

ART. III.—*Manorial Halls in Westmorland*. By Michael Waistell Taylor, M.D., F.S.A.

Read at Appleby, July 3rd, 1890.

ORTON.

THE parish of Orton embraces an extensive mountain area of slatey hills of Silurian age, and limestone scars, eroded by numerous streams, by which the watershed drains into the river Lune, as it courses through Ravenstonedale and Orton from east to west. As it approaches the narrow gorge through the Tebay fells, the river takes a rectangular turn, and pushes directly south to Morecambe bay. The local names, both in the upper and the lower valley of the Lune, proclaim that the whole country was colonised by the Norseman, and held under his grip.* The constant incidence of the suffixes of *by*, *biggen*, *ber*, *beck*, *dale*, *garth*, *gill*, *holme*, *how*, *rig*, *scar*, *thwaite*, manifest the preponderating Scandinavian influence, whilst the Anglo-Saxon test words are comparatively rare. The Anglian colonisation of the plain of Cumberland and of the bottom of Westmorland, where Saxon terminations of place-names are common, evidently advanced from the east,—that is, from the direction of Northumberland,—and thence along the course of the Roman roads; whereas in S. Westmorland and along

* The moated mounds, or “burhs,” the remains of which are found in Lunesdale, may be assigned as the work of these northern settlers, thrown up in the ninth and tenth centuries. Besides those which were appropriated as sites for Norman masonry,—as at Lancaster, Kendal, and Appleby,—there are several remaining in their pristine state as green hillocks, such as those at Halton, Melling, Hornby, &c. One of these mounds exists in this parish, standing on the S. of Lune as it enters the gap at Tebay. It is called the Castle Howe, and consists of a truncated, conical eminence, 30 feet high, surrounded by a deep and wide fosse, now of a horseshoe form, a segment of the mound and moat having been swept away by river floods. On the opposite side of the river, near Greenholme, lying S.W. of the Birkbeck stream, is another hill called Castlehowe.

the

the Lune, where Danish and Norwegian terminations prevail to the comparative exclusion of Anglian etymons, these northern invaders appear to have swept round the western shores, and advanced inwards from Morecambe bay.*

All over this part of Westmorland, place-names having distinctive Norwegian terminations are very frequently conjoined with known old Norse patronymics. Thus we have from the families of

†Ráfn,	} Raine, Ravenstonedale or <i>Raustindall</i> , Ravens-worth or <i>werk</i> .
Aske,.....	Askeby or Asby, Eskew, Waskewhead.
Brere,	Bretherdale.
Eller,.....	Ellergill.
Buthr,	Buttergill.
Brandr,.....	Branthwaite.
Bakki,	Beckstones.
Flaki,.....	Flakebridge.
Geit,	Gaitsgill.
Grimer,	Grimerhill, Grimesmoor.
Locki,	Lockholme, Lockthwaite.
Dolphin,	Dovengill.
Vicker,	Wickerslack.
Odin,.....	Oddendale.
Hardn,	Hardendale.
Halle,	Hallthwaite, Halligill.
Gunr,.....	Gunnerdale, Gunnerkeld.
Gamel,	Gameland, Gamelsby.

The village name of Orton is an exception as being Saxon, and it may have been obtained at a later time, when English became dominant as the language of the country. The word was formerly written Overton ‡

* It is the view of Mr. Robert Ferguson that bands of Norsemen descended from the Isle of Man, at the end of the tenth century, and settled upon the opposite coasts. (*Northmen in Cumberland and Westmorland*. By R. Ferguson, F.S.A.)

† The raven (A. S. *rafen*) was Odin's (or the "Father of All's") sacred bird. One of Odin's names was, therefore, *Ravnefrid* (raven-god), and the bird was the Viking's emblem, just as Jupiter's eagle was the war-sign of the Romans.—*Worsaae*.

‡ Sometimes Sker-Overton, from the scar under which it stands.

(A. S. *ower*), that is, the “*tun*” across the river or the hill. The original pronunciation has been preserved in the vernacular tongue to the present day, by which it is commonly uttered by the old people as *Whoarton*, with a prolonged gliding on the first syllable.

The first lord of Orton of whom we have any record, is Gamel de Pennington of Mulcaster, who, in the reign of Henry II., had considerable possessions here; and he granted the appropriation of the church to the priory of Conishead. It would appear that as early as the reign of Edward I. the manor of Orton was divided into moieties, one of which was in the hands of the Dacres of Dacre, Cumberland, and the other was held by the Musgraves in this county. These moieties were not separated by metes and bounds, but the owner of each moiety had tenants interspersed throughout the whole manor. The possession of the Dacre moiety continued entire and vested in the Dacres until the twelfth year of James I., when the co-heirs of the last Baron Dacre of the North sold the several lands and messuages scattered over the parish at Raisebeck, Kelleth, Sunbiggin, Coatgill, Tebay, Roundthwaite, and other places, to sundry arbitrary tenants and yeomen, amongst whom was the family of the Birkbecks of Orton.

The Musgrave moiety of the manor became sub-divided at a very early period, as in the time of Richard II. one portion of it had gone by marriage to the then very notable family in the bottom of Westmorland, the Blenkinsops of Helbeck, who held the lordship for many generations, and were capable of showing a brave muster of men for service of fealty from the vale of Orton. But finally evil times came on the Blenkinsops, in consequence of conscientious adherence to the old religion, and as recusants they suffered severely under the penal laws. The last of the Blenkinsops at Helbeck had to sell all his estates. In the year 1630, the various tenements in this parish were disposed of to the tenants and other persons. The
other

other share of the Musgrave moiety of the manor of Orton appears to have been in the hands of the Warcopps of Smardale Hall. This family ended in two daughters, who, in the 34 Eliz., parted with their interests in the manor by sale to the tenants. One of the largest purchasers was an Orton yeoman, George Birkbeck, who in addition to his own estate, acquired 32 tenants in Orton and elsewhere in the manor.

From all this it would appear, that long before the Act of Parliament of 12 C. II., abolishing tenures by knight's service, and all the incidents and consequences thereof, the tenants of the manors had acquired by purchase their enfranchisement as freeholders, with rights to a rateable part of the wastes, and other manorial privileges, and became yeomen and "states-men".

