

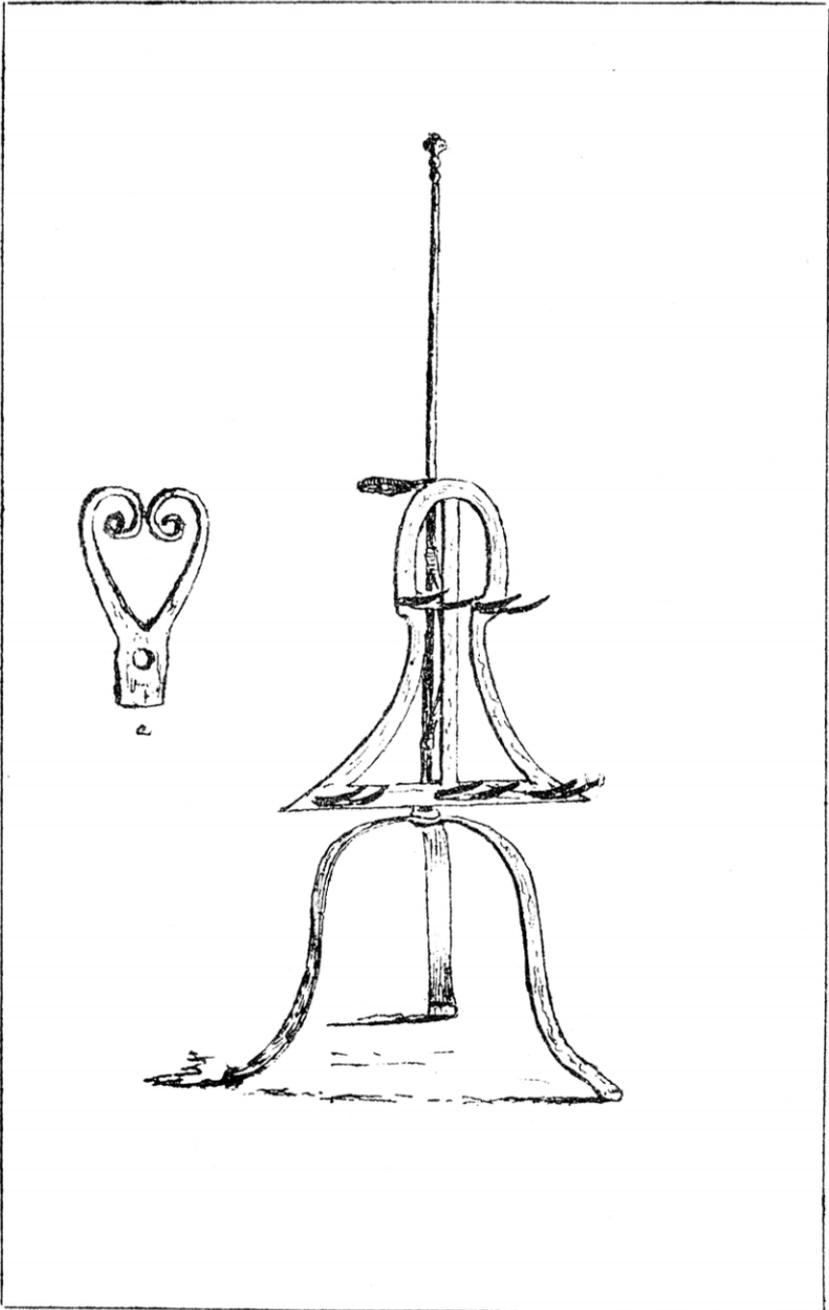
ART. VIII.—*On some Obsolete and Semi-Obsolete Appliances.*

By H. SWAINSON COWPER, F.S.A.

Read at Arnside, Sept. 25, 1893.

I HAVE ventured to put down in the ensuing pages a few remarks about some appliances, domestic and otherwise, the use of which is now dying out, or has but disappeared within the memory of man. That such a subject comes within the proper sphere of a local Society of Antiquaries, I venture to maintain; for what can be more indispensable for the true understanding of the home life of a rural district, than a familiarity with the surroundings and appliances of the people, before everything was reduced to a cut and dried uniformity by the introduction of steam traffic, and machinery in general. Thus though the study is one of trifles, it is not unimportant, and in scope it is much larger than one would at first imagine. A chat with a Cumberland village patriarch about old times, will soon put the uninitiated into a mist about details for the simple reason that allusions will almost surely be made to contrivances which, though bright in the patriarch's memory, are now to be seen only in the most retired dalesmen's homes, if indeed they survive at all. Some of these appliances have died a natural death, apparently for little or no reason, as the fire cat and push plough. Others, like the brank and the stang, which are not domestic, but punitive, have given way before the relaxation of the communal judicial codes, which has followed as a natural re-action the barbarous ideas of less enlightened ages. But the majority have disappeared before the influence of railway traffic, which has brought within reach of all classes cheap and serviceable, if often badly constructed and always inartistic, appliances of domestic and other character.

The



SPIT. (A. THE HANDLE.)

The examples which I describe to-day are but a few which have occurred to me as suitable, because I have access to examples, and am therefore able to lay before you some slight sketches which will illustrate the subject. But there are many others, probably more important and of greater interest: and in my opinion all are worthy of some record at our hands unless, as must inevitably happen otherwise, they are to be absolutely forgotten and lost in oblivion.

Many of the accessories of the house place hearth of the old farm houses and statesmen's residences, have become quite or partly obsolete during the last fifty years. Since ranges have taken the place of the open hearth, it is only here and there in a deserted farm, where one can see, by gazing up the sooty chimney shaft, the crossbeam called the rannel balk,* fixed firmly in the walls parallel with the floor of the room above. From this hung a chain with hooks so arranged that it could be lengthened or shortened as might be required, and at the end of which could be suspended a pan. This was called the ratten crook.†

Another appliance which has disappeared with the hearth fire is the girdle and brandiron, or brandreth. The latter was an open ring of iron supported on three legs, which was placed over the fire with the girdle or circular baking plate upon it. On this, the crisp haver bread (oat bread) was baked. Sometimes the girdle was suspended to the ratten crook, instead of being placed upon the brandreth.‡

A form of spit for cooking or toasting before the fire is shown in Plate I. This object, which was bought in

* Sometimes called Rannel tree or Gally balk. — "Glossary of the Dialect of Cumberland," *English Dialect Society*, series C., viii.

† "T'rattans ran on t'rannel tree," *Old Song* (*Idem*). Presumably this habit of "t'rattans" gave the name to this appliance.

