

THE VILLAGES OF CRAVEN -- Farnhill.

The commonly accepted derivation of the name of this village is Fern Hill, or the hill of ferns. Perhaps a learned etymologist would go deeper into the question and find some far fetched origin, but the one we have named has at least the merit of being applicable.

On the hill, or moor, above the village, grow an almost unlimited quantity of ferns, or "brackens", as they are commonly termed; which, when cut and dried, fulfil the somewhat lowly duty of forming bedding for sundry members of the porcine race, as a substitute for straw.

Having arrived at Kildwick station, we must go through the village of Kildwick to get to Farnhill. We must also go through or under, the "Culvert," as it is called. This is an aqueduct over which the canal passes, and under which is the road to Farnhill. Seeing that the road and canal are at this point almost parallel, of a necessity, the arch is built on the "Skew" principle which causes it to be of an unusual length. This culvert is supposed by the children of the neighborhood, to be inhabited by a somewhat nondescript being, called a "Guytrash", or goblin.

Some of our correspondents to the "Notes and Queries" column, might give some information about this mysterious being, its origin, &c., as it is supposed also to inhabit other parts of the country. At one time, this place was a terror to those who had to travel after dark because if only moderately dark in the open air here it is quite dark. Rather a better state of things has come about of late years, for a gas lamp has been placed at each end, which serves thoroughly to illuminate it. Now and then though, the question arises "Who is to pay?" when for some weeks pending the settlement of this all important question darkness prevails, as of yore.



It would, we venture to think, be well if the people of Farnhill could make some final and definite arrangement for the lighting of this place so that the question should not turn up as it has done every winter. Surely a very slight addition to the rates would raise the required amount.

As we emerge from the culvert our attention is attracted by a building of a very peculiar description, and the stranger naturally asks what it is. It is a mill, the property of Messrs. Green Bros., who, when it was built, were unable to get rid of a tenant who occupied a cottage which stood, and still stands on ground, which it was their intention to enclose inside the mill wall. As a consequence they were obliged to content themselves with a shorter building than they had originally intended, and erect a temporary end, which is built of bricks resting on the beams which support the various floors, giving this part of the building a "wattle and daub" appearance.

This mill, as well as being used for spinning and weaving by Messrs., Green Bros., is also partly occupied by Mr. T. Dennison for weaving.

A little higher up we come to Messrs. Akeds Mill, used for spinning and the various processes in connection. Then there is the mill belonging to Mr. S. Watson on the Skipton road, partly occupied by him as a place for spinning etc, and partly by Messrs J. Stephenson and Co., for weaving. Here, too, are the gas works, which supply the villages of Kildwick and Farnhill. In addition to these three mills, there is still another in the township of Farnhill viz, Aireside mill.

Many of the Farnhill people are employed here. On the whole, Farnhill folk have no reason to complain of lack of choice in the matter of who they will work for, for in addition to the four mills we have named there are several others in the immediate neighbourhood where they find employment. At one time Farnhill people were extensively employed in wool combing, but when combing machines were introduced there were hard times, till some other employment could be obtained.



Untill very recently Farnhill had not made any progress in the matter of new buildings, but now new houses may be seen in many parts of the village. This would seem to shew that the population is increasing, for the house as they are erected are quickly tenanted. Another thing that supports this idea is the extension of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which had become too small for the comfort accomodation of the congregation.

Farnhill consists of three divisions--- Farnhill, Middleton and High Farnhill, of which the first named, Farnhill proper is considerably the largest. At the extreme boundary of High Farnhill is Farnhill Wood, the property of G.L. Fox Esquire, a pretty extensive enclosure consiting of young trees, planted 15 or 20 years ago, when the old wood was felled.

This wood is famous for blackberries, nuts, etc., in the season and possibly those who are of a sporting frame of mind could find other attractions. We would recommend those who intend to pay this place a visit to go in clothes of the lowest market value, or otherwise after a short stay they will find them considerably deteriorated.

In this part of Farnhill is situate Farnhill Hall, the residence of James Slingsby Esquire, a somewhat ancient building, on an eminence at the angle of two vallies, and from which as a consequence a good view of the neighbourhood is obtained.

Leaving Farnhill Hall we pass an enclosure with a broken down aspect through which runs a stream of water. This is the village pound, or pinfeld, now fallen into disuse. These pounds may be seen in various parts of the parish, although all are long ago broken down. It was necessary that grass and a good supply of water should be provided, that the cattle impounded might not suffer hunger or thirst during their convinement.

The middle parts of Farnhill (Middleton) consists of one



short row of houses, chiefly the property of the Farnhill Oddfellows, who have been a very strong lodge, embracing not only many Farnhill people, but a great many from surrounding villages. Their lodge room, which forms part of the row, is the only public room in Farnhill, and though very small, it appears large enough for the needs of the village.

If a larger room is required for entertainments or other purposes, the Kildwick National School, close at hand, answers the purpose. It is in this latter building that the Kildwick and Farnhill Floral and Vegetable Society held their exhibition last year, when for a first show, a very good collection was displayed. We are informed that, as a fair balance remains from last year, the committee intend to continue the exhibition, so that, improving on last year's experience, we may expect a fair show. It is intended to hold it on the Saturday preceeding the Parish Feast.

That the people of Farnhill are fond of gardening is shown by the great number of allotments in the village. Judging from the number of plots, we should think that there are few Farnhill folk who have not a garden.

Some months ago, and agitation was on foot for ensuring a good supply of water to the village, the sanitary authorities having pronounced a great quantity of the water unfit for use. At present, the excitement appears to have died away, leaving no apparent result behind it. Pure water is, as we all know, necessary if we would have good health, and we would hope that the villagers knowing this will try to secure for themselves a supply of good wholesome water. On the moor above the village there are a good many stone quarries, but the stone is not of a very superior quality. Farnhill can boast of two or three pleasure boats, which are extensively patronised by the people of the district in the summer months. These ply on the canal, which



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runs parallel with the village. Another consequence of the close proximity to the canal is that the lads of Farnhill are as a rule very good swimmers. A feature in Farnhill is the annual Primitive Methodist anniversary service, held on Whit-Sunday, on what is known as the arbour top. This service attracts numbers of people from all parts of the parish. The Farnhill Brass Band is one of the best in the district having been in existence some years, and is under the leadership of Mr. R. Sugden.

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