

we begin to ask, "what it is," like Pilate, hurry on to Ver. 38 some other care before we can receive a satisfactory answer; but joyfully open our minds to the first dawnings of that celestial day, till it shine more and more, to irradiate and adorn all our souls. On the whole, imperfect as the character of this unhappy governor was, let us learn from him candidly to confess *the truth*, so far as we have discovered it; let us learn more steadily than he to vindicate the innocent and worthy, and on no terms permit ourselves, in any degree, to do harm to those in whom, on a strict and impartial enquiry, we can find *no fault*.

Luke  
xxiii. 4.

[ *To be continued.* ]

An Account of an extraordinary PHENOMENON said to have happened at SOUTHERFELL, in Cumberland, in the year 1744.

From CLARKE'S SURVEY of the LAKES.

"IN the road from Penrith to Kefwick, is Southerfell, remarkable for an extraordinary Phenomenon, which, perhaps, can scarcely be paralleled in history, or reconciled to probability. Such, however, is the evidence we have of it, that I cannot help relating it, and then my readers may judge for themselves. I shall give it nearly in the words of Mr. Lancaster of Blakehills, from whom I had the account, and whose veracity, even if it were not supported by many concurrent testimonies, I could fully rely on.

On the 23d day of June, 1744, his father's servant, Daniel Stricket (who now lives under Skiddow, and is an auctioneer,) about half past seven in the evening, was walking a little above the house; looking round him, he saw a troop of men on horseback, riding on Southerfell-side, [a place so steep that a horse can scarcely travel at all] in pretty close ranks, and at a brisk walk. Stricket observed these aerial troops some time before he ventured to mention what he saw: At length, fully satisfied that what he saw was real, he went into the house, and told Mr. Lancaster he had something curious to shew him. Mr. Lancaster asked what it was? adding, I suppose some bonfire, (for it was then, and still is a custom, for the shepherds on the evening before St. John's day, to light bonfires, and vie with each other in having the largest.) Stricket told him, if he would walk with him to the end of the house, he would shew him what it was. They then went together, and before Stricket spoke, or pointed to the place, Mr. Lancaster himself discovered the Phenomenon, and said to Stricket, "Is that what thou hast to shew me?" "Yes, Master," replied Stricket, "do you think you see as I do?" They found they did

did see alike; so they went and alarmed the family, who all came, and all saw this strange appearance.

These visionary horsemen seemed to come from the lower part of Southerfell, and became visible first at a place called Knott; they then moved in regular troops along the side of the Fell, till they came opposite Blake Hills, when they went over the Mountain; thus they described a kind of curvilinear path upon the side of the Fell, till both their first and last appearance were bounded by the top of the Mountain.

Frequently the last, or last but one in a troop (always either the one or the other) would leave his place, gallop to the front, and then take the same pace with the rest, a regular swift walk: These changes would happen to every troop, (for many troops appeared) and oftener than once or twice, yet not at all times alike. The Spectators saw all alike, the same changes, and at the same time as they discovered them, by asking each other questions as any change took place. Nor was this wonderful Phenomenon seen at Blake Hills only; it was seen by every person at every village within the distance of a mile: Neither was it confined to a momentary view; for from the time that Stricket first observed it, the appearance must have lasted at least two hours and a half, viz. from half past seven, till the night coming on prevented the further view; nor yet was the distance such as could impose rude resemblances upon the eyes of credulity. Blake Hills lay not half a mile from the place, where this astonishing appearance seemed to be, and many other places where it was likewise seen, still nearer.

Desirous of giving my Readers every possible satisfaction, I procured the following attestation, signed by Mr. Lancaster, and Daniel Stricket:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, declare the above account to be true, and that we saw the Phenomena as above related; as witness our hands, this 21st day of July, 1785.

"WILLIAM LANCASTER,  
"DANIEL STRICKET."

Thus I have given the best account I could procure of this wonderful appearance; let others determine what it was. Speed tells us of something similar to this as preceding a dreadful intestine war. Can something of this nature have given rise to Ossian's grand and awful Mythology? Or, finally, is there any impiety in supposing, as this happened immediately before the Rebellion which was intended to subvert the liberty, the law, and the religion of England, that tho' immediate Prophecies have ceased, these visionary Beings might be directed to warn mankind of approaching tumults?"

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Mr.