

DUDLEY CASTLE.¹

By HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.

Dudley castle, though dominating the Black Country town of Dudley in Worcestershire, is itself in Staffordshire, and is perched on the south end of a high limestone ridge which runs northward towards Tipton.

The castle is one of the few mentioned as existing at Domesday, and was thrown up by one of the followers of the Conqueror, William FitzAnsculph.² Of this castle the earthworks, though since built upon, remain complete. The stockade defences surrounding the bailey seem quickly to have given place to stone walls, for those on either side the great gatehouse and one next the kitchen are of early twelfth-century date.

During the rebellion of prince Henry against his father in 1175, Dudley was held for him by the owner, Gervase Paganel. For this offence the castle was dismantled,³ but a subsequent fine of 500 marks re-established Paganel,⁴ and he probably repaired part of the castle for a dwelling-house. On his death his daughter Hawise, married to John de Somery, became possessed of the manor.⁵

About 1261 Roger de Somery began to fortify his house at Dudley, but was stopped for proceeding to do so without authority.⁶ Two years later, for aiding the king against the barons, he obtained a licence to crenellate the house

¹ Read before the Institute, 2nd April, 1913.

² Domesday book: see Shaw, *Hist. of Staffordshire* (1801), ii, 138.

³ Ralph de Diceto (Rolls series, i, 404).

⁴ Pipe roll, 21 Henry II (Pipe roll Soc. 69).

⁵ Dugdale, *Baronage of England* (1675), i, 162.

⁶ Close roll, 46 Henry III (Wm. Salt Coll. ix, pt. ii, 19).

of his manor (*mansum manerii sui*) at Dudley with a ditch and a wall of stone and lime, and to fortify it.¹ He was taken prisoner at Lewes the same year, and died in 1272²; it is, therefore, questionable whether any building was actually begun by him at Dudley.

John de Somery, grandson of Roger, was knighted in 1305,³ and is reported to have been a turbulent neighbour by William de Bereford and others, "who assert that he has obtained such mastery in the county of Stafford that no one can obtain law or justice therein; that he has made himself more than a king there; that no one can dwell there unless he buys protection from him either by money or by assisting him in building his castles, and that he attacks people in their own houses with the intention of killing them unless they make fine for his protection."⁴ From this it would seem that the main defences of this place were being carried on by this Sir John.

On his death in 1321 Dudley passed to the family of Sutton through the marriage of Margaret his sister to John of Sutton-on-Trent.⁵ This John Sutton held the place for over thirty years, and is probably responsible for the erection of the chapel and hall. In 1423 the Sutton family was ennobled.

About 1533 the castle and barony was seized by John Dudley, duke of Northumberland,⁶ and by him the whole of the dwelling part of the castle was remodelled. This work was apparently done under the direction of Sir William Sharrington, who converted Lacock abbey, in Wiltshire, into a dwelling-house for himself, and directed sundry works for admiral lord Seymour at Sudeley and Bromham. On 25th June, 1553, Sharrington wrote to Sir John Thynne, who was then building Longleat: "understanding how gladly you would that Chapman should work for you, as I am no less willing, so must I advise you of his going to Dudley, to be sent thither by my lord of Northumberland his Grace's commandment, to do things there of like effect and yet not herehence departed; he hath sent all his working tools before with such wains as be gone thither

¹ Patent roll, 48 Henry III, m. 17 (Cal. Pat. 1258-1266, 307).

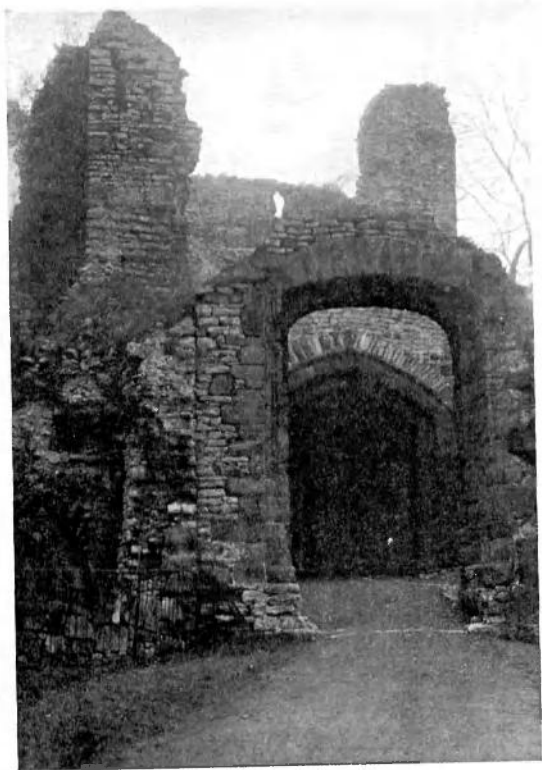
² *Baronage of England*, i, 613.

³ *ibid.*

⁴ Patent roll, 4 Edward II, pt. ii, m. 12d (Cal. Pat. 1307-1313, 369).

⁵ *Baronage of England*, i, 613.

⁶ *ibid.* ii, 216.



NO. I. EXTERIOR OF GREAT GATEHOUSE.



NO. 2. INTERIOR OF GREAT GATEHOUSE.

with the chimney that so long he hath been working of.”¹

As Sharington himself died before 6th July and the duke of Northumberland was arrested on 25th July, it is questionable if Chapman ever reached Dudley; and whether the chimney was ever fixed will not now be known, as there is no fireplace existing worked in Bath stone. If it was that of the great hall it has entirely perished with the wall in which it was set.

An interesting feature of Dudley's fondness of architectural ornament still remains in the Beauchamp tower in the Tower of London, where he must have been incarcerated during the twenty-seven days which passed between his arrest and execution. This consists of a panel 20½ inches square, having in the middle a shield, on which is a chained bear and rampant lion holding up a staff raguly, under which is IOHN DUDLI. This is surrounded by a floral pattern of roses, honeysuckle, tulips and acorns. Beneath is an inscription uncompleted and difficult to understand.²

After the execution of Northumberland the castle remained in the hands of the crown until 1554, when queen Mary granted it with certain of the confiscated lands to lord Edward Dudley, the descendant of the Suttons.³ Queen Elizabeth visited Dudley in 1575,⁴ and in preparation for her visit the withdrawing-room was apparently made.

The so-called warder's tower with the wall running south-east and the angle-turret were possibly erected about this time. They were never built for defence, and are entirely of limestone rubble and brick, without any architectural features.

In 1585 there was some talk of placing Mary queen of Scots here, and to examine its suitability Sir Amyas Powlet visited the castle. He reported to Sir Francis Walsingham: “the lodgings . . . are not so manye in nomber as I could wisshe and are very little and straight saving the lodgings wch must serve for this Q, wch are so faire and

¹ *Wilt. Arch. Mag.* xxvi, 50.

³ *V.C.H. Worcestershire*, iii, 93.

² *Archaeologia*, xiii, 70.

⁴ State papers, domestic, cv, 24 (Cal. State papers, 1578, 502).

commodious as she cannot desire to have them amended . . . also the howse ys utterlie destitute of table boordes, cupboordes, fourmes, stools and bedstedes saving that the hall and greate chambre are provided with table boordes. . . A barne must be converted to a stable for the gouvernors horses. . . . This queenes gentlemen servantes will not like wth their straight lodgings because they have no inner chambers. The brewing vesseles are somewhat decayed and some are wanting wch may be supplied from Burton. The water for the kitchins and howshold must be set owt of the dikes without the gate and yet some will say that the pump wch standeth in the middest of the court yf yt were clesed would furnishe sufficient and good water, but I find others that doubt thereof. The chamber windows of this Q's lodgings are open upon the park as likewise the windows of her kitchen, which I trust may be supplied by a good watche and a deepe ditche but especiallie by this Q. infirmities wch will not permitt her to run away on her owne feete. These defectes are recompenced yn parte with the strength of the howse in other respects and with manie other good commodities."¹

In 1643 died the last of the Sutton Dudleys, and his heiress Frances, being married to Humble Ward, the only son of William Ward, jeweller to the queen, the castle and estates passed to that family.

