

II.—THE VICARS OF HALTWHISTLE.

By the Rev. C. E. ADAMSON.

[Read on the 26th August, 1896.]

Some time in the last quarter of the twelfth century, William the Lion granted the church of Haltwhistle to the convent of Aberbrothock, and doubtless some provision was immediately made for the service of the church, but there does not seem to be any record of the 'ordination of a vicarage,' or of a 'perpetual vicar' until one hundred years later. At the same time, we may note that the values assigned respectively to the rectory of Haltwhistle and to the portion of Radulphus de Bosco in the *taxatio* of 1254 are practically the same as those assigned in the '*Antiqua Taxa Ecclesiarum*' of 1306 to the rectory and to the portion '*Vicariæ Ejusdem*,' suggesting that Radulphus de Bosco was in that year at least an acting vicar.

In 1277, Walter de Merton died, leaving 25 marks to 'Hautwyse' as one of the places where he had held preferment; but we do not know whether that preferment was the rectory or the vicarage.

The next notice appears to be a deed quoted by Hodgson to the effect that Thomas de Tughall, perpetual vicar of Haltwhistle, had a grant of land in Wydon from Alexander Fetherstonhalgh, 26 June, 1306.

The names of several vicars following each other in very rapid succession occur in Kellawe's register, covering the disturbed period which ensued upon the death of Edward I. on Burgh Sands, in Cumberland. The clergy had made a grant of one-fifteenth of their incomes to the king, but in 1314 the bishop reports that it is impossible to levy anything at Haltwhistle, because everything had been burnt by the Scots and other malefactors; and in 1315 the bishop further reports, in answer to a repeated application, that none of his servants dares to go to Haltwhistle for fear of the Scots, and that there are no parishioners living there.

In 1329, Robert de Dyghton occurs as parson, having been instituted on the appointment of Edward II., but as his appointment was a mistake, and as the term 'parson' is usually equivalent to rector, it may be that he should not be included in a list of vicars,

and, indeed, there seems to be evidence that David de Harreys was vicar from 1316 until 1338, the one long incumbency of this period.

The lists¹ in the Auckland MS. and in the Randal MS. (and practically that in Hodgson also) commence with Thomas Fox (1352), and it seems likely that this denotes a change in patronage, but it was not until 1385 that a final settlement was made. In 1329, it was decided that the patronage was not in the king but in the abbot and convent of Aberbrothock, but the king seems shortly after to have resumed it as an escheat, and in 1385 it was settled that, while the rectory went to Tynemouth priory, the patronage of the vicarage should be in the bishop of Durham, with whom it remained until the re-arrangement of episcopal patronage which took place about the middle of this century. It has now been again transferred to the bishop of the diocese, *i.e.* of Newcastle.

RADULPHUS DE BOSCO, occurs 1254.

? **WALTER DE MERTON**, died 1277.

THOMAS DE TUGHALL, occurs 1306 as 'perpetual vicar.'

ROBERT DE PYKWELL, occurs 1311.

Having been carried off prisoner by the Scots, Robert de Pykwell received licence in 1311 to let his vicarage to pay his ransom. In 1313 there is a release of a sequestration, as the abbot had fully satisfied the king. (Qu. Does this not apply to the rectory?)

ROBERT DE AVERNER, in 1315 was summoned to London to answer a plea.

DAVID DE HARREYS: in 1316 a mandate for his induction was addressed to the vicar of Kirkhaugh. Hodgson quotes a deed about Williamston in Knaresdale, dated 1338, in which David Harate, vicar of Haltwhistle, is mentioned.

During this incumbency there are records of the ordination of William de Hautwysill and Thomas de Hautwysell to be acolytes in 1334, of John de Hautwysel to the first tonsure in 1335, and in 1337 of Thomas de Hautwysel as priest, 'ad titulum quinque marcarum de Thoma de Blenkanshop.' William de Hautwysel died 1340, holding the chantry of Bathelspittel, near Darlington.

In 1329 a commission sat at Newcastle to enquire into the case of Robert de Dyghton, who had been instituted as parson of Haltwhistle on

¹ The Auckland list is quoted as A., Randal's as R., and Hodgson's as H. The Auckland list appears to be in the writing of Dr. C. Hunter, and it may be that Hatfield's register was the earliest accessible to these antiquaries.

the appointment of Edward II., when it was decided that the patronage did not lie in the king, but in the abbot of Aberbrothock.

HUGO DE HAGWORTHINGHAM, 'Vicarius ecclesiae de Hautwesel,' and **WALTER DE FARNEDALE**, 'Vicarius sanctae Werburgae in Hoo Roffensis diocesis,' exchanged livings in 1338.

Hugh had been ordained in 1337, 'ad titulum domus de Burwell per literas dimissorias domini Lincolnensis.' He does not appear to have been instituted to Haltwhistle.

Walter was instituted 5 Sep., 1338. In 1341 he was collated to the mastership of the chapel and manor of Leysingby [Lazenby], in Alvertonshire, and another reference, 'millesimo ccc^{mo}, xlii^o, ii^o nonas Augusti,' describes him as master of the hospital of 'Illisshagh' [Elishaw, in Redesdale]. Kellawe's register II. pp. 408, 435.

WILLIAM DE WYNSTONE was collated 8 April, 1339.

