

IX.—BYWELL.

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[Read at the Bywell Meeting, 9th July, 1887.]

PART I.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

WHEN I came to Bywell St. Peter's, as curate, eighteen years ago, it occurred to me that Bywell, with its two old churches, its market cross, its castle, and its ancient fishery, must have an interesting history of its own. The notices of it in all the histories of Northumberland I found to be but scanty; some I soon discovered to be inaccurate. I therefore began at once to collect materials from every available source. From this miscellaneous collection I now select a few of the most important facts, which, I trust, may be of interest to the members of our Society, beginning with ecclesiastical affairs.

You will know that the ecclesiastical antiquities of Northumbria have quite a peculiar character, as it had a prominent place in the annals of the Church and nation from the very earliest times. 'Its inhabitants were converted to Christianity; and religion, arts and letters were cultivated by Northumbrian monks long before the days of Alfred, and in times when some other parts of England seem to have scarcely emerged from barbarism.' The Anglo-Saxon Church had not a more fruitful field than this northern province. Northumberland was ruled by a monarch of its own. Bamborough Castle was the residence of the Saxon kings. The little island of Lindisfarne, close by, was the retreat of those early missionaries, through whose labours Christianity was spread among the pagan natives of the mainland. Hexham, the fifth church that was built of stone in Britain, was the masterpiece of St. Wilfrid, the greatest of Anglo-Saxon church builders. He became bishop of Hexham in A.D. 674, and died in A.D. 709. He had in his employ a number of masons

whom he brought over from France and Italy. Sidney Gibson tells us that an eminent ecclesiologist, who made a pilgrimage to this part of the country in the autumn of 1847, gave it as his opinion that both of the Bywell churches were originally built by Wilfrid's masons. Considering this to be true, as most probably it is, the first churches of Bywell would be built either at the close of the seventh century or at the very beginning of the eighth—somewhere between A.D. 674 and A.D. 709. The earliest mention of Bywell occurs a century later than this. In the writings of Simeon of Durham, we read that on the 11th of June, A.D. 803, Egbert, the 12th bishop of Lindisfarne, was consecrated at Bywell, by the Archbishop of York and the Bishops of Hexham and Whithern. The 11th of June in that year was Trinity Sunday. Lindisfarne frequently suffered from the ravages of the Danes. One of these attacks was made about the time we are speaking of, and brings Bywell into notice. They plundered everywhere, overthrew the altars, and carried away all the treasures of the Church. Some of the monks they slew, some they carried away captive, and others, much afflicted and abused, they turned away naked. "Thus," says the historian, "was the church of Lindisfarne spoiled, and stripped of its ornaments, nevertheless the episcopal see still continued therein, and those monks who had succeeded in escaping from the hands of the barbarians, remained for a long time after near the sacred body of St. Cuthbert (*apud sacrum corpus beati Cuthberti*). In the 11th year after the plunder of this church, Higbald, after having completed twenty-two years in the episcopate, died on the 8th Kalends of June (*i.e.*, May 25th), and Egbert was elected in his place and consecrated by Archbishop Eanbald, and Eanbert and Badulf and other Bishops who had assembled for his ordination at a place called Bigwell (*in locum qui dicitur Biguell*), on the 3rd Ides of June (*i.e.*, June 11th). This occurred in the seventh year of the reign of Eardulf, the son of Earulf, who had succeeded to the throne on the death of King Aethelred."¹

Doubtless Bywell suffered from the hands of these church-destroying Danes when they made a descent upon the neighbourhood a short time afterwards, plundering and destroying as they went. It took a considerable time to recover from the check that was given to church

¹ Simeon. *Hist. Eccl. Dunelmensis*. Lib. II. Cap. V.

architecture by their merciless devastations. "You must consider," says Holinshed, in his *Chronicles of the Kings of England*, "that by the invasion of the Danes the churches and monasteries throughout Northumberland were so wasted and ruined that a man could scarcely find a church standing at this time in all the country, and as for those that remained they were all covered with broom or thatch, and as for any abbey or monastery there was not one left in all the country, nor did any man, for the space of 200 years, take care for the building or repairing of anything in decay." Under these circumstances one could scarcely expect to meet with any of the earlier Saxon architecture aboveground here, except such fragments as are built up with the work of the later pre-Norman period. And so we find it. The oldest part of Bywell St. Peter's church—the north wall—is of the later Saxon architecture, and may probably date about A.D. 1030 or A.D. 1060. The tower of St. Andrew's, which is one of the finest specimens of its kind, is about the same date, or a little older. The present tower of St. Peter's belongs to the 13th century, though it stands upon foundations of an earlier date, probably Norman. It was evidently intended more for defence than for ecclesiastical purposes. The holes in the doorway for the reception of huge bolts and bars, and the marks on the coign stones, worn by the sharpening of weapons, are a sufficient proof of this. In those troublesome times fortification of some kind was a necessary precaution. Where there was no castle or pele tower for the people to flee to in time of danger, the want was not unfrequently supplied by fortifying the church tower. The strong and massive tower of Longhoughton, which bears some resemblance to Bywell St. Peter's, is an example of this use. There the case is placed beyond dispute by the evidence of Clarkson's Survey, which says, "The chirch and steple of this towne is the great strengt that the poore tenants have to drawe to in the tyme of warre, wherfor it wer needfoull the same be for that and other causes kep'd in good reperation."

On the inside of the western window on the second story of St. Andrew's tower there is a portion of the shaft of an early Saxon cross. This proves that the tower itself belongs to the later Saxon period, not to the time of St. Wilfrid. For a sketch and description of this see *Arch. Ael.* iii. (N.S.) p. 33.

In passing on from the notice of those early days I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that the names of those good old Saxon thanes who did so much for Bywell have not come down to us. Unfortunately the great Survey of William the Conqueror—The Domesday Book—which gives such an accurate account of the more southern counties, does not include Northumberland. Therefore, who the early patrons of Bywell were, and what lands they held we cannot tell. Soon after the Conquest their possessions passed into other hands, and were divided between the two great barons of Bywell and Bolbeck. It was a time of excitement and activity in ecclesiastical as well as civil matters. With the Normans came an era of church building, but not of absolute peace and harmony. Again we find Bywell connected with monastic troubles. It appears that at this time Bywell St. Peter's belonged to the abbey of Tynemouth. Between the years 1097 and 1119 the church of Bywell St. Peter, and that of Woodhorn, with Coquet Island and the lands of Amble, were settled upon the abbey of St. Alban's in Hertfordshire as the portion of that house out of the revenues of its subordinate priory of Tynemouth.² This arrangement, however, was afterwards broken into, in some respects, but Bywell was retained by the abbey of St. Alban's. "Abbat Richard, with the unanimous consent of the Monastery of St. Alban, decreed, that the church of Tynemouth should annually pay to the former thirty shillings, and no other demand was to be made. The Abbat was to keep in his own hands Ambell and Coquet Island, with the Churches of Bywell and Woodhorn. And it was provided, that when the Abbat went to visit Tynemouth, he, with twenty attendants, was to be entertained for fifteen days by the monastery there."³

In the year 1074 or 1075 Waltheof, earl of Northumberland, gave the church of Tynemouth and all its lands and possessions to the monastery of Jarrow. In 1079 Aubrey, the next earl, confirmed the grant to the monks of Jarrow, who, by this time, had removed to Durham. In 1090 Robert de Mowbray, earl of Northumberland, after endowing the monastery of Tynemouth and filling it with monks whom he had brought from St. Alban's, through enmity to the

² Mat. Paris in *Vit. xxiii. Sc. Alb. Abb.* p. 55. and Hodgson's *Northd.* Vol. I. pt. II. p. 182.

³ Gibson's *Tynemouth*, Vol. I. p. 42.



BYWELL ST. PETER'S CHURCH; AND MARKET CROSS.
(From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson of Hexham.)



bishop of Durham, took it from that church and made it a cell of the monastery of St. Alban's. This lawless act of the earl led to a long and bitter dispute between Durham and St. Alban's, as the Prior and Convent of Durham were unwilling to be forcibly dispossessed of their rights. At length the pope of Rome (Alexander III.) was appealed to. He appointed Roger, bishop of Worcester, Robert, dean of York, and Master John de Saresbury, treasurer of Exeter, delegates to enquire into and settle the dispute. A record of the sentence of these judges, made under this commission, is in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. It is dated A.D. 1174, and shows the terms upon which the matters in dispute were arranged. The monks of Durham were to relinquish all claim upon the church of Tynemouth, and, in exchange, the abbot and brethren of St. Alban's were to grant and give up to the church of Durham the church of 'Biwella' (saving the right of Salaman, priest, as long as he shall live), and the church of Edlingham. Eustace de Balliol, lord of the Barony of Bywell, (with the advice and concurrence of Hugh, his son and heir) granted a charter, assenting to the above-mentioned agreement, in which he states that his ancestors had given the advowson and impropriation of Bywell St. Peter's to the monastery of St. Alban's (*Ecclesiam de Biwelle cum pertinentiis suis quam antecessores mei monasterio s'c'i Albani dederant et concesserant*). Thus Bywell St. Peter's passed into the hands of the Prior and Convent of Durham, and from that time remained in the undisputed possession of the authorities of that cathedral, the Dean and Chapter being its patrons, until July, 1884, when, by the Newcastle Dean and Chapter's Act, it was transferred to the Archdeacon of Northumberland and his successors for ever.

Mackenzie, in his *History of Northumberland*, refers to the well-known tradition "that two sisters quarrelled for the precedency, and one of them founded a church of her own from which she excluded her sister, which was the occasion of two churches in the same town." We might have been inclined to believe that such a thing was possible, but unfortunately it happens that there are several places in England where a similar occurrence of two churches, side by side, is met with, and in some of them, if not all, the same story of the quarrelsome sisters is produced as an explanation. Willingale Doe and Willingale Spain, in Essex, have the churches in the same churchyard. Other

examples occur at Coventry and Evesham ; at Great Melton, Snoring, and Reepham, in Norfolk ; at Swaffham Prior, in Cambridgeshire ; and in Suffolk, at Bury St. Edmunds and Trimley. The sisters were, in fact, sister monasteries, to which the churches had become attached.

Bywell St. Peter's is called the *Black* church, because it belonged to the Benedictine or Black monks. The Tynemouth monks belonged to that order, and so did those of Durham. Their dress was black.

Bywell St. Andrew's is called the *White* church from its belonging, at one time, to the Praemonstratensian, or White monks of Blanchland. Their dress was white, that is, of undyed wool. They wore a white cassock, with a rochet over it, a long white cloak and a white cap. The rochet was a garment resembling a surplice, but with narrower sleeves. In both the *Liber Regis* and *Randal's Survey*, the abbot of Blanchland is stated to be the patron of Bywell St. Andrew's. Since the dissolution of the monasteries the patronage has passed through several hands, namely, Queen Elizabeth, Radcliffes, Withams, Thorntons, Fenwicks and Beaumonts. Mr. W. B. Beaumont is the present patron.*

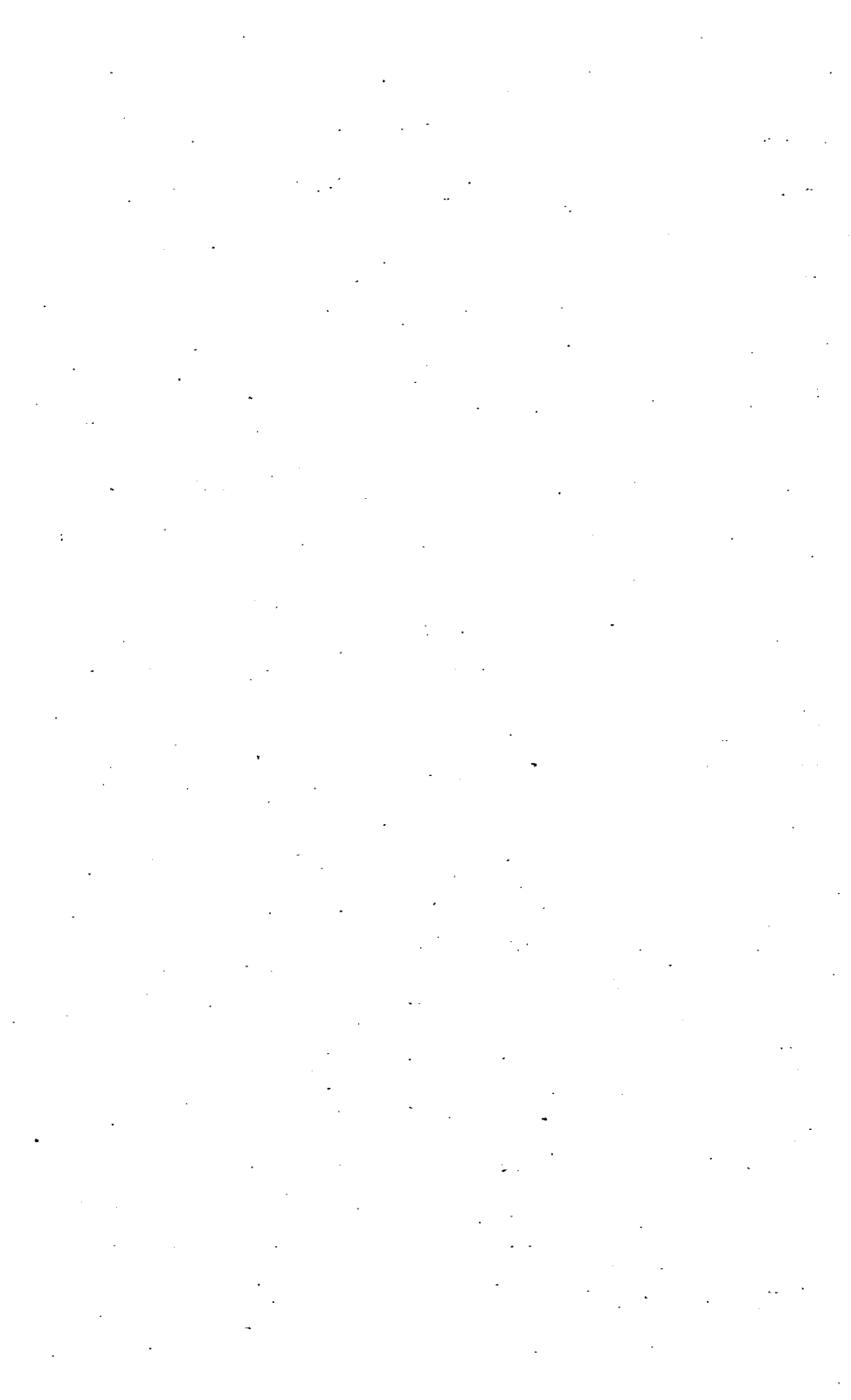
What I have said about the Black monks of Durham and the White ones of Blanchland will account for the names by which the two Bywell churches are commonly known—the Black church and the White church—but it does not account for the origin of the churches themselves, or for the formation of the parishes to which they belong. For that we shall have to look much farther back into the remote periods of history. It is quite clear that St. Andrew's church was built long before there were any Praemonstratensian monks in England. They only came into the country in A.D. 1140, and the abbey of Blanchland was not founded until A.D. 1165—more than a hundred years at least after the date of Bywell St. Andrew's tower. Just as the Baliols of the Bywell barony had given the tithes and advowson of St. Peter's to St. Alban's and afterwards to Durham, so now we find the other great baron, Walter de Bolbeck, giving those of St. Andrew's to help the abbey at Blanchland, which he had founded and endowed, and the abbot, in return, had to provide for the service at Bywell, by placing a vicar there. Blanchland was really, in olden times, part of the parish of Bywell St.

* Hodgson's MS. Materials. S.



BYWELL ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

(From a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson of Hexham.)



Andrew, and so were Shotley and Slaley, just as Whittonstall, Healey, and Newton, once formed part of the parish of Bywell St. Peter. Slaley became a separate benefice in 1719, Shotley in 1724, Blanchland (an offshoot of Shotley) in 1752, Whittonstall in 1774, Healey in 1876,⁵ Newton Hall in 1877.⁶ To account for the real origin of the two ancient parishes of Bywell with their strangely allotted boundaries, we must remember that when the great landowners in Saxon times built churches for the benefit of themselves and their tenants, they endowed them with the tithes, not only of the main portion of their estates, but also of the detached portions. The boundary of the parish, therefore, would coincide with that of the estate. However much we may be indebted to the munificence of the Norman barons or their successors, we ought never to forget our debt of gratitude to those unknown benefactors of an earlier day, who, by building churches, showed how well they appreciated the blessings which they had themselves received.

Besides the two present churches of Bywell there was a domestic chapel, called St. Helen's, standing opposite the castle, on the southern margin of the river, near the spot where the steps used to lead down to the salmon lock. Until 1836, when the present bridge was commenced, two stone piers of an ancient bridge stood in the river, a little below the dam. As there appears to have been no spring of arches it is inferred that the superstructure was of wood. No road could be traced by Mackenzie in 1825 southwards from this bridge, which was perhaps erected merely to lead to the chapel. The last stones of the chapel were removed about forty or fifty years ago for building purposes. The ancient piers were blasted down during the construction of the present bridge. Sykes, in his *Local Records*, relates that "by some accident the train was fired too early, and a man named Brown was hurled into the air and killed." He might have added that another man, named Moffat, of Ovington, was hurled into the air at the same time, and not killed.

In Bywell St. Peter's church there are two little side chapels, or chantries. That on the south, behind the organ, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and was built about the year A.D. 1287. In it there is a large stone altar slab with the usual five crosses inscribed upon

⁵ See *London Gazette*, Oct. 27th, 1876.

⁶ *Gazette*, May 1st, 1877.

it.⁷ A charter, relating to this chapel and altar, is preserved in the Treasury of the Dean and Chapter of Durham.⁸ This chantry is stated by Randal to be of £4 yearly value.

The other chantry—the elegant one on the north side—contains a monumental slab on which is inscribed a knight in armour. Probably he was the founder. The dedication is unknown. Who could this knight have been? Considering the beauty of the chapel one cannot help thinking that he must have been a man of considerable importance. The square-headed windows which adorn the east, north, and west of this chantry are of the Decorated style of architecture, belonging to the beginning or middle of the 14th century (about 1340). The late Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle, filled these windows with stained glass to the memory of members of his family. In so doing he carefully preserved some of the original pieces of richly-coloured glass, representing the oak leaf and the hedge rose, which had escaped destruction. I should not be at all surprised if it should turn out that the monumental slab represents John Balliol, king of Scotland, or his son Edward. The Balliols held the barony of Bywell at that time. John, who did homage for his kingdom to Edward I. in A.D. 1292, died in A.D. 1306. Edward claimed the kingdom, and held it for a short time. He died without issue, and the family soon became extinct. There is a tradition that one of the kings of Scotland was buried at Bywell. Probably this may only mean that he was buried in effigy, according to the curious old custom, which long prevailed, of so burying distinguished persons in all the different churches with which they had been connected. Thus queen Elizabeth was buried in many of the London churches.

In the 13th and 14th centuries there were several small chapels or oratories scattered up and down in this neighbourhood. In fact it seems to have been a mission field well supplied with labourers from the monasteries of Durham, Blanchland, and Hexham. In old charters and other historical documents I have seen them mentioned as existing at Apperley, Styford, Newton, and elsewhere. The Newton one was built as a private chantry chapel, or oratory, by

⁷ Within the altar rails there is another, now inscribed as a monument to the memory of Rev. E. Cooke, and on this too the five crosses may be seen.

⁸ 2 2 Specialium, L. 1.

Robert de Insula, who held the manors of Chipchase and Newton about the year A.D. 1274. As a condition upon which he was allowed to build the chapel, he stipulated that the mother church of Bywell St. Peter should not thereby suffer any detriment. All alms and offerings made in the said oratory were to be handed over by the chaplain to the mother church. Robert and his heirs were also to pay annually six pounds of corn to the said mother church, and to attend service therein on the four feasts of the year, namely, Christmas, The Purification, Easter, and St. Peter's Day.⁹

It may be well to state here that the endowments of these oratories were all swept away at the Reformation, when prayers for the dead were discontinued in the church. Some of them were taken possession of by king Henry VIII. in the last year of his reign. The rest were seized by Edward VI.

In the *Liber Regis*, Bywell St. Peter's is said to be a vicarage remaining in charge of the value of £9 18s. 1½d., Bywell St. Andrew's a discharged vicarage worth £3 9s. 2d.—discharged, that is, from the payment of first fruits.

The registers of St. Peter's church commence in the year 1663, those of St. Andrew's in 1668.¹⁰

In the tower of Bywell St. Peter's church there are two very interesting old bells—

- i. Of the thirteenth century, with the 'two-dot' stop, which Mr. Stahlschmidt¹¹ says stamps this as certainly earlier than 1400. It measures 2 ft. 2½ inches in diameter, and bears the inscription in large Gothic letters:—

+ TVE ∞ : PETRV ∞ : + ABCDEFGHIKIMNOPQR ∞ TVXYZ :

The letters were not added merely to fill up the line, but with an appropriate symbolical meaning. As bells were symbols of preachers, and alphabets represented all knowledge contained in both the Old and New Testaments—for out of an alphabet all words of wisdom are formed—so here it was meant to indicate the duty of the preacher to "declare the *whole* counsel of God."

⁹ See Hodgson, Pt. III. Vol. II. p. 92, 'Carta Rob'ti de Insula.'

¹⁰ A paper, on the Bywell Registers and Churchwardens' Account Books, is in course of preparation.

¹¹ *Proc.* iii. p. 129.

- ii. The other, which appears to be of a later date, measures 2 ft. 1 in. in diameter, and bears the inscription in beautiful floriated letters:—

+ UTSURGANTGENTESVOCORHORNETCITOJACĒTES

(Ut surgant gentes vocor Horn et cito jace[n]tes.)

which may be translated, 'I am called Horn and I call the sleeping people to arise', or, more literally, 'That the people may arise I am called Horn and I summon the sleepers.'

