



VIEWS OF
WAKEFIELD

AND ITS ADJACENT
SCENERY

— — —
BY AN AMATEUR

SCENERY

IN THE

VICINITY OF WAKEFIELD;

WITH

A BRIEF HISTORICAL DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT.

BY

THE REV. THOMAS KILBY,

PERPETUAL CURATE OF ST. JOHN'S.

WAKEFIELD:

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, AT THE PARSONAGE.

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VICENTZ OF WAKFIELD

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To
The Right Honorable the Earl of Scarborough

This Volume

consisting of

A series of Views of Wakefield and its Vicinity,
with a few brief Historical Notices.

is by special Permission, and with every Sentiment
of Respect and Esteem, dedicated.

by his Lordship's most obedient

and very humble Servant.

Thomas Killy

J. C. Clarkson
Quebec Cottage
1843

P R E F A C E .

As the chief gratification derived from the contemplation of a picture frequently arises more from some pleasing association connected with the scene, than from the mere abstract beauty of the drawing or the truth of its details, the author of this Work has been induced to add a few historical particulars, not wholly devoid of interest, in the hope that they may communicate additional pleasure to the Subscribers, and render the Volume more generally acceptable. Should the occasional reflections which the subjects have suggested to his mind tend to the edification of some, and the scenery exhibited incline others to explore the beauties of their own immediate neighbourhood, thus leading them "from nature up to nature's God," he will not have expended his efforts uselessly, neither will he have laboured in vain.

SCENERY IN THE VICINITY
OF

WAKEFIELD

BY

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Rev. J. Kilby del. & lith.

SANDAL CASTLE.

SANDAL CASTLE.

THIS castle, which is described by an old historian* as "standing pleasantly upon a small hill, in view of the faire town of Wakefield," is generally supposed to have been built about 1320, by John Plantagenet, the last earl of Warren, who, being questioned by Edward I. "By what title he held the land?" resolutely drew his sword, and replied, "This is the title by which I hold it. William the Bastard did not conquer England himself. The Norman barons, and my ancestors among the rest, were joint adventurers in the enterprise." Whereupon Edward wisely withdrew his *quo warranto*. In the reign of Edward III. it was occupied by Edward Baliol, during the preparation for placing him on the Scottish throne. It subsequently became the residence of Richard Plantagenet, duke of York; and, lastly, of the Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. Formerly this castle occupied an area of about six acres, and in the days of the Plantagenets was a place of feudal grandeur and strength, being surrounded by a deep trench, and rendered accessible only by means of a drawbridge. The mound, in the centre of which stood the tower, is extremely steep and precipitous, and commands extensive and beautiful prospects east and west. It was from this baronial fortress that the Yorkists, with Richard duke of York at their head, sallied forth to give battle to Queen Margaret. He had repaired thither on Christmas-eve, 1460, with about 5000 men, intending to wait the arrival of his son Edward, earl of March, who was then in Wales levying troops. Though the Lancastrians had sustained a signal defeat in the battle of Northampton, in which Henry VI. was taken prisoner, the duke was, nevertheless, unwilling to risk an engagement with Margaret of Anjou until properly reinforced. Conscious of her own superiority of numbers, which she had dexterously concealed from her enemy, she appeared before the walls of Sandal Castle, and, using the most insulting epithets, dared him to the unequal conflict, observing, that "it was disgraceful to a man who aspired to a crown to suffer himself to be shut up by a woman." Goaded almost to madness by this species of attack, which to a proud and warlike spirit was more galling than any artillery she could have employed against him, he, contrary to the advice of the Earl of Salisbury and Sir David Hall, "an ancient servant of his, and a great soldier," quitted the defences of his castle and appeared in the open plain. He had not proceeded far when he was attacked both in flank and rear;—in rear by two detachments, which had lain in ambush, under the joint command of the Earl of Wiltshire and the Lord Clifford; in flank by the Dukes of Somerset and Exeter, who commanded the main army, consisting of about 20,000 men. By this stratagem on the part of the queen, Richard found himself enclosed, and unable to offer any effectual resistance.

In the space of half an hour the duke with his little army was discomfited and put to the sword; and it is supposed that he was slain by the hand of Clifford, who had sworn eternal hostility to every member of his family. Be this as it may, I believe it is a well-ascertained fact, that this ruthless soldier cut off the duke's head immediately after the battle;† and having encircled it with a paper crown, in derision of his pretended title, conveyed it in triumph to the queen. Pleased with the device, and forgetful of female delicacy, she not only applauded the act and joined with him in his brutal exultation, but afterwards ordered the head with its

* Speed, who appears to have taken his narrative from Grafton's Chronicle and Stowe's Annals.

† See Gentleman's Magazine, Aug. 1802, p. 708.

appendage to be fixed upon one of the gates of York, in token of her victory. In this bloody engagement fell Sir John and Sir Hugh Mortimer, the duke's uncles; Sir David Hall, Sir Hugh Hastings, Sir Thomas Neville, William and Thomas A'Parr, and 2800 men,—an engagement truly disastrous to the house of York. At a subsequent period, during the civil war, this castle was held for Charles I. till surrendered in 1645; and in 1646 it was so completely demolished by the army of Cromwell, as to leave only a few inconsiderable remains, of which the drawing in the Frontispiece is a representation.

ODE TO SANDAL.

“RELIC hoar of ancient days,
How scant and scattered is the wreck
That serves to mark the sacred place
Which erst thy towers were wont to deck !

Thy spacious courts no more are trod ;
Thy warriors sleep beneath the sod ;
Thy bastions dark no longer crown
Those mounds from which they once did frown :
But stately hall, and vaulted keep,
And light-thrown arch, and turret steep,
And citadel of loftiest pride,
And treble gate, and drawbridge wide,—
Are gone, are sunken from our sight—
Soon lost amid the misty, darkling night
Which ever follows close on Time's oblivious flight.

Gone is the baron's feudal state ;
Gone is the fame of the mighty and great ;
Gone is the prowess of martial knight ;
Gone are the charms of his lady bright ;
Gone is the pomp of thy chivalry,
Of thy pageants gay, and thy heraldry !”*
“ But cold is the heart, and strange the eye,
That could unheeded pass thee by,
Nor read thereon the hest of fate,
How war leaves grandeur desolate !”

* Written by a gentleman on his first visit to the ruins of Sandal Castle.

NOTE.—The four concluding lines, taken from an “ Historical Poem of Sandal in the Olden Time,” by William Henry Leatham, Esq., are substituted in lieu of those penned by the writer of this truly spirited ode, because, to the author of this work, they appear most appropriate, and more *exactly expressive* of his own sentiment and feeling.



SOUTH EAST VIEW OF THE CHAPEL & BRIDGE 1842



WEST VIEW OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH BRIDGE

BRIDGE AND CHAPEL.

THIS bridge, which consists of nine arches, was built in the reign of Edward III. The pointed Gothic arch, according to its original design, is still preserved on its eastern side; and it is much to be lamented that a due regard to architectural consistency was not observed, when, about fifty or sixty years ago, it was widened and rendered more commodious. According to Leland, the battle of Wakefield, between the houses of York and Lancaster, was fought a little to the south of this bridge; and it was to perpetuate the memory of his father, and to secure constant requiems for the souls of the slain, that Edward duke of York, afterwards Edward IV., re-endowed that "right goodly chapel of our Lady," which for a century preceding had not only constituted an interesting feature in the landscape, but had proved a guide to many a benighted traveller. From its contiguity to the spot where the Earl of Rutland fell (which even now bears the name of "the fallings"), it is conjectured, and with every colour of probability, that he was hastening thither to a place of sanctuary when overtaken by the murderous Clifford.

