

ART. XXVII.—*Old Church Plate in Brampton Deanery.* By the REV. H. WHITEHEAD, M.A.

*Read at Penrith, January 20th, 1881.*

THIS paper is not written under any impression that the church plate in Brampton deanery is exceptionally worthy of notice, but rather in the hope that it may suggest the publication of similar papers from other deaneries, so that eventually there may be found in the pages of our "Transactions" a complete inventory of all old church plate still remaining in the diocese of Carlisle. Such an inventory, by directing attention to the interest and value of the church plate therein described, would probably be the means of saving many an ancient communion vessel from being relegated to the collector's plate-room or melted down and re-cast in the crucible. But there is no time to lose. Eleven years ago, in his paper on the Nettlecombe Chalice, Mr. Octavius Morgan wrote:—

The olden chalices are fast disappearing, the clergymen and churchwardens frequently preferring the look of a large new chalice to the original smaller cups of earlier and more simple form; and I have frequently seen many of the earliest chalices of the time of Elizabeth in the windows of silversmith's shops, sent up and sold or exchanged for the value of the metal, whereas the silversmiths have re-sold them to the curious in old plate at very high prices. (*Archæologia*, vol. xlii, p. 411.)

A similar statement was made three years ago by Mr. Wilfred J. Cripps in his book on "Old English Plate"; and again, in a letter to last week's *Guardian*, complaining of "the lamentable destruction of old church plate that even in these archæological days seems to be going on almost constantly," he says:—

There was hardly a parish in which some relic of Elizabethan times did not exist only a few years ago; but year by year many are consigned to the melting pot, or rather to the private cabinet of some wealthy

wealthy silversmith, who is very glad to give a country clergyman the small amount that its weight in silver coin comes to for a curiosity which, though it loses half its interest by being removed from the church to which it has belonged ever since it assumed its present form in the early years of the reign of Elizabeth, is nevertheless still well worth preserving. I have heard of one being parted with lately, and the few shillings it produced spent in hymn books; of another exchanged for a chalice of electro-plate; of a third being sold because the incumbent thought it old-fashioned. Each of these had been the property of the parish for more than three hundred years, and, more than this, was probably made of the very silver of a still more ancient chalice, and re-cast into its present shape at the Reformation in deference to Puritanical intolerance.

That silversmiths should as a rule discourage such transactions may be more than can be expected, though it would not surprise me to learn that here and there a silversmith has dissuaded a clergyman or churchwarden from exchanging an ancient chalice for a brand new vessel. But it does somewhat surprise me to find a London silversmith, who describes himself as a church plate maker, meeting clergymen and churchwardens more than half-way in this matter, and publishers of some church newspapers admitting to their columns his ominous advertisement:—

Old church plate re-cast and taken in exchange for new.

To this traffic the proposed inventory, of which the present paper is contributed as an instalment, would to some extent, perhaps to a considerable extent, prove a serviceable check. Nor would the compiling of it, with accurate interpretation of hall marks and date letters, be now a difficult undertaking. A Norfolk clergyman, who has accomplished such a work for his own deanery, thus describes the means whereby it has been rendered a comparatively easy task:—

Only a few years ago it would have been impossible to draw up such a list, from the general absence of information on the matter. But during the last twenty years much attention has been given to it, and the writings of Mr. Octavius Morgan, Mr. W. Chaffers, and Mr.

Wilfred

Wilfred J. Cripps, now supply full materials for an accurate knowledge of everything relating to this part of the goldsmith's and silver-smith's craft, the assay offices and their marks, and the course of legislation on the subject. Mr. Cripps's most useful and beautiful book, in particular, has been indispensable in the compilation of my list. (*Church Plate in Redenhall Deanery*, by the Rev. C. R. Manning, Rural Dean, p. 1.)

To me also, in examining the Brampton deanery communion plate, Mr. Cripps's book has been indispensable, and indeed was the moving cause of my undertaking the inquiry the results of which I now proceed to record.

The archæological interest of the church plate in Brampton deanery chiefly centres in the old silver communion cups, which date from a period of which probably no specimens of silver secular plate are extant in the same district.

