

of the art over which she presided—Calliope with stylus and tablets; Melpomene with a dagger; Thalia with a mask, &c. Another mantel-piece of exceeding beauty and value is to be seen in the dining-room. In addition to the figures and fruit which are carved upon it, it has pillars of the almost priceless Derbyshire spar, and is altogether a most magnificent affair. In the billiard room is a portrait of Henry Curwen, known as "Galloping Harry," a dashing young blade who was so attached to James II. that he followed him into exile. He was absent so long that a jury declared him dead, and the next of kin took possession. Not for long, though; for, like Alonzo the Brave or the murdered Banquo, "Galloping Harry" returned, but, unlike them, he came in solid flesh and blood, upset the find of the jury, and ousted the "man in possession." Henry reduced the property considerably by leaving all his estates not entailed to outsiders.

All along the corridors and in the rooms are the portraits of family ancestors, valiant knights in armour, and worthy dames and beautiful damsels in frills, farthingales, and lace. There are two immense portraits of John Christian Curwen and his wife Isabella, which are at present on view in London at the exhibition of modern paintings. This John Christian Curwen is specially remembered for his active Parliamentary life and the great services he rendered to agriculture in the neighbourhood.

In the entrance to the parish church of Workington stands the monumental tomb of Sir Christopher Curwen and Elizabeth his wife. It was this Sir Christopher Curwen who, in July, 1418, formed one of that gallant party who embarked at Portsmouth for France. That his assistance must have been of great value may be gathered from the fact that there is still to be seen at the Hall a deed of Henry V., dated at Rouen, January 30, 1419, granting the castle and domain of Canny, in the province of Caux, "to my good friend and faithful knight Sir Christopher Curwen, for his good services," &c.

It was this same gallant knight who, in 1417, took part in the great tournament on the Castle Green at Carlisle between six English knights, the challengers, and an equal number of Scottish knights. The English company consisted of Ralph de Neville, first Earl of Westmoreland, John, seventh Lord Clifford, Ralph, sixth Lord Greystoke, William, who became fifth Lord Harington, John de Lancaster, and Christopher Curwen, who, "accoutred much as you see him to-day on his monument, ranged himself alongside his fellows, and when the trumpets blared forth the charge, hurled his adversary, Sir Halyburton, from his horse, severely hurt in the neck. It needs but little stretch of the imagination," continues Mr. Jackson, the modern historian of the family, "to see the victorious knight bearing a scarf of scarlet and silver, the colours of Elizabeth de Hudelston, bending to his saddle bow before that fair girl, the hue of whose face was changing from the pallor of terror to the crimson of joy and pride."

The Curwen family are directly connected with Newcastle, for in 1619 Sir Patricus Curwen "married at Houghton House, in the parish of Houghton-le-Spring, Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of Sir George Selby, of Whitehouse, Durham, the representative of a family which had been very successful in trade in Newcastle-on-Tyne, to the mayoralty of which city several of them had risen." His only son Henry was baptised at St. Nicholas' Church, Newcastle, on March 23, 1621.

Well fitted, indeed, is Workington Hall, with its ivy-covered battlements, its splendid associations, its oaken furniture, and relics of by-gone days, to rank among the "stately homes of England." SERGEANT C. HALL.

## The Mosstroopers.

### I.

#### THE BORDER LINE.



THE present boundary line between North and South Britain is comparatively modern. In former times, the frontier shifted according to the surging tide of war or diplomacy. For several ages, during the Heptarchy, the Anglo-Danish kingdom of Northumbria, forming a part of what we now call England, included all that portion of Scotland south of the Frith of Forth as far as Stirling, while Cumberland, Westmorland, and North Lancashire were comprehended in the kingdom of Strathclyde or Cumbria, which was an appanage of the Scottish crown, just as Wales now is of England. But in the eleventh century (A.D. 1018), the Lothians, the Merse, and Teviotdale were ceded to Malcolm III., King of Scots, and ever since the Tweed, in its lower part, and a line drawn along the summit of the Cheviot hills, have been the boundary on the East and Middle Marches. On the other hand, William the Conqueror wrenched Cumbria from the Scottish sovereign and incorporated it with England, so that the boundary on the Western March was settled as it has since remained with little intermission, along the line of the Solway, Sark, Esk, Liddell, and Kershope Water. The counties lying on the English side are Northumberland and Cumberland; on the Scottish side, Berwickshire, Roxburghshire, and Dumfriesshire.

#### THE BRIGANTES.

From the first dawn of authentic history, the wild mountainous and moorish region extending from the sources of the Tyne, Rede, Teviot, and Liddell to the neighbourhood of the Peak of Derbyshire, had been inhabited by a race of restless, turbulent people, known as the Brigantes or Brigands. The name in Welsh signifies "highlander," and is applied by Pausanias to the whole nation of the Caledonians or Scotch Highlanders; while on the Continent, amid the Rætian and



Cottian Alps, and also among the Cantabrian mountains in the North of Spain, there were likewise tribes known as Brigantes. Those in our part of Britain were partly subdued in A.D. 50, in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, by P. Ostorius, the pro-prætor. Shortly afterwards, however, the Brigantes broke out in open revolt, not only against the Romans, but against their own Queen Cartismandua, whose name, being interpreted, may signify "the darling of two nations." That lady, who seems to have been a bit of a voluptuary as well as a coquette, had treacherously delivered up Caractacus to the Romans, when, after bravely making head against them for many years, he had at length been driven to seek an asylum in her dominions. This disgusted the bulk of her subjects, who took up arms against her, under the generalship of her own husband, Venusius, whom she had wantonly repudiated in order to marry his lieutenant. The Romans marched to Cartismandua's aid, and protected her from the rebels. But the result was only a sort of compromise. Venusius was allowed to retain the kingship which the Brigantes had conferred upon him, but Cartismandua likewise kept her queenhood, while the Romans agreed to defray their own charges. Under the Emperor Vespasian, the Brigantes again misbehaved themselves, and they suffered sore chastisement at the hands of two of his generals, Petelius Cerialis and Julius Frontinus, after whose time they apparently gave the conquerors less trouble. These incidents are interesting, as showing the character of the race from which sprang the Border Mosstroopers of whom we are about to write.

#### BORDER HARDHOOD AND CUNNING.

For many ages after the departure of the Romans, the country adjoining the Cheviots was a vast waste. Moor, marsh, rock, and forest overspread the surface. The monks from Iona, Melrose, and Lindisfarne found it in this state when they wandered over Northumberland intent on their apostolic mission to the Pagan nations. And five hundred years later, though a sort of incipient civilization had taken root in a few favoured centres, such as Bamborough, Alnwick, Morpeth, Newcastle, and Hexham, the bulk of the people were still as ignorant, rude, and barbarous as before Outhbert and Paulinus attempted to Christianise them, or Edwin and Oswald ruled beneficently over them. During the Heptarchy, Northumbria was scarcely ever free from invasion, either by the Picts, the Mercians, or the Danes; and from the eleventh to the end of the twelfth century—that is to say, from the establishment of the present boundary between England and Scotland till more than a hundred years after the union of the crowns—there was almost constant disturbance and misrule and misery on the Border. Ruthless wars on a great scale between English and Scots sometimes caused frightful devastations during the earlier part of the time; and these became the source of lasting

ill-will and hatred on both sides, that led to interminable feuds, frays, raids, harryings, burnings, and other outrages as bad as anything ever heard of in any heathen land. As Gray says, in his "Chorographia" (A.D. 1649), "the Scots, their neighbouring enemies, made the inhabitants of Northumberland fierce and hardy, . . . being a most warlike nation, and excellent good light-horsemen, wholly addicting themselves to wars and arms, not a gentleman amongst them that hath not his castle or tower." Nor were their cousins-german on the north side of the Border a whit behind them in turbulent self-reliance. Camden, in his "Britannia" (A.D. 1586), quoting Lesley, Bishop of Ross, tells us the people that inhabited the valleys on the marches of both kingdoms were all cattle stealers. They used to sally out of their own borders in the night, in troops, through unfrequented by-ways and many intricate windings. All the day-time they refreshed themselves and their horses in lurking holes they had pitched upon before, till they arrived in the dark at those places they had a design upon. As soon as they had seized on the booty, they, in like manner, returned home in the night, through blind ways, and fetching many a compass. The more skilful any captain was to pass through those wild deserts, crooked turnings, and deep precipices, in the thickest mists, his reputation was the greater, and he was looked upon as "a man of an excellent head." And they were so very cunning that they seldom had their booty taken from them, unless sometimes when, tracked by sleuth-hounds, or bloodhounds, they might chance to fall into the hands of their adversaries. Being taken, says Camden, "they have so much persuasive eloquence, and so many smooth, insinuating words at command, that, if they do not move their judges, nay, and even their adversaries, notwithstanding the severity of their natures, to have mercy, yet they incite them to admiration and compassion." A curious illustration of this is furnished by a story long current in Peeblesshire.

#### DICKIE O' THE DEN.

Vietch of Dawick, a man of great strength and bravery, who flourished in the upper part of Tweeddale in the sixteenth century, was on bad terms with a neighbouring landowner, Tweedie of Drumelzier. By some accident, a flock of his sheep had strayed over into Drumelzier's ground, at the time when Dickie o' the Den, a Liddesdale outlaw, was making his rounds in that quarter. Seeing the sheep without a shepherd, Dickie drove them off. Next morning, Dawick, discovering his loss, summoned his servants and retainers, laid a bloodhound upon the traces of the robber, by which they were guided for many miles along "the Thief's Road," up Manor Water, across the head of Meggatdale, and over the Strypes past Herman Law, the Pike, the Black Knowes, and Tudhope Fell, to the head of Billhop Burn and the water of Hermitage. At last, on reaching the banks of the Liddell, not far from the Thief Sike, the dog staid upon



a very large hay stack. This seemingly stupid pause surprised the pursuers not a little; but Dawick, suspecting there was something hidden inside the stack, set to and pulled down some of the hay that seemed to have been recently moved. He soon discovered that the stack was hollow, a *kiln* having been artfully constructed within it with fir poles; and there lay the robbers and their spoil, secure, as they fancied, from pursuit. Dawick instantly flew upon Dickie, and was about to poinard him, when the marauder, with much address, protested that he would never have touched a *clout* of them if he had not taken them for Drumzelier's property. This dexterous appeal to Vietch's passions saved Dickie's life.

#### MAN-HUNTING WITH BLOODHOUNDS.

The parishes were required to keep bloodhounds for the purpose of hunting the freebooters. Many old men who were living in the middle of last century could well remember the time when these ferocious dogs were common. Yet, even with such auxiliaries, it was often found impossible to track the robbers to their retreats among the hills and morasses. For the topography of the country was very imperfectly known. Even after the accession of George the Third, the path over the Cumbrian fells from Borrowdale to Raven-glass was still a secret, carefully kept by the dalesmen, some of whom had probably in their youth escaped from the pursuit of justice by that road. In the Corporation Records of Newcastle, quoted in "Richardson's Reprints," we find, under 1593, that some one who had escaped from the judgment of the Council of the North at York, and fled into the county of Northumberland or Durham, was the cause of some charge to the town, the Mayor having sent in all directions—to Darlington, Stockton, Shiels, Seaton Delaval, and Alnwick—in the hope of obtaining tidings of the fugitive. It sounds startling to modern ears that "a sloe-hound and man which led him (went) to make inquiry after him." The powers of one dog were judged sufficient, it seems, in this particular case, with which the Corporation had only to do as an intermediate agency; but two had been obtained, three years before, "to follow the scent and trove of those which broke the town chamber doors," in 1595. Denton, in the county of Northumberland, and Chester-le-Street, in the county of Durham, appear to have been the places where the owners and probably breeders of these hounds lived. Newcastle, not being on the Border, though sufficiently near to be much plagued through its vicinity to it, was perhaps exempted from the bounden duty on the parishes close to Scotland of keeping a sleuthhound of its own. When pursued by these much dreaded brutes, the Border thieves, if they could not reach some impenetrable bog, or get into some impregnable hold, had no chance of escape without fighting for their lives, unless they could throw the dog off the scent by wading up or down a

stream for a good way, or baffle it by spilling blood on the track, which had the effect of destroying for the nonce the creature's discriminating instinct. The injured party and his friends followed the marauders with hound and horse, as if they had been wild beasts. This was called the *hot trod*. He was entitled, by long-standing international Border law, to follow them into the opposite kingdom, if his dog could trace the scent the whole way—a privilege which often led to bloodshed, and which was ultimately withdrawn. The breed of the sleuthhound has long been extinct, or nearly so, in the Border districts. It was kept pure till after the Forty-five in the Highlands of Scotland, where the people called it the "foot-print tracking dog" (*cu luirge*). The last of the breed in the Scottish Lowlands gave a touch of their blood to the Mellerstain fox-hounds, kept by that famous Nimrod of the North, old Mr. Baillie of Jerviswoode. On one occasion, it is said, this pack got upon the scent of a poor wayfaring woman, crossing Earlistown Moor, and had not Andrew Lumsden, the huntsman, called them off in time, they would most likely have treated her as unceremoniously as her progenitors, a couple of hundred years before, would have treated a lifter of cattle or other common thief from Rothbury, Otterburn, Bellingham, or Bewcastle. But the blast of the hunter's horn, which in former times announced the *hot trod*, and summoned the hardy Borderer to rise and follow the fray, is now only heard echoing among the hills when a party of gentlemen-farmers, with a miscellaneous pack of terriers, collies, curs, and half-bred fox-hounds or *jowlers*, assemble to chase the fox which has been making free with their lambs or poultry.

