

ART. XIV.—*Some Manorial Halls in the Vale of Derwent.*

By MICHAEL W. TAYLOR, M.D., F.S.A.

Read at Carlisle, August 20, 1891.

ON the partition of Cumberland by Henry I., the barony of Allerdale-below-Derwent, was granted to Waldeoff, the son of Gospatrick. This great barony was further augmented by William de Meschines, baron of Egremont, making over to Waldeoff the land between the Cocker and the Derwent, which became known as the honour of Cockermouth; so that this family ruled over the whole district of the valley of the Derwent. From the first Waldeoff, the barony passed through his son Alan to a second Waldeoff, and his sister Octreda, who carried the inheritance to her husband, Fitz-Duncan, Earl of Murray. It is reputed that the Waldeoffs had a residence on the commanding site of the Roman town at Papcastle, near Cockermouth, and built a castle there; of this no vestige remains. Early in the thirteenth century Cockermouth Castle was founded, which became the subsequent residence of the lords. The great estates came to be divided among the three co-heiresses of Fitz-Duncan, and the honour of Cockermouth eventually fell to one of the family of Lucy, baron of Egremont. The Lucys continued in possession until 1386, when the marriage of the heiress brought the lordship to Percy, Earl of Northumberland. From the Percys the estates descended, first to the Seymours, and then to the Wyndhams, and are now owned by the Earl of Leconfield.* A portion of the parish of Crosthwaite and the land above Keswick were out of the bound of Allerdale barony. Before the Norman conquest there ruled here a very ancient family, descended from

* For an account of the Barons of Egremont and Cockermouth, see Chancellor Ferguson's "*History of Cumberland*," the Denton's MSS., and the exhaustive papers of the late William Jackson, Esq., in *These Trans.* Vols. iv. and vi.

Danish

Danish or Saxon ancestry. What was their patronymic does not appear, but they were allowed by the Normans to retain their domain in peace, and they adopted, from the place, the name *de Derwentwater*. This family subsequently acquired possessions in Westmoreland and elsewhere, and in the time of the Plantagenet kings took a leading part in the leading affairs of the shire. The original residence of the Derwentwaters was situated in the vicinity of Castle Lonnin, on the high ground at Castlerig, to the east of Keswick, but the remains of it have disappeared. In the reign of Henry V., about 1417, the marriage of the heiress of the last male of the race carried the possessions to Sir Nicholas Radcliffe, of Dilston, in Northumberland. His son and successor built the mansion on Lord's Island, on Keswick lake, which survived until the end of the seventeenth century. Owing to forfeitures during the Commonwealth, and the political troubles of 1715, which wrought the extinction of the Radcliffes, the place had so fallen into decay, that it was dismantled and the materials carried away, so that a few mounds and heaps indicate now the foundations of the house of the Radcliffes.*

I proceed to describe the old manorial halls and other dwellings in connection with the Derwent valley, which may have retained any noticeable features of old domestic architecture.

MILLBECK HALL.

This interesting little place, though not a manor house, is worthy of notice, and is situated two miles to the north of Keswick, in the township of Underskiddaw, between Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite Lake, or the "Broad-

* Mr. J. Fisher Crosthwaite, in a paper published in 1874, entitled "The last of the Derwentwaters," has given much interesting local information concerning the family. This is of special value, as we are presented with a copy of an original drawing in his possession, shewing a plan of the house on Lord's Island, made by Joseph Pocklington, Esq., in 1796. The planning, however, is that usual to a mansion of the sixteenth century, which must have superseded, more or less, the early structure of the period of Henry V.

water,"

water," as it was sometimes called in old writings. The property is in the possession of Lord Ormathwaite, whose predecessor, Sir John Benn, created baronet in 1804, assumed the name and arms of Walsh, by sign manual, in compliance with the will of his maternal uncle. The second baronet was raised to the peerage in 1868, as Baron Ormathwaite, a title taken from the hall and estate in the adjoining village of that name, which formed part of the inheritance.

A mountain beck which courses down a gill on the steep slopes of Skiddaw has for long been utilized for driving flour and other mills at this spot, and runs past the west front of Milnbeck, or Millbeck Hall. The hall for a long period has been used as a farm residence, and has a courtyard and adjuncts of farm buildings. The material used in the construction is the grey slaty rock of the country, covered with roughcast, except the coigns and openings, which are of worked freestone. This house is not all of one age. The earliest habitation was, doubtless, a square tower or pele of the 15th century. At the south-east corner the indications are plain where the early structure was incorporated with the later buildings. The battlements are gone, but there still exist the remains of the narrow newel stair in the thickness of the wall, which led to the upper floors; at the foot of this stair would be, of course, the original entrance to the early domicile. But afterwards, in Elizabethan times, there came to be added to the west side of the tower a range of buildings and a long wing, so as to present an L shaped plan. These additions comprised, on the ground floor, a kitchen, a dining hall, and continuous with them a large barn, all facing to the west. On this aspect is the main entrance. The jambs of the doorway are plainly chamfered, and support a massive lintel stone, the under surface of which is bevelled and worked into the outline of a very obtuse triangle, the sides of which are perfectly straight, except at the angles next the impost. On the face of this
stone

stone there is carved, in raised Roman capitals, the inscription to which reference will presently be made. Above the doorway there is a little lookout window, about a foot square. The walls are four feet thick. The dining hall consists of a spacious oblong apartment, lighted by square-headed horizontal mullioned windows on each side. The lintel over the fireplace is of oak, slightly arched; the opening is singularly large and deeply recessed, the walling of the chimney projecting considerably on the end gable, on which abuts the adjoining barn. The fireplace recess is now closed in. The floor is flagged with rough slabs of blue slate; the wooden panelling and fittings to the walls, evidence of the fastenings of which still remains, are all gone. This part of the building was completed, probably, about the time recorded in the tablet, *i.e.*, 1592, and, on the whole, it affords a fair example of the usual plan adopted by the statesmen and smaller gentry in the 16th century in enlarging their earlier abodes.