This little chantry, together with the antique bridge, forms a pleasing and picturesque combination of objects, especially from the road leading toward Heath. Being built upon a small island immediately contiguous to the bridge, and projecting eastward about 30 feet, it overhangs the river Calder, in whose waves it is reflected; whilst its western front, measuring about 18 feet, ranges in a direct line with the battlement parallel with the footpath. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to convey an adequate idea of the varied beauties of this little structure except through the medium of an architectural drawing upon a *large* scale, carefully made out in all its details.

The architect and the antiquary have each essayed to delineate them, and to hold them up to general admiration; and, despite the "botch-work by which it has been attempted to be repaired," this little chantry, challenging competition with any similar structure in the kingdom, seldom fails to rivet the attention even of the casual passenger. In describing what he saw in 1799, an architect who made a tour throughout Yorkshire, and published his memoranda in *The Gentleman's Magazine* in 1806, under the title, "Pursuits of Architectural Innovation," states, that the east window had at that time *much tracery*; that the *parapet* was *perforated*; and that the windows on each side the building, north and south, were *equally rich*: "but all embellishment," he observes, "seems inconsiderable, and all praise inadequate, when referring to the west front."

After particularising its inimitable Gothic ornaments, consisting of buttresses and recesses with pointed arched heads and lofty pediments; its entablature supporting niches, turrets, and basso-relievos, the latter crowned with small battlements—the tourist proceeds to supply the reader with an account of the subjects upon which the sculptor had expended the labours of his chisel:—"The basso-relievos," says he, "shew the Nativity, Resurrection, and Ascension*—the fourth not quite intelligible (being, with the rest, much mutilated), but appears to contain two personages, one on each side an altar." Supported by evidence of this character

* A gentleman now resident in London, having examined this composition many years ago, remembers to have seen a representation of the soles of the feet of Christ immediately above the heads of the disciples; and the Rev. William Carr, of Bolton Abbey, has in his possession a rude carving of the Ascension similarly represented.

(especially as the edifice in question is dedicated to St. Mary), I am inclined to hazard the conjecture, that the first compartment, nearest Wakefield, may have contained a representation of the Annunciation; and that the last, nearest Sandal, by some thought to represent two kings seated upon two thrones, is intended to personify the Father and the Son—the latter seated at the right hand of God. Such attempts, though unquestionably bordering on profaneness, have frequently been made both in painting and sculpture.

Admitting, then, this conjecture to be not wholly groundless, the sculptured designs in the *five* compartments would seem to form a consecutive history of Christ, commencing with the Annunciation, proceeding with the Nativity, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, and terminating with his glorious Exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high. Be this, however, as it may, the testimony of an eye-witness, of an architect who made a careful sketch of the chapel and its various embellishments, and who, at the time, experienced no difficulty whatever in deciphering *three* out of the five basso-relievos, must, I think, be deemed satisfactory as far as it goes. The wish, therefore, expressed by Dr. Whitaker, in his "Loidis and Elmete," viz. "that the perishing sculptures on the front could be discovered to throw any light upon the subject," is so far realised as to leave little doubt in the mind of the antiquarian, that the chapel owes its *erection* to circumstances wholly independent of the battle of Wakefield. Indeed, all difficulty upon this subject is removed by a charter of Edward III., dated at Wakefield, in the 31st year of his reign, anno 1357,* by which instrument he grants "to William Kaye and William Bull, chaplains, and their successors for ever, the annual sum of 10*l.*, to perform divine service daily in the chapel of St. Mary, then *newly* erected on Wakefield Bridge."—I had written thus much when the "Improved Essay on this and other Ancient Bridge-Chantries," by Norrison Scatchard, Esq., fell into my hands; and I feel gratified in bearing my feeble testimony to a work which contains much valuable information and original remark: indeed, no one can carefully peruse the essay in question without feeling the force of the argument, and recognising in the evidence adduced very *strong proof* of the fact for which the author contends, viz. that "the edifice on Wakefield Bridge, commonly, but erroneously, called the Chapel of Edward IV.," was erected about a century earlier, even at a period when the ornamental Gothic, with its rich and elaborate tracery, is known to have attained its highest excellence.

But to enter into any lengthened discussion on a subject which, after all, may remain matter of controversy, would not consist with the design of these brief notices. Let me, therefore, congratulate the admirers of our ancient ecclesiastical edifices and the friends of religion, that vigorous efforts are now being made, not only to restore this interesting relic of a former age to its pristine beauty, but to dedicate it to the worship of Almighty God in conformity with the doctrine and discipline of the Established Church.

* Vide Hopkinson's Collections.



WINDFIELD FROM NEW HAVEN TOWN

THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD,

FROM NEAR

NELSON'S FOUNDRY.

FEW towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire enjoy equal natural advantages with the Borough of Wakefield. Beautiful as to its locality, being "principally situated on the side of an eminence sloping to the river Calder," and surrounded on all sides by pleasing and picturesque scenery; abounding in coal of excellent quality, and water admirably adapted for the purposes of dyeing; possessing also peculiar facilities for the conveyance of goods as well to the German Ocean as to the densely populated districts of Lancashire,—it is somewhat remarkable that it should not have continued to advance in wealth and importance with the large towns in its immediate vicinage. "The traveller," says Dr. Whitaker, "who turns westward from the Great North Road toward the English Apennine, quickly discovers that he is entering upon an inferior country. The scenery, indeed, becomes more varied and interesting; but the buildings begin to grow rude, and the churches decline in splendour."

Several years have now elapsed since Wakefield could number among its citizens many rich, enterprising, and influential foreign merchants, who were then carrying on trade upon a large scale, and accumulating immense wealth.

Leland, in describing it three centuries ago, states that it derived its principal revenue from the manufacture of woollen cloths—"it standeth now al by clothyng." This branch of trade has, however, of late years given place to an extensive traffic in corn and wool, which are its staple commodities. For the accommodation of those gentlemen who are engaged in the former business, a beautiful stone building, of large dimensions (called the Corn-Exchange), has, within the last five years, been erected, at a cost of several thousand pounds.

Though various and fanciful have been the conjectures relative to the derivation of the name by which the town is designated, still the best authorities would seem to deduce it from its first Saxon possessor. "Nothing," says Dr. Whitaker, "was more common, at the time when the villare of this country was formed, than to denominate whole townships by the terminating syllable, *field*."*

The coins and other Roman antiquities which, during the last century, have been discovered near Lingwell Gate,† sufficiently indicate the existence of a Roman station not far from hence.‡

Intimately connected with the history of Wakefield is the history of its manor, which is one of the largest in the kingdom, extending from east to west a distance of more than thirty miles, and comprising a population

* See History of Leeds, p. 275.

† Camden, the father of British antiquaries, derives the name of this place from a body of Lingones, a people of ancient Gaul, who were stationed there—most likely a detachment from the legion of Lingones long stationed at Olicana, now Ilkley.

‡ "In March, 1821, on breaking the ground with the plough, a number of Roman coins, with several of the moulds in which they were cast, were unexpectedly turned up near Lingwell Gate; and subsequent search discovered many more, some in the very matrixes in which they had been cast. Four crucibles, in which the metal had been fused, were also found at the same place."—*Dr. Naylor's original MS.*

(especially as the edifice in question is dedicated to St. Mary), I am inclined to hazard the conjecture, that the first compartment, nearest Wakefield, may have contained a representation of the Annunciation; and that the last, nearest Sandal, by some thought to represent two kings seated upon two thrones, is intended to personify the Father and the Son—the latter seated at the right hand of God. Such attempts, though unquestionably bordering on profaneness, have frequently been made both in painting and sculpture.

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* Vide Hopkinson's Collections.



THE CLIFF TREE - 1842

CLIFF TREE.

THIS venerable tree, owing to its great antiquity, has long been regarded by the inhabitants of Wakefield with feelings of lively interest. Standing upon high ground, it overlooks a rich and fertile valley, upon the rising banks of which may be seen Old Hall, the residence of George Ridsdale, Esq., and the spire of Horbury Church in the distance. In reference to this tree, a tradition has long been preserved by the Maudes, whose ancestors built Alverthorpe Hall, and who formerly possessed extensive estates in this immediate neighbourhood, viz., that it was *planted* by John Maude de Staynland, or by his eldest son, surnamed Senex, in or about the year 1585—making it 258 years old.