The old patens and flagons, mostly pewter, are not without interest, and at least deserve the careful preservation enjoined by our bishop in his recent pastoral letter to the clergy of his diocese. His lordship says:—

In visiting Kirkland Church a short time ago I noticed that the parish possessed three pewter flagons; and I am reminded by the accident to remark that it is very desirable that pewter vessels which have been used for the purposes of the Holy Communion should be carefully preserved, even when their place has been taken by silver utensils: there is a temptation to neglect them as of no value: but there is much of historical interest attaching to these pewter vessels, and they deserve a place in the treasury of the parish to which they belong. (*Bishop of Carlisle's Pastoral*, Christmas, 1880, p. 15.)

The old pewter communion plate in Brampton deanery shall therefore receive due attention in this paper. But precedence must be given to the

#### CUPS.

HAYTON.—There is here an old communion cup, four inches high, and weighing 4 oz. 2 dwt., with band of lozenge-shaped ornament round the bowl, but without any hall mark, maker's mark, or date letter. Its age  
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therefore can only be conjectured. The Hayton churchwardens of 1685, in their visitation "presentments," still to be seen in the diocesan registry at Carlisle, reported:—

Wee present the want of a pewter dish, and a fflagon and a chalice that are neither of them fit for the sacrament.

The cup now under consideration has certainly not been in use since 1822, when new plate was given by Mr. T. H. Graham, of Edmond Castle. But whether it is identical with the cup reported as unfit for the sacrament in 1685, and, if so, whether it nevertheless, repaired or un-repaired, remained in use until 1822, or after 1685 was superseded by a successor not now extant, and was consigned to the parish chest, there to remain for nearly two centuries, or whether it was itself the successor of the cup complained of by the churchwardens in 1685, there is nothing, apart from its appearance and character, to shew. If, however, it be permitted to speak for itself, it may claim to be regarded as Elizabethan. Mr. Cripps, to whom I have sent photographs and descriptions of the Brampton deanery cups, and who has kindly favoured me with remarks on some of them, says of this cup:—

It is the very smallest and rudest of all the village communion cups I have ever seen, and I have now seen several hundreds of them. There is, however, one something after the same fashion and of about the same size at Uggle-Barnby, County York, of the year 1560-1. The Hayton cup, probably re-made out of the silver of an earlier chalice, is most likely of about the same age.

The stem of this cup is very short, and without a knop, but is obviously a later addition in lieu of an older one.\*

CUMWHITTON.—Cup stands six inches high, and weighs 7 oz. 2 dwt. 7 gr. No mark on the bowl but the maker's, a fish. Two leaves, four times repeated, on the knop. Mr. Cripps says:—

The stem of this cup is unlike any I have hitherto seen, probably owing to its being by some small local silversmith. Its having but

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\* Further research, already begun in another deanery, seems likely to throw light on the history of the Hayton cup.

HAYTON.

16<sup>th</sup> CENT.CUMWHITTON.  
LATE 16<sup>th</sup> CENT.

CUMREW. 1615-6



IRTHINGTON.

1616-7.



WALTON.

1627-8.



BEWCASTLE.

1631-2.



LANERCOST.

1638-9.



STAPLETON.

1638.

CASTLECARROCK.  
1691.

BRAMPTON. 1681-97.



one mark also points to its being provincial. Probable date is late 16th century, or very early 17th; but much more probably the former.

CUMREW.—Plain cup on baluster stem. Height, eight and a half inches; weight, 10 oz. 0 dwt. 12 gr. Marks:—Leopard's head crowned, lion passant, maker's initials G. K. with a key between them, and date letter the Lombardic S (with external cusps) indicating 1615-6. Not that the same letter served for two whole years; but—

As the new letters were not fixed till May 29th, each letter served for a portion of two years, even in days before the change of style. (*Old English Plate*, p. 81.)