DOORWAY, MILLBECK HALL.

The chief interest, however, about the place, is the inscription over the doorway, which reads as above.

The

The legend will bring to our remembrance a similar motto which was placed by Henry Blencow over his doorway at Blencow Hall:—

“QVORSVM. 1590
VIVERE MORI . MORI VITÆ.”

The translation of the latter motto has more than once been the subject of disquisition in our society, having engaged the attention of two distinguished scholars, Professor Clark and the Rev. Thos. Lees*. Nicholas Williamson had doubtless seen and appreciated the conceit of the sentence set up by Blencow, and he copied it over his own doorway two years after, with this difference, the repetition of the verb *vivere*, in place of the substantive dative *vitæ*. In Williamson's version the translation must be “*Whither? (i.e., to which way or end) to live to die (supply or) to die to live (eternally).*” As there are no arms displayed about the house it may be concluded that the family were not entitled to armorial bearings, and except in parish registers there are scanty *data* to trace their descents.

On the dissolution of the monasteries there was a dispersion by grants and sales of the lands in the parish of Crosthwaite, which had belonged to Fountain's Abbey in Yorkshire. It is found that Henry VIII., by letters patent in the thirty-second year of his reign, grants out to one John Williamson, to be held of the king in capite, by the service of one-twentieth part of one knight's fee, sundry lands in the tenure of divers persons, amongst whom occurs the name of Nicholas Williamson. The names of John and Miles Williamson are also found as tenants of

* These Transactions, vol. i. p. 334, vol vi. p. 289.

lands

lands in Crosthwaite, in a grant of Edward VI., in the second year of his reign. Writing of this district, Sandford says, "And here a very ffair house of ancient gentle family of Willyamson, the birthplace of that most ingenious mons'ir Sir Joseph Williamson, now principal Secretary of State. A pregnant scholar: past through his degrees at Queen's College, Oxford: when *surrendred* went over sea, got divers languages, and there came back into into the King's servise, and well beloved, for I never heard any great ill of him."* The name of Williamson is associated also with a house in the valley of St. John's, called Lowthwaite Hall. Sir Joseph Williamson was Secretary of State in the reign of Charles II., 1674-78, and was one of the plenipotentiaries at the treaty of Nimeguen and of Ryswick, in which latter mission he was attended by Sir Richard Musgrave of Hayton.† Sir Joseph was born in 1633, being the son of the Rev. Joseph Williamson, who was instituted in 1625 to the living of Great Broughton, in the vale of Derwent. Some time after this period, Millbeck Hall would appear to have been acquired by the family of Brownrigg, who had resided on different farms in Great Crosthwaite before they finally settled at Ormathwaite Hall, which house was erected by the Brownriggs in the 18th century. The last of the family at Ormathwaite was Dr. William Brownrigg, a distinguished physician and philosopher, who died there in 1800, aged 88 years.‡ The lands of Millbeck and of Ormathwaite in his possession were willed to Sir John Benn.

* Sandford, concerning Crosthwaite, says:—"No great gentry hereabouts: but many substantial monsires, and many of the Williamsons: and of some of these Tribes." E. Sandford MS. (circa 1675). A Cursory Relation of all the Antiquities and Families in Cumberland. *Tract series No. 4.*

† Lysons' Cumberland, y. 16.

‡ The Brownriggs of Ormathwaite. By J. Fisher Crosthwaite. *Trans. Cumb. and West. Assoc.* No. xiii.

WYTHOP HALL.

The ancient roadway or track from Keswick to Cocker-mouth, instead of skirting, as it now does, along the western edge of Bassenthwaite mere, coursed obliquely from Thornthwaite up the steep banks of the fell by Wythop Hall, into the vale of Embleton. In the map of Cumberland in *Camden's Britannia*, the demesne of *Widehop* is represented ringed in as a park, and the fell was doubtless then a forest and covered, as it still continues to be, with thick woods descending to the shore of the "Broad (*bred* D) water." The name *Wythop*, or *Wythorp*, is evidently derived from the Danish, as being the *thorpe* or village of the *Wythes*, or willows.

