

to our view, bounded by the elevated grounds of Spotland, and these again in the distance surmounted by the more northerly distant, bleak, and mountainous regions, in and near the forest of Rossendale, while *Tor Hill*, near to Haslingden appears overlooking the vale of Musbury,

In the vicinity of Hartley is *Captain Fold*, a number of pleasant habitations, bordering upon Thornham, and rurally situated. To the east of the latter place is *Ryecroft Hall*, an ancient farm house. *Great Yates* is also a beautiful and commanding situation, above Bolderstone Hall, from which pleasing eminence we have an extensive prospect over the circumjacent country, particularly of Butterworth, and also of the alpine heights in the township of Hundersfield.

TOWNSHIP OF HUNDERSFIELD.

Hundersfield is the most extensive district or township, in the parish of Rochdale, perhaps one of the largest divisions of a parish in the kingdom, being nearly ten miles in length, from Townhead, in the town of Rochdale, south west, to behind Scaitcliffe, at a place named Beater Clough, near Todmorden, in the north east; its extreme breadth is five miles, from Dovelawstones, on Blackstone-Edge, east, to the extreme point of Little Wardle, west, near to a place called Pot Ovens, above Whitworth. This great division of the parish includes all the north eastern part thereof, and the most extensive, populous, and elegant part of the town, is contained in the south eastern part of Hundersfield, in the hamlet of Wardleworth. Properly speaking, it is a ridge of mountains, chiefly on the north and east,

inclosing a comparatively rich and long extended valley, of the most romantic and picturesque kind. This vale extends from the town of Rochdale towards Littleborough, where it turns northward into a narrow and very contracted valley, which includes the village of Gawksholme, and also Todmorden, and extending in the same township to Scaitcliffe.

The hills on the eastern border, separating this parish from the county of York, are some of them very high, and extending through the western and northern parts of England, to the elevation of Ben Nevis, near Inverness, in the northern part of Scotland, are not improperly called the English Alps. The mountains which bound the county of York, on its western side, extending from near Ashton-under-Lyne, through the parishes of Oldham-cum-Prestwich, Rochdale, Burnley, to Colne.

They are chiefly composed of gritstone, red marl, sand stone, and above all coal, which forms the understrata to both the Lancashire and Yorkshire coal fields, dipping under them east and west. These mountains rise gradually on the Yorkshire side, but are generally steep on the Lancashire side, and form the boundary of the coal district for the whole extent before stated.

Near Rochdale and Oldham the sand stone strata which are interstratified with the coal, are of a red colour and resemble the old red sand stone, which is found under the coal in Monmouthshire.

Wardle, and Weurdle lie elevated above the aforesaid valley, and consists chiefly of uplands, interspersed with small declivities, and these intersected by gullies, through which the waters pour down swiftly into the main

valley, dashing from rock to rock till they unite their waters with the parent or valley stream.

The whole of this upland view affords even to its termination, only one wide display of dreary, inhospitable, and barren moorlands, with here and there a scattered habitation. A continuity of level ground is indeed very rare here, but many tracts of good pasture ground are seen on the declivities, while the tops of the high lands are quite barren, and covered with many morasses and quagmires.

In a district so mountainous, springs and streams of water, as might be expected, are numerous, and are all tributary branches of the Roche and Calder. The Roche rises on Walsden Edge, being contiguous to the ridge generally denominated Blackstone Edge, this is the main branch and flows past Littleborough, while a smaller stream passing Town House, unite their waters near Featherstall.

The Calder river rises at Heights, a farm in the hamlet of Blatchinworth and Calderbrook, and passing Bottoms, and a place called Square; it is then joined by a stream from Wilderness Hill, and arriving at Birk's Hall, another rill from Walsden Edge, commixes its waters therewith, thence passing Gawksholme, a strong current of water from the moors of Shorneyford, near Bacup, flows thereinto, and winding towards Todmorden, in its course it forms the division or boundary line of this county and parish, parting it all along from the parish of Halifax, in the county of York, and at Todmorden aforesaid, it connects with another branch of its waters, called the Calder of Cliviger, and then flows towards Sowerby, in the county of York.

The rich and varied views along the valley of Blatchinworth, are extremely imposing, and delightfully grand and attractive to the lover of romantic, picturesque, and scenic beauty.

Hundersfield probably derives its name from its being the field of *Honore*, a Saxon word contracted from *Honorius*, who was perhaps a Saxon lord of this tract, in the time of the Anglo Saxons. It was wrote Huneresfield, Honorhusfield, and Honorsfield, in 1322, 1332, and 1664. It is at present wrote Honorsfield, and Hundersfield.

This township is divided into the following hamlets, by some mistaken for townships, as every hamlet has its own government, similar to what is enjoyed by townships in other parishes, viz: first, Wuerdle and Wardle is one hamlet; this includes the western parts of Hundersfield; second, Wardleworth hamlet, this comprises the south western angle of the township; third, Blatchinworth and Calderbrook, including the central, the south east, and eastern parts of the district; 'Todmorden and Walsden is another hamlet, comprising the north, north eastern, and north western parts of this extensive region.

Hundersfield contains two episcopal chapels, which are distant from each other above five miles. This township includes within its bounds ten villages, which will be described under their proper heads.

In commencing a tour through Hundersfield, I begin with **WARDLEWORTH**, which is the most populous hamlet in the township, as well as the most level in regard to its surface, and the best cultivated. Dr. Whitaker, of Holme, seems to think that the word

Wardle, is derived from being once the place where *watch and ward* was kept for the neighbourhood, but I am inclined to suppose it was derived from War, and Dell, the *Vale of War*, implying very probably a valley, where some hostile action took place, and *Worth*, a district adjacent thereto. The first place that seems worthy of attention, is the ancient mansion of *Buckley Hall*, situated on a pleasant flat of pasture, a little above Foxholes; here resided one of the most ancient families of the parish of Rochdale, bearing the local name of Buckley.

Of this name the first who occurs is Geoffry de Buckley,* nephew to Geoffry, dean of Whalley, who lived in the reign of Henry II. then followed John and Adam, 1323, and another Geoffry, slain at the battle of Evesham, and interred there, at the Abbey Church. He had John de Buckley, occurring from 1340 to 1370, who had Adam de Bukeley, who marrying Alice, daughter of Thomas, son of William de la Leigh, had John, born 19th of Edward 3rd, who had Robert de Buckley, living 16th of Richard 2nd; he had John de Buckley, who married 2nd of Henry 6th, Alice, daughter of Roger Wolfenden, and had issue one son, the only heir, named Ralph Buckley, who *it is said*, had issue one son James de Buckley, living 38th of Henry 6th, who had Robert de Buckley, living 11th of Henry 7th; he had issue Thomas de Buckley, living 1507, who had James de Buckley, living 1512, who by Alice, daughter of Robert Howarth, Esq. of Howarth, had Thomas de Buckley, living 1534, who married Grace, daughter of Arthur Ashton, Esq. of Clegg, (her sister Catharine,

* Coucher Book.

was married to Mr. Thomas Chadwick, of Heley,) the said Thomas de Buckley, had Abel de Buckley, who died 1637, he had John de Buckley, who died 1674, who by Beatrice, daughter of William Brown, of Mexborough, in the county of York, Esq. had another Abel de Buckley, who died 1675, who married Judith, daughter of — Cockaine, of Cockaine Atley, of the county of Bedford, Esq. and had Edward Buckley, Esq. buried in the Trinity Chapel of Rochdale Church, 1687. He had an uncle Thomas, brother of his father Abel Buckley, who married in 1689, Anne Haslam, and dying in Toad Lane, in 1697, appears to have left a daughter, who marrying — Forster, Prothonotary of Preston, had Thomas Forster Buckley, Esq. of Preston, he was father of Edward Buckley, Esq. who died Anno Domini 1816, and sold the estate of Buckley, to the late Robert Entwisle, Esq. of Foxholes, and John Entwisle, Esq. of Foxholes, is the present proprietor. John del Bucklegh, a monk of Whalley, at the time of Stanlaw being translated to Whalley, 1296, appears to have been of this family.