In pre-Reformation times it was probably rung in the early morning (about five o'clock) to call the people to Matins.¹² The custom of ringing the bells at eight o'clock every Sunday morning, which still continues here, may be a relic of the old practice of ringing the bell for Matins. It may also have served the purpose of an alarm bell on such occasions as those 'Incursions of the thieves of Tindale' referred to in the Survey of 1569, when the Bywell men had to 'raise *Hue and Cry* in the night season', and prepare for the defence of their goods. The mixture of two languages is by no means rare in bell inscriptions, as Mr. Blair has pointed out. So that whether we read 'Vocor *Horn*', or 'vocor *Hornet*' that creates no difficulty here.¹³ I cannot, however, agree with Mr. Stahlschmidt's interpretation, in which he makes the name of the bell to be 'Hornet' as if the Bywell people wanted "something as sharp as a hornet's sting to get them up in the morning." Hornets were never used for such a purpose as here required—horns were. Horn trumpets are frequently mentioned in Scripture, and I think it could be proved that, on some occasions, they have been used to summon people to public worship. Certainly both horns and bells were used to convene the people in cases of danger. Blowing the *horn* was the ancient mode of raising the *hue and cry*.

¹² The spirit of the legend may be gathered from the words of Durandus, Bishop of Mende, A.D. 1286. He speaks of bells as "the trumpets of the Church Militant," "the trumpets of the Eternal King," and says, "You must know that bells, by the sound of which the people do assemble to the church, do signify the silver trumpets by which, under the old law, the people were called together unto sacrifice." . . . "Also in the night for Matins they are rung often, because we ought often to cry out, Wake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead. On festivals the bells do sound more pressingly, and are rung for a longer time to arouse those that sleep and are drunken, lest they sleep beyond measure."—Durandus on *Symbolism*, p. 94. Hugo de St. Victor has a passage remarkably similar:—"At Matins they are rung oftentimes, because we should often exclaim, Arise thou that Sleepest."—Quoted by Rev. J. M. Neale in his Notes to Durandus, p. 92.

¹³ *Proc.* iii. p. 129.

Du Cange supposes that the term '*huc*' properly denoted the sound of a horn. "Hue vero videtur esse clamor cum cornu; vo. Huesium." He also gives the phrase "cum cornu clamorem levare." *To put to the horn* was a phrase used in the courts, meaning to outlaw a person for not appearing in the court to which he was summoned. This mode of denunciation is mentioned as early as the reign of William the Lion, king of Scotland.¹⁴

North, in his *Bells of Northamptonshire*, p. 153, gives instances of alarm bells. "Indeed," he says, "the use of a bell as a summons to a public meeting, or as an alarm in cases of danger, appears to have been very general. A bell for such a purpose was used in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where it was called the 'Common Bell'." In 1552 the townspeople of Moulton purchased and set apart a special bell as a *Mote-bell*—to be 'ronge whan any casualtyes shall chaunce and for y^e gatheryng togyther y^e Inhabytants of y^e sayd towne to y^e courte and other theyr necessaryes'." With these facts before me I am inclined to believe that the name of the Bywell bell is HORN, and that it was probably used for the purposes which I have indicated.

In the south porch of St. Peter's Church are some fragments of zigzag arch mouldings and an early grave cover of very rude sculpture. In and around St. Andrew's Church there are no less than 28 grave covers—some of them very fine specimens. The old font in St. Peter's is worthy of notice and so is the 'leper' or low-side window. On the south side of the chancel (c. 1195) may be seen good examples of sedilia and piscina. The chancel arch is modern (1849). The old arch which preceded it was supposed by Bishop Turner (of Grafton and Armidale) to have been erected about the time of Richard Cœur de Lion, A.D. 1160.

Passing on to the year 1771, we find in Richardson's *Table Book*, and also in Sykes's *Local Records*, a very sad but interesting account of Bywell among the sufferers in the great flood which happened on Sunday, the 17th November, in that year. All the bridges on the Tyne were swept away except Corbridge, and, as the record declares, "the first appearance of day discovered a scene of horror and devastation too dreadful for words to express or humanity to behold without shuddering." The inundation occurred during the middle of the

¹⁴ Stat. Will. c. 4, § 2.

night. It was about two o'clock in the morning when it reached its height. "The inhabitants of Bywell were amongst the most unhappy sufferers in this melancholy catastrophe. The whole village was under water; and in the dining room and other rooms on the first floor of Mr. Fenwick's house it was eight feet deep. The farmers there lost all their corn and hay stacks, cows, etc. All the garden walls belonging to Mr. Fenwick were broken down, and the gardens entirely destroyed. A delay of five minutes would have effected destruction to his whole stud together with four servants. Most of the valuable stud of horses were got into the inside of the Black church, and saved themselves by holding by the tops of the pews, which were allowed to continue in their gnawed state for several years after the flood; a mare belonging to Mr. Elliot, father-in-law to Mr. Thomas Bewick, who was on a visit to Bywell at the time, was saved in the same church by getting upon the altar table. About ten houses were swept away and six persons perished. Several lives were saved miraculously by twigs, ropes, trees, etc., and many people were taken out of their houses through the roofs. The shrieks of women and of children, frantic with all the agonies of despair, will better be conceived than described. The White church-yard wall was entirely destroyed, and a great part of the church-yard washed away. The Black church-yard walls were likewise very much ruined, and the parish accounts destroyed. Dead bodies and coffins were torn out of the church-yard, and the living and the dead promiscuously clashed in the torrent."

Before the flood St. Peter's church-yard extended much farther to the south than it does at present. A considerable portion of it was washed away. As the bank at the bend of the river was gradually being carried off the people began to be alarmed for the safety of the church itself, lest it should be undermined and destroyed. It stood firm, however, and with the substantial repairs that it has recently received, seems likely to stand for many an age to come.

VICARS OF BYWELL ST. PETER.

c. 1170. WALTER, priest of the church of Bywell, mentioned as the predecessor of Salomon, in the charter of Eustace de Balliol confirming the settlement of the law suit

between Durham and St. Alban's in 1174, whereby the abbot of St. Alban's gave up to Durham the church of Bywell St. Peter. "Cum plenario tofto Salomonis decanj juxta ecclesiam sancti Andree quem *Walterus sacerdos* ante eum tenuit."

1174. SALOMON. In the award of the Commissioners who made the above-named settlement the transfer is made "*saving the right of Salomon, Priest, as long as he shall live.*" His name appears as "Salomon sacerdos de Bewell" as a witness to the charter of Bernard de Balliol conveying Newton to Otwy de Insula. Another witness was "William, the clerk, who wrote the charter at Bywell."

c. 1196 or 8. PATRICIUS witnesses a grant by Milo de Whitonstal to the hospital of St. Mary, near the Westgate, Newcastle, about the end of the reign of king John.

1312. WALTER DE JARROWE, feeling unequal to the duties, through old age and other infirmities, resigns Dec. 19th, 1312. His letter of resignation is given in *Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*, I. p. 291:—

"Venerabili in Christo patri, domino Ricardo, Dei gratia, episcopo Dunelmensi, devotus filius, Walterus de Jar', vicarius ecclesie de Bywell' Petri, vestre diocesis, salutem, cum debitis et devotis obedientia, reverentia et honore. Ad curam et regimen animarum, ac onera vicarie mee incumbentia supportanda, senio contractus, ac variis infirmitatibus preepeditus, me sentiens totaliter impotentem, vicariam predictam, pure, sponte et absolute, resigno in vestre sanctitatis manibus, per presentes, omni juri quod mihi in eadem competit, aut competiit, expresse renuncians in hac parte. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum meum apposui. Datum Dunolmi, XIX° die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo trecentesimo duodecimo."

1313. WALTER DE SHIRBURN upon the resignation of Walter de Jarrowe..

1315. GILBERT DE HELEY instituted by Bishop Kellawe, 21st Aug., 1315. He took part (with Hugh, chaplain of the parish of Bywell St. Peter) in an inquisition touching the right of presentation to Bywell St. Andrew's vicarage, 9th Sept., 1315. (*Kel. Reg.* II. p. 726.)

1342. ADAM DE NEWSOME or NEUSOM. His institution by Bp. Kellawe is dated "X. Kalendas Junii anno Domini millesimo ccc^{mo}. xlii^o." [May 23rd, 1342.] *Kel. Reg.* III. p. 435.
1349. GILBERT DE STANELY, upon the resignation of Newsame. (Randal.)
1356. WILLIAM DE EGES post mortem Stanely.
1368. JOHN DE INGELBY p. mort. Eges. Afterwards vicar of Meldon.
1390. NICHOLAS DE INGELBY p. res. Ingelby. Nicholas exchanged Meldon with John de Ingelby for Bywell. *Hatfield's Reg.* fol. 67.
1405. WILLIAM YSSOP p. mort. Ingelby.
1420. WILLIAM NEWTON p. mort. Yssop.
1446. WILLIAM DE WYNTRINGHAM p. mort. Newton.
1469. WILLIAM HYND p. res. Wyntringham.
1484. RICHARD SAUNDER p. mort. Hynd.
1493. THOMAS LEE (cap.) p. mort. Saunder.
1498. THOMAS TODD p. res. Lee.
1510. THOMAS BENTLEY p. mort. Todd.
1526. JOHN FORSTER (cap.) p. res. Bentley.
- 1540, Jan. 3. RICHARD SWALWELL (cap.) p. mort. Forster.
- 1557, June 3. THOMAS BOLTON, als. Clerk Pbr. p. mort. Swalwell. (Randal.)
- 1567, Mar. 11. JACOBUS BROWNE, Cl. sacri. verb. Dei min. p. mort. Bolton.
- 1568, Aug. 14. THOMAS WILKINSON, Cl. sacri. verb. Dei min. p. mort. Browne. At the Chancellor's Visitations, held at Corbridge and Newcastle, in 1571, he neither appeared in person nor sent any excuse, but took flight (*fugam fecit*)¹⁵. He was accordingly pronounced contumacious, and excommunicated. In the entry for the following year, the vicarage of Bywell St. Peter is recorded as being vacant. Why he fled is not stated, but probably the reason was, that he dreaded the examination which the clergy had to undergo at the visitations in those days, "in proof of their progresse in learninge and studyinge of the scriptures." His curate, John Thewe,

¹⁵ 22 *Sur. Soc.*, p. 30.

and the vicar of Bywell St. Andrew, William Ashton, appeared at the Newcastle Visitation, in July, 1578, but "had not completed their tasks, and time was given them till the Michaelmas synod for that purpose." The task, on that occasion, was an account of the Gospel of St. Matthew, in Latin or English.

1581, Oct. 4. JOHN WOODFALL, Cl. p. depriv. Wilkinson. Patr. ep. Dun. p. laps. temp.

1586, Aug. 30. THOMAS MITFORD, Cl. verbi. Dei min. p. cessionem Woodfall.

About 1630. GABRIEL KIPLING.

— JOHN DAVIS, an intruder, Fellow of Mag. Col. Camb., ejected for nonconformity. (Randal.)

1662, Ap. 22. RICHARD BRAIDLEY, A.M. No mention how void. Patr. Dean and Chapter of Durham. (Randal.)

1673, Jan. 8. THOMAS BROUGHTON, A.M. p. mort. Bradley.

1694, Nov. 28. MATTHEW OWEN, Cl. p. mort. Broughton. He improved the vicarage of Bywell St. Peter, which had been built about the beginning of the reign of King James I. Over the doorway, which he erected, is inscribed MAT OWEN FECIT A D 1698. He died the following year. On the outside there is a short buttress at the east end of the chancel, on which is cut:

MAT. OWEN. VIC.

OBIIT NOV. 24

1699

1699. JOHN HARTIS, A.M. p. mort. Owen.

1702, Mar. 6. FRANCIS CLEMENT, A.B. p. mort. Hartis.

1732. ROBERT SIMON, A.B. p. mort. Clement. In 1755 he was also curate of Bywell St. Andrew. (*B. St. A. Registers.*)

1773, Feb. 26. NICHOLAS HORNSBY, A.M. p. mort. Simon.

1774. RICHARD FLEMING, A.B. p. res. Hornsby. Also vicar of Bywell St. Andrew, 1756.

1778. JOHN FLEMING, A.M. He was probably a son of the above Richard Fleming, for whom he acted as curate from 1775 until 1778, when he became vicar of both the Bywell parishes. He died in December, 1789. (*B. St. P. Registers.*)

1790. DICKENS HAZELWOOD, p. mort. Fleming. Non-resident. Henry Johnson was his curate and lived in the vicarage.
1795. HENRY JOHNSON. He was curate of Widdrington from 1773 to 1828, and also vicar of Bywell St. Andrew from 1790. Before he became vicar of the two churches of Bywell, he was chaplain of Netherwitton, and resided in Stanton Hall. In the Clerical Directory for 1822, his is also returned as curate of Shotley, Slaley, and Whittonstall.
1828. EDWARD COOKE p. mort. Johnson. Previously Curate of both parishes for four years.
1845. BRERETON EDWARD DWARRIS, M.A. (the present vicar) p. mort. Cooke. Late fellow and tutor of the University of Durham. Rural dean of Corbridge (1st commission dated May 5, 1868). Hon. canon of Durham 1869 to 1882. Hon. canon of Newcastle 1882. Proctor in convocation for archdeaconry of Northumberland 1865 to 1868 and 1880 to 1882. chaplain to bishop of Newcastle, 1882. Examining chaplain, 1884.

Inter alia, the following may be noted as his work:—Bywell St. Peter's church completely restored—oak seats and new organ added. Churches and schools built at Healey and Newton, and these districts formed into new parishes. Also St. Peter's vicarage enlarged and greatly improved.

VICARS OF BYWELL ST. ANDREW.

1315. WILLIAM DE NORTON, canon of Blanchland. He resigned the vicarage of Bywell St. Andrew on being elected to the abbacy of Blanchland in June, 1315. From the "Finding on an inquisition touching the right of presentation to the vicarage of Bywell St. Andrew's," we learn that the living became vacant on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Barnabas in that year. The inquisition reads as follows:—

“Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Ricardo, Dei gratia, episcopo Dunolmensi, suus devotus officialis domini archidiaconi Northumbriæ, obedientiam, reverentiam, pariter et honorem. Mandatum vestrum nuper recepi in hæc verba: Ricardus, permissione divina, Dunolmensis episcopus, dilecto filio etc. *sub communi forma*.—Auctoritate igitur hujus mandati, diligentem feci inquisitionem, per dominum Hugonem, rectorem ecclesiæ de Quelpington, dominum Hugonem de Swynburn, rectorem ecclesiæ de Knaredale, dominum Willelmum de Burdon, perpetuum vicarium de Novo Castro, dominum Gilbertum, vicarium de Neuburn, dominum Thomam, vicarium de Heddone, dominum Gilbertum, vicarium de Bywell Petri, dominum Thomam, vicarium de Horseley, dominum Hugonem, capellanum parochiæ de Slaveley, dominum Johannem, capellanum parochialis ecclesiæ beati Nicholai de Novo Castro, dominum Hugonem, capellanum parochiæ de Bywell Petri, dominum Willelmum, capellanum parochialis ecclesiæ beati Johannis de Novo Castro, et dominum Adam capellanum parochiæ de Neuburn. Qui dicunt, quod dicta vicaria vacat, et hoc per admissionem fratris Willelmi de Norton, dudum vicarii ejusdem, in abbatem de Alba Landa; et vacavit a die Dominica proxima post festum Sancti Barnabæ Apostoli ultimo præteritum. Item dicunt, quod abbas et conventus sunt veri patroni ejusdem, et ultimo præsentarunt ad eadem, et sunt in possessione præsentandi; et dicunt quod valet, tempore pacis, centum solidos; nec est pensionaria alicui, vel litigiosa. Dicunt etiam quod præsentatus est idoneus, et in ordinibus sacerdotalibus constitutus, nec est alibi beneficiatus. De cæteris vero inquisitores nihil inveniunt quod obstet præsentantibus vel præsentato. In cujus rei testimonium, has literas meas sigillo officii mei, una cum sigillis eorum per quos inquisitio capta fuerit, transmitto consignatas. Datum apud Novum Castrum super Tynam, V. id. Septembris, anno Domini M^o. CCC^o. quinto decimo.” [9th Sept., 1315.]

Bp. Kellawe's *Register*, Vol. II. p. 725.

1315, Sept. 13. ROBERT DE WERK WORTH, canonicus de Alba Landa.

His institution to the vicarage of Bywell St. Andrew's is recorded in Bp. Kellawe's *Register*, Vol. II. p. 727.

Patrons, Abbot and Convent of Alba Landa.

1352. DOMINUS GILBERT DE MYNSTANACRES. (Randal.)

— WILLIAM DE STOCKTON.

1403. HUGH DE DORAM p. res. Stockton.

1431. JOHN DE HESILDEN p. mort. Doram.

1448. JOHN DE DERLINGTON p. mort. Hesilden.

1469. JOHN DE HERTILPOLE p. mort. Derlington.
— JOHN STAMP, canonicus.
- 1535, Aug. 11. HENRY SPRAGEN, canonicus de Blanchelande, p. res. Stamp.
- 1564, May 8. THOMAS BROWN, Cl. p. mort. Spragen. Patr. Joh. Swinburn arm. p.h.v. r'oe advocac'o'is sibi ac Cutho. Blunt mercat. defuncto pro Abb. & Conv. nup. dissoluti Mon. de Blanchland fe't. (Randal.)
A Thomas Brown was chaplain of Whitfield A.D. 1545 to A.D. 1571. Probably this was the same person.
- 1571, July 19. EDM. ROBINSON, A.M. p. mort. Brown. Patr. Queen Elizabeth.
- 1575, Nov. 14. WILLIAM ASHTON, Cl. p. mort. Robinson. Patr. Queen Elizabeth.
- 1611, Mar. 12. JOHN HUTTON, A.M. afterwards vicar of Warden. He bequeathed a tenement in Bywell called Three Quarter Land, which he had bought for the term of 60 years, whereof about 40 were remaining, to the next vicar of St. Andrew's church, upon condition that he should give good security to his executors and the Worshipful Mr. Chancellor, to purchase the fee-farm of it, and that it should go successively from vicar to vicar, for the better maintenance of the vicars of St. Andrew's.
N.B.—In 1713 it was valued at £8 per annum.
1618. THOMAS CARTER p. res. Hutton.
- 1637, Aug. 2. RALPH CARR, S.T.B. p. mort. Carter. Afterwards vicar of Warden 1642, Alnham and Eglington 1662. Hodgson's *Northumberland*, II. III. 407.
1640. ANDREW HALL. By indenture made 5th July, 1651, he purchased the above named Three Quarter Land of Sir John Fenwick of Wallington, Bart.
- 1667, Feb. 19. ROBERT SIMPSON, Cl. p. mort. Hall.
1668. GEORGE RITSCHER p. mort. Simpson.
1686. JOHN FAWCETT p. mort. Ritscher.
1690. JOHN RITSCHER, Cl. p. res. Fawcett.

1705. JOHN STEWART, p. mort. Ritschel.
1711. WILLIAM DUNN. Patr. Wm. Fenwick of Bywell, Esq.
1718. JOS. CARR.
1729. MATTHEW ROBINSON, A.M. Patr. John Fenwick of Bywell, Esq.
1756. RICHARD FLEMING, B.A. p. mort. Robinson. Patr. Wm. Fenwick of Bywell, Esq. Also vicar of Bywell St. Peter's A.D. 1774.
1778. JOHN FLEMING, A.M. Also vicar of Bywell St. Peter's.
1790. HENRY JOHNSON, p. mort. Fleming. Also vicar of Bywell St. Peter's 1797.
1828. WILLIAM RAILTON p. mort. Johnson.
1841. JOSEPH BIRCH.
1844. JOSEPH JAQUES, M.A. St. James's chapel of ease, at Riding Mill, was built during his incumbency.
1866. HENRY SLATER, M.A. (the present vicar) p. mort. Jaques. He built a new vicarage at Riding Mill in 1868, and has since enlarged St. Andrew's church at Bywell and St. James's Riding Mill, and also built new schools at Riding Mill.

PART II.—CIVIL.

Previous to the Norman Conquest we find no positive statement as to who the owners of the lands of Bywell were. But from the connection of Bywell St. Peter's church with the monastery of Tyne-mouth, and the way in which Bywell is mixed up with other grants made to that monastery by the Saxon earls of Northumberland, I am induced to believe that they were the proprietors of the lands here. Another fact which points to the same conclusion is that many of the estates of Robert Mowbray, earl of Northumberland, were, after his attainder, granted to the Balliol family. In 1240, John de Balliol held *in capite* of the crown, the barony of Bywell, which at that time consisted of Newbigging, Woodhorn and its members, Linemouth and Hurst, Halliwell, Linton, and Ellington with Cresswell and Ayden its members, besides considerable possessions in the parishes of Stamfordham, Chollerton, and Bywell St. Peter, at which time Robert de Rue

held Linemouth and half of Hurst by a twelfth part of a knight's fee, and Adam de Perington, Ellington, Cresswell and Hayden, by one knight's fee of the old feoffment, as mesne tenants under the Balliols of Bywell.¹⁶ The *Testa de Nevill* informs us that Bywell was the barony of the Balliols of Scotland. Under the date of Henry III it says, "Hugh de Balliol holds *in capite* of the king the barony of Bywell with all its belongings for the service of five knights' fees, and, when required, for the ward of Newcastle-upon-Tyne thirty knights' fees, as all his predecessors have held it by the same service since the time of king William Rufus who made the same enfeoffment [invested them therewith], and of that tenement there is no alienation or donation &c, whereby the king may have less of his service."

William Rufus granted the Balliol fee (Bywell on the Tyne and Gainford on the Tees) to Guy de Balliol, whose son Barnard founded the noble fortress of Barnard Castle which derived its name from him. This Guy de Balliol was one of the followers of William the Conqueror. William Rufus rewarded him for the service done to his father, by the gift of the Bywell barony. It was the barony of the Balliol family for many generations. John, lord of Bywell and Barnard Castle in the reign of Henry III, was a baron of great distinction and power. He was the founder of Balliol College, Oxford. He died in 1269. His son Alexander de Balliol in 1272 let the manor of Whittonstall to Roger d'Areyns. He died without issue in 1278. His widow Alianor de Genevre, at the time of her death in 1310-11, was possessed of two locks for taking salmon at Bywell, and one acre of land abutting upon the dam, which she and her husband Alexander de Balliol had acquired from Adam, the son of Gilbert de Stokesfield.

In the first year of the reign of Edward I, the barony of Bywell was in the possession of John de Balliol, king of Scotland. He was the youngest son of John de Balliol, founder of Balliol College, who "besides his Northumbrian estates was possessed of the barony of Barnard Castle, and, in right of his wife Dervaguilla, was lord of Galloway: for she was a daughter of Alan, lord of Galloway, granddaughter of David earl of Huntingdon, and great niece of Malcolm the third and William the Lion, kings of Scotland. This connection with royalty led to the ruin of his house. Edward the first, in 1292,

¹⁶ Hodgson, Vol. II. Pt. II. p. 179.