#### THE BORDER WARDENS AND WARDEN COURTS.

From an early date, during the brief and insecure intervals of peace between the two monarchies, commissioners were appointed from time to time to repress such incursions as were constantly taking place, and to punish the mounted brigands, bandits, or thieves, commonly called *mosstroopers*. The East, Middle, and West Marches respectively had also wardens set over them, whose business it was to decide summarily in all cases of dispute or outrage, in conjunction with the wardens on the other side. The residence of the English warden of the Middle Marches was commonly at Harbottle Castle, on the banks of the Coquet, a fortress held in grand serjeantry, as were likewise the castle and manor of Otterburn, by the service of keeping the dale free from thieves and wolves. This officer, together with the Scottish warden of the opposite march, used, in times of peace, to hold warden courts at certain places on the Border, usually at Heppeth-Gate-Head, or at Gammelspeith, on the Watling Street, near Coquet Head, for the purpose of trying those Englishmen and Scotchmen against whom bills were filed for offences—generally cattle-stealing, assault, and fire-raising—committed by them on the opposite frontier. The



Warden of the Middle Marches had two deputies under him—the keeper of North Tynedale and the keeper of Redesdale—together with two subordinate officers, called warden-serjeants, whose duty it was to serve warrants and apprehend offenders. On the Scotch side, there were similar officers, commonly called country keepers, of Teviotdale, Liddesdale, and the Forest respectively.

#### CASTLES, PELES, AND BASTLE HOUSES.

Every dwelling in the county of Northumberland, in North Cumberland, in the Merse and Teviotdale, in Liddesdale, Annandale, Ettrick Forest, and Tweeddale, above a mere hut or *shiel*, was obliged in those days to be a tower of defence, if not a regularly fortified castle. Almost all had exploratory turrets on account of the mostroopers, and they were generally vaulted underneath, for the purpose of securing the flocks and herds of the owner and his tenants and dependents in the hour of assault. Besides the great baronial castles, of which there were several, the number of small castles, *peles*, or *bastle-houses*, belonging to the inferior gentry, was very great. The walls of some of these were nine feet thick, with narrow apertures for windows, and strong doors, either of iron or wood studded with nails, and defended by portcullises. Hugh stones and boiling water were kept in readiness to crush and scald any plunderers who might dare to assail the garrison, whether by night or day. Every evening the sheep were brought in from the hill and the cattle from their pasture, to be secured from robbers in the lower floor of the tower.

#### COTTAGES, HUTS, AND SHIELDS.

Of the houses or rather hovels occupied by the common people, not the least vestige remains, owing to the slender way in which they were constructed. A few upright poles or stakes were fixed in the ground, the open spaces between them being filled with stones and sods or *divots*, layer about, or wattled and plastered with mud or *clatten-clay*, and the roof formed of unpeeled branches of trees, covered with turf or rushes. A cow's hide generally supplied the place of a door. The windows were a mere hole, covered with a rough board at night, or when rain or snow drifted in. There was no grate or chimney, the fire, which was of peat or turf, being lighted on the damp earthen floor, and the smoke passing through a hole in the soot-begrimed roof, which admitted the rain as it fell. The only seats were rude wooden benches, called *lang settles*, with a sort of awning overhead occasionally, to ward falling soot and rain off the goodman's head—a few clumsy three-legged stools for the lads and lasses to sit on—and two or three crackets, about eighteen inches high, to accommodate the old women and bairns. A single iron pot, with a crook to hang it on, and a few wooden dishes, including perhaps a trencher, completed the culinary apparatus. Men who had a score of cattle, besides sheep and horses, would have only some ten shillings worth of inside gear,

reckoning all they had in their house. When the probability was that the place would be sacked and rifled, if not burned down, before the lapse of a twelvemonth, it would have been folly to build more substantial houses.

#### ROBBERS PERFORCE.

Bearing these conditions in mind, the reader will see that the Borderers could not well be anything but what they were, utterly lawless. Rude as Red Indians, they were the creatures of circumstances. Subsisting by rapine, which early training and life-long habit made them deem lawful and honourable, they blotted honesty towards strangers out of the list of virtues. But it would be absurd to judge of them by any modern standard of morality; for when war was the normal state of things, and every householder on either side, from Soltra Hill to the Tyne and the Blyth, was liable to be harried any night out of house and home, industry and thrift were out of the question, and predatory habits and tastes were sure to be engendered. With human nature such as it is, it could not be otherwise. Every able-bodied man was a fighting man. Each chief of a clan was a military captain, and more or less of a strategist and diplomatist, according as God had given him ability. A pacific temperament in such a country was wholly out of place. Nor could it with truth be said that honesty was the best policy there. He who could not both strike and thrust, fence and parry, and take what he needed and keep what he had got, was just like a poor sheep among ravening wolves, sure to be torn to pieces and devoured. Most fathers of families were occasionally necessitated to shift for their wives' and children's living by taking advantage of the long moonlight nights to cross the dreary fells in quest of something to eat. Even when there was nominal peace, both sides of the Border were ever and anon desolated by armed bands of marauders, whom the stern necessity of hunger, as well as the almost equally strong impulse of hate, had driven to systematic brigandage.

#### "RIDE, ROWLEY, RIDE!"

A saying is recorded of an old dowager to her son: "Ride, Rowley, hough's i' the pot!" meaning, "The last piece of beef is in the pot boiling for dinner, and, therefore, it is high time for you to go and fetch more." The Charltons of Hesleyside still possess the spur with which the ladies of that house hinted the necessity of the chief going forth, without an hour's delay, to replenish the exhausted larder. The same mode of housekeeping characterised most of the Border-families on both sides.

#### WAT O' HARDEN.

Old Wat of Harden, up Borthwick Water, the ancestor of the Scotts of Mertoun, Raeburn, and other noble and gentle families of that name, and particularly of Sir Walter Scott, was one of the most renowned freebooters Teviotdale ever produced. He lived about the middle of the sixteenth century, before



the rash-bush had been made to keep the cow, and when it was every man's look out to defend his own head. He used to ride with a numerous band of followers, as rough and reckless as the worst Highland caterans. The spoil which they carried off from England, or from neighbours with whom the laird chanced to be at feud, was concealed in a deep and nearly impervious glen, on the brink of which the tower of Harden stood. From thence the cattle were brought out, one by one, as they were wanted, to supply the laird's rude and plentiful table. When the last bullock had been killed and devoured, it was the lady's custom, just as at Hesleyside, to place on the table a dish, which, on being uncovered, was found to contain a pair of clean spurs, a hint to the riders that they must shift for their next meal. Tradition has it that, on one occasion, when the town herd was driving out the cattle to pasture, the old laird heard him call loudly to drive out Harden's cow. "Harden's coo!" echoed the affronted chief: "is it come to that pass? By my faith, they sall sune say Harden's kye!" Accordingly, he sounded his bugle, mounted his horse, set out with his followers, and returned next day with a bow of kye and a basent (brindled) bull. On his way home with his gallant prey, he passed a very large haystack. The thought naturally flashed across his mind that this would be very valuable if he only had it at Harden for winter fodder; but as there was no means of transporting it thither, he was forced to take leave of it with this apostrophe, now proverbial, "By my saul, an ye had but fower feet, ye sudna stand iang there!" The motto of the clan Scott, given in the vernacular, was, "Ye'se want ere I want," and their Latin motto, borne on their coats of arms and signet rings to this day, is "Reparabit cornua Phœbe"—"The

moon will repair her horns"—clear, frosty, moonlight nights being evidently the best for pricking their way across the moors, through the mosses, and over the fells, in search of plunder. WILLIAM BROOKIE.

## Wallington, Northumberland.

**S**IR JOHN FENWICK, the owner of the manor of Wallington in the time of Henry IV., obtained it from William del Strother, who got it by marriage with the heiress from the family of John Grey, who was its possessor in 1326. A later Sir John Fenwick—he who built the great dining hall in Christ's Hospital—was executed for high treason, and the estate was bought by Sir William Blackett, then of Newcastle. Sir William's granddaughter, Elizabeth Ord, married Sir Walter Calverley, of Calverley, in Yorkshire, and that baronet took the name of Blackett. Sir Walter Blackett left the estate to his only sister Julia, wife of Sir George Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, Somerset, and on her death to her eldest son, Sir John Trevelyan, his nephew, the great-grandfather of the present baronet, Sir George Otto Trevelyan.

Wallington is not difficult to find. Two roads from the Belsay-to-Kirkwhelpington turnpike, one just north of Shaftoe Crag, and the other a mile or so further north, join shortly before reaching the Wansbeck and debouch from a country of green hedges and pastures into the beautiful demesne of Wallington quite suddenly. The gently descending road gives a sharp turn, and you find yourself on the very fine stone bridge which crosses the river at a most picturesque spot. From the bridge





visible. Here verily is Lethe, for we are oblivious of all save the surrounding beauty.

## The Masstroopers.

### II.

#### GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE BORDERERS.

**T**HE insecurity of their possessions made the Borderers free and hospitable in their expenditure, while the common danger bound the several clans together by assurances of inviolable fidelity, and even softened their mutual hostility by the tacit introduction of certain laws of honour and war. If they promised to conduct a traveller safely through the district infested by them, they would perform their promise, says an old writer, with the fidelity of a Turkish janissary: otherwise, woe be to him that fell into their quarters! Notwithstanding the occasional cruelties which marked their mutual inroads, the people on either side do not seem to have regarded each other with violent personal animosity. On the contrary, they often carried on something like friendly intercourse, even in times of war. The Governments of both countries were not unnaturally jealous of their cherishing too intimate a connection; and various ordinances were consequently passed in Scotland, as well as in England, against irregular traffic and intermarrying. But neither law nor gospel was of much authority within sight of the Cheviots, except only in the halidoms, where comparative peace and order reigned. Even down till the days of James the Second of England, North Tynedale was still looked upon as "a *terra incognita*, a waste of evil repute, the haunt of thieves and Border reivers, where no king's messenger dared to show himself or to display the symbols of his authority." Nay, the spirit of insubordination was not wholly quenched there till a much later date, for the king's authority was defied on several occasions during the reigns of the first two Georges; and within the memory of some who were but lately still living, as Macaulay in his "History of England" remarks, "the sportsman who wandered in pursuit of game to the sources of the Tyne found the heaths round Kieldar Castle peopled by a race hardly less savage than the Indians of California, and heard with surprise the half-naked women chanting a wild measure,

whilst the men with brandished dirks danced a war dance." Music, songs, and ballads were the chief recreation of the Borderers. The feats of their ancestors were celebrated in simple, strong, masculine rhyme, chaunted to appropriate tunes. Some of these airs, such as "Kinmont Willie," "Hobbie Noble," "Jock o' the Side," and "Johnnie Armstrong's Last Good Night," are still famous.

