

ART. XXIII.—*St. Lawrence Chapel.* By T. H. DALZELL.
*Read June 17th, 1880.**

AT the junction of the Marron and Derwent, on the Broughton side of the Derwent, on the crest of the hill, anciently stood the chapel of St. Lawrence, an ancient chapel mentioned by Thomas Denton in his manuscript of History of Cumberland, Anno Domini 1688, as having been destroyed in the civil wars—most likely Stainburn Chapel would share the same fate, possibly at the same time.

It is situate in the township of Great Broughton, parish of Bridekirk, on the banks of the River Derwent, a little to the north-west of the outlet of the Marron, and is marked on the oldest plans of the County.

It is not mentioned amongst the list of "Ancient Chapelries" in Bacon's Liber Regis, neither is any mention made of the ancient chapel at Stainburn. Most likely both would be destroyed long before that work was compiled, as, on the other hand, Clifton, in the adjoining township, is specially mentioned in the work as being an ancient chapel, existing at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.

No vestige now remains to mark the hallowed spot, save that the earth is a little raised where the boundary walls once stood.

Can it have been a chapel of ease under Bridekirk? The burial ground was retained for interments up to a recent period, although no minister in the memory of the oldest inhabitant has ever officiated at a funeral, the bodies being simply placed in the graves and covered up, and in some instances the graves were dug after the corpse had arrived at the spot. One instance was a man who

* Written in 1864.

lived

lived adjoining the school-house at Broughton.* This man's daughter having died, she being a young girl, he carried her body to the St. Lawrence burial ground, and dug her grave after reaching the spot. Catherine Pearson, from whom I obtained the foregoing, is seventy-seven years old this year, 1864, and stated that she lived along with her parents next door to the man, but could not remember his name. She was at the funeral, being very young at the time. Margaret Huddart, whose maiden name was "Bell," widow of the noted huntsman, and in her eighty-fifth year, at the same time informed me that she also was present at that funeral, which was the first she was ever at, and being young at the time, the impression previously on her mind was that the coffin would be put into the ground feet foremost, and would stand bolt upright. The last interment that took place was that of a poor indigent, half-witted fellow, who tramped the country, and went by the name of "Holf-dwonned Jwhon," who had laid himself down beside the Broughton Cragg Limekilns one night, had fallen asleep, and was found dead, having been suffocated, there being no marks on his body, except on one of his feet, which had been partly burned. A parish coffin was provided for him, and the undertaker, not being particular to get his exact length, and the body very likely being contracted, made the coffin too shallow, but being not in the least non-plussed, got upon the body and compressed it into the coffin, literally kneading it in. This was somewhere about the year 1799. The late Mr. Richard Mordaunt, of Ribton, my informant, said he was about five years old at the time, and remembered being at the funeral, along with his uncle and his cousin, a little girl, who was a cripple, his uncle carrying

* Built by Joseph Ashley in 1722, a native of Broughton, who also built an Alms House for four poor persons, endowing the school with a close, now worth about £6 per annum, and a rent charge of £8 per annum. The poor of Great and Little Broughton, and the donor's kindred, are to have the preference for the Alms House, and persons of the name of Ashley to have the preference as trustees.

her

her on his back from Broughton, where they resided, to see the body interred.

Mary Bell, whose maiden name was Spencer, also informed me that she was eighty-five years of age, and that the St. Lawrence Chapel Field had belonged to her family for three or four generations ; that when she was a little girl the foundation walls of the chapel and chapel yard were standing, and that the stones were afterwards sold and carted away to repair Broughton Mill Weir. (This Margaret Huddart corroborated.) Mary Bell also said that they once attempted to plough the burial ground, but the horses snorted and kicked up their heels in such a frightened manner, and the plough coulter struck fire in such an awful manner, that they had to desist, and concluded that it was impossible to cultivate consecrated ground : she also said that when a young woman she used to go from Broughton to milk the cows in the chapel field, and always felt a dread in the evenings ; and one evening she was milking a cow a little below the burial ground, and musing on the awfulness of the place, and the stillness around, when all at once something laid a hand on her shoulder, the cow at the same time leaping away from her. She dropt her pail and fainted. On coming to her senses she saw a young man standing over her, a sailor of the name of Hall, belonging Broughton, at that time serving his apprenticeship in the good ship " Hope," Captain Bell, of Workington, who, knowing that it was about her time of milking, had taken that way from Workington in order to get a drink of new milk, and very much distressed he was to have given her such a fright. The *Cumberland Pacquet*, of October 14th, 1777, states " The Hope," Captain Bell, belonging to Workington, which was taken by the Hawk privateer, commanded by one Lee, the 28th of October, 1776, and retaken the 11th of December by his Majesty's frigate the *Lizard*, of thirty-two guns, commanded by Captain Mackenzie, arrived at Workington last Thursday. Cap-
tain

tain Bell says the privateer, which mounted ten carriage guns and fourteen swivels at the time he had the misfortune to fall into her hands, had only thirty-two men, great numbers being put on board eleven prizes which she had taken, and the number put on board the "Hope" would prevent the privateer attempting to make any more captures. The prize master treated Captain Bell very indifferently, but he was happily rescued from his tyranny, when they were within a few hours sail of America.

The following are a few of the persons who, from time to time, have been buried at St. Lawrence Chapel:—

Mr. and Mrs. Tinnion, of Broughton.

Mrs. Janet Clarke's parents (she kept a public-house near Camerton Colliery, and died in 1861.)

A family of the name of Backhouse, of Ribton.

Mr. and Mrs. Moordaff, of Broughton (grandfather and grandmother of William Moordaff, innkeeper.) Mr. Moordaff's grandfather died of a very bad fever, and his body was ordered to be interred on the night of the day he died, Mr. Hoskins, of Broughton Hall, being the magistrate.

In conformity with a resolution passed when this paper was read, the Rev. Mr. Carter, Vicar of Bridekirk, and Mr. Browne, of Tallentire Hall, searched the Registers of that Parish to see whether any mention of St. Lawrence's Chapel occurred therein, but no notice was found.