The leopard's head, mentioned in Act I Edward III as "of ancient time ordained," was the king's mark for silver of the sterling standard. The lion passant is thus accounted for by Mr. Cripps:—

It is never found before 1540, nor is it ever absent after 1545; but there is no article of plate known to exist of any of the intervening years, in one or other of which it must have been introduced (p. 82). . . . In 1542 Henry VIII not only diminished the weight (of the silver coin of the realm), but reduced the standard. . . . What security then would the buyer have had after 1542 that plate bought by him was of any better silver than the debased coin of the day? None whatever. May we not therefore hazard a conjecture that the lion passant was then adopted to show that plate bearing it was not only as good as the coin, but was of the old sterling standard (p. 83).

The leopard's head is often called the London hall mark; but—

It certainly was not so originally, except in the sense that in early times the Goldsmiths' company in that city were the only authorised keepers of the King's touch (p. 62). To be strictly accurate we should have to say that London plate is distinguished by the absence of any provincial mark rather than by the presence of any distinctive mark, of its own (*ib.* 77).

The Cumrew cup, therefore, having the standard marks and no provincial hall mark, is of London make. Besides the marks already mentioned it has on the opposite side of  
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its bowl the initials <sup>E. D.</sup><sub>K.</sub> doubtless those of the surname (K) and christian names (E & D) of the persons (husband and wife) who presented it to the parish church. It has also the lion passant on its foot.

IRTHINGTON.—This cup has an engraved belt round the bowl, and belts of lozenge-shaped ornament on knop and foot. Height, seven and a quarter inches; weight, 5 oz. 10 dwt. 12 gr. Marks:—Half a fleur-de-lis and half a double-seeded crowned rose conjoined in a circular stamp, maker's initials F. T. in a plain oblong, and date letter the old English J of 1616-7. Not until quite recently would it have been possible to point with certainty to the assay office at which the hall mark on this cup was used. Mr. Chaffers was on the right track when he wrote:—

The stamp used at York previous to 1700 was probably that of the half-rose and half fleur-de-lis conjoined, which is frequently met with on plate of the 16th and 17th centuries. (*Hall Marks on Plate*, 5th edition, 1875, p. 16).

But the writer of an article on "Plate and plate-buyers" in the *Quarterly Review* for April, 1876, having occasion to mention the same stamp, says:—

This Mr. Chaffers doubtfully assigns to York. Judging from a beaker in our own possession we have thought it might be the old Calais mark, but without further proof the identification is uncertain. (*Q R*, vol. cxli, p. 377).

The "further proof," desired by the *Quarterly Reviewer*, has been supplied by Mr. Cripps:—

It has at length proved possible to identify the well-known old English mark of a fleur-de-lis and crowned rose, both dimidiated and conjoined in a plain circular shield, as that which was anciently used at York. It has before this been somewhat doubtfully assigned to that office, but the number of specimens on which it has been found by the writer leaves the matter no longer open to question. (*Old English Plate*, 1878, p. 100).

The York cup at Irthington is in good condition, but has not been in use since 1869, in which year new plate was  
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given to the church by the present vicar, who when giving the new did well to preserve the old.

WALTON.—Plain cup, seven inches high, weighs 6 oz. 12 dwt. 4 gr. Inscription on bowl :—" Ex dono John Addison 1624." Marks :—Leopard's head crowned and lion passant (London), date letter the italic *k* of 1627-8, and maker's initials CB in a plain shield.

CB made a vast quantity of notable plate, still in the possession of various London guilds and other public bodies, between 1606 and 1630. (*W. J. C.*)

The date letter, owing to a perplexing double line, I could not for a while identify with any letter in any kind of alphabet. But Mr. Cripps came to the rescue with this explanation :—

The letter in question is the italic *k*. The double line is only due to the punch having slipped under the hammer, and its having received a double stroke, the one impression partly overlapping the other. You will often find it happening so.

This bit of information may be useful to future investigators.