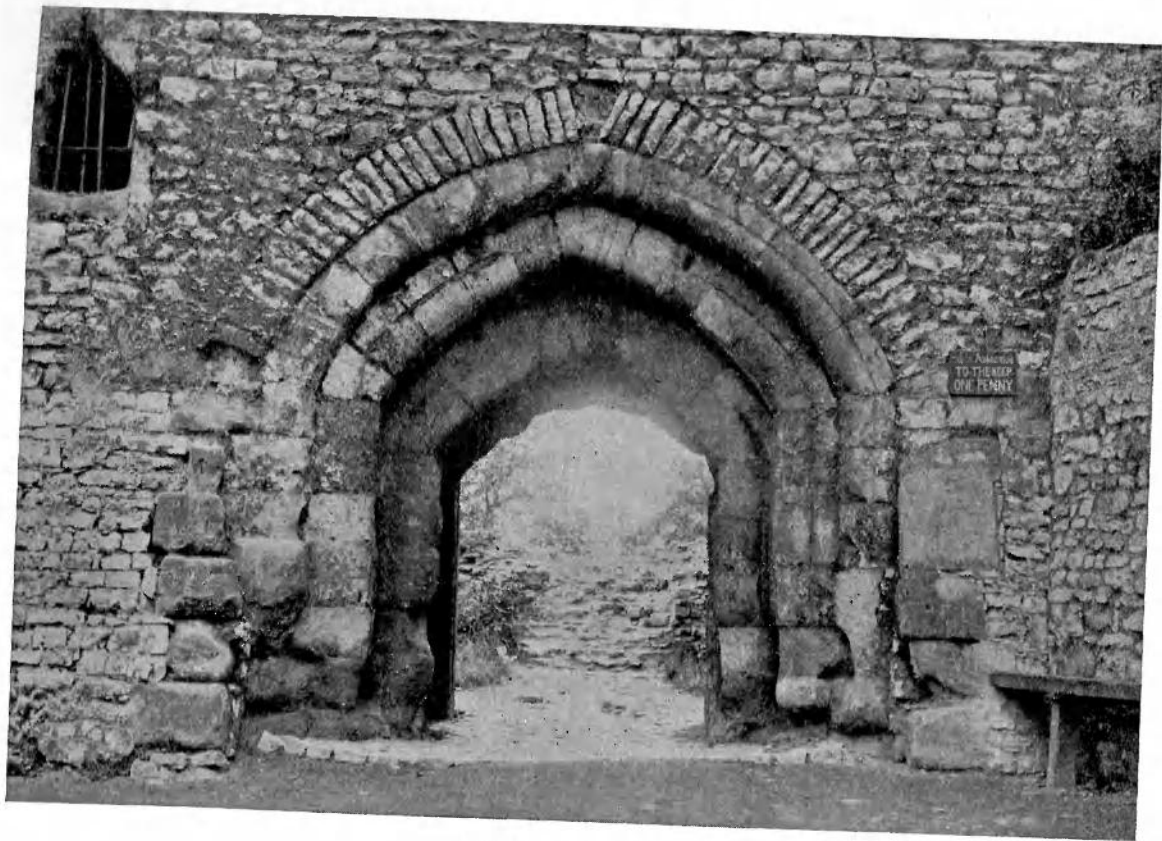
At the rebellion the castle was held for the king by one Thomas Leveson, and "though the castle was provisioned for three years, he, before any siege, to avoid bloodshed, offered to surrender it to Sir William Brereton."² In 1647 the place is said to have been sleighted by order of the parliament.

The earliest known picture of the castle is that made in 1684 for Dr. Plot, which shows the building from the east. The keep is ruined as well as the hall, the vice at the north-east angle, and the chapel block.³ This was unaltered in 1731 when the brothers Buck made their view, but this was taken from the opposite side.

¹ State papers, Scotch series, xvi, 68 ; See *V.C.H. Worcestershire*, iii, 93.

² Historical MSS. Commission Report, xiii, app. i, 570.

³ Dr. Plot's *Natural History of Staffordshire* (1684), 39.



ENTRANCE TO KEEP.

Some time at the end of the eighteenth century the block of building between the gatehouse and the keep was erected.

In the Dudley parish registers is an entry under 1750 as follows: "be it ever remembered Dudley castle was on fire on St. James' fair day eve, July 24th, and was burning the 25th and 26th, the folks would not go anear it on account of the powder said to be in armoury, the eastern part of the roof being most lead it ran down the hill red-hot and set fire to the long grass which for a time looked as though the whole hill was in flames and sadly feared the town foulds—J. P."

In 1779 it is said that William viscount Dudley and Ward cleared the keep, and built up the north-west tower as it now stands.

The present owner has for some years been carrying out needful and judicious repairs, and every praise is due to him for the careful manner in which they have been accomplished.

THE EARTHWORKS.

The earthwork of the Norman castle remains as perfect as the day it was made, save on the south side where the ditches were filled in by the sleighting of the later building. The castle is of the usual mount-and-bailey type cut out of the south end of a limestone ridge. The bailey is oval, some 200 feet from north to south. The mount is at the south-west end of the bailey and is circular. The entrance was probably always where it is now, under the direct protection of the mount. As the earthworks are made out of the limestone ridge, the usual silting of the ditches by gradual wasting of the banks is absent, and they are still mostly in a wonderfully clean condition. Water lodges in that on the north-west, but beyond surface-water the ditch was never intended for anything but a dry one, since on the south side by the mount the ditch works out on the scarp of the hill.

There is a flat area of ground on the north side of the castle which continues in a narrow strip along the east side to below the mount, where it expands into a wider area.

Though in quite late days a wall was built along the outer edge of part of this area, it does not seem ever to have been enclosed during the time the castle was used for serious defence.

THE CURTAIN.

The whole curtain wall, 8 feet thick, is John de Somery's work, built doubtless on the line of the Norman stockades, but in straight sections. Whether any part was defended by bastions there is nothing now to show.

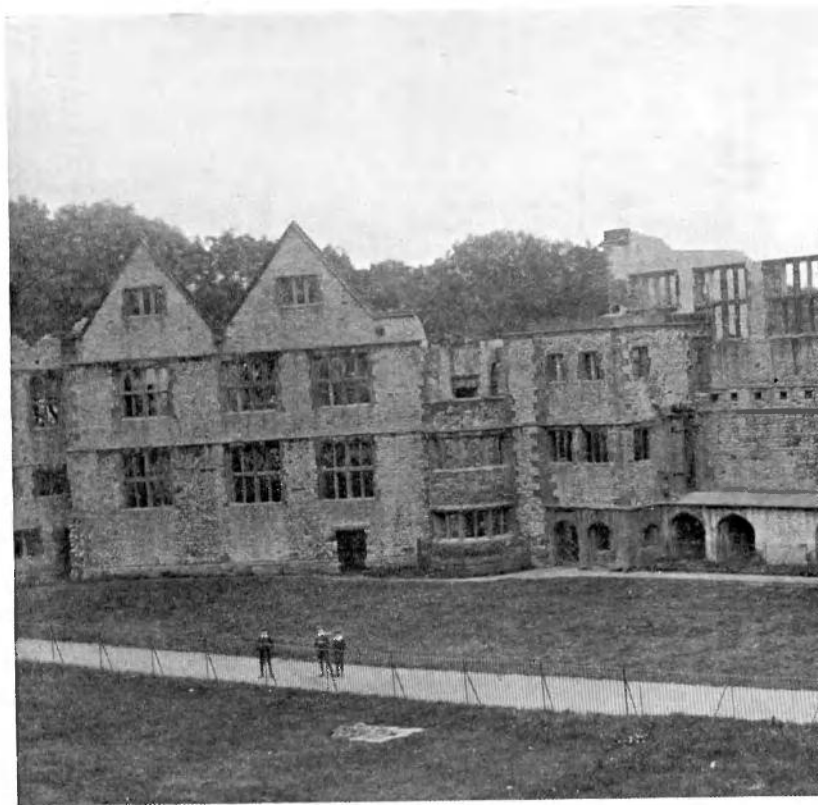
In the first place the gatehouse was within the line of the curtain, but at a later date, presumably at the sleighting, a length of the curtain on either side of the gate was pulled down and subsequently built up on a different line: that on the east side in line with the inner face of the gate, and that on the west to form the back of what is now called "the stables."