For some years past it has exhibited evident symptoms of decay, though it still retains periodical powers of vegetation. To use the words of John Maude, Esq., of Middlewood Hall, the seventh in descent from this family,—“This tree continued to flourish whilst the Maudes of Wakefield flourished, and its decay has kept pace with theirs.” During the rebellion in 1745, it is reported that the royalists, under General Wade, encamped for a night in St. John’s Field; and the army having received orders to proceed westward, the pioneers had been despatched to remove every thing likely to impede the progress of the baggage-waggons and ammunition. In pursuance of this object, they had already cut down several trees and hedges in the direction of Dewsbury; and as the Cliff Tree stood in the way of their contemplated route, it was intended that it should likewise share the same fate: this, however, was happily prevented by the timely interference of some respectable individuals.

Shortly after this, General Wade, who was then in the centre of Yorkshire, having received intelligence that the Pretender with his adherents had actually commenced a rapid retreat from Derby, sent, with all practicable expedition, a troop of horse over Blackstone Edge, with a view to intercept the fugitives. In this attempt he was too late, although in time to join the pursuing force of the Duke of Cumberland.



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PARISH CHURCH & TOWN

PARISH-CHURCH AND TOWN,

FROM

PINDAR FIELDS.*

THE parish-church of Wakefield is a beautiful Gothic structure, of large dimensions, supposed to have been built about A.D. 1465. The learned historian of Leeds considers that it occupies precisely the same site as did the "original Norman church, which must have subsisted till the beginning of the reign of Edward III." That a circumstance so remarkable should be left to vague and uncertain conjecture, and that history should have contributed nothing toward the elucidation of a fact now buried, it is to be feared, in hopeless oblivion, is indeed most inexplicable. The tower, which, from its base to its spiral summit, measures 228 feet, is thought by the same author to have belonged to a former church, the body of which was completely demolished within the short space of 140 years after its erection. The architect who could plan and execute so stupendous and so elegant a tower is certain to have preserved unity of design throughout the entire fabric. Time, of itself, could effect comparatively nothing toward so extensive a demolition; and I am not aware that the history of that period tends, in the least, to remove the mysterious darkness in which the subject is enveloped: we must, consequently, for the future, look in vain for any satisfactory explanation of a circumstance apparently so strange and unaccountable. In describing the present noble structure as it appeared in the reign of Henry VIII., Leland writes thus: "The principal church that now is yn Wakefild is but of a new work, but it is exceeding faire and large." He further remarks: "Some think that wer as now is a chapell of ease, at the other end of the towne, was ons the old paroch-church." With due deference to so high an authority as that of Dr. Whitaker, who appears to controvert the truth of this latter statement, I am free to confess my inability altogether to withhold assent to this tradition, more especially as subsequent excavations, in the immediate vicinity of the West-Riding Proprietary School, have discovered the foundation of an ancient massy building, together with bones and a number of mutilated gravestones, which, at different intervals, have been dug up near the same spot.

Prior to the Conquest, Wakefield had become a separate parish, and, no doubt, had a church suited to its then existing population; and I do not think the argument deduced from the magnitude, convenience, and assumed antiquity of the rectory-house, together with its adjacency to the present elegant structure, of sufficient weight to throw discredit upon the traditionary account of a more ancient parish-church having previously existed within the precincts of the town, toward its northern extremity. To consecrate a church on its being RE-EDIFIED was by no means a common custom in the earlier period of our ecclesiastical history. Though "the primitive disciples of Christ were not more heartily zealous against the idolatrous worship of the heathen gods than they were religiously observant of whatever concerned the honour and worship of the true," still, whenever

* The field whence this view of the church and town is taken has acquired some celebrity from the circumstance that tradition attributes to it the identical spot where, unaided and alone, the Pindar of Wakefield resolutely defended the right of her citizens from the bold encroachments of the far-famed Robin Hood and his two lawless companions.

pagan temples were converted into Christian churches, the presence of the cross was generally deemed a *sufficient consecration*.* And instances are not wanting of refusal on the part of our Protestant bishops to repeat the ceremony of consecration, because some ancient cross within the contemplated enclosure seemed to indicate that the spot upon which it stood had, at some remote period, been devoted to sacred uses.†

“On the ides of August, A.D. 1322 or 1329, we find, however, that a new church in Wakefield had been erected and finished; for on that day it was actually consecrated by Archbishop William de Melton, with four altars;—that of the high choir, dedicated to All Saints; the altar on the south, to the Blessed Virgin; that on the north, to St. Nicholas; and that in the middle of the church, to St. Peter.” I do not pretend to be sufficiently conversant with matters of this kind to form any decided opinion as to the probable decision of a Roman Catholic archbishop on a subject in which, most likely, he would be guided by ancient and established usage. I am, however, strongly inclined to believe that the church he then consecrated was a structure newly dedicated to God, and that the “original Norman church, adapted only to the circumstances of a mere village,” must have stood elsewhere.

Preparatory to the dissolution of the monasteries, “in the palmy days of the Church of Rome,” Wakefield had been abundantly supplied with places of religious worship, and with priests to officiate therein. From Archbishop Holgate’s return, it would appear that there were no fewer than nine chantries in the town, having chantry-priests attached to them, all of whom were located within the parish. At this remote period it is difficult, if not impossible, to fix upon the exact situation of each, though that of the major part may be ascertained with tolerable accuracy. The chantry of two priests, in the middle of Wakefield Bridge, is sufficiently defined; that of our Lady, it is thought, formed the south aisle of the choir of the present church; and the Pilkington Chapel, founded by Sir John Pilkington, constituted a distinct foundation within. The chantry of St. Swithin, founded by Earl Warren, was no doubt situated near the well which still retains his name: an old record says that it stood near the park-paling. The chapel of St. Mary Maudeleine, founded by the parishioners, was perhaps near Maudeleine Bridge, to the western extremity of the town,—and hence its name; and that of St. John, founded by John Lock, was a little to the north-east, where is a field still called St. John’s Close. With respect to the remaining chantries, viz.

Soothill’s Chantry of four priests, founded by Henry Soothill;

Graistock Chantry, founded by William Graistock;

Banister’s Chantry, founded by Thurston Banister;—

I believe their precise situation in the town has baffled the most diligent research of the scholar and antiquary. The old edifice in which a number of carved images was discovered about ninety years ago, is suspected to have been originally one of these chantries; but inasmuch as this is mere conjecture, unsupported by evidence, though it may justly be entitled to consideration, still it cannot legitimately claim more at our hands.

The subject which next demands our attention is that which relates to the advowson and its ancient patrons. I here transcribe the following historical facts from Whitaker’s *Loidis and Elmete*, pp. 277 and 287, to which I would refer the reader for further particulars:—“‘The Guarines, erles of Surrey,’ saith Leland, ‘were ons lords

* See Cod. Theod. lib. xvi. tit. 10, de Pag. Sacrific. et Templis, &c.

† “At Clickheaton is a chapel, called Old White Chapel in the East, which, having long been dilapidated and afterwards repaired, Archbishop Sharp declined to consecrate, partly on account of the antiquity implied in the name,^a and partly from an aged yew-tree growing in the churchyard.”