BEWCASTLE.—Plain cup, seven and a half inches high, weighs 9 oz. 2 dwt. 7 gr. Inscription on bowl :—" R (Rectory?) Bewcastle 1630." Marks :—York rose and fleur-de-lis, maker's initials C. M., and date letter the old English Y of 1631-2. The slight chronological discrepancy between the inscription and the date letter may be accounted for by supposing that the inscription records the year in which the Bewcastle church authorities gave the order for the cup; though the like explanation scarcely accounts for the greater discrepancy between the inscription and date letter of the Walton cup. Some of the older parishioners remember a time when the Bewcastle cup was used without a stem; but they say the present stem is the original one, and its appearance bears out their statement.

LANERCOST.—Plain cup, described as "a fair challis" by the churchwardens in their "answer to the articles of enquiry



enquiry given in charge in the year of our Lord 1710," stands seven and a half inches high, and weighs 8 oz. 8 dwt. 14 gr. Marks:—York rose and fleur-de-lis, maker's initials R. H., and date letter the italic *f* of 1638-9. It had a pewter stem until the late vicar, in 1874, caused the present silver stem to be fitted to the ancient bowl and foot. No doubt the pewter stem had a silver predecessor; which was probably longer than the present stem.

STAPLETON.—Plain bowl, now without stem or foot, stands three and a half inches high, and weighs 4 oz. 2 dwt. 1 gr. Inscription:—"The Parish Church of Stappellton 1638." No hall mark or date letter. Maker's mark a bird beneath initials on a shield. The first initial is undecipherable, the second is M. No one remembers this bowl with a stem; but that it once had one is evident from the mark of breakage. It is the second of the Brampton deanery cups which I have had occasion to describe as bearing only a maker's mark, on which subject the Quarterly Reviewer says:—

It is, we imagine, hopeless to identify, except as undoubtedly English, the many pieces, spoons especially, which are stamped only with a maker's mark. All over the country, as we have already pointed out, there were silversmiths who, not being bound by the acts which affected the Metropolis, honestly made their wares and stamped them with their own ma k. (*Q R*, vol. cxli, p. 377).

But it is not hopeless to trace the Stapleton cup to the city in which it was made, seeing that

A mark of T. M., with a bird beneath the initials, on a shield, is found on York made plate of 1667, 1668, &c. (*W. J. C.*)

CASTLE CARROCK.—Plain cup. Height, five and three-quarter inches; weight, 5 oz. 9 dwt. 9 gr. Rudimental knop on stem. I remark, in passing, that the stems of all the other cups in the deanery, except at Hayton and Cumrew, have the usual knop, varying in size, but complete. The churchwardens of Castle Carrock, for three successive years, 1687-8-9, in their "answers to the articles of inquiry,"

quiry," reported the "want of a silver chalice for the communion." As in 1690 they reported only the "want of a flaggon and pewter plate" it may be inferred that they then saw their way to securing the desired "silver chalice"; which accordingly bears the inscription:—"This belonges to the Church of Castle Carreck 1691." This cup, though in a different way, is almost as rude as the Hayton cup, with which it shares the peculiarity of being entirely unmarked. A total absence of marks may seem to have contravened various statutes, from 1403 onwards, which enacted that every provincial maker of plate should "set his mark upon it before setting it for sale, upon the same penalties as if in London" (*Old English Plate*, p. 20). But church plate, if ordered to be made, had no need to be set for sale, and being inalienable was regarded as incapable of being re-sold (*Rev. C. R. Manning*, p. 18).

BRAMPTON.—Plain cup, reported by the churchwardens in 1703 as "a very good chalice"; not in use since 1871; stands eight and a half inches high, and weighs 10 oz. 9 dwt. 15 gr. Hall mark:—Three towers or castles, being the arms of the town of Newcastle-upon Tyne, twice repeated on shields of irregular outline. This cup has the merit of extreme rarity; for—

Notwithstanding the proved existence of a guild of goldsmiths in Newcastle-on-Tyne from 1536 and earlier, but little remains of their work; specimens of church plate of the later part of the 17th century are occasionally to be met with, but so few that it cannot be certainly said that a date letter was used at Newcastle, as at York and Norwich. (*Old English Plate*, p. 163).

