

ART. XVI—*Arnside*. By W. T. McINTIRE, F.S.A.

THOUGH many writers have paid enthusiastic tributes to the beauty of the little Westmorland seaside resort of Arnside, the history and archaeological features of this corner of our district have been somewhat neglected. A search through the volumes of these *Transactions* reveals but few mentions of this interesting region, and these allusions are mostly confined to Arnside Tower and the few facts known of its history. It may therefore prove a not altogether unprofitable task to collect from various sources what may be gleaned of the history of this former portion of the great parish of Beetham, in the hope of forming a nucleus for the accretion of future investigations.

Commanding as it does the entrance to the wide estuary of the Kent, the peninsula upon which Arnside Knot rises must have proved in the tenth century an attractive place of settlement for the Norse vikings from the Isle of Man or Ireland. Several place-names within or near the boundaries of the modern parish seem to bear witness to this Norse settlement of the district. Arnside itself, as the forms of its name Harnolvehevet and Arnolvesheved in the twelfth century documents mentioned below would appear to indicate, is the head or height (O.E. *heāfod*; O.N. *hofuð*) of Earnwulf or Arnulf. It has been suggested that the second word-element, heved, may have replaced an earlier *sat* or *set* representing the O.N. *sætr* or "dairy pasture." This may possibly be true, but it is to be noticed that all the forms of the name of Arnside occurring in the older documents favour the termination "head." Such forms as Earnset, Arnset and Arnsid are later.

Among the Norse place-names occurring in the parish are Heathwaite, Arnside Knot (O.N. *knútr*) and Hagg Wood, which Hutton in his *Beetham Repository* peoples with snakes, "some of which grow Hairy and so large as to Swallow small Birds alive." The word 'hag' applied to woods appears to be derived from the O.N. *hoggr*, 'a blow or cut.'

In the earlier charters relating to Arnside are mentions of a place Flukesti which might denote the *stigr* or path of some Norseman, Flöki. There is, moreover, in the parish a field called Grisehead, the name of which at once suggests memories of the numerous Grisedales and Grisemeres associated with Norse settlements and denoting the patures of the grise or swine.

Finally, the name of the adjacent hamlet of Storth perhaps derives its name from the O.N. *storð* 'a wood.' It is suggestive of the former extent of the woods in the neighbourhood that this part of the parish of Beetham was formerly known as Woodlands and that Hutton in the 18th century records the frequent digging up of tree trunks in the surrounding mosses.

Arnside first emerges into the light shed by documentary history in the twelfth century, when, as part of the lands formerly held by the Northumbrian earl Tostig, it was included in the manor of Beetham and was held under the lords of Kendal by the powerful de Bethum family. The possession of the place was of importance to the de Bethums for several reasons. In the first place, Arnside lay near the important route across the sands of Morecambe Bay, a route which seems to have been used at a very early period. Secondly, opposite Arnside was a ford across the estuary of the Kent, at the place where the viaduct now crosses that river. Thirdly, the little seaside village was the centre of a valuable fishery in the waters of the bay and river, and, lastly, all round the peninsula were numerous *salinae* or salt-pans, to the possession of which

the de Bethums attached considerable importance. That these salt-pans were regarded as a useful source of revenue is shown by the fact that in various grants made by members of the de Bethum family to neighbouring religious houses, the Arnside salt-pans are always expressly excluded. Thus, when between the years 1184 and 1190 Ralph de Bethum granted to the canons of Cockersand a saltern (salina) at Flokesti in Beetham, the canons were allowed to have their salt-pan wherever they chose except at Harnolveshevet (*Cartul. of Cockersand, Cheetham Soc.*, 1012). Again, in a charter between the years 1190 and 1215, Ralph de Bethum granted to the monks of Furness for the health of the soul of Ingrit his wife a saltcote with two patellae or pans in the vill of Beetham in Ellerschawe below Flukesti, with turves for the same pans and sand and material of his wood to construct the saltcote, also common of the vill for six oxen, four cows and 2 horses, like his free tenants had, except in Arnolfesheved. Witnesses:—Henry de Redmane, Alan de Pennington (*Coucher of Furness*, ii, 91).