The fact that he was 'collated' suggests that the patronage had now passed as an escheat with the franchise of Tindale from the abbey of Aberbrothock or the crown of Scotland to the bishop of Durham.

THOMAS FOX, 1352.

JOHN DE LEDECOMBE, 1361, p.m. Fox.

RICHARD DE BARTON, 1370, p.m. Ledcombe.

JOHN DEYVILL, 1379, p. res. Barton.

STEPHEN DE BROUGHTON, occurs 1380 (Hatfield's register, p. 175).

Litera Purgationis vicarii de Hautwysill . . . Thoma Dunelmen. Epis. . . . D^{nm} Stephanum de Broughton perpetuum Vicarium Ecclesiae parochiae de Hautwysill per nos fuisse vocatum ad respondendum super certis articulis salutem animae suae concernentibus quos eidem objecimus . . . quod ipse in Amplexibus fornicariis tenuisset quandam Agnetam de Rukeby postquam correctus fuerat. . . . Item quod adulteratus fuisset cum quadam Alicia uxore Henrici de Ditton mason : Item quod polluisset Ecclesiam suam praedictam fornicando cum quadam Johanna Famula Williemi Brothok. . . . Hunter MSS. iii. 224, without date. In Hatfield's register it occurs in the records of the fifteenth year of his pontificate, dated 19th April, 1380. Hunter, in his very fragmentary list, places him before Deyvill, to whom he assigns the date 1384.

THOMAS DE HEXHAM, occurs Aug. 5, 1391, not in A. or H., but R. gives 'p.m. Deyvill,' and quotes:—

'E copyhold Books anno 1^o usque 12^{mo} Skirlaw Pag 25 Placita Halmotorum apud Esynton Aug 5 anno p. 3^o anno Regis Richardi II. 15^o Dns Episcopus mandavit litteras Thoma Gray Senescallo quod T. de Hexham Vicarius de Hautevesell haberet ad firmam j gardinum et j vivarium in eodem gardino in villa de Esynnton et j stagnum vel vivarium in communi mora villae predictae &c Redd. an. xiiij^s iiij^d.'

THOMAS BYRDALE, 1392.

THOMAS DE WESTWYK, 1408, p. res. Byrdale.

In 1423 a licence for an oratory in a chapel 'apud Wyllymoteswyke' was granted to John Bellasis and Alice his wife to have mass, 2nd Octr. [Hunter MS.] The chapel may have been Beltingham chapel, which tradition has assigned to Willimoteswick as a private chapel. (See Rotherham's Visitation answers in 1774, quoted below.)

JOHN BURNE, occurs 1432.

In 1452 bishop Langley issued a commission to John Brygg, vicar of Corbridge, to warn the parishioners of Symonburn, Rothbury, Hautwysell, and Stamfordham to repair their churches.

ROBERT FABIANE, vicar of Haltwhistle, witnesses a deed, August 4, 1467, H. not in A. or R.

ROBERT STEVENSON, presbyter of the parish and seneschal of 'Hawtwesill,' witnesses an admittance to a burgage in that town, 1473. H. not in A. and R.

WILLIAM STEVENSON, occurs the same year. Probably the same person wrongly described.

JOHN RAMESSEY, 1501.

At the visitation of Thomas Savage, archbishop of York (*sede Dunelm. vacante*), the churchwardens 'Reignaldus Carricke, Nicholaus Ridley, Adam Bowman, Willielmus Ridley dicunt omnia bene.'

JOHN RIDLEY, d'nus [Joseph: H.; not in A.]

In Tunstall's register, at the collation of N. Lawes, the parchment is defective where the Christian name of his predecessor occurs, but it appears to be Johannis.

NICHOLAS LAWES, cl., Aug. 6, 1535, p.m. Dni Rydley, cl., not in A.

D'nus N. Lawes, resign. p'bendam de Tytychys in Eccl. de Awklande, Jan. 1535, Tunstall, p. 23. R. and H. give 1553.

NICHOLAS CARHAWE, cl., 9 April, 1554, *per deprivationem ultimi Incumbentis*.

This name is also spelt Crawhall, Crasshall, and Crawhawe. Carhawe is the spelling in Tunstall's register.

He was formally inhibited *ab ingressu ecclesiae*, and cited to appear at Auckland manor house on 16th April, 1562, and, on not appearing, excommunicated 8th June, 1562, by bishop Pilkington for contumacy.

THOMAS MARSHALL, Pbr., Dec. 18, 1564, p. depr. Carhawe.

In 11 Nov., 1575, a complaint of irreverent behaviour at the communion at Beltingham chapel by Beatrix Crawhall, widow and gentlewoman, aged

about 60, is quoted in *Surtees Soc. Publ.* xxi. 301. She may have been the widow of the last incumbent.

Thomas Marshall was reported 'aegrotat' at the visitation of Jan. 1577-8, but he appeared personally later in the same year when he was not examined, being 'probably a person of acknowledged learning.' In Jan., 1578/9, he was infirm. The visitation lists show that Christopher Ridley was an unlicensed curate in 1577/8, and he was also present in 1579. Martaine Liddail occurs the next year. Jacob Golightly was parish clerk.