There is no date letter on the Brampton cup. The maker's initials are W. R.—

The very initials in the example quoted in *Old English Plate* (p. 117) as of the end of the 17th century. The same initials, in linked letters, have lately been found by me on a paten, dated 1681, at Boldon church, near Gateshead, and also, with the shield of 1686, on an alms dish at Warkworth. The two forms of shield are of about the same period. (*W. J. C.*)

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The shield here alluded to is that of the hall mark, two forms of which, as illustrated at page 117 of Mr. Cripps's book, are found on Newcastle plate of the end of the 17th century. The shield on the Brampton cup is not the same as that on the Warkworth alms dish. In the absence of a date letter the exact age of the Brampton cup cannot be ascertained; but it cannot be later than 1697, in which year the provincial assay offices were suppressed by act 8 and 9 William III c. 8 s. 1, and since the re-establishment (in 1702) of the Newcastle office the town mark on Newcastle plate has always been accompanied by the standard marks (*ib.* p. 133). Therefore, as W. R. is known to have been making plate in 1681, we may assign the Brampton cup to the period between 1681 and 1697. The alleged scarcity of old Newcastle plate is confirmed by the fact of this cup being the only Newcastle communion cup in a deanery in which, from its proximity to Northumberland, Newcastle church plate might have been expected to be found.

OVER DENTON.—The cup here is of pewter, seven and a half inches high, plain and unmarked.

NETHER DENTON AND FARLAM.—The old communion cups of these two parishes have in recent times been parted with in exchange for new. On the back of the transcript of the Farlam register for the year ended March 25th, 1675, is the following memorandum:—

Note y<sup>t</sup> John Milburne keeps the chalice or cup.

Who and what John Milburne was, and why he kept the cup, are questions which further research may enable me to answer. It must suffice for the present to have quoted the transcript note in evidence of this cup having been of at least as early a date as 1675; and from the description of it given by persons who remember it I infer that it may have been more than half a century older than that date. The Nether Denton cup has been described to me as  
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having somewhat resembled the old Hayton cup. It was therefore probably Elizabethan. That it was desirable to procure new communion plate for both Farlam and Nether Denton churches may be likely enough; but it was a mistake not to preserve the old. On this subject I have already quoted Mr. Morgan and Mr. Cripps. I now quote Mr. Manning:—

I am sorry to learn, from some of the principal London silversmiths, that of late years a considerable amount of Elizabethan and other plate has been sold or exchanged by clergymen and churchwardens, chiefly where high ritual prevails, for modern plate of mediæval pattern. However beautiful and fitting these may be, it would be better to keep the old plate, at a slight additional expense; and without a faculty the sale is illegal. (*Church Plate in Redenhall Deanery*, p. 18).

The editor of these Transactions, Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., as quoted by the bishop in his pastoral letter, bears similar testimony:—

During the last twenty years a fashion for new plate, of a more ornate character, has grown up. The old has been discarded or neglected. I know a case in which the clerk had a cup, which I got restored. The silver cups, battered and shabby, have frequently been sold (illegally, as done without a faculty) to help pay for the new plate. . . . The — cup has gone into a collector's hands; whose I do not know. An old cup at — escaped this fate, because no one understood the marks upon it, and it was supposed to be pewter. It is old York silver, worth a considerable sum in the market. But independently of money value these vessels should be retained and decently cared for. (*Bishop of Carlisle's Pastoral*, 1880, p. 15).

Mr. Manning and Mr. Ferguson have done well to make known the illegality of such transactions. But by their efforts to kindle and spread an interest in old church plate they may have helped to raise up a better protection for it even than the law of the land.

#### FLAGONS AND PATENS.

There is at Stapleton a plain silver communion flagon, or rather tankard, four inches high, three inches in diameter, and weighing (exclusive of a removable lid) 10 oz.  
18 dwt.

18 dwt. 18 gr. Inscription :—"Presented to St. James Church Stapleton by James Farish of the Dormansteads." The lid, of London make, is marked with the lion passant and leopard's head uncrowned. It was in 1823 that the leopard was deprived of his crown; whereby, says Mr. Cripps,

The head was made to present an object far more resembling the head of a cat than the fine bold face of former days, which we would fain see restored to its pristine form. *O. E. P.*, p. 63).