These salt-pans continued to be of importance to Arnside right down to the 18th century, when as Hutton tells us (*Beetham Repository*, 104), these 'Salt Steads, or small Salt-Works for Bay-Salt were ruin'd by the Great Works at Liverpool & Warrington.' Fortunately John Lucas in his *History of Warton*, in describing the salt-works at the neighbouring Gallihow, has given us an account of the manner in which the salt was manufactured locally:—

“ In hot Weather, during the neep Tides, they harrow with a Thorn, or such like Thing, the Flats that are always overflowed by the Spring Tides, and then with a proper Instrument, skim or scrape together into Ridges, the Surface of them, which they lead away in Caups and preserve it under Cover. This Sand so provided they put into Troughs or Pits lined with fine blue Clay, with Holes at the Bottom, and pour fresh Water thereon, which draining through the Sand, carries the Salt therein contained down with it into the Vessels placed under to receive it. So long as

this Liquor is strong enough to bear an Egg, they pour in more Water, and as soon as the Egg begins to sink, they cast the Sand out of the long Pits or Troughs (which may be seen in vast Heaps near the Salt Cotes) and replenish them again. This Water thus impregnated with Salt they boil with Turf (of which they have great Plenty and very good) till the Water evaporating, the Salt remains behind. They here, as do the Salt Boilers at Droytwych in *Worcestershire*, make Use of leaden Pans, wherein none of the small white Sand, or Stone Powder is to be found, which is so troublesome to the Salt-Works at Shields and other Places where they use iron Boilers. The Salt made here is indeed not so white as that made at the Places above mentioned; but in Recompense for that, we must observe what is said by the learned and curious Dr. *Lister*, who recommending the gray Salt made by the Heat of the Sun, and of general Use through all *France* says, Our People are nice to a great Fault about the Whitness of their Salt; a Thing not to be procured without vehement Boiling, which makes it so very hot, that it causes Thirst, and reeses & spoils every Thing it should preserve; and then adds, that he never saw Salt right made at any Place in *England*, but at the Salt Cotes on these and the neighbouring Sands."

The name of the farm, Saltcoats, near Arnside station, preserves the memory of the site of one of these ancient salt-works, and that of another may be traced on the shore not far from New Barns. Higher up the Kent, near Dixie's and beyond the bounds of Arnside parish, is possibly the site of the land confirmed in 1307 by Edward III to Conishead Priory, with the privilege of grinding their corn at his miln, multure free, with as much sand as they pleased and a house for erecting a salt-work betwixt the two roads below the wood (*Beetham Repository*, 109).

If the de Bethums were anxious to exploit the salt-works on the Arnside peninsula, they were not altogether forgetful of the spiritual needs of its inhabitants, for there was an agreement, made between 1190 and 1210, to which the parties were the church of Beetham and A(dam), parson of the said church, and R(alph) de Bethum and his heirs, namely that Adam had granted to Ralph and his heirs the chapel of Arnolveshevet, so that Ralph should

find a suitable chaplain to minister therein and should procure necessaries for him at his own expense. Ralph and his heirs were to pay tithes in everything to the mother church, chiefly from mills and salterns, from which if they should let them in farm they were to pay in money a tenth penny to the mother church. For this, the said Ralph and his heirs and his wife and household were to visit the mother church with parochial right at the six yearly feasts, namely Christmas, the Purification, the Adoration of the Cross, Easter, Whitsunday and the Adoration of St. Mary. Ralph granted for the same church and parson sixteen continuous acres of land in Uphangrig and a competent area for founding a barn and granary in Arnolveshevet in which the tithes might be paid. The witnesses to this agreement were Gilbert de Lancastre, Thomas son of Gospatric, Henry de Redeman, Gervase de Danecourt, R. de Heversham and Adam Gernet (*Dodsworth's MS.*, 149, f. 148).

This agreement appears to be the only documentary allusion to the de Bethums' chapel at Arnside, nor does it seem possible to identify the site of the building.