1579, Hawtwesell: The office of judge against Matthew Ridley, Geo. Foster, William Tweddail, and Thomas Ormesby, churchwardens. 'Their churchyerd unfensed a pece of wyndow not repaired church unwhited.' Admonished.

The value of the living is stated thus:—'Vic. Hawtewisill xijl. iijjs. [60*l.* alias 50*l.*]' Barnes, *Clavis Ecclesiastica*, Surt. Soc. Publ. xxii. 9.

Marshall died 1580 (his will being proved March 17, R.)

ROBERT SIMPSON, A.B., Mar. 16, 1580, p.m. ult. Inc. (Barnes Register.) [A. 1579, *i.e.*, 15 $\frac{7}{8}$ 0.] H. gives Richard.

ROBERT PEARSON. 1598.

JOHN WILKINSON, March 13, 1613.

Wilkinson, John, of Yorks. Pleb. Merton Coll., Matric. 18 May, 1604, aged 19, B.A., 13 Feb. 1606-7, perhaps vicar of Haltwhistle, Northumberland. Foster.

ROBERT DIXON, A.M., Mar. 23, 1616, p.m. Wilkinson. R. and H. (A. says Instit. Feb. 10, 1623.)

The episcopal register for these dates is not in the diocesan registry.

It appears as if the date in the Auckland list had got into the wrong line, and the compiler had supposed that 1623 in the second case was a miswriting for 1628.

Dixon was previously rector of Cockfield: (Cockfield: Robt. Dixon, A.M., April 13, 1575, p.m. Baylis, Timothy Bossall p. res. Dixon, June 24, 1616. Staindrop: Rob. Dixon, 1616, curatus sequestrator, 1617. Mackenzie's *Durham*.)

THOMAS ASTELL, A.B., Feb. 10, 1623, bp. Neile's register [A. has also 1628], p.m. Dixon cl.

He may have been of the Newcastle family of this name. See Welford's *Men of Mark*, i. 122.

In 1625 (apparently on taking his M.A. degree) he was appointed to preach and propound the Word of God throughout the whole diocese of Durham.

He resigned the vicarage of Mitford, 10th October, 1621: R.

1627, October 5. 'Thomas Harriman clerke . . . hath kept an aile house for 3 yeares last past and is much addicted to Drunkenesse. Heard Harriman call M^r Astell asse and foole upon some suites that were then

depending betwixt them for tythes. About 5 years ago . . . a child to be christened . . . at which tyme Harriman was soe drunk that he could not stand. . . .’ (Surtees Soc. Publ. xxxiv. 5.)

‘Apud Dunelm. xxij^o die Novemb A^o Dⁿⁱ 1627. The office of the commissioners promoted by Astell vicar of Haltwesle agst Jo Ridley of Haltwesle.’ The subject-matter of the dispute is not mentioned, but see Surtees Soc. Publ. xxxiv. 6.—‘John Ridl y’s house is very neere to the churchyard of Haltwesle and hath a doore issueing into the church and hath heretofore made a common stackyard for hay and strawe in the Churchyard and pleadeth custom for the same. The denying of the said Ridley to make the Churchyard a stackyard is as deponent thinketh the first grudge that he had towards M^r Thomas Astell vicar there,’ etc.

1629. The Consistory books contain the particulars of a suit against Astell for stealing a chest from the vestry, not accounting for sacramental offerings, etc. Surtees Soc. Publ. xxxiv. 5.

HUMPHREY DACRES, A.M., 1633.

Dacre, Humphrey, of Cumberland, Gent. Queen’s Coll., Matric. 21 Nov., 1628, aged 19, B.A., from St. Edmund Hall, 17 Dec., 1632, as Dacres—vicar of Thirkleby, Yorks., 1634, and of Haltwistle, Northumberland, 1635. Poster.

1635. ‘John Raper of Haltwesle clerk aiged 33 for 2 year’s last past curat at Haltwesle. At Easter the vicar and curat both did goe (as usually every year they doe) to Beltingham chapell to administer the Holy Communion.’ Surtees Soc. Publ. xxxiv. 136.

‘That the parish of Haltwistle is a vicaridge of the yearly value of Fiftye pounds that the donac^{on} thereof was formerly in the late Bishop of Durham and is now in the State the last Incumbent was Mr Humfrye Dacres lately dischargd from the said Cure by the Commission^{rs} for the Ministrye in the said Countye And Further the Jurye doe finde that the Rectorye of the said parish of Haltwistle is of the yearly value of one hundred thirte and Nyne pounds and the proffitts thereof Received by Edward F wicke of Stanton Esq^{re} for the vse of the State and Francis Nevill of Cheate that their is belonging to the said parish of Haltwistle the Chappell of Beltingham, scittuate about Fowre myles from the said Church w^{ch} is now almost quite Ruinate att w^{ch} Chappell those who formerly had the Rectorye of Haltwistle did maynteyne a Reading Minister.²—An Inquisic^{on} Taken at Morpeth in the Countye of Northumberland the first daye of June in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand Six hundred and Fiftye.’ The ‘Oliverian Survey’—Lambeth Palace Library, Parliamentary Surveys, vol. xiii., p. 168.