This lid bears also the sovereign's head, a mark—

Found on all plate that has been liable to the duty imposed in 1784 (24 George III, c. 53); that is to say, upon all plate liable to be assayed (*ib.* p. 85).

The remaining marks on the Stapleton lid are the makers' initials <sup>H. D.</sup> H. L., and date letter the old English h of 1863-4. But the tankard itself, also of London make, is marked with the figure of Britannia, lion's head erased, maker's initials B A. in stamp of irregular outline, and date letter the Roman A of 1716-7.

The lion's head erased and figure of Britannia were appointed by the statute of 1696-7—which raised the standard of silver plate—in order to distinguish the plate so made from that which had previously been made of silver of the old sterling, and they were for this purpose substituted for the leopard's head crowned and lion passant. The new marks were in sole use from March 27, 1697, until June, 1720, when the old sterling standard was restored, and its own old marks with it, not, however, to the exclusion of the new. Since that year, therefore, both standards, each to bear its own marks, have been legal. . . . But after 1732 or thereabouts the lion's head erased and the Britannia are very rarely to be met with (*ib.* p. 84).

The same statute (1697) enacted that the maker's mark should be the first two letters of his surname. Thus

The letters B A. on the Stapleton tankard are the mark of one Richard Bayley, a London silversmith. (*W. J. C.*)

Before 1697 the maker was under no restriction as to his mark—

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He might put his initials fancifully interlaced, or in monogram; or he might choose, as was common in earlier times, some emblem, a rose, a crown, a star. . . . How graceful many of those marks were may be seen by the table of marks stamped in a copper plate still preserved in Goldsmiths' Hall. . . . With the Act of William what may be called the poetry of the maker's mark perished. Little could be made out of the first and second letters of a maker's name. . . . Nor is the existing arrangement much better. By the 12th of George II, in 1739, the maker's mark has been declared to be the initials of his christian and surname. (*Q R*, vol. cxli, p. 375).

The Stapleton tankard and its lid, as has been shewn, represent two different periods; and a third period is represented by the handle, marked with maker's initials D.A. in old English—

Probably added about 1750, judging from the style of the maker's mark. (*W. J. C.*)

Nor does the story of this tankard, as told by itself, end here; for on the bottom of it are the initials  $\begin{smallmatrix} F \\ P S \end{smallmatrix}$ , doubtless those of ancestors of the late Mr. James Farish of Dormansteads, who presented it to the parish at about the date of the lid (1863-4). Lastly, these ancestral initials are surrounded by the letters P H, R F, R B, R H, no doubt the initials of the churchwardens at the time of the presentation.

At Bewcastle there is a plain silver paten, three and three-quarter inches in diameter, and 2 oz. 0 dwt. 3 gr. in weight, with the same marks and of the same age (1631-2) as the Bewcastle cup, of which it is apparently the original paten-cover. The post-Reformation paten-cover, as contrasted with the mediæval paten, is thus described by Mr. Morgan:—

The form of the paten is much changed. The sunk part of the platter is often considerably deepened, the brim narrowed, and thereon is fixed a rim or edge by which it is made when inverted to fit on the cup as a cover, whilst a foot is added to it, which serves also as a handle to the cover, as though it were intended to place the wine in  
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the chalice and cover it with the paten-cover until the administration of the sacrament, when the cover would be removed and used as a patin for holding the bread. (*Archæologia*, xlii, 405).

The Bewcastle paten-cover, the foot of which has been broken off and lost, has not been in use within living memory. But it might be well to have it fitted with a new foot, and again used instead of the pewter paten which has taken its place.