Of this family probably was descended Captain Buckley, once of Whitfield, in Crompton, buried at the Parochial Chapel of Oldham, under a tomb in the yard. There are many respectable families of the name of Buckley now in this parish.

Arms of the family of Buckley, of Buckley. Gules, a chevron sable, between three bulls heads armed proper. Crest. On a wreath, a bull's head armed, proper. Motto. "*Nec timere nec timid.*" English, *Neither rash nor timid.* The Etymology of Buckley, is probably *the field of the Buck.*

A little lower than the mansion are the Water Works for supplying the town, here are three reservoirs, with four others in different parts of the parish, for the above purpose, viz. one at the church steps in Castleton; one in Buckley Wood; one at Jepheys, and one at Syke, in Spotland.

Nearer the town of Rochdale, amidst pleasure grounds and plantations, stands *Foxholes*, the ancient mansion of the family of the Entwises, where this very respectable family have resided for several centuries past, and whose descendants still possess this genteel residence. It is situated on a fine gradual ascent, and surrounded by fine stately shades, and being also fronted towards the road to Littleborough, it has an elegant appearance when viewed from the ascent towards Haybrook. The building is of polished stone, and is a very stately and commanding object; the gravelled walks, the clumps of shades and bushes that are interspersed variously, through a large extent of luxuriant meadow land, which spreads its rich green canopy in front, cannot fail to arrest the eye of all the lovers of taste, either in architectural, picturesque, or rural beauty.

The family of the Entwises, of Foxholes, were originally seated at Entwisle Hall, in the parish of Bolton, according to the *Familia Lancastriensis*, which house in Camden's time was a "neat and elegant mansion." Of this family the first who occurs is George Entwissle de Entwissle, who dying *sine patre*, left a brother and heir, William Entwissle de Entwissle, who married Alice, daughter and heir of Bradshaw, of Bradshaw, Esq. and had Edmond Entwissle, Esq. the

first of Foxholes; he had issue Richard Entwissle, Esq. who by a daughter of Arthur Ashton, Esq. of Clegg, had Richard Entwissle, Esq. who married Grace, daughter of Mr. Robert Chadwick, of Heley Hall, and had John Entwissle, Esq. who marrying Dorothy, daughter of Robert Holt, of Castleton, Esq. had issue Richard Entwissle, Esq. born 1651.—Richard married Eleanor, daughter of Hugh Currer, of Kildwick, Esq. and had first Robert Entwissle, Esq. a very able and distinguished magistrate, born 1692, died 1778, unmarried, and 2nd, Edmond Entwissle, Esq. who married a daughter of Preston, of Ellal Grange, Esq. and left Robert Entwissle, Esq. nephew of the aforesaid Robert, who died unmarried, possessed of the estate of Foxholes, in 1787. Besides Richard Entwissle, Esq. and Dorothy Holt, was Bertie Entwissle, Vice Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Edmond Entwissle, D. D. Archdeacon of Chester, who married a daughter of Bishop Stratford. Bertie had issue Ellen, married to Mr. John Markland, of Wigan, by whom John Markland, Esq. of Manchester, by whom was John Markland Entwissle, Esq. Justice of the Peace for Lancashire, and late High Sheriff of the County of Lancaster, who is possessed of the Estates of Foxholes, Buckley, Howarth, Clegg, &c. He married Ellen, daughter of Hugh Lyle, Esq. of Coleraine, and has issue, Ellen, John, Hugh, Robert, Elizabeth, Robert, Henry, Bertie, Phil. Byze, Margaret, and Mary.

To this family undoubtedly was related the famous Sir Bertine Entwissle, Viscount and Baron of Bolebec. "Ther was a Viscount of Bolebec, in Normandy, called Bertine, or Bertram Eintwisell, that came into England

and was much of the faction of Henry VI. and slayne at one of the battails of St. Albans.—There yet remaineth in Leic'shire a mene gentleman, (that is of moderate fortune) of the name of Eintwisell." *Leyland's Itin.*

The name occurs among the Sheriffs of Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

Sir Bertine had probably obtained his titles and estates in Normandy, from Henry V. which will account for his attachment to his son, but he was certainly a Lancashire man.

The present proprietor of Foxholes therefore, as holding the estates of Foxholes, Buckley, Howarth, Clegg, &c. is as such, the representative of all these ancient families.

The arms of the family of Entwisle and Foxholes. Argent, on a bend engrailed S. 3 mullets of the 1st.

Crossing the rich and fertile grounds, we arrive at *Hamer Hall*, an elegant mansion of brick; the road from Rochdale to Littleborough is but a short remove from hence, with the neat village of Heybrook.

Hamer Hall, not a century ago, was inhabited by one of the local name who resided here, in and prior to the reign of Edward the IV. and George Hamer, Esq. resided here about half a century ago. Some cottages lying on the banks of the river Roche, bear the name of *Hamer Mill*, with other dwellings called *Hamer Mill Lane*.

The word Hamer, is perhaps derived from *Ham*, (Saxon,) a village or small place, and *mer* or *mere*, a stand or pool of water.

A small village of well-built houses on the main road to Littleborough, distant about one quarter of a mile east from Rochdale, is called Heybrook, or Haybrook, (the stream of the field) so named from a rivulet that falls into the Roche, a little below. Here is situate a handsome stone house, inhabited by a Mr. Holland.

Wardleworth Brow is pleasantly situated on the eminence above, and is the eastern extremity of the town of Rochdale. Leaving Wardleworth we come to a common, or waste piece of land, called Crankeyshaw, or Cronkeyshaw, and still further north easterly, stretching amongst the hills, lies the hamlet of *Wardle*, or *Wardell*, (valley of war,) it is situate about three miles to the north east of the town of Rochdale, and consists chiefly of rugged uneven grounds, with various habitations scattered amongst this bleak and solitary district.

Brown Wardle is the principal place in this hamlet, and consists of a number of detached stone habitations, and is situate about four miles north north east of Rochdale. In the northern part of the hamlet lies *Little Wardle*, near the source of a small branch of the Roche. *Crook*, a small place, lies in its vicinity.

Hades too, (which raises terrific ideas,) is also situate about three and a half miles north east of Rochdale. *High Wardle*, a small village lies above Whitworth, on the utmost verge of the township of Spotland, and north east from the town about four miles. In the south part of this hamlet was situate the ancient house that gave birth to the ennobled and illustrious family of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk. No vestige however of the ancient hall of Great Howard now appears, but a very respectable house has been recently erected on a

part of the site of the ancient hall, and is now occupied by a tenant of the present worthy possessor, John Entwisle, Esq. who purchased it of the executors of the last heir of this ancient family. Dugdale the antiquary writes as follows of the ancient family residing at this hall.

“To all and singular, as well as the nobility and gentry, as others to whom these presents shall come to be seen, read, and understood, William Dugdale, Esq. alias Norroy king of arms, of the east, west, and north parts of England, beyond the river of Trent, sendeth greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Forasmuch as Theophilus Howard, Esq. hath according to his bounden duty and allegiance, with great courage, fidelity, and constancy, adhered to the most illustrious, serene, and sacred majesty of King Charles the First, of late and blessed memory, and for his loyalty hath been a great sufferer, both in estate and person, and also in regard he hath given signal, and real testimony, of being loyal and faithful, to our most gracious sovereign King Charles the Second, and hath been serviceable to his Majesty's most faithful friends and subjects, in the worst of these late disloyal and unhappy times, as appears by an attest and subscription, of the hand of the Right Honourable Charles, Earl of Derby; William, Earl of Strafford; and James, Earl of Athol; George, Lord Delamere; Caryll, Lord Molineaux; William Stanley, and Edmund Stanley, Esquires, and brothers of the said Earl of Derby, Sir Ralph Ashton, of Middleton, Sir George Middleton, Baronets, Sir Cecil Trafford, Sir Gilbert Ireland, Sir Roger Bradshaw, Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, Knights, and divers others of the

chief Esquires and Gentlemen of the county of Lancashire. And forasmuch as the said Theophilus Howarth, of Howarth, is descended of worthy progenitors, such as have since Henry the Third's time, (as the ancient seals of deeds declare,) used and born arms, as apt and significant tokens of their race, and gentry, which arms to him the said Theophilus Howarth, of Howarth, by just descent, and prerogative of birth, are duly derived.”