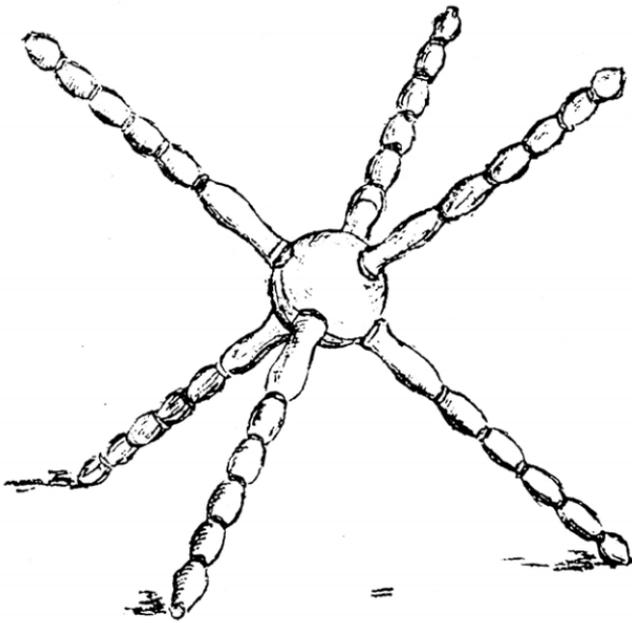
‡ *Lonsdale Magazine*, vol. III., p. 290.

Hawkshead parish, is of iron, and is 2 ft. 5 in. high. The component parts are a tripod, from which rises a slender iron rod, upon which is adjusted a framework of a somewhat curious shape, furnished in front with five pairs of iron prongs, two above and three below. At the back are two perforated projections (the upper with a handle) through which passes the rod. A double spring from the back of the frame also presses against the rod, so that the framework can be slid up to any elevation, and will remain there. The same system is used in the candle holders from Troutbeck and Wreay, figured in my paper on that subject in a late volume of the Proceedings of this Society.* I have met with no other local example of a spit of this form. This specimen probably belongs to the first half of last century.

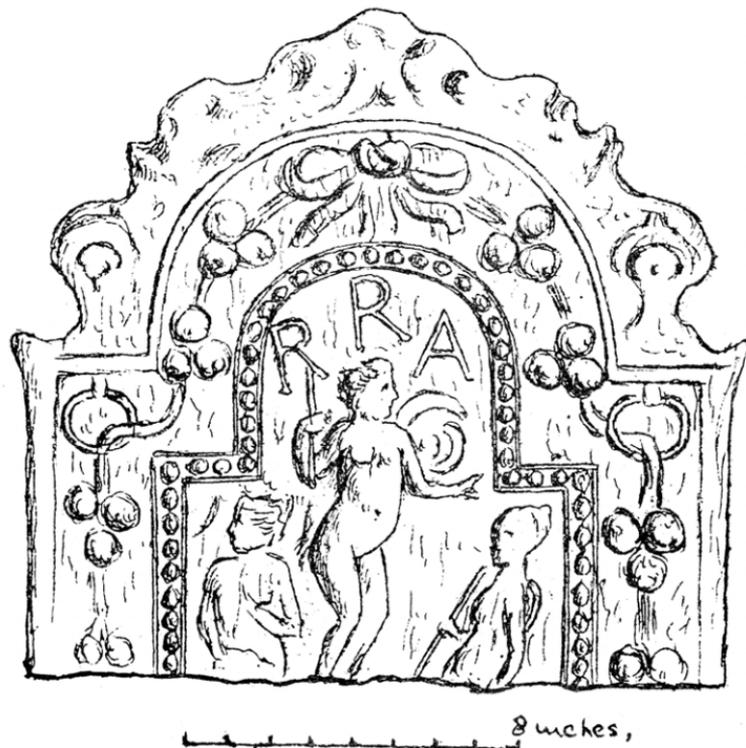
The toast being made and buttered, it was put on a plate and placed in front of the fire on the "cat" to keep warm. It is singular that this simple and useful appliance appears to be quite out of use at the present day in the southern part of the Lake District, although, made of brass, they are still in general use in some parts of the Lowlands of Scotland. Those which are sometimes found in farms in the Lakes are of wood, and consist of six turned legs, screwed or fastened into a central ball of wood. As a rule they stand about a foot high. The derivation of the name is obvious; in common with pussy and the arms (or legs) of man,—*quocunq̄ue jeceris stabit*. I recently purchased a "cat" from the widow of an inn-keeper in the Lakes, in whose possession it had been for years, but who had never had the slightest idea as to its use (Plate II).

Sometimes at the back of the fire was an ornamental plate of cast iron, which, according to the dignity of the household, was more or less elaborate. These are so

* Vol. XII., pp. 117, 119 (Nos. 16 and 18).



A FIRE CAT.



CAST IRON FIREBACK.

rare, however, that they can never have been usual except in houses of a somewhat superior sort. The plainer were only dated or initialled; others were wondrous with wreaths and posies. A few showed figures apparently allegorical, and of one of this character I exhibit a drawing (Plate III). It is about 17 inches wide and 16 inches high, but unfortunately a part of the bottom has been broken away, so that the design is not complete. This consists of three female nude figures, the centre one standing and the other two leaning or sitting. Two hold objects like sticks in their hands. I cannot suggest what they are meant to represent. Above the figures are R. R. A., and then comes an ornamented border in a sort of shouldered arch. Outside this are festooned posies or fruit suspended from the top by a big bow. The top edge has also had scroll or foliage work, which has however been corroded away by the action of fire. This example is from Keen Ground, the residence of my uncle, Mr. J. C. Cowper. The house was the original home of the Rigge family of Wood Broughton, of whom the late Mr. H. Fletcher Rigge was an active vice-president of this Society. The initials are record of some of his ancestors, but I am unable to identify them. The design seems to mark the latter half of the 17th century.

