

34a. 3r. 24p. of glebe, leaving £144 11s. as the tithe commutation. On the moor, which was enclosed in 1818, are evident marks of a Roman entrenchment, consisting of a large circle 65 yards in diameter, surrounded by a ditch 25 feet in width.

**CHARITY.**—The sum of £30 has been left to the poor of the parish of Corney who do not receive parochial relief, the interest of which is distributed annually on Christmas Day.

Mr. Edward Troughton, an eminent mathematical and astronomical instrument maker of London, was born at the farmhouse called Welcome Nook, in this parish, in the garden of which he placed a beautiful sundial, and another in the churchyard. He succeeded to the business of his uncle and brother, in Fleet Street, London, and in 1826 took into partnership Simms, also eminent as a maker of mathematical instruments. It has been said of Troughton, that "he improved and extended every instrument he touched, and that every astronomical instrument was in its turn the subject of his attention." Many of the finest instruments in the Royal Observatory and other scientific establishments were constructed by him. He was also the author of several treatises in the Philosophical Transactions, &c. He was born in 1753, and died in London in 1835.

*Middleton Place* is a small hamlet about a mile north of the Parish Church. It gave name to the family of Middleton, who resided here in the ancient manor house for many generations.

*High Corney* is another hamlet  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles N.N.E. of Bootle; and Parknook, where the manor courts are held, is a small cluster of houses about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles N.N.W. of Corney Church. A thriving and prosperous lodge of the United Order of Mechanics, numbering over 110 members, hold their meetings in the Waberthwaite and Corney Schoolroom, and their anniversaries at the Brown Cow Inn, Corney.

Abbott Mrs. Elizabeth, Normoss  
Borrowdale Mr. John, Park nook  
Braithwaite Benjamin, walter, High  
Corney  
Grisdale George, vict., Brown Cow  
(and farmer), Park nook  
Hartley Mr. Thomas, Normoss  
Herd Miss Ann, Moorside  
Pritt Mr. William, Shoemires  
Singleton Mrs. Eliz., Barrow's meadow  
Smith Tom, gamekeeper, Spring house  
Whinerah Miss Margaret, Middleton pl.  
Wren Rev. Thos. Bishop Cawley, rector,  
Spring house

#### Farmers.

Barr William, Charles ground  
Briggs Abraham & Thomas, Langley  
park

## MUNCASTER PARISH

Stretches from the coast inland as far as the chapelrys of Ulpha and Eskdale, and is bounded on the north and south by Irton and Waberthwaite. It comprises the two townships of Muncaster and Birkby, whose united area is 6,496 acres, which are assessed at £4,181. The population at the commencement of the present century was 448; in 1851 it was 623, and in 1881, 638. The soil towards the sea is loamy, and tolerably fertile; but farther eastward it is mossy, and near the mountains gravelly. A vein of iron is supposed to exist at a place called Brankenwalls Gill; but neither coal, limestone, nor free-stone is found in the parish. The Esk, Mite, and Irt are the only streams that enter it; and though of inconsiderable size they abound with trout, and afford excellent sport to the disciples of Izaak Walton. Woodcocks were once so plentiful in the district that "by a special custom the tenants were obliged to sell them to the lord at one penny each."

Muncaster is a place of great antiquity; the very sound of its name carries us back to the time when the mail-clad legions of Rome held in doubtful subjection our untutored British forefathers. In old documents Muncaster appears as Meoleastre, Mealeastre, and Mulescastr, the origin of the first portion of which we shall find in the Meso-Gothic, *malana*, sand; and is descriptive of the chief physical feature of the district. The second part *castr*, Latin *castrum*, a camp tells the story of its Roman occupation. If further proof were needed, beyond the Roman name, we have it in an old building bearing the appellation of Walls Castle, not far from Ravensglass, which is said to have been the residence of the Penningtons prior to the erection of their present castle. Some writers have ascribed to this building a British origin, but recent excavations and researches by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Society prove beyond doubt that the ruins are of Roman fabrication,—that they once formed part of a Roman villa or *Tepidarium*. Both Roman and Saxon coins have been found here, as also stone axes and arrow-heads, "the undoubted arms of our Celtic ancestors." The walls are cemented with run lime,—a mode of building which disproves the Celtic origin, as the ancient Britons had not attained to such perfection in the art of building. In the excavations carried out under the superintendence of the above society a hypocaust was found in a very good state of preservation; parts of the furnace and flue were readily recognisable. Tiles of different kinds were unearthed; and an arrangement of pillars, 30 in number, in three rows of 10 each, with arches resting on them, left unmistakable proof of the nature of the structure. The charcoal, bones of domestic animals, broken pottery, and variously

coloured glass, which were also found, were matters of less interest, but not unimportant evidences of its Roman origin.