Another length of the curtain was destroyed by the extreme northern block of Sharington's buildings, but for what reason it is difficult to understand.

More than half the west side of the curtain has been destroyed on its outer face, probably for material in the eighteenth century, but it is original internally and retains a row of corbels to carry a pentise. At some 30 feet from the north-west angle of the curtain is a round-headed doorway leading into a projecting turret, which in later days contained one or more garderobes. Exactly half-way between this door and the keep are the foundations of a small building to which the pentise led, and at the back of this the curtain is perfect to a considerable height. Externally it had a buttress opposite the north wall of the building and another half down its west side. From this point, for some 50 feet, the curtain has been destroyed and of recent years built up with a thin wall.

THE GREAT GATE.

The great gate of entrance (plate II) is on the south side of the bailey, and has an added barbican defended by two small drums and a drawbridge.



WEST SIDE OF CHIEF BUILDINGS.

PLATE IV.



To face page 7.

The gateway itself, 27 feet long by 17 feet wide, is of two stories and remains tolerably perfect. The side walls are of the twelfth century, 6 feet thick, and still show the original quoins at all angles but the north-west. It is covered by a semicircular barrel-vault, but of what date it is difficult to say.

The rest of the gatehouse is of John de Somery's building. The south wall is no less than 9 feet thick, in which, considerably out of centre towards the east, is a fine pointed segmental-arched doorway of three members, formed of large three-quarter-round mouldings¹ continuing down the jambs; and between the second and innermost member is a groove $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide for a portcullis. The doorway is flanked by wide buttresses. The inner (north) wall is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick and has a second doorway similar to the outer with a portcullis groove, but is of only two members. The rere-arch is of two moulded members with a label having carved terminals.

The first floor is gained through a small doorway, 10 feet from the ground, on the east side of the inner arch, and though of the same date as the gateway, it seems to have been an afterthought, for the string-course over the main doorway, which was continuous round the building, is cut through for its insertion. The doorway has a pointed arch with a single-moulded member continued down the jambs and is covered with a label.

From this door steps ascend to the room over the gateway, doubtless the guardroom, with openings on to the curtain walls. At the north end of the room are two lancet windows, with cusped heads, of two members, covered by a label, and the sills are of three courses, resting on the moulded string-course. At the top of the stairs from the entrance is a vice in a turret leading to the roof. This was entirely hidden behind the walls of the gatehouse, and had a walking-space around it, with arrow slot-holes in the side walls, of which two yet remain to the north.

The defences of the gate were increased by John Sutton,

¹ These are precisely similar to those of the Rubbish gate at Windsor built by Martin the mason 1367-1368) between the Blacktoure and Gerardstoure: Hope, *Windsor Castle* (1913), 200.

who added a barbican having a drum turret at either angle. Between them was doubtless a drawbridge across the ditch protected by arrow slots in the drums close to the ground level. Very little remains of this barbican, but it would be approached from the guardroom through wall-passages like those to the bars of York.

In the fifteenth century, for further protection, a wall $5\frac{3}{4}$ feet thick was put between the drums, probably by the lord Dudley who took the Lancastrian side in the wars of the Roses. The wall is pierced by a segmental-headed opening, only $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, covered on the outside by the drawbridge when closed. The holes for the pivots of the bridge remain in each jamb. There was also a pair of doors on the inside of the opening.

The great gate at this time had no less than six obstructions to defend it: (1) the drawbridge with (2) a pair of doors behind, (3) a portcullis with (4) a pair of doors, and (5) a second portcullis with (6) another pair of doors.

THE KEEP.

In the fourteenth century a great keep was erected on the top of the mount, begun apparently by John de Somery. This is 50 feet from east to west by 27 feet wide, and had walls averaging 10 feet in thickness, and a great three-quarter drum tower at each angle 31 feet across. Externally, the lower parts of the walls are battered.

The north side and its two drums remain to their original height, but the south side and its drums were destroyed at the sleighting, and the amount of material thus thrown down may be appreciated by the consequent complete extinction of the ditch below.

The keep was never more than two stories in height and the entrance is in the middle of the north wall (plate III). This is a doorway of three members similar to those of the great gate, protected by a portcullis between the second and third member. The ground floor of the keep seems to have had a loop in either end, and another on the south side. The northern drums were not divided from the main chamber and were each lighted by a narrow loop. In

the north-west drum is a doorway, now blocked, which led to a garderobe in the thickness of the wall.¹ A similar doorway in the north-east drum leads to a staircase in the thickness of the wall, giving access to the floor above. The two southern drums were built solid at this first-floor level.

Just inside the entrance to the keep is a doorway to a large vice by which the first floor of the keep is gained. This floor is arranged as a hall with two chambers in the western drums: the eastern end was divided off by screens. In the north wall are a pair of lancets with window-seats. There was a similar lancet in the west end and doubtless others in the east and south.

The north-west drum has a wide window facing west, with an inserted fireplace just to the south. There is a shouldered doorway on the north-west side which leads to a garderobe in the thickness of the wall. The south-west drum was probably arranged similarly as a living-room.

The north-east drum has a deeply-splayed loop to the east and a shouldered doorway on the north side to the staircase in the thickness of the wall from the blocked doorway on the ground floor.

The whole arrangement of this keep was of a small manor-house: the hall on the first floor with two chambers at the west end, the screens at the east end with the pantry and buttery in the eastern drums, and a serving stair to the ground floor which was probably used for kitchen and servants' quarters.

There would probably be a well in the keep, but though search has been made for it nothing of the sort has yet been found.

Surrounding the north-east drum is the lower part of a fourteenth-century concentric defence which had a protecting wall pierced with arrow-slots, one of which remains at the south end. In connexion with this defence are the remains of the upper part of what seems to have been an ascending stair up the mount against the curtain-wall, similar to those to the Round tower at Windsor. The lower part was probably destroyed at the sleighting

¹ This wall externally is built on a wide construction-arch.

and further by the erection of "the stables" on its site. It is just possible that this, the only approach to the keep, started from the guardroom over the gate, though more probably it began just within the gate, as at Windsor, Corfe, Nottingham and elsewhere.

Round the keep, outside the curtain, has been built a strong retaining wall, apparently for a platform for ordnance, but whether at the time of the rebellion or earlier is hard to say.¹

Between the keep and the great gate is a two-storied building of about 1690, which seems never to have been completed: it is usually called "the stables."

The whole of the first buildings, including the curtain, the great gatehouse and the keep, were built with limestone rubble with freestone dressings to the doors and windows. Each opening is covered by a carefully formed relieving arch in the rubble masonry. A very distinctive feature of all this early building is the mortar. This at first sight seems to be composed of pounded brick and lime in the most approved Roman manner, but on examination the red particles will be seen to be of iron, the mortar being made from the ashes of the furnaces which, even at that period, must have been in full work in this district.

