



## THE MANOR OF HALTON.

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THREE miles to the east of Lancaster, on the banks of the river Lune, is the village of Halton. It can boast six objects of antiquarian interest:—

The first is the Roman altar “to the god Mars,” placed by “Sabinus a praepositus and the soldiers of the numerus of boatmen.” This is now inserted in the wall of the rooms at Halton Hall.

The second is the circular mound which looks down upon the river, and probably forms the site of the abode of some Lord of Halton in Saxon times.

The third is the silver cup, containing 860 silver pennies, six pieces of gold, and a silver torque or collar which was found on the 12th of February, 1815, on Halton moor. The cup is beautifully chased with outlines of a bull and a panther. The torque is pierced at both ends to hang round the neck, and consists of a number of interlacing silver wires. The coins are chiefly of the time of Cnut, and are supposed to have been buried on the moor when Cnut advanced against Malcolm of Scotland in 1031.

The fourth is the cross shaft in the churchyard, with, on two sides, carvings from the legend of Sigurd and Fafni—the forging of Sigurd's sword, Sigurd toasting Fafni's heart and tasting Fafni's blood, and the noble horse "Grain" galloping riderless home—and on other sides, symbols of the Resurrection. There are few more interesting instances of the Pagan-Christian overlap in the north.

The fifth relic of antiquity is the massive Perpendicular tower of the church.

Close to the church and on the banks of the river stands Halton Hall, the old home of the lords of the manor of Halton.

In Domesday Book Halton is one of the thirty-eight manors of Lonsdale, and is thus detailed:—

M In Halton habuit comes Tosti VI car t're ad g'ld.

In Aldeclif IIc. Tiernun II. Hillun II. Loncastre VIc. Cerca-loncastre IIc.

Hotun IIc. Neutun IIc. Ouretun IIIc. Middleton IIIc. Hietune IIIc. Hessam IIIc.

Oxeneclif IIc. Poltune IIc. Toredholme IIc. Schertune VIc. Bare IIc. Sline VIc.

Bodeltona IIIc. Chellet VIc. Stopeltierne IIc. Newhuse IIc. Chreneforde IIc.

Oms hae ville p'tin' ad Haltune.

Earl Tosti, the owner of the manor of Halton, had fallen at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066. His lands were bestowed by the Conqueror on Roger de Poitou, who granted them to the Gernet family, to be held by the tenure or service of being chief foresters of the county.

Joan, the last of the Gernets of Halton, married William de Dacre, and died in 1325 seised of the manor of Halton.

Ranulph, son of William de Dacre, married the heiress of the Multons of Gillesland, and, in a list

of landholders in Lancashire compiled about 1320, is described as holding the manor of Halton.

Ranulph, the first Baron Dacre, died in 1338, and was succeeded by his eldest son, William, who died in 1361, seised of "Halton Maner ut de "Honore de Lancaster." William was succeeded by his brother Ralph, and he in turn by his brother Hugh, the fourth baron. William, the eldest son of Hugh, dying in 1403, the estates passed to his son Thomas, who died in 1458.

Thomas left a grand-daughter, Joan—his eldest son Thomas having died in his lifetime—married to Sir Richard Fiennes, from whom were descended the Dacres of Dacre.

Ranulph, the second son, fought for the House of Lancaster at Towton, and fell on that fatal field. His estates were forfeited. So also were those of Humphrey, the third son; but having submitted to the House of York, and having attended Edward IV in his victorious progress, he became a royal favourite, and in 1473 laid claim to the barony of Dacre. Eventually Edward IV decided "That Richard ffynes knight in ryghte of "Joane his wife and the heires of her body be "reput, had, named, and dated the Lord Dacre . . . "and that the said Richard ffynes and the heires "of the body of the said Joane have to their use ". . . the Manores of Ecclestoꝝ and ffyshewiche "in the Shir of Lancaster with all other lands and "tenements that weare Thomas late Lord Dacres ". . . excepte the Manor of Halton in the County "of Lankester . . . and that Homfrey Dacre "Knight and the heires malles of the said Thomas "late Lord Dacre be reputed had named and "called the Lord Dacre of Gillesland . . . and "that the said Homfrey shall have to him and to "the heires malles of his body . . . the Manor of "Halton with the appurtenances in the Sheare of

“ Lankeshir, it to be made assure according to that  
 “ estat as shall be devised by the Counsell of the  
 “ said Homfrey and at his costes.”

Humphrey was succeeded in 1509 by his son Thomas, second Baron Dacre of Gillesland, who was one of the leaders of the English forces at the battle of Flodden Field in 1513.

Thomas, second Lord Dacre of Gillesland, died in 1525, and was succeeded by his son William.

