

TYNEMOUTH PRIORY AND CASTLE, FROM AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY PAINTING.

THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ST. OSWIN,  
TYNEMOUTH, NORTHUMBERLAND.<sup>1</sup>

By W. H. KNOWLES, F.S.A.

Owing to its position on the borderland of Scotland, the chief archaeological attractions of the county of Northumberland are the many noble examples of castellated work, with which it is everywhere studded. The county is not rich in the number nor in the architectural quality of its ecclesiastical buildings, although it may be claimed that its long line of Anglian saints and bishops give to it an unequalled interest.

Of the few monastic establishments erected in Northumberland, the Benedictine priory of Tynemouth, the premier cell of the premier abbey of England, is of the foremost importance. Its possessions included numerous manors and churches, its revenues were considerable, and it enjoyed an extensive liberty or franchise. The prior held his own courts for the administration of justice, appointed justices and coroners, and apart from the maintenance of his own castle was exempted from rendering military service, and was further immune from interference on the part of the king's officers. He exercised considerable control over the river Tyne and its fisheries, had power to exact toll on all imported merchandise landed at North Shields, and in the fifteenth century conducted a large export trade in fish, salt, and coal, and was interested in various commercial undertakings.

The priory is situated on the summit of a lofty cliff at the mouth of the river Tyne, about twelve acres in

<sup>1</sup> Read before the Institute, 7th July, 1909.

area and enclosed by the sea on three sides. It has been claimed that the site was occupied by the Romans, but the evidence is inconclusive, and rests solely on the discovery of an altar and several minor objects.<sup>1</sup> Its occupation in Saxon times is manifested by the several Anglian memorial stones which have been found, and is further confirmed by the recorded existence in the eighth century of a monastery at the mouth of the Tyne of which Herebald, the friend of Bede, was the abbot. It is also recorded that in 792 Osred, son of Alcred, once a king of Northumbria, was buried here. At the dawn of the ninth century the Danes inflicted considerable damage, and in 875 completely destroyed Tynemouth. Indeed they appear to have converted the site into a Danish stronghold from which they successfully raided the whole area of Northumbria, reduced the churches to a state of ruin, and arrested the spread of monasticism for a couple of centuries.

The association of the saintly king Oswin with the place is due to a tradition that he appeared in a dream to a secular priest named Edmund, to whom he confided, "I lie in this church unknown to all," and he bade Edmund tell Egelwin, bishop of Durham, to make search below the floor of the church. The discovery of the body occurred on the 11th March, 1065. Whether or not we disregard the tradition, it is evident that a church existed. This fact is further established a few years later, in 1072, when the Conqueror, in need of provisions on his arrival at Newcastle, discovered that the supplies of the district had been dispatched to Tynemouth, the position of which was easily disclosed because of the prominence of its church tower on the summit of the cliffs.

For many years the monastic life of Tynemouth was unusually chequered because of the rival claims of the bishops of Durham and the abbey of St. Albans, occasioned by the wavering disposition of earl Mowbray. In 1074, earl Waltheof in the presence of bishop Walcher of Durham granted to Alduin, a monk from Winchcombe, the church of St. Mary of Tynemouth, with the body of St. Oswin

<sup>1</sup> See *Archaeological Journal*, iii, 367.



TYNEMOUTH PRIORY CHURCH, NORTH VIEW FROM BRAND'S HISTORY OF NEWCASTLE, 1789.

then resting in the said church. Bishop Carileph, who succeeded, confirmed the monks in their possession of the church at Tynemouth, an act which received the approval of Robert Mowbray, earl of Northumberland, and others.<sup>1</sup>

Soon afterwards, about the year 1085, a quarrel took place between the bishop and the earl, whereupon the latter expelled the monks from Tynemouth. The feud necessitated the good offices of the king for its appeasement, but it would appear that Mowbray was not required to give back the church to Durham. "Acting it is said with the goodwill of the king and of archbishop Lanfranc, he entered into negotiations with Lanfranc's nephew, Paul, the Norman abbot of St. Albans, to ascertain whether he was willing to send monks from St. Albans to settle in the vacant church. Paul accepted the proposals upon the conditions that a suitable endowment was found for them. Mowbray assented: the monks were sent and installed under the protection of the civil power, and in this way Tynemouth became the cell of St. Albans, and, except for brief assertions of independence, remained subject to that monastery for the remainder of its existence." In addition to the strife of bishops, the prior was occasionally harassed either by claimants to portions of the priory's possessions, or by the enmity of the neighbouring nobles, and at all times was subjected to the arrogant demands of military leaders in need of assistance.<sup>2</sup>

As indicating the exposed situation of the place, a descriptive letter, written by an unknown monk, about the end of the twelfth century and preserved in the formulary of St. Albans, is of interest. It reads:

"Our house is confined to the top of a high rock, and is surrounded by the sea on every side but one. Here is the approach to the monastery through a gate cut out of the rock, so narrow that a cart can hardly pass through. Day and night the waves break and roar, and undermine the cliff. Thick sea frets roll in, wrapping everything in gloom. Dim eyes, hoarse voices, sore throats are the consequence. Spring and summer never

<sup>1</sup> Besides Mowbray, Guy de Balliol, the first Robert Bruce and the second Gospatric, contributed to the original endowment.

<sup>2</sup> See *New History of Northumberland*, viii, in which Mr. H. H. E. Craster gives

an exhaustive and admirable account of the monastic life of Tynemouth. To this volume the writer owes many of the facts of this brief historical summary.

come here. The north wind is always blowing, and it brings with it cold and snow, or storms in which the wind tosses the salt sea foam in masses over our buildings, and rains it down within the castle. Shipwrecks are frequent. It is a great pity to see the numbed crew, whom no power on earth can save, whose vessel, mast swaying and timbers parted, rushes upon rock or reef. No ring dove or nightingale is here, only grey birds which nest in the rocks and greedily prey upon the drowned, and whose screaming cry is a token of coming storm. The people who live by the sea shore feed upon black malodorous sea-weed, called 'slauk,' which they gather on the rocks. The constant eating of it turns their complexions black. Men, women and children are as dark as Africans or swarthiest jews. In the spring the sea air blights the blossoms of the stunted fruit trees, so that you will think yourself lucky to find a wizened apple, though it will set your teeth on edge should you try to eat it. See to it, dear brother, that you do not come to so comfortless a place.

"But the church is of wondrous beauty. It has been lately completed. Within it lies the body of the blessed martyr Oswin in a silver shrine, magnificently embellished with gold and jewels. He protects the murderers, thieves, and seditious persons who fly to him, and commutes their punishment to exile. He heals those whom no physician can cure. The martyr's protection and the church's beauty furnish us with a bond of unity. We are well off for food, thanks to the abundant supply of fish, of which we tire."<sup>1</sup>

Verily this exaggeration is from the pen of some poor southerner, possibly a banished monk from St. Albans, whose abbot John de Cella (1195-1214) established the practice of consigning unruly members of St. Albans to the distant cell.

An incident of value, as to the date of the Norman buildings of Tynemouth and its early fortifications, is made known to us by the circumstance that Malcolm Caenmore, king of Scotland was buried here in November, 1093, and that the place was able to withstand a two-months' siege in 1095 when Robert Mowbray attempted rebellion against William Rufus.

During the priorate of Akary, c. 1185-1200, who became prior of St. Albans and afterwards abbot of Peterborough, many important liberties were granted by the needy Richard I "to the church of St. Oswin of Tynemouth and to the monks of St. Albans there serving God." Undoubtedly to this period belong the beautiful presbytery and quire, and the shutting off of the nave for parochial

<sup>1</sup> This letter is included in the formulary but is without title, and was identified by

Mr. Craster, see *New History of Northumberland*, viii, 72.

purposes by the erection of the stone screen between the western piers of the tower which henceforth divided the monastic and parochial churches.

Richard de Tewing who "well and nobly" ruled the priory during a quarter of a century (1315-1340) notwithstanding the very turbulent times, when it was necessary to maintain eighty armed men for the protection of the castle, found means to erect a lady-chapel, which is described as a new building in 1336. In all probability this was erected on the north side of the presbytery where indicated on the plan facing p. 26. Prior Tewing was succeeded by Thomas de la Mare, previously a monk at and afterwards abbot of St. Albans. During part of his priorate (1346-49) a considerable sum of money, no less than £864, was expended on the repair and construction of buildings. This sum included £70 for the removal and re-erection of the shrine of St. Oswin, which until then had been united with the high altar; £90 in building a new brewhouse, and £87 in making a dormitory.

During the latter part of the fourteenth century, the priory suffered repeatedly on account of the crumbling away of its walls, so much so that the prior's petition for assistance, backed by the dukes of Lancaster and Gloucester, resulted in king Richard contributing £500, the duke of Lancaster £100, and Henry Percy, first earl of Northumberland, a hundred marks and a thousand trees. At this time prior Whethamstede erected the gatehouse, which is yet standing, though much altered and added to during the last century (fig. 5).

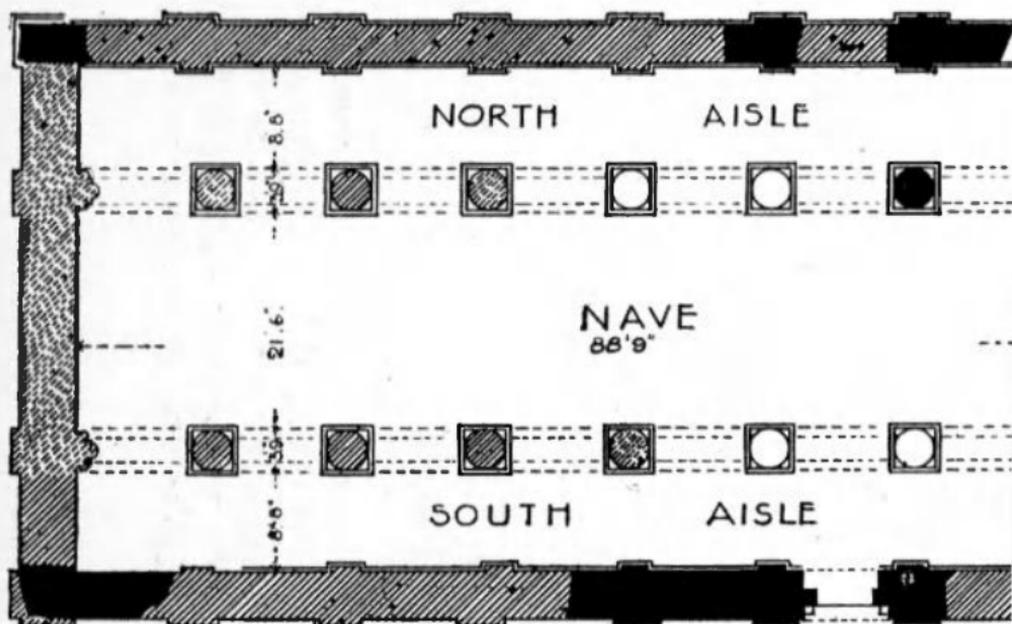
Prior John Langton ruled from 1446 to 1478, and during this period built, at the east end of the church, the Percy chantry chapel, on the enriched ceiling of which are two bosses bearing his monogram.

In 1292 the yearly income of the priory from temporalities was £180 16s. 6½d., and from spiritualities £214 2s. 11d. When Edward I exacted one-half of the church revenues in 1294, Tynemouth contributed £204 9s. 10d. At the time of the suppression in 1539, the annual value is set down at £537 10s. 11d., although eighteen months later the crown returns show it to be £854 2s. 9½d.

Including the receipts obtained from fishery exports, coal-mines and salt-pans, in addition to court dues, etc.

# TYNEMOUTH PRIORY. NORTHUMBERLAND.

CONJECTURAL PLAN OF THE NORMAN CHURCH



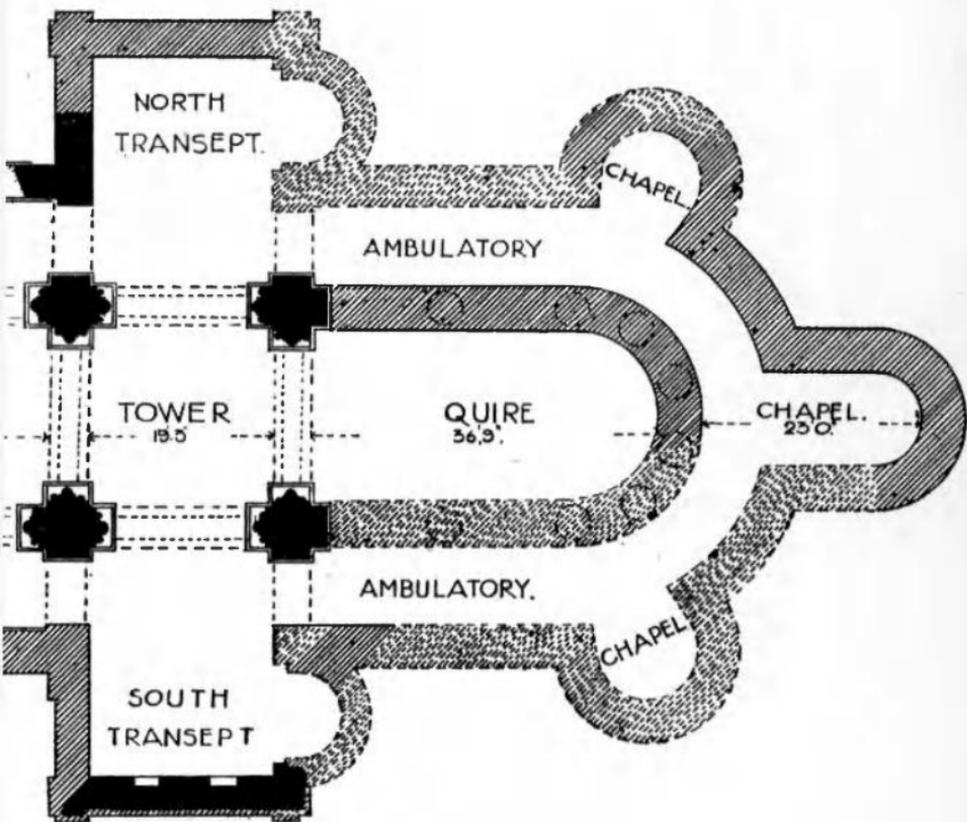
REFERENCES TO SHADING.

EXISTING.

FOUNDATIONS.

ASSUMED.





SCALE OF FEET.

W.H.KNOWLES. F.S.A.  
 MENS. ET. DELT.  
 JULY. 1909.

the total revenues must have produced, if they did not exceed, the sum of £1,000 per annum. In comparison it may be mentioned that at the dissolution of monasteries the value of Blanchland was £40, Brinkburn £60, and Hexham £122. The prior's abundant income was clearly ample to maintain numerous armed men for his castle, an imposing mounted retinue, and to render effective protection and entertainment for royal and other guests, among whom Edward I stayed on no less than four occasions, whilst his queen, Margaret, was accommodated for a lengthened period between June and October of 1303.

#### THE NORMAN CHURCH.

With the exception of a number of sculptured monumetal stones, there is now no evidence of the Anglian churches referred to above, which occupied the site from the end of the eighth century to the time of the Conquest. Nor is there any evidence that any part of the church that first received the remains of St. Oswin, the tower of which was a conspicuous landmark during king William's campaigns against Malcolm of Scotland, was incorporated in the now existing buildings.

There are considerable remains of the Norman church constructed as the result of negotiations between the Norman earl, Robert de Mowbray, and abbot Paul of St. Albans, wherein the earl agreed to make suitable endowment, and the abbot consented to send monks from St. Albans to Tynemouth.<sup>1</sup>

Until the winter of 1904-5, the visible extent of the Norman church comprised fragments of the existing

<sup>1</sup> Bearing on the precise date of the erection of the Norman church it may be remarked that, according to Matthew Paris, Mowbray had Malcolm's body "honourable buried in the church of Tynemouth which he had built." This is not a contemporary statement, and the earlier writers, Symeon and William of Malmesbury, simply state that Malcolm was buried at Tynemouth. Still there seems no reason for doubting the fact that Mowbray commenced the building of the church, or rather, that it was commenced in his time, after the installation

of the St. Albans monks, c. 1085, and before his rebellion in 1095; but the date of its completion is precisely given in the *Vita Oswini* (*Surtees Miscellanea Biographia*). "And when the building of the new monastery was finished, the Martyr was transferred from the old church in which he had been buried and found by bishop Egelwin, into the new monastery," which ceremony was performed on the day of St. Oswin's passion, 20th August, 1110. ("Anno ab incarnatione Domini Millesimo Centesimo decimo, tercia decima kalendarum Septembris.")