THE HALL.

Occupying the eastern half of the curtain are the dwelling-rooms of the castle. These were first built in the twelfth century, altered by the erection of the curtain early in the fourteenth century, and rebuilt a few years later; then entirely remodelled as a manor-house in the sixteenth century, and, although burnt in the eighteenth century, the group still forms one of the most interesting buildings of its kind in the kingdom (plate iv).

It is divided into three principal blocks, of which the middle is the hall, the southern block contains the great chamber and the chapel, and the northern block the

¹ At Corfe a platform for guns, commanding the lower ward, was in existence

in Elizabethan times: see plan by Ralph Treswell, 1586.



SOUTHERN IMPOST OF LOGGIA.

kitchen with bedrooms over. There is a further block to the north containing a small gateway and servants' quarters.

The hall doubtless occupies the same position as its Norman predecessor, but of that all indication has gone. The fourteenth-century hall was of the same width as the present one, and parts of its west wall are incorporated in the later work.

The hall with its buildings northward of it, save for the curtain and a few odd bits of other walls, are entirely of the work undertaken by the duke of Northumberland under the direction of Sir William Sharington. Nothing too high can be said of the beautiful simplicity of the design, or of the splendid manner of execution: the setting-out is wonderfully accurate, and the way in which every angle has its re-entering quoins recalls the best traditions of the thirteenth century. Again, when it is remembered that these buildings of Sharington's were erected in the reign of Edward VI, many years before the palaces of Elizabeth's reign were thought of, the convenience of their arrangements and the advanced nature of their comforts is little short of wonderful. At Dudley scarcely anything of importance was altered from the time of its building until its destruction by fire in the eighteenth century.

All the walls are built of limestone rubble laid in courses, with freestone dressings of an unfortunately soft sandstone which has weathered so badly that nearly every detail has vanished. Externally, as at Lacock, the walls were plastered or intended to be, and the quoins of the windows were cut down to square strips, and those of the angles into headers and stretchers of uniform length, which must have had a very unpleasant effect. The chimneys were in brick, and the roofs would be covered with red tiles, save of the hall and other flats, which were of lead.

The present hall, 78 feet long by $31\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, was on the first floor over a subvault, and was approached in an unusual manner. The west front has at each end a square projection, the northern being the porch and the southern a staircase. Between these, at the level of the hall, was an open loggia, gained by a straight flight of steps in the

middle. The front of the loggia was formed by a colonnade of five bays, of the Ionic order, the half columns of which remain at either end (plate v). These were fluted and reeded to a third of their height and supported on a parapet wall. The entablature was built in two courses, of which the lower, taking the architrave and frieze, was curiously joggled at the joints. The loggia was supported on four-centred arches having a small moulded impost at the springing, except the middle bay, which, owing to the abutment of the steps, was solid. The loggia was covered by a flat ceiling having a stone cornice against the hall, and above was a lead flat with a stone weathering over.

At the north end of the loggia was the entrance to the porch. This consists of a wide opening with a flat and joggled head covered by an entablature supported at either end on console brackets. Above the opening is a relieving arch which is characteristic of all the doorways of Sharington's work. This opening does not seem to have been fitted with a door in the first place: the jambs and soffit are entirely in freestone and slightly hollowed, but without a rebate.

The porch is about 14 feet square, and had a wooden floor and ceiling. In the west wall are a pair of small three-light windows, and there is another of two lights in the south wall. The north wall, at its west end, has been cut through for a door to the room beyond. The east wall is occupied by the entrance doorway to the hall itself, which is precisely similar to the opening from the loggia, save that it has rebates for a door. The internal jambs are formed of ashlar with a chamfered angle, and the present head is a wooden lintel.

Beneath the porch is a room forming the entrance to the hall subvault from the court. Externally it is faced with ashlar, and the front has two four-centred arches 6 inches deep, of which the northern forms the entrance doorway and the southern has a small two-light window within the arch. The small return of the south wall has a single arch, similar to those on the front but smaller, and contains a single-light window. These blank arches have the same moulded imposts at the springing as those carrying the loggia.

The hall had the screens at the north end, but there



DOORWAYS AT NORTH END OF HALL.

was no gallery over. In the north wall are four square-headed doorways with cornices above, while still higher, in the middle of the wall, is an interesting feature (plate vi). In the hall of Great Chalfield manor, in Wiltshire, in this position, is a monster with pierced eyes and mouth, through which the head of the house could see, without being seen, that good order was kept in the hall.¹ At Ludlow castle, but at the upper end of the hall, is a fifteenth-century opening in the shape of a doorway, but with the lower part built solid, which was used for the same purpose. This spy-hole at Dudley is in the form of a two-light window with a wide mullion, and towards the hall is surrounded by a stone architrave surmounted by a pediment, while under the window is a stone pedestal with moulded cornice and base. On the "inside" of the window is, under the sill, a stone shelf supported by console brackets.

The hall was lighted by a row of large windows high up on either side. The west wall remains, and contains six windows, each of four lights, with transoms and deeply-splayed sills. Where the projecting blocks of the porch and staircase occur the windows show internally and are built as shams. Under the southernmost is a wide square-headed doorway with cornice and console brackets. The east wall appears to have had a similar row of windows to the west, of which the southern jamb of the southernmost remains, but all the rest of the wall has gone. In the middle of the wall was presumably destined to stand the great fireplace upon which the carver Chapman was so long working in Wiltshire.

The south end of the hall is blank save that the string, which passes under the side windows and jumps in the angles, crosses the wall at a higher level. There must have been a small doorway in the south-east angle which led by a wall-passage to the great chamber.

The hall floor was of wood, and the ceiling flat and covered with lead, and the hall was left at the sleighting much as it is at present.

The subvault under the hall is lighted by four two-light windows from the arched recesses beneath the loggia.

¹ There was another mask from each of the rooms over the side oriels. At Little

Sodbury a similar mask remains from the room over the eastern oriel.

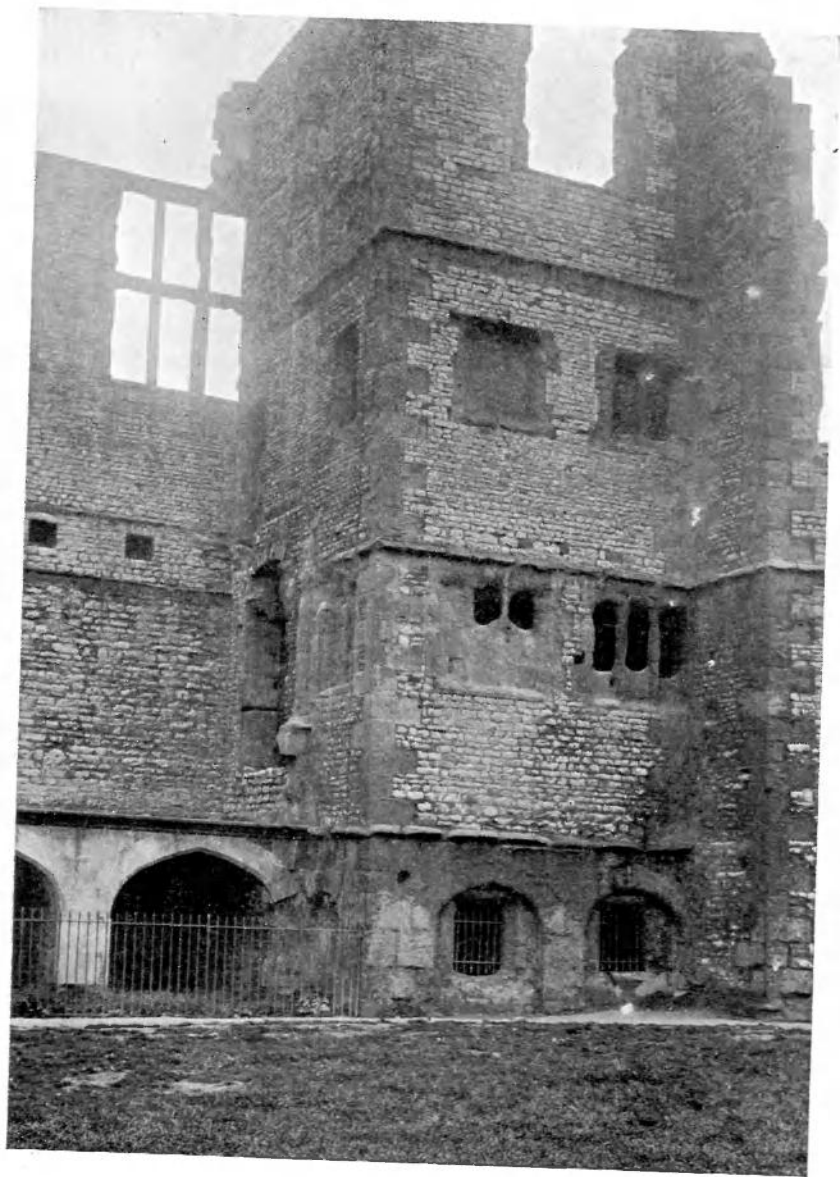
In the north wall is a four-centred opening, and from the space under the porch is a four-centred doorway.