Though not properly to be counted among obsolete appliances, I may mention here the quaint cast iron door weights that are sometimes to be noticed in old fashioned houses. Though they are still in use, and still no doubt made, they deserve a passing notice, as evidence of the existence of old fashioned ideas in modern times. Many of the most modern are absolutely without interest, being ugly castings of floral or similar design; but here and there we find them in the form of figures in the costume or uniform of the early part of this century, calling to mind the Toby Fillpot jugs, or the picture board dummies of the early part of the 18th century. One, of which

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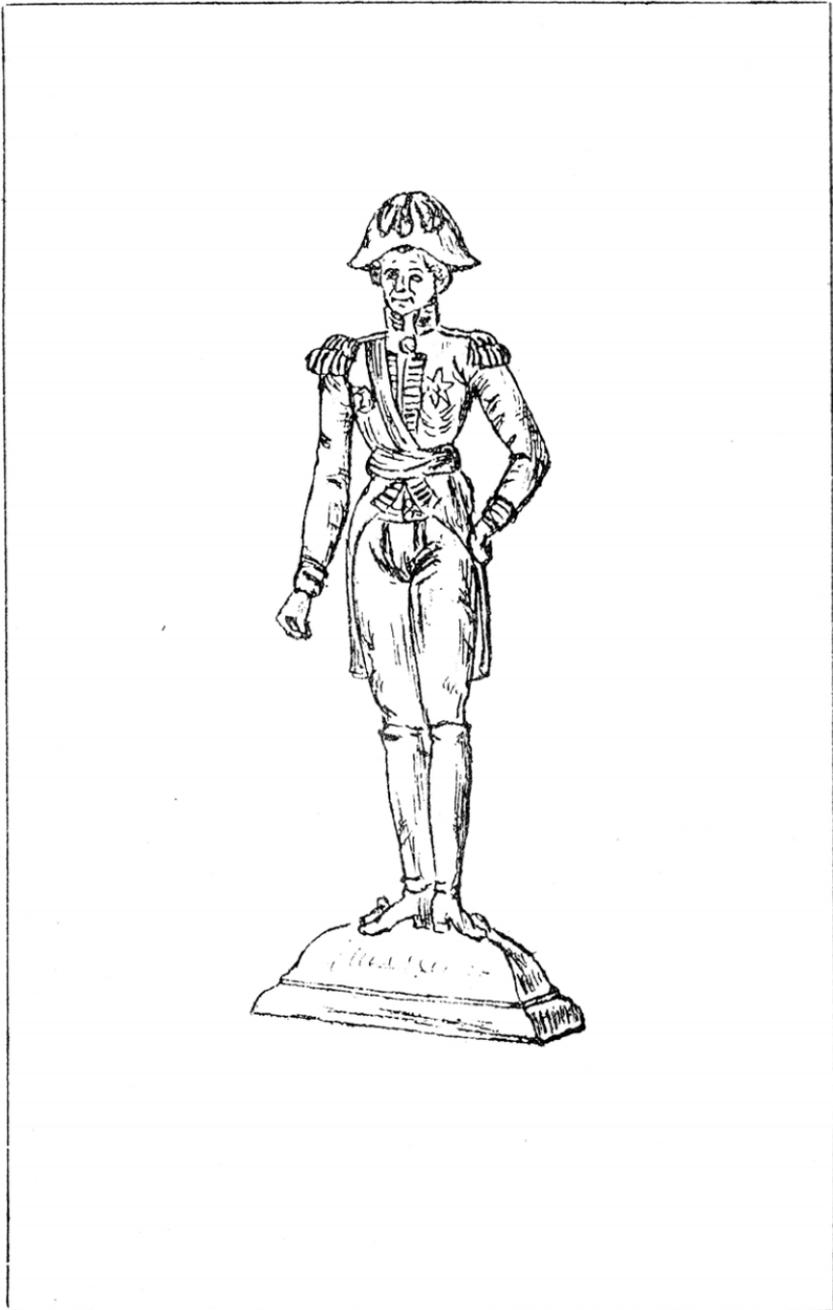
I exhibit a sketch, is in a house at Heversham, and represents the Duke of Wellington; but whether the detail of his uniform is accurately represented, or whether the door weight is really of that date I am unable to say. (Plate IV).

I am unaware of any really old examples of these objects, nor do I know if they were ever made locally. The fashion as I have said still holds and I recently saw a chimney sweep (brushes and all) occupying a position on the oven top in a farm house in company with a burly tax collector with his books under his arm.

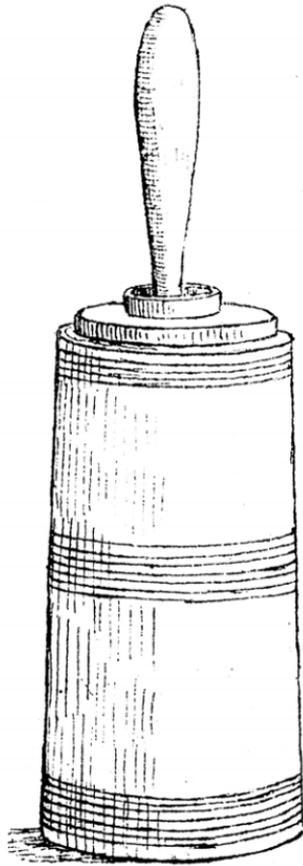
A short time since I was shown in a house in Ulverston two curious objects, the use of which I was then unable to understand. The first was a minute hand churn, the total height of which was only 10 inches, turned carefully in beech wood. The other was an equally small milk pail, about 5 inches in diameter across the top, carefully coopered in staves of oak, beech, ash and yew, and neatly bound together with ashen hoops. These hoops were ingeniously spliced in a way unused by modern coopers. (Plates V. and VI.)

These little objects had the appearance of neatly made toys: but the owner assured me that the first was actually used by his great-grandmother (if not by his great-great-grandmother) to churn her own little portion of butter to breakfast. The pail, which is in the same collection, was purchased by the owner's father in Dunderdale.

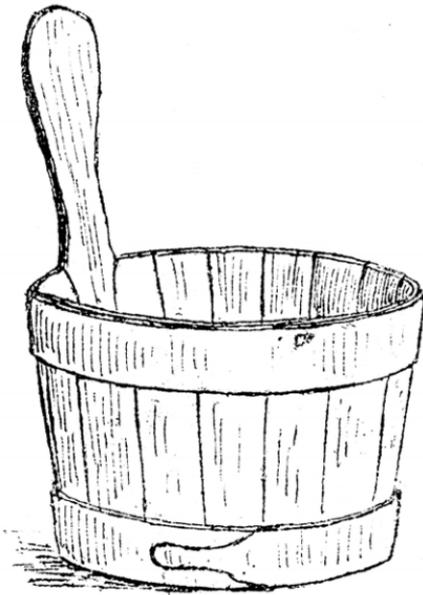
For some time I was completely puzzled as to the origin of these pigmy appliances. It hardly seemed to me that the churn could be a toy, considering the explanation that was given. Neither did it seem probable that the primitive valley of the Duddon was a likely locality to find toys in, either ancient or modern. It occurred to me as possible (though the solution seemed hardly satisfactory) that they might have had some connection with the dalesmen's



IRON DOOR WEIGHT.