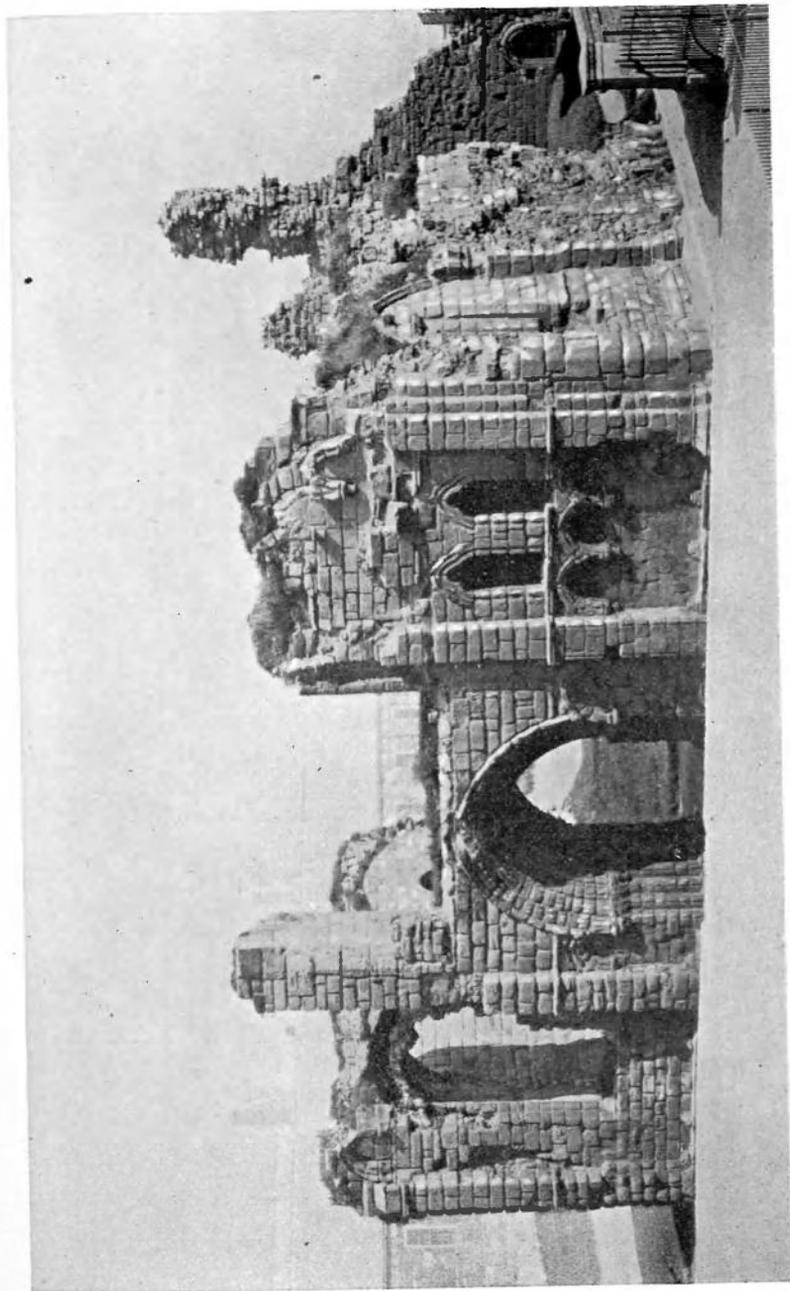
nave, central tower, and the west side of the transepts. The recovery of the remainder of the plan, embracing the quire and the eastern apses of the transepts, is the result of excavations conducted under the supervision of the writer.<sup>1</sup>

The plan revealed (see fig. 1 and coloured plan facing page 26) consists of an apsidal quire, with apse ambulatory and three radiating chapels, a central tower, north and south transepts, with an apsidal chapel on the east side of each arm, and a nave with aisles. The ambulatory plan is uncommon in English churches of the lesser scale, erected during the last decade of the eleventh century, and is a valuable addition to the known examples of the type in which the apse is surrounded by an ambulatory with radiating chapels, such as existed at St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and the larger churches at Gloucester, Norwich, and elsewhere.

The discoveries clearly demonstrated the plan of the presbytery and its eastern termination, as indicated on fig. 1. The widths of the central span and of the aisles were similar to those of the nave, and the length from the east side of the crossing to the inside of the apse curve 36 feet 9 inches. There were three radiating chapels (each about ten feet in width), with apsidal terminations; the eastern chapel was elongated and the side chapels were of slightly horse-shoe form on plan. Only continuous foundations of massive masonry without indication of piers were encountered, about 6 feet below the floor level, they were of roughly squared stones in irregular courses. To the inner walls of the ambulatory, and nearer the surface, were a number of carefully-dressed ashlar stones. There was no trace of plastering on the walls nor was there any indication of the existence of a crypt, indeed, as the subsoil was unstable and sandy, it was evident that the walling had only been made sufficiently deep to obtain a safe foundation. From the tower to the chord of the major apse the space is about the width

<sup>1</sup> The eastern chapel was discovered in 1887 by the late Mr. R. J. Johnson, but no plan of the results then obtained has been recorded. The excavations were conducted by the writer by permission

of the Officer commanding the Northern District granted to the committee of the *New History of Northumberland*, and with labour supplied by the corporation of Tynemouth.



WEST END OF NAVE.



NO. 1. SOUTH DOOR OF NAVE.



NO. 2. E. BAY, N. NAVE ARCADE.



NO. 3. CAPITAL TO ARCADE PIER.



NO. 4. DETACHED CAPITAL.

of two bays of the nave, and, considering the direction of the axes of the chapels, it may safely be assumed that the apse itself was divided into five bays, the chapels being opposite to the centre and the outer bays. Though narrower, the bays would be from centre to centre of the piers about seven feet.

The ambulatory plan occurred at both Christchurch and St. Augustine's at Canterbury, at Winchester, Worcester, Bury St. Edmunds, Gloucester, and Norwich.<sup>1</sup> At St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and Gloucester, the radiating chapels are placed somewhat similarly to those at Tynemouth. All the examples mentioned were begun before the end of the eleventh century. They occur in churches of the larger scale, and all had a greater number of bays in the straight part of the quire than Tynemouth. In two cases, Winchester and Norwich, and also in the chapel of the Tower of London, the apse is divided into five bays, as I suggest that of Tynemouth was.

Three of the massive piers which supported the tower yet remain in various stages of decay: they have a fiat pilaster to the aisles and quire, but towards the tower and nave form responds of triple semi-shafts, the middle one of fifteen and those on either side of twelve inches diameter. Their bases, which stand on a square plinth chamfered on its upper edge, are moulded with two hollow chamfers above a fillet.<sup>2</sup> Each shaft is surmounted by a square simple cushion capital, the abacus of which has a quirked chamfer on its lower edges. Of the arches, only a single voussoir remains to record their design; it is of the inner order, and it is moulded with a bold roll on each angle. From the floor level to the necking of the capital carrying the tower-arches, the height is 27 feet 3 inches. Sufficient of the transept walls exist to denote their size and shape, and indicate that they were aisleless. There are two contemporary semi-circular arched recesses in the south wall of the south transept, and above the arch opening into the south aisle of the quire there are also similarly shaped arches resting on the cushion capitals of attached

<sup>1</sup> See *The Eleventh Century East Ends of St. Augustine's, Canterbury and St. Mary's, York*, by Mr. John Bilson in the *Archaeological Journal*, lxiii, 106, and pl. ii.

<sup>2</sup> See *The Abbey Church of St. Andrew's, Hexham*, by Mr. C. C. Hodges, pl. 54, where is a similar profile of the base to the respond at the west end of the nave.

semi-shafts. These arches enclosed windows at the level of the triforium. They have been mutilated when the opening to the aisle was introduced. The excavations revealed the foundations of an apsidal chapel on the east side of the south transept.

The width of the nave between the piers measures 21 feet 6 inches, and the bays of the arcade, from centre to centre, 12 feet 6 inches. It was divided into seven bays by cylindrical piers, 3 feet 10 inches in diameter. The single pier remaining (plate iv, no. 2), has a cushion capital octagonal on plan (plate iv, no. 3), with a chamfered and quirked abacus. The cushions are semi-circles to each face of the octagon, with angle volutes much decayed excepting towards the north aisle, where they are ornamented with a diminutive arcade; the base mould is similar to those of the crossing piers. From the floor to the top of the capitals, the height is 12 feet 3 inches (plate v). The arcade arches were of two square-edged orders, the inner being 24 inches wide on the soffit. The abacus of the capital to the nave responds is continued across the pilaster next the north aisle, and forms an impost from which springs the arch opening into the north transept. Above the latter is an arched opening at the level of the nave triforium, and a few voussoirs are built into the east side of the south-east tower pier, indicating that the arch opening from the transept to the quire aisle was identical with that into the nave aisle.

Quite recently, whilst some repairs conducted by the Office of Works were being carried out, the east jamb of the triforium, over the east bay of the nave, was exposed to view (plate iv, no. 2). The jambs have a half-round attached shaft between two three-quarter round attached nook shafts, all with moulded bases and cushion capitals. Above the outer nook shaft are four moulded voussoirs of the enclosing arch, resembling Lindisfarne and Durham in general form. The central shaft of the three in the jamb, and the column in the middle of the opening, doubtless carried two sub-arches within the containing arch (plate v).

Fortunately a portion of the nave north aisle wall remains in a moderate state of preservation; it is 3 feet 6 inches in thickness, with a chamfered plinth-course on each face at the same level; and is strengthened by pilasters

on the interior, 2 feet 3 inches wide and of 6 inches projection, and on the exterior, 4 feet 3 inches wide and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches projection. A chamfered stringcourse runs between the pilasters, 7 feet above the internal and 8 feet 6 inches above the external plinth. A portion of the semi-circular window exists in the easternmost bay, and above it are a few bold eaves corbels rounded on the underside, which are of similar projection to that of the buttresses. The height of the aisle walls, from the plinth to the underside of the corbel-table is 17 feet 8 inches.

There is no evidence to show whether the aisles were vaulted at the time of their erection, although this was practically almost universal in the Norman school of the time. It will be observed on reference to the plan (fig 1), that the pilasters do not correspond in their spacing with the arcade piers. In the south wall in the second bay from the transept, there is a semi-circular arched doorway of three orders (plate iv, no. 1), the inner and outer springing from a chamfered impost, and the middle one supported by a detached nook shaft with scalloped capital.

The interesting detached capital (plate iv, no. 4), is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches high; it is worked on two sides only, and is carved with angle volutes and a head between, with a row of leaves turned over below the head. This type of capital was common in Normandy in the second half of the eleventh century, *e.g.* in the churches of Caen, and also in some of the earlier work in England, of which an example is to be seen in the crypt at Lastingham, Yorkshire.

In point of size, the church at Tynemouth is comparable with the Benedictine priory of St. Mary's, Blyth, in Nottingham, and that of Lindisfarne in Northumberland (a cell of Durham). The nave at Tynemouth, from the west wall to the crossing, is 88 feet 9 inches in length, and the width between the aisle walls 45 feet 4 inches; at Blyth the nave is divided into seven bays as at Tynemouth, but it is 97 feet 2 inches in length, and 45 feet 7 inches in internal width, whilst at Lindisfarne the nave is of six bays and measures 77 feet by 43 feet 3 inches. The church of Lindisfarne was erected probably a quarter of a century after Tynemouth; and in comparison with it Tynemouth is much simpler and plainer in all its details.

The triple shafted piers of the crossing are common to both, but as we have seen the piers of the nave arcade were unadorned and the orders of the arches unmoulded, whereas, at Lindisfarne, the latter are all moulded, and the piers are enriched with zig-zag sinkings, similar to those at Durham.

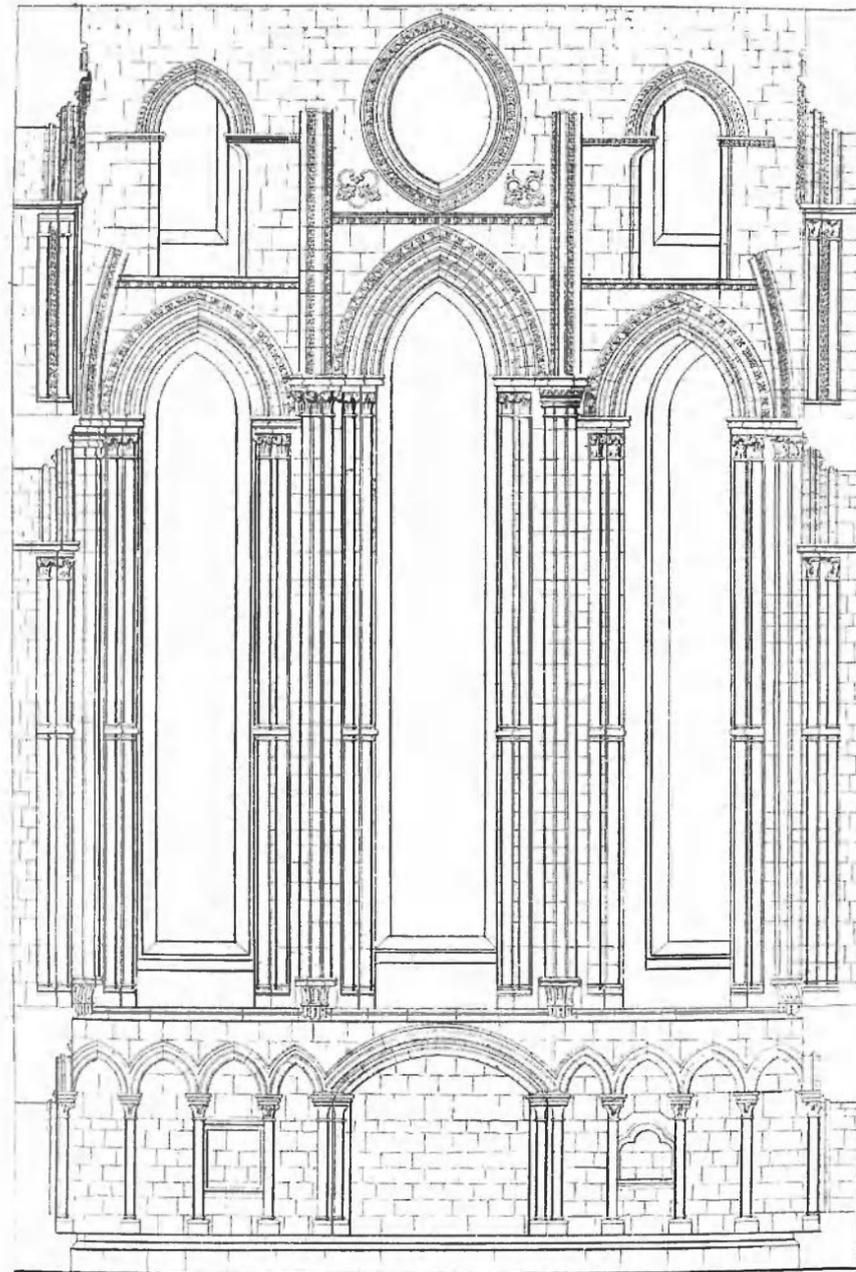
#### THE NEW QUIRE AND PRESBYTERY.

During the last decade of the twelfth century the Norman ambulatory plan gave place to the extensive eastern arm, a goodly portion of which still exists to testify to its great beauty and quality of design. Whether we owe its origin to the almost universal impulse which stirred the religious of the period to alter and enlarge the quires of churches, or, as its excessive length would suggest (plate XII) that it had already been determined to forfeit the nave for parochial purposes, it appears certain that its reconstruction was begun, if not completed, by prior Akary, who was elected abbot of Peterborough in 1200.

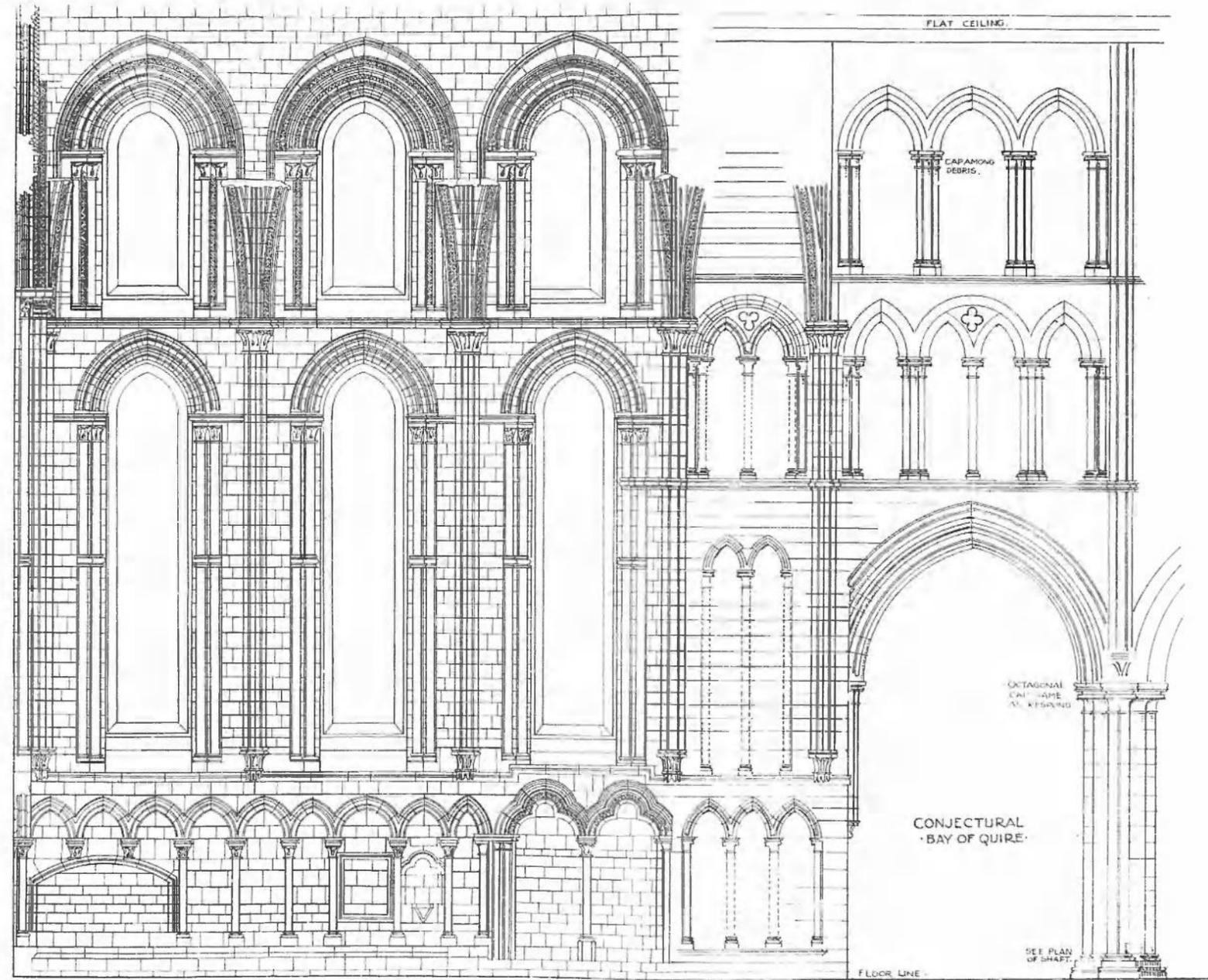
The new eastern arm consisted of the quire of five bays in length, with north and south aisles, and the chapel of St. Oswin of four bays, without aisles and square ended.

