

ART. XVI.—*Mallerstang Chapelry*. By the Rev. J. BREAY, B.A.

THE spelling of the name Mallerstang has varied since its first mention in Domesday, when the "foresta de Mallerstang" was coupled with that of "Wednesledale." In the 1223 Feet of Fines it is spelt Malrestang; in the 1228 Patent Rolls, Malverstang; in the Inquisitio post mortem Edw. I, Malerstang; in the Inquisitio p.m. Edw. III, Mallerstang; in the Inquisitio p.m. 10 Hen. V, Mallerstunge; in the Liber Regis Hen. VIII, Mallerstrange; and also in Saxton's map of Westmorland in Camden's Britannia (1607), Mallerstange.

The meaning of the name is uncertain, but the Norse word STONG means a pole, or possibly a boundary mark (*vide* Oxford Dictionary: Place-names. Oxford, 1936).

The history of the chapelry is obscure. This has been due in part to the poverty occasioned by Scottish raids, and also to the fortunes of the manor dependent on the security afforded by Pendragon Castle, frequently sacked by raiders. The chapelry seems to have been the donative of the lord of the manor, and thus its livelihood was entirely dependent on the good-will of the patron.

In 1663 Lady Anne Clifford restored the chapel after it had lain ruinous for some fifty or sixty years. In 1664 she endowed it. "In the year of our Lord God 1664, as the year begins on New Year's day, the 21 day of January in this year, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, did I go out of Pendragon Castle in Westmorland . . . And before I came away from Pendragon Castle did I upon the 12 day of this January purchase of Reginald Cock of Coutley

[*n.* Cautley about 5 miles N.E. of Sedbergh] near Sedbergh in Yorkshire, lands to the value of £11 per annum, for which I paid £220; which lands I gave for the maintenance of a person qualified to read prayers, and the homilies of the Church of England, and to teach the children of the dale to write and read English, in Mallerstang Chappell for ever; and I did put into officiate in the said Chappell of Mallerstang Rowland Wright, who had been at the said Chappell some three or four years before to teach the scholars there." (*Vide* "Lives of Lady Anne Clifford (1590-1676), and of her parents: summarised by herself," printed from Harley MS. 6177. Introd. by J. P. Gilson, The Roxburghe Club, 1916; *cf.* Wm. Dugdale, *Baronage of England*, Tom. I. London 1675, p. 346, col. 2, which is early confirmation of the endowment). The original Deed of Gift is still in the church safe in Mallerstang Parsonage. The "History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland" by W. Whellan (1860) stated that it was in the hands of the schoolmaster in 1860.

The chapel is also mentioned in the Commonwealth Survey of Churches.

The period of fifty or sixty years desolation carries one back to the beginning of the seventeenth century. In the map of Westmorland in Camden's *Britannia* an ecclesiastical building of some sort is indicated (*Britannia*, Guill: Camdeno, Londin: 1607. *Comitatus Westmoriandiae*, Christophorus Saxton scripsit).

In 1574-1579 Saxton published his maps of Britain. In his map of Westmorland the chapel is explicitly mentioned (*vide* *Brit: Mus: facsimile*, 1932-1936).

In 1533, Parliament passed an act forbidding the payment of Annates, or first-fruits, to the Bishop of Rome (25 Hen. VIII, cap. 20). In 1534, the second Act of the Parliament of Nov. 3-Dec. 18, annexed the first-fruits to the Crown. On January 30, 1535 ("... apud

Westmonasterium tricesimo die Januarii, anno regni nostri vicesimo sexto." Liber Regis, Hen. VIII) the king authorised the tabulation of these dues for their subsequent collection (Lib. Reg. vel Thesaurus rerum ecclesiasticarum, Edn. London, 1786, by John Bacon, receiver of the first-fruits, 2 vols). In volume two of the Liber Regis in the list of "chapels, donatives, or curacies" in Westmorland, within the Carlisle Diocese, the following entry occurs:—

"Mallerstrange, chapel to Kirkby Stephen, £11/12/0. certified value £60. clear value."

A note at the end of the list adds:—

"N.B. several of these small chapels were never consecrated." (In 1704 Queen Anne appropriated the first-fruits for the assistance of poor clergy).

This is all the documentary evidence which we possess so far concerning this small chapel. Its pre-reformation foundation is now securley established. We have now to enquire into its history and function.

When Lady Anne Clifford placed Rowland Wright as schoolmaster to the chapelry-school in 1664, she found him already working there. Hence it is possible that despite the poverty of the chapel the work had been carried on spasmodically since the Reformation, but more probably since Anne Clifford came into her rights. From 1663 the place served as a chapelry of Kirkby Stephen. But this does not mean that it was so before the Restoration. It is more probable that it was the donative of the lord of the manor, who voluntarily supplied the stipend. Annates were paid on the first year's revenue of a cure, or other office. Hence this quasi-chapelry was included in the taxation; but the dues may also have been paid on paid on an endowment of which we have no trace.

The chapel never seems to have been attached to Kirkby Stephen before 1663.

(I) There is no mention of the chapel, in episcopal

registers, as attached to the vicarage of Kirkby Stephen (*vide* Register of John de Halton, 1292-1324. Canterbury and York Soc: 1913, esp: Vol. I, p. 188, p. 216, *bis*. Vol. II, p. 193).

It is not mentioned under Kirkby Stephen or elsewhere in "The deed of the First-fruits and tenths within the Diocese of Carlisle" drawn up by Bp. Milburn in 1621. (In Chapter Library).

(2) There is no record of any connection through Kirkby Stephen with St. Mary's of York (*vide* Taxatio Papae Nicholae, and Valor 1318 (Edw. 2), and Valor 1538 (Hen. 8), and Valor Ecclesiasticus, and the extant records of that Abbey).

(3) If it had been attached to Kirkby Stephen there might have been references to ecclesiastical property there in the Patent Roll of June 5th, 1549 (Rot. Pat. 3 Edw. VI, pt. 2), which bestows the advowson of Kirkby Stephen on Richard Musgrave with all appurtenances and tenures attached to the same. However this is not conclusive.

It is more probable that the chapelry-school was served by a schoolmaster at the expense of the patron. He may have been in orders before 1663, and certainly was so after that date; but it seems that the lord of the manor also possessed his own chaplain who followed the household round and may have administered the sacraments in the chapel when in the district. We read of two such chaplains between the years 1613-1624 attached to the retinue at Knole, when Anne Clifford was engaged in her litigation, a Mr. Dupper and a Mr. Ran(d). (Diary of Lady Anne Clifford, by V. Sackville-West, London, 1923). Hence the chapelry-school could be quite independant, and therefore it is possible that it has not been consecrated. The phrase "chapel to Kirkby Stephen" (Lib. Reg.) would imply therefore not so much ecclesiastical jurisdiction as the source through which the chapelry would

derive its schoolmaster. Later in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries this was regularised under episcopal control (*vide* Bp. Nicolson's Diary).

The age of the foundation is dubious. The only period when anyone seems to have resided at Pendragon for any length of time was during 1203-1234 when Idonea de Veteripont spent most of her time there, after the rebuilding of the Castle. She may have built the chapel. This is purely conjectural, and possibly it was of later foundation.