

TO FACE P. 271.

ART. XII.—*Piel Castle, Lancashire.* By JOHN F. CURWEN, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

*Read at the Site, September 9th, 1909.*

# I.—HISTORICAL.

PIEL CASTLE, or the Pile of Fotheray,\* situated on an island at the southern point of Walney, is said by Camden,† though producing no authority for the assertion, to have been built by an abbot of Furness in the first year of King Edward III. (1327). This is doubtless a correct statement, as the one distinguishing architectural feature remaining—the Carnarvon-arched doorway, which appears in every part of the building and outworks—is exactly of this period. It would appear, however, that an earlier fortification of some kind was erected in the time of King Stephen (1135-1154), for he granted to the abbey of Furness all his possessions in Furness and Walney, on the distinct understanding that the brethren should make, sustain, repair and guard a fort here in defence of these parts, and against all his enemies moving against them.‡ And in confirmation of this, have we not got the name of piel (or pele) to remind us forcibly that there was here, at one time, a hold which relied for its strength, not on stone walls, but on some construction of timber?

Mr. H. Gaythorpe sends me two extracts from the public records, which seem to point to the exact date of the building of the castle. The first has reference to the pele, and the second, four and a half years later, to the crenellation of the keep :—

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\* Foddr-ey="fodder" or "hay-grass island"—ED.

† *Britannia*, 978.

‡ Beck's *Annales Furnesienses*, 281.

Pontefract. Feby. 12. 1323. To the abbot of Furneys. Order to deliver his peel near the abbey to John Darcy, sheriff of Lancaster, when required to do so by him, and to cause the peel to be provisioned and guarded whilst in his custody, according to the directions of the said John. Per ipsum Regem.\*

Lincoln. September 26, 1327. Licence for the abbot and convent of Fourneys to crenellate their dwelling-house of Fotheray in Fourneys, co. Lancaster. Per petitionem de Concilio.†

Unfortunately great obscurity hangs over the history of this interesting building. Here and there we can gather from the public records isolated passages, but the *Coucher Book of Furness* is singularly devoid of information. It would seem, however, that in the reign of Henry II. the monks were in possession of Piel Harbour, for that monarch prohibited, under forfeiture of £10, anyone from interfering in their traffic with Ireland. Also it was here that the abbot, in the year 1228, met the mournful procession of vessels bringing the knights of Man and the monks of Rushen Abbey, as they escorted the body of Reginald their king to his last resting place in Furness.

From the very first the abbey of St. Mary's had to endure the ravages of the northern invaders. During the feeble reign of that despicable prince, Edward II., particularly in its last five years (1322-27), our sister counties groaned under an accumulation of miseries. The Scots—emboldened by the imbecility of the English king and urged by their warlike and intrepid Robert the Bruce to a dreadful retaliation of their wrongs under Edward I.—spread dismay and devastation over Cumberland, Westmorland, and northern Lancashire.

To what extent the abbey itself suffered we do not know, but the abbot, John Cockerham, realising the hopelessness of attempting to stand a siege within its walls, found himself under the necessity of erecting some place more defensible. Thus he raised a lasting monu-

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\* *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 16 Edward II., Membrane 14, p. 627.

† *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1 Edward III., p. 169.

ment to his protracted reign of 44 years\* by rebuilding in stone his old fortress upon the island.

For a secluded fortress this was an ideal situation—a naked island of a very few acres, and separated from the main land by a narrow but dangerous channel, which nature had scooped out deep enough to float the largest vessels at the lowest state of the tide; an island that, when fortified, would not only protect their ships bringing in grain, wine and other produce, but one that would also be large and strong enough to act as a place of refuge and as a safe depository for the riches and ornaments of the monastery.

Since the acquisition by the brethren of lands in Ireland, the protection of the harbour was of the greatest importance to keep their communications with that country open. As for instance, at a later period, a license was granted to the abbot and monastery to receive the profits of all their possessions in Ireland, and also that they might every year transport to their monastery one hundred quarters of wheat.† The monks were also the owners of wreckage and, no doubt, whatever revenue could accrue from customs or fishery was theirs, by right of their grant.

At this period the abbey would be at the plenitude of its power and wealth, and when we consider that this fortress was merely an outpost, its strength and extent prove the magnificence of the house. Dr. Whitaker says

The monks of Wetherhall had their "safeguards" hewn out of the rocks; their neighbours of Lanercost had their patron's castle of Naworth to fly to; the canons of Bolton fled to Skipton; some fortified their closes, and stood upon the defensive; but the monks of Furness alone, despairing of their abbey walls, took the spirited resolution of building a strong and spacious castle for their defence.‡

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\* His election occurred in the year 1303, and he professed obedience as abbot to the archbishop of York on the 1st of November. His successor received the benediction as abbot at Ripon on the 9th of December, 1347.

† Beck's *Annales Furnesienses*, 298.

‡ Whitaker's *Richmondshire*, vol. ii., 374.