These lands were a parcel of the waste of Allerdale above Derwent, and consequently within the barony of Egremont, and continued in the Lucy lords until the death of John Lucy in the eighth year of Edward II., when they passed into the possession of Hugh Lowther, with the reserve of certain dower rights to the widow of John Lucy. It would seem that there was a habitation on Wythorp at that period, which was deemed worth £10 a year, when Christian, the widow, impleaded Lowther for her dower there. In the 12th of Edward II., A.D. 1319, Hugo de Lowthre had a licence to crenellate this house. "*mansum suum de Wythehope in Derwentfelles, Cumbr.*"† The manor descended in the issue male of the Lowthers for a long time, until 1606, when Sir Richard Lowther sold it to Richard Fletcher, of Cocker-mouth. Sandford writes:—"Above the woods a pretty lodship called Weydrup and ancient hall house, bought by Sir Richd. Fletcher of old Sir Richard Lowther of Lowther."*

The Fletchers had become a very strong family at this period; engaged in trade as merchants in Cocker-mouth

* *Tract series. No. 4.* † From the Patent Rolls.

from

from father to son during the whole of the 16th century, they had acquired great wealth, which they invested in land. Various branches of them founded the families of Fletchers of Moresby, of Talentire, of Clea, and of Hutton. This same Sir Richard who purchased Wythop, amongst other valuable estates bought also from the ancient family of the Huttons, the manor of Hutton-in-the-Forest, as now enjoyed by Sir Henry Fletcher Vane.

Of the old house of the Lowther lordship nothing now remains that can be identified. The old place had doubtless long ceased to afford a residence for any of the family, and the manor had been probably of value mostly as a sporting forest and from the contingent strength in arms it might supply from its customary tenants. The existing structure is occupied as a farmhouse, with a large courtyard, surrounded by extensive ranges of rough stone farm buildings and offices. The house consists of a square block of two stories, presenting a frontage of 36ft. ; recessed 9ft. from which there is a low intervening building containing the main entrance and the passage, bisecting the ground plan ; and on the opposite side there is a wing 60ft. \times 21ft., at right angles, containing the kitchen and its dependencies and what is now used as stabling. The main block presents to the front two rows of three wide low windows, set uniformly above each other, each being of three lights, separated by plainly chamfered mullions, with coved hood mouldings, which are continued horizontally along the walls as strings and terminate in short returns. Within, there is a low ceiled square dining hall, with a little parlour beyond divided off by a wooden partition, into which is fitted the square-topped, carved oak cupboard or dressoir which was usual at the period. A scale stair leads to the little sleeping rooms above. This portion of the house, from its architectural features, may readily be referred to the middle of the 16th century. The entrance doorway in the porch

porch records a different date, but that has been inserted at a later period; it presents an architrave with rounded mouldings and a classical cornice, and on the lintel is carved :—F.V.F. 1678.

CRAKEPLACE HALL.

In the parish of Dean, about a quarter of a mile from Ullock, there is a little farm house called Crakeplace Hall,* which possesses some interest as exhibiting very little domestic alteration since the time it was built. The title of the place is another instance of derivation from the Norwegian "*Kraker*," (a rook or crow), which has already been illustrated in the place names of Craco, Crackenthorpe, and not very far from this spot we have also Blindcrake and Crakesothen, or Graysothen.

The house stands on the brow of an elevated bank above a little stream which contributes to form the river Marron. The planning of the building is that which prevailed in the latter part of the 16th century and onwards, on the primary and simple L model; the main limb is 45ft. long, and contains the small dining hall; a straight staircase to the upper rooms, and a larder or dairy; the shorter return wing consists of kitchen and offices. The low horizontal windows are all surmounted with coved dripstones, some of which end in a short square return, whilst in others the moulding is curled over a corbel carved into a human head. Most of the windows are divided into three lights by two plain splayed mullions. The interior presents nothing remarkable: the chimney opening in the kitchen is embraced by a semicircular stone arch of 13ft. span, with a plain chamfer; there is a brick oven attached to

* It appears by the inscription that the house was built by one Christopher Crakeplace, a name unknown in county records, and probably a person of inferior rank. Sandford spells the name as Craples. In describing his route from Loweswater he says:—"And down in the bottom you have Craples Hall and village. Though they were very ancient gentry, I never heard them of any great remarke." *Tract series. No. 1, p. 5.*

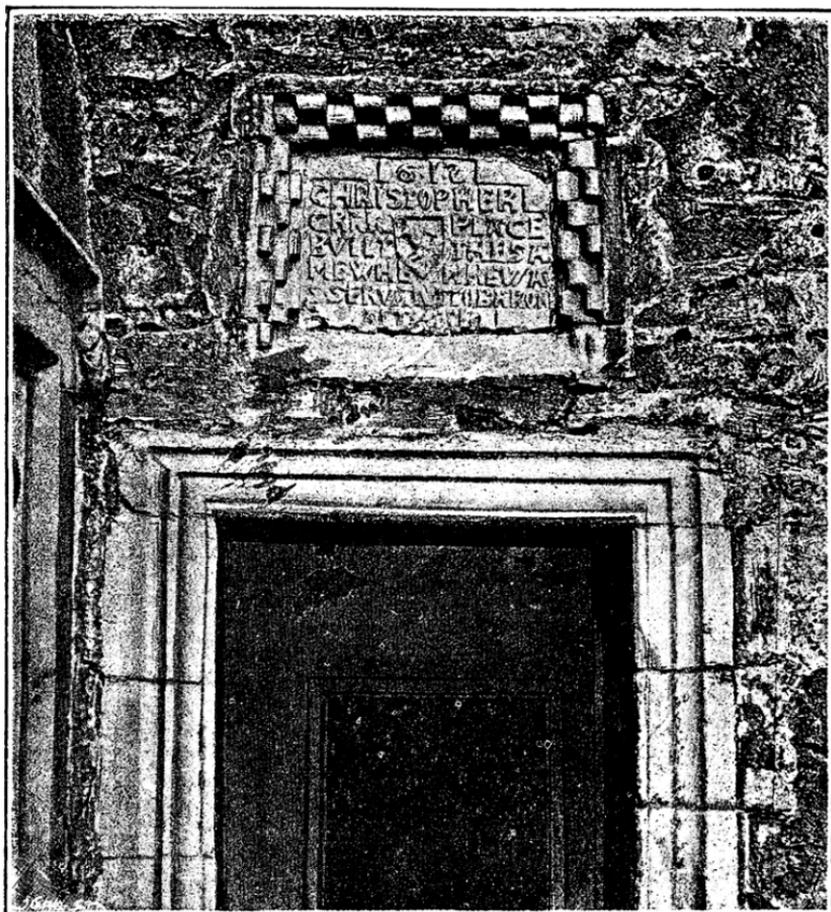
one side and a recessed cupboard on the other; a wooden framework partition, in long panels, separates one end of the hall from the staircase.

