



STONE FIGURE FROM CROSSCANONBY HALL,
now at Dovenby.

TO FACE P. 263.

Mr. Ellwood said that many sculptured stones had been taken to Dovenby Hall along with the date-stone and the panelling. One such stone is represented in the accompanying photograph, a carved figure 2 feet high, about which there is no doubt that it was found here in 1857 and placed in a wall where Mr. Robinson rediscovered it in 1872. The photograph, now in Mr. Carey's possession, but formerly belonging to Mr. Robinson, is labelled "Found at C. Can. 1872. Sent to Dovenby." An old Crosscanonby resident to whom I showed the photograph knew the stone at once, and said he had "scopped" it with stones many a time! Mr. Ellwood also said that it was found in the room shown on the plan as in ruins. There was a second stone, similar to this, but broken into several pieces; also several querns in the same place. Mr. H. B. Dykes says that not only has he been unable to find any record of the hall before its alteration, but that he knew of no relics in his possession except the above-mentioned figure.

The part marked as in ruins appears to be the foundations of a previous building, as there were no signs on the end of the house to show that any building had been attached. What that building was it is, of course, impossible to say.

It is somewhat difficult to say by whom the hall was built, but Edmund Sandford (circa 1675), speaking of "the pretty village" of Canonby, says "one Mr. Eggesfield hath a pretty hall house here, and cosen to Monsier Orpheur." Bishop Nicolson (1703) writing of the quire of Canonby Church says, "Here's a Single Seat which is challeng'd both by Mr. Dykes and Mr. Eglesfield, the former being lessee of ye Tithes and the latter of the gleab." Thus it was in all probability built by the Eaglesfields.

The dairy, internally, is 22 feet 6 inches by 7 feet. Originally it was divided into three small rooms or cells,

each entered by a separate door through the wall, which is 2 feet 6 inches thick. The walls separating the rooms were about 18 inches thick. Each of them had a stone slab running lengthwise, one on each side of the doorway. These slabs were some 18 inches broad, and about 2 feet 6 inches above the floor level. The central room had no window. That in the one to the north is 1 foot 6 inches broad and 2 feet high, whilst that in the third is 2 feet wide and 2 feet high.

On the opposite side of the passage, which is 3 feet 6 inches broad, is a room 9 feet by 7 feet 6 inches. This was originally divided into two cells each 7 feet 6 inches long and about 4 feet broad, but there was only one window common to both. Each had a door, and there was one stone slab in each similar to those in the dairy. Each of these five cells had a strong oaken door, heavily studded with iron nails. They had iron locks, but these were almost entirely rusted away. These doors were afterwards used as bridges for the cattle to pass from one field to another where the ground was swampy, and long did they serve this purpose.

The staircase was roughly made of stone, and had one landing. The room to the south was a later extension, and is similar to that in the north. There is very little to add regarding the upper rooms, except that all the windows facing east have been walled up. That in the north room was originally some 4 feet square. This was afterwards reduced to one of 2 feet square, and this in turn was closed.

The whole of the roof, timbers, etc., were removed in 1857. Of outbuildings, there do not seem to have been any worthy of the name.

Mr. Ellwood also told us that there had been an underground passage crossing the churchyard, but this proved to have been only the foundations of some wall 2 feet 6 inches thick. No trace of this now remains, as the

stones were removed whenever the space was required for burials; indeed, Mr. Ellwood said that he himself had removed countless loads of stones. He described the cement as much harder than the stone, and stated that the lowest layer was on cobbles set in clay. He further said that there had been two other similar foundations running parallel to the first, but he could not remember whether there had ever been any transverse foundations. In any case, the total breadth between the two outer foundations was about 30 feet. Is it possible that these have been those of a Roman villa? If so, it would prove a veritable quarry for the building of the church itself. These foundations certainly agree as to the masonry—freestone on cobbles set in clay—in a marked manner with those of the Temple (?) and other buildings in the camp at Maryport, as well as in that at Beckfoot.

An altar was found in 1877 in the north-east corner of this suggested building. It is inscribed:—

AC(ILIAN)
VS. PRAEFEC
(C)O H. I. DELM.

It is now in the portico at Netherhall along with three other altars by the same officer. These latter were found in the Maryport Camp. Some 200 yards to the south of the hall is the Roman road to Luguwallium (Carlisle). It passes immediately under the Vicarage. The fields through which it passes bear the names Brigstones and Broats, suggestive of the stone paving which has probably been noticed in them. The Roman road to Bowness passes some 400 yards to the north.

Retaining walls have been built some 7 feet to 8 feet high on the north, west and south sides of the churchyard. At various intervals initials have been cut in the stones. These doubtless represent the names of the individuals

whose province it was to keep such portion of the wall in a proper state of repair. This was also done at Milburn (these *Transactions*, N.S., ix., p. 207) and Threlkeld (vol. i., extra series, *Bp. Nicolson's Miscellany Accounts*, p. 108).

Mr. Ellwood further told us that during his tenancy he has removed some 3000 to 4000 granite and other boulders, large and small, besides which he has ploughed up numerous stumps and roots of various kinds of trees. So numerous were these, that in some parts of the farm it had proved exceedingly difficult to plough without coming upon such obstructions.

Further, the fields nearest the sea were at one time mere swamps. During draining operations he had frequently come across large quantities of hazel nuts, shells, and peaty matter, in fact exactly such as we ourselves have frequently found in the "sunken forest" now some half mile below high water mark near Maryport. We cannot conclude without expressing our sincere thanks to Mr. Ellwood for his ready help and kind hospitality, also Mr. H. B. Dykes for his kindly replies to our enquiries.