In spite of this, and notwithstanding the condition placed on Stephen's munificent benefaction, we find that in the year 1403 the abbot, John de Bolton, is alluded to as having thrown down and annulled his castle called the "pele de Fotheray," finding the cost of keeping it in repair and garrisoning it beyond his means. For this reason the adjacent island of Walney was seized into the king's hands, the escheator of the county of Lancaster alleging that the lands in Walney had been granted to the abbey by King Stephen on the express condition of the monks sustaining and keeping in repair "la pele de Fotheray, which fortalice indeed was properly constructed, repaired and kept up before these days, and because the said fort has been laid low and abolished by John of Bolton, abbot of Furness and of the convent of the same place, to the grave loss and terror of the aforesaid county," &c.\* From the Chancery Rolls, under date December 18th, 1411, we learn that the cause of seizure was deemed insufficient, and that Henry IV. issued a mandate to Robert Laurens, the escheator, to reinstate the abbot in his possessions without delay.†

For the year 1423 the rolls of Parliament contain a petition from the merchants of the staple at Calais, complaining that Abbot Robert had been smuggling wool out of the kingdom without paying duty, the monks finding "le peelee of Foddray" a convenient place for the shipment of goods to Ernemouth, in Zealand. Beck, in alluding to this incident,‡ observes that "Piel harbour became afterwards a place of great resort for those who sought to evade payment of the royal duties, as the abbot had done from the period of his elevation to that dignity."

Probably not long after this (1429), the monks repaired

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\* *County Palatine of Lancaster Chancery Rolls*, 5 Henry IV., No. 14.

† See also *Furness Coucher Book*, Chetham Society, p. 215.

‡ *Annales Furnesienses*, 293.

and partly rebuilt the castle. They also erected a beacon close to the abbey and another at Rampside to give timely warning to the garrison to be on the alert. This was at a time of threatened invasion, when all men-at-arms were arrayed and other fencible men were armed and equipped, whether "hobelers or archers," and when "bekyns" were to be set up in suitable places to give warning of the arrival of the enemy. The abbot, as lord of the liberty, required each tenant to furnish him with man and horse for the service of the king, and his military power was so strong that at a later period there were under his hand as many as 1250 able-bodied men, armed with coats of mail, long spears, bows and arrows, and in complete preparation for being called on active service.

The side to which the monks of Furness leaned in the rivalry between the houses of York and Lancaster is clearly seen by the abbot's non-interference with the landing of Colonel Martin Swartz and his mercenary troops from Germany and Ireland, when they arrived on Piel Island in May, 1487. In the castle Lambert Simnel is said to have held his court, and from thence were sent the emissaries which were expected to raise the country in favour of this Pretender.

During the suppression of the monastery in 1537, the commissioners evidently entertained some doubt as to the policy of again destroying the "pele of Fotheray," which, with Dalton Castle, formed part of the monastic possessions. Robert Southwell says:—"Here is also a havene wher as hath afore tyme arrayvyde diverse strange Rebelles, a place very daungerus and a Pyle standyng ther by very necessary to be kepte for the defence therof."\* In the certificate of the possessions of the abbey the "castell and pele of Fotheray" is described as

In distaunce from the scyte about a ij myles, and standith in a lytell

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\* *Miscellaneous Correspondence, temp. Henry VIII.*, second series, vol. xl., art. 3.

ylond herd upon the see syde, and in the mowth of a ffayer havon that drawith vi ffadom depe at a lowe water . . . so that ther may be landed in the yle, at a full see, a greete number of men, and the contrey not able to withstonde them, excepte the said Pele be kept, and furnyshed with men and ordonaunce for the purpose; which Castell and Pele is now sore decayed, and specially the coverynge and tymber-werke thereof, insomuch that hit ys thought that ccc<sup>li</sup> wyll scarcely repayre hit sufficiently. Notwithstanding hit were verey necessary and requysyte to be repayed and fortifyed with some smalle garyson and ordynaunce necessarye for the same, yf hit shall so stonde with the Kyngs moste gracious pleasure; for as hit ys thought ther ys no place withine the Realme that enmyes have so greate advauntage to take lande at, as they have there; and incase any shold happen to arryve there, as God forbyd there shold do, there myght be landed in the said yle at a full see xl<sup>mle</sup> men, and alle the contrey not able to recyste them, excepte the Pele, whiche of hitself, being well fortifyed as aforesaid, were able to bowge (to pierce with shot) and destroye as many shippes and men as shold enterpryse to arryve there; and to the mayntenaunce of the said castell and pele, there was one Kinge Stephyn, many yeres paste who gave unto the said late monastarye divers lands, etc.\*

Leland, journeying through the district in 1538, does not so much as mention the island.

In a MS. account of the vessels belonging to the peel of Fouldrey and its creeks in Furness and Cartmel, addressed in 1586 to Henry, earl of Derby, who seems to have collected the most precise information, for the Privy Council, concerning the maritime defences of this coast, we find that the number of vessels was five. But then a list of all the vessels in the port of Liverpool, taken in the same year, only shows a total of twenty-eight.