Of the quire which was 72 feet 6 inches in length, only a respond of the west bay of the south arcade, the aisle wall of this bay and part of its vault have survived. We are dependent, therefore, on old drawings for its form and proportions; fortunately, they are sufficiently numerous for our purpose. In Buck's *Views of Northumberland*, published in 1728, in an eighteenth-century painting (plate I), and in Brand's *History of Newcastle* here reproduced (plate II), there are delineated tolerable representations of the quire, showing an arcade of five bays with triforium and clerestory.

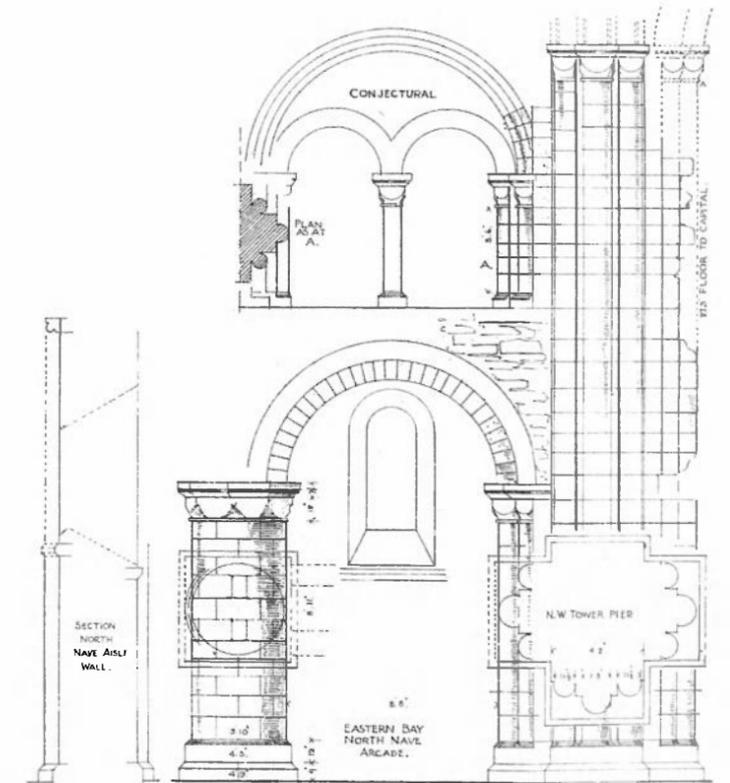
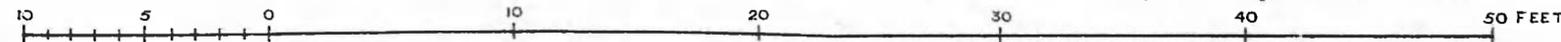
The piers supporting the arcade were composed of eight attached shafts, those on the cardinal faces being filleted and the diagonal shafts keel-shaped (fig. 2). The respond at the west end was of similar construction, but at the east end it is of light triple clustered shafts, and carries the soffit order only, the two outer orders springing from the wall as shewn in plate V, no. 2. All the capitals were moulded and octagonal on plan.



1. ELEVATION OF EAST END, INTERIOR.  
From Supplement to Sharpe's *Parallels*.



SOUTH WALL OF ST. OSWIN'S CHAPEL AND QUIRE.  
From Supplement to Sharpe's *Parallels* — X — measured and conjectural by W. H. Knowles.



3. EASTERN BAY OF NORTH NAVE ARCADE.  
(W. H. Knowles)

The moulded bases followed the outline of the clustered shafts and rested on a double octagonal plinth, the lower member having a roll-moulding on its outer edge. This roll was continued on a screen wall between the piers. The bays were divided by clustered shafts springing from corbels immediately above the capitals of the arcade piers, and these shafts finished below a flat wooden ceiling above the clerestory windows. The triforium consisted of an arcade of four pointed arches in each bay; the extreme arch on each side was single; the central pair was included within a semicircular containing arch, and all were apparently carried on clustered shafts with round moulded capitals.

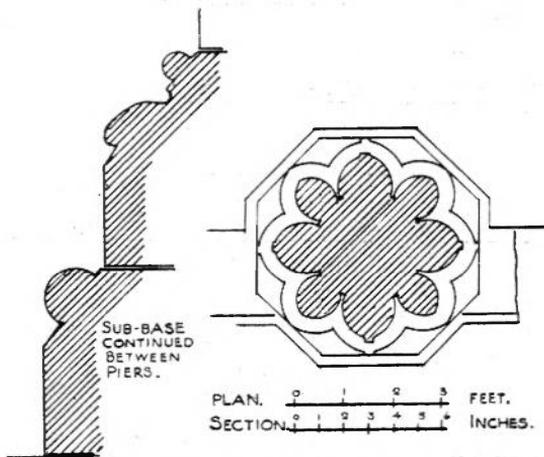


FIG. 2. QUIRE PIER.

and bases, in design similar to the triforium of the quire at Ripon. On the illustration (plate II), the outer face of the wall appears to be solid, and not as generally open to the roof.<sup>1</sup> Unless the wall was always so built, it was constructed to give additional strength when a story was added over the eastern arm in the fifteenth century, and when it is probable that a chamber was also formed in the triforium. The aisle walls appear to have been heightened (plate II), (as at Brinkburn<sup>2</sup>), and a fireplace inserted (fig 3), a feature which has just been

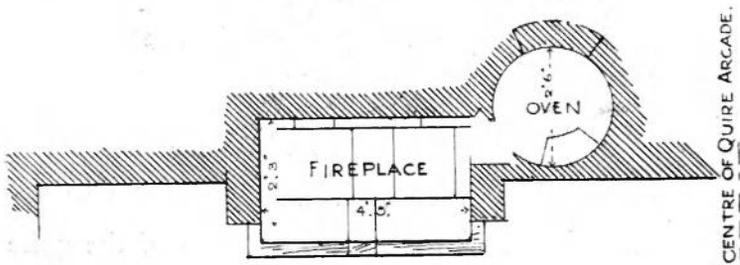
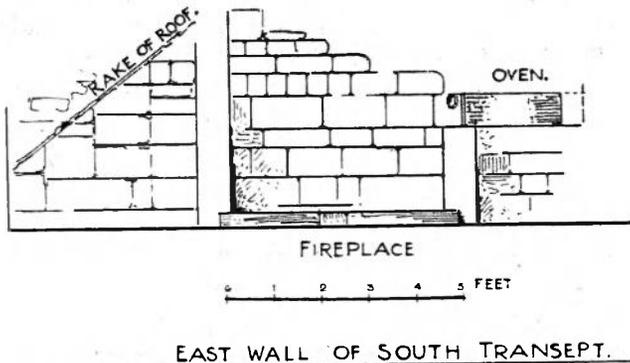
<sup>1</sup> Upon a drawing in the possession of Mrs. H. A. Adamson, made by R. Waters, Junr., in 1786, from an earlier drawing by his father, and on the eighteenth-century

painting shewn in plate I, the back of the clerestory is shewn solid with buttress projections over the arcade piers.

<sup>2</sup> *New History of Northumberland*, vii, 485.

revealed during the restoration now proceeding by the Office of Works. The fireplace with an oven occurs at the west end of the triforium, and is built into the east (Norman) wall of the south transept.

The clerestory comprised an arcade of three arches which filled the compartment, the centre one opposite the window being wider than the others: they were supported like the triforium on clustered shafts, the

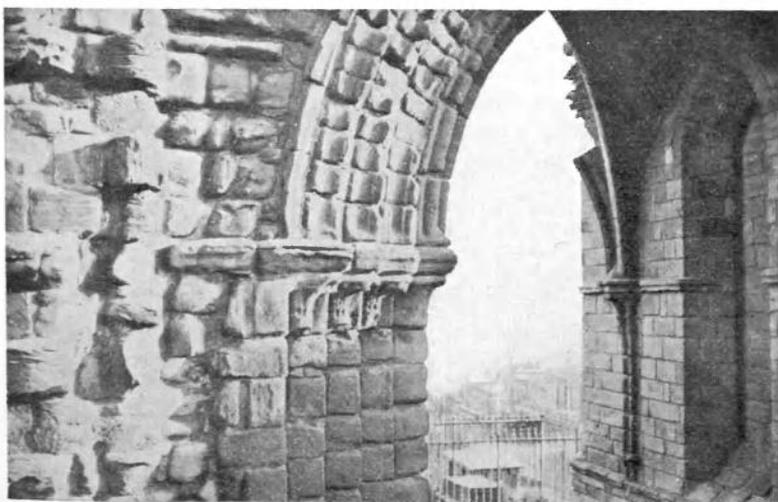


capitals or abaci of which were continued around the shafts which divided the bays (plate v, no. 2).

The aisles were covered with quadripartite vaults with transverse and diagonal ribs, double-chamfered on either side of a filleted roll and worked as solid springers for three courses. There are no wall ribs, and the cells are built in ashlar, in courses parallel to the ridges. The transverse ribs spring from shafted brackets with carved capitals and semi-octagonal abaci. The shafts rise from carved corbels worked on a stringcourse at the level of the window-sill. The aisle wall has gone, save to the



NO. 1. EAST SIDE OF SOUTH TRANSEPT.



NO. 2. CAPITALS OF THE SAME.

extent of a bay and a half; on the interior it was divided by two stringcourses, one below the sill, and another at the level of the capitals to the vaulting shafts. Each bay was presumably lighted by a simple window with chamfered jambs widely splayed to the interior, excepting in the westernmost bay where a pointed recess is blocked by masonry. The arch opening from the west end of the aisle into the south transept (plate vi), has four moulded orders, the soffit order being carried on a respond identical with the vaulting shaft. The three outer orders are supported on detached nook shafts on circular moulded bases and square sub-bases, and both have carved "transitional" capitals with square abaci.

The new quire arcade was designed and built in the aisle of the Norman church, and did not, in consequence, interfere in any way with the Norman quire, which would continue in use until the completion of the new work.

#### THE CHAPEL OF ST. OSWIN.

Internally the chapel of St. Oswin is of four bays (plates v and vii), and its internal elevation was divided into three stages of unequal heights; the lowest stage is decorated by a wall-arcade, the intermediate stage is occupied by tall pointed windows, one in each of the three eastern bays, while the upper stage has a shorter pointed window in each of these three bays.

The wall-arcade stands upon a chamfered bench-table, and is of pointed arches of a single order without hood-moulding, supported by detached shafts with moulded bases and carved capitals with square abaci. The bases are worked on square sub-bases, and the foliage of the capitals is but little removed from the transitional volute type. Near the east end in both the north and south walls there is a deep segmental arched tomb recess, about seven feet in length. The arches of the wall-arcade are carried across the opening (plate v, no 2).

In the second bay on the south side, one of the arches is occupied by a square aumbry, and the adjoining one by a trefoil arched piscina with projecting basin, and a solid stone shelf within; in the third bay are two sedilia divided by a detached pillar, and flanked by a

pair of slight shafts; they support trefoil-headed arches, decorated with dog-tooth ornament. Above the wall-arcade the bays are divided by triple clustered vaulting shafts, which rest on carved and moulded corbels and terminate in carved semi-octagonal capitals, the abaci of which continue the stringcourse between the two upper stages. The windows have two moulded orders supported by banded nook shafts with moulded bases, and carved capitals with square abaci continued as a stringcourse. As indicating the order in which the building proceeded, it may be noted that these capitals, like those below, are also of "transitional" type with suggestive volutes and a tall tongue or leaf between. The shafts in all cases to the height of two courses are worked on the ashlar. A wall-passage pierces the square window jambs. The windows of the upper tier have pointed arches of two moulded orders, one of which is enriched with nail-head ornament. All have hood-mouldings decorated with dog-tooth, and terminate in carved bosses. The detached nook shafts have capitals with square abaci and foliage of five lobed leaves, and the angle between the shafts is carved with dog-tooth ornament. The vaulting is quadripartite, and its transverse and diagonal ribs have a filleted soffit roll with hollows on either side filled with toothed ornament. The springers are of solid horizontal courses almost up to the level of the capitals of the adjoining window jambs. A small hollow moulding is worked on the angle at the back of the springers, and is continued as a wall-rib above the windows.

Between the three easternmost bays of St. Oswin's chapel and the quire is a fourth bay (plate v, no. 2), narrower than those to the east and differently treated. It masks the solid walls of the east end of the aisle behind, and encloses a circular newel staircase, entered on the return face below the quire arcade by a chamfered square-headed door within a round arch. The bay is comparatively plain in design, the wall-arcade comprises three arches; an arcade with two pointed arches occupies the intermediate stage, and at the level of the quire triforium is an opening with two pointed sub-arches under a semi-circular containing arch, each on detached jamb-shafts, repeating the design of the central part of the quire



INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. OSWIN.

triforium. The space above corresponding with the clerestory consists of plain walling.

At the east end (plate v, no. 1), the wall arcade consists of four arches on either side of a wide segmental arched altar recess (afterwards pierced by the entrance to the later Percy chantry chapel). Two of the arches are slightly wider than the rest, in one of which is a square-headed aumbry, and in the other a trefoil arched piscina.

Above the wall-arcade the east end (plates v and vii) is divided into three bays by clustered shafts, and each is occupied by a pointed window similar in detail to the side walls, excepting that the centre window is taller than those on either side, and all are higher than those in the south wall, the abaci of the capitals of the jamb-shafts continuing the level of the string over the lower windows of the side walls. The double order of the arches is enclosed by a dog-toothed hood-moulding, and the stepped string above is also similarly enriched. The capitals of the vaulting shafts are more ornate than those on the side walls, two of them are carved with bunches of foliage or crockets; the alternate capitals being compound with circular mouldings in the bell, and above decorated with nail-head and indented ornaments. The upper side-lights are pointed, but the centre one is a pointed oval; all have hood-mouldings with tall nail-head ornament, and the arches of the side lights spring from an impost similarly adorned. On the angles of the jambs of the sidelights is a roll only which is shouldered on one side to cause the opening to "centre" with that below on the interior, and to fit the lines of the elevation on the exterior. Sunk surface carvings fill the spandrels of the pointed oval, and generally the upper half of the east end is characterised by rich and refined ornament. On the wall above the vaulting shafts which divide the three bays are moulded ribs similar to those of the vault, but they are not arched, and rise quite vertically with the wall, doubtless up to the underside of the vault cell (plate viii). They did not cross to the intersection of the diagonal ribs of the vault and were of no structural utility.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As depicted by Sir Gilbert Scott in his *Lectures on Mediaeval Architecture*, i, 20, where a further inaccuracy occurs in the bay, shewing the quire arcade, as we shall see below. Neither the triforium nor the

clerestory was constructed as there shewn, and the quire was never vaulted. The groining indicated in the lady-chapel at Glastonbury, *ibid.* 116, more nearly resembles Tynemouth.

Only the easternmost jamb of the tall pointed window and the opening above it now exist on the north wall of St. Oswin's chapel (plate VIII). The details resemble those already described, excepting that the capitals to the upper windows have circular mouldings, and that the stringcourse above the abacus follows the curved line.

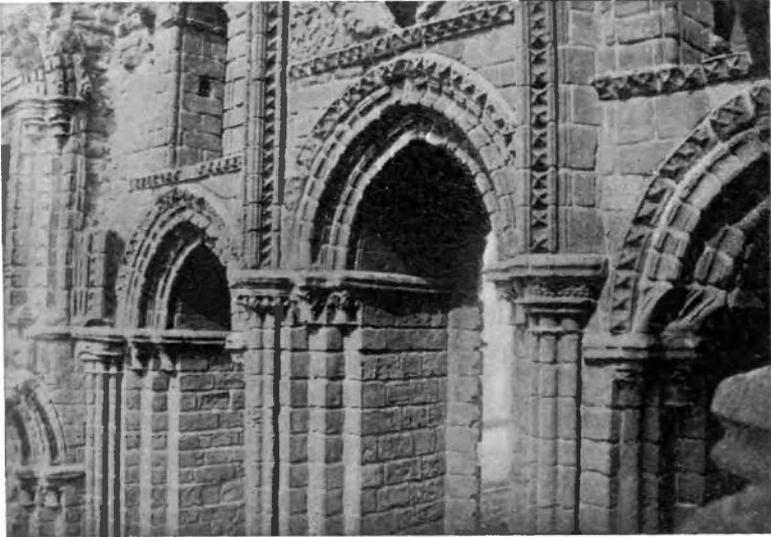
It will be observed that there is a considerable variation in the design of the capitals; they are excellent examples of simple ornamentation, and their development, as indicating the course of construction, implies that building was begun on the south side, proceeded across the east end, and was continued on the north side. It may be taken to indicate further that the work progressed somewhat slowly for a church of moderate size, else such development would not be so observable.

