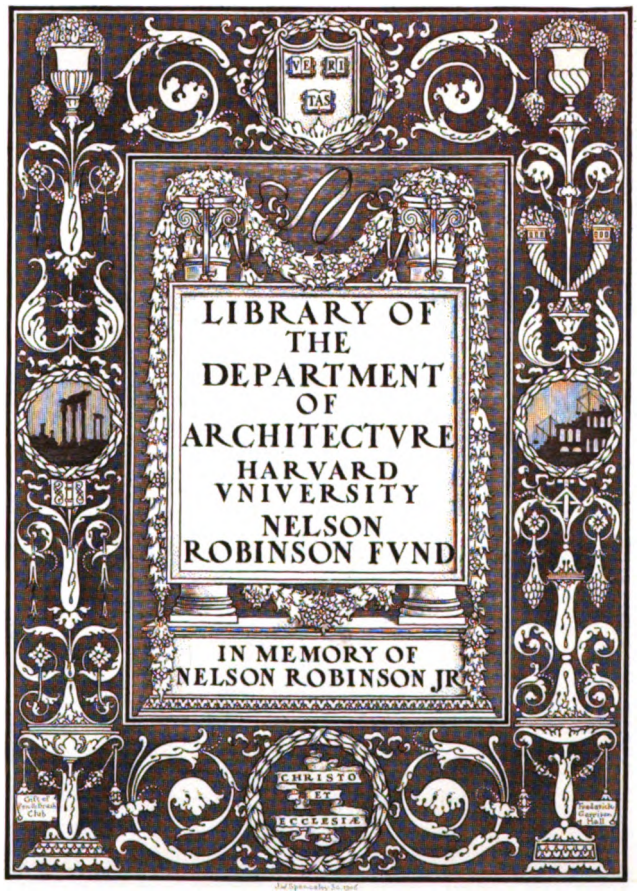

David H. Williams.
Boston. Mass

BRITISH CASTLES;

OR,

A COMPENDIOUS HISTORY

OF THE

Ancient Military Structures of Great Britain.

BY T. H. FIELDING, ESQ.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS VIEWS OF SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING CASTLES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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Castle - N.B.

LIST OF PLATES.

PREFACE.

THE Author of the following sketch of the castellated architecture of Great Britain, unaided by the discovery of some unknown MS. hitherto concealed from the world, cannot lay claim to any original points of information, or matters of fact that might warrant him in the depreciation of former writers on the same subject; and although, in the absence of novel matter, he could have strung together as many conjectures, various readings, &c. as would have made a handsome sized work in folio, of two or more tolerably thick volumes; yet, finding that the whole of what is really known might be comprised in a moderate compass, he deemed his book would be of more utility if kept within the limits he had originally prescribed to himself, and he has thus endeavoured to give as simple, and, at the same time, as clear an account of the subjects treated upon as he was enabled by his materials; feeling it much more desirable that his book should be considered too small, than that he had written too much on a subject still too little understood to bear the mists and obscurities of a verbose and conjectural style of writing.

To show the little certainty there exists on some points of the highest interest, we need only cite, for example, the arch, both the semi-circular and the pointed, or what is termed the gothic arch; each equally doubtful as to their origin. If full credence may be given to the accounts of a Spanish traveller, in a late publication, neither of these arches were unknown to the Mexicans of former ages; and thus an ancient people of the new world may be added to the list of competitors for the honour of their invention. It appears, according to the narrative, that amid the ruins of an extensive city, discovered about nine miles from Palanque, in the northern part of the province of Cieudad Real de Chiapa, so many architectural coincidences were found, that the narrator boldly supposes the place to have been known to the Romans: and perhaps he might, with as much reason and equal probability, have added the Greeks and Egyptians; more especially the latter, if his accompanying prints are correct representations of their prototypes. Independent of the above account, it is extremely doubtful when and where the arch was first invented, and we fear that many other points, more particularly relating to our military architecture, must for ever remain in as great a degree of uncertainty.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is but imperfectly known at what period the construction of regular buildings of defence took place; for in all ages learned men have been so remarkably negligent in giving us any information on the subject, that it has become involved in the deepest mists of obscurity; nor is it till times that may be termed modern, when compared with the age of the world, that the feeblest scintillations of an almost hidden ray of light begin to make their way through the silent darkness of antiquity. When men began to form themselves into large societies, and previous to their cultivation of the arts of peace, it would be necessary that themselves and their families should be placed in security from the ravages of their more unsettled or predatory neighbours: hence we may reasonably infer, that the earliest towns and cities were fortified according to the knowledge of the age in which they were constructed, or the peculiar habits of the founders. Previous to the erection of cities, it is very probable that the first formed communities, whether they were of shepherds or of hunters, would dwell in camps; and, as some knowledge of geometry would be requisite for their regular formation, we may readily conceive the Egyptians, who were employed in such vast numbers on canals and other public works, to have been the first that constructed a regularly formed camp for their residence, during the prosecution of those immense undertakings, whose remains astonish even the present improved state

of the world. Whilst the Israelites were in Egypt, a period of about four hundred and thirty years, they would doubtless adopt much of the Egyptian mode of living, more particularly in points that regarded their safety; from which it may be supposed, that the Israelites, in their encampments, would copy the Egyptian mode, whatever mode that might be, as far as the nature of the various soils would permit, through which they journeyed, or where they afterwards settled on their egress from Egypt. In the second chapter of the book of Numbers, we find a very exact account of the order in which the Children of Israel encamped; but of the manner in which these camps were constructed, the inspired writer of the Pentateuch has given us no account, although Monsieur de Folard, in his Treatise on the Attack and Defence of the Places of the Ancients, says, that the camps of the Israelites were intrenched; but he does not state his authority for the assertion. In his account of lines of circumvallation and countervallation, he adds as follows: "We are ignorant whether the Egyptians, the Jews, the Assyrians, or the Medes, made the first use of them: I should rather think the former, because I think them the most ancient. Moses always entrenched himself in his encampments; the Scriptures do not say who were the first to make use of these precautions, and when the fortification of towns is spoken of, we find nothing by which we might be able to form a conjecture that the art of fortification was of new invention." It is most probable that the primitive camps would be much like those of the Bedouins or Arabs of the Desert; merely an irregular circle, composed of one row of tents, with unequal intervals between them: within this circle the Bedouins keep their cattle, and their horses ready saddled during the night.

The first step in fortification, perhaps, was something of the kind used by the American Indians

of the present day, being a ditch surrounding their whigwhams, and secured at the approach by stakes driven into the ground, or an abbatis, composed of large trees felled round their camp, with all their branches on them, Afterwards, as societies and knowledge increased, permanent places of residence would be built, and secured with walls of stone or wood, according to the abundance of the material, as in some parts of Russia, where the towns are defended by ramparts of timber. Very soon after the construction of fortified towns, would be perceived the necessity of a citadel or strong-hold, for the double purpose of retreat on the loss of the outer works, or of security to the prince or governor from internal treacheries and insubordination. It is at this point that we must date the introduction or invention of castles; which, in their first state, most likely were only strong or elevated houses, relying for safety more upon their thickness of wall or natural strength of position, then upon any regular mode of building proper to such edifices. The word *castellum* or castle, is usually employed by ancient writers for a town, either large or small, encircled by a ditch and wall, with towers at various distances. Castles, such as are usually understood by the term, may be considered comparatively of modern invention, and it is surprising how very little attention has been paid to this class of buildings; as few things have been less the object of research than the military architecture of the world; particularly when we learn, that it was in France, England, Germany, and other European states, that the custom of building regular castles first prevailed. It is supposed that these buildings are of eastern origin, and that we are indebted to the Crusaders for their introduction; but if we allow to the East the invention, and consider that the number of castles among the Italians and Sicilians were very limited till the Normans obtained possession of these countries, we shall find good reason to believe

that the northern nations were the first to bring them into general use, as composing no small part of the power of the Barons under the feudal system, and by whom they were so much valued, that in the time of Henry II. there were no less than eleven hundred and fifteen castles in England. The feudal governments, although well calculated to resist invasion or aggression, were but poorly calculated for the internal repose of a kingdom: the nobles, powerful in their castles and the number of their retainers, obtained from their princes a perpetual and hereditary donation of those lands which had originally been granted to them during pleasure; and on condition of serving their sovereign in war with all their adherents, they also obtained the power of supreme jurisdiction, and the right of coining money within their own territory; as well as the privilege of waging war with each other on every petty occasion. Hence kingdoms became a collection of independent provinces, in a continual state of hostility with each other, disturbed by the eternal jarring interests and ambitious schemes of neighbouring barons; and it was to the disturbed state of the times under the feudal system, that England, and other countries, were indebted for the multitudinous introduction of those edifices, whose remains give a solemn grandeur to the beautiful scenery by which they are frequently surrounded. The oldest fortifications of which any vestiges remain in Great Britain, are the hill camps, often found on the summits of mountains; as the one on Mam Tor, or the Shivering Mountain, in Derbyshire; another on the top of one of the highest of the Malvern Hills, called the Herefordshire Beacon; attributed by turns to Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Britons; also, a very fine camp on the summit of a hill at Coxall in Herefordshire, and which is only accessible on one side. This strong hold is about six miles from Presteign, and is the last post that the gallant Caractacus held against the Romans, previous to the

battle which decided the fate of himself, his family, and his country, after he had bravely resisted, for nine years, the invaders of his kingdom. The conduct of Cartismandua, his stepmother, and Queen of the *Brigantes*, illustrates the observation of Tacitus, that "adversity has no friends;" for, when Caractacus, after the battle fled to her for refuge, she loaded him with irons, and delivered him to his conquerors.

We have many other remains of camps in Great Britain, but placed so high that they must frequently have been untenable for want of water. Of the Roman fortifications we have not much remaining; but it may be supposed that their camps were fortified with much care; for Boadicea, in a speech to her army, reproaches the Romans with cowardice for constructing works of such great strength and magnitude about their positions; and Cæsar, speaking of one of his camps, describes it as fortified with walls and towers, in a manner that would give it a near resemblance to the castles of later date. Ledwich, in his account of the Ancient Forts and Castles of Ireland, says—"From the mode of life, and the paucity of the Celtes (the primeval possessors of this isle), it cannot be supposed that they had much need of forts, or that there could exist many causes of jealousy or war." At the same time, I do not deny them the capability of securing themselves and their property by earthen works; they might also have retreated from danger to high hills. The Britons, in Cæsar's time, surrounded the skirt of a wood with a ditch and a rampart; and Mr. Whitaker has pointed out many of these forts in woods. On the arrival of the Firbolgs,* a dangerous state of hostility commenced between the old and new inhabitants;

* The Firbolgs were Belgæ from the northern parts of Gaul, and who occupied no inconsiderable portion of Britain long before the arrival of the Romans.—By Cæsar they are accurately distinguished from the aboriginal or Celtes.

the champaign forts no longer afforded protection; rising grounds and conical hills were now preferred, as more defensible, and less liable to surprise. As all the northern nations invariably selected such places for their keeps, castles, and garrisons, it is not unlikely that they suggested a similar practice to the Celtes, because the old custom of the latter is accurately distinguished from that of the former by Giraldus Cambrensis:—"The Irish," says he "have no castles; their woods serve them for camps, and their marshes for ditches." It was Targesius and his ostmen (Swedes and Norwegians), who formed that infinite number of earthen forts and castles made of lime and stone. By castles, this writer understands the keep, the citadel, or highest parts of these lofty forts; so that the Irish had neither fortification on hills, or of any other kind, but protected themselves in bogs or woods. Perched aloft on eminences, the Firbolgian forts resembled the eyries of ravenous birds, and were properly termed "*Nids de Tyrannie;*" and in Cambrensis, it is recommended by Targesius, the Danish chief, to the king of Meath, who asked him how he could rid his kingdom of those pestilent birds (the ostmen), to destroy their nests. To these Northerns, Cambrensis expressly ascribes those high round earthen forts, with deep ditches and triple entrenchments; as also the *castella murata*, in opposition to the *fopata*. However, I think no more is meant by *murata*, than that the keep was of lime and stone; or that a wall encircled the summit of the hill; which, in many places, remains to this day." After describing the raths, or mounds of earth, he continues:—"the *dun* or *din* was another kind of fort, and the same as the Welch *dinas*. This was originally an insulated rock, as is demonstrable from the word being applied to *duna miase*, *dundrum*, *dune*, and *dundunolf*, mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis: the latter was a cliff impending over the sea. It is doubtful whether *dun* be a Celtic or Teutonic word, if, as Fornandes relates, Scandinavia received its appellation from the rock forts of castles of the natives,

both the name and the practice were derived to us from the Firbolgian colonists. The *dins* or *dinas* in Wales, and the *dunes* in Scotland are very numerous, as may be seen in Cambden, Pennant, and others. *Dim*, in the promiscuous and vulgar use of terms, came to signify a high fort, whether of rock or of earth. "The Irish," says he, "give their fortifications the name of *duns*, a sort of temporary habitations made up with thick ditches and earth, square or circular, impaled, with wooden stakes, and surrounded with a deep trench; the area within the *dun* was laid high, so that they might annoy an attacking enemy the more advantageously." The castles of the feudal times were usually built upon an elevated site, or where the situation would admit, with a river on one or more of its sides; the others encompassed by a broad and deep ditch: within the ditch was placed the outer wall, of great thickness and height, strengthened with embrasures,* and round or square towers placed in the wall at intervals. In the towers were rooms for the accommodation of the subaltern officers of the garrison, store houses, &c. Near the top of the wall, on the inside, was a terrace, to which the troops had access by stairs; where they stood, as well as on the roofs of the towers, when it became necessary to defend the castle, discharging their arrows, &c. through the embrasures and loopholes, and using the various means of defence, according to the

* By the term embrasure, is generally understood, an opening or gap on the top of a wall, for the purposes of defence, although the term properly means an enlargement, either inwards or outwardly, of all apertures, as doors, windows, &c. for gaining additional room or light. The part of the wall which stands between the embrasures (as commonly understood), for the protection of its defenders, is called the merlon. Those walls which are even at the top are called barbets, and are now used when a gun requires a large traverse, as in firing at ships in motion; such are called barbet batteries.

customs of the times; as the *balista*, an engine much like the cross bow, in use for throwing stones and darts. The great power of these machines is noticed by Josephus, in his account of the Jewish Wars, where he states, that during the siege of Jerusalem, stones of such magnitude were thrown from the *ballistæ*, that they beat down the angles of the towers and the battlements from the walls; and that a man who stood near him had his head taken off by a stone at the distance of three hundred and seventy-five paces.