12
Nov 1272
to 1273

gave the crown of Scotland to his youngest son John de Balliol, but in 1296 compelled him to resign it; and granted his estates to John Dreux, earl of Brittany and Richmond, which grant was confirmed by Edward the second, dated August 12, 1308, and in the list of the estates which it conveyed, mentions the 'manors of Bywell and Wodehorn,' and all the lands and tenements which Agnes de Valence and Alianora de Genevre, widows of his brothers Hugh and Alexander, held in dower in the inheritance of the deposed monarch."¹⁷ Balliol, after his deposition, spent the remainder of his days in captivity and misfortune, and "forsaking wholly the administration of Scottish dominion, finally went over into Normandy to his ancient inheritance and lands there, where, at length, falling blind, and wasting away by long age, he departed out of this world in the castle of Galliard, leaving those lands which he possessed on that side of the sea unto his son Edward Balliol, who being released out of captivity, was come over to his father before his decease."¹⁸

The earl of Richmond did not continue long to enjoy his rights and possessions of Bywell. He soon got entangled in the quarrels of the royal family, and the king, in 1326, accused him of prevaricating in the execution of his orders, seized his lands and goods, and committed his castle and honour of Richmond and the manors of Bywell and Wodehorn with their belongings to the custody of Robert de Byncester.¹⁹

In the year 1337 Edward III, "pro laudibili servicio,"²⁰ granted Bywell to the famous Ralph de Nevill, lord of Raby and Brancepeth, whose name was afterwards inseparably connected with the battle of Nevill's Cross. In the 7th year of Edward III he was commissioner to settle articles between Edward of England and Edward Balliol. Doubtless he considered himself well repaid for this 'laudable service' by the acquisition of the honours and broad acres so long possessed by the Balliols. In the 21st year of Richard the second's reign Bywell was held by Ralph de Nevill, first earl of Westmoreland. In 1472 it was held by another Ralph de Nevill, who was the builder of Bywell

¹⁷ Hodgson, Pt. II Vol. II. p. 180.

¹⁸ Hol. *Hist. of Scot.* p. 208.

¹⁹ See *Originalia Rolls* in the Exchequer, 20 Ed. II. Ro. 14.—R. commisit Rob'to de Byncestr' custodium castri & honoris de Richemund cum p'tin' & man'io de Bywell & Wodehorn cum p'tin' in com' Northumbr'. Hodgson, Pt. III Vol. II. p. 300.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 314.

castle. In the reign of Elizabeth it was held by the famous Charles, earl of Westmoreland. He was in arms against the queen in the 12th year of her reign, A.D. 1569, for which Bywell and all his other honours and lands were forfeited by a bill of attainder.

The following Survey taken on the occasion is preserved in the Court of Exchequer.

The view and Survaie of all Honours Castles Baronies Lordships Mannors Lands Tenem^{ts} forests Parks Chaces Rectories Tythes Pentions Portions Waters fishings fishing-places Mylnes Mores Maryshes Heaths Wast Grounds Woods underwoods and all other Hereditam^{ts} whatsoever appertaining or belonging to Thomas Erle of North'land and Charles Erle of Westmoreland in the Counties of York Westmoreland Cumberland North'land and the County of the Bishoprick of Duresme which did lately Rebell^{and} make Insurrection agst our Sovereign Lady the Queens Maj^{ty} made by Edmond Hall and Willm Hombers-ton Gent' by vertue of Her Maj^{ty}s Commission under the great Seal of England to them and others directed. The tenor of which Commission hereafter ensueth
Commission dated 18th day of March 1569—12th Qu. Elizabeth.

(*Inter alia*) The VIEW and SURVEY of the Baronies of BYWELL and BULBECK with all the mannors Lands Tenements Granges fforests Chaces and other Hereditaments to the said Baronies appertaining and belonging made the last of May in the 12th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England fraunce and Ireland Queen Defender of the faith &c—

BYWELL and BULBECK are two ancient Baronies and are situate in the extreme South part of North'land between the rivers of Tyne and Darwent and albeit they be joined and mixed together yet are the rents and Tenants severed and known the one from the others and to the Barony of Bywell belongeth a fforest of red Deer well replenished with game which extendeth also into the Barony of Bulbeck and the s^d two Baronies or Lordships are thus abuttated— That is to say :—the Lordship of Hexam on the West and the Lordships of Prodo and Chopwell on the East, the River of Tyne for the most part on the North and the River of Darwent on the South and containeth in Compass twenty-two miles. That is to say in length from the East to the West Six Miles and in Breadth from the River of Tyne to the River of Darwent five miles within which two Baronies are many Gentlemen and ffreeholders which attend upon the Lords of the said Baronies in time of Service when they shall be thereunto commanded And the ffarms and Tenem^{ts} in the s^d Baronies are well planted with Coppice Wood for the preservation of the red Deer and in the Wasts also are divers Woods and very fair coursing with Greyhounds, Whereof one Wood is called Highley Wood growing dispersed one Mile and a half from the Town of Bywell towards the West planted with Oaks and Part oid Birches of 80 or 100 years growing containeth 100 acres, one other Wood called Bailiff Wood on the South part of the Town of Bywell and well set with Birches of 50 and 60 years growth

dispersed in divers Parts containeth 80 acres and one other Wood called Through Deane in East Wood which was a large Wood containing by estimation 140 Acres and was all old Birches and felled about 30 years past and never inclosed, by reason whereof the Spring was utterly destroyed, Yet are there Birch sprung up of the very nature of the soile in great plenty so as in process of time there will be a Wood of Birch againe.

The Town of Bywell is builded in length all in one Street upon the River or Water of Tyne, on the North and West part of the same; and is divided into two severall Parishes and inhabited with Handy Crafts Men whose Trade is all in Ironwork for the Horsemen and Borderers of that Country as Making of Bitts Stirrups Buckles and such others wherein they are very expert and cunning and are subject to the Incursions of the Thieves of Tindale and compelled Winter and Summer to bring all their Cattle and Sheep into the Street in the Night Season and Watch both the ends of the Street, and when the Enemy approach to raise Hue and Cry whereupon all the Towne prepareth for Rescue of their goods, which is very populous by reason of their Trade and Stout and Hardy by continual Practise against the Enemy.

To the Barony of Bywell belongeth the fishing of Salmon of the Water of Tyne in length three Miles which is a great Commodity and a great plenty of Salmon taken, and a Dame or Bay over the River made very strong of late years for preservation of the said fishing.

Also in Bywell Town on the North side of the Water of Tyne the Ancestors of the Erle of Westmorland builded a fair Tower or Gate House all of stone and covered all of Lead meaning to have proceeded further as the foundations declare being the Height of a Man above the Ground which were never finished, and the said Tower is a good defence for the Town and will soon decay if it be not maintained.

The Barony of Bywell extendeth into the Towns and Hamletts of Bywell St. Peter, Bywell St. Andrew, Acon, Newton, Ovington, Mekely, Bromley, Newlands, Ridley Nova, Styfford, Spiryden, and Cyssinghope, and the Barony of Bulbeck extendeth into the Towns and Hamletts of Bromehaugh, Rydding, Helye, Shotley, Slaylye, and Mynstreacres All which Towns and Hamletts are very well inhabited with Men of good Service and have very good ffarms and able to keep much Cattle and get plenty of Corn and Hay were it not for the continual Robberies and Incursions of the Thieves of Tyndall which so continually assault them in the Night as they can keep no more Cattle than they can Lodge either in the House or in like safety in the Nights And all the Tenants hold their Lands by Indenture for term of Years which are very finable when their Leases are expired.

The Lord of the said Baronies hath the Leet within all the Limits of the same, and all Waifs, Estrayes, felons, Goods, amerciaments and all other Royalties, casualties and profits rising or growing by reason of the Leete,

And here follow the severall Holdings of Each Tenant
with their Names and Rent.

The question naturally arises here, where did the Lords of the Barony of Bywell hold their Leet? I am inclined to think that it was on a hill near Stocksfield Station commonly called "The Round Hill." This hill presents every appearance of having been an ancient British encampment. The fosse is distinctly visible. It was, no doubt, afterwards used in Saxon and Norman times as the Mote Hill on which the open open-air courts were held and the law administered according to the fashion of those days. Dr. Bruce and the Rev. G. Rome Hall agree with me in believing that this hill must have been the old 'Mote Hill' of the Barony. The Norman barons had the power of life and death—the right of 'jus furcae.' On the opposite side of the river, a little to the north of Bywell is a rising ground called Gallows Hill, which probably had its name from being the spot where the barons of Bywell executed the felons taken within the precincts of their liberties.

So wild and insecure was the country, in this neighbourhood, even in the reign of Elizabeth and for some time afterwards, that the judges of assize, on their way between Newcastle and Carlisle had to be escorted by an armed force. When Lord Chief Justice North came on the circuit in the days of Charles II, in 1676, the village of Bywell, through which the road passed, was inhabited by expert handicraftsmen—village blacksmiths, who became inured to bear arms; and as the tenants of each manor in the barony of Bywell were bound to guard the judges in their progress, the service devolved on these stout and hardy men. The Lord Chief Justice describes his attendants as wearing long beards, short cloaks, basket hilted broadswords hanging from broad belts, and mounted on horses so small that their feet and swords touched the ground at every turning. The state of the roads then and until the roadmaking achievements of Marshal Wade was such that it would not have been difficult to give effect to the traditional usage, mentioned by Lord Campbell, that a jury, who had not agreed by the end of the assizes, were to be carried in a cart, after the judge, to the boundary of the next county, and there shot into a ditch, like Sir John Falstaff, the Knight of Windsor. All the communication in the way of trade between Newcastle and Carlisle, now called "goods traffic," was undertaken in single-horse carts, by carriers, who always went in companies, in the fashion of Eastern caravans, for

mutual protection—one man, as I have been told, generally having charge of five carts. It is curious to contrast that state of things with the present ease and swiftness of our railway system. And if the road between Newcastle and Carlisle was nearly impassable before Marshal Wade overthrew many miles of the Roman Wall and constructed his ‘Military Way’ upon the line, and with the materials, of the Wall, it may be imagined in what condition those parts of Northumberland remained where there were no roads at all, and where the violence of the mosstroopers had prevented cultivation and improvement.²¹

A dreadful account of the lawless state of the Border is given in *Leges Marchiarum*, a code of Border Laws published by Alexander II. A.D. 1249. This work relates to murder, homicide, duel, methods of recovering fugitive bondsmen, and debts. The valleys of North and South Tyne were kept in a state of perpetual warfare, not only with their neighbours in Liddesdale and across the Tweed, but also amongst themselves, and they were continually making inroads, or ‘raids’ as they were called, upon their more peaceful neighbours of Bywell and elsewhere, plundering everywhere, and carrying off whatever they could lay their hands upon. The sacredness of human life too was little thought of in those raids, and murder was not unfrequently added to their crimes of theft and plunder.

‘The good old rule
Sufficeth them, the simple plan,
That they must take who have the power,
And they must keep who can.’

—Wordsworth in *Rob Roy's Grave*.

“If any two be displeased,” says Gray in his *Chorographia*, “they expect no law, but bang at it bravely, one and his kindred, the other and his.” Under such a state of things one can easily see that the quiet villagers of Bywell were taking no more than a necessary precaution when they drove all their cattle and sheep into the street at night, and kept watch at both ends for fear of an invasion of the thieves of Tynedale.

The castle of Bywell was commenced in the year 1472 by Ralph de Nevill, but it was never completed, “as the foundations declared” in the reign of Elizabeth. Why the erection was discontinued does

²¹ See Gibson’s *Memorial of Northd.* p. 95.

not appear. It is probable that it was stopped, like Philip de Ulecote's castle at Nafferton, through opposition from the barons of Prudhoe. To build a castle, or even to fortify an ordinary dwelling by means of embattlements, in other words to 'crenulate' a building, required a licence from the crown which was not always granted. To crenulate a church tower did not require a licence. Philip de Ulecote who held Nafferton, Matfen and Lorbottle, presuming upon the influence he possessed with the crown, commenced to erect a castle at Nafferton. Richard de Umfravill complained of the detriment that this rising castle at Nafferton might be to his fortress at Prudhoe, whereupon king Henry III. immediately issued a writ to Philip de Ulecote commanding him to desist from its further prosecution. It still remains in much the same condition in which it was left by the workmen when they terminated their labours. Possibly the building of Bywell castle was stopped in a similar manner.

Bywell, after its forfeiture to the Crown in the reign of Elizabeth, was purchased by a branch of the ancient family of Fenwicks of Fenwick Tower. It was in the possession of William Fenwick Esq., high sheriff of Northumberland in the 12th year of Queen Anne's reign, A.D. 1713, and of John Fenwick, who filled the same high office in the 2nd year of the reign of king George II. A.D. 1728, and who was a representative of the county in several Parliaments. William Fenwick Esq., who was high sheriff of Northumberland in 1752, rebuilt Bywell Hall according to designs by Mr. Pain, architect, about the year 1760.

In 1802, his son William Fenwick Esq., of Bywell, died without issue and left Bywell to his widow. In 1809 she married the Rev. Septimus Hodson, Rector of Thrapston, in Northamptonshire, who sold the Bywell estate to Thomas Wentworth Beaumont (father of the present owner), for £145,000.

In the year 1760, as one Robinson, a mason, was fishing in the river Tyne at Bywell, after a fall of rain, he found a Roman drinking cup of silver with the following inscription round the brim:—

“DESIDERI VIVAS” (Long life to you Desiderius !)

He sold it for 15s. to a goldsmith in Newcastle, from whom it was claimed by William Fenwick Esq., as lord of the manor. Wallis supposes that it had been washed out of the banks about Corbridge and



BYWELL CASTLE.

From South Side of River.

(This plate, from a photograph by Mr. J. P. Gibson, presented by John Hall, Esq.)



carried down the river. "It weighed about six ounces, and was like a pepper caster. The inscription was on a fillet, the letters raised and all cast near the brim. The foot was hollow and part of the vessel."²² Brand, in his *History of Newcastle* (Vol. I. p. 608), gives a drawing of it, and states that it was 4 inches in height and $2\frac{4}{10}$ inches in diameter at its broadest part. Where it is now is not known.

The market cross originally stood midway between the two churches, and the stocks a few yards to the south of it. The site of the cross is marked on the six inch Ordnance maps. It was removed to its present position a few years ago, when other alterations were made at Bywell. In 1852, many old cottages on the north side of the river, including the old St. Andrew's vicarage and the St. Peter's rectorial tithe buildings (let in tenements to Arkles, Sistersons, Dodds, Robsons, etc.), were pulled down. The famous old dam was blown down by gunpowder in 1861, in order to allow the salmon a free course up the river. The old corn mill was removed at the same time, and the salmon lock allowed to go to decay, as being no longer of use. The first repairs of the dilapidated church of Bywell St. Peter were commenced in 1848, and the general restoration completed in 1873. The church of St. Andrew was enlarged by the addition of a north transept and an organ chamber in 1870.

Some years ago I found amongst the older inhabitants of this neighbourhood a lingering, but well nigh extinct tradition, about what they called "The Birches Nook Witches." Every detail had been forgotten, but I felt sure that there must have been some ground for the tradition. After a little investigation I came upon a large mass of information, in the *Depositions from York Castle*, published by the Surtees Society in 1861.²³ Amongst the many cases which illustrate the annals of crime in the North of England, in the 17th century, by far the most remarkable is that which relates to this neighbourhood. The editor (Rev. James Raine) considers it one of the most extraordinary cases of witchcraft on record. He says he knows nothing that surpasses it in interest save the great Lancashire case. The chief character in the story is Ann Armstrong of Birches Nook, who plays the part of the witchfinder and tells us her experiences which certainly are most extraordinary. The date was 1673—a period notorious for superstition in these parts.

²² "R. S" [pearman].

²³ Vol. 40.

A few condensed extracts may suffice to show the nature of the depositions.

April 2. 1673. Before Humphrey Mitford, Esq. *Ann Armstrong, of Birchennooke, spinster*, saith, that Ann, wife of the Thomas Baites, of Morpeth, hath bene severall times in the company of the witches, both att Barwick, Barrasford and at Ridingbridg-end. . . . The said Ann Baites hath severall times danced with the divell att the places aforesaid, calling him her protector. . . . She hath seen the said Ann Baites severall times att the places aforesaid rideing upon wooden dishes and egg-shells, both in the rideinge house and in the close adjoininge.

She tells us how she came under the influence of the witches by eating of their cheese, after which they had power over her to turn her into a horse when they wished to ride to their meetings, where the devil presided in person, in the form of a long black man riding on a bay galloway. Then we have an account of the festivities on those occasions. They had "all sorts of meates and drinke they named siltt upon the table by pulling a rope." At a meeting of the witches, held at the house of John Newton of the Riding, on the 3rd of April, sixty-five persons are said to have been present. A few days later a report of their proceedings was laid before the magistrates.

Lucy Thompson of Mickley, widdow, did swing and demanded a boyl'd capon and plumbroth, and thereupon it did immediately come down in a dish, and likewise a bottle of wine. . . . Ann, wife of Richard Forster of Stocksfeild, did swing upon the rope, and, upon the first swing, she gott a cheese, and upon the second she gott a beakment of wheat flower, and upon the third swing she gott about halfe a quarter of butter to knead the said flower withall, they haveing noe power to gett water.

After every one had had a swing, then came the feast, after which followed the more serious business of the evening, namely, the confession they had to make to his satanic majesty. Those confessions related to all the mischief they had done by their diabolical witchery since their last meeting, and ranged from laming the hind leg of a neighbour's horse up to slow murder itself.

Ann Usher, of Fairly May, confessed to the divell that by his help she was a medciner, and that she had within a little space done 100*l.* hurt to one George Stobbart, of New Ridly in his goods. . . . Jane Hopper of the Hill confessed that she had power over Wm. Swinburne, of Newfeild, for near the space of two yeares last past, by which he is sore pined, and she hopes to have his life. And Anthony Hunter, of Birken-side, confessed he had power over Anne, wife of Thomas Richardson, of Crooked oak ; that he tooke away the power of her limbs, and askt the divill's assistance to take away her life.

For further information I must refer the curious to the volume in question,²⁴ where the confessions are given at considerable length. Nothing is known of the result of the trials. We are not told whether the accused persons were condemned or acquitted. From this silence we may hope that they escaped with their lives. We must not, however, be too confident, for it was only 23 years previous to this affair that 15 persons were executed on Newcastle Town Moor, on similar charges. It is sad to think that such a state of society ever existed. If those were 'good old days' when such things happened, surely we may safely say that ours are better. We have at last got rid of witches, not by burning all the ugly old women, but by the spread of education, and that higher Christian enlightenment which means death to all such superstitions.

APPENDICES.

For copies of three documents respecting Bywell Mills and Fishings, and a letter relating to the Bywell Militia during the Commonwealth, I am indebted to the late Mr. Richard Wellington Hodgson, of Gateshead. The originals are bound up with other "MS. Materials" collected by his father who unfortunately did not live to complete his great work on Northumberland. It is a pity that this valuable collection of manuscripts was not purchased for one of our literary or antiquarian libraries, where it would be more generally accessible. The papers are bound in several vols., with a good index to each, and there is also a general index to the whole.

A. J.

APPENDIX A.

BYWELL MYLNS.

A note of accounts for Bywell Mylns and Fishings and Ovingham Mylns, 1652.

(By Archibold Yealdant, bailiffe.)

A note how Ovingham Mylns hath been letten sence the Death of my Master Roger Fenwick Esq^r. the 23^d febr. 1635.

Imp^r—One Rich' Lee of Ovingha' towne had the said Mylns at his death and in the yeare 1636 and 1637.

And after him. 1638. One Buckham and one Whorton had the said Mylns.

²⁴ Surtces Soc. Vol. 40, p. 191, &c.

And in the year (1639) Joh. Dadgleshe entered to the said Mylne, and sences Tho: ffoster and Joh Dadglash is to account for the said Mylne till this Whitsunday next 1653.

The 23^d Februarie (1635)

A Note who hath had Bywell Mylne ever sences the death of my Master Mr Roger ffenwick of the shortflatt Esq

Imp'—One John Sympson had the said Mylne in the year 1636 and 1637 and 1638.

And in the year 1639 One Edmund Weatherlye had the said Mylne till the Martinmas (1640.) And then Mr Hodgshon leight the said Mylne to one Will' Smyth for one half year. And after him entered Thos: ffoster and Joh ffoster, at the Whitsunday after w^{ch} was in the year 1641. And they had the said Mylne till the Candlemas 1642, and paid x^{li} of the said rent. And then entered Joh Dadgleshe and sences y^t tyme he and Thomas ffoster is to account for Bywell Mylne till Whitsunday next (1653).

A Note how the fishing of Bywell hath been letten sences the Death of my Master Roger ffenwick of Shortflatt Esq^r. being the 23^d of Februarie. 1635.

Imp'—All that was maid of the fishing in these years 1636 and 1637 and 1638 was disburst, for repair of Bywell Damm and more monies that was gotten of my Ould Ladye Feinwick, S^r William Blaxton and some monies from Mr Albert Hodgshon.

And in the year 1639 Mr Georg Boufflowre of Apperlie, and Mr Lancelott Newton of Stokfeeld Hall, touke the said fieshing.

And in the year 1640 when the Skots cam first into England, and then non would take it. And so fell to my hand to make what could be maid one the fieshing w^{ch} by Accounts shall appeare the sum is £60 2s. 2d.

Imp' paide in Readie Monis to Sir John ffenwick	}	£	s.	d.
as shall appeare the sum		37	1	7
And in disbursments as appeares		23	0	7
And in the yeare 1642, their was maid of the said fieshing the sum of	}	64	0	7
It. paid in readie monis to my Master Sir John ffenwick the sum of		56	8	0
And in Disbursments as appeares		7	12	7

And in the year 1642, One Mr Ralph Carr, Will' Massinger and Thomas ffoster did take the said fieshing that yeare and at that time they lost Elteringham fieshing, and then some of the ould Damm decayed and they gave it over.