The chief point of interest about the place is the carved tablet, with its quaint legend over the doorway. At the re-entering angle of the L in the plan, a lean-to projecting porch has been built, giving the front entrance to the interior. There is proof of this erection having been an afterthought and an addition to the pre-existing Elizabethan building. The mouldings of the doorway, consisting of three members of shallow quarter rounds and beads, are characteristic of the early Jacobean impulse, as is also the treatment of the decoration of the carved stone over the lintel. The tablet containing the lettering is enclosed within a heavy projecting frame, which is worked on three sides, whilst the bottom stone has a simple bevel only. The ornament used is a short circular billet arranged in three rows, the intervals and the billets in the different rows being placed interchangeably with each other. This detail of decoration was an essay at revival of Norman billet-work, which, along with the adoption of a bold half-round moulding broken into a battlemented outline, became much in vogue in the time of James I. The inscription, in raised Roman capitals, runs thus:—1612. *Christopher Crakeplace built the same when he was servant to Baron Altham.*

ISEL HALL.

The ancient tower of Isel, with its later residential adoptions, stands on the north bank of the River Derwent, about three miles above the town of Cockermouth. The name was formerly written and pronounced "Ishall," and was probably derived from the circumstance of the place being in a great measure surrounded by water.

We have early notice of Isel, for Alan the son of Waldeoff, in the reign of Henry II. gave to Randal Engayne,
one



DOORWAY, CRAKEPLACE HALL.

a Norman, the demesnes of Ishal, Redmain, and Blen-
crake; and so for a time the Engaynes were lords of Isel,
as well as of Burgh, Herryby, and Kirkoswald. Through
Ada Engayne the inheritance passed to the Morvilles and
Multons, and in Edward II.'s time, through Margaret, a
daughter of Multon, Isel fell to the family of the Leighs.
This Margaret, in the 33rd of Edward III., being the widow
of Sir William de Leigh, had a licence from Bishop Welton
"for a chaplain for her private oratory within the manor
of Isale." *

The presence of the Leighs at Isel seems to have lasted
for a period of over 250 years, until towards the end of
Elizabeth's reign.† Thomas Leigh, the last of the race,
gave the succession to the estates to his second wife, Maud
Redmain, who afterwards marrying Sir Wilfred Lawson,
brought Isel to the family of the Lawsons. ‡

The situation of the hall is most picturesque, in the midst
of a charming, undulating, and well-wooded country. It
stands on a considerably sloping bank, close to the deep
and rapid waters of the Derwent, which here bend
round its southern face; and it is bounded on the west by
a mountain beck, which falls into the river. The position
was no doubt originally chosen for defence, and the old
keep, which still remains in its entirety, presents a good
example of a border pele tower still in a habitable con-
dition.

The defences of the rudimental fortalice were strength-
ened by a moat on the land side. The depression formed
by the ditch is fairly traceable on the east side of the tower,

* Burn and Nicolson. Vol. 11, page 3.

† During this period the name appears as one of the knights of the shire for
Cumberland as follows:—

Henry IV., 1st and 3rd.—William de Legh.

2nd, Henry V.—William de Legh.

2nd and 38th, Henry VI.—William de Legh.

1st, Mary.—John Leigh, Esq.

28th, Elizabeth.—Henry Leigh, Esq.

