

HUDDESFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION. INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

The original of the following notice from Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary General, to the Constable of Mirfield, in 1642, has been discovered among the Turner MSS., and placed in the collection of the association:—

“TO THE CONSTABLE OF MIRFIELD.

“Whereas the Earle of Newcastle Sir Wm. Savile Sir Marmaduke Langdale Sir Ingram Hopton Francis Nevile Esq., and others of that party, have brought into this county a great army of Papists and persons ill affected to the peace of the country under a pretence of mainteying the ptestant Religion and the lawes of the land intending no other than the utter overthrow of both religion and lawes as appeareth by their irreligions and unlawfull practices in grinding the faces of his Mats. best subjects by pillaging and plundring their houses, imprisoning and abusing of their psons and imposing on them such grievous tax and intolerable pressure as hath already in pt consumed and will shortly exhaust the whole treasure of this flourishing County, for the preventing of wch injuries having at length received many armes more strength, and commandes to assist the inhabitants of these pts wch through God's assistance have resisted the said Popish army with incredible success I do hereby require you to give Notice hereof to all the Inhabitants in yor constabulary that bee of able bedyes from the age of 16 to 30 to command them to repair to *Almondbury or some other place near Mirfield upon Saturday* next being the 20th day of this instant January by 9 a.m. eache with the best weapons they can procure and *there to stay till they receive further orders from mee* that by unanimous consent we may through the help of God drive out the Popish army, establish peace in this county and obteyne free trading again to the comfortable support of poore and rich. Let every man that is able bring with him 4 or 5 dayes pvision and let the poorer sort bee furnished by yu the Constable out of yr comon pocke for yo like time Hereof fail yu not at ye peril as yu tende yor owne good and the good of this bleeding and distressed country. Given under my hand at Bradford the 19th day of January, 1642. “THO. FAIRFAX.”

The words in italics are interlined, in lieu of the words “Bradford upon Friday” 25th, and “I shall furnish every man with arms befitting him that is unprovided for;” and lead to the conclusion, that it was a general notice addressed originally to Bradford and altered to other constabularies. It is endorsed “To the Constable of Mirfield.” Any information as to what took place at Almondbury or elsewhere, in consequence of this or similar notices, would be most interesting. From the different days named for assembling at Bradford and Almondbury, it would appear that a march southwards from the former place was intended, the latter being a day's march from it, and occupying probably the strongest position in this part of the country. Although the paper is now very tender, the ink is good and the writing quite clear and legible.