In a report to the government of Queen Elizabeth, under date 1588, it is stated that

Betwene Mylforde Haven in Wales and Carliell on the borders of Scotlande, ther is not one good haven for great Shyppes to Londe or Ryde in, but one, which is in the furthest parte of Lancashire called the Pylle of ffolder. The same Pylle is an old decayed Castell, parcel of the dowchie of Lancaster in ffurnes ffelles, wher one

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\* *Annales Furnesienses*, lxii.

Thomas Prestone,\* a Papyse Atheiste, is deputye stewarde, and com'aundes the menredest and Lands ther, wch were sometye members appertayninge to the Abbeye of ffurnes . . . the countrie is so Rude, waste and vnprovided of gentylmen. What the Spanyerds meanes to do the Lorde knowes, but all that countrie beinge knowen vnto doctor Allen† who was borne hard by the pyle, and the inhabytants ther aboutes all ynfecte w<sup>th</sup> his Romyshe poyson, hit is not vnlyke but his directione wilbe vsed for some Landinge there, &c.§

There is, however, no mention of any idea of repairing the castle or of making it temporarily fit for the occupation of a garrison, so that probably it was by this time a total ruin.

The poet Drayton, writing in 1619, refers to this castle :—

To Fournesse ridged Front, whereas the rocky pile  
Of Foudra is at hand, to guard our out-layd Isle  
Of Walney and those grosse and foggy Fells.

In 1667 a proposal was made by Sir Thomas Strickland, who has been well described by Mr. Bellasis as "the brightest jewel in the Strickland crown," to the Navy Commissioners to build three third-rate frigates in "Foudray Pill," to be completed by the 1st August, 1671. Edward Tyldesley, writing to Samuel Pepys, the then

\* In all probability Thomas Preston of Nether Levens Hall and of the manor in Furness. He was sheriff of Lancashire in 1585, married Margaret, daughter of John Westby of Mowbreck, and died in 1604.

† Menredes is an almost pure Saxon word, with its plural in the English form. *Manred* or *Manræden* is homage or dependence, so that the word in the text means the dependants or retainers of Furness Abbey, owing it homage.

‡ Cardinal William Allen was born in 1532 at Rossall, near Fleetwood, in sight of the pele. He was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, created canon of York in 1558, but on the accession of Queen Elizabeth he retired to the Catholic College of Louvain. In 1565 he ventured to return to England, but was compelled to retire again to Flanders in 1568, then to Mechlin, and afterwards to Douai, where he obtained a doctor's degree and established a seminary for English scholars, supported by a pension from the Pope. Then he became canon of Rheims. Revered by the Catholic party abroad and detested by the Protestants at home, he was suspected of having instigated Philip II. to attempt the invasion and conquest of England. Subsequently he was presented by Philip to a rich abbey in Naples, and from thence to the archbishopric of Mechlin. This remarkable man died in his palace at Rome in 1594.

§ Lansdowne MSS., cod. 56, No. 51, endorsed "Towchinge a place called ye Pille in Lancashire, a dangerous place for landinge."

Secretary to the Admiralty, under date October 1st, 1667, says that he has viewed "Foudray Pill where they proposed to build ships for the King's service . . . there is such timber as all England cannot show," and he further sent a sketch of the channel showing the position of the fortress, and the islands of Fowley, Roe and Walney, in coloured chalks, a copy of which is here given.\*

## II.—DESCRIPTIVE.

Although only an outpost and never intended for the permanent residence of a lord, yet the main characteristics of a baronial castle are followed here—where we find a keep with inner and outer baileys surrounded by ramparted walls, mural towers and broad ditches.

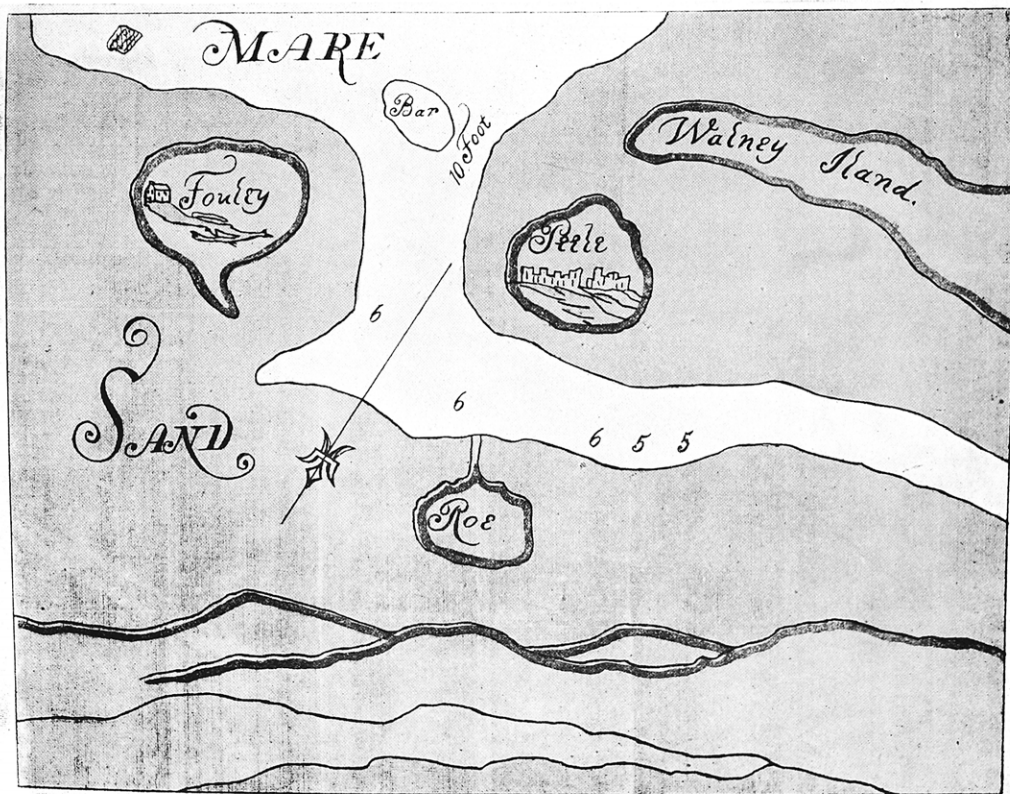
The curtain wall to the outer bailey encloses an area of 2.367 acres. It is eight feet thick, and at present, north and west, L shaped on plan, with the ruins of three towers upon it, one at each of the two extremities and one at the angle. However, there would seem to be no doubt that before the encroachment of the sea the wall also continued round, so as to encompass the east and south sides, and finally to join up with the towers on the inner ramparts.

