

## Chester Castle, A.D. 907—1925.

By FRANK SIMPSON, F.S.A.

*(Read November 7th, 1922).*



AT what period a fortified enclosure was first made where the castle now stands it is impossible to say. It is, however, a matter of history that Ethelfleda, daughter of King Alfred, in 907 A.D. enlarged the extent of the city walls in such a manner as to include the castle, which before that time had been outside the walls. This is the earliest authentic evidence we have with regard to it.

As the ground slopes naturally from St. Michael's church to the river, the castle was erected on an artificial mound so as to give greater elevation, as was the custom when erecting Saxon fortresses. The rock on which this mound was formed may be distinctly seen at the S.W. angle from the city walls.

After the Conquest, the King, William I, visited Chester in person. He not only repaired the walls, which had been considerably extended by Ethelfleda, but built the castle partly of stone, and partly of timber; hence the Norman masonry seen from the ramparts of the upper ward, in the block now occupied as cook houses, and the corporals', and sergeants' mess. It is also probable that the foundations of the tower known as Julius Cæsar's are of Norman origin, although no such workmanship is visible above ground to-day.

In the Domesday Survey, made by order of William the Conqueror, it is stated that the castle was on an island. This is accounted for by the fact that a watercourse ran from the

Roodee, on the south side of the Roman masonry below Black Friars, crossed what was at one time known as the "Nuns' Field," just below the garden wall of St. Bridget's Rectory, through the site on which the Dépôt sergeant-major's bungalow now stands, and so on until it emptied itself into the river, near the Dee Bridge.

The Norman castle, though enlarged, occupied the same site as its timbered predecessor, and a great amount of timber continued to be used in its construction.

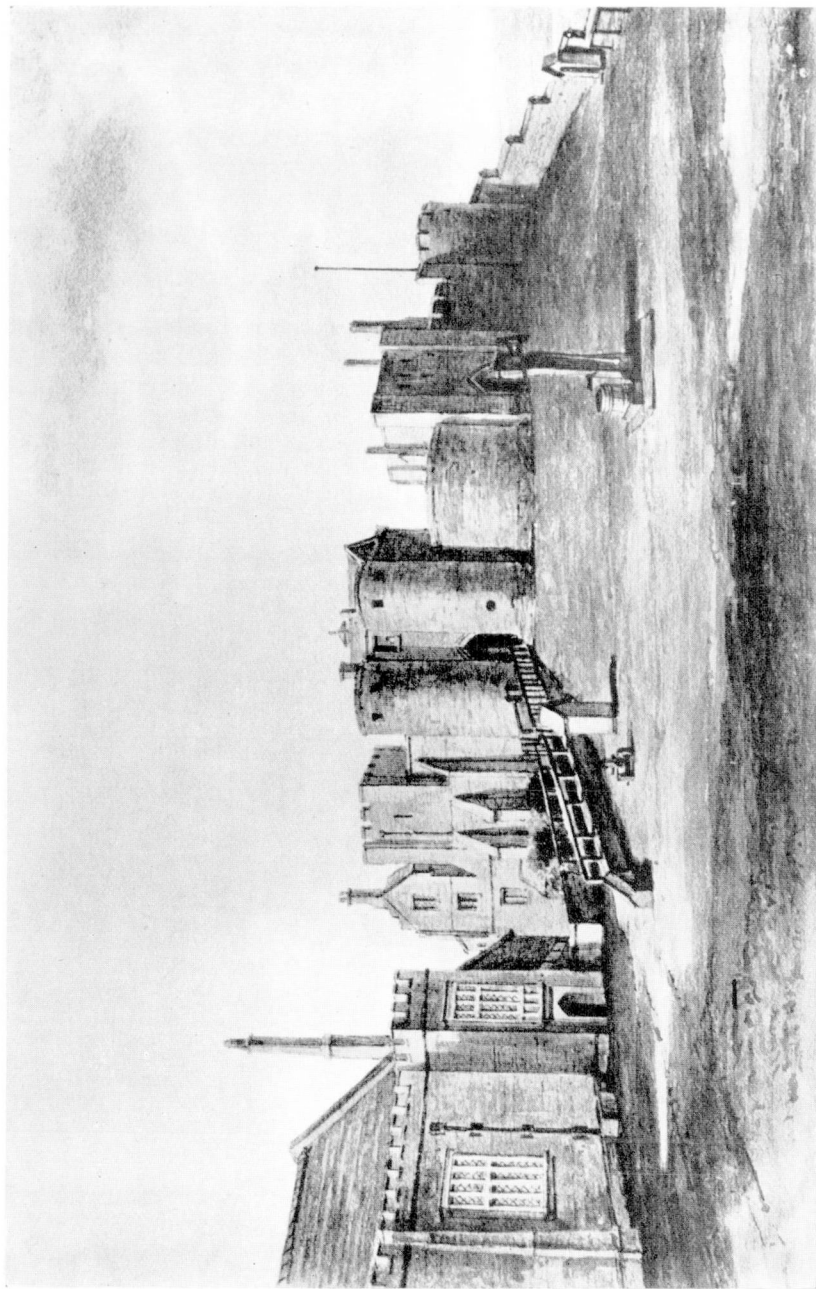
That the castle was of considerable importance at that time may be gathered from the fact that in 1246 Henry III ordered his justiciary, John de Grey, to remove the old palisading with which the castle was enclosed and to build it of lime and stone. The order is in Latin, the translation of which reads:—

"Henry, by the grace of God," etc.

"To our beloved and faithful J. de Grey, our Justice of Chester.

"We command you that you cause to be removed the wooden fence of the bailey around our Castle of Chester, and that you cause the said bailey to be enclosed with a stone wall. And that in like manner you re-edify the bailey around our Castle of Dissaid [Dyserth] whenever it be necessary. And the sums that you shall expend on the same be certified by the view and testimony of lawful men shall be allowed to you at our exchequer."

This fortress or upper bailey was guarded by various towers, and received additional strength on the north, and north-west side, by a covered way bordered with a parapet. It was further strengthened with a stockade in front of which was a fosse, or ditch, thirty feet wide.<sup>1</sup> Two of these towers or bastions, on the north side, round on the outside and square on the inside, with a drawbridge crossing the moat, formed the chief entrance, forty-five feet wide, to the bailey. On the west side of the gateway was a square tower<sup>2</sup> occupied by the guard. A little beyond was the half-moon tower, so named because it was round on the outside; and further on was a tower known as the flag tower, 33ft. square. Then



*Photo.—F. Simpson, F.S.A.*

**Entrance to Upper Bailey, Chester Castle. (Taken down 1789.)**

*From a Water Colour Sketch.*





came the sally-port defended by a machicolated bartizan, carried on corbels. The spaces between these towers were filled by a curtain wall. During the reign of William III (1694-1702) considerable additions were made on this side of the bailey. Between the guards' tower and the half-moon tower a new armoury and stores and storekeeper's house were erected, and in front of the half-moon tower the carpenter's workshop.

The half-moon tower and the carpenter's workshop eventually became the Orderly Room for the 3rd Battalion. A fire broke out here, at 4-55 in the morning, on October 17th, 1893. The Orderly Room was gutted, and the colours of the battalion, the old records, the drum-major's silver and gilt staff, and other valuable prized relics were all destroyed.<sup>3</sup> The tower is now used as the sergeants' mess.

The south-west rampart wall being unsafe, it, with the machicolated bartizan, was taken down in 1786, and a new wall erected, varying from ten feet to twenty feet outside of the original wall. The date is carved on the outside face of the new wall. The bartizan was done away with at that time. Instead of the steep, straight flight of steps, which had previously led to the sally-port, the entrance was made twelve feet nine inches north-west of where it formerly had been, and gradually winding southwards through the thickness of the wall, joined the new sally-port twenty feet in advance of where it originally stood.<sup>4</sup>

Adjoining the sally-port steps, on the east side, was a raised battery which commanded the (little) Roodee and the river.