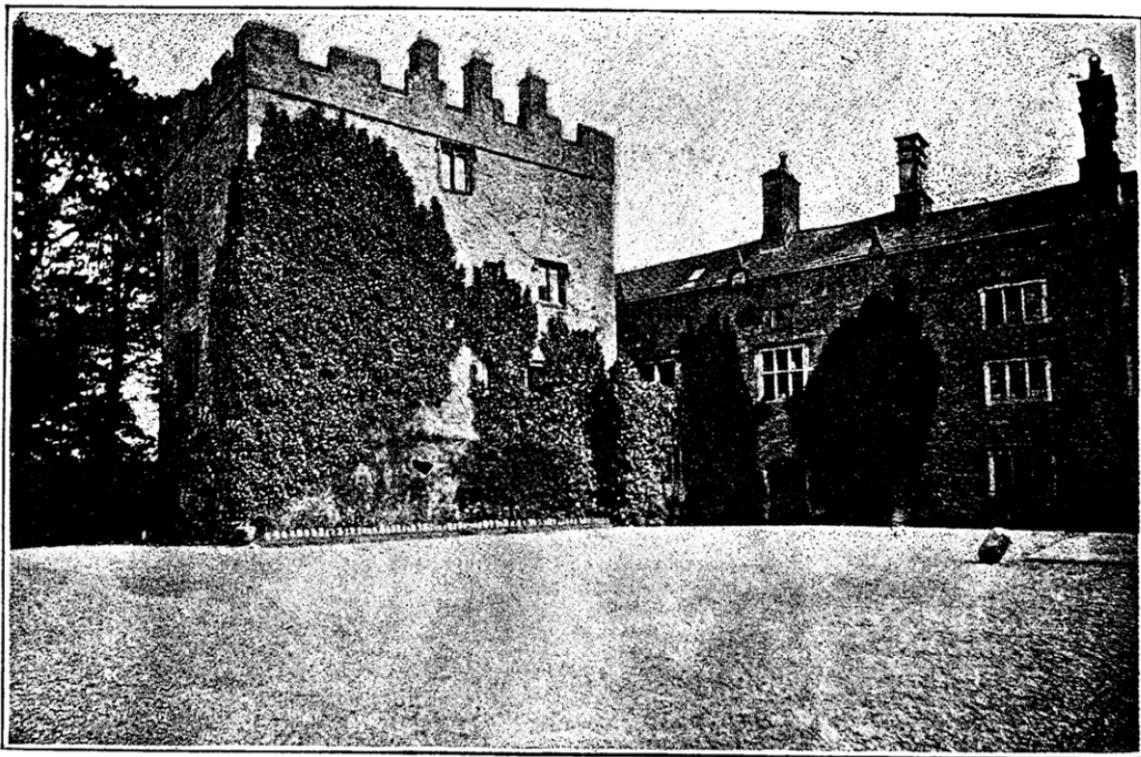
And also several times in the list of high sheriffs for the county.

‡ For the story, see Denton's MSS. *Tract series. No. 4.*

and

and on the north side the line would be continued through the dell, which afterwards came to be converted into a pleasaunce and terraced garden. It is supposed that the mediæval approach to the place was by a drawbridge over the moat at this part. On the west side all vestiges of the ditch have been obliterated by the carriage drive and avenue from the high road, and by later improvements. So far as can be made out the scarp of the moat was distant by several yards from the walls of the tower. It is very rare to meet in the north with instances of these tower-built houses in which the moat was carried round the place close to the foot of the walls, though examples of this are frequent in the more southern districts, as at Nunney Castle, Somerset, Ightham in Kent, and Tattershall in Lincolnshire. In such cases the outbuildings and stabling must have been of necessity outside the moat. There can be no doubt that most of these border peles had an external courtyard connected with them, containing stabling, kitchen and various offices, for the most part wooden erections, with a wall of enceinte or some form of inclosure on the inner side of the moat, when such a defence existed. In some instances the foundations of these stone inclosures or the walls themselves remain, as at Dacre Castle, Yanwath, Burneside, Scaleby, and other places, but for the most part these outer walls have been demolished to make way for additional buildings.

This pele is of the usual oblong plan, measuring over the walls 43 ft. \times 27 ft., the longer sides facing east and west. The masonry is of well laid freestone rubble, with dressed stones at the corners and openings; it presents no plinth nor offset, but the parapet is projected on a horizontal string-course, and at the south-west corner it is borne out further by small corbels. The parapet wall is embattled with five embrasures on the longer sides, and three on the shorter, and is coped with splay and round moulding. Gurgoyles are absent: the three single-flue chimneys on the west
side



ISEL HALL.
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side are ornamented with corbelled cornices. On the basement there is the usual stone barrel-vault, with an original small square opening to the west. The main entrance to the tower appears to have been on the level of the first floor by an external stair, or possibly by removeable wooden steps, on the south side. There is no trace of any newel staircase; the upper chambers and the top of the tower are reached by a short flight of steps, then a passage, and finally a stright flight leading up inside the east wall of the tower. There are two windows on the west front to the upper rooms, each being divided by a mullion into two lights with segmental heads, within a square dripstone ending in a short return. These two windows are original and distinctly of the fifteenth century: the other windows are late insertions.

These pele towers are often so plain and devoid of ornament, that it is sometimes very difficult to determine their exact age. There are no characteristics about this building, to induce one to assign it to the fourteenth century. It was probably erected about the middle of the fifteenth century in the reign of Henry VI, by one of the Leighs to supersede some decayed or demolished housing of the Engaynes or Multons.