Unless the formation of the ground has undergone considerable change, the ditch outside this wall could scarcely have been intended to hold water, for the level of it at the north-east tower is so much higher than at the north-west tower, that before it could be filled with water at one end, it would necessarily rapidly overflow at the other end.

NORTH-EAST TOWER.—Of the three towers, the one at the north-east extremity has lost its sea-side, but it is possible to ascertain that it was fifteen and a half feet square internally, with walls five and a half feet thick, and of two storeys with a wooden floor between. The upper storey communicated with the northern rampart walk from whence another stair, protected by a thin parapet wall, led up to the roof.

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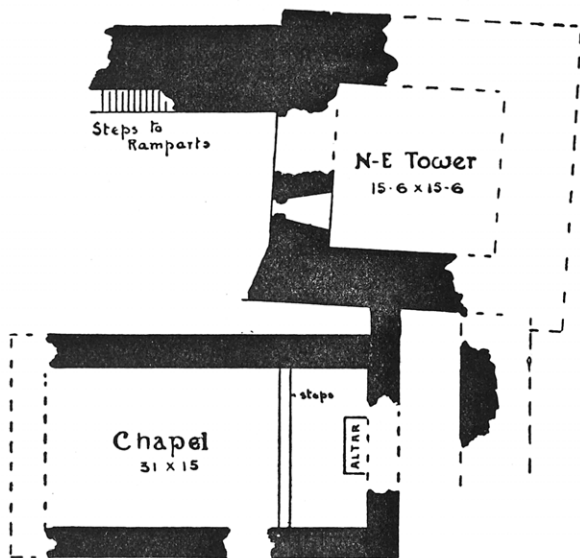
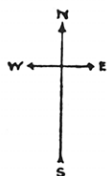
\* *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic*, 1667, pp. 558, 559.



FACSIMILE OF DRAWING SENT TO SAMUEL PEPPS, SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY, OCT., 1667.



# PIEL CASTLE



0 10 20 30 feet

John F. Curwen F.S.A.  
4. 11. 1909



CHAPEL.—Close beside this tower are the ruins of a small garrison chapel. Although only three walls are left standing, yet the foundations of the western wall can be traced sufficiently to give us the internal dimensions of 31 by 15 feet. At the eastern end the base of the altar and its two steps can still be clearly seen. There are eight curious holes, two in the east wall and three each in the north and south walls, which are difficult to understand, unless they were intended to hold wooden corbels for the springing of the roof. Unfortunately all the red sandstone dressings are gone, so that we cannot now see their detail, but it will be noticed that the walls are comparatively thin, being some 2 feet 8 inches in thickness, and that in the mortar there is a very much larger admixture of shells than in any of the other walls. From this we may infer that the chapel was erected at a later period. Passing along westward we notice the ascent to the ramparts by narrow flights of steps let into the thickness of the wall, and midway the foundations of some buildings that stood within the curtain.

NORTH-WEST TOWER.—The north-west tower of two storeys is likewise about fifteen and a half feet square, with walls eight feet thick. The entrance to the ground floor is on the southern face, and from the first floor a doorway communicated with the western rampart, with a mural garderobe in the south-west jamb. Externally there is no plinth or offset of any kind, and unfortunately all the red sandstone quoins have been removed.