Ralph de Bethum was evidently jealous of his fishery at Arnside and thus had trouble with the priory of Cartmel which claimed to have had certain rights of fishing granted by Henry II. In 1208 the dispute was settled by a fine made between William, prior of Cartmel, plaintiff, and Ralph de Bethum, deforciant, respecting common fishing in the waters of the Kent. The agreement is of interest as containing mentions of several local place-names, and as an early thirteenth century reference to the vagaries of the channel and tides of the Kent estuary. Ralph acknowledged the common of fishing in the Kent to be the right of the prior and church of St. Michael of Cartmel upon this wise; that when the water of Kent lies between Ralph's land of Swinesese (perhaps the south end of Meathop Fell) and Hevesholme or Henesholme

(perhaps Holme Island), the fishing from opposite by the head below Hevesholme, when the water lies upon the sand so that men can pass between land and water on either side, shall be common throughout and for all, both to the prior and his successors and to Ralph and his heirs, down to the sea. When, however, the water of Kent shall lie close to Ralph's land of Arnulvesheved or Hevesholme on either side of Hevesholme or of the crags thereof and there shall be pools (*wellae*) there lying close to the crags and the land, these pools shall be solely freely and quietly to Ralph and his heirs and all the rest of the water shall be common from opposite Breidgate by the head below Hevesholm both for Ralph and his heirs and the prior and his successors, unless the water shall be hard to the land of Cartmel and there shall be pools there, then in that case these pools shall be solely, freely and quietly to the prior and his successors. For this acknowledgment the prior gave Ralph five marks. (*Lancs. Feet of Fines, Rec. Soc.*, xxxix, 39).

To this fishery which played quite an important part in the history of Arnside reference will be made later in this article.

When Ralph de Bethum died on the Sunday before the feast of St. Gregory, 1254, among the possessions of which he was seised were "in Arnolheved thirty-three acres in demesne worth 11s and honey of the wood of Arnolheved and Bethum worth 2s." (*Lancs. Inq., Rec. Soc.*, xlviiii, 1939).

His successors, to avoid certain state burdens upon their property, evidently adopted the subterfuge of granting their lands to the church, to be received back again to hold at a nominal fee. In 1446, there is a grant by Thomas Gate, chaplain, "to Edward Bethum, knt., and Joan his wife, daughter of William Fauconbridge, of their manors of Bethum and Heslake (Hazelslack), and all their lands and tenements in Bethum, Heslake, Burton,

Farlton, Hale, Whassed, Byligton, Arnaleshed, Storthe, Hincastre and Lupton, which they had by gift and feoffment of the same Edward (*Dodsworth's MS.*, 149, f. 144). Edward de Bethum was seized at the time of his death of Arneshed and all the other lands named above.

How much Arnside had suffered from the Scottish raids of the disastrous reign of Edward II it is impossible to judge. The only definite mention of a raid in the vicinity of the village is that of the terrible invasion of Robert Bruce in 1322, a visitation so vividly described in the *Lanercost Chronicle*. If, as appears from this description, Bruce followed the sands route on his way southwards from Furness to Lancaster and Preston, it seems likely that Arnside would have attracted the attention of his followers. We do not know when a tower was first built at Arnside. The earliest known mention of Arnside Tower as we shall see, is in 1517, and possibly the purpose of its construction was quite as much for the protection of the estuary of the Kent from the attacks of pirates and other sea-raiders as for the repulse of Scottish onslaughts. There is no evidence to support the often quoted tradition that Arnside, Hazelslack and Dallam Towers were built by three sisters of the de Thweng family in the 14th century, and the architectural evidence at Arnside and Hazelslack would point to a late 15th century origin for the existing buildings. One would imagine that some coastal defensive work was necessary at an earlier date than this, but there are no remains of such early work to be found nearer than the pele tower of Beetham Hall.

