ART. XXVI.—Illustrations of Old Fashions and Obsolete Contrivances in Lakeland. By H. S. Cowper, F.S.A.

Communicated at Penrith, Sept. 23rd, 1897.

In August, 1891, I exhibited and described, before this Society, a series of iron rush and candle holders, such as were used in the Lakes and surrounding districts in former days, and in September, 1893, I read a second paper on a variety of other local appliances of an obsolete character. As our editor considered both of these communications, with their illustrations, worthy of a place in our Transactions,* I now venture to again bring before this Society’s notice, some more notes and sketches which I have made of other objects, which although mostly in use until quite a recent date, have become, or are rapidly becoming obsolete, and which therefore have their value as illustrations of the home life of the district in past generations.

To economize space, the figures are left to speak for themselves as much as possible, and only such descriptive or other notes as are necessary are added.

The various examples may be thus grouped:—

(i) Domestic and industrial appliances.
(ii) Appliances connected with farming.
(iii) Appliances for the destruction of game and vermin.
(iv) Appliances for travel and the road.
(v) Parish and Market appliances.
(vi) Miscellaneous.

*Vol. xii, p. 105, and Vol. xiii, p. 86. A portion of the present paper, with some of the illustrations, has appeared in The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist for January, 1898.

(i) Domestic
Domestic and Industrial Appliances.

Primitive Spinning. The Spindle and Whorl. To most of the members of this Society it will no doubt be a familiar fact, that in nearly all communities, in a certain stage of civilization, and that by no means necessarily barbarous, the thread for weaving into cloth was produced, not as now by machinery, or even by the picturesque spinning wheel, but by a simple yet very effective contrivance known as the spindle and whorl. Not only are the little wheels or whorls found by excavators upon nearly all ancient sites, whether they be Egyptian, Roman, Bronze Age, or Saxon; but travellers, in countries where European civilisation has not completely altered the customs of the people, are brought perpetually face to face with this appliance in actual use. Curiously, but by no means inexplicably also, the same appliances have been found to survive till the present day, in districts where modern civilisation has made familiar machinery by which the same results can be effected at infinitely less cost of time and labour. Instances of this are given by Sir A. Mitchell,* who found the whorl in use in Shetland, in 1864; while in Invernesshire in 1866, he found a woman using a spindle, on which a potato was fixed to act as a whorl. In the latter case the spindle user resided within two hours drive of a spinning mill and tweed manufactory.

Fig. I. shews a very interesting whorl which was given me by the representative of a family of Cumberland statesmen formerly residing at Wythburn: and as this example came from that place, it is very probable that it was turned up in agricultural operations in that district. It is a small disc of stone of a shale-like character, and measures $\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter. The special interest attaching to this example is the ornamentation

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upon one side. This consists of a series of incised lines radiating in curves from the central circles to the circumference, and forming a sort of cross pattern, which will be better understood from the figure than from description.

The pattern thus formed is remarkable: for although it is perhaps impossible to say what the period of this little instrument may be, I have so far been unable to find record of a whorl found in Britain bearing any decoration of this description. The character of the pattern calls to mind, in some degree, the ornament which is so well known on the sepulchral urns of the Bronze Age in Britain: the ornament of which invariably consists of straight incised lines radiating or forming angles, the spaces of which are filled up by diagonal hatching. Such ornament however belongs not only to the British Bronze Age, but is found in use among widely separate races, and over widely divergent periods. It is in fact characteristic rather of a certain stage of civilisation, than of any age or people
people; a simple form of art which would naturally suggest itself to any race, the culture of which is not far advanced, and whose tools are of a simple construction.*

The Wythburn whorl therefore probably belongs to one of two periods. It is of late Bronze or early Iron Age—when the straight lines of the bronze period were giving way to the curves which are so well-known in the Iron Age †: or it is simply the rude decoration of comparatively modern date, the scratchings perhaps of farm lad, who fashioned the whorl for a sweetheart or sister, two or three centuries ago. Such ornament is just as much what we should expect from a Cumberland youth, whose only tool would be his pocket knife, as from the art craftsman of semi-savage tribe of the so-called Bronze Age.

Should I be accused of trying to prove without evidence that Cumberland was in a backward condition in the matter of industrial art till a late period, I can only answer that the spindle and whorl were actually in use till two or three generations ago. Only a year since Mrs. Pepper, the manageress of the Langdale linen works, shewed me a spindle surmounted by a whorl also of wood, which was made as a facsimile of one which was known by tradition in her family to have been used in Borrowdale.‡

Space forbids here a detailed description of the method of using spindle and whorl. It is sufficient to say that the object of the whorl was to make the spindle rotate properly and so to draw out the thread from the "roving"

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* The reader should compare the decoration of the bronze age urns (Greenwell’s British Barrows) with that of some of the objects found by the late Mr. Bent at Zimbabwe ("Ruined cities of Mashonaland," 1896, p. 191 etc), or the carving on some of the South Sea Island paddles or clubs, or the early pottery of the Aegean Islands.

† The ornament on some of the stone balls shown on pp. 162-5 of Anderson’s "Scotland in Pagan times (the Iron Age)" is worth comparing.

‡ Unfortunately this specimen was lent by Miss Pepper, and never returned: while the copy is now doing duty in Central Africa, where it has been taken by a lady missionary to introduce spinning among a tribe which has never yet discovered the art.
of wool which was fixed to the distaff.* When a sufficient amount was formed, it was wound round the spindle, and looped under a hook at the end (see illustration) or through a cleft formed for the purpose. Sometimes the whorl was at the top, sometimes at the bottom end of the spindle. When in the latter position it was useful to keep the spun thread from ravelling, or working down off the spindle. Egyptian spindles as seen on the monuments shew the whorl at the top end, while the heraldic "Wharrow Spindles" of Guillim's heraldry, are drawn with the whorl below the thread.†

**Bread Making.** Akin to the spindle and whorl, in the fact that it belongs to all ages in the past, and is still used by many semi-barbarous races, is the handmill or quern, by which the grain is reduced to meal. Like the whorl also it has survived in the more out of the way places, even among highly civilized communities, where from the presence of mills worked by water power, one would at first sight have expected the more primitive appliances to have disappeared. This is the case in Scotland, for Sir A. Mitchell records that he saw hundreds at work in the northern counties.‡

How late the hand mill was in use in our district it is hard to tell: for although ancient manorial water power mills are common, it is easy to believe that the quern may well have survived till a late date among the outlying fell farms, remote as they often were from any

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*The distaff became the "rock" in spinning wheel days. Some American Indian tribes however use no distaff.
†See Guillim's Heraldry, 1660, p. 289—where he says "The round Ball at the lower end serveth to the fast twisting of the thread, and is called a Wharrow."
‡See the "Past in the Present," p. 33 et seq. The writer is inclined to think that at the date of that work, the number of querns in use in Scotland, would be thousands. I must refer the reader to the same work for much interesting matter as to the actual method of working the quern.
FIG. III. QUERN, LOWER STONE.

