

## ADDENDA ANTIQUARIA.

## RECENT FINDS IN FURNESS.

The upper stone of a quern, 12 inches in diameter, was found in January, 1908, at a depth of 4 feet, in the upper boulder clay in excavating for a drain in the Public Park, Barrow, at a point about 130 yards east of the entrance gate at the corner of Park Avenue, Abbey Road. It is made of millstone grit, and is now in the museum at the Town Hall, Barrow.

In November, 1908, the upper and lower stones of a quern, the same diameter, which were brought from Piel Island in the year 1868, were also added to the collection. The lower stone is hollowed or dished out for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth on the upper surface, and both stones are made of grey granite.

Another specimen, 12 inches in diameter, was found in the village of Old Newbarns, Barrow, in November, 1908. This upper stone has been properly formed, and has the under surface slightly concave and the cavity made where the corn would be put in, but the stone is only partly perforated to a depth of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the lower face upwards towards the cup-shaped cavity. As the perforation is half an inch out of line with the centre of the cavity it has not been finished, and the stone has evidently been cast aside as useless. In this specimen there is no hole in the side where a handle is usually fixed. It is made of granite, and is now in the possession of our member, Mr. H. Garencières Pearson. Querns were still in use in Ireland in distressed districts where there were no water corn mills during the famine in 1845-48.

A flint-lock pistol, with the name and date "Thomson, 1802," engraved on the barrel, and a heart-shaped mark and initials,

V  
E I  
C

and the owner's initials "J.P." stamped on the wooden handle, was found in Robinson's farmhouse in Newbarns village in 1906, and was given to the museum by Mr. J. Caroline, who also gave the quern from Piel Island. On the farm buildings there is a stone inscribed

R  
T F  
1752

—Harper Gaythorpe.

## BATTLE HOLM AND BATTLE PLACE.

Chancellor Prescott contributes the following notes on this subject :—

An interesting point is raised in the article by Professor Collingwood on the ancient castles of Kendal in the last volume of the *Transactions* (N.S., vol. viii., p. 100). He quotes Pennant, who died in 1798—"Immediately below Castle How Hill is a spot called *Battle Place*." On Speed's map of 1614, he says, the *Battail Place* is marked to east of the Mount. And he cites a deed of 1667 describing a property as "adjoining and butting upon . . . Battell Place." There appears to be no historical notice of a "battle" at the Place.

There is a similar place-name at Carlisle, "The Battle Holm." This was formerly a meadow near to Carlisle Castle, and running from close under the old city wall down to the river Eden. No battle ever appears to have been connected with it. Nor is a battle necessary in order to explain the name.

The first mention I have found of the "Battle-holm" is in the charter granted by Edward III. to the citizens of Carlisle in 1352 :—"And that the same citizens have a certain place adjacent to the said city called le Batailholm, which serves for a market and fairs at all times at the will of the citizens aforesaid" (Charter Rolls, 26 Edward III.).

There appears to have been a string of meadows or pastures belonging to the Crown to the north and east of the castle and city. In 1425, some seventy years after the grant of the "Batailholm," we find in the Patent Rolls a grant to Richard Nevill, warden of the King's castle and town of Kardoille and of "le Westmarche," of the Sheriff's nette called "Frith-nette," and certain meadows and pastures belonging to and lying by the same castle called "Brademedowe," "le Swyft," "Midelholme," "Kenyholme," and "le Saucery" (Patent Rolls, 4 Henry VI., m. 10).

Here, it must be noted, the meadows are arranged in their regular sequence. The Brademedowe lay to the east of the city; a little to the north, on the bank of the river Eden and to the north-east of the city wall, was le Swyfte. To the west of le Swyfte, forming an island or holm in the river which here made a great bend to the south, towards the city wall, was the Midelholme. This was later called "The Sands," across which lay the great north road. Of the two bridges, the first crossed the main branch of the river; the second the smaller branch, called "The Priest's Beck." On the far side, opposite le Swyfte, was Kenyholme. Le Saucery was the furthest to the west, immediately under the northern wall of the castle.

Between le Saucery and the north road running up to the city wall was le Bataiholm or the Battle Holm. Thus we have the Battle Holm as one of a well-known series of meadows or pastures.

A later name given to the Battleholm is "The Bits;" as such it appears in a map of about 1800. This would seem to imply a similar meaning. The meadow was not made up of several bits or pieces of land. From the fourteenth century it was always one. There were two small Bits, but they were at some distance—the Constable Bit in the north-east angle formed by the junction of the city and castle walls, and the Doctor's Bit abutting on the Swifts. A "bit," or its equivalent a "bite," a "morsel," got to be applied to bits or bites of grass for cattle, thence to the herbage and the pasture.

We turn now to the meaning and derivation of the name. We find in later Middle English the words "battel," "battle," or "battil." They signify "improving" or "nutritious," hence "fertile," of land or pasture; also as a verb "to feed" or "nourish" cattle, as a rich pasture does—"to grow fat." In a similar sense the word "baitle" occurs often in the writers of Scotland.

There are numerous examples, though not going back to very early dates. We may cite from one or two of the more well-known writers:—

"For sleepe, they sayde, would make her battil better."