² The minor order of reader is now disused in our Church, but in the reign of Elizabeth readers, not being either priests or deacons, were in many cases appointed by the Bishops to read the service in churches by reason of the dearth of clergy and the poverty of benefices. They were not allowed to preach, or to administer either of the sacraments. They were taken out of the laity, tradesmen or others; any that was of sober conversation and honest behaviour, and that could read and write. They seemed not wholly to forbear their callings, but were not countenanced to follow them, especially if they were mechanical. And they went in some grave habit, as might distinguish them from others. Strype, *Annals of the Reformation*.

There is no mention of Haltwhistle either in Calamy, or in Walker.

'Mr Humphrey Dacres of Haltwhistle is presented by the churchwardens for a notorious drunkard, being soe drunke on the first Sunday in this yeare as he could not doe service in the Church. There are sundry other foule & scandalous informac'ons, brought in publikely against him, by occasion where of many of that parish are said to be fallen away to popery.' With such a reputation, it is little woudder that we find 'Haltwesle: In bad repaire,' and yet again 'Haltwesle has been alwaies supplied. The impropriator, Mr. Nevell of Cheat. The impropriac'on, valued at 300^{li} per annu'. Hath a competet maintenance. The vicaridge being lett at p'sent at 70^{li} p' annu'.'—'A View of the Ecclesiastical State within the Archdeaconry of Northumberland, anno 1663,' as quoted in *Arch. Ael.* xvii. 257.

ROBERT PRIESTMAN, occurs Ap. 1677. R. [Not in A.]

The bowl of the font seems to have been recut during his incumbency ; it bears the initials R. P., and the date 1676.

THOMAS PATE, Cl. 1687.

He built the school house at his own expence.

In 1689, several of y^e Lords of Mannors & tenants of Freehold estates scituate * * * * took down & built anew several stalls or pews standing within y^e body of y^e Ch which were much out of Repair (to y^e number in all of 23) at their own proper costs & charges. After y^e erection . . . com^{on} . . . May 23 1689 directed to Major Algood cl. Geo. Ritschell cl. Tho. Pate cl. Geo. Lowthian cl. Rob. Troutbeck cl. and to some lay gentlemen . . . to set out fitting seats to all ye parishioners answerable to their respective Degrees & Qualities. . . . We do assign unto y^e s^d Lord of y^e Mannor [Mr. Pearson] . . . y^e pew on y^e north side next y^e chancel. Randall MSS. B 46, page 40.

With the exception of a few entries belonging to 1656 and 1657, the registers commence during this incumbency. The first entry in one book is '1691, March 8th, Barbara, daughter to Thomas Pate, Vicar of Haltwhistle.' Further on we find 'Judith, daughter of Thomas Pate and Elizabeth his wife,' was baptized Mar. 25, 1697, died Feb. 9, 1698, buried *eodem die*, and on Feb. 24, 1722/3 'Mr Thomas Pate, of the Woodhead, Vicar of Haltwestle, then buried.'

The original writing in the Auckland list (*i.e.*, that apparently by Dr. Hunter) ends here, the next entries having been added by later hands.

MARTIN NIXON, A.M., Ap. 3, 1723 [R. 1720^{3*}].

The true date is proved by the following entry in the church register :—

June y^e 23th 1723. We whose names are hereunder written do certify that Martin Nixon Master of Arts Vicar of Halt-whisle did read morning & evening prayer in y^e Parish Church of Halt-wisle aforesaid wth y^e 39 Art of

* The date corrected thus.

the Church of England in y^e time divine service; & at y^e end thereof open, publicly before the Congregation then there assembled read the 2 Declarations requir'd by Act of Parliament in y^e 14 of King Charles the second 1662 wit' our hands the day & year above written.

[Signed by 'Christopher Thompson' and five others.]

Sometime curate under R^d W. Wekett at Branspeth, co. Durham. R. Rector de Woller, 1749. A. In 1749, Geo. Scollough was licensed as curate at a salary of £25. A. Bur. Oct. 19, 1755. R. But the Church Register '1755, October 17th the Rev M^r Martin Nixon Vicar of Halt-whistle.'

Archdeacon Sharpe visited the parish church in 1723, and he appears to have been quite satisfied with what he saw, except that there was no cover for the font, and this he did not press, because he understood that the parish was about to provide a new font. His visit to Beltingham chapel was not so satisfactory, nor were his endeavours to secure provision for a minister successful, as we see by the following reports:—

'Beltingham visited September 12th, 1723. I found an old font and an old Communion Table. But no vestm^t. vessel or book, save one Common prayer book given by M^r Ridley. The chancell paved, but very uneven. The Chappell never hath been paved. What seats there were are broken down. An old pulpit, no reading desk. The walls want plaistering. There is a large hole at y^e west end, where pigeons enter & make the Chappell a perfect Dove-court. It is capable of being well repaired & adorn'd at an easy expence, for notwithstanding these defects of furniture in y^e inside, there is an excellent roof (y^e timber mostly Irish oak), good walls, Good Windows & Doors, & were it in order would be a beautifull chappell.

I did not visit this Chapell a second time when I was in those parts, because it was to no purpose to look after y^e repairs or furniture of it till provision could be made for a minister to officiate therein.

But notwithstanding it was certified to me that S^r Edward Blackett had upon my former instances laid out a sufficient sum to put this Chappell into good repair & make it fit for divine service, but nothing is yet done towards ye provision of a minister, tho' I renewed my application to S^r Edw^d, & brought M^r Ridley to consent he w^d allow handsomely towards it if S^r Edw^d w^d join in y^e contribution.'