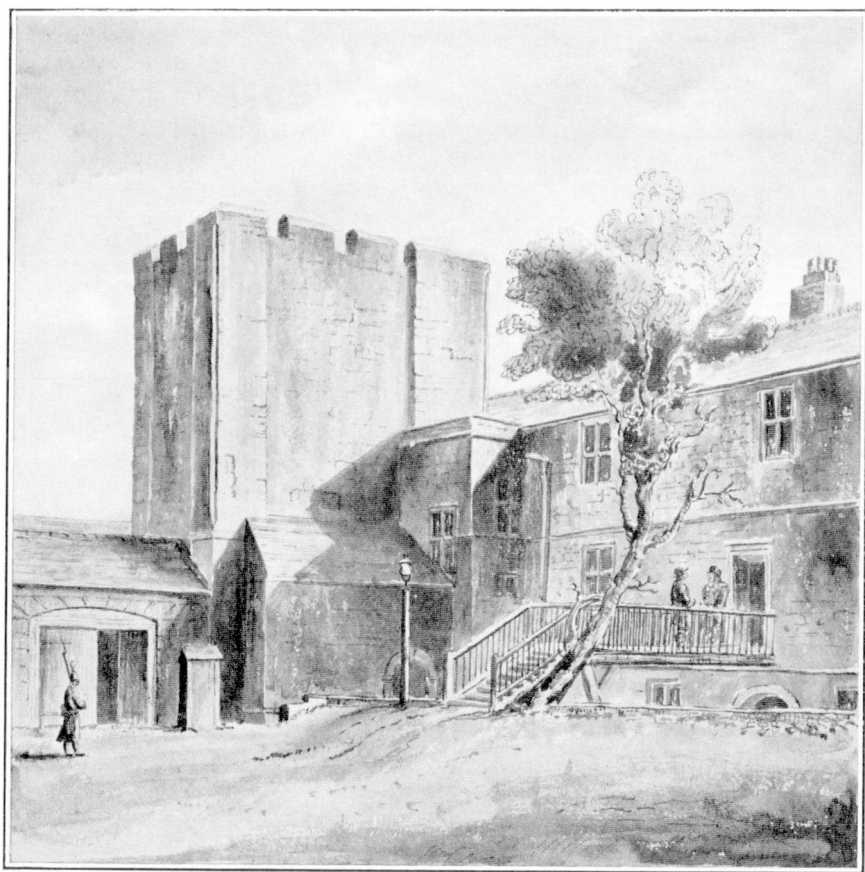
The finest of the towers stood south-east of the gateway. Early historians ascribed it to Julius Cæsar, and in various books it is still referred to by that name. The Government plans of the castle still have this tower marked as Julius Caesar's, or Agricola's, tower. One may only conjecture as to how the tower derived this title. Up to a few years ago antiquaries were undecided as to the position of the south wall of the Roman fortress. A few local antiquaries were of opinion that the fortress extended to the "wishing steps,"

on the walls, and there turned west. Had that been the case, the site of the castle would have been within the fortress, and it is only reasonable to assume that there might have been a building named in honour of Cæsar, as several Roman emperors, at various times, resided in Chester.

When preparing the site for lavatories, July 1908, at the juncture of Bridge Street and Grosvenor Street, in front of St. Michael's church, the foundation of the Roman wall came to light. This was formed of cobble stones, set in the usual hard, almost unbreakable, cement. Again, when workmen were preparing the site for the telephone offices in St. John Street, all doubts were set at rest, November 28th, 1908, as in the rear of the premises, seven feet four inches from the outside face of Thimbleby's Tower, the south-west angle of the Roman wall came to view.

Adjoining Cæsar's tower, on the east side, were the kitchen and butteries of the early castle, from which a stone staircase, surmounted by an arch, led down to the ditch. The staircase has disappeared, but the stone arch still remains. Adjoining the kitchen was the hall, occupied probably by the Norman earls,<sup>5</sup> and beyond this were the solar, or parlour, and chambers. At the north end of the hall was a porch which communicated with the tower and hall. The kitchen, larder, and hall were at a later period converted into the governor's apartments, and the solar and chambers into the apartments of the deputy governor, as shown in Lavaux's plan of the castle, published *circa* 1745.

The deputy governor's apartments were, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, occupied as officers' quarters, except when the assizes were being held, when they were occupied by the judges as their lodgings. Upon taking up residence at the castle the Chief Justice assumed the custody of the castle, as representative of the Crown. This custom is still continued although the judges do not now reside in the castle. On the arrival of the judge, the officer of the day, on behalf of the officer commanding the dépôt, presents to him the parade state of the garrison. A fine walnut tree which grew in front of these apartments was cut down in



*Photo.—F. Simpson, F.S.A.*

*From a Sepia Drawing by C. Davies.*

**The Tower and Officers' Quarters, 1835.**



1814, and another planted. The buildings, owing to a part of the wall below having given way, were seen to be in a dangerous condition. On an examination of the officers' apartments, and the adjoining governor's house, all the timbers were found to be decayed; the buildings were taken down in November, 1830, and the recently built armoury, forming the south-west side of the castle square, was converted into officers' quarters. The walnut tree planted in 1814 disappeared at this time.

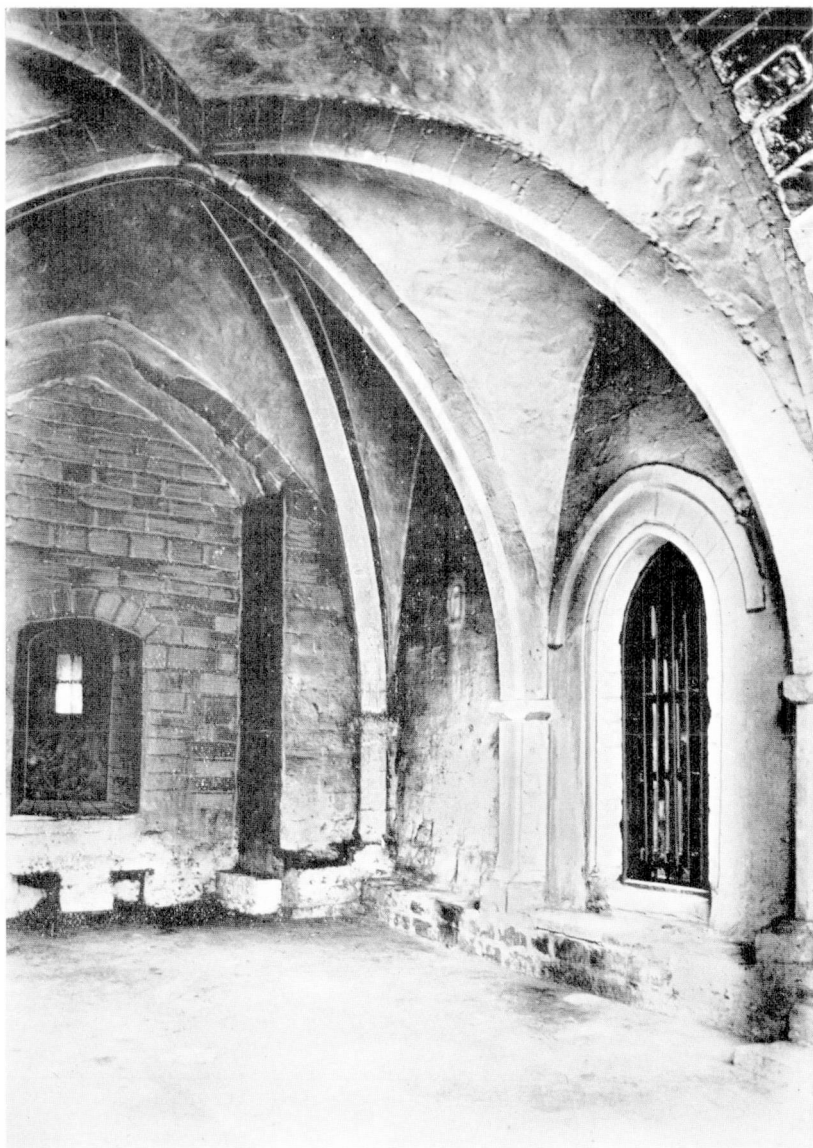
The well which supplied the early fortress with water was situated, as shown in the Elizabethan plan of the castle, at the south-east end of the garden in front of the governor's house, 56ft. 8in. south of the tower. This was uncovered in the presence of the writer, March 1st, 1922, when the interior was seen to be lined with masonry, arched over. Below the Yorkshire stone slab which covered it, some remains of the bottom of a pump were discovered, but while it was being got up it slipped through the workman's hands and fell down the well. The water is about forty-five feet below the ground level, and the entire depth of the well is said to be eighty feet—twelve feet below the bed of the river. The small stone slab on the left, close against the stable midden wall, rests on two small iron girders, and covers part of the same well. About a quarter of a century ago, owing to several epidemics of sickness among the men stationed in this upper bailey (supposed to be caused by bad smells which occasionally came from this well) a ventilating shaft was inserted near the top of the south-west side of the well and carried up the building (C block) behind. This well has been disused for a number of years past. The modern well, which is 21ft. in front of the tower, is lined with brick and is now temporarily covered with a stone slab. Some years ago a pump was placed above the well, but this having become worn out, was removed some few years ago. The water from this well was tested September, 1923, and found to be of excellent quality.

