ART. IX.—*Capulside or Cappleside Hall, Beetham.* By
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Read at Penrith, July 13th, 1911.

THE Rev. H. V. Mills having called the Editor's notice
to the fact that no description of this hall appears
in our *Transactions,* I have put together the following
notes, based upon the description contained in the *Beetham
Repository.* From all accounts it must have been a very
imposing building, but, unfortunately, only a small
portion of the south wall of the tower now remains above
ground.

Anciently there was a manor of Cappleside that em-
braced, it is said, Meathop and other places, but by the
end of the seventeenth century it was so greatly reduced
that only the two mills known as the South-east Water-
houses, Hiltonhouse, another at the east end* of Beetham
Bridge, and the hall lands were within it. Dr. Burn
(N. and B., i., 225) is of opinion that the manor obtained
its name as being part of the possessions of an ancient
chapel, dedicated to St. John, that stood upon the site
now occupied by the house known as Temple Bank. The
ruins of the hall are within half-a-mile of this site, and
the lane which borders the field is known as Paradise
Lane.

During the sixteenth century the demesne belonged to
the Prestons and it would seem that the hall was leased
to the Middleton family, for in the year 1585 we find
Helen, daughter of Oliver Middleton of Cappleside Hall,

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* Before 1819 the bridge was some 40 yards higher up the river, and the
road passed to the east of Beetham House and continued to join the road
leading to Hanbridge (see illustration in *The Beetham Repository*, p. 86).

married to Thomas Hutton of Thorpenstine Hall, Cartmel
Fell. (Dugdale Visitation.)   Thorphinsty Hall lies two
miles south of Hodge Hill Farm.

About the year 1624, Thomas Buskel, a son of Jasper
Buskel of Heversham Hall, rented the estate by a lease
of lives, and in the church there used to be a Cappleside
pew with the initials

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inscribed upon it.

After the year 1687 the demesne passed with Anne, one
of the daughters and coheiresses of Sir Thomas Preston,
as a marriage portion to Hugh, Lord Clifford.

Then comes the tale of its ruination, when, with the
exception of the tower, the hall was pulled down and the
materials were sold to neighbouring people.   George Hil-
ton—of the family of Hilton of Murton, who espoused the
Stuart cause, joined the rebellion of 1715 and escaped
from Preston—lived in hiding in the ruins for some time.
Mr. George Browne's MSS. give the following extract :—
" Nov : 26, 1715.   Warrant from Daniel Wilson, John
Archer, John Fisher and Anthony Askew for search to be
made for George Hilton Esq : of Bethom who was con-
cerned in the late rebellion and who has made his escape
since the defeat of the rebels at Preston."   For the next
week, i.e., from November 27th to December 3rd, Benjamin
Browne, high constable of Kendal, was out with several
others searching continuously day and night around
Beetham, Meathop, and Sizergh for the fugitive.   (See
extracts in Kendal Chronology.   After the Act of Pardon
Hilton repaired and added to Hilton House, but it was
pulled down soon after 1771 by the Rev. Wm. Hutton
when he erected Beetham House in the garden.)

From a deed of tithe, hemp and flax for the year
1725 we find : " Robert Shepherd Exor of George Hilton

CAPPLESIDE HALL:
RUINS OF THE PELE TOWER, FROM THE EAST.

Photo. by Mr. J. F. Curwen.

Esq : to Edward Green, one customary estate of 6½ acres in Cappleside, rent to Lord Clifford £1 2. 4." In 1762 Hugh Lord Clifford sold to the tenants of the manor their lands free of rents and services (see purchase deed in Beetham Church chest), and in the following year a farmer converted the tower into a barn for his own use.

In 1767 the demesne was sold to Daniel Wilson of Dallam Tower for £2575.

From the idea that this was a haunted house and that nobody would live in it on that account, we have the legend of the " Cappleside laddy," which, as Mr. J. Rawlinson Ford says, " bears a sound yet known to children."

The Rev. William Hutton in his *Beetham Repository,* 1770, gives the following dimensions :—

> The Center of the House 14 yds long by 6 broad inside.
> The South Wing in front 10 yds & in depth 12.
> The North Wing in front 12 yds by 16.
>   about 36 yds in front.

These measurements are only roughly accurate. The south wing or what is undoubtedly the pele tower, measures 38 feet by 26 feet, as long but not quite so wide as that at Yanwath. At the south-west corner a garderobe turret projects out 6 feet, whilst at the south-east corner there has been a larger turret. As usual the axis of the tower lies east and west. The walls are 3 feet 9 inches in thickness, built of most ponderous blocks of limestone, and there is no plinth. Mr. Hutton tells us that they rose to the height of three stories, but the basement has not been vaulted. No architectural features remain, but from the comparative thinness of the walls, and from the fact that the basement has not been vaulted, I would venture to date the building to the middle part of the fifteenth century.

The foundations of the hall, said by Mr. Hutton to be 42 feet long, measure at least 52 feet, which, after the

two Lord Warden halls of Naworth and Wharton and the great hall at Workington, makes it the fourth longest hall in the whole of Cumberland and Westmorland.   As is usual we find it projecting away from the north face of the pele tower, and the walls seem to have been about 3 feet in thickness.   I can find nothing recorded about it beyond Mr. Hutton's note that the floor " was a kind of rude mosaic pavement with very small stones."

The foundation of the northern wing can still easily be traced, and it must have been a noble block, if, as Mr. Hutton says, it likewise rose to the height of three stories. From all appearances it measured 36 feet in front and 53 feet in depth.

Eastward of the hall the land is lined with raised embankments, which makes one keen to explore them further with pick and spade, but I think we may take them as marking the foundations of extensive outbuildings.