Dugdale here traces the pedigree of this family of Howarth in the line of ascent, but as the generality of my readers would scarcely so comprehend it, I give the descent according to the common form of pedigrees.

The first of this family appears to have been Osbert Howord, of Howord, upon whom King Henry the First, (for his good and faithful service,) king of England, bestowed certain lands at Howord, “in the territory or village of Howord, in Honorsfield, and parish of Rachdale, in the county of Lancaster, and made him master of the buck hounds.” The next in descent was his son Osbert Howord, of Howord, whose second son, kinsman and heir was Orme Howord, of Howord, who had a son Peter Howord, of Howord. Michael Howord cousin and heir, succeeded Peter, aforesaid, whose son was William Howord, of Howord, who had a son named Henry, to him succeeded his son William Howord, of Howord, aforesaid, after whom was his son Henry, to whom succeeded his son and heir William Howord, who was succeeded by Henry, who was again succeeded by his son William, who had a son Henry his successor, in the said estate of Howord. His successor was William Howorth, whose son Thomas

again succeeded the said William. He was again succeeded by an Edmund, who had a son Henry Howorth, who was followed by a successor named Edmond Howarth, whose son and successor was Robert Howarth, who had a cousin and heir Robert Howorth, of Howorth, this said Robert had a son named Edmond Howorth, he was the father of Theophilus Howorth, of Howorth, aforesaid, who lived in the time of the Commonwealth, and who received the testimonials of the said noblemen, for his services and loyalty to both the sovereigns of England, Charles the First and Second. This Theophilus had a son named Henry Howarth, who was Captain in the army of Charles the Second, 1678.

The following is a copy of a letter from his grace James Duke of Monmouth, and Buceleugh, &c. natural son of Charles the Second, to Captain Howarth or Howorth, of Howorth, the original of which is in the possession of John Elliott, Esq. of Rochdale.

“James Duke of Monmouth and Buccleugh, Earle of Doncaster, and Dalkeith, Lord Scott of Askdale, Tindale, and Whitechester, Master of the Horse to his Maj^{ty}. and Captaine Generall of his Maj^{ty}s. Land Forces, &c.”

“Vpon your arrivall at Yarmouth, you are to March with your Company, of Colonell Sydney's Regiment, to the town of Horsham, in the county of Norfolk, to continue there till further order, in the said Towne, and upon your March thither you are to Quarter the said company in some Taverns, Alehouses, and Victualling houses, wherein all Justices of the peace, Constables and other his Maj^{ty}s. Officers, whom it may concerne, are hereby required to be assisting. And you

are to be careful, that the Souldiers behave themselves Orderly, on their March, and in their Quarters, which you are to see duly satisfied. Given under my hand, att Whitehall, this 23rd day of December, 1678.

MONMOUTH.”

“To Captaine Howard, or Officer in Chief, commanding his company in Colonell Sidnye's Regimt.”

Theophilus the father of the said Captain, was a Doctor of Physic, and one of the Candidates of the College of Physicians, in London.

The following is an original letter of William Dugdale, Esq.—and fully proves that the illustrious family of Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, sprung from Great Howord, in *Honorsfield*, or Hundersfield, in the parish of Rochdale, and not from Howarden, in Wales, as stated in some pedigrees of the peerage.

“Whereas I William Dugdale Esquire Norroy principall Herald and King of Arms of the Northerne parts of England on the further side of Trent have seen and read a Manuscript entituled Iter Lancastrinsi or the Lancashire Itinerary written by Richard James, born in the Isle of Wight, Bachelour of Divinity and one of the senior Fellows of Corpus Christi Coledge in Oxford a diligent searcher into, and a great lover of ancient Records, an intimate acquaintance and friend of the famous and learned Antiquary Sir Robert Cotton, Knight, which he writt in Heroicke verse, with large marginal notes, in the year of our Lord God, one Thousand sixe Hundred Thirty seven. I doe Ereby make knowne, to all the Nobility and Gentry of England that the Iter Lancastrinsi doth attest and beare record that the Illustrious Dukes the Honourable Earles the

Noble Barons and Knights of the renowned Family of the HOWARDS did derive their originall from the ancient progeny of the Howords, of Howord Hall, in [he village or territorie of Howord, in Honorsfeld in the parish of Ratchdale in Lancashire, which said Manuscript being by me William Dugdale aforesaid perused and nowe in the custody of Theophilus Howord of Howord, Doctor of Physicke, and one of the Candidates of the Colledge of Physitians in London. I have for record and testimony of these things above specified sett to my hand and Seale of my Office the Eight Day of April in the yeare of our Lord God one Thousand Sixe Hundred and Sixtie five, and in the Reigne of Sovereaigne Lord King Charles the Second the Seaventeenth yeare.

(Signed)

*William Dugdale,
Norroy
King of Armes."*

The last of the name of this ancient family, who had resided at Howorth, aforesaid, appears to have been Radclyffe Howorth, L. L. D. Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, who died about 1786. At the time of the translation of Stanlaw, amongst the number who were translated from Stanlaw to Whalley, were five who appear to have been natives of the parish, one of whom was Abbott Haworth, of the ancient house of Great Haworth, near Small Bridge. Dugdale, by another testimonial,* bearing date 1664, the 17th year

* The original is in the possession of John Elliott, Esqr. of Rochdale.

of Charles the second, says, that it is clear from above seventy deeds without date, that the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, do derive their descent from the Howords of Great Howord, in Hundersfield, in the parish of Rochdale; and that William Howard, of Wigenhall, (in the county of Norfolk, a person skilful in the law, was preferred by King Edward to be a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas,) and that this said William was a direct descendant from Osbert Howard, who was as before mentioned, the first on record of the family, and had Great Howard aforesaid bestowed upon him, for his faithful services, by Henry the first.

Arms of the ancient family of the Howards, of Howard: Azure, a bend between two Stag's heads, coupe. N. N. N. N. Or. Crest on a Earl's helmet, a wreath Or. and Azure, a Stag's head couped and horned Or. The mantles dependent being gules, doubled, or lined Argent.

They were also possessed of Clegg Hall, and Little Clegg, with numerous other estates in Lancashire, and many other counties. As there are a very great number of respectable families of the name of Howarth, and Howard, still remaining in this parish and neighbourhood, after the lapse of so many centuries, it is highly probable that they are the descendants of this ancient and illustrious family.

Dr. Whitaker says this family have been settled here since the origin of local surnames, to nearly the close of the last century, and he even adds that they had *the reputation** of being the parent stock of the ducal house

* I conceive Dr. Whitaker never saw the said original manuscripts before mentioned.

of Howard. Great Howarth is about one mile and a half north east of Rochdale.

In a flat of pasture land, near the road from Rochdale to Littleborough, stands *Shaw*, a neat stone building, overlooking the Roche, which flows through the valley below, now occupied by Mrs. Lord.

Brick Field is a thriving and populous village, chiefly occupied by the weavers of Rochdale goods, and situated on the before mentioned road; it forms a kind of a regular street of cottages, about one mile east of Rochdale, and not far from the junction of the Beile with the river Roche. Nearly adjacent to the forementioned, is *Howard*, or *Howarth Cross*, another village about one and a half miles from Rochdale, and nearly connected with the extensive village of *Small Bridge*, which is doubtless the largest in the parish of Rochdale. It forms ~~one~~ connected street for upwards of half a mile along the Rochdale and Halifax road, chiefly occupied by manufacturers, shopkeepers, and other families engaged in different trades and mechanical pursuits, there are also several public houses, for the accommodation of the numerous Yorkshire, Lancashire, and other passengers, travelling to and from these two adjoining counties; it is rendered hereby a great thoroughfare from Manchester to Halifax, and other towns in this great trading district; numerous horses and carriages of all kinds, passing through the same hourly, have rendered it a place of much notoriety.