FIG. II. QUERN, UPPER STONE.

FIG. IV. STONE VESSEL OF DOUBTFUL USE.
centres of population. Such objects are at any rate continually turned up in agricultural operations, and their number, and the positions in which they are discovered, are strongly in favour of their being of comparatively modern date. The types and shapes are unfortunately of little value as evidence, and quern stones with ornamentation are by no means common. Fig. II. shews the upper stone of a beehive shaped quern found at Whitwell Folds near Kendal. It is 10\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches high and about 12 inches across the base. The hole at the top is to feed the corn through, and that at the side for the handle by which the quern was forced round upon the lower stone. One of the latter, a circular disc 18 inches in diameter and 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches thick is shewn in Fig. III. It was found with others near a wood called "Millwheel coppice" at Lenthwaite in Hawkshead Parish.*

On the same plate with the quern stones is figured a curious stone vessel (Fig. IV.) that I found lying in the farmyard at Parkamoor above Coniston Lake, a place which was formerly a grange of Furness Abbey. What its original use was, is hard to guess. It is 14 inches wide at the top; 12 inches high, but the interior is only 6\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches deep, so that its weight is great in proportion to its size, and the little ears or handles left on the outside are almost useless to lift it by. They would however greatly facilitate the process of rolling the vessel from place to place; so that if they are not purely ornamental, we should conclude that in use, it was removed at any rate short distances for some purpose.

The Parkamoor vessel does not appear to be a mortar, for the surface of the bottom is flat and unworn, and for the same reason it could hardly have been used in the same way as the Shetland "knockin' stane," or primitive pot barley mill. It is not without a likeness to the stone vessels

* The upper stone is sometimes called the "rider"; and the lower the "ass."
vessels found in Scotland with interments of the Viking Age, which appear to be burial urns.* One of these indeed, found at Ancorn, Caithness, has small handles somewhat akin in character to those of our vessel: but the shape of the latter undoubtedly suggests somewhat that it was made for use in some special industry rather than for a burial. The farm where it was found, is right above the small island called “Peel,” on which Mr. Collingwood last year found the remains of a small fortress dating back to the 13th century, if not earlier. It may well be that after the destruction of this island fortress, the farmers at the Abbey Grange carried off with them anything they could find of use, and among them this vessel.

*Anderson’s “Scotland in Pagan Times.” (The Iron Age), p. 68-76.

Brewing. From these meal mills we may pass to another form of domestic mill, which was in common use in these districts when every statesman brewed at his farm steading the ale for home consumption. Malt mills appear however to have varied in construction, but the ordinary type which may be seen attached to the beams in many a farm house loft, is of much less interest than that shewn in Fig. V.

The value of this example, which is in a barn belonging to Mr. George Browne of Town End, Troutbeck, is twofold. First, it is a dated example, for in an account book kept by one of Mr. Browne’s ancestors, we find the note:

1718 Jan: Bryan Wildman making my hand mill £1 0 0

and second, it is a true stone mill like the quern with upper and nether stones, and manipulated by hand; although the machinery to effect this is infinitely more advanced than that of the simple quern.

The illustration will serve to explain the mechanism of this type of malt mill better than description. Upon a
FIG. V.—MALT MILL. (THE RIGHT HAND DIAGRAM SHews THE MECHANISM.)

Plate II.—TO FACE p. 258.
FIG. VI.
MALT MILL OF LATER TYPE.

FIG. VII.
GIRDLE AND BRANDRETH.

PLATE III.—TO FACE P. 259.
stout wooden framework, 4 feet in height, is placed the nether mill stone, which has a diameter of 2 feet, and a thickness of 4½ inches. Passing through the middle of the framework is an axis with handles at either end, and upon this axis is a large flat wheel, 32 inches in diameter, having cogs on one side which work in and cause to revolve the staves or rounds of the trundle. The trundle itself rests on a bridge tree crossing the framework at right angles to the axis: and the centre upright within the trundle is the spindle, which passes through the hole in the nether mill stone and fits into the iron mill-rynd which is secured to the upper or running mill stone. When therefore the handles are turned, the cogs cause the trundle to rotate, and with it the spindle and the upper mill stone. The latter is 2 feet in diameter and 11 inches thick, and the hole on its upper surface by which the malt was fed, is 14 inches wide at the top, and 4 inches wide at the bottom.

When the mill was in use the mill stones were out of sight, being enclosed in a hexagonal wooden box on which again was a framework meant to hold the malt sack, or more probably to support a regular hopper. The ground malt escaped from a spout in the hexagonal box. These wooden superstructures are omitted in the figure.

The ordinary sort of malt is shewn in Fig. VI. and needs no description, because its mechanism is identical with an ordinary coffee mill. Most of the mills of this type were probably put up in the latter part of the last century. The example figured is from Coniston, and the diameter of its wheel is 42 inches.

The Kitchen Hearth. In my paper on "Obsolete and Semi-obsolete Appliances," I described the girdle and brandiron or brandreth, which were at one time in regular use for the baking of oat bread*: and in Fig. VII. I now

* These Transactions, Vol. xiii, p. 87. In Sussex the term "brandiron" seems to have been applied to a different hearth appliance, the andirons or firedogs.
show an example drawn from a brandreth and girdle in my own possession. The girdle or girdle plate in this instance is an iron disc, 26 inches in diameter, and the tripedal brandreth is 8 inches high and 13 inches wide at the rim.

In the same paper I gave you the figure of a toasting spit of iron, a simple and small contrivance for toasting cakes or bread upon: but in culinary operations spits of much larger size and more elaborate in form were in use.

In Fig. VIII. is shewn a very interesting spit in the possession of Mr. George Browne; by whose family it was no doubt in use in former days. It will be observed that the two standards which support the horizontal rod, are hinged so that they can be folded and laid aside when not in use. They are 3 feet high, and have each seven crooks. One leg of each has a projecting foot to make it stable: and each has a ring below the top knob, probably for the purpose of hanging it to the wall.

The slender horizontal rod is 6 feet in length, and terminates in a handle by which it could be made to revolve when in use. On the rod are fitted two pairs of prongs or forks to hold the meat. Beneath the prongs, is seen the old fashioned dripping pan 28 inches by 12 inches, with projecting sockets, into which wooden handles were once fitted. Before this lies the moveable fender, which can be made longer or shorter according to the dimensions of the fire. Both spit, pan and fender were of course placed in one of the huge open fireplaces, which in the old kitchens preceded the kitchen ranges.

On either side of the fire stood the fire dogs or andirons (chenets) the ordinary form of which is shewn in Fig. IX.