With the concluding years of the 15th century, Arnside underwent a change of masters. After nine successive generations of the de Bethums had held sway at Beetham, the manor was carried in marriage by Agnes, daughter and heiress of Roger de Bethum, to Robert Middleton, son and heir of John Middleton of Middleton in Lonsdale by

his wife Alison, daughter and co-heiress of James Croft of Dalton and Leighton. Matters were further complicated by a settlement of the Beetham estates made in the reign of Edward IV, the attainder of Richard de Bethum for the part he had played in support of the house of York at Bosworth Field and the grant of part of his estates to the Earl of Derby. There was a dispute touching the manor of Beetham between Thomas Middleton, Robert Middleton's son and the Earl which was not settled until 1506.

Arnside was one of the portions of the estate the possession of which was contested. In 1502 was held a commission of certain justices to enquire who with Thomas Middleton, Esq., Thomas Lambert, George Storee and Robert Rogers entered the manor of Bethom and other possessions of Lord Stanley, knt., lord le Stränge, at Bethom and Arnshed contrary to the statutes of 15 Richard II and 8 Henry VI (*Cal. of Pat. R.*, 1494-1509).

An agreement was reached between the parties in 1506, by the terms of which Thomas Middleton was allowed to retain possession of the manor till his death in 1517, when at an Inquest taken at Shap it was found that besides other possessions of which he was seised on the day of his death were certain possessions in Arnside of which the following is the description:—

“ There is a tower at Arnside called Arnside Toure, worth nothing yearly, and it is a parcel of the manor of Bethome. At Arnside there are 20 acres of demesne land each worth 12d., and 12 acres of meadow there each worth yearly 18d., a close called Storth containing six acres of pasturage worth yearly 6s. 8d. At Arnside there are 200 acres of wood worth nothing yearly because not wood for cutting down. At Arnsid there are 100 acres of moor worth in all things 8d. yearly (*Excheq. Inq. p.m.*, Ser. ii, file 620, n, 2).

A further Inquest, held at Kendal in 1519, repeats the

same information with the mere addition that Arnside Tower is "worth nothing beyond its maintenance."

The Stanleys seem after this to have entered into peaceful possession of Arnside, indeed they had evidently taken previous steps to assert their rights, for at an Inquest held at Beetham in 1521 it was stated that "George Stanley, late Lord Straunge, was seised at the day of his death of the manors of Bethome and Ernshed otherwise Hernshed. After whose death the descendants of the late Earl of Derby as son and heir of the said George, who entered and was seised thereof on Nov. 24th, 1505."

Finally, we find in 1593, Ferdinand Earl of Derby, holding the manor of Bethome and Arnished. Arnside Tower is known to the present day by some of the inhabitants of the village as "the Stanley Tower."

The Stanleys were disturbed in their possession of Arnside by the troubles of the Civil War, when, in consequence of their efforts on behalf of King Charles I, their lands in the district were sequestrated. The following account of the sale of their property in Arnside is of interest, as it supplies many interesting details with regard to the district and its fishery.

"1655. The surviving Parliamentary Trustees under an Act entitled 'An Act for the sale of the several lands and estates forfeited to the Commonwealth for Treason,' convey James Wainwright, of the City of London, Haberdasher, for £861. 4s. 2d., and by two writings under their hands and seals bearing the dates the 30 January, 1652, and the 20 July, 1655, sold and conveyed to the said James Wainwright all the demesne lands of Arnshed with appurtenances situate within the manor of Beetham, namely the capital messuage or mansion house commonly called Arnshed Tower and divers lands, and also all that fishing on the Kent Sands and the river Kent called the Fence and the Eye, which fishing begins at a place called the Yewrake on the north-west side of Arnside Park, and

so north-west across the sand to the slade in the Holme, and so to the Redwell in Blawith or Blathe on the other side of the sands, and from thence up the sands eastward to Staveley Stone, being in length about two miles and a half, of late in the occupation of Hilary Bradley and James Laborne" (*Case of Wilson v. Brogden*, pp. 124-126). At the Restoration, the Stanleys recovered their forfeited possessions.