Many other engines, besides the *balista*, were used for similar purposes, as the *catapulta*, the *onager*, *scorpion*, *trobuchet*, *matafunda*, the *mategriffon*, the *bucolle*, *war-wolf*, *engine-a-verge*, the *espingal*, &c. &c. These engines were used in the eleventh and twelfth centuries for discharging all kinds of missiles; as fire, millstones, sometimes of three or four hundred weight, &c. In the line of the outer wall was placed the gate, the approach to which was generally by a draw-bridge across the moat; on each side of the gate stood a tower, embattled at the top, and furnished with loop holes to defend the entrance; the gates were made of solid oak timber, strongly nailed, and plated with iron; inside the gate, in grooves, was placed the ponderous portcullis, made of iron, or oak bars, and furnished along its lower edge with iron spikes, for the destruction of those on whom it might be dropped. This engine always hung suspended, and was only lowered on extraordinary occasions; as on the forcing of the great gate by an enemy; or when a part of them had entered the outer ballium (or the space between the outer and inner wall), the portcullis was suddenly dropped upon the entering foe, and not only destroyed those on whom it fell, but cut off the retreat of the party that had entered; who, if not immediately slain by the garrison, were made prisoners, and hurried to the vaults of the dungeon,

tower, or keep. At a moderate distance from the outer wall stood another, more lofty, and strengthened by massive towers, and often a second ditch, enclosing a large plot of ground, where the garrison could be reviewed or exercised. This place was called the inner *ballium;* and it was here that the huge principal tower, called the keep, or *dongeon*, was placed, in the foundations of which were kept the prisoners; whilst the upper rooms served for the residence of the baron or governor of the fortress: this tower was frequently built upon a mound of enormous height, and fitted up in a manner to render it capable of enduring a siege, even after the loss of the whole of the outer and inner works. Sometimes the entrance to the keep was placed at a considerable distance from the ground, as at the Castle of Coningsborough, in Yorkshire, and others, to which there could have been no access but by a ladder, that might when necessary, be drawn up, and thus cut off the approach. The walls of these *dongeons*, or keeps, were made of such vast strength, that previous to the invention of gunpowder, many of them must have been perfectly impregnable, whilst the garrison were sufficiently supplied with provisions and water. It was in this tower that the baron usually gave banquets to his friends, dependants, and vassals; pronounced judgment on his prisoners, from which there was no appeal; and not unfrequently perpetrated the foulest murders within its walls.

After the Norman mode of building, a new style of military architecture took place, in the reign of Edward I. and the castles built by him possess much grandeur and magnificence; Caerphilly Conway, Caernarvon, Harlech, and Beaumaris, bear ample testimony to the improved style of architecture adopted by that prince, and during his reign many of the older castles received additions, according to the improved taste of the age. After these came a style of greater sumptuousness, the first and finest

specimen of which was the truly royal Castle at Windsor, erected by Edward III. and soon after copied on a minor scale by his nobles.

We now arrive at the fashion of building which partook much of the castle in its appearance, without any of its uses, as is instanced in the castellated mansions previous to the time of Henry VIII. in whose reign, and also in Elizabeth's, the houses of the nobility began to assume a gaiety and cheerfulness of aspect that singularly contrasted with the dark and uncomfortable habitations of their ancestors; so much so, that Sir Walter Raleigh observed to a friend, that the houses of their times had so many windows, that people scarcely knew where to go for the benefit of a little shade.

In conclusion, I must remark, that it is not always easy to determine the era in which a castle may have been built, although some few general points may be noticed that will be of great utility in assisting us to form our conjectures, as the line, or double line of bricks, which occur in the walls of Roman edifices, at stated intervals, running in parallel lines through their whole length; the manner of filling up the space between the two stone facings of the wall will also assist, but not so satisfactorily as their arches, which were always semicircular, and formed without a key-stone: in the Saxon buildings we also find the arch invariably of the same figure, but highly ornamented with their favourite zig-zag embellishments, and the soffit, or under side, of the arch, for the most part, enriched with something of the same kind; whilst the Norman arches are always plain on the soffit. The early Norman arch, like the Roman and Saxon, was semicircular, nor was it till the beginning of the reign of Henry III. that the pointed arch was introduced into English military architecture. The Roman Castles are constructed with an inner and outer court, called *baileys*, and may be known by the magnitude of the

keep, which was mostly very lofty. The circular keeps are sometimes called *Juliets*, from an opinion that such towers were built by Julius Cæsar. There is another arch, of later times, which we find in castles and castellated mansions, called the Tudor arch, from the date of its introduction, during the reign of Henry VII.; it is of a low and expansive construction, pointed at the centre, and frequently appears as if actually depressed as it approximates to the summit: this arch has often an elegant effect, and belongs exclusively to buildings of the above or subsequent dates. It may not be uninteresting to add a short sketch of some of the ancient machinery used for the attack and defence of fortified places. The earliest account we have of such engines is in the second book of Chronicles, c. xxvi. v. 14, 15, where it is stated, that "Uzziah prepared for them, throughout all the host, shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows and arrows, and slings to cast stones; and he made, in Jerusalem, *engines invented by cunning men*, to be on the towers, and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal; and his name spread far abroad, for he was marvellously helped till he was strong." One of the simplest machines of the ancients for throwing stones, fire, &c. was the *scorpion*, or *onager*, (wild ass), an instrument of the simplest construction, being only a long lever, with a very powerful weight hung at the shorter arm, which, when let fall, raised the longer end with such velocity, that whatever had been placed upon it was discharged with great force. The projectile power of the lever was also increased by striking against a transverse beam, with a horse-hair cushion fixed beneath it, so that the lever was suddenly arrested in its ascent before it had lost its force, by which means the loading was discharged with a greater jet. The *scorpion* is mentioned by Livy, in his Inventory of Warlike Stores found by Scipio, at Carthagena. In the list he names one hundred and twenty *catapultas* of the larger size; two hundred and eighty-one of the smaller; twenty-three of the

greater *ballistæ;* and of the smaller, fifty-two; with an innumerable quantity of *scorpions* of different sizes, &c. Of the *ballistæ,* one is mentioned by Tacitus, of such uncommon size, used at Cremona, by the Vitellians, during a siege, that when it had been rendered useless by some of the besiegers, who had advanced boldly and cut the ropes and springs that gave it power, the besieged, in a fit of desperation, rolled down the machine upon the heads of the assailants; but not having sufficiently freed it from its tackling, it drew after it not only part of the wall and parapet, but the whole of a neighbouring tower, crushing to death a great number of the besieging Romans. Perhaps the earliest instance of the use of these machines, to be found in prophane history, is, when Dionysius, the tyrant of Syracuse, besieged Motya, in Sicily, three hundred and seventy years before the birth of our Saviour. Having succeeded in battering down part of the wall with the rams, he caused large wooden towers* to be moved forwards upon wheels, from which he assailed the besieged with continual volleys of stones, &c. thrown from his *catapultas,* till the surrender of the town. It is supposed that the Romans were the first to introduce into England the use of these machines, and they were, probably, for the first time employed at the battle of

* The towers here alluded to were made of wood, and placed upon wheels, and were always of sufficient height to be on a level, or above the walls, of the place besieged: these towers were, consequently, of various sizes, the larger being sometimes ninety feet high, consisting of about twenty stories, each story being something less than the one beneath it, so that the whole tower decreased in magnitude upwards; on the top was placed a bridge, to be lowered down upon the parapet, when a place was to be taken by storm; and the whole fabric was covered with skins of animals to protect it against fire: in the lower part of the tower a battering ram was usually placed. The last construction of this kind, in England, was used by the Parlimentary forces, at the siege of Corfe Castle. It appears, by Camden, that Edward III. used one of these machines, then called a sow, at the siege of Dunbar Castle.

Hastings. It was also the Romans who introduced the custom of building the keeps, or *dongeon*, upon those lofty mounds, in such a manner, that the favourite iron battering ram of the Romans could be of no avail, for want of ground to place them upon. Amongst the most effective missiles of antiquity must be reckoned an artificial fire, called the Greek or Saracenic fire: it obtained its latter name from having been used by the Saracens in their combats with the Christians during the Crusades. The manner of making this destructive missile, as stated by Leonardi da Vinci, was, by mixing over a fire, the charcoal of willow, with nitre, brandy, resin, sulphur, pitch, and camphor; or, according to another formula, it was made of sulphur, naptha, pitch, gum, and bitumen: whilst these mixtures were hot, a woollen cord was plunged into them, and afterwards made into balls; these balls were sometimes armed with iron spikes, to enable them to hold where they fell—this was called by the Greeks the marine fire, on account of the property it possessed of burning under water, nor was any other method known of extinguishing it than by sand moistened with vinegar, or by smothering it with dust. This fire was thrown from ramparts in large boilers, or discharged by darts and arrows, twisted with tow, and strongly impregnated with the composition. It was used both by the Greeks and Romans, at sea, as well as on land, and always threw the greatest confusion amongst cavalry; and is also described as making the most awful appearance by night, whilst flying through the air, producing the brilliancy of lightning, with the noise of thunder. But the superior inventions of later times have entirely destroyed the value of the most boasted modes of ancient warfare, having rendered their fortresses no longer tenable, and their choicest engines uncertain and futile, when compared with the effect of bomb-shells and Congreve rockets, fired with all the precision of modern gunnery.

BURGH CASTLE.

Suffolk.

BURGH CASTLE is situated not far from Yarmouth, and is one of the small number of Roman fortresses in Great Britain, of which there are any walls remaining. This camp, the *Garianonum* of the Romans, is placed at the confluence of two rivers, the Yare and the Waveney, upon a gentle eminence, and is supposed to have been founded by Publius Ostorius Scapula, the conqueror of the *Iceni*, during the reign of Claudius. It would appear that the waters of the Yare once washed its western side, from the circumstances of the fort not having a wall on that side, and the occasional discovery of iron rings, pieces of anchors, marine shells, &c. on digging the ground close up to the fort. This camp forms a parallelogram of one hundred and eight yards on the two longest sides, which lie to the north and south. The length of the ends is about fifty yards, and the whole of the area within contains something more than four acres, or about five acres, two roods, including the ramparts. The walls, as was usual among the buildings of the Romans, are ornamented with parallel lines of brick or tiles at stated intervals, running through the whole length of the masonry, and are strengthened in several places with circular bastions or buttresses of solid stone work, about forty feet in circumference, and which also have the same regular courses of tile or brick; the thickness of wall is about nine feet, and its height fourteen. By the fall of one of the bastions at the south end, we perceive that the foundation of the masonry is laid upon oak planks two inches in thickness, well covered over with a layer of mortar, and immediately upon this are placed the first layers of stone. Burgh Castle has been one of the camps called *Castra Stativa*, or permanent camps, where it was intended or necessary that the forces

should remain stationary, either for the winter, or a longer time. The Romans had also their summer camps, or *Castra Estiva*, which were of much slighter construction; seldom having any fosse or rampart, but merely an entrenchment or breast-work of earth hastily thrown up, and generally about five feet high: such camps were only for a short stay, or as a resting place on a march.—It is impossible to turn from the contemplation of a camp of such antiquity as this, without contrasting the sanguinary mode of making war among the ancients, with those improvements in modern warfare, which, at first sight, would seem to have increased the destruction of the human race, as the means became more powerful and multiplied, rather than the contrary effect which those increased and improved means have produced; for if we compare the battles of the ancients with those of later times, the difference in the numbers of the slain, is astonishing. A celebrated French writer remarks, that the modern European battles appear only as skirmishes when compared with the engagements of the Asiatics, who have made little or no improvements since the oldest times. They come together in prodigious crowds, wholly undisciplined, and mingling together, meet man to man, and the battle rages with equal fury from the beginning till the conclusion, whilst any of the combatants keep their ground. The great numbers that were brought into the field during the earlier ages almost exceed belief. We find it stated in Diodorus Siculus, that Sesostris, when proceeding on his expedition into Upper Asia, had with him six hundred thousand foot, twenty-seven thousand horse, and twenty-four thousand chariots. In the same author, the amount of the armies of Ninus and Semiramis is made between two and three millions of men. In Herodotus, we learn that Darius led seven hundred thousand of his people against the Scythians; and when Xerxes invaded Greece, his army is said, by the same writer, to have amounted to above five millions—two millions one hundred thousand of which were land forces, the rest acted by sea. Nor is it in prophane history alone that we find these immense armies mentioned, for we read in the Scriptures, that the Jewish monarch Asa, entirely destroyed an army of one million of men that had invaded Judea, under their prince and leader Zera; and many other instances of the same nature frequently occur in the sacred text. If we turn to the Asiatics of later times, we find them precisely in the footsteps of their predecessors; and the mind revolts at the disgusting recital of the wholesale murders committed on each other by the various nations of that vast Continent. For example:—when Ghenghis Khan took Karazm, the capital of Mahommed, two

millions of persons were destroyed, one million sold for slaves, and ninety thousand shot to death with arrows, in cold blood, on the plains of Nesa. In the cities of Nishabûr and Tûs, with their territories, one million seven hundred and forty thousand persons were massacred, and in the district of Herat, one million six hundred thousand suffered in like manner. In his last battle with the rebels at Taugut, three hundred thousand men perished; and to conclude the shocking detail, this same Ghengis Khan, during the first fourteen years of the Mongul empire, according to the Chinese records, destroyed eighteen millions of persons.

The finest remains of Roman stations in Great Britain, where the walls are yet partially standing, are to be found at Richborough in Kent; Silchester in Hampshire; Pevensey in Sussex; Burgh Castle in Suffolk; and Porchester in Hampshire.

ENTRANCE TO CONINGSBURG CASTLE.

Yorkshire.

THIS Castle, the name of which signifies the King's Town, is, perhaps, the oldest specimen of its kind remaining. It is of undoubted Saxon origin, and supposed to have been erected by Hengist. He came to England with his brother Horsa, in the year 449, at the request of the Britons, who found themselves unable to resist the repeated invasions of the Picts and Scots. Hengist, after many battles with Vortimer, the son and successor of the deposed Vortigern, succeeded in making himself completely master of some of the southern counties, when he took the title of king. Forty years after his first entry into Britain, he was defeated at Coningsburg, taken prisoner, and beheaded by Ambrosius, a British general, of Roman extraction, and so great a favourite of the Britons, that he was afterwards elected king of all England. It is to this general that Geoffry of Monmouth ascribes the erection of Stonehenge, as a monument of the massacre of three hundred of the British nobles by the Saxons, although this opinion is not received by antiquarians. In one of the buttresses that support the great tower, near the top, is a beautiful and most perfect chapel, of the Saxon order of architecture; which, joined to the circumstance of an uncouth idol found in the castle, gives much weight to the supposition, that it was erected previous to the introduction of Christianity, as the worship of various idols was continued by the Saxons till the time of Ethelbert, the great grandson of Hengist; when the pure light of the Gospel first dawned upon our uncultured ancestors.

