



Gorge above Gordale.

moorland heather in bloom in August and September, the air is as *sweet* as it is pure.

No The tourist, from whichever quarter of the Cornfields compass he may have come, will probably be struck with the complete absence of ploughed land. With the exception of an acre of arable land in the corner of what was once the Giggleswick Tarn, there is no land under the plough in any part of the district covered by this book. This was not the case half-a-century ago. Then every farmer had his breadth of corn, and grew what he needed for his own use. But with the fall in the price of grain that followed the abolition of the corn-laws, the farmer in these higher districts found that corn-growing did not pay. And the short summer and the large rainfall made his harvest at best a precarious one. The older farmers tell us that it was not a very uncommon thing to see the "stooks" standing in snow. So the farmer, with a true sense, no doubt, of what would give least trouble as well as yield best pay, dropped corn-growing; and now throughout the district only pasture and meadow-land is seen. Indeed the writer does not know of a single corn-field between Skipton and Bentham,—a distance of five-and-twenty miles.

Old In walking over the hills we here and there Lime-kilns come upon the remains of what has evidently been a lime-kiln. These are now in ruin, or choked with rubbish and thorns. Two generations ago these kilns were in regular use. Lime-burning was a common thing with the farmers. The virgin stone was, of course, at hand, and the coal was not far away. On Penyghent, and especially on Foun-

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tains Fell, there were seams of coal that were workable and worked. The coal was not good enough for house-purposes, but was used in the smithies, and even at the Langcliffe Paper-mills. The kilns were built at the landlord's cost, and he helped his tenant to lime and till the land. These kilns speak of a time when landlord and tenant worked together, and remind us of what is one great need of the agriculturist to-day—confidence. We often hear how that the land in Craven has “gone back,” but it could be got into “heart” again. It is a trite saying, that if the land is to do its best for the farmer he must do his best to it. What he wants is security,—to be able to assure himself that he will reap the fruit of his own work. The tenant of a farm that lies within a few miles of Settle agreed with his landlord that they should together lay out £300 on the farm,—the landlord £150 in lime and tiles; the tenant £150 in leading and labour. The work was done. The farm was brought into a high state of cultivation, and became one of the model farms of the district. The landlord died and the estate passed into other hands. Then the rent was raised, and the tenant had thus to pay for his own as well as the landlord's share in the improvements that had been made. This sort of thing takes the “heart” out of the man, and when the tenant has lost “heart” it means that his land will also lose “heart.” In 1793 a Government Commission on Agriculture made the following report as to the Settle district:—

“Leaving Grassington we passed through a wide range of uncultivated moors, and arrived at Settle. At this place we saw the finest grass we ever viewed. Indeed the richness of the soil



Settle Market - Place on a Fair day

### SETTLE MARKET CHARTER.

The following is a copy of the grant to the Earl of Burlington of a weekly market and fairs at Settle, from the Harleian MSS., in the British Museum.

Settle.

T.B.

*Harleian, MSS., No. 2263, Fo. 225.*

May, 1708. A Confirmation to Richard, Earl of Burlington and his heirs, of an antient weekly market on Tuesday, and a fair yearly held for three days on the vigil, upon the day, and on the morrow of St. Lawrence, within the manor of Setel, in the county of York. And also, a grant to him and his heirs of severall other new faires to be held yearly within the towne of Setel, in the said county, on the days following, vizt. :—One ffaire on the Tuesday next before Palm Sunday, for the buying and selling all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes. Another on the 15th of April for sheep. Another on Tuesday next after Whit-Sunday, for all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes. Another on the 23rd of June, for lambs. Another on the 12th of October, for sheep. Another on the Tuesday next after the 16th day of October, for all sorts of cattle, goods, wares, and merchandizes; and another on Fryday in every other week during three months successively, yearly, to begin on Fryday before Easter, for buying and selling all sorts of cattle.

According to Her Majestie's pleasure, signified by warrant, under Her Royal Signe Manual, countersigned by Mr. Secretary Boyle, subscribed by Mr. Solicitor Generall. John Tench, deputy to Thomas Gosling, Esq.

