A DESCRIPTION OF CLEVELAND; IN A LETTER ADDRESSED BY H. TR. TO SIR THOMAS CHALONER.

(From the MS. Cotton. Julius F. vi. p. 431.)

THE two best occasions of editing this very curious topographical description have been neglected and lost. The History of that district of Yorkshire called Cleveland has been twice published in a quarto volume, first by the Rev. John Graves, in 1808, and secondly by Mr. John Walker Ord, in 1846. Each of these authors has successively been contented to quote only some detached extracts from this memoir, and those disfigured by frequent errors: the former copying them from the Antiquarian Repertory, where they were first printed about 1780; and the latter merely from his predecessor, without having recourse to the original MS. The way in which it was edited in that very incorrect work the Antiquarian Repertory was indeed most scandalous. In every three or four lines there is some word entirely mistaken,[a] others are left blank or omitted, and at the end of the description of Skelton castle, when the transcriber has got little more than half through his task, he impudently closes with the words *Cætera desunt*. It may, therefore, be acceptable to Yorkshire topographers and naturalists to have a more accurate text placed before them.

Who its writer may have been is a question which may be deserving of investigation. Mr. Ord (p. 204) imagines him "some naturalist of the place," but such was not the case. He describes himself as a visitor; alludes to "their northern" dialect, and speaks of what occurred at his last being in the district. In p. 423, he talks of "our Cornish men," which may perhaps give a clue to his discovery: though, with respect to grass pastures, he speaks of "our best groundes in the hart of England." He was possibly professionally employed by Sir Thomas Chaloner to make a survey, and to write such a report as the knight might shew about to his friends, in order to promote the prosperity of his new Alum-works at Bellman bank, which are particularly noticed near the end of the memoir. It might be supposed to have been written by Sir Thomas Chaloner himself under a fictitious character,

[a] Some of the most grave of these are in the passage at page 406, where the names Conyers and Evre are miscopied Sommers and Gare; the words "at Moulgrave castle Sir Ralf Bigott," are omitted; "of *me* were *resident*," is printed for

from the minuteness of some of the particulars in which he is personally concerned: but the style does not correspond with the known remains of his composition.

It may further be remarked that Camden ascribes to Sir Thomas Chaloner the credit of having been the first to discover Alum in this district, a fact not so broadly stated by the writer before us, who only says it was Sir Thomas Chaloner's good fortune to discover it in a particular spot, viz. Slapworth near Gisborough. Lord Mountjoy had previously worked alum in Ireland, and it had probably been raised to a certain extent in Cleveland even before Sir Thomas Chaloner's time. Camden's account is appended, for the sake of comparison, in the note at page 426: together with some further notices of this subject.

There is no doubt that the MS. copy now edited was communicated to Camden for the purposes of his Britannia: there are other materials for that great work bound in the same volume, and the several local names which occur are noted in the margin by Camden's own hand.

That it was not written before the reign of James the First is shewn by the Bruces being mentioned as "ancestors to our Kinge" (p. 406); and Camden first made use of it for the edition of his Britannia printed in 1607. It will be found that he took from this source the story of the mer-man at Skenegrave, the accounts of the seals at Huntcliffe, the ammonites at Huntley Nabb, the prognostication of the weather at Roseberry Topping, and some other passages.

The very same statements will also be found versified by Michaell Drayton in his Poly-olbion; where, in his twenty-eighth book, he puts the following lines into the mouth of the North Riding:—

——— let me but see the man,
That in one tract can show the wonders that I can.
Like Whitby's self, I thinke, there's none can shew but I,
O'er whose attractive earth there may no wild-geese fly,
But presently they fall from off their wings to ground:
If this no wonder be, where's there a wonder found?
And stones like serpents there yet may ye more behold,
That in their natural gyres are up together roll'd.
The rocks by Moul-grave too, my glories forth to set,
Out of their crany'd cleves, can give you perfect jet;

"of man were porters;" "*the water*," for "his meate;" "*lodgings*," for "lordings;" with several others of less moment.

A page might be filled with the enumeration of other guess-work as egregious in other parts of the memoir (such as the words "playde the rover" changed into "explored the roads," in p. 419), whilst the names of places and persons are much altered throughout.

And upon Huntclipnab you every where may find
(As though nice Nature lov'd to vary in this kind)
Stones of a spherick form of sundry mickles fram'd,
That well they globes of stone or bullets might be nam'd,
For any ordnance fit: which broke with hammers' blows,
Do headless snakes of stone within their rounds enclose.
Mark Gisborough's gay scite, where Nature seems so nice,
As in the same she makes a second paradise,
Whose soil imbroider'd is with so rare sundry flowers,
Her large oaks so long green, as Summer there her bowers
Had set up all the year, her air for health refin'd,
Her earth with allom veins most richly intermin'd.
In other places these might rarities be thought,
So common but in me, that I esteem as nought.

SIR,

Understandinge by your lettres that you desyre to be informed of some rareytyes that lye in this lordshippe of yours called Gisbrough in Cleveland, and in the coaste neere at hande, I thought good, though in a confused manner, to advertise you accordinglye. For the seate of the place being a corner remote, out of all common highwayes, I can lyken yt to noe place more then to Pozzuolo, antyently called Puteoli, unto which yt yeldes neither in pleasantnesse nor rarities, but in holsomnes of ayre yt exceedes yt farre.[b]

The towne and lordshippe was auncyently the inherytance of Robert de Bruse, a yonger sonne of whose race was made Lord of Ennerdale in Scotland, by consent of both Kings of England and Scotlande, to the ende that Bruce the father, houldinge landes of both the foresayde kings, in tyme of warre should not stand as a newter, but should performe his oath of alleadgance to one kinge; and as yt appeares in the antyent petygree belonging to the abbey builte there by Robert de Bruce the father, the father, in a skirmish on the borders, tooke his sonne Lord of Annandale prisoner. I have here the coppye of that pety-

[b] These words are adopted by Camden; and Daniel de Foe, in his "Tour through the British Islands," remarks of Gisborough: "It is certainly a delightful spot; but I cannot see the reason why Camden compares it to Puteoli." The same opinion (according to Graves, p. 417) was adopted by Pennant. The similitude seems first to have suggested itself to our author from the remoteness of its situation: but he again alludes to Puteoli, in reference to the mineral sand at Slappeworth, (see p. 424.)

gree readye to shewe you at your pleasure, which perhaps you wilbe curyous to see in respecte of the Bruces, whoe were ancestors to our Kinge, and whose greatnesse in lyvings, and there aftermatches in marryage, apeares by the beautye of the monasterye, and the castles which to this daye remayne to be seene, that sometyme were parcell of the Bruces' inherytance. Besides, their sepulchres, and the Lord Faulconbridges, and divers other greate Barons apeare there amongste the ruynes; and at the weste ende of the abbey church, over a doore in a steple, are certaine auntyent lettres circuler-wise wrytten. Auncyent men sometymes brought upp in the monastery tould me that a Dutchman was maister workman of the Abbey when yt was builte, and yt seemeth to me that the inscryptyon is in Dutch.

I remember that I had conference once with you concerninge the peopling of England. It is manifeste that that parte of the cuntry called Cleveland hath bin wonderfully inhabyted more than yt is nowe, for within the length of fewe myles the lordes followinge have had theyre seates. At Kyldale Castle, the Percyes, Earles of Northumberland; at Aton, Nevyll of Westmerland; at Wharlton Castle, the Lord Menell; at Skelton Castle, the Lord Conyers; at Danby Castle, the Lord Latymer; at Harsley Castle, Sir James Stranguish; at Kylton Castle, the Lord Lumley; at Wilton Castle, Sir Ralf Bulmer; at Moulgrave Castle, Sir Ralf Bigott; at Ingleby, the Lord Evre. All these greate personages dwelt neere together in a small cyrcuyte, and in the mydste of them the Pryor of Gisbroughe, who kepte a most pompous house, insomuch that the towne, consystinge of 500 householdes and odde, had noe lande, but lyved all on the Abbey. Twoe Gatehouses had lodgings, and all houses of offyces aperteyninge to a dwelleinge house, wherof twoe of the Bulmers, knights, within the memory of man, were porters, havinge allowance when they came of a plentifull dyet at eyther gate, to enterteyne strangers, and of many horses in wynter in the stable as in sommer at grasse, the nomber wherof and other partyculers one Tompson, an almesman there, and diverse others have related unto me, as alsoe of the state of the Pryor's servyce, by yeomen whoe brought his meate to a rounde hole in the greate chamber's ende, where yt was receaved by gentlemen whoe served the Pryor onely at his table. One thinge I remember of their greate provysyon; that a steward of

theirs was put out of offyce because he had aforehand but onely 400 quarters of grayne to serve their house. But nowe all those lordings are gone, and the country, as a wydowe, remayneth mornefull.