^a “It is called Heaton Chapel in Saxton’s Map, A.D. 1575.”—Dr. Whitaker’s *Loidis and Elmete*, p. 249.

of this towne ;' and with their story, as connected with Wakefield, I shall begin. At the time of Domesday, William de Warenne was already in possession of Conisborough, with its numerous and valuable dependencies ; but Wakefield, with its berewicks and its soke, was yet in the crown. Now, whether in that interval De Warenne had rendered fresh services to the Conqueror, or that his master might be disposed to bestow his favours so as to retain the double pledge of expectation and gratitude, Wakefield was the object of a subsequent grant, of which the date is not precisely ascertained. The first William de Warenne died June 24, 1088 ; and the first legal act by which it can be proved that the family were seised of the manor of Wakefield, with its dependent lordships, is the charter of William the second Earl of Warren, by which he grants to God and St. Pancras of Lewis, besides other churches not immediately within the range of this work, 'Ecclesiam de Wakefeld cum capella de Horbyry et omnibus pertinenciis suis.' This charter, like almost every other charter of that period, is without date. It seems clear that Thomas Drayton was the first *vicar* presented by the College of St. Stephen ; and that Edward III., who, in consequence of the grant from John the last Earl Warren, was seised of both the manor and advowson, had bestowed the latter on that college, which was of his own foundation.

"What, then, becomes of the donation of this church to the church of St. Pancras of Lewis, which must have taken effect ? The only answer which I am able to give to the question is, as there is extant a confirmation, by Archbishop Geoffry Plantagenet, of a pension of sixty shillings out of this benefice to the *monks of Lewis*, it is probable that they released the advowson to the representative of the original patron for that consideration.

"Ult. November, A.D. 1348, the church (being given by the king) was, by William Archbishop of York, appropriated to the dean and college of the free Chapel Royal of St. Stephen, in the king's palace of Westminster, who, in recompense of the damage done to his cathedral church thereby, reserved (out of the fruits thereof, to himself and successors, archbishops) the annual pension of 20*s.*, and to his dean and chapter 10*s.* And at Ripon, 2d January, A.D. 1349, William Archbishop of York made this ordination of the vicarage of the church of Wakefield, which was wont to be governed by a rector secular, and appropriated to the dean and college of St. Stephen's, Westminster, viz. That there should be in the church of Wakefield one perpetual vicar (having the rule of souls) presentable by the said dean and college of St. Stephen, the portion of whose vicarage should exist in one competent mansion, with houses sufficient, built at the costs of the said dean and college, 'together with sundry tythes, oblations, mortuaries, &c. &c.' Until its dissolution, this college continued to present, when the patronage once more reverted to, and has ever since remained vested in, the crown."

With respect to the architectural beauty of this edifice, I believe it will be freely admitted that few churches in the north of England can successfully compete with it, although the eye of taste may easily detect many glaring incongruities in those parts of the structure which have been subjected to modern repair and innovation. Indeed, the *tout-ensemble* is stately and imposing. There is throughout the fabric a prevailing symmetry, which produces a most pleasing and even sublime effect upon the mind of the beholder ; and I deem it rather matter of congratulation than regret that, at the time when those repairs were effected (a time "when deformity and barbarism were daily obtruded on the public eye under the name of Gothic," and when designs were usually submitted to the approval of ignorant committees and parish-vestries), our venerable church should have sustained comparatively so little injury in a restoration so extensive.* The interior of this church (which,

* Indeed, this fact is truly remarkable, when it is borne in mind that even Sir Christopher Wren (who was a hater of that style which he contemptuously designated Gothic) could attach Grecian bodies to beautiful Gothic towers : which may be seen both at Derby and Warwick.

to the credit of the churchwardens and other officers connected with the establishment, always exhibits an air of great comfort, cleanliness, and order) contains a number of marble monuments, some of which are eminently worthy the structure they adorn, though none of them can boast any remote antiquity.

“The brasses, so common in our large churches, were destroyed or stolen in those disastrous times when neither the sanctity of the place wherein they were deposited, nor the respect usually paid to the sepulchres of the dead, could protect them from violation;” and the parish-church of Wakefield seems to have been peculiarly exposed to this species of sacrilegious plunder. But as all these matters are described in detail in the *Historic Sketch of Wakefield Church*, by the Rev. J. L. Sisson, D.D., I would recommend the perusal of that work to those who may desire more extensive information.

Before I conclude this brief outline (for it is nothing more), I would observe, that the recent removal of the pulpit from the place it has so long occupied, though it may have exhibited the altar more fully to view, and improved, perhaps, the general effect of the building, still it has most unfortunately communicated additional *prominence* to a painting which had better have remained shrouded from the gaze of the congregation. If we must needs return to what is termed “primitive and apostolic usage,”* pictures no less than carved images and statues should be peremptorily excluded from our religious edifices; but if they are to remain,—to which I can discover no objection, unless they should once more become the objects of man’s senseless idolatry, like the brazen serpent which good King Hezekiah, in his holy zeal for the honour of God, destroyed,†—then let nothing be admitted into our churches save works of acknowledged excellence, the productions of the best masters.

The time, I trust, is not far distant, when the unsightly composition just referred to, which is a disgrace to the church, and which has been known to distract the attention and disturb the devotion of many a sincere and humble worshipper, may be removed, and something substituted in its place more consonant with the sanctity of the spot, and more worthy the sacred edifice which it has been designed to embellish.

* “Coming to Anablatha, a village in Palestine, and going into a church to pray, I espied,” says Epiphanius, “a curtain hanging over the door, whereon was painted the image of Christ, or of some saint; which when I looked upon, and saw the image of a man hanging up in the church, contrary to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, I presently rent it, and advised the guardians of the church rather to make use of it as a winding-sheet for some poor man’s burying: whereat when they were a little troubled, and said it was but just that, since I had rent that curtain, I should change it, and give them another, I promised them I would, and have now sent the best I could get; and pray entreat them to accept it, and give *command* that, for the time to come, no such curtains, being contrary to our religion, may be hung in the church of Christ; it more becoming your place solicitously to remove whatever is offensive to and unworthy of the church of Christ and the people committed to your charge.”^a

† 2 Kings xviii. 4.

^a Epiphanius’ own epistle, (then Bishop of Salamine in Cyprus, a man held in high esteem in the Church for his great age and excellent learning), addressed to John Bishop of Jerusalem, and translated by St. Jerome (*inter opera Hieron.* tom. ii. p. 161). Epiphanius flourished about A.D. 368.



ST. JOHN'S

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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AND BUILDINGS.

THE church of St. John, situated in the centre of an elegant suburb to the north-east extremity of the town of Wakefield, is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the vicar for the time being. It is a handsome stone edifice of Roman architecture, and stands in the midst of a spacious cemetery, surrounded on all sides by trees, which shed a soft religious solemnity over the sacred enclosure.

This structure was erected at a cost exceeding £10,000, under authority of an act of parliament passed 31st George III. The foundation-stone was laid by the Rev. Thomas Zouch, D.D., author of *The Good Schoolmaster*, and several biographical works of great merit, all of which are collected together in two volumes by the late Venerable Archdeacon Wrangham, who also was himself an elegant accomplished scholar and exemplary Christian. Shortly after its completion, William Lord Archbishop of York consecrated this church, which, being dedicated to St. John, may "be considered as a revival of the old foundation;"—for from a will dated July 1, 1527, and proved September 25, 1528, it appears that "Thomas Ryther of Ryther, Esq., directs his executors to apply the sum of £20" (a large bequest in that day) "to the edifying and founding one place of *Freers Observants* in Saint John's Church in Wakefield; and if none hereafter be edified there, then to bestow the said £20 by the discretion of his executors."

The Rev. Richard Monkhouse, D.D., was the first incumbent nominated, not by the vicar, but by certain commissioners appointed by the act referred to under a special clause, introduced for the purpose of securing the first nomination. Being shortly afterwards translated to the vicarage, and the right of presentation devolving upon him, he appointed the Rev. William Wood his immediate successor.