On the site of the buildings, already mentioned as being taken down in 1830, the present scullery, ablution-house,

coach-house, and officers' stable were erected in 1893. The steps between the officers' stable and the stores lead to the rampart from which the men gain access to their dining halls. The deputy governor's house, later used as the officers' quarters, extended along the east side to the extreme south corner of the fortress, where, through a stone arch, a stone staircase led down to the ditch. The arch and staircase were done away with when the buildings were demolished. They are shown in Batenham's engraving of this part of the castle, published in 1815.

When the officers were transferred to their new quarters, Captain Kitson, O/c Royal Engineers, Chester, who was demolishing the old buildings, reported to the Board of Ordnance the urgent necessity of erecting a new armoury capable of holding the same number of rifles and other arms as were stored in the armoury now taken over as officers' quarters; and Captain Kitson was ordered to proceed with the work. He commenced by clearing away the raised ground which at that time sloped from the gateway to the level of the south rampart wall, as the road from the gateway to the sally-port steps does to-day, and making it level with the gateway. He removed a raised battery for twelve cannon which stood on the south-west side, but only four were mounted, two of which were brass field pieces (short sixes) cast at Bersham, near Wrexham, in 1803,<sup>6</sup> for the Volunteer Artillery, when Napoleon was reviewing 120,000 troops prior to their embarkation for his proposed invasion of Britain. And on this site and that on which formerly stood the deputy governor's house, later the officers' and judges' apartments, was erected the block we see to-day, extending along the south-west side marked "C block." The ground floor was used as an armoury, and the two upper stories as barracks for increased accommodation for the men. Mr. Browne was Ordnance clerk of works, and Mr. Wright contractor for the masons' and bricklayers' work. Mr. Wright was also responsible for the removal of the magazine, near the sally-port steps, in the ditch.





*Photo.—F. Simpson, F.S.A.*

*Copyright.*

The Crypt, below the Chapel in the Tower—Upper Bailey.



## CÆSAR'S TOWER.

Cæsar's Tower is square, with buttresses at each corner of the Early English pilaster type, on each face, which continue throughout their whole height without any diminution. The tower, from the ground level to the top of the parapet wall, is 52ft. 6in. in height. It is entered through a large Gothic doorway on the south side, with plain double 10½in. soffits, not divided into orders. It rises from a plinth 2ft. deep, with chamfered edge. The inner apex of the arch is 16ft. 6½in. in height, and 11ft. 9in. in breadth, with a plain chamfered stringcourse across each jamb on a level and in continuation of the abacus of the capital of the wall posts within.

The interior contains three apartments, one above the other. The crypt, on the floor level, is lighted by a deeply recessed and splayed light on the north side. Its dimensions are 18ft. 6in. with an extra bay 2ft. 8in, making 21ft. 2in. in all, by 16ft. The vaulting is of stone, acutely pointed. The groining forms a sexpartite vault with bold plain chamfered ribs connected in the centre by a boss carved with the cable design; these spring from square 10½in. vaulting shafts chamfered 2½in. on each front edge down to a stop 3½in. above the base, with similar chamfered caps and base, three on either side, with an extra shaft, similar in design, in each front angle, from which springs an inner arch. The shafts, or wall pillars, rest on a square plinth, 1ft. 4in. high and 1ft. 2in. deep, which extends around the room. The shafts are 3ft. 5in. in height and measure, including the cap and base, 5ft. Owing to the thick coatings of lime-wash on the walls it is difficult to trace the masons' marks, a number of which exist; but several are quite distinct.<sup>7</sup>

Access to the chapel immediately above the crypt, and to the room above, is through an Early English doorway, placed above the plinth on the east side. A single keel mould surrounds the pointed doorway, which is 6ft. 6in. in height, and 3ft. 5in. wide. The drip-stone above the doorway is pointed, and of the plain flat fillet type with a splay on the

lower side terminating abruptly without any ornament or corbel, on a level with the springing of the arch.

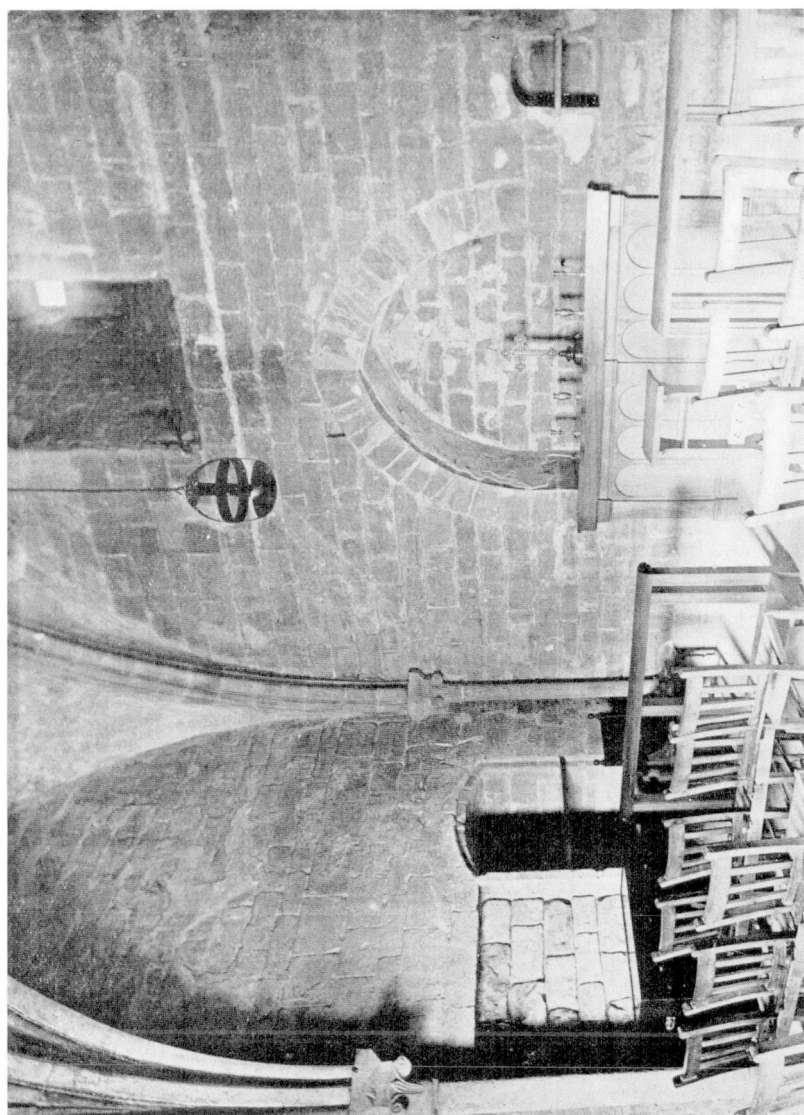
Passing through the doorway we ascend a stone staircase occupying the angle turret in the thickness of the walls, and find a mason's mark repeated time after time.<sup>8</sup> The steps had become so worn that they were covered with oak about 1810.