All above the towne southwards, and alonge Clevelande, lyeth Blackamore, antyently supposed to be called Bardon Hyll,[c] which, by the ploughed lands and ruynes of houses in many places, seemes to have bin well inhabyted, but nowe, in six or seven myles together, you shall scarcely fynd a house, excepte in a dale, the reste is heath, and a rouste for heath-cockes, yet a tennant of yours lately tryed that that grounde beinge tylled for three or four yeares wylle yeld good oates or other corne, which benifyte for wante of industrious people is utterlye loste, for in truth the skirts and wastes of the moore are in a manner desolate.

The ayre at Gisbrough is soe temperate that, partly by reason of the sea, which is three myles of, yet broken by hills lyeinge betweene the towne and yt, and the happinesse of the seate, beinge a valley mounted on small hills, compassed about with very high mountaynes, the sydes wherof are covered with fayre trees, or beautifyed with greene bankes or stately cliffes, intermingled with the downfalls of small brookes, which with a trylling murmur, and variety of the often windings, make the moste delightfull prospecte that I ever sawe. The soyle in the bottome is fruitfull both for corne and grasse; the grasse is not very longe, but soe sweete and thicke platted, that an ackre therof somereth as many cattle as our best groundes in the hart of Englande. The ground moste parte of the yeare is covered with flowers, wherby the ayre is soe sweete, and the earth ytself (a clod beinge taken out of yt) hath so good a sente, that gentlemen commonly when they will delight themselves say, "Let us goe and passe some dayes at Gisbroughe," and yet there is never a good house in the towne to recomende yt; and which is more, oulde Doctor Lea,[d] of Yorke, a phisycion, second

[c] It appears from Mr. Ord, p. 119, that his predecessor Graves identified Bardon hill with Badon hill, the scene of one of King Arthur's battles. But Badon was Bath in Somersetshire; and Camden supposes the battle of Badon was fought on Lansdown above that city. The name of Bardon hill is not placed on Mr. Ord's map of Cleveland. There is a hill so called on the borders of Charnwood forest in Leicestershire.

[d] Roger Lee, M.D. of York, was of the family of Edward Lee, Archbishop of York; whose pedigree is printed by Mr. Ord, p. 241. The estate of Pinchinthorp,

or equall to Doctor Muffet's [e] god of the Galinists phisycions, Doctor Atslowe, [f] usualy sent his patyentes to Gisbrough to lye there to recover their health. The people breed there live very longe; if they be awhile absent, they growe sycklye; they are altogether given to pleasure, scarce one good husband amongst

very near Gisborough, is said to have been given him by George Conyers, who had married an aunt of his, and died without issue. His great-grandson Roger Lee wrote, in 1730, the following memorandum regarding him: "My father tells me that his grandfather was heir to the whole estate of Hatfield, but was disinherited by reason that he went beyond seas to study the philosopher's stone; and his father, dying when he was absent, bequeathed all his property to his younger brother James Lee, who, being educated at the bar, became Lord Chief Justice of England, and left his son Earl of Malbeny [Marlborough is meant, but that family, it is believed, was quite a distinct one, being seated at Teffont Ewias in Wilts, and descended from the Lees of Devonshire]; but for his brother Roger Lee, he came to York as a doctor of physic, and had an estate given him by George Conyers of Pinchinthorp. He left one son, William Lee, who was father of Roger Lee, and died at Pinchinthorp, and left his son Roger Lee heir to the estate of Pinchinthorp, where he now lives, the sixth day of March 1729-30; and the seal of the said Doctor Roger Lee was the Saracen's head, and about was written *Lectus lectoris* [qu ?]; but for his grandson his seal was the three unicorns, which is the seal of my father Roger Lee in the year 1706." Mr. Ord (p. 242 note) says he cannot find sufficient authority for the statement that this family is descended from Archbishop Lee. The Archbishop, however, stands in his pedigree of the Lees; and it commences with the name of Sir Richard Lee, Lord Mayor of London in 1461 and 1470. Again, the Lees of Hatfield near Doncaster, from whom Roger Lee claims descent, were quite a distinct race, and were the ancestors of the Earls of Lichfield: see their pedigree in Hunter's South Yorkshire, vol. i. p. 177.

[e] Thomas Mouffet, M.D. was a very celebrated physician, and the author of a natural history of insects, and of other curious works, some of which arrived at more than one edition, particularly one on Diet, entitled "Health's Improvement," of which an enlarged edition was published by Dr. Christopher Bennett in 1655, and another in 1746 by W. Oldys, with a life of the author prefixed. There is also a memoir of him in Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses, although he was a Cambridge man. See also the Gentleman's Magazine, New Series, vol. XXIII. p. 378.

[f] "Edward Atslow, M. of A. and fellow of New College, was actually created Doctor of Physic at Oxford, Aug. 27, 1566, in the house of Dr. Henry Baylie, situated in the High street leading to the Quadrivium, by Dr. Thomas Francis and him the said Dr. Baylie, by virtue of a commission, &c. This Atslow was afterwards a noted physician among the Papists; and for corresponding with Mary Queen of Scots, suffered several months' imprisonment." (Wood's Fasti Oxonienses.) In a letter of Sir Henry Lee, K.G. to Sir Francis Walsingham, dated from Thorne, near Doncaster, occurs this passage:—"Sr, I have been often seyck, and long or thys dede yf the helpe of doctor Astlowe had not bene. Yf his estat or her majesty's favowre to me were such as he myght be suffered to come to me for a while, I showld the better be cleared of the drages of my disseases. And thys performed, I will be bounde he shall ritorne, yf soo yt be her pleasure, unto the place wher now he is." (Hunter's South Yorkshire, vol. i. p. 177.)

them, daye and night feastinge, makinge matches for horse-races, dog-runinge, or runinge on foote, which they use in a fielde called the Deere close, where, as if yt were in Campus Martis, you shall see from morninge tyll 12 or one of the clocke at night boyes and men in their shirtes, exercisinge themselves. Their dyet is plentifull from the sea, which yelds such store of fish, that for ten shillings you may keepe your house here with conger, burt, salmon, trout, soales, turbett, codde, fresh heringe, and many other sorts of delicate fyshe three dayes together; their beefe and mutton alsoe is very cheape, and soe sweete in taste, that such as live there of a longe tyme can hardly brooke our meate in this cuntrye; soe is their venison alsoe farre in whitenesse and taste surpassinge. I bought at my laste beinge heere eleven crabbs and lobsters for a penny, and threscore herings for as much. This maketh them content yf they have wherwith to live; for the reste, they have a sayinge, "Let those that come after us shifte for themselves, as we have done."

Towards the weste there stands a highe hill called Roseberry Toppinge, [g] which is a marke to the seamen, and an almanacke to the vale, for they have this ould ryme common,

"When Roseberrye Toppinge weares a cappe
Let Cleveland then beware a clappe."

For indeede yt seldome hath a cloude on yt that some yll weather shortly followes yt not, when not farre from thence on a mountayne's syde there are cloudes almoste contynually smoakinge, and therfore called the Divell's Kettles, which notwithstandinge prognostycate neither good nor badde. That is for shappe, scyte, and many raryties, more excellent then any that I have seene; yt hath somtymes had an hermitage [h] on yt, and

[g] "The elevation of Rosebury is said to be 1488 feet above the level of the sea. The base facing the north is broad and abrupt, the western boundary thickly covered with oak-wood; afterwards it rises almost precipitously in a cone-like form, like an enormous sugar-loaf. The whole is covered with the most delicious greensward, interspersed with a plentiful pasture of fern or bracken. . . The apex of the cone has been considerably diminished of late years owing to the barbarous irruptions of certain Vizigoths, who have actually worked our classic mount as a quarry." (Ord.) For the etymology of the name, and a description of the prospect, the reader may refer to Mr. Ord's volume.

[h] "A curious hermitage or grotto formerly graced the summit of the rock, but has long since been sacrificed by the ruthless quarry-men. Here the names, initials, and footmarks, with various lovers' emblems and devices, were quaintly carved on the stone. Some of these were in full, with a date annexed, as '1595. Theo-

a small smith's forge cut out of the rocke, together with a clefte or cut in the rocke called St. Winifryd's Needle, [i] whither blynde devotyon led many a syllie soule, not without hazard of a breaknecke tumblinge caste, while they attempted to put themselves to a needlesse payne creepyng through that needle's eye. Out of the toppe of a huge stone neere the toppe of the hille drops a fountaine which cureth sore eyes, receavinge that vertue from the minerall.[j] Yt is wonderfull to see with what vyolence a stone will tumble from the toppe of the hyll towards a lytle towne called Newton. The noise that yt makes is soe terryble, and the boundes alofte into the ayre soe high, that, as I am informed, when you caste a stone once downe the hyll, a horse that was fettered afarre of, for feare leaped over a greate gate, and encounteringe a bigge ould hawthorne tree which onely stoode on the syde of the hill, it dashed yt all in pieces as a tempest, and ran forward without stay tyll yt came to an earthen fence of a close, into which it perced, as yt had bin a greate shott, having ran in a moment from the toppe whence yt was caste to the wall or fence aforesaid, a'least a large myle.