The northern end of the east wall is slightly thicker than the southern portion and is said to have contained a passage in its thickness. There is absolutely no indication of such, and as it would lead from the space northward of the hall with which there is another connexion there is no reason for its existence.

The south end of the subvault is occupied by a cellar 16 feet wide, having a barrel-vault. There is at present a gap in the north wall, probably in the place of an original doorway.

At the west end of the cellar is one jamb of a deeply-splayed window, and in the south-east angle is a small doorway leading to a wall-passage. At the opposite end of the cellar is a four-centred doorway into the space under the staircase.

Externally for the first three stages this staircase block (plate VII) is like that of the porch, the lower stage is all of ashlar, having wall-arches, and windows beneath. The second stage has a pair of three-light windows to the front, both partly built solid. The third stage has a pair of two-light windows, of which the northern was built solid. Unlike the porch block there is yet a fourth stage having a single window to the west originally transomed and divided into three lights. There was also a single-light window with a transom on the north side. Part of the cornice and one corner of the parapet remains at the top, and each stage is divided by a moulded string-course. The block contained a wooden staircase which was intended to gain the rooms over the great chamber and perhaps the roof over the hall. Solid window-lights occur where the stairs crossed the window spaces. There is a square-headed doorway, which had double doors, leading into the loggia, and a smaller one in the third stage on to the leads above. There was a square-headed doorway in the south wall, on the hall level, giving access to the original great chamber. In this block some of the windows still retain the indication of having the curious "Sharingtonian" feature of a pair of console brackets under the head of each light, which, as in his work at Lacock, doubtless occurred in all the principal windows.



STAIRCASE BLOCK AT SOUTH END OF HALL.

In later days the stairs were removed, as their presence was rendered useless by the erection of those added between the site of the great chamber and the chapel. This was probably done in preparation for queen Elizabeth's visit, as the block was divided up by floors for bedrooms. The first floor, level with the hall, had a brick fireplace inserted in the original doorway to the great chamber, but the half-blocked windows were not altered, showing that the work was done in a hurry. The next floor above was gained by a short flight of steps apparently against the north wall, and in this case also the windows were unaltered. The third floor was gained from the second by a wall-stair inserted in the south-west angle of the block and had a brick fireplace added in the south-west angle.

THE CHAPEL AND GREAT CHAMBER.

At the south end of the hall is a block of buildings dating chiefly from the fourteenth century. It consisted originally of the great chamber and the chapel, both over cellarage, parallel to each other but with a space between. The great chamber was on the same level, and placed almost at right-angles with the hall. It has been so altered at various periods as to be almost unrecognisable. The whole of this part of the castle is considerably ruined, and was part of the buildings sleighted at the rebellion.

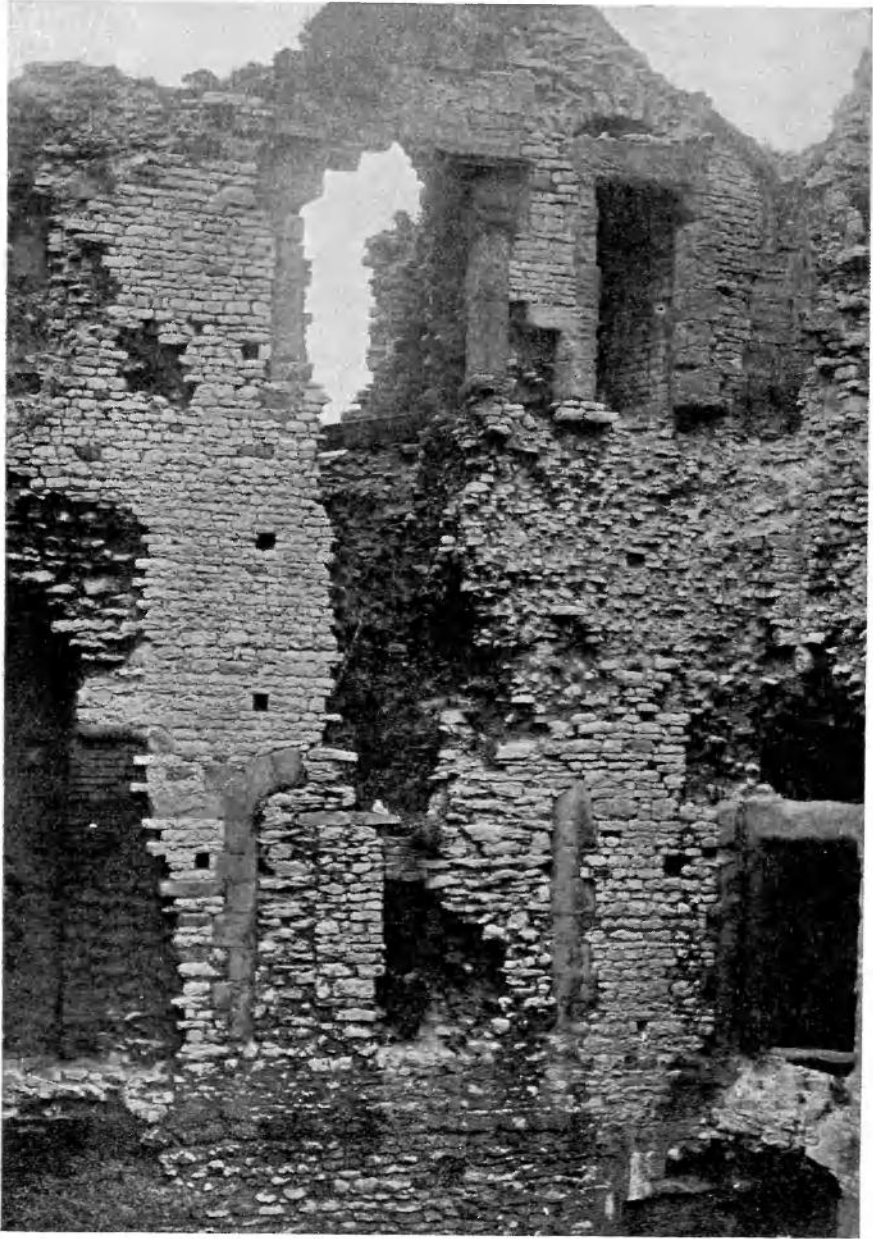
The original great chamber was on the level of the hall, 50 feet in length by 24 feet in width, but nothing remains to show any original features save part of a jamb and sill of a window at the east end. The subvault retains its original walls, and there is a square-headed loop in the west end and a second, blocked up, further north. There is a doorway of a single member in the south wall leading to the space between the great chamber and the chapel, which had a small building at either end. That to the west has an original pointed doorway from the court with another square loop to the south of it. Eastward of this small room the space between the great chamber and the chapel narrows; the side walls run out into the ditch beyond the curtain and contained garderobes.