* See these Transactions, ut ante; a spit very like this is figured in "North Country Lore and Legend" (Nov. 1889, p. 526) from Northumberland. In that county they were called Bake Sticks, and are said to have been used for toasting the morning cakes of peas and barley meal.

† The 16th century Florentine tapestry maker, Jean Rost or Roster, adopted as his mark, a spit of this type, with a fowl roasting on it. The design was of course punning. Ital. rosto, a roast fowl.

‡ Sometimes also apparently called creepers or andogs, and in Sussex brand-irons. See Halliwell’s "Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial words."
FIG. VIII.
COOKING SPIT.

FIG. IX.
FIRE DOG.

Plate IV.—to face p. 260.
These appliances served to support the logs of the fire, and also the poker and tongs. Andirons seem to be of great antiquity, and objects which appear to have been used for this purpose have been found at Hartlip in Kent, and at Colchester, and are believed to be Roman.* By the 15th century they were made of exactly the same type as the local one shewn in our illustration, and are sometimes depicted in the illustrated manuscripts of that period.† The example figured is rather small, measuring only 26 inches in height.

Lighting Apparatus. In my paper on the various forms of iron candlesticks in this district, I alluded to a type of tall standard candleholders which stood upon the ground instead of upon a table ‡: and although I was able to describe examples from from other localities, I could not at that time give an illustration of local forms. Two candlesticks of this sort I have recently been able to see. The simpler form consists only of a square pole, 33 inches in height, fixed upon a square base, 3 inches high. Upon one side of the pole are a number of small holes, in any of which the candle socket could be placed at pleasure. The socket is iron, and has no arrangement for a rush. This example is from Ulverston. The other is of a type which I have not hitherto met with either locally or elsewhere. It consists of a stool-like pedestal, on which are placed two slender wooden rods, surmounted by a thin circular wooden slab, similar to that forming part of the pedestal. The actual candle holder (of iron, with a spring rush nipper) is fastened by a socket to another wooden rod, which passes through a hole in the centre of the upper wooden slab, and terminates below in a flat piece of wood shaped to fit into the other two rods. Fig. X.

‡ These Transactions, Vol. xii, p. 122.

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will make this clear. The two fixed rods are somewhat flexible, so that when necessary, the moveable rod and socket can be elevated to any point, in a sort of telescope fashion, and will remain there. The height of the complete candlestick, when the rod is at its lowest, is 41\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches. It belongs to Mr. Jacob Gillbanks, of Grasmere, but its former home was at Waste Head farm, Thirlmere.

As I have pointed out in my paper on iron candlesticks, the rush candle and the real dip were in regular use at the same time in the north, and many of the holders were adapted for both. The manufacture of the rush candle I have described, and no doubt in the last century most of the candles were simply wicks dipped in fat. Later however, and well into this century, the candles for home use were still home made, but the fashion of making them in tin moulds became general: and many of these are still to be found among the lumber of our old farm houses.

In Fig. XI. one of these is shewn, which came from a farm near Hawkshead. It will be seen that it is made to mould six candles, each 11 inches long and nearly six-eighths of an inch in diameter. The end of the mould shewn
FIG. XI.

CANDLEMOULD FROM HAWKSHEAD.
TINDER BOX FROM HAWKSHEAD.
TALLY IRON.

PLATE V.—TO FACE PAGE 262.
shewn in the figure has six tapering nozzles, which formed the lighting end of the candles, and through the hole in each of these the wick end was drawn. The fat was poured in at the opposite end.\(^*\)

No more striking example of the way objects of common use became rapidly extinct, can be instanced than the tinder box and steel strike-a-light, which until probably 50 or 60 years back formed the general method in these parts for obtaining fire.\(^†\) Till the date when lucifer matches became common, every household must have possessed these, yet now they have become so uncommon that they are far more difficult to procure than the older rush-candle holders. Indeed there are now among the less educated classes, many young people to whom the name of “tinder box” is quite unknown, and who, if shewn an example, would confess themselves absolutely ignorant of its use. In a generations time, even its tradition will be dead, and it will take its place in museums as an antiquity, instead of a neo-archaic object.

In the same figure as the candlemoulds, a good example of a tinder box from Hawkshead is shewn. It is well made of tin, and measures 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches in diameter and 1\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches deep. The lady who gave it to me purchased it in Hawkshead about 50 years ago, although it was not then new.

The iron strike-a-light and the inner lid are shewn alongside the box. When the piece of dry tinder which lay in the bottom of the latter had been ignited, from the flint and steel, and the candle lit and set in the socket on the outer lid, the inner lid was then dropped as an ex-

\(^*\) There are of course many varieties of shape. At Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, are three examples: (1) from Watermillock, for three candles, the pipes all in a line; (2) also from Watermillock, like No. 1 but for seven candles; (3) from Low Moorhouse, for three candles; in this example the three pipes are touching each other, and there is a curved metal handle at the end at which the fat was run in.

\(^†\) The sulphur “spunks” which superseded tinder of lint were rough “spalls” of wood generally four to six inches in length.
tiguisher on to the tinder, and the whole affair carried by the handle formed the candlestick.*

**Table Appliances.** In former days, before the use of glazed earthenware became general, most of the requisites of the dining table were either of pewter or wood: and in the inventories accompanying the wills of north countrymen from the 16th to the 18th centuries, we find pewter doublers and wooden trenchers continually mentioned.†

The pewter dishes and plates, which no doubt were much the most costly, are often still to be seen preserved as heirlooms in farms,‡ but the wooden trenchers or platters, which were used in the more homely establishments, have, like the tinder box, been cast aside as rubbish, and are now excessively rare.

Fig. XII. shews a plain trencher turned in sycamore, which belongs to Mr. William Fell of the Common, Windermere. Its diameter is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches.§ I have another from a farm at Lowick Green, which is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter.

**Dairy Appliances.** Before passing to objects connected with the actual farm, we may notice the various old fashioned vessels used in the dairy, as being in some sort an intermediate class between domestic and farming appliances.

The quaint coopered milking pail or calf piggins with the one stave left long for a handle, is still familiar to us, in the works of artists who depict rural existence, although at the present day it is seldom to be seen in actual use.

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* In the same figure is shewn a wrought iron "Tally" iron (Italian iron.)
† In a "Grasmere Farmer's Sale Schedule in 1710," communicated by myself to this Society and printed in Vol. xiii, p. 253, many instances of these and other obsolete objects occur, with the value at that date.
‡ The writer of the notes to the articles "Westmorland as it was," in the *Lonsdale Magazine* (1822, Vol. iii, p. 289) says: "The richer sort of people had a service of pewter; but amongst the middling and poorer classes, the dinner was eaten off wooden trenchers."
§ This trencher was regularly used by the grandfather of the present owner until his death about 1820.
FIG. XII.
WOODEN TRENCHER.