The situation of this village is on a fine eminence, overlooking the interesting valley, south, in which are numerous Woollen Mills, &c. erected on the banks of the rivers Roche and Beile, which here wind their

course in various circuitous and serpentine evolutions, and pleasant mazes.

Here let me spread descriptive fancy's wing,

Now let me mount the morning gale,

And view these scenes of Roche's vale.

Here the vernal meadows green,

In summer's flaunting pride are seen,

Where his flocks the peasant leads,

And the sweet breath'd heifer feeds,

All along the streamlet's side,

Where thy waters, Roche, do glide.

Now in silvery mazes seen,

And now lost 'midst hillocks green;

Whilst thro' many a devious way,

With silent course they steal away.

In *Small Bridge* is a place of worship, at present used by the Independents, and erected in 1824. A small streamlet flows through the place, under the arch of a lowly bridge, and flowing into the Roche below, I suppose gave name to the village. It is about one mile and a half from the town of Rochdale, lying eastward thereof.

About half a mile further, east, on the approach to Littleborough, are a considerable number of habitations bearing the name of *Stubley*. In the vicinity lies the venerable mansion of *Stubley Hall*, once the ancient mansion of a family of the local name, and afterwards the residence of the Holts. Up to the period of the reformation, the habitations of our gentry of this county were chiefly formed of timber, on a foundation of stone, but *Stubly Hall* was an exception to this general mode

of construction, by being one of the first specimens of improvement in the art of building then in use, being constructed entirely of stone or brick.

The situation of the house is just on the margin of the road from Rochdale to Halifax, but at present betrays evident signs of great dilapidation; two massy chimnies exhibit marks and are doubtless coeval with its antiquity. Whitaker states, "that Stubble was the first specimen in the compass of his work, (meaning the district subject to the Abbey of Whalley,) of a stone or brick hall house, of the second order, that is, with a centre and two wings only." It contains in the interior much carving in wood, particularly a rich and beautiful screen, betwixt the hall and the parlour, with a number of crests, cyphers, and cognizances, belonging to the Holts, and other neighbouring families. It was abandoned for the warmer and more fertile situation of Castleton, by Robert Holt, Esqr. about the year 1640.

This house appears to have been built about the reign of Henry the eighth, by Robert Holt, Esqr. who occurs in 1528, and whose crest, a pheon, still appears on the mantle piece of an ancient chimney. The Holts, so memorable a family in these parts, appear to have been originally of Holt, in Butterworth, have ever been for centuries, associated with dignity and opulence in this parish; and we find in the *Calendarium Inquisitorium*, post Mortem, taken in the third year of Edward the third, John de Holt returned, as holding possession of the castle and honour of Clitheroe. Long before the Holts, appeared at this place a Nicholas and John de Stubble, in the years 1322, and 1332: Then, in succes-

sion, John, Geoffry, Robert, and Christopher Holt. Christopher had Thomas, living in 1495, who had Robert, Justice of the peace, living in 1528,* whose daughter Mary, married Charles Holt, Esqr. her couzin, descended from the first Robert. Charles died in 1592, leaving John, who married Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Banaster, of Altham, Esqr. and died in 1662, leaving Robert,† who besides other sons who died young, had by his second wife, Dorothy, daughter of John Bullock, of Derby, in Derbyshire, Esqr. James Holt, Esqr. last of Castleton, who by Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Grantham, of Goltho, in the county of Lincolnshire, Esqr. had issue, 1st, Francis, who married James Winstanley, of Branston, in the county of Leicestershire, Esqr. 2nd, Elizabeth, married to William Cavendish, of Doveridge, in the county of Derby, Esqr. 3rd, Isabella, unmarried. 4th, Mary, married July 20th, 1714, to Samuel Cheetham, of Turton, Esqr. who purchased the shares of the other sisters, who served as Sheriff of Lancashire, in 1738, and dying intestate, without issue, March, 1744, was succeeded by Humphrey, his brother, and he by their kinsman, Edmond, Counsellor of Law, of Moston, near Manchester, as tenant for life; he died February 20th, 1768, on which event, in consequence of a settlement made by Humphrey Cheetham, the estates in Castleton, &c. devolved

* In an old visitation of Lancashire, by Thomas Tong, Norroy, 30th of Henry the eighth, is this singular entry:—"Robarde Holte, of Stubble, hase mar. an ould woman by whom he hase none issewe, and therefore he woulde not have her name entried."

† This said Robert compounded with the sequestrators of the Parliament, for his estate, by paying £ 150.

to James Winstanley, Esqr. by whose son, Clement, they were soon after sold to Thomas Smith, Esqr. who died December 31st, 1806. Stubble Hall, however, is now the property of the Sedgwicks.

Arms of Holt, of Stubble : Argent, on a bend engrailed Sable, three fleurs de lys, of the field. Stubble is pleasantly situated, overlooking the Roche, and about two miles east of Rochdale.*

Leaving Stubble we descend into a valley, and arrive at *Featherstall*, situated at the junction of the old road to Todmorden and that from Rochdale to Halifax. It is a small village, consisting chiefly of cottages, and of several public houses. There was a road once projected from this place which was to have passed by Shaw to Hollinwood, in the township of Oldham. Its line was intended to have run by near Three-lane-ends, and by Wild House, in Butterworth, to the village of Milnrow, to which place, from Hollinwood, it was completed, but the line, from Milnrow to Featherstall, remains as yet unfinished.

Not far from Small Bridge, is a number of dwellings bearing the name of WEURDLE,† giving name in part to the hamlet of Wardle and Weurdle, in which several of the last mentioned places are situated. To the east of Featherstall, we enter the hamlet of BLACHINWORTH and CALDERBROOK. On arriving at Littleborough or Littlebrough, an ancient village, said to have been once a small halting station of the Romans,

* Probably from Stub, (Dan.) a tree, and Lee, (Saxon,) a field.

† Viz. perhaps *wiery*, wet or moist, from *waor*, Saxon, a pool, and *dell*, or *dal*, Belgic, a valley.

on their marches from Ilkley (the *Olicana* of Ptolemy, the Roman historian,) to Yorkshire.

“At the foot of Blackstone-edge, (says Whitaker,) at a proper distance from both the great stations, and in a commodious scite for refreshing the soldiers, after their toilsome marches over those inhospitable mountains, appears to have been a subordinate fort, still denominated the Castle, and within half a mile of the modern Littlebrough, to which it appears to have given name.*” The Roman road that passed Littlebrough, appears to have commenced at Warrington, passing through Barton and Eccles, to Manchester; it afterwards traversed the townships of Moston, Chadderton, and Royton, and keeping about a quarter of a mile to the right of Rochdale, by the Oldham Road, it entered Butterworth by Rigg Gate, (or Ridge Gate now,) and so on to Littlebrough; it afterwards mounted the British Appenines, or Blackstone-edge, &c. swept over Rumbles Moor, and advanced to Ilkley, (near Otley,) where stood the heathen temple of *Verb-eia*, the Goddess of the Wharfe.

The village of Littlebrough,† is situate in an extensive valley, and is not very large, though it contains several neat mansions, bordering the Rochdale and Halifax road, so often mentioned; in the place also are some respectable Inns, for the accommodation of travellers, the ascent from hence over Blackstone Edge, being steep, and in some places solitary, it requires some refreshment before we undertake the

* History of Manchester, Vol. 1st, page 171.

† Probably from Brough, a place on a stony hill.

ascent thereof, especially as the traveller has to buffet sometimes with uncomfortable storms, which are frequent in these mountainous regions, and when once commenced, do not very suddenly abate. The Falcon, the Royal Oak, and the Red Lion are the principal Inns. The new road which branches out from that which leads direct to Halifax, proceeds on to Todmorden, through the romantic, beautiful and picturesque glen, or valley of Calderbrook.

The river Roche passes through the village, under a substantial bridge of one arch. The line of the Rochdale Canal also runs on the south and east parts hereof, through luxurious pasture lands, and above the village turns direct north, towards Todmorden, passing through the aforesaid glen. This great commercial stream renders the village a busy place, in the summer months more particularly.