PIGMY CHURN.



FIGMY MILK PAIL. THE SCOTTISH "COGIE."

dalesmen's festivals called kurn-winnings, which, originally harvest festivals (corn-winnings) became corrupted to kurn, *i.e.*, churn-winnings, because each member of the party was regaled with a basin of cream.* I even considered the possibility of their having been used in some way for the propitiation of the "hobthrust" or brownie by a present of milk.

Quite recently, however, a Scottish friend has assured me that in Aberdeenshire (and no doubt in other parts of Scotland) diminutive coopered pails were, and still in a lesser degree are, in regular use for serving up porridge in. The local name for them is "cogie." The example from Dunnerdale leaves very little doubt that the same form was in use in Cumberland. And when we know that porridge was eaten from pigmy pails, we hardly need doubt when we are told that cream was sent on to the statesmen's tables in dwarf churns.

The quern, or hand corn mill, is now quite obsolete in this district, though it is highly probable this primitive instrument was in use in the fell districts till a comparatively recent period. Indeed, the frequency with which they are turned up near old farms points to this. The beehive-shaped upper stones, and disc-like nether stones, have been so often described and figured that it is unnecessary to say much about them here. I know one farm near Hawkshead where three of the nether stones have been turned up in ploughing and digging, and curiously a wood on the farm close to where they were found is called Mill Stone Coppice. It would appear that several querns were worked at this spot at some time.

A very different sort of mill, but equally obsolete, is the malt mill which is sometimes still to be seen fastened to

* "Old Customs and Usages of the Lake District," by Jno. Richardson. "Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science," vol. II., p. 123.

the

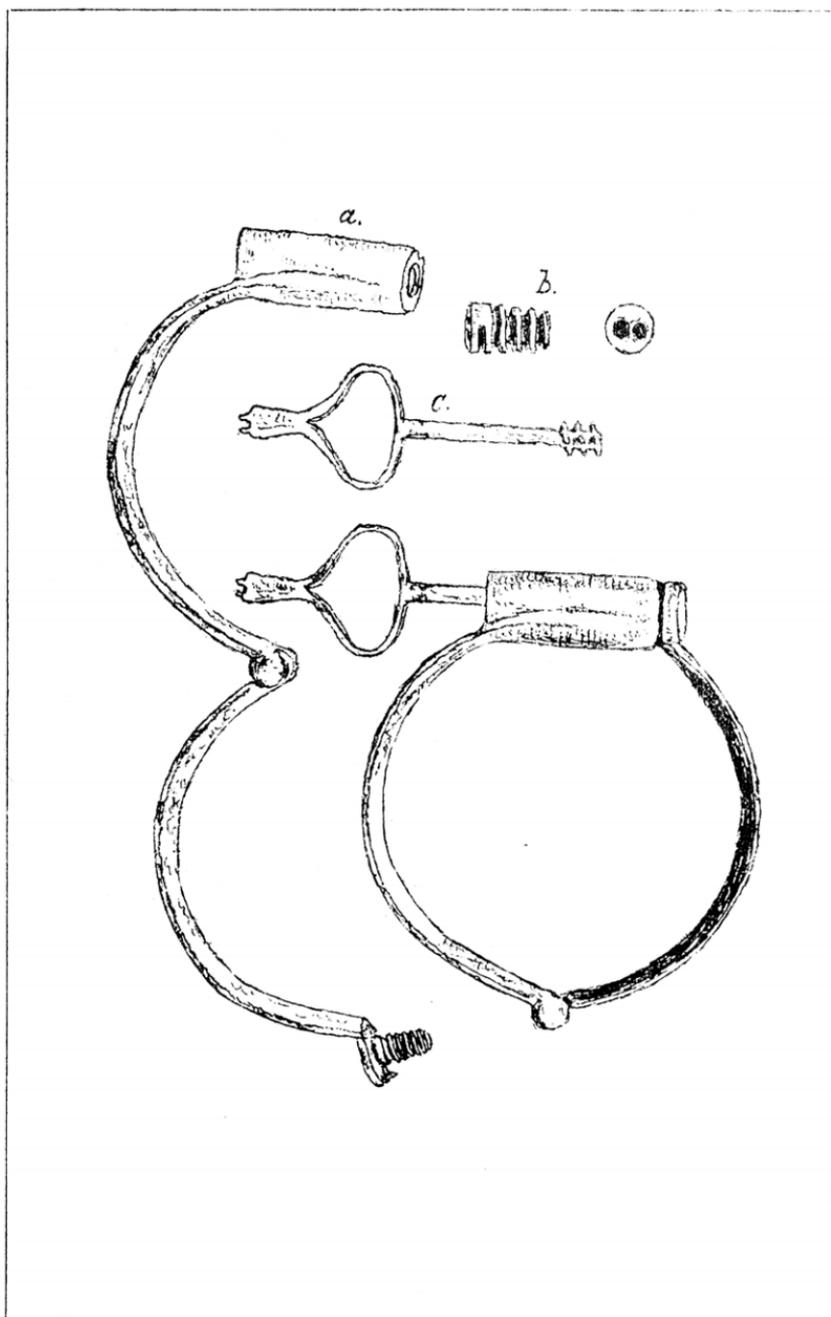
the beam of a barn in old farms. It is like a huge coffee mill, with a big wheel, and a handle to turn it by.

The appliances in use in former times for securing the doors and cupboards are now so universally superseded by modern locks, that no excuse is necessary for touching on the subject here. Our late regretted vice-president, Dr. Taylor, has more than once called our attention to the great sliding wooden bars by which the front doors of our old manor houses were formerly secured. The proper key lock which became general at a later period was sometimes adorned in the fashion of the 17th and 18th centuries with the initials of the owner of the house and his wife. Such are still occasionally to be observed in manor houses, and farm houses which have once been the residence of ancient statesmen families. An example is to be seen in the valley of Yewdale, near Coniston, marked G^{WA} ₁₇₄₃ and there are one or more of the same sort, I believe, in Troutbeck. It is well known that Anne, Countess of Pembroke, used to give to her friends presents of doorlocks adorned with her initials, accompanied by her portrait. Such a one is at Collin Field, near Kendal, given to her secretary Sedgwick.*

A curious padlock was found some time ago in the walls of Hawkshead Hall (Plate VII). Its construction is simple, but ingenious and effective. The figure will explain it better than a description. In one end of the barrel (*a*) is a screw with two holes in the flat end (*b*). To open the padlock, first remove the screw by means of the double pointed end of the key (*c*). Into the open end of the barrel insert the other end of the key, which has a series of small projections placed spirally. Wind from left to right until this part of the key has passed through the thread of the female screw within. The small projections

* "Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society," vol. IX., p. 191.

then



A PADLOCK.

then fit into and hold another moveable female screw. At this point the key must be turned from right to left which causes this female screw to revolve, and so forces out the male screw, which terminates the other limb of the padlock. The two limbs are semi-circles connected by a hinge. To fasten the lock, reverse the process and re-place the loose male screw (*b*).