#### EXTERIOR OF ST. OSWIN'S CHAPEL.

Externally the chapel is simply and boldly designed with pilaster buttresses of slight projection, which rise from the chamfered plinth and continue to the gable (plate IX). The buttresses on either side of the external angles terminated in tall octagonal turrets, designed in three stages with a parapet and pyramidal roof. The two upper stages of the turrets have pointed openings and banded shafts which cover the angles, and pass up the centre of each face in front of the openings.

On the south exterior the tall windows have double chamfered jambs, and the upper windows a chamfered inner and moulded outer order with a hood-moulding. The outer order is supported by nook shafts with carved capitals and square abaci, which is continued across the buttresses. The buttresses finish beneath a cornice carried on corbels (plate IX).

The east end is divided by stringcourses into three stages of windows at the level of the window-sills. The pointed arches of the windows have two chamfered orders, and continuing jambs of the same section: they are without impostes or capitals. Above the tall windows, the pointed oval and the pointed windows which flank it have a double roll enclosing toothed ornament. The windows of both tiers have hood-mouldings. The upper



NO. 1. EAST END OF ST. OSWIN'S CHAPEL.



NO. 2. SCREEN BETWEEN THE CHURCHES,



THE EAST END AND THE PERCY CHANTRY CHAPEL.

stage is stepped to the rake of the original gable and the three compartments are divided by very narrow semi-octagonal buttresses with conical terminations. Each bay consists of an arcade of three pointed arches of a single moulded order with a hood-moulding springing from carved bosses. In the outer bays the arches are stepped, but in the centre one they are on the same level. The centre arch is deeply recessed, it is wider than the others, and is pierced by a window of three orders, the inner with a roll moulding continued down the jambs. The intermediate order has a filleted roll, the hollows on either side being filled with dog-tooth ornament and supported on banded shafts. The capitals are moulded and circular on plan.

When completed the new eastern arm sufficed for conventual purposes, and the nave remained parochial, being shut off by the erection of a stone screen between the western piers of the tower. This screen is plain to the west where the altar of the parish church stood, but towards the east it is covered by an arcade of five pointed members between two segmental arched doors (plate VIII, no. 2). The arcade stands on a chamfered seat or table; it is of a single order supported on detached shafts, having carved capitals with square abaci and moulded bases.

#### THE ADDED CHAMBER OVER THE EASTERN ARM.

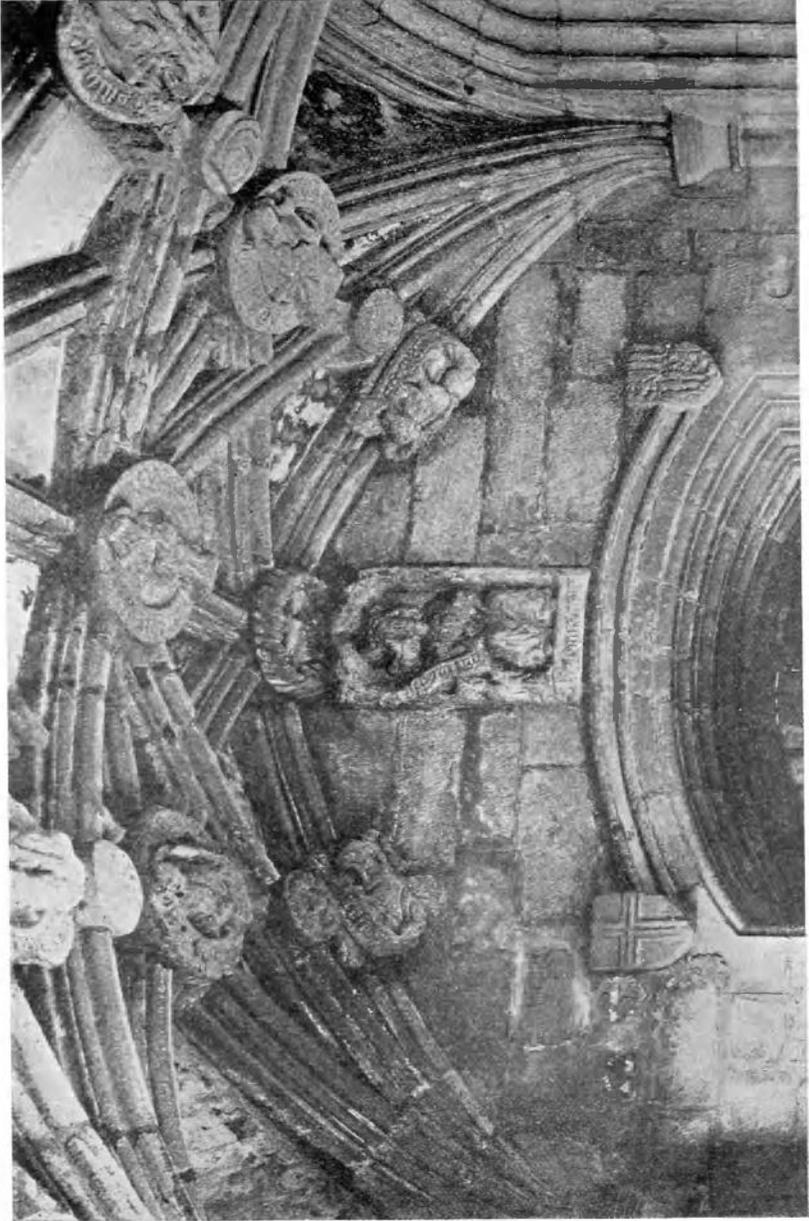
Before leaving the eastern arm of the church, mention should be made of an apartment which was subsequently erected over the entire length of both the quire and St. Oswin's chapel. The masonry added to the haunches of the gable and the series of windows with segmental rere-arches seen above the clerestory (plate II), indicate its dimensions. Portions of a number of traceried heads of fifteenth-century character with cinquefoil cusplings were recently unearthed, which would possibly fit the openings. The existing jambs are double-chamfered to the exterior, and the window plane is to the interior face of the wall. The square buttresses which occur on the exterior are pierced, and form an external gallery in the top of the clerestory walls.

The chamber was well lighted and of considerable size,

but no historical reference records its use : was it a library or muniment room, and so placed because of the restricted area of the site ? A similar addition was made to Brinkburn priory, where again the site is confined ; yet a story in like position was added to Christchurch, Hants, and elsewhere where the building area was not limited.

#### THE EXTENSION OF THE NAVE.

Within a quarter of a century of the completion of the re-constructed eastern arm, an extension was made to the nave by the addition of two bays to its west end (plate XII). The Norman gable was entirely removed but its outline was retained by the thirteenth-century builders (plate III), which accounts for the somewhat stunted effect of the west end as compared with the light and lofty proportions of the east end (plate IX). The addition was made before the removal of the west wall of the Norman church, as is indicated by the octagonal bases of two piers yet *in situ*. The walls are still standing to the height of the arcade piers. The arcade responds on the west wall are semi-octagons, with bases composed of roll-mouldings. The capitals are also simply moulded, they supported an arcade of two chamfered orders and according to the illustration in Brand's *History of Newcastle* (plate II), a wall-shaft dividing the bays also rested upon them. In the same view both triforium and clerestory are shewn to have semi-circular arches, that to the former being wide, and in effect like the "built up" Norman arches in the corresponding position on the east side of the south transept (plate VI). The aisles were vaulted with quadripartite vaults, having transverse and diagonal ribs, with a single hollow chamfer on each side. The ribs sprang from moulded wall-corbels of semi-octagonal plan with a chamfered abacus. The cells were built in with rough ashlar courses parallel with the ridge. In the north-west and south-west angles the corbels are small and receive only the diagonal ribs. The vaulting of the aisles was apparently continued eastward at the time, as there remains a corbel with two springers opposite the pier between the second and third bays ; in this the section of the ribs is the same, but the corbel is twice



GROINING OF PERCY CHANTRY CHAPEL.

moulded and of better design, and suggests, if we may draw the inference from such slight evidence, that the erection of the vaulting proceeded from west to east.

The west front has suffered much at the hands of the destroyer. It is singularly irregular in its composition, the various members on either side of the great west door being unequal (plate III). The precise design of the central compartment we shall never know, as there is neither descriptive or illustrative record to acquaint us. It probably consisted of an arrangement of lancets over an arcade resembling more or less the west front of Lanercost, and as to the lancets the transepts of Hexham. A deep moulded plinth surrounds the nave extension, and from it at the west end rise four flat buttresses; they emphasise the parts and rise respectively to the eaves of the nave and its aisles. The flanking buttresses finish with simple weatherings at the level of the aisle roofs, as did two others on the return angles, and together supported angle turrets. The lowest courses of the latter still remain at the north-west corner, and bear traces of shafts capping the angles like those to the turrets at the east end. In Brand's view (plate II), and in the eighteenth-century picture shewn on plate I, masses of masonry are indicated at the west end, which suggest that turrets also flanked the centre gable. The great west door has five moulded orders and a hood-moulding stopped on carved bosses. The orders are supported by as many detached shafts, and have round moulded bases on square sub-bases and carved capitals with square abaci. The salient angles between the shafts are relieved by a roll-moulding, and on either side of the door is an unequal member of the pointed arcade. On the interior the rere-arch is a moulded segmental one on shafted jambs. A single jamb of an arcade, which passed across the west front above the door, is discernible. It comprises two shafts with caps and bases, the salient angle between being a hollow filled with nail-head ornament. The semi-gables to the aisles are thrice arcaded: the lowest is of four members on the north side, and three on the south: they stand on a shelf at the plinth level and consist of pointed arches with a hood-moulding. The detached shafts which support the orders have round moulded

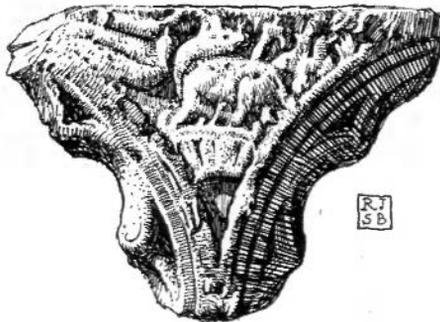
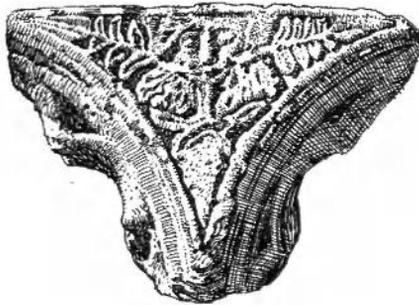
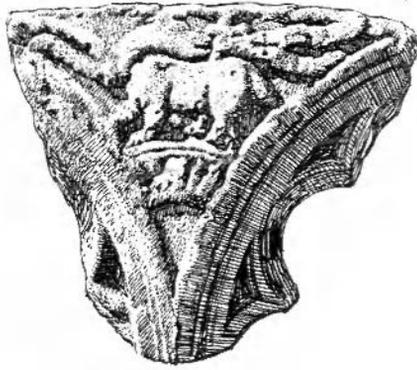
capitals and bases, and square sub-bases. In the second stage are two trefoil arched recesses with moulded jambs of the same section; the hood-moulding is enriched with nail-head. The uppermost stage was composed of four members stepped to the rake of the roof of a single moulded order, two only of which are now visible; they spring from shafts similar to the arcades below. The wall-arcades on the north side of the door have given place to a fifteenth-century window, of which the jambs and a four-centred rere-arch are all that now remains. At the same time a large window was inserted and filled the middle compartment; it had double-chamfered and widely-splayed jambs, and in the views previously mentioned it is shewn with a four-centred rere-arch.

On the north a pointed window with a chamfered and moulded order and jambs occurs in the second bay from the west, and in the first bay is a pointed door with chamfered jambs, and on either side of it the toothings of a wall against which the moulded plinth is stopped. In one of the illustrations referred to above the rake of the roof is shewn, and at this point on the Elizabethan plan (plate XIII), is a projection resembling a porch, and near to it the site of the prior's lodging. A connexion with the site of the latter is, however, more clearly shewn where the foundations occur opposite to the seventh bay from the west, and where a door has been broken into the nave aisle (plate XII).

On the south side the window in the western bay has been lowered, and a door-opening in the second bay has been built up: both will be more particularly described below. There are two wall arcades on the south side of the church, one near the west end and another on the south side of the south transept: we will return to these when considering the claustral buildings.

#### THE LADY CHAPEL.

The small chapel at the east end is usually misnamed the Lady Chapel; it is in reality the Percy chantry chapel, and is described below. A lady-chapel, there can be little doubt, was erected by prior Tewing, and is mentioned as a new building in 1336. Its site is suggested on the



CARVED SPANDRELS.

north side of the presbytery, on the Elizabethan plan (plate XIII), and the toothings of its south walls are visible on the outer north-east angle of St. Oswin's chapel.<sup>1</sup> At the time of the discovery of the Norman quire an unsuccessful attempt was made to ascertain its dimensions. The result of the excavations is indicated on the plan (plate XII). The chapel was clearly finished before 1346-1349, when it is recorded that prior de la Mere transferred the body of St. Oswin from the altar to which it was attached to another part of the church, to enable pilgrims without let or hindrance to visit the shrine.

Several fragments of a later date occur among the débris, notably a number of sculptured double spandrel pieces (plate XI), some of which are worked on both sides, and probably belonged to a shrine or screen. Two of them are carved with the Holy Lamb, one with a bannered cross, the other amid foliage. A third, some foliated work with a head above the centre, and a fourth, an eagle displayed, possibly the arms of Daubeney, the founder of the cell of Wymondham, connected with St. Albans. They may belong to the period of prior John Wheathamstede (1393 to 1419), who adopted as emblems at St. Albans, the Holy Lamb of St. John the Baptist and the eagle of St. John the Evangelist, and whose badge was a chevron between three wheat-ears. Three spandrels of different character now in the keep at Newcastle are recorded as from Tynemouth; one of them is shewn on fig. 9.

#### THE PERCY CHANTRY CHAPEL.

Opening off the east end of the presbytery by a door which has been broken through its east wall, is a small chapel known as the Percy chantry chapel, which was added during the priorate of John Langton about the middle of the fifteenth century,<sup>2</sup> and a period when the

<sup>1</sup> In a drawing by Grimm, the jamb of a window is shewn at the point, Add. MSS. 15,538, Kaye Collection, British Museum.

<sup>2</sup> "In addition to the annuity of £6 13s. 4d. given by his ancestors, Henry, second earl of Northumberland, on the 25th August, 1442, granted 26s. 8d. a year for the clothing of two monks, and an augmentation of 40s. a year, making in

all £10, on condition that the prior and convent of Tynemouth should find at their own charges two monks, in orders, to celebrate mass or masses and other divine offices or services, and pray daily within the chapel of Coquet Island for the souls of the said lord and Alianer, his wife. —*Duke of Northumberland's MSS. New History of Northumberland*, v, 319.

endowment of costly chantries very largely prevailed.<sup>1</sup> Its walls and ceilings are adorned with an exceptional amount of architectural detail. It measures internally 19 feet by 12 feet, and is divided into three bays by semi-octagonal vaulting shafts, which rest on a moulded string at the sill level (plate x).

On the side walls each bay is filled with a pointed segmental two-light traceried window with double-moulded jambs and mullion. The glass plane is midway in the thickness of the wall, and the jamb and arch-mouldings on either side are composed of three hollows, between plain fillets on the exterior, and beaded mouldings on the interior. The doorway is cleverly contrived in the altar recess, and the surface of its jambs both internally and externally are covered by a series of rolls and hollows continued across the segmental arch. On the interior the mouldings correspond with the other openings, but on the exterior they are adapted to the altar recess already referred to above. Within, the arch has a short hood-moulding, stopped at either end by fair sized shields bearing a cross for St. George, and a lion rampant quartering three lucas for Percy and Lucy (plate x). Above the door is a cusped niche containing a seated king, holding a sceptre in the left hand, and kneeling on the right side is a figure bearing a scroll lettered FUNDATOR. On the base moulding of the niche is the name of OSWYNE.

The east end is divided into two stages. The lower is occupied by a segmental altar recess with square aumbries on either side, a horizontal stringcourse above the aumbries being continued across the recess as a hood-moulding. The upper stage comprises a circular window, with tracery introduced in 1852, it is deeply moulded with a large hollow filled with square carved paterae. On the interior, in the haunches of the rose window is a kneeling figure of an angel, and a standing figure of the Virgin, and on either side a tall niche, flanked by sunk and weathered pilaster buttresses. There is a drain within an ogee arch in the first bay of the south wall.