In and near Littleborough are several ancient habitations, chiefly built with stone, which the dreary mountains in the vicinity produce in abundance. On one of these ancient houses are the initials, "I. W. 1611," this seems to be the most ancient dwelling in the village, and was built in the reign of our first James.

The Chapel of Littleborough, (of the establishment) is very ancient, and said to have been licensed for mass, by the Abbey and Convent of Whalley, Anno Domini, 1476, and the wood work within apparently belongs to that period, and if built in that year, (it is very probably,) the most ancient chapel in the parish, being, if then licensed, about the 15th of Edward the 4th. It was rebuilt in 1815, the Rev.

John Rutter was then curate, and John Beswick, Esq. and Mr. Isaac Marsden, the chief superintendents, concerned in the erection of the present chapel. This chapel was sold in the 7th year of Edward 6th, 1554, by Trafford and Bold, the commissioners, for 40 shillings, to Robert Holt, of Stubley, Esq. and others, for divine service, after the Reformation. It is at present a neat gothic, but handsome stone edifice, with a small spire steeple, surrounded by a neat burial ground, encircled by iron palisades. It is seated on an eminence, above the main road, and has a handsome appearance. The interior of the chapel is plain, but light and elegant, being kept remarkably clean, and has a gallery on the north, south, and west sides thereof. In front of the western gallery is the following inscription on a brass plate. "The Galleries erected 1823, they contain sittings for 401 persons, from the Society for promoting the enlargement and building of Churches and Chapels, 300 of that number are hereby declared to be free, and unappropriated for ever, and there are in addition 104 formerly provided, in the Chapel."

The roof of the chapel is very ancient and interesting (being I suppose the original one,) but some tasteless person has besmeared the beautiful carved beams, and filled the curious ramifications and hollowed sculpture of the fretted work, with a filthy pigment, which hides all its beauty, and which was done as I am led to suppose, with the foolish idea of rendering it weather proof. The laticed screen of this chapel has the cypher "I. H." and the Eagle's talon, which appears to have been a cognizance of the Hols. The pews in the

chapel are very neat and commodious. In the yard on a plain grave stone, is this modest and pleasing inscription, (says Dr. Whitaker, Vicar of Whalley,) "Edmundus Thornley, Presbyter, Annos septuaginta et tres natus, plus triginta septem hujus capellæ, vicarius, cælebs mortuus, subter sepultus est, 8o. Dec. 1727. Vir satis erudius, sorti, humili, contentus, meliore dignus."

A translation. Edmund Thornley, Minister, he was aged 73 years, and Curate of this Chapel 37 years, or more, he died unmarried, and was buried December 8th, 1727. "He was a man full of learning, happy, humble, content, and better through dignity."

This stone was placed near the altar originally, but on the addition of a burial ground to the chapel, at the time of its re-erection, it was removed, and is now in the yard. The present curate is the Rev. Mr. Steele, who occupies a very neat parsonage house, adjoining to the chapel yard.

Nearly opposite the chapel aforesaid, is a Dissenting Meeting Room, erected in 1815; and a little above is the Free School, founded for the education of a number of the poor children of the village, &c. The present master is Mr. T. Sladin.

A little above is the genteel and retired house of Mrs. Beswick, widow, surrounded by beautiful shades, and is denominated *Frank Port Cottage*.

Still ascending towards the elevation of Blackstone Edge, are some habitations, bearing the singular name of *Durn Littlebrough*. Littlebrough is about three and a half miles east of Rochdale; a number of stone dwellings a short distance from hence are called *High*

Lees, pleasantly situated in a deep valley, the sides of which are overhung and enlivened by beautiful plantations, which add much to the pleasing appearance of the scene. A strong current of water flows rapidly down the depths of the valley, and falls at the bottom of its declivity into the Roche.

On a steep eminence above Durn Littleborough, aforesaid, stands the ancient mansion of *Lower Windy Bank*, very properly so called, the boisterous winds of the north, must in winter, render this a very uncomfortable place; the prospect from the Bank overlooks almost the whole of this busy commercial valley, even to the town of Rochdale.

The town and vale are bosom'd round
With lofty hills and moorland ground,
Here commerce spreads her snowy fleece,
Her daily treasure to increase;
See all around, on ev'ry side,
The useful arts are spreading wide,
From sliding shuttles, and the wheel,
Her hardy sons great comfort feel.
Industry here erects her seat,
And commerce finds a safe retreat;
Her rosy girls in woollen clad,
Seem of their natal valley glad,
Nor wish to change, nor like to rove,
But their domestic rustics love.
Ee'n Roche rolls sad his waters by,
Withdrawing slowly from the eye,
Each flower that on its border grows,
It gently kisses as it flows;
And every pebble, o'er and o'er
It seems at parting to deplore:

Reluctant, onward still it goes,
 And sluggish, slow, and silent flows,
 'Till lost amidst the distant view,
 It bids the happy vale adieu.

Windy bank, before noted, is adorned with three gables in front, with the following inscription over the door way, "J. B. 1635," probably a John Butterworth, Yeoman, whose ancestors and descendants were formerly the possessors of this estate, in the time of King James the first. The last of the family of the Butterworths who occupied Windy Bank, was Jonathan Butterworth, who died in 1681, as appears by his grave stone in Rochdale Church Yard. The present possessor is James Dearden, Esq.

A little higher as you still ascend, and a little more distant from the said road from Rochdale to Halifax, lies *Higher Windy Bank*, an ancient farm, probably coeval in regard to the time of its erection, with the lower one, of the same name. It is the property of John Elliott, Esq. of Rochdale.

Journeying forward and gaining still on the eminence, we come to *Pike House*, the residence of John Beswick, Esq. lying on the left. It is a handsome stone edifice, encircled by stately shades, which, with a neat parterre in front, give it a romantic though stately appearance. Here resided for a considerable time the ancient family of the Halliwells. A John Halliwell occurs in 1610, in the reign of our Monarch, James the first. Another of this family was the Rev. J. Halliwell, of Pike House, who was curate of Oldham on the demise of the Rev.

Isaac Harper, in the year 1712, in which year he married Mrs. Tetlow, of Fog Lane, near Oldham. The family of Halliwell were originally seated at a place of their nominal name, viz. Halliwell, near Bolton-le-moors.

A little below, on the south, and at a small distance herefrom is *Bent House*, that has long been in the possession of the family of Stott, who it appears resided here, for on the head stone over the door of the old mansion are the initials and date, as follows: "I. H. S. 1691."—The second year of William and Mary. Near the old mansion is an elegant new house, built in the modern style, with a fine parterre in front, and an elegant and spacious yard to the back. The present proprietor, descendant in direct line from the proprietors of the old mansion, is Mr. John Stott.

Above these places lie the Alpean heights of Blackstone-Edge, which inhospitable and continued ridge of high moorlands, constitute the boundary of the county of Lancaster, on the east. On these high and bleak mountains are still visible some traces of the ancient Roman Road, the line of which has been before more minutely described. Blackstone-Edge includes a very considerable length of the road leading from Rochdale to Halifax, and on its summit may be seen the division or boundary line that separates Lancaster from the large and contiguous county of ancient *Eboricum*, or York. The division stone of the said two counties is near Dove Law Stones.

Descending from Blackstone-Edge, we arrive again at Littlebrough, near which village, in the direction of Todmorden, is *Wellington Lodge*, the residence of

William Newall, Esq. descended from an ancient family who have for many generations been seated near this place. It is an elegant mansion of stone, surrounded by some beautiful plantations and pasture grounds. A little further is *Hare Hill*, the residence of another brother of the same family of the Newhalls. It is situate on a small ascent, and is a genteel substantial structure of stone.

A little to the north of this is *Town House*, a large stately mansion, built of the same material as the foregoing, the appearance of which, when viewed from the village of Littlebrough, is truly elegant. The land in front is laid out in neat, shady, and beautiful walks and rural arbours. The back of the habitation is screened from the chill northern blasts by extensive plantations, which stretch to the top of the hill. This house is the residence of Samuel Newhall, Esq. A short distance from Town House is a neat house bearing the name of *Croft Head*.