From a manuscript copy of a petition in my possession, dated May 13, 1799, presented to "the noble and honourable trustees for executing the trusts of the will of the late John Radcliffe, M.D." (who was born at Wakefield, and educated at the grammar-school), which petition was signed by 240 of the most respectable residents, and countersigned by His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York, and his son, Robert Markham Clerk, master of arts, archdeacon of York, both of whom strongly supported the prayer of the petition, it would appear that the inhabitants of the town, feeling the spiritual destitution under which the parish had long laboured, from the want of sufficient church-accommodation, had, as far back as the year 1725, and at various subsequent periods, entered into large subscriptions for the purpose of building a new and commodious church, and establishing a competent salary for the maintenance and support of its minister.

From the same document it would also appear "that Mrs. Alice Newstead, widow, deceased, formerly an inhabitant of the parish of Wakefield, by her will devised to His Grace the Archbishop of York, and others, estates in the parish of Wakefield, in trust to apply the rents and profits thereof toward the maintenance and support of the minister of a new church, then intended to be built at Wakefield, in case the same should be built within a given period after her decease; but the said will being void by the statute of mortmain, the heir-at-law of the said Mrs. Newstead and the devisee in remainder of the said estates agreed that the sum of £1000 should be paid out of the said estates for or toward the *maintenance* of the minister of such intended new church when

built; which estates were sold to Francis Maude, of Wakefield, esquire, and John Lee, of the same place, gentleman, subject to the payment of the said sum of £1000; whereupon a subscription was entered into, and very liberal donations made by the inhabitants of the said parish and others towards the erecting of such intended new church."

At the time when the act referred to was obtained, it was confidently expected that the income arising from pew-rents and other sources would yield so ample a provision to the minister of St. John's Church, as to prove equivalent to that of the vicarage. The large expenditure, however, upon the church and parsonage not only laid these sanguine expectations prostrate, but exhibited a very opposite result. Hence the petition referred to, the object of which was to participate in the bounty of an individual who had reared his own imperishable monument in Oxford;* and who has conferred honour upon the town of which he was a native. I may here remark, that the prayer of the petition was liberally responded to by Dr. Radcliffe's trustees; and that to it the incumbent of St. John's (who has no pew-rents) is indebted for a large proportion of his scanty revenues.

In speaking of the interior of the church, very few words may suffice. Though it cannot lay claim to any great architectural beauty, still, upon the whole, it may be described as rather a tasteful edifice, the Corinthian pillars and intervening arches, which support the ceiling, being extremely light and elegant. The massy mahogany pulpit and reading-desk also, erected at a cost of £300, are generally much admired for the novelty displayed in their construction, and the convenience of their arrangements. These stand in the middle aisle, and command a full view of the whole congregation.

Within the eastern semicircular recess, appropriated to the communion-table, there are three paintings. The centre composition represents the Crucifixion; the one to the left, the Agony in the Garden; and that to the right, the Resurrection. The Crucifixion is decidedly the best picture, though they are all the works of the same artist. In the window immediately above is exhibited a variety of small Scripture subjects in painted glass, so grouped together as to form a cross. To the left, within a recess, is a whole-length figure, as large as life, in good imitation of sculpture, having in one hand a rod, in the other the tables of stone. On the opposite side, within a similar compartment, is another figure of equal dimensions, holding in one hand a book, the other pointing toward heaven. These, I apprehend, are intended to represent Moses and one of the apostles, and thereby to symbolise the two covenants, the Law and the Gospel.

Upon the walls are fixed many handsome sepulchral tablets, commemorative of those who sleep in the vaulted cemetery beneath. There is, however, one wanting to the memory of a gentleman whose name† is inseparably associated with St. John's, and to whose intelligence and enterprise the inhabitants of Wakefield are indebted for a suburb such as few provincial towns can boast the possession of. To erect a suitable memorial has long been in contemplation, but I believe it has been delayed through unavoidable circumstances.

The ground upon which the church stands is elevated, and commands, in a westerly direction, a varied and extensive prospect. The view to which this description refers is taken from a field a little to the north-west of St. John's; and the lights, as they are disposed in the drawing, may be seen about 11 A.M., on any bright summer's day.

* The Radcliffe Library.

† John Lee, Esq.



THORNES HORSE & LOHMEYER

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LAWE HILL AND THORNES HOUSE.

WHAT that singular relic of antiquity may originally have been which for more than three centuries has gone by the appellation of Lawe Hill, is a matter involved in doubt and uncertainty.

Leland, in his "Itinerary," mentions a legendary story in relation to it, which, although regarded by himself as entirely fabulous and absurd, had nevertheless obtained general credence, viz. that the Earl of Warren had commenced building a castle there, from which undertaking he was compelled to desist, because "as faste as he builded violence of winde defaced the work."

Dugdale remarks (p. 3), that "it derives its name from a tumulus or little heap of earth standing on the brow of a hill;" and Camden, in his "Remains," also observes, that "the Scots who border nearest to England do use the word in the same sense unto this day." This may be perfectly true in respect to its derivation, but still it leaves us in entire ignorance as to the use to which it had been anciently applied. The appearance of the ground toward the west, evidently resembling that of a moat or trench, has induced the supposition that at one time it may have been a Roman keep, or post of observation. "Sum say that it was nothing but a winde-mille-hill;" whilst others regard it as the site of a beacon in troublous times, "from low, or law, signifying a fire or flame;" but the presence of a large platform to the north-east, equal to the accommodation of a vast assembly, has not only thrown doubt upon these suggestions, but led to the inference that in bygone ages this spot may have been consecrated to the purposes of heathen worship.* Where history is wholly silent, and tradition supplies no materials calculated to throw light on the inquiry, the mind is left at liberty to adopt any hypothesis the most consonant with reason and analogy. To proclaim the law from a mound of earth collected from each separate parish in the island, which mound, during the lapse of many centuries, has attained considerable altitude, is a custom which has existed time immemorial in the Isle of Man. Might not the small conical tumulus above the platform on Lawe Hill have been applied to the same purpose when *written* laws were unknown, and when every new enactment must have been delivered orally to the people congregated together in some convenient place? If I am not greatly mistaken, such a custom was universally prevalent among our Saxon ancestors, who usually selected high ground for the purpose referred to. Johnson, in his English Lexicon, derives law—"a decree, edict, statute, or custom, publicly established as a rule of justice"—from *lawgh*, Erse. I merely throw out this hint for the consideration of others, without laying any great stress upon the etymology. Before I conclude these remarks, I would briefly observe, that Lawe Hill was made a fortified encampment during the Civil War, a battery having been planted there by Colonel Overton at the siege of Sandal Castle.

A little to the right of the picture, embosomed in woods in the distance, is Thornes House, the seat of Benjamin Gaskell, Esq., late M.P. for Malden. From the commanding position of the pleasure-grounds

* The Rev. Dr. Naylor, rector of Crofton, in a lecture lately delivered before the members of the Wakefield Mechanics' Institute, writes thus: "We know that our remote ancestors held all their public meetings in the open air, and in the days of Druidism, particularly in the neighbourhood of woods. The whole country to the north and west of this place was an extensive and almost continuous forest, and by no means unadapted to be the place of their religious or civic assemblies: the mound itself may have afforded a place of separation for the Druids themselves to exercise their sacred rites, while the people at a distance looked on with awe and veneration."

attached to this residence, views at once pleasing, varied, picturesque, and extensive, may be seen in all directions. This house was erected about sixty years since by the late James Milnes, Esq., a near connexion of the present owner of the estate.

To the left, immediately below the hill, is the Wakefield House of Correction. In this prison the *silent system* was first attempted in England; and though it has not realised the hopes of its projectors in diminishing the number of criminals, still it has accomplished one grand object—the prevention of *contamination*.