It is curious as showing how the same contrivances and patterns were in use all over England at the same date in former times, that the key depicted, which exactly fits the lock, was bought in an old iron shop in London, and was probably dredged up in the Thames.

It is also worth remarking how similar wants, under similar conditions of culture, produce like results. There are at this day to be seen in the bazaars of Bagdad in Turkish Arabia, padlocks of local manufacture of practically the same construction but of infinitely inferior work. No doubt if inquiry were made, this form of lock would be found to be as universal as the quern or hand corn mill was, and is still in some countries where neither steam nor water power are available.

While on the subject of domestic appliances, I hope I may be excused for briefly mentioning one which cannot be said to be obsolete, but merits at least a passing notice. I allude to the wonderful series of old grand-fathers' clocks, which are still to be seen in the farms of Westmorland and North Lancashire. In spite of their continually being bought up by dealers and sold out of the district, these old last century timepieces are still so numerous, that it is evident that the useful trade of clock maker was a most lucrative one some four or five generations back. I cannot help wishing that some member of this Society would go into the matter and by collecting the names of the different makers, and the patterns of the clocks manufactured, compile and put on record some sort of account of this once considerable and eminently artistic industry.

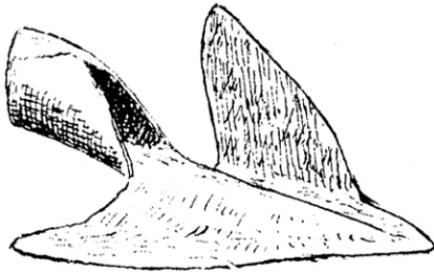
industry. To mention a case in point: It is perfectly astonishing to note the amount of tall oak cased clocks in North Lancashire and South Westmorland, which bear the name of Jonas Barber of Winster. I myself must have seen dozens. They differ to a certain amount in character, and vary, I should think, in date from some time in the first half, to the end of the last century. The earliest have but one hand, and the ornamentation of the brass face is comparatively rude. After this we find two hands and a more artistic dial. Lastly the dial is white enamelled.*

Most of these are simple twenty-four hour clocks winding by a chain. But Jonas Barber sometimes soared higher. There are examples known of eight-day clocks winding by a key with quarter chimes and repeating movement. These efforts are of course more elaborate throughout in detail, the face and case being more ornate than the others. Some appear so much later in date than others that I think there may have been father and son of the same name. A Philipson, of Winster, whose clocks I have only seen with enamel faces, appears to have carried on the business after the Barbers.

A very remarkable clockmaker of probably earlier date than the Barbers existed in one Thomas Ponson, of Kendal. I only know one example of his work, but it is a great curiosity. It is of the upright shape with a brass dial elaborately engraved, with scrolls and flourishes. The time is, however, indicated on three dials, the long single hand covering the face marking the minutes, while the two smaller dials (which are included within the circumference of the main dial), tell, respectively,—the upper the seconds, and the lower the hour. It winds by a key at a hole on one side of the face, and on the opposite side is a

* I have seen a Barber of Winster clock inscribed G.R., 1657 in old inlay, but I think in this case the maker must have utilised the wood from an older article of furniture.

dummy



THE PUSH PLOUGH.

dummy hole for symmetry. As a rule it may be taken that clocks winding by a key are later than those winding by a chain, which all the twenty-four hour clocks, as far as I know, do. Ponson's clock, however, just described, has every appearance of being earlier than any of Barbers, and its most remarkable feature is that when wound full up, it goes for over a month.*

It is somewhat singular that the push plough has become obsolete, as it is not quite evident that the necessity for an instrument of this sort is at an end. Yet absolutely obsolete it is, and farm after farm and shippon after shippon may be searched in vain before one can be found. Yet every old farmer remembers the push plough in use from thirty to fifty years ago, and not a few hale old fellows are to be found who were mighty "pushers" themselves in their day.

The component parts of a push plough are (1) the plough or iron part, the shape of which is best seen in the sketch (Plate VIII). It was about 17 ins. long by 16 ins. in greatest width. At one side was a pointed upright flange with a sharp edge, which was called the "cock."† (2) The wooden shaft called the "pole," which was about 5 or 6 feet long, with an upward bend just where it left the socket, so as to bring the end on the right level for pushing. (3) The "crown," a cross bar at the end of the pole, about 3 feet long. The pusher was provided with pads fitted with wooden guards, which hung round the neck and protected the lower part of the chest, which pressed against the "crown" when at work.

The use of the push plough was to break up new

* The bracket clock, with hanging weights, was also locally manufactured over two hundred years ago. There is one of these in Kendal Museum, inscribed:—
"The gift of James Cock, maior in Kendall 1654, to the maior of the same suck-
sively Time runneth your work is before you.

J.C.

George Poole in S. Ans Lane fecit."

† Or wing. It was not always on the same side of the plough.

ground

ground for the horse plough. When a new intake of fell or moss ground was to be made arable, the pusher was sent on to remove the rough top turf, especially the "gale,"* with the push plough. First a line was cut with the sharp edge in the turf, then the point being inserted, it was pushed till the turf covered the length of the spade. In doing this the "cock" cut the turf clear on one side. The sod was then turned over by raising that side of the plough with the "cock." He then proceeded in the same way.

Pushing, as may be imagined, was extremely hard work, which probably accounts, more than anything, for its disuse. There is no doubt that most of the ploughed land in the Lakes, and all those high intakes which often excite wonder on account of their having been ploughed at some time, have been pushed in the first instance.

After the ground was push ploughed the gale and turf were burnt, and thrown on the land as "till."