The staircase is lighted by three modern deeply-splayed lights (inserted in 1818) facing south. About half-way up, a deep recess in the thickness of the wall forms a small landing,<sup>9</sup> from which, through a pointed doorway, entrance is gained to the chapel, which was anciently known as St. Mary's in the Castle.

#### THE CHAPEL.

The chapel is a parallelogram in shape, measuring 19ft. 4in. in length, and averaging in breadth 16ft. 6in. The height to the apex of the groining is 16ft. 6in. It is divided into two bays by quadripartite, acutely-pointed, stone vaulting, with an extra rib between each bay. The ribs are massive and beautifully moulded with three filleted rolls and an intermediate angular member springing from circular vaulting shafts, with floriated and voluted capitals (the details, unfortunately, are partly clogged up with numerous coats of yellow-wash), and moulded base. The shafts are about 4ft. 6in. in height and with the caps, collars, and base, 7ft. 5in.<sup>10</sup> There are three vaulting shafts on the west side, and two—one at either end—on the east side. The centre rib on this side springs from a buttress with a keel-moulded edge. The ornamentation of the caps varies, the centre one on the west side being distinct from the others. The shaft in the south-east angle, which is recessed in the wall owing to the angle staircase, is of wood. It is difficult to give the exact height of the shafts with bases, as the original stone floor is covered by a wood floor, which appears to be about 6in. above the original.<sup>11</sup>

The pointed doorway has a keel mould on the edge, and is in the first bay on the south-east side. The altar, at the



*Photo.—F. Stimpson, F.S.A.*

*The Restored Chapel of St. Mary-de-Castro.*

*Copyright.*



north east end, is recessed in the thickness of the wall, with a segmental arch over it. Its dimensions are :—5ft. 0in. in height, 5ft. 6in. wide, and recessed 2ft. 1in. Above the altar is a deeply-splayed square light, measuring 4ft. 6in. by 5ft. 6in. To the right, and on a level with the altar, is a small aumbry with round head, measuring 1ft. 8in. by 1ft. 1in., and 10in. deep. At the opposite end of the room (south) is a pointed recess in the thickness of the wall about 6ft. 9in in height from the original floor level. In the upper part is a modern window, 3ft. 0in. by 3ft. 9in., and in the lower part are two stone seats, one on either side, raised about 1ft. 6in. from the floor.

In the second bay of the west wall, is a square recess with segmental arch, 4ft. 2in. by 3ft. 3in., and 2ft. 2in. deep. This, like the altar arch, the window above, and the aumbry, has a plain edge without any mould. Inside this recess, about half way up, a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. rabbet is cut in the sides and back for the insertion of a shelf. This was probably used for the vestments.<sup>12</sup> Adjoining it was formerly a doorway, now bricked up.

The interior walls of the chapel have had a thin coating of fine plaster about a quarter of an inch thick, some of which may still be seen on the walls. They were formerly ornamented with very fine frescoes. On either side of the light above the altar was a representation of Moses receiving the Tables of the Commandments on the Mount, while the Devil, in nondescript form, is making an energetic attempt to seize them. This fresco was distinctly seen in 1810, when a sketch was made of it by John Musgrove, a well-known local artist, but, like the others, it is now entirely obliterated owing to damage to the plaster, and numerous coats of lime and yellow wash. At the intersection of each bay of the groining are hooks from which lamps were suspended for lighting the chapel.

It will at once be noticed that the architectural details in the chapel are of earlier design than those in the crypt below. This is accounted for by a great fire which occurred here in 1302 (30 Edward I.) on the vigil of the Pentecost, in which

parts of the tower and adjoining buildings—the hall, great kitchen, larder, etc.—were considerably damaged. The hall, kitchen, etc., had to be re-roofed. The tower was re-roofed and re-leaded. The floor of the chapel had to be shored up, and the stone-work strengthened, including new stone corbels, at a cost of £13 14s. 0d. The stone used came from the quarry outside the Northgate. Robert de Barton, carpenter, supplied the timber (which was brought from Ewloe) for the props, centres, etc., for propping up the chapel floor, evidently while the new stone groining, wall posts, caps, etc., were put in. Details of them are enumerated in Ministers' Accounts 29-32 Edward I, extracts from which are given in Morris's *Tudor Period*, p. 571, including :—

“ Item for work in strengthening the chapel  
in the inner bailey - - - - - xlviii<sup>s</sup> xi<sup>d</sup>  
To Brother Thomas le plumer, Monk of  
Combermere, removing the old lead, torn  
and perforated in several places, over the  
great tower in the inner bailey and placing  
new lead on the same tower - - - - - xiv<sup>s</sup> — ”

The work appears to have been done under the direction of Richard the Engineer, who at that time was rebuilding the Hall adjoining.

Richard the Engineer was one of the most eminent engineers, or architects, of his time. During the reign of Edward I he was constantly employed on various castles. He was responsible for the mediæval outer bailey at Chester, 1265. He built Flint castle in 1277, and greatly strengthened Rhuddlan castle in 1282. In 1283-4 (12 Edward I) he was lessee of the Dee Mills and the King's fishery, for which he paid a rental of £200. He rebuilt the mills after they had been washed away during his absence with the King in North Wales. He resided in Lower Bridge Street, and was Mayor of Chester in 1304, and in 1310 was engaged on St. Werburgh's Abbey under Abbot Thomas de Burchelles.

The following priests were chaplains or “ Custodes Capelle ” at the chapel in the castle :—

Petre Trafforde at the time of the Reformation (1360)

John de Wylaston, 2 Henry IV (1400)

John de Thornton, Henry V

John Trafford, 7 Henry VII (1491)

Samuel Eaton, a well-known Congregationalist minister, was chaplain here in 1648.

King James II, when on a visit to Chester in 1687, attended mass, and received the sacrament in this chapel Sunday, August 28th.

In 1911 the Tower was lighted with gas, which, in 1920, was superseded by electric light.

Passing the chapel and proceeding up the staircase one comes to another pointed doorway leading to a room of no particular beauty, with a modern brick barrel roof. The original floor at the present time is covered with a false wood floor raised about a foot above the old level. To the right of the door is a deeply (5ft. 4in.) recessed light in the thickness of the wall, with iron bars, and in the adjoining wall is another small light recessed to the same extent.

The circular stone staircase continues up another short flight of steps which led to the roof, but this has been blocked up, and a wooden ladder now gives access through a modern window to the leads.

When the tower ceased to be used for religious purposes it was made use of as a magazine, a great quantity of gunpowder being stored here. In 1810 a second magazine was erected in the ditch near the sally-port, but the position being found too exposed, it was taken down about 1830, and the gunpowder was again stored in the tower.

In 1818 the exterior of the tower was in a very decayed condition, and was recased with stone.

The local youth of half a century ago knew the tower by one name only, that of the "magazine" and old Cestrians of to-day still refer to it by that name. Ammunition continued to be stored here until 1921.

In 1846 a new guard-room was erected just within the inner bailey, and adjoining the west side of the tower. The large bell, sheltered by the stone flag, above the verandah,

was placed there April 24th, 1922. This took the place of a small bell fixed within the guard-room, above the door. It is electrically connected with the grand entrance to the lower bailey and is a means of communication between the sentry at that gate and the guard.

The brass bell, with heavy brass arm and wall plate attached to a projecting block of stone let into the guard-room wall under the verandah, was presented by the officers of the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment to the dépôt in May, 1922. It is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the lip. On the front is inscribed "22," the old number of the regiment, and round the lip, "Wha wadna fecht for Charlie"—in allusion, not to the king of that name, but to their gallant colonel, General Sir Charles Napier, of Scinde renown. At the back of the bell is inscribed "From Officers 2nd Battalion, 1922." The hours are struck on the bell by the clapper (to which is attached a short leather thong) from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., in a similar manner to that adopted in the Navy. The cells adjoining the guard room on the south side were erected about 1878. The stone building in front of the entrance to the tower was put up during the latter half of the 18th century, but the writer, up to the present time, has been unable to obtain trustworthy evidence as to the exact date. In the erection of this building, with its gable roof, the Early English doorway of the tower was bricked up, and parts of the buttresses and stringcourses were mutilated. The building, up to 1921, was used for housing the fire engine, and access to the tower was through a small door on top of some half-dozen steps adjoining the guardroom cells. On this door was painted "Magazine."