Meanwhile other well-known families besides the Stanleys had founded branches in Arnside. Prominent among these were the Bouskells, of Milnhouse in the parish of Kirkby Lonsdale, one of whose younger sons, Richard Bouskell had received in 1557 a grant of the manor of Heversham and various other parcels of land in the neighbourhood, formerly the property of the dissolved religious houses. One of his descendants, Jasper Bouskell, sold Heversham Hall in 1613 to Edward Wilson of Nether Levens. One of his nephews, Thomas rented Cattleside Manor in Beetham and some of the descendants of his sons acquired property in Arnside. Another family was that of Bradley, originally of Bradley Hall in Lancashire, a branch of whom became established in Beetham, probably as Hutton suggests being brought there in consequence of marriage of Sir Francis Duckett with a daughter of the family (*Beetham Repository*, 96). They prospered, and for some years dwelt at Arnside Tower, Hillary Bradley of Arnside Tower marrying his daughter Mary to Jasper Bouskell, brother of the Thomas Bouskell who lived at Cattleside. In 1583, Thomas Bradley of Arnside acquired from Thomas, 1st Earl of Exeter and Dorothy, his wife, the manor of Milnthorpe which his son, William Bradley, conveyed in 1597 to James Bellingham of Over Levens. This William Bradley was a benefactor of the school at Beetham in 1620, and in 1664 one of the daughters of his descendant, John Bradley, married William Leyburn of Cunswick, one of the sons of the marriage marrying in turn a daughter of the Bradleys of Arnside.

Another old family in Arnside is that of the Sauls. A Richard Saul is mentioned in 1724 among the names of the purchasers of the tithes of Wool and Lamb of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha, and in the same list of names appears that of Robert Crosfield, a member of a family still represented in Arnside. Another Arnside family is that of Burrows, described by Hutton in his *Beetham Repository* as a "numerous tribe." The Bush family, afterwards distinguished as ship owners and seamen, were also residents in the district in the middle of the 18th century, for Hutton mentions a Bush House in his description of Arnside and its neighbourhood.

Arnside in the 17th and 18th centuries seems to have been a thriving place. Its fishing was jealously guarded. In 1699, for instance, proceedings were taken against "John Tomlinson of Nether Meathopp, labourer" who "forcibly entered into the fishing of John Jackson, Thomas Cornthwaite, Richard Burrow and Richard Saul, called Arnshead Fishing, parish Beathom, and took and carried away a salmon, value 2s.; fined 2s. 6d." (*Kendal Indictment Book, 1692-1724*). "The Arnside Salmon Fishery," wrote Hutton in 1770, "is next to Carlisle for goodness of Quality. It setts this Year for £20. 0s. 0d. Salmon are distinguished into a Smelt, a Sprad, a Mort, a Forktail, a Runner, a Salmon." He goes on to state that "there are Shrimps on the Sands, if they woud get proper Nets to take them. Herring also sometimes visit this Coast."

Numerous attempts had been made, he tells us, to win iron ore, and on the north side of the knot about the end of the 17th century, several workings had been opened in an attempt to procure that metal. Though the results of these efforts, traces of which are still to be seen, disappointed expectations, Arnside was recompensed by the traffic in iron ore which came to be smelted in the bloomeries scattered over the district, notably that at

Leighton Beck, described fully by Lucas in his *History of Warton*. Lucas tells us that the charging used by the smelters for their furnace at Leighton consisted "of a certain Quantity of very hard black Turf (the best of its kind of any perhaps in *England* which is dug up in *Arnset Moss* about a mile from them) and Charcoal, upon which they throw Four Hundred Weight of burnt Ore of different Sorts and Goodness, etc." (*History of Warton*, 58).

The remains of ancient lime kilns and quarries in the district, notably one near the summit of Arnside Knot, testify to another branch of the activities of a village, which in Hutton's time contained, he tells us, about 23 houses. He mentions, too, a spring "of the Harrogate kind only weaker," still to be seen on the edge of the sands on the way round the promontory not far from Ashmeadow point. Near this spring was a remarkable orchard the owner of which "has made £30 pr. annum by hitting in a Scarce Year."

