

Antiquities on Beeley Moor.

By Rev. HOWARD CHADWICK.

IN the Society's *Journal* Vol. xxxvi., Mr. John Simpson gives a description with illustrations of two ancient stone guideposts on Beeley Moor. I venture to supplement his account of these interesting old relics of packhorse days and bygone modes of travelling, and also to point out some other features of antiquarian interest on the Moor within the parish of Beeley.

Hob Hurst's House is a well known feature, and is under the Government Department for the preservation of ancient sites. It is moreover fully described by Mr. Bateman in "Ten Years Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave Hills," who excavated it in the year 1853. Another tumulus (not marked on the ordnance map) is to be seen about half a mile to the south west of Hob Hurst's House, and about a hundred yards to the north of the road on the moor side. It consists of a circle of twelve stones, some upright and some now lying flat, twelve or thirteen yards in diameter, and a mound in the centre. There does not appear to be any record of when and by whom this mound was disturbed. It is unlike Hob Hurst's House in not being surrounded by an embankment, and the stones are further apart from each other.

There are four ancient guideposts on the Moor, i.e., two in addition to those described by Mr. Simpson. One of these is about a hundred yards to the north of Hob Hurst's House, and a hand engraved on the stone points to "Chesterfield Road," and another to "Bake-

well Road." The hands on all these posts consist of a thumb and three fingers only. Some four hundred yards to the east of Hob Hurst's House, and now lying flat on the ground, is another post of rougher hewn stone than the others, on the uppermost side of which is inscribed "Sheaffield Road," on the east side "Bakewell Road," on the west side "Chesterfeild Road"; the side with face to the ground has been examined, and is without inscription. Standing by the side of any of these posts the tracks of some of the old roads may be seen for considerable distances, being plainly marked by a depression in the ground. The roads were probably so made in order to provide some shelter from the cold fierce winds sweeping across the open and treeless moorland.

Further to the east of the last named post may be seen some old boundary stones, on one of which the letter B is cut three times, the middle one being in a horizontal position, which seems to denote that at that spot meet the three parishes of Beeley, Baslow, and Brampton.

When there were no maps, it was usual to keep the boundary in memory by periodically "riding or beating the Boundary." The late Dr. Wrench of Baslow said that the last time this was done was in 1812, and that a Mr. Brown of Stone Low, who died aged 90, remembered that riding, and said that the boys were given gingerbread at each boundary stone. There were disputes as to boundary in 1812 with Beeley, Baslow, and Holmesfield.

About a hundred yards to the south of the last mentioned guidepost, are the ruined habitations or workshops of former stone-pickers. There is to be seen the furnace where picks, etc. were forged, the stone trough to hold water, and deep cuts in the face of the stones made by rubbing the implement in order to get a fine point, as was the custom before the use of steel files,

Another old stone that arrests our attention is situate a few yards to the south of the branch road from Beeley Bar Road to Darley Flash Road, about a hundred yards from the junction of the two roads. It is evidently the base of a wayside or boundary cross. It probably came within, or was on, the confine of the district of Harewood, formerly a Grange of Beauchief Abbey. The stone measures 2 feet 6 inches high, chamfered from the top 1 foot, the base is 2 feet 6 inches square, the morticed hole for the shaft is 6 inches deep and 11 inches square. It has the appearance of the Early English style, and if so may have been erected at the time, or soon after, when Sir Warner de Beeley made a grant of Harewood to the monastery of Beauchief, which was early in the 13th century. Sir Warner purchased the manor of Beeley from King John. Both he and his wife, on account of their benefactions to the monastery of Beauchief, were lay members of the Premonstratensian order, and had sepulchre in the Abbey Church.