Another peculiarity in the parochial economy at Orton is, that the rectory and advowson are in the gift of the landowners within the parish, the presentation being vested in trustees, who are bound to appoint on the voidance of the living, according to the majority of votes upon an election day.*

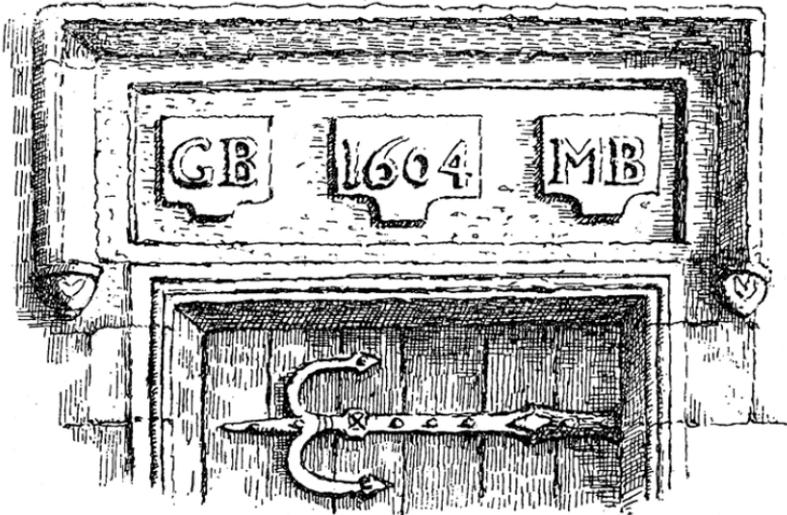
Nothing is known of the ancient manor house of Orton. Dr. Burn supposed that it stood near the church, to the south side, where in his day there existed ruins of old buildings. The Blenkinsops kept their courts at Raisgill Hall, which is situated higher up the valley of the Lune, but they did not inhabit that place, their residence being at Helbeck, near Brough.

Amongst those who became freeholders on the dispersion of manorial lands at the end of Elizabeth's reign, the most influential was the family of the Birkbecks. It was they who built and occupied the old house in the village, known by the names of

* After the dissolution of the priory of Conishead, the right of presentation was appropriated by the Crown; and finally the rectory and advowson were sold by the Crown, and in 1618 were purchased for the sum of £570, by trustees on behalf of the landowners within the parish. (Burn and Nicolson, vol. i., p. 483.)

ORTON OLD HALL, OR PETTY HALL.

This affords a very good example of a moderate-sized Elizabethan residence, and it exists now very much as it was at the end of the 16th century. It consists of a long low single tenement of two floors, with horizontal mullioned windows. The doorway is square-headed, with



moulded jambs, and is surmounted by a carved panel, inclosed by a coved dripstone which terminates in corbel heads, on which are carved heart-shaped ornaments. On the tablet, in raised letters, there appear the following initials and date, without any arms:—*



The doubly planked oaken door is substantially in its

* It appears that the Birkbecks had not pretensions to bear arms. The Westmorland list of persons disclaimed by Dugdale in his visitation at Appleby Assize, 1666, contains the names of Thom. Birkbeck of Coatflat, and T. B. of Orton. (Machel MSS., vol. vi. See list by Chancellor Ferguson. See these Trans. vol. ii., p. 24.)

original

original state: the iron hinges and bands, with fleur-de-lis curves at the end of the straps, and the iron hasp-plate and sneck, are original; and the oaken bar within, running in its tunnel, is still in use. From the front door, a passage of entry traverses the tenement: this passage is that which was formerly known under the name of the "melldoors" (from A. S. prep. *mell*, between or intermediate),—that is, the space between the doors. To the left is the kitchen; to the right, the hall. The kitchen is lighted by a mullioned window to the front, and the great open chimney arch, of 13 feet span, fills one side of the room. It presents the open hearth, the oven, and the recess, with the usual little square spy-hole window towards the back of the premises. The dining hall is 21ft. × 18ft., lighted by two double mullioned windows; the semi-circular chimney arch, of 13ft. 4in. span, formerly containing the open hearth, is now cased in. There are small bedrooms on the upper floor. There is another room on the ground floor, which is now separately occupied, in which, over the mantel, there is a carved stone representing, within a circle with a foliated border, three castles, two and one, and a pair of half-opened compasses dividing them, with the initials $\begin{matrix} P \\ C \\ M \end{matrix}$, and the date 1689. This is supposed to refer to the family of Petty, who about that time acquired the property.*

Coatflatt Hall, which also belonged to the Birkbecks, lies on the road between Orton and Tebay, but presents nothing peculiar.

The present Orton Hall, which was built at end of last century by Dr. Burn and his successor, presents modern attributes.†

* See these Transactions, vol. xi. p. 300. Orton Old Hall, by Fred. B. Garnett, C.B.

† The parish of Orton ought to afford a special interest to our Society, in so far that it was for 49 years the home and the sphere of the labours of Richard Burn, LL.D., celebrated not only for his great legal writings (one of which, "The Justice of the Peace," has become expanded into the chief standard modern authority), but famed to antiquarians in all parts of the world as the great topo-

ASBY.

From Orton, the great plateau of the limestone extends over the adjoining parish of Asby, much of it being 1200 feet above the sea level. These isolated moorlands and sterile wastes were bare and comparatively destitute of forest timber, even probably in pre-historic times, and much of the surface continues in its primitive state, covered with ling and heath and coarse mountain grasses. It is on this elevated range of rough pastures, lying between Orton, on one side, and the watershed of the Eden, towards Kirkby Stephen and Appleby, on the other, there are collected, in scattered groups, those numerous barrows,* and pre-historic remains of the Celtic period, which afforded the field for the explorations of Canons Simpson and Greenwell, twenty years ago.

Even in Norman times, there were two Asbys, that is, Old, or Little Asby, and Great Asby, which latter was divided into two manors, viz., Asby Winderwath and Asby Cottesford. The name was originally spelt Askeby. I cannot allow that the derivation has anything to do with the A. S. *æsc*, or the O. N. *askr*, signifying an ash tree, but rather from the Norwegian surname of *Asgar* or *Aske*. The ravagers from the rocky fiords of Norway had a footing even on these bare hills. With the old Vikings,

grapher and historian of these two counties. Dr. Richard Burn was born at Winton, near Kirby Stephen, in 1709, and in 1736 he was elected, presented, and instituted to the vicarage of Orton. He died here in 1785. He filled the honourable office of chancellor of the diocese. By his own diligent enquiries and accurate research in MSS., and unpublished records, Dr. Burn accumulated a vast amount of material, and in conjunction with Joseph Nicolson (nephew of Dr. William Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle), published the well-known "History and Antiquities of Westmorland and Cumberland," in two vols., quarto, in 1777, which has afforded the gleanings for subsequent writers.

* Amongst these barrow-openings, one—in some respects the most remarkable—was that on these fells, at Raiset Pike, near Sunbiggin Tarn. This proved to be a very large, long barrow, with an arrangement of a trench and flue along the medial line, to facilitate the burning of the body. This type of long barrows is very rare in the north-western parts of England, and is contemporaneous with the dolicho-cephalic man of the Stone age. (Greenwell's "British Barrows," p. 510.)

Aske

Aske and Ráfn, possibly as fellow companions in the same keel which touched the sands at Morecambe, came Birvil, Buthar, Grim, Orme, Stanger, Solvr, Windar, and many other tawny-haired followers, whose names have abided as a prefix to many places in this neighbourhood. Their sacred inclosure dedicated to the gods, the *hoff*, or temple,* so often mentioned in the Sagas, has imparted the name still attached to the great wood of Hoff Lund, lying between Asby and Appleby.