Spenser, *The Faerie Queen*, Bk. VI., Cant. viii., 38 (1596).

"A plenteous and battle country for feeding and raising of Cattell."—Camden, *Britannia*, ii., 102 (1610).

"Ashes are a marvellous improvement to battle barren ground."—Fuller, *Worthies*, i., 399 (1662).

"We turn pasture to tillage, and heather into greensward, and the poor *yarpha*, as the benighted creatures here call their peat-bogs, into baitle grass-land."—Sir W. Scott, in his Norse story, *The Pirate*, chap. 24.

We may compare the use of the word "battels" or "battles" at the University of Oxford; extra "provisions" from the buttery, or for the sums due for such "provisions," or for "provisions" generally (see *College Accounts of Henry Brougham, 1656-7; The Flemings in Oxford*, vol. i., p. 107, ed. J. R. Magrath).

For the derivation some authorities send us back to the Old Norse *bati*, "improvement;" others to the allied Old Norse word *beit*, "a pasture." The latter portion of the name, "holm," is also from the Old Norse, or rather Scandinavian *holm* (Icelandic, *holm-r*), "an island" or "a meadow" near a river side; the word also signifies "an island" in Anglo-Saxon.

These considerations seem to point pretty clearly to the conclusion that we have in the name "the Battle Holm" that of a place so called from its being a fertile pasture near the river Eden, and well under the protection of the city and castle.

It was on these river meadows that Mary, Queen of Scots, careered when she was detained in Carlisle Castle. She caused much anxiety to her custodian, Sir Francis Knolles, when she "went owte at a posterne to walke on a playenge-greene towards Skotland, where about twenty of hyr retinue played at footeball before hyr the space of two howers very stronglye, nymbylly and skylfullye." Also, when on another day she "roode owte a huntyng the hare, gallopyng so fast" that the amusement had to be stopped (letter of June 15th, Cotton MSS., Caligula, ix., 291).

It is possible that a similar explanation can be given of the *Battle Place* near to Kendal.

#### THE NELSONS OF PENRITH AND AMERICA.

The Rev. J. Hay Colligan writes (February 23rd, 1909):—

In the article on the Nelsons of Penrith, the late Mr. Watson gave some particulars of the Nelson family of Yorktown, Va. We have recently discovered an interesting document relating to that branch of the Nelson family. It is the will of the Hon. William Nelson, dated October 6th, 1772, and proved on December 21st, 1772. William Nelson was the son of Thomas Nelson, who was born at Penrith in 1678. He emigrated to Virginia about 1705, and died there in 1745. Thomas Nelson's father and mother were Hugh and Sarah, who were married at St. Andrew's Church, Penrith, on February 5th, 1674.

The will of the Hon. William Nelson is a graphic document, making reference to his plantations, slaves, and personal property such as his gold stock buckle, gold watch and chain, cornelian seal, sword and pistols, &c.

The copy of the will appears to have come into the possession of the Penrith Presbyterian Church in the following manner. In 1784 the Presbyterians of Penrith erected a new Meeting-house. The site they selected was the ancestral home at Penrith of the Nelsons of Virginia. The negotiations were conducted through George Relph of Penrith, a member of the Presbyterian congregation, and Thomas Nelson (described as Thomas the younger) of Yorktown. The sum paid for the site, which included the dwelling-house, was £211. We surmise that in order to prove his right of title, Thomas Nelson sent a copy of his father's will to George Relph. The house is stated to be in Rowcliffe Lane, and stood on the site of the 1784 Meeting-house, which is at present used as a printing house.

Attached to the will is a paper of equal value. It is a declaration by John, Earl of Dunmore, Governor of the colony of Virginia, and is dated April 14th, 1775. In it he states that Thomas Everard, who attests the copy of the will, is the clerk of the court of York county, and that full faith and credit is and ought to be given to all things by him so attested. The seal of the colony, bearing the arms of the British Crown, is attached, and the document is signed by the Earl of Dunmore, who was the last British Governor-General of the State of Virginia.

It may be added that the American novelist, Thomas Nelson Page, author of *The Old Dominion*, is a direct descendant of this family.

#### A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SPOON FROM LANGDALE.

Early in August, 1908, Mr. Charles E. Fox of Beech Grove, Stanhope Road, Darlington, picked up a fragment of metal on the roadside by the garden wall of Park Farm, Skelwith. Recognising it as part of a spoon of ancient make, he sent it to Mr. Reginald A. Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, who reported:—"It is made of pewter, seventeenth century, and of no technical value, as the mark (if there ever was one) has gone with the lost part of the bowl." From the fact that the road had been recently metalled, Mr. Fox thinks that the spoon, which was lying uncrushed on the surface, had been thrown away from the garden. We all know that finds of antiquarian interest may be made in and about old homesteads, but it needs an observant eye to distinguish them.

#### CORRIGENDUM IN "THE FEOFFEEES OF THE CLIFFORDS."

In the article under this title in our last volume (these *Transactions*, n.s., viii.), p. 263, line 22, after "tells us that" and between this and "who possessed" in line 24, *read* "of the Valetti, *i.e.* the younger men who had shortly before come into possession of estates." Also, in line 25, before "stated," *insert* "the Jury."