Arnside, like many other places in the neighbourhood, was in the 17th century a stronghold of Quakerism. James Fox visited the village several times during the course of his journeys to and from Swarthmoor. In his Journal, he records a visit paid in 1653, when he firmly believed he had been instrumental in the performance of a miracle. He thus relates the story—"I went to a meeting at Arnside, where Richard Myer was, who had long been lame in one of his arms. I was moved of the Lord to say unto him amongst all the people 'Stand up upon thy legs!' (for he was sitting down), and he stood up and stretched out his arm that had been lame a long time and said: 'Be it known unto you, all people that this day I am healed!'"

A link with the outer world during this period of Arnside's history was the famous route over the sands of Morecambe Bay from Hest Bank to Kent Bank on the Cartmel shore. Passengers could join the coaches by

walking out over the sands on the Silverdale side of the promontory, and this method of travel was frequently employed before the advent of the railway and the gradual abandonment of the sands route. Before the construction of the viaduct, the inhabitants of Arnside could earn a certain amount of money by ferrying passengers to and from the other side of the estuary.

Meanwhile the place had developed as a port and as a place for boat building. The last boat builders at Arnside to carry on their trade are the Crossfields. Mr. Thomas Crossfield's yacht, "The Armistice Royal" built in 1901, had a most successful racing career.

As a port, Arnside no doubt benefitted at the expense of Milnthorpe after the construction of the Lancaster and Kendal canal in 1819. To compete successfully with the canal, it was necessary to employ larger ships, and these could not enter the now partly silted up mouth of the Bela. The *History, Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland* for 1829 describes Milnthorpe as "a dependent sea port of Lancaster which has belonging to it 4 to 5 vessels of nearly 100 tons burden each, but they seldom can get nearer to the town than Arnside or Haverbrack."

In these *Transactions*, N.S. xxxvi, 34-60, an attempt was made to give a history of the port of Milnthorpe and much that was mentioned there is applicable to the port of Arnside. It is necessary, therefore, in the present article to refer to one or two points only which concern Arnside alone.

The principal imports at Arnside appear to have been iron ore, and after the closing of the furnaces at Leighton Beck and other places in the district, salt and coal. The chief exports were gunpowder from the various local gunpowder works and corn. Ships which called sometimes at Arnside were "The Thomas," "The Dee," "The Kent," "The Lune," "The Slack," "The Isabella" and "The Bailiff," of Milnthorpe.

There were also the "Hope" and "Elizabeth" which in later years made fairly regular journeys with cargoes of salt and the "Old John," belonging to the Bush family of Arnside, a vessel which ended its career by being wrecked at Garston.

The *Westmorland Directory* for 1849 shows that among the twenty persons mentioned as residing in Arnside and its neighbourhood, three were boat-builders and ship owners, and one was a master mariner. The officer of Customs was Robert Marshall, at whose expense it is to be feared not a few practical jokes were played. Many of us must regret the recent disappearance of the old Customs House, which though by no means a thing of beauty, and latterly an inconvenient obstruction to the widening of the road along the sea-front of Arnside, was yet an interesting relic of the old port.

Once a year a boat-load of coal used to be sent over from Arnside to Meathop to supply the wants of the inhabitants of Meathop, Ulpha and the neighbouring farms. A cask of ale was always sent with the coal and duly opened and its contents consumed by the crew upon the further shore with disastrous results so far as the sailors and carters were concerned. The railway has now made this function a thing of the past. Strangely enough its advent in 1857 gave something of an impetus to the trade of Arnside, though it was a traffic which contributed to the final ruin of the port. During the time which preceded the completion of the viaduct, Arnside was actively employed in the transport of the ironwork and other materials of which it was constructed.

Even after the completion of the viaduct, ships still continued to call at Blackstone Point, and the Berrys and other local carriers found ample employment in carting their cargoes, though the difficulty of the route across the marshes and the damage done to the carts caused before long the abandonment of this trade. The remains of the

little quay where the old "Hope" and her sister ship "The Resolution" landed the last sea-borne cargoes for Arnside, is still to be seen. Until a few years ago the iron rings used for mooring the ships still survived. Close to the ruined quay is an old limekiln whence, as Mr. J. Anthony Barnes informs us in his *All Round Arnside*, old Parson Nab of Silverdale used to take stones to add to his scanty stipend, while his wife contributed to the household finances by selling toffee at home.