It is probable that the descendants of the old Viking, Aske, continued in occupation after the Conquest. The lordship of the manor of Askeby-Winanderwath, we find to be held by a family of that name until the time of Edward III., when it passed to the Moresbys of Cumberland, and soon after to the Pickerings of Yorkshire, which family held lands also at Crosby Ravensworth and Garthorn. The manor was purchased from the Pickerings by Sir Richard Fletcher of Hutton, whose descendant, Sir F. Fletcher Vane, sold it, with the advowson of the rectory, to Mr. John Hill, of Appleby.

The manor of Cottesford, or Cotesforth, was held by a family so called, from the time of King John to Edward IV., when the name ceases to occur in connection with Asby. The manor afterwards became the property of a Musgrave, by whom it was transferred by marriage of the heiress, and subsequently passed into other hands. Little Asby manor was held in the time of King John by Richard le Engleys, and continued in that family until the death of the last of that name at Asby, at the end of Edward III.'s reign—Sir Thomas English, who left one daughter, Idonea. This Idonea was a great match, for besides her Asby property, she had considerable posses-

* The *Hof* of the Sagas was a temple often of large size—some of two parts, an outer and an inner—more sacred, where the images of the gods were placed, and where sacrificial feasts were held.

sions at Askham and in the vale of Lowther. She married Edmund, a cadet of the Sandfords of Sandford; the pair then removed to Askham, and set going the fortune of the house of Sandford for a long career, both at Askham Tower and afterwards at Howgill. In the time of Henry VIII., a younger son of the Sandford of Askham had apportioned to him the estate of Howgill Castle, along with the possessions at Little Asby; so that Little Asby continued with the Sandfords of Howgill until failure of issue male.

Asby from mediæval times has been a lonesome and vacant district, affording but small attraction as a residence to its manorial lords.

There is one manor house at Garthorn, which is partly within Crosby Ravensworth. This hall, which is now a farmhouse, was built in the beginning of the 17th century, and was for some time the residence of a branch of the Bellinghams of Over Levins.

There is another large substantial house of the same date, which was occupied as the grange of the manor, now called Grange Hall.

The only houses of interest in the village are the rectory, and that which is called Great Asby Hall. This latter stands in the township of Asby Cotesford, and was the house of one of the Musgraves who held the manor. Over the doorway is a slab on which is sculptured the shield of the Musgraves, six annulets—three, two, and one—with an esquire's helm, mantling and tassels, surmounted with the crest—two arms in armour proper, gauntled, and grasping an annulet. On each side, at the top of the tablet, are the initials E. M., and the date, 1694. The style of the building well accords with this date.

In the old wing of the rectory house at Asby there is merged a piece of late 14th century work. This consists of a small tower, measuring 36ft. × 24ft., with walls about
6ft.

6ft. thick, built of strong rubble masonry. The original entrance to the tower is seen on that part of it to the side to which the modern kitchen has been attached. An acutely pointed and chamfered doorway furnishes an example of the Decorated period, surmounted by a pointed arched dripstone, with round and hollow moulding, terminating at the impost. It gives entrance to a passage in the thickness of the wall, which opens at an angle by another pointed doorway into the interior. The space inside is 20ft. \times 13ft., and arched by a barrel vault. There is a fireplace now at the W. end, and the space is lighted by two small mullion windows, and there is a partition wall across it. The first floor contains one chamber, which was the solar, lighted on the E. by a decorated window, divided by a mullion into two lights, which are trefoiled, and cusped with a quatrefoil on the head. This window has also a transom, and is identical in style with the window in a similar chamber at Kirkby Thore Hall. It is pleasing to find the character of the ancient structure has been preserved amid the enlargements and alterations of modern times.

The abbey of Byland, in Yorkshire, possessed an estate at Asby Grange, and it is possible that some of the lay brethren of the order may have resided here as managers of the lands, and busied themselves in agricultural pursuits.

KIRKBY THORE HALL.

Amongst the surnames found in the Scandinavian Sagas occurs that which is written as *Híálp*, and the very earliest name of which we have any record, as associated with Kirkby Thore, appears in a literary form as *Whelp*. For in the registers of Holme Cultram there are various charters of grants and confirmations of certain lands in Kirkby Thore, to the abbey and monks of that foundation, in the time of Henry II., by Waldeve, the son of Gamel, the son
of

of Whelp, who were lords at Kirkby Thore; and some of the lands of that benefice still go under the name of the Low Abbey farm. So that, going back to the Conquest, it would appear that one Whelp was then lord of the soil, and paramount at Kirkby Thore. Now, at the present time, in the country dialect, the actual mode of pronouncing the word "whelp" is "*hwialp*," both as applied to a young dog (Ice. *hvelpr*, A. S. *hwelþ*), and also to the existing Cumberland proper names of Whelpdale, Whelp-how, Whelpside, &c. So that we may take this to have been the original form of speech for expressing the word which was spelt by the monks, and ever after, as "Whelp."

This reflection brings me up to the etymology of the placename of Appleby, about which there has been much futile controversy; and concerning this mooted question, I venture to put forth a new suggestion. We have had occasion to notice the great prevalence of Scandinavian proper names as applied to places all the way up the valley of the Lune, and so also may the same local appropriation of Norse surnames be traced all the way down Edenside. Thus we have close by Appleby such names as:—Colby, from *Kóli*; Crackenthorpe, from *Kráka*; Sowerby, from *Saur*; Soulby, from *Sulli* or *Solvr*; Waitby or Waldeby, from *Waldeve* or *Waltheof*; Ormside (or Ormes-head), from *Orme*, &c. Therefore it appears to me not at all improbable, that the three or four places occurring in English Daneland called Appleby, and such names as Applethwaite, Applegarth, Appleton, &c., signify merely the homestead of some Viking rover family named *Híalþ*, who may have first settled in these several localities. It may be noted, in support of this surmise, that the English corrupted word written Appleby, finds utterance in the folk-speech of the country in a form which may be expressed in letters as "*Yelþlbi*," which in sound is as close as can be to *Híalþ-l-bi*.

The

The outlying headland of the castle hill at Appleby was seized upon by the northern settlers,* as a commanding and highly defensive position, and within its mediæval *enceinte* may still be traced the ditches and ramp of its early earthen bulwarks. At the advent of the Normans, the place was held by the Norse over-lord whom I have ventured to identify as being of the family of Hiálp. As the Red King dispossessed Dolphin of the castle hill of Carlisle, to make way for the Norman mason, so in like manner, was the occupying thane forced to evacuate his mound at Appleby, in order that a Norman fortress might be reared on its site. The Scandinavian was turned out, and allowed to seat himself on his lands at Kirkby Thore.

It is curious to notice that the shield which came to be borne by the Whelps, contained the charge of three greyhounds running, which continued as the coat-of-arms of the family of the de Whelpdales of Penrith,† lately extinct. The same figures of the three running greyhounds, or “*smaw dogges*,” as they were called in Westmorland, were adopted also, curiously enough, by their ancient neighbours, the Machells‡ of Crackenthorpe;—a similarity suggestive of some connection in the origin of the two families.