From the time of Ethelfleda down to 1830 the walls ran in a straight line from the south-west corner to the Bridge gate; and the castle fosse, or ditch, followed this course within the walls as far as the Ship gate. Between the walls and the river, opposite Edgar's Field, were a number of warehouses and small mills. There were, too, some workshops in which skinnners had plied their trade from time immemorial. There were also some pyroligneous acid works



which caused a most offensive stench and made this the most disagreeable part in the whole circuit of the walls. The county authorities determined to purchase the property and enclose it within the boundary of the castle. The buildings were taken down, and a very high wall of massive masonry was built round the part, following the course of the city walls (extended at that time as they are to-day). The high west wall crossed the centre of the castle ditch and enclosed the eastern half in the precincts of the county gaol.

During the years 1869-71 it was no uncommon sight to see a soldier exercising, or playing with a bear, in the castle ditch. This bear was the regimental pet of the 4th King's Own, now known as The King's Own Royal Regiment. The 2nd Battalion the 4th (King's Own) Regiment of Foot, was superseded at Dublin by the 22nd Regiment of Foot, from St. John's, Newfoundland, and arrived in the Mersey on Sunday morning, May 30th, 1869. They remained on board till Monday morning when they disembarked at Birkenhead, and marched 525 strong to Chester, entering the city about 2 p.m., headed by their brass and reed and fife and drum bands, the regimental bear, in the custody of a private, leading the way. The former garrison, the 7th Battalion The Rifle Brigade, had marched out of the castle the previous Wednesday. Two days later a contingent of fifty men and two officers was sent to Mold, as it was feared a riot would take place and an attempt be made to rescue prisoners who were being tried that day for an attack on the officials during a riot which had occurred at the Leeswood colliery on the 19th May. During the removal of the prisoners from the county hall to the station, from which they were to be taken by train *via* Chester to Flint, the mob, who had determined to release the prisoners, attacked the strong body of police with all kinds of missiles, and the military, who marched in the rear to protect the police, came in for the brunt of the attack, nearly the whole of the contingent being wounded with stones and bottles. When the military and police were nearly overpowered and a great number lay bleeding on the ground the soldiers fired on the mob, three of whom were

shot dead and a number wounded. By these means the soldiers were enabled to get into the station where they remained the night, during which time a second contingent of the regiment, 100 strong, arrived from Chester and guarded the town. In the attack at Mold station, the two officers (Captain Blake and Lieut. Williams) and twenty men of the regiment were severely wounded.

"Larry" the regimental bear, became a well-known figure in Chester. When not exercising in the castle ditch, or on route marches (when he marched with his attendant in front of the band) he was fastened up by a long chain just inside the gateway leading to the upper bailey, where he amused himself by climbing up and down some rough masonry on the east side of the gateway. The Regiment remained at the castle two years and was succeeded by the 2nd Battalion, the 14th (Buckingham) Regiment, May 30th, 1871. "Larry," who had recently shown a proclivity for hugging several young soldiers rather too strenuously, led the regiment on the march to the general railway station. On arrival there he strongly objected to enter a railway carriage, and it was with some difficulty, and not until he had bitten one man, that he was got into the train. As the train was passing over the Crane street bridge "Larry," who had been comfortably quartered in a second-class railway carriage, suddenly broke away from his keepers and leaped through the window. He was seen by the nearest pointsman, and after some difficulty secured. Having received considerable injuries, and in consequence of his unmanagableness, he was subsequently shot (with the consent of Colonel Hamilton, of the regiment) by a local butcher (Mr. Dan Edge) in Mr. Essery's tan-yard, Brook Street. The skin was sent to Colonel Hamilton, and the carcase given to Mr. Fitch, hairdresser, Bridge Street Row, who had it boiled down to make "bear's grease." "Larry" was not the first bear to be quartered at the castle. In 1849-50, when the 46th Regiment under the command of Colonel (afterwards Sir Robert) Garrett, had its headquarters in Chester, it was a common sight to see two bears having

their daily exercise in the castle ditch. The bears, " Jack " and " Jenny," were brought from Canada on the return of the regiment from the Dominion, then a simple colony.

Within the last forty years various alterations have taken place in the castle ditch in the rear of the upper bailey. The officers' stable, which stood at the south angle, was taken down, and the pump which stood over the well in the angle within the Walls, opposite the stable (thirty feet from the south-west wall, and thirty-two feet from the south-east wall) was removed, and the well covered over with a stone slab resting (so I am told by the old barrack warden) on wooden joists. The copper cable from the lightning conductor on the officers' quarters is carried round the mound of the upper bailey, and, with a galvanized chain attached, is deposited in this well. Beyond a slight depression of the ground there is now no trace of its position to be seen, as the stone slab has become thickly covered with earth and grassed over.

The open ball alley was done away with about 1873, and the slope of the side walls built up and covered with a barrel-shaped corrugated iron roof. The ground floor, with a dividing wall in the centre, was used for storing straw for refilling the men's mattresses, and the upper storey for various stores. The local artillery, then known as the Cheshire and Carnarvonshire Artillery Volunteers, housed their 40-pounder guns at the railway viaduct, the Roodee, until the widening of the permanent way, when they had to vacate the arches (2, 3 and 4 from east end). They removed (1899) to the western portion of the straw sheds in the castle ditch, and when the straw was removed from the east shed to the adjoining building they occupied that also, and the word " Guns " was painted on each of the doors. The artillery continued to house their guns in these sheds until 1902, when they removed to the new parade ground, in the rear of the Assize Courts. In January, 1903, the corps received from the government the new Q.F. 4.7in. guns which they had been expecting for at least two years. On their arrival the old 40-pounders were discarded, and the wagons stored in the gun sheds behind the castle. On being

mobilised for active service, August, 1914, the artillery took the wagons with them, and the dépôt again took over the building as stores.<sup>13</sup> In the meantime the upper storey was used as a gymnasium for the men at the dépôt and continued so to be used by the younger recruits until 1901. When climatic conditions were favourable, the men went through their gymnastic training out of doors—in the castle ditch.

The long stone-fronted building on the west side of the straw sheds (now lettered “ Guns ”) was erected about 1878, for ordnance stores. This department continued to occupy the building until July, 1891, when all ordnance stores were removed to Burscough. The ground floor was then used for storing straw (removed from the adjoining sheds). In 1893 the upper room, which had an open rafter roof, was ceiled in, and used as a coffee and recreation room for the men. The coffee stall was placed across the west end, and chairs and tables were freely supplied for the men's comfort. About 1899 straw ceased to be used for soldiers' bedding, and coir fibre took its place, now made up in palliasses. The bedding then ceased to be treated locally, and as the store was no longer required for that purpose it was reconstructed, the large door in the centre taking the place of two smaller doors. From then to the present time it has been used as a gymnasium.

The recreation room and the room above the gun sheds were converted into dining halls for the men, and were first used as such in December, 1904. Prior to that time the men had their food in the rooms they slept in, tables being arranged along the centre of the room, at the foot of the beds. This improved condition in the every-day life of the soldier, although not at first appreciated by the men, soon showed beneficial results owing to the absence of food from their sleeping apartments and the better ventilation obtained. The dining halls and gymnasium are freely used for concerts, dances, etc., which do much to break the monotony of the soldier's life, and are much appreciated by the soldiers, their wives, and families.

Some forty-five years ago a row of wooden huts on brick foundations was erected along the west side of the ditch for extra accommodation for troops, but their unsightliness so spoiled the beauty of this part of the walls, that the War Office, at the request of the city authorities—strongly supported by the late Duke of Westminster—had them taken down before they were completed, much to the delight of citizens and visitors alike, as they completely obliterated the view of the castle from this length of the city walls.

