

Farnhill Hall

by W. Claridge

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We next pay a visit to Farnhill Hall, the residence of Mr. F.E. Slingsby, who is equally hearty in his reception of visitors. This building differs materially from the one just referred to. Situated upon a charming knoll about half a mile from Kildwick, from which a fine view is obtained of Flasby Fells, beyond Skipton, Farnhill Hall has evidently been erected with a view to defence.

The walls are in no place less than 6ft, and in some points are 8½ft thick. A square tower battlemented forms a conspicuous object at each corner of the building. The principal entrance fronts to the north, and is protected by an overhanging chamber, heavily corbelled, and exceedingly picturesque. The visitors were shown the secret entrance to this chamber, from which an outlook was doubtless obtained in troubleus (*sic*) times. After the Battle of Bannockburn, the Scots overran the north of England, and Craven, rich in cattle, received frequent visits. One of the earliest references to the Farnhill family was as a consequence of these inraids (*sic*). In the compotus of Bolton Abbey there appears under the records of the year 1318 the entry, "Will de Farnel, destructo per Scotos viz. xd.", the then resident being thus assisted by the bounty of the Canons of Bolton, who were equal sufferers. The family, however, must have been established in the neighbourhood two centuries before, as Adam Farnil, Lord of the Manor, was a party to a charter as old as the reign of Stephen. Farnhill Hall, although the day of its erection is uncertain, is undoubtedly one of the most interesting buildings in this neighbourhood.