

ART. XII.—*St. Anne's Hospital at Appleby.* By E.
ALEX. HEELIS.

Read at Appleby, September 10th, 1908.

THE almshouses at Appleby (incorporated by royal charter in 13 Charles II., under the title of "The Hospital of St. Anne of Appleby") constitute one of the numerous benefactions to Appleby and the neighbourhood of the noble Anne, Countess of Pembroke.

The charter of incorporation preserved at the hospital is a lengthy Latin document, and forms a characteristic specimen of the penmanship of the age. After the following recital :—

Whereas our dearly beloved Cousin Anne Countess Dowager of Dorset Pembroke and Montgomery, only Daughter and Heir of George late Earl of Cumberland hath given us to understand that in the Northern Part and particularly near our Borough of Appleby in our County of Westmorland there are very many Women decrepit and broken down by old Age who are supported by begging their bread and being without any Receptacle or Relief lead an idle and vagrant life And the aforesaid Countess being moved with Pity intending and greatly desiring to provide for such poor women in some convenient manner hath humbly besought us that we would condescend to erect found make and establish in the Town and Parish of Appleby in our said County of Westmorland one Hospital for the better relief and further support of thirteen of such poor and decrepit Women inhabiting and dwelling there and in the neighbouring parts who on account of their great old age and great debility of body are not able to gain their food and clothing by labor,

the charter proceeds to ordain that from thenceforth there shall be "One Hospital of Poor Women in Appleby which shall be called the Hospital of St. Anne of Appleby consisting of one Mother and Twelve Sisters of the Founda-

tion of Anne Countess Dowager of Dorset Pembroke and Montgomery for the support and relief of 13 poor women for ever hereafter to continue."

It further empowers the countess and her heirs, lords of the castle and manor of Appleby, to appoint "one poor Woman who shall be called the Mother of the same Hospital and 12 poor women, who shall be called the sisters of the same Hospital," and provides for perpetual succession, and that they shall be "in deed and fact one Body corporate and politic and one Commonalty incorporate of itself for ever," with power to purchase, hold, and demise lands, have common seal, &c.

The site of the hospital was purchased by the countess on December 31st, 1650, from "George Bainbrigg of Appulby" for £36.

The conveyance deed describes the purchased premises as

all those the said George Bainbrigg his Burgage houses edifices and buildings And all that his close of ground containing by estimation One acre of ground be it more or less situate and being within the Burrough of Appulby aforesaid lying between the houses and burgages of Edward Smith on the South side and the houses or burgages of Mr. George Hilton of Murton on the North side abutting upon the water of Eden on the East and the Street called Burroughgate in Appulby aforesaid on the West.

She levelled the then existing buildings to the foundations, and erected the several buildings as they exist at the present day—namely, one three-roomed dwelling for the mother and twelve with two rooms each for the twelve sisters, with a washhouse to be used by all in common, and a small chapel. Her diary states that she was present at the laying of the foundation stone on April 23rd, 1652, and the "alms-house was quite finished, and the Mother and twelve sisters placed in it in January and February, 1653."

By deed dated March 27th, 1654, the countess conveyed to the following as the first trustees—namely, "the Hon.

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Charles Howard of Naworth Castle, Sir Francis Howard of Corby Castle, Sir Philip Musgrave of Hartley Castle, Sir John Lowther of Lowther, Sir William Dalston of Smardall, Sir George Fletcher of Hutton, Sir Thomas Sandford of Howgill Castle, Sir William Carleton of Carleton, John Dalston of Acronbank, Christopher Dudley of Yanwith, Richard Crackanthorpe of Newbigging, Thomas Sandford of Askham, Christopher Lyster of Warcoppe, Robert Hilton of Murton, and the Mayor of the Town and Burrough of Appleby for the time being (then John Thwaytes the younger) " :—

(1) All that the late dissolved Hospital Farm or Grange of St. Nicholas near Appleby aforesaid lately bought and purchased by the said Countess of William Fielding of Startforth in the County of York Esquire and Susan his Wife And also all and singular Messuages houses edifices etc.

(2) And also all that the Lordship and Manor of Brougham in the said County of Westmorland the Capital Messuage and Mansion House and the Demesne lands commonly called and known by the name of Brougham Hall and Brougham Demesne Together with the several messuages lands etc. All of which were also lately bought and purchased by the said Countess of James Browne late of Brougham aforesaid in the said County and Elizabeth his wife. [Upon the trusts (inter alia) to pay £6 a year to each of the twelve sisters, and £8 a year to the mother.] And also the sum of £8 yearly to the Parson of the Parish Church of Appleby for the time being in case he shall officiate in Divine Service every day in the week (the Lord's day excepted) in the Chapel of the said Almshouse or otherwise to such person as shall be appointed by the heirs of the said Countess that shall succeed her as Lords of the Castle and Manor of Appleby aforesaid so to officiate at the said Chapel of the said Almshouse for the good and comfort of the Souls of the said poor Widows then residing in the said Almshouse.