PLATE VI.—TO FACE P. 264.
FIG. XXXV.
WOODEN MORTAR? FROM LANGDALE.

FIG. XIV.
STRIPPING PAIL FROM DUNNERDALE.

PLATE VII.—TO FACE P. 265.
Curiously this form was imitated in miniature for table use, and in my paper on "Obsolete and Semi-obsolete Appliances" I have figured one of these from the Duddon district which was no doubt used in this way.* The real milk pail was of course of larger size, and one of these is depicted in Fig. XIII. It is of oak 10 inches in diameter at the rim, and 6½ inches high without the handle. It holds about 4 quarts.†

The quaint shaped wooden vessel shewn in Fig. XIV. is less familiar to us, and I am not quite certain for what purpose it was made. This example is in my own possession, and is said to have originally come from Dunnerdale. It is coopered in oak with iron bands, and has a well shaped handle; its height is 7 inches and it will hold only about 3½ pints. From the careful way it is made, it might well have been used for table purposes; but I am assured by lake district farmers that they can remember the exact shape in use, in their younger days, as stripping pails, i.e., small hand pails to go round the cow house after the milking to take the last drops of milk from the cows. The vessel in question has the appearance of considerable age.

A wooden milk ladle was also in use; and one about a foot in length is in the Tullie House Museum: the old

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* In the article in the *Lonsdale Magazine*, before alluded to, the writer says: "Hasty pudding and liquids were served up in small wooden vessels called piggins, made in the manner of half barrels, and having one stave longer than the rest for a handle."

† This example belongs to Mr. Wm. Fell of the Common, Windermere, who believes it was used as a ladle for wort in brewing. This is doubtful; but most of the milk pails of this form are larger, and the handle is shorter in comparison.
up and down churn, though probably quite out of use now, is well known in shape, and dilapidated examples are easy enough to find in farm outbuildings.*

(ii) Appliances Used in Farming.

Among this class, there is quite a mine of information to work at, for modern improvements in farming have ousted the old fashions even more effectually than in domestic life. At present we have only room to allude to a few.

It is a well known thing that in the lakes, the high roads were until a comparatively modern period, but few and far between and ill kept. Coach roads ran from one country town to another, and when these were left, pack horses were chiefly used for the carriage of goods and travelling was done on horseback: but of this something will be said in describing appliances for the road.

In districts however where carriage roads were non-existent, wheeled vehicles were of course but little used, so that on the farms wheeled carts were long unknown, and when they made their appearance were clumsy and awkward in character.† Thus in old inventories of dalesmen we rarely find mention of carts, though "hotts" which were panniers to place across the horses' backs, are continually mentioned.‡

The oldest type of wheels used on farm carts were the "clog" wheels, and I find there are men of between

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* The old fashioned milk strainers or siles were also formerly turned in wood, with a brass strainer let into the bottom.
† Clarke in his Survey of the Lakes (1789) says that in Borrowdale, carts or wheeled carriages were unknown "not above twenty years ago." This would place their introduction into that valley about 1769.
‡ Sledges, which are wheelless carts, are of course still used in fell farms, for conveying brackens, etc., from the rough fell sides to lower ground. This is a case in which the primitive type has lasted, because most suitable: a wheeled cart for this work would want the drag to steady it. It is a case of "survival of the fittest." See also Mitchell's "Past in the Present," page 97.
FIG. XV.
CLOG WHEELS.

FIG. XVI.
HORSE PATTERN (type No. 1.)
eighty and ninety years, who can distinctly remember them in use. In the possession of Mr. George Browne, there are still a pair of these, and through his courtesy I am now enabled to give a sketch. (Fig. XV.) It will be seen that the wheels are lumbering discs of wood, joined by a great beam or axle which is firmly fastened to them so that the axle revolved with the wheels—not the latter on the former as at the present day. The wheels themselves are 22½ inches in diameter, and 3 inches wide at the tyre, where the iron bands or "strakes" are formed of three pieces nailed to the wood. The distance between the wheels is 3 feet 2 inches.*

Though I have never seen a cart of this sort, it is evident that the wheels were secured to the cart by a sort of fork which projected from the under side of the main body of the cart, in a similar fashion indeed to that of the ordinary wheelbarrow, where the axle forms part of the wheel. But as the cart wheels were two, and did not revolve separately, the friction on turning corners must have been great. Waggoners and carters consequently carried with them a grease horn to lubricate the axle: yet in spite of this, these lumbering machines were notorious for the squeaking which accompanied them, and which is still remembered. The first improvement was effected by making one wheel only to revolve independently on the axle, while the other remained fixed.†

* The reader may refer to "The Village Community" by G. L. Gomme, 1890, p. 286, for notices of clog wheeled carts, sledge carts, kellachies, and various sorts of panniers and primitive contrivances of the sort used in different parts of England.

† In Stockdale's *Annals of Cartmel*, p. 570, is the following passage bearing on this subject: "Packhorses at first, and clog wheeled carts afterwards, carried on the whole traffic of the parish, over the narrowest and worst of roads; the revolving axle trees of the clog wheeled carts, scantily greased, making each a most unnatural squeak; so that when several carts were moving along the roads in a string, and each squeaking in a different key, the most disagreeable music was "discoursed." . . . Wheels with naffs (naves), spokes, and felloes, turning round on the axle tree (not with the axle tree as these clog wheels did . . .) first began to be made at Carke and Flookborough about the end of last century. Richard Todd was then taught the art, by a person of the name of Thomas..."
In those parts of Cumberland and Westmorland where the low ground bordering on the sands was peaty and wet, a curious sort of overshoe, or "horse patten" as it was called, was in use for keeping the plough horses from sinking deeply into the soft ground. A figure of one of these from Cumberland, now in the Tullie House Museum at Carlisle, is given (Fig. XVI.) It will be seen that it is formed of two pieces of wood which are joined together on the under side by a bar of iron, fastened at the ends to either piece of wood by a hinge. The wooden sides can thus be opened and the horses foot inserted resting on the iron bar. They are then shut down into position and are fastened by two iron catches, each provided with a ring. The patten is then secure on the horses hoof.

The whole affair measures 10 inches by 10½ inches and is 1½ inches thick. Another exactly the same but a quarter of an inch longer was recently shewn me, which was believed to have been in use in Brigsteer or Underbarrow about two generations ago. This has "snecks" instead of rings, which can be turned when the looped catches are over them.

