

ART. III.—*The Flookburgh Charter and “Regalia.”* By  
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*Communicated at Keswick, June 29th, 1899.*

IN Stockdale's *Annals of Cartmel*, which was published in 1872, there are mentioned the charter of the small but ancient town of Flookburgh, in the parish of Cartmel, and certain relics which that writer considered part of the “regalia”\*. All these curiosities are still preserved by the same owners as in Stockdale's time, and they are, I think, worth a rather more detailed description in our pages.

The charter, which is of the reign of Charles II, is the property of Miss Helme of Flookburgh. It is preserved in a case, (apparently the original one), and the great seal, fairly complete, is still attached. The big initial C at the commencement, encloses an engraved portrait of the King, and the top and side margins are elaborately ornamented in colours. This decoration is floral and heraldic, the latter devices including the lion and unicorn, the Royal arms, and shields with the fleurs-de-lis, crossed sceptres, the Scottish lion, and the harp.

We subjoin here a translation from the Latin :—

#### TRANSLATION.

CHARLES THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. To all to whom these present letters shall come, Greeting. We have examined the enrollment of a certain Charter of our Ancestor Lord Henry the Fourth, formerly King of England, made and granted to his very dear Son Thomas of Lancaster, Duke of Clarence, (granted) in Letters Patent in the Thirteenth year of the reign of the same lately King, enrolled and deposited amongst the records of our

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\* *Annals of Cartmel*, pp. 14, 121.

Chancery, situate in our Tower of London in these words:—"The King to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Mayors, (or Constables), Ministers, and all Bayliffs, and to his faithful Subjects, Greeting. Know ye that we have granted and by this our Charter have confirmed to our very dear Son Thomas of Lancaster, Duke of Clarence, that he and his heirs for ever may hold a Market every week on Tuesday in his Manor at Flookburgh in the County of Lancaster, and a fair at the same place every year for three days' duration, namely, on the eve and on the day and on the morrow of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and that they may hold another Fair at the same place every year for Three days' duration, namely, on the Eve and on the day and on the morrow of St. Michael the Archangel, to hold the same annually with all issues, tolls, and amerciements belonging to Markets and Fairs of that description, and also with all and all kinds of other profits, commodities, and emoluments belonging to Markets and Fairs of that sort, or in any way appertaining, unless this Market and these Fairs should be to the detriment of neighbouring Markets and neighbouring Fairs. Wherefore we will and firmly declare for ourselves and our heirs that the aforesaid Thomas and his heirs for ever may have and hold the aforesaid Market and the aforesaid two Fairs in his Manor aforesaid, with all liberties and free customs pertaining to a Market and to Fairs of that description, unless this Market and these Fairs should be to the detriment of neighbouring Markets and neighbouring Fairs as is aforesaid. These are witnesses, the Venerable Fathers Thomas of Canterbury, Primate of all England, our Chancellor, Henry of York, Primate of England, Archbishops; Thomas of Durham, Nicholas of Bath and Wells, Bishops; William of Roos de Hamelak, Henry de Beaumont, our cousin; John Pelham, Knight; Richard Gray de Codenoye, our Chamberlaine; John de Stanley Seneschall of our Household; John Prophete, Keeper of our Privy Seal, and others. Given under our hand at Westminster, the Nineteenth day of July, by the King himself. But we have directed that the tenor of the aforesaid Charter and of the rest of the premises with everything thereunto pertaining should, at the requisition of John Girlington, Gentlemen, be exemplified by these presents. In testimony whereof we have caused these our Letters patent to be made, I myself being witness at Westminster, on the Eighth day of December, in the Fifteenth year of our Reign.



Examined by us  $\left. \begin{array}{c} \text{MO. BRAMSTON} \\ \text{and} \\ \text{THOS. ESTCOURT} \end{array} \right\} \text{Clerks.}$

This charter tells its own tale and requires no comment. It should however be noted, that, the Priory of Cartmel had an earlier charter for a market at Flookburgh in the time of Edward I. This is mentioned by Stockdale, who also tells us—

The market cross and fish stones, as every passer by must have observed, have fallen down, and now lie scattered about on the ground where once the markets and fairs were held.