The *Manor* of Muncaster has been held by the Penningtons from a very remote period. The first residence of the family was at Pennington in Furness, where may be seen the foundations of a square building, called the castle. They are said to have been located here before the Norman Conquest, and removed to their Cumberland residence about the year 1242. The first of the family of whom we possess any record was Gamel de Pennington, who lived in the reign of Henry II., and was a man of consequence even at that early period. From this Gamel, Francis Jocelyn Pennington, the present Lord Muncaster, is descended. The family name is derived from their Furnessian abode, but another branch of the family descended from David, the son of Benedict Pennington, adopted Muncaster as their patronymic. In the 35th of Henry VIII., Sir William Pennington "held the manor of Muncaster of the King, as of his castle of Egremont, by the service of the sixth part of a knight's fee, rendering yearly for sea-wake 12d., sergeants' food, &c." together with the 17th part of a knight's fee for "the hamlet of Ravensglass." Several of the Penningtons were knighted for their valour, and their estates were settled in tail male in the 23rd of Edward IV. Sir William Pennington was created a baronet by Charles II. in 1676, and was succeeded by Sir Joseph, Sir John, and Sir Joseph. The last mentioned had three sons, one of whom (John), was a colonel in the army at the time of the French Revolution, when he was created Lord Muncaster, an Irish peerage, without a seat in the House of Lords. The present Lord Muncaster is the fifth baronet, and succeeded to the title and estates in 1862.

MUNCASTER CASTLE is a handsome modern structure, occupying a delightful situation on the side of an eminence north of the Esk. The old castle almost entirely disappeared under the restorations effected by the first Baron Muncaster, who rebuilt nearly the whole pile. The principal tower of the old stronghold has been preserved, but it wears no longer the garb of antiquity. The castle is surrounded by beautifully laid-out grounds, comprising gardens, "devious walks," shrubberies, &c., and, from its situation, commands fine views of the wild mountain scenery bordering the vale of the Esk, and also an extensive sea prospect. The unfortunate Henry VI. found shelter here, when a fugitive, after his defeat at the battle of Hexham, A.D. 1463.\* The room in which the king slept has been scrupulously preserved throughout all the alterations and re-arrangement of the buildings. The bedstead is of carved oak, bearing a

\*This event is generally supposed to have taken place in 1461, and that date is given on a picture in the castle, and also on a monument in Muncaster Church; but there are strong reasons for believing that this date is not correct, and that the monarch's sojourn at the castle occurred after the battle of Hexham, 14th May, 1463, when Henry's troops were defeated, and the king became a fugitive.

crowm, and the initials H. H. Henry left behind him a memento of his stay at the castle, which has since been known as the "Lutek of Muncaster." It is "an ancient glass vessel of the basin kind, about seven inches in diameter, ornamented with some white enamelled mouldings." A similar relic is preserved at Edenhall, which has been rendered famous by its poetic legend.