The two circular-headed stones which stand out like two sentinels side by side, on the hill below the flag tower, are memorial stones to two old comrades of the Cheshire Regiment who were buried beneath the flag under which they had spent their lives. Although not commissioned officers they were duly elected members of the officers' mess. The stones are inscribed :—" ' Kim,' 22nd Regt. Died August 8th, 1919," and " ' Susan,' 22nd Regt. Died October 20th, 1919." They had been great " pals " throughout their military careers, and favourites with every man of the Regiment. Kim and Susan were Scotch terriers. " Kim," was the constant companion of Major Adshead, and wherever Colonel Kellie happened to be, one could be sure of finding " Susan."

The long wooden hut at the extreme east end of the ditch, adjoining the old prison wall, was placed there October, 1921, for use as a miniature rifle range. This succeeded an open range which was previously on the same site. The lime trees along the south-east side, twenty-one in number, were planted there Friday, March 3rd, 1922.

In 1909 the Cambrian Archæological Association held its sixty-third Annual Meeting at Chester, August 16th—20th. The writer acted as honorary local leader to the various places in Cheshire and North Wales visited by the society during the week. On Friday, the 20th, a visit was paid to the castle to inspect the Tower. The visitors included the Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Assyriology, Oxford, and Sir Henry Howarth, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., F.S.A., who were much impressed with the beauty of the architecture of the chapel

in the tower. Little could be seen of the crypt below the chapel as it was filled with stores. The chapel was in a somewhat similar state, with shelving attached to the walls, and some of the wall shafts lying on the floor. Before the party left the building a resolution was passed that representations should be made to the proper authorities to see if something could be done to clear the chapel. This the gentlemen named agreed to do on their return to London. Shortly afterwards Sir Henry Howarth informed the Council of the Chester and North Wales Archaeological Society that it had been arranged to transfer the charge of the Tower from the War Office to the Office of Works, and that the suggestions made would receive early attention. Twelve years elapsed without anything being done. In March, 1921, workmen arrived at the castle to commence the work. The fire engine shed in front of the tower was taken down, thus bringing to view the Early English doorway of the tower, and the vandalism which had taken place when the shed was erected. The soffits of the arch had been filled in with brick, the string-courses on the jambs broken off, and the masonry unnecessarily hacked about without the slightest regard to its beauty and antiquity. A new massive stone shed was erected on the west side, adjoining the guard-room, for the housing of the fire engine. The amount of money granted for the work having been expended, the workmen were withdrawn in May. On October 1st, the men again commenced work at the tower. The brickwork was removed from the soffits of the arch, and the exterior masonry was grouted by hand, and re-pointed. The funds again being exhausted, the men ceased work January 3rd, 1922.

In the meantime, Major G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O., Divisional Officer, Royal Engineers, removed the whitewash from the front of the guard-room, much to the satisfaction of the Officer Commanding the Castle (Major G. Adshead)—a worthy example to many trustees of ancient buildings at the present time.

Tuesday, January 9th, 1923, the workmen resumed work at the Tower, and removed the oak risers and treads covering

the stone steps leading from the crypt to the chapel. On the risers of the stone steps various masons' marks were seen by the writer.<sup>14</sup>

It has already been mentioned<sup>15</sup> that the last time any remains of wall painting were seen in the chapel was about the year 1810, when John Musgrove, a local artist, fortunately made a sketch of it; otherwise even this knowledge would have been lost to us. It was this record that enabled the writer to inform the Officer Commanding the Castle, and the Divisional Officer, Royal Engineers, that such a painting had existed on either side of the light above the altar recess, and if the various coats of yellow-wash were carefully cleaned off the walls, remains of the wall paintings, where the plaster remained, would probably be seen. This the Office of Works decided to do, and the task was commenced, January, 1928. The authorities deserve the thanks of every antiquary for the very careful way in which the work was carried out, which, after long and tedious labour, enabled one to see that at one time the whole of the walls and groining in the chapel had been covered with beautiful paintings—a fact hitherto unknown.

In the north-east angle, on the right of the vestment cupboard, could plainly be seen the letters :— **J S S P P** = **J**. and below, = **R**.. And on the west side of the south (pointed) window, on the upper portion of the wall were the remains of a fresco displaying a very beautiful face, looking east, with a moustache and short pointed beard, and the head surmounted by what appeared to be a mitre. The right hand was closed, with the first finger pointing forward, and the arm outstretched. Below were some traces of a flowing robe. During March and April (1923) numerous remains of these paintings were brought to light, the best being on the wall just below the groining of the first bay, east end of the right side. This represents a young man and woman embracing. To the left of the doorway near the groining is a hand grasping a sword. On the west wall is a goblet, or chalice, similar in shape to a champagne glass. The altar recess is filled with faint vestiges of painting, but

on either side of the window above the recess, little is to be seen of the painting sketched by Musgrove in 1810. This is accounted for by the fact that little of the plaster is left on the wall. Remnants of a frieze, just below the groining, surround the chapel.

About the centre of the groining the following inscriptions appeared to view:—"ΛΥCΚΗΡ=ΣΟΖCΘ=Σ=C=D." and on the south side of the centre of the groining appeared the head and shoulders of a horse. It is now perfectly clear that all the walls and groining in the chapel were originally covered with frescoes, but owing to damp and neglect, and damage caused by putting up shelving for storage purposes, much of the plaster has been broken off. The most striking feature of the relics of the paintings in this chapel is the beauty of the drawing and colouring of the faces, which appear to have been numberless. The paintings are now hardly visible, but when damped with a wet brush they stand out with all their beauty and richness of colouring.

The altar-table, formed in the thickness of the wall, has been covered with oak, with a similar frontal, of six panels, covering the wall below. The altar-rails, in two divisions, with kneeling stools attached, are of Dantzig oak, made by Messrs. Brown and Co, Ltd, Eastgate Row, Chester. The modern square window on the south side has been taken out and replaced (March, 1924) by a pointed window filled in with diamond lead lights. The vestment cupboard, and the small aumbry to the right of the altar, have been refitted with oak shelves. The doorway on the N.W. side, adjoining the vestment cupboard, formerly bricked up, has been re-opened. The doorway is 5ft. 2in. in height and 4ft. 0in. in breadth. A modern gas fire has been inserted in the opening, and the remaining space filled in with stone, the front joints being left unpointed. On the landing just outside the chapel, and on a similar level, below a wall of masonry, signs of a stone step were seen. An opening was made near the top of the wall, and eventually the wall was taken down. It was then seen that this wall had blocked up a short passage about 5ft. 0in. in length, when it turned



through the south-east wall of the tower. The ceiling is groined with rubble stone plastered over. The passage was filled with rubble stone, evidently at the time it was blocked up. This is undoubtedly the passage mentioned in an early record as leading from the Governor's house to the chapel, but which in course of time had been entirely lost sight of.

On the removal of the oak coverings from the upper steps, leading from the chapel level to the room above, it was found that below one was inscribed the name "Hacker," and the date 1844.<sup>16</sup> On the risers of these stone steps several masons' marks were seen. In the room above the chapel, a number of masons' marks appeared to view.<sup>17</sup>

The splayed light with iron bars on the outside was opened out to its original size, 5ft. 2in. in depth (the thickness of the wall), and 7ft. 5in. wide on the inside, tapering to 3ft. 3in. in height and 1ft. 7in. in width on the outside. This light looked south-east, across the river, but was covered in when the tower was recased with stone in 1818.

The modern low gable slated roof was removed, and replaced by a new flat roof covered with lead, which also forms the ceiling of the room below. The framework is of oak; the centre beam, 1ft. 1in. square, is of new oak resting on a stone flag at each end, north and south, with open space around it for ventilation. The joists, 6in. square, are of old oak, and, like the new beam, dressed with the adze. The whole is boarded over with boards; those on the eastern half of the roof are 2in. in thickness, and were brought from Flint castle. The boards on the western half are 1½in. in thickness, and were formerly the flooring boards of the room below. The roof is formed on two levels; the western half is 2in. lower than that on the east side—the whole sloping towards a 10in. lead gutter on the N.W. side. The oak boards are covered with felt, and above that with lead, 7lbs. to the foot, and a total weight of 2 tons 8 cwt. The lead was procured from the Leadworks, Chester, at a cost of £31 10s. 0d. per ton. In the centre is a fixed skylight of three lights, each measuring 3ft. 3in. by 1ft. 3½in., glazed with rolled wire glass, raised about 6in. above the roof level.