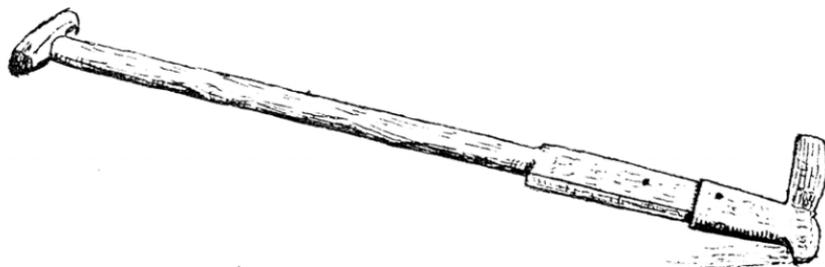
It does not appear that the push plough ever did the work of the horse plough, like the Highlanders' "caschrom"; it was intended solely for preparing the way for the latter.

The peat spade, which is still in use, though of course in a minor degree since the general use of coal, is an abbreviation of the push plough. Like the latter it has the raised flange or "cock," but the handle is short, quite straight, and is flat for some distance from the blade, so that it could be run under the peat in cutting it (Plate IX).

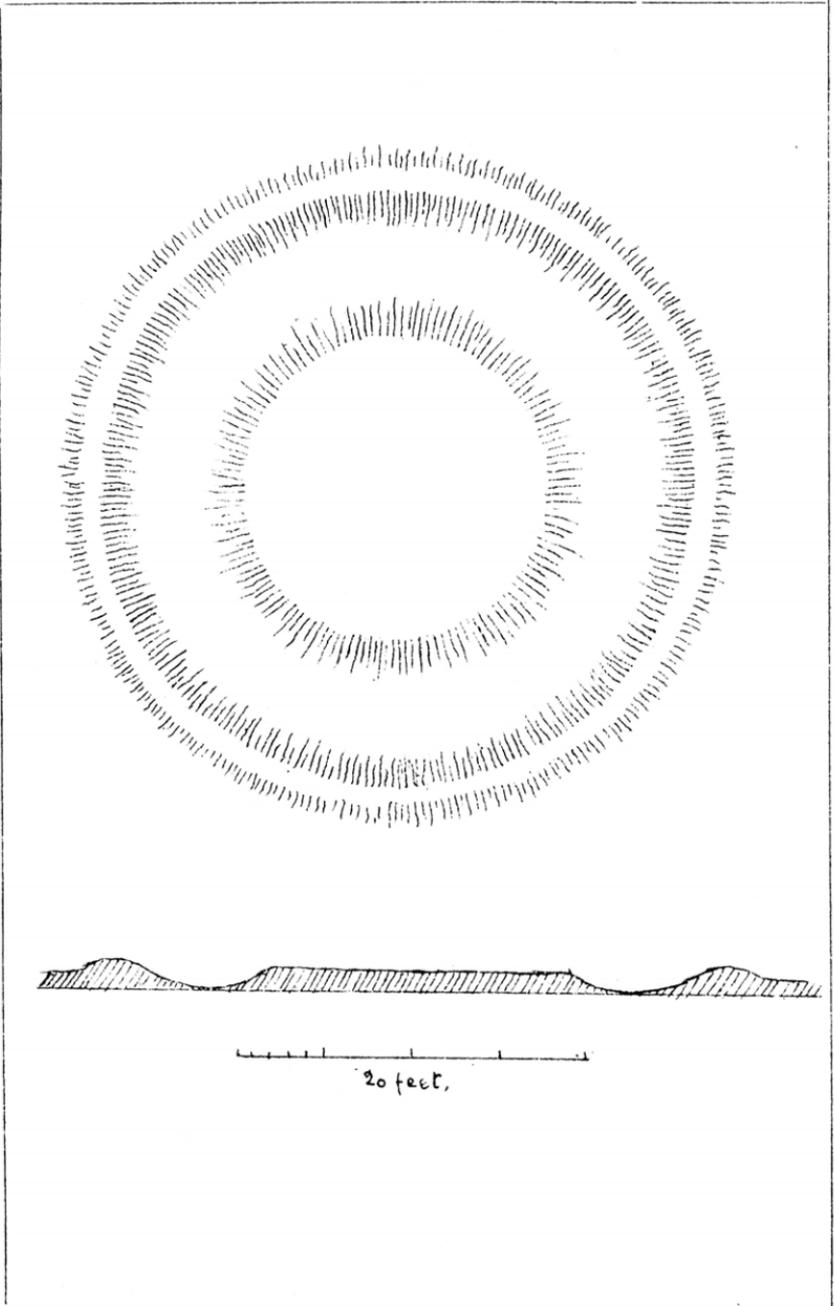
As our President has, in a recent volume of our "Transactions," given us a very exhaustive paper on cockfighting, I do not propose to enter into any details as to the "noble" and "delightful" science of "cocking" here. But as I have recently come across several exam-

* The wild myrtle, *myrica gale*, which grows abundantly in some parts of the fells.

ples



THE PEAT SPADE.



COCKPIT: STAINTON, FURNESS.

ples of a form of cock pit, which is not mentioned in that paper, it may be of some interest to allude to it now. It appears that the most usual form of rural cock pit in the palmy days of the sport, was a barn, the floor of which was carefully sodded to form an arena. After 1835, when cock fighting was made illegal, these were naturally discarded, and the devotees of the amusement were wont to meet in the highways and hedges, places being generally chosen where interruption was unlikely. But prior to the Act, there was a form of outdoor cock pit of somewhat elaborate construction, where the fighting, I am informed, sometimes continued for two or more days. Cock pits of this description in most cases belonged to old schools, and from those I describe it will be seen that they vary much in dimensions.

The first, a very good and typical example of this sort of cock pit, is to be seen on the green at Stainton between Dalton-in-Furness and Gleaston (Plate X.) Its construction is as follows: A level piece of ground has been chosen, and a shallow circular ditch about 8 feet in diameter, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, has been dug, leaving in the centre a circular table-like piece of sward about 17 feet in diameter. The material used in making the trench was thrown up into a circular bank about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and 1 foot high on the outer edge of the trench, so that when completed this cock pit had a total diameter of 38 feet, and had a strong resemblance on a small scale to King Arthur's round table.* When fighting was on, the outer bank was the boundary to keep the spectators from getting in the way of the birds and their feeders and setters, and the central level was of course the scene of bloodshed.