The first appearance of Coningsburg Castle is extremely imposing. The lofty keep is seen above the tall ash trees that cover the whole of the sides and summit of the mound: in the vale beneath, and ascending the hill on which the castle is seated, rises a neat and picturesque village of white-washed cottages and handsome houses, ornamented with terraced gardens, along the side of the hill: at the bottom of the valley, and near the edge of the castle moat, stands a small water mill, so antique in its appearance, that a casual observer would be disposed to declare it coeval with its ancient neighbour; and, from the happy site that it occupies, it is very probable that a mill may have been in the same situation ever since the first inhabitants of the castle or village had occasion for one.

The approach to the castle winds beautifully through a grove of ash trees towards the north side, where the drawbridge of the principal entrance hung; the deep moat, that surrounds the castle on every side, is here filled up with rubbish, making an excellent pathway to the inner works. The entrance appears to have been by a covered way, the side walls of which still remain, proceeding from the drawbridge to the inner court of the castle, forming a winding path of about thirty or forty yards long, and ten feet in width. Where this path ends the remains of steps appear, as if a gateway or entrance to some building had stood there. From this point, along the whole of the north and east walls, appear the ruins of lodging rooms, storehouses, and kitchens for the accommodation of the garrison. Nearly the whole of the outer wall is standing, strengthened by the remains of eight round towers of solid stone-work. Two of these rounders form a principal feature in the view of the north entrance, and the remains of two others are seen amongst the trees to the right; one of them so far sunk that it seems to have been undermined, and is scarcely perceptible through the weeds and ivy by which it is overgrown.

KEEP OF CONINGSBURG CASTLE.

AT the south-east corner of the mound stands the massive keep, a circular tower of extraordinary strength and height, it is supported by six square buttresses atequal distances from each other, that reach from the bottom to the top of the tower, where they are continued about ten feet above the walls. In the tops of three of these buttresses are alcoves sufficiently large to admit five or six men upright: one of these buttresses, instead of an alcove, has an oven in very good repair, and very much like the ovens now in use; but whether it was intended to cook, for the annoyance of an enemy, or the convenience of the inhabitants, it is not easy to say. On the buttress nearest to the head of the stairs that lead on to the top of the castle, are some ruined steps, by which the warder, or centinel, might gain a greater elevation for reconnoitring. This station is much like what is called John of Gaunt's Chair on Lancaster Castle, and commands a fine view of the whole of the surrounding country; from which every movement of the village beneath, or on the river Don, winding near the foot of the castle; in every adjacent hamlet; and along the sides of the hills, might be distinctly observed, baffled by no impediments except the thick foliage of the distant woods, where, in after ages, Robin Hood performed so many of his gallant exploits.

Both the tower and its buttresses are of much greater diameter below than above, expanding gradually at about twenty feet from the ground to the foundation.

The tower stands in the outer wall, so that near one-third of its circumference constitutes part of the line of outer works. The entrance to the tower is by a door facing to the south-west, at a considerable height from the ground, to which there could have been no other access but by a ladder, which the inhabitants might draw to the inside for security: at present the approach is by a flight of steps of a much later date. On each side of the door, on the outside, is a small square recess, sunk in the stone-work, at about two inches in depth and six inches square; but for what purpose this has been intended is not easily

divined, unless it was to prevent the ends of a ladder from slipping, and for such a purpose it would have been much better had the lower edges of the recesses been levelled away. In the sides of the door-way are deep lateral holes, to admit the motion of the bars backwards and forwards which secured the door. At the door the wall is about sixteen feet thick, and within the wall runs an arched staircase of excellent workmanship, to the upper rooms of the tower. The first apartment that is entered may with propriety be called the first floor, and has no admission for the light but what might have been received from above, or from the door. In the centre of the floor, which is of stone, is a circular hole, of highly-finished masonry at the rim, and which leads down to a dark vaulted room in the foundation of the castle; this vault has doubtless been the prison, and although it has been described as nearly filled with rubbish, it requires a ladder of some length to reach the bottom with safety; from this dark room, if we may believe tradition, there was a subterranean outlet, that led beneath the moat of the castle to the neighbouring country. There were three floors in the tower, including the first at the entrance, now the only one remaining, and as the roof is entirely gone, the first appearance, on arriving at the interior, is like that of a vast well, supposing the spectator to be placed at the bottom. On the second floor is a large and richly-ornamented fire-place, with a clustered column, and carved capitals on each side, supporting the chimney-piece. Near the fire-place is a square stone trough, placed in the wall, and near it a door to a small room or closet in one of the buttresses; the larger room is enlightened by a large window, opposite the fire-place, round the bottom of which is a stone seat; the top of this window is arched. In the story above this is another fire-place, not so large as the one below, but decorated in the same manner, with pillars at its sides; this room also received its light from an arched window similar to the window beneath: and a trough is also set in the wall, near the fire-place. It is on this story that the chapel, hereafter described, is placed in one of the buttresses, and which is entered by a door facing the fire-place; the entrance to this chapel is gained with the greatest danger and difficulty; the person attempting it is obliged to step carefully on a narrow ledge, carrying the body perfectly straight, and holding by large nails that have been driven into the wall for the purposes of support. The author entered this chapel by means of planks, laid upon two of the blocks which project from the walls round the tower, the supporters of the ancient floor. By these means

the passage is rendered comparatively easy, and without danger to those who can prevent themselves from looking down into the dark and yawning mouth of the dungeon below; and we could recommend to all who wish to visit this elegant and perfect specimen of Saxon architecture, to send a carpenter from the village, with a ladder and a couple of stout planks, and thus save themselves much dangerous scrambling along narrow ledges, where even the precarious support of nails driven into the walls are not always to be found. The stairs to the top of the castle are gained by a door near to that of the chapel, and at the foot of these stairs is a winding passage to a place that appears to have been the principal sink of the castle; it is placed in an angle of the tower and one of the buttresses, and overhangs that part of the mound which is outside the fortress. At the top of the tower the walls are about ten feet thick, affording a very good foot-way to the alcoves, oven, &c. in the head of the buttresses already mentioned.

CHAPEL IN CONINGSBURG CASTLE.

THE chapel is a recess in the solid masonry of the buttress, on the third story, and, from the great difficulty of access, has been admirably preserved from injury. It receives light from three apertures, small on the outside, and gradually enlarging to the interior: the one facing the door is a niche or loop hole, six feet high, that expands in all directions inwardly, till it forms a handsome ornamented Saxon arch. Betwen the pillars on each side is a circular aperture, facing each other, and opening to the air in the form of a rose or *quatrefeuille:* beneath each of these is a small recess in the wall, arched at the top, in the trefoil form; these small recesses appear to have been for the reception of idols, and it is remarkable, that at the bottom of each recess is a small hole, penetrating downwards in to the wall, perhaps for the purposes of communication. From this chapel there is a door into a very small apartment not more than six feet square, and about seven feet high, with an arched recess in the wall, similar to those in the chapel, but a little larger. The principal room or chapel is about eleven or twelve feet in length, and about eight feet wide at the middle, being rather narrower at the ends; the floor forming a lengthened hexagonal figure. In the view of the great tower, the situation of this chapel is exactly pointed out by the *quatrefoil* aperture near the top of the right hand buttress, and the accompanying view of the interior of the chapel will convey a much better idea of its intersecting arched roof than any written description.

BROUGHAM CASTLE.

Westmoreland.

MR. GROSE is of opinion, that much of Brougham Castle, particularly the keep, is of Roman origin, and as we have no account of its foundation, it is not easy to deny it, although there is good reason to think that much the greater part of it is of later times. This castle is about one mile from Penrith, and, according to Hutchinson, is seated "on the north side of the Roman Station, *Bronovaicum*, which has formed an area and out-work one hundred and twenty paces square, defended by the vallum, and an outward ditch, both at this time very discernible. The angles of this camp are very obtuse, like most others of that people. This was the station of a band of *Defensores* [*Camden's Britannia*], and in the book of Notices is laid down as being seventeen English miles from *Verterae*. Brougham was the lordship and castle of the Viponts, included in the barony of Appleby and Brough, given to Robert de Vipont by King John, from whose family it descended to the Cliffords; but who was the founder is not known. On the outward gate, the remains of the arms of the Vallibus, or Vaulx family, are to be observed, being *chegney*, *or*, and *gules*, from whence I am led to conjecture they were builders, or great contributors to the works. The approach to this castle is guarded by an outward vaulted gateway and tower, with a portcullis, and at the distance of about twenty paces, an inward vaulted gateway of ribbed arches, with a portcullis, through which you enter a spacious area, defended by a lofty wall. The lower apartment in the principal tower still remains entire (A. D. 1776), being a square of twenty feet, covered with a vaulted roof of stone, consisting of eight arches of light and excellent workmanship. The groins are ornamented with various grotesque heads, and supported in the centre by an octagon pillar about four feet in circumference, with a capital and base of Norman architecture. In the centre of each arch

rings are fixed, as if designed for lamps to illuminate the vault. From the construction of this cell, and its situation in the chief tower of the fortress, it is not probable it was formed for a prison, but rather was used, at the time of siege and assault, as the retreat of the chief persons of the household." Dr. Burn, in his History of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland states, that " after the death of John de Vileripont, during the minority of his son, who was ward to the prior of Carlisle, we find by an inquisition then taken, that the said prior had suffered the Walls and *House of Brougham* to go to decay for want of repairing the gutters and roof; that a certain bercary, or sheep-fold, was fallen down for the length of five-score feet, for want of support, that the timber was alienated; and one forge reduced to nothing by the neglect of repairs." The Reverend Mr. Hodgson, in his Description of Westmoreland, infers from the words, *House of Brougham*, that at that time no licence had been obtained to embattle it, which, if we grant him, it is not sufficient argument that no castle, or Roman ruins existed on the spot previous to the augmentation of the castle, or obtaining a licence for its embattlement; for, seated as this castle is, close to the edge of a beautiful ford, with a hard bottom, and passable almost at all times, it is not likely that the Romans, who knew so well the value of position, should neglect every possible precaution that they were enabled to plant, for the obstruction and command of this passage, when necessary; and on this reason alone, I feel disposed to favour the opinion of Mr. Grose. Dr. Burn says, ". that the first Roger Lord Clifford, built the greatest part of this castle; over the inner door of which he placed the following inscription—" This Made Roger." By the inquisition after the death of Robert, son of the said Roger, it was found that he died seized of the Castle of Brougham, with eight-score acres of arable land, worth yearly fourpence per acre; and forty acres of meadow worth twelvepence per acre; that he had no messuages there, but only three cottrells (for that he was not lord of the vill), each of which cottrells was worth twelvepence yearly; that he had there also one water-mill, worth twenty shillings yearly. Roger de Clifford, grandson to the said Robert, built the greatest part of this castle, next unto the east, where he caused his own arms, together with those of his wife, Maud Beauchamp, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, to be cut in stone. There is a pond called Maud's Pond, which bears her name to this day (A. D. 1777). By an inquisition

after her death, in the Fourth of Henry IV. the jurors find that the Castle of Brougham, and demesne thereto belonging, were worth nothing, because they say it lieth altogether waste, by reason of the destruction of the country made by the Scots, and that the whole profit of the castle and demesne is not sufficient for the reparation and safe keeping of the said castle." King James, on his last journey out of Scotland, rested here three days, in the month of August, 1617, and was handsomely entertained by Francis Earl of Cumberland and Henry Lord Clifford his son.

This castle having been again laid waste during the Civil Wars, it was repaired by Anne Countess of Pembroke, who caused the following inscription to be carved in stone, and placed in the wall. "This Brougham Castle was repaired by Ladie Anne Clifford, Countesse Dowager of Pembrooke, Dorsett, and Montgomery, Baroness Clifford, Westmerland, and Veseie, Ladie of the Honour of Skipton-in-Craven, and High Sherifesse, by inheritance, of the countie of Westmerland, in the years 1651 and 1652, after it had layin ruinous ever since about August 1617, when King James lay in it for a time in his journey out of Skotland towards London, until this time." [*Isa. chap.* 58, *verse* 12.] "God's name be praised." The Countess Anne says—"After I had been there myself to direct the building of it, did I cause my old decayed Castle of Brougham to be repaired, and also the tower called the *Roman Tower* in the said old Castle, and the Court House for keeping my Courts in, with some dozen or fourteen rooms to be built in it upon the old foundation." [*Pem. Memoirs.*]

On the decease of the countess, this castle was much neglected, and the dilapidations carried to such extent, that the stone, timber, and lead were sold for £.100, to two attornies in Penrith, and again resold by public auctions in the year 1714;—and many specimens of the ancient wainscotting may still be found among the neighbouring villagers, by whose ancestors it had been purchased.

This castle contains much interesting matter for the antiquarian, as well as the admirer of picturesque scenery; and its distance from Penrith has been considerably shortened by the erection of a new bridge over the Emont at this place, a few years since.

SALTWOOD CASTLE.

Kent.