Indeed, owing to the increase of crime, partially attributable to the increase of population, and to other causes not easy to define, this penitentiary is full to overflowing—a circumstance most deeply to be deplored, especially as “the crowded state of the wards must materially interfere with the ordinary strictness of the discipline.” To obviate this, and at the same time to effect a more extensive classification, great alterations and additions are in progress; insomuch that the outer wall will enclose an area of about nine acres, within which a number of separate cells will be constructed sufficient to accommodate eight hundred persons, the average number of prisoners confined at one and the same time during the last year. To render the discipline as salutary as may be, the magistrates have passed many admirable laws and regulations, calculated at once to reclaim the criminal and to deter others from the commission of crime; a mode of procedure which Paley, in his “Moral Philosophy,” affirms to be the only valid argument that can be advanced in justification of penal inflictions; and when the erections referred to are completed, it is in contemplation to try a system of entire solitude in lieu of the one now in use.

Through the indefatigable zeal of the duly appointed chaplain (the Rev. W. Alderson), the prisoners have abundant means of receiving instruction. The younger culprits especially enjoy this advantage in an eminent degree. In his report of 1842 the chaplain observes: “With reference to the effect produced on the boys, I am of opinion it has been attended with most marked benefit: the boys manifest great eagerness for instruction, and seem quite disappointed when any accident prevents their attendance at school. Their personal appearance has greatly improved under the discipline; and were there any means of providing for them after their discharge, I have no doubt but that many of them would be reclaimed.” In addition to a system fraught with so many benefits, the prisoners are instructed in various employments: they are taught to weave, and to make and mend shoes, besides other useful and profitable arts, such as wool-combing, the manufacture of rugs, carpets, &c.; by which wise arrangement the once slothful and indolent not only acquire habits of industry, but are put in possession of a power whereby they may earn their future subsistence in an honest way. There is, however, one sad drawback to these advantages, to which the chaplain alludes in his report.

As admission within the walls of a prison is always attended with more or less of disgrace; and as the great majority of delinquents are as destitute of money as of character, it would appear that they are almost of necessity compelled to continue in a course of dishonesty from the mere want of *employment*.

This is, indeed, a sad state of things. Could any efficient remedy be devised calculated to avert such a calamity, it would be hailed by the kingdom at large as an invaluable boon; and few, I am persuaded, would grudge the contribution necessary toward its accomplishment.

In a great nation like this, mere pecuniary considerations ought not to be suffered to stand in the way of a duty so obvious and important. It may be difficult for the Christian philanthropist to determine in what way this admitted evil may best be modified and rendered less oppressive; but surely it is a subject worthy the grave consideration of an enlightened legislature!



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NORTH EAST VIEW OF THE WEST RIDING PROPRIETARY SCHOOL.

NORTH-EAST VIEW

OF THE

WEST-RIDING PROPRIETARY SCHOOL AND ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

THE foundation-stone of this elegant structure, erected at a cost exceeding £5000, was laid by the Right Honourable the Earl of Mexborough, on the 6th of February, 1833. His lordship, accompanied by his two chaplains, and a large body of free and accepted masons, officiated on this occasion in the capacity of provincial grand master. The constable of the town, Mr. Lane the architect, and a number of shareholders and friends, also joined in the procession.

No similar establishment in the kingdom ever began its operations under more favourable auspices. At the period of its erection, the want of such an institution was universally felt throughout the riding; and no sooner had the intention of building a suitable edifice at Wakefield been announced than several of the Yorkshire nobility and gentry expressed their readiness cordially to assist in the undertaking, and to enrol their names among its first patrons and directors. Indeed, the unparalleled brilliancy of its commencement seems in some degree to have eclipsed its more recent career of usefulness; whilst the judicious laws originally adopted for its general government, however strange it may appear, have tended to rob it of that full measure of success to which it might legitimately lay claim.

“In developing the plans for the various departments of tuition,” great care had been taken to select every thing good and excellent in more ancient kindred establishments, and to shun whatever might prove either hurtful or of doubtful utility: in short, it was the anxious desire of the projectors that “positive knowledge should be communicated, and not the fleeting shadows of mere wordy instruction.” In furtherance of this object, men of high academical honours and moral worth were chosen to conduct the scholastic department. Regulations obviously so wise, and withal so well adapted to win the confidence of the public, and to accomplish the great end in view, immediately attracted the notice of intelligent and enterprising men; and hence the erection of many similar institutions in various localities, viz. in York, Hull, Sheffield, Huddersfield, and elsewhere.

This circumstance accounts for a diminution in the number of its pupils: in truth, it may be said to be the *entire cause* of that diminution; especially as the directors have continued ever since to appoint gentlemen of unblemished integrity and pre-eminent literary attainments as the masters of this school, who, treading in the steps of their distinguished predecessors, and being actuated by one all-engrossing desire to promote the moral and intellectual improvement of those committed to their charge, labour in their arduous and responsible vocation with unwearied industry and zeal.

To enumerate the various incentives to honourable competition which are continually presented to the mind of youth in this seminary of *sound learning* would cause a more lengthened investigation into details than could well accord with a work of this character. It may suffice to say, they are such as to afford an ample guarantee

that great good must flow from them as an *inevitable result*; for though secular learning, in every department of literature and science, has always received from the principal and his colleagues a due share of attention, still religion and the duties it involves have ever been deemed by them of *paramount importance*, from the conviction that without religion there can be no virtue; and that if the love and fear of God influence not the heart, it will be in vain to look for that moral development, the existence of which is so conducive to the Divine honour and the good of the community.

The drawing, taken from the pleasure-grounds of John Hardcastle, Esq., exhibits an inseparable connexion between the college and the church. This should lead the mind of the thoughtful student to remember that the former is only "the schoolmaster to bring him to Christ;" that mere human learning is folly, unless it be made subsidiary to moral improvement; and that an intimate acquaintance with God's revealed word is the only unfailing source of true wisdom and enduring felicity.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH & NEW WELLS

TRINITY CHURCH AND NEW WELLS.

THIS church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and endowed with £1350 private benefactions, was erected under authority of an act of 1 and 2 of William IV. c. 38. It was commenced in 1838, and completed in 1840, the foundation-stone being laid by the lord bishop of the diocese on the 9th of August in the former year.

The building, which is computed to have cost about £4000, and estimated to contain 1000 persons,—one-third of whom have gratuitous accommodation, or at a small rent,—may be described as a neat Gothic structure, free from meretricious ornament, and worthy of admiration from the prevailing simplicity and taste displayed in its general design. The original plan exhibited a spire, which was finally abandoned because of the expense.

In conformity with the act referred to, the patronage is vested in five trustees, who present whenever there is a vacancy. The under-mentioned gentlemen were duly appointed patrons :—

The Rev. Jocelyn Willey.

The Rev. O. L. Collins.

The Rev. Disney Robinson.

Henry Lumb, Esq.

John Jones, Esq.

Toward the endowment four individuals subscribed £1000; and Mrs. Lawrence, of Studley Park, with her wonted munificence, sent a donation of £200 in aid of its further augmentation. In addition to this there is a repair-fund of £350, vested in the three per cents. The clergyman's revenue is principally derived from pew-rents, the amount of which will greatly depend upon the popularity of the minister.

The old building a little to the left of the church was formerly a bath; and there are persons still living in the town who remember it to have been held in great estimation by the inhabitants on account of its strengthening qualities. A few years since, the following Latin inscription was visible over the entrance-door: "Fontes, benedicite Deo;" it is now entirely concealed by the ivy which hangs in graceful masses over that part of the house. The whole composition partakes much of the character of a village-scene, although there is a considerable population in its immediate vicinity.



THORNES CHURCH & PARSONAGE
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THORNES CHURCH AND PARSONAGE,

FROM

THE LAWN OF JOSEPH BENNETT, ESQ.

THIS church, dedicated to St. James, and consecrated by Edward Lord Archbishop of York, is a small structure, of the Grecian order, pleasantly situated near the village of Thornes, about half a mile south of the town of Wakefield.

The foundation-stone was laid by James Milnes Gaskell, Esq., M.P. for Wenlock; and the ground upon which it stands was the gift of his father, Benjamin Gaskell, Esq., of Thornes House.