I founde in this hill geate [k] and other myneralls, which I have not yet thought good to discover. There is a most goodly prospect from the toppe of this hill, though paynefully gayned by reason of the steepness of yt; but espetyally from the ende of the race on Barnaby Moore. There you may see a vewe the lyke wherof I never sawe, or thinke that any travailler hath

docea Cecyll.' 'R. C. 1625,' &c." (Ord, p. 424.) Theodosia Cecill would be the first wife of Sir Edward Cecill, a younger son of the first Earl of Exeter, and afterwards in 1625 created Viscount Wimbledon: she was the daughter of Sir Andrew Noel, of Dalby, co. Leicester.

[i] The Antiquarian Repertory converted this into "Willifryd's needle," and the two historians of Cleveland (Graves, p. 216, and Ord, p. 423) have given notes referring to the narrow passage in the undercroft of Ripon minster which bears the name of Wilfred: but, whilst the saints are different, there is as slight resemblance in the places as in the names. The present may more closely be compared with St. Patrick's chair near the Lake of Killarney, in Ireland, which is also on an eminence attained with much difficulty by the devotees who are anxious to sit in it.

[j] "To this fountain (still a small spring trickling from an arched rock, deeply embedded in the northern part of the hill and surrounded with thick sedges,) a very ancient tradition is attached, which has since been adopted by Sterne, and forms the groundwork of several local poems." It relates to the drowning, on this spot, of Oswy, a prince of Northumberland: and will be found detailed by Mr. Ord, page 422.

[k] *i. e.* jet.

seene any comparable unto yt, albeyt I have shewed yt to divers that have passed through a greate parte of the world, both by sea and lande. The vales, rivers, great and small, swellinge hills, and mountains, pastures, meadows, woodes, cornefeildes, parte of the Bishopricke of Durham, with the newe porte of Tease lately founde to be safe, and the sea replenished with shipps, and a moste pleasant flatt coaste subjecte to noe inundacion or hazarde, make that contrye happy, if the people had the grace to make use of thier owne happines, which may be amended yf yt please God to sende them trafique and good example of thrifte. I founde here and there scattered in the feilds and pavements of the towne neere Gisbrough huge stones knowne to the inhabitants by noe other name but flynt steanes, as in theire northerne they call them, which are most rich jasper of collour blacke, red, and whyte, and of a bastarde marble betweene blacke and greye. There is plentye to be had at the feilde gate betweene Aton and Newton. For free stone small search neede to be made, for every crag yeldeth yt abundantly, together with slate and lymestone, and they geather in their beacks and shallow ryvers, beinge blewe and thin, somwhat like marble, wherby their lyme becomes stronge and glutinous, able to resyste wynde and water. I have had experyence therof, and founde that you may digg your stone at an easyer rate out of the quarrey then pull them out of the abbey walls. Their shallowest ryvers yelde troutes, roches, eeles, pikes, and other small fishe; the river of Tease is famous for its good salmon, sylver eeles, sylver troutes, which are firme of flesh and yellowe, and above all others in taste, greate and fatt soales, and all fishes that the sea affordes.

The porte at Dobhoome[1] upon the mouth of Tease hath bin thought to be very dangerous, and excepte greate necessytie urged, or the sea were very calme, none durst adventure yt, Nowe yt hath bin sounded, and twoe lighthouses builte, one on eyther syde of the ryver, wherby Newcastell shipps and others, fearinge foule weather, ordinarily put in with 100 or more sayle of shippes with safetye. Out of doubt, the goodnes of this porte hath bin knowne heretofore, for the coasters have a tradycion

[1] The name of Dobhoome does not occur in the map of Cleveland given in Mr. Ord's volume. It was on the spot where there is at present a light opposite Turn Point. It has since been overflowed by the sea, and now forms a bar across the Tees mouth.

that the Danes used to lande there, shewinge greate heapes of huge bones in the sands, in length litle exceedinge ours, but in strength and bignes gyant-lyke; whither they have gotten a cruste or noe, or that there were some charnell house there I knowe not, which I suspecte, by reason that a chappell, one of the three built by three systers alonge that coaste, is neere at hande. Moreover, they have an oulde blynde prophecye, that a fleete of enimyes shall lande there, and come to Gisbrough, where on a syde of a hill, called Stonegate syde, a greate battle shalbe fought, insomuch that the brooke underneath shall runne with bloude. If this come to passe they would have as ill footinge as the combatantes had in Lippadusa, of whome Ariosto writes, who was taxed by a bishop that he had apointed a listes for horsemen, where, by reason of the sharpnes of rockes, footemen could scarcely stand: such is Stonegate syde. But I gather out of this prophecye, that when yt was hatched the porte was knowne to be capable of a navye, otherwise yt had bin follye to fortell the cominge in of a fleete, where no shippe could come without manifeste perill. But nowe that I am come to the coaste, I will coaste the contrye as it lyes, and let you understonde howe farre I have waded into the secrett raretyes therof.

Neere unto Dobhoome (the port in the mouth of Tease soe named) the shore lyes flatt, where a shelfe of sand raised above the highe water marke enterteines an infynite number of sea-fowle, which laye their egges here and there, scatteringlie, in such sorte that in tyme of breedinge one can hardlye sett his foote soe warelye that he spoyle not many of their nestes. There curyous builders furnish themselves with choice of shells, and particoulored stones, fytt for the makinge of artifyciall work; and as the tyde comes in yt bringeth with yt a small wash sea-cole which is employed to the makeinge of salte and the fuell of the poore fisher townes adjoyninge, the oylie sulphuorousnes beinge mixed with the salte humor of the sea, as yt semes, and consequently hard to take fyre, or to kepe in longe without quenchinge, they have a meanes of makinge small vaultes to passe under the hearthes, into which, by for-settinge the wynde with a boarde, they force yt to enter, and soe to serve in steede of a payre of bellowes, which they call, in a proper worde of arte, a *blower-hole*. The shells, sandes, and sea-wrake serve in steede of marle to enrich the lande, which is fruitfull of yt self, but

much bettered by the neighbourhood of the sea, makinge the good husbandes of the lowe townes fatt in the purse and merrye at the harte.

Within the sea-marke, on Wilton-syde, lyeth a rocke of excelent plaister, cankered by the salte-water; but if yt were searched in the fyrme lande, yt is probable that yt would prove rare alablaster.

From thence passinge alonge the sandes, by reason of the fyrmnes and smoothnes frequented by such as delight in swifte horses, you come to Redkarre,[m] a poore fysher-towne, where at a lowe water you may discover many rockes which halfe a myle distante from the shoare, some in pointe, and some on either hande, lye in cyrcle-wise, havinge certayne inlettes for the boates called cobbells to passe in and out. Truly yt may be sayde of those pore men,[n] that they are lavish of theyr lyves, whoe will hazarde twenty or forty myles into the seas in a small troughe, soe thinne, that the glimse of the sunne may be seene throughe yt; yet at 10 or 11 of the clocke in the morninge, when they come from sea, they sell theyre whole boates ladinge for 4*s.*, or if they doe gett a crown they suppose to have chaffered fayre. Three comonly come in one boate, each of them havinge two oares, which they governe by drawinge the one hande over the other. The boate yt self is builte of wainscott, for shape exceedinge all modles for shippinge: twoe men will easely carrye yt on lande betwene them, yet are they soe secure in them at sea, that some in a storme have lyved abroade three dayes; their greateste danger is neerest home, where the waves breake dangerouslye, but they, acquainted with those seas, espieinge a broken wave readye to overtake them, suddenly oppose the prowe or sharpe ende of theyr boate unto yt, and mountynge to the toppe, descende downe, as yt were into a valleye, hoveringe untyll they espye a whole wave come rowlinge, which they observe comonly

[m] Redcar is now a flourishing place, and, with its near neighbour Coatham, much frequented for sea-bathing. The well known William Hutton of Birmingham published "A Trip to Coatham," in 1810, and Mr. Ord describes a considerable increase of prosperity since that period.

