

ART. XIV.—*A Letter of 1745.* By the Rev. J. WHITE-SIDE, M.A., Incumbent of Helsington.

Communicated at Carlisle, June 20th, 1900.

THE letter printed below relates no incident of conspicuous importance, but it is one which our late President thought worthy to be preserved in the *Transactions*. It came to my notice through Mr. Charles E. Lamb, son of the Vicar of Clapham, Yorks., and the original is in the possession of his relative, Mrs. English, of Orton Longueville, near Peterborough.

To John Honeywood Esqre

Woodstock Street, New Bond Street, London.

Sir,—I beg leave to acquaint you that the whole rebell army marched out of Kendall for Penrith on Tuesday morning, and all gott their, but about 500 who stayed at Shapp with part of the Baggage: a great part of the Kings forces came within sight of them before they gott Shapp but night coming on they were obliged to march back to Orten, a small market town about 2 miles west of Little Asby. The Rebels had no time to go above a mile out of the road which was a great help to the country for they plundered all before them, and took all the horses Hay Corn or anything else they could meet with. Their is a farm of my Lord Barkshire's at a place called Forrest Hall that pays above £100 a year rent who has neither Hay nor Corn left. And all the Towns in the Road is in the same condetion. They took severall prisoners at Kendall and tyed their hands behind their backs and some of 'em two and two together, and Brot 'em along with them. The poor people at Shapp Thrimby Little Strickland &c has not so much as a little bread left & they have drawn bills upon my Lord Lonsdale to pay his farmers for the damage they have done them. Six of us stood under a wall about 300 yards of 'em all Day long on Tuesday to see their march. About two a'clock they happened to see us and some of 'em fired at us, and away we ran, and they after us. We all gott into a pidgon coat of Mr Websters and they came within 40 yards of the place but never suspected we were their;

and so we escaped. I had sent a man to Kendall on Sunday and ordered him to bring us certain news where the Kings forces lay; just as I got home he came in and told me he had been their guide all over the fell to within a mile of Shapp, but he believed they wou^d either stay on y^e fell all night or march to Orten. I writt to Appleby to acquaint the General their, but before the messenger came back I received a warrant from Mr Hazell to give notice to all the petty constables to summon the country to provide Horses Hay Carts Straw & all the victuals they cou^d possibly make ready against the Duke's Army came down to Shapp; this put us all into great spirits and everyone strove who should gett their first to throw in their mite; between 12 & 1 we had the pleasure of seeing the Duke and his fine Army, and their was a very good return for bread and cheese & small beer—the officers smiled at the cheese & said it was a little smooky but that it wou^d do very well—they had not time to stay but took it in their hands and eat on the Road and the corn being in sheaves they took it before 'em and fed their horses. As they ridd allong the road was lined with the Country People who haza'ed them as they march which made the soldiers very merry. Tho' it was the fincst sight I ever saw I was so weary that I left the Dukes army before they gott to Penrith so can give you no certain acc^t how the rebels behaved but by Report they used them the worst in all the road. The Kings forces could not falle of taking part of their Bagidg about Penrith and I hope they will come up with the rest before they reach Carlisle. The soldiers is in great spirrits and their Horses in good order. In my next I will give you an acc^t what is become of them, from Sir, your most obedient humble servant

HENRY HOLME

19th December 1745

Barnskew.

The Holmes are an old Westmorland family, whose representative, Henry Holme, now resides at Harberwain, near Crosby Ravensworth. For many generations they lived at Barnsceugh, which is about two miles away in the direction of Maulds Meaburn. The writer was steward to Mr. John Honeywood, whose family seat was at Marks Hall, Essex. The Honeywoods were possessed of much property in Westmorland, and Colonel (afterwards General) Philip Honeywood was M.P. for Appleby. His portrait hangs in the hall at the Castle. He is the

general referred to in the letter, and he married a Wastell descended from the family of Wasdale Head in Shap parish.

His will bears date June 10th, 1777. He is described therein as Colonel of His Majesty's 4th Regiment of Horse, and Governor of Hull. He settles all his manors, messuages, &c., in the counties of Westmorland, Cumberland, &c., on his son Philip, in tail after the death of his widow Elizabeth, and in default to Filmer Honeywood of Esington, Kent, Esq., M.P., second son of Sir John Honeywood, Bart., for life, and to his issue in tail and in default to testator's own right heirs. He left his household goods at Marks Hall and Howgill Castle in Westmorland to his son Philip, or if he died under twenty-one to the owner for the time being of the estates.

Young Philip died aged nineteen and unmarried.

It is probable that Sir John is the John Honeywood of the letter.

Mr. Webster's house was in the neighbourhood of Thrimby, within a quarter of a mile off the main road. It was not the Grange or the Hall. The Websters were a family of local importance. In 1825 John Webster was curate and schoolmaster. I am told the house was on Thrimby Brow and there is now no trace of it.

It may be here noted that the house where the Prince Charles Edward stayed in Shap is the West Farm, now occupied by Mr. William Hudson, and owned by Mr. Edward de Vere Irving, of Shap Abbey. It was then a hostelry, and the Prince on the night of December 17th occupied the room upstairs which is on the left of the front door. He complained on leaving of the heavy bill he had to pay. See a note in his Household Book:—"17th Dec. at Shap, Tuesday. To ale, wine and other provisions, £4 17s. od.; the landlady, for the use of the house £2 2s. od. N.B.—The landlady a sad wife for imposing." But only in straitened circumstances

could a Prince have complained of such charges for himself and retinue.

When the Duke of Cumberland passed through, tradition relates that a woman held up her small son to see him. "Whya," exclaimed the disappointed lad, "he's nobbut a man." The Duke, overhearing the comment, turned round on his horse and said "You're right, my boy, and a very bad man too."

1745 is not so very long ago when a yeoman, Mr. Thomas Topping, now living in Rosgill, can remember his grandfather, who collected fodder and carried baggage for the King's troops, describing the marching of the forces through Shap. At his house, "The Croft," they had a 20 quart peck used in Shap by the Scotch for measuring corn, but some one sat on it and broke it not long ago.

The people of Orton, which is referred to in the letter, are said to have been so afraid of the rebels (so called) that they collected and drove the bulk of their cattle into a place called Blackett Bottom, near Langdale, where they remained until the Highlanders had passed. This on the authority of the late James Dover, of Woodfoot, whose wife was a Holme of Barnsceugh.

This alarm was universal. People hid their valuables in holes or in wells. Mrs. Shepherd of Great Strickland possesses pewter which was hidden in this way on Lowther Low Moor by the Walkers, and near Oddendale by the Riggs.

From under the parlour floor at Thrimby Hall were taken up thirty-five skulls, said to have been of horses that fell in 1745. I possess one of these. They are supposed to have been placed there for acoustic reasons by the Nicholsons, who were a musical family.
