



VIII.

TATTERSALLS' HOMESTEAD.

AT the extreme western end of Hurstwood stands this old house, locally known as “th’ bottom o’th’ fold.” It is a long low building, largely composed of massive blocks of millstone grit, which seem to defy the corroding tooth of Time. From the style of the building it appears to be of about the same age as Spenser’s House, or even older, and both are no doubt considerably older than Hurstwood Hall. There was a tradition that the old farm at the “bottom o’ th’ fold” was the oldest possession of the Tattersalls, although we find no mention of it as belonging to them earlier than the year 1598, when Janet Tattersall, widow of Richard Tattersall of Ridge, is described as of “Hirstwood.” The entrance of the old house is a rounded Norman arch in the centre of the building, leading into the principal chamber of the present farmhouse.

This old house may be considered as a type of the home of the Lancashire yeoman of the sixteenth century, and was built when yeomen were well to do, and could afford to replace with solid stone structures the houses of wood and lath which had been the homes of their fathers from Saxon times. These old houses are built of such massive strength that nothing but an earthquake or a subsidence of the ground (such as has occurred to a slight extent at Hurstwood, through the excavation of the coal beneath) could destroy their framework. Well may they be regarded with reverence as relics of