And in the year 1643 the said two parts fell into my hands to make what could be maid one it in these troublesum tymes part of the Damm being forth,

that nobodie would take the said fieshing	}	£	s.	d.
paide in readie monis to my Master Sir John ffenwick the sum of		34	9	9
And in Disbursments vpon accounts		14	19	0

And in the yeare 1644 the middle of the Damm being forth their was litle

	£	s.	d.
maid of the two parts that year is	24	19	0
Paid in readie monis to my Master Sir John ffeinwick the sum of	8	13	4
And in Disbursments	16	5	8
And in the yeare 1645, the south half part of the Dam and the wholl Locke was all taken away that Wynter so their was made of the two parts	36	7	11
Paid in Readie monis to my Master Sir John ffeinwick	19	12	4
And in Disbursments	16	15	7

And in the yeare 1646 part of the Dam being forth but we had gotten the locke mended their was one Captaine Graye his wyfe and his shoulgers sett a locke vpon the locke and called it her locke as long as she staide, soe these four yeares was trublesum tymes and their was maid of the two parts in monis

	£	s.	d.
	6	10	6
And in Disbursments	7	1	6

And in the yeare 1647 the Dam being partlye repair'd. I had the fieshings that yeare—for their was maid of the two parts.

52 9 4

A Note how it is Disburst

	£	s.	d.
Imp' my young Master ffeinwick of the Shortflatt in readie monie	10	0	0
It. paid for two parts of a New Boot	2	0	0
It. paid in readie Monie to my M ^{rst} s Woodall of the Shortflatt when she was seeke	28	0	0
It. paid a yeares rent caled the Vicondell rent the sum of	1	4	0
It. paid the Vicondell rent for Bywell Hall when it laye Lee the sum of	13	4	
Paid to Captaine Graye for the two parts of a Cess laid on by the Skots	5	14	8
And in Salmont to Shortflatt	2	4	10
And in Salmont to Wallington	2	12	6

Making vp the sum 52 9 4

And in 1648 and 1649 Peter fforster, Cuth : Newton, and Tho : fforster had the said fieshing these two yeares

And in the yeare 1650 Mr Cuth : Hearon. Tho : Hearon. Peter fforster and Tho : fforster had the said fieshing that yeare

The Mylns and fieshings in Bywell hath been Cequestered.

APPENDIX B.

This document respecting Bywell Mills and Fishing is endorsed
 "Mr. Breerton's Report."

ACCORDING to your Order the 30th of November 1654, upon reading my Report in the Case of Sir John Fenwick, who claims all the Mills and Fishings of Bywell in the Countie of Northumberland, sequestered for the Delinquency of William Fenwick, sonne and heir of Roger Fenwick Esquire, I have perused such Evidences and Prooves as have bin produced unto me, to prove the Title of the said William Fenwick unto the moyetie of the said Mills and Fishings, claimed on his behalf by Mr. Johnson of Counsell with the said William at the hearing of the said Report, and I find

That Sir William Fenwick of Wallington in the Countie of Northumberland Knight, father of the said Sir John Fenwick and Roger Fenwick did by his Will in writing, bearing date the 3 of December 1612, and proved by Witnesses in the Prerogative Court at York the 13th of March 1613, doth give and bequeath, amongst other things, all that his moyetie of the Mills and Fishings in Bywell in the said Countie, and of the Dammes and Locks thereunto belonging unto his sonne Roger Fenwick and his heirs for ever. As by a Copie of the said Will and of the Probate thereof attested by Thomas Tompson Publique Notarie and deposed by Lodowick Hall, before D^r Bennet one of the Masters in Chancerie doth appeare—

That John Hodshon of Bywell aforesaid Gentl' and Anne his wife, by their Indenture bearing date the 16th of March 1632, and executed by Liverie and seisin the 2^d of Aprill then next, in consideration of 1200^{li}, mencioned to be paid, infeof Cuthbert Heron of Chipchase in the said Countie Esquire, (amongst other things) of all that his the said John Hodson's sixt part of all those water corn Mills called Bywell Mills in Bywell aforesaid, and likewise of the full sixt part of the free fishing of the water of Tyne, wthin the Lordships of Bywell and Bulbeck in the said Countie and of the sixt part of all houses &c whatsoever, to the said Water corn Mills, and Fishings belonging, or in any wayes appertaining. To have and to hold unto the said Cuthbert Heron, his Heirs and assignees for ever. As by the said Indenture produced under the hands and seales of the said John Hodshon and Anne his wife, with Liverie and seisin endorsed, more fully appeares. W^{ch} Feofment is alledged to be in trust for the said Roger Fenwick his Heirs and Assignees for ever.

That by Inquisition taken after the decease of the said Roger Fenwick the 14th of Aprill 1636, it was found, that the said Roger Fenwick dyed seised in fee simple (amongst other things) of the moyetie of the Free Fishing, and of the moyetie of the Mills of Bywell aforesaid held of the late King Charles, as of his Manor of East Greenwich by Fealtie onely, in free and Com'on Socage, and of the moyetie of the Towne of Hawick in the said Countie, held of the said

King as of his Baronie of Bulbeck in the said Countie by Knight service, And that the said Roger Fenwick dyed the 23 of Februarie 1635, the said William Fenwick the now Delinquent being his sonne and heir, and at the time of the decease of his Father of 6 yeares, and 7 monthes, and 4 dayes. As by a Copie of the said Inquisition, deposed by Thomas Jackson Gentleman now fully appeares.

That by Indenture bearing date the 13th of March 1636, the said late King Charles grants unto the said Sir John Fenwick, Sir William Blakeston Knight, and Cuthbert Heron aforesaid the custody wardship and marriage of the said Will^r Fenwick.

And the said King, by another Indenture of the same date demiseth unto the said Sir John Fenwick, Sir William Blakeston, and Cuthbert Heron (amongst other things) two parts of the moyetie of the said Mills and Fishings, except as therein is excepted, To have and to hold during the minority of the said Ward. And in the close of the said several Indentures, it is mencioned that in witness thereof unto one part of the said Indentures remaining with the said grantees, the King's seal of the Court of Wards is set and affixed, and to the other part remaining with the said King, in his said Court, the said Sir John Fenwick, Sir William Blakeston, and Cuthbert Heron have put their hands and seales. And in and by one Schedule unto the said Indenture of grant of the Wardship annexed, and containing the extent and yearly value of the said William Fenwick's Estate, there is mencion made of the moyety of Bywell Mills and Fishings held of the King as of his Manor of East Greenwyche in Socage and the Yearly Rent of 4^{li}. As by Copies of the said Indentures and Schedule deposed here by Christopher Hall more fully appeares.

That by Indenture bearing date the second of Februarie in the 17th yeare of the raigne of the late King Charles Anno Domini 1642, the said Sir John Fenwick and Cuthbert Heron together with one Albert Hodshon, and Thomas Woodhall Gentleman, in consideration of the Yearly Rent thereby reserved and for other good Causes and Considera^ons, demise unto one John Dauglees Miller all those three water corn mills situate at Bywell aforesaid, and all those two water corn mills called Ovingham Mills in the said County of Northumberland together with all mills houses &c to the mills or any of them belonging or appertaining. To have and to hold from the date thereof for and during the minority of the said William Fenwick his Ma^{ties} Ward. Yielding and paying yearly during the said Tearme unto the said Sir John Fenwick for Bywell Mills 24^{li} and for Ovingham Mills 13^{li} 06^s 08^d. And the said John Dauglees covenants with the said Sir John Fenwick, that the said John Dauglees shall at the said William Fenwick's accomplishing the age of twentie and one yeares, surrender upp his said Lease, and deliver quiet and peaceable possession of all the said Mills unto the said William Fenwick or his Assignees. And upon the back of the said Indenture there is a Memorandum mencioned to be endorsed before the sealing and deliverie of the said Indenture, whereby the

true intent and meaning of the Covenant is expressed to be that the said John Daglees at the said William Fenwicks accomplishing the full age of one and twentie, shall deliver unto the said William peaceable possession of his parts of all the said Mills and likewise peaceable possession to the said Albert Hodshon of his part of the said Mills. As by the said Indenture produced under the hands and seales of the said Sir John Fenwick, Cuthbert Heron, Thomas Woodhall, and Albert Hodshon, and as by the said Memorandum relation being thereunto had more fully appears.

And I find that in pursuance of your Order of the last of January 1654 Mr George Fenwick Com'issioner for the said County hath certified the examinacons of several Witnesses examined upon Interogatories on behalf of the said William Fenwick.

Tobie Dudley Esquire deposeth, that he was present when Livery and Seisin was given of the lands mencioned in the said Deed bearing date the 16 of March 1632 and subscribed his name as a Witness.

Wm Lawson deposeth, that the said Lease bearing date the 17th of Februarie in the 17th Yeare of the late King Charles, was sealed and delivered by Sir John Fenwick, Cuthbert Hearon, Albert Hodshon, and Thomas Woodhall, unto John Daglees in the presence of this Deponent, to w^{ch} he subscribed his name as a Witness.

Archbold Yealdant yeoman deposeth, that he knoweth, that Sir John Fenwick, Cuthbert Hearon, Albert Hodshon, and Thomas Woodhall did by their Lease in writing, dated the second of Februarie in the seaventeenth yeare of the late King demise unto John Daglees the said Mills of Bywell during the minority of the said William Fenwick. And the Lease shewed unto him (w^{ch} is endorsed to be the same above reported) is the same Lease w^{ch} he saw sealed and delivered by the said Sir John Fenwick, Cuthbert Hearon, Albert Hodshon and Thomas Woodhall. To w^{ch} this Deponent is a witness, and his name subscribed thereunto. And being crosse examined, deposeth that he hath heard Sir John Fenwick say he purchased the said Mills and Fishings, and at the Request of his Father he permitted his brother Roger to receive a part of the Rents and Profits for his life, And that after the said Rogers death He the said Sir John did enter upon the said Mills and Fishings, and received the Rents and Profits thereof, and imployed this Deponent as his Bailiffe or Steward to receive the same of the Tenants.

Thomas Forster Yeoman deposeth, that he hath knowne Bywell Mills and Fishing about 28 yeares, and that for about 8 yeares before the death of the said Roger Fenwick, the said Roger was reputed Owner of two pts of the said Mills and Fishings and did let and dispose thereof so long as he lived, but to whose use this Deponent knoweth not. That as often as there was occasion the Woods belonging unto the Demesnes at Bywell, whereof Roger Fenwick was accompted Owner, were cut downe, and used for repairing the Mills and Damme at Bywell. That he was present at the sealing of a Lease of Bywell and

Ovingham Mills by Sir John Fenwick, Cuthbert Hearon, Albert Hodshon and Thomas Daglees, but his name is not thereunto as a Witness.

Henry Sympson Gentleman deposeth, that he hath known the Mills and Fishing in Bywell about 30 yeares and that the Lady Margaret Fenwick Relict of the said William Fenwick did let the said Mills and Fishings to several tenants for the use of the same Roger Fenwick, as this Deponent hath heard her relate. And that the said Roger was in his life tyme reputed the Owner of the moyetie and one sixt part of the said Mills and Fishings till the tyme of his decease. That since this Deponent canne remember he never knew or heard of any other that was reputed Owner of the said Mills and Fishings in the right of her sonne Roger Fenwick, who let and disposed of the same and received the Rents and Profits thereof. W^{ch} this Deponent canne the better depose for that he was bred and brought up wth the said Lady his Aunt, and Schoolfellow wth the said Roger his Cowsin German. That although this Deponent was for the most part résident and brought up with the said Lady as aforesaid, yet he never heard that the said Sir John Fenwick lett or any way disposed of the said Mills and Fishings, or received any the Rents or Profits thereof. That after the decease of the said Roger Fenwick, the said Sir John Fenwick, by virtue of the Grant of the Wardship of the said William, did enter into the moyetie and sixt part of the said Mills and Fishings, and received the Rents and Profits thereof for the use of the said W^m Fenwick, as he pretended. And this Deponent hath heard the said Sir John Fenwick say that he would be accomptable to the said W^m his nephew, for the Rents and Profits of the moyetie and sixt part of the said Mills and Fishings. That he was told by those that had the looking to the said Mills and Fishings, that the great part of the wood, used about repairing of the said Mills, were cutt downe in the woods belonging to Bywell Demesne : w^{ch} this Deponent verily believes to be true, in regards there is little or no trees at all left at this present of any value. And the said Henry Sympson, crosse examined deposeth, that he believeth that the said Sir William Fenwick was in his life time seised of the said moyetie of the said Mills and Fishings, and the reason that induced him so to believe is, for that the said Sir William did by his last Will dispose of the said moyetie unto his sonne Roger Fenwick, as he hath seen in the Register in the Court at York, where the said Will was proved and is entered at large, but this Deponent was not privy or a witness to the making of the said Will.

Lodowick Hall Gentleman deposeth, that he hath heard the said Sir John Fenwick of late tyme say that He would be accomptable unto his Nephew W^m Fenwick, for the Rents and Profits w^{ch} he had received for the Mills and Fishings of Bywell.

This I find to be the substance of snch Evidence and Proofs as are produced on behalf of the said W^m Fenwick, upon w^{ch}, and upon my Report of the Claim of the said Sir John Fenwick, it is submitted to your consideration and Judgement, whether all or what part of the said Mills and Fishings do belong unto the said Sir John Fenwick, or unto the said William Fenwick.

APPENDIX C.

A not of Certen Artkles of contriversie
 Between Sir John ffoster and M^r Willyam
 Hodgson and M^r Willyam Ridell of the on
 ptie and John Newton of Eltering freholdes
 of the other ptie beinge plaintife: for a
 certaine fisheinge of the Water of tine belongeing
 to his ineritance: w^{ch} inheritance in caled the
 House of Elteringham.

- Itm—At the Rebellion lat Sir John ffoster beinge warden of the mydell marches
 and haveinge the quenes stafe in his hand: did sett on botes and nets and
 did enter vnto all the hole fisheinge throughe his myght and power w^{ch}
 dothe belonge to the Eneheritance of Elteringham and then and at that
 tyme when he did so forsablie enter the said John Newton was but of the
 age of vj or vij yeare owld and not able to mayntane his own Right
 notwthstanding I have kept the posesion till at suche tyme as he wth his
 extort myght and power did dryue me awaye
- Itm On Arther Lee my stepfather who did marie my mother did dwell at
 Elteringham in the tyme of my maryge and the said Arther for me and in
 my name, set on a botte and a net and did kepe the posesion bothe night
 and daye and then the said Sir John ffoster beinge Lord warden did see
 that he wold no waye leue fisheinge did cause Mr Cuthbert Radlife beinge
 ofecer vnder him in Bywell Lordshipe to take the said Arther Lee and
 carid him to Bywell Castell and ther did kepe him xij or xiiij dayes till
 suche tyme as his frindes did Lowse him and was bound in Reconesence
 that he should fishe no more ther
- Itm Since that I came to Lawfull yeares I have ffished and taken the comoditie
 of my ffisheinge but notheinge to the comoditie that they have gotten
 and I did kep my posesion till at suche tyme as by forse they drive me of yt:
- Itm I wold craue to be satesfied whether that I maye vpon my owne inheri-
 tance to hold them from cominge vpon my ground wth more companie then
 if ye or no and not offend the Lawe
- Itm I wold be satesfied whether they may Ryeteslie come vpon my ground as
 they hav done and dothe and they not ofend the Lawe: and bothe brek-
 ethe my hedges and tredethe downe my grase: forsablie: and fishthe my
 water to the damnage of a hundrethe makk in the yeare:
- Itm I hold my land by fre sockitche of the maner of Bywell and my predisesers
 before me tyme out of membrie.

- Itm I craue yor good counsell and your ffayuer in my good mater and I will be your clauente [client]:
- Itm Whether I maye mantaine my posesion till such time as Lawe be tried ye or no.

APPENDIX D.

MILITIA DURING THE 'COMMONWEALTH.

ffor Mr Fenwick of Bywell

these

The Present Service of the Common Wealth Requireing that some horse should be raised for the service thereof and understanding that none hath (as yet) been raised in the County of North'land In pursuance of the late act of Parliament for that purpose I have thought fitt and doe hereby desire you to furnish the bearer hereof Daniell Browne with one horse, Bridle and Saddle for service or ten pound in mony to enable him to mount himselfe for the said service hereby assureing you that when the Militia of the County shal be settled the said horse or monies shal be allowd as part of your proportion thereof or otherwise shal be restored to you :

Your assured loveing friend

New Castle December
the 6th : 1659.

LAMBERT

Decemb^r. y^e 15th. 1659.

Receaued then of Mr. William ffenwick of Bywell one Browne Gelding sadle & bridle wth twenty shill^s in money to make him worth £10 according to y^e wthin mentioned Ord^r. for the remounting of Daniell Browne of Colo Twisleton's Troop Witness my hand y^e day & yeare abovesaid

WM DYER.

APPENDIX E.

REGISTERS OF BYWELL ST. PETER.

Number.	Description.	Date.	Material.	Condition.
1.	{ Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials. }	1663-1703.	Parchment.	{ Fairly good condition. Writing in some parts not very legible. Towards the end the entries seem to have been made with care- lessness.
2.	{ Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials. }	1703-1728.	do.	{ Very good condition. Writing good and entries carefully made, especially in Vicar Clement's time.
3.	{ Baptisms and Burials. Marriages. }	1729-1775. } 1729-1753. }	do.	{ Very bad condition. Nearly destroyed by the Flood in 1771.
4.	{ Copy of No. 3, and Baptisms and Burials, }	1776-1812. }	do.	{ Excellent condition. Penmanship particularly good. The copy of what was then legible in No. 3 has been made with great care by John Fleming, Vicar.
5.	Marriages ...	1754-1787.	do.	{ Good condition and fairly well written.
6.	Baptisms ...	1813-1858.	Paper.	Condition and writing good.
7.	Marriages ...	1787-1812.	Parchment.	do.
8.	Marriages ...	1813-1836.	Paper.	do.
9.	Burials ...	1813-1869.	do.	do.
10.	Baptisms ...	1858 to pre- sent date.	do.	do.
11.	Marriages ...	1837 do.	do.	do.
12.	Burials ...	1869 do.	do.	do.

As may be gathered from the above tabulated statement, these registers have, on the whole, been well kept, and are now, with one exception, in a most satisfactory state of preservation. While No. 3 was nearly destroyed in 1771, it is remarkable that the two earlier books are in good condition. Probably they were at the vicarage on the memorable night of the Flood, and so escaped unhurt. No. 4, which contains the copy of No. 3, has the following memorandum:—

'We the Minister and Churchwardens and Sidesmen of the Parish of Bywell St Peter do certify all whom it may hereafter concern that we have caused the following Copy of the Parish Register (Comprehending the Space of 47 years

viz. from the year 1729 to 1775 Inclusive) to be taken from the Original Register which was damaged by a dreadful Inundation of the River Tyne November the 17th & 18th 1771.—We do likewise certify that we have compared the said Copy with the Original and believe it to be a full perfect and true Copy of whatever is legible in the said Register in regard to the Marriages, Births and Burials within the said Parish; as witness Our Hand this 21st Day of December 1776.

JOHN FLEMING *Minister*

GEORGE WALLS	}	<i>Church Wardens</i>
LIONEL WINSHIP		
JOSEPH SUMMERVELL		
GEORGE JEWITT		
WM. FENWICK	}	<i>Sidesmen of the Parish of Bywell St Peter.</i>
RA: SMITH		
CRO. SURTEES		
JOHN JOBLING		
GEORGE HIND		
&c &c.		

The first half of No. 1 is in Latin, with an admixture of English, and is written in court hand by vicar Braidley. During the last year of his life (1672) there is a gap—no baptisms are registered, only one marriage, and no burials. A note is entered, by his successor, respecting this omission:—

‘Here was a great neglect, M^r Braidley the late Vicar having not registered any for above a twelve moneth.’

It may be observed that, in the older books, that is for about a hundred years, the baptisms, marriages, and burials were not entered directly into the Register books, but copied from notes kept by the clergyman. Entries, not always in chronological order, were made for a whole year at a time, and signed by the vicar and churchwardens. This mode of keeping the books did not necessarily imply carelessness on the part of the clergyman, for if the old requirements to secure safety were to be observed, it would be impossible for him to make each entry separately, and immediately after the ceremony had been performed. The presence of two churchwardens was required, and they might not always be at hand. An ecclesiastical mandate of 1603 provided that—

‘for the safe keeping of the said book, the churchwardens, at the charge of the parish, shall provide one sure coffer with three locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with the minister, and the other two with the churchwardens severally,

so that neither the minister without the two churchwardens, nor the churchwardens without the minister, shall at any time take that book out of the said coffer.'

The practice of keeping notes, and making up the register book from them once a year, must have led to the loss of much that ought to have been recorded. After the death of vicar Braidley, for instance, the few notes that he had in his possession were, doubtless, lost, and this would account for the chasm of a whole year in the otherwise well kept register. On the other hand, the manner in which some of these notes have escaped and been preserved for more than a hundred years, is something wonderful. On the page for A.D. 1708, in No. 2, we find the following memorandum :—

'On the 19th day of April 1833, in searching the Parish Registers minutely for the Baptism of Sam^l. & Rob^t. Sewell, supposed to be about the date of the page on which this is inserted I found a small piece of loose paper containing the following—'Jane of John Hudson baptised June 7. 1708. Robert Son of William Sewell baptised June 1708. James Son of Thomas Robinson baptised June 10. 1708. Mary of Robert Brown June 13. 1708.—

Witness my hand to the above, the 24th

April 1833.

EDWARD COOKE

VICAR.'

Apart from the great utility (*'permagnus usus'* as Elizabeth's Constitution terms it) of Parish Registers as legal evidence, they are invaluable to the student of local history and biography. They furnish many scraps of useful information, and occasionally contain interesting notes respecting remarkable occurrences, such as storms, floods, riots, etc. Nicknames and personal infirmities, so often met with in the Elsdon Registers and elsewhere, are not found here. Previous to A.D. 1698, ages are not recorded, except in one case of extraordinary longevity. Examples of obsolete words and archaic expressions are not unfrequently met with. These and a few other points of interest may be observed in the following extracts :—

'BAPTIZATI

Anthonus filius Nicholai Andrew de Kipperlin Aug: 16. 1663.

Alicea filia Nicholai Lawson June 4th 1663.

Margareta filia Bartholomei Lee. Aug: 20th 1663.

Johannes filius Johannis Ellison de High Field 2do Septem 1663.

[These are the first entries.]