THE early history of this castle is involved in so much doubt, that instead of obtruding any additional conjectures, I prefer extracting the following account from Harris's History of Kent, published about one hundred years since,* including also, in his account, what he is pleased to call "a pleasant story."———He says, that Dr. Gale judges this castle to have been built in the Romans' time, and saith, that he found in an old manuscript, that the town of Hithe did once belong to it; and perhaps it was built when Hithe first became a port, for its defence, and that of the adjoining sea coast, against the piratical attempts of the Saxons. The Doctor saith also, that several Roman antiquities have been found at Newington, an adjacent village; and Dr. Plott, in his manuscript about the Roman ways in this country, observed a paved way made after the Roman manner, all the way up the hill, not only to the castle, for that, possibly, saith he, might be done by some of the archbishops, for their own convenience, but a mile further on, towards the Stone-Street Way. And I think it probable enough, that after the Romans had, by the inundations of the sea, lost their posts at Stutfall, West Hithe and Buttolph's Bridge, and did at last remove to the present Hithe, they made that causeway to accommodate the way to *Durovernum*, or Canterbury. Dr. Plott saith also, that an anchor was ploughed up near Saltwood Castle, in the valley; which seems to indicate that

* In 1719.

the sea once covered that place, and made a harbour near this castle. Kilburn saith, this castle was built by Orse or Usk, son of Hengist, King of Kent, which, perhaps, was only a repair or enlargement of the old one built before by the Romans; as was also what was done to it by Henry of Essex Baron Raleigh, and for a time Lord Warden of the ports; who held it of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in King Henry II.'s time; but being accused of treason, by Robert de Montford, for cowardly deserting the king's standard at a battle in Wales; and being vanquished by him in single combat, which he demanded in his own vindication, and left for dead upon the spot, King Henry II. seized on the castle, and kept it in his possession all his reign, as did King Richard I. after him; but King John, in his first year, restored it to the archbishop, to whose see it had been given, at first by Halden [A. D. 1036], a great man in the Saxon times. In King Henry II.'s time, it was accounted an honour, and had several places held of it; as appears from a passage in Matt. Paris, and cited by Lambard, wherein he saith, King Henry II. restored to Thomas Becket (on their accommodation) all his goods and possessions, and ordered a meeting of the knights and eminent men holding of the honour of Saltwood, to enquire into the archbishop's rights and fees, in order to his being put into possession of them again. Archbishop Courtney built very much here, beautifying and enlarging it, and either he, which is most probable, or some of his predecessors, inclosed a park about it, and made it an usual place of residence. And Lambard tells a pleasant story of the pride and loftiness of this great prelate, which was transacted here. Some poor men of his manor of Whingham having carried him some straw or hay, not decently in carts as ought to be done to an archbishop, but slovenly in sacks, on their horses' backs, he summoned them to this Castle of Saltwood, and after having *rated them soundly with proper efforts of wrath*, he bound them by oath to obey him, and then enjoined them for penance, that they should all march in procession bareheaded and barelegged, with each one a sack of straw on his back, so open at the mouth that the straw might appear, to disgrace them for their disrespect. — It continued part of the archiepiscopal revenue till the twenty-ninth year of Henry VIII. but then Thomas Cranmer exchanged it with that prince for other lands, and King Edward VI. in his First year, granted it to John Earl of Warwick and Joan his wife, but somehow coming to the crown again, that king, in his fourth year granted it to Edward

Lord Clinton, and in the last year of the reign confirmed it to them, together with the bailiwick of Hithe. But not long after he sold Saltwood to Mr. Thomas Broadnax, who parted with it the same way to Knatchbull; and Mr. Reginald Knatchbull, in the Thirty-first year of Queen Elizabeth, sold it to Mr. Gibbons, from whom, in two years time, it went the same way to Sir Norton Knatchbull; and he, in four years after, demised it to Robert Cranmer, Esq. by whose daughter and heir, Anne Cranmer, it passed in marriage to Sir Arthur Harris, of Crixey, in Essex; and his son, Sir Cranmer Harris, alienated it to Sir William Boteler, father to Sir Oliver Boteler, the possessor in Philpot's time; and his son, Sir Philip Boteler, A.D. 1712, sold it to Brook Bridges, Esq. senior, together with the Grange Farm, and several other lands." It was at this castle the meeting took place between Reginald Fitz-Urse, William de Traci, Hugh de Mouville, and Richard de Brito, four gentlemen of the king's household, who had left Baïeux, in France, unknown to the king, who then resided there, for the purpose of assassinating Thomas-à-Becket Archbishop of Canterbury, and having added some assistants to their number, proceeded immediately to the archiepiscopal residence, and from thence followed him to the church of St. Benedict, where the fearless prelate had gone, with very few attendants, to hear vespers. And here, before the altar of this church, the infatuated archbishop was murdered by repeated blows on the head. It would be foreign to our purpose to state the multitudinous vexations that Henry II. suffered from the insubordinate and ambitious spirit of Becket, a man surpassing in pomp and luxury* any subject that England had till that time known; but we cannot withold the following statement from Hume, of what appears to have been one of the earliest subjects of dispute between Henry and his primate, as serving to mark the shameless license and brutality of the age. "The ecclesiastics in that age had renounced all immediate subordi-

* Among other articles of luxurious extravagance that Becket is said to have indulged in, is reckoned, that he had his rooms covered every day in summer with green rushes or boughs of trees, and in winter with fresh hay or straw, that the gentlemen who attended him might be enabled to sit on the floor without sullying their dress, when the dinner or supper table was too full to allow them a seat.

nation to the magistrate: they openly pretended to an exemption, in criminal accusations, from a trial before courts of justice; and were gradually introducing a like exemption in civil causes: spiritual penalties alone could be inflicted on their offences; and as the clergy had extremely multiplied in England, and many of them were consequently of very low characters, crimes of the deepest dye, murders, robberies, adulteries, rapes, were daily committed with impunity by the ecclesiastics. It had been found, for instance, on enquiry, that no less than a hundred murders had, since the king's accession (nine years), "been perpetrated by men of that profession, who had never been called to account for these offences; and holy orders were become a full protection for all enormities. A clerk in Worcestershire having debauched a gentleman's daughter, had, at this time, proceeded to murder the father; and the general indignation against this crime, moved the king to attempt the remedy of an abuse which was become so palpable, and to require that the clerk should be delivered up, and receive condign punishment from the magistrate. Becket insisted on the privileges of the church, confined the criminal in the bishop's prison, lest he should be seized by the king's officers; maintained that no greater punishment could be inflicted on him than degradation: and when the king demanded, that immediately after he was degraded he should be tried by the civil power, the primate asserted that it was iniquitous to try a man twice upon the same accusation, and for the same offence."

GROSMONT CASTLE.

Monmouthshire.

ON the high banks of the little river Monnow, one of the tributaries of the Wye, stands the Castle of Grosmont, once the favourite residence of the Earls of Lancaster, to whom it had been granted by Henry III. although formerly belonging to the families of Braoze and Cantilupe. Henry, the grandson of Edmund Crouckback, surnamed Grosmont, or Grismont, from the place of his birth, was particularly attached to this place. The castle is surrounded by a dry ditch, and was also strengthened by a barbican,* carried out towards the south-east, and of which some small remains are still discoverable. Although the pointed arches of the windows and doorway mark the erection of this castle to have taken place during, or subsequent to the reign of Henry II. there is reason to think that the foundations existed long prior to the time of that monarch. The form of the building is irregular, with circular towers at the angles of the walls; some traces of the great hall still remain, as well as several indications of other apartments. On the north side of the castle are the ruins of an apartment, with a tall pinnacle-fashioned chimney, crowned on the top with a coronet. The whole of the

* The barbican is an outwork for the protection of the principal entrance, and is usually a wall or tower, from which an approaching enemy might easily be annoyed. The term is sometimes used for a fort at the entrance of a bridge, and in large fortresses, or fortified towns, the barbacan is proportionally strong, having towers, ditch, and drawbridge of its own.

buildings are now so covered with ivy, that when seen in some directions, the castle has more the appearance of a grove than a fortress. The surrounding country is delightful, and were the roads made passable both this and the old British fortress of Skinfrith, which is distant about four miles, would be much oftener visited by the antiquarian and the admirer of picturesque beauties.

DOVER CASTLE.

Kent.

THE vicinity of the French coast, which appears in the accompanying view, has rendered Dover, in all ages, so important, that it has gained the title of the key and barrier of the whole kingdom. The commanding situation on which the castle is placed, and the proximity of the opposite shores, must have induced the earliest inhabitants of England to have had a fortress here long before the date of any accounts that have reached our own times. From the various and numerous antique remains in this place, there can be no doubt but the Romans were fully concious of the value and strength of the position, and the ruins of their camp yet remain so well indicated, as to shew that the figure of it, very nearly approached the oval. It is said that Arviragus, the son of Kymbeline, and who had formerly defeated the Romans under Claudius, fortified himself in Dover Castle, when preparing to resist the forces of Julius Cæsar; and William the Conqueror, when about to release Harold from Rouen, made him promise on oath, to give up to him the Castle of Dover, and the well within it, on the death of King Edward, being well aware of the importance of the place for the furtherance of his future views.

One of the most ancient parts of this fortress is an octagonal building called the Pharos, the interior of which is a square. In the turning of the various arches used in this building, the Roman tile is employed, with alternations of stone, cut into the shape of a wedge, and near the edifice stands a church in a perfectly ruinous condition, supposed to have been built in the second century; which is sufficiently probable, if it be true that Joseph of Arimathea planted the gospel in

Great Britain during the life time of the above-mentioned Arviragus. Dover Castle has received so many additions, and undergone so many changes in the successive reigns of our sovereigns, but more particularly during the last war, that to describe it in its present state would be quite foreign to my intention, as I have not proposed, in this work, to enter into an account of batteries, casemates, subterranean chambers, galleries, magazines, and all the modern paraphernalia of war, that abound in this extensive fortification, which now covers thirty-five acres of ground, affording accommodation, in the excavated works alone, for upwards of two thousand men. The castle may be said to consist of two courts, an upper and a lower, defended by deep trenches; the curtain of the wall of the lower court is strengthened by towers of almost every possible shape, according to the varying tastes of the different ages in which they were constructed: eight or nine of these towers are supposed to be of Norman architecture, but the most ancient is one on the eastern side, said to have been built by Earl Goodwin, constable of this castle in the reign of Edward the Confessor. The keep is a lofty quadrangular tower, standing in the centre of the upper court, and now converted into a magazine for gunpowder. This tower was built by Henry II. The view which we have given is taken from the road leading from the castle into the Deal road, and commands one of the noblest prospects that can be found from our shores. The line of French coast from Calais towards Boulogne bounds the narrow channel that separates the two kingdoms from each other, and which is constantly enlivened by the vessels of all nations, as well as the continual passing and repassing of packets to the opposite shores. In the right of the annexed view appears a distant view of the town and port of Dover, a place almost unequalled for the exportation and importation of travellers from every part of the continent and our own islands.

PEEL CASTLE.

Isle of Man.

ON a small island called Zore, or Sodor, which lies within gunshot on the west side of the Isle of Man, stands the fortress of Peel Castle, more remarkable for the antiquity of its internal remains than its outer works, which enclose the whole of the island, an area of about two acres. The Isle of Man, to which Zore belongs, anciently constituted an independant sovereignty, governed by a succession of kings of Norwegian race, till the death of Magnus, in 1265, when Alexander III. King of Scotland, took possession of the Isle of Man, at the same time that he recovered the Hebrides, and governed it by his thanes, who so much oppressed the inhabitants, that a general massacre of the Scots was contemplated. This, however, was laid aside at the request of their bishop, who proposed, as a more humane expedient, that a pitched battle should be fought between thirty of their own warriors, and an equal number of the Scots; the Scots accepted the challenge, and were victorious, having five of their number left, whilst the whole of the Manx Men were killed, although the Scotch thane was pressed to death in the crowd that attended the battle. After this the natives submitted quietly to the yoke of their conquerors, and continued under the Scottish dominion, till Sir William Montacute, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, succeeded, in the reign of Edward III. by whom he was much assisted, in taking it from the Scots, and was crowned sovereign of the isle, which he claimed in right of his wife, a great grand-daughter of Godred Crovan. This was in the year 1344. Sir William Montacute wanting money, was obliged shortly afterwards to mortgage the island to Beck, Bishop of Durham, and after the

bishop's death, sold it to William le Scrope, chamberlain to Richard II. In the year 1393, during the reign of Henry IV. Man was bestowed on the Earl of Northumberland.

The earl was, by an act of attainder, afterwards deprived of all his possessions, but recovered them again, except this island, which was given by Henry to Sir John Stanley, one of whose descendants was created earl of Derby, by Henry VII. It remained in this family, with a short interruption, during the interregnum, when it was given to Lord Fairfax by the Parliament, till the year 1735, when it came into the possession of the second duke of Athol by marriage, and default of male issue in the Stanley line. In the year 1765, the British Government purchased the island of the duke's successor, for £.70,000, for the purpose of suppressing the smugglers, who had made this island their grand depôt, and done great injury to the revenue. The following description of the Castle and Cathedral of Peel is borrowed from the Antiquities of Captain Grose. " Peel Castle stands on a small rocky island, about one hundred yards north of the town. The channel which divides it from the main island, at high water, is very deep, but when the tide is out is scarcely mid-leg deep, being only separated by a little rivulet which flows from Kirk Jarmyn Mountains. The entrance into this island is on the south side, where a flight of stone steps, now nearly demolished, though strongly cramped with iron, come over the rocks to the water's edge, and turning to the left, others lead through a gateway, on the side of a square tower, to the castle. Adjoining to this tower is a strong vaulted guard-room. The walls enclose an irregular polygon, containing about two acres. They are flanked with towers, and are remarkably rough, being built with a coarse grey stone, but coigned and faced in many parts, with a red grit found in the neighbourhood. It is highly probable that this island has been fortified in some manner ever since the churches were built; but the present works are said, by Bishop Wilson, to have been constructed by Thomas Earl of Derby, who first encompassed it with a wall, probably about the year 1500.

CATHEDRAL IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

HERE are the remains of two churches, one dedicated to St. Patrick, the era of its erection unknown; the other called St. Germain's, or the Cathedral, constructed about the year 1245. It is built in the form of a cross, with a coarse grey stone; but the angles, window-cases, and arches are coigned, and formed with a stone found in the neighbourhood, almost as red as brick. This mixture of colours has a pleasing effect, and gives a richness and variety to the building. The Cathedral is now extremely ruinous, much of it is unroofed, and the remainder of it so considerably out of repair, that it would not be over safe for a congregation to assemble in it. The eastern part of it was the episcopal cemetery; and the inhabitants still bury within and about its walls. Beneath the easternmost part is the ecclesiastical prison; the descent into this vault is by eighteen steps; and the roof is vaulted by thirteen ribs, forming pointed arches, and supported by as many semi-hexagonal pillars, only twenty-one inches above ground. The bottom of this place is extremely rough; and in the north-west corner is a well or spring, which must have added greatly to the natural dampness of the place, to which there is no other air or light but what is admitted through a small window at the east end. About the middle of the area, a little to the northward of the churches, is a square pyramidical mount of earth, terminating obtusely. Each of its sides faces one of the cardinal points of the compass, and measures about 70 yards. Time and weather have rounded off its angles; but, on a careful observation, it will be found to have been originally of the figure here described. Tumuli of this kind are not uncommon in the island."

CIRCULAR TOWER IN PEEL CASTLE.