[n] Interesting modern accounts of the manners of the fishermen on this coast will be found in Sir Cuthbert Sharp's History of Hartlepool, p. 150, and Mr. Ord's Cleveland, p. 298. Sir Cuthbert Sharp has given an etching of an Hartlepool Coble, p. 154, with this note; "*Cuople*, navicula. Lye's Saxon Dict. Coble seems to be generally used to denote a flat-bottomed boat for *sea*-fishing."

to be an odde one; wherupon mountinge with their cobble, as yt were upon a greate furyous horse, they rowe with might and mayne, and together with that wave drive themselves on lande. But many tymes yt happens, that when their wives, children, or freindes, are readye to give them theyre handes, the wave, sodainlye recoylinge backe, overwhelmes them topsye turvey. Of curtesye they presente their first chapman with a fishe; and if any byd money and be refused, yet, though another outbyd him, it is in his choise to be halfe in the bargaine.[o] They have a custome every yeare to change their fellowes for good luck sake, as they esteeme yt; and upon St. Peter's daye, they invyte their frends and kinsfolks to a festyvall[p] kept after their fashion, with a free herte, and no shewe of nigardise. That daye their boates are dressed curuouslye to the shewe, their mastes are painted, and certaine rytes observed amongste them, with sprinkling their boates with good liquor, solde with them at a groate a quarte; which custome or superstycion suckt from their auncestors contynueth even unto this presente.

[o] Sir Cuthbert Sharp supplies the following extracts from the statutes respecting the Fishermen in 1599, in the corporation records of Hartlepool, directly illustrating the statement of the text:—

"76. Ytt is ordeyned, for the avoydinge of all contraversyes which hereafter may growe betwixte the freemen of this town and the forryners, for the buyinge of fyshe and askinge parte thereof, that everye freeman of this town buyinge a cobble of fyshe shall enjoy the same, without partinge with anie forryner. But if the forryner be the fyrst buyer of anie suche cobble of fyshe, and a freman being presente at the buyinge thereof, and askinge parte of the same, the sayd freman or fremen soe askinge parte, shall enjoy. If the freeman bee not the fyrst that asketh parte of such fyshe, butt the second or the third, then ytt ys ordeyned that the freman shall have butt parte with the others that before hyme asked parte thereof." [An important amendment of the punctuation has been made, which was overlooked by Sir C. Sharp.]

"84. Ytt is ordeyned, that the maister, or some other of everie cobble of this town, shall make twoo-pennye worth of fyshe to any of theire neighboures askeinge the same for there own provysyon, yf they have nott made four-pennye-worthe foorth before, upon payne to paye for everye time not soe doeing vjd."

[p] "The old-fashioned fair, or feast, is still held on the Monday and Tuesday after Trinity, but without being stained by its former exhibitions of dissoluteness and extravagance. At these feasts the fishermen's wives and daughters exhibit a natural emulation; bright yellow and flaming scarlet being the favourite ornaments of attire. Quarrels are then settled, and matches arranged; the families of the fishermen marrying, almost without exception, among themselves." (Ord, p. 299.) It was from these fishermen that our great circumnavigator, Captain James Cook, emanated in the last century.

If the sea growe proude by the styrringe of the wyndes, yt is a worthye spectacle to behoulde the fury of that rigorous element, which with a hydeous roaringe bespeweth all the rockes, and foameth as a pott boyleinge over the brymme.

Many poore women gett a sory livinge by pullinge crabbs and lobsters out of the rockes with hookes fastened to longe poales. There are plentye of cockles, mussels, and lympetts, wherwith to bayte their hookes. As for oysters, some fewe are taken by chaunce, cleavinge to their lynes. Artifyciall braynes, thinkinge to suplye the defecte of nature, have thoughte vainely to breede oysters there, by bringinge them from other places, and puttinge them in beds, beinge ignorante that oysters breede by a seminary vertue in the slyme of the sea, and not by generation of male or female, or conceptyon in themselves, as many suppose that hermophroditycall vegitables doe.

Alonge the shoare the sandes lye fayre and levell tyll you aryve at a high hill called Huntley Nabbe; there the coaste beginnes to rise highe, full of craggs and steepe rockes, wherein meawes, pidgeons, and sea-foule breede plentifullye. At the foote of that hill I noted a poynte well worthy the observatyon. There lay dispersed many stones, which at fyrst sight I should have taken for bulletts of greate artyllerye, if any blockhouse had bin at hande; their roundnes, divers sizes fitt for divers diameters of peeces, and weight, were such as I coulde not imagine them to be naturall. With greate difficultye I caused some of them to be broken, which appeared inwardlye to resemble bell-mettle, but in the very center thereof there lay a worme or small snaile wreathed in a circle, both in colour and scales formed to the life, the heades only excepted, which was wanting in them all; yet since that tyme I sent you diverse of these serpentes with their heades entyre.

Here the sea castinge upp peble stones maketh the shoare troublesome to passe.

At Saltburne[q] mouth, a small brooke dischargeth yt self into the sea, which lyinge lowe under the bankes serveth as a trunke or conduite to convey the rumor of the sea into the neighbour feildes, for when all wyndes are whiste, and the sea restes unmoved as a standinge poole, sometymes there is such a hor-

[q] The waters of two becks join at Saltburne, and then empty themselves into the sea, but the sand now forms so great a bar that no fishing boat can use the waters.

rible groninge heard from that creeke, at the leaste six myles into the maynelande, that the fishermen dare not put forth, though thirste of gayne drive them on, houldinge an opynion that the ocean, as a greedy beaste rageinge for hunger, desyres to be sattisfyed with men's carkases.

At Skenegrave the olde proverbe is verifyed, that abundance makes them poore; for albeyt that they take such abundance of fishe, that often they are forced to throwe greate parte of ther purchase over-boarde, or make their greater sorte of fishe for lighter carriadge shorter by the heade, neverthelesse, for the moste parte, what they have they drinke; and, howsoever they reckon with God, yt is a familiar maner to them to make even with the worlde at night; that pennilesse and carelesse they may goe lightly to labour on the morrowe morninge. It was my fortune to see the cominge in of a five-man coble which in one night had taken above twenty-one score of greate fishe, a yearde or an ell in length; happie were that contrey if a generall fishinge were enterteyned by buildinge busses and store of fishboates.

Ould men, that would be loath to have theer credytes crackt by a tale of a stale date, reporte confidentlye, that sixty yeares since, or perhaps eighty or more, a Sea-Man was taken by the fishers of that towne, whome duringe many weekes they kepte in an oulde house, giveinge him rawe fishe to eate, for all other foode he refused. In steede of voyce he skreaked, and shewed a curteous acceptance of such as flocked farre and neere to visyte him; fayre maydes were welcomest guestes to his harbour, whome he would behould with a very earneste countenance, as if his phelgmaticke breste had bin touched with a sparke of love. One daye, when the good demeanure of this newe gueste had made his hoastes secure of his aboade with them, he privily stoale out of doores, and ere he could be overtaken recovered the sea, whereinto he plonged himself; yet, as one that would not unmanerly depart without takinge of his leave, from his mydle upwards he raysed his shoulders often above the waves, and makinge signes of acknowledging his good entertainment to such as beheld him on the shoare, as they interpreted yt, after a pretty while he dived downe, and apeared no more.

Walkinge on the shoare while the sea was calme, and onely a litle blaste of wynde breathed from the backe of the moun-

tayne, aboute nyne of the clocke, when the sunne beate stronglye upon the face of the hill, I felte a stronge seute to yssue thence, not much unlike that savour which vapours from the furnaces wherein *aqua fortis* is drawne. Curiosytie drawinge me neerer, to prye into the secret cause therof, I perceaved the stones to be stayned with severall collours, yellowe, ruddye, and greene, in many places overgrowne with a cruste of saltish matter, which my taste assured me to conteyne coperas, nyter, and sulpher. The same substance continued all alonge the coaste, tyll I came to Rawescliffe,[s] where more aparant signes of meane mineralls confirmed the opinion I had before conceaved; for in many stones I founde peices of marquesyte, both in wayte and collour resemblinge massye brasse, and which was more strange, by throwinge of stones up to the rockes, certaine balles of brasse fell downe in bignesse scarce soe greate as a walnutt, but in shappe so perfectly imitatinge the forme of a pine-aple, that a moste artifyciall workman could not thinke scorne to take them for his patern.

On Hartlepoole-syde, as also in some creekes where I passed, there is a certaine kinde of refyned sande, pretious to the people thereaboutes for scowringe of vessell; yt is white, and therfore called sylver sande, the smalnesse and subtyltie therof is such, that yt is carryed in the ayre, even into close cupbordes and chestes, within the inner moste partes of the houses adjoyninge.