#### MISRULE IN THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

One of the oldest documents illustrative of Border misrule is a Roll of Pleas held at Wark, in North Tynedale, in 1279, before justices itinerant commissioned by Alexander III. of Scotland, to whom that regality then belonged. From this letter it appears that plundering raids were then by no means infrequent. Thus, on the Sunday before the Feast of St. James, in the 13th year of Alexander King of Scots, John of Hamelton and Thomas of Thirlwall plundered the good town of Wark of thirty oxen, each of the value of 10s.; eighteen cows, each worth half a mark; one bull worth half a



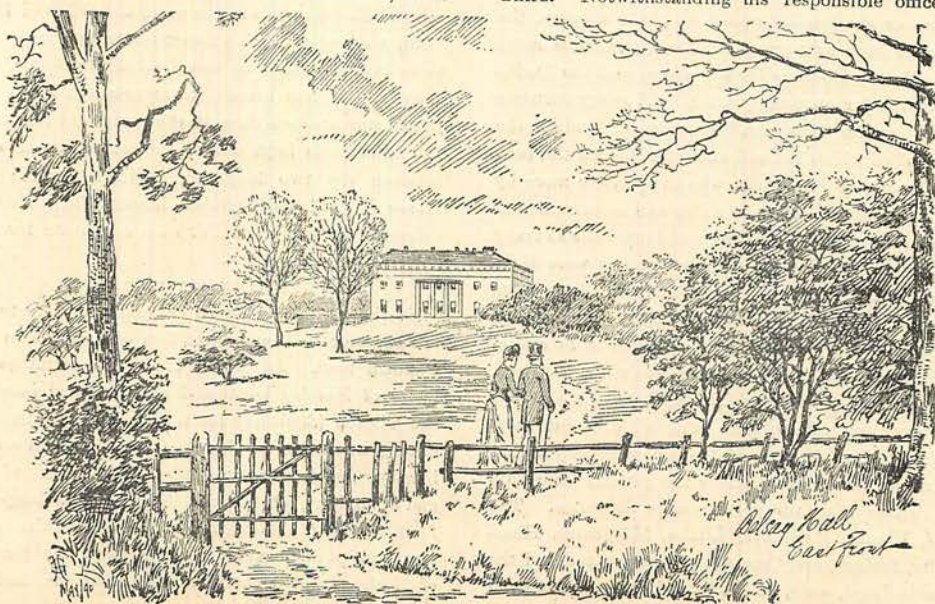


mark; and fifteen other cattle, each of the value of 5s.; besides two hundred sheep, both wethers and ewes, each valued at twelve pence; and the said John of Hamelton drove them to his park at Sewing Shields (Swyinscholes), and there unjustly detained them against the king's peace. In the township of Haltwhistle certain unknown malefactors had broken into the house of Agnes, wife of William Pulayn, and bound her and her daughter Evota, after which they carried away all their goods; and the township, not having been able to take the thieves, was placed at the mercy of the Crown for the neglect of this its duty. In the same year Thomas Russell, of Playnmellor, slew Robert, the son of Auger of Coanwood (Collanwood), in the town of Haltwhistle, and afterwards fled to the church and "abjured the kingdom," that is, perjured himself, like Cacus, in the eighth book of Virgil's *Æneid*, by denying on oath that he had done the deed. From the north side of the fells, Alexander of Lothian, Arthur of Galloway, David of Clydesdale, and Hugo the Carpenter broke into the house of William of Fenwick, in Simonburn, bound the said William, and carried off his cattle. Some other reivers, having broken into the house of Robert of Unthank in Melkridge, South Tynedale, shut up Alicia his daughter in the meal ark, probably to prevent her giving the alarm. The clergy in those days were not always free from the general failing of taking liberties with other men's property. Thus, Beatrix of Whitfield summoned Thomas the Archdeacon of Northumberland, Master Hugo of Woodhall, John of Burton, and Thomas of Haydon, chaplain, for robbery and receipt of felony, &c. And the said Master Hugo and all the others appeared, excepting Thomas the Archdeacon; but the testimony of the said Beatrix was not admitted, as it

was proved by the bishop's letters-patent that she was excommunicate. The accused, moreover, pleaded that they were clerks, and would not, on that account, answer to the court. Again:—Lymon the Clerk and Richard Alpendache, clerk, broke open the house of John the Fuller; Richard Alpendache was taken and imprisoned at Wark; but afterwards, at the assizes, was delivered over to the bishop as a clerk. William the Clerk of Whitfield, fled the country for stealing a cow, and other evil deeds. Bates, the son of William, otherwise Williamson, and Gilbert Trutle, son of Adam with the Big Nose, fled for breaking into the house of Emma of Whitcheater. A fellow, name unknown, who stole four geese in the town of Newbrough, and was taken in the fact, had his ear cut off by order of Hugo de Terewitscheles, the coroner. Further up the Tyne, they seem to have dispensed with all legal forms. For Emma of Wenhope, near Kieldar, being taken for theft at Bellingham, was there decapitated; and it was proved by twelve jurors that the townships cut off her head without first getting the coroner's order; whence they were "at the mercy of the crown." The hamlets of Donkley, Thorneyburn, and Tarsehope were amerced in twenty shillings for lynch law of the same sort, having decapitated a nameless thief without the coroner's sanction.

#### EDOM OF GORDON.

On the Scotch side, from the thirteenth century downwards, the people, gentle and simple, were fully as turbulent and ungovernable as those on the English side. A specimen of their ongoings there may be given in the case of Edom of Gordon, who was deputy warden for his brother, the Earl of Huntly, in the reign of James the Third. Notwithstanding his responsible office, Edom





was one of the most unscrupulous reivers of his day and generation. The stronghold of the Gordons was in the upland part of Berwickshire, on a "green knowe" on the edge of a moss, where it may still be seen; and from it Edom made frequent ravaging expeditions, mostly against rival lairds, under pretence of forcing them to keep the king's peace. In one of these he killed Arthur Forbes, brother to Lord Forbes; and not long afterwards he summoned the house of Rodes, near Dunse, which belonged to Alexander Forbes, another brother, who was then absent. The lady of Rodes, who is said to have been a very beautiful woman, refused to surrender the place without the sanction of her husband, and when summoned a second time she fired a pistol at the marauder, grazing his knee with the bullet. Whereupon,

"Set fire to the house!" quo' false Gordon,  
All wud wi' dule and ire.

This order was obeyed; fuel was brought and piled up against the door; and soon every room was filled with smothering smoke. The lady, together with her children and servants, twenty-seven persons in all, thus perished miserably. Forbes, according to tradition, arrived within sight of his homestead only to see it all in a blaze; and ere the foremost of his men could get forward, riding at full speed, "baith lady and babes were brent." Gordon, however, was pursued in "hot trod." Overtaking him on his way homewards, the bereaved husband "wroke his dear lady in his foul heart's bluid."

#### THE BORDER CLANS.

North Tynedale, which was specially well plenished with "wild and misdemeaned people," could furnish, in case of need, some three hundred armed men, horse and foot. There were four principal surnames or clans in the district, whereof the Charltons were the chief. In all services or charges impressed upon the country, the Charltons, or such as were under their rule, were rated for one half; the Robsons for a quarter; and the Dodds and Millburns for another quarter. Of every surname there were certain "graynes," branches, or families, the "headsman" of which led and answered for all the rest. The inhabitants of Redesdale, who lived rather more by the cultivation of the soil, were richer and more numerous than those of Tynedale, but they could not raise so many able and active men. Their principal names were Hall, Reed, Potts, Hedley, Spoors, Dagg, and Fletcher. Most of these names are still of frequent occurrence in or near the localities which they monopolised three or four hundred years ago. The Ogles, Shaftoés, Fenwicks, Forsters, Claverings, Horsleys, Herons, Tates, Thirlwalls, Featherstons, Carrs, and others, who occupied different parts of Northumberland in clannish fashion, were only a little more civilized and orderly under the general leadership of the Percies than the most remote dalesmen. The Graemes, Nixons, Hallidays, Littles, Musgraves, Henslies, Pyles, Irvings, and Croziers, of Cumberland and the Debateable Land, were, on the other hand, a set of even

more incorrigible savages than the Northumbrians. The Elliots and Armstrongs of Liddesdale; the Scotts, Kerrs, Cranstouns, Turnbulls, Rules, and Rutherfords, of Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, and parts adjoining; the Humes, Cockburns, Lauders, Lumsdens, Blythes, and Gordons, of Berwickshire; and the Maxwells, Johnstones, Jardines, Glendinnings, Flenings, Moffats, &c., of Nithsdale, and Annandale, could not easily be surpassed in anything that goes to make up the full-fledged reiver.

#### CLANNISH FEUDS.

These clans cultivated and cherished feelings of rivalry and ill-neighbourhood that bred mutual contempt and hate, and led to constantly recurring bloodshed on every occasion when the partisans met, whether at games, fairs, trystes, wapenshaws, or warden's meetings. When vengeance was to be sought, as was almost always the case, for some real or supposed wrong or injury done to a clansman by any member, known or unknown, of another clan, no distance, whether of time or place, would excuse the party offending from the avenger of blood. No Corsican *vendetta* could be more sternly, steadily, persistently, and mercilessly carried out than a Border feud. In 1511, Sir Robert Kerr, of Fairneyhirst, warden of the Scottish Middle March, was slain at a Border meeting by three turbulent Englishmen, named Starhead, Lilburn, and Heron the Bastard. Starhead, who was the chief offender, escaped as far as York, and for a time tried to conceal himself. But he was sought out by two of Sir Robert's followers, named Tate, who brought his head to their new master, Sir Andrew or Dand Kerr, by whom it was exposed at the cross of Edinburgh, in memorial of the outrage. Lilburn was delivered up to justice in Scotland by the English monarch, and died there in captivity. Heron, who was the natural brother of Heron of Ford, escaped through a clever stratagem. He caused it to be rumoured that he was dead of the plague, got into a coffin, and had himself transported in it, so that he passed unsuspected through the party sent to arrest him, and afterwards kept out of the way till war occurred between the two kingdoms. His legitimate brother, Heron of Ford, was arrested, however, in his stead, and delivered up to James IV. as a substitute for the real culprit.

#### NORTHUMBRIANS AT FEUD.

Northumbrian gentlemen of family and fortune were not superior to the perpetration of murders in cases of clannish feud. In April, 1517, two members of the house of Horsley petitioned and obtained immunity of the Church (doubtless for a material consideration) for having, at Gorfen, a place between Morpeth and Longhorsley, murdered Christopher Clavering, of Calaly, and John Carr, of Hetton. There was a long-standing feud between the Selbies of Northamptonshire and the Reveleys of the same; also between the Rutherfords of Rochester, and the Turpins, Pawstons, and others,



for "slaughters done and not agreed for." Sir Robert Bowes, in his report upon the state of the Borders in 1550, tells us there were then two or three such "malicious displeasures" hanging amongst surnames in Redesdale, as between the Andersons, the Hedleys, the Pottses, and the Weatherheads; and he adds, speaking generally of the young gentlemen or headsmen of Northumberland in his time, that "their regard for truth in depositions about their quarrels is so indifferent that it were perilous to give credence to them, without the evidence of the complaining party being confronted with that of the accused." Gray, writing a century later, says: "The people of this country have one barbarous custom amongst them: if any two be displeased, they expect no law, but bang it out bravely, one and his kindred against the other and his. They will subject themselves to no justice, but in an inhuman and barbarous manner fight and kill one another. They run together in *clangs*, as they term it, or names. This fighting they call their *feids*—a word so barbarous that I cannot express it in any other tongue." Gray, it is plain, was no great linguist; for *clan*, or *clang* as he spells it, does not signify *name* at all, but tribe, family, children, descendants of one father, while *feid* is the same as *feud*, a good old Saxon word, signifying a deadly quarrel between families or factions, leading to a combination of kindred to revenge the death of any of their blood on the offender and all his race.

#### THE MURDER OF DE LA BASTIE.

In the year 1516, the Scottish Regent, John Duke of Albany, having enticed the Earl of Home to Edinburgh, and seized upon, tried, and beheaded him, upon accusations which are not known, committed the wardenry which his lordship had held to a French knight, the Chevalier de la Bastie, remarkable for the beauty of his person and the gallantry of his achievements. But Lord Home's friends, numerous, powerful, and unscrupulous, were equally desirous to avenge the death of their chief and to be freed from the dominion of a foreigner. So Sir David Home of Wedderburn, one of the fiercest of the name, laid an ambush for the unfortunate warden, near Langton, in Berwickshire. De la Bastie, seeing his life in danger, was compelled to fly, in the hope of gaining the castle of Dunbar; but, near the town of Dunse, his horse stuck fast in a bog. The pursuers came up and put him to death. Sir David Home tied the head by the long locks which the deceased wore to the mane of his horse, rode with it in triumph to Home Castle, and placed it on a spear on the highest turret. The hair is said to be yet preserved in the charter chest of the family.