Whatever else there is of old church plate in Brampton deanery, besides the above-mentioned paten-cover, flagon, and silver cups, is pewter; and considering the circumstances and condition of this border tract in Elizabethan and subsequent times the wonder is that so many of the cups are as old as they are. As for flagons and patens, until the end of the 17th century or the beginning of the 18th, there would almost seem in some of the parishes of this deanery to have been none at all. Thus the Hayton churchwardens in 1685 report "the want of a pewter dish." In the same year the Cumrew parish register records the presentation, by the then curate, Mr. John Calvert, of "a fflagon for ye better service of ye Lord's Supper and also a shilling towards ye buying of a Patten for ye consecrated bread at Communion." The Castle Carrock churchwardens in 1690 present "ye want of a flaggon and a pewter plate for ye communion." The Brampton churchwardens in 1703 report:—"We want a flagon for the administracion of the Lord's supper." And the Irthington churchwardens' accounts in 1730 record:—"Paid the year aforesd for a flaggon 5s, for a patten to put the bread on 2s." All the pewter patens in the deanery, except those of Stapleton, Hayton, and Farlam, have been preserved. The Lanercost paten is mentioned by the churchwardens in their "answer to the articles" in 1710, when they reported their parish as in possession of "a patten to put the bread on and a flaggon of pewter to bring the wine to the communion table in." This paten bears a mark,  
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the Prince of Wales's plumes, twice repeated, also the pewterer's name "Thomas Grame." The same mark, also twice repeated, but with a different maker's name (illegible), and a second name "J. Hardman," are on the Irthington paten. The same mark, again twice repeated, with another (illegible) name, is on the Walton paten. On some of the other patens there are also marks, *e.g.*, at Cumwhitton a shield without any device, at Bewcastle a crowned rose, and at Over Denton a swan under an archway. This mark, the swan and archway, often occurs on the large pewter plates which abound in farm-houses in this neighbourhood. But, though of considerable size, it is nearly always very indistinct, since marks on pewter are soon effaced by rubbing. Still more indistinct are the smaller marks and maker's name by which it is accompanied. One of these smaller marks, however, can in some instances be identified as the leopard's head; another seems to be a date letter; and on one plate, belonging to Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., the maker's name and residence can be recognised as "Robert Sadler, London." In two instances, one of which is Mr. Ferguson's plate and the other the Over Denton paten, what I suppose to be a date letter\* is the old English R. The leopard's head crowned also appears on the Bewcastle pewter paten, which moreover bears the initials B P, most likely meant for *Bewcastle Parish* or *Paten*. The Brampton paten has the initials <sup>W.</sup>T.M. There is also at Brampton a pewter basin, probably the "decent basin," prescribed by the rubric, for receiving "the alms for the poor, and other devotions of the people." The Cumrew paten has the initials J. C., being those of John Calvert, who was curate (perpetual) of Cumrew from 1679 to 1690, and a church reformer in days when decency and order in church matters were at a low ebb. The story

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\* I make this suggestion very doubtfully, being unacquainted with the history of pewterers' marks.

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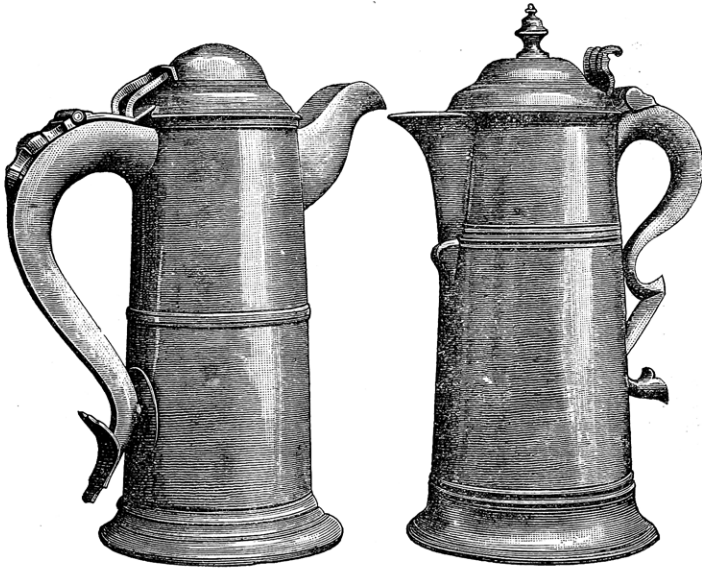
of his reforms is told with vigorous emphasis in contemporary "answers to articles of inquiry" and in the parish register, and a few years later (in 1703) with somewhat more discriminating eulogy by Bishop Nicolson in his "Miscellany Accounts of the Diocese of Carlisle" (p. 111). Yet the name of John Calvert does not appear in the list of incumbents of Cumrew in any history of Cumberland; a defect of a kind frequently occurring, so far as my observation extends, in the county histories. Bishop Nicolson, I may here remark, with all his minute and apparently exhaustive observation of church goods in the various parishes of his diocese, hardly ever mentions the church plate. There are but half a dozen allusions to it through his whole book (pp. 78, 91, 94, 102, 117, and 144).