It was perhaps this passage which led to the erection of a modern cross with this inscription :—

First Charter granted to Flookburgh, by Edward I, A.D. 1278. Second Charter by Henry IV, A.D. 1412. Charter confirmed by Charles II, A.D. 1675. Erected A.D. 1882, on the site of an ancient cross.\*

The objects described as portion of the “regalia” are three in number: firstly, a sword, called by Stockdale a “Sword of Office”; secondly, an official staff with an iron head; and thirdly, the iron head only of a curious halberd, if it can properly so be called.

1. The sword is certainly not in origin a civic or official weapon. It is a straight broad bladed arm, measuring from the pommel to the point forty inches, and possibly it may at one time have been an inch longer. The blade itself is one and a half inches wide at the widest part, and has two grooves on each side. In each of these grooves is the inscription :—

\* HOVN \* MEFACIT \* †

and there is also on each side of the blade close to the tang, a small armourer's mark 

The hilt of this weapon is a fine example of a well

\* It should be noticed that Stockdale (p. 14) gives the erroneous date of 1659, to the Charter of Charles.

† Chancellor Ferguson tells me that he can find HORN and MOVN in armourers lists but not HOVN.

marked

marked type. It has a heavy globular pommel, straight quillons, and curved bow or counterguard joining the pommel to the pas d'âne, or curved bars in advance of the quillons. The guards, quillons, &c., are all somewhat flat or ribbon shaped, in section : and the length from the pommel to the quillons is six inches.

The decoration of the hilt consists of a rich silver inlay of fruit, flowers, &c., which covers the metal of the pommel, counterguard, quillons, and pas d'âne. The only thing in the motive which is not floral, is a cherubic body and head, which appears on that part of the cross guard which receives the tang. Part of the wooden grip still remains.

The style of inlay, the heavy pommel and ribbon like section of the guard, place this hilt in a group considered by authorities on the "white arm," as English work of the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries. The blade, as in other similar examples, is probably German. Indeed it is quite possible that the hilt itself was forged at one place, and the inlay applied elsewhere by another craftsman.\*

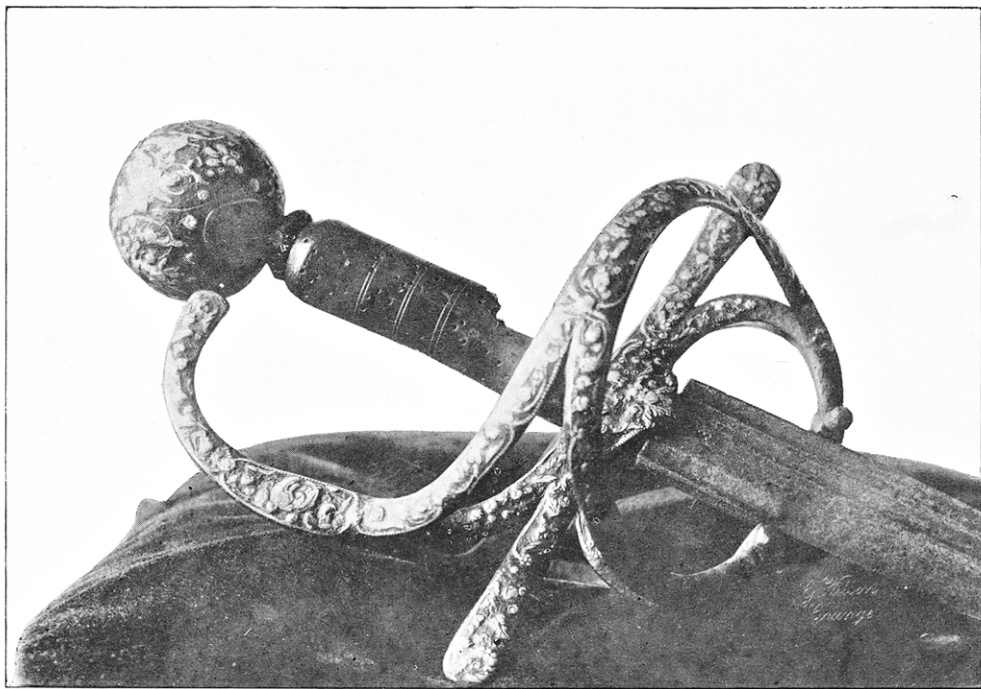
2. The first official staff (of which the head is shewn in the drawing) is with the shaft nine feet in length, and the iron head alone fifteen and three-eighths inches in length. The latter is simply a blade of flat iron cut to represent a flook or flounder, tail uppermost. The letters F.B. are the town's initials.