#### A RAID OF THE KERRS.

In the month of October, 1522, the little village of Whitley, on the skirts of Shilbottle Moor, was visited by a party of Merse and Teviotdale marauders, headed by Mark Kerr, of Cessford, an ancestor of the Dukes of

Roxburghe, who, in revenge for some real or fancied injury, had sent word to the Earl of Northumberland that he would come within three miles of his house of Warkworth, where his lordship then lay, and give him light to put on his clothes at midnight. The Scots intended to set the village on fire; but there was no fire to be had in any of the houses, and they had forgotten, it seems, to bring flint and fizzle with them. So they murdered a poor woman instead. The people of the surrounding district fired the beacons, which were always kept ready for such emergencies; but the ruffians managed to return home in safety.

#### RAIDS INTO THE MERSE AND TEVIOTDALE.

In revenge for this outrage, the earl let slip a hundred of the best horsemen of Glendale, who made a nocturnal raid across the Tweed, retiring at daybreak. This band burned the town of Coldingham, with all the corn and provisions laid up in it, to the amount of above a hundred marks sterling, and also burned two places nigh adjoining thereto, called Plenderguest and the Black Hill, and brought away 23 persons, 60 horses, and 200 head of cattle. They intended to have also burned Kelso, with all the corn in that already important market town; but day broke too soon to permit them; and they were fain to content themselves with their night's work, dexterously performed so far, and get back safe to Wooler by the nearest ford. Shortly afterwards, however, "thanks to the Holy Trinity," as a letter writer of the day expressed himself, two of the Earl of Shrewbury's captains, Lords Ross and Dacre, pillaged and burned Kelso, and in the following year Dacre returned, in company with the Earl of Surrey, with about ten thousand men, and reduced the monastery and town to ashes. Surrey likewise stormed and set fire to Jedburgh, after a desperate conflict; but a panic having taken place among his men during the night, owing to a sudden onslaught on them by the Jed foresters, after they had concluded that all resistance was over, he fled precipitately over Carter Fell into Redesdale, leaving fifteen hundred troopers' horses behind him, which the Scots secured. The tumult was so great, that the English imputed it to supernatural interference; and Surrey alleged that the devil was seen six times during the confusion, even as Castor and Pollux used to be seen in the old Roman wars. The men of Teviotdale, however, followed the flying foe right over the fells, and amply revenged the loss they had sustained by harrying the English Border, which they swept over like a flight of locusts, from Alnwick to Tweedmouth and Norham. The Southrons were not equally unfortunate, it ought to be stated, along other parts of the Border line; for the Earl of Northumberland having "let slip secretly them of Tynedale and Redesdale, for the annoyance of Scotland," praying God to send them all good speed, Sir Ralph Fenwick led the men of Tynedale, and Sir William Heron the mer of



Redesdale, on a foray into Teviotdale; and on the 3rd of October, 1523, Surrey wrote from Newcastle to Cardinal Wolsey that he knew, by men of the country, but not as yet by the captains, that both Fenwick and Heron had made "very good rodes," having gotten much inside gear, cattle, horses, and prisoners, and returned without loss. Whereupon King James V. of Scotland, writing to Henry VIII., complains that the greatest of all the "attempts" that had been made against his lieges during the whole war had been committed upon the Middle Marches by certain of Henry's lieges of the surnames of Dodd, Charlton, and Milburn, under the leadership of Sir Ralph Fenwick, who had come within the grounds of Teviotdale, reft and spoiled sundry goods, murdered five men, and left others in peril of death.

#### SIR RALPH FENWICK IN TYNEDEALE.

On this occasion, Sir Ralph Fenwick led a willing army against the hereditary foe; but, as has happened to other great leaders, his supporters were soon arrayed against him. Not ten months afterwards, he was once more in North Tynedale, on an altogether different errand. This time it was to apprehend William Ridley, who had been concerned in the murder of the chief of the Featherstonhaughs in South Tynedale. He had with him a force of eighty horsemen, and appears to have taken up his quarters in the tower of Tarsett. The North Tynedale men had no goodwill to his being there. Ridley, being an outlaw, was of course deeply sympathised with by them. So William Charlton, of Bellingham, who had two hundred stalwart retainers, "bound and bodily sworn upon a book always to take his part," assembled part of them diligently, set upon Sir Ralph, hindered him of his purpose of attacking Ridley, and chased him out of the district, "to his great reproach." But the insult thus offered to the king's majesty, in the person of Sir Ralph Fenwick, was speedily avenged by Lord Dacre, who seized the person of William Charlton, and also took, at a wedding party where he was present, Roger Charlton, his brother, and Thomas Charlton, of the Careteth, "by whom all the inhabitants were governed, led, and ready at their commandment." Dacre, in his report of this affair, describes these three as pledge-breakers, and receivers of the stolen goods procured by the other marauders; and he advises that they should be forthwith judged and executed, as they doubtless were.

#### THE ROBSONS.

Immediately after the seizure of these "headmen," Lord Dacre commanded the inhabitants of Tynedale to meet him the next Sunday in Bellingham Church. The Robsons, however, one of the surnames, held out, and would not give pledges; whereupon his lordship sent out a party that night, and seized four of the surname, and among them Robert Robson, the fourth headman, whom he at once, and for the terrifying of the others, executed on the spot.

WILLIAM BROCKIE.

## The Town and Port of Sunderland.



UNDERLAND, a port of great renown, and amongst the Registrar-General's twenty largest towns, is, after all, if we are to speak strictly, one of the least of places. It covers no more than 219½ acres. Almost the whole of the great town popularly known as Sunderland is really Bishopwearmouth; but the municipal borough also includes the townships of Monkwearmouth and Monkwearmouth Shore, whilst the parliamentary boundary takes in the township of Southwick. To all this Sunderland proper bears but a very small proportion. Without seeking to be minutely accurate, it may suffice to say that the river Wear on the north, Sans Street and Numbers Garth on the west, Coronation Street and Adelaide Place on the south, and the sea on the east, are the boundaries of the ancient township of Sunderland. If it were possible to "beat the boundaries"—which it is not, since they pass through many private houses and other inaccessible places—the whole circuit could be traversed in a journey of about two miles. But whilst confining ourselves to the southern side of the river, we must include Bishopwearmouth in our present conception of Sunderland.

Bishopwearmouth emerges from the dim shades of antiquity in the will of King Athelstan, who died in 940. He says, "I give to St. Cuthbert (meaning thereby the bishop and monks then established at Chester-le-Street), the delightful town of South Wearmouth, with its appendices, that is Weston (Westoe), Offerton, Silksworth, the two Ryhopes, Burden, Seaham, Seaton, Dalton, Dalden, and Heselden, which places the malignity of evil men long ago stole from St. Cuthbert." That Sunderland is not mentioned in this enumeration of the appurtenances of Bishopwearmouth shows, I think, that it had then no distinct existence. Indeed, it is not till we reach the twelfth century that we meet with any certain mention of it, and possibly not by name even then. There is a Sunderland mentioned in Bishop Pudsey's great survey the Boldon Buke, which, from a reference to a mill-dam, I am strongly disposed to identify with Sunderland-by-the-Bridge, near Croxdale. There also we may probably seek for that Sunderland wherein a woman, named Sierith, was freed from a fever which troubled her twice every day, by the good offices of the Saint of Finchale, as we are told in Reginald's "Life and Miracles of St. Godric." Even in the important charter granted by Pudsey, between 1163 and 1186, to the burgesses of Wearmouth, which implies in some of its grants the then existence of an important port, Sunderland is not mentioned. When, in the next century, we come to the charter of Henry III., we still find that Sunderland is not named. The earliest employment of the name Sunder-



present holder of that office, Mr. W. Elliott Lockhart, of Cleghorn.

W. E. WILSON.

## The Mosstroopers.

### III.

#### THE CHURCH AND THE BORDERERS.

**T**HE clergy scattered over the Border district were not much less vicious and disorderly than the bulk of their flocks. They were not indisposed sometimes to go out and take a prey on their own account, and were at least always ready and willing to connive with their parishioners who did. They had no influence whatever to deter the people from "stouthrift," the scope of their priestly calling being confined to spiritual matters. Bishop Fox, in 1498, had, on informations being taken to him of the great number of robbers who infested these parts, issued his mandate to all the clergy of Tynedale and Redesdale, charging them to visit with the terrors of the greater excommunication all the inhabitants of their several cures who should, excepting against the Scots, presume to go from home armed in a jack and sallet, or knapsull, or other defensive armour; or should ride a horse worth more than six shillings and eightpence; or should wear in any church or churchyard, during the time of divine service, any offensive weapon more than a cubit in length. But it may be taken for granted that the good bishop's well-meant mandate remained a dead letter, as much owing to the average character of the Sir Johns or Mass Johns of the dales to whom it was addressed, as to that of the "lewd men," or laymen of the district, against whom, if disobedient, it was to be put in force; for the prelate elsewhere describes the Redesdale curates (and presumably their brethren of the yet ruder twin dale) as publicly and openly living with concubines, irregular, suspended, excommunicated, interdicted, wholly ignorant of letters, so much so that the priest of ten years' standing did not know how to read the breviary. Some of them, we are told, were nothing more than sham priests, having never been ordained, and these interlopers performed divine service, not only in places dedicated to that purpose, but in such as were unconsecrated and interdicted. The priest and curate of Newcastle are both included (we quote the fact from Mr. Sidney Gibson) in a list of "Border thieves" early in the reign of Elizabeth. In April, 1524, Cardinal Wolsey caused an interdict to be laid on all the churches of Tynedale; and about the same time the Archbishop of Glasgow published, on the Scottish side, an interdict and excommunication against the outlaws of Liddesdale and their harbourers, couched in the strongest possible language. But the Borderers seem to have revered neither church nor king; for William Frankelyn, writing to Wolsey in 1524,

tells the cardinal that after he had, in obedience to his grace's letter, caused all the churches to be interdicted, the thieves "temerarily" disobeyed the order, and caused a Scotch friar, notwithstanding the interdict, to minister the communion to them after his fashion. And one of their captains, Hector Charlton, whom tradition identifies with the Charltons of the House of Chirdon Burn, ancestors of the Charltons of Reedsmouth, received the pensions due, and served them all with wine. For though the mosstroopers in general, and these dalesmen in particular, were, as may be supposed, very ignorant about religious matters, deficient in anything like real piety or devotion, and lax in their moral code, most of them would have considered themselves insulted had they been told they were not good Catholics; and it was their habit regularly to tell their beads, and go occasionally to hear mass, and never with more zeal than when setting out on a plundering expedition.

#### LORD DACRE AND THE THIEVES.

Proclamation was made at Bellingham and elsewhere against giving food to the outlaws, and for keeping their wives and servants from attending markets. Driven thus to extremity, most of them seemed disposed to come to terms, stating that, if their own lives and those of their pledges or hostages given into the hands of the sheriffs were respected and made safe, they would then submit to the king. Only two of them, Gerard Charlton and Hector Charlton, "great captains" among the thieves, resolutely held out. The latter worthy, it would appear, was emboldened to do so through Lord Dacre himself "consorting him in his misdemeanour." For there is documentary evidence still extant to prove that his lordship accepted a present of certain stolen cattle from Hector, with whom he was "familiarly and daily conversant," and that he delivered up to him, to be ordered at his pleasure, two thieves taken in Gilsland, whom Hector afterwards ransomed and suffered to go at large, for twenty nobles of current money, which the thieves' friends had raised amongst them by the sale of goods stolen from the king's true subjects. This being on the face of the record, it is easy to believe that Lord Dacre's severity to thieves of inferior rank in North Tynedale raised against him a host of bitter enemies, from whose accusations he had some difficulty in clearing himself when afterwards tried for his conduct in Westminster Hall.

#### THE SCOTTISH THIEVES.

On the Scottish side, even greater perversion of the course of justice then prevailed. For there, as an old historian says, "there dared no man strive at law with a Douglas; for if he did, he was sure to get the worst of his lawsuit." The partiality of the Earl of Angus, then all-powerful, for his friends, kinsmen, and adherents, was quite shameful; and although, as the same writer adds, he "travelled through the country under the pretence of punishing thieves, robbers and murderers, there were



no malefactors so great as those which rode in his own company."

#### THE FEUD OF THE SCOTS AND KERS.

Sir Walter Scott, of Buccleuch, a man of great courage and military talent, head of a numerous and powerful clan, and possessed of much influence on the Border, was believed, probably with truth, to have connived at some more than ordinary outrages which had lately taken place in Teviotdale and Liddesdale. On Angus marching southwards to call the thieves to account, he was joined by the clans of Home and Ker, with whom he marched unopposed as far as Jedburgh; but on his return his passage was interrupted by Buccleuch, at the head of a thousand rough Borderers, at Melrose Bridge, and a sharp skirmish took place, in which the Border riders were defeated. About eighty Scotts were left dead on the field, as well as several of the Kers; and one of the latter, Ker of Cessford, a chief of the name, having been killed with a lance-thrust by one of the Elliots, a retainer of Buccleuch, it occasioned a deadly feud between the clans of Scott and Ker, which lasted for a full century, and caused much bloodshed. Indeed, it almost seemed at one time as if

While Cessford owned the rule of Carr,  
While Ettric held the line of Scott,  
The slaughtered chiefs, the mortal jar,  
The havoc of the feudal war,  
Would never, never be forgot.

Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel" relates, we need scarcely remind our readers, to this remarkable feud.

#### A RAID INTO THE COUNTY PALATINE.

At times when the Tynedale and Redesdale thieves durst not make a raid into Scotland, owing to the vigilance of the wardens, they never hesitated to pay moonlight visits to the lowland districts of Northumberland, or over the rivers into the bishopric of Durham. In 1528, William Charlton, of Shitlington, and Archibald Dodd, with two Scotsmen, Harry Noble and Roger Armstrong, rode a foray into the latter county. The party, nine in all, advanced to the neighbourhood of Wolsingham, on the 20th of January, seized the parson of Muggleswick in passing, and bore him off a prisoner. On their return they broke into three houses at Pencoardside, and robbed and spoiled the gear therein. The country rose in pursuit. Edward Horsley, the bailiff of Hexham, led the fray. The river Tyne happened to be in high flood, so the thieves could not ford it anywhere. They were therefore driven of necessity to the bridge at Haydon, which, however, was barred, chained, and locked fast, so that they could not pass with their horses over the same, but were constrained to leave them behind and flee away afoot. A servant of the Earl of Northumberland, called Thomas Errington, "ruler" of his lordship's tenants in those quarters, pursued them with a sleuth hound, and was joined by divers inhabitants of Tynedale, including another William Charlton, "which forwardness in oppressing malefactors had not been seen afore-

time in Tynedale men." Charlton, of Shitlington, was slain in the pursuit by Thomas Errington; Harry Noble shared the same fate; and Roger Armstrong and Archie Dodd were executed. Charlton's body was hung in chains at Hexham; Noble's on Haydon Bridge; and the other two were treated in the same way at Newcastle and Alnwick. The remaining five outlaws escaped. Noble and Armstrong had in all probability been outlawed from Liddesdale for acts of violence committed in Scotland, and had taken refuge among their English cousins of the same honourable profession, with whom they could quite lovingly hunt in couples. In their own country they would have been liable to be taken and hanged as "broken men," for whom, disowned by their clan, no chief or headsmen would be responsible. The old hall of Shitlington was standing till within the last few years on the north side of Blacklaw Burn, in the parish of Wark, and in the near neighbourhood of the extensive wastes formerly known as the Scots' Coltherd Wastes. In the same year in which the Laird of Shitlington Hall was "justified," six other Tynedale thieves were hanged at Alnwick. This seems to have struck terror for a while into the confraternity. At all events, a few years later, the Earl of Northumberland met the "headsmen of the surnames" at Hexham, and took bonds for their good behaviour and that of their retainers.

#### LUSHBURN HOLES.

It was not in their nature, however, to remain quiet long; and accordingly, in 1536, they were again causing uneasiness. A place called Lushburn (New Lewisburn) Holes, "a marvellous strong ground of woods and waters," a few miles from Keilder, and within a short ride of Larriston Burn Head in Liddesdale, afforded them a refuge into which no king's messenger dare penetrate. Fourteen years later (1550), we read in a Border survey that "the whole country of Northumberland is much given to riot, especially the young gentlemen or head men, and divers also of them to thefts and other greater offences." Even Hexham Market was commonly attended by "a hundred strong Border thieves," who overawed the country people they robbed.

#### THE DACRES AND OGLES.

In a will made by an inhabitant of Morpeth in 1583, the testator describes himself as dying of the wounds murderously inflicted by four of the Ogle family and their accessories, in consequence of his having presumed to say that the Dacres, then lords of Morpeth, were of as good blood as the Ogles.

#### "SAUFEEY MONEY."

Quite indifferent as the Border thieves were as to whom they laid under contributions, it was difficult to follow them and regain by force the property they had stolen. There were few men of note in all the country who had not made occasional raids into both England and Scotland, and they were at once daring and vigilant, well acquainted with all the by-roads, stealthy and rapid in



their motions. Besides, most of them had their dwellings in places which were naturally difficult of access, and the passes to which they obstructed, when they dreaded pursuit, with the trunks of trees. Therefore, says Sir Robert Bowes, in a report made to the Marquis of Dorset, Warden-General of the Marches, in the fifth year of the reign of Edward VI. (A.D. 1551): "If any True man of England get knowledge of the thieves that steal his goods in Tynedale or Redesdale, he had much rather take a part of his goods again in composition than pursue to the extremity of the law against the thief. For if he be of any great surname or kindred, and be lawfully executed by order of justice, the next of his kin or surname bear as such malice against all that follow the law against their cousin the thief, as though he had unlawfully killed him with a sword, and will by all means they can seek revenge thereupon." On this account, it was a common practice for persons whose cattle had been driven off by the thieves to treat with some of the chiefs of the clan who had committed the theft, and pay them a certain sum, which was called "saufey money," for the restitution of their property. Others agreed to pay the headsmen "black mail," in consideration that the clan they belonged to should not steal anything that pertained to them, and that they should assist them in recovering their property in the event of their being robbed by any other thieves. The exactors or receivers of this black mail or "saufey money" rendered themselves liable to capital punishment, and to pay it was a heinous offence, namely, theft-bote; but as most of the thieves were outlawed already, and the law was really powerless in these districts, all parties probably thought it made little matter to what extent they were theoretically considered accessories.

JAMES V. : PIERS COCKBURN.

In 1529, James the Fifth of Scotland made a convention at Edinburgh, for the purpose of considering the best mode of quelling the Border robbers, who, during the confusion into which the country had been thrown after the battle of Flodden, had committed many enormities. His first step was to secure the persons of the principal chieftains by whom these disorders were privately encouraged. The Earl of Bothwell, Lord Home, Lord Maxwell, Scott of Buccleuch, Kerr of Fairniehirst, and other powerful chiefs, who might have opposed and frustrated the king's purposes, were seized and imprisoned in separate fortresses in the inland country. James then assembled an army of ten thousand men, consisting of the rest of the nobility and their followers; but he gave it out that the grand object of the expedition was sylvan sport and martial exercise—nothing more. The gentlemen in the wild districts he intended to visit were ordered to bring in their best dogs and favourite hawks, so that the monarch and his train might refresh themselves with hunting and hawking. This was to prevent the Borderers from taking alarm, in which case they would have re-

treated into their mountain fastnesses, from whence it would have been difficult to dislodge them. They had no sense of guilt, for they had only been following the habitual bent of their lives. They were not aware, either, that there was any harm in taking the law into their own hands at home, whenever they felt themselves aggrieved; neither had they the least idea that it was wrong to take advantage of the Michaelmas moon by night, or of a Scotch mist by day, to make a raid over the fells or across the Esk. They had consequently no apprehension of the king's displeasure. So thorough, indeed, was their security, that the greatest malefactors amongst them either came out with their followers to swell the royal train, or made ready to entertain James and his courtiers when they should arrive in their neighbourhood. Sweeping through Ettrick Forest, the King of Scots came to Henderland, a pele or tower in the shire of Peebles, belonging to Piers Cockburn, who had never shown any backwardness in helping himself when anything was to be got on either side of the Border. Cockburn was in the act of providing a great entertainment to welcome the king, when James caused him to be suddenly seized and hanged over the gate of his own castle. His wife is said to have fled to the recesses of a wild glen, near the tower, called the Dow Glen, during the execution of her husband, hoping to drown the cries of the soldiery in the roar of the mountain torrent that rushes impetuously through it to join the Meggat and reach St. Mary's Loch. The solitary spot where she sat, close beside a waterfall, is still called the Lady's Seat. In the "Lament of the Border Widow," composed in poor Marjory Cockburn's name, we read how the king brake her bower and slew her knight, while her servants all for life did flee, and left her in extremity. Then she is represented as saying—

I sewed his sheet, making my mane;  
I watched the corpse, myself alane;  
I watched his body, night and day;  
No living creature came that way.  
I took his body on my back,  
And whyles I gaed and whyles I sat;  
I digged a grave, and laid him in,  
And happed him with the sward so green.

A large stone, broken into three pieces, marks the place where both husband and wife were buried, in the old graveyard of St. Mary's Chapel. The following inscription is visible on its surface:—"Here lyes Perys of Cockburne and his wife Marjory."

JOHNNY ARMSTRONG.

Adam Scott, of Tushilaw, who was distinguished by the title of King of the Border, won in many a daring successful raid, was the next victim of note. But the most famous of all was John Armstrong, of Gilnockie, near Langholme, famous in Scottish song as Johnny Armstrong. This freebooting chief had risen to great consequence, and the whole of that part of Cumberland bordering on Liddesdale and Dumfriesshire paid him black mail, in consideration of which he abstained from



harrying it. He had a high idea of his own importance, as a sort of self-constituted warden of the Western March, and seems to have been quite unconscious of having merited any severe usage at the king's hands. Confiding in his imagined innocence, he went out to meet his sovereign at a place about ten miles from Hawick, called Caerlanrig Chapel, richly draped, and having with him thirty-six gentlemen, his constant retinue, as well attired as himself. The king, incensed to see a freebooter so gallantly equipped, commanded him instantly to be led to execution, and he and his retinue were forthwith hanged. The effect of this severity on the part of the king was such that, as the vulgar expressed it, "the rash-bush" thenceforth "kept the cow." "Thereafter," as Pitscottie tells us, "was great peace and rest a long time, wherethrough the king had great profit; for he had ten thousand sheep grazing in the Ettrick Forest, in keeping by Andrew Bell, who made the king as good account as if they had been grazing in the bounds of Fife."

#### THE NORTHUMBERLAND FENCIBLES.

In the year 1538, a muster of all the fencible inhabitants of Northumberland was instituted, by order of Henry VIII. The burgesses of Newcastle, all armed in plate and mail, with bows, bills, and battle-axes, were assembled by their aldermen on the Town Moor: and the population of the landward part of the county was called together in the various wards by the principal gentlemen of each district, vested with the king's commission. In the musters of Sir Raynold Carnaby and Sir Cuthbert Radcliffe, held on Aberwick Moor, Ruberslaw, and other convenient places, there were hard upon six hundred Redesdale and North Tynedale "thieves," all "able men, with horse, harness, and spears," besides all the "foot thieves" of the same valleys. We may be sure they would not have presented themselves on this occasion for the king's service, had they not beforehand received trustworthy assurances that bygones would be bygones. Their hardihood otherwise would have been about equal to that of Johnny Armstrong himself, since they had always been quite as prone when they had the chance to plunder their own countrymen as "the blue bonnets over the Border."

WILLIAM BROCKIE.

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### Henry Evers, Teacher of Science.

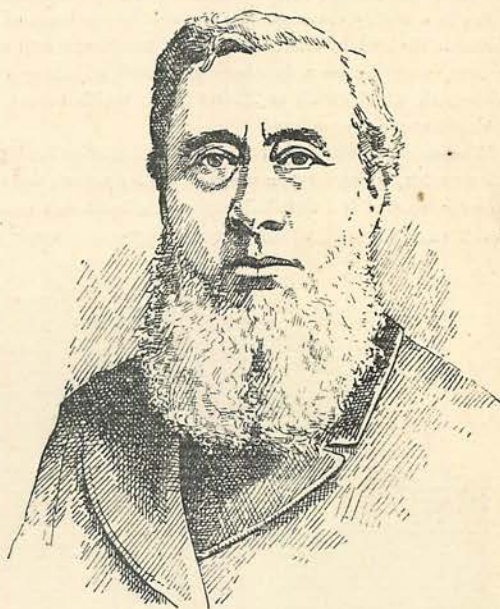
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MEMBER of the Newcastle Town Council, the author of "Steam and the Steam Engine," and the head master of the Elswick Science Classes, Mr. Henry Evers, whose portrait is here engraved, has been described in *Science and Art* as "one of the pioneers of science teaching."