'This chappell is in Haltwistle parish but hath at present no endowment. The late S^r Edw^d Blacket, who has an estate there did allow for many year 10^{li} per annum to a minister for serving there. I have applied to y^e pres^t S^r Edw^d & to Mr. Bacon of Staward for an allowance to y^e same use, but nothing is yet done.

M^r John Lowes of Whitsheids who left 15^{li} to ye poor of Ridley Lordship, left it wth this condition that if there shall be a fund settled to keep a minister at Beltingham Chappell then the interest of y^e said fifteen pound to go to y^e maintenance of the said minister.

M^r Bacon did once propose to give an hundred pound towards y^e augmentation of this place & to raise another hundred upon S^r Edward Blacket, settling 10^{li} p. ann. out of his estate during his life (for he hath

only a life interest therein) but there being some sort of misunderstanding between M^r Bacon & S^r Edw^d this proposal could never be brought to bear tho' at the same time S^r Edw^d has declared himself willing to come into any measures to have that Chappell endowed. This I had from them both.

M^r Nixon, Vicar of Haltwhistle, likewise told me that if those gentlemen would raise between them 15^l p. ann. towards a curate's salary, he would allow him 15^l more to take ye trouble of that part of ye parish off his hands.'

The will of John Lowes, to which the archdeacon refers, proceeds : 'and to be ordered at the discretion of four mén, vizt. : William Lowes of Ridley Hall George Woodman of Medgewham John Ridley of Burnhouse and William Atkinson of Penpugh.' The will is dated 26th October, 1709, and probate was granted 9th December, 1710. This bequest seems to have disappeared.

Easter Tuesday 1725. Agreed by y^e Vicar & Twelve gentlemen & Principal inhabitants of this Parish y^t y^e vacant places in y^e Church shall be supplied with pues at y^e publick charge. Martin Nixon vicar.

Bishop Chandler has left notes of a visitation, held probably in 1736, in which he calls the vicar *Dan* Nixon. Value 100^l. Catechism in summer, sacrament 3 times, 200 come at Easter, 30 at Whitsunday, 3 Presbyterian families, one Papist. A conventicle where they assemble in summer.

EDWARD WILSON, Cl. B.A., 1755, p.m. Nixon.

[H. 1735, but the date of his subscription at Auckland is 20 Oct., 1755, which agrees with the date of Nixon's death, and with the entry of his induction in the Haltwhistle register. He signs with a very neat signature.]

Wilson, Edward, s. William, of Heversham, Westmorland, pleb. Queen's coll., matric. 29 Oct., 1735, aged 16, B.A. 1740, vicar of Haltwhistle, rector of Waddington, and Stockton-upon-Tees, died May 28, 1799, father of William, of Lincoln coll., 1776, who was afterwards rector of Wolsingham. See *Gentleman's Mag.* 1799, i. 531. Foster.

He was licensed to Stainton, under the Rev. Vane, 20 Aug., 1754, at a salary of £30 : R. He married Nixon's youngest daughter Mary in 1756. One of the Haltwhistle registers contains a curious soliloquy on matrimony in this vicar's handwriting ; and there are various informal entries about other matters. He was inducted 'Oct. 25, 1755, by the Rev. Mr. Railton, Vicar of Knaresdale.'

'Sacrament Days at Haltwhistle are as follow :—On Christmas Day, December 25 ; on Good Friday, on Easter Day ; on Low Sunday, or first Sunday after Easter ; on Whit Sunday, and on Michaelmas Day when it happens on a Sunday ; or Else on the Sunday w^{ch} is nearest to that festival. 1765.—Witness my hand, E. Wilson, Vicar. We have since fixed the last Sacrament day to the first Sunday in October in every year. 1768—E. Wilson, Vicar.'

'N.B. Abraham Earnshaw was excommunicated on the 4th day of September, 1768, in the parish church of Haltwhistle by M^r Railton, Rector of Knaresdale and curate *pro tempore* for M^r Edward Wilson, Vicar.' Haltwhistle register.

The dates of his subsequent appointments are thus given in Mackenzie's *Durham*:—Washington : Rectors, Edward Wilson, 18 Aug. 1768, p.m. Bland ; Chas. Egerton, 4 Sep. 1786, p.r. Wilson. Stockton : Vicars, Edward Wilson, 1786, p. res. Austey ; John Brewster, 1799.

THOMAS ROTHERHAM, M.A., Oct. 11, 1768, by resignation of Wilson.

The elder son of the headmaster of Haydon Bridge school.

Rotherham, Thomas, s. William, of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, cler. Queen's coll., matric. 24 May, 1737, aged 18, B.A. 6 Feb., 1740-1, M.A. 1744. Foster.

From 1744-1753 he was a professor in Codrington college, Barbadoes. He was obliged to resign this appointment through ill-health, and on his return he was for a short time curate of Gt. Stainton. He was also vicar of Grindon and chaplain at Sherburn hospital.