A different type is shewn in Fig. XVII., which came from a farm house on the Solway and is now in Tullie House. Here we have a flat piece of wood 7¾ inches wide and 10¼ inches long and ¾ inch thick, shod round the edge with iron. On one side are two iron staples through

Walmsley, he having served his apprenticeship and learnt this then novel mode of making wheels from Rowland Penny, carpenter and wheelwright, of Bouth. I have heard my father say, that it was in their early days, quite common to cut suitable pieces of wood for ploughs out of the woods and hedges in the morning and to iron and plough with them before night." The author then describes how the wood was seasoned by fire, and concludes "As the furrows in ley ground made with so imperfect an instrument . . . . could with no certainty be turned over, men with pitchforks, hacks, and spades followed, and completed what the plough had left undone." Mr. George Browne, in an interesting letter to me, writes: "I have a pair of old cart wheels with fifteen spokes and differently put together than modern cart wheels. This pair is over 100 years old." He also tells me that in the diary of his ancestor, Benjamin Browne, it is entered that a harrow and a cart cost a shilling making and took two days to make, in 1735. Mr. Browne has also heard that the late George Brownrigg said that he has cut a tree in Troutbeck park and made a plough of it in one day.

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FIG. XVII.
HORSE PATTERN (type No. 2.)

FIG. XIX.
SHEEP BAND.

PLATE IX.—TO FACE P. 268.
FIG. XVIII.—COW HORMS FOR CALLING IN CATTLE AND LABOURERS.

PLATE X.—TO FACE P. 269.
which is passed an iron pin with a hole at one end. The horses' shoe for this sort of patten was made with rings on the heels; and the pin passed through these rings and so secured the hoof to the patten—the toe being held by the iron plate which is fastened at one end with a ring and staple and at the other end with a screw and projecting nut. It will be seen also that holes are cut in the wood under the pin to receive the projecting rings on the shoe heel.

These pattens were worn on the fore feet, generally by the furrow horse alone, as he had to step on the softest soil; but sometimes both horses were thus shod. I have never seen them in use, but they must have been clumsy and awkward for the animals, although no doubt the trick of clearing the feet while stepping, and so avoiding stumbles, would soon be learned.

The two cow horns shewn in Fig. XVIII. come from the two opposite ends of Cumberland: and though both used in quaint and primitive customs, the object of each was different. The larger one which came from a farm near Drumburgh, on the Solway, is now in Tullie House Museum, and was used to blow to bring the cattle home from the sands. The smaller horn belongs to Mr. Gillbanks, of Arnside, near Hawkshead, but was formerly used on the estate of his family at Wythburn to summon the labourers and shepherds to dinner. I have heard yet of another variety of the last in Westmorland where a big shell was used for the same purpose.*

*The Drumburgh horn in its present condition measures 20 inches; it no doubt belongs to one of the longhomed breeds, which Professor McKenny Hughes considers the offspring of the large breeds imported from Holstein and the Low countries in later mediæval times. The Wythburn horn measures only 11½ inches and is perhaps that of a west Highlander; a breed perhaps derived from ancient Roman stock, somewhat modified by crossing with the Celtic shorthorn (tor longifrons). It possibly, however, belongs to one of the mediæval or modern shorthorn breeds; for without the skull and horn core, it is not quite easy to say at what angle the horn pointed from the head. See "The more important breeds of cattle which have been recognized in the British Isles in successive periods," by T. McKenny Hughes, *Archæologia*, Vol. 55, p. 134, 155, 156, etc.
There are innumerable other obsolete or semi-obsolete appliances connected with farming, which I here only briefly enumerate. On the sheep farms the tar kits for sheep salving are no longer used, and with them has disappeared the pendant iron candle and rush holder. On the high fells in the Lakes a shepherd can still occasionally—very occasionally—be seen with the picturesque old shepherd's crook, or "lamb stick" as it is sometimes called, and one such, which was used near Staveley in Westmorland, and on Scawfell, is in my possession. Cows and calves were secured in the byres, and sheep in their pens by bands of ash, instead of as now by chains or ropes. A sheep band of this description from Little Langdale is shewn in Fig. XIX. (Plate IX.) One end of the curved piece can be slipped out of the hole in the straight piece of wood, and when it is placed round the animal's neck it can be readjusted, and from the spring of the wood, it automatically secures itself. There is also a somewhat similar appliance for geese, but this has a long cross stick, and its purpose is to prevent the birds "creeping" the fences.

Vessels used about a farm were almost entirely coopered of wood, and whether a calf piggin or a potato measure was required, the same sort of manufacture was in use.

Plough "hods" or holds were used for guiding the plough, and a curious implement for cutting drains was called the "paddock."

Purses and Strong Boxes. Under this heading I will call your attention to two examples of appliances, which the statesmen of the north used for carrying his money, and securing his small stock of valuables: for though thieves were no doubt scarce in the fells, and objects of high intrinsic value rare, there were things which should be kept secure—such as the silver spoons and family title deeds, and perhaps also the family bible in which the births of the different members were duly entered.
FIG. XX.—A STATESMAN'S STRONG BOX.

PLATE XI.—TO FACE P. 271.
FIG. XXI.

LEATHER PURSE.

PLATE XII.—TO FACE P. 271
In these days Chubb's safes were unknown, and although in the old daleside farms great carved oaken chests were common, these were often without locks, and they were indeed made for other purposes. In Fig. XX. however, we see an example of a really primitive safe, which belongs to Mr. Gillbanks, of Arnside, and was originally at his estate at Wythburn. It is a very stoutly constructed oaken box, banded strongly with iron, and was formerly fitted with a strong lock which has now being replaced by a staple and padlock. It measures only 17 inches in length, is 9 inches wide, and 8 inches deep; but its chief interest is in the stout staple and two great iron links which are attached at one end. By these the box was no doubt secured to the wall so that it could not be removed: a simple but no doubt sufficiently effective protection against theft in the peaceful dales.*

When money to any amount had to be carried, it appears that a leathern purse was carried attached to a waist belt or girdle. Such an one, 9 inches in length, is in my possession and is represented in Fig. XXI. It is of brown leather with a loop at the top for suspension, and opens in three divisions in front, which can be drawn up by laces and secured by a flap and leather buttons. The three divisions are equal in size, and may perhaps have been intended for gold, silver, and copper money. Within the centre division however there is a smaller one, also to lace up with a leather thong.

This interesting little purse was given me by Mr. Harrison, formerly of Hundhow, Staveley, near Kendal, and had, I believe, been long in his family. It is a modest modification of the old English "gypciére" or pouch which is often seen represented on brasses and effigies of civilians of the 15th century. The 15th century "gypciére" had however generally a metal framework, and

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*Parochial strong boxes are described under Parish and Market Appliances.
some of these frames preserved in collections are of singularly beautiful work.

(iii) Appliances for the destruction of game and vermin.