Mr. Evers was born in 1830 at Amblecote, Stafford-

shire, near Stourbridge, and received his early education at the Oldswinford Hospital, adjoining the latter town. At the age of nineteen he entered the Cheltenham Training College, then lately established by the influence of the Rev. Francis Close, Incumbent of Cheltenham, afterwards Dean of Carlisle. During the two years of his stay at Cheltenham under Dr. Bromby, afterwards Bishop of Tasmania, he saw the foundation of the Training College laid, and the whole completed, being among those then in residence who entered into the new buildings in 1850. On leaving Cheltenham, Mr. Evers was appointed to St. Sepulchre's Schools, Northampton, where he remained for two years, and then removed to Plymouth, where, for twenty years or more,



he was the head-master of the Charles Boys' School, the largest Church of England School in the West of England in those days. About 1865, science classes were first commenced in Plymouth, and Mr. Evers at once took the position of leading science teacher.

Appointed to the head-mastership of the Elswick Mechanics' Institute Science Classes about 1876, Mr. Evers was eminently successful from the very commencement. A very large number of honours students have passed through these schools, with a very fair proportion of Whitworth Scholars. Last year, for instance, was a year of great achievements: two out of the four Whitworth Scholarships were awarded to Elswick students—Mr. Reginald T. Smith, now of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Mr. John Harbottle, now of Owens' College, Manchester.

Mr. Evers is at present engaged in producing the "Elswick Science Series," for which he has written "Trigonometry (Practical and Theoretical)," and "Steam



commemoration of the event. Great were the rejoicings on the occasion. "For the pastime of the multitude, a bull was baited on the Moor, decorated about the head with satirical emblems consonant to the present contest, and which made much diversion to the spectators."

Six hundred and fifteen persons are said to have been admitted to their freedom at the guild preceding the poll, which commenced on the 11th of October, at a "well-contrived erection of wood-work," placed "in the open under-part of the Guildhall." The electors recorded their votes in tallies, so that the candidates stood pretty equal so long as they all had supporters to bring up. On Monday, the sixth day, Phipps slightly headed the poll. But the forces of the Burgesses' Candidates were now well-nigh spent, and on Tuesday they retired from the contest. The poll, however, still went on, and was kept open over Wednesday; when, after it had been prolonged for eight days, it came to a close, thirty-two companies having taken part in the election. The number of freemen that polled was 2,164, the votes being thus given:—

Sir Walter Blackett.....	1,432
Sir Matthew White Ridley .....	1,411
Hon. Constantine John Phipps .....	795
Thomas Delaval, Esq.....	677

The Butchers gave the largest number of votes (*viz.*, 238). Then came the Masters and Mariners (210), the Smiths (186), the Merchants (184), the Shipwrights (141), the Barber Surgeons (137), and the Cordwainers (115), none of the remainder polling so many as a hundred. Phipps and Blackett had a majority of the votes of the Butchers' Company; Ridley and Phipps, of the House Carpenters'; Phipps and Delaval, of the Joiners' and the Bricklayers'. In all the other companies Blackett and Ridley were in a majority.

Sir Walter was the acknowledged "King of Newcastle." Large and powerful was his following. On his canvasses "he was generally attended by about five hundred gentlemen, tradesmen, and others, some of whom had weight with almost every freeman." "He was acknowledged, by all who knew him, to stand unrivalled" as a canvasser. "His open countenance and courtly deportment, his affability of manner, and what with many is the greatest consideration, his strict integrity in keeping his electioneering promises—this powerful combination of circumstances, as was observed by Captain Phipps, set all competition with Sir Walter for the representation of Newcastle at defiance." Six times he had been elected aforetime, winning his seat at the poll in 1734, and maintaining his place in "the great contest" of 1741, when four Aldermen of Newcastle fought for supremacy; and now, by a third poll, forty years after the first, he was sent to his seventh and last Parliament. Death alone being able to dethrone this local monarch.

These were "the good old days." The month of October, which witnessed the issue of the contest of 1774, did not pass away without "a cold collation and

ball" at the old Assembly Rooms in the Groat Market. There the successful candidates entertained their friends. "Sir Walter Blackett and Miss Ridley, Sir Matthew White Ridley and Miss Trevalian, opened the ball." Recording spectators were present in the throng. "The ladies in particular," says one of them, "made a most splendid appearance in their dress, and were not less attracting in their personal charms and gaiety of humour." "They seemed to vie with each other," says another, "in the taste and magnificence of their habits, which were richly ornamented with jewels."

The times are changed; the freemen have ceased to be the exclusive electors; candidates give no collations or balls; and bulls are not baited on the Moor. The town is changed: the Tyne is changed. Captain Phipps, as a naval officer, lamented the condition of the river navigation in 1774. Nature, he remarked, had given the district a noble river, and neglect had turned it into "a cursed horse-pond." There is now neither close Corporation nor close Conservatorship. The management of the river has been thrown open to the towns that border the navigable channel; and the reproach of the Arctic navigator would now have been exchanged for approval and commendation.

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## The Mosstroopers.

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### IV.

#### THE GALLANT GRAEMES.



THE laxity of Border morals with respect to property is seen in the very animated ballads of "Jamie Telfer o' the Fair Dodhead," the "Lochmaben Harper," "Dick o' the Cow," &c. On the other hand, courage, fidelity, enterprise, and all the martial virtues are exemplified in "Kinnmont Willie," "Jock o' the Side," "Archie o' Ca'field," &c. In Hughie the Graeme, the hero of another beautiful ballad, we have a good type of the mosstroopers who inhabited the Debateable Land, and who were to the full as fickle in their allegiance, and as impartial in their depredations, as either the Liddesdale or the Tynedale thieves. The "gallant Graemes" were said to be of Scottish extraction, but in military service they were more attached to England than to their mother country. They were, however, as the gentlemen of Cumberland alleged to Lord Scroope, in the year 1600, "with their children, tenants, and servants, the chiefest actors in the spoil and decay" of that part of the kingdom. The following members of the clan appear in a list of about four hundred Borderers, against whom bills of complaint were exhibited to the Bishop of Carlisle, about 1553, for divers incursions, burnings, murders, mutilations, and spoils by them committed:—Ritchie Graeme of Bailie, Will's Jock Graeme, Muckle Willie Graeme, Will Graeme of Rosetrees, Richie



Graeme, younger, of Netherby; Wat Graeme, called Flaughttail; Will Graeme, called Nimble Willie; and Will Graeme, called Mickle Willie. The Debateable Land and parts adjoining gave shelter in all emergencies to such lawless men as found it necessary to cut and run from their own side of the Border. Fugitive Graemes found a safe refuge in Liddesdale, and fugitive Elliots and Armstrongs in Cumberland. Carey, Earl of Monmouth, tells, in his "Memoirs," a long story of one of the Graemes harbouring two Scottishmen who had killed a churchman in Scotland, and refusing to give them up to him as deputy-warden of the West March, when he went to his strong tower, about five miles from Carlisle, to demand them in the king's name. Graeme, when he saw Carey coming, sent off a "bonny boy," to ride as fast as his horse could carry him, to bring assistance from Liddesdale. Carey, on his side, arranged to assemble between seven and eight hundred men, horse and foot, and set about besieging the tower. The garrison offered to parley, and yielded themselves to his mercy, seeing that timely help did not come. But they had no sooner opened the iron gate than four hundred horsemen appeared within a quarter of a mile, where, seeing the attacking party so numerous, they halted, and "stood at gaze." "Then," says Carey, "had I more to do than ever; for all our Borderers came crying, with full mouths, 'Sir, give us leave to set upon them, for these are they that have killed our fathers, our brothers and uncles, and our cousins, and they are coming, thinking to surprise you, upon weak grass nags, such as they could get on a sudden, and God hath put them into our hands that we may take revenge of them for much blood that they have spilt of ours.'" The deputy-warden gave them a fair answer, but resolved not to give them their desire, fearing the personal consequences to himself, it being a time of peace. He sent with speed to the Scots, and bade them pack away with all the haste they could, for if they stayed the messenger's return there would few of them get back to their own homes. Prudently they made no stay, but hurried away homewards before the messenger had made an end of his message; but the Cumberland men were very ill satisfied, though they durst not disobey. The Graemes, being deemed incorrigible, were some time afterwards transported to Ireland, but most of them found their way back before long to the banks of the Esk, and were permitted to take root again there. Fuller, in his quaint style, says they came to church as seldom as the 29th of February came into the calendar. Their sons were "free of the (stouthrift) trade of their father's copy." They were like unto Job, "not in piety and patience, but in sudden plenty and poverty; sometimes having flocks and herds in the morning, none at night, and perchance many again next day."

## THE LIDDESDALE THIEVES.

The next neighbours of the Graemes, the Liddesdale

thieves, were quite as great a pest. Maitland says of them—

Of Liddesdale the common thieves  
Sae pertly steals now and reives,  
That nane dare keep  
Horse, colt, nor sheep.  
Nor yet dare sleep  
For their mischieves.

They plainly through the country rides;  
I trow the muckle devil them guides;  
Where they on-set,  
Aye i' the gait,  
There is nae yett  
Nor door them bides.

## THE INGLEWOOD FOREST THIEVES.

A link between the outlaws on the Scottish Border and those in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, is supplied by Adam Bell, Clym of the Clough, and William of Clou-desly, the heroes of a ballad as old as Henry VIII.'s days. This trio is supposed to have been contemporary with the father of Robin Hood, who is represented as having beaten them at shooting at a mark. They lived a wild life in the North Countree, at some undetermined period. That they flourished before the reign of Henry is clear from the fact that Engle or Ingle Wood, which they frequented, was disforested by Henry, and had become in Camden's time "a dreary moor, with high distant hills on both sides, and a few stone farm-houses and cottages along the road." Ingleborough, a hill which obtained its name, as the Eildons in Roxburghshire did, from the beacon-fires anciently lighted on its summit, stood on the confines of this forest, which extended from Carlisle to Penrith. Frequent allusions to the three outlaws above-named occur in the plays of the Elizabethan age.

## THE REDESDALE THIEVES.

A survey made in 1542 describes the Redesdale men as living in shiels during the summer months, and pasturing their cattle in the graynes and hafes of the country on the south side of the Coquet, about Redlees and Milkwood, or on the waste grounds which sweep along the eastern marches of North Tynedale, about the Dogburn Head, Hawcup Edge, or Hollinhead. At this time they not only joined with their neighbours of Tynedale in acts of rapine and spoil, but often went as guides to the Scottish thieves in expeditions to harry and burn the towns and villages in Tynedale Ward, separated from their own country by the broad tracks of waste land stretching to the south of Elsdon, from the Simonside Hills to about Thockrington. Ponteland, Birtley, Gunnerston, and that neighbourhood suffered repeatedly from this sore grievance. The district to the north of the Coquet was equally harassed by inroads made through the Windy Gate, at the head of Beaumont Water, or by the old Watling Street, from Jed Forest; and the inhabitants could get little or no redress for the losses they sustained, it being next to impossible to identify the thieves, who were, indeed, almost as often English as Scotch. Those among the young dalesmen were most praised and



cherished by their elders who showed themselves the most expert thieves, and in this respect they would not have yielded the palm to the best Spartan that ever lived. In moonlight expeditions, whether into Scotland or England, they delighted. From generation to generation they went on from bad to worse, and it actually seemed as if it would be necessary to exterminate them, in order to pacify the country. It was to little purpose that a watch was set, from sunset to sunrise, at several places, passages and fords, "endalong" the Middle Marches; for the Scottish thieves generally had abettors and accomplices amongst the inhabitants of the districts visited, who led them by circuitous paths—as Ephialtes the Melian led the Persians over the mountains to Thermopylæ—down into the low country, where a richer spoil was to be had, that would afford the guides as well as the guided something for their trouble. Ten years after the date of the above survey, John Dudley, Earl of Northumberland, and his deputy, Lord Dacre, established a day watch also, upon a more enlarged plan than had hitherto been devised. Its carrying out, however, was necessarily entrusted to the principal inhabitants or head men, and so it was of very little use; for seven years later, in 1559, we find Sir Ralph Sadler, who was for a short time warden of the East and Middle Marches, and was well experienced in Border matters, describing the people as still "naughty, evil, unruly, and misdemeanant." The Redesdale thieves, he says, were no better than "very rebels and outlaws," and he could see no way of bringing them into order but by having a garrison of soldiers amongst them.