WITHIN the castle stands one of those lofty round towers, of which so many are found in Ireland, and concerning which antiquarians have formed an endless number of conjectures. Giraldus Cambrensis, in the year 1185, is the first writer that mentions the Irish round towers, and calls them "Ecclesiastical Towers, which in a style or fashion peculiar to the country, are narrow, high, and round." These towers being generally found near the ancient Irish churches, strongly favours the above opinion, and most probably they were built, not only for holding a bell to summon the people to church, but also, without doubt, they must have been of some value as observatories or watch towers. John Lynch, who wrote in the year 1662, when speaking of these towers, says—"The Danes who entered Ireland in 838 (according to Cambrensis), are reported to be the authors of our orbicular narrow towers. They were called Cloch Theach—that is, the tower of the bell." Another writer, in the year 1684 (Peter Walsh), observes :—"That it is most certain those high, round, narrow towers of stone, built cylinder-wise, were never known or built in Ireland (as indeed, no more were any castles, houses, or even churches, of stone, at least in the North of Ireland), before the year of Christ, 838, when the heathen Danes, possessing a great part of the country, built them in several places, to serve themselves as watch towers, against the natives; though, ere long, the Danes being expelled, the Christian Irish turned them to another and much better (because a holy) use, that is, to steeple-houses, or belfries. From which latter use made of them it is, that ever since, to the present day, they are called in Irish, Cloch Theachs, that is, belfries or bell-houses; cloc or clog, signifying a bell, and theach, a house, in that language."——"Mr. Gordon gives an account of two of these towers in Scotland; one at Abernethy, the other at Brechin. The last has the figure of our Saviour on the Cross over the door, with two little images or statues towards the middle, which clearly shew it to have been the work of a Christian architect. He tells us the vulgar notion is, that they

are British structures, and that he would have believed it, were there not such towers in Ireland, where the Picts never were settled. This seems to be an error, for the Picts were Scandinavians, and early arrived in Ireland." Mr. Pennant is of opinion that they were not intended for belfries, as the churches near which they stand have generally steeples that would quite as well answer the purpose. Mr. Smith, in his History of Cork, says, that he had learned from an Irish MSS. that these towers were built for penitentiaries, and that the penitent began his penance at the top, and descended to the lower floors as his punishment decreased, until he arrived at the door, which always looked to the east, and there he received absolution. The following observation, in the Monthly Review for Feb. 1790, applies well to some of the whimsical conjectures respecting these round towers, which are too far-fetched to render their quotation of any service. The writer of the Review says—"That as the final cause of the principle of curiosity is the acquisition of knowledge, it is a perversion much to be lamented, that it should so often be found, to fasten most keenly on those objects about which little or nothing can be known. A mere scrap of something, between knowledge and conjecture, if it be but obtained with sufficient difficulty, appears far more valuable to persons of this description than abundance of real information, if easily acquired, and if as easily gained by others as themselves." The heights of these towers is extremely various, several of them being considerably above 100 feet, and others as low as 40, their circumference is more nearly alike; varying only from 40 to about 55 feet; the general thickness of the walls about 4 feet or under; the situation of the door is more variable, being placed in one, at Kilmaduach, 24 feet from the ground, in many from to 10 to 14 feet, and in the tower at Swords, at no more than two feet from the ground. | Their roofs were usually conical, and of stone, such as I have frequently observed in Holland, &c. and which, I believe, are common throughout the continent. There is no part of the British dominions that abounds more in Runic remains than the Isle of Man, or retains more of the manners of antiquity than its inland inhabitants; and were we to judge of the people by the following presentments, which are copied verbatim from my authority, we should judge them to be a most virtuous people, when we find even their words so scruplously regarded by their ecclesiastical court. "St. Ann's Presentments. 8th November, 1789. Charles Crebbin,

Vicar, upon the information of William Mc'Glorious, one of the chapter-quest: the churchwardens present John Mc' Bovie for cursing one of his own cattle, in these words—God damn you! Upon the quest man's information, they present Thomas Harman for swearing by his conscience, and making use of the word, Divel! in his common talk. Upon the information of Thomas Quivite, one of the chapter-quest, they present Thomas Caine, for not attending divine service on the sabbath day, and for cursing Elizabeth Callister in these words—Plague on thee! Upon the information of the said quest man, they present Elizabeth Callister for cursing Thomas Caine in the same words that he had cursed her—Plague on thee!—Upon the information of the said quest man, they present Elizabeth Hindley, wife of William Hindley junior, for swearing by her soul. On the same day, they present Thomas Faggart, for swearing by his conscience, and Philip Hindley, for swearing by his soul. Upon the information of John Farger, one of the chapter-quest, they present Margaret Creer, for not attending divine service on the Lord's Day. "At a chapter court, held at Castle Town, on the 12th of November, 1789. The said Jno. Mc. Bovie, Thomas Harman, Thomas Caine, Elizabeth Callister, Elizabeth Hindley, Thomas Faggart, Philip Hindley, and Margaret Creer, having not appeared in court, according to summons, we fine 2s. 6d. each for their contempt; and they are to be admonished by their pastor for their offences.

JOHN MOORE.
EVAN CHRISTIAN.

Examined by J. Crellin. Epis. Reg.

To the Vicar of St. Ann's, these to publish, plenâ ecclesiâ.

The presentment which follows was also given in on the same day, and proves that there were, notwithstanding all care taken, sinners who relapsed and fell a second time into their old ways.—"K. K. Malew Presentments. Nov. 8th, 1789, David Harrison, Vicar: the wardens present the following persons, viz. Margaret Bell, for fornication, a relapse, child born. At a chapter court holden at Castle Town, 12th November. This woman has deposed, on the Holy Evangelists, that Sommerville Murray, of the Parish of Malew, is the father of the illegitimate child. These persons are, for their offence,

censured 7 Dies (alternately), in carcere, and to give bonds in £3. in usum Domini Regis to undergo penance 3 Dies in ecclesia, in penitential habit, et non iterum fornicari"——[*Townley's Isle of Man.*]

At Castle-Town, the capital of the island, is a noble specimen of Danish architecture, built by Gotred, the Dane, about the year 960. Many parts of this castle are in the best state of preservation, and are still used for holding court meetings, confinement of prisoners, &c. It consists of a strong keep and embattled towers, surrounded by a moat, with a drawbridge at the entrance.

This magnificent, though gloomy fortress, was formerly the residence of the Kings of Man, who had lived in all the splendour of feudal royalty and semi-barbarism.

FLINT CASTLE.

Flintshire.

FLINT Castle adjoins a small borough town of the same name in North Wales, is about 204 miles from London, and about twelve or thirteen miles to the north-west of Chester. Pennant, in speaking of the town and Castle of Flint, says, the whole place seems to have been founded in times of danger, and every provision made against the attack of a people recently subdued, and who had submitted reluctantly to a foreign yoke. The town is formed on the principle of a Roman encampment, being rectangular, and surrounded with a vast ditch, and two great ramparts, with four regular portæ, as usual with that military nation. I shall here give a conjecture of the probability of its having been a Roman station. The castle stands on a low freestone rock that juts into the sands, a little to the north-east of the town, and was once joined to it by a bridge that led to the outwork called the barbican, a square tower, with a gateway now entirely demolished. Within, was a court surrounded by a ditch, faced by a wall that joined by means of a drawbridge to the main fortress, whose entrance, for better security, was little more than a postern. The castle is a square building, with a large round tower at three of the corners, and a fourth a little disjoined from the others, and much larger than the rest. This is called the Double Tower. It had been joined to the castle by a drawbridge, and is of great thickness. It has a circular gallery beneath, vaulted with four arched openings into a central area, a little more than twenty-two feet in diameter. In one part, the gallery is suddenly lowered, and goes sloping towards the castle, and then, rising upwards, makes a sort of a communication with an upper gallery. This was the keep, or strong

part of the castle, and the same that the French call *le Dongeon*, to which, as Froissart informs us, the unfortunate Richard II. retired, as the place of greatest security, when he was taken by Bolingbroke. The channel of the Dee is at present at some distance from the walls, but formerly flowed beneath. There are still, in some parts, rings, to which ships were moored. The founder of this castle is uncertain; Camden attributes it to Henry II. and his noble historian (Lord Lyttleton) is of the same opinion. After his escape at Euloc, it is possible he might have begun a fortress here for security in future times; that he might have left it incomplete; and that it was finished by Edward I. The rolls of the last reign mention this place several times. In 1280, appears an order for the custody of the gate of the Castle of Flint: perhaps, this might have been in the year in which it was first garrisoned. The first great event that occurs to me, respecting this fortress, is in the year 1280, when the Welsh, wearied with reiteration of oppression, as a signal of general insurrection, surprised the place at the same time that David, brother of Llewllyn, took Hawuden, and Rees, the son of Malgon; and Griffin ap Meredith ap Owen, seized the castle of Aberystwyth. Here, in 1311, the infatuated son of our conqueror, received from exile, his imperious favourite Piers Gavestone, who had landed at Caernarvon from Ireland. From this period I find nothing remarkable relating to this fortress, till the year 1335, the Ninth of Edward III. when appears an order to the Black Prince, as Earl of Chester, to take in safe custody the Castle of Flint, and Rudland, and to furnish them with meat and provisions. Edward, in his seventh year, had, by charter, granted to his gallant son the Castles of Chester, Beeston, Rudland, and Flint, and all his lands there, and also the lands and cantred of Englefield, with all their appurtenances, to have and to hold to him and his heirs Kings of England. In this dolorous castle, as Halle styles it, was deposed, the unfortunate monarch Richard II. To this place he was inveigled by Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland, with the assurance that Bolingbroke wished no more than to be restored to his own property, and to give to the kingdom a Parliament. Northumberland, with a small train, first met Richard at Conway, then on his return from Ireland: the king distrusted the earl, who, to remove all suspicion, went with him to mass, and took an oath of fidelity. The king fell

into the snare, proceeded with the earl for some time, till he perceived about the precipice of Penman-Rhôs, a large band of soldiers with the Percy banners; the king would have then retired; but Northumberland catching hold of his bridle, forcibly directed his course; the poor prince had just time to reproach him with his perjury, and telling him that the God he had sworn upon that morning would do him justice at the day of judgment. He caused the king to dine at Rudland, and conveyed him, that night, to Flint. The next morning he was astonished with the sight of a numerous army, commanded by his rival, in full march along the sands: they soon surrounded the castle. The prince descended from the keep to meet Bolingbroke, who fell upon his knees, and, for a short space, assumed a respectful appearance, but he soon flung off the mask, for "with a high sharp voice," says Stowe, "the duke bade them bring forth the king's horses; and then two little nagges, not worth forty franks, were brought forth. The king was set on one, and the Earl of Salisbury on the other, and thus the duke brought the king from Chester, where he was delivered to the Duke of Glocester's sonne, and to the Earl of Arundel's sonne, that loved him but a little, for he had put their fathers to death, who led him strait to the castell." If Froissart may be credited, Richard did not experience the pang of ingratitude from man alone, for, by a strange infection, it seized the most faithful of the brute creation, for his very dog deserted him, and fawned on his rival Bolingbroke, as if he understood, and predicted the misfortunes of his old master. The story is so singular, that I shall relate it in the words of his noble translator, Sir John Bouchier Lord Berners, who, speaking of the transactions in Flint Castle, says: "And as it was informed me, Kynge Richarde had a Greyhounde called Mathe, who always waited upon the Kynge, and would know no man els, for when soever the Kynge did ryde, he that kepte the greyhounde dyd litte hym lose, and he wolde straight runne to the Kynge and fawne uppon hym, and leape with hys fore fete uppon the Kynges shoulders, and as the Kynge and the Erle of Derby talked togyder, in the court, the greyhounde who was wonte to leape uppon the Kynge, left the Kynge and came to the Erle of Derby, Duke of Lancastre, and made to him the friendly countenance and chere he was wont to do to the Kynge. The Erle, who knew not the greyhounde, demanded of hym what the grey-

hounde wolde do: cosin, quod the Kynge, it is a great good token to you, and an evil sygne to me. Sir, how knowe ye that? quod the Duke, I know it well, quod the Kynge; the greyhounde makith you chere this day as Kynge of Englande, as ye shall be, and I shall be deposed, the greyhounde hath this knowledge naturallye, therefore take hym to you, he wyll folowe you and forsake me. The Duke understood well those words, and cherished the greyhounde, who wolde never after folowe Kynge Richarde, but followed the Duke of Lancastre." It appears that the inhabitants of Flint took part in the insurrection of Owen Glendwr; for, Henry Prince of Wales, obtained from his father, a pardon for several of his tenants in this part, who had taken up arms in the cause of their valiant countryman (Harleian MSS. No. 2099). "There is another gap in the history of this castle, till thetroubles of the last century. When this country took an active part in support of royalty, Flint Castle was garrisoned for the king, after having been repaired at the expence of Sir Roger Mostyn, Knt. who was appointed governor in the year 1643, it was closely besieged by Sir William Brereton and Sir Thomas Middleton, and was defended by the governor, till all provisions, even to horses, failing, he then surrendered it on honorable terms. Flint, afterwards, fell into the hands of the royalists, for, under the year 1646, I find, in the same historian, the garrison inclinable to come to a treaty. In November of the preceeding year it had received that of Beeston, which, after a most gallant defence, capitulated, and was allowed to march, with all the honours of war, to this place; but on the 29th of August, Flint Castle was surrendered to Major-General Mylton, and in 1647 was, with other Welch castles, dismantled by an order of the House directed to the general for that purpose."

DOLWYDDELAN CASTLE.

Caernavonshire.