In my former paper on Obsolete Appliances, I gave some description of various types of cockpits, and made mention of the barbarous fox screw, which was used in the Lake district for screwing into a fox which had taken refuge in a "borran" or under a heap of stones. I am now enabled to give two illustrations (Fig. XXII.) of the iron heads of these cruel instruments which come from Langdale in Westmorland. They are very neatly and well wrought in iron, probably local blacksmith's work, and although differing somewhat in shape, both are on the same principle. One of them which finishes in a screw end is rather less than four inches in length, and branches into a powerful double screw very sharp at the points. The other is nearly 4½ inches in length and the "business end" is shorter and not so heavy. In this case the part below the screw is nearly triangular in section, and has numerous "nicks" filed out in one side while the end finishes in a spiked elbow. In both cases they were meant to fasten to a shaft or pole, the first screwing into a socket, and the last placed against the pole with the spike in a hole left for that purpose, while a ring was run up over both pole and metal to keep them together. As a rule several poles of various lengths were kept, and the one most suited for the place in which the fox had hidden, was used. A similar instrument of smaller size was employed for screwing rabbits; and at the present day a briar is often used in the same way.*

Foxes have never been preserved in the Lakes, and

*A. Craig Gibson mentions the "fox screw" in "The Old Man," 1849, p. 72.
FIG. XXII.
FOX SCREWS.
FIG. XXIII.
FOX TRAP.

FIG. XXIV.
MAN TRAP.

PLATE XIV.—TO FACE P. 273.
constant warfare has always been waged against them, not only by the shepherds, but also by the parish officials, by whom rewards were paid for their heads as vermin.* Consequently fox screws existed at one time at every fell farm and I believe that in some of the small local packs of hounds, it is still the custom for the huntsman to carry one.†

Somewhat akin to fox screws was an instrument for taking foumarts, an example of which I have never seen. It was called the "foumart tongs" and as described to me appears to have been an ingeniously devised instrument something on the principle of "lazy tongs;" that is to say, so constructed with a series of scissor hinges, that by closing the handles the tongs were shot out to a considerable length from the operator, and the forceps seized simultaneously the foumart. Instruments of this sort were used in Wales for ejecting dogs from church.‡ Foumarts were also hunted with terriers and a hound or two, and one was thus killed within a comparatively recent date in the vicinity of my own home.

Foxes were also trapped—the trap being of practically the same construction as that used for rats. One such from Hawkshead is shewn in Fig. XXIII. It is 2 feet long and from the end is a strong chain to secure it to the ground. The jaws which spring up to catch the fox are

* At Cartmel the heads were impaled on the church gates; see Stockdale’s *Annals of Cartmel*, p. 573. At Hawkshead in the early part of the 18th century five shillings was the reward for killing a fox, half-a-crown for a cub, and fourpence for a raven if the head was produced. In Sir Daniel Fleming’s *Accounts* small payments to "fox killers" are several times mentioned.
† There are two breeds of foxes in High Furness and the Lakes: the fell fox which is the largest of the two and reddest in colour: and the wood fox which is shorter with black legs. I have been told that the latter is not indigenous and did not exist in Furness till the breed was imported by Mr. Townley of Townend. The fell fox was the gamest. Chancellor Ferguson has quoted a capital description of him in "The Cumberland Foxhounds." It runs "fierce as a tiger, long as a hay band, and with an amiable cast of features like the Chancellor of the Exchequer—.”
‡ See a paper with illustrations by Mr. E. Owen in the *Reliquary*, Vol. iii.
here provided with sharp iron teeth. In Fig. XXIV. is shewn a man trap from Tullie House Museum, used perhaps by some Cumberland squire for poachers, or possibly for protection of the household against thieves. It measures 4 feet 10 inches and in principle is the same as the fox trap. It has, however, a projecting bar and spring at each end, and the sharp teeth are omitted.

(iv) Travel and Appliances for the Road.

No greater or more complete changes have taken place during this century than in travel, for the introduction of railways have done away with mail coaches, long overland journeys on horseback, and the strings of packhorses and enormous carriers' waggons which transported goods from one centre of population to another. The coach indeed survives in holiday districts, like the lakes, as a pleasure conveyance for tourists, but it is of course quite distinct from the mail coach in its purpose, and is used but little by the modern dalesmen. Indeed coaches and coach roads were scarce enough in the old days, in this district, and as the roads were mere tracks, travelling was done on horseback, while merchandise and baggage went as a rule on the backs of packhorses. An old inhabitant of Langdale, who has just died, has told me that by tradition the packhorses last went over the Hardknot and Wrynose road from Whitehaven to Kendal somewhere about one hundred years ago.

Little call indeed had the dalesmen of the 16th and 17th centuries to go far afield: and even the roads which existed saw few passengers except the packhorse caravans and the local people. An occasional journey to the nearest market town, and still more rarely to the capital of the county was the furthest the statesman stirred. Most of these he would tramp; but for longer journeys his
his horse and a small leather saddlebag was all his equipment. If his wife or daughter went with him she perched behind him on a pillion. Yet the roads had then a romance. Sometimes, as in 1686 at Hawkshead, a storm came on, that cut the roads to pieces and carried away the bridges, so that nothing could pass along them. On one occasion the ferry boat over Windermere capsized, and nearly fifty persons and several horses perished together. There were no highwaymen, for travellers worth robbing were few. But the roads were so universally bad, so ill marked and so devious, that at night it was easy to miss the track, and then woe betide the luckless traveller on the fells, without compass, guide book, or ordnance map.

Figs. XXV. to XXX. represent some of the appliances of horse travelling as we have described it.

Fig. XXV. is a good example of the ordinary type of pillion, kindly lent me to sketch by Mr. George Browne. It is in form a broad and comfortable cushion, covered with buff leather, and quilted round the edge. It measures 20 inches wide, 19 inches from front to back, and about 7 inches deep. Hanging from one side (the off side of the horse), is a wooden stirrup bound with leather; and there is an iron handle also bound with leather, by which the fair rider might steady herself. The pillion fitted of course on to the horses' back behind the saddle, and there are two rings to attach it to the crupper.

The next figure, Fig. XXVI. shows a very handsome pillion houseing, made to fit over the pillion itself and make it more showy—an addition used most probably only by riders of better quality. The example shewn, was kindly lent me by Mr. Thomas Todd, of the Green, Lambrigg, near Kendal, and it belonged to and possibly was embroidered by his great grandmother, Mrs. Wilson of the same place. It is of olive coloured velvet, quilted on
on the seat, round which and also round the border of the hanging part, there is an embroidered edging, and a blue silk fringe.* Saddle houseings were sometimes made of sealskin.†

Fig. XXVII. shows a saddlebag which hung at the back of the saddle, and was secured by loops to the girths. It opens at one side and laces with a strap and padlock. It is of pigskin, 38 inches long and 12 inches wide, and belongs to Mr. William Fell, of the Common, Windermere. Alongside of this (Fig. XXVIII) is depicted a much worn example of an old type of saddle, very long in the seat, which was discovered in an old closed up room of a cottage belonging to my father, in company with a saddlebag such as that just described. The stirrup,

FIG. XXIX.