#### THE LAW OF GAVELKIND.

Over-population was set down, by superficial thinkers, as one cause of the turbulence of the dalesmen. Five or six families would ostensibly subsist, for instance, on a poor farm of a noble rent (six and eightpence sterling), their principal means of living really being systematic theft. Tynedale and Redesdale had never been subdued by William the Conqueror or his successors, and consequently they retained, till the middle of the seventeenth century, as Kent still does, the ancient Saxon law and custom of Gavelkind, whereby the lands of the father were equally divided at his death among all the sons. Neither did they forfeit their lands when convicted of a capital crime, the old maxim holding good in these parts, to which the feudal tenure was still foreign:—

The father to the bough,  
And the son to the plough,—

meaning, that when the father was hanged, the son took his estate, instead of it reverting to the Crown. Gray, in his "Chorographia," says there was every year a number of these thieves brought in to Newcastle Gaol, and sometimes twenty or thirty of them were condemned and hanged at the assizes. This would soon have reduced the number of lairds but for gavelkind. As it was, the more of them that were hanged, the more were left, at least if the individuals "justified," whether at

Newcastle, Hexham, Morpeth, or Carlisle, were family men. Hundreds, nay, thousands of them, read or had read for them their "neck-verse" at Hairibee, or on some other noted gallow-hill—places where the hangman always did his work by daylight, and had something like "constant ploy," and where, occasionally, hanging came first and judgment afterwards, for the very good reason that, if a malefactor was not immediately strung up whenever he was caught, there was some probability that his friends would come to the rescue, and the "woodie" would be cheated. If we turn to "a Rental of the Ancient Principality of Redesdale in 1618," printed in the "Archæologia Æliana," we shall find that, in spite of all these hangings, this tract of country was still "overcharged with an excessive number of inhabitants," and an old French historian, quoted by Pinkerton, tells us "the country was more abundant in savages than cattle."

#### HEXHAMSHIRE.

The district called Hexhamshire, so long as it was reckoned a county palatine, and possessed what Hutchinson calls "the ignominious privilege of sanctuary," was an asylum of thieves and robbers, the greatest offenders to the crown and their country daily removing thither, upon hope and trust of refuge thereby, to the great comfort and encouragement of many of the vilest and worst subjects and offenders in all the north parts, and to the great offence of the Almighty, and most manifest hindrance of good execution of law and justice. On this account the privilege was taken away by statute in the reign of Elizabeth, and Hexhamshire incorporated into Northumberland. The old proverbial taunt, however, is still sometimes heard—"Go to Hexham!"

#### THE HALLS.

The Halls appear to have been in bad repute, even amongst their neighbours, in consequence of Hall, of Girsonfield, near Otterburn, having betrayed Percival or Percy Reed, of Troughend, a keeper of Redesdale, to a Scottish clan of the name of Crozier, who slew him at Batinghope, near the source of the Reed. From this act they were called "the fause hearted Ha's," and when they entered a house to obtain refreshment, the cheese used to be set before them with the bottom uppermost, an expression of the host's dislike to their company. (See *Monthly Chronicle*, 1888, p. 370.) In the thirteenth year of Queen Elizabeth (A.D. 1572), at midsummer, two men named Hall, from Oxnam, Jed, or Rule Water (for there were clans named Hall on both sides, and both of moss-trooper breed), made a foray across the Border, and carried off from Roger Fenwick, of Rothley, and his tenants, a hundred and forty kine, of which outrage Roger complained to the Council of the North, moreover alleging that the Laird of Bedrule, the Laird of Edgerston, Aynsley of Faulby, and others, had given shelter to the Halls, though they knew them to be common thieves. In the twenty-eighth of Elizabeth, the Halls, of Elishaw,



between Otterburn and Rochester, were suddenly visited by the chiefs of the Ellhots, Croziers, and Nixons, of Liddesdale, with eighty or more of their clansmen, who killed the head of the house and carried off forty oxen, two horses, and thirty pounds worth of household stuff. In the pursuit two brothers Wanless were slain. A few years previous the Halls of Overacres, or Haveracres, near Elsdon, and ten other householders of the immediate locality, were alarmed by the appearance of a hundred and sixty Elliots, Croziers, and Nobles, who swept away a hundred and forty head of cattle, twenty horses, and ten pounds worth of household stuff, killed John Hall, and lamed eight of his followers, who had made a vigorous but ineffectual defence.

WILLIAM BROCKIE.

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### The Village of Ponteland.

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**P**ONTELAND is a picturesque and pleasantly located village, on the river Pont, from which it derives its name. The old North Road passes through it, and this fact gave it an importance in bygone times which it does not now possess. It may be called a remote place, at least in these days, when we expect the railway to carry us to any spot which it is worth our while to visit. Newcastle is seven miles from Ponteland, along a road which is as good as could be wished, but which, nevertheless, is lonely and in many places bleak. Yet Newcastle is practically the nearest point to Ponteland to which we can get by rail; for though Stanington, on the Morpeth Line, is perhaps a mile nearer, yet what is gained in distance is lost in the character of the road. Thrice every week Ponteland communicates with Newcastle, and Newcastle with Ponteland, by means of sundry antiquated and inconvenient omnibuses, described in directories and elsewhere by the dignified term "coaches," which afford, inside and out, amidst their crowded freight of "goods, chattels, and effects," such an experience of discomfort to passengers travelling with them as could not with ease be equalled.

Yet Ponteland merits being visited, not merely for its quiet rural aspect, nor solely that its ancient church, dating back to early Norman times, may be seen, nor even that the "Blackbird"—not to mention the "Seven Stars" and the "Diamond"—with its ancient apartments, may be examined, but quite as much for the sake of the historical associations which cluster round the place. There is no evidence to connect Ponteland itself with Roman occupation, although, from the fancied resemblance of the name, William Camden identified it with the Pons Ælii of the Romans. The earliest history of Ponteland is embedded in the walls of the church—an edifice of great interest, to which, by-and-by, an entire article ought to be devoted. In the early part of the

thirteenth century the Manor of Ponteland seems to have been in the hands of a family which took its name from the place, and in the "Testa de Neville," Gilbert de Eland is mentioned as the tenant *in capite*.

The first event connected with Ponteland mentioned in the page of our national history occurs in the reign of Henry III. That was an age of frequent feuds between the Kings of England and Scotland. One of the Scottish chronicles tells us that "the accursed traitor Walter Bisset" and his associates employed themselves in poisoning the ear of Henry against Alexander, the King of Scotland, until at last the English King gathered his army together and marched to Newcastle. From Newcastle he went forward to Ponteland, and there he was met by Alexander, who was accompanied by a large army. Instead of fighting, however, "a treaty of peace was concluded between them, on the vigil of the Assumption [*i.e.*, on the 24th August, 1244], chiefly at the instance of the Archbishop of York and of other nobles."

Shortly after this event, we find Ponteland in the hands of a noble, almost a royal family. The battle of Northampton was fought on the 3rd April, 1264. In the desperate struggle against the arbitrary proceedings of Henry III., of which that battle was the climax, Roger Bertram, Lord of Mitford, took part with the Earl of Leicester against the King. He was taken prisoner, and all his estates in Northumberland were forfeited to the Crown. Ponteland was amongst the number. Henry granted these estates to William de Valence, his half-brother. This William was the son and heir of Hugh le Brun and Isabella Angouleme, the fascinating and lovely widow of King John. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, who is chiefly memorable for his singular death. Aymer was thrice married. His third wife was Mary, daughter of Guy de Chastillon, Earl of St. Paul. On his wedding-day he engaged in a tournament, and—was killed, leaving to his bride the unusual fate of being maid, wife, and widow in a single day. From him the barony of Mitford, with its dependent manors, of which Ponteland was one, seems to have passed to a niece, Joan Cumin, whose father, John Cumin, was stabbed in the heart by Robert Bruce of Scotland before the high altar of the convent of Friars Minors at Dumfries. Joan Cumin married David de Strathbolgie, the eleventh Earl of Athol, whose father, David, the tenth Earl, was hanged on a gibbet 40 feet high, on account of his adherence to the cause of Robert Bruce. His head was fixed on London Bridge, and his body was burnt to ashes. From the eleventh earl Ponteland descended to the twelfth earl, another David de Strathbolgie, who was as ill-fated as some of his ancestors, for he was slain in Scotland, at the age of 28, whilst fighting in the cause of Edward III.

The next lord of Ponteland cannot be dismissed so rapidly as some of the preceding owners. He was no other than the famed Sir Aymer de Athol, brother of the





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### The Masstroopers.

V.

HALTWHISTLE HARRIED AND AVENGED.

**D**URING the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Elliots, Croziers, and Scotts, the lairds of Mangerton and Whithaugh, repeatedly made dreadful raids upon Haltwhistle, carrying off great numbers of horses, kine and oxen, goats and sheep, as well as household plenishings, money, and even writings, besides murdering some of the inhabitants, and seizing others as prisoners, to be held till ransomed. Sir Robert Carey says that soon after he was appointed to the wardenship of the Middle March the outlaws of Liddesdale sacked Haltwhistle, and carried away the principal inhabitants and all their goods. "I sent," says he, "to seek for justice for so great a wrong. The opposite officer sent me word it was not in his power, for that they were all fugitives, and not answerable to the king's laws. I acquainted the King of Scots with this answer. He signified to me that it was true, and that if I could take my revenge without hurting his honest subjects, he would be glad of it. I took no long time to resolve what to do, but sent some two hundred horse to the place where the principal outlaws lived; and took and brought away all the goods they had. The outlaws themselves were in strongholds, and could no way be got hold of. But one of the chiefs of them, being of more courage than the rest, got to horse and came pricking after them, crying out and asking them 'What he was that durst avow that mighty work?' One of the company came to him with a spear, and ran him through the body, leaving his spear broken in him, of which wound he died. The goods were divided to poor men, from whom they were taken before. This act so irritated

the outlaws that they vowed cruel revenge, and that before next winter was ended they would leave the whole country waste. His name was Sim of the Cathill (an Armstrong) that was killed, and it was a Ridley of Haltwhistle that killed him. They presently took a resolution to be revenged of that town. Thither they came, and set many houses of the town on fire, and took away all their goods; and, as they were running up and down the streets with lights in their hands to set more houses on fire, there was one other of the Riddleys that was in a strong stone house that made a shot out at them, and it was his good hap to kill an Armstrong, one of the sons of the chiefest outlaw. The death of this young man wrought so deep an impression amongst them, as many vows were made that before the end of next winter they would lay the Border waste." This event occurred about the end of May, 1598. The vigilant warden, however, prevented a third visit of fire and sword in Haltwhistle by capturing some of the principal leaders of the banditti, and bringing the whole of them into subjection, as he relates at length. All the houses in Haltwhistle were formerly more or less fortified, and there were two or three towers in the place.

THE ELLIOTS AND ARMSTRONGS.

About the same period, the Elliots and Armstrongs, to the number of five hundred or more, entered Elsdon, burned the town, murdered fourteen men, plundered the inhabitants to the extent of five hundred pounds in money and household stuff, and drove off four hundred horses and mares, and as many prisoners, whom they ransomed at heavy rates. No wonder that the despoiled people, in their pitiful application for redress to the Council sitting at Alnwick, in April, 1586, exclaim:—



"We are so pillaged by open-day forays, and by night rieves and Barryships, by the thieves of East and West Teviotdale, that we at this day be neither able to pay our rent, nor to furnish six able men nor horse, by reason of these great outrages and oppressions; nor have we had any restitution nor redress for the space of twenty-six years past." The marauders here styled Teviotdale men, were doubtless from that prime rendezvous of thieves, Liddesdale. The Armstrongs appear to have been at an early period in possession of great part of that secluded valley, and of the Debateable Land adjacent. Their immediate neighbourhood to England rendered them the most lawless of the Scotch Border clans; and as most of the country inhabited by them was claimed by both kingdoms, they preyed securely upon both, being often protected from justice by the one in opposition to the other. The rapacity of the Armstrongs, and of their allies the Elliots, gave rise to the popular saying, "Elliots and Armstrongs ride thieves a'!" Their head-men lived in peels, planted down on salient points along the banks of the Liddell. But when hard pressed they abandoned these, and took refuge in the peat mosses, accessible by paths known to themselves alone. One of the most noted of these asylums was Tarras Wood, in the heart of a desolate marsh, through which a small river takes its course. Upon the banks of the stream were found some dry spots, which were occupied by the outlaws and their followers in cases of emergency. The place, says an English writer, "was of that strength, and so surrounded with bogs and marsh ground, and thick bushes and shrubs, as they feared not the force nor power of England and Scotland, so long as they were there." The only way to ferret them out of this stronghold and secure their persons was by a simultaneous inroad by armed men from both sides of the Border, a conjunction which could seldom happen. In 1598 Carey made a raid upon them, however, in concert with the Scottish garrison of Hermitage Castle. But while he was besieging them in the Tarras, they contrived, by ways known only to themselves, to send a party into England, who plundered the warden's lands. On their return they sent Carey one of his own cows, telling him that, fearing he might fall short of provisions during his visit to Scotland, they had taken the precaution of sending him some English beef. They also sent him word that he was like the puff of a haggis, hottest at the first, and told him that he had their permission to stay in the country as long as the weather would give him leave. At length five of the ringleaders were taken in an ambuscade, and an accommodation was effected, on their delivering up a number of stolen sheep and kine to their rightful owners, bonds being entered into to keep the peace in time coming. Similar tales are told of the thieves in the Northumberland Dales. When any of them had committed some greater depredation than common, and the warden or country-keeper sent a party

against them, the troops could never approach their stronghold without their receiving timely notice; and when hard pressed, they usually managed to make their escape into Scotland, where they could reside till they had made their peace, or the danger had blown past. At other times they found shelter among the "hideous mountains, precipices, and mosses," "desert and impassable," extending from the Lawes near Sewingshields, towards Bewcastle, the hills in which quarter were so boggy, Camden says, that no horsemen were able to ride through them.