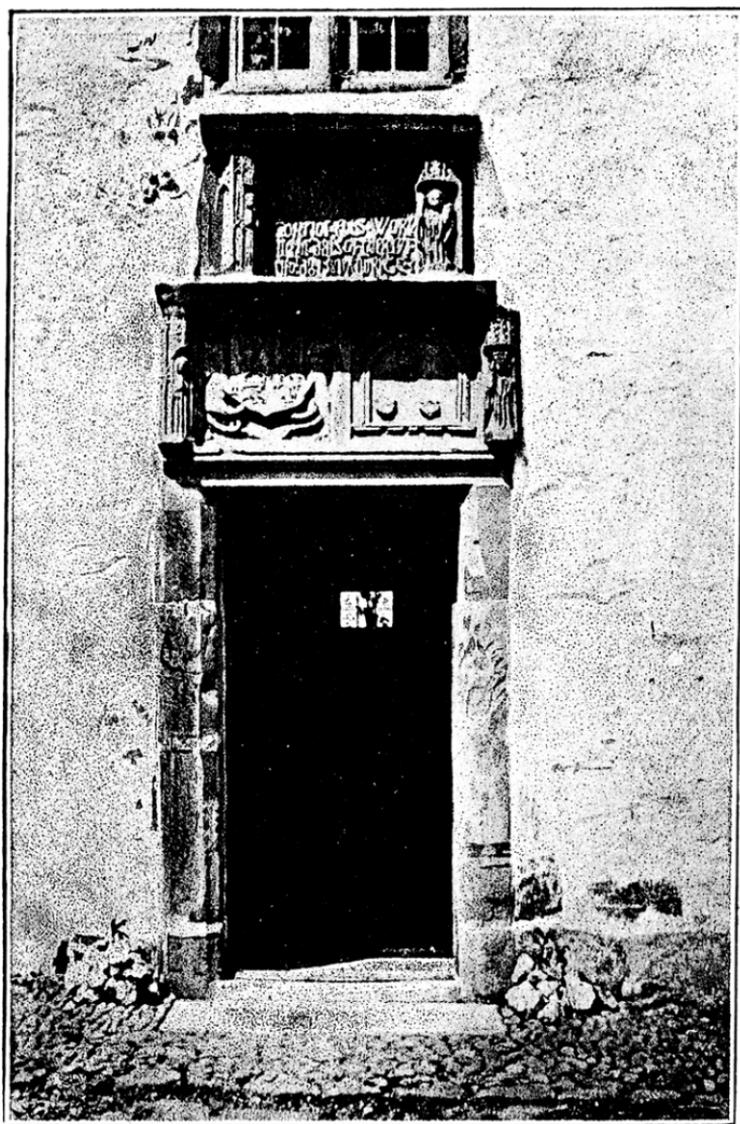
A covered space connects the south aspect of the tower with an imposing range of three-storied buildings presenting a frontage to the court of 42 yards. These run parallel with the river bank, and are set on not at a right angle but rather askew in respect to the tower. There is evidence that this addition has been built at two different dates. The division next the tower is a block on the double plan, with rooms both to front and back, containing kitchen, hall, parlour, and public apartments. The entrance doorway is here, shewing a depressed Tudor arch; the windows are square-headed with double mullions and transoms. On the garden front the wall is strengthened by four buttresses stepped in stages. All
this

this may be of the period of Henry VIII. In the same line on the river front there are remains of old walling and more buttresses. There is a country tradition that a wing existed towards the west, which is very probable, so as to complete as was usual three sides of the court-yard. As it now exists the range is extended in the same plane by another row of buildings, which have clearly been an addition; the ridge of the roof is lower, the level of the floors is not the same, the windows are without transoms, and the plan is that of a single house the width been only 27 feet. The long array of mullioned and labelled windows set regularly in three tiers, though giving to the elevation the feeling of amplitude, is in effect somewhat flat and monotonous. All this second part is late Elizabethan or Jacobean.

The line of walling under the eaves is broken by a form of ornament which occurs nowhere else in Cumberland, but of which a parallel example may be found on the walls of Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire, an edifice of about the same date. This display consists of erections superimposed on the top of the wall of stone ribs placed in the form of a stirrup or stilted arch, from the crown of which arises a pyramidal shaft terminating in a conical pinnacle. There are seven of these to the front, and some also to the back of the house. A tablet with a coat of arms high over the front door is so weathered as to be undecipherable. There are two coats of arms of Lawson, built into the south wall.

The rooms used at present as drawing rooms, dining room, and den are all oak wainscotted. All have been painted white except the main drawing room, which was cleared of paint by a former tenant. Part of the panelling in the dining room, is of the "shirt-pleat" pattern; the beams where exposed are moulded. There is a carved mantel in one of the rooms. The legend is as follows:—W.L & J.L. 1631.

HUTHWAITE



DOORWAY, HUTHWAITE HALL.

HUTHWAITE HALL.

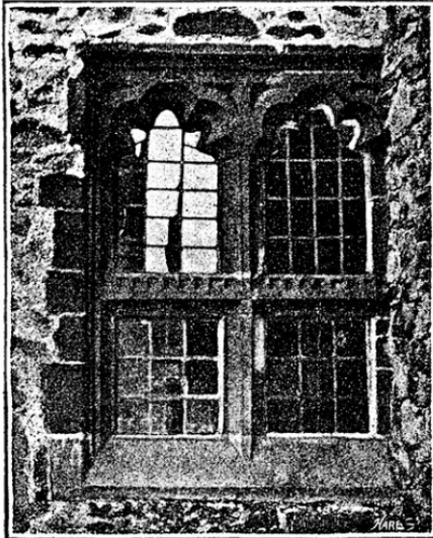
This place, anciently, was held by the family of de Huthwaite, and came by marriage of an heiress to a Swinburne. The Swinburnes were an ancient family, ancestors of whom are known as associated with Bewcastle, and also with the early lordship of Askham Hall in Westmorland. Huthwaite Hall is situated close to the old road, about two miles from Cockermouth, leading up the Derwent Valley to Ousenstand Bridge.