The chapel is 50 feet long by 23 feet wide. The

west end remains nearly complete and has a pointed window. This was originally of three lights with flowing tracery, and has a label with carved terminals. The western part of the south side remains and contains a moulded doorway of two members having an ogee head. This was gained by a flight of steps from the court, which, however, have left no indication of their existence beyond some rough masonry just beneath the doorway. Inside the door, on the west, is a wide recess, and on the east a cupboard, beyond which are the remains of a window. The rest of the wall has gone. Of the north wall nothing remains except the jamb of a doorway close against the west wall. The east end of the chapel formed part of the curtain, but has been ruined down to the floor, though partly rebuilt in recent years.

Under the chapel is a fine cellar covered by a waggon-vault and entered on the south side through a pointed doorway. In the west wall are two square loops, and there is a third in the middle of the south side. The chapel floor is made up off the waggon of the cellar by having half-arches from the vault to the side walls, some 18 inches wide and 2 feet apart: these were covered with rough slabs upon which the floor was laid. Such construction was doubtless to relieve the vault of any unnecessary weight.

When the remodelling took place in the sixteenth century no alteration was made in the form of the great chamber. The north wall was much reduced by the staircase block, the exterior of the north-east angle was rebuilt, and the north wall was refaced above the sub-vault (plate VIII). At the extreme east end is a doorway which connected through a wall-passage with the dais of the hall. Further west are the springs of what seems to be an arched recess, 8 feet 2 inches wide. How this was arranged is hard to understand, as within it started a vice to the rooms above. In the middle of the wall was a fireplace which has lost its jambs, but the herring-bone brick back, and lacing of the brick flue remains. Further west was the chief entrance through a flat-headed doorway off the staircase. In the east wall was left the fourteenth-century window, and there was probably a large inserted window in the west end.



PART OF NORTH WALL OF GREAT CHAMBER.

Over the great chamber another story was added by the duke of Northumberland, entered by the vice starting from the floor below, and divided apparently into two bedrooms. The western room was done away with later, but its fireplace remains in the north wall. The eastern room was not interfered with by later alterations, and retains in the middle of its north wall a square-headed fireplace with moulded cornice supported on console brackets with a plain stone overmantel slightly sunk to form a panel. To the right of this fireplace is a small square-headed doorway to a narrow wall-passage. Off this to the east is a small room, 10 feet from east to west by 8 feet, contained in the thickness of the wall, with a four-centred ribbed vault resting on moulded corbels in the angles. Opposite the door into this room is a second door at the head of the vice from the great chamber.

The inconvenience of such contracted access to two important rooms was apparently soon felt: the vice was done away with and a new staircase formed in the middle of the space between the chapel and great chamber, and at the same time the chamber itself was divided by a cross-partition. In the western half the floor was lowered two feet, a new fireplace inserted in the north-east angle, the entrance off the old stair blocked up, a new entrance made, doubtless off the new staircase, and a small two-light window inserted in the west wall. Over this room a floor was constructed to form a similar room above. The eastern half of the great chamber was left much as it was, save that the fireplace was moved further east.

A still further alteration was made in this portion of the castle, apparently in preparation for the visit of queen Elizabeth in 1575.

The dividing partition of the great chamber was removed, and, 20 feet from the east wall, a cross-wall was built in its stead, and continued up to the chapel. The space on the west, at the same level as the chapel and inserted floor in the great chamber, was made into the withdrawing-room with an entrance off the later staircase.

This room, 40 feet from north to south by 22 feet wide, has in the west wall two great six-light windows with two transoms, but the upper parts are now destroyed,

and there may have been as many as three. Between the two existing windows is a fireplace with a brick back, but the jambs and head have been removed.

THE KITCHEN WING.

At the north end of the hall, but set at a considerable angle to it, owing to the curve of the curtain, is a block of building, which for convenience of description will be called the kitchen wing (plate x). It is separated from the hall by a triangular lobby. As before stated, in the north end of the hall are four square-headed doorways; the easternmost led to a large vice, $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, by which the upper floors of the kitchen wing were gained; the two middle doors were for service, the triangular lobby being the serving place; and the westernmost door led by a short passage direct to the southernmost room of the kitchen wing. The serving lobby was lighted by a two-light window on the north-east side and had an inserted vice in the west angle leading down to the cellars.

The room to the north, 41 feet by 21 feet, has at the south-west end, overlooking the court, a semicircular bow window divided into eight lights, but there is no sign of any fireplace, and from this reason and its position adjoining the hall it was probably the pantry. The north-east end of the room was cut off by a partition, to form a serving passage leading from the kitchen to the hall, and is lighted by two windows of two lights. It had at either end a four-centred arch, with wide chamfered edges, of which the northern half remains.

Under the pantry just described is another chamber precisely similar, but only 31 feet in length, that appears to have been the buttery. At its north-east end are two four-centred arched recesses under the serving passage. There is an arched doorway in the south-east wall and an opening has been cut through the south angle into the space under the porch. The north-west wall is one of the oldest in the castle, being of the twelfth century, and in it are the jambs and round arch of an original opening $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide (plate ix, no. 1). Further east is the straight joint of a smaller opening of the same date.

The space under the serving lobby is lighted by a small single-light window to the north-east. There is a square recess under the window, and southward is a narrow opening to a square chamber with arched vault under the great vice. A doorway leads from the buttery on the north and an opening opposite it into the cellar under the hall. In the extreme west angle is the start of the inserted vice to the floor above.

Next the pantry and buttery northward is a lobby, nearly 11 feet wide, lighted at its north-east end by a two-light window, and at its south-west by a four-light window with a transom, under which a later doorway has been cut to give access from the court. The north-east end was filled by steps ascending to the passage behind the pantry and so to the hall. At the foot of the steps in the north-west wall is the serving hatch from the kitchen, a four-centred arched opening 6 feet across with wide chamfered angles, and next it is a small doorway to the kitchen. The opposite wall has been thinned and two four-centred arches, each 10 feet wide, inserted to take the wall above. To the east is a fragment of the outer face of the Norman arch which on this side was moulded.

The kitchen, 35 feet by 29, occupies two stories, though there are only two windows in its south-west wall. These are of four lights with transoms and deeply-splayed sills.

In the north-west and north-east walls are vast fire-places; the former 13 feet wide by 4 feet deep, and the latter 16 feet wide by $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, with an oven 4 feet in diameter at the northern end. Each fireplace has a brick back and was formed with a segmental freestone arch with a relieving arch over. The inner arches in each case have gone, but to the northern fireplace the relieving arch remains. The outlets are gathered into two and three flues respectively, all in brick.

At the western end of the north-west wall is a large four-centred arched doorway with a deeply-splayed reveal.

The second floor of the kitchen wing was occupied by the best bedrooms, gained by the vice at the north-east angle of the hall before the sleighting, and afterwards by a wooden staircase at the east end of the serving lobby; the notches for the treads and risers still show in the east wall.