In 1553 a survey was taken of the manor of Halton, and the boundaries were described as follows:—“ The Limits and Bounds of the seyd  
 “ Lordship of Halton begin at the foote of a cer-  
 “ tain Gill called Baxton Gill, up a River or Water  
 “ that falleth into Loyne, sometimes without Water,  
 “ and so goin North West upwards the said gill into  
 “ the far end of the West side of Thorne bank to  
 “ the Standing Stone, and so down West by North  
 “ until the far end of Derelaykes, And from thence  
 “ West by North to Burthryke Beke, and thence  
 “ through the mydeste of the Mosse west to the  
 “ Syke of Swerthbecke and then up Swerthbecke  
 “ West by South to the nether end of Crambury-  
 “ mosse, and so down a Syke betwext the Swancliffs  
 “ westwards to the Bolthole in Dunnelmylne Damme  
 “ which payeth VI<sup>d</sup> for damninge of the Est Syde  
 “ of the said Damme unto the lord of Halton, And  
 “ thence going West upon the Syke of Borwen-  
 “ breke, and so still West down Shawsbecke to the  
 “ Side of Gryvdeli Close, and then turning up South  
 “ East to Blewmanclose and so going over the West  
 “ side of the same Close unto the West Side of an  
 “ old House of the Stubb, being now decayed,  
 “ wherein one Jenkin Peerson sometime did dwell,  
 “ and so going down a place being sometime a beke  
 “ and being now Meadow Ground, and leaving the  
 “ same Meadow Ground by the side of Goldmyre  
 “ West to the Nook of Brakendekebank Close and

“ then through Styrleys unto the East end of Netheringhow Meadow, and so to the side of the new close of Beaumont, and then going down upon a Gill called Manesworne and so down to the East side of a Close called Crambotts by the North side of a Close called Bakehouse syke, and so down to the North end of a Lane called Thevesay Lane, and so down by the side of the Lane called Thevesay Lane unto a Beke called Holgill, and so down the same Beke unto the Water of Loyne unto the Foot of a Meadow Ground called Lynthwaite, and so going East over both sydes of the same water of Loyne in diverse places by the Merestones known unto the said Bakestonegill.”

A survey, taken early in the sixteenth century, states that “ the Lordship of Halton is holden of the Duchy of Lancaster by Knights Service by a whole Knights Fee of Land, and pays to the Castle of Lancaster £6. 13. 0. There is in the said Lordship a free Warren for all manner of Game, and has been used as a Franchise without tyme of mind, with Wayfs and Strays and Drift of the Common. Every Tenant dying within the said Lordship havying a Tenement Grisland or Cottage to ffarme, shall pay his Heriot first to the Load afore the Church, And every Tenant within the said Lordship is bound to come to the Lords Miln and pay Mulcture at 13 Wessall there used and occupied. The said Lord has alsoe Assize of Bread and Ail within the said Lordship. There is also a Parsonage appending of the same which is in Donation of the Lord, which is worth by yere over all charges and Reprisals 40 marks. There is also an Ermitage of Saint Ellin which is worth by yere to the Hermit the Close.”

In 1553 there was a dispute between the owner of Halton and his neighbour, Lord Monteagle of

Hornby. Eventually, by a deed made on the "last  
 " day of August in the first and second years of  
 " the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lord and Ladye  
 " Phillip and Mary by the Grace of God King and  
 " Queen of Englande ffrance Naples Jerusalem  
 " and Ireland Defenders of the ffaith Princes of  
 " Spaine and Cicilie Archdukes of Millayne Bur-  
 " gundy and Brabant Countess of Haspurge flan-  
 " ders and Tyroll Between the right honourable  
 " William Dacre Knight Lord Dacre of Graystock  
 " and Gilseland of the one partie and the right  
 " Honourable Thos Stanley Knight Lord Mount-  
 " eagle of the other partie" the contention and  
 variance which had risen between the parties con-  
 cerning "the Boundes of the Moors or West  
 " grounds of the Manors of Halton and Over-  
 " kellet" was arranged "at the mediation of Row-  
 " land Threlkeld Clerke parson of Halton John  
 " Bains Henry Croft and Thomas Talentyre." All  
 the land on the north side of a certain boundary  
 line was declared to belong to Lord Monteagle;  
 all to the south of that line, down to the water of  
 Lune, to Lord Dacre.

William Lord Dacre of Gillesland died in  
 1563, leaving a family of four sons and several  
 daughters.

Thomas, the eldest son, died in 1566, leaving a  
 son, George, and three daughters—Anne, who  
 married Philip Earl of Arundel; Mary, and Eliza-  
 beth, the wife of William Lord Howard.