This trust deed further provides for £4 a year to be given and distributed to the poor of the parish of Brougham upon April 2nd,

at a certain Pillar at the foot of Winter Close by the Highway side about a quarter of a mile from Brougham Castle towards Whinfell in the said Parish of Brougham where a Sun-Dyall is now lately

erected in memory that the said Countess and her blessed dear Mother Margaret Russell late Countess of Cumberland deceased did there last part and took their last farewell.

It is an interesting fact that the original draft of the trust deed provided for the distribution of £5 12s. to fifty-six poor people at 2s. apiece "for that her blessed mother was of the age of 56 when she died the 24th day of the month after their parting in 1616."

Previous to the dissolution of the monasteries the hospital of St. Nicholas belonged to the abbey of Shap, to whom it was given by John de Veteripont, the gift being confirmed by Walter, bishop of Carlisle, upon condition that they should maintain there three lepers, commonly called "lazars," for ever. After the dissolution King Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas Lord Wharton, and it was sold by Philip Lord Wharton and Sir Thomas Wharton, his son, in 12 King James to Israel Fielding for £700. The price given by the Countess of Pembroke on her said purchase (December 30th, 1652) was £900.

There was evidently at one time something in the nature of a chapel at St. Nicholas, as appears from a survey thereof taken anno 42 Elizabeth, which comprises "The dwellinghouse cleane destroyed. The Chappell heretofore an hayhouse now made ye dwellinghouse. The orchard much destroyed, &c."

Although the trust deed purports to convey the lordship and manor of Brougham, the countess' interest in the manor derived by purchase from William Wright extended only to one-third part of such manor, the remainder thereof being already in the hands of the Bird family. In the year 1676 an exchange was effected whereby James Bird of Brougham, who then owned the other two-third parts of the manor, acquired the remainder thereof, and he, by indenture dated September 27th, 1676, granted a rent charge of £4 a year out of certain lands at Yanwath to provide for the before-mentioned annuity for the poor of Brougham parish.

The residue of the farm at Brougham was in the year 1891 sold by the hospital trustees, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, to the present Lord Brougham for the sum of £8,700, which is now invested in Consols. From leases about the end of the seventeenth century, it appears that the Brougham lands were then let for £50 and St. Nicholas for £44. St. Nicholas now brings in an income of £322 14s., and the gross revenue therefrom and from investments in Consols is altogether nearly £600.

The foundation is now regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, made in 1871, under which, besides having their habitations, free from rent, rates, taxes and repairs, and a small plot of garden ground apiece, the mother receives the annual stipend of £35 and each of the sisters £30, with free medical attendance, medicine, and such dietary and necessaries as may be prescribed in time of sickness.

The following is a copy of the original orders made by the countess under her hand and seal for the internal regulation of the hospital:—

(L.S.) Orders made by the Right honorable Ann Countess Dowager of Pembroke etc, to bee observed in the Almes house in Apleby founded and finished by her honr. for a mother and twelve sisters who were all placed there a litle before these orders were made which were Signed and sealed by her honr. the sixteenth daie of May in the years one thousand sixe hundred fiftie and three.

1. That prayers may duely bee said every morneing about eight or nyne a clock in the chappell of the said almshouse by Mister Anthonie Shaw now Vicar of Aplebie or who shall succeed him there and thatt the mother and all the twelve sisters give theire constantt attendance att the said prayers and none of them bee absent att any tyme unless in case of sickness or other urgent occasions.

2. That none of the twelve sisters lye out of the house without the leave of the Vicar of Aplebie who prays with them and the mother of the said almshouse.

3. That none of their children nor grandchildren nor any other shall lye with anie of the sisters in the said Almshouse without the

leave of the aforesaid Vicar and mother which leave shall not be graunted But onely in case of sickness or some other reasonable occasion.

4. That the outer Doores of the Almshouse may be constantlie locked up everie night at eight a clock in the winter and at nine in the sommer and not to be opened in the morneing till seven a clock in the winter and sixe in the somer.

5. That none of the sisters do runne on the Score in the Towne Because they have their allowance constantlie payed them before hand.

6. That the Almshouse Court be swept once every weeke and the kennells and water courses about it be kept cleane.

7. That the mother also herselfe be carefull to observe these orders.

8. That the mother and sisters do all of them indeavour to live quietlie and peaceably amongst themselves.

9. That if anie difference shall arise amongst anie of the sisters or mother and sisters that the buisness may be determined betweene the Maior part of themselves and the said Vicar. And in case they cannot end it then to bee referred to the Countess of Pembroke whilst shee lives and after her Death, such differences to bee determined by the owner of Aplebie Castle and Maior of that Corporation.

10. That if the Mother or anie of the twelve sisters shall wilfullie break anie of these orders For the first fault they shall forfeit a fortnights allowance to be abated out of the next monneyes they are to receive to bee devyded equally the one halfe to the informer and the other halfe to the poore of the towne and for the second fault to bee expelled the house.

11. That when anie other is to succede as mother or Sister in this Almshouse They shall first submitt to the aforesaid Orders or else they shall not be admitted.

ANNE PEMBROOKE.