Above the said place stands on a rather steep declivity, *Gale Cottage*, a Gothic structure of brick, the top of which is castellated, and the whole is coated with lime, which renders it a very conspicuous object from every part of the valley that surrounds Littlebrough. In the vicinity are some extensive calico print works. On the summit of the hill above Gale Cottage, lies *Calder Moor*, a number of dwellings; and still higher we come to *Stansfield*, viz. the Stoney Field, a small village on the old road from Rochdale to Todmorden, about four and a half miles north east of Rochdale. Here is a Dissenter's chapel, of stone. In the vicinity is *Handle Hall*, a small place similar to the aforesaid.

Descending from this eminence we enter the beautiful and romantic valley of Blatchinworth and Calderbrook, and pursue the new road from Littlebrough to Todmorden. I cannot sufficiently expatiate on the rural beauties of this most interesting valley, perhaps among all the varied scenery in the south of Lancashire, none is more sublime than that of Blatchinworth, whose romantic range of hills interspersed on their sides with some patches of vernal pastures, and here and there a scattered cottage, form an interesting contrast. The road from Wilderness Hill to Bottoms is as diversified as sublime, it runs along the brow of a deep dale, and skirts all along the Rochdale Canal. On one side the rocks and craggy precipices tower above to an amazing height. At the base they form a graceful slant, which in some places is covered with thick vernal foliage. On the summit a verdant pasture is now and then seen, and sometimes sheep or other cattle will stray, unconscious of their danger, and nibble the grass from the very edge of a tremendous precipice. Next you hear the sound and soothing noise of waters tumbling from the heights, and descending from rock to rock in small cataracts, combined with the rustling of the foliage by the breeze, awakens the mind to pleasing reverie. In this most delightful valley is situate the small village of *Wilderness Hill*, very properly so called, for the appearance of the scenery around, is truly a wild and terrific one.

“ Oh! ever could I wander o'er these lawns,
Beside thee Calder, gentlest stream that flows,
Climb each bold eminence, and daily find

Some object new for wonder ; the deep glades
 Traverse, embower'd by intertwining trees,
 Drink of thy waters murm'ring at my feet
 And think it luxury ; for ever gaze
 On the wide scene around me, where conspire
 Nature's all generous offspring to exalt,
 And warm the soul."

Altered from Dr. Booker.

Leaving Wilderness Hill, we ascend to *Steanor Bottom*, several ranges of humble cottages, situate near to the junction of the old and new roads from Rochdale to Todmorden, about three miles south of the latter place.

The grandeur of the rocks above *Steanor Bottom*, denominated very properly *Reddish Stone*, can be better conceived than described, while here and there an impending tree peeping out of the chinks and crags of the rocks, render the whole an imposing scene. On the opposite side of the valley, is a dark and romantic glen, commonly called *Warland*.*

On a cottage at *Steanor Bottom*, are two curious and singular inscriptions, with the initials A. S. E. 1700.

On the banks of the canal below is *Dean Head*, and about a mile nearer *Todmorden*, we enter the chapelry and hamlet of **TODMORDEN** and **WALSDEN**.

"In the parish of Rochdale, the true Saxon pronunciation of the word *Wall*, remains to the present day : There they have *Cold Wall*, and *Wall Head*, to denote two remarkable springs. *Wallshaw* is a wood, and *Wallsden* is a valley, abounding with springs."

* Query. Whether was this from *Woer*, wet land ; or *War*, a conflict which happened here at some remote period ?

Bottoms is a small village in a deep valley, on the banks of the *Calder*, about two miles to the south of *Todmorden*, from hence a road runs through a deep ravine to *Wardle*. The scenery of this part of the valley is truly romantic, the shades of the lofty trees rising majestically one above the other to the very summit of the hill ; while in the depth of the valley, the *Calder* winding its course, and brings to mind the words of the poet.

"The air around is breathing balm,

The *Aspin* seems to sway ;

And, as a sleeping infant calm,

The river streams away—

Devious as error—deep as love,

And blue and bright as heaven above."

Alaric A. Watts.

On the upland, to the east of *Bottoms*, is *Bottomley Fold*, and still nearer *Todmorden*, a considerable number of cottages, called *Square*, lying along by the turnpike road, and inhabited chiefly by weavers of different descriptions, but more particularly of *Calicoes*.

Birks Hall consists of a number of detached dwellings. *Henshaw*, an ancient mansion, is situated above *Birks Hall*, and is overshadowed by oaks and perennials. Here resided the family of *Scholefield*, of whom was *Radcliffe Scholefield, Esq.* interred at *Todmorden*.

Descending from *Henshaw*, we come to *Wood Bottom*, a small village, and in the vicinity of the same, is *Butcher Hill*, both of which places are situate on an eminence, overlooking the considerable village of *Gawksholme*, anciently wrote *Gowkisholme*, probably

derived from Gawk, or Geac, Sax. or from Gowk, all signifying a Cuckoo, and Holme, a meadow, viz. the meadow of the Cuckoo. Gawksholme is situated in the very depth of the valley, at the junction of the Calder, with another smaller branch of the said river, which descends from Sherneyford.

At this place is a large warehouse, erected on the banks of the canal, for the reception of goods brought on this line, and here the road from Bacope, or Bacop, to Todmorden connects itself with the main road betwixt Rochdale and Todmorden. Under these local advantages, Gawksholme has considerably increased, and at present consists of numerous ranges of dwellings, erected on the margin of these roads. It is distant from Rochdale about $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles north, north east, and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile south from Todmorden. There are several respectable shops and some public houses, for accommodation, the principal one of which seems to be the Freemason's Arms.

The hills which close around this village of Gawksholme, are nearly perpendicular and it seems astonishing to see the mules and beasts of burden, travelling through the serpentine roads, formed, in order to gain the top of these frightful elevations, and to see also sometimes young children, sporting on the very brink of these precipices, nathless the danger, and one almost shudders for their safety!

Stones, the residence of the Greenwoods, lies on the summit of the hill to the north west of this village, and is a handsome stone mansion, commanding a complete and most astonishing prospect of this most extensive and admirable valley.

Betwixt Gawksholme and Todmorden, are the extensive cotton works of the Messrs. Fieldens, with the neat mansions they occupy, together with various rows of habitations, for the accommodation and convenience of their numerous mechanics and other work people. This place bears the name of *Water Side*.

A little further we enter the extensive village of TODMORDEN, or Todmereden, and also anciently wrote *Todmaredene*, viz. "*The valley of the fox, mere, or lake,*" says Mr. Baines. Dr. Whitaker however gives another opinion upon it. "I suppose (says he,) or conceive the meaning of the word (Todmorden,) to be the valley of the mere, abounding with toads." I think myself nothing could be clearer than the etymology of the word as given by Dr. Whitaker. Tod, Saxon, a toad, mere, a lake, and den, a valley.

Todmorden is situated in a deep valley, and at the point where the vale of Stansfield, in Yorkshire, opens to the eye, indeed a part of the village is in the township of Stansfield; the river Calder separates that part of the village in Lancashire from that in Yorkshire. It is built on the roads from Burnley to Rochdale, and on that to Halifax, and forms three streets by the junction of the said roads, at the bridge over the Calder. Todmorden is nine miles north north east from Rochdale, twelve miles west south west of Halifax, and twenty miles north north east of Manchester. The Rochdale Canal passing through the village, creates a very considerable degree of trade, activity, and business, to be transacted herein. This Canal skirts the south side of the village, bringing the raw materials of wool or cotton, and also other necessaries of life to the very

doors of the inhabitants, and conveying the manufactured fabrics and other goods, which principally are cottons, to the markets, opening out by the aid of other navigations an uninterrupted communication between the eastern and western seas. It will not be thought extraordinary, under circumstances so favorable, that Todmorden has risen into a very considerable manufacturing station.