FIG. XXX.

Fig. XXIX. of a shape not now made, was found with them. Fig. XXX. represents an old fashioned horsebreaker's bit called a "jolter" bit. In use the ring is turned to the upper side of the bit, and is then passed over the jaw, the short end being beneath in the jaw, and a rein or rope attached to the longer end. The shape is probably still occasionally used.

* Pillions often occur in inventories and accounts. In the accounts of Sir Daniel Fleming, of Rydal, we find—
1657-8 Feb. 20 More for my wife's pillion seat ... 00 08 06
1667 May 2 Item, Benson of Hauxide for Will's pillion seat 00 06 00
† See Will of John Fell, of Daltongate, 1723, quoted by Mr. Fell in "Home Life in North Lonsdale." These Transactions, Vol. xi, p. 371.
FIG. XXVII.
SADDLEBAG.

FIG. XXVIII.
OLD TYPE OF SADDLE.

PLATE XVI.—TO FACE P. 276.
FIG. XXXI.
HALBERD AND OFFICIAL STAVES AT HAWKSHEAD.

PLATE XVII.—TO FACE P. 277.
(v) Parish and Market Appliances.

Under this heading I put an interesting little series of curiosities which still remain in the custody of the Vicar of my own parish of Hawkshead. Although all of them have been mentioned in other publications, none have ever been figured, and they have not really been adequately described. They consist of—

1. A wooden staff with a pierced halberd like head.
2. Two plain staves of the same date.
3. A malacca cane with a silver knob.
4. Two bell metal standard measures.
5. An antique muniment chest.

The first and most interesting of these objects is the wooden staff with the pierced head which measures altogether 64\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches, and the staff and ferule alone 51\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. The staff is painted black, and the wood I have not so far been enabled to identify. The head is of pierced iron work, thickly gilded, and the design represents a pikeman with a plumed helmet, his pike in his right hand, a sword with a guard grip at his left side, and with trunk hose and stockings. Below this ornamental work is a knob made hollow and pierced, and beneath this again, hiding the top of the staff, is a heavy tassel, the upper part of which is embroidered with silver thread over a thick roll of felt. The fringe of the tassel is of yellow and red silk with a few silver wires in it. (See Fig. XXXI.)

The date of this interesting staff can be approximately judged by the costume of the figure. An engraving of Charles, Duke of York and Albany, shews exactly the same costume, except that he wears a wide-a-wake hat.

*The gilding is either a later addition or has been renewed. Under it can be seen slight chasing in the metal, shewing buttons and other detail of costume. There appears to be some slight ornamental chasing also on other parts.
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and a big collar. Charles I. was born 1600, created Duke of Albany 1601, Duke of York 1604, and Prince of Wales 1616. The picture represents a boy of twelve or fifteen, so that the date of this type of costume comes approximately between 1610 and 1616.*

The other two staves of the set are of the same wood but have no ferules, and are finished with plain wooden knobs which are painted yellow. They measure respectively 53\frac{1}{2} and 53 inches, but have probably originally been 54 inches. The longer of the two staves in Plate XVII. is one of these.

The cane is a fine yellow malacca in good condition. It measures 46\frac{1}{2} inches in length with the massive silver knob. On this we find the following inscription:—

Hoc et alteru Dona Dan Rawlinson civis et Oenopoicæ London guardianis ecclesie Hauxoniensis servand et Seneschallis nundinar ibidem pro tempore existen successive in perpetuum post leiturgium Anglican in eadem habit utend, et usu eorum quolibet opportuno tempore habit eisdem restituend.

And to the cane is now attached the following translation made by Dr. Sandys, the Public Orator of Cambridge, November, 1894:—

This staff and its fellow, are the gifts of Daniel Rawlinson, citizen and vintner of the City of London, to be kept by the churchwardens of Hawkshead Church, and to be used in perpetuity, after the service in the said church, by the successive stewards of the market held at Hawkshead for the time being, and after use to be returned to the churchwardens at some convenient season.

The silver knob also bears a hall mark consisting of a monogram made by the letters W and C within a heart shaped stamp. (See the shorter stave in Plate XVII.)

* In one of Planche's books of costume, however, a pikeman of 1635 in exactly the same position and in a similar costume is shewn. But the trunk hose have become less "baggy."

In the collection of antiquities made by the late Mr. William Hodgson of Ulverston, there was a curious iron halberd inscribed "Pennington, 1745," which was probably made for a similar purpose as the Hawkshead example.
FIG. XXXII.
BELL METAL MARKET MEASURES AT HAWKSHEAD.

PLATE XVIII.—TO FACE PAGE 279.
This inscription is especially interesting, as it tells us of another staff of the same date (now lost) and also gives us a clue as to the original use of the older set. Apparently Daniel Rawlinson's malaccas were for a double purpose, first to be used each Sunday as churchwardens insignia, and then to be handed to the stewards of the weekly Monday market, whose duty was no doubt to maintain order, and who carried the canes as badges of their office. Now the letters patent for the weekly market were originally obtained for Hawkshead by Adam Sandys of Graythwaite, who died in 1608, which as we have seen is very near the date of the pikeman's uniform on the halberd head. We may therefore conjecture that the older set of staves were given by the Sandys family soon after the institution of the market, and that Daniel Rawlinson (who died 1679) gave new staves in continuation of the same custom, thinking perhaps those given by the ancestor of his neighbours, the Sandys family, were obsolete and out of date.*

Fig. XXXII. represents the two bell metal measures, which according to Mr. A. Craig Gibson, were discovered in clearing rubbish from a building near the church. The larger (the quart measure) is 6½ inches high and has a handle. The less (or pint measure) is similar but without the handle. They are excellently made and very massive and heavy: each has on the rim two punched marks; first, beneath a crown, a monogram of a W between two Rs, one reversed; and secondly a cheque pattern. †

* There seems to have always been a good natured rivalry between the Rawlinsons and Sandys families, whose estates joined, and whose houses were within a stone's throw of each other. Daniel Rawlinson did much for the parish, and founded the school library. See the present writer's "Monumental Inscriptions of Hawkshead," 1892.

† These vessels are mentioned in "Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle," 1882, p. 253, but the writer of this section incorrectly describes the first mark on the quart as "crowned initials surmounting a cross stave," and the same mark on the pint as "R over a crown of which the punch slipped, and three sides of a rectangle." Others have called the cheque pattern a portcullis.
I am unaware if special marks were ever in use for bronze or bell metal, or whether the pewterer's marks were used: so that the date of these vessels remains somewhat uncertain, unless the monogram dates them in the time of William III. There is, I think, little reason to doubt that they were used as Mr. Craig Gibson suggested, as the standard market measures; and it appears that such measures were formerly kept in the churches.*

The muniment chest (Fig. XXXIII.) now in the tower of Hawkshead Church, probably dates from the early part of the 17th century. On the 25th Oct., 1597, a constitution was made by the Archbishop, Bishops and Clergy of Canterbury concerning the better keeping and preservation of the Parish Registers. In this occurs the following clause:—

Neque vero in unius cujusdam custodia librum illum, sed in cista publica, caque trifariam obserata reservandum putamus, ita ut neque sine ministro gardiani nec sive utrisque gardianis minister quicquam possit innovare.