Towardes Huntscliffe and Bulfeetgate there are certaine rockes that at a lowe water are left discovered, wherupon seales in greate herdes like swine use to sleepe, and beake themselves against the sunne; for their better securytie, they put in use a kinde of military discipline, warely preparinge againste a soddaine surprise; for on the outermoste rocke one greate seale or more keepes sentynell, which upon the first inklinge of any danger giveth the alarum to the reste, by throwinge of stones, or makinge a noise in the water; when he tumbleth downe from the rocke, the reste immediately doe the like, insoemuch that yt is very harde to overeache them by runninge; yf it fortune that any unawares hath chosen his sleeping-stocke soe farre from the sea that he is in hazarde to become a praye to the pursuer,

[s] Rawcliffe farm will be found in Mr. Ord's map in the immediate vicinity of the alum-works at Lofthouse and Boulby, which are now "the most extensive in the kingdom." (p. 291.) Those at Mulgrave are perhaps as large, or larger.

he then betaketh himselfe to his armes, flinginge the pebbles and sand from his hinder feet with such a tempeste and force, that a man had neede to be well advised before he aproache to neere. They flye the sight of men as of those from whome they have receaved many shrewde turnes; whereas the poore women that gather cockells and mussels on the sandes, by often use, are in better credyte with them. Therfore, whoe soe intendes to kyll any of them, must craftely put on the habyte of a woman, to gayne grounde within the reatche of his peece. It was strange to me, and hard to be beleved, that you had a yonge seale taken uppon the drye sande, which for the space of a moneth was kepte in your parlour, feeding him with milke and breade, which it sucked greedelye; and that in fewe dayes he knewe his keeper soe well that he would crawle after him, lowinge alowde, from the parlour to the kytchin, where upon the hearth, after his belly was well fyld, he used to turne up his syde to the heate of the fyre. He dyed, as yt was tolde me, by the myshappe of one that unawares troade on his head. After that he had lyen a week in the house and felt the refreshinge of the fyre, he would never indure the water, thoughe you threwe him oftentymes into yt, and was willinge to let him escape; but he returned to the lande, and with a mornfull crye, as yt were bemoaninge himself to the companie, woulde creepe to the nexte he sawe, and nible aboute their feete, not ceasinge tyll some had taken him upp in their armes to carry him backe againe. He was white, as havinge his pigges heyre yet on him, and not past three quarters of a yearde longe.

On the Bishopricke syde of the cliffes are certaine vaultes eaten out by the flashinge of the waves; the country people callinge them halls.[s] And surely soe they may be termed properly, for there are divers roomes, one within another, compacted in such wise that I seemed to behould the lively seate of Proteus, where he kepte his heard of seales and porposes, ac-

[s] "At the bottom of Runswick bay is a large cavern in the alum-rock, formed, like the 'fairy coves' at Hartlepool, and the recesses near Sunderland, by the constant action of the tide. This cave is termed by the superstitious fishermen Hob-hole, or the residence of Hob, and is supposed to possess the power of curing the hooping-cough. The patient was carried into the cave, and the parent with a loud voice invoked its deity, 'Hob-hole Hob! my bairn's getten't kink-cough,—tak't off, tak't off;' and the charm, till late years, was considered efficacious. Hob-hole is 70 feet long, and 20 broad." (Ord's Cleveland, p. 303.)

cordinge as the poetes with greate cunninge have peyned themselves to depeint at large.

Not farre from Whitby is a peice of grounde, called Whitby stronde, over which the inhabitantes affyrme that noe wild-goose can flye; yf the reporte be as true as yt is olde, there must needes be some secret antipathie betwene the ayre of that place and that kinde of fowle; if yt be a tale, I wonder much that soe palpable a lye should from many adges be nurished by many men of worthe, whome yt ill beseemeth to give vent to such ware.

Another wonder they ascribe to a certaine Saint Hilda,[t] or St. Hile, whoe by his powerfull prayers, when the contry theraboutes was overlayd by serpents, drave them into the harte of the harde rocks, where they nowe remaine hardened into a stony substance, not unlike that which we suppose to be the thunderbolt.

Litle did the first inventers of this weake fable consyder, that God from the firste beginninge made nature sporte herselfe in the varyetie of miraculous workes; and, as in these serpentes the head is wantinge, soe have I seene in ther states out of which they drawe copper at Manflet in Germanye, the perfecte shape of a fish traced out with fynnes and scales, and all other partes thereof, the head onely excepted; the reason wherof I referre to to be discussed by such as take pleasure in the speculacion of naturall philosophie. But by the waye thus much I thought not impertinent to put in my note-booke, that superstycion is alwayes credulous, and antiquity for the moste parte superstycious.

Hitherto I have playde the rover alongste the coaste. Now yt is highe tyme that, towards the settinge of the sonne, I beginne to retyre myself homwardes, havinge beguiled the tedyousnes of a good parte of the waye with enterchange of discourse. On the right hand an antyente castle, all rente and torne, as yt seemed rather by the unkind vyolence of man then by the envye of tyme, shewed yt self on the syde of a broken banke. I demanded of my guide howe the Castle was named, and what misfortune had soe miserably deformed yt? "Syr,

[t] St. Hilda was a female saint, the patroness of the abbey of Whitby. Leland notices the story thus: "Mira res est videre serpentes in orbes giratos et in clementia cœli, vel ut monachi ferunt precibus D. Hildæ, in lapides concretos." Collectanea, vol. III. p. 36.

(quoth hee) yt is Skelton Castell, the antyent inheritance of the Lord Bruce, and dignifyed with the tytle of an Honour, which by mariadge came to the Lord Faulconbridge, and successively to the Lord Conyers, whoe leavinge three daughters copartners of his estate, much variance fell betwixte their husbandes for the devisyon of their shares, that neither partye beinge inclyned to yeld unto other, every one for despite ruyned that parte of the castle wherof he was in possessyon, [u] lest afterwards by suyte of lawe the lott should fall to another. Insomuch that the goodly chappell, one of the jewells of this kingdome, rudely wente to grounde, with the fayre hall and large towers. Peter de Bruis, sonne of Jocelin, sometimes lord of the castle, delighted soe much in the beautye of the chappell, that he gave certaine landes unto Henrye Percye, upon condicion that every Christmas day he should come to that castle, and leade his wife by the arme from her chamber to the chappell. But nowe scarcely are the ruynes of a chappell [x] to be seene, such barbarisme raseth out the glorye of noble familyes, when an entyre right of inheritance is not invested in the person of one man."

Wearyed with the unpleasinge tale, I passed on tyll another spectacle of better recreatyon presented ytself on the other hand of the waye; a well or fountaine called Cawdkell Well, indued with the vertue of healinge ulcers, cancers, and diverse diseases of like qualitye. The tast therof was somewhat sharpe, yet not soe quicke that it could at the first experiment be discovered, untyll by often sippinge of yt I founde yt to be stiptike in my lippes, and to grate a litle on the roofe of my mouth, both which were assured argumentes of some mineralls at hande. A stander by, to put me oute of doubte, toulde me that not farre off, in the waye which we were to passe, there was a newe worke sett upp in hope of makeinge quantetye of allume and coperas. Desyre of noveltye soone caryed me thither, where, neere unto a foorde called Slappewarth, I sawe that which satisfyed the thirste of my longinge mynde, for of longe tyme I had a restlesse conceyte hammeringe on my brayne, that those hills and varyeties of earth could not altogether be barren of mettalls or mineralls; but that curiosytie which comonly draweth others to be

[u] See note in page 430.

[x] By deed dated 14th January, 8th James (1610-11), Sir Conyers D'Arcy released to Henry Trotter, afterwards Sir Henry, the walls of the chapel in the castle of Skelton. [Deed in muniment room at Skelton.]

onely eye-gazers of furnaces, pitts, coolers, and such implements, leaste of all affected me, for my humor leade me awaye with a fancy to knowe by what arte, happe, or hazarde the probabilitye of these mynes was first conceaved. As God would have yt, I lighte in the company of a gentleman, your kinsman, of fayre condycion, whoe by much labour and many losses, in the Isle of Lambaye in Ireland, had gotten more then a smatteringe in the skyll of allumworkes. After some usuall passages of curtesye, I earnestlye required his informacion concerninge the whole processe of those workes, wherunto he willinglie condescended, makeinge me, as occasion served, an eye-witnesse of such occurrences as fell within the compasse of his discourse. "Sir, (quoth he) the place wherin you now sett your foote may well be called the Aumbrey of nature, for many of those raretyes which are dispersed in sondrye other storehouses of severall contryes, are here compassed in a lyttle circuyte of grounde. And that I may the better give you taste of this my assertyon, if yt please you with your dagger's point to breake upp the shivers of the slate where you see the overfall of water, you shall not fayle to reape a good hansell of your expectation." These wordes were as a commandinge spurre to my eager mynde, that was ready to gape at every bayte of noveltye. What will you more? The stone was spongie and apte to cleave, somewhat blewish, and intermingled with small sparkles of white, wherin nature had couched litle heapes of mussells, cockles, oysters, and scallops, distinctlye separated one from another; of the serpentyne stones alsoe, afore mentyoned, there was, as our countriemen saye, no geason. The shelfishe reteyned the true forme and collour of the naturall, but within as well as without they were all of solyde stone. The comon receaved opinion is, that at Noahes floude, when the waters were maisters of the earthe, those shells, together with the slyme, were carryed into the lower valleyes, where by tracte of tyme both slyme and shells grewe unto that passe which the worlde at this daye houldes for a wonder. For myne owne parte, albeyt that I have alwayes avoyded the note of singularytie, and holde yt almoste impietye to declyne from our forefathers' footesteppes, notwithstandinge, where antiquitye hath no sounde backe of reason, I esteeme yt indiscretyon precisely to buyld on yt, or at leaste a veniall sinne warelye to suspecte yt. I demanded therfore of the gen-