A FORTRESS, some centuries ago, of considerable importance to the Welch princes. Its mountainous situation rendered it difficult to find, and it was not, till after numerous enquiries, that we could get into the track that led us immediately up to it. This castle stands on a rocky steep, nearly perpendicular on one side, and in a vale entirely closed round by mountains. The original import of the name seems to have been the castle in *the Meadow of Ellen's Wood*, for the ancient military road, called Sarn Helen, or Helen's Road from Helen, the daughter of Octavius Duke of Cornwall, passed through the country, not far from hence, to the sea-coast of Merionethshire. It has never been a large building, but it occupied the entire summit of its mount. It formerly consisted of two square towers, each three stories high, having but one room on a floor, and a court-yard which was betwixt them. The largest of these towers measures, within, no more than twenty-seven feet in length, and eighteen in width, and the walls are about six feet thick. The walls of the court are entirely destroyed, and very little is now left of the other parts of the building. Who the founder of this fortress was, or what purpose it was originally intended to answer, we have not at this time any documents left to inform us. Most probably, when the feudal system prevailed in Wales, and petty chieftains were engaged in perpetual warfare with each other, Dolwyddelan castle, and others similar to it, may have been erected by some of them as places of retreat and refuge, where they could reside in security, attended by their vassals and adherents, in case they should be compelled, by superior force to relinquish the plains, and more cultivated parts of the country. These castles also answered the

double purpose of guarding the passes and defiles of the mountains. It is a conjecture of Rowland, that this castle was erected prior to the sixth century. What his grounds for this supposition are he does not state. This place was, for many years, the residence of the eldest son of Owen Gwynedd Sorwerth Drwndwn, or Edward with the Broken Nose; on the death of his father, Sorwerth claimed the crown of Wales as his hereditary right, but was unanimously rejected, and merely from the blemish in his face: so whimsical and undecisive was, at that time, the mode of succession to the Welsh throne. He had assigned to him, as part of his parental inheritance, the hundreds of Nan Conwy and Ardudwy, and he retired to this sequestered spot to spend the rest of his life. It was in Dolwyddelan castle that his son was born, who afterwards, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, reigned in Wales under the title of Llewellyn the Great. Meredith, the son of Jevan ap Robert, purchased the lease of this castle, and of the inclosures belonging to it, in the reign of Henry VII. About this period, the whole of the surrounding country was one entire forest, overrun with thieves and outlaws. The castle had itself been previously possessed by Howell ap Evan ap Rhys Gethin, one of the most noted of those against whom David ap Jenkin rose in arms. David, who was likewise an outlaw, contended with him long for the sovereignty of the mountains, and at length, by stratagem, took him in bed, but spared his life, on condition that he should immediately seek refuge in Ireland. In that country he scarcely remained a year, but returned in the ensuing summer with some select adherents; he clothed himself and his followers entirely in green, that they might be the less distinguishable among the forests, and in this disguise, appearing abroad only in the nights, they committed the most dreadful depredations. The friends of Meredith ap Jevan were greatly surprised that he should think of changing his habitation, near Penmorfa, for this castle, thus surrounded by multitudes of freebooters. He gave, as a decisive reason, that he chose rather to fight with outlaws and thieves than with his own immediate relatives. "If," says he, "I live in my own house in Evionedd, I must either kill my own kinsmen, or submit to be murdered by them." He had not been here long before he built the house at Penanmen, and removed the church from the thicket, in which it formerly stood, to its present more open situation; the church, his house, and the castle, thus forming the points of a triangle, each a mile distant from the

ether. Whenever he went to the church, he took with him, as a guard, twenty stout archers; and he had a centinel placed on a neighbouring rock, called Carrig-y-Big (from whence the church, the house, and the castle could be seen), who had orders to give immediate notice of the approach of banditti. He never mentioned beforehand when he intended to go out, and always went and returned by different routes, through unsuspected parts of the woods. He found it necessary to his perfect security to increase the number of his adherents; he therefore established colonies of the most tall and able men he could procure, occupying every tenement, as it became empty, with such tenants only as were able to bear arms. His force, when complete, consisted of a hundred and forty archers, ready to assemble whenever the sound of the bugle from the castle echoed through the woods to call for their assistance. "These," says Sir John Wynne, "were each arrayed in a jacket or armolet coat, a good steele cap, a short sword and dagger, with a bow and arrows. Many of them had also horses and chasing slaves, which were ready to answer the crie on all occasions; whereby he grew so strong, that he begun to put back, and to curb the sanctuary* of thieves and robbers, which, at times, were wont to be above a hundred, well horsed and well appointed." "Such was the state of Wales in these unhappy times, when every one claimed, by a kind of prescriptive right, whatever he had power to seize, and when lives or property were considered of no other value than interest or ambition chose to dictate. Meredith ap Jevan, to enjoy a quiet life, threw himself into the bosom of a country infested with outlaws and murderers, and comparatively with the state of society about his former residence, near Penmorfa, attained his end. He closed his useful life in the year 1525, leaving, to survive him, twenty-three legitimate, and three natural children."—*The Rev. W. Bingley's North Wales.*

The castle of Dolwyddelan is six miles distant from Llanwrost.

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* The sanctuary here alluded to was the hospital at Y-Spytty-Evan of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

BARNARD CASTLE.

Durham.

ON the rocky banks of the river Tees, which divides Yorkshire from the county of Durham, stands the remains of the once magnificent and powerful fortress of Barnard Castle, but now in so ruinous a state, that little remains except the great circular tower, on the western side of the building, called Baliol's Tower. The outer walls comprise an area of six acres, of which the eastern half has been separated from the western by a deep ditch, and fortified by a wall. There is every appearance of a draw-bridge having guarded the entrance from the outer to the inner division of the castle, from the remains of the foundations of two towers that stand near each other, and between which the road to the inner court, or ballium, must have passed. The ruins of these towers stand on the edge of the ditch, and in the line of the inner wall. The dilapidations of former times are much to be regretted; for Leland mentions parts of which not a vestige remains. Camden, in speaking of Barnard Castle, says, that it was "built by Bernard Baliol," (in the year 1178) "great grandfather to John Baliol, king of Scots, and so named from him (the same Bernard created burgesses in this town, with the same liberty and freedom as those of Richmond); but John Baliol, whom Edward I. had declared king of Scots, lost this, with other possessions in England, for falling from the allegiance that he had sworn to King Edward; at which time the king, being displeased with Anthony, Bishop of Durham, (as the history of that place tells us), took this castle, with all its appurtenances, from him, and conferred it upon the Earl of Warwick. But some few years after, Ludovicus de Bellomonte,

the Bishop, descended from the royal line of France (who yet, as it is written of him, was *a perfect stranger to all matters of learning*), went to law for this castle, and other possessions, and carried the cause; sentence being given in these words—"The Bishop of Durham ought to have the forfeitures in war, within the liberties of his Bishopric, as the King hath them without." After passing through several families, among whom was Richard III. and whose arms yet remain in the roof of one of the windows, it came into the possession of the Earls of Darlington, and now gives title to the eldest son. The accompanying view represents the strongest part of the castle, which is placed on the summit of the rocks that here overhang the Tees, and which are about eighty feet from the water to the foundations of the walls. From the top of the great circular tower, a small part of which appears in the view, much of the romantic and beautiful scenery of Tees Dale is seen to the greatest advantage; lower down the river, near where the river Greta joins the Tees, stands one of those ancient fortified houses of uncertain date, called Mortham Tower. The situation of this tower, or castellated mansion, has been so well described by Sir Walter Scott, in the notes to his poem of Rokeby, that we cannot do better than present it to the reader: "The Castle of Mortham which Leland terms 'Mr. Rokesby's place' in *ripa citer*, scant a quarter of a mile from Greta bridge, and not a quarter of a mile beneath into Tees, is a picturesque tower surrounded by buildings of different ages, now converted into a farm house and offices. The battlements of the tower itself are singularly elegant; the architect having broken them at regular intervals into different heights; while those at the corners of the tower project into octangular turrets. They are also from space to space covered with stones laid across them as in modern embrasures, the whole forming an uncommon and beautiful effect. The surrounding buildings are of a less happy form, being pointed into high and steep roofs. A wall with embrasures, encloses the southern front, where a low portal arch affords an entry to what was the castle court. At some distance is most happily placed, between the stems of two magnificent elms, the monument alluded to in the text. It is said to have been brought from the ruins of Eglistone Priory, and from the armoury with which it is richly carved, appears to have been a tomb of the Fitz-Hughes. The situation of Mortham is eminently beautiful, occupying a high bank, at the bottom of which the Greta winds out of the dark, narrow, and romantic dell, which the text has attempted to describe, and flows onward through a

more open valley to meet the Tees, about a quarter of a mile from the castle. Mortham is surrounded by old trees, happily and widely grouped with Mr. Morritt's new plantations."—In the fifth note to the same poem is an account of the Ghost of Mortham Tower, prefaced by so much beautiful scenery that we shall not mutilate the description by attempting to abridge it. " What follows is an attempt to describe the romantic glen, or rather ravine, through which the Greta finds a passage, between Rokeby and Mortham, the former situated on the left bank of the Greta, the latter on the right bank, about half a mile nearer to its junction with the Tees. The river runs with very great rapidity over a bed of solid rock, broken by shelving descents, down which the stream dashes with great noise and impetuosity, vindicating its etymology, which has been derived from the Gothic, *Gudan*, to clamour. The banks partake of the same wild and romantic character, being chiefly lofty cliffs of limestone rock, whose grey colour contrasts admirably with the various trees and shrubs which find root among their crevices, as well as with the hue of the ivy, which clings round them in profusion, and hangs down from their projections in long sweeping tendrils. At other points the rocks give place to precipitous banks of earth, bearing large trees intermixed with copse wood. In one spot the dell, which is elsewhere very narrow, widens for a space to leave room for a dark grove of yew trees, intermixed here and there with aged pines of uncommon size. Directly opposite to this sombre thicket, the cliffs on the other side of the Greta, are tall, white, and fringed with all kinds of deciderous shrubs. The whole scenery of this spot is so much adapted to the ideas of superstition, that it has acquired the name of *Blockula*, from the place where Sweedish witches were supposed to hold their Sabbath. The dell, however, has superstitions of its own growth, for it is supposed to be haunted by a female spectre, called, the *Dobie*. The cause assigned for her appearance is a lady's having been whilom murdered in the wood, in evidence of which her blood is shown upon the stairs of the old Tower of Mortham. But whether she was slain by a jealous husband, or by savage banditti, or by an uncle who coveted her estate, or by a rejected lover, are points upon which the traditions of Rokeby do not enable us to decide."—The rooms in Mortham Tower are fashioned after the dark and inconvenient mode of the age in which the house has been erected, and it is now used as a farm house, having its courts generally well filled with the produce of the neighbouring fields.

THIRLWALL CASTLE.

Northumberland.

THIS view affords an interesting specimen of those strong holds so frequent on the borders of England and Scotland, where every comfort and convenience is sacrificed to the necessity of being secure, and whose first effect conveys to the mind the idea of a place intended never to be entered, and, once entered, never to be left. Thirlwall Castle stands on the banks of the little river Tippal, embowered in trees, above whose tops rises the dark and gloomy tower of this remnant of the ancient Border warfare. It consists of a single building of great strength, and, according to Camden, had in his time six small turrets on the summit; the west and east end each having had two, and the south and north sides each of them one in the middle, but these have now disappeared. Some parts of the walls are so thick that the windows or loop-holes, scarcely have power to lighten the interior, which thus takes an air of the most dismal and prison-like appearance. During the Border troubles, the most frequent mode of attacking these castles was by fire, introduced at the windows and beneath the doors, and from the extreme narrowness of the apertures, the stone vaulting, &c. there is sufficient reason to believe that the whole has been constructed with a view, as much as possible, to avoid such a contingency. Little more is known of this castle but what we find in Hutchinson's Tour, who says, that—"It was the strong-hold, rather than the seat, of the Thirlwalls, and was possessed by John de Thirlwall in the reign of Edward III. and of Robert de Thirlwall in the reign of Elizabeth. It was vaulted and defended by an outer wall, the floor of one of the apartments was lately cleared, and discovered to be of

singular construction, consisting of three tier of flags, laid on stratas of sand. Under the south front of this castle, the Roman wall crosses the Tipple, and stretches up the eminences on the northern side of Caer Vorran, which lies on the crown of the hill above Glinwelt. The name of Thirlwall, by some authors, has been derived from those breaches, made in this part of the Roman wall, by the Scots in their incursions. The highest part of Leverus's wall, or the Pict's wall, as it is called, is near to CaerVorran, above Thirlwall Castle, where it runs upon the brink of a cliff to the summit of some eminences. It is there nine feet high, the outward facing of freestone not totally removed. Where the foundation was not good, or the wall had to pass a morass, it is built on piles of oak; the interstices between the two facings of the walls is filled with broad thin stones, placed not perpendicularly, but obliquely on their edges, and filled with lime. The wall is defended on the north side by a ditch: it has been guarded with towers at irregular distances, of about sixty feet, intermingled with small watch turrets of about the square of twelve feet. No gates or sally-ports appear on the remains of this wall, or any apertures, save where the castles and stations were.

Many estates were held in the neighbourhood of this fortification by the service of coinage, which was attending on the watch and ward, and required an alarm to be sounded by the horn on the approach of an enemy. Camden mentions a curious contrivance in this wall, for the purpose of communication from post to post.—"The old man before mentioned, at Waltown, or Ad Murum, told me, that in the middle part of the wall, and nigh the foundation, there was lately found a concavity of nine inches square, and in it some pieces of lead pipe, as there had several times been before in the like places: and the tradition is current, through all the whole extent of the wall, of a certain sort of pipes or tubes they had, whereby, as they tell you, in anhour's time, any momentous matter might be communicated from sea to sea." The old man, who gave this information to Camden, we are told, in another place, was ninety years of age.

ST. BRIAVEL'S CASTLE.

Gloucestershire.

THE Castle of St. Briavel, or Breulais, was built by Milo, Earl of Hereford, in the reign of Henry I. and about a hundred years afterwards became the property of the Crown; and since that time has continued a part of the Royal Demesnes. About seventy years since, what time had spared of the lofty Norman keep fell to the ground, and strewed the whole of the interior with its ruins.

Some vestiges of the great hall and other rooms still remain, in one of which the business of the hundred to which the castle gives name is transacted every six weeks.

The chief entrance, flanked by two circular towers, is the most perfect part of the remains of this fortress, and has now become a public-house, under the denomination of "The Castle Inn." The outer walls are surrounded by a broad ditch, and altogether present an appearance of great strength. The Lord Warden of the Forest of Dean is also Constable of this castle, to which he is appointed by the Crown. He has under him six deputy wardens, four verdurers chosen by the freeholders, a chief forester in fee, a conservator, seven woodwards, a bow-bearer, eight foresters in fee, a steward of the swain mote, and a gaveller. There are some privileges enjoyed in the forest peculiarly by the inhabitants of St. Briavel, which, according to tradition, were obtained for them by a Countess of Hereford, who had the good nature to perform for their benefit the same service that the Lady Godiva did for the weal of the good people of Coventry. This

castle is about five miles north from Chepstow, and is situated upon lofty ground not far from the river Wye, commanding an extensive and most delightful prospect of the Monmouthshire hills, over the vale of this beautiful river.

We shall conclude with the following anecdote from Camden's Britannia:—" Not far from Wye stands, amongst the the tufts of trees, St. Breulais Castle, more than half demolished; famous for the death of Mahel, youngest son of Milo, Earl of Hereford: for there the judgment of God overtook him for his rapacious ways, inhuman cruelties, and boundless avarice; always usurping on other men's rights, (with all these vices he is taxed by the writers of the age); for, as Giraldus tells us, being courteously entertained by Walter de Clifford, and the castle taking fire, he lost his life by the fall of a stone on his head from the highest tower. This castle (now ruined) serves as a prison for offenders in the forest. The government of it has always been esteemed a place of honour, and several noblemen have been governors. Here it is that the mine court, swain mote, and speech court, are kept, wherein are several old customs of pleading."