The roof is surrounded by a stone parapet flagged on the thickness of the walls, varying in width from 5ft. 0in. on the north-east side to 3ft. 2in. on that of the south. The whole of the roof is drained of surface water, on the S.W. side, by a 4in. square leaden down-spout, surmounted by a leaden spout head, 2ft. 0in. wide and 8in. deep. The front of the head is formed into three panels, the centre bearing a royal crown and those on either side 19 and 23, the year in which it was cast. It was fixed in position Friday, February 1st, 1924. The plumbing work at the tower was executed by Mr. Sconce, Chester.

The head of the stone steps leading to the roof leads is cased round with stout oak framing, the panels filled in with plaster. In the centre is a strong oak four-panelled door. The two upper panels are filled in with glass similar to that of the skylight, and the whole is roofed over with stout oak boards covered with lead.

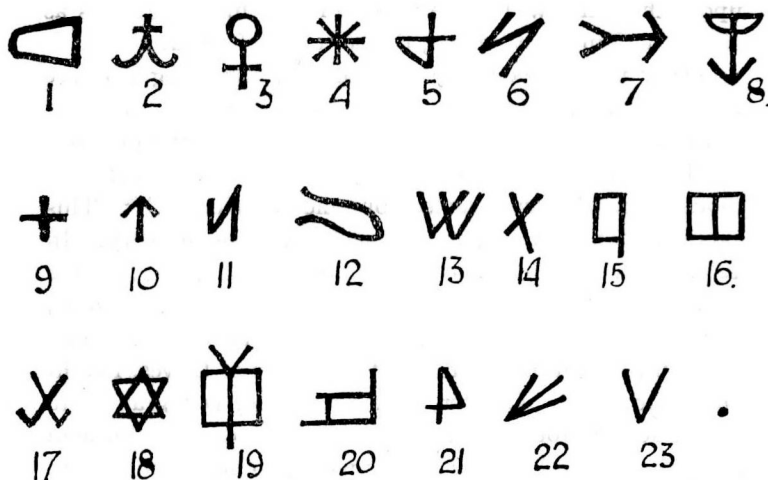
The modern windows which light the winding stone staircase have been taken out, and replaced with diamond lead lights.

The restoration of the tower is now almost completed, and the chapel, which for upwards of two hundred years has been used for storage purposes, will shortly be re-opened for military divine service.<sup>18</sup>

#### MASON'S MARKS, THE TOWER, CHESTER.

1. Under inner arch of gateway to crypt.
- 2 and 3. On West wall of crypt.
- 4 and 5. On plinth of East wall of crypt.
6. Repeated frequently in walls of staircase from crypt to chapel, on riser of steps, and in the chapel.
7. On riser of steps leading to the chapel, and in the chapel.
8. On riser of steps leading to the chapel, and upper flight of steps.
- 9 and 10. On riser of steps leading to the chapel, and in the chapel.

11. On riser of steps, and south wall of chapel.
12. On riser of steps leading to the chapel, S.E. wall of chapel, and under vestment cupboard. (The writer has not hitherto met with this mark).
13. In chapel.
14. In chapel and room above.
- 15 to 21. In room above chapel.
- 22 and 23. Upper flight of steps.



#### THE LOWER, OR OUTER, BAILEY.

David, son of Llewelyn ap Iorworth, having laid siege to Mold castle, which King Henry III had recently built to protect the district of Tegeingle, which for several hundred years had been part of the Earldom of Chester, the King, accompanied by the Queen, came to the city, with a strong army, August 13th, 1245. In his train were most of the nobles of England, including Simon de Montfort, the great and powerful Earl of Leicester. Owing to the continual expeditions to subdue the tribes in North Wales, which were subject to the Earldom of Chester, and to general unrest at

home, Henry's forces became so weakened that he decided to strengthen his castle at Chester by building an outer bailey, and in 1251 sent the following order to his justiciary:—

“ It is commanded to Alan la Zouch, justice of Chester, that he cause the wall of the outer ward of the King's Castle of Chester, and the new hall of the King in the same castle which are begun, to be finished under the inspection of skilful and lawful men, and the account he may lay out thereupon, the King will cause to be allowed him. Witness as above the King at Windsor, the 26th day of April.”<sup>19</sup>

Owing to the pecuniary exactions of the King and the Pope, the people were taxed beyond endurance. History records that “ the Jews were compelled to surrender one third of their effects to the king ” and “ a tallage of a thousand marks was levied on the Londoners.”<sup>20</sup> This excessive taxation fell, as all taxes do, upon industry. In 1258 corn was so scarce as to produce a famine, and so came civil war, and the struggle between the king and the barons, which culminated in the capture of Henry by his former adherent, Simon de Montfort, at the battle of Lewes, fought May 13th, 1264. Chester, with the castle, was granted to Simon de Montfort, who had become the most powerful man in England; and Lucas de Taney was appointed justiciary of Chester. He held the city until Trinity Sunday, 1265, when Prince Edward besieged the castle and recovered the city.

Chester, owing to its position on the border of Wales, was of great military importance, not only as a rendezvous for the troops about to proceed on their incursions into north Wales to check the revolts in that part of the Palatinate, but also as a barrier to Welsh incursions into Cheshire.

Prince Edward, therefore, urged on the work of constructing the lower bailey of the castle, begun by his father, and engaged the services of Richard the Engineer, who was kept constantly employed on the building or repairing of the castle.

The New Hall, commenced by Henry at the south end of the east side adjoining the fosse and gateway of the upper bailey, was continued by Prince Edward. The calling of this building the "new hall" does not imply that it was replacing a former hall on the same site. It was called the new hall to distinguish it from the hall which stood in the upper bailey.

This new hall has been constantly ascribed to Hugh Lupus, the first Norman Earl of Chester.

Pennant, in his *Tours in Wales*, 1784, says:—"On the sides of the lower court stands the noble room of Hugh Lupus's Hall, in which the courts of the justices for the county are held. The length is very near ninety-nine feet, the breadth forty-five, the height very awful, and worthy the state apartment of a great baron. The roof supported by woodwork in a bold style carved; and places on the sides, resting on stout brackets."<sup>21</sup> Adjoining to the end of this [Hugh Lupus's Hall] is the Court of Exchequer, or the chancery of the county palatine of Chester. "This very building is said to have been the Parliament-house of the little kings of the Palatinate. It savours of antiquity in the architecture, and within are a number of seats described by gothic arches and neat pillars. At the upper end are two, one for the earl, the other for the abbot. The eight others were allotted to his eight barons, and occupy one side of the room."<sup>22</sup>

A plate by Hollar in King's *Vale Royal*, reproduced in Ormerod's *Cheshire*, Vol. I, p. 358, depicts the interior of the hall with the Earl, Hugh Lupus, holding his court. He is seated in his canopied chair of state, on a raised dais, with a screen to the rear, on which is carved his crest, a wolf's head erased. On the north side of the room are four abbots, and on the south side four barons, with a number of other figures at the west end. The windows, two on either side—each of three lights—have three centred heads, and the architecture, on the whole, appears to be that of the 13th century, although at the west end of the room the public is divided off from the other part of the court by a balustrade,

which is not a feature of Gothic architecture. This plate, says Ormerod, "has borne a very high price for its rarity, but is ill-conceived altogether, and very incorrect. Of the four abbots who are represented sitting with Hugh Lupus, the abbot of Chester was the only one then existing."

The old Shire hall was reconstructed, and a new hall, called Prince's Hall, and kitchen were erected on the adjoining site. The work was completed in 1581. "In Ministers' Accounts, 22-24, Eliz. 1579-1581 are the costs of re-edifying the parliament house within the castle [of Chester] to be converted into the exchequer there with a gallery and other works, also constructing a Shire hall."<sup>23</sup> By this it appears that the Shire hall commenced by Henry III, and completed by Edward I, was converted into an exchequer court, and a new shire hall was erected about the same time. Although it was only built in 1579-1581, all the illustrations we have seen depict this hall and describe it as Hugh Lupus's hall. It is so described by Lyson, Ormerod, and in Morris's *Tudor Period*, and all other histories and guides in which special reference is made to Hugh Lupus and the castle.