Cotton Mills are very numerous in the village and vicinity of the same. Todmorden has an *Episcopal Chapel*, subject to Rochdale, pleasantly situated on a small eminence, about the centre of the place. Of the date of its erection there remains no historical record, but it may fairly be presumed it was as early as the Reformation. The land for the erection of this chapel, as well as for the cemetery and old parsonage house, was given by the Radcliffes, of Todmorden Hall. Whitaker states that this chapel was certainly erected after the year 1400, and prior to the Reformation. On the erection of Todmorden chapel, (says he,) I have never been able to find any account, but the remains, quatrefoils, walled into the present building, which look like the remains of a tomb, appear to belong to the reign of Henry the eighth, at the latest. The present edifice was erected, Anno Domini 1770, at an expense of £605, under the superintendence of Anthony Crossley, of Scaitcliffe, Gentleman, who was also a large contributor towards its erection. An Act of Parliament has lately been obtained by the inhabitants of this chapelry, for the purpose of pulling down this edifice, and rebuilding it in a more sumptuous manner. It has a tower which appears more ancient than the

rest of the building, and must, I think, have belonged to a former chapel. The interior is neat, containing a gallery on the north, south, and west. In the gallery is a small and beautiful organ. The chancel contains three mural monuments, two of which are commemorative of the ancestors of the present John Crossley, Esq. of Scaitcliffe; the third tablet was erected by him, and records the "meritorious services," of the Rev. Joseph Atkinson, who after forty five years of faithful labour, in this chapelry, died on the 20th of August, 1819. There is another to perpetuate the memory of Anthony Crossley, of Scaitcliffe, Gentleman, the founder, as before stated, of this chapel. He entered as a private Gentleman in the Horse Guards, and afterwards as an Officer in the Militia of this county, and served also in the Rebellion of 1745 and 1746. He died February 26th, 1729. It commemorates also his son, John Crossley, who died September 29th, 1799. There is another mural tablet in memory of Radcliffe Scholefield, of Henshaw, Esq. and Luke Crossley, of Henshaw, Gent. as we before remarked when speaking of that place.

In the yard belonging to, and adjoining the chapel, is a grave stone which exceeds in point of antiquity, any other record of the kind in the parish, on the body of John Sheppard, who died in 1633. There is another stone without date, which appears still more ancient, it is inscribed "Here lyeth Henerey Radcliffe." I suppose of Todmorden Hall. Whitaker states "that several of the old tombs of the Radcliffes, with the arms, yet remain in the chapel yard of Todmorden." I must observe however, that on my examination this year, (1828,) I could perceive none,

only the record on the aforesaid stone. Recently a new and very handsome parsonage house and sacristy have been erected, and an additional cemetery, which lies near to the parsonage, on the Burnley road, has been inclosed for the burial of the dead, by the people belonging to the chapelry, aided by a grant from his Majesty's Commissioners for the building of churches.* The inhabitants are indebted for the scite of these additions to the accommodation of the chapel, to Mr. Samuel Greenwood, of Stones, in this chapelry, a member of the Society of Friends. A Church Sunday School, for 100 girls, is taught here. In the reign of Henry the eighth, the living of this chapel, which was then as it is now, in the patronage of the vicar of Rochdale, was valued at £2 per annum.

Near the chapel stands the ancient *Hall of Todmorden*, a fine old stone edifice, with many gables in front; the windows are small, and contain the fragments of some painted glass; in front is a large lawn, encircled with young trees, which add much to the beauty of its appearance. The hall is kept in excellent repair, and occupied by a few respectable families. It fronts the main street, and stands on the immediate north eastern bank of the Calder. The back of the mansion is laid out in orchards, the hedges of which are very tastefully cut. The interior is adorned by the arms of Savile Radcliffe, Esq, impaling those of Catharine Hyde, his

* The first interment took place in the new burial ground on Monday, the 25th of April, 1825, when the mortal remains of Mr. John Stansfield, of Ewood, in Todmorden, were committed to the grave, under the officiating ministry of the Rev. Joseph Cowell, the present Curate.

last wife, in the wainscoat. This Savile, rebuilt but left unfinished, the present edifice of the hall, on his removal to Merley Magna, near Clithero, in 1652. Here resided the ancient family of the Radcliffes, of Todmorden, the first of whom was William Radcliffe, of Langfield and Todmorden, son of William Radcliffe, of Edgeworth, descended from the Radcliffes of Radcliffe Tower, living 43rd of Edward the third. From William Radcliffe it descended through nine generations to Joshua Radcliffe, of Todmorden, Esq. he died 1676, and was buried at Todmorden. He married Katharine, daughter of Richard Bradshaw, of Pennington, Esq. they were married September, 9th, 1664, and they had issue only one daughter, Elizabeth, sole child and heiress, born after the said last date; she was married to Roger Mainwaring, of Kerringham, or Kermincham, in Cheshire, Esq. who wasted and sold all the Todmorden estates, about 1700. She died in August, 1730, and was buried the 24th of the same month, at Swetenham. She was the last of this very ancient family.

It is recorded that on June 2nd, 29th of Henry the sixth, William de Radcliffe grants all his lands, rents, and services, in Hundersfield, to Thomas Lord Clifford, Thomas Pilkington, of Pilkington, Esq. and others, in trust. It is conjectured, as these were zealous Lancastrians, that this step was pretty certainly intended to save a forfeiture of these estates.

Of this ancient family, several are interred in their own choir, at Clithero. There is now at Townley Park, near Burnley, a magnificent old bed of massy oak, (formerly belonging to this family,) purchased from

Todmorden Hall, and dated 1615, adorned with a profusion of rude carving and armorial bearings.

Arms of the family of Radcliffe, of Todmorden: Argent, a bend dexter engrailed Sable, a mullet for difference.

The *Free School*, which adjoins the chapel yard, was endowed by the Rev. Richard Clegg, Vicar of Kirkham, a native of this village, in 1713, at a cost of £100, contributed by himself, and fifty pounds he collected from others, the interest hereof was to repair the school, and the remainder to the master, who has the gratuitous use of the school house. The appointment of the schoolmaster is with the majority of the Freeholders of the chapelry, with a power to make the trust perpetual, by the existing trustees appointing others. The founder of this school was a very orthodox divine, and at variance with the Rev. Cuthbert Harrison, an ejected minister, of Elswick Lees, near Kirkham.

There are no less than eight places of worship for dissenters, in this village and the neighbourhood, viz. the *Friends' Meeting House*, built originally in 1750, in Langfield, and rebuilt in 1807, at Shrew Broad Bank, in Todmorden; the *Methodists' Chapel* at Zion Hill, built in 1783; *Rehoboth, Baptists' Chapel*, at Mill Wood, in Stansfield, built in 1808; *Bethel, Baptists' Chapel*, at Lincholme, in Stansfield, built in 1818; the *Independent Inghamite Chapel*, built in 1797, at New Chapel, in Stansfield; the *Chapel of the Methodists New Connexion*, on the Burnley Road, called *Patmos*, built in 1816; the *Unitarian Chapel*, at Cock Pit Hill, in Langfield, built in 1824, and the *Wesleyan Methodists' Chapel*, on

the Halifax Road, and near the bridge over the Calder, erected in 1825.

To each of these places of public worship, Sunday Schools are attached, except to the Friend's Meeting. A *Free School* for one hundred children of all denominations, from four years of age until the time they are sent to work in the manufactories, was opened in the school room of the Unitarian Chapel, after the midsummer vacation of 1825.

The weaving of calicoes, fustians, and more particularly satteens, velveteens, and strong cords, seem to be the principal employment of the inhabitants.

About ten packs of wool are consumed weekly, in the manufacture of lastings, and other worsted fabrics. The three great requisites for manufacturing prosperity are found in the vale of Todmorden in perfection, viz. stone, coal, and water communication. Not less than upwards of 60,000 pounds of cotton yarn is spun in Todmorden weekly, as a supply for the vast number of calicoes manufactured, 7000 pieces of which are also produced in the same space of time. The number of steam engines to produce which, have an aggregate power of 270 horses.

There is a market held here on Thursday. There is also a fair for cattle held on the first Thursday in every month; and two annual fairs for cattle and general traffic. The first is held on the Thursday before Easter, and the other on Michaelmas day, the 27th of September, when more business is transacted here than at most of the fairs in the north of England, considering the extent of the town. The population of the town and vicinity is here very rapid; within the last twenty

years it has nearly doubled; in 1801 the number of inhabitants in the hamlet of Todmorden and Wallsden, amounted to 2515; in 1811, to 3652; and in 1821, when the last census was taken, to 4985.