SOUTH-WEST TOWER.—After passing the foundations of the curtain wall that connected the two western towers and some foundations of buildings within it, we come to the south-western tower, in all measurements similar to the last. The entrance from the bailey is on the eastern face, and there is communication to the western ramparts from out of the first floor with a mural garderobe again to be found in the north-west corner leading out from the door jamb. Some 20 feet of the southern curtain wall

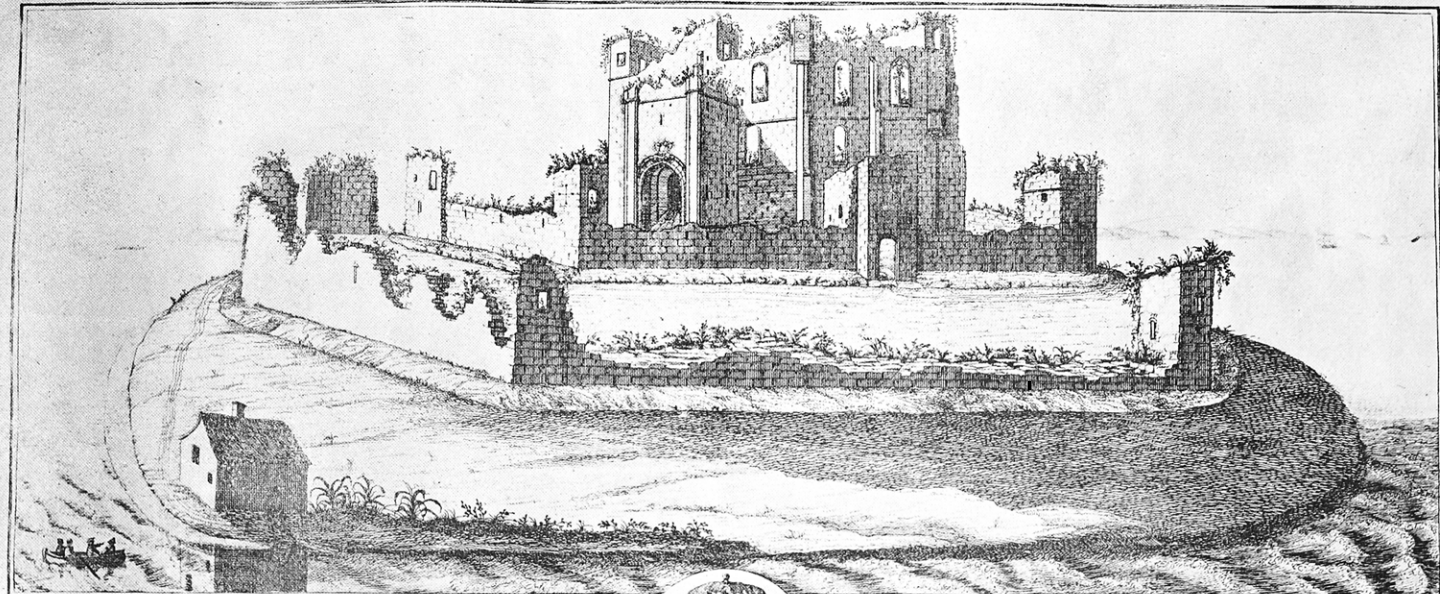
projects away at an angle from the tower, from the top of which can be seen a narrow stair leading up to the battlements.

GATEWAY.—Now in travelling the whole length of this outer fortification we have come across no signs of a gateway. Where could it have been situated? Very naturally we look to the northern wall, in the centre of which there are evident traces of foundations within the bailey, but Samuel Buck, who always delineated every distinctive feature, shows in his sketch of 1727 nothing but the plain wall with a loop hole in the centre, as if to light the very buildings of which we have the foundations. Neither is there any entrance shewn through the western curtain. Must we, therefore, be forced to conclude, as does Mr. Harper Gaythorpe, that the castle was entered by a water-gate, direct from a landing on the eastern side, or that, accepting the hint given us by West, at the north-east corner and on the extreme verge of the cliff there were twin towers, with a guard room between them vaulted over an inner and outer gate? William Close, in his second edition of West's *Antiquities of Furness* (p. 369), says :—

We crossed the exterior fosse or ditch, and entered the outer bayle or yard, through a ruinous guard tower, overleaning a steep precipice formed by the surges of the sea. The ancient pass, where the drawbridge over the outer ditch was fixed, has been long washed away. . . . The great gate or entrance into the outer bayle was often fortified by a tower on each side, and by a room over the intermediate passage.

INNER FORTIFICATIONS.—Crossing the court we reach the inner ditch, which measured 25 feet across the top, and opposite the gateway find the stone abutment upon which rested the drawbridge when down. One of the sockets, into which was set a shoe to receive the drawbridge pivot, is visible in the right hand jamb of the gateway, whilst above can be seen the two oillet holes through which the chains passed and the groove in the archway in

THE NORTH-WEST VIEW OF PEELE CASTLE, IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