The ceiling is divided into three oblong quadripartite

<sup>1</sup> It is probable that more than half of the number of chantry chapels were founded between the years 1425 and 1500, *Archaeological Journal*, lxvi, 3.

compartments, above which are built two ordinary square planned quadripartite vaults with ridge ribs. At each intersection of the three longitudinal ribs is a large circular boss with representations of the Redeemer, the apostles, sacred monograms, etc. The subjects, beginning with the central ridge rib and proceeding from the east are :

1. Head of Christ with nimbus.
2. Standing figure of the risen Christ holding a banner in his right hand ; at his feet is a small figure of St. Mary Magdalene ; the whole encircled by a label bearing the inscriptions :  
RABO[N]E. MAGISTER and NOLI ME TANGERE.
3. Seated figure [SCE A]NDREA ✠ ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
4. Seated Majesty between four angels blowing trumpets. IN DIE IVDICII LIB[ER]A NOS DO[MINE].
5. Seated figure with staff in left hand and book in right ✠ SCE IACOBE ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
6. Standing figure holding a lamb. SCE IOH[ANN]ES BAPTISTA ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
7. Agnus Dei with cross and flag surrounded by a cable moulding.

On the north side of the middle ridge are :

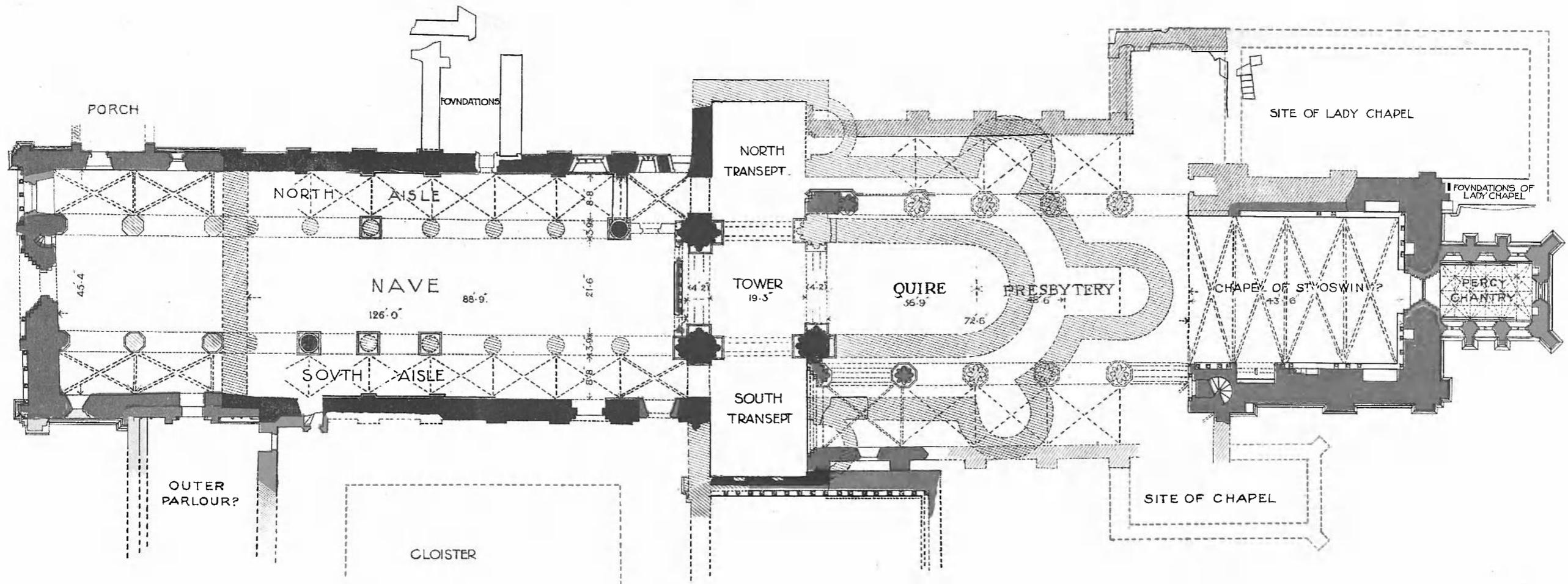
1. Eagle of St. John ; scroll missing.
2. Sacred monogram, I H S, surmounted by a crown.
3. Seated figure with palm leaf in right hand and book in left. SCE IOH EVANGELISTA ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
4. Monogram of the Virgin.
5. Seated figure, three leaves in right hand, book in left. SCE PHILIPPE ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
6. Star with nine waving rays.
7. Seated figure with a sword in the left hand and a book in the right, the feet on a cushion, supported by a human head. ✠ SCE PAVLE ORA P[RO] NOBIS.
8. Sun in splendour ; round the edge the inscription :  
✠ IHVS MERCY.
9. Seated figure holding a book in the right hand, a flaying knife in the left. SCE BARTHOLOMEE ORA P[RO] NOB[IS].
10. Percy crescent and shacklebolt on a shield.
11. Seated figure, book in right hand, pillar in left.  
✠ SCE SYMON ORA P[RO] NOBIS.

12. Monogram of prior John Langton.
13. Lion of St. Mark, holding scroll lettered *sce*  
*MARCE ORA P[RO] NOB[IS]*.

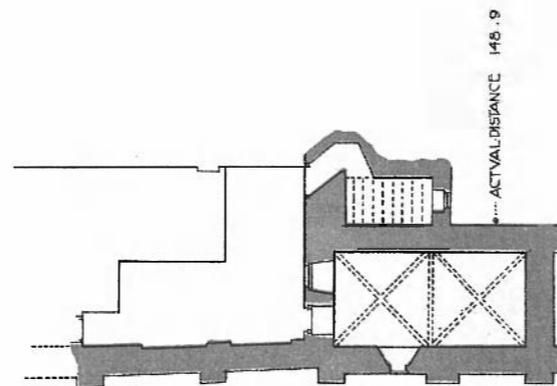
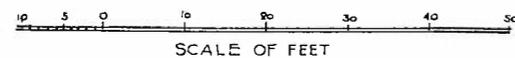
On the south side of the middle ridge are :

1. Angel of St. Matthew holding scroll ; lettering obliterated.
2. Square rose of fifteenth-century type.
3. Seated figure holding fuller's bat in left hand and book in right. *sce* *IACOBE MINOR ORA P[RO] NOBIS*.
4. Emblems of the crucifixion, namely, cross encircled by crown of thorns, and at its foot three nails and a hammer.
5. Seated figure, book in right hand and spear in left. *sce* *THOMA ORA P[RO] NOBIS*.
6. A circular rose.
7. Seated figure with keys in right hand and book in the left, the feet on a cushion supported by a human head. ✠ *sce* *PETRE ORA P[RO] NOBIS*.
8. Bearded head.
9. Seated figure, book in right hand and saw in left. *sce* *MATHEA ORA P[RO] NOBIS*.
10. Monogram of prior John Langton repeated.
11. Seated figure, book in right hand and halberd in left. *sce* *THADEE ORA P[RO] NOBIS*.
12. Emblem of the five wounds, namely, a cross with central boss, the boss and limbs each pierced with a nail mark, the whole surrounded by a cable moulding.
13. Ox of St. Luke holding scroll lettered *sce* *LVCA ORA P[RO] N[OBIS]*.

Externally the bays are divided by stepped and weathered buttresses of fair projection, which are set angle-wise at the east end (plate ix). All the windows have hood-mouldings with carved flowers. On either side of the rose window in the east gable, are square panels, with returned hood-mouldings terminating in sculptured heads, two with mitres and two bare-headed. One of the panels formerly contained a shield bearing a saltire for St. Albans abbey, and the other three crowns for Tynemouth priory. The sacred monogram is carved on a large stone in the apex of the gable.



TYNEMOUTH PRIORY  
NORTHUMBERLAND.



Dates.

- Circa 1100
- After ..
- Circa 1195
- " 1220
- 14<sup>th</sup> Century
- 15<sup>th</sup> "
- Later

Hatching of each Colour shows Foundations or Destroyed Walls.

Conjectural from Elizabethan plan

## THE MONASTIC BUILDINGS.

To the south of the church were the monastic buildings necessary for the accommodation of the monks, lay brethren, and guests. To the east a large garden space, to the north the barns and stables, and to the west the great gatehouse.

Very little structural evidence of the claustral ranges now remains, but fortunately sufficient is recorded to indicate, that as was usual, the cloister was enclosed on the east by the dorter and on the south by the frater.

Occasionally, as at Kirkstall<sup>1</sup> and Jervaulx, the earliest buildings comprised the cellarium for the use of the brethren during the erection of the church. It is not improbable that in the case of Tynemouth, temporary buildings sufficed until after the erection of the Norman church, in 1111, when it is recorded that a workman named Arkill fell whilst laying the floor beams of the dorter. Further documentary evidence of the existence in the twelfth century of the dorter, frater, and guest house, is clear from the account of a fire<sup>2</sup> which broke out in a detached building covered by a roof of thatched straw, and previously used as a guest house. It stood at the south-east corner of the dorter and frater, and the fire spread to the dorter which had also a thatched roof. Further disaster was averted on the occasion by the interposition of St. Oswin, whose shrine was carried by prior Ruelend from the church and placed in the cloister garth.

The structural evidence occurs at three points in the south wall of the church, and in the detached block shewn on the plan (plate XII), considerably to the south of the church. With these, an Elizabethan plan (Cott. MS. Aug. 1, ii, 6), reproduced in plate XIII, and a survey dated 1577 printed in the appendix to this paper, we are enabled to construct with a tolerable claim to accuracy the conjectural plan given in plate xv. After the dissolution of the priory in 1539, it is evident that, excepting the nave which continued in use as the parochial church until the time of the civil wars, and part of the cellarium which was probably occupied continuously after the suppression,

<sup>1</sup> Thoresby Society's publications, xvi, 4.

<sup>2</sup> *New History of Northumberland* viii, 61.

the monastic buildings were speedily dismantled and robbed of all material of any value, otherwise the buildings could not have required so early as 1577 the extensive repairs set out in the survey referred to.

#### THE CLOISTER.

In a view of Tynemouth given in Brand's *History of Newcastle*, published in 1789 and reproduced at plate II, part at least of the buildings which enclosed the cloister on its east and west sides is depicted, and on the ordnance survey of 1858 portions of them are there shewn. Since then, the whole of the area has been given up to burial purposes, or for military fortifications. Strangely, no suggestion of the site of the frater is shewn on the plan (plate XIII). It must have occupied a position about midway between the church and the "new aule" inasmuch as the distance between these points is altogether too great for a cloister garth, which was invariably square or approximately so in shape.

In point of date, the earliest fragment is of a low wall arcade in the south nave wall, incorporated in, and projecting beyond the west wall of the original Norman nave (plate XII). It comprises eight members with built semi-shafts and capitals supporting round arches, arranged on either side of a round arched door with pilasters and nook-shafts, which appear to have been cut through on the extension of the nave in the early part of the thirteenth century. On the nave side the rere-arch with a single hollow chamfer is much higher. The arcade with great probability adorned the wall of a passage or entry through the cellarium range which occupied the west side of the cloister.

In the fourteenth century the south-west angle of the nave was entirely enclosed (fig. 4), on its south side by a vaulted chamber, the pointed wall rib of which springs from a thirteenth-century buttress adjoining the cellarium, and from a massive plain buttress which is built on to the corner of the nave. On the west front the arcade of the upper stage is broken by the intrusion of some springer stones, of an arch at right angles to the front (plate III). The whole appertains



ELIZABETHAN PLAN OF TYNEMOUTH.

no doubt to the "little towre and hye prison" indicated on the plan (xv), and mentioned in the survey below. The lower courses of the jambs of a fifteenth-century door occur at the north-west angle of the cloister (plate xii).

The second structural evidence of the monastic buildings will be observed at the south end of the south transept

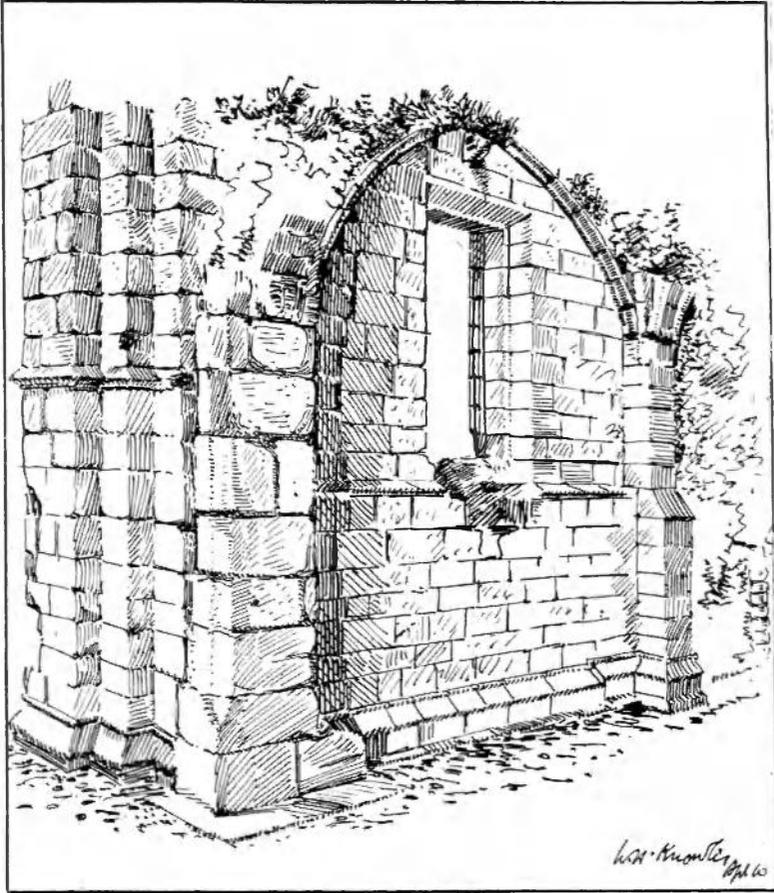


FIG. 4. S.W. ANGLE OF NAVE.

(plate xii), where a long arcade of pointed members is carried on detached shafts with moulded capitals and bases, and above them the pointed wall ribs of two bays of vaulting, although the position is that usually occupied by the "slype," or passage leading to the monks' cemetery, it is possible, and it is so named on the plan (plate xii),

that the arcade marks the site and length of the chapter-house. In detail and style the work is of similar date to the west end of the church.

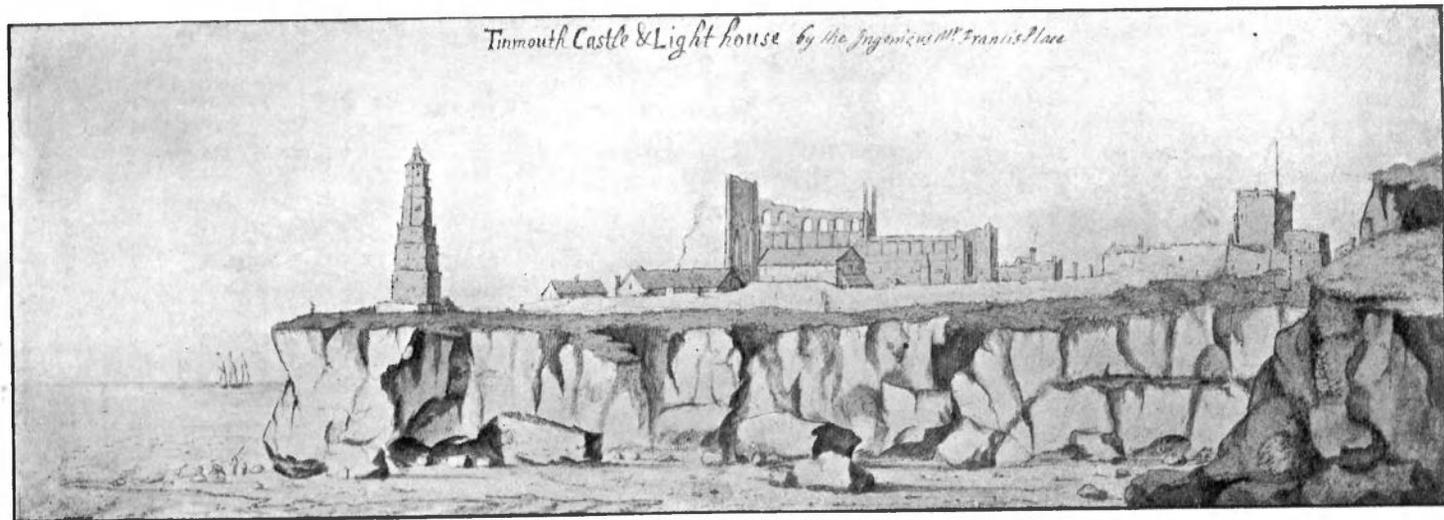
The third structural feature is more extensive and comprises an apartment terminating the eastern range about the cloister near the "Lordys lodgyn" (plates XII and XV). It is of thirteenth-century date, and has a vaulted ceiling of two quadripartite bays, with chamfered transverse and diagonal ribs springing from moulded corbels. On the interior are some built-up openings, on the exterior stepped buttresses, and on the north side a small chamber with a segmental vault with transverse chamfered ribs.

The position and area of the buildings enumerated in the inquisition, are indicated on the conjectural plan (plate XV), where the site of the dorter is shewn but not its length; this it may be assumed, reached at least to the frater. Whether the dorter erected in 1111, and partially destroyed in the same century, suffered further disaster or needed re-construction is not recorded, although mention is made of the expenditure in the middle of the fourteenth century of £87 by prior de la Mere on this section of the monastery.