BEAUMARIS CASTLE.

Isle of Anglesey.

ON a flat plain, close to the town of Beaumaris, stands the Castle, an extensive and heavy building, composed of numerous circular towers, of vast strength and diameter, and connected together by curtains or walls of equal strength, erected by Edward I. after he had finished the noble Castles of Conway and Caernarvon. The erection of this Castle appears to have either given birth to the town, or greatly to have increased its consequence, for its name does not occur in history previous to the construction of the fortress whose name it bears, and immediately afterwards we learn that Edward I. placed a wall round it, and also granted to it the privileges of a corporation. This town and castle are most delightfully seated on the Straits of Menai, commanding views along the opposite shores to the bold heights of Penmanmuer; the romantic hollow where stands the village of Aber, and where once stood the Castle of Llewellyn ap Gryffyd, Prince of Wales; bounded by the lofty mountains that separate these shores from the Vale of Conway. The fertile valley in which is placed the city of Bangor, and its venerable cathedral, to the south of which is seen the magnificent line of the Snowdon Mountains, and the richness of the whole very much increased and enhanced by the hanging woods of Baron Park (the seat of Lord Bulkeley), that stretch to the west in all the varied hues of sylvan grandeur. The following history of this castle I have borrowed from Grose, who says that Edward, after he had secured his conquests in Caernarvonshire, "found it was necessary also to have a fortress of some strength in the Island of Anglesey, to prevent the Welsh from taking refuge there, and becoming sufficiently collected and powerful to

harass his forces in other parts. Beaumaris Castle was therefore founded for this purpose about the year 1295, it was built on private property; but Edward made full satisfaction to the proprietors of the ground by bestowing on them other lands, free from rent and service. The name of the town which had been before Bonover was now changed to Beaumaris, indicative, says Holinshed, of its pleasant situation in a low ground. From the time of the foundation of the castle to the reign of Charles I. I have been able to find no incident recorded of any importance. It is said to have been extremely burthensome to the country, on account of frequent quarrels which took place betwixt the garrison and the people of the neighbourhood. In the civil wars of the reign of Charles I. Beaumaris Castle was garrisoned for the king by Thomas Lord Bulkeley; and in the year 1648 the people of the whole island rose, in imitation of those in several counties of England, to set the king at liberty, and restore monarchy to the oppressed kingdom. Multitudes of royalists, from different parts of North Wales, resorted here, and a general muster was made, under the direction of Lord Bulkeley, in the middle of the island. The Parliament, determining to bring them to submission, sent against them a division of their army, under the command of General Mytton. Some of the loyalist officers conducted themselves with bravery and spirit, but the islanders in general proved cowards. An Anglesey captain was directed to keep the church of Beaumaris; he posted his men in it, locked them safely up, and then ran away with the key in his pocket. In consequence of this he was ever afterwards stigmatised with the title of Captain Church. When the enemy were seen marching over the Heights of Penmanmaur, at least four miles distant, the Anglesey people began to bustle about; drums were beat, trumpets sounded, and vollies of both small and great shot were discharged. The Parliament's army, somewhat more accustomed to fighting than to be alarmed at an enemy, who could fire small shot at them four miles off, approached the place, and with little difficulty put the whole to flight. The garrison surrendered on honourable terms, and Mytton was immediately made governor. The castle is now the property of the Crown."

In the construction of this castle much of the western or Asiatic style of architecture prevails, and in the plate of the interior of the south entrance it will be perceived, that the battlements are loop-holed, as they are also in various parts of

the walls, a mode of building that Mr. King, in his "Monumenta Antiqua," supposes to have been derived from the Phœnicians, or Syrians, and in this country only to be found in the Welch castles. It is very possible that the western style of building might have been introduced into Cornwall by some Phœnician settlers induced to remain there from the very great advantages they would obtain in their traffic for tin, by having resident agents.

Mr. King is also of opinion, that those ancient circular towers, such as Bumless and Tretur Castles, in Brecknockshire, and Launceston Castle, in Cornwall, are of Phœnician or Syrian origin; for it is well known that a castle did exist at Launceston previous to the Conquest, as William I. first deprived Othomanus de Knivet, the then hereditary governor, and Condorous, Earl of Cornwall, of their possessions, and bestowed the whole on Robert, Earl of Moreton; and, though a pointed arch in the outside of the gateway would imply this part to have been built since the time of the Earl of Moreton, there is on the inner side of the same gateway a circular arch of very much older date.

The castles abovementioned certainly possess much of the Asiatic style, which consists of a single tower of three or four stories, surrounded by a wall at a small distance from it, and often a second wall outside the first, constituting an inner ballium, with its keep, and an outer ballium, which, when compared with the magnificent fortresses of the Normans, certainly appear scarcely to merit the name of a castle. It is very likely that the towers occasionally mentioned in the Scriptures, as in Judges, the book of Judith, &c. were of this description; for the regular and evident progression and improvement of every art and science, from the creation of the world up to the present day, will not allow us to imagine that they could compare with any buildings of later times. As I can bear testimony to the accuracy of the Rev. W. Bingley's description of Beaumaris Castle, I shall transcribe his account of it verbatim—"When it was in a perfect state, it consisted of an outer ballium, or envelope, surrounded by a broad ditch, flanked by several round towers; and it had on the east side an advanced walk, called the Gunner's Walk: within these was the body of the castle, which was nearly square, having a round tower at each angle, and another in the centre of each face. The area is a square, with the corners cut off, and measures about sixty yards on each side. In the middle of the north side is the hall, which is twenty yards long and twelve

broad, and has five elegant windows in front. There has been a communication round the buildings of the inner court, by means of a gallery, somewhat more than a yard wide, which is yet in a great measure entire. In recesses in the side of this gallery are several square openings, which seem to have been furnished with trap doors, as entrances to dungeons beneath. The use of these I have not been able to learn; they must have been descended by ladders, for there are no remains of steps to be discovered in any of them. The two eastern towers of this building served the purpose of dungeons for the confinement of prisoners. On the east side of the area are the remains of a very small chapel, arched and ribbed with pointing and intersected arches. Between each of the gothic pilasters is a narrow window, and behind some of them there have been small closets, gained out of the thickness of the wall."

THE KEEP OF GOODRICH CASTLE.

Herefordshire.

ON the distant brow of a woody hill, rising out of a luxuriant vale, are seen the towers of Goodrich, rearing their deserted heads above a thick mass of trees, and backed by the high swelling lands of the Forest of Dean, joined by the surrounding heights of PenyardChase, and Bishop's Wood. The animated Wye, springing on its first appearance immediately from beneath a high bank, that screens its nearer approach, is seen to range through the whole, along a succession of green meadows. Then winding down a sylvan scene of inexpressible beauty, towards the deep recesses of the Forest of Dean, in a clear and rapid, but even course, it soon arrives at the majestic ruin of Goodrich Castle, one of the noblest ornaments of its banks, and one of those which gives it a claim to superiority over its sister streams. A high tongue of land, projecting into the valley, terminates precipitously over the river, which almost encircles the peninsula, whose sides are clothed with a hanging wood, and whose summit is crowned with the venerable castle that looks forth on the country around, and seems, in its stateliness, to offer protection to the lands, the cottages, and the holy fanes that lie around its mouldering walls. The luxuriance of the distant landscape, the verdure of the meadows, the elegance of the woods, the swift sparkling current of the river, the solemn majesty of the castle, combine to form a scene so fitting in all its colours, so associated in all its parts, its varieties so mingled in one whole, that, though profusely rich in subject, its first and strongest character is simplicity, and altogether it

has an effect so dignified, so calm, so deep, that the mind rests immoveably on the inimitable picture which is presented to the eye.—The views from the tower, though partaking of the character of the landscape, just described, and though more extensive, are less impressive, as they want the noble centre, which is presented to the eye when the castle is seen from without.—History does not inform us of the precise date of the erection of this fortress; but it is first mentioned in a grant of the castle and lordship made by King John to William Marshall, Earl of Strignil (1204); though the keep is built in a style that denotes a much earlier era for its foundation; and tradition ascribes its origin to one Godricus, in the time of Canute. It passed into the family of the Talbots, by the marriage of one of that family with the heiress of Goodrich, and long remained the baronial residence of the Earls of Shrewsbury. The last historical event connected with this place, was the siege that it sustained, for six weeks, against the parliamentary forces in the civil wars of Charles' reign.—The castle covers, and encloses, about one acre of ground in the form of a parellelogram, each angle being defended by a tower. On the south-west side is the keep, by much the most ancient part of the castle, being strongly built in the Norman style, with circular headed doors and windows, surrounded by a zig-zag moulding. The grand entrance, at the east angle, over a bridge of two pointed arches, across the deep fosse, gives a strong idea of the formidable means taken to secure the part that was more particularly liable to attack. A vaulted passage led to the inner court, under a series of pointed arches, strongl, groined, and defended by several portcullises, gates, bars, and other cautionary measures. Immediately on entering the court, to the left, is the chapel, and the remnant of a watch tower, and beyond on the same side, were the stables, and the soldiers' apartments. The south angle is defended by a strong tower, circular without, and angular within. The keep already mentioned, and formerly called Macbeth's Tower, strengthened by the curtain on the south-west. At the next angle is the great west tower, of remarkable strength and size. The large baronial hall occupies part of another side, on which were also the kitchen, and the ladies' tower; this last part is overshadowed by a noble ash that grows in the centre of the grassy court.—This building claims particular attention from the perfect idea which it gives of the structure of a castle in

the earlier ages, with all its defences, and internal arrangements; and no less from its present picturesque forms, rich accompaniments of ivy, and forest trees, and the mellow colour of the walls, deepened and varied, with all the stains of age. Its situation, far from human dwellings, and the stillness which that solitude, insures to its precincts, leave contemplation to all the solemnity, that is inspired by the sight of grandeur sinking in dignity, to decay.

BRANKSHOLM CASTLE.

Roxburgshire.

THE celebrity which Sir Walter Scott has given to Branksholm Castle, by making it the scene of his Lay of the Last Minstrel, and the admirable descriptions he has preserved in his notes, of the manners of those rude times in which are laid the events; induces me to present them to the reader, feeling persuaded that they cannot but be read with very considerable interest.—" In the reign of James I. Sir William Scott of Buccleuch, chief of the clan bearing that name, exchanged with Sir Thomas Inglis, of Manor, the estate of Murdiestone, in Lanarkshire, for one half of the barony of Branksome or Branxholm, lying upon the Tiviot, about three miles above Hawick. He was probably induced to this transaction from the vicinity of Branksome, to the extensive domain which he possessed in Ettricke Forest and in Tiviotdale. In the former district, he held by occupancy, the estate of Buccleuch, and much of the forest land on the river Ettricke. In Tiviotdale, he enjoyed the barony of Eckford, by a grant from Robert II. to his successor, Walter Scott of Kirkurd, for the apprehending of Gilbert Ridderford, confirmed by Robert III. 3rd of May, 1424. Tradition imputes the exchange betwixt Scott and Inglis to a conversation, in which the latter, a man, it would appear of a mild and forbearing nature, complained much of the injuries which he was exposed to from the English borderers, who frequently plundered his lands of Branksome. Sir William Scott instantly offered him the estate of Murdiestone, in exchange, for that which was subject to such egregious inconvenience. When the bargain was completed, he drily remarked, that the cattle in Cumberland were as good as those

of Tiviotdale; and proceeded to commence a system of reprisals upon the English, which was regularly pursued by his successors.—In the next reign, James II. granted to Sir Walter Scott of Branksome, and to Sir David, his son, the remaining half of the barony of Branksome, to be held in blanch for the payment of a red rose. The cause assigned for the grant is, their brave and faithful exertions in favour of the King, against the house of Douglas, with whom James had been recently tugging for the throne of Scotland. This charter is dated the 2nd of February, 1443; and in the same month, part of the barony of Laugholm, and many lands in Lanarkshire, were conferred on Sir Walter and his son, by the same monarch. After the period of the exchange with Sir Thomas Inglis, Branksome became the principal seat of the Buccleuch family. The castle was enlarged and strengthened by Sir David Scott, the grandson of Sir William, its first possessor. But in 1570–1, the vengeance of Elizabeth, provoked by the inroads of Buccleuch, and his attachment to the cause of Queen Mary, destroyed the castle and laid waste the lands of Branksome. In the same year the castle was repaired, and enlarged by Sir Wathe Scott, its brave possesssor, but the work was not completed until after his death, in 1574, when the widow finished the building. This appears from the following inscriptions: around a stone, bearing the arms of Scott of Buccleuch, appears the followiug legend: " Sir W. Scott, of Branxheim, Knyt. yoc of Sir William Scott, of Kirkurd, Knyt. began ye work upon ye 24 of March, 1571, zeir quha departit at God's pleisour ye 17 April, 1574." On a similar compartment are sculptured the arms of Douglas, with this inscription. " Dame Margaret Douglas, his spous, completit the forsaid work in October 1576." Over an arched door is inscribed the following moral verse—" In varld. is. nocht. nature. Hes. nought. yat. sal. lest. ay.—Tharfore. serve. God. keip. veil. ye. rod. thy. fame. sal. nocht. dekay.—Sir Valter Scot of Branxholm, knight, Margaret Douglas, 1571,"—Branksome Castle continued to be the principal seat of the Buccleuch family, while security was any object in the choice of a mansion. It has been the residence of the commissioners or chamberlains of the family. From the various alterations which the building has undergone, it is not only greatly restricted in its dimensions, but retains little of the castellated form, if we except one square tower of massy thickness, being the only part of the original building which now remains. The whole forms a handsome modern residence, and is now inhabited by my respected friend