The descendants of the Norse Whelps, continued in the direct line as the “*de Kirkby Thores*,” holding their lands in the manor, under the Veteriponts and Cliffords, until the time of Edward IV. The lordship then passed to the family of Whartons, who seem to have been a younger branch of the Whartons of Wharton Hall, and both bore the same arms, viz. sable a maunch argent, with a crescent for distinction of the younger branch. The

* See these Trans., vol. iii., p. 382, “The Earthworks and Keep, Appleby Castle.” By R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A.

† The three running greyhounds are seen sculptured on a shield over the doorway at the Dockray Hall Inn, Penrith.

‡ See these Trans., vol. viii., p. 416, “Machell of Crackenthorpe.” By E. Bellasis, *Lancaster Herald*.

Hall

crest on a wreath, a bull's head erased. These arms are carved on a stone at the back of the premises of the Old Hall at Kirkby Thore. The Whartons abided here for thirteen generations; they contracted marriages with the families of Wybergh, Lancaster, Wyville, Crackenthorpe, and others, and the race finally ended in females at the close of last century.

The old manor-house Kirkby Thore Hall stands on a low level to the E. of the plateau of higher ground now covered by the village which contains the site of the Roman camp of Brovonacæ. This latter seems to have been the position occupied by what Machell in his MSS. refers to as the ruins of Whelp Castle. It does not appear certain that these remains were representative of any mediæval structure, for even in Machell's time there was scarcely a vestige above ground, and his account of the foundations, pavements, and walling applies more conspicuously to Roman work, than to any pre-existing stronghold raised by the Whelps. The present hall now occupied as a farm house presents an excellent example of the style and arrangements of a fifteenth century manor-house, built all at one time on its present lines on the L shaped plan simply as a domestic residence. There is no trace of keep-tower or battlements, nor any characteristics of a fortified place of the old type. It was built probably in the reign of Hen. VII. in the tranquil times which succeeded the years of havoc and desolation of the Wars of the Roses. The details are of extreme interest as exhibiting the style of the period in planning, masonry and woodwork, but as a description of the place has appeared in these Transactions (1875), it need not be repeated, and I beg to refer the reader to Vol. ii. p. 245.

HOWGILL CASTLE.

This was the site of the ancient seat of the lords of the manor of Milburn in the barony of Westmorland.

Amongst

Amongst the friends and followers of the Norman brothers de Meschines, so potent in Cumbria under the first Henry, was an adherent named de Stuteville, who shared considerably in the appropriation of lands in both counties. Amongst other grants the Stuteville acquired the forest of Milburn. The manor afterwards came to the family of the Lancasters. These Lancasters were in descent from the great barons of Kendal, the last of whom William the Third, died towards the end of Henry the Third's reign without issue, leaving two sisters Helwise and Alice, between whom were divided the inheritance, and dignities, in two shares, which became known as the Richmond fee, and the Marquis fee. There was however a half or illegitimate brother named Roger, to whom William made sundry gifts. To this Roger, thus came the succession to Hoggill or Howgill, and the manor adjoining, also various lands in Barton and Patterdale; and in 3rd of Edward I, he obtained confirmation of the grant made to him of the forest of Rydal, as well as Amelside and Loughrigge.

Roger died in the 19th of Edward I, leaving three sons, John, William, and Christopher. From Christopher issued the branch of the Lancasters who prospered for many generations in the direct male line at Sockbridge, and Hartsop Halls, until the time of James the 1st.* The eldest son John took the inheritance of the Howgill estate; he served as knight of the shire in parliament, and died in the 8th of Edward II, without issue, and was succeeded by the next heir male John de Lancastre, son of the second brother William. So for nearly 200 years, did the name of de Lancastre fill a notable position in Westmorland, as lords of Howgill, up to the troublous times of Henry VI, when the descent ended, in 1438, in four daughters. In the partition of the various estates, Howgill fell to Elizabeth, who brought the same by marriage to Robert, a younger

*Transactions vol. ii., p. 31., Sockbridge Hall, by the Author.

brother

brother of their neighbour John de Crackenthorpe of Newbiggin. The grandson of this Robert had daughters only, the eldest of whom Anne had Howgill for her share, and by her marriage with Sir Thomas Sandford of Askham, we are first introduced to the Sandfords as lords of Howgill. It may be remembered that on the shield over the doorway at Askham Hall, there are to be seen the quarterings of the arms of the three great heiresses with whom the house of Sandford intermarried. Three lions rampant for English; two bars, on a canton of the second a lion passant for Lancaster; and for Crackenthorpe, the well-known chevron between three mullets. The son of this Sir Thomas Sandford and Anne Crackenthorpe, whose name also was Thomas, succeeded to Askham, and was the builder of the Elizabethan extensions in the back court at Askham Hall, as we find by the quaint rhyming inscription* under the escutcheon with the date 1578. The mother's inheritance devolved on a younger son Richard, who removed to Howgill Castle, and was the founder of the family of Sandfords at Howgill. The name of Sandford was preserved at Howgill until the beginning of the 18th century, when it ended in a female heir, who married a Honeywood of Marks Hall in Essex; the property is now comprised in the Appleby Castle estates.