3. The halberd, for I can find no other name, is shaftless. This curious object simply represents a spear or javelin, crossed by a rudely shaped arrow, in the point of which a heart is cut. There is a rivet between the feathers, to which was probably attached a small piece of iron, to represent the notched end of the arrow shaft,

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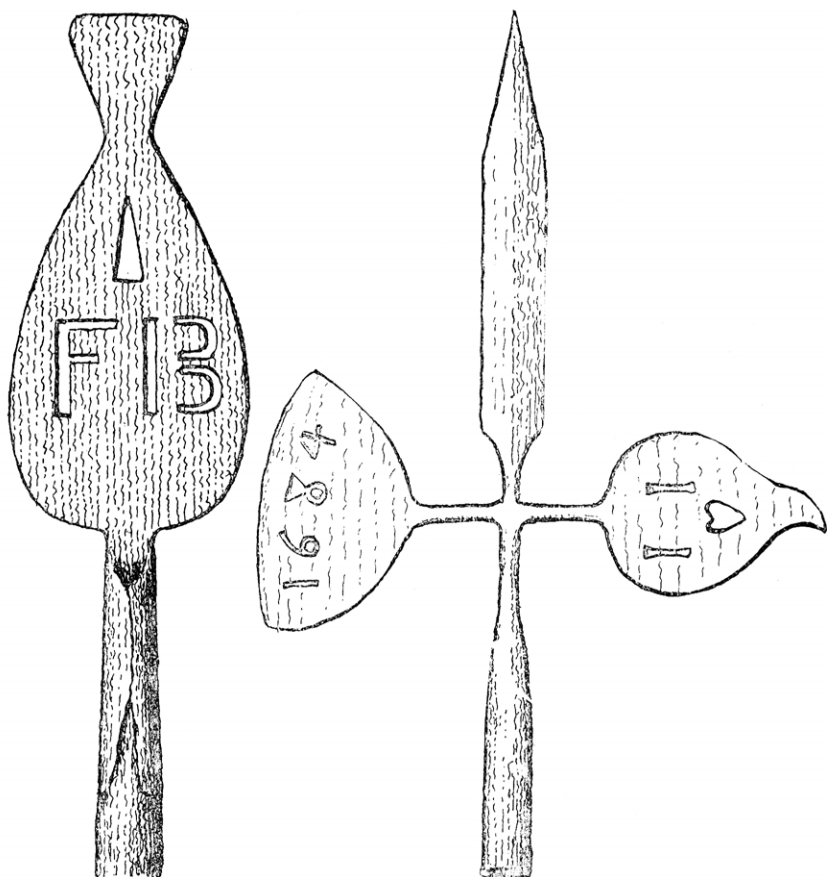
\* See proceedings of the Soc. Antiq. Lond., 2nd S. XII, 107, for an exhibition of swords of this period, by J. G. Waller, F.S.A., and also for notes by the Baron de Cosson. Also Egerton Castle's "Schools and Masters of Fence." Fig XII.

and



THE FLOOKBURGH SWORD.

PLATE I. (TO FACE P. 44.)



“FLOOK” STAFF AT FLOOKBURGH AND HALBERD  
FROM AMBLESIDE.