There is no indication in the south transept of night stairs from the dorter, the only access being from the cloister, firstly by the Norman door in the south nave-wall, and afterwards when the nave became parochial, by one introduced later in the easternmost bay (plate facing p. 26). No other reference to the frater occurs apart from that already referred to at the time of the fire, when its site is defined together with that of a "guest house," previously discarded. The position of the "olde kitchinge" was convenient alike for the frater and the cellarium marked "common aule" on the plan.

#### DOMESTIC OFFICES.

The structures so far referred to were peculiar to the monks. Of the further erections on the west and south (plate XIII and XV), the former comprised the domestic offices, arranged about "ye ender courte," and the latter apparently constituted the accommodation for guests. The offices included the "litle towre," used for a prison



VIEW OF THE PRIORY FROM THE NORTH, FROM A DRAWING DATING C. 1666-1676.

called the "hye prison," enclosing the south-west angle of the church, the "kylne dodd," the malt-house, the horse kylne, the plombers' house, the bake and bowlytne howse, a little house, and the "inner and otter parler," and the entry thereto. The south range of buildings of which some walls yet remain, and are visible from the pier approach, and on the view (plate 1), are named on the plan "buttyre aule and lodgyn," and described "the hall the buttyre and yalewe chambre," "then owt of the hall southward is a chapell," and afterwards the "entrye," "Edmunds chamber" and "thold kytchenge," together with the "new aule" and "Lordys lodgyn," of which the existing vaulted apartment formed part. They comprised an important suite of chambers surrounded by a courtyard on the north, "ye gardyn place" to the east, and "ye south courte" below.

It is improbable that the whole of this range was appropriated to the guests, a portion of it may have belonged to the infirmary, the site of which is nowhere suggested. Nor is it possible to locate the position of the rere-dorter, under the dorter, treasury, etc.

#### THE FARM BUILDINGS.

To the north of the church (plate xv), which approximately divides the site, and contiguous to the nave, is a building figured the "priors lodgyn," and at a little distance another named "gonn's lodgyn."<sup>1</sup> Apart from these the whole of the north-east portion of the site is given up to the cowhouse, stables, wheat and hay barns which surround "ye poultre yarde," and "ye barne yarde." These structures were no doubt incorporated in the buildings depicted in a careful and interesting drawing (plate xiv),<sup>2</sup> by Francis Place, c. 1666-1676, on which is also delineated the lighthouse, erected in 1664 by Col. Villiers, governor of the castle, at a cost of £1,100. On the site of the buildings Col. Villiers also, in 1676, built a residence of materials obtained from the priory.

The remaining or western quarter of the site was an

<sup>1</sup> A master gunner was one of the members of the military establishment at Tynemouth under Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> B.M. print room, 1866, 11, 14, 679. Francis Place was probably the first artist who worked in mezzotint.

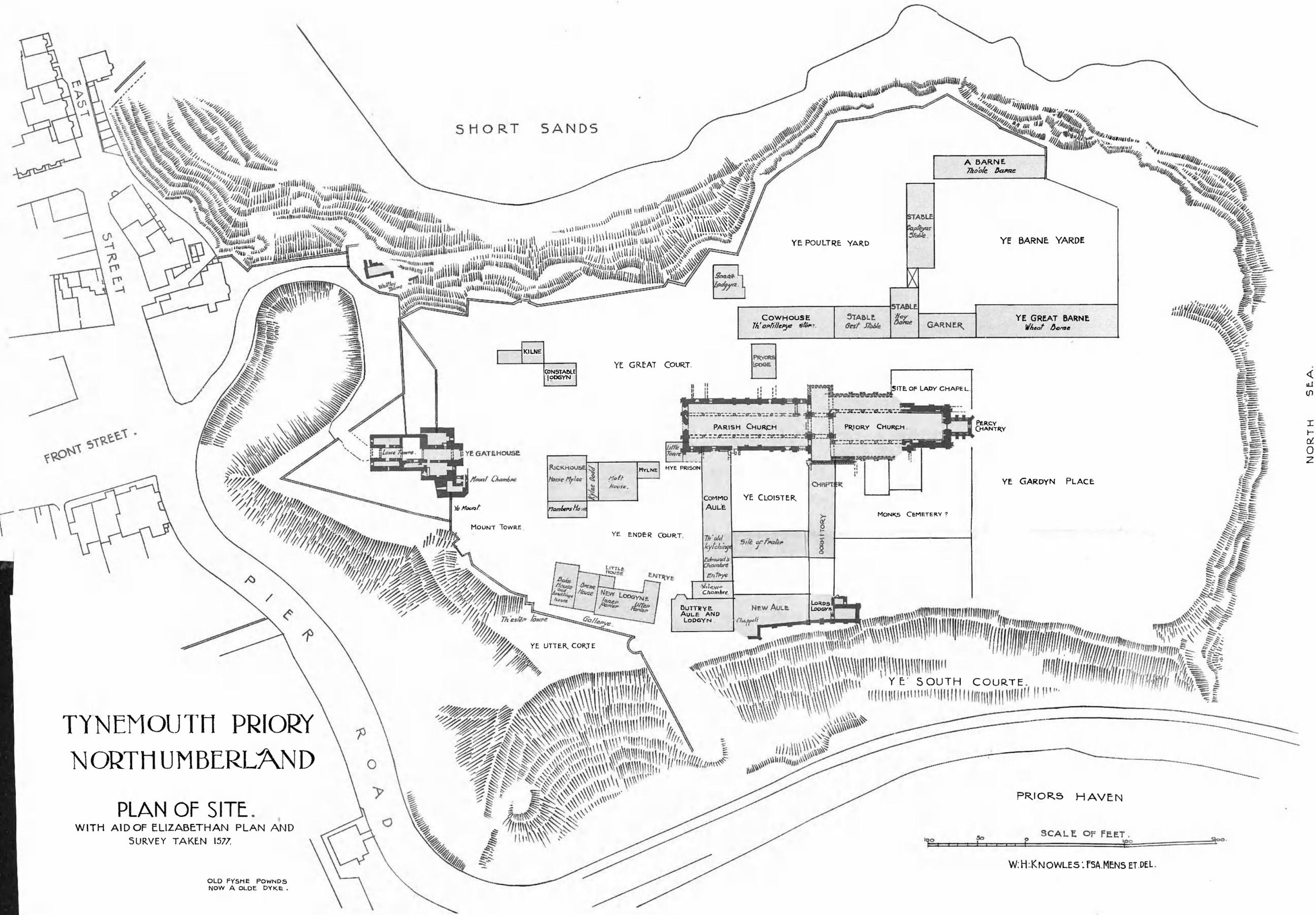
open space called "ye great courte," interrupted merely by the constable's lodging and kyln, which are conveniently near the castle or gatehouse, which yet remains to be described.

#### THE GATEHOUSE OR CASTLE.

At Tynemouth the priory gatehouse and precinct walls are altogether different from those usually associated with monastic buildings. The gatehouse with its projecting barbican in reality formed an important fortress larger than Bothal castle, which is on the gatehouse plan and of the great gatehouse and barbican at Alnwick, whilst the curtain walls to the south and west are strengthened by projecting towers, after the manner of a great military fortress. Indeed, the situation of the limited site with precipitous cliffs rising out of the sea on the north and east sides, the steep rocky slopes on the south, and a deep ditch on the west, all combine to form an excellent position for a military and not an ecclesiastical structure (plate xv).

It is in every way probable that the rising ground encroached upon by the gatehouse is the site of a stockaded mount (plate xv), thrown up by Robert de Mowbray. Certainly the place was already a strong one in 1070 when the supplies were conveyed thither from Newcastle lest they should fall into the hands of the Conqueror, and in 1095 when it sustained for two months a siege by William Rufus. The castle figured repeatedly in border warfare and was always regarded as a resort of comparative security in troublous times.

On 4th May, 1312, Edward II and his favourite Piers Gaveston resorted to Tynemouth to escape the fury of the barons, and on the following day set sail for Scarborough. In 1315 Tynemouth is cited as one of the few places where safety could be found against the Scots and marauding bands of English. Among these "Gilbert of Middleton was a more dangerous enemy." He appears to have made a strong effort to get Tynemouth castle into his hands. Vigorous measures were taken by the monks. A number of houses which nestled round the priory were pulled down, lest the salvadores should use



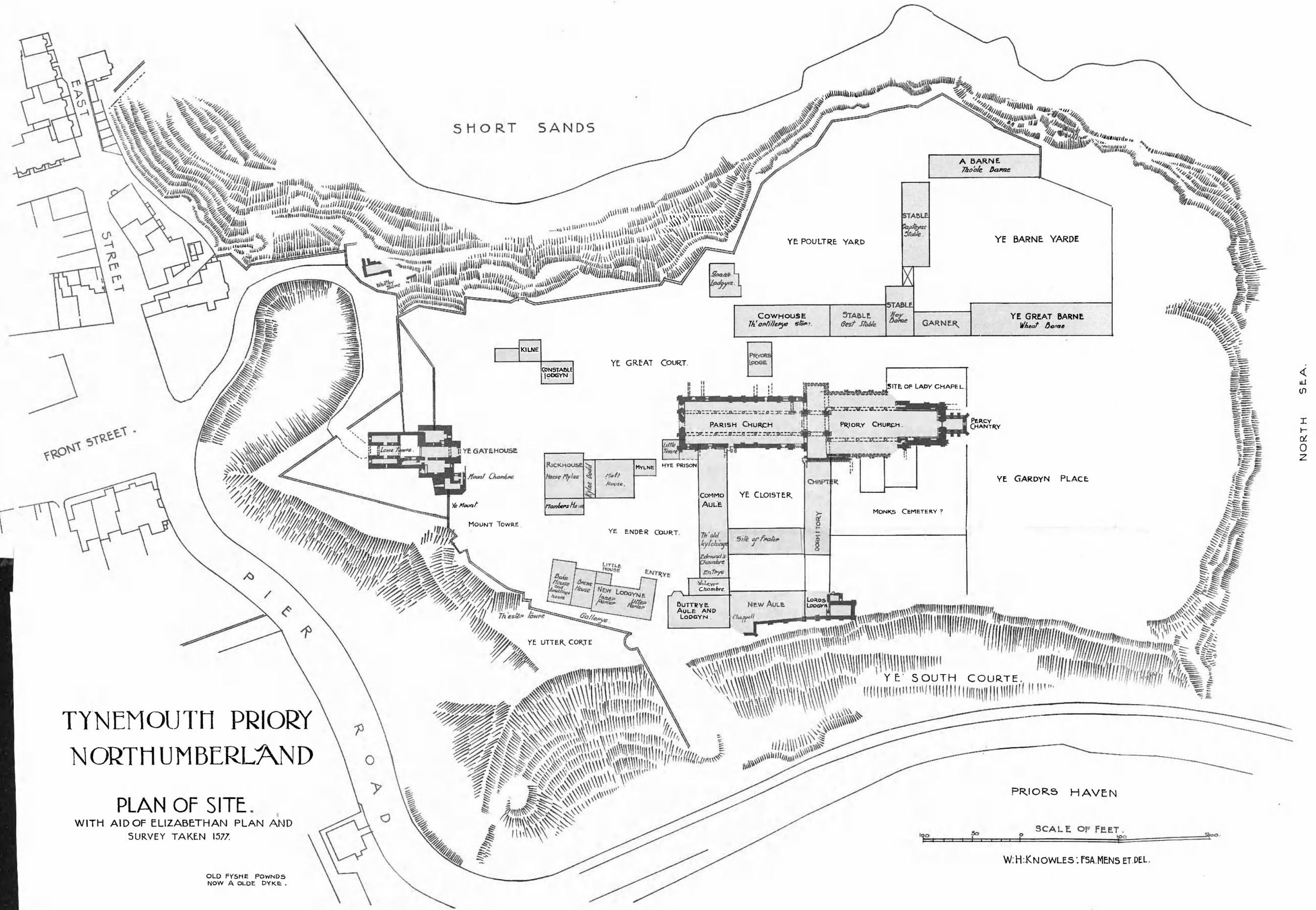
TYNEMOUTH PRIORY  
NORTHUMBERLAND

PLAN OF SITE.  
WITH AID OF ELIZABETHAN PLAN AND  
SURVEY TAKEN 1577.

OLD FYSHE POWNDS  
NOW A OLDE DYKE.

SCALE OF FEET.  
0 50 100 150 200

W.H.KNOWLES: FSA.MENS ET DEL.



TYNEMOUTH PRIORY  
NORTHUMBERLAND

PLAN OF SITE.  
WITH AID OF ELIZABETHAN PLAN AND  
SURVEY TAKEN 1577.

OLD FYSHE POWNDS  
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SCALE OF FEET.  
0 50 100 150 200

W.H.KNOWLES: FSA.MENS ET DEL.

them for a cover for attack. The defence, which was entrusted to Sir Robert Delavel, proved successful.<sup>1</sup>

During the Scottish invasions of 1346 Sir William Douglas sent a message to the prior, bidding him prepare a dinner for him at Tynemouth, for in two days' time, he said, he would sup with him in his priory. So it was, though in different circumstances from those which had been in Douglas's mind when he sent his arrogant message, for he was captured at Neville's Cross, and sent to Tynemouth for safe custody. In 1389, the year following the battle of Otterburn, the Scots harried and burnt nearly the whole of Tynemouthshire. It was at this period that de la Mere received substantial assistance for defensive works from king Richard, John of Gaunt, and the first earl of Northumberland already mentioned above.

Of "the approach to the monastery through a gate cut out of the rock, so narrow that a cart can hardly pass through," which is mentioned in the letter by an unknown monk written about the end of the twelfth century, and of the drawbridge and guard-house shewn on the Elizabethan plan (plate XIII), there is not now the slightest indication. The position however of the drawbridge may be remarked as near to the mount. Does it represent the site of the advance earthworks associated with it ?

In the licence to crenellate dated 5th September, 1296, the gatehouse is not mentioned, the prior and convent being empowered to fortify their priory with a wall of stone, etc. Richard's grant referred to above was made 23rd February, 1390. It is not certain whether Clement or John Wheathamstede was then prior, but the latter is given full credit by his nephew the abbot, for building the gatehouse. The abbot's words are "He repairs the gate which had been broken down; and when it was again fallen he builds it up from the foundation and places it on a different site."<sup>2</sup> Therefore we have an original tower and gate in 1269, the repairs of 1390, and an entirely new gate, in the existing one by prior John Wheathamstede, 1390-1419.

*New History of Northumberland*, viii, 87. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* viii, 101.

Since 1783 when the barbican was raised and the open space between it and the gatehouse was built over, the whole block has been of uniform height and its walls externally covered with stucco. At the present time it presents an uninteresting and most unattractive appearance. However the original walls, massive and useful, have been incorporated, and the mediaeval arrangements are easily discerned. A view of the gatehouse from the north-east delineated in Grose's *Antiquities* is reproduced in fig. 5, and in the illustration of a picture in plate 1 the form and outline towards the south of both gatehouse and curtain walls.

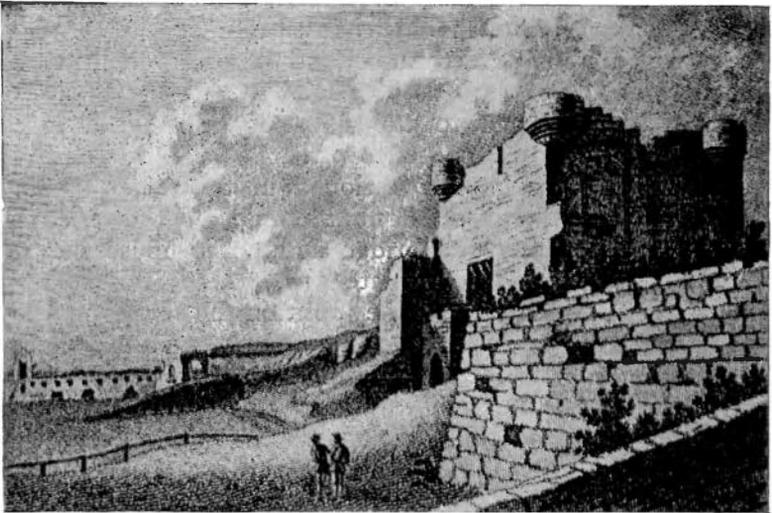


FIG. 5. VIEW OF GATEHOUSE. From Grose's *Antiquities of Northumberland*.

The barbican comprised guard rooms on either side of a vaulted passage with an upper floor over the whole, and measured externally 38 feet 6 inches by 34 feet. It stood a distance of 20 feet apart from the gatehouse. The gatehouse at the ground level had also a central vaulted passage between large stores and above three or four floors. Externally apart from the contiguous mount chamber the dimensions are 56 feet from north to south and 35 feet from east to west. The walls are unrelieved by buttresses or other projections and at each angle the gatehouse was capped at the parapet level by a round bartizan,

oversailed on the sides similarly to those at Chipchase and Halton castles. The internal features such as the fireplaces, the doors, and the newel staircase correspond with work of the late Edwardian period.

All evidence of a ditch and drawbridge, if such ever existed, have long since been obliterated. The barbican is now entered by a deeply-recessed flat-pointed arched gateway before which are the grooves for a portcullis (fig. 6). The passage is vaulted without ribs, as are the long narrow guard rooms on either side. Two old doors now built up gave access to the guard rooms. In the south chamber is some mutilated masonry indicating the position of a staircase which ascended to an apartment extending across the width of the barbican, as suggested by a closed window and projecting parapet, concealed below the stucco which covers the exterior masonry.

