

**From John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and
Wales (1870-72)**

LEVENS, a township and a chapelry in Heversham parish, Westmoreland. The township lies on the river Kent, $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles NNW of Milnthorpe railway station, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ S by W of Kendal; contains the hamlets of BeathwaiteGreen and Sizergh-Hillside, and part of Brigsteer; and has a post office under Milnthorpe. Acres, 3,953; of which 33 are water. Real property, £5,373. Population, 936. Houses, 191. The manor belonged to the Redmans; passed to the Bellinghams and the Grahams; and, with Levens Hall, belongs now to the Howards. The Hall is a fine old Tudor mansion; contains much elaborate oaken carved work, and some interesting pictures; and stands amid charming grounds. The gardens were planned by Beaumont, gardener to James II.; and the park is traversed by the Kent, between steep and richly wooded banks, contains a petrifying spring, called the dropping-well, and has a fine distribution of lawn and wood; while herds of deer, " across the green sward bound,
Through shade and sunny gleam; And the swans glide past them, with the sound
Of Kent's rejoicing stream."

Levens bridge takes the road from Milnthorpe to Kendal across the Kent; and Levens Force is a foaming cascade of the river, nearly a mile above the bridge. Under Levens Hall was the seat of the Leivins and the Prestons. A ruin at Kirkstead is supposed to occupy the site, and even to include some portions of a Roman temple dedicated to Diana. The chapelry is less extensive than the township, and was constituted in 1838. Population, 804. Houses, 166. The living is a perpetual curacy in the diocese of Carlisle. Value, £200. The patron, the Hon. Mrs. Howard. The church is modern, in the early English style, with tower and spire. the river, nearly a mile above the bridge. Under Levens Hall was the seat of the Leivins and the Prestons. A ruin at Kirkstead is supposed to occupy the site, and even to include some portions of a Roman temple dedicated to Diana. The chapelry is less extensive than the township, and was constituted in 1838. Population, 804. Houses, 166. The living is a perpetual curacy in the diocese of Carlisle. Value, £200. The patron, the Hon. Mrs. Howard. The church is modern, in the early English style, with tower and spire.