'The venerable simplicity of M^r Rotherham's character & manners rendered him here & wherever he was known an object of universal esteem & respect.' One noticeable point in the character of this vicar was the affection which existed between himself and his younger brother John, whom he assisted through his college course, and who joined him at Codrington college. [Rotherham, John s. William, of Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, cler. Queen's coll., matric. 18 March, 1744-5, B.A. 1748, M.A. by decree 11 Dec., 1753. Percy fellow University college 1760, rector of Houghton-le-Spring and vicar of Seaham, co. Durham, 1769, until his death 24 July, 1789. Foster.]

'1768, Oct. 14. John Sharp, D.D., Archdeacon of Northumberland, visited the church and ordered That all the pews in the church be furnished with moveable kneeling boards low flat and broad. That a Cover for the Font be provided. That a new stone Threshold for the Chancel Door be provided. That a new Bell at least of equal weight with the present one be provided. That the remaining heaps of Rubbish against the Church and Chancel be removed. That one Casement be made on each side of the Church and one on each side of the Chancel. That the pulpit and Reading Desk be raised in such manner as the Vicar shall direct & painted White. That a stool or moveable kneeling Board low and flatt be provided for the Reading Desk cover'd and stuff'd . . . and monished Matthew Ridley and Isaac Thirlwell churchwardens &c., &c.'

The vicar reports to the bishop, under date 18th July, 1774, that he has lately rebuilt part of the vicarage house, that public service is read every Lord's day, between the hours of ten and twelve in the morning and two and three in the afternoon. A sermon is constantly preached every Lord's day, on Christmas day, and Good Friday during morning service. Prayers are also read on the public fasts and festivals and in Passion week, beginning at eleven in the morning. Catechizing in Lent and on the four Sundays after Easter. The Holy Communion six times in each year, viz. : on Christmas Day, Good Friday, Easter Day, Sunday after Easter, Whit-Sunday, and the Sunday nearest to the Feast of S. Michael. Communicants, 60 at Christmas, 120 at Easter, 40 at Whitsuntide, and 30 at Michaelmas. There is a resident curate, John Farrer, who is in priest's orders but not licensed by his diocesan.

Beltingham chapel is served by Rev. Mr. Harrison, master of the Free school at Haydon Bridge, once a fortnight in the afternoon. The chapel at Beltingham is not deemed parochial, but a domestic or private chapel to Willimotswick, formerly the seat of the ancient family of the Ridleys, of which Sir Edward Blackett is now proprietor.

T. Rotherham died 5 April, 1782, while visiting his brother at Houghton-le-Spring, as 'John Farrer Curate' has carefully recorded both in the Vestry Book and in the Register.

The impression given by the vestry records during this incumbency is that Rotherham was an active vicar who took care to have all things decent and orderly and that he was very methodical in his conduct of his duties.

RANDAL'S list now fails us, and it may be worth while to give his note on the church and parish as he found them at this date :— 'Archdeaconry of Northumberland, Deanery of Corbridge, Haute-wisill Vicarage Holy Cross wth Beltingham Chapel decy^d S. Cuthbert, Kings B. 12. 13. 1½, year T 1. 4. 3½, Proc. Episc. 0. 7. 8, Proc. Arcid. 0. 12. 0, Pen. Epo. D. 0. 13. 4, real v. 150. 0. 0. The church consists of 3 Isles pewed wth oak, the roof lofty as is the acute Arch vnto y^e chancel, the window above y^e Altar gothick & stately. It & the Vicarage house stand on the S. side of the Tyne, by the river a peice ground now pt of the Vic. glebe called the Chy^d where y^e Church stood once.'

The church and the vicarage are on the north side of the Tyne, but the 'peice' of ground is on the south side near Bellister castle.

The dedication is stated in the Auckland book to be to S. Aidan. See *Arch. Ael.* xiii. 324.

HUGH NANNEY, M.A., 12 Aug., 1782, on the death of Rotherham.

Nanney, Hugh s. Lewis, of Dolgelly, co. Merioneth, arm. Jesus coll., matric. 21 March, 1763, aged 17, B.A. 1769, M.A. 1772 (Foster).

He was ordained deacon at Oxford, 26 Dec., 1769, and priest at Hartlebury castle, 21 Sept., 1771. He married Barbara, only daughter of Thomas Middleton of River Green, Northumberland, and his son Lewis Nanney, J.P., continued to reside at Haltwhistle on property which his father had acquired. Two Misses Nanney occupied a house near the north-west corner of the Market place.

In 1792 he returns the same number of services as his predecessor in 1774, but the number of communicants has fallen from 120 to 30. The Presbyterian meeting house in Haltwhistle is now served by a licensed preacher, Mr. Thomas Smith. The Methodists at Coanwood and the Quakers at Thorngrafton have riding preachers for their teachers. There is no Sunday school. Beltingham chapel is served by the curate of Whitfield.

1783; April 22. At a vestry meeting it was 'ordered that a proper Hood for the Rev^d Mr Nanney the Vicar of this parish, he being a Master of Arts, be ordered to be made as soon as possible.'

In 1792 the roof of the church was pronounced ruinous, and it was determined to take off the lead roof and 'to put on a substantial slate roof' in accordance with the plans 'drawn by John Harley of this parish, carpenter.' The cost of this and other works was £229 15s. In 1799 a new roof was put upon the north aisle at a cost of £40. In 1800 the outside was covered with rough cast.