Wealth has also increased in a like ratio with the population, as is witnessed by the great number of new erections, of respectable houses, manufacturing establishments, warehouses, and other depots, for the reception of the great productions of this valley. The houses consist wholly of stone, which is obtained in great abundance, in almost every part of this long extended vale.

The village is accommodated with a great number of shops, and several respectable public houses, amongst which are the White Hart, the Golden Lion, (at which is kept the post office of the village,) and the York Tavern.

About half a mile to the north of Todmorden, in a pleasant valley, stands *Centre Vale*, one of those beautiful modern mansions that shew the opulence of this manufacturing district. It is a pleasant edifice of white free stone, with a small portico in front of the same material. From hence is a fine view of the vale of Todmorden, which is here expanded to the eye. In the south on a lofty eminence appears Studley Pike, in Yorkshire, being a lofty pillar erected (they say) to the memory of our present Prime Minister and distinguished Commander, the Duke of Wellington. To the east even to the summits of that vast chain of hills which range along in this direction, are seen numerous respectable habitations, that give ocular proof of the comfort and ease, not to mention affluence, afforded to

the inhabitants of this rich, pleasant and abundant valley.

About half a mile further on the Burnley road, is *Scatcliffe*, anciently called *Crossley*, or the *Cross Field*. It is an ancient mansion, seated in a pleasant vale, immediately under the foot of that range of Alpine hills that extend on the eastern side of the parish, being built on the banks of the north Calder. It is a neat though antique residence of stone, and the plantations on the side of the house, add much to its respectable appearance; a fall of water in front contributes also to its external attractions. The ancient family of the Crossleys have for a series of centuries, up to the time of the Saxons, been resident here, and proprietors of the soil; and as they still bear the local name, (did they not possess still more indubitable proof of their high origin,) it were of itself sufficient to enrol them the most ancient family residing at the local habitation of their forefathers, in a *direct line of descent*, since the time of the Saxons, of any one family in the whole of the parish.* A stained square of glass in the hall, bears the following inscription, upon the margin enclosing the family arms: "THE KINGDOME OF EAST SAXONS." Probably of the East Angles, as another ancient crest of arms, also on stained glass, marked with the initials E. A. is supposed to indicate.

* There is certainly deeds of the Howard family of a higher date; but the direct line of that family has ceased in Great Howarth. It is also agreed that the Howards are Normans; not so the Crossleys; their name is pure Saxon, and doubtless the family are of Saxon origin.

The first member of this family mentioned in the present existing records, is "Adam del Croslegh de Todmardene in Vill de Honerresfeld, in the County Palatine of Lancaster," and Matilda, his wife, but this document is without date, and seems to be of an age before dates or deeds were in general use; it cannot be earlier than the reign of Edward the third, when the county was made a Palatinate, viz. in 1340, at which time the aforesaid Adam del Croslegh was seated here. To him succeeded John del Croslegh, of Todmordene, 30th of Edward the third, A. D. 1365. Next succeeded William del Croslegh; then Thomas del Croslegh, and Richardus del Croslegh, who all died between the years 1307 and 1420. The line of descent in the local name is direct from hence to Anthony Crossley, who was succeeded by his son John Crossley, (as recorded on the monumental tablets in the chapel,) he died September 29th, 1799; he was succeeded by the present proprietor, John Crossley, Esq. of Scaitcliffe and Rochdale, being one of the magistrates acting in and for the county of Lancaster, and a Deputy Lieutenant of the same, and he is also the alone resident representative of all the ancient families in the parish of Rochdale, in strict male lineal descent. The present worthy occupant of Foxholes, also represents one of the ancient families of this parish, but he is of the female line, being a descendant of Ellen, daughter of Bertine Entwisle, Vice Chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster.

The Scaitcliffe Armory or Museum, contains a great variety of antiquities and modern curiosities, principally illustrative of the family history. They are arranged in the residence of John Crossley, Esq. at Rochdale, and

the freedom with which he exhibits them, greatly enhances the value of them to all the lovers of the antique.

On the hills above Scaitcliffe, are the trifling remains of *Bernshaw Tower*, of which, though undoubtedly a small fortified house, in the pass over the hills from Burnley to Todmorden, no memorials however worthy of record have as yet been discovered, that may lead to any thing interesting to the lovers of ancient research. It is situated on the very verge of Cliviger. In the immediate vicinity of Todmorden, lie two small villages called *Dobroyd*, and *Knowl Wood*.

Before we close our description of Hundersfield, it is necessary that we should notice *Inchfield*, a dreary place, situated in the moorlands, betwixt Gawksholme and Whitworth, in the vicinity of which are some coal works, which are conveyed up and down these rugged and precipitous roads, on the backs of mules. A most beneficial improvement in the northern and mountainous parts of this parish, would be experienced by planting the declivities of these dreary hills with hardy forest trees, and this proceeding would not only tend to adorn and beautify the baldness of the landscape, but would at the same time improve the value of the land, and so eventually, be highly beneficial to the successors to, if not to the present owners of the same. In the neighbouring district of Cliviger, an example of this kind is held out for their imitation, which the landed proprietors of Hundersfield and Spotland would do well immediately to follow. It is highly desirable in such waste and barren regions as those we are describing, that the poor and unemployed should be encouraged

in the making of roads; much of the land might soon by this means be rendered arable.

To a person of feeling, benevolence, and a contemplative mind, how painfully distressing is it for him to traverse these extensive and dreary wildernesses, when he is daily witness to the thousands of his fellow men wandering about destitute, out of employ, and in want of the common necessaries of life; and at the same time he beholds such extended and amazing wastes, that want only the spade of cultivation, to produce sustenance for these miserable beings. Is it not ignorance, culpable ignorance, not to use (as I ought,) a harsher and more discordant term, to see the great landed proprietors of the soil, (so much against their own interest too,) neglect to put these poor wretches to the tillage of such, at present, useless lands, reserved only for their sports and amusements with *the dog and the gun*.

I omitted to mention in this township, under Wardle, that a family of the local name was seated here at a very remote period of time, for a Henry de Wordhull and a Hugh de Wordhull, occur in charters as early as the year 1180.

The mention of *Dearnley*, a village, together with *Featherstone*, and *Stead*, which, though all in Wardle, escaped my observation at the time of reviewing that hamlet, and I now take this occasion to mention.

TOWNSHIP OF SPOTLAND.

Spotland, next to Hundersfield, is the largest township in this parish, and yet it is the least cultivated. Spotland lies north west of the town of Rochdale, and forms the most western, north western and northern

parts of the parish. Its extent is nearly eight miles from Bacoep, (or Bacup, so now corrupted and generally wrote,) at its most northerly part, to below Oak-enrod, at its south westerly point; it is small in comparison of breadth, with Hundersfield, being about two miles in a direct line from Wolstenholme, west; to Pot Oven, above Facit, near Whitworth, east. Spotland consists chiefly of one long continued valley, extending from the source of the rivulet of Spodden, near Tonge, above Bacoep, or Bacup, to below Oak-enrod, where it falls into the Roche. This opening or division of the hills commences at Oak-enrod, at the junction of the two waters aforesaid, and terminates at Tonge, as before stated.

Along the sides of this extensive glen lie scattered the villages, the hamlets, and the farms of Spotland. The southerly part of the township includes the north west part of the town of Rochdale; in the vicinity of which are many fertile and rich lands, particularly about Shaw Clough, and the ancient hall of the Healeys, or Chadwicks, but journeying further to the north, it partakes of the general characteristic of the adjacent country, a wild mountainous tract scarcely affording a blade of grass for the bleating and woolly flocks, which are seen scattered over these almost naked wastes. The valleys generally appear rather more pleasant, displaying some verdure and cultivation during the summer season.

Spotland has its hamlets like the rest of the parish, viz. Falinge, including the south easterly part of Spotland; Heley, or Healey, includes the southerly parts of the township; Whitworth with Brandwood, forms the