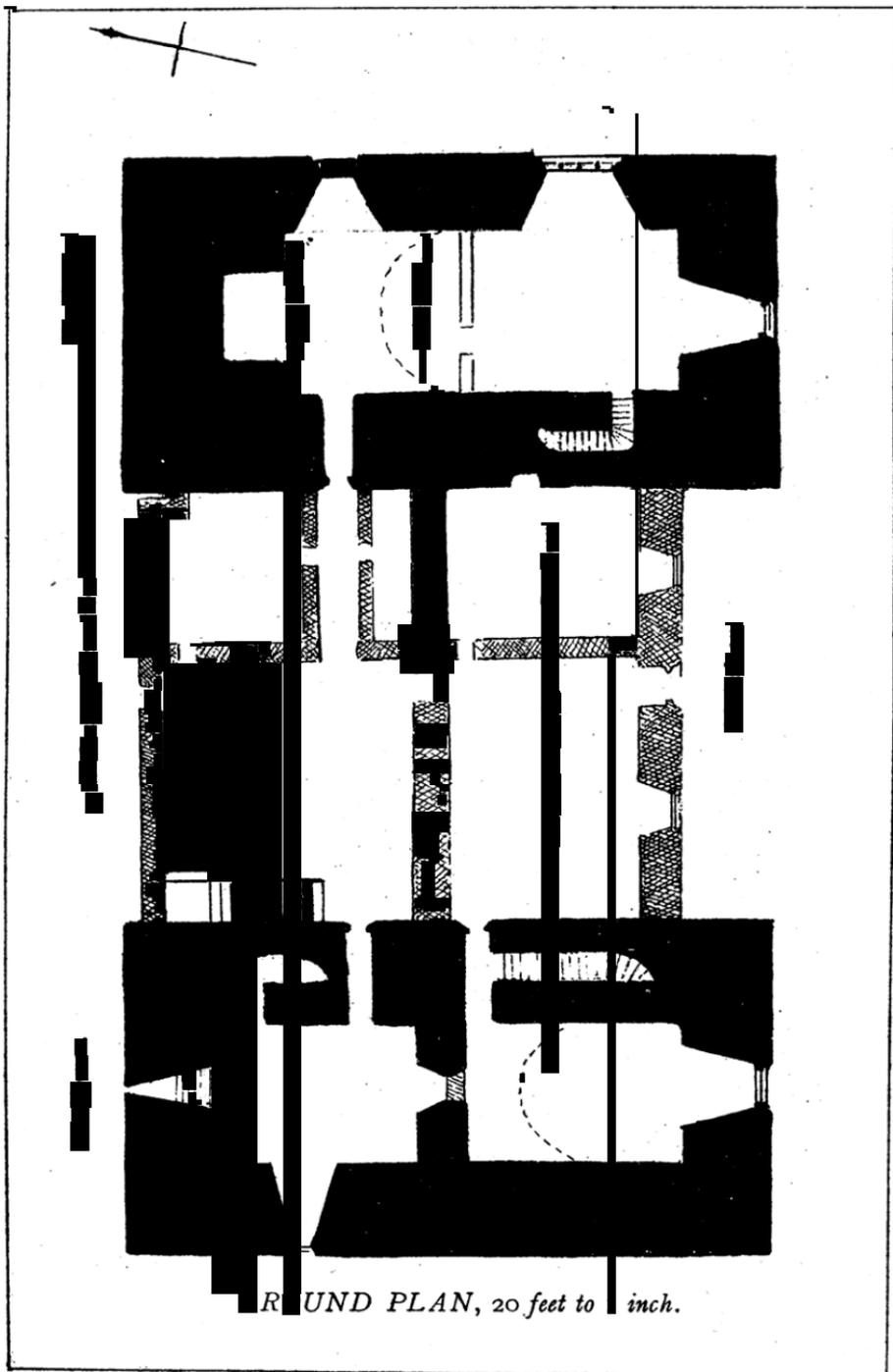
The arms of the Lancasters of Howgill were; argent, two bars gules, on a canton of the second a lion passant guardant or.

Howgill Castle occupies an elevated position on the skirt of the Crossfell range, in the parish of Milburn, about five miles from Appleby. It is a massive and extensive pile of building, and though long used as a farm residence, and much modernized, it presents by its approaches, by its pillared gateway, and imposing elevation some remnants

* Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Transactions, vol. ii. p. 40., Askham Hall, by the Author.

of its past grandeur. The site is on the brink of a deep ravine or gill, through which descends a mountain stream, which might have afforded some sort of defence at the back or north aspect of the house, but there is nothing to shew that it has been strengthened elsewhere by artificial entrenchments.

The place has doubtless seen many transformations. When the 12th century came in, in pursuance of the national military policy, the Normans were busy erecting strong castles in Cumbria for the defence and settlement of the country. Along the line of the old Roman highway from Carlisle into the vale of York, strong sites were chosen for the massive Norman keeps, at Carlisle, Brougham, Appleby, Brough under Stanemoor, Barnard Castle, and other places. But at this period it is probable, that the only important structures in stone were the great national fortresses of the crown. The strife and tumult caused by the usurpation of Stephen brought about a very unsettled condition of the border counties, for a long period, and it was not until the 13th century, that the mesne tenants of the great barons began to build substantial stone manor-houses on their own account. The early lords of Milburn, the Stutevilles, were big magnates, and had large possessions in Cumberland and elsewhere, one of them was castellan of Bamborough, perhaps the largest and most unassailable fortress in the north of England, and it is not likely that at a time when mason labour was scarce, and had to be imported, that they would care to rear a residential structure in permanent material, on their comparatively insignificant manor at Milburn. At that time the accommodation at Howgill probably consists of nothing more than a wooden Saxon "burh" and earthwork. In the 13th century the native English had acquired a skill in masonry, and it would probably be on accession to the manor by Roger de Lancastre in the reign of Henry III, there would be erected a domestic edifice



HOWGILL CASTLE, WESTMORLAND.

edifice of any pretension in solid material. This would probably be on the simple plan of the rectangular tower, derived from that of the Norman keep. There is nothing remaining to indicate such an early structure, indeed I am not aware of a single example extant in Cumbria of ordinary domestic architecture of the 13th century, except such domestic portions as may be attached to the large castles or to religious establishments. All seem to have been razed or burnt during the civil strife and the Scottish ravages.

The descendants of Roger de Lancastre increased in wealth and importance during the 14th century, and it is probable that during the later part of that period some portion of the present structure was erected.

The plan of the building is that of two oblong rectangular towers, standing on the same plane, united by a central block 40 ft. in length, which is recessed 9 ft. from the face of the tower. These two towers are each 64 ft. \times 33 ft., are of equal height, and in other respects symmetrical. The walls are of extraordinary thickness, being from 9 ft. to 10 ft. and upwards, built of squared sandstone rubbles, but the front is now covered with rough-cast. Each of the towers contains a vaulted basement, two upper floors, and formerly a battlemented roof. There is no plinth nor offset, except the string-course just under the line from whence the battlements were projected; these are now gone, but at the back of the E. tower the remains of a merlon and two embrasures, with their moulded copings, may be seen in their places embedded in new masonry. Two of the plain scooped gurgoyles still exist.