The ordinances of this constitution were also embodied in an ecclesiastical mandate of 1603, where it is enacted—

And for the safe keeping of the said book, the churchwardens at the charge of the parish, shall provide one sure coffer with three locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with the minister, and the other two with the churchwardens severally, so that neither the minister without the two churchwardens, nor the churchwardens without the minister, shall at any time take the book out of the said coffer.†

Fig. XXXIII. is no doubt the "said coffer with three locks," which was obtained in obedience to this mandate.

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* Vide Canon Rawnsley in "Old Church Plate of Diocese of Carlisle," p. 254. A standard quart measure is mentioned as having been used in Ravenstonedale by the Rev. W. Nicholls, in his "History and Traditions of Ravenstonedale," p. 98.
† See Burns' "History of Parish Registers in England," 1853, pp. 23 and 24. The translation of the Canon of 1603 is from Gibson's *codex.*
FIG. XXXIII. MUNIMENT CHEST AT HAWKSHEAD.
It is constructed out of a solid log of oak, 6 feet 8 inches in length and about 16 inches at the thickest part. The part hollowed into a box is only 3 feet long, and no doubt the idea of using such an enormous mass of wood for such a small receptacle, was to prevent its being stolen. Here again we have a primitive safe, a degree more primitive in fact than that of the statesman which was chained to a wall.

The lid of the chest is crossed by three stout iron bands, which are connected to others at the back by a hinge. From them over the front hang three other bands, which can be secured to strong staples by the old fashioned padlocks. It is of course long since the registers were kept in this patriarchal coffer, but it is not long since I rescued from the mass of rubbish it still contains, a large number of burial in woollen certificates, sadly injured by damp. *

A chest of identical pattern, but smaller, belongs to the Hawkshead Grammar School. This was made according to original statute of Archbishop Sandys, who founded the school. In this case, the letters patent of the foundation and other documents were to be kept in it; and the keys were to be respectively in the custody of two of the governors and the schoolmaster. The original locks of the school chest are missing.

(vi) MISCELLANEOUS.

Under this heading I venture to bring before the Society two mysterious objects, the intent of which has hitherto baffled the erudition of all who have seen them. Both are, however, appliances specially made for some purpose, and as neither is probably over a hundred years

* These I have mounted in a book and indexed. See list in "The Oldest Register Book of Hawkshead," p. 395.
old, the mystery attaching to them is of greater interest, as shewing how completely the use of certain contrivances can become entirely obsolete in a short period of time.*

The first of these objects, which is shewn in Fig. XXXIV. is now in Tullie House Museum, to which it was presented by Mrs. Sanderson, of a farm near Drumburgh on the Solway, whose husband's family has resided there for many generations. It is made of oak, 11 1/2 inches in length, tapering to a blunt point at one end, while at the broader end a portion has been cut out. At each side of the pointed end are a series of "nicks" alternating with other in position as shewn in the figure. There is also a smaller "nick" at the blunt point, and below, a hole is pierced through the wood. The initials C.S. and date is carved on the side.

Our President introduced me to this mysterious object, telling me that although it had been submitted to various local experts, no satisfactory identification of its use had as yet been made. Solway fishermen had seen it, and though they decided that it "smacked of the sea," they could not tell what it was.

The shape, however, suggests it was meant to stow a line upon, and as it came from the Solway, it is reasonable to suppose it is connected with fishing, sailing, or netting. If for fishing, it might be held in the hand and the line let out as required. For netting, it is rather large and clumsy and the "nicks" are so placed that they would be apt to catch in passing through the mesh. It has also been suggested that it is a sort of boatswain's "fid," a "spike of hard wood" as the Chancellor writes me, "used to untwist the strands of a large rope with a view to splice." The idea is that it is to grasp the strands and twist them about in splicing—and that the "nicks" are merely to give the boatswain a better hold.

*It is however possible, as will be noted, that one may not be local in origin. Only
Fig. XXXIV.
A mystery from the Solway.
Only one person to whom it has been shewn, confesses to have ever seen a thing of the same sort. In this case the object, which is said to have been identical, was used a good many years ago in a farm in Langdale, where it sat astride of the back of a settle, and the “nicks” were used for hanging keys and small objects. But even if this was so, it is impossible to believe that this was the purpose for which it was made, and it is really doubtful if the objects were the same. None of the above suggestions seem at all conclusive; and I venture to suggest that the instrument may not be local at all. The initials and date are so rudely scratched that I hardly think they are the work of the maker. It may be that this object has been lost off a ship (perhaps a foreigner) or washed up with wreckage, and the Saunderson who found it kept it as a curiosity and initialled it. This might explain the utter inability of fishermen and landsmen to give it a name.*

Fig. XXXV. (Plate VII. p. 265) is a very curiously formed vessel of wood, which came from Birkhow farm in Little Langdale. It is turned on the lathe, and the shape can be best understood from the illustration. The inside of it forms a rounded cavity very much undercut at the edges: and the vessel is $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter across the bottom, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in total height, and the inside is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

This vessel has been shewn to many elderly people in the district, and so far I have found no one who has ever seen a vessel of the same form. The farmer’s wife, however, who gave it to me, had heard it said that a similar vessel was in use in Borrowdale for pounding coffee in. Such evidence is of course anything but conclusive, but I am inclined to believe it is a wooden mortar, and that

*Chancellor Ferguson calls my attention to the fact that the “nicks” are not worn by friction of a line. But I think that if used for stowing a line on, there would be little or no friction.
perhaps, with a spherical stone, or an iron bullet, it was used for grinding pepper corns, mustard, or possibly even snuff. In the Edinburgh Museum—a museum which has set a most laudable fashion in gathering together every form of obsolete and neo-archaic appliance—are many curious wooden vessels, and among them are wooden bowls with iron bullets and with lids, which were used for grinding mustard. One such is figured on p. 325 of the museum catalogue (1892) but unfortunately no dimensions are given. Mr. Wm. Dickenson, also, in his "Cumbriana," 1876, p. 321, mentions mortars of stone used in Cumberland for pounding pepper before mills were common. "The hollow of some of these mortars is not much larger than a common breakfast cup."

The supposition that the Langdale vessel is a mortar is somewhat borne out by its shape, its broad and solid base giving it considerable stability.