This house is purported ostensibly to have been built by John Swinburne in 1581, but some portion of the edifice may be even older, and it possesses considerable interest, as the characteristic features of the period are well preserved. It comprises a square block with a frontage of 45 ft. to the south, the main door being in the centre, flanked by a window on each side; with three mullioned and transomed windows on the upper floor. It is 48 ft. deep, as from the north end gable there is projected backwards a short wing about 12 ft. beyond the width of the central block. The windows have entirely an Elizabethan character; they have shallow, hollow mouldings, and are divided into three lights, with segmental heads, by two heavy mullions, the side of which are scooped or channelled; above there is a bold dripstone coved in cavetto, with square substantial plain returns. The jambs of the doorway shew a bevel only on the arris; above there are two tiers of carved tablets with ornate embellishment. The enrichment consists of perpendicular work with crocketed niches, and pinnacled canopies. The dexter side contains the figure of a bishop apparently with a crozier, and the sinister a figure with a baron's coronet, and a book under the right arm. The inferior slab is divided into two compartments, each containing a shield. The first is charged with three fleurs de lis one and two, quartering three lions passant, regardant, with supporters which seem
like

like two boarhounds collared and chained. The other compartment exhibits a shield inverted, charged with three cinquefoils, two and one. Immediately above these carvings is the tablet containing this inscription in old English letters :

John : Stwynburn
Esquire : & Elizabeth
his Wyfe : did make
cost of this : work
in the daies of ther Wyfe :
Ano. Dmi. 1581 : Ano. Ræ. 25

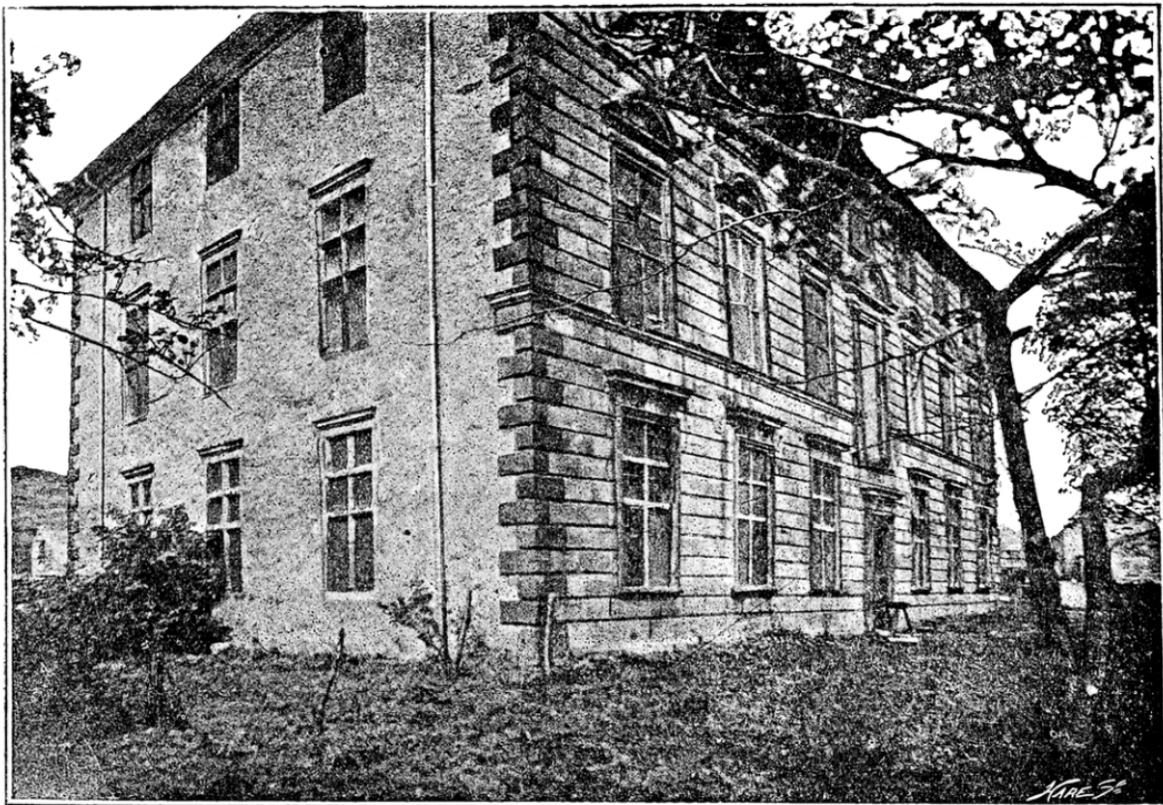
At the north back of the house there is a window in its



STAIRCASE WINDOW, HUTHWAITE HALL.

original state, which might pertain to the period of Henry VIII. It is divided by a thick mullion into two lights, with pointed arched heads, trefoiled and cusped.