To the railway company Arnside owes the improvement of her road communications with Milnthorpe and the north by the construction of the highway leading along the estuary of the Kent. Previously, the roads leading into Arnside had been but ill maintained by those responsible for their upkeep. In 1821, for instance, there was a presentment that part of the highway leading from Beetham to the sea, in the Division of Arnside near a certain house belonging to one Robert Greenwood was "very ruinous, miry, deep broken and in decay, and the inhabitants of the Division of Arnside are called upon to repair it." Several other complaints of a like nature show how unsatisfactory was the state of Arnside's road communications in the early years of the nineteenth century. In some cases where private individuals were responsible for the upkeep of certain lengths of road they were successful in their plea for a considerable respite. Thus in July, 1821, "Thomas Saul of Black Dyke pleaded guilty of failing to keep a portion of the Arnside road in repair, but craved twelve months time to do the masonry work," which was ordered accordingly (*Kendal Indictment Book*, 1817-24).

A few old buildings remain at Arnside to remind us of its former history. Hollins Farm is a two-storied early 18th century house with rubble walls and slate-covered roof. It has a chimney-stack with a cylindrical shaft, and inside the house are some exposed ceiling beams and a fine

panelled cupboard. On the lintel of the doorway is a date which is now somewhat difficult to read but which is apparently 1771.

Ashmeadow, near Ashmeadow point, and the mineral spring mentioned above, is a fine old Georgian house. It is described by Miss Constance Holme in her novel, *The Old Road from Spain*, of which the scene is the Arnside district.

Portions of the present Crown Hotel, formerly the Fighting Cocks Inn, date from the middle of the 17th century, but the house has almost been entirely rebuilt.

Little remains, now that the old Customs House has disappeared to remind the visitor of the former existence of Arnside's port. The quay, now silted up and forlorn, was built by the railway company when the viaduct was constructed across the Kent.

After remaining in possession of the Stanleys since the early years of the sixteenth century, the manor of Beetham and Arnside was sold to the Wilsons of Dallam Tower in 1813. The advertisement of sale which appeared in the *Kendal Courier* of Saturday, December 25th, 1813 is of interest. The part of the advertisement referring to Beetham and Arnside reads—"To be sold by Private Treaty, the Manor of Beetham with Arnside, with its rights, royalties, and appurtenances. Also Beetham Hall, Arnside Tower, and another capital Farm-house, called the New Barn; and the demesne and other lands, containing 691A, 2R, 18P, statute measure or thereabouts of arable meadow and pasture land; and 531A, 1R, 34P, or thereabouts of wood land; with valuable water mills, on the river Beeta, having a constant supply of water, with a fall of fourteen feet clear of the wheels; and six Cottages at a small distance from the mills. In the Manor is a valuable and extensive Common, with Quarries of Marble, now working on the same, within one mile and a half of the navigable river Kenn."

Arnside was formed into a separate parish in 1870, and its neat little church of St. James dates only from 1866. The living is in the gift of the vicar of Beetham, and the parish register goes back no further than 1869. Owing to its long connection with Beetham the history of Arnside as a separate district is somewhat difficult to unravel from the tangled skein of that of its mother parish.

Arnside has developed, thanks to the railway, from a hamlet to a well-known watering place and centre for private schools. It has lost something of its primitive simplicity. Its port is no more, and its inhabitants are no longer able to predict the approach of a storm by what old William Hutton so picturesquely described as "the sea call." The netting of salmon in the mouth of the Kent is now prohibited, and the regatta, which a few years ago was a popular local function, has now long ceased to be held. Its cottages have been replaced by modern boarding houses, and its old winding roads and bridle paths transformed into highways. Still however such relics of the past as its ruinous tower, or the depression in the bank near Silverdale by which the road led to the sands to join the route across Morecambe Bay, or the remains of ancient salt works or quarries serve to remind us of the former history of what is by no means the least interesting district in Westmorland.