The building was erected about twelve years since, at a cost of £1800. £1000 was granted by the commissioners appointed under the act for promoting the building of additional churches: the remainder was raised through the medium of private contributions and other charitable efforts. It is estimated to accommodate conveniently about 300 persons.

Latterly considerable alterations have been going on in its interior: the two side-galleries have been taken down, and the pews, or stalls, have been differently constructed and arranged. In some parts of the church, I think this arrangement may be found rather inconvenient, as a slanting position will be necessary in order to obtain a sight of the clergyman. The removal of the galleries is a very decided improvement, in so far as the appearance of the building is concerned; and if the change do not diminish the extent of accommodation previously afforded, I should say it will prove well worth the expense incurred.

Attached to this church is a good substantial parsonage, in the style of the fifteenth century: indeed, it is much too large a house for the incumbent of such a benefice, unless he be possessed of property independent of his clerical income. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the diocese of Ripon, and in the patronage of the vicar of Wakefield, in right of his vicarage. It has its own ecclesiastical district assigned to it,—a circumstance which enables the minister to exercise the duties connected with the pastoral office with much greater efficiency.



METHLEY PARK & CHURCH

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METHLEY PARK AND CHURCH.

THE parish-church of Methley, situated about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Wakefield, is dedicated to King Oswald, the patron saint, whose image, with a crown upon his head and a sceptre in his right hand, is represented sitting within a small ornamented niche above the south door. This figure is thought to be "contemporary with the foundation of the church and parish." In proof of the great antiquity to which the original edifice lays claim, we may observe that it is mentioned in *Doomsday Book*, "which (as it refers to the survey of Yorkshire) may be fixed about the year 1080." The present structure, especially the embattled tower and spire, bears considerable resemblance to that of Wakefield, though greatly inferior in dimensions; and from this circumstance I should be inclined to think it may have been erected about the same time. Not a vestige of the original building remains, with the exception of the effigy already referred to: it abounds, nevertheless, in objects of interesting association; for few churches in the county can boast such an assemblage of sumptuous monuments of marble and alabaster as are contained within its sacred precincts. There, side by side, repose in dismal majesty the sages, and heroes, and beauties of a former age—the dead addressing most intelligible language to the living, and with mute but irresistible eloquence declaring that the riches of the rich, the achievements of the mighty, and the honours of the most honourable, are nothing worth unless they be made subservient to the great end of our being; since "it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment."

The chantry on the south side of the choir (founded and endowed by Robert Waterton the elder, A.D. 1424) is, as it were, crowded with monumental carving and escutcheons. The first which attracts the eye is that of Robert Waterton and Cicely* his wife; these lie stretched beneath an elaborately wrought canopy, upon "an highly elevated altar-tomb, their hands elevated as in prayer, the knight's head reposing on an helmet crested with a plume of feathers." Opposite this, against the south wall of the chapel, is a tomb of alabaster, upon which are two recumbent figures, male and female, the former clad in armour, the eyes and hands of each being raised toward heaven. This tomb, though without inscription, is embellished with armorial bearings, which, "beyond all doubt, appropriate it to Lionel Lord Welles, who fell at the Battle of Towton," and who, with his wife Cicely, daughter of Sir Robert Waterton, was buried here. In the features of Lord Welles there is much character and expression, and in that of his lady great beauty and sweetness; and hence this design has been attributed to a somewhat later date, even to the reign of Henry VII., as previously to that period "no real expression had been given to the human countenance, either in sculpture or coinage." Between these is a sumptuous monument, commemorative of the founder of the present family, Sir John Savile, of Bradley and Methley, baron of the exchequer. His body was not interred here; consequently the tomb, "erected about thirty years after his death, with the exception of his heart, is, as to himself, really a cenotaph."

On the north of the choir is a richly designed monument, by Scheemakers, to the memory of Charles Savile, Esq., a descendant of Baron Savile; and opposite to this, the last of the series, is one of even superior magnificence, "with the figure of the deceased in robes, with the collar of the order of the Bath," to the first Earl of

* In Glover's Visitation this lady's name is Beatrice.

Mexborough, grandfather to the present earl, who resides in his own princely mansion, a short distance from the village, beloved by his numerous tenantry, and honoured and revered by the poor of his neighbourhood.

In the days of our Saxon ancestors, the manor of Methley belonged conjointly to Osulph and Cnut, who, immediately after the Conquest, were despoiled of their possessions, "to make way for the great Norman lord Ilbert de Lacy, who made it one of the dependencies of his new fee of Pontefract."* It was subsequently granted to the Hospital of St. Nicholas in that town, by one of the representatives of this powerful baron; for in the eleventh year of Henry IV. a license was granted to the master or warden of that house to exchange this manor with Sir Robert Waterton, who thus became seised of Methley.† "This Sir Robert Waterton," says Dr. Whitaker, "was a very distinguished character in his time. He had first, as appears from the terms of his will, served Richard II., and afterwards Henry IV., to whom he was master of the horse. Though he survived Henry V., he makes no mention of him; which renders it likely that, on his accession, he had withdrawn himself from court. He was steward of the honour of Pontefract 4th Henry IV.; and was one of the knights who, with the Earl of Westmoreland, attempted to stop the progress of Henry Earl of Northumberland in the insurrection terminated by the death of that nobleman."‡ In the first folio of Camden's *Britannia*, complimentary mention is made of Sir John Savile, who, about that time, seems to have become possessed of the lordship of Methley, whether by purchase or by inheritance I am unable to state. The present noble proprietor, to whom this work is dedicated with feelings of sincere gratitude for so generous an expression of cordiality and prompt concurrence with the wishes of its author, is not the first member of his distinguished family who, by a rare combination of courtesy and wit, has graced the circle in which he mingles, and diffused throughout an air of hilarity and happiness. The halls of his ancestors have long been renowned as the scene of generous and enlightened hospitality, in which the "wittiest and most learned men of the age" were wont to assemble. There is a letter§ among the Strafford papers, from Sir Henry Wotton to Sir Thomas Wentworth (afterwards Earl Strafford), which speaks with delight of the "Methley triplicity," as he facetiously designates it, of which Henry Lord Clifford formed one. Such guests and such converse as doubtless they would indulge in evidently imply "an elegant and intelligent host." And hence the character which appears to have attached to this family for a long season; for "every branch of the Saviles," says Dr. Whitaker, "has at different periods, and in different ways, produced men of genius."||

* Loidis and Elmete, p. 268.

† Ibid. p. 269.

‡ About two centuries and a half subsequently to this period the descendant of this brave soldier exhibited his attachment to Charles, and his own intrepidity, by defending his isolated castle against a troop of Cromwell's horse, which had been despatched to take possession of his family seat at Walton. On this occasion "the valiant squire raised his drawbridge, and defied the assailants in his island fortress. Thus baffled, they seem to have contented themselves with firing their carbines and pistols into an old oak gateway, which still holds a few of their bullets half buried in the wood." His descendant, Charles Waterton, Esq., whose "Wanderings" have furnished a museum with stuffed birds of unparalleled beauty, and whose kindness and liberality in exhibiting the same to the public cannot be sufficiently appreciated, resides in this seat of his comparatively modern ancestors.

§ Dated April 8th, 1628; Strafford's Letters, b. i. p. 45.

|| Loidis and Elmete, p. 273.



COTTAGES & STANLEY CHURCH

COTTAGES AND STANLEY CHURCH,

NEAR

OUCHTHORPE LANE.

THE scenery in the immediate neighbourhood of these cottages is perhaps the most beautiful which the vicinity of Wakefield can boast. The whole landscape eastward looks like one continuous richly-wooded park; and it has often been matter of surprise to the author of this work, that the proprietors of the land have never erected thereon tasteful villas for the accommodation of small genteel families now resident in the town, the site being inimitably adapted to such a purpose.