Several other cock pits of this type are known to me. There is one close to a stile in a field adjoining Aulthurst-

* Perhaps this resemblance suggested to the old school of antiquaries the idea that King Arthur's round table was a sporting arena.

side school (pronounced Owlerside) on the road from Woodlands to Broughton-in-Furness. It measures only $31\frac{1}{2}$ feet, with an arena 20 feet in width. When fighting was going on, everyone who passed through the stile was blackmailed of a penny before he could proceed. At Heversham there is, close to the old Grammar School one of enormous proportions, measuring in total diameter 55 feet, and the arena of which is alone $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wider than the whole of that at Aulthurstside. The old School is closed and going to ruin, but old inhabitants tell, how, long after cockfighting was given up, the glorious traditions of the "cock pit" were continued in another way, viz., by the school boys using it as their milling ground. Another cock pit of this sort is said to exist close to Ulpha School in the valley of the Duddon, and yet another, near the Forge at Kirkby Ireleth. The last, I am informed, is probably destroyed now.*

Pursuing my investigations into this subject with an ancient "feeder" in the parish of Hawkshead, I elicited the most marvellous traditions. The gentlemen of the sod in this parish were in the habit of meeting (after the abolishment of the sport) at various spots on the north side of the parish near the Brathay. The strategical cunning shown by this was great, for as soon as the police were reported on their tracks, they struck their tents, bagged their cocks, crossed the Brathay, and turned to work again in Westmorland. To show the extent the sport was carried on in these days, he enumerated no less than eight or nine meeting places in the north half of the parish alone.

At some of the meetings there was in the habit of attending, a "gentleman sort of chap," with whom, as

* Stockdale (Annals of Cartmel) mentions cock pits as existing, or having existed, at Carke (behind Mrs. Mackereth's house) and at Flookborough, behind the highest inn, near the bowling green.

long

long as he lost money, the local patrons of the sod were content not to meddle. When, however, he had a run of luck, it was their habit (to prevent him, I presume, escaping with a balance) to string him up to the beams immured in a large basket, from which position he was permitted to back his fancy until he was in debt, when he was lowered and released to settle accounts.*

Apart from betting, cock fighting conducted on scientific principles sometimes proved decidedly remunerative. My ancient feeder told me that he once possessed a bird which at different meetings won for him half a dozen chairs, a load of meal, a quarter of beef, a watch, and a chest of drawers.

While on sport and sporting appliances, I may mention a very cruel instrument used for taking foxes, which I recently saw at Cockleybeck farm on Wrynose. Although pre-historic in its simplicity and mediæval in its barbarity, I fear I cannot say with truth that its use is entirely obsolete in the Cumberland fells. This instrument, which is called a *fox screw*, consists of a pole some 5 feet long, from the end of which projects a powerful double screw, of cork screw pattern. Its use was to get a fox from under a stone, either at a fox hunt or otherwise. The screw was forced under the stone where the fox was known to be, and was turned round until it became fastened firmly in the fur of the unfortunate beast, which was then dragged out, in exactly the same manner as a cork is drawn from a bottle. If the fox, as sometimes was the case, gamely seized the screw with its teeth, matters were even worse, for the screwer screwed it into the poor thing's throat. Often, if a fox was not much hurt when extracted, he was turned loose for another run.

* This *basket trick* was evidently universal. It is suggested by a shadow in Hogarth's picture of a cock pit. The Editor of "The Works of Mr. Hogarth Moralized" (London, 1768) alludes to it as "a punishment inflicted on such as bet more money than they have to pay."

There

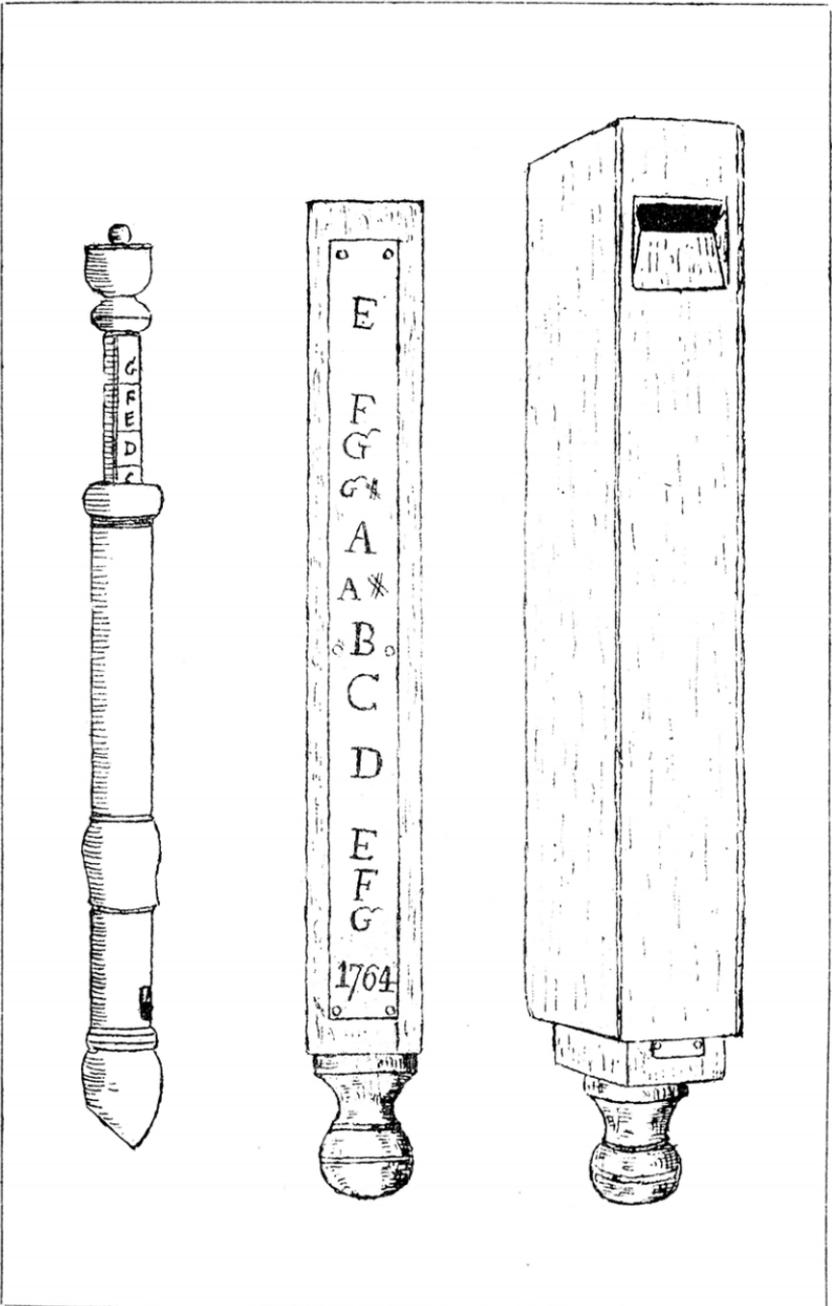
There are many other obsolete appliances, examples of which are to be found in various out of the way conditions, but of which I have not space to give here more than a passing mention. There are the quaint old tinder boxes and warming pans in the farm houses, of which latter, examples are still common enough. In church vestries and old vicarages can occasionally still be seen the rude pitch pipes, by which, in our old parish churches prior to the introduction of organs, the key note of the psalms was given. They are made of various shapes and sizes. Those represented in the drawing (Plate XI.) are from Hawkshead ($\frac{1}{2}$ linear) and one from Cartmell Fell Chapel (to a smaller scale). Both of these have ten notes from C to E, including A and B sharp. The former has these engraved on a brass plate with the date 1764.*

