

lected because of the familiarity of their names in America, many other distinguished names, better known, perhaps, in England than here, might be added. Such was Dr. William Craven (1730-1814), Professor of Arabic at Cambridge and master of St. Johns College there, who was a descendant of the Darnbooks of Bewerley and a generous benefactor of Nidderdale schools and charities. William Mountain, F.R.S., Sir John Hawkshaw, the engineer, W. H. Huddleston, F.R.S., President of the Geological Society, and Dr. Stubbs, the historian, now or of late Bishop of Oxford, are others descended from Nidderdale yeomanry, as given by Mr. Speight, who makes honorable mention, also, of the ancient families of the region,—the Hardcastles, the Baynes, the Gills, who, in addition to the Dernbrooks, Inmans, Bensons, already spoken of, have representatives to be found in the early wills hereafter quoted.

Of the scenery about this spot where once stood the home of our ancestors, I quote a description from "Nidderdale":

"Beautiful and retired is the dale about Gowthwaite; the green fields with their browsing cattle, the quiet homesteads each nestling in a grove of trees, the quickset hedgerows and old lichen-covered stone walls, sprinkled with wild flowers and polypody, fix the eye, as we go up and down the long, white road in the valley. A small gill-beck comes down the north side of Gowthwaite Hall, and enters the Nidd a little below the highway. This gill, I am told, is the warmest nook in all the valley. In the spring, primroses and other early wildings usually open their tender blossoms here before a flower can be found elsewhere. All about Gowthwaite are great mounds and spreads of glacial drift, and the road, in places, rises and falls abruptly over them. No doubt the old hall stands at the southwest angle of what, in ages long past, has been an expansive lake, nearly a quarter of a mile wide, deepening northwards towards the Holme Houses, and following the contour of the valley on that side."

"Singularly enough," continues Mr. Speight, "this portion of the valley will shortly assume something of its ancient aspects. It is here that the Bradford corporation is about to construct the extensive compensation reservoir, as part of the project included in the new water supply of that town. When completed, this great lake will form a notable and not unpleasing feature in the dale. It will extend about two miles in the direction of Ramsgill, with a water surface of 327 acres, and following, over a great part, the natural outlines