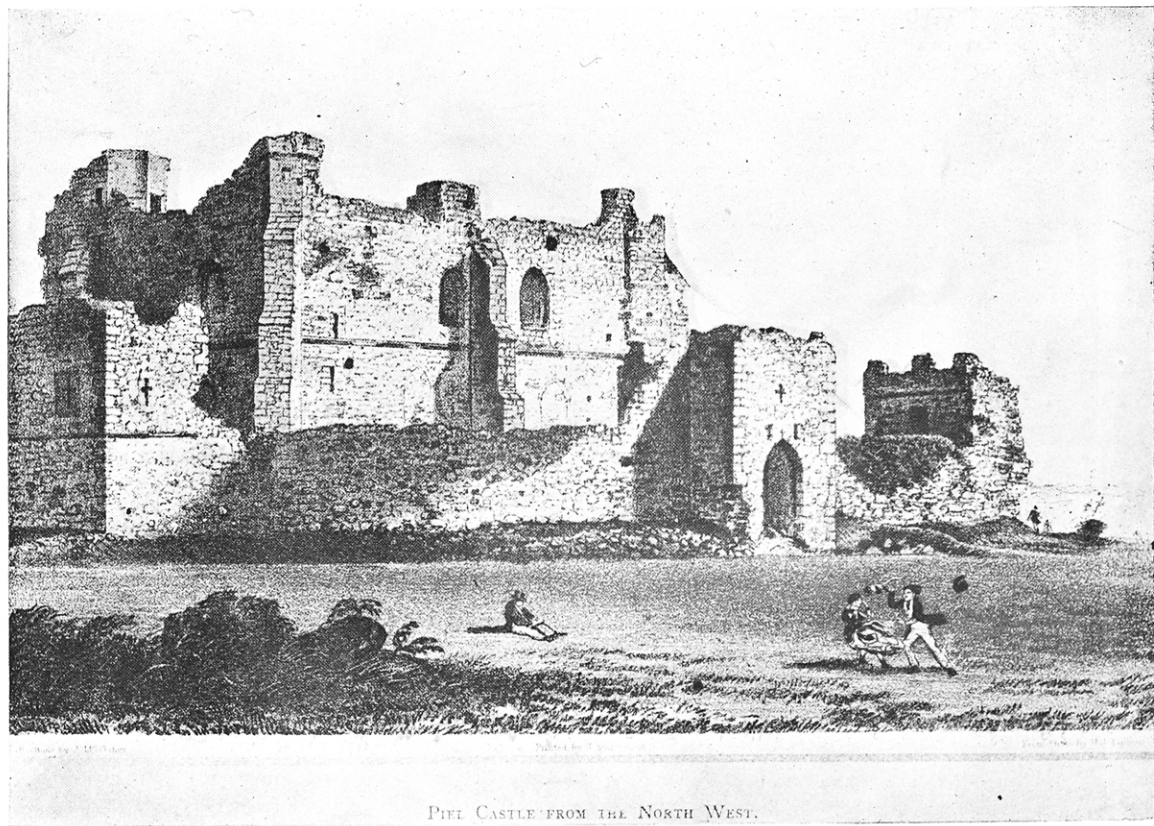


To the most Noble JOHN Duke & Earl of Mountbatten, Mar's Lieut.  
 of the North & Baron Mountbatten of Broughton, Master of the great Wardrobe Lord High  
 Treasurer & Chamberlain of the Counties of Northampton & Warwick Master Forester & Warden  
 of the Forests of Northampton & Warwick within the Forest of Rockingham  
 in the County of Northampton Captain & General of the first Troop of Horse & Foot  
 in the most Noble Order of the Garter, and Grand Master of the most Noble Order  
 of the Bath Owner of this Castle

The Prospect is humbly inscribed by  
 May it please W<sup>ts</sup> Grace  
 W<sup>ts</sup> Grace's most devoted & most obedient Servant  
 Samuel Knoll Esq<sup>r</sup>.



THIS Castle also called the Isle of Tondrev, is built upon a Rock or  
 small Island near the south end of the Isle of Walney. King Stephen grants  
 to the Abbot of Turgis certain Lands in the Isle of Walney on condition that  
 he should build & maintain a Castle on this Rock for a defence to the Country.  
 In 1103 W<sup>ts</sup> Henry caused it to be seized because the Abbot let it go to decay &  
 on his promise to Repair the same it was redelivered. S. B. John. n. B. 1006. 174.



PIELT CASTLE FROM THE NORTH WEST.

Illustration from *The History and Antiquities of Furness*.

(date not known)

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By permission of the late H. Gaythorpe.

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*Photo. by J. F. Curwen, F.S.A.*

PIEL CASTLE.

The entrance to the Keep.

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which worked the portcullis. In the guard room above there is a fireplace where we find the flue carried up the wall for some distance, and then turned out to the face of the wall. From this floor a door on either side led out upon the rampant walks, from which narrow stairs led up to the battlements over the gatehouse.

The wall to the inner bailey encloses an area of .664 parts of an acre. It is eight feet in thickness, and upon it are the remains of three other towers. That to the south has lost its sea-side, but there are still three fourteenth century doorways left and a portion of the parapet, which is seen to be corbelled out on a string course.

The north-west tower is an irregular pentagon with a doorway, but no light to the lower storey. The walls of the upper floor are recessed in 30 inches on the west and north sides so as to enlarge the room, and these walls, overlooking the outer bailey, are pierced by cross-shaped loopholes. From this floor a doorway leads out to the northern rampart, from whence another stair led up to the battlements over.