Rob'tus filius Rob'ti Atkinson de Minsteracres 11^{mo} Aprilis 1664.
 Maria filia Thome Oord de Espsheelds primo die Junii 1664.
 Gulielmus filius Johannis Newton de fotherley 18th Septem: 1664.
 Michaell filius Petri ffotherston de Bywell Sep 29 1664.
 Josephus filius Lancloti Newton¹ et Sarah filia eius gemelli 23th die Maij 1665.
 Elizabetha filia Bartholomei Richardson de Low ffotherley 4^{to} Octo 1666.
 Georgius filius Joh's Hunter de High ffotherley 18 Dec 1667.
 Henricus filius Henrici Giles de Bywell 20 No 1669
 Johannes filius Michaelis Thompson de p'orta levis ligni² 4^{to} Aprilis 1670.
 Margaret daughter of John Anger a stranger was baptised Dec: 29 1675
 Jane daughter of M^r Ralph Délaval bapt Decemb^r 8. 1677.
 John son of W^m Currah of Healey Mill Feb. 13, 1703.
 Dorothy daughter of Robert Unthank, of Newton Hall March 23, 1703.
 Robert son (posthumous) of Robert & Isabel Jopling, of Newton Hall,
 Octob^r 14th Anno 1712.
 Margaret, Daughter of Edward & Mary Hey; of y^e Grey Mare, M^{ay} 1st
 A.D. 1715.

MATRIMONIUM CONTRAHENTES.

Johannes Armestrange et Magdalena Suertis de Whittinstall Octo 18th 1663.
 Georgius Hedlye et Barbaria Dod 26^{to} No: 1663.
 Johannes Newton et Jana Hutchinson 2do die feab 1663.
 Johannes Dawson et Margareta Dauison 4to die feab: 1663.

[These are the first marriages.]

Johannes ffluster de fframmagate in ciuitate Dunelmi et Elizabetha Raw de
 eadem Ultimo Maij 1664.
 Thomas Malliburne et Barbary ffofter de Bywell 27 Aprilis
 Eodem die Anthonius Henderson et Marg Robson de Nuton 1665.
 Gulielmus Welch et Anna Boaby 14^{to} Septem 1665.
 John Stokoe & Margaret Robson was married July 16. 1674.
 May 6th 1708. John Surtis, of High-farther-Lee; & Jane Car of Farl-May.
 Jan^y 14th 1709. M^r Thomas Boutflower, of Apperley; & M^{rs} Margaret Lee,
 widow, of Old Ridley.

¹ This Lancelot Newton, of Old Ridley, is mentioned in the 1st Church-wardens' Book. He was fined £5 for not burying his wife in Woolen, according to the law then in force.

² *Leightwood Gate*. Two cottages so named, between Apperley and Hedley, have lately gone to ruin and disappeared. The place is erroneously given on the Ordnance map as 'Lightfoot Gate.' A man of the name of Lightfoot lived there when I visited the place some years ago.—A. J.

Novbr 9th 1710. Robert Surtis of y^e Parish of Ryton ; & Hannah Angas of y^e Row House.

Memorandum, That about an Hour after y^e Marriage of y^e s^d Two Persons, y^e Leads were blown off y^e South side of our Parish Church, by a sudden & violent Whirlwind, to y^e Admiration and Astonishm^t of y^e Beholders.

FRANCIS CLEMENT Vic.

SEPULTI.

Georgius Cowper de Newlands Julij 20th 1663.

Robertus Newton de Stoxfield Julij 26 1663.

Katherina Woodmas de Bywell Julij 28th 1663.

Johannes filius Petri Joblin Aug 20 1663.

[These are the first burials.]

Josephus filius de Johannis Bell de Brumley 7^{mo} Maij 1664.

Miles Usher de farlemay March 12 1664.

Jana uxor Arthuri Taylor de Ridley mill 28 Aprilis 1665.

Vid Lighton de Heley wood hous 3 decem 1665.

Anna Uxor Joh'is Slater de Merisheelds Ult Aprilis 1666.

Thomas filius Rowlandi Pickering de Bywell Aug 19 1666.

Willm'us Armestrang de Comon ffab 16 1666.

Jana Usher de Hineley Steele 21 Marcij 1667.

Willm' Suertis de high ffotherley eodem die.

Susanna Uxor M^r Ricardi Braidley Vicarij de Bywell S^{ti} Petri 20^o Decembris 1668.

Eodem die Jana Dauison de Akam.

M^r Rich Braidley, Vicar was buried Decemb^r 24. 1673.

Tristram Newton de Stocksfeild was buried Feb 19. 1673.

Tho: Elder buried Jan: 2. 1674.

George Younger buried Feb: 20. 1674.

Richard Teasdale buried March 21. 1674.

Innocent Brown buried June 6th 1675.

M^{rs} Mary Bootflower buried June 10. 1675.

Ann Anges of Shilford buried Nov: 16. 1675.

Elizabeth daughter of Seth Tate buried Jan 1. 1676.

Ann Ushar buried April 5. 1677.

[Possibly the Ann Usher, of Fairley May, accused of Witchcraft, at Morpeth, Ap. 9. 1673.]

Milisent Boutflower buried April 24. 1681.

George Yealder buried Jan. 8. 1684.

- Gawen Cartington buried Nov: 1684.
 Mary Tone & her daughter Ann buried in one grave April 18. 1685.
 June 27th 1703. Thomas Hunter & } of High Fotherley.
 — 29th — Elizabeth His wife }
- March 23^d 1703. Ralph Seymour, of Rochel Foot ; Aged an Hundred & Six years, as is reported.
- Jan^y 20th 1712. Henry Angas, Yeom' of y^e Row house ; a Dissenting Protestant.
- September 28th 1713. Jane Taylor, a Lunatick of this Parish ; who, being committed to y^e Care of John Cowman of Bywel, at y^e Rate of Three Shillings per week, for her Maintenance, fell into y^e Fire of y^e s^d John Cowman, her Keeper, by Reason & cause of his, & his Family's, Negligence : & was ; in a very miserable Manner, burnt to Death.
- Novb^r 19th 1714. { George, & } children of W^m Ellengton, of Heley-Close-
 Isabel } House.
- The Rev^d Francis Clement Vic^r of Bywel S^t Peter buried June the Sixth day 1732.
- March 10. 1761. { William' Brown of Whittenstall & Ralph Brown his
 Son both shot in the Riot at Hexham.
- Nov^r 19th 1771. { Dorothy wife of William Lowes } both drowned in the
 of Bywell } Great Flood in which
 { Mary Brown of Bywell } the Parish Registers
 were damaged.
- Jan^y 12. 1773. The Rev^d M^r Rob^t Simon Vicar of Bywell S^t Peter.
- Feb^y 10. 1775. William Arkley of Shotley drowned accidentally.
- Dec^r 27. 1789. The Reverend John Fleming A M : Vicar of Bywell St Peter's, and of Bywell St Andrews.

RA : BROCKLEBANK,
 Officiating Min^r during the Sequestration.

	Death.	Burial.	Age.
1804. Charles Stobart, of New Ridley Weaver	Aug 3.	Aug 5.	102 years.
1808. John Hunter of Prudhoe, Parish of Ovingham, his Death occasioned by a Cart running over his Body	Feb 27.	Feb 29.	27 years.

No record is to be found in the Bywell Registers themselves of persons having been buried in woollen, according to the Act passed in 1678 (30 Car. II.) for the protection of trade, but a memorandum is entered in the Churchwardens' Parish Book, November 1st, 1683, to the effect that Lancelot Newton, of Old Ridley, was fined £5 for not obeying the law.

In 1694, an empty exchequer was replenished by a tax on births, marriages, and burials, through an Act, entitled 'An Act for granting to His Majesty certain Rates and Duties upon Marriages, Births, and Burials, and upon Bachelors and Widowers, for the term of five years, for carrying on the War against France with vigour.' By other subsequent enactments the parish register was made the instrument of taxation. The clergyman was thereby placed in the invidious light of a tax-collector, and as the poor were often unable or unwilling to pay the tax, the clergy had a direct inducement to retain their good will by keeping the registers defective. Accordingly we find that, although births are entered at the end of Register Books, Nos. 2 and 3, the entries are but few in number, notwithstanding the pretentious heading:—

'A Register of All Persons, Born in this Parish of Bywel S^t Peter, and not Christened.'

The mode of entry may also be worthy of notice. No Christian names are given to those un-christened infants:—

'Born, Anno 1703.

April 10th A Daughter of W^m Wilkinson; of Newton.

May 28th A Son of W^m Johnson; of Mill Shields.

Born A.D. 1713.

March 7 A Son of Thomas & Mary Surtis; of Hindley.'

In 1813 a new set of registers came into use, and from that date baptisms, marriages, and burials have been entered into separate books, specially arranged for the purpose. This system, more uniform but less interesting, was the result of the passing of 'Rose's Act,' in 1812. It is styled, 'An Act for the better regulating and preserving Parish and other Registers of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in England,' but the registration of *births* is altogether omitted from its provisions. And, by a stroke of the wildest wit, the penalty of transportation for fourteen years, for making a false entry, is 'to be divided equally between the informer and the poor of the parish.'

In looking over these registers, it is interesting to note how many families once prominent in the parish have passed away, and their names no longer appear, while, on the other hand, many of the surnames which occurred most frequently 150 or 200 years ago, still hold their ground. Of the former we may mention those of Boutflower,

Balderish, Collinson, Eltringham, Hinde, Jopling, Giles, Cowman, Madgin, Mandlin, Mallaburn, Lawson, Mounsier, Teasdale, Ushar, Unthank, Wails, and Winship. Of the latter, Angus, Arkeld (in the form of Arkle or Arkley), Barron, Charlton, Davison, Fenwick, Forster, Green, Hunter, Jewitt, Maughan, Newton, Ridley, Richardson, Sister-son, Stobbart, Stokoe, Surtees, and Taylor, still exist and maintain their position as prominent names in the neighbourhood.

REGISTERS OF BYWELL ST. ANDREW.

Number.	Description.	Date.	Material:	Condition.
1.	Baptisms ... Marriages ... Burials ...	1668-1770. 1685 or 7-1754 1668-1770.	Parchment	Very bad. Much injured by the inundation of the Tyne, A.D. 1771.
2.	Copy of the above	do. do.			do.	Good. Well written by John Fleming, Vicar.
3.	Baptisms ... Burials ...	1771-1812. 1769-1812.	do.	Good.
4.	Marriages ...	1754-1812.			do.	do.
5.	Baptisms ...	1813 to present date.	Paper.	do.
6.	Marriages ...	1813-1837.	do.	do.
7.	Marriages ...	1837 to present date.	do.	do.
8.	Burials ...	1813 do.	do.	do.

Most of the general remarks made with reference to the registers belonging to the parish of Bywell St. Peter, apply equally to those of St. Andrew's. The condition of the books themselves, and the nature of the entries made in them, are very similar. This might be expected from the fact that, for a considerable portion of the time, both parishes were served by the same vicar.

The oldest register book of this parish (like No. 3 of St. Peter's) was much injured by the flood in 1771. No. 2 contains a copy of it, with the following explanatory notes:—

'I John Fleming Vicar of Bywell St Andrew do declare & am ready upon my corporal oath to testify the same that I have with great Care & Pains at the Desire of the Sidesmen & Parishioners of the Parish of Bywell St Andrew, & without Fee or Reward, copied the foregoing Registers being all that appear

legible in the Parish Registers of Bywell St Andrew before the year 1771 & the same is according to the best of my Knowledge & Belief a full perfect & true Copy of what is now legible in the said Parish Registers as Witness my Hand this eighteenth Day of March one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine

JOHN FLEMING

We the Churchwardens, Sidesmen, & Parishioners, of the Parish of Bywell St. Andrew in the County of Northumberland & Diocese of Durham, do testify & make known that we have procured the foregoing Copy of our Parish Registers prior to the year 1771 to be made out, the original having by Length of Time & otherwise been decayed, particularly by a most dreadful Inundation of the River Tyne November the 17 & 18th 1771 by which the whole was thought to be in great Danger of being lost. We have also compared the said Copy consisting of 54 Pages & believe it in our Consciences to be a faithful, perfect, and true, Copy, of whatever is now legible in the said Register as witness our Hands this eighteenth Day of March one Thousand seven Hundred & seventy nine.

his Mark		
ROBERT R SISTERSON	}	<i>Church Wardens.</i>
JOHN LISHMAN		
WM FENWICK	}	<i>Sidesmen.</i>
RA: SMITH		
WILLIAM JOBLING		
&c., &c.		

The names of the sidesmen here are nearly the same as those of Bywell St. Peter's, It appears that many of them acted for both parishes, their property or tenements extending into both. The churchwardens, on the other hand, are all different.

The following are a few examples of the entries :—

BAPTISMS.

1668.....Filius Gulielmi Fenwick de Bywell Armigeri baptizatus fuit decimo octo die mensis Aprilis.

[This is the first entry. The Christian name *Robertus* is not legible now, but there can be no doubt that this was Sir Robert Fenwick, Lord of the Barony and Manor of Bywell, whose burial is recorded in 1691.]

June 8th 1668. Susanna Daughter of George Feuster of Bearl.

April 10th 1670. Roger Son of John Sisterson of Bearl

June 25. 1702. John son of John Green of Styford.

..... A Child of Simon Bolton a Popish Recusant.

April 4. 1702. Margaret Daughter of William Fenwick Esq.

- Dec^r ... 1703. William Son of William Fenwick Esq.
 Oct^r 15. 1717. Elizabeth Daughter of M^r W^m & M^{rs} Elizabeth Fenwick
 of Bywell Hall.
 Jan: 14. 1721. William Son of M^r John & M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick of
 Bywell Hall.

[It was this William Fenwick whose birthday was observed with such noteworthy festivities on January 14th, 1739, according to the account given in Richardson's Table Book. 'John Fenwick Esq. of Bywell gave a grand entertainment on account of his son's birthday, and had a large sheep roasted whole, in a tent erected upon the ice on the river, with plenty of strong liquor for the populace, who ate and drank very merrily, with huzzas and firing of cannon. Mr Fenwick's coach and two horses were also driven up, down, and across the river, with several gentlemen and ladies in it, to the great surprise of all present.']

- Ap^l 3. 1723. Margaret Daughter of M^r John & M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick
 of Bywell Hall.
 Augst 4. 1724. John Son of M^r John & M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick of Bywell
 Hall.
 Sep^r 27. 1726. Roger Son of M^r John & M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick of Bywell
 Hall.

Baptized since 1739 Decenters

- ' Aug 27 Mary Dau^r of Jacob & Mary Wilkinson of Styford.
 1762 April 11 Grace Dau^r of George & Ann Angus of Styford.
 1764 May 5 Priscilla Dau^r of George & Ann Angus of Styford.
 1775 Dec^r 16 Deborah Dau^r of Geo & Hannah Angus of Styford.

At the end of the first Register Book there are some entries of
births only, not baptisms, *e.g.*

' Born A.D. 1711

- Sept^r 2. A Daugh^r of M^r John & M^{rs} Christian Newton, of Stocksfield
 Hall.

MARRIAGES.

- May.....John Ushar & Mary Angus.
William Hudson & Mary Wright.
 [These are the first marriages.]
 May.....1686 John Hearron & Dorothy Joatlan.
 January 28. 1719. John Fenwick of Stanton Esq^r & M^{rs} Margaret Fen-
 wick of Bywell Hall.
 [This marriage united the three houses of Bywell, Stanton and
 Brinkburn.]

BURIALS.

- 1668.....Dorothy Wilkinson of the Ryding.
John Ridley of Broomhaugh.

[These are the first burials.]

May 3^d 1678. M^r.....Fenwike.

[This was William Fenwick, Esq., of Bywell Hall. He was under age at the time of the death of his father, Roger Fenwick, of Shortflat, who held half of the mills and fishings at Bywell. In 1663 he was proprietor of Shortflat, South Middleton, and of the tithes of North Middleton, besides Bywell, and several other places.—Hodgson, Pt. II., Vol. I., p. 369.]

1691.....Sir Robert Fenwick K^t Lord of the Barony & Man^r of Bywell.

[The registration of his baptism is the first entry in these Registers.]

1704. Nov. 7. Robert Son of William Fenwick Esq.

1705..... 3^d The Rever'd M^r John Ritschell Vicar of this Parish Church about 15 years was buried at Hexham.

1714.....M^{rs} Susanna Fenwick Wife of W^m Fenwick Esq^r of Bywell Hall.

1719 October 14. William Fenwick of Bywell Hall Esq.

1720 Oct^r 2. John Sisterson yeoman of Berl.

1724. April 30. John son of Gawen Maines of Styford.

1727. June 16. M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick Wife of John Fenwick Esq^r.

1731. Nov^r 22. M^{rs} Alice Fenwick Wife of John Fenwick Esq^r of Bywell Hall.

[She was the 2nd Wife of John Fenwick, and daughter of Thomas Errington of Beaufront—also Aunt of John Errington, commonly styled the *Chief of Beaufront*.]

1732. Oct^r 10. M^{rs} Henrietta Maria Fenwick of Bywell Hall.

1753. Oct^r 26. Barbary Fienlis of the Riding Mill.

1754. Sep^{br} 6. Mary Calle of the Lee Widow.

1758. Jan^{ry} 15. Anne Calley of Double Gates Styford.

1761. March 11. John Son of Henry Leighton of Bromley Shot at the Riot at Hexham March 9th.

1768. March 5. John Bastard Son of Rob^t Byers of Styford.

1769. March 23^d M^{rs} Margaret Fenwick Wife of W^m Fenwick Esq. of Bywell.

[She was the youngest daughter of W^m Bacon Esq. of Staward. She died March 17th aged 52 years.]

APPENDIX F.

BYWELL ST. PETER'S CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT BOOKS.

These old parish books are three in number, and give a detailed account of parochial business from A.D. 1683 to A.D. 1796. The first marked

A, is a thin long folio, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $6\frac{3}{10}$ inches wide, containing 79 pages. On the outside of the cover it bears the title, 'The Acompt Book of y^e Parish of Bywell St^t Peter. Anno 1683.' It also contains minutes of vestry meetings, an account of collections on briefs, and other memoranda up to A.D. 1711.

B. A.D. 1712 to A.D. 1742, a thick folio, 15 inches long by 6 inches wide. On the cover is the title, 'The Book of Acc^{ts} for the Parish of St^t Pet^r in Bywel. A:D: 1712.'

FRANCIS CLEMENT, *Vicr.*

JOHN CHABLTON,	}	<i>Church-Wardens.</i>
JOHN TATE,		
GEORGE WILLY,		
JOHN YOUNG,		

At the end is 'An Account of Collections for Briefs A:D: 1713, &c.'

C. Contains accounts and minutes of vestry meetings, from A.D. 1743 to A.D. 1796, but no briefs. It is a thick folio, $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches long by 8 inches wide.

These books are all in remarkably good condition. They are of good thick paper, bound in vellum. None of them seem to have suffered from the effects of the flood in 1771. Probably they were at the vicarage on the night of the inundation, and so escaped like the two oldest registers. With the exception of only a few words on the first page, the writing is clear and legible.

It appears from these old records that the affairs of the parish have been managed, for at least two hundred years, by a virtually select vestry consisting of the vicar, four churchwardens, and twenty four sidesmen.³

³ Since division of parish in 1876, two churchwardens and twelve sidesmen.

The first entry is a list of the sidesmen :—

‘The Names of y^e foure and twenty of y^e Parish of Bywell S^t Peter ;
Anno 1683.

SR ROBT FENWICK, Knight.	WILLIAM BATE of Broomley.
OSWALD HINDE.	HEN: WINSHIP.
THOS: WILKINSON.	ANTHONY COLESTONE.
JOSEPH NEWTON.	FRANCIS WINSHIP.
GEORGE NEWTON.	GEORGE STOBART.
ARTHUR TAYLOR.	JOHN DAVISON.
JOHN HUNTER.	WILL' ROBINSON.
ROB: NEWTON.	JOHN USHAR.
JOHN SWINBORNE.	GEORGE SURTIS.
MATHEW COLESTONE.	JOHN NEWTON of high Fatherley.
STEPHEN TONE.	GEORGE FEUSTER.
WILLIAM TAYLOR.	GEORGE KENT.'

Next comes the following memorandum :—

‘Novemb^r 1st 1683.

Whereas M^r Lancelott Newton of Old Ridley in the County aforesaid, did contrary to the Statute made and provided in y^t case bury his wife in linning, and in order to the penalty of y^t Statute has paid the forfeiture y^t is 02-10- to the informer, and 02-10- to the poor ; Now wee the minister and 24 of y^t parish doe order the foresaid forfeiture of 02-10 to be put out for the use of the poor of the said parish.

ROB: SIMPSON *Minister*

ROB FENWICK

OSWALD HYND'

&c. &c.

The statute referred to in this memorandum was ‘An Act for burying in Woollen,’ passed in the year 1678 (30 Car. II. cap. 3) ‘for the lessening the importation of linen from beyond the sees, and the encouragement of the woollen and paper⁴ manufacturers of this Kingdom.’ No person was to be ‘buried in any shirt, shift, or sheet, other than should be made of woole only.’ An affidavit, which might be sworn before a parson, vicar, or curate, was to be brought within

⁴ How this custom of burying in woollen could affect the paper trade does not appear at first sight, but it is explained by what Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Norwich, says in the *Monthly Magazine* for February, 1800:—‘Another beneficial consequence flows from it (the Act), which is of great importance, especially at the present time, when the price of paper and of books is become so enormously high. For it appears that by the prohibition to clothe the bodies of the dead in linen, at least 200,000 lbs. of rags are annually saved from untimely corruption in the grave, and in due time pass to the hands of the manufacturers of paper.’—Burn’s *Parish Registers*, p. 29; note.

eight days of the burial, under a penalty of £5, to the effect that the corpse was actually buried in woollen fabric. The upper classes, however, generally preferred to bury in linen, and to pay the fine. We might, therefore, have expected to find more frequent notices of the custom about this time, but Mrs. Newton's case is the only one mentioned in which the burial was contrary to the law. In the registers themselves the practice is never referred to, and there are no affidavits.

The Act was repealed in 1813 by 54 Geo. III., cap. 108.

Although the first volume, by its title, professes to be an 'Acompt Book' from Anno 1683, no financial matters are recorded for that year, and nothing whatever for the year 1684. After a blank page we come to the first vestry meeting on record, and the first churchwardens accounts:—

'June 5. [1685.]

Wheras y^e 24 & church-wardens of Bywell S^t Peter had a sumuns to meet this day, now so many of them as did meet have agreed to lay on a sess, viz: 6^d per plow thro y^e Parish, & do hereby lay on y^e said sess, witness o^r hands.