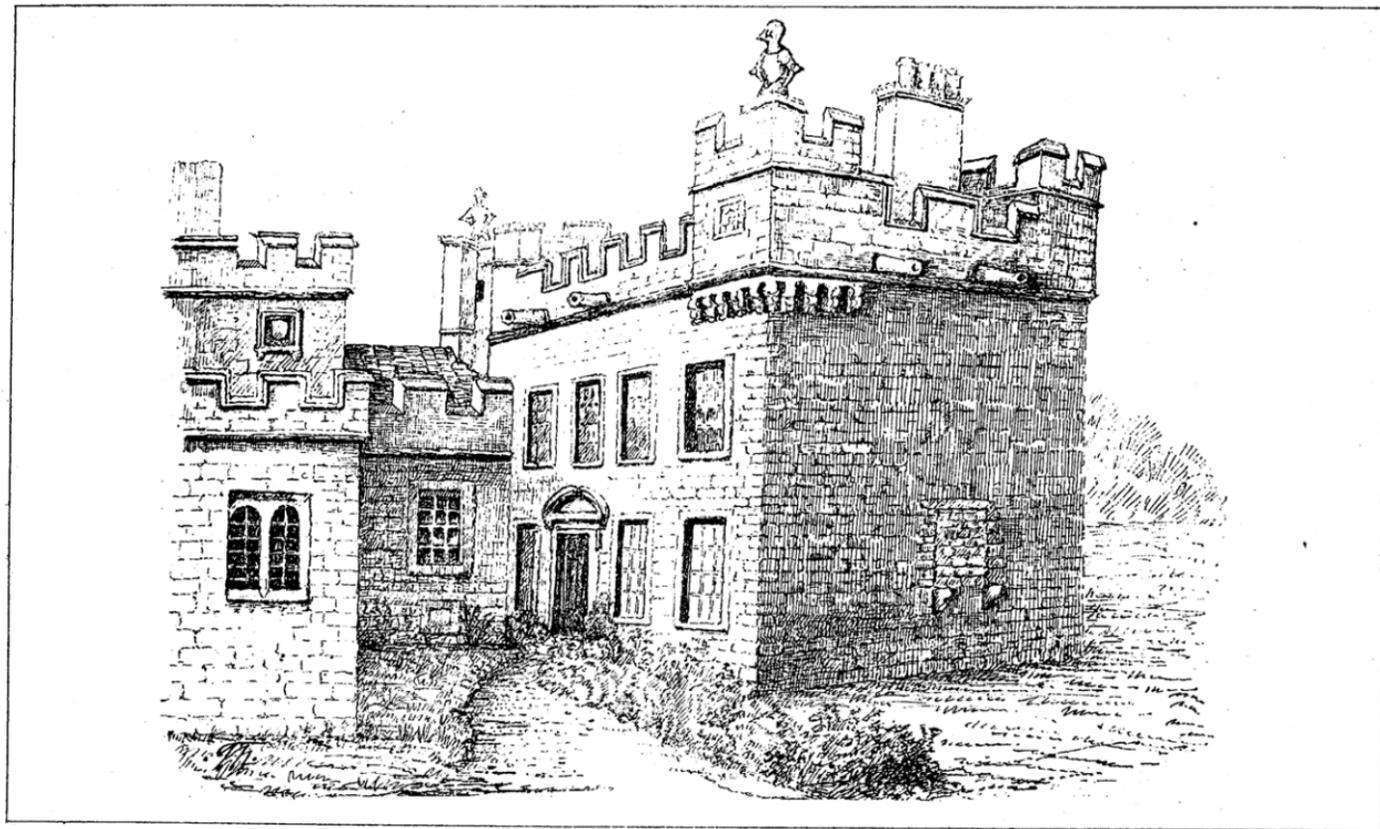
The arching in the basements of both of the towers is in plain barrel-vaulting.

The west tower communicates by a pointed arched doorway with the central block; the space is divided by a cross wall into two cellars, each about 20 ft. \times 14 ft.; the compartment to the north retains the original narrow window loops

loops high in the wall, widely splayed; one of these is blocked, but the other is open, with an ascent to it from the floor of several steps. In the other compartment a square sash window has been opened on the south front of the tower. The east tower basement is used as the kitchen, with a space of 38 ft. \times 14 ft., with a fireplace and its adjuncts very deeply recessed in the north wall, surmounted by a built semicircular arch of 11 ft. 3 in. span. There are two early Tudor low mullioned windows with hood-mouldings on the east side. From both of the towers there are in the thickness of the wall, narrow flights of stairs and passages leading to the first floor, and the openings present pointed arched narrow doorways; the ascent further is carried by newels to the roof. The space in the upper stories has been subdivided for modern use.

The central block which no doubt originally contained the hall, has evidently been taken down for the most part, and rebuilt probably about the end of the 17th century, when the rows of stiff vertical windows, which deform the front elevation, were inserted, and the semi-circular pediment and pilasters given to the entrance door. The ground floor is occupied by a large entrance lobby and parlour, and contains also a very fine wide oak balustered staircase of the period, in three flights leading to the upper room or state chamber. This is a very large apartment, 40 ft. \times 24 ft., and is characterised chiefly by an ornate carved stone chimney piece. This work is of a pseudo-classical debased style, with a Corinthian cornice with a row of dentils as a bed-moulding; the flat lintel is supported by jambs embellished with a crenellated border and the whole surface is panelled and decorated with carvings of fruit and foliage, deeply cut, but rather rigid and conventional in design.

The character of the old Tudor window lights and hood-mouldings, and the bare masonry, is observed at the back part of the house, where there is seen also on the west tower,



NEWBIGGIN HALL.

tower, a flat tablet, divided by a shaft into two compartments with trefoil and cusped heads. These contained some carved designs, but the sculpturing is nearly obliterated by weathering.

There is a great similarity in the ground plan of this building to that of Newbiggin Hall. In this instance the two towers are so equivalent in their proportions, and apparently so identical in their details, that it is difficult to conceive them to be otherwise than of one date, which may be assigned as towards the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th century.

NEWBIGGIN HALL.

Amongst the numerous Norsemen who established settlements on Edenside, there appears to have been one Kráka who secured some fertile holmes on the river about three miles below Appleby, where he founded his "thorpe" or inclosure. As we have seen, the North-man frequently took as his expressive title the name of some natural figure or object, such as the bear, the wolf, the dog, the serpent, the eagle, the raven. The cognomen in this instance was from Kráka—the crow. We have several local names in these counties from the same etymological source, such as Craco, Craike, Crakeplace, Crakehow, Crayksothen, or Greyssothen, Blendcrake, &c. The suffix "thorpe" though estimated more as a test-word of Danish occupation, and very common in the Danish districts of England, occurs nevertheless in these counties often as Thorpe, and Threaplands, and also with the proper prefix of Haki, Melker, Miln, &c. In the old country dialect, the name is pronounced *Craikin-trop* or

* A very common form in Westphalia, and corresponds to the German "*dorf*" a village. Holtrup, Sandrup, Westrup, Taylor's Words and Places, p. 165. NOTE.—In the Norse tongue *Thorp* signifies a collection of houses separated from some principal estate, a village; and the consonants *Th* are pronounced as a single T.

drup,

drup,* by a phonetic abrasion in the final syllable, as obtains in the place name now written Staindrop.

The family of "de Crackenthorpe"* appear to have held lands in the village, along with their neighbours the Machells, until the match of the Crackenthorpe with the heiress of Newbiggin, about the 5th of Edward III, when they removed to Newbiggin. The first grant of the manor of Newbiggin was in the reign of Stephen, from Gamel the son of Whelp to Robert de Appleby, which grant was confirmed by Waldeve son of Gamel, to Laurence the son of Robert. In the Holme Cultram registers there are charters of grants of land in Newbiggin to the use of the abbey by "Laurence de Newbigginge." This race continued in the male line to the 7th generation, when Robert de Newbiggin married Emma, a daughter of Threlkeld, and left a daughter only. This brings us to the beginning of Edward III. This daughter Emma the heiress of Newbiggin was married to Robert de Crackenthorpe, and from them came the succession of 15 generations of the name of the Crackenthopes of Newbiggin. Previous to this it would appear, that the predecessor of this Robert had acquired a third part of the manor of Brougham, and that this lordship was conjoined with that of Newbiggin until the reign of Phil. and Mary, after which the manor of Brougham passed from the family. During this long epoch the stout blood derived from Norse descent was asserted throughout in a bold and sturdy lineage. The family were ever strong and prominent in position, repeatedly serving as knights of the shire, and as sheriffs in Cumberland, marrying and giving in marriage with most of the leading houses in the two counties: no quarterings were

* Burn and Nicolson, vol. 1, p. 366. On the question of separate descents of the Machells and Crackenthopes, see notes to an article, "Machells of Crackenthorpe," by E. Bellasis, *Lancaster Herald*. Transactions Cumberland and Westmorland Archæological Society, vol. viij., 417-21.

more

more familiar on the shields sculptured on hall walls than the well-known chevron between 3 pierced mullets, of Crackenthorpe.