tleman, for my better satisfactyon, whether there were any reasons currant amongste them wherby to maintayne the credyte of this tradytion, for yt seemed unto me, that, seinge the sea was foure myles of, and the river situated highe in the downfall of a hill, all other valleys and gilles neere unto the sea, and deeper than yt, should by all likelihoode perticipate of the same fortune in the deluge. "I cannot certainely (sayde the gentleman) define any thinge in a matter of such intrycacye, neither have I bin brought up soe longe in the philosophicall schooles, that myself is able to descant uppon yt, but what I have receaved from minerall masters, I will deliver you as goodcheape as yt came to me. The sea (as they conceave) besydes the common knowne course of floude and ebbe, hath a circular motyon, as whirled about with the *primum mobile*, wherby they inferre that, when all the worlde was an ocean the floude ran naturally from easte to weste. In testimony whereof they produce theyr experience in the beddinge of mynes and stone, which for the moste parte dippe towardes the easte and rise towardes the weste. Nowe, forasmuch as the rocks wherein the shells are founde are manifestly seene to lye in the same manner, yt followeth by all probability, that the matter of the rocke and the shells were transported thither in the tyme of the great inundacion. And whereas you make scruple, that neerer and lower places have none of the like matter, we fynde many times on the syde of greate mountaines bothe stones and greate bankes of earthe which are not originally any parte of the hill, but in the confusion of the deluge were not every where caste, but in those places only where there was any obstacle hindered the further transportation, or place fyt for repose. The ignorance wherof hath undermined many a good man, when retchlesse myners, findinge an outbreake of metall in the loose earthe, warrante all the hill to be ritche of the same vayne. Noe arrowe is shott so highe that yt hath not a fallinge place, which cannot be every where, but where we fynde yt there we take yt uppe, not caringe greately why yt fell not elsewhere. Soe fares yt with these shells, wherof we can yelde noe argument why they are not in yonder hill, or that playne, but it sufficeth that there we fynde them where the floud lefte them." "You have touched the purpose to the quicke (quoth I); but, savinge the opinyon of those whome you call minerall maisters, I cannot

subscribe to their judgmentes, that affirme the cause of the dippinge and risinge of mineralls and rockes eastward and westward to proceede from the motyon of the waters held in the floude, for then of consequence yt shoulde followe that almoste all the hills were razed by the floude; which pointe I thinke needelesse to dwell on, seeinge it is certaine that the first Mover of nature in the firste creatyon, beautefyeinge his worke with varyetye of soyles, made mountaines as well for the use and delyghte of man as valleyes, and had there not bin mountaines from the begininge Tubalcayn could not have had yron and brasse to worke; for thoughe yt be admitted that he might finde them in the rivers or lowe groundes, which are called streame workes, yet these washings have their discente from the beame worke in the mountaine, as our Cornishmen fynd by daylie experience; neither the waters could have bin sayde to have overtopped the highest hills fifteene cubites, neither could the Arke have rested upon Mount Ararate. You expecte, perhapps, a philosophical reason of this dippinge and risinge, which I confesse to be too hard a nutt for me to cracke, and therfore, as a blinde Bayarde, I will not hardelye adventure yt. Notwithestandinge, you muste give me leave for my better instructyon to objecte, that in the lowe townes of Maske and Cottam the cockells and mussells, layde to manure their feilde, are dissolved by heate and coulde, froste and thaweinge, into a salte lymie substance, which maketh the earthe apter to receave the seede caste in by the husbandman's hande. If those shells in a yeare or two loose their shappes, howe comes yt to passe that these should contynue soe manye hundred yeares?" "You saye more (qwoth the gentleman) than I have heretofore bethought myself of; yet, as I can upon a soddaine, I will give you an answere, thoughe perhaps but a sleeveles one. Like as corne is preserved in some garners longer than in others, soe are the shells longer kepte entyre when they are buryed deper in the earth, and suffer a contynuall concoctyon, then where they are exposed to windes and sunne, and consequently, by intermissyon of the naturall degrees of heate, are made subjecte to putrifactyon. Doe we not see that oystershells covered with the earthe, by reason of the thirstye salte humour which is in them, lyttle by lyttle drinke so much of the moysture of the earth as the inward heate may congeale into a cruste, reiteratinge these inbibicions tyll the heate of the

salte be soe qualifyed that yt utterly looseth the attractive vertue, and there they remaine, in the forme of oysters, thoughe in substance yt seeme a kinde of stone, which beinge broken, sheweth howe one coate successivelye hathe growne over another. This instance I offer onely to prove that shells may be of a longe durance; but seinge that these shells exceede not the size of the naturall, and are all of one solyde piece, I will shewe you the qualitye of this earth, and then remitt the consyderacion therof to your discretyon." Takinge me by the hande (for the descente of the banke was steepe) he led me to certaine mosses or quagmires, on the syde of the ryver, where, in lyttle pittes, the water stoode covered with a blewish scumme, intermingled with a rustye yellowe. One of the workmen that he called, with a spade tooke upp pieces of stone that resembled the combes when the hony is taken out of them; but when I stoode for a while doubtfull what to make of them, they assured me that they were nothinge else but mosse, congealed by the minerall constipacion of allume and copperas, the oare whereof they shewed me plentifullye growinge on eyther syde of the bankes. This mosse soe hardned and burnte in a lymekyll proveth most excellent plaister, and albeyt that the greene colour of the mosse be tinted yellowe in the quagmire, yet there is noe aparance that the bulke of the mosse is any thinge increased by that metamorphosis. There were some contrymen present that held an opinion that I mentyoned a lytle afore, to produce cockles and mussells; for by their experyence they had founde (if they were not deceaved) that parte of that earth beinge removed and layd in a good heape, close rammed together, that after some yeares, in the openinge thereof, they discovered shells half made, some newly begun, and others almoste finished, but for want of due concoctyon soe tender, that beinge roughlie touched imediatly they fell aparte. The coperas oare lyeth there close to a rustye iron-stone, and hath the very savour and taste of coperas; yt teynteth the water yellowe, and where yt setleth in the grounde yt hardneth into yellowe oaker. A litle above the myne I perceaved an outburste of a vayne of sande, which by the russett colour and savour, not unlike to the earth of a churcheyarde, I conceaved to be of the same nature with the minerall sande of Pozzuolo neere Naples, which sande, doubtlesse by reason of the astringent fume of the coperas con-

teyned in yt, joyned with lime, maketh a mortar as stronge as cyment; and seinge I am falne upon this subjecte, give me leave to digresse, to th'ende that I may informe you somewhat of the antyent artifyciall marble, of which sorte I could never assure myselfe untill that by chaunce, walkinge in the chapterhouse at Gysbrough, I remarked a broken piller, that had a cruste of blewe pollished stuffe, like naturall blewe marble, the inner parte beinge nothinge else but a piece of ordinarye freestone. The sight whereof put me into memory of an observatyon of yours made upon the greate pyramids, commonly called the Devill's Boultes, neere Burrough Brigges, for, if I mistake not my self, I heard you once relate that you founde the composycion of those huge stones to conteyne gryttie sande, lyme, and coperas; forasmuch as you founde some graynes of coperas undissolved therein. If I maye by conjecture ayme at the marke, I must needes say, that yt is probable that this marble cruste was compounded of the like substance, viz. of a blewe harde stone found there in the shallowe ryvers, and knowne by the name of a lyme-stone; of which stone, finely beaten and searced, after yt hath bin halfe calcyned, take two partes, and of the same stone not calcined but broken three partes, of quicke lyme made of marble or blacke flynte one parte. All these beinge tempered with the oulde glayre of egges, or water wherin *sal gemmæ* is dissolved, (which hath the propertye to turne wood beinge steeped therein into a stone,) make an excellent marble; and when your plaister soe tempered is of the thicknes of cyment, eyther caste yt in mouldes, or applye yt to pillers, as they doe worke plaister of Parys; lastly, when yt is drye, burnish yt with oyle, and with parte of the calcyned stone. This receipte I toke out of an antyent booke belonginge to some of the Abbey, and consyderinge yt, entred into a conceyte that insteade of *sal gemmæ* or whites of egges, allum water might very aptly be incerted in the mixtures.