Among instruments of punishment may be mentioned the cuckstool and brank. The former, in the "Boke off Recorde of Kirkbie Kendall"† is ordained as a punishment for "every common scold, railer, or of notorious misdemeanour," and the latter, although not mentioned in that interesting old compilation was evidently in use at Kendal, for there are two in the Museum of that town at the present day. The brank was a sort of iron cage, which could be secured on the head, with a projecting plate which fitted into the mouth and held down the tongue. It was the recognised punishment in old days for women who were addicted to scolding, or for immorality. For this reason it was also called the "Scold's bridle," or, as the Macclesfield town records puts it, the "bridle for a curste queane."‡ The first recorded use of it in this country is not earlier than 1623, but it was probably in

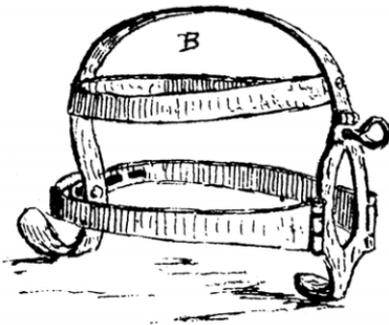
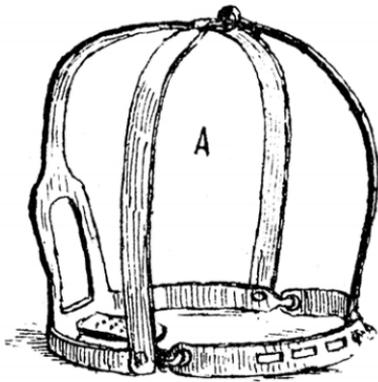
* This Hawkshead pipe was charged for in the Parish account book 7s. 6d. As it is entered in the year 1763, the instrument was post-dated.

† Edited by Rich. S. Ferguson. M.A., LL.M., F.S.A., for this Society (p. 159).

‡ "Old Time Punishments," by W. H. Andrews, F.R.H.S. (1890), p. 39.



PITCHPIPES FROM HAWKSHEAD AND CARTMELL FELL.



BRANKS AT KENDAL.

use before that, and as an instrument of punishment it did not become obsolete till well into this century.

The two branks in Kendal Museum are good specimens (Plate XII). The first, marked A, was formerly in the Workhouse, and is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Its shape is best seen in the sketch. The front part has an opening for the nose, and a gag, the upper side of which is roughened in the same manner as a stirrup. The hoops at the back of the frame are all attached by ring hinges, and can be secured at the back of the neck by a staple and padlock. By means of holes in one of these bands the collar part can be also adjusted to a small or large neck.

The other brank (B), which is from the House of Correction, is of a different type, and is $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. On either side of and above the nose hole are three hinges, by which the neck bands and the upper part can be thrown forward. To put it on, it would be thus opened, and the nose hole being adjusted, the upper part would be lowered on to the head, and the neck bands then closed round and secured by a padlock to the staple as in the other. There is also above the nose hole a ring, by which the offender might be led about the town or tied to the pillory,—an object of scorn or insult to the people.*

The curious custom of “riding the stang,” a punishment generally awarded to a married man for adultery or for cruelty to a wife, was known in the north as elsewhere. It was last observed at Hawkshead about thirty years ago, and at Appleby on New Year’s Day, 1827.†

Nothing has become more absolutely obsolete in England than the use of the packhorse. In former times the conveyance of merchandise and baggage by draught must have been impossible except on the great arteries of

* The gag or tongue plates in some branks are barbarously cruel.

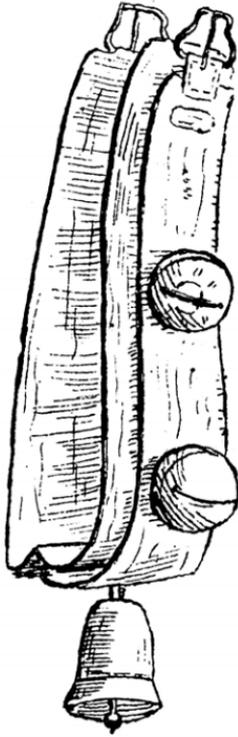
† For a description of stang riding see Mr. Andrew’s “Old Time Punishments.”

traffic.

traffic. Transport of goods by packhorse must have been expensive, but in the absence of railways or good roads there was no alternative. It is probable indeed that until the 18th century such things as wheeled vehicles were but little known in the Lake District: but how late the packhorse remained in use is hard to say. There is in Kendal Museum a heavy packhorse collar of leather fitted with five brass or bronze bells, four round, and a large hanging one of the usual shape at the bottom (Plate XIII.) A plate of metal is inscribed "Robert Tebay Kendal," and two of the bells are marked ¹¹WIGAN, so that the collar may have been used by the leader of a string of packhorses between Kendal and that town.*

The use of bells with pack animals is universal in the East, and it is possible that the fashion may have originally found its way thence to our own country. In Asiatic Turkey the leader of every string of pack animals, whether horse, mule, or camel, is provided with an immense pair of "ujras," or bells, some of which are treble or quadruple,—bells within bells, each bell forming the tongue or clapper for the bell within which it hangs. The muleteers seem to have an almost superstitious reverence for these bells, and refuse even to remove them from the animals at night, although they are a source of annoyance both to animal and the traveller, as I myself have experienced. They appear to have also an objection to selling them.

* At the Kendal Arts and Crafts Exhibition, 1891, there was exhibited in the loan collection an oil painting dated R.T. 1757, of an old bell mare, said to be the last which led the pack train from Kendal to London.



PACKHORSE COLLAR IN KENDAL MUSEUM.