George, fifth Baron Dacre of Gillesland was  
 " by a great mischaunce slayne at Thetford in the  
 " house of Sir Richard Falmenstone Knt by means  
 " of a vaulting horse made of wood standing  
 " within the same house, upon which horse, as he  
 " meant to have vaulted, and the pinnes at the feet  
 " not being made sure the horse fell upon him and  
 " bruised the brains out of his head."

The barony of Dacre fell into abeyance between his three sisters; and an undated deed, signed by "W. Burghley," lord treasurer in the sixteenth year of the reign of Elizabeth, shews that in a partition of the estates the manor of Halton, with an estimated rental of £49 19s. 10d., fell to the share of Anne Lady Arundel.

The uncles of George—Leonard, Edward, and Francis—claimed, however, that under the award of Edward IV the lands must remain in the male line, and that Leonard was therefore the heir. Lord Arundel and Lord Howard disputed this. The three brothers then joined the rising in favour of Mary Queen of Scots, and seized Naworth and Greystock Castles. The insurrection failed, and the brothers Edward and Leonard died childless; while Francis lived till 1634, leaving a son, Randal, who died two years later, and concerning whose burial the register of Greystoke Church records that he was the last of the male line of the Dacres of Gillesland, "which said Randal died at London "and was brought down at the charges of the "Right Hon Thomas Earle of Arundell and Surrye "and Earle Marshall of England."

In 1583 Halton was conveyed to Christopher Carus. The conveyance is dated "the ninth day "of November in the fyve and twentyeth yeare of "the reigne of our Sovereign Ladye Elizabeth of "England France and Ireland Quene Defender of "the ffaith," and is made "betwene Phillipp Earle "of Arrondelle and the ladie Ann his wyfe and "one of the daughters of the right honourable "lorde Thomas Dacres deceased and of the sisters "and coheirs of George late Lord Dacres of the "one part and Christopher Carus of Halton Esq "William Wulfall of Halton and William Hesham "of Highfield in Halton yeoman of the other part." The consideration was £5000, and the property

conveyed includes "the Mannor or Lordship of  
"Halton . . . . and the advowson of the Rectory  
"and Parish Church of Halton."

The deed is signed "Arundell" and "Anne  
"Arundell," in the presence of nine witnesses.

Prior to this conveyance there had been an agreement between Carus, Woolfall, and Heysham that after the conveyance of the "manner or Lordship of Halton" had been completed, certain parts of the property were to be conveyed to certain persons. On this agreement there is an endorsement that "Lord Dacres was Earle of Arundel" and sold all Halton to Carus, Woolfall, and Heysham for £5000, and that they conveyed several estates to the therein within named persons; that Robert Tatham purchased John Heysham's lands "about 40 years ago," and claimed in a Chancery suit to be half lord of the manor with Thomas Carus the son of Christopher, and it was decreed that the counterpart deed should be admitted as evidence of the contents of the original deed, which could not be found.

The endorsement concludes :—"Ned Gardner of  
"Leonard Gate's wife was when said Chancery  
"suit commenced then Wife to Robt Tatham the  
"pretended half Lord of Halton and John Hollands  
"Widow of Lancaster was his daughter, so that  
"they may remember when said suit was com-  
"menced if that may be of service for the easier  
"finding out of the above said proceedings in  
"Chancery."

On another part of the deed is written :—

"There is none liveing upon ye earth but  
"they are subject to many dangers."

"Penam arrogantius effugit nemo.

"Hoc decus esimiū fecit te secundere penam."

Christopher Carus died in 1633, and was succeeded by his son Thomas. This Thomas Carus

with his son Thomas executed a deed shewing the customs of the manor. This deed is dated the 15th day of April, in the tenth year of the reign of Charles I, and is made between Thomas Carus, of Halton, Esquire, lord proprietor and owner of the manor of Halton aforesaid, and Thomas Carus, gentleman, son and heir-apparent of the said Thomas Carus, Esq., of the one part, and eighteen of the customary tenants of the said manor of Halton of the other part.

These customs included the following :—

The first wife of every customary tenant ought to have, after the death of her husband, the moiety of his tenement during her chaste widowhood, and the second wife ought to have one-third part only during her chaste widowhood.

The elder sister ought to be preferred to inherit before the younger.

Every customary tenant “ought to do suit of  
“ court to the Court baron of the said Manor so  
“ often as the same shall be holden and do suit of  
“ milne to the milnes of the said Manor and allow  
“ for toll only the sixteenth part and no more of  
“ the corn and grain to be ground at those milnes  
“ and pay to every Lord of the said Manor upon  
“ the change of every Lord of that Manor by death  
“ eight years’ rent and no more after the rate and  
“ proportion of his ancient rent for his customary  
“ Lands and Tenements within the said Manor  
“ and in name of a Fine for those Lands and  
“ Tenements.