The north-eastern tower, on the extreme verge of the cliff, has a wide splayed loop through the west wall of the ground floor, to enfilade the external base of the curtain wall. From the room above there is a skilfully arranged mural passage leading to the ramparts, and also to a garderobe in the south-west angle, which reveals how clever the builders were in constructing these passages.

**THE KEEP.**—It will be noticed that the gateway into the inner bailey is on the west, but the entrance to the keep is on the north. So again we find this peculiar feature of defence which we noticed at Liddel Mote, where the incoming foe was obliged to expose his unshielded right side to the defenders before gaining the entrance.

The entrance is through a long porch, raised a little above the ground level, which has a gate at either end, with a groove in the masonry for working a portcullis in each.

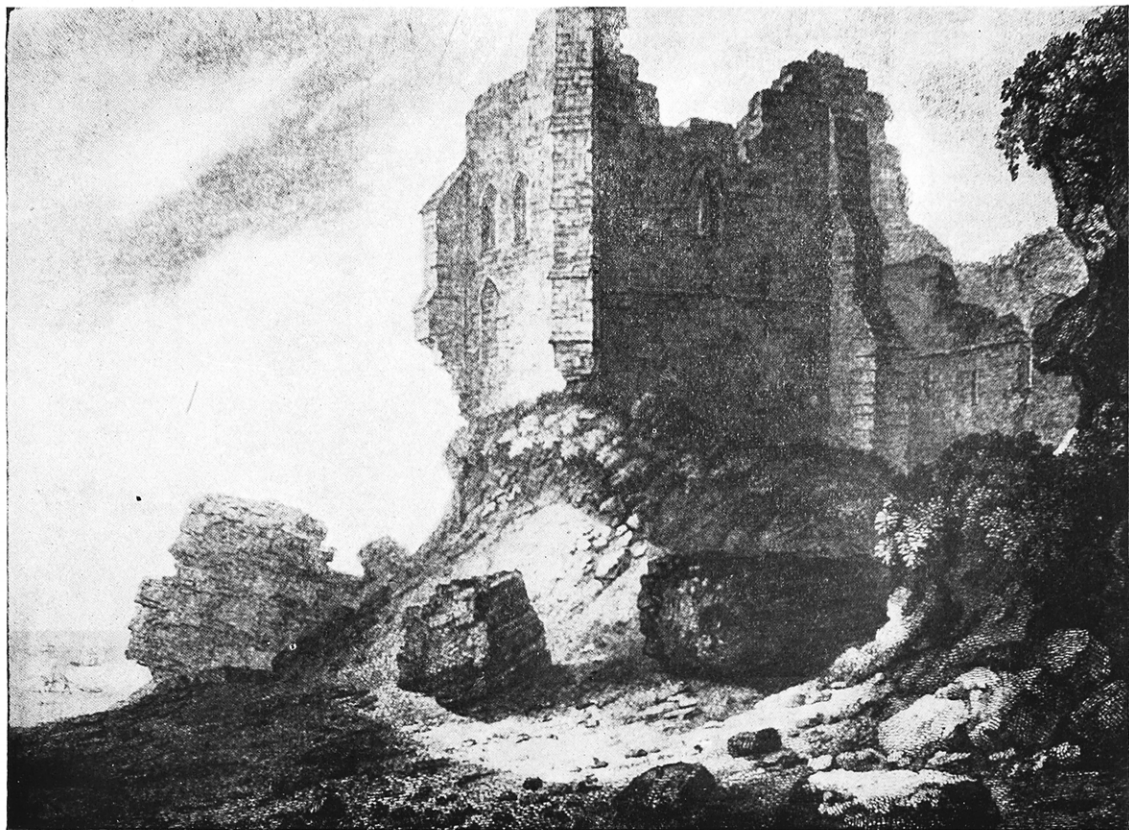
On the keystone of the arch over the outer gate there is carved a grotesque female figure in a contorted attitude, which, before it was so worn away, shewed it to be holding a human head in its hands. Our late antiquary Mr. Lees considered this to represent Salome dancing before Herod, a common subject portrayed in mediæval MSS., pictures and sculpture.

On the left hand, just within the inner doorway, and below one of the few instances of vaulting in the castle, there is a doorway leading to a mural newel, seven feet wide, that mounts up to the various rooms on the eastern side, to the north-east turret on the battlements, and also to a mural and vaulted anteroom over the archway. From this antechamber there is a mural passage leading to the guardroom over the porch, from which a narrow straight staircase again conducted to the leads above. On the accompanying plan notice how ingeniously light is brought by loopholes, both to the newel and also to the doorway into the guardroom; also the two interior loops for communicating a guard's call to the interior of the keep.

The keep itself, covering an area of 80 by 75 feet and having a total height of 45 feet, has been divided longitudinally into three compartments, of three storeys each, with doorways opening out between them. I can find no other keep in England with three long compartments side by side, so that we are bound to notice it as an unique arrangement. The boulder clay upon which the foundations of the building rest, however, yields readily to the action of the sea, so that of these three compartments only two now remain—the eastern wall of the third having been undermined by degrees.