ROB FENWICK

ROB: SIMPSON.

OSWALD HINDE.

JOHN SWINBURNE

JOHN DAUISON

his
N
mark

ANTHONEY COLSTONE

his
X
mark

HENRY WINSHIP

GEORGE KENT.

June 9. 1685. The accompts of the church-wardens, viz.

HEN: WINSHIP

ANTHONY NICHOLSON

JOHN SELBY

JOHN NEWTON

}
}

Then going out

JOHN ROSE

JOHN BARRON

HEN: GREY

MICH: DAVISON. coming in

Hen: Winships accmpt.					ll	s.	d.
One Sess	...	...	...	...	00	09	10
Lairstones 2	...	...	...	...	00	03	04
					<hr/>		
					13 : 02		
					<hr/>		
Laid out at the Court	...	...	...	...	00	01	07
Roge money	...	...	...	...	00	02	00
For ringers 4 times	...	...	...	...	00	02	00
At Corbridge	...	...	...	...	00	01	10
For laing down y ^e stones in y ^e Church	...	...	...	...	00	00	04
For wine	...	...	...	...	00	01	00
					<hr/>		
					00 : 08 : 09		
					<hr/>		
Rests in his hand					00	04	05

Anth: Nicholsons accmpt.					ll	s.	d.
One Sess	...	...	...	...	00	09	04
Laid out at y ^e Court	...	...	...	...	00	01	07
Roge money	...	...	...	...	00	04	06
Ring ^{rs}	...	...	...	...	00	02	00
At Corbridge...	...	...	...	...	00	01	04
Wine	...	...	...	...	00	01	00
For going to Hexham w th a List of dissent ^{rs}	...	...	...	...	00	00	06
					<hr/>		
					00 : 10 : 11		

laid out more }
then receiv'd }

w^{ch} was paid him by John Selby

w^{ch} makes a clear accmpt.

John Selbys Accmpt					ll	s.	d.
One Sess	...	...	...	...	00	14	00
Lairstones	...	...	...	...	00	02	06
					<hr/>		
					00 : 16 : 06		
					<hr/>		
Laid out as followeth							
Paid to Anth: Nicholson	...	...	...	...	00	01	07
Roge money	...	...	...	...	00	02	06
At Corbridge Court & Bywell	...	...	...	...	00	01	08
To George Newton	...	...	...	...	00	00	09
Ringing	...	...	...	...	00	02	00
For fox heads one old & y ^e other young...	...	...	...	...	00	01	06
					<hr/>		
					00 : 10 : 00		
					<hr/>		
Rests					00	06	06
					<hr/>		
Paid of this 6 ^s : 6 ^d to	Joblin	...	...	...	00	0	04

John Newton's account is not entered. Probably he was not at the meeting, and the 9d. paid to George Newton may have been the balance due to him.

The *Roge money* at a later date is called 'Jail Money.' It amounted regularly to 8s. 8d. per year, and was paid to the High Constable for the County.

Lairstone money is frequently entered, but no very definite statement as to what lairstones mean, or for what object the payment was made to the churchwardens. The following resolution of the vestry throws some light upon the subject, though it is not altogether clear without a little further explanation :—

'May ye 14. 1695. Agreed then that two sesses of 6^d per Plough be laid on the parish, for paving the floor of the Church, and making it plain & even, the one to be gather'd on y^e 24th of June, the other to be gather'd on y^e 29th of June.

At the same time also agreed that the mony due these 3 years last past for layr stones in the church, be gather'd by y^e respective churchwardens, for these 3 last years past, and be paid in towards the charge of y^e paving & making even the floor of the church.'

The fact was that when any person was buried within the church, and the flags were disturbed for the purpose, a charge^s of 1s. 8d. for adults, and 10d. for children, was made by the churchwardens to enable them to replace the stones *in their lairs*, and keep them 'plain and even.' In the Hexham Churchwardens' Book (1732) the charge is fully and distinctly explained. Mr. Gibson, a recent churchwarden of that parish, has kindly furnished me with the following extract, which is quite conclusive in the matter :—

'Whereas the repairing of the flaggs in the Great Isle and in the North and South Isles in Hexham Church hath from time to time been done att the charges of the Parishioners within the parish of Hexham, and whereas for defraying the charg of such repair the sum of one shilling commonly called Lair Stone money hath been paid for every person buried within the said church in any of the Isles aforesaid and hath been constantly collected and received by the Churchwardens of the said Parish or by some person by them appointed for that purpose, and whereas the present Beedle George Yarrow undertook the said repair upon condition that the then Churchwardens would permitt him to receive the said Lair stone money, but having very much failed in his said undertaking. At a meeting this day by the Twenty Four or vestrymen of the said parish whose names are hereunto subscribed—It is ordered that the Church Wardens of the

^s The charge varied in different parishes.

said Parish for the time being doe at all times hereafter receive the said Lair Stone money and doe pay the same into the chest of the said Parish to be laid out as occasion shall require for the purpose before ment'oned, and that noe bargain shall be made by the said Church W'ardens for the future for permitting any person to receive the said Lair Stone money and make the said repair unless such person give security not onely to keep the fflaggs in all the said Isles in good repair at all times but alsoe that on every Saturday evening he shall sweep and clean all the com'on passages to and from the said church, and keep the same clean and decent at all other times

signed this third day of January Anno Dm' 1732

E BLACKET⁶

Th: Andrewes Jo: Aynsley Matt Bell W. Bell. David Johnstone W^m John-son. John Kirsopp.'

In 1699 we have the following entry in the Bywell book:—

Receiv'd for layr stones			Wanting for layr stones		
For	s	d	For	s	d
Abr: Joplins wife	...	01 : 08	Steph: Tones wife	...	01 : 08
Abr: Joplins mother	...	01 : 08	Steph: Tones child	...	00 : 10
Moses Fosters child	...	00 : 10	Arthur Taylors son	...	00 : 10
Tho: Hunters wife	...	01 : 08	Matt: Colson's daug ^r of Br...	...	00 : 10
Tho: Hunters child	...	00 : 10	Tho: Stobbart's daug ^r of Br:	...	00 : 10
Tho: Stobbart	...	01 : 08	Ant: Colson of New Ridly	...	01 : 08
John Davison	...	01 : 08	W ^m Taylors mother of Br:	...	01 : 08
			Tim: Taylor of Brum:	...	01 : 08

In the balance sheet these receipts are summed up:—

	li'	s	d
Received for layr stones	...	00	10 : 00

This is the last entry for lairstones. Whether the above arrears were ever paid is not stated.

Among the other items we find a great many payments made out of the church cess for the heads of wild animals. Foxes, foulmart, and badgers seem to have been very numerous in the neighbourhood. They were stigmatised as *vermin*, and a premium was paid for their destruction. Their heads were brought to the church door, or to the vestry, and presented to the churchwardens, whose duty it was to pay for every fox head 1s., for every foulmart (*i.e.* stoat) 4d., for every brock (*i.e.* badger) 4d.

⁶ The E. Blacket who heads the list of persons present would be Sir Edward, the Lord of the Manor, and T. Andrewes was the incumbent.

There are several memoranda respecting money given by benefactors then living, or bequeathed by will to the poor of the parish.

Ascension Day 1699.

Received then of M ^r John Raw of Nun-house forty shillings of the money left by Peter Dawson (formerly Clark of the Parish of Bywell S ^t Peter) for the poor of the said Parish, and was on the same day distributed among the Poor of the said Parish in the presence of M ^r Raw ...	}	li ^r 02 :
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10^{ber} 21st 1705.

Receiv'd then of Tristram Newton Twenty shillings, being a Legacy left to y^e Poor of this Parish by Joseph Teasedale, late of this Parish; & payable every S^t Thomas's Day (viz. on y^e 21st of 10^{ber})

Memorand' An Extract of Joseph Teesdale's Will,
(late of Bromley in this Parish) dated Feb^{ry} 16th 1694.

And whoever enjoyeth the Land, (in Bromley afores ^d) to give Yearly & Every Year to y ^e Poor of Bywel S ^t Pet ^r 's Parish y ^e Sum of Twenty Shillings; to be given at y ^e Discretion of y ^e Overseers of y ^e Poor of y ^e s ^d Parish, as a Rent Charge.	}	£ : s : d : 1 : 00 : 00 :
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December 21st A.D. 1712.

Imp ^{rs} P ^d then by Jeremiah Brown, of Newton-Hall, Yeom ^r to y ^e Church-Wardens of this Parish, Twelve Shillings, being y ^e Interest of Twelve Months for Ten Pounds; left to y ^e Poor of this Parish by M ^r Thomas Brown late of Newton-Hall, deceas'd.	}	£ : s : d : 00 : 12 : 00
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[Thomas Brown's Will is dated Sep. 13, 1703.]

Item, P ^d then by George Hunter, Yeom ^r of Farther Lee, to y ^e Church-Wardens of this Parish, One Pound & Four Shillings, due, upon this Day, for Twelve Months Interest of Twenty Pounds, lent him by W ^m Fenwick, & John Bacon Esq ^r for y ^e Use of y ^e Poor of this Parish.	}	£ : s : d : 1 : 4 : 00
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Item, P ^d then by W ^m Lawson of Bywel, to y ^e Church-Wardens of this Parish Five Shillings & Three Pence, due, upon this Day, for Twelve Months Interest of Four Pounds & Ten Shillings, given to y ^e Poor of this Parish by W ^m Fenwick, Esq ^r	}	£ : s : d : 00 : 5 : 3 :
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Memorand' December 21st A.D. 1718.

Madam Elizabeth Radcliffe, Widow of y^e R^t Worshipful S^t Edward Radcliffe, of Dilston, Bar^t & Mother of y^e R^t Honourable Francis, late Earl of Derwentwater, by her last Will & Testament, dated y^e 18th Day of December, 1668, did give & bequeath an Annuity or Rent-Charge of Twenty Pounds a Year, w^{ch} she then had of M^r Francis Sutton of Green-Croft, to y^e Poor of several Parishes;

Four Pounds a Year, Part & Parcel Thereof, to y^e Poor of y^e Parish of Saint Peter in Bywel, to be distributed every Year, upon St^t Lucy's Day, viz: Decbr^r 13th or thereabout.

East^r Monday, March 30th 1719.

Agreed then (wth y^e Consent of y^e Vic^r & after Notice Publicly given, for a General Meeting) by Us, y^e Church-Wardens & Parishion^{rs} of this Parish, (whose Names are Hereafter Subscrib'd to y^e Assessment, made at this Public Meeting) y^t y^e Poor Money, belonging to this Parish, be applied & appropriated to y^e purchasing of a Close, in Bywel, Commonly call'd Forster's Close; & y^t y^e Rent thereof be distributed, Yearly & every Year, by y^e Vic^r Church-Wardens, Overseers of y^e Poor, & Twenty Four of this Parish, to y^e Poor Inhabitants Thereof, by even & equal Portions, upon East^r Monday, & upon St^t Thomas's Day, before Christmas; viz: 21st Day of December.

'An Account of the Distribution of the Money belonging to the Poor of this Parish received of the following People at Xtmass 1783

of W ^m Fenwick Esq ^r	1	10	0
of the Tenant of Nafferton being a Legacy of Lady E. Ratcliffe of which paid to the Chapel-warden of Whittonstall $\begin{matrix} £ \\ s \\ d \end{matrix}$ 2 0 0	2	0	0
Out of Old Ridley Estate due Xtmass		5	0
		<hr/>	
	3	15	0

Bywell Quarter 18 9. Newton Quarter 18 9. Bromley Quarter 18 9. Far Quarter 18 9.

Mackenzie says that all these bequests 'have been irrecoverably lost.' This is not correct, as may easily be proved by a reference to the Bywell Parish Book for 1887, where the following entry was made on Easter Monday:—

'Received by the Churchwardens from Messrs Lambton & Co. dividend on 3 p.c. Consols due 5th Jan. & 5th July in each year, viz. for charity monies in lieu of old rent charge payable for Bywell and Nafferton Estates for the Poor of Bywell St. Peter's including Whittonstall ... £5 10 6
And from Old Ridley 5 0
Which is thus distributed:—

Whittonstall Parish	£2	0	0
Healey St. John's		18	10
Newton St James'		18	10
Broomley Quarter		18	10
Bywell Quarter		18	10
		<hr/>	
	£5	15	4

At the end of Churchwardens' Account Book A is the following entry:—

* The Names of y^e Church-wardens, chosen for this Parish, & Whittenstal.

Ann^o 1702

Whittenstal. JOHN SURTIS. THO. RENNISON.	}	W ^m LAWSON, for Bywel. GEORGE BROWN, for Acham. THOMAS HUNTER, for High-Farther-Lee. JOHN ELLERINGTON, for his Close-House.
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Ann^o 1703.

HEN. BATESON. THOMAS WILKINSON.	}	WILLIAM GILES for Bywel. M ^r HENRY COLLINSON, for Newton. JOHN ANGAS, for y ^e Raw-House. GEORGE BARRAN, for High-Father-Lee.
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Ann^o 1704.

ROBERT USHER. ISABEL USHER.	}	JOHN BALDRISH, for Bywel. CHRISTOPHER ATCHINSON, for Newton Hall. JOHN HILL, for Bromley. CUTHERBERT SNOWBAL, for Lingy Field-House.
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Ann^o 1705.

THOMAS FUSTER. THO. BROWN.	}	W ^m WINSHIP, for Bywel. M ^r W ^m HIND, for Acham. TRISTRAM NEWTON, for Bromley. W ^m ELLERINGTON, for his Close-House.
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Ann^o 1706.

EDWARD SELBY. THOMAS LAWSON.	}	M ^r JOHN CHARLTON, for Bywel. DOROTHY ROBINSON, for Newton. EDWARD BROWEL, for Bromley. THOMAS ARMSTRONG, for Low Farther-Lee.
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Ann^o 1707.

EDWARD SELBY. W ^m BROWN.	}	W ^m GIBSON, for Bywel. EDWARD HYMERS, for Newton Hall. JOHN ANGAS, for Bromley. GEORGE HUNTER, for High Farther-Lee.
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Ann^o 1708.

For Whittenstal. CUTHB ^t SELBY. JOHN LEIGHTON.	}	W ^m GILES, for Bywel. W ^m WINSHIP, for Acham. GEORGE SURTIS, for High-Farther-Lee. THOMAS PATTISON, for Wheel-Birks.
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Ann^o 1709.

RICHARD DAVISON, for Bywel. GEORGE FEUSTER, for Newton. ROBERT CAR, for Bromley. JOHN USHER, for y ^e Far-Quarter. GEORGE REYNOLDSON, & W ^m GREEN	}	for Whittenstal.
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Memorandum, That y^e Names of y^e Church-Wardens of this Parish, for y^e future years, may be found in y^e Regist^r Book of this Parish, at ye end of every Page.

The cost of labour and the prices of different materials may be worthy of notice, and also the valuation of property in 1725, when the change in the mode of assessment was made. In order to illustrate these and other points of interest we may take a few miscellaneous extracts in chronological order.

'November 12th 1691. li s d
Paid for Bible & Com'on prayer booke ... 03 - 13 - 00

Aprill 10th, 1694.

A Cesse yⁿ Laid on of 6^d per plough for & towards the repair of y^e Church of Bywell St Peter: & the Change of the Chalice to be collected forthwith.

Decbr 21st 94.

A Cesse y^{en} Imposed on y^e s^d prsh at 6^d per plough for an towards y^e Repaires of y^e Church but especially for y^e repairing of the Chalice.

The Ch: Wardens account of Bywell St Peter from Midsummer 1695. being y^e Bps Visitac'on to Whitsuntide 1696. being y^e Arch Deacons Visitac'on.

	li' s d		li' s d
Bywell	00 : 09 : 04	Gatherd 7 Sesses...	14 : 16 : 07½
Newton	00 : 10 : 04½	7 Sesses at Whiton-	
Ridley greeveship	00 : 14 : 00	stall at 2 ^s 8 ^d p.	
Far Quarter	00 : 08 : 08	Sess	00 : 18 : 08
Single sess	02 : 02 : 04½	both together	15 : 15 : 03½

Laid out.

	li' s d
At y ^e Bps Visitac'on at New	
Castle for fees 8 ^s books 5 ^s ..	00 : 13 : 00
Minister & Ch. Ward. ex-	
pences	00 : 18 : 00
Rogue Money	00 : 08 : 08
The Act for births &	
burials	00 : 02 : 00
For the schoolhouse door	00 : 04 : 00
Formending y ^e Ch: ladder	00 : 03 : 00
For mending y ^e leads &	
windows	00 : 15 : 00
For wooden stanchels to	
y ^e Ch: windows	00 : 01 : 00
For nails & iron stanchels	00 : 05 : 06
For mending y ^e font	00 : 03 : 00
For 3 days winning stones	
by Jo. Hill & Tho. Foster	00 : 04 : 06

Receivd for layr-	
stones in arrear	00 : 08 : 04
Total	16 : 03 : 07½
Laid out	16 : 09 : 00
Due to y ^e Vicar	00 : 05 : 04½

For winning & hewing stones & repairing y ^e top & north side of y ^e Church by Roger Gra- ham	li' s d 01 : 06 : 08
For 2 fother of lime & leading...	00 : 06 : 08
For a fother of stones & one of sand ...	00 : 01 : 00
For a neck to y ^e surplice	00 : 01 : 06
For washing y ^e surplice...	00 : 05 : 00
For ringing y ^e bells ...	00 : 06 : 00
For fox heads & fomarts	00 : 03 : 00
For Court-fees at Cor- bridge ...	00 : 08 : 00
For Wine at Whits: & Xt ^{mas} & bringing ...	00 : 14 : 00
To Mi: Slater ...	08 : 00 : 00
For drink at severall times to the Masons & Slaters ...	00 : 04 : 06
A Messenger 4 times to Cronkly ...	00 : 02 : 00
Unpaid of y ^e far quarter	00 : 05 : 00
Churchwardens expences	00 : 08 : 00
	<hr/>
	16 : 09 : 00

In the Accounts for 1697-1699:—

	li	s	d
' For a gallon rundlet ...	00	00	08
For mending y ^e bell tongue ...	00	01	00
Arresting St. Tone's corn ...	00	00	04
Arresting St. Tone ...	00	00	06

[Stephen Tone was churchwarden in 1695. Why he was arrested is not stated. After this his name disappears.]

April 26. 1703. Agreed then by y^e Vicar & Church Wardens, & those of y^e 24 then p^rsent, y^t whosoever of y^e 24, after publick notice given, will not meet at y^e time & place appointed, shall (wthout a reason to be allow'd of by y^e major part of y^e s^d 24) forfeit a shilling, w^{ch} shall be dispos'd of by y^e consent of y^e major part of y^e s^d 24.

April y^e 24th 1704. Paid then to y^e Rever^d Mr Francis Clement, Vicar of St. Peter's in Bywell, y^e sum^o of six Pence; as an Acknowledgement of y^e s^d Vicar's Right, Title, and property, in and to y^e Dwelling house now standing in y^e Church Yard of St. Peter's Parish aforesaid, by me,

JOHN COWMAN.

The same acknowledgment is made year by year until March 26th, 1722, after which it ceases. On June 10th, 1709, the vicar's receipt is entered, and it occurs again the following year, thus:—

'Receiv'd then of John Cowman Six Pence, due at May-Day last, for a year's Rent for y^e House, standing in y^e West End of y^e Church-Yard of Bywel S^t Pet^r

Receiv'd in y ^e p ^r sence of us,	}	by me
THOMAS RICHARDSON		FRANCIS CLEMENT,
MARY RICHARDSON Jun ^r		Vic ^r of Bywel S ^t Pet ^r

			li'	s	d
May 21 st 1705.	P ^d to W ^m Forster for y ^e Pulpit; &c	...	1	0	0
	for a Regist ^r Book...	...	4	10	0
	for changing y ^e Flagons	...	0	0	2
December 21. 1706.	For Washing y ^e Surplice for one half year	...	0	1	0
	To W ^m Taylor, for 1 Brock, & 1 Fowmert's Head;	...	0	0	8
	W ^m Fairbridge, for a Table Cloth for y ^e Com-	}	0	8	0
	munion Table, viz. a Green Carpet				
	For Dying y ^e s ^d Carpet, & making it;	...	0	3	6
	For Fulling it, & Wooll for y ^e Cushions;	...	0	2	3
	For a Rope, for y ^e Cover of y ^e Font;	}	0	2	0
	It was made into a Bell-Rope				
Disburs'd by y ^e Vic ^r	April 5 th 1708.		li'	s	d
	For a Cricket to Kneel on in y ^e Church & a Cushion	...	0	2	0
	Charges at Newcastle & Hexam upon y ^e Parish	}	0	3	6
	Account				
	For Mending y ^e Surplice	...	0	1	0
	For Washing y ^e Surplice & Linnen for y ^e Church,	}	0	6	0
	Scouring y ^e Flagons & Chalice from Martin-				
	mas 1706 to May Day 1708	...			
	Paid to W ^m Forster for Benches in y ^e Church	...	0	11	0
	for Mending y ^e Ladder	...	0	3	0
	for Nails	...	0	1	0
	for Making a New Chist for y ^e Church	...	0	7	0
	P ^d to J ⁿ Forster for a Brock & Fowmert's Head	...	0	0	8
	P ^d for Parchment, & Writing a Copy of y ^e Regist ^r	}	0	7	6
	for y ^e Years 1705, 1706, & 1707				
	P ^d to Thomas Wilson for 1 Fox Head	...	0	1	0
	to W ^m Eltringham for 3 Fowmarts' Heads	...	0	1	0
	to J ⁿ Thompson, y ^e Herdsman for 1 Fowm ^{ts} Head	...	0	0	4
			2	5	0

Memorandu'. That John Cowman was allowed Two Shillings for his Journey to Durham, at Michaelmas Visitation, 1707.

June 12th 1710.

Memorandu'

That, at a General Meeting of y^e Parishion^{rs} of y^e Parish of Bywel S^t Pet^r, an Order is now made by y^e Minist^r Church-Wardens, Overseers of y^e Poor, & Twenty Four of y^e S^d Parish, y^t every Freeholder and Farmer of y^e S^d Parish, having any Cottages or Tenements belonging unto them, shall, when any Tenant cometh to settle in them, give sufficient security, to be allowed by One or Two Justices of Peace, unto y^e Church-Wardens & Overseers of y^e Poor, for y^e Discharge of y^e s^d Parish.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands on y^e day & year abovemention'd.