When we enter the house we may be enabled to enumerate the shields displaying these alliances. After Robert came William who continued to 15th of Richard II. After William there were four Johns in succession, who respectively married a Brisco, a Blencow, a Leyburn, and a Musgrave, and all of them held eminent positions. In the time of Henry VI. one of the younger sons Robert married Elizabeth the heiress of the last Lancaster of Howgill, and so set up the name of Crackenthorpe for three generations at Howgill Castle. In the wars of the roses the Crackenthorpe family were strong Lancastrians, and two brothers shared the fate of their leader Lord Clifford, and fell on that black Sunday for the north, in March, 1461, at Towton field.

Christopher, son of the last John, succeeded about the 18th of Henry VIII., and it was he who was the builder of the manor-house, on its present lines, as seen by the inscription 1533 over the hall door. (25th Henry VIII).

In 1536 the edict had gone forth for the suppression of the lesser monasteries, and their revenues were confiscated to the king's use, and amongst these fell the monastery of Holme Cultram, the priory of Carmelite friars at Appleby, and the abbey of Byland in Yorkshire, all of which possessed property in the neighbourhood. Amongst these estates the farm of Hale-grange, and lands at Kirkby Thore and Appleby, as well as the manor of Hardendale at Shap, were purchased from the crown by Christopher Crackenthorpe. This Christopher married a Blenkinsop of Hillbeck, and had two sons, the younger of whom John settled at Little Strickland, and founded the hall there. The elder Henry who succeeded, is noted as having had four wives. Beyond this point it is needless to follow the pedigree, which is to be found set forth in

Burn

Burn and Nicolson. Besides their residence at Newbiggin, the Crackenthorpes had also an ancient place at Bank Hall attached to the manor of Kirkland, which seems to have been inhabited by branches of the family. On an old chimney piece at Bank Hall are the characters H.C. 1564, with the arms of Crackenthorpe on one side; and on the other Crackenthorpe quartered with Dalston.*

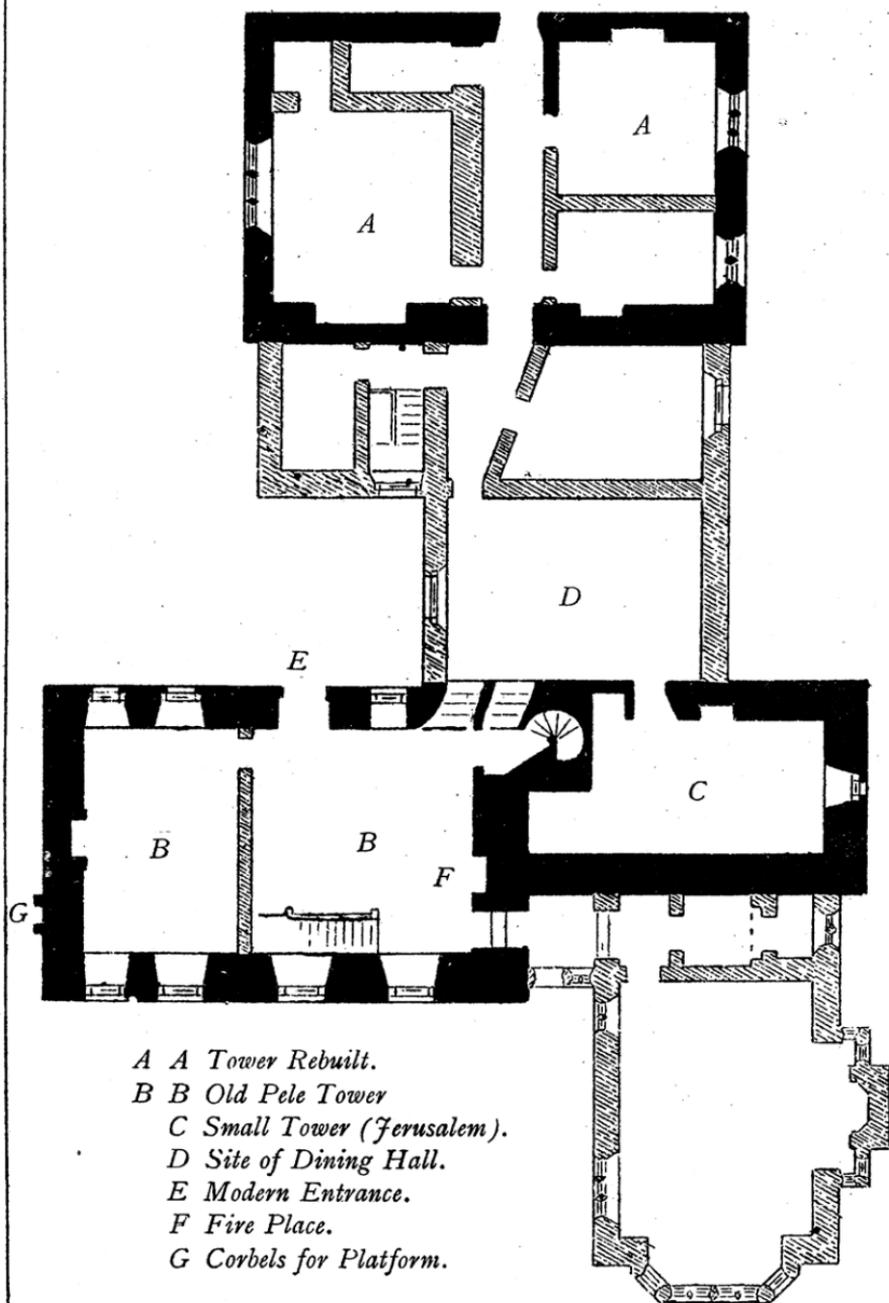
Newbiggin Hall is situated in a secluded hollow, almost on all sides commanded by higher ground, except in the course of the ravine through which flows the rivulet by which its precincts are swept. This stream is called the Crowdundale Beck, which springs on the western slopes of Crossfell and all along to its junction with the Eden, near Temple Sowerby, forms the ancient bound between the two counties.† The site presents nothing to make it of value as a defensive position, except its low situation, as affording facilities for keeping assailants at a distance, by means of flooding the outer defences. And there can be no doubt that in the original fortalice, wet moats were drawn round the place, and contrivances existed for damming up the water. In the times of the Newbiggins and early Crackenthorps, there stood on the present site an earlier building, possibly a simple keep or tower of the usual quadrilateral plan, capable of affording safety and resistance. Tradition says that it dated back to Edward I., and tradition is probably right, but I cannot find any remains of any such early structure.