On the whole Nanney seems to have been a popular vicar, and to have had the goodwill of the parish in his efforts to improve the church.

NATHANIEL JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH, M.A., 29 July, 1809.

Hollingsworth, Nathaniel John s. John, of Battersea, Surrey, Gent. St. John's Coll., matric. 29 June, 1789, aged 18, scholar 1789-92, fellow 1792, B.A. 1793, M.A. 1796, rector of Boldon, co. Durham, 1829, until his death 3 Oct., 1839. (Foster.)

He married Lucy Compton, daughter of Timothy Neve, D.D., Margaret Professor of Divinity. He was the author, among other works, of 'A Few Practical Sermons,' and of 'Fleurs: a Poem in Four Books.'

The following notice about Beltingham chapel appears to belong to this incumbency:—About five or six miles from the mother church, claimed as a domestic ch. by Sir E. Blackett, who allows a salary of 5 ga^s & the tenants subscribe about half that sum annually, being y^e whole allowance. It not being liable to the visitation charge, y^e sacram^t is not administered in it, tho' attended by a decent & at times a numerous congregatⁿ. Prayers & a sermon once a fortnight on Sunday afternoon.

Greenhead chapel was built mainly through the zeal and exertions of the Rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, who himself contributed £200—one quarter of the total cost.

The early years of this incumbency were also a time of energetic efforts to 'improve' the church and to increase the accommodation. The improvements were in 1811 met by a voluntary subscription of £213. The increase in the accommodation was paid for by the sale of the new pews at an average price of about £12. Thos. Tinling, contractor for the various works, offered in 1812 to erect a new gallery costing £89 on the condition that the pews should be sold by auction, the church to receive any balance but not to make up any deficiency. The sale realized £115 14s. Od. Evidently the church prospered under Vicar Hollingsworth.

October 8th, 1812. At a meeting . . . resolved that the chapel of Beltingham be allowed by this meeting to be claimed as a chapel of ease by the three townships of Ridley, Henshaw, and Thorngrifton, in order that Sir Wm. Blackett, Bart., according to the proposal of Mr. Hopper Williamson, may legally renounce his claim to the same.

In 1826 the church accounts, under 'Collected on Sacramentall occasions,' show items for the first Sunday in each month in addition to Good Friday, Easter Day, Whit Sunday, and Christmas Day. The collections at Beltingham occur quarterly. Under Vicar Ives the 'occasions' at

Haltwhistle seem to be five times a year. Vicar Lowes on his appointment at once increased the 'occasions' to monthly and Great Festivals, and afterwards to weekly.

In 1827 Rev. Mr. Benson occurs as curate officiating at Beltingham.

In 1842 he was present when the archdeacon visited Haltwhistle church, and he is described as curate of Beltingham and Greenhead.

Memorandum of a Parochial Visitation held by the archdeacon of Northumberland, Sept. 12, 1828, held in the church of the Holy Cross in the vicarage of Haltwhistle. Present: The Rev. N. J. Hollingsworth, A.M., vicar; the Rev. James Fox, A.B., curate; the Rev. Francis Benson, A.M., do.; Mr. Michael Walker, of Haltwhistle, Mr Robert Dixon, of Ollalee, churchwardens. The church is in admirable order and reflects great credit on the liberality of the parishioners. The plate for the service of the altar is however insufficient.

Signed, Thos. Singleton, Archdeacon of Northumberland.'

'Haltwhistle. No canonical decoration is omitted in this church, from the king's arms at the west end to the crimson velvet cover of the communion table at the east end. I was well pleased to see over the vestry door a large table on which was painted a catalogue of benefactions. There are four churchwardens, appointed conjointly by the minister and select vestry of twelve. The revenues of the benefice amount to about £600 per annum, exclusive of 12 acres of ancient glebe in Haltwhistle and, I think, 330 in Melkridge and Henshaw. The chancel is maintained by Sir E. Blackett of Matfen. Haltwhistle is full of uncouth but curious old houses, which betoken the state of constant insecurity and of dubious defence in which the inhabitants of the border were so long accustomed to live. The very pig-styes, which are objects not very discernible from the dwelling-house, have the crenellations and loopholes.' Archdeacon Singleton's *Visitation*, 1828, quoted *Arch. Ael.* xvii. 261. .

About the years 1826-30 Hollingsworth unfortunately became involved in a dispute with his parishioner and friend Thomas Bates concerning the Ridley Hall estate in Haltwhistle parish, of which he was a trustee. Although the bishop was at the time marking his sense of Hollingsworth's character by promoting him, and notwithstanding that Hollingsworth continued to enjoy the friendship and respect of his friends, yet Thomas Bates complained of his conduct in a printed letter to the bishop in acrimonious language. The history of the dispute is related in more measured terms in the recently published *Thomas Bates and the Kirk-levington Herd*.

1835, April 23. 'That the vestry clerk notify Rev. N. J. Hollingsworth by letter that the buildings now erecting in the Black Bull lane are pronounced encroachments and injurious to the churchyard wall: after having been deliberately viewed by the vicar churchwardens and Twelve men.'

WILLIAM IVES, 1829, on the resignation of Hollingsworth.

Ives, William s. Cornelius, of Bradden, Northants, arm: Balliol Coll., matric. 2 April, 1818, aged 18, B.A. 1822, vicar of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, 1829-69, died 16 March, 1875. See Rugby School Reg. Foster.