“ That on the death of a tenant the heir male, or  
“ on the marriage of a female tenant the husband,  
“ ought to pay to the lord of the manor eight years’  
“ rent as a fine.

“ That on the death of every tenant the lord of  
“ the said manor ought to have for and in the  
“ name of a heriot the best beast or other best

“movable chattel whereof such tenant was at the  
“time of his death possessed in his own right.”

After the death of Randal, the last heir male of the Dacres of Gillesland, Francis 14th Baron Dacre endeavoured, about 1636, to recover possession of Halton on the ground that the male line of the Dacres having become extinct, the estates should revert to the elder branch. The claim either failed or was compromised, for Halton continued in the Carus family.

In 1652 and 1653 considerable litigation occurred between the rector of Halton and the lord of the manor. The Rev. Thomas Whitehead, then rector, brought an action against Thomas Carus, Esq., Thomas Carus, gentleman, Richard Jackson, clerk, and William Leake. After reciting that the church of Halton had been for time immemorial endowed with a plough land, consisting of 70 acres and a house, and the plaintiff ought to enjoy the same, that the defendants, the lords of the manor, had endeavoured to get the glebe into their own hands, and would only admit such a parson as would allow them to annex such lands to the manor, and the church had become void about four years before, and the plaintiff was by Act of Parliament placed there as rector; he prayed that the boundaries of the glebe might be set out.

The defendants denied the rector's contention, and declared that the lands in question were part of the manorial property.

The cause came on for hearing on the 30th June, 1652, and was referred to the Common Law judges, who decided in favour of the plaintiff. On a new trial a decision was given for the defendants. A third trial ensued before the Lord Chancellor, and the matter was again referred to the Common Law judges, when, on the 20th May, 1653, a decision was taken by consent for the defendants.

Thomas Carus (son of Christopher and grandson of Thomas), born in 1661, took part in the Rising of *The Fifteen*.

This Thomas Carus—with his sons Thomas and Christopher—carried to the Jacobite army, then at Kirkby Lonsdale, the tidings that the inhabitants of Lancaster did not intend to defend the town, and the army accordingly marched into Lancaster, on the sixth day of November, 1715.

Tradition states that owing to this action these two members of the Carus family were proclaimed as traitors to their king and country, and that their estates were sold to one of the contractors for the supply of army clothing, who was a friend of the commissioners of forfeited estates. Whether the Fifteen was the cause of the sale—owing to the heavy fines levied on the property—or not, the manor was not actually conveyed until 28 years after the rising. On the 23rd of August, 1743, Thomas Carus and Bridget his wife, with Wilson Carus their eldest son, joined in conveying the manor of Halton for the sum of £4000 to William Bradshaw, of the parish of Saint Ann, Westminster, upholsterer. The conveyance included Halton Hall and the demesne lands, with the cornmills, fisheries, and other rights.

William Bradshaw, by his will, dated May, 1774, devised the manor of Halton to trustees for the benefit of William Bradshaw Fletcher (son of his niece Sarah, wife of the Rev. Robert Fletcher), who, after William Bradshaw's death on the 21st February, 1775, assumed the name of Bradshaw in place of that of Fletcher.

William Bradshaw Bradshaw died in 1815, during the minority of his son; and in 1836 the estates were sold, the manor and hall being purchased by John Swainson, after whose death they passed to Robert Whitle, who in 1887 sold them to the present owner, Edmund Sharpe.

One other right was formerly attached to the manor—to wit, the testamentary jurisdiction of the lord. The manor of Halton was the only manor in Lancashire to which this jurisdiction attached.

The notice given by the lord of the manor was as follows:—"This is to give notice to all persons within the Peculiar of the Manor or Lordship of Halton who have any Wills to prove or Administrations or tutions to take that they do the same forthwith before William Bradshaw Esquire Lord of the said Manor or Mr. Dickinson Attorney at Law in Lancaster his Deputy and that all Wills and Administrations within this Peculiar are for the future to be proved and taken so."

This notice is endorsed—"5 June 1747. Sent this Notice to proclaim at Halton Church by young Richard Hartley the 6 of June 1747 by "W.D."

The fee on proof was five shillings, and the representatives of a deceased person were also called upon to pay a fee of ten shillings as a mortuary.

The records of wills and administrations extend, with intervals, from 1615 to 1814. After the death of William Bradshaw Bradshaw, in 1815, wills ceased to be proved in the Peculiar Court, and the wills were removed from Halton Hall to the Probate Registry at Lancaster more than thirty years ago.