Facing upon the beach, this was fortunately the most picturesque side, so that the early engravings of the castle show very plainly the gradual destruction. Thus from the drawing made by T. Hearne in 1781 (and illustrated here), it is seen how that the southern half of this wall, up to the central buttress, had by then fallen. Close, in his





*Drawn by T. Hearne.*

THE NORTH-EAST ANGLE OF  
 THE CASTLE IN 1781.

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edition of West's *Antiquities of Furness*, 1805, remarking upon the fallen portion, says:—"Many huge fragments . . . . . are scattered upon the shore . . . . . and notwithstanding the concussion they received in falling from a great height and the frequent surges of the sea, they are as firm as ever, and in many places exhibit the shape of the edifice" (p. 371). The boulder stones were grouted with liquid mortar, and to the slow drying of the grout-work may be attributed the great tenacity of the work.

From a drawing made in 1822, and published in Whitaker's *Richmondshire*, we find the northern end of this east wall still standing, but from another, by Philips in 1824, that a considerable portion more has fallen during the interval. Again, from another rough sketch made in 1860, we find that not only has the entire wall gone, but also a half of the northern wall. So that it is a little comforting to read what Close further says about the gradual lengthening of the foot of Walney:—

The southern part of the Isle of Walney, for the length of two miles, is an immense ridge of pebbles, which the ocean has amassed and is daily increasing. The stones and gravel, for five or six miles, along the western shore of the island, after repeated agitation, are impelled forwards by the impetuosity of the ocean, and then left in repose. The progress of this Neptunian process is very curious. Every high tide, as a monument of its power, amasses [like at the celebrated Chesil Beach at Weymouth] a long convex ridge or bar of pebbles to those that were there before, and so rapid is the increase that it is said Haws End (the site of the lighthouse on Walney) has lengthened 200 yards in the space of sixty years.

To which fortunate circumstance our vice-president, Mr. John Fell, adds:—"By this protective accretion the waste of Piel Island by the action of the sea has largely been checked."

At the southern end of this eastern compartment there is a projecting bay, now partly fallen, in which have been constructed narrow chambers. The floors do not correspond in level with those of the main keep, but from their appearance one would be tempted to suggest that the

lower floor, raised up on a solid block of masonry, may have been used as a place of temporary confinement; the one above as a private chapel; and the upper floor, which has been abundantly lighted, as a guest room of some description. Here there is a splendid instance of good corbelling out on the northern side to increase by some 30 inches the width of the upper room.

As to the purpose of the central compartment, it is difficult to imagine. We can perhaps conceive the basement, which has no apparent staircase down to it, as an armoury reached by a wooden stair, or as a dark hiding place for the wealth and ornaments of the abbey; the ground floor over, seeing that the porch led directly into it, most probably was used as an entrance hall with two doorways on either side leading into the east and west compartments. Even then we can but wonder how the small window at the southern end lighted sufficiently its full length of 60 feet; but as to the upper floor, with its one window, it is difficult to assign its arrangement. At the southern end of this upper floor there is a window in the centre with a doorway on either side. The left hand one has curiously a *pointed* arch, and opens on to a newel stair that leads up to the south-east turret; the right hand one has a very narrow fourteenth century doorhead, and opens into a mural garderobe overhanging the southern wall and lighted by a loop in the buttress.

From all appearances the western compartment contained the principal rooms of the governor and his guests. It will be noticed that there is a fireplace to each floor. An interesting flue may be seen from that one in the basement, ascending to the top floor, and then passing out to the face of the wall; whilst on the ground floor there is a good specimen of the fourteenth century fireplace.

A newel stair, five feet wide, leads from a Carnarvon doorway in the basement to the top floor, missing out the ground floor, and from thence to the north-west turret. There is also another newel from this top floor up to the

south-west turret on the battlements, out of which leads a garderobe over the west wall. Here again we find the fourteenth century Carnarvon arch.

All the floors have been of wood.

The basement has been aired by four narrow loops sunk back in deep and wide recesses, but the floors above have each been lighted by four handsome Decorated windows, each having a central mullion and quatrefoil tracery, with stone seats on either side. Such unusually large windows must have quite destroyed the strength of the fortress when once an invader had entered and gained mastery over the inner bailey.

Has the large opening in the east wall beside the fireplace on the top floor been a borrowed light to the dark upper floor of the central block ?

Externally a plain double-splayed plinth surrounds the whole building, and at the first floor level there is a bold ogee string course. The battlements have disappeared, but upon them were two centre and four corner turrets, octagonal in shape, and well corbelled out from the buttresses. Their roofs have been groined, but only the one at the north-east corner is in its original state showing the fourteenth century doors. The one in the south-east corner has been of two storeys.

Until the year 1856 the walls of the castle gradually crumbled away, but the judicious outworks constructed by the present Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry in that year effectually protected the buildings from the inroads of the sea. His Grace also, during the years 1877-8, had other works of preservation and restoration carefully executed under the able superintendence of Mr. Edward Wadham.

And this huge Castle, standing here sublime,  
I love to see the look with which it braves,  
Cased in the unfeeling armour of old time,  
The lightning, the fierce wind, and trampling waves."

WORDSWORTH.