But to returne againe to the myne of Allome, you shall understand that I merveyled much howe yt coulde be discovered, seinge neither the stuffe founde at the Lord Montjoyes workes or other parts of this isle have any reference in collour or taste one to another, especiallie seinge that the pure allome stone neither fumeth in his bedde nor uppon the tongue hath any bindinge relishe, and surely for myne owne parte I should have

taken the cloddes thereof digged neere the daye to have bin meere marle, like as Mr. Corney your tennaunte imagined, and founde them to be very rich manure for his lande. The stone that is founde lower within the earth seems to be a very solyde stone, though beinge exposed to the ayre yt sweateth out a saltish aluminous hoarines, and litle by litle scaleth awaye into earth. It was told me by the gentleman your kinsman that yt was your owne good fortune to discover yt;[y] for when as about

[y] The particulars which now follow, with others gleaned from preceding passages of the memoir, were condensed by Camden into the following statement, which, appearing first in the edition of the Britannia printed in 1607, announced to the world Sir Thomas Chaloner's undertaking:—

"This soil is fruitful, and produces grass and fine flowers a great part of the year, [this, it will be seen, from p. 407,] it abounds with veins of metal and alum-earth, of several colours (but especially those of ochre and murray,) from which they now begin to extract the best sort of alum and copperas. This was discovered a few years since by the admirable sagacity of that learned naturalist Sir Thomas Chaloner, knight, (to whose tuition his majesty King James hath committed the delight and glory of Britain, his son Prince Henry,) by observing that the leaves of the trees were of a more weak sort of green here than in other places, that the oaks shot forth their roots very broad, but not deep, and that these had much strength, but little sap in them; that the soil was a white clay, speckled with several colours, namely, white, yellowish, and blue; that it never froze; and that, in a pretty clear night, it shined and sparkled like glass on the road-side."

Graves, in his History of Cleveland (p. 427), states that Sir Thomas Chaloner "in his travels in Italy, examining the Pope's allum-works near Rome, and observing that the mineral there was greatly similar to one in the neighbourhood of Guisbrough, became desirous to make the attempt; but, as he was a stranger to the process, he found it necessary to procure workmen from the Pope's allum-works; whom, by secret promises of a large reward, he prevailed upon to accompany him privately into England; when he immediately erected an allum-work upon his estate at Guisbrough, which in a short time so completely answered his expectations, as to reduce considerably the price of allum, and brought him in yearly a large revenue. This circumstance so exasperated the Pope, that he fulminated an anathema replete with curses against Mr. Chaloner, and the workmen whom he had seduced." The recent historian of Cleveland, Mr. Ord, has seen cause (at p. 80 of his work) to pronounce this account to be "exceedingly imperfect, and wholly at variance with what seems the actual history of the case." The only arguments, however, which he alleges against it, are that Fuller in his Worthies, on noticing the introduction of the alum-works, does not mention the travels of Sir Thomas Chaloner in Italy, but states that the workmen were brought over from Rochelle in France, "whereof one was Lambert Russell by name, and a Walloon by birth, not long since deceased," (whose portrait Mr. Ord has engraved, from a painting in the collection of R. Chaloner, Esq. at Long Hull,)

The two accounts do not appear to be irreconcileable; for the circumstances mentioned in both may have occurred; and Mr. Ord had done well to have investigated more thoroughly both the biography of Sir Thomas and the early history of the alum-manufacture. For the latter subject some materials would be

a dozen yeares since you marked that all the leaves of the trees growinge on the sydes of the hills were dyed with a sadder greene then ordinarye, and that the oakes tooke no deepe roote, though they grewe with a greate length, havinge this strange propertye, that when they are barked there is in a manner noe sape, but all harte in them, you concluded that the hoate exhalatyons of the mynes ventinge from underneath, caused this difference from trees growinge in other places; which opinion of yours I can the more easily subscribe unto, because I have noted that even in the valleyes, where the breath of the sea cannot blaste, the toppes of the trees are seared and scorched. Your observatyon taken of the varyetyes of the earths, of cleyes of sundry collours, yellowe, white, and blewe, and of such stones wherewith they

found among the Burghley papers in the Lansdowne collection. In the current biographical account of Sir Thomas Chaloner, (Birch's Life of Prince Henry, &c.) it is noticed that he published in London, in 1584, in 4to, a treatise on the "Virtue of Nitre, wherein is declared the sundry cures by the same effected:" and "about the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign first discovered an alum-mine near Gisburgh, in Yorkshire, where he had an estate; but, it being adjudged to be a mine-royal, little benefit arose from it to him or his family, till the Parliament of 1640 voting it a monopoly, it was restored to the proprietors." It is thought that the discontent engendered by the state exactions led to two of Sir Thomas's sons taking part among the regicides.

A copy of Sir Thomas Chaloner's will, dated 26th November 1615, is in the Harl. MSS. no. 1970, art. 32, in which he says, "I have conveyed unto my brother-in-law Sir William Fleetwood, the two parts in three parts to be divided of the profit that shall or may accrue or come of my part of the allum mines for the benefit of my children which I had by my first wife, which I hold to be a very sufficient advancement for them; now my will is, that the residue of the profit which shall or may accrue, or of right ought to accrue or come to me out of the said allum mines and works, shall be divided amongst the children which I had by Dame Judith, my late wife, at the discretion of my executors. Item, whereas my daughter Dame Mary Fisher hath not as yet had any portion from me, my mind is, that out of the said allum mines and works which are to be divided amongst my children by my said late wife, she shall have the dower of 1200*l.* of lawful English money, by 300*l.* per annum."

It is, however, to be noticed that Sir Thomas Chaloner was not the only projector of this new manufacture. Anderson, in his History of Commerce, vol. iv. p. 406, states, "The manufacture of alum was first found out in England and carried on with success in 1608. It was supported and patronised in the county of York by Lord Sheffield, Sir John Boucher, and other landholders of the said county, to the great benefit of England in general, and of the proprietors in particular, to the present day. King James was a great promoter of this alum work, after he had by the advice of his minister appropriated to himself a monopoly of it, and forbidden the importation of foreign alum."

beautefye marble tables at Florence, of severall sortes of free-stone, and the unaptnes of the grounde to freeze, together with the glisteringe sparkles appearinge like glasse in the pathes by moonshine, were just motives to kyndle a fancye in you to undertake the search of these hills and rivers, wherin though you fayled at the fyrste, and could never be resolved by the best mineralistes what kinde of stuffe might be extracted out of soe base a minerall as yt appeared by the outwarde coate, neverthelesse, after three yeares' travaile, and your kinsman's happie interposinge himselfe in the tryall thereof, you have nowe founde a gainefull rewarde, as I hope, for your peynes, and a meanes to sett a number of poore on worke.

Upon Bellmanbanke there is a place conveniente for many houses to worke allome, the myne itself extendinge all alonge that hill, and exposed in such sorte to the breathe of the sea and of the sunne and wynde, which are the onely ripeners of the stone, that, all things consydered, a better place cannot be founde in this cuntrye. Your charges wilbe very greate, and mount to many thousandes; but to comfort you I will not conceale the experyence we have lately made, that your allome is as good as the Romishe, and is stronger in settinge a collour. Your myne of bole armonacke, wherin we finde certaine vaines of such earth as is called *Terra sigillata*, might in my conceyte be imployed in makinge of such red pottes as come from Venice, which are soulde very deare, by reason of the vertue ascribed unto them; what secret operatyon is in those pottes I know not, but I am well assured that this earth, both the white and the redde, beinge put to one's lippes will stycke faste to them, even as those potts doe; and yt is generally in such requeste in these partes, that surgeons and apotecaryes fetch yt from as far as Newcastle, preferringe yt before any bole that cometh from beyonde the seas, aswell for matter of surgerye, as expellinge poyson.

Nowe, beinge ready to drawe my dayes jorneye to an ende, let me tell you first what I have noted in the religione of diverse of the people hereaboutes; for, findinge many of them besotted with ould superstycions, I cannot chuse but pittye them, while I skorne their opinyons.

They have a custome, that if any whistle after daylight is

closed, that he must be put out of the dores, and three tymes goe about the house for pennance.

When any dieth, certaine women singe a songe to the dead body, recytinge the jorney that the partie deceased must goe;[y] and they are of beleife (such is their fondnesse) that once in their lives yt is good to give a payre of newe shoes to a poor man, forasmuch as after this life they are to passe barefoote through a greate launde full of thornes and furzen, excepte by the meryte of the almes aforesaid they have redeemed their forfeyte: for at the edge of the launde an oulde man shall meete them with the same shoes that were given by the partye when he was livinge, and after he hath shodde them he dismisseth them to goe through thicke and thin without scratch or scalle.

Another practice of others is more redyculous then the former; for when any maydes take the potte of the fyer, in greate haste she setts yt downe, and, without feare of burninge, clappes her hands on the pothookes to staye them from shakinge; and this she does for tender hearte, believinge that our Lady weepeth or greeteth, as they terme yt, all the while the pottehookes wagle, which were a lamentable case.