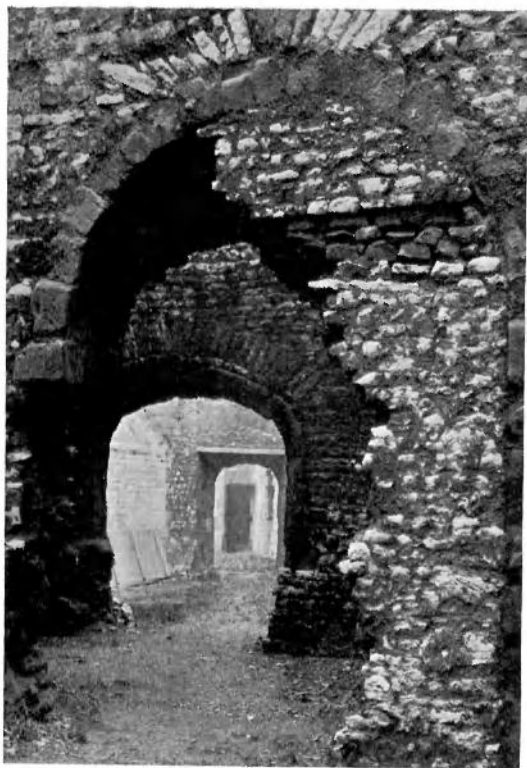
The space over the servery was the landing, and has at its north-east end a two-light transomed window. On the south side is the window already described through which it could be seen if good order was kept in the hall (plate ix, no. 2). In the south-west angle is a later passage cut through the wall to the room over the porch. The north-west wall is mostly destroyed, but at the eastern end was an archway of which one jamb remains.

Through this archway was a gallery, some 12 feet wide and 72 feet in length, occupying the whole of the north-east side of the wing. It was lighted on the north-east by three four-light windows with wide transoms and sill-shelves supported on consoles. Between the northern pair of windows is a large fireplace with moulded entablature carried on console brackets at either end. From this gallery were gained the three bedrooms occupying the south-west side of the wing. The first bedroom, over the pantry, was lighted by the fine bow window towards the court, double the height of those below, and divided by a transom. In the north-west wall, next the west angle, is a small arched doorway, and further to the east a fine stone fireplace like that on the gallery. In the extreme south angle of the room is a small arched doorway leading to the room over the porch. This room has a pair of two-light windows in the west wall and a fireplace in the north wall with moulded cornice and brackets similar to the rest of this date, but still retaining a stone panel with an ornamental pediment above. In the east wall is the opening of the inserted passage from the landing, and in the south wall a small square-headed doorway on to the leads over the loggia, corresponding to that from the staircase opposite.

Next to this room over the pantry was a bedroom, about 27 feet square, lighted from the court by two large four-light transomed windows. The fireplace is at the south-east end of the room and is similar to that in the first bedroom.

The third bedroom, measuring about 27 feet by 18 feet, was lighted from the court by one window like those in the second bedroom. There is a fireplace in the north-west wall, and adjoining it eastwards is a small arched doorway.

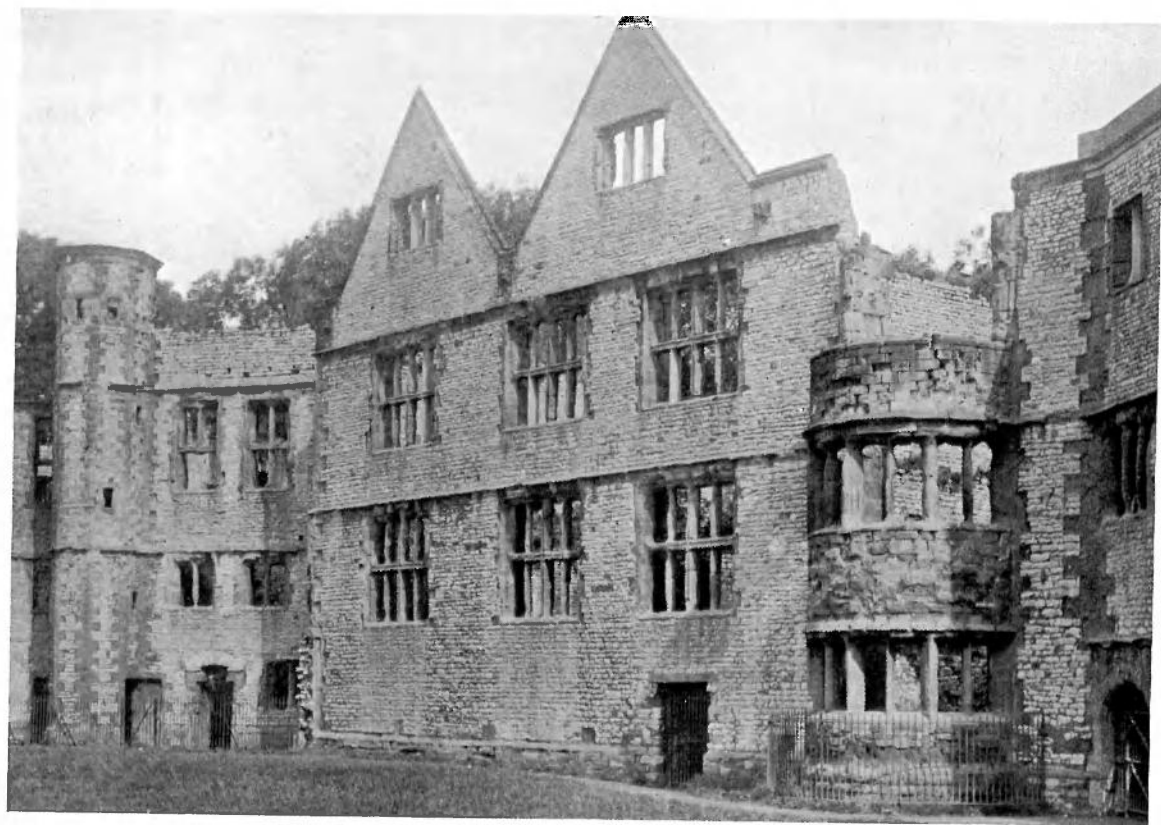
There seems to have been a pitched roof over the



NO. I. NORMAN ARCH IN BUTTERY, WITH KITCHEN-
HATCH BEYOND.



NO. 2. BACK OF SPY-HOLE TO HALL.



SIDE OF KITCHEN WING TOWARDS COURT.

three bedrooms, with a wide gutter over the gallery. Towards the court were three gables, of which the two northern ones remain, and in each is a three-light window. The space in the roof may have been used for smaller bedrooms, or more probably for a long gallery, similar to that over the best bedrooms at Lacock. Such galleries in later years became indispensable to every large house.

At the west angle of the kitchen remains the toothing of a wall about 8 feet high and 2 feet thick, which cut off the northern end of the court to form a kitchen yard.

THE LARDER BLOCK.

Beyond this kitchen are two separate blocks of building following the curve of the curtain so that they are placed almost east and west. The eastern block, adjoining the kitchen, is 37 feet long by 20 feet wide, and was divided into two parts by a partition to form the pastry and the larder. The pastry next the kitchen is entered from the yard by a doorway at its east end, and has a two-light window further west. In the east angle of the room are two small ovens within a recess, which originally had an arch over from which a flue took off the smoke to the chimney. The larder is also entered from the yard by a square-headed doorway, and has a two-light window in its west wall.

At the west angle of this block is an octagonal vice rising to the full height of the building, projecting into the yard, and entered from it by a square-headed doorway on its east side.

The first floor, gained by the vice, is one large room lighted on the south by three two-light windows, and has a fireplace in the west wall. In the north wall, towards the east, is an arched doorway leading to a small garderobe in the thickness of the curtain and lighted by a loop. This room was apparently the sleeping-place for the female servants.