THE CHURCH of Muncaster, dedicated to St. Michael, is an ancient structure, standing in a sequestered spot between the high-road and the castle. Surrounded by a bosky shade, and covered with a dense mantle of ivy, the very appearance of the venerable edifice impresses the soul with sentiments of piety. Cold and callous, indeed, must be the heart of him who, hearing the tinkling of the twin bells break upon the solemn stillness of the Sabbath morn, does not feel within him promptings of a purer and a better world to come. The church consists of nave and chancel, with a small campanello, in which are two bells. The principal entrance is from the west, beneath a window of three lights, with cinque-toiled heads under a semi-circular arch. Two stained glass windows have been recently added to the church by Lord Muncaster, in memory of the two unfortunate gentlemen who were murdered by Greek brigands in the early part of 1870, when his lordship narrowly escaped a like fate at the same time. There was, until recently, on the apex of the gable at the east end of the nave a small bell turret, which probably in Catholic times carried the "Sanctus Bell"—a bell rung to give notice, to such as could not be present, of the most solemn parts of the mass. The church contains numerous monuments to various members of the Pennington family. The earliest bears the date 1390. On another monument is the following inscription:—"Of youre charitable praye for the soul of Syr John de Penyngton, some of Syr Alan de Penyngton, who hadde to wyfe Elizabeth dowter of Syr Nichols de Radcliffe de Derwentwater, a woman of noble blode yis Syr John resseved holic Kyng Harry whyche was Henry ye Sixth at Molecastre 1461. Kyng Harry gave Syr John a brauve workyd glasse cuppe, with his red before yat whyllys the famylie shold keep it unbrecen thei shold gretelye thrif whyche cup is kalled the lutek of Molecastre. He was a grette captain, and heded the left wyng of the armie agayne the Scotties; whiles Erls of Northumberland headed the mayne bodie." In the churchyard is the shaft of an ancient cross, four feet nine inches high. The church was appropriated to Conishead Priory by Gemel de Pennington, in the reign of Henry II. On the dissolution of religious houses it was again restored to the Pennington family, who have ever since held possession of it. Through its subjection to Conishead, Muncaster ranked only as a perpetual curacy, a title which it retained through all the mutations of religion, until Lord Blandford's Act constituted it a vicarage. The living was formerly certified as worth £10 a year, but in 1723 it was augmented with £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty. To the commissioners for inquiring into

ecclesiastical revenues it was stated to be worth £97. In 1880 the revenues of the church were further augmented by £3,000, contributed by Lord Muncaster and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The benefice is worth £222, and is in the incumbency of the Rev. H. Bell, who is also rural dean, and chaplain to Lord Muncaster.

RAVENGLASS is a small but ancient market town and seaport in the parish of Muncaster. It is situated on a small creek at the confluence of the Esk, Mite, and Irt, which here form a sandy harbour. There are 22 feet of water on the bar in spring tides, and 12 feet at neap tides. Whatever may have been the former importance of Ravenglass as a seaport, it is now quite deserted, save by an occasional manure-laden sloop in spring, bringing guano or other fertilizers for farm use, and discharging them on the beach. Its market is an ancient institution, dating as far back as A.D. 1209, when *Richard Lucy*, baron of Egremont, and lord paramount of the whole barony, obtained a charter from King John to hold a market and a yearly fair. But the fair is now obsolete, and the market little more than a name. Fairs were formerly held three times in the year, viz., May 6, June 8, and August 5. The last-mentioned one, until within a few years of its abandonment, was attended with some singular circumstances. Nicolson & Burn, who published their exhaustive "History of Cumberland" in 1777, tell us that the fair was held "on the eve, the day and the morrow of St. James. On the first of these days, in the morning, the lord's officer, on proclaiming the fair, is attended by the sergeants of the bow of Egremont, with the insignia belonging thereto; and all the tenants of the forest of Copeland owe a customary service to meet the lord's officer at Ravenglass, in a place set out for that purpose. On the third day, at noon, the earl's officer discharges the fair by proclamation; immediately whereupon the Penningtons and their tenants take possession of the town, and have races and other diversions during the remainder of the day." The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway forms a junction here with the Whitehaven and Furness line, which runs through the village. This line was opened September 16, 1876, and is the shortest registered railway in Great Britain. In its course of 7½ miles, it passes through a district full of the most varied and pleasing scenery, and gives access to several interesting Druidical remains, Wastwater, Seawell, and other mountains in the immediate neighbourhood. The town consists chiefly of one long straggling street, but many of the houses are well-built. There is a Public Hall built in the Swiss style, with a residence at each end. It was erected at the sole expense of Lord Muncaster, and is used during the week as an Infant School, and on Sunday evenings for religious purposes.

BIRKBY is a small township, containing a few scattered houses, three miles east of Ravenglass, and on the south side of the river Esk. Its population, acreage, and ratable value are included in the parish returns. At a place called Chapel-garth, in this township, some

ruins were dug up in 1822, supposed to have been those of the chapel or church which formerly stood here. On Birkby Fell are the remains of a fort or encampment, said to be the ruins of the ancient city of Barnscur, or Bardscar, which, tradition tells us, was peopled by the Danes. Mr. Ferguson tells us the name is pure Scandinavian, and is derived from its probable founder, some Norseman called Barna or Bardi." The circumference of the city and suburbs appears to have been about three miles. In the beginning of the last century a large treasure of silver coin was found concealed in the foundation of one of the houses, none of which, unfortunately, has been preserved to tell its history. An ancient road passed through the city, leading from Ulpha to Ravenglass. A popular legend tells us that Barnscur was peopled by taking the men of Drigg and marrying them to the women of Beckermeth; and hence the saying, "Let us gang together like lads o' Drigg and lassies o' Beckermeth." A similar circumstance, we may mention, is recorded of ancient Rome, where the men who had been gathered into the city, carried off the Sabinian women for their wives.