PLATE II.

and in the socket there is a nail hole to secure the head to the shaft. The length from socket to spear point is eighteen inches, and the arrow is eleven and a half inches long. I can suggest no reasonable explanation of the meaning of the arrow: for it can hardly be a play on the last syllable of the name of the town, which is pronounced nearly Flookbarrow.

I imagine that both of these objects were probably used in a similar manner to the halberd at Hawkshead, which I have described elsewhere: \* that is, as wands of office carried by the stewards of the market, and possibly also by the churchwardens. Such relics are, I believe, commoner than is thought. Alongside the "Flook" staff, I give a sketch (not to scale) of one from Ambleside, which is now in Kendal Museum; and I have seen a similar example inscribed "Pennington."

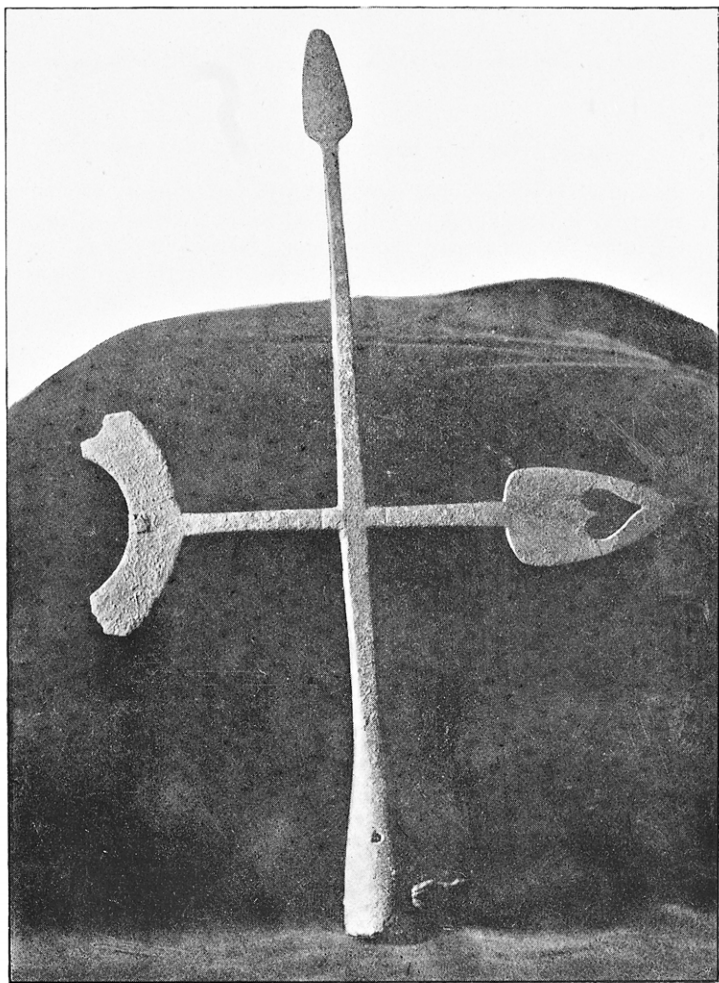
In the absence of evidence I dare not theorize on the history and use of the sword.

Mr. William Atkinson, of Whitwell Cottage, Flookburgh, who is the owner of the sword and staves, possessed also, at one time, a standard peck measure and scales, by tradition, and probably in reality, used in the market.

In conclusion, I must thank both Miss Helme, Mr. Atkinson, and his niece, Miss Mary E. Atkinson, for most kindly affording me every facility for carefully examining the objects I have described. It is pleasant to record that the interest of both the charter and "regalia" are thoroughly appreciated by their owners, and they are thus most carefully preserved and cared for in the town where they have so much local value.

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\* These *Transactions*, XV., 277. The Hawkshead halberd is gilt, and Stockdale says, these examples from Flookburgh had been painted vermilion, and perhaps gilt, but I cannot find any traces of this treatment left.



HALBERD OF UNUSUAL FORM, FLOOKBURGH.

PLATE III. (TO FACE P. 46.)