The second floor was also gained from the vice as well as being connected by the arched doorway to the gallery over the kitchen wing. The north wall is pierced with

five two-light windows, the second from the east being from a garderobe similar to that below. The first and third light the passage which went round the garderobe, and the western pair have sill-shelves carried by console brackets and lighted a narrow passage. In the south wall are three two-light windows with transoms, the first from the east lights a small dressing-room connected with the third bedroom of the kitchen wing, and the other two serve a bedroom, with a fireplace in the west wall and a doorway off the vice. Each door off the vice opens outwards, and there is a recess provided for it to shut into against the adjoining wall. According to Buck's view the south wall was finished by two gables, and the turret was surmounted by a cupola.

THE GATEHOUSE BLOCK.

The western block was apparently intended to extend up to the west curtain, but it is questionable if it was ever completed beyond its present length. On the ground floor it consists of two parts, namely an irregularly-shaped room averaging 23 feet by 13, and a low gateway $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. The former is entered from the yard by a square-headed doorway, and is lighted by a two-light window further west. It has a segmental-headed fireplace in the north wall and was probably the servants' hall. The gateway has a four-centred arch, of a single chamfered member with relieving arch above, in its north and south ends. On the west side is a doorway leading to the missing part of the building, the toothing for the south wall of which remains all up the south-west angle.

The first floor of this block contained two rooms, the eastern of which has a two-light window in both north and south walls. There is a small square-headed fireplace in the former towards its east end, and indications of a late inserted staircase from the ground floor at the south-east angle of the room. The western room has a pair of two-light windows in the south wall and one, over the gateway arch, in the north wall. There is a large fireplace in the west wall and a doorway to the north of it leading

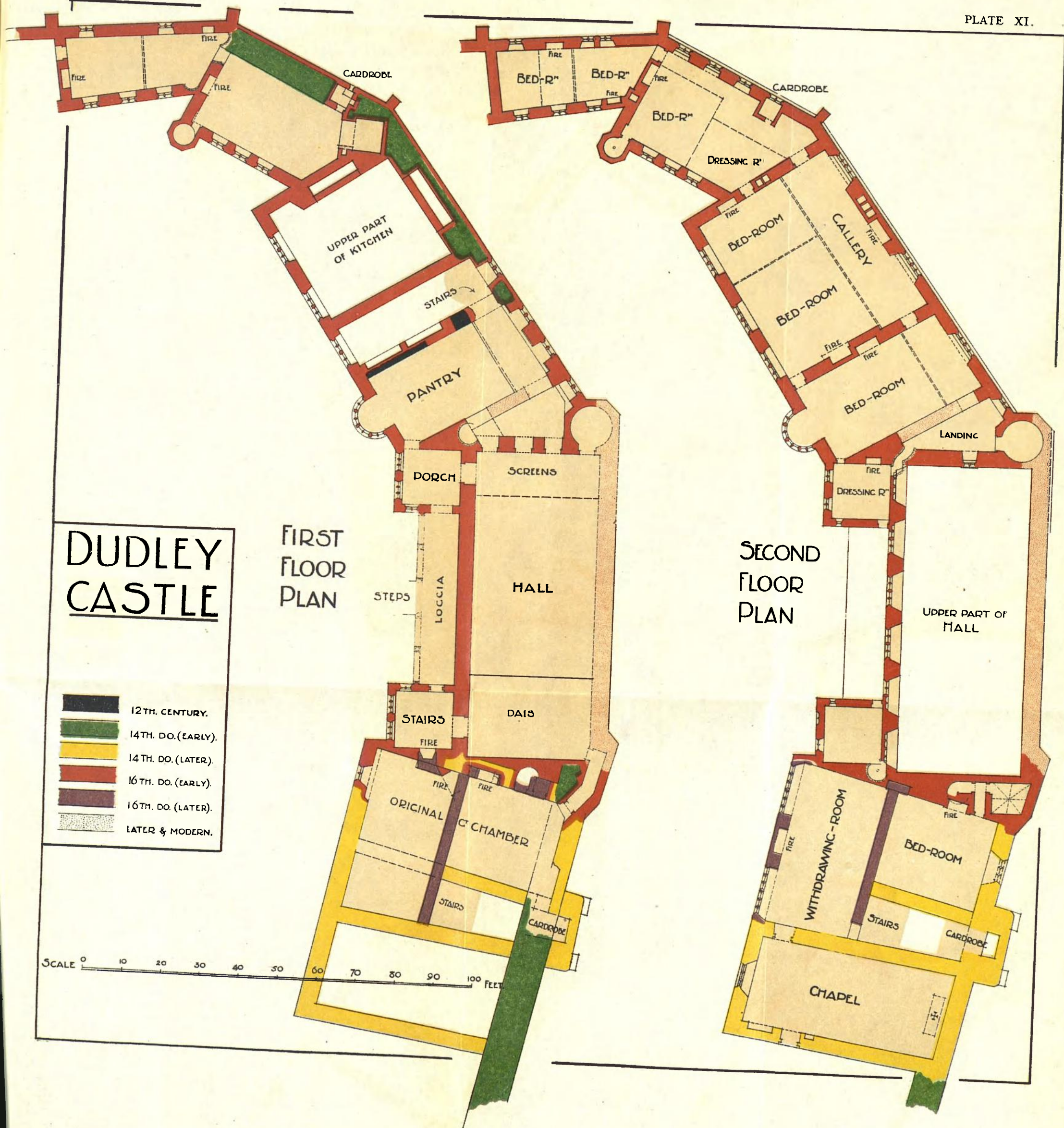
DUDLEY CASTLE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

- 12TH. CENTURY.
- 14TH. DO. (EARLY).
- 14TH. DO. (LATER).
- 16TH. DO. (EARLY).
- 16TH. DO. (LATER).
- LATER & MODERN.

SCALE 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 FEET



to the missing portion. Both rooms were bedrooms, probably for superior servants.

The second floor was also divided into two rooms. The eastern has a doorway from the end of the passage in the larder block, and is lighted by a pair of two-light windows in the north wall and a single two-light window with a transom in the south wall, under which is a small flat-headed fireplace. The western room has two two-light windows with transoms towards the court and one two-light window on the north with a large fireplace. One of the oak beams of the floor remains in position.

This gatehouse block had two gables towards the court which are now destroyed.

The ground from the north gate to the west curtain has recently been excavated, but the result was not as satisfactory as could be wished. The curtain wall west of the gate as far as the north-west angle of the castle was destroyed by the duke of Northumberland, and rebuilt with two parallel walls having a space of 3 feet between, which suggests a long range of garderobes. At Lacock, Sharington destroyed the old monastic reredorter for bedroom accommodation, but rebuilt it in a precisely similar fashion, that is to say, with a range of garderobes, doubtless divided by partitions, having a walled pit over an open drain no less than 48 feet in length. As he adopted the monastic arrangement at Lacock he probably intended to do the same at Dudley, though it is difficult to see how access could be had to the garderobes from the main part of the house. At the same distance from the curtain as the inner wall of the gatehouse a wide foundation, but of no great strength, was found running up to within fifteen feet of the west curtain, where it turned and ran southward parallel to the curtain. No foundation was found immediately adjoining the gatehouse, and the character of the masonry of that which was found gave the impression that it was of later work than Sharington's intended garderobes.

The outside of the castle, at any rate from the great vice to the larder, though the curtain has been retained, has been faced with the regular coursed limestone rubble of Sharington's work, and bold buttresses have been added to the angles.

In the middle of the courtyard is the well which is lined with stone. Instead of the usual circular shape it is rectangular, and measures 6 feet 9 inches by 5 feet 6 inches. It is always full of water and is said to be over 100 feet deep.

In conclusion the writer begs to tender his thanks to the earl of Dudley for ready permission to study the ruins, and to Mr. W. F. Taylor, his lordship's agent, for assistance at all times and sympathetic help with the work.