Adam Ogilvye, Esq. of Hartwood Myres, commissioner of his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. The extent of the ancient edifice can still be traced by some vestiges of its foundations, and its strength is obvious from the situation on a deep bank, surrounded by the Teviot, and flanked by a deep ravine, formed by a precipitous brook. It was anciently surrounded by wood, as appears from the survey of Roxburghshire, made for Pont's Atlas, and preserved in the Advocates' Library. This wood was cut about fifty years ago, but is now replaced by the thriving plantations, which have been formed by the noble proprietor, for miles around the ancient mansion of his forefathers."—" Branksome Castle was continually exposed to the attacks of the English, both from its situation, and the restless military disposition of its inhabitants, who were seldom on good terms with their neighbours. The following letter from the Earl of Northumberland to Henry VIII. in 1533, gives an account of a successful inroad of the English, in which the country was plundered up to the gates of the castle, although the invaders failed in their principal object, which was to kill, or make prisoner, the laird of Buccleuch. It occurs in the Cotton MS. Calig. b. viiii. f. 222:—" Pleaseth yt your most gracious highness to be advertised, that my comptroller with Raynald Carnaby, desyred licence of me to invade the realme of Scotlande, for the annoysaunce of your highness enemys, when they thought best exploit by theyme might be done, and to have to concur with theyme the inhabitants of Northumberland, such as was towards me according to theyre assemblye, and as by theyre discrecions vppone the same they shulde think most convenient; and so they dyde mete vppone Monday, before night, being the III day of this instant moneth, at Wawhope vppon North Tyne water, above Tyndaill, where they were to the number of XVC men, and soo invadet Scotland, at the hour of VIII of the clock at nyght, at a place called Whele Causay; and before XI of the clok dyd send forth a forrey of Tindaill and Ryddisdail, and laid all the resydewe in a bushment, and actively dyd set upon a towne call'd Branxholm, where the Lord of Bouclouch dwellythe, and purpesed theymeselves with a trayne for hym lyke to his accustom'd manner, in rysyng to all frayes; albeit that knyght he was not at home, and so they brynt the said Branxholm, and other townes, as to say Whichestre, Whichestre-helm, and Whelley, and haid ordered theymeselves soo, that sundry of the said Lord Bouclouch's servants, who dyd issue fourthe of hys gates was taken prisoners. They dyd not eve one house, one stak

of corn, nor one shyef, without the gate of the said Lord Bouclough unbrynt; and thus scrymeged and frayed, supposing the Lord of Bucclough to be within III or IIII myles to have trayned hym to the bushment; and soo in the breyking of the day dyd the forrey and the bushment mete, and reculed homeward, making theyr way westward from theyr invasion to be over Lyddersdaill, as intending yf the fray from their furst entry by the Scotts waiches, or otherwise by warnyng shulde have been given to Gedworth and the countrey of Scotland theyreabouts of theyre invasion; which Gedworth is from the Wheles Causay VI myles. That thereby the Scotts shulde have comen further unto theyme, and more owte of order; and soo upon sundry good consideracons, before they enterd Lyddersdaill, as well accompting the inhabitants of the same to be towards your highness, and to enforce theyme the more therebye, as also to put an occasion of suspect to the kynge of Scotts and his counsaill, to be taken anenst theyme, amonges theymselves, maid proclamacions commanding vpon pain of dethe, assurance to be for the sayd inhabitants of Lyddersdaill, without any prejudice, or hurt to be done by any Inglysman vnto theyme, and soo in good ordre abowte the houre of ten of the clok before none, vppone Tuesday, dyd pass through the sayd Lyddersdaill, when dyd come diverse of the said inhabitants there to my servauntes, under the said assurance offering theymselves with any service they couthe make; and thus, thankes be to Godde, your highness subjects abowte the hour of XII of the clok at none the same day, came into this your highness realme, bringing wt theyme above XL Scottsmen prisoners, one of theyme named Scot, of the surname and kyn of the said Lord of Bouclough, and of his household; they brought alsoo CCC nowte, and above LX horse and mares, keeping in savetie from loss or hurte all your said highness subjects. There was alsoo a towne call'd Newbyggins, by divers fotmen of Tyndaill and Ryddesdaill takyn up of the night, and spoyled, when was slain II Scotsmen of the said towne, and many Scotts there hurte; your highness subjects were XIIII myles withyn the grounde of Scotlande, and is from my house of Werkworthe above XL miles of the most evil passage, where great snawes dothe lye; heretofore the same townes nowe brynt haith not at any tyme in the mynd of man in any warres been enterprised unto nowe; your subjects were thereto more encouraged for the better advancement of your highness service, the said Lord of Bouclough beying always a mortall enemy to this your graces realme, and he dyd say

within XIIII days before, he would see who durst lie near hym, wt many other cruell wordes, the knowledge whereof was certainly haid to my servauntes, before theyre enterprice maid vppon hym; most humblye beseeching your majesty that your highness thanks may concur unto theyme, whose names be here enclosed, and to have in your most gracious memory, the painfull and diligent service, of my poor servaunt Wharton, and thus, as I am most bounden, shall dispose with theyme that be under me f..... annoysaunce of your highness enemys."—In resentment of this foray, Buccleuch, with other border chiefs, assembled an army of 3000, with which they penetrated into Northumberland, and laid waste the country as far as the Banks of Bramish. They baffled or defeated the English forces opposed to them, and returned loaded with prey."—Pinkerton's History, vol. ii. p. 318.

WILTON CASTLE.

Durham.

WILTON Castle is one of those ancient mansions of whose foundation we have no account. Like most other buildings of this class, it has been erected in times when the sword was held in greater estimation than the pen, when strength constituted right, and when the passions of the turbulent possessors of the soil, unchecked by respect for the laws, or the common principles of justice and humanity, avenged themselves on whole districts, for the real or fancied aggressions of the neighbouring chieftains, and thus produced a necessity for making the residence of every great proprietor, or chieftain, a strong hold, with a capacious court yard, into which the cattle and other property of the surrounding tenantry might be collected upon every alarm.

This Castle formerly consisted only of one large square tower, on the north side of a capacious court, enclosed within a high and embattled wall, terraced on the inside for troops to act when occasion required, and turreted at the four corners. Three of these turrets were circular, the other square, possessing embrasures and loop-holes, and projecting so boldly from the angles of the walls that it does not immediately appear how they are supported.—The principal tower is strengthened at the north-east and south-east corners by massive buttresses, with embrasures and machicolations on the top. The machicolations are perpendicular apertures, introduced in towers, turrets, and over gateways, for the purpose of annoying a besieg-

ing enemy with fire and other missiles, when a gate or the foundations of the building were too closely attempted. The south-west and north-west corners of the great tower are also strengthened by two smaller square towers, which form a part of the main building but are carried considerably above it. In the turret to the south are two small figures of uncouth workmanship. The whole of the adjoining buildings to the left of this turret are entirely new, and added by its late possessor I. T. H. Hopper, Esq. who has so thoroughly altered and beautified the interior that it is now a handsome and convenient residence.

Camden speaking of this castle says it belonged to "the Lords d'Eures, an ancient and noble family of this county (as being descended from the Lords of Clavering and Warkworth, as also by daughters from the Vesires and the Altons, Barons) who as Scotland can testifie, have been famous for their warlike gallantry; for Ketenes, a little town in the further part of Scotland, was bestowed upon them by King Edward I. for their great services; and in the last age King Henry VIII. honoured them with the title of Barons (Ralph of this family being created Baron Eure of Wilton); from them it passed by sale to the Darcies, in whose possession it now remains." Mr. Grose observes relative to this place, that "in the reign of Henry VIII., Sir Ralph Eures was warden of the marshes, and did so many valiant exploits against the Scots at Tiviotdale, that the King gave him a grant of all lands he could win from them; whereupon he invaded Scotland, but engaging with the Earl of Arran, at Hallydown hill, was thus slain, together with the Lord Ogle and many other persons of note. William Eure, brother of the second Ralph Lord Eure, was Colonel in the army of King Charles I. and was killed at the battle of Marstone Moor in Yorkshire, A. D. 1645. The last Lord Eure, who was living A. D. 1674, leaving no male issue, that family became extinct. In the time of the civil wars this castle was in the hands of Sir William Darcy; he being a royalist, it was besieged and taken by Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, governor of Auckland Castle, who sequestered the goods, but did not destroy the building, which was afterwards demolished by James Lord Darcy, of Havan, in the kingdom of Ireland, about the year 1689, who took away the lead, timber, and chimney-pieces to Sadbergh, near Richmond, with a design to build another house there, but the greatest part of the materials was afterwards sold by auction for much less than the sum paid for

pulling down and removing, &c." This castle is about four miles to the west of Bishop's Auckland, and thirteen south of Durham. About one mile to the north and west of Wilton Castle, on the opposite side of the valley, stands an ancient tower of great strength, but on a smaller scale, called Wilton Hall. This tower, with its various outbuildings, is beautifully situated on the side of a hill that rises gently from the narrow flat vale of the Wear, and commands a delightful prospect of the river, woods, castle, and high grounds, on the opposite side of the valley. It is not known by whom or when this tower was built, but its origin may safely be ascribed to nearly the same times in which Wilton Castle was erected. Wilton Hall, and the grounds about it, have lately received great embellishments from the judicious improvements and highly cultivated taste of their present possessor, Newbey Lowson, Esq.

The following account of an old English hall, in one of the notes to the poem of Rokeby, is so admirably given, that I shall insert it, as affording an excellent specimen of the interior of the ancient houses of our nobility and gentry, such as they existed in times, although not very remote, considered not sufficiently settled to admit their houses being left totally defenceless. " Little-cote House stands in a low and lonely situation. On three sides it is surrounded by a park that spreads over the adjoining hill: on the fourth by meadows which are watered by the river Kennet. Close on one side of the house is a thick grove of lofty trees, along the verge of which runs one of the principal avenues to it through the park. It is an irregular building of great antiquity, and was probably erected about the time of the termination of feudal warfare, when defence became no longer an object in a country mansion. Many circumstances, however, in the interior of the house, seem appropriate to feudal times. The hall is very spacious, floored with stones, and lighted by large transom windows, that are clothed with casements. Its walls are hung with old military accoutrements, that have long been left a prey to rust. At one end of the hall is a range of coats of mail and helmets, and there is on every side abundance of old-fashioned pistols and guns, many of them with matchlocks. Immediately below the cornice hangs a row of *leathern jerkins*, made in form of a shirt, supposed to have been worn as armour by the vassals. A large oak table, reaching nearly from one end of the room to the other, might have feasted the whole neighbourhood, and an appendage to one end of it made it answer

at other times for the old game of Shuffleboard. The rest of the furniture is in a suitable style, particularly an arm chair of cumbrous workmanship, constructed of wood, curiously turned, with a high back and triangular seat, said to have been used by Judge Popham, in the reign of Elizabeth. The entrance into the hall is at one end by a low door, communicating with a passage that leads from the outer door in the front of the house to a quadrangle within: (I think there is a chapel on one side of it, but am not sure). At the other it opens upon a gloomy staircase, by which you ascend to the first floor, and, passing the doors of some bed chambers, enter a narrow gallery, which extends along the back front of the house from one end to the other of it, and looks upon an old garden. This gallery is hung with portraits, chiefly in the Spanish dresses of the sixteenth century."—Little-cote House is two miles from Hungerford in Berkshire, through which the Bath road passes. Of the buff coats alluded to in the above description, Grose says, in his Military Antiquities:—" In the reign of king James the First, no great alterations were made in the article of defensive armour, except that the buff coat, or jerkin, which was originally worn under the cuirass, now became frequently a substitute for it, it having been found that a good buff leather would of itself resist the stroke of a sword; this, however, only occasionally took place among the light armed cavalry and infantry, complete suits of armour being still used among the heavy horse. Buff coats continued to be worn by the city trained bands till within the memory of persons now living, so that defensive armour may, in some measure, be said to have terminated in the same materials with which it began; that is, the skins of animals or leather." A dispute, which took place immediately after the restoration between a justice of the peace and an old captain of Oliver Cromwell's, throws great light on the estimation in which these leathern garments were held. It is mentioned, in the memoirs of Captain Hodgson, as follows:—" A party of horse came to my house, commanded by Mr. Peebles; and he told me he was come for my arms, and that I must deliver them. I asked him for his order. He told me he had a better order than Oliver used to give; and, clapping his hand upon his sword hilt, he said that was his order. I told him if he had none but that, it was not sufficient to take my arms; and then he pulled out his warrant, and I read it. It was signed by Wentworth Armitage, a general warrant to search all persons they suspected, and so left the

power to the soldiers at their pleasure. They came to us at Walley-hall, about sun-setting; and I caused a candle to be lighted, and conveyed Peebles into the room where my arms were: my arms were near the kitchen fire; and there they took away fowling-pieces, pistols, muskets, carbines, and such like, better than £20. Then Mr. Peebles asked me for my buff coat; and I told him they had no order to take away my apparel. He told me I was not to dispute their orders; but if I would not deliver it, he would carry me away prisoner, and had me out of doors. Yet he let me alone unto next morning, that I must wait upon Sir John at Halifax; and, coming before him, he threatened me, and said, if I did not send the coat, for it was too good for me to keep. I told him it was not in his power to demand my apparel; and he, growing into a fit, called me rebel and traitor, and said, if I did not send the coat with all speed, he would send me where I did not like well. I told him I was no rebel, and he did not well to call me so before these soldiers and gentlemen, to make me the mark for every one to shoot at. I departed the room; yet, notwithstanding all the threatenings, did not send the coat. But the next day he sent John Lyster, the son of Mr. Thomas Lyster, of Shipden Hall, for this coat with a letter verbatim, thus—'I admire you will play the child so with me as you have done, in writing such an inconsiderate letter; let me have the buff coat sent forthwith, otherwise you shall so hear from me as will not very well please you.' I was not at home when this messenger came; but I had ordered my wife not to deliver it; but if they would take it let them look to it; and he took it away, and one of Sir John's brethren wore it many years after. They sent Captain Butt to compound with my wife about it; but I sent word I would have my own again; but he advised me to take a price for it, and make no more ado. I said it was hard to take my arms and apparel too; I had laid out a good deal of money for them; I hoped they did not mean to destroy me, by taking my goods illegally from me. He said he would make up the matter if I pleased betwixt us; and it seems had brought Sir John to a price for my coat. I would not have taken £10. for it; he would have given about £4. but wanting my receipt for the money he kept both sides, and I had never satisfaction."

COMBER CASTLE.

Sussex.

IS one of the castles built by Henry VIII. for the protection of the coast, and has little in it to attract the attention of the antiquarian, beyond that remarkable diminution of grandeur for which the later castles are conspicuous, a change that the invention of gunpowder has done as much towards effecting as the abolition of the feudal system; for the lofty edifices of the Normans would have been the cause of greater danger than security, and occasioned infinitely more mischief in their fall than the humbler structures of which Comber Castle is a specimen, if attacked by the destructive power of modern artillery. It is not a little surprising, that the present perfection to which the art of war has been carried should have reduced the construction of castles to their primitive condition, as has been evinced by the numerous Martello towers, built on our shores during the late war. These are strong, single, and circular towers, the entrance to which is by a door at some distance from the ground, reached by a ladder, and which is afterwards drawn up by the garrison, consisting of a very small number of men; and although these small towers are supposed capable of giving great annoyance to an invading enemy, yet they are sufficiently strong to require more time and trouble for their capture than the possession would be worth.

THE END.

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