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It has also a transom. On the outside the mullion is chamfered, in the interior it presents a square face on which is worked a vertical fillet ; some battlemented ornament appears on the transom. Four iron crooks remain on the inside, on which were hung shutters in two leaves, to close the lower compartment as was usual at that time. On the basement the door of entry opened originally directly into the dining hall to the right, to the left was the private parlour, and behind was the kitchen.

The little black oak staircase in two flights, lighted by the decorated window, is perfect ; it has worked balusters and a square handrail. Some Elizabethan oak panelling in small squares and moulded styles still remain, as do also the panelled doors into the four small chambers upstairs ; on these are to be seen examples of the wooden sneck and thumb-hole still remaining in use.

RIBTON HALL.

About five miles west from Cockermouth, between Marron Junction and Camerton, is Ribton Hall ; it stands on the north bank of the Derwent, not far from the river. All the lands in this vale of Derwent were granted to Waldeof, first baron of Allerdale, who bestowed various manors to his kinsmen and followers. To Waldeof, the son of Gilmyr, and to his sister Uchtreda, were apportioned Great Broughton and Ribton. The latter manor was settled by Waldeof upon a younger son, Thomas, who took the local name of *de Ribton*. The lordship passed by a long descent through the same family, and in the 35th Henry VIII it is found that John Ribton held it of the King, as of his manor of Papcastle, by the usual terms of service. The Ribtons formed honourable connections with the local families, but never acquired the distinction of the equestrian order. After the Ribtons, the manor was purchased by Thomas Lamplugh, who was born at Beverley, in Yorkshire, and came into this country during the
civil

civil wars; he died in 1670. It was his successor, Richard Lamplugh, or Lampley, who built the present mansion. Sandford says, writing about 1675: "Then you come down the river to Broughton, and so along to Ribton: an Ancient Squire famelies ceite of the same name: but lately sold to one Sir Thomas Lampley, and he sold it to the now Lawyer Lampley's father, who now injoes it and his dwelling house and habitation: amd haith builded a very fair house at it." This Richard Lamplugh, of Ribton, served as High Sheriff of the county in the 3rd William III. He married Frances daughter of Sir Christopher Lowther, of Whitehaven, leaving two daughters; and the estate was sold to Sir James Lowther, of Whitehaven. There exist no remains of the old residence of the Ribtons.

The present edifice, of the time of Charles II., is a large, roomy oblong structure on the double plan, with apartments both to back and front, and well lighted with numerous lofty windows. The front is built in regular courses of smooth ashlar masonry, the joints of which are channelled in plain rustic work. The elevation comprises three stories, presenting to the front three rows of seven apertures, set regularly; those on the second or principal floor having larger proportions in regard to height than those on the basement, and those on the third story being smaller and nearly square. A moulded blocking course, broken by a return under the great central window, separates the first and second tiers. These apertures are high and vertical, and though exhibiting the Italian embellishment, are divided by the stone mullion bars and double transoms, which were prevalent in native work at the end of the preceding century. On the ground floor the architraves present a straight cornice, with classic mouldings, and those on the principal floor carry a semicircular moulded pediment, that over the large central window being more pronounced, and with a broken arch, and supported by

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flat Corinthian pilasters. The edifice has been built all at one time, and the design exhibits the study of symmetry and balance. For a great many years it has not been occupied in any other manner than as a farmhouse, but in its prime, from its pleasant surroundings and situation, and architectural merits, it must have been a very delightful country mansion. During the disturbances of the reign of the first Charles, and the asperities of the Protectorate, there had been a stagnation in the work of domestic construction; but with the Restoration a fresh era of activity set in, and new country mansions, not only of the nobility, but of the lesser gentry, arose in great numbers. Under the inspiration of Inigo Jones, the Palladian and Italian style of architectural composition took possession of public taste and ideas, and the new school found in the north country some ardent admirers and proselytes. One of the earliest examples of the Italian practice, as revived by Wren, which we find in the northern counties, is this new mansion which Lamplugh built for himself at Ribton. The expenditure must have been large in respect to the carrying out both the planning and external features, as well as of the internal finishing and decoration.

The doorway has a central position on the south front under the great window, and presents mouldings in symmetry with the other openings, and gives an entry on the ground level. The door opens directly into a square lobby or entrance hall, flagged in freestone squares, set diamond-wise; it contains an ornamented fireplace, the stone jambs and lintel are moulded with round and hollow; there is a flat cornice and mantel-shelf. All the chimney pieces throughout the house present the bold round and hollow mouldings of the Jacobean period. To the left of the hall is an apartment, probably used as the dining room, which retains more of the original finishings than any other room in the house. There is a wooden
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dado framed and panelled in chestnut, reaching four feet high round the room, and some old stained glass in the window-panes, which it is difficult to decipher. The windows being all built with stone mullions and transoms, the lights are all leaded and glazed in the lozenge form ; many of them, however, are now blocked. A very fine broad straight staircase of oak, with massive well-turned balusters, and heavy moulded hand-rail, is extended in several flights to the separate floors. Upstairs, on the principal floor, the western end is devoted to the large reception or drawing room, with other rooms which communicate *en suite*. The principal doors for the most part are double in two leaves, and are in chestnut wood, framed, and in long panels, as in the time of Charles II.