CHARITIES.—Joseph Pennington, in 1640, left the interest of £32 10s., which was to be applied in providing twelve penny loaves weekly, to be given to the poor at the parish church every Sunday. This charity is now distributed in money.

*Bread and Cheese Money*.—The sum of £1 is distributed every Easter out of the Muncaster estate. From an entry in the parish book, dated 1667, we learn that the lords of Muncaster were wont in former times to regale the poor with bread and cheese at Eastertide, which they afterwards changed into a money gift.

*Poor Money*.—Previously to 1817 there was a poor stock of £35, but in that year £10 of this sum was lost through the insolvency of one Joseph Jackson, to whom it had been lent on interest.

*School*.—Richard Brocklebank left, in 1696, the sum of £160, to form an endowment for the free education of the children of such parishioners as should contribute towards the erection of a school in Muncaster Town Lane. All future purchasers of land in the parish, if they were descended from the original contributors, were also entitled to the benefit of this school. The whole endowment at present amounts to £273. The original constitutions of the school have been entirely changed, and now no children are taught free.

*Lord Muncaster's Charity*.—John, Lord Muncaster, by will, dated 11th April, 1812, directed his executors to pay to the respective clergymen and overseers of the poor of the several parishes of Muncaster, Waberthwaite, and Drigg, the sum of £50 each, to be distributed at their discretion to the poor of their respective parishes not receiving parochial relief.

## RAVENGLASS.

*Post, Money Order, and Telegraph Office*, open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Delivery, 7 a.m.; despatch, 6-25 p.m. Letters *via* Carnforth.

Askew Rd., grocer and provision dealer  
 Benson John, registrar of births, deaths, and marriages  
 Brown Mr. J. G.  
 Coward Edward, butcher  
 Crookall Robert, stationmaster, Raven-glass

*Cumberland Union Banking Co., Ltd.*  
 Davidson Rd., grocer and ironmonger  
 Dickenson Miss M. B., schoolmistress  
 Fears Ritson, joiner  
 Graham Thomas, vict., Bay Horse  
 Griffith W. B. B.A., Sec.D., L.R.C.P. & L.R.C.S., Edin.

Herbert P. D., vict., Ship Inn, and joiner  
 Marsh John Edward, commission agent, Belle Vue villa  
 Nicholson James, grocer and provision dealer, and mason  
 Pharaoh John, shoemaker  
 Postlethwaite John, farmer  
*Rareglass Public Hall*  
 Ralph Robert, mason and builder

Reynolds Frederick, inland revenue officer  
 Satherthwaite George, hind, Wall's farm  
 Southward Robert, farmer  
 Stable Geo., postmaster, grocer, draper, and shoemaker  
 Townson Robt., gamekeeper, Mid town  
 Vickers Mrs. Agnes Thompson, Horbert house  
 Walker W. Jenkinson, tailor and draper  
 Welsh Grayson, yeoman, Raven villa

## MUNCASTER AND BIRKBY TOWNSHIPS

Bell Rev. Henry, vicar of Muncaster, chaplain to Lord Muncaster, and rural dean, The Vicarage, Muncaster  
 Bibby Jos., corn miller, Muncaster mill  
 Bibby Benj., yeoman, Oak bank  
 Braithwaite Daniel, farmer, Broad oak  
 Caddy Henry, yeoman, Rough holm and Grey mines  
 Caddy Mrs., Dykes  
 Caddy Mrs., Nether Stainton  
 Dickenson Robt., farmer, Stainton  
 Gimson Mrs., farmer, Linbeck  
 Hodgson Joseph, farmer, Barrow  
 Houlden William, groom, Muncaster Castle  
 Jackson Benj., blacksmith, Broad oak  
 Jackson John, farmer, Cripplehow  
 Lightfoot Henry, farmer, Crankings  
 Massicks William, head gamekeeper, Branting Wall  
 Newby John, farmer, Muncaster head  
 Pennington Francis Jocelyn, Lord Muncaster, lord-lieutenant of the county, The Castle  
 Postlethwaite Roger, farmer, Cragg