FRANCIS CLEMENT, *Vic^r*.

WM. LAWSON	} <i>Church-Wardens.</i>
JEREMIAH BROWN	
JOHN USHER	
HENRY ANGUSS	

WILLM FENWICK GEO. SANDERSON HENRY COLLINSON &c. &c. [15 others]

	£	s.	d.
Decemb ^r 21. 1710. To Ellison Crainstone; for y ^e maintenance of y ^e s ^d [two] Children, from Octob ^r 7 th to Decemb ^r 21 st 1710, after y ^e Rate of 6 ^d p Week, according to W ^m Lawson's Agreem ^t w th her	00	5	6
To y ^e Plumb ^{rs} (in part of Paym ^t) for a Yetling	00	12	00
To George Hunter for going to Staward ab ^t y ^e Lead	00	2	00
Easter Monday, 1711. To John Lishman for y ^e Battlement	1	1	6
To Widow Crainstone, for y ^e Maintenance of her 2 Children, according to an Agreem ^t between y ^e Church-Wardens & Her, X ^{ber} 21. 1710	00	11	6
August 13 th 1711. Paid then to John Bacon Esq ^r by y ^e Respective Church-Wardens of y ^e Parish of S ^t Pet ^r in Bywel, y ^e Sum of Eleven Pounds, Eighteen Shillings, & Three Pence; due to him for Twenty Pigs of Lead, us'd in repairing y ^e Roof of y ^e s ^d Parish Church	£	s	d
	11	18	3

N.B.—Paid towards this lead by the several churchwardens:—

	£	s	d
Thomas Wilson, for Bywel-Ward	2	6	8
Richard Davison, „ Newton-Ward	2	11	10½
Thomas Surtis „ New-Ridley-Ward	3	6	11
George Mills „ Far-Ward	1	13	00

December 21st 1711

Memoranduⁿ.

	£ : s : d
That y ^e Cesse of Two Pounds, collected in y ^e Chappelry of Whittenstall, Ann ^o 1711 was paid to M ^r Bacon, August 13 th 1711 in part of Payment for y ^e 20 Pigs of Lead us'd for y ^e Roof of y ^e Church	} 2 : 00 : 00

	£ : s : d :
Dec ^r 21 st 1712. Pd for a Book of Acc ^{ts} for y ^e use of this Parish [Probably Book B]	} 00 : 7 : 6
" " To W ^m Forster, for Lab ^r in Making a New Wheel for One of y ^e Parish Church Bells; & for Wood, for y ^e s ^d Wheel	} 00 : 10 : 00

April 6th A.D. 1713. John Brown of Y^e HASSOCKS [?] Churchwarden for New Ridley Ward.

May 6th A.D. 1713.

Memorand. That Henry Gyles of Hedley in y^e County of Northumberl^d Mason, does hereby (in consideration of y^e Paym^t of y^e sum of Five Pounds, of good and lawful money of Great Britain) promise, bargain & agree, to & wth y^e Church-Wardens of this Parish, y^t He, y^e s^d Henry Gyles will take off y^e Slates of y^e South Isle of y^e s^d Church, & in good & sufficient Manner cover y^e Roof thereof; & supply the Deficiency of Laths, Nails, & Slates; & provide Lime, Hair, and all other Materials, necessary for well slating y^e s^d Roof. And He, y^e s^d Henry Gyles, does further promise, y^t he will plaister y^e low Parts of y^e Vestry-Windows, & whiten all y^e s^d Vestry: & plaister a Part of y^e North-Wall of y^e Church afores^d & whiten y^e Black-Part of y^e South-Wall, & build a low wall, under y^e Reading Desk; & fill up y^e Holes, wthin y^e Steeple.

In Witness whereof, y^e s^d Henry Gyles has hereunto set his Hand, on y^e Day, & Year, first above-written.

HENRY GYLES.

	£ : s : d :
December 21. A.D. 1713. Pd John Cowman, for y ^e Relief of Jane Taylor, a Lunatick of this Parish	} 00 : 15 : 6 :
" " Pd Christopher Ellerington, an Impotent Person of this Parish, for his Relief... ..	} 00 : 16 : 00 :
April 6 th A.D: 1713. Pd for Wood, for y ^e Reading-Desk;	} 00 : 4 : 6 :
" " Pd for 3 Days Work at y ^e s ^d Desk;	} 00 : 4 : 00 :
" " Pd for a Bolt, Hinges, Nails, & Springs, for it;	} 00 : 2 : 00
December 21. 1713. Pd for a Tin Box, to carry y ^e Chalice in, and Bread, for Administration of y ^e Holy Communion to y ^e Sick, in y ^e Parish	} 00 : 2 : 6

(A.D. 1714.)

A Petition to y^e Commission^{rs} abt^t W. J. of B.

WE, y^e Minist^r Churchwardens & Parishion^{rs} of S^t Pet^{rs} in Bywel, in y^e County of Northumb^rl^d (whose Names are Subscrib'd) do Hereby Certifie, y^t H. J. Son of W. J. of ———, in y^e Parish afores^d is a Person of a Sober Life & honest Conversation, & is y^e great Support of his Parents; who, having many young Children, will, wthout his Aid & Assistance, be reduc'd to very Necessitous Circumstances, & become Chargeable to our Parish. And therefore WE Humbly request y^e R^t Worp^l Commission^{rs} of our [this] County, not to permit any Military Officer to Compel y^e s^d H. J. to be a Soldier.

In Order to Open Penance.

I. — of — in this Parish, do Here wth Shame & Confusion of Face, Confesse, y^t I have committed wth — of y^e Parish of — in y^e County of — y^e great & heinous Crime of Fornication, for w^{ch} I am now Heartily Sorry, and beg Pardon of Almighty God; for y^e obtaining of w^{ch} I desire y^e Prayers of this Congregation, whom it grieves me to have so Scandalously Offended. And I do Hereby promise. & seriously resolve by y^e Assistance of God's Grace, to shew, by y^e future Course of my Life, y^e Sincerity of this my Repentance.

Die Dominic^o, viz: vicesimo Quarto Die Mensis Augusti, inter Preces Matutinas, Vestrum Hoc Venerabile Mandatum Executus Sum.

An extract of an Order, granted to R. W. of Morpeth-Abbey in y^e C. of N^l^d who is a great Sufferer by Fire.—

A Fire happen'd w^{ch} burnt all Household Goods, & Writings, to his great Losse & Impoverishm^t. And, forasmuch as y^e s^d Petu^r is thereby reduced to such necessitous Circumstances, We do therefore recommend him, y^e s^d R. W. & his Family to all well-dispos'd Persons, wthin y^e s^d County, for a Contribution towards their p^{rs}ent Subsistance, & y^e Recovery of their Losses; & do desire all, whom it concerns; to be aiding & assisting to him, in y^e Collection thereof.

Given under our Hands, in Open Court, at the Sessions afores^d.

Jan^{ry} 14th 171⁴/₅.

Collected then, in this Parish, for y^e Use of Robert Wilkinson, of Morpeth-Abbey in y^e County of Northumberland, (who is a great Sufferer by Fire) y^e Sum of Six Shillings and Eight Pence.

W ^{ch} was p ^d to M ^r Brandling, of Newcastle, for y ^e Use	}	£	:	s	:	d	:
of Rob ^t Wilkinson afores ^d by M ^r John Charlton, Church-Warden of Bywel.		00	:	6	:	8	:

August 7th 1715. Collected for the Relief of Robert Wilkinson, of Newton in this parish 00 : 6 : 3 :

Feb^{ry} 27th 17⁴⁴.

Collected then, in S ^t Pet ^{rs} Church for y ^e Relief of Joseph Forster, of y ^e BROOK-HOUSE in this Parish. in y ^e time of his Sicknesse, y ^e Sum of Ten Shillings.	} £ : s : d :
April 18 th 1715. P ^d for Orders, for Praying for y ^e Royal Family; & his Majesty's Proclamation, ag st Prophanenesse & Immorality; &c.	} 00 : 10 : 00 :
" " " P ^d to Mary Leighton of STARE A VAGE, for her Relief, in y ^e Time of Sicknesse.	} 00 : 5 : 00 :
" " " P ^d for mending y ^e King's Coat of Arms; in y ^e Church	} 00 : 5 : 00 :
Item P ^d for Nails, for y ^e s ^d Arms	} 00 : 1 : 00 :
May 3 rd 1715. P ^d to M ^r Robert Spain, High Constable for this Ward, for this Parish Assessem ^t towards y ^e Jail, &c A.D. 1715	} 00 : 00 : 6 :
May 3 ^d A.D. 1715. P ^d Henry Gyles, & his Sons, for laying y ^e Foundation of y ^e Pulpit, & Stair Case, for Removing & setting up y ^e Font, Plaistering y ^e Windows of y ^e Vestry, & Flagging y ^e Floor of y ^e Church.	} 00 : 8 : 8 :
Dec: 21 st 1715. P ^d to John Mallabourn, (y ^e Smith) for Two long Rods, & Two Staples, for y ^t Sound- ing Board, over y ^e Pulpit	} 1 : 00 : 6 :
	} 00 : 6 : 00 :

1715

An Enquiry after Matthew Robinson.

Whereas M. R. of Br. in y^e Parish of S^t Pet^{rs} in Bywel, in y^e County of N. Smith, did, about a year agoe, run away from his Wife & 3 Children, who are now Chargeable to y^e Parish afores^d. And Whereas Information has been lately made, y^t y^e s^d M. R. lives now in y^e Town of Mask, upon y^e Sea, in Yorkshire: We, y^e M. C. W. & Parishion^{rs} of B. afores^d (whose names are subscribed) do Hereby request y^e Rever^d M. & y^e C. W. of M. afores^d to certifie Us, if y^e s^d M. R. be resident in their Parish; y^t such Order may be made in this Case, as to Justice doth appertain, to cause y^e s^d M. R. to return to his Wife & Children, for y^e Relief of our Parish.

S^t Thomas's Day. Decemb^r 21st A: D: 1715.

Received for y ^e Use & Relief of y ^e Poor Inhabitants of this Parish,	£ : s : d :
of M ^r John Charlton, of Bywel;	1 : 00 : 00 :
of Jeremiah Brown, of Newton-Hall;	00 : 10 : 00 :
of W ^m Lawson, of Bywel;	00 : 4 : 6 :
Total,	<u>1 : 14 : 6 :</u>

W^{ch} s^d Sum was thus distributed, by y^e Church Wardens & Parish-
ion^{rs} of this Parish, to y^e Poor Inhabitants thereof.

		£	s	d	:		
To	Alice Lawson,	} of Bywel	00	1	00	:	
	Eleanor Forster,		00	1	00	:	
	Barbary Bradley,		00	1	00	:	
	Elizabeth Mandlen,		00	1	00	:	
	Elizabeth Mons ^r		00	00	6	:	
	Alice Dod,		00	1	00	:	
	Mary Straughon,		00	00	6	:	
	Barbary Scot,		00	1	00	:	
To	Cuthbert Dobson,	} of Newton	00	1	00	:	
	Cuthbert Ridley,		00	1	00	:	
	John Hunter,		00	1	00	:	
	Anne Liddell,		00	1	00	:	
	Mary Bell, late		00	00	6	:	
	Robert Marshal,		00	00	6	:	
	Margaret Stokoe,		00	1	00	:	
To	Mary Unthank,		} of Newton Hall	00	1	00	:
	Margaret Emblton,	00		00	6	:	
	Jane Bolton,	00		00	6	:	
	Margaret Beson,	00		1	00	:	
	Catherine Rose,	} of Acham		00	00	6	:
	Edward Stokoe,			00	1	00	:
	Mary Hutchinson,			00	00	6	:
	Total,...			00	18	00	:
	Dorothy Robinson,	} of Bromley.	00	1	00	:	
	Dorothy Snowbal,		00	1	00	:	
	Mary Jackson of y ^e Hope-House		00	1	00	:	
	W ^m Hunter,	} of Panshel Field.	00	1	00	:	
	Anne Hunter,		00	00	6	:	
	Margaret Lamb, of Hindley		00	00	6	:	
	Margaret Thompson,	} of y ^e Bat House.	00	00	6	:	
	Anne Rose,		00	00	6	:	
			00	6	00	:	
In y ^e Far-Ward.							
To	3 Children of Thomas Hunter, late of High-Farther-Lee		00	3	00	:	
To	Grace Maughon, of y ^e s ^d Farther-Lee		00	2	6	:	
To	other Inhabitants of y ^e s ^d Ward		00	3	00	:	
To	Grace Maughon, afores ^d		00	2	00	:	
			00	10	6	:	
	Total,...		1	14	6	:	

		£ : s : d :
East ^r Monday, April 2 ^d A:D: 1716.		
Pd for a Presentment, Exhibited at Durham Michaelmas Visitation, A:D: 1715.		00 : 1 : 00
Disburs ^d by Tho ^s Bates.	Pd for Bread & Wine, for y ^e Holy Communion, at Whitsuntide, A:D: 1715..	00 : 6 : 3 :
	Pd for bringing y ^e s ^d Bread & Wine from Newcastle	00 : 1 : 00 :
	Pd for Parchm ^t & Writing a Copy of y ^e Regist ^r A:D: 1715. to be return'd into y ^e Bp's Regist ^r 's Office.	00 : 2 : 6 :
	Pd for Bread & Wine, for y ^e Holy Communion, at Michaelmas A:D: 1715	00 : 6 : 3 :
T. Stobert's Disburs ^{ts} .	Pd for bringing y ^e s ^d Bread & Wine from Newcastle	00 : 1 : 00 :
	Pd for Washing y ^e Surplice, Scouring y ^e Flagons & Chalice, & furnishing Linnen for y ^e Communion-Table, for Half a Year, ending at East ^r A:D: 1716.	00 : 2 : 9 :
	Pd for 2 Fowth ^{rs} of Lime, for y ^e Church;	00 : 7 : 00 :
	Pd for making up y ^e s ^d Lime;	00 : 00 : 6 :
	Pd for Hair, Laths, Nails & Tackets;	00 : 1 : 6 :
	Pd Henry Gyles, & his Son, for Work at y ^e Church	00 : 5 : 00
	Pd for an Hand-barrow, for y ^e Use of y ^e Church	00 : 1 : 6 :
Acc ^t Easter Visit ^a		
By John Mallabourn.	Pd for y ^e Churchwardens Expenses, East ^r Visitation at Durham AD. 1716.	00 : 7 : 6
	Pd for Court-Fees, East ^r Visit. 1716.	00 : 8 : 6
By Jeremiah Brown.	Pd for y ^e Church-Wardens Expenses at y ^e s ^d Visitation	00 : 7 : 3 :
	Pd y ^e Apparit ^r for Prayer Book	00 : 5 : 0
By T. Stobert.	Pd for y ^e Church Wardens Expenses, at Durham, East ^r Visitation A:D: 1716	00 : 7 : 9 :
	Pd Henry Gyles, for Himself & his son, being Four Days, at Plaistering y ^e New Window, & pointing all y ^e Windows of y ^e Church & Vestry... ..	00 : 9 : 4 :
	Pd for Wood for y ^e Lintils of y ^e New Window of y ^e Church	00 : 6 : 8 :
	Pd for y ^e Church-Wardens Expenses, at Durham, East ^r Visitation A:D: 1716	00 : 7 : 6 :
By Rob ^t Proud.	Pd W ^m Forster, for 6 Days Labour at y ^e New Window of y ^e Church; & for Wood Stanchels, for y ^e other Windows of y ^e Church	00 : 10 : 6 :

		Acc ^{ts} Dec ^r 21 st 1716.	£ : s : d :
By John Mallabourn.	{	P ^d for Bread & Wine for y ^e Holy Communion at Christmas, A:D: 1715	00 : 6 : 2 :
		P ^d for bringing y ^e said Bread & Wine from New- castle	00 : 1 : 00 .
		P ^d for Iron-Work ab ^t y ^e Church-Windows ...	00 : 5 : 6 :
		P ^d for a P ^r sentm ^t East ^r Visitat. 1716	00 : 1 : 00 .
By Jerem ^h Brown	{	P ^d for Six Iron Stanchels, bought at Newcastle by John Mallabourn, Church-Warden, for y ^e Great Window of y ^e Parish Church ...	1 : 00 : 9 .
		Dec. 21. 1716.	
By T. Stobert	{	Imp ^{rs} P ^d to Henry Gyles, Mason, of Hedley, for making a large & Spacious New Window, on y ^e South Side of our Parish Church ; & for enlarging y ^e other Windows ⁷ ...	1 : 00 : 00 :
		Item, P ^d for Court-Fees, Michaelmas Visitat. 1716.	00 : 8 : 6 :
		Item, P ^d for a P ^r sentm ^t at y ^e s ^d Visitation ...	00 : 1 : 00 :
		Item, P ^d to ye Apparit ^r & for y ^e Church Warden's Expenses at y ^e s ^d Visitation	00 : 12 : 6 :
		Disburs'd by Mr. Clement, Vic ^r :—	
		P ^d for Bread & Wine for y ^e Holy Communion ;	
		Whitsuntide, 1716.	00 : 7 : 2 :
		Michaelmas, 1716.	00 : 7 : 2 :
		Christmas, 1716.	00 : 7 : 2 :
		P ^d Ralph Hepple, of Hexam Glazier, for glazing y ^e New large Window, & y ^e other Windows, on y ^e South Side of this Parish-Church, July 19 th 1716.	3 : 15 : 00

St Pet^{rs} Parish in Bywel in y^e County of Northumberland May 21st 1718.
 I do Hereby testify y^t H. K. y^e Bearer Hereof, liv'd in y^e Parish of Bywel afores^d
 for y^e space of almost One Year, Immediately preceeding y^e Day of y^e Date
 Hereof. At w^{ch} Time, he remov'd from Hence, Free of all Public Scandal, or
 Church-Censure, So y^t I know no Reason, why he may not be receiv'd into any
 Christian Congregation ; where Providence shall order his Lot.
 In Witness Whereof I have Hereunto set my Hand, on y^e Day, & Year, above-
 written.

Memorand. East^r Monday, March 30th 1719.

Agreed also at this General Meeting, That after a Session's Order is
 made for dividing this Parish into Four Separate Wards, every Poor Person
 or Family, that shall, for y^e future, remove from one Ward to another, in
 this Parish, must have a Certificate, under y^e Hands & Seals of y^e Church-
 Warden and Overseer of that Ward, from w^{ch} he, or they, shall remove,
 acknowledging y^e Person or Family, Therein mentioned, to belong to that
 Division ; y^t so y^e s^d Ward may be oblig'd to receive y^e Poor Person &
 Family, when he, or they, stands in Need of Relief.

⁷ See illustration, p. 166.

Agreed then (wth y^e consent of y^e Vic^r & after Notice, given Publickly, for a General Meeting) by Us, y^e Church Wardens, & Parishion^{rs} of this Parish, (whose names are Hereafter subscrib'd to y^e Assessem^t made at this Public Meeting) y^t a Petition be made, on y^e behalf of this Parish in General, to y^e R^t Worp^l His M^ajesty's Justices of y^e Peace, for this County, at y^e General Quart^r Sessions, holden at Hexam, at or near upon Mid-summer next, for an Order, for dividing our Parish into Four distinct & separate Divisions or Wards, by the Names of Bywel-Ward, Newton-Ward, New-Ridley Grieve-Ship, & y^e Far Quarter: & y^t each respective Division do find One Church-Warden, & One Overseer of y^e Poor; &, for y^e Future, take care of, & separately maintain, their several Poor; w^{ch} shall Hereafter be Chargeable on their s^d Divisions.

Memorand. July 15th 1719.

An Order was then made, at y^e General Quart^r Sessions, held at Hexam; y^t this Parish be Accordingly separated.

Memorand.

Agreed also, at this General Meeting, y^t y^e former or last Church-Warden of every Ward, in this Parish, shall, for y^e Future, be, Yearly & Successively, Overseer of y^e Poor, for his respective Division.

Memorand.

Agreed also, at this General Meeting, That after y^e Death of Xp^r Elrington, & Mary Winder (two Impotent Persons at this Present Time, reliev'd by a Parish Charge) every Assesment, for & towards y^e necessary Relief of y^e Poor of this Parish, be made, on y^e Inhabitants Thereof, for y^e Future, according to a Pound-Rate; (That is, according to y^e Book of Rates) & not according to Ploughs.

Ap. 18. 1720.	P ^d for a Cricket, to kneel on, in y ^e Reading Desk, & for a Shelf, for Books, & Pap ^{rs}	£ s: d: 00 : 2 : 00 :
„ „	P ^d for y ^e Parishion ^{rs} Expenses at y ^e Public Meeting upon Easter Monday, April 18 th A.D. 1720	1 : 00 : 00 :
Dec ^r 21 st 1721.	Paid for a Proclamation, & a Form of Prayer, for a General Fast, on y ^e 16 th Day of Decemb ^r 1720; to preserve Us from y ^e Plague	00 : 3 : 6 :
Dec ^r 21 st 1722.	Paid then by W ^m Collinson of Newton in y ^e s ^d County Gent to y ^e Church Wardens of this Parish, the Sum of Eight shillings, bequeath'd by his Father, M ^r Henry Collinson, Late deceas'd, for y ^e Term of Five Years: or Five Yearly Payments, to y ^e Poor. The First Paym ^t to be made, upon S ^t Thomas's Day, before Christmas, next ensuing y ^e Day of his Death; & so on successively, Yearly, during y ^e Term of y ^e s ^d Five Years: or Five Yearly Payments ...	00 : 8 : 00 :

Memorand. This is y^e First Paym^t.

Memorand. St Thomas's Day, viz: December 21st 1722.

Due to me Francis Clement Vic^r from this Parish; Since y^e Church-Wardens stated their last Acc^{ts} viz: upon St Thomas's Day, 1722.