The ground plan of the building as it now exists, and which I believe is very much the same as it was when built in 1533, is that of two rectangular oblong towers, united by a central block, giving somewhat the form of the letter H which about that period was a very favourite arrangement, of which we have seen many examples, such

* History of Leath-ward. By S. Jefferson.

† Crowdundale beck receives the united streams from *Croix-fell* and *Dun-fell*.

GROUND PLAN, 20 feet to 1 inch.



NEWBIGGIN HALL, WESTMORLAND.

as Blencow Hall, Howgill Castle and other places. The front of the building faces nearly south. In 1844, the late Mr. Crackenthorpe found the west tower in a very shaky state and had it taken down, and the whole wing was rebuilt under the direction of Salvin, but very much on the same lines as before. The east tower was not meddled with by Salvin, but it had been a good deal pulled about by previous architects. None of its original windows or doors remain; high vertical sash windows had been inserted, and the doorway is of the time of William and Mary, surmounted with a plain frieze and cornice, and the semi-circular broken pediment, which are characteristic of the dressing of doorways in that reign.

The main tower measured 45 ft. \times 30 ft. ; the masonry is of the fine red Crawdendale sandstone of the carboniferous series, in large squared blocks, hammer dressed, and laid in regular courses; it presents an appreciable batter inwards; the walls are plain and without plinth or set-off, until just under the line of the parapet. Here a moulded string-course of bold projection runs along the sides carrying the overhanging battlements. There are square turrets and watch-towers at each angle, also battlemented. The bartizan turret on the south-west angle is projected on a row of squared corbel-stones set close. The capping of the merlons and embrasures presents a round and splay moulding. There are numerous gargoyles above the string-course to serve as gutter-spouts for the roof, and they are all moulded so as to imitate cannons, like the examples at Kirkandrews-on-Esk and other places. The walls are $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. thick. The ground outside has been so raised that the basement is partly covered, but it contains a barrel vaulted cellar with steps leading from it at the north-west corner. The first-floor contains a space of 37 ft. \times 22 ft. now divided but doubtless originally one hall. The upper floors are modernized.

As

As may be seen by the plan which accompanies this paper,* there is added to the north face of the main tower a small subordinate tower on a parallel plane which is nevertheless a part of the original work. This tower measures 36 ft. \times 21 ft. and is also furnished with angular watch-turret and battlements. It contains small apartments and a newel-stair which goes upwards and gives access to the main building and the roof. The inmates familiarly call it Jerusalem.

There are some other special details connected with Newbiggin Hall which deserve notice. On the south front of the tower, at the height of about 6 ft. from the original ground level, there are two heavy corbel stones projected on the same line, about a yard apart and immediately above them may be detected in the masonry the vertical jambs of a doorway, so that it would appear there had been an entrance here at one time, and that the corbels had probably sustained a moveable platform. Again one of the merlons above the parapet on the west wall, is pierced with a round gun-hole splayed externally, for the placing of a culverin or small cannon, showing that provision had been made for the introduction of ordnance. It is a very unusual feature in keeps on this side of the border to be furnished with these gun-ports or shot-holes for artillery or musketry, although they occur everywhere in Scotland in strongholds of late 15th century and onwards. They are found usually flanking the gateway and under the sills of the windows.

Again, observation is at once attracted by the stone effigies of knight-in-armor, standing with elbows akimbo on the battlements. There are only two remaining, one on the summit of the south-west turret and one on the north-

* For this plan I am indebted to Mr. C. J. Ferguson, F.S.A., the architect who is carrying out the enlargement of Newbiggin Hall by the present proprietor, Montagu Crakenthorpe, Esq. The addition is at the east side of the Jerusalem tower, and is shewn in plain shading in the plan.

west

west watch tower. There were probably originally four of these stone warriors; we know for certain there were three, for the head of one of these decayed gentlemen may be seen lying against the south wall. I cannot think that this device of setting up these effigies on the parapets, ever took hold as a fashion in our district. This is the only example I know of existing in these counties, and I have never come across any remains of such overthrown stone knights about any of our old defensive places. Close to the frontier however at Dalton-in-Furness tower in Lancashire, there are four stone men-at-arms standing on the battlements. There were at one time many of these stone figures standing on the walls at Alnwick Castle two or three of which I believe were original, and belonged to the time of the early Percies, but most of them were the work of a local mason, and were placed there by the first duke at the time of the re-building in 1764, and have been since removed.* The idea could only have been a conceit for architectural embellishment, as such a pretence would not be at all likely to impose on the enemy.

The central block which united the two towers formerly contained the old hall or dining-place, which has been described to me by the late Mr. Crackenthorpe from tradition which had been handed down to him, as having been a hundred years before a very beautiful hall, wainscotted all round, and embellished with a multitude of blazoned shields and heraldic glass. During the non-residence of the family in the last century, the place was inhabited by a farmer, and it fell into great dilapidation. It was partially rebuilt by the architect employed in the erection of Skirgill near Penrith, who knocked out the

* Similar stone warriors adorn Carnarvon Castle. Formerly the walls of Newcastle-upon-Tyne were embellished in the same manner. "Between each of the strong towers on the wall, there were for the most part two watch towers, made square, with effigies of men cut in stone on the top of them, as though they were watching." E. Mackenzie, History of Newcastle, vol. i. p. 109.

old windows, and inserted modern ones, and the interior was much cut up. The complete restoration was carried out by the late Mr. William Crackenthorpe in 1844.

In the reproduction of the west tower the external features of the old one have been retained, and it may be observed that the two towers were designed to uphold the harmony of the elevation and to balance each other. The original carved tablet which was over the entrance has been preserved, and is now inserted over the kitchen door. The legend contains four lines in raised English letters. The composition is identical in rhyme and feeling, to those inscriptions at Cliburn, Askham, Catterlen and other places:—

Cristofer Crakanthorpe thus ye me call.
 Whiche in my tym dyde bylde this hall.
 The yer of our Forde who lyst to see.
 I. M. fyve hundredth thyrty and thre.

The slab is under a label on the return of which there is the shield of Crackenthorpe.

The arms of Crackenthorpe are; Or, a chevron between three mullets pierced azure; The crest; on a wreath Or and Azure, a holly tree sprig or bush Proper. There is some good oak wainscot of the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods in different parts of the house. Over the mantelshelf in the entrance hall there is a framework of panelling of earlier date enclosed by fluted pilasters and moulded styles and rails, the lower horizontal panels being carved with foliage. Above there are two rows of five panels containing the following shields blazoned with their colours and bearings:—

				
Threlkeld.	Glencowe.	Sandforth.	Musgrave.	Bellingham.
				
Vaux.	Wharton.	Crackenthorpe of Newbiggin.	Dalston.	Fetherstone- haugh.