Betweene the townes of Aton and Newton, neere the foote of Roseberry toppinge, there is a well dedicated to Saint Oswalde. The neighboures adjoyninge have bin seduced with an opinion, that if the shirte or smocke were taken of a sycke bodye, and throwne into that well, a certaine token might be gathered of his life or death; for if the shirte floated alofte yt denounced recovery to the partie, but in case yt sanke then there remayned noe hope of health; and to th'end that the good saincte for his paynes should not sytt emptye-handed, they teare of a ragge of the shirte, and hange yt on the bryers thereabouts, whereof I have seene such numbers as might have made a fayre shewe in a paper-myll.[z]

[y] See this in the Anecdotes and Traditions, edited by Mr. Thoms for the Camden Society, p. 89.

[z] "The leaving of rags at wells was a most singular species of superstition. Bishop Hall ridicules a prayer of the Romish church for the blessing of clouts in the cure of diseases. There is still a fountain called Rag-well, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. By hanging some part of their raiment near the holy wells, the superstitious devotees imagined their diseases would thenceforth be removed. The custom is still common as a charm even in Persia and the interior of Africa." Hanwell's Travels, vol. i. p. 177, and Park's Africa." Note by Mr. Ord, History of Cleveland, p. 293, where he notices the well of St. Hilda, which gives name to the

Sir, I feare I have deteyned you to longe with the relacyon of my dayes jorney, and made that tedyous to your eyes which pleased me to take paynes in; butI have done my beste, and if I learne more hereafter, I will not spare to certifye you my knowledge all such as yt is.

Your worshippes to comande, H. Tr.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

Page 406. *The Bruces' Sepulchres.*—The Bruce tomb at Gisborough, which is evidently of a date as late as Henry VII., was taken from the monastery, and removed to the parish church. Two sides remain in the porch, with the figures of St. Jerome, St. Augustin, and other saints, with their emblems. It is inaccurately drawn in Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. vi. part 2, and Mr. Ord's own drawing, page 199, is not sufficiently minute in the details. The fine slab which once formed the top is now used as an altar table.

Ibid. *Kylton Castle.*—The demesne lands of the Twengs, or Thwengs, afterwards Lords Lumley, attached to Kilton castle, were of small extent; the whole of the manor does not extend over more than 1650 scres. About the time of the attainder of George Lord Lumley, the castle was purchased of Lord Lumley by William Thweng of Ormsby. The Thwengs were living there 8th Charles I.; and by Anne, daughter and heiress of Thomas Thwenge, it was carried to the Tullys, who dismantled the castle; and by an heiress of the Tullys it was taken to the Rev. John Waugh: he died leaving five daughters and coheiresses, who sold the castle, manor, and estates, in 1790, to John Wharton, Esq.

P. 416. *Skenegrave* is now Skiningrave. In the division deed of the Bruces, 1 Edw. I., part of the property consisted of the fishing boats at Redcar, Cotham, and Skinningrave. There is now a bar at the mouth of the beck, so that no fishing-boat can enter; but salmon are occasionally caught. The village (which is a township in Brotton parish), now contains only 13 houses, and a population of 63 persons.

P. 420. *Skelton Castle.*—On the death of Peter Brus without issue, his sisters succeeded to his estates, viz. Agnes, wife of Walter Fauconberge; Lucia, wedded to Marmaduke Thweng (from whom came the Barons Lumley); Margaret, married to Robert de Ros of Helmsley; and Laderina, to John Belle-eau or Bella-aqua; whereupon they did all of them come to an agreement, which was confirmed by order of Court,

parish of Hinderwell. St. Oswald's well is not noticed in Mr. Ord's volume, unless there is some confusion of this well "neere the foote of Roseberry Toppinge" with the fountain "neere the toppe of the hille," already noticed in p. 410, and to which the story of Prince *Oswy* is attached.

A. D. 1273 (1 Edw. I.), for the division of all his lands amongst them. Under this agreement all the estates were divided, and also the rights, except the patronage of the Priory of Gisborough, which was held in moieties by the Fauconberges and Thwengs; and also the wreck of the sea from Runswick bay to Yarm, which was held in equal fourth parts. Skelton fell to Fauconberge; and the heirs of the family, being Barons of Yarm, continued for some generations at Skelton castle: but in the end all these their lands came by a female to Sir William Neville, Lord Fauconberge, in right of his wife Joan, who was sole daughter and heiress of Thomas the last Lord Fauconberge of that family. He was created Earl of Kent by King Edward IV., but, dying without issue male, Skelton and all his other lands went to his three daughters and coheirs, who were married to Sir John Conyers, Sir Richard Strangwaies, and Sir Edward Bedhowing. After the feud had subsided Skelton came to Alicia, the wife of Sir John Conyers; and descended in his family till the death of John Lord Conyers [a] in 3rd and 4th Philip and Mary (1557), when the estate passed to his three coheiresses: Anne, married to Anthony Kempe; Elizabeth, to Thomas, son of Sir Arthur D'Arcy, Knt.; and Katharine, to John Atherton, Esq. Robert Trotter, of Pickering, purchased the share of Kempe, and on the 23rd May, 35th Elizabeth, there was a partition into thirds. The Trotters subsequently purchased the remaining shares, and in 1650 became possessed of the whole estate. The estate remained in that family until the flight of Lawson Trotter, in consequence of being involved in the rebellion of 1745; when the castle, &c. passed to his youngest sister, who had married Joseph Hall, and in the members of that family, who have since changed their name to Wharton, it still continues. Sir Henry Trotter, who died 1625, repaired the old walls and tower, and built a square hall and dining-room on the site of the chapel (the walls of which had been conveyed to him in 1611). The castle, as he left it, is accurately represented in the woodcut to Ord's Cleveland, p. 253, and in the preface to Mr. Hall Stevenson's Works, who, being the proprietor of Skelton, in his whimsical fancy, denominated it Crazy Castle, and his romantic fictions were "Crazy Tales." [b] The demolition began in 1788 under the late Mr. John Hall Stevenson, who took the name of Wharton, and the erection of the present nondescript structure and remodelling of the old building were continued under Mr. Bonomi, the architect, until 1820. The present owner of Skelton, John Thomas Wharton, is descended on his mother's side from the Bruces.

[a] See Conyers pedigree, Harl. MSS. 4198, art. 132.

[b] Mr. Hall was the Eugenius of Tristram Shandy. See Sterne's Works, and "Seven Letters written by Sterne and his friends, hitherto unpublished," edited by W. Durrant Cooper, F.S.A. and printed for private circulation, 1844, 12mo.

The following extract from a letter of Mr. Lionel Charlton, the Historian of Whitby, to Dr. Percy, afterwards Bishop of Dromore, dated Jan. 3, 1780, it may be well to preserve in connection with the preceding article, as Dunsley is a township of Cleveland, between Whitby and Mulgrave Castle.

"Among several surveys that I have made is the family estate of the Percys at Dunsley, of which I think it will not be disagreeable to give you the following account:—

"The manor of Dunsley contains about 600 acres of inclosed land, besides 777 acres which lie yet in moor. Sir John Sheffield, as a descendant from the Duke of Buckingham, now possesses 342 acres of this inclosed land, and it is that which I have lately been surveying. As for the town of Dunsley, it contains no more at present than ten or twelve dwelling-houses; and in the middle of the town street (or rather market-place) are yet to be seen the ruins of the chapel which formerly stood there; but, as the inhabitants have now a stone quarry close adjoining to it, human bones are frequently dug up there, which, in my opinion, is a kind of profanation of a place that was formerly sacred, no ways decent to be seen in a Christian country. On the south-east part of the town the traces of the Percy seat are yet to be seen, but entirely in ruins. On the north side of the town stands a part of the house wherein Lord Fairfax formerly lived in the time of the Great Rebellion, it being now the property of a very sensible and worthy freeholder called Corner. As for the hermitage, it is situate north-west from Dunsley, near Thordisa Beck,[e] almost surrounded with wood, and now but little known. It is on the south side of the beck, but its vicinity to Mulgrave Castle, which stands on the north side thereof, gained it the appellation of the Hermitage at Mulgrave. From Dunsley we have a fine prospect of Dunsley Bay, but still a much finer prospect thereof from a place called Auldeby, which is about a mile further west up into the country, and adjoins the Horse Croft, on the north-west part of the manor of Dunsley. Here art seems to have been joined to nature to form a place fit for the reception of some branch of the royal family in the days of Edwin the Northumbrian king. Its yet retaining the same name with the palace of that monarch, seems a strong argument in favour of what I now assert; I cannot help thinking Prince Hererick once lived there, and that it was the birth-place of Lady Hylda, being on the utmost extremity of Dunsley manor, not quite a mile distant from the well that yet retains her name, near Swarthow Cross, and no more than five or six miles from that other well which also bears her name in Hilderwell churchyard."—(Nichols's Literary Illustrations, vol. viii. p. 188.)

[e] See Charlton's History of Whitby, p. 65; and Ord's Hist. of Cleveland, p. 312.