vaux, at Catterlen; Musgrave, at Johnby: Birbeck, at Hornby; and many others, were engaged in building halls. It was the custom, at this period, to carve over the gateway or hall door, the family arms, and full heraldic achievement, with the name of the builder, and date, often quaintly expressed in old English, as on the gateway here at Askham, or, as over the hall door at Newbiggin Hall:—

“ Christopher Crakenthorp, men did me call,
 Who in my tyme did bulde this hall,
 And framed it, as you may see,
 One thousand five hundred thirty and thre.”

Or, as at Cliburn Hall:—

“ Richard . Clebur . thus . they . did . me . cawle,
 Who . in . my . time . builded . this . haulte.,’

1577.

Or with a quaint legend, as at Catterlen Hall:—

“ Let mercy and faithfulness neber goye from the.”

and underneath:—

“ At this time is Rowland Vaux lord of this place, and builded this house in the year of God. 1577.

Or, as at Johnby Hall:—

William Musgrave, Isabel Martindale. 1583. Nicholas Musgrave
 maret Margaret Cellel. Heyre. Thomas His Sonne maret Elizabet Hacre.
 Willm his Sonne Here now Abell, maret Isabel Heyre to Martindale.
 To God I pray be with us allwaie.

In the centre of the inscription is a shield, encircled by a garter, inscribed—

“ God gibe me wisdom to know thee.”

It is seldom that we meet with inscriptions over doorways, bearing dates of the years, between 1600 and 1650. The disturbed state of the country, during the troublous times of Charles I. and the Commonwealth, hindered engagement in works of domestic building and repairs. But after the restoration, another great building era set in, and from 1650 to the year 1700, examples of inscribed date

over

over the doorways, are everywhere numerous. The carving consists generally of the initial letters of the husband and wife, with the date, frequently with a latin motto, and with a shield with the armorial bearings of the family, but without the external ornaments to the escutcheon, as was the prevalent custom in the preceding century. For instances, there are inscribed—

At Greenthwaite Hall, over the principal door,—

M. H. D.

PEREGRINOS HIC NOS REPUTAMUS

1650

with shield and crest.

At Hutton John,

1662.

ANDREAS HUDLESTON FIERIFECIT. SOLI DEO
HONOR ET GLORIA.

with three shields and crest.

On a house at Eamont Bridge,—

OMNI SOLVM . FOR

TI . PATRIA . EST.

HP. 1671

Over the hall door at Blencowe, with a shield.—

QUORSUM.

VIVERE MORI——MORI VITÆ

HENRICUS BLENCOWE.

The letters at this time were cut in relief, in Roman capitals, in a panel of the stone, or surmounted by a label or dripstone. The practice of cutting the date and initials in *alto relievo*, was universal, not only over the doors and chimneypieces, but on all the heavy articles of finely carved oak furniture, which was made all over the country in great profusion, during this period. The cupboards, dressers, long settles, and chairs, of the best carving and workmanship, belong to this age, and these found their way not only into the manor houses, but into the granges, farm houses, hostelries, and dwellings of meaner pretensions. The best pieces are from 1670 to 1698. But after the year 1700, the practice of carving in *relievo* the date and monogram over the entrance to the house, fell into disuse, and examples after that time, are of a very inferior description, and the work is cut into the stone or *intaglio*.

One obvious cause of the suspension of the fashion, was the rage in vogue at the beginning of the 18th century for adopting the Italian style of frontage and embellishment of the doorway, shown first in the moulded architrave surmounted, in the time of Queen Anne, with its entablature, and cornice, and pediment, and finally, in the projection, before the entrance, of the classic prostyle portico of the Georges.

M. W. T.

ART.