The projections which flank the entrance were possibly taken advantage of on the first floor to provide small chambers (fig. 7), the back walls of which would be in line with the wall in which the portcullis moved, and resembled those on the first floor of the gatehouse at Alnwick.<sup>1</sup> The staircase probably also gave on to the allure walk connecting the barbican with the gatehouse, of which some masonry east of the staircase is fair corroboration.

The passage through the gatehouse is vaulted and gated at both ends, where there is a flat-pointed arch with a single chamfered member. Before the east gate is a massive portal, also gated, which carried a balcony (fig. 5). Capacious vaulted stores flank the passage, they are entered by square-headed doors, and lighted by windows to the passage, the great court, and on the west by small slits which enfiladed the sides of the barbican walls, the ditch and the approach to the barbican. At the east corner is an L-shaped apartment and small chamber, built into the rising ground, with thick walls intended to take the weight of the adjacent mount.

It will be observed that there is no general entrance on the ground level leading to the upper floors; these are entered at the first floor, and attained by an inclined

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Ael.* 3rd series, v, 290.

way (plate xv) which affords direct access to the apartment called the mount chamber in the 1577 survey, and to the lobby marked B which communicates with the great chamber (?) (fig. 7), the balcony over the portal by the

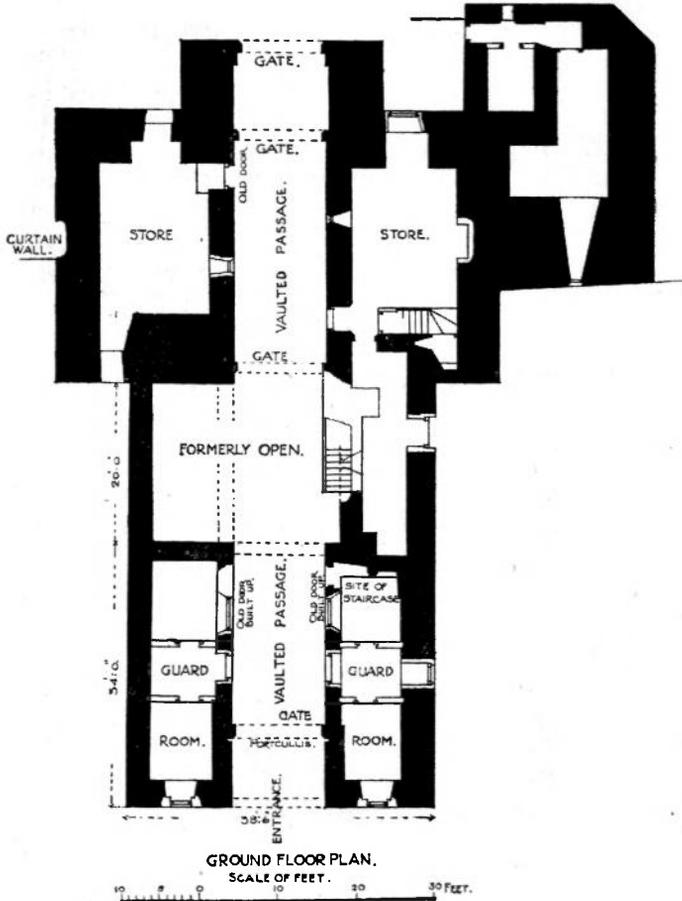


FIG. 6. THE GATEHOUSE AND BARBICAN.

steps at E, and with a circular newel staircase arranged in the north-east angle of the mount chamber. The "great chamber" measures 45 by 23 feet, it possesses a fair stone fireplace with arched stone lintel carried on

corbels over the jambs, and was lighted by windows on every side, those on the west being mere loops, and like those below flanked the barbican walls. The east window overlooking the great court was both large and ornate,

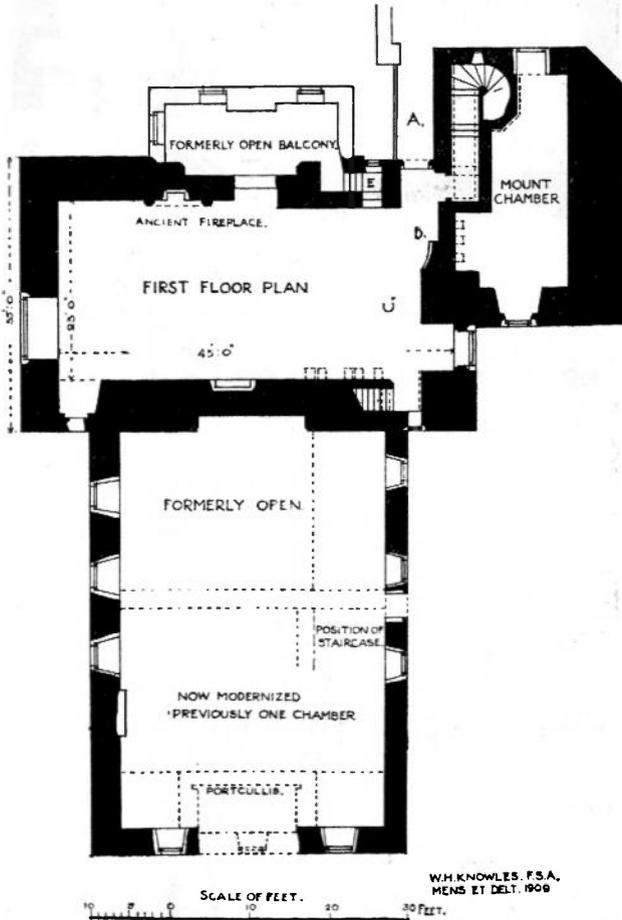


FIG. 7. THE GATEHOUSE.

if we may so interpret the drawing given by Grose (fig. 5). A stair in the thickness of the west wall gives on to the alure walk and thence to the room and battlements over the barbican. It may also have given access to the

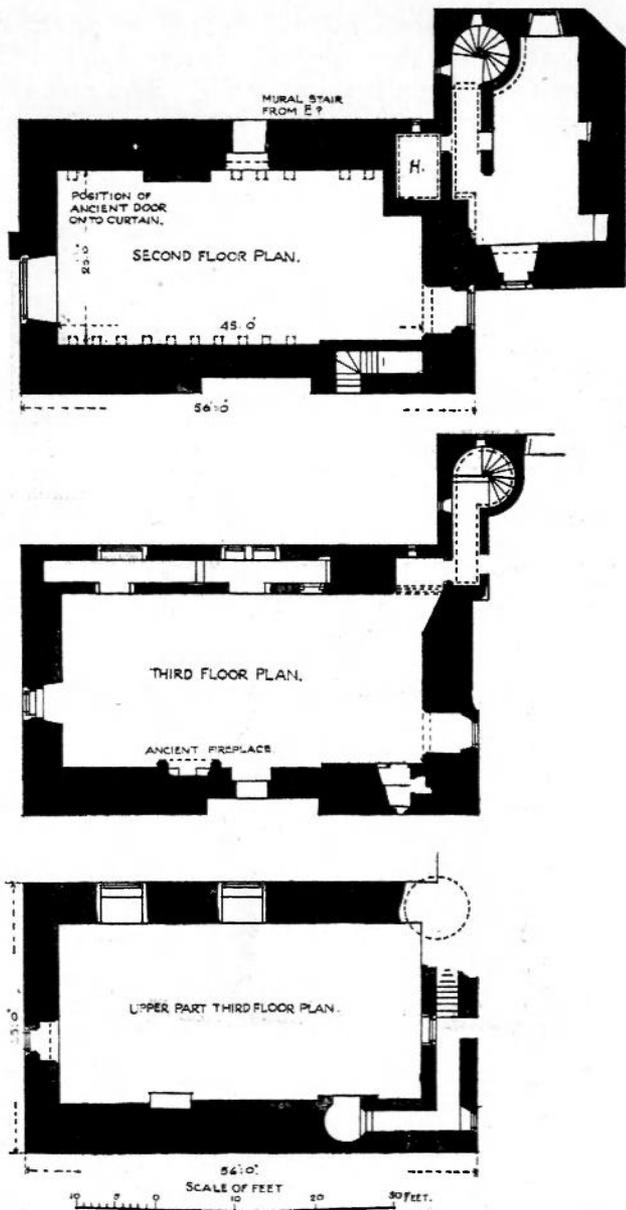


FIG. 8. THE GATEHOUSE.

floor above, if not then possibly the east wall contained a stair in continuation of that giving on to the balcony. Else it is not evident how the second floor was reached unless the chamber H on fig. 8 originally formed a vestibule leading to it, but of such purpose there is now no indication; indeed the little chamber is quite complete with its door, window and flat stone ceiling carried on an oversailing chamfered cornice similiar to those of the narrow chambers and passages at Alnwick, Chipchase, and Bamburgh.

The floor beams of the second floor were carried on a range of corbels on the east and west walls. At this level a door opened on to the curtain wall at the north end, of which there is now no trace but which is very clearly delineated in Grose's view. It is not now evident how the gatehouse opened on to the curtain on the south side, but it no doubt did so as at Alnwick and elsewhere, and as is suggested in the view (plate 1) where the curtain is carried up and stepped as if to provide shelter for an open stair from the gatehouse to the wall below. The apartment over the mount chamber is provided with a fireplace now much mutilated.

The newel stair continues to the third floor, which is of similar dimensions to that below; in it is an ancient fireplace in the position shewn on the plan (fig. 8), and the east wall is hollowed for a considerable distance for closets or mural stairs. In height the room is now divided by an inserted floor which may be in the position of an ancient one, but thereabouts the place has been much altered. The passage and stair shewn on the plan now lead on to the modern work, but originally led on to the battlements which surmounted the gatehouse.

#### THE CURTAIN WALL.

In addition to the level plateau with its numerous erections already described, and, possibly for defensive purposes, there existed an enclosed area which fell rapidly to the Prior's Haven on the south side, and was surrounded by a strong wall following the configuration of the land.

Very little of the curtain wall remains intact; we are therefore again obliged to have recourse to the Elizabethan

plan (plate XIII) and the eighteenth-century picture for assistance in attempting a brief description. On the conjectural plan (plate xv) the wall including the mount towers, took a quadrant form between the gatehouse and the "thester towres," and continued in a straight line along the back of the bake and brew houses where it was called "the gallerye." From this point, where a drum tower is delineated (plate xv), the wall, still existing with stepped chamfered plinth, descended precipitously to the "towre in the Madder Garth with a little turret therunto adioyng thone v yardes square, in height xv yardes, thother of the like quanty the walls iij foote."<sup>1</sup> It is shewn with an arched entrance and machiolations above, on plate 1, and alongside and rising in a north-easterly direction "the walls betwixt the sayd towre and the Duckett towre with ij small towres upon the same." Returning to the gatehouse the wall proceeds northwards where still exists the remains of "a towre standinge upon the north west parte called Whitley towre vawted with stone and a battlement of stone upon the same, x yardes square xiii yardes height." South of the Whitley tower there are but scanty fragments of ancient masonry. On the north and east sides of the site on account of the precipitous cliffs (plate xv), but a slight curtain would of necessity be required.

It is unnecessary here to recount the many governors, chiefly members of the house of Percy, who have been in possession of the castle since the suppression, or to pursue the history of the exciting events during the civil and Dutch wars, when the place was repeatedly reported as in need of urgent repairs. The monastic buildings partially destroyed to provide a residence for Col. Ed. Villiers, governor in 1665, have continued to decay, to the extent shewn on the various drawings which illustrate this paper. Now the ruins are hemmed in on every side with powerful ordnance, but it is a gratification to record that the beautiful fragment yet remaining has been placed under the care of His Majesty's Office of Works, and that already measures have been taken for its preservation.

<sup>1</sup> See the survey of 1577 in the appendix.

My indebtedness to Mr. H. H. E. Craster has already been expressed. I have also been placed under obligations of gratitude to Mr. John Bilson, F.S.A. for generous assistance in the development of the plan of the Norman work, and to Mr. W. H. St. John Hope for his suggestions on the arrangement of the monastic church.

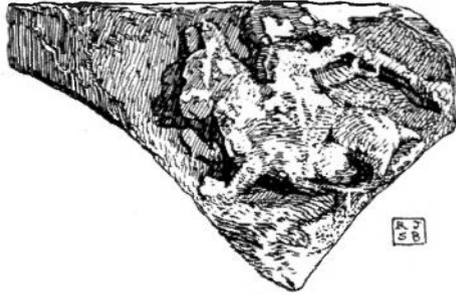


FIG. 9. SPANDREL FROM TYNEMOUTH,  
NOW AT NEWCASTLE.

## APPENDIX.

Exchequer Special Commission, 1736.

Commission dated 12 June, 19 Elizabeth.

Inquisitio Indentata capta apud Castrum de Tynemouth in comitatu Northumbrie predicto xv<sup>to</sup> die Iulii anno regni Elizabethæ Dei gracia Angliæ Frauncie et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris etc. xix<sup>no</sup> (A.D. 1577) coram Henrico Brandlynge maiore ville Nouicastro super Tynam, Johanne Clopton armigero receptore generale dicte domine Regine in comitatu predicto ac Thoma Bates generoso supervisore omnium et singulorum dominiorum, maneriorum, terrarum et tenementorum dicte domine Regine in dicto comitatu Northumbrie virtute comissionis dicte domine Regine eisdem comissionariis et Henrico Anderson tribus vel duobus eorum directe, ad inquirendum et certificandum de ruinis decasu et defectu reparacionum castri sui de Tynemouth predicti et aliis circumstantiis eadem tangentibus vt per eandem comissionem huic inquisitioni annexatam patet, per sacramentum Roberti Dowe, Willelmi Darneton, Thoma Bowe, Willelmi Dixon, Thoma Dowe, Iohannis Errington, Richardi Cutter, Edmundi Pryour, Benedicti Watson, Roberti Hall, Georgii Hall, Thoma Cutter, Georgii Horsbreke, Edwardi Denand, Iohannis Lesly, ac etiam Iohannis Litlehare et Mathei Pottes cementariorum, Ricardi Ramesay et Iohannis Hubbocke fabrorum lignorum, Willelmi Golightley et Edwardi Robynson plumbatorum Cuthberti Murrowe et Iohannis Nycholson tegulatorum juratorum. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum circa decasum reparacionum castri predicti Anglice vt sequitur. At thentrye of the howse towards the west ys the gate in the lowe towre couered with lead xij yardes square ix<sup>th</sup> yardes height thicknes of the walls iiij<sup>or</sup> foote di. somuche in decaye and wast that we judge the repara of the wantes with workemanshipp (yf yt shalbe conuenyently and substancially repared) wyll amount unto xvij<sup>li</sup> or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre yt wyll requyre iiij<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshipp, cariadge by land and water and iron worke, vi<sup>th</sup> or ther abowtes, and in leade wyll requyre a fother and di. more then is nowe remayninge upon yt, which by vyewe is estimate to be fyve fothers di. which want with workemanshipp will amount to xli. xs.

Summa xxxiiijli. xs.

iiij<sup>or</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

Adyoyninge vnto the same with a voyde place betwene ys a towre called the yate howse towre thre howse height couered with lead xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes square, xv<sup>th</sup> yardes height the walls iiij<sup>or</sup> foote di. somuche in decaye, that we judge the repara with workmanshipp wyll amount vnto xixli. xs. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and of tymber wyll requyre fyve tonnes or ther abowtes the workemanshipp cariadge by land and water wyth iron

worke vij*li*. xs. or ther abowtes, and in leade wyll requyre a fother more then ys nowe remayninge vpon yt, which by vyewe ys estimate to be eight fothers and di. which want with workemanshipp cariadge and iron worke will amount to xij*li*.

Summa xxxix*li*.  
fyve tonnes of tymbre.

And adyoyninge the sowthend of the sayd towre another litle howse called the mount chambre couered with lead x<sup>th</sup> yardes in leinght, vij<sup>th</sup> yardes height, the walls foure foote, somuch in decaye that we judge the repare with the wantes and workmanshapp will amount vnto xxiiij<sup>th</sup> or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre will requyre thre tonnes or ther abowtes in workmanshapp cariadge by land and water with irone worke iiij*li*. xvjs. and in lead wyll requyre a fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which by vyewe is estimate to be two fothers., which want with workmanshapp cariadge and iron worke will amount to ix*li*. ixs.

Summa xxxviiij*li*. vs.  
thre tonnes of tymbre.

The barne called thoole barne the walls of stone couered with slayte containing xxxviiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in leinght x<sup>th</sup> yardes di. in breadth iiij<sup>or</sup> yardes height, the walls thre foote, somuch in decaye, that we judge the repare with workemanshipp will amount vnto iiij*li*. xs. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre wyll requyre ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in worke-manshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke lixs. or ther abowtes, and in such decaye of slayt that the repare therof will requyre iiij<sup>xx</sup> fother, iiij<sup>or</sup> lattes, xij<sup>m</sup> late nayles, more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which want with workmanshapp cariadge, lyme, iron worke and such like wyll amount to xxx*li*.