Imp ^{rs} , For Bread & Wine ag st y ^e H. Commun ^a		£ : s : d :
Easter ...	... .. 00 : 14 : 4 :	
Whitsuntide ...	1722 ... 00 : 7 : 2 :	
Michaelmas ...	... .. 00 : 7 : 2 :	
Christmas ...	... .. 00 : 7 : 2 :	

Item, For y^e Church Wardens, & Parishion^{rs} Expenses at y^e Public Meeting,

on { Easter Monday } 1722	... .. 1 : 00 : 00
{ St Thomas's Day }	... .. 1 : 00 : 00
	Total
	£ : s : d
	3 : 15 : 10

Dec^r 21. 1723. Paid for a Copy of y^e Lady Elizabeth Radcliff's Will, of Dilston, Com' Northumb' dated December 18th 1688; The Original whereof is in y^e Spirit^l Court of Durham. } £ : s : d

Dec: 21. 1724. Paid for a New Tin-Paten for y^e Holy Communion-Bread; bought at Newcastle. } 00 : 2 : 6 :

„ „ For a Laborer, at making 3 Fowth^{rs} of Lime. ... 00 : 2 : 00

For Serving y^e Masons, 6 Days— ... 00 : 4 : 00 :

An Acc^t of y^e Collecting of one Penny Ψ Pound in Bywel-Ward; for y^e Maintenance of y^e Poor. Or an Acc^t of Collecting an Assessem^t for y^e Rep^{rs} of y^e Church at One Penny Ψ Pound of y^e Land, in Bywel-Ward.

	£ : s : d :
Paid by— Thomas Wilson;	00 : 4 : 11
Robert Toppin;	00 : 2 : 05
William Gyles;	00 : 00 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
John Mallabourn;	00 : 00 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
William Lawson;	00 : 00 : 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nicholas Lawson;	00 : 01 : 09 $\frac{1}{4}$
William Atchinson;	00 : 02 : 09
James Goodwill;	00 : 00 : 08
Peter Wilkinson;	00 : 01 : 02
Edward Sisterson;	00 : 01 : 02
Henry Winship;	00 : 01 : 02
Richard Davison;	00 : 01 : 02
William Richardson;	00 : 01 : 03
The Fishing;	00 : 03 : 04
Azureley;	00 : 00 : 05
William Newton;	00 : 00 : 03
M ^r William Hind;	00 : 00 : 04

Total ... 01 : 04 : 06 :

S^t Thomas's Day, viz : December 21st 1725.

Order'd then, (wth y^e Consent of y^e Vic^r & Minist^r & after Notice, for a Public Meeting) by Us, y^e Church-Wardens, & Parishioners of this Parish, (whose Names are subscrib'd) That all Assesments & Taxes, for y^e Repairs, Furniture, & Ornaments, of our Parish Church, be Now, & at all Times Hereafter, made upon y^e Inhabitants Thereof, according to a Pound Rate, of y^e Land, in this Parish.

An Acc^t of y^e Yearly Value & Rent of y^e Land, in

1. Bywel-Ward. East Township, West Township Azurely,
&c. Milns, Fishing, Cuthbert Newton's House, & Forster's Close.

	£	s	d
Total	294	13	01
In y ^e Occupation of	£	s	d
Thomas Wilson ;	59	10	00
Robert Toppin ;	29	00	00
William Gyles ;	05	05	00
John Mallabourn ;	03	15	00
William Lawson ;	11	05	00
Nicholas Lawson, Sen ^r	21	07	06
William Atchinson ;	33	00	00
James Goodwill ;	08	00	00
Peter Wilkinson ;	14	00	00
Edward Sisterson ;	14	00	00
Henry Winship ;	14	00	00
Richard Davison ;	14	00	00
William Richardson	15	00	00
William Newton's House ;	03	00	00
The Fishing ;	40	00	00
Azureley ;	05	00	00
Forster's Close ;	04	00	00
Total	294	13	01

An Acc^t of y^e Yearly Value, & Rent of y^e Land, in
Newton-Ward.

	£	s	d
Total	598	10	00
In Newton—	£	s	d
Mr. Fenwick's Land ;	157	10	00
Mr Collinson's Land ;	53	00	00
George Hall's Shelden-Close ;	04	00	00

In Newton-Hall.

L ^d Derwent Water's Land ;	130 : 00 : 00 :
L ^d Oxford's Land ;	70 : 00 : 00 :

In Acham.

M ^r Fenwick's Land ;	84 : 00 : 00 :
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At Stelling.

M ^r Hind's Land ;	100 : 00 : 00 :
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Total ... 598 : 10 : 00

An Acc^t of y^e Yearly Value & Rent of y^e Land in Ridley Grieveship.

£ : s : d :

Total ... 561 : 00 : 03 :

In Bromley.

£ : s : d :

M ^r Fenwick's Land ; ...	...	84 : 00 : 00 :
M ^r Bacon's Land ; ...	...	14 : 00 : 00 :
M ^r Surtis's Land ; ...	...	08 : 00 : 00 :
Eastwood House ; ...	...	12 : 00 : 00 :

In Hindley.

M ^r Rogers's Land ; ...	...	30 : 00 : 00 :
M ^r Boutflower's Land ; ...	...	23 : 00 : 00 :
Wheel-Birch ; ...	...	08 : 00 : 00 :
Kipper-Deen ; ...	...	08 : 10 : 00 :
Hassocks & Short Croft ; ...	...	09 : 10 : 00 :
Row House ; ...	...	25 : 00 : 00 :
New Ridley, & Brough House ; ...	...	25 : 00 : 00 :
Bat House ; ...	...	05 : 00 : 00 :
Hindley Steel ; ...	...	09 : 00 : 00 :
Roach-foot ; ...	...	05 : 00 : 00 :
Old Ridley ; ...	...	41 : 00 : 00 :
Hall-Mires ; ...	...	01 : 00 : 00 :
Ridley Miln, & Land ; ...	...	25 : 00 : 00 :
John Newton's Far Close	...	05 : 00 : 00 :
Stocksfield ; ...	...	40 : 00 : 00 :
Birches-Nook ; ...	...	08 : 00 : 00 :
Mary Shields, & Intack ; ...	...	63 : 00 : 00 :
The Common ; ...	...	16 : 00 : 00 :
Apperley ; ...	...	97 : 00 : 00 :
		86 : 00 : 00 :

Total ... 561 : 00 : 00 :

550 : 00 : 00 :

An Acc^t of y^e Yearly Value, & Rent of y^e Land, in y^e Far-Quarter.

	£	s	d
Total	516	00	00
	£	s	d
Cronkley; ...	30	00	00
Miln-Shields, & 2 Milns;	31	10	00
East Esper-Shields;	17	00	00
West-Esper-Shields;	86	00	00
Winnow's Hill;	10	00	00
Minst ^r Acres;	29	10	00
Newfield;	20	05	00
High Farther-Lee;	56	00	00
Low Farther-Lee;	35	00	00
Lingy Fieldhouse;	15	00	00
Ferl-May; ...	22	00	00
Heley Land, & 2 Milns; ...	158	10	00
Total	516	05	00

An Acc^t of y^e Whole Parish.

	£	s	d
Bywel-Ward;	294	13	01
Newton-Ward;	599	00	00
Ridley Grieveship;	561	00	00
Far Quarter;	516	05	00
Total	1970	18	01

An Assessment of One Penny $\frac{1}{4}$ Pound

	£	s	d
amounts to ...	02	03	00
One Halfpenny, amounts to ...	01	01	06

Compared with the above valuation, it may be interesting to note the rateable value of April 7th, 1885:—

	£
Township of East Acomb ...	425
„ „ Apperley ...	280
„ „ Broomley ...	5,404
„ „ Bywell St. Peter ...	1,246
„ „ Espershields ...	1,672
„ „ High Fotherley ...	764
„ „ Healey... ...	888
„ „ Newton ...	1,070
„ „ Newton Hall ...	1,235
„ „ Stelling ...	408
Total for the Parish of Bywell St. Peter ...	<u>£13,392</u>

St Thomas's Day, viz: December 21st 1725.

Order'd then, at y^e Public Meeting of this Day, That y^e Porch, on y^e South Side, & at y^e East End of this Parish Church, Commonly call'd NEWTON'S PORCH, (It being First Pointed, wth Lime, in y^e Roof; & Pav'd, in y^e Floor, wth Flaggs, by y^e p^{re}sent & several Particular Possessors) be, at all Times Hereafter repair'd (as y^e Rest of y^e Church) by y^e Parishioners, in General.

Newton's Porch is the more modern name of the little chantry chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which is situated exactly, in the position here indicated; on the south side of the church and at the east end of the aisle. The Newtons were probably those of Old Ridley. How the chantry came into their possession is not known. During divine service they would have their seats within it, and their family burial place would be underneath. Instead of paying lairstone money to the churchwardens, they would have to keep the flags and all other parts of their porch in order at their own cost. This use of the word porch, for a portion of the interior of a church, is somewhat uncommon, but other examples are found elsewhere. Bloxam says that porch was anciently used to denote an aisle: J. Parker's *Gloss. of Arch.* says, 'Small chapels attached to churches are sometimes called porches.' At Kelloe, in the county of Durham, on the north side of the nave of St. Helen's Church, we find the Thornley Porch, which belonged to the Harpins, Lumleys, and Trollopes, who were successively owners of Thornley. It had originally been founded in A.D. 1347, as the chantry of the Kellawes, one of whom, Richard Kellawe, became Bishop of Durham in A.D. 1311.

Order'd also, That y^e Allowance, for y^e Expenses & Charges, of y^e Vic^{ar} & Church Wardens, of this Parish, at Visitations, be at all Times Hereafter, in Manner following.

viz:	£:	s:	d:
For y ^e Vic ^{ar} at every Place of Visitation...	...	00	05 : 00 :
For y ^e Church Wardens ;			
At Durham, } to every one	...	00	03 : 00 :
At Newcastle, } of them	...	00	02 : 06 :

Order'd Likewise, That a Sexton be Now, & at all Times Hereafter, appointed for this Parish ; & y^t his Fees be paid, in Manner following, by all Persons, Parishion^{rs} &c.

The Sexton's Fees.	£:	s:	d:
For every Marriage, by Licence, one Shilling ...	...	00	01 : 00 :
by Banns, Six-pence ...	...	00	00 : 06 :
For every Burial, of Freeholders, Six-pence ...	...	00	00 : 06 :
Farmers, Four-pence ...	...	00	00 : 04 :
Cottagers, Two-pence ...	...	00	00 : 02 :

		£ :	s :	d :
Dec. 21 st 1727.	For a Cagg to fetch y ^e Commuion-Wine	...	00 :	01 : 00 :
Dec. 21 st 1728.	Paid for a New Surplice for this Parish	...	03 :	00 : 00 :
	viz: For Sixteen Yards of Holland, at 3 ^s 9 ^d p Yard.			
" "	Item, For making y ^e s ^d Surplice ;	...	00 :	08 : 00 :
April 7 th 1729.	For a New Common-Pray ^r Book ;	...	00 :	15 : 00 :
" "	For a Large Damask-Table-Cloth, for y ^e Com- munion Table	... ..	01 :	00 : 00 :
" "	For a Damask-Napken ;	... ..	00 :	03 : 00 :
" "	For Another Napken, to enclose y ^e Surplice	...	00 :	01 : 00 :
" "	For Carriage, for y ^e New Surplice	... ..	00 :	00 : 11 : $\frac{1}{2}$

Easter-Monday, April 19th 1731.

Order'd then (wth y^e Consent of y^e Vic^r & after Notice for a Public Meeting) by Us, y^e Church-Wardens, & Parishion^{rs} of this Parish, (whose Names are Subscrib'd & on y^e other side written,) That an Assesment of an Half-penny per Pound, according to a Book-Rate of y^e Land in this Parish, be made on y^e Inhabitants, for y^e Rep^{ts} Ornam^{ts} & Furniture of our Parish-Church, & other Expences concerning y^e Same; viz: Particularly, towards y^e Charges of a Law-Suit, ab^t Providing Yearly, & Every Year, Bread & Wine, for y^e Commun. at Easter: & y^t y^e s^d Assesment^t be collected by y^e Church-Wardens, at or before Michaelmas next.

On St. Thomas's Day, Dec. 21, 1731, a similar order for a penny per pound was made for carrying on the law suit, etc.

June: 11: 1732

Orderd then by the Church Wardens and the twenty foure that assessment to be laid on of a penny of the Pound to cary on the Law-Suit upon the Inhabitants of the s^d Parish.

On St. Stephen's Day, December 26th, 1732, another assessment of a penny per pound was made for the same purpose, after which the law suit soon terminated. The churchwardens seem to have won their case, for there is only one more entry for bread and wine at Easter, viz.: 'March 26th, 1773, £00 : 12 : 08,' and one for legal expenses, viz.: 'December 21st, 1734, The Church Wardens about the Law Suit £00 : 06 : 00.' The name of the defendant is not given, but he was probably the lay impropiator, whose successors did afterwards provide the wine, as well as keep the chancel in repair. The late Mr. Silvertop of Minsteracres, who held a lease of the tithes of Bywell St. Peter from the Dean and Chapter of Durham, regularly provided the sacramental wine, as part of his duty. The Ecclesiastical Commis-

sioners, into whose hands the tithes came when the lease expired a few years ago, have refused to acknowledge their obligation in this matter, although they have borne the expense of repairing the chancel.

The following is a list of the leases of Bywell St. Peter's Rectory about the time of the law suit:—

Nov. 2. 1724. Lease for 21 years to John Crosby, of Elvet nigh Durham, gent. £28 yearly to Dean & Chapter, £44 to increase livings, & £2 to the Vicar of Bywell.

Aug. 7. 1731. - Same lease to Gordon Lewen, of the City of Durham, Gent.

Sept. 27. 1738. Same to George Smith, of Burn hall, Esq^{re}.

Canon Greenwell thinks it is possible that Lewen had taken over the lease of Crosby, and that Lewen was the man against whom the parish proceeded.

Headings for the churchwardens' accounts for A.D. 1731 are written out by Francis Clement, vicar, but the accounts themselves are not entered. Vicar Clement died during that year. During his incumbency we have a full and detailed account of each churchwarden's receipts and disbursements. Afterwards, during the Rev. R. Simon's time, we have, in one brief account, a yearly summary.

	£	s	d
April 10 th 1732. To a Swill for the Saxton	00	00	06
Dec ^{br} 22 ^d 1735. For scourging a Woman ^s	00	01	4
Dec ^{br} 20 th 1740. Ringing the 29 th May & 5 th of Nov ^r	00	02	8

No accounts are entered for 1745.

1747. On a leaf of parchment is '*A Register of the Pews in the Parish Church*,' 38 in number, with the names of places and parishioners to whom they were assigned.

Dec ^r 21 st 1750. To two New Wheels for the Bells	£1	5	0
April 23 ^d 1753. To Vermin Heads	0	1	8
March 31 st 1755. To Wood for Spills... ..	0	8	0
" " To Leading 58 Fother of Stones... ..	1	13	10
" " To Labourers for 21 Days at 12 ^d $\frac{1}{2}$ Day	1	1	0
Dec ^r 21 st 1757. Expenses when Gerrard Richardson did Penance	00	0	6
⁹ April 23 ^d 1764. To 3 Foulmart Heads		1	0
June 26 th 1769. To one fother of koals		2	6
Aug 30 th 1771. To 13 Fothers of Slates at Hedley Quarry at 6 ^s $\frac{1}{2}$			
Fother	£3	18	0

⁸ Both the name of the woman and the nature of her crime were left unrecorded, and have passed into oblivion:

⁹ The last entry for Vermin. At Corbridge the last entry for heads is in 1743.

Easter Monday 1777.	Sexton's Salary	... ..	£	:	10	:	0	
"	"	Clerk's do.	... ..	4	:	10	:	0
"	"	The Clerk for copying the old Register	... ..	1	:	1	:	0
"	"	Paper for Do	... ..	2	:	6		
"	"	To Mr Leybourne for Wear Work & Church Wall—Lime—Leading & Removing Rub- bish Journeys of Churchwardens & Ex- pences ordered by the Sidesmen	... ..	20	:	7	:	8½
1778-9.	Closest in Vestry for Surplice	... ..	1	:	2	:	0	

Easter Monday 1781. Ordered then, by the Vestrymen here present after Notice for a Public Meeting—that a Suit be immediately comenced by the Churchwardens against Anthony Wails of PEEP I SEE THEE [*i.e.* Peepy] for refusing to pay his share of the Assessment laid upon the Inhabitants of this Parish on the 26th of June 1780 for the Relief of two men allotted to serve in the Militia for this Parish & the Chapelry of Whittenstall.

N.B. The above order became unnecessary by A. Wails paying his Cess.

July 24th 1781.

Ordered then with Consent of the Vicar & after notice for a public Meeting by us the Parishioners & Churchwardens of this Parish that an Assessment of one Penny per Pound according to the Pound Rate on Lands in this Parish be made on the Inhabitants for the Maintenance of the Families of the Militia belonging to this Parish according to Act of Parliament & that the said Money together with that Proportion of what shall be raised in the Chappelry of Whittonstall be paid to the Treasurer of this County forthwith.

Oct^r 21st 1781. Ordered—Assessm^t of one halfpenny per Pound—to be paid to men ballotted to serve as Militiamen for this Parish who hired substitutes, pursuant to an Act of Parliament in that behalf made, & that the said Ass^t be made immediately.

		£	s.	d.			
Accs. for 1782-3.	Paid on Acc ^t of the Militia by the Churchwardens within their year of office	... ..	13	:	8	:	11¼
S. Tho ^s 's Day 1785.	The Assessment is signed by 'J ⁿ Fleming Vicar, George Jewitt, Jonathan Maxwell, Tho ^s Brown, George Stobart, Church ^{ns} & also by Jno. Silvertop, W ^m Sanderson, Geo. Hind, W ^m Jobling, Jno. Hind, Mich. Charlton, Rob ^t Hall, Edw ^d Kell, W ^m Thompson, W ^m Richardson, George Angus, W ^m Winship, & W ^m Green.'						

Dec. 22 ^d 1790.	Receiv'd of Henry Ridley Church ^{da} for Bywell Quarter the Surplice Fees of Bywell S ^t Peter during the sequestration	13	:	0
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[Distributed to poor along with the charity money.]

Dec ^r 21. 1791.	To Jos. Richardson & Stephen Leedes for New Hears	£	:	10	:	0	:	0
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Easter Monday. 1791. One penny per Pound was laid on for making a Hearse for the use of the two Parishes of Bywell, and building a House for placing the Hearse in.

This old hearse house stood on the north side of the chancel, in the angle formed by the chancel and the east end of the chantry chapel. The line of the roof may still be seen by a mark on the chancel wall.

A vestry is mentioned in 1715. Until 1849 the chantry chapel on the north side of St. Peter's Church was used as a vestry. The shoulder headed door now leading from the chancel to the new vestry is the original door: this was the only entrance to the chantry from the inside of the church. One arch was built in 1849, and the old doorway placed in its present position. In 1873 this arch gave place to the two which now throw the chantry open to the church. The schoolroom door, referred to in the accounts of 1696, was an outer door which had been broken through the window on the north of the chantry. When the present vicar, Canon Dwarris, came to the parish in 1845, this chapel was used as a schoolroom. In fact it was the only one in the parish. In 1849 the doorway was built up and the window restored.

In the modern parish books the churchwardens' accounts are not entered, but there is an unbroken continuity in the minutes of vestry meetings. Some of the resolutions contained in them are very interesting. Two examples may suffice.

December 21. 1812. 'Ordered that a pair of Stocks be purchased, and fixed in a proper place, at the expence of the two parishes.'

December 21. 1815. 'Ordered that £6 be advanced for a boat free to all people going to church, one third to be paid by St Andrew's parish.'

In book A there are 62 notices of collections for briefs, and in B there are 277, making a total 339.

Sep. 12th 1703.

Collected then for y^e Brief of Tuxford, Three shillings, Ten Pence, & Two Farthings.

FRANCIS CLEMENT, Vic^r

April 9th 1704.

Collected then for y^e Brief of y^e French Refugees, Four shillings, six Pence, & one Farthing.

October 2^d 1709.

Collected then in y^e Parish of Bywel St^t Pet^r for y^e Palatines

Brief, y^e Sum of £ s. d.
00 : 12 : 9½

April 19th 1713.

St Clement's Church Brief, at Hastings, in the County of Sussex.

Damage, £1550, &c.

£ s. d.

Collected then, upon y^e afores^d Brief, in ye Parish-Churches

of St Pet^r & St Andrew in Bywel, y^e Sum of One Shilling, &

One Penny; 00 : 1 : 1 :

Item, At y^e Chappel of Whittenstal, Five Pence 00 : 00 : 5 :

November 12. 1716.

Brief, for y^e Reformed Episcopal Churches, in Great Poland,
& Polish Prussia, &c.

Collected then upon y^e s^d Brief, at y^e Parishes of Bywel, y^e

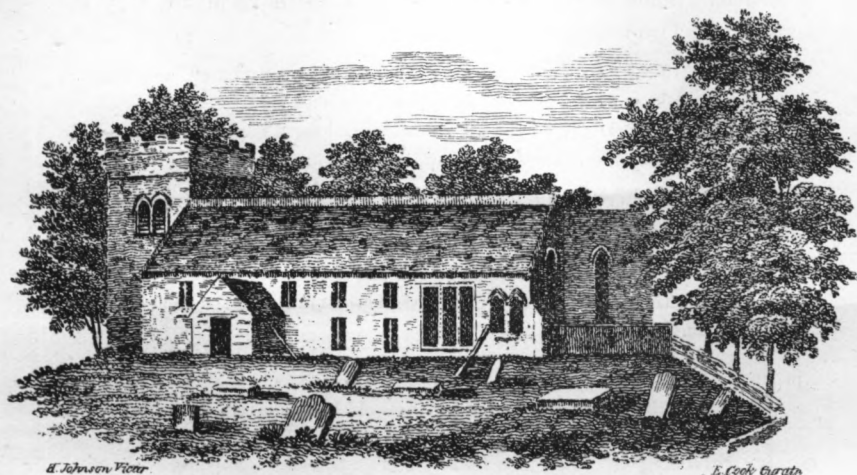
Sum of Five Shillings. 00 : 5 : 00

November 15th 1716

Item, Collected at y^e Chapelry of Whittenstal, y^e Sum of

One Shilling, and Six Pence 00 : 1 : 6 :

Of the Bywell St. Andrew's churchwardens' account books, unfortunately only a few leaves remain, and those contain very little that is worthy of note. The affairs of the parish have been managed, for nearly two hundred years, by a virtually select vestry, consisting of the vicar, two churchwardens, and twelve sidesmen. Here, and also in Bywell St. Peter's parish, other parishioners might have attended the vestry meetings, but they seldom, if ever, did so.



ST PETERS CHURCH BYWELL,
North^d

(SOUTH VIEW AS IT WAS FROM A.D. 1716 TO A.D. 1819. See p. 15.)