## KINMONT WILLIE.

The story of the release of Kinmont Willie from Carlisle Castle is told in the ballad which Mr. John Stokoe has communicated to the *Monthly Chronicle*, page 453.) Queen Elizabeth is said to have stormed not a little when news was carried to her of this daring deed. It almost seemed for a while as if it would be the occasion of war between the two countries, though every cool political consideration forbade. Some very angry correspondence passed between London and Edinburgh. In one despatch Elizabeth irefully wrote—"I will have satisfaction, or else—" The matter was at length arranged by the commissioners of both nations in Berwick, by whom it was agreed that the delinquents should be delivered up on both sides, and that the chiefs themselves should enter into ward in the opposite countries until these should be surrendered, and pledges granted for the future maintenance of the quiet of the Borders.

## WAT OF BUCCLEUCH.

But while the affair was yet unsettled, certain of the English Borderers having invaded Liddesdale and wasted the country, the Laird of Buccleuch retaliated the injury by a raid into England, in which he not only brought off much spoil, but apprehended thirty-six of the Tynedale thieves, all of whom he put to death. Sir Robert Kerr, of Cessford, rode with him on this occasion, Buccleuch directing the attack chiefly against the Charltons, and Cessford against the Stories. Carey, in a letter to Lord Burghley, states that at a place called Greenhaugh, finding no men about, they burned the house and all that was therein, including a good store of corn, and at the Bought-Hill they killed four of the Charltons, "very able and sufficient men," and went away threatening they would shortly have more of their lives. The origin of the quarrel between the Scotts and the Charltons is said to have been this:—A good while before, some of the Scotts, led by Will Harcotes and others, had made a great "rode" into Tynedale and Redesdale, wherein "they took up the whole country, and did very near beggar them for ever." Buccleuch and the rest of the Scotts, having bragged that the Dalesmen durst not cross the fells to take back anything of their own, the Charltons, being "the sufficientest and ablest men upon the Borders," not only went and took their own goods again, but heartened and persuaded their neighbours to take theirs also. This



stuck, Carey tells us, in Buccleuch's stomach. Moreover, he alleged that, a long while previously, during a time of war, the Tynedale men had gone into his country (Selkirkshire), and there took his grandfather prisoner, and killed divers of his people. When the Commissioners at Berwick had at length agreed on articles for keeping and preserving peace on the Border, James, King of Scots, had great difficulty in persuading Buccleuch and Cessford to comply with the order to enter into ward in England for a brief space. It required all his authority to overcome their scruples. In the end, however, they went. On Buccleuch being presented to Elizabeth, tradition has it that "she demanded of him, with her usual rough and peremptory address, how he dared to undertake an enterprise so desperate and presumptuous as the rescue of Will of Kinmont," and that the undaunted chieftain replied, "What is it that a man dares not do?" Elizabeth, it is said, struck with the reply, turned to a lord in waiting and exclaimed, "With ten thousand such men, our brother of Scotland might shake the firmest throne of Europe."

#### JOCK O' THE SIDE.

Of Jock o' the Side, the hero of one of the most popular of the Border ballads, Sir Richard Maitland says, "a greater thief did never ride." He seems to have been nephew to the Laird of Mangerton, in Liddesdale, and brother to Christie of the Side, mentioned in a list of Border clans dated 1597. The Laird's Jock, the Laird's Wat, and Hobbie Noble delivered him out of Newcastle gaol, where he lay with fifteen stone of Spanish iron laid right scre upon him. They had shod their horses the wrong way, and taken the road like corn cadgers, as was a common practice with the mosstroopers, as well as with the last century horse-stealers, their lineal descendants. Having crossed the Tyne at Chollerford, and provided themselves with a tree, with fifteen "nogs" on each side, wherewith to scale the wall, they managed, if the ballad speak truth, to reach their friend Jock in his dark and dreary dungeon, and carry him off home, where he forged his irons into horse shoes. Hobbie Noble, one of the adventurous three, was an Englishman, born and bred in Bewcastle Dale. (See *Monthly Chronicle*, 1888, p. 68.)

#### THE BORDERS PARTIALLY CLEARED.

After the accession of James to the English throne, a sweeping clearance of the Borders was undertaken. The Laird of Buccleuch collected under his banners the most desperate of the marauders, whom he formed into a legion in the service of the States of Holland. At the same time the Debateable Land was cleared of the Graemes, who were transported to Ulster, and their return prohibited under pain of death. The office of warden was abolished in both kingdoms, and the constable bearing the sheriff's writ superseded the warden-sergeant. But for a long time subsequent to the union of the crowns, the mosstroopers still continued to pursue their calling, though greatly diminished in numbers and

sadly sunk in reputation. They no longer enjoyed either the pretext of national hostility, or the protection or countenance of the nobility and gentry. These had often, in the olden times, made their baronial and manorial towers "flemens," "firths," or asylums for fugitive outlaws. Even the Government had winked at their atrocities sometimes, when the damage they did was to the rival kingdom. But now, instead of living as formerly by incursions into a foreign and often hostile country, they had to betake themselves to robbing their fellow-countrymen and neighbours, no longer even affecting to bear upon their blazon, as Drayton says their fathers did, the snaffle, spur, and spear.

#### THE LAST OF THE MOSTROOPERS.

The last public mention of mosstroopers occurs during the civil wars of the seventeenth century, when many ordinances of Parliament were directed against them, and several were caught, tried, and hanged. They latterly got the name of English Tories, in the southern part of Scotland, as we learn from Fuller. The last remnant of them was rooted out of their fastnesses by Charles Lord Howard, Earl of Carlisle, who shipped numbers of them off to the sugar plantations in Barbadoes. A price was set upon the heads of such as took to the bent to avoid expatriation, as if they had been so many pestilent vermin and runaways. They might be lawfully seized and carried off, wherever met, and even killed on the spot, without any judicial inquisition. The ringleaders having been thus got rid of, the rest of the people were by and by reduced to something like legal obedience. It was not to be expected, however, that the Border land would all at once be converted into a peaceful Arcadia. It is true that feuds which had existed for centuries gradually wore out, under the influence of common and statute law. It was no longer safe for a man to take justice into his own hands. Instead of disputes being settled, as they had once been, by club-law at fairs, football matches, and other meetings, recourse was now oftener had to the courts of quarter sessions, which used to be crowded, down till less than a century ago, with suitors from Reedwater and the North Tyne, on this side of the Cheviots, and from Liddesdale and Upper Teviotdale on the other side. *Apropos* of the sugar plantations in the West Indies, and the Virginia and Carolina tobacco-fields, many a likely lad was kidnapped from these parts by the Widdringtons and other man-stealers, and sent off to be sold as slaves. The legislative union between England and Scotland contributed not a little to modify and soften, but by no means to suppress, the predatory tendencies of the Borderers. It is true that many who would formerly have made raids into merry England as mosstroopers now shouldered more or less heavy packs, and came tramping across the country as travelling merchants, otherwise pedlars. Others of less caution and more daring, though possibly not less conscience, turned smugglers of whisky, salt, and other commodities. But



the legitimate successors of the Border thieves of the middle ages may be said to have been the horse-stealers.

THE HORSE STEALERS OF LAST CENTURY.

Horse stealing continued to be practised to a great extent, all along the Borders, down to the insurrection of 1715, and even long afterwards. Many of the rieviers lived in the vicinity of Bewcastle, a place well fitted for the purpose of eluding pursuit, from its secluded and yet central position, amidst extensive uninhabited wastes, the people living on the skirts of which were universally more disposed to put the searchers after stolen property on the wrong scent than to direct them right. A story is told of a Southron examining the Runic pillar in the churchyard at Bewcastle, and expressing his surprise at the paucity of the tombstones, being addressed by the sexton as follows: "Do you no ken the reason? Why, man, the greater part o' wor Bewcastle folk have outhen been hanged or transported; their banes dinna rest here."

WILLIAM BROCKIE.

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### Bishop Cosin's Public Library.

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R. JOHN COSIN was the first Bishop of Durham after the Restoration. Church and King had now "their own again"; and Cosin, returning from exile, was enthroned on the Wear. He was a lover of books, and familiar with them. Nor was he miserly of his treasures, but ready to communicate. The building for the accommodation of his Durham Library, erected on Palace Green, was completed in the year 1668; and he addressed himself, with characteristic ardour, to the storing of the structure with books.

It is amusing to read, in the correspondence he carried on with his secretary, Miles Stapylton, how bent he was on winning gifts for the enrichment of his pet institution. (Surtees Society, vol. 55.) Having abundant openings for doing good turns to others, he saw not why they should escape from the pinch of the reciprocating proverb. Out of every one on whom he had a reasonable claim, he was determined, in his own phrase, to hook some book or other. He must have either a book or a subscription. Especially was he anxious to make a prize of a *Tractatus Tractatum*, "in twenty-eight great volumes, fairly bound," which Mr. Flower, his domestic chaplain, had found him out; "but the bookseller," says the bishop, "demandeth £60, and may perhaps be brought down to £50 for the lowest thereof, which I am not able to give, having expended so much on my library already." Mr. Stapylton, however, might raise the money by subscription; or—(happy thought!)—"peradventure you may find the parson of Sedgfield to be in a generous humour, and to be a benefactor for the giving of these books to the

library his own self alone; but if you move him—you, or Mr. Davenport [rector of Houghton-le-Spring], or any other—I pray you do it in your own names, and not in mine."

This suggestion was made to his secretary on the 2nd day of December, 1669. On the fourth he was pen in hand again; and in a postscript to a long letter of that day he proposes a compromise, under which a layman should share with the Sedgfield parson the pleasure of purchasing the stately volumes:—"Mr. Davenport is still acquainted and free with Mr. Tempest [of Old Durham]. It would not be amiss, considering the £300 that I gave him, if he and the parson of Sedgfield were moved to give some contribution to the public library, so that, between them both, we might get the *Tractatus Tractatum* to be put into it, with some other good books of a lesser value to bear it company, *Galen*, or *Scotus*, or *Atlas Major*, &c.; but be you and Mr. Davenport sure that you make no motions in my name, for your own motions in *opportuno fandi tempore* will sooner prevail. Mr. Arden saith that he hath heard from Mr. G. Jackson, who is in hope to prevail with Mr. Hutchinson for £5 for the library."

But "the best-laid schemes" do not always go smooth, although a bishop be the contriver. From neither the parson nor the squire, nor from both of them together, could the money be got; and the bookseller would not budge from £60. £35 was all that had been promised; and Cosin writes, on the 27th of January, that if no more was to be had, "his own purse, or other provision, must supply the rest."

The prospect brightens, however, before the month is out. The £10 fine of Mr. Wright, a leaseholder, "added to your £35 for *Tractatus Tractatum*, and £5 more from Easington division, would give well near the purchase of the book."

Near the end of February there is another windfall in view, and it brings out a touch of that "sub-acid humour" with which his lordship's memory is associated:—"The Lambs' leases at Quarrington, being 3, may very well allow £10 for a book to the library, besides what they allowed to Mr. Marmaduke Allison, and think themselves well-used."

The month of March being more than half-spent, his lordship writes:—"When you have got the money (£35) for the library, if *Tractatus Tractatum* be then to be sold, as I doubt it will be gone before, we must add more money to it, such as the Lambs for their parts £10, and £10 more from some others; else we must lay out what you have, or can get, upon a set of the common law books, or those authors that will be useful in a public library for the city and country."

With the close of the month there is a glimpse of further additions to the shelves:—"In my last I bid you take the offer of £20 which the Norton tenants had made, and there an end of that matter, unless you can