The church, which stands upon the brow of the hill, contiguous to the village, which name it has assumed, was erected about twenty years ago, at a cost of 12,000*l.*, by certain government commissioners, appointed under an act of parliament for the building of churches in populous districts. It may be described as belonging to the Gothic order; and we would here remark, that if the original design had been adopted, the structure had not exhibited that glaring departure from true proportion which, to the eye of taste, is so discernible.

The formation of an Architectural Society in Yorkshire, whose object is to assist in the restoration of ancient ecclesiastical edifices, and to suggest (if I mistake not) plans for new erections, will, I trust, for the future prevent the *repetition* of tasteless and unjustifiable interference with the designs of architects; since that very interference has been known to operate as a permanent injury to their professional reputation.

This church, consecrated by Edward Lord Archbishop of York, and dedicated to St. Peter, is a perpetual curacy (having its own parochial district), in the patronage of the vicar of Wakefield for the time being. It is situated about two miles N.N.E. from Wakefield.

There was formerly a Roman station not far from hence, where crucibles, moulds, and silver and copper coins of various Roman emperors, have been discovered in great abundance: of the latter, 40 lbs. weight was dug up in 1812. Many of these relics are deposited in the British Museum and other similar establishments.



HEATH HALL FROM THE BARNESLEY CANAL

PUBLISHED March 1843

HEATH OLD HALL,
FROM
THE BARNESLEY CANAL.

Few localities can boast scenery more beautiful or more diversified than that which strikes the eye at every turn in the immediate neighbourhood of Heath. The Old Hall constitutes an interesting feature, from whatever point it is viewed; but when taken in conjunction with wood and water, the former dispersed over its undulating pasture-land in every variety of form and foliage, it then assumes a character of richness and beauty such as Claude delighted to contemplate, and which he so faithfully depicted in the glowing hues of his pencil.

To give full force even to the most pleasing natural objects, the artist must study them whilst under effects of light and shadow suited to their various combinations; otherwise their characteristic beauties will frequently be unobserved by him, although the scene may unite in itself all the elements essential to the formation of a perfect landscape. These remarks are strikingly applicable to the view here exhibited, which is taken from the battlement of the bridge called Agbrigg, the single arch of which spans the Barnesley Canal.

This canal was made under authority of an act passed in the 33d George III., entitled "An act for making and maintaining a navigable canal from the river Calder, in the township of Warmfield-cum-Heath, to or near the town of Barnesley, and from thence to Barnby Bridge, in the township of Cawthorne, in the west-riding of the county of York; and certain railways and other roads to communicate therewith." The subscribers to this work were incorporated by the name of "The Company of Proprietors of the Barnesley Canal Navigation," and consisted of one hundred and thirty persons, among whom were the Duke of Leeds, Lord Hawke, the Countess Dowager of Bute, the Earl of Wigtoun, seven baronets, and almost all the landholders in its immediate vicinity.

Commencing from the river Calder, about one mile below Wakefield Bridge, and proceeding thence in a southerly direction by Walton Hall, "the seat of the ancient family of the Watertons," this canal continues its course about fifteen miles through a country abounding in hill and dale, and apparently presenting difficulties insuperable to an undertaking of this character. But what cannot the ingenuity, and skill, and contrivance of man accomplish? "This canal," says the author of *Inland Navigation, &c.*, "was projected principally with the view of opening the very valuable and extensive coal-fields in the neighbourhood of Barnesley and Silkstone; and its execution has had the effect of introducing the coal worked in the latter place into the London market, where it holds a distinguished place among the Yorkshire coals. The making of this canal has also been of incalculable advantage to the agriculturists in its vicinity, by the facility it gives to the introduction of the Knottingley lime; but it has been more particularly experienced by those who are employed in bringing into cultivation the vast tracts of moorland lying to the north and west of its termination at Barnby Basin."

This canal was opened on the 8th of June, 1799.*

* Historical Account of Inland Navigation and Railroads of Great Britain, by J. Priestley, Esq., p. 55.



HEATH HALL

Published March 1843

HEATH OLD HALL.

THERE are but few private residences in this part of England which have won such general admiration as that which forms the principal feature in this landscape. Art has certainly done much, but nature more, in producing a most pleasing and picturesque combination. Situated a little to the north-east of one of the most beautiful villages in Yorkshire—built upon a steep ascent on the southern banks of the Calder—embosomed in trees whose wide-spreading boughs overtop its “ivy-mantled” turrets—gray with age, and not unassociated with some interesting legend of a former generation,—this structure has not only supplied the painter and architect with abundant materials, but has even furnished the poet with incidents not unworthy of his muse.*

Within the memory of many persons now living, this ancient mansion was “tenanted by a sisterhood of French nuns of the order of St. Benedict,” who, to escape the terrible evils of intestine war, at a time when the whole continent of Europe was convulsed, left their native land, and sought retirement in this sequestered spot. Eight individuals of this religious order lie buried in the adjacent village-churchyard of Kirkthorpe. Now, with all Christian charity toward those who differ, I cannot but regard such entire seclusion from the busy scenes of life, and the duties they involve, as incompatible with the obvious designs of the Creator, who, having made man a citizen of the world, requires from him the *full* exercise of his powers, as well as the due improvement of every talent committed to his care.†

During the civil war, it would appear that the then occupants of this venerable edifice were favourable to the cause of royalty, and hostile to that of the usurper; though, most unfortunately, they adopted the very worst method of exhibiting their attachment to the sovereign. “It has been said, that the day before the capture of Wakefield by Fairfax, General Goring and other officers had been spending a very jolly evening at Heath Hall, amusing themselves with bowls and other sports, and that they drank so freely on the occasion as to be incapable of properly attending to the defence of the town when the enemy approached early in the morning.”‡ With respect to the antiquity of this building, I believe it may be authoritatively stated to belong to the Elizabethan age, though its architectural character differs greatly from the generally prevailing taste of that day, insomuch that it has been attributed to the succeeding reign. From authentic documents in the possession of its owner, it is ascertained to have been erected “by John Kaye, usually described of Oakenshaw, a son of the heiress of Dods-worth. His wife’s arms, quartered with those of Kaye, and carved in stone, may still be seen over the principal entrance. The hall and lands adjacent were purchased of the Kayes by Lady Bolles; and at her death descended, by her daughter Ann, who married Sir William Dalston, Bart., to the family of that name, and became their chief seat for many generations.

“The Dalstons were connected by marriage with the families of Ramsden and Wentworth. Finally, their heiress, Elizabeth, married Captain Theobald Dillon. At her decease leaving no issue, agreeably with the will of her father, Sir George Dalston, Bart., the hall came to his nephew, Francis Fauquier, Esq., and his heirs

* See “Emilia Monteiro, a ballad of the Old Hall Heath,” by W. H. Leatham, Esq.

† John xvii. 15.

‡ History of Wakefield and its Antiquities, by W. H. Leatham, Esq.

male; in default of such, to William Fauquier, Esq., whose son William sold it to the Honourable John Smyth, the grandfather of the present possessor, J. G. Smyth, Esq.*

From a marble monument, erected to her memory in the church of Ledsham, we learn that "Dame Mary Bolles," who was created a baronetess in her own right, "departed this mortal life at Heath Hall, the 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1662, in her 81st year." Tradition affirms, that previously to her death "she left strict injunctions that the room in which she breathed her last should be walled up for ever." If common rumour speak truth, this injunction was scrupulously observed for a period of fifty years after her decease. It was subsequently opened; and such was the effect produced upon the departed lady, that, the villagers say, she has never been able to rest in her grave since. The lovers of the marvellous may give what credit they please to a story which seems *interwoven* with the very history of the place: we will hope that the growth of intelligence among us (since it is a powerful antagonist to superstitious credulity) will speedily efface the impression which such idle tales are calculated to make upon weak and uneducated minds.

* History of Wakefield and its Antiquities, p. 141.

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