He was a nephew of Bp. Van Mildert. He was thrice married; firstly to Mary Ann, daughter of Henry Richmond of Humshaugh (died 1840); secondly to Sarah Green, daughter of Robert Green of South Shields (died 1857); and thirdly to Ann Mewburn, cousin of Simon Mewburn of Acomb (who survived him). The relatives of his third wife have erected a reredos in the church to his memory. 'Besides acknowledging the value of the reredos as a work of art, the vestry cannot at the same time but feel great satisfaction that the parish where Mr. Ives so long laboured and the church wherein he so long ministered should be chosen as the place of a memorial to one where all who knew him so much respected and esteemed.'

Visitation, Oct. 11, 1842:—A table of degrees is wanted. The communion plate, with the exception of the chalice, is of pewter.† This should be of silver, and the archdeacon has no doubt that the opulent proprietors of the parish, and in particular sir Edward Blackett, as being lay rector, will when applied to perform this service to the church. The cloth which covers the kneeling board for communicants has become too bad in appearance to be further used. It should be supplied with a decent cloth corresponding to that on the communion table. The linen also for the communion table should be new. The Bible to be new bound, and a new Prayer Book got for the reading desk. The proprietors of pews will see in some instances the desirableness of new painting them. The general appearance of the church is satisfactory. The rails intended for the communicants to kneel at to be new painted. One new surplice to be got. —W. J. Raymond, archdeacon.

JOSEPH LOWE, M.A., 1869, on the death of Ives, on the presentation of the bishop of Manchester, to whom, on a rearrangement of patronage under bishop Longley's Act, it had now passed.

Of Trinity coll., Cambridge, B.A. 1853, M.A. 1856, deacon 1853, and priest 1855, by the bishop of Manchester; vicar of Holy Trinity, Bolton, 1856-1869.

In 1870, the church was completely restored at a cost of about £3,000, raised by voluntary subscription, the lay rector, sir E. Blackett, giving £350 in lieu of separately restoring the chancel.

In 1884, Beltingham chapel was also restored, and made in 1890 the parish church for the eastern portion of the old parish. A church was also erected at Henshaw, as a memorial to bishop Ridley, in 1888-9, at a cost of £1,200.

In 1892, the western portion was cut off, and attached to the chapel at Greenhead, built in 1827, and in 1876 entirely renewed at the cost (£1,000) of the late Edward Joicey of Blenkinsop hall.

POSTSCRIPT.

JOHN PEIRSON, nominated December 9th, 1658. Although there is no mention of any intruding vicar of this parish, either in Calamy or

† For note of communion vessels, see *Proc.* iii. 367.

in Walker, the records in Lambeth library show that John Peirson was appointed in 1658 to the vicarage 'now become void through the death of the last incumbent.' This last incumbent was not Humphrey Dacres, because he survived the restoration. Possibly the individual who had died was Mr. Devereux, to whom the commissioners at the sittings in Newcastle, in the year 1651, 1652, and 1653, had granted the tithes of Haltwhistle, as well as augmentations from the revenues of certain other parishes. However this may be, there is no doubt about John Peirson, since there is a record of his nomination on December 9th, 1658, and of his admittance on the 9th February following. The Lambeth MSS. also state that £6 was allowed to Haltwhistle school out of the tithes of Bywell, but of this there seems to be no further notice.

Lambeth Palace Library, Augmentations of Livings, vol. 983, page 136.

To the Com^{rs} for approbacion of publique Preachers wee Willm Steele &c the true & vndoubted Patrons of the Vicarage of the p^rish church of Haltwhistle in the County of Northumberland now become void by the death of the last Incumbent &c Have nominated & p^resented & by these p^rsents doe nominate & p^resent John Peirson Minister of the Word to the said vicarage & church &c In witness thereof we have &c this ninth day of December in the yeare according to the Computation vsed in England One thousand six hundrd Fifty & Eight

Jo : Thorowgood Ra : Hall Jo Humfrey

Jo : Pocock Ri Yong.

The same vol. 985, page 281, December 7th, 1658. Pm (?) Mr. Peirson.

The same vol. 999, page 197.

John Peirson Cl. Admitted the 9th day of Feb^r 1658 to the v. of Haltwhistle in the county of Northumb[']land Vpon a Pres: exhibited the 12th day of the same moneth from the Trustees for maintenance of Min^{rs} And certificates from W^m Brisco John Barwis Roland Nicols Eamin Eaglesfield.

The same vol. 1006, page 426.

An Abstract of the settlements of ministers in the Counties of Durham and Northumberland made by the Com^{rs} appointed by Act of Parliament for propagating the gospell in the Counties of Northumberland Cumberland Westmoreland and Durham in the time of their sitting at Newcastle vpon Tyne in the yeares 1651 and 1652 and 1653.

page 433 Haltwhistle. M^r [blank] Devereux the tythes of Haltwhistle 10th out of K[n]arsdell and Kirkhaugh 30th out of Bywell Andrew 6th 13^s 04^d out of the tythes of Lamely.

Schools. Haltwhistle 6th out of Bywell.

page 374. Hereafter followeth allowances to schools as are specified page 375 Haltwhistle VIth per ann. out of Bywell tythes.