Postlethwaite John, hind, Brighthouse  
 Ross Mr. John, agent for Lord Muncaster, The Grove  
 Ryder Mr., schoolmaster  
 Shackley Edward, gardener, Chappels  
 Shackley William, gardener, Chappels  
 Shaw John, head gardener, Muncaster Castle  
 Sim Joseph, farmer, Low Eskholme  
 Sim John, farmer, High Eskholme  
 Sim Benj., yeoman, Knot end and How bank  
 Sim Mrs., Cragg cottage  
 Sumner G. T., carpenter, Muncaster Castle  
 Thompson Esther, grocer and draper, Muncaster  
 Troughton Henry, yeoman, Himning house  
 Wall John, assistant steward, Branking wall  
 Walker Adam, woodmonger, Broad oak  
 Walker John, butler, The Ings  
 Wilson Roger, farmer, Hollow stones  
 Wilson William, farmer, Murthwaite

## WABERTHWAITE PARISH

Is small and compact, having a length and breadth of about 2½ miles. It lies between the river Esk on the north, and Corney and Bootle on the south and east. It possesses a rich loamy soil, except on the eastern side, where the land is high and rocky. The area of the parish is 1,771 acres, the rateable value £1,055, and the population in 1881 was 196. It has a small village of its own name, and also

the hamlet of *Newbiggin*. The principal landowners are Lord Muncaster, Messrs. J. B. Postlethwaite, Lindow, W. Hodgkin, W. Pitt, and Barrow.

The Manor of Wabertwaite was held in ancient times by a family bearing the name of Wyberg, one of whom obtained it in marriage with the daughter of Arthur Boyville, third lord of Millon. Whether the manor gave name to the family, or the Wybergs impressed their name on the manor has not advanced beyond the realm of supposition. The latter seems the most probable hypothesis, and its name would thus be Wyberghwaite, which has now become Wabertwaite. The Wybergs subsequently removed from this parish into Westmonland, and fixed their abode at Isell in that county. The Manor afterwards passed to the Penningtons of Muncaster, but whether by marriage or purchase is not known; and the manorial rights and privileges are now vested in Lord Muncaster, the representative of that family. Formerly the customary tenants paid "arbitrary fines, rents, heriots, and boon service," but they have been enfranchised, and many of the farms are now occupied by their respective owners.

**THE CHURCH**, dedicated to St. John, is an ancient, plain building, consisting of nave and chancel. It is in the patronage of the lord of the manor, and this privilege appears to have been enjoyed by the Pennington family since the year 1608. In 1421, and again in 1425, Sir Richard de Kirkby presented, and in 1580 the same privilege was exercised by Henry Kirkby. The living is a rectory valued in the King's Book at £3 11s. 8d., and at a later period was certified to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty as worth £18 16s. 6d. It has since been augmented by a donation from that fund, and is now worth £130 a year. In 1794 the great and small tithes produced £80, and in 1842 they were commuted for a yearly rent-charge of £105. The parish registers commence in 1695. There is a small school for Wabertwaite and Corney capable of accommodating 80 children.

**CHARITY.**—There is an ancient Poor Stock of £100 belonging to this parish, £80 of which was given by the Rev. Mr. Park, rector of Barton, Norfolk. The interest thereof, £1 17s. 4d., is distributed annually. This parish also shares in a bequest of Lord Muncaster.

*Post Office*, Lane End. Letters arrive at 8-25 a.m., and are despatched at 4-40 p.m.; postmaster, Richard Woodall.

Marked I reside at Lane End, 2 at Newbiggin.

2 Bibby Mr. Edward	Fletcher Rev. Isaac, M.A., rector, Glebe house
2 Borrowdale George & Son, wallers	Jenkinson George, tailor, draper, and grocer, Brow foot
2 Chorley Mr. Edward	Park Mr. George, Cross
Dodgson Moses, shoemaker, Millgate	Penny Mr. William, Amity cottage
Dodgson Tyson, corn miller (and yeoman), Stainton mill	
2 Fisher John, tailor and draper	