Summa xxxvj*li*. ixs.  
ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The barne called the wheat barne the walls of stone couered with slayte containing in leinght liij<sup>th</sup> yardes, in breadth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes, in height v<sup>th</sup> yardes, the walls iiij<sup>or</sup> foote, somuche in decaye, that we judge the repare of the wantes with workemanshipp wyll amount vnto vj*li*. vjs. viij*d*. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre wyll requyre vj<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes in workemanshipp, cariadge by land and water with iron worke viij*li*. viijs. or ther abowtes and in suche decaye of slayte that thee repare therof will requyre fyve score tenne fother of slayte, more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which want with workmanshapp lattes lyme and other nessessaryes wyll amount to xlvi*li*.

Summa lxi. xiijs. viij*d*.  
vj<sup>th</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The garner called the wheat garner the walls of stone couered with slayte containing in leinght xx<sup>tie</sup> yardes, in breadth viij<sup>th</sup> yardes and in height v<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iiij<sup>o</sup> foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare thereof with workmanshapp will amount vnto xxxvs. or ther abowtes

in mason worke, and in slayte wyll requyre *iiij*<sup>or</sup> fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt which want with workmanshipp lattes, nayles, lyme and other necessaryes will amount to *xxs*.

Summa *lvs*.

The barne called the haye barne the walls of stone couered with slayte containing in leinght *xxj*<sup>th</sup> yardes in breadth *x*<sup>th</sup> yardes in height *iiij*<sup>or</sup> yardes, the walls *iiij*<sup>or</sup> foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp will amount vnto *vjli*. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre will requyre *v*<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke *vijti*. or ther abowtes and in slayte wyll requyre *xx*<sup>tie</sup> fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt which want with workmanshipp, lattes, nayles, lyme, and other necessaryes will amount to *xli*. *iiij*s. *iiij*d.

Summa *xxiiijli*. *iiij*s. *iiij*d.  
fyve tonnes of tymbre.

The gate howse betwene the Capteyns stable and the haye barne containing in leight *vij*<sup>th</sup> yardes in height *v*<sup>th</sup> yardes somuch in decaye and wast that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp, lyme, and such lyke wyll amount vnto *ls*.

Summa *ls*.

The stable called the Capteyns stable the walls of stone couered with slayte containing in leinght *xxiiij*<sup>th</sup> yardes in breadth *vj*<sup>th</sup> yardes in height *ij*<sup>o</sup> yardes *di*. the walls *ij*<sup>o</sup> foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp wyll amount vnto *iijli*. *xs*. or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre will requyre one tonne or ther abowtes and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke wyll amount to *xxxiijs*. *iiij*d.

Summa *vli*. *iijs*. *iiij*d.  
*j*<sup>o</sup> tonne of tymbre.

The howses called the gest stables the walls of stone and couered with slayte containing in leinght *xvij*<sup>th</sup> yardes in breadth *ix*<sup>th</sup> yardes in height *iiij*<sup>or</sup> yardes the walls thre foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare thereof with workmanshipp wyll amount vnto *xlvijs*. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in slayte will requyre *iiij*<sup>or</sup> fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which want with workmanshipp, lattes, nayles, lyme and other necessaryes will amount to *xxxiijs*. *iiij*d.

Summa *iiijli*. *xvj*d.

The howse called the store house, wher thartillerye lyeth vawted ouer with stone and the gardner aboue the same, the walls of stone and couered with slayte containing in leinght *xxxvij*<sup>th</sup> yardes, in breadth *x*<sup>th</sup> yardes, in height *vij*<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls *iiij*<sup>th</sup> foote somuche in decaye, that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp will amount vnto *xijli*. *xs*. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in slayte will requyre *iiij*<sup>th</sup> fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which want with workmanshipp, cariadge and other necessaryes will amount to *xiijs*. *iiij*d. Summa *xiiijli*. *iijs*. *iiij*d.

The howse at the water stone adioyninge vpon the pound, and the chambres above the same the walls of stone and couered with slayte on thest parte and thother with thacke containing in leinght xv<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth viij<sup>th</sup> yardes in height iiij<sup>or</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>th</sup> foote, somuche in decaye, that we judge the repare with workemanshipp wyll amount vnto xxxiijs, iiij*d.* or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre wyll requyre iij<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshapp, cariadge by land and water with iron worke iiij*li.* vijs. and in slayte wyll requyre xx<sup>th</sup> fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt which want with workemanshipp cariadge iron worke, lattes, nales, and other necessaryes will amount to-  
viiij*li.* ix*s.*

Summa xiiij*li.* ix*s.* iiij*d.*  
iij<sup>th</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The water poole or pound lyinge vpon thest syde of the sayd howse a thinge so necessary and neadfull for the same as maye not want the head and keape therof somuche in decaye that doth not keape and conteyne the water comynge into yt, so that we judge the repare with workemanshipp and other necessaryes in all together because yt must be of substantyaill mason worke will amount vnto the some of xxv*li.* Summa xxv*li.*

The house called the kylne dodd containing in leinght ix<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth viij<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls thre foote thick somuche in decaye clere downe and wast that we judge the repare therof with workmanshapp will amount vnto xv*li.* x*s.* or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre wyll requyre xx<sup>tie</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes, and in workmanshapp cariadge by land and water with iron worke xxx*li.* and in slayte wyll requyre xxx<sup>tie</sup> fothers or ther abowtes which want with workemanshipp cariadge by land and water lattes, nayles, and other necessaryes will amount to xv*li.*

Summa lx*li.* x*s.*  
xx<sup>tie</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The house called the malt house adioyning vpon thest ende of the sayd kylne containing in leinght xxj<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in height viij<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>th</sup> foote with ane arche and pyller of stone arched thorowe the middes of the same howse ys somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp will amount vnto lxiiij*li.* x*s.* or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre wyll requyre xxx<sup>tie</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke xlviij*li.* x*s.*, and in slayte will requyre xxx<sup>tie</sup> fothers or ther abowtes more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt which want with workemanshipp, lattes, nayles, cariadges and other necessaryes will amount to xv*li.*

Summa cxxviij*li.*  
xxx<sup>tie</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The water that serueth for the howse is brought in a conduite of lead the distance of two myles or ther abowtes much in decaye and wast, that we judge the woorkmanshapp will amount vnto xiiij*li.* vjs. viij*d.* or ther

abowtes in plombers worke, and in lead that the repare therof will requyre vj<sup>th</sup> fother more then is nowe remayning which by viewe is estimate to be xxx<sup>ti</sup>e fothers which want with cariadge and other necessaryes will amount to lijl*i*.  
Summa lxxv*li*. vjs. viij*d*.

The howse called the plombers howse couered with slayte containing in leingth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in breadth vj<sup>th</sup> yardes in height iiij<sup>or</sup> yardes the walls iiij<sup>th</sup> foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare of the wantes therof with workemanshipp will amount xljs. or ther abowtes in mason worke.  
Summa xljs.

The howse called the horse mylne couered with slayte containing in leingth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth x<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iiij<sup>th</sup> foote thicke somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp will amount vnto v*li*. xs. or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre wyll requyre one tonne or ther abowtes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke will amount to lv*s*.  
Summa viij*li*. vs.

The howse called the bakehowse and bowltinge howse couered with slayte in leingth xvj<sup>th</sup>, yardes in bredth vj<sup>th</sup> yardes in height iiij<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iiij<sup>th</sup> foote, somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp will amount to iiij*li*. vjs. viii*d*. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre will requyre two tonnes or ther abowtes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke lv*js*.  
Summa vj*li*. ijs. viij*d*.  
ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The house called the Brewhouse couered with slayte containing in leingth xv<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in height iiij<sup>or</sup> yardes the walls iiij<sup>th</sup> foote. Ane other howse adioyninge vnto yt v<sup>th</sup> yardes square and vawted ouer with stone somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp wyll amount vnto xvij*li*. xvjs. or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre wyll requyre eight tonnes or ther abowtes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke xj*li*. iiij*s*.  
Summa xxix*li*.  
viij<sup>th</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

On thest parte of thentrye in thenner court is a litle towre vsed for a prison called the hye prison couered with lead and adioyninge the same the ruynes of certeine lodgings abowt the cloyster all vncouered and defaced. A litle within ys thentrye into the hall ascendinge vpp certeyne stepps which entry is of stone and vawted oure couered with lead containing in leingth x<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth vj<sup>th</sup> yardes in height v<sup>th</sup> yardes the wall iiij<sup>th</sup> foote thicke somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp wyll amount vnto xxvj*li*. xiijs. iiij*d*. or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre wyll requyre v<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke, vj*li*. and in lead

wyll requyre one fother di. more then is nowe remayning vpon yt, which bye vyewe is estimate to iij<sup>th</sup> fother di. which want with workemanshipp cariadge and iron worke will amount to xiiij<sup>li</sup>. vjs. viij<sup>d</sup>.

Summa xlviij<sup>li</sup>.  
v<sup>th</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

The charges estimate of the Barnes, stables, and suche like ) ciiij<sup>xx</sup> ij<sup>li</sup>.  
in the vtter courte couered with slate amountyth to ) vijs. viij<sup>d</sup>.

The charges estimate of the walls and towres abowt the )  
circuite of the howse and of the lodgings within thinner ) xj<sup>cc</sup>. iij<sup>xx</sup>.  
courte, with the store howse malt howse, kylne the conduicte ) xj<sup>li</sup>.  
and the water pound or keape amountyth to ) vijs. viij<sup>d</sup>.

Summa totalis xiiij<sup>cc</sup> xxxiiij<sup>li</sup>. xvj. iij<sup>d</sup>.

The hall, the buttrye, and yalewe chambre on theright hand of the sayd entry the walls of stone and couered with lead containing in leinght xix<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth x<sup>th</sup> yardes in height vij<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote thicke somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshapp will amount vnto xxli. or ther abowtes in mason worke, and in tymbre will requyre two tonnes and in workemanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke lvis. and in lead so decayed that the repare therof will requyre a fother di. more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt, which by vyewe is estimate to be viij<sup>th</sup> fothers and di. which want with workmanshapp cariadge and iron worke will amount to xvli.

Summa xxxviij<sup>li</sup>. xvjs.  
ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

Then owt of the hall sowthward is a chappell and a chambre the walls of stone couered with slayte somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshapp wyll amount vnto ixli. or ther abowtes in mason work and others.

Summa ixli.

Adioyneynge the same westward ascendinge with certeyne stepps is a litle chambre called thotter parler couered with lead next adioyning thervnto is thinner parlour as a toofall couered likewise with lead both adioyninge together with the gallery end containing in leinght xxij<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth ix<sup>th</sup> yardes in height v<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote, somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workemanshipp will amount to xiiij<sup>li</sup>. vjs. viij<sup>d</sup>. or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre will requyre iij<sup>or</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshapp cariadge by land and water with iron work vli. xijs. and in lead wyll requyre a fother more then is nowe remayning vpon yt, which by vyewe is estimate to be vj<sup>th</sup> fother di. which want with workemanshipp, cariadge and other necessaryes will amount to xjli.

Summa xxixli. xviijs. viij<sup>d</sup>.  
iiij<sup>or</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

Within whiche parler is certeyne lodgings and chambres and a gallery placed as in iij<sup>or</sup> howses nere to the brewhowse the walls of stone and couered with slayte containing in leinght xv<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth vj<sup>th</sup> yardes in height

v<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp will amount vnto *vjli. xiijs. iiijd.* or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre so decayed that the repare therof will requyre vij<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke will amount to *ixli. xvjs.*

Summa *xvjli. ix. iiijd.*  
vij<sup>th</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

Upon thother syde of thentrye into the hall is a howse called Edmuds chambre couered with lead x<sup>th</sup> yardes square somuch in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp wyll amount vnto *xli.* or therabowtes in mason worke and in tymbre will requyre two tonnes and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke *lvjs.* and in lead will requyre *di.* fother more then is nowe remayning vpon yt, which by vyewe is estimate to iij<sup>or</sup> fothers which want with workmanshipp cariadge and other necessaryes will amount to *vli. vs.*

Summa *xviiijli. xijd.*  
ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

Adioynynge thervnto is the howse called thold kytchinge clere defaced and vncouered and adioynynge vnto the same is the kytchinge which before was called Ewryall couered with lead containing in leinght xvij<sup>th</sup> yardes bredth xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes height ix<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote with ix<sup>th</sup> buttresses of the like height somuch ruynous and decayed that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp will amount vnto *cli.* or ther abowtes in mason worke and in tymbre will requyre v<sup>th</sup> tonnes or ther abowtes and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron work *vijli.* and in lead will requyre one fother more then is nowe remayning vpon yt which by vyewe is estimate to be fyve fothers *di.* which want with workmanshipp cariadge and such others will amount to *xli. xiijs.*

Summa *cxviijli. xiijs.*  
fyve tonnes of tymbre.

Another litle howse adioyned vpon the same called the stewardes chambre and nowe serueth for the surveynge place couered with lead somuche in decaye of tymbre that yt will requyre two tonnes, and in workmanshipp cariadge by land and water with iron worke *lvjs.* and in lead wyll requyre *di.* fother more then is nowe remayninge vpon yt which by vyewe is estimate to thre fothers, which want with workmanshipp cariadge and iron worke will amount to *vli.*

Summa *vijli. xvjs.*  
ij<sup>o</sup> tonnes of tymbre.

A towre standinge vpon the northwest parte called Whitley towre vawted with stone and a battlement of stone vpon the same, x<sup>th</sup> yardes square xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes height the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote thicke somuch in decaye and wast that we judge the repare therof with workmanshipp will amount vnto *iijs<sup>xx</sup>vjli. xiijs. iiijd.* or ther abowtes in mason work onelye. The walls from thence to the gate howse towre sowth containing in leinght

lxij<sup>th</sup> yardes in height vij<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls foure foote thicke, somuche in decaye and wast and must needfull to be repared that we judge the repare therof with workmanship will amount vnto xxv*li*. or ther abowtes in mason worke. Summa iij<sup>xx</sup>xj*li*. xiijs. iij*sd*.

The mount betwene the mount towres is xl<sup>th</sup> yardes in leinght and in height two yardes di. the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote thick. Thester towre is v<sup>th</sup> yardes square and vij<sup>th</sup> yardes height, the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote. Thother is in leinght x<sup>th</sup> yardes in bredth vj<sup>th</sup> yardes of the like thicknes and height to thother which mount and towres are in gret ruyne and decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanship will amount to iij<sup>xx</sup>vj*li*. or therabowtes in mason worke and is much need to be repared.

Summa iij<sup>xx</sup>vj*li*.

The wall betwixt the gallerye and the towre next to the pryour haven containing in leinght xiiij<sup>th</sup> yardes in height vj<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote thicke, somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanship will amount vnto xli. or ther abowtes in mason worke.

Summa xli.

The towre in the Madder garth with a litle turrett ther vnto adioyninge, thone v<sup>th</sup> yardes square in height xv<sup>th</sup> yardes thother of the like quantitye the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote somuche in decaye and wast that we judge the repare therof with workmanship will amount vnto iij<sup>xx</sup>li. or therabowtes in mason work.

Summa iij<sup>xx</sup>li.

The walls betwixt the sayd towre and the Duckett towre with ij<sup>o</sup> small towres vpon the same containing in leinght iij<sup>xx</sup> yardes in height vj<sup>th</sup> yardes, the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote somuch in decaye and wast that we judge the repare of the wants therof with workmanship will amount vnto iij<sup>xx</sup>xv*li*. or ther abowtes in mason worke onelye.

Summa iij<sup>xx</sup>xv*li*.

The dowecoate towre containing abowt yt xxx<sup>th</sup> yardes in height xv<sup>th</sup> yardes with the walls from thence and thende next to the pryours haven beyng the vttermost parte to the sea containing in leinght fyve score tenne yardes in height v<sup>th</sup> yardes the walls iij<sup>or</sup> foote thick, somuche in decaye that we judge the repare therof with workmanship will amount vnto iij<sup>xx</sup>li. or ther abowtes in mason worke onelye. Summa iij<sup>xx</sup>li.

The decayes of the walls and towres above mentyoned abowt the circuite and owt parte of the howse and also thother howses covered with lead beyng the lodginges of the howse are in that ruyne and decaye and so old and worne that withowt some substancyall repare in the most places, they will fall downe, which yf yt shall happen will then growe to veye great and vnreasonable charges and to the vtter decaye of the howse for the tyme. And the sayd jurye further saye vpon ther othes that the decaye

and ruine of the premysses are come and growne for want of reparacions because since the Dissolucion of the Monasterye beyng the space of xxxvj<sup>th</sup> yeres or therabowtes there hath bene no repara of stone, tymbre, or lead in or vpon eny the walls towres or buyldinges, but what reparacions was done, were of necessity on the howses couered with slayte, when the same was by vyolence of wynde and stormye weather spoyled and vncouered, which happeneth in that place beyng on the sea banke very often and almost in everye yere some parte. And the sayd jurye say upon ther othes that ther is no provision of stone tymbre nor lead ready at the sayd howse for the forsayd reparacions the stones of the ruynes of the old churche and other howses defaced and pulled downe, which will serue for verye small purpose in these reparacions onely excepted. In cuius rei testimonium tam comissionarii quam jurati predicti sigilla sua apposuerunt. Data apud castrum dicte domine Regine de Tynemouth xxv<sup>th</sup> die Septembris anno regni Elizabethe Dei gracia Anglie Frauncie et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris, etc. xix<sup>th</sup>. 1577.

*Endorsed*:—Literatur per manum Thome Bates vnus comissionariorum etc. xxvij<sup>o</sup> die Novembris anno xx<sup>o</sup> Regine E.