The pewter flagons which have been preserved to this day in Brampton deanery are those of Lanercost, Farlam, Irthington, Nether Denton, Walton, and Brampton; of which the first four are ordinary tankards, each eight and a half inches high, three bearing initials, viz. W. B. at Lanercost, R. C. at Farlam, and I. C. at Irthington, the latter (Irthington) having also four marks, defaced and unintelligible. The Walton flagon, seven and three-quarter inches high, unmarked but with initials J. G., is of the shape known as "round-bellied." At Brampton there are two flagons, without marks or initials, each (exclusive of its lid) thirteen inches high, and holding three quarts a piece. They are, as may be seen from the accompanying illustration,\* very fine vessels. When or where they were made there is nothing to shew; but they were probably bought by the churchwardens soon after 1703, in which year they reported:—"We want a flagon." When I came to Brampton, in 1874, I found but one of them; nor did I know of the existence of the other until four years later, when it was sent to one of the churchwardens by a

\* The illustrations, both of cups and flagons, are drawn (from photographs) to scale of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lines to the inch.

parishioner,

parishioner, who said it had been in her house for thirty years, where it had been left by a former tenant, who was curate of the parish, and who perhaps considered that one such vessel was all that was required for the church.\* The pair, long separated, now stand together on a window sill in the vestry, and with the old cup are much admired as venerable relics of the past, and part and parcel of the



history of the parish church. When new communion plate was bought (in 1871) the time had certainly come for a silver flagon and paten to be procured, which together with the new cup are of mediæval pattern. But the rare old cup, which is in excellent condition, has an interest and value of its own which cannot attach to a modern successor, no matter how good its design.

\* Succeeding as they did the phials or cruets of earlier days, one of which was for wine and the other for water, they are usually found in pairs, although a single vessel of the kind would have been all that was actually required, even to bring to the church the larger quantity of wine that was now used." (*Old English Plate*, p. 207).

These

These notes on the old church plate still remaining in Brampton deanery would be incomplete without a passing notice of one piece of church plate, formerly belonging to the parish of Brampton, which unfortunately does not remain. On a board in the ancient chancel, now used as a cemetery chapel, is the following memorandum :—

Given to the Parish Church of Brampton, by Thomas Richardson Esquire, of the Privy Seal Office, London, for the use of the altar, a large embossed Silver Cup, with a cover and stand of the same, weighing 55 ounces, in the year of our Lord 1764.

Many persons have wondered what became of this cup, which no one now living ever beheld. But Mr. George Hetherington, of Brampton, who died last Sunday in his 84th year, and whose grandmother was cousin to the afore-said Mr. Richardson, told me that the cup in question, which was kept at the house of his grandfather, who was churchwarden at the time, was stolen thence, soon after its arrival, by a man who was traced to Whitehaven, where pieces of the cup were recognised in a pawnbroker's shop; but the thief was never caught.

It only remains for me to return my best thanks to my clerical brethren of Brampton deanery for courteous permission to inspect whatever in their custody was likely to throw light upon the subject of this investigation; to Mr. Edward Hughes for drawing the illustrations; to Mr. Cripps for valuable notes and suggestions; and to Mr. Ferguson, F.S.A., for having first directed my attention to Mr. Cripps's interesting book, without the aid of which this paper would certainly not have been written.

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