Inscribed on the back—  
“Dacquet for the Most Noble John, Duke of Newcastle, Lord Privy Seale. Sealed the 24th day of May, 1708.”

### SETTLE'S MARKET PLACE.

The guide-book description of Settle as a chartered market town was apt enough a generation or two ago, but some years ago the open space in the centre of the town lost much of its old-time market-day bustle and there was a genuine belief that it might never again recover its former rank as a widely popular country town bazaar. Latterly however, the advent of tradesmen from neighbouring towns with their stalls and wares has invested the market place with a new prosperity, and every week between twenty and thirty stall holders assemble. These itinerant tradesmen are able to offer articles at a comparatively low price, one reason suggested being the fact that they are able to acquire a “stand” on payment of eightpence to the Parish Council, while the resident tradesman has substantial liabilities in the form of rates. The latter feels that a higher charge should be made for market-place stalls. Another suggested explanation of the stall-holder's lower prices is that his wares are of inferior manufacture and in the ordinary course would have been sent abroad had not the rate of exchange operated to the disadvantage of the English producer. One fact remains, however. As a result of the tolls at present received in respect of stalls, the Market Place is now self-supporting.



44322. SETTLE FROM S. EAST



Ribble in flood at  
"Queen's Rock."

is hardly credible to those who have not seen it, and the possessors were unanimously of opinion that it is of greater value to them when kept in grass than when cultivated by the plough."\*

Why should not the Settle district win back its old fame?

No We have no wish to encourage trespass, Trespassing! and so shall keep to the proper roads and paths. Complaints have sometimes been heard of damage done to fences, trees and wells. It may be very amusing to lift stones from a wall and see them roll and leap to the bottom of the field; but it is no amusement to the farm-servant to gather again the stones and repair the fence. A farmer who still lives in the neighbourhood once gave a youth a practical demonstration of this other side of the question which he would not easily forget. The farmer was walking over his land when he saw the youth pushing stones from the wall and rolling them down the field. He watched the lad for a while, then stole up to him and said, "Now if you run away my dog will fetch you back; so I will stand here until you have carried all the stones up the field again." It was toilsome work, but it had to be finished, and the youth was taught that damage is much more easily done than repaired. The tourist may ramble on the scars, and no one will wish to hinder him; but to wade through long meadow-grass, or the fresh "fog;" to "top" a young sapling; to climb a loose wall and leave a gap for someone else to build up; to fill a cattle-trough half-full of stones,—such things as these are enough to spoil the temper of the most long-suffering Craven farmer.

\* "Stackhouse Local Tracts," No. VIII, p. 22.

THE RIBBLE IN FLOOD.—Early risers at Settle on Wednesday were surprised to find the Ribble running "seas high." The Archery Field was completely covered with water, and the public footpath leading across the fields from the Settle bridge to the village of Giggleswick was out of sight for some hours. The low-lying land to the south of Settle was also submerged to the depth of the stone walls, and cattle and sheep had to be removed to higher ground. A good deal of damage to land and buildings has been caused by the sudden rising of the river. The summits of Penyghent and Ingleborough have already been capped with snow.  
Nov 1904

GREAT FLOODS.—On Wednesday, the 24th, it commenced raining pretty freely, but on Thursday, the 25th, the rain poured down incessantly all the day and during the night. The consequence was, that the rivers Air, Wharfe, and Ribble, were quite flooded. The last arch of the bridge below Coniston Cold was carried away on the night of the 25th, and the Turnpike road communication between Coniston and Gargrave cut off. The expense of rebuilding will fall on the County rate. Rathmel Ings all down to Cow bridge were completely covered, and formed a fine Lake. The road to Rathmell, was, as usual, impassible, and both high and low roads to Langcliffe were flooded. Streams came down the hills on all sides, where none previously existed. The river was nearly up to the foot path opposite King's Mills. The Shade was flooded, and Saworth and Cammock were both flooded. It was as great a flood as we have had for some years.  
1856