Hugh Lupus was created Earl of Chester in 1070. He was after Gerbod, the first of the Norman Earls of Chester. He died 27th July, 1101.<sup>24</sup>

John le Scot, Earl of Huntington, was the seventh and last Norman Earl of Chester. He died at Dernhall, in Cheshire, 7th June, 1237, without male issue. The King at once (21 Henry III) annexed the earldom to the crown of England, and bestowed the county on his son Edward, who did not personally assume the title, but, as king, bestowed it upon his son Edward, born at Carnarvon Castle, 25th April, 1284, who, at the famous Lincoln Parliament, 7th February, 1301, was created first English Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.<sup>25</sup>

As the erection of the Great Hall was only commenced in 1251 (35 Henry III) and the last of the Norman earls died in 1237, it is evident that neither Hugh Lupus nor any other of the Norman earls of Chester could have held his parliament in either of the halls, as Hugh Lupus died 150 years,

and the last of these earls fourteen years, before the original Shire Hall, later known as the Exchequer Court, was erected.

The old Shire Hall, or Exchequer Court, was divided from the curtain wall of the upper bailey by a low area, or yard, formed on what had been the level of the old ditch which formerly surrounded the original castle (upper bailey). This hall stood east and west. The ground floor was lighted on the west side by a lancet window of two lights, and on the south by two oblong windows with mullions and transoms, evidently inserted at the time the hall was converted into the exchequer court. The upper storey was lighted on the east side by three single lancet lights, and on the west side by the same number of similar lights, one of which was placed in the centre of the gable, and the two others below, one on either side. This upper storey is said to have been the Parliament Hall, and served as a court of justice. In this hall the brave and loyal citizens of Chester, having held out twenty weeks beyond expectation, and reduced by famine only, completed the capitulation of the city to the Parliamentarians, February 3rd, 1646. The latter immediately took possession, and within a few days two thousand arms and five hundred and twenty head-pieces were brought into the castle according to Article 14 of the treaty.<sup>26</sup> On Wednesday, October 1st, 1651, it was the scene of the trial and condemnation of James Stanley, seventh Earl of Derby, Sir Timothy Featherstonhaugh, and Captain Benbow—all ardent Royalists—on a charge of holding correspondence with Charles II, who had been declared a traitor at the High Cross, and at other places in the city, in 1649. On October 14th, the Earl took leave of Featherstonhaugh, and then proceeded from the castle, attended through the city by numbers of people, weeping and praying for him, to whom at Flookersbrook he bade adieu. Near to Hoole-Heath he alighted from his horse, and kneeling by the coach side, took leave of his two daughters. After a sad parting he proceeded to Bolton, where he was beheaded on the following day, Wednesday, October 15th. Featherstonhaugh met the same

fate in the market place of this city, opposite Abbey Gateway, on October 22nd, and Benbow was shot at Shrewsbury on the 15th.

The ground floor of this hall was used as the exchequer court. The Elizabethan shire hall adjoined the court of exchequer on the north side, and extended north to south. The south gable had in the centre a single lancet light, and on each side, on a level with the bottom of the centre light, a round quatrefoiled opening. The north gable is not shown in the illustration of the hall, but a distant view of it is shown in the illustration of the north gateway, and depicts a quatrefoil light in the gable, and part of a lancet light below. The hall, on the west side, had a porch at either end; that at the north end led to the hall and domestic apartments, and had its door facing south. The door of the south porch faced west. The hall, on this side, was lighted by large square windows with mullions and transoms.

South-east of the shire hall was a tower called Maysham's tower, and a curtain wall continued along the east side to about half-way with a square bastion adjoining; and projecting eastwards was a restored tower called the Garderobe tower. The projecting bay of the present county council chamber now stands on the site. The ground floor is used as stores for the County Territorial Force Association, and in front the two brass six-pounder field pieces cast at Bersham for the local Volunteer Artillery, in 1803, find a resting place.

The new kitchen, mentioned in the Ministers' Accounts, stood on the east side of the north end of the hall, and adjoining it, further north, were the butteries and domestic buildings. At the extreme north end, overlooking the ditch, and towards St. Mary's church, were two guard rooms, with a projecting bastion and stairs to the wall.

The curtain wall of the lower bailey here turned westward. The space between the guard rooms and the Great Gateway, 90ft., was occupied as a garden. The gateway was formed by two lofty half drum towers with a drawbridge crossing the moat on the outside. The towers were square on the





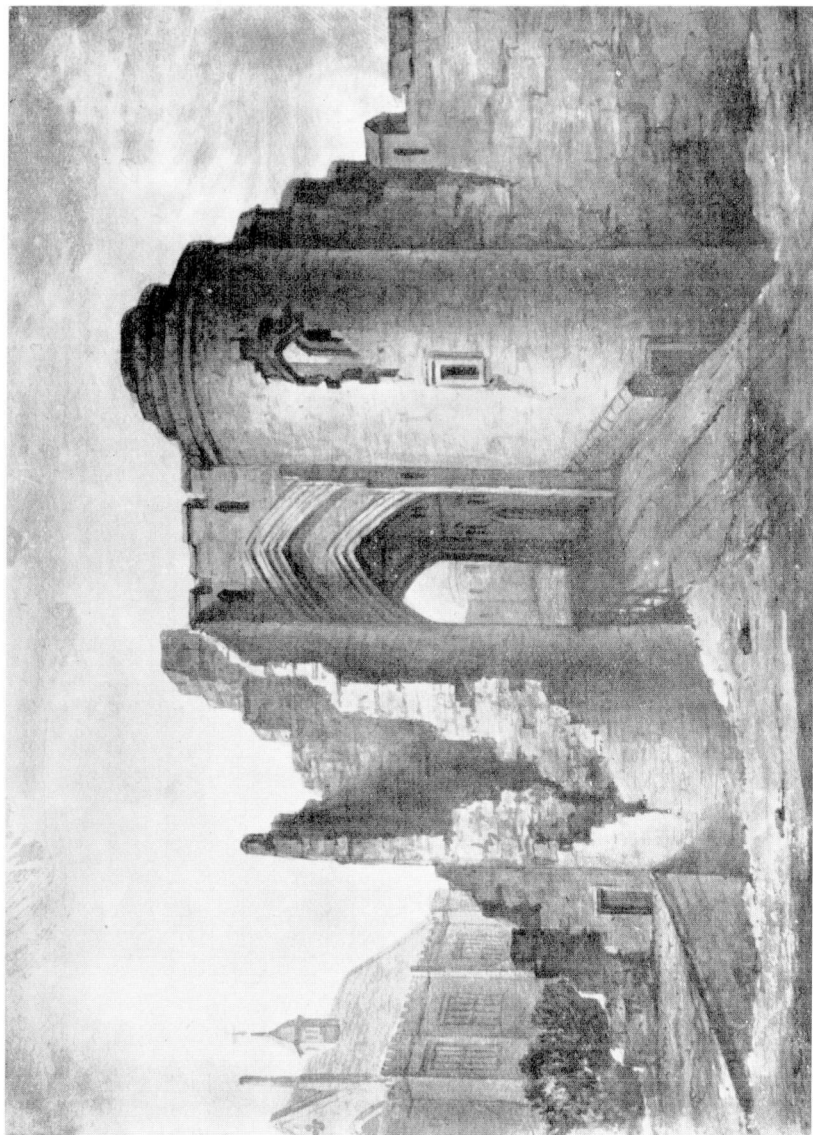


Photo.—F. Simpson, F.S.A.

The Great Gateway to Lower Bailey and Old Prisons. (Taken down 1790.)  
From an old Water Colour Sketch.

inside, similar to those in the upper bailey. The western tower was called Goghstower, and attached to the rear of it was the porter's lodge. Broster's sketch of this gateway is very different from the water colour drawing (said to have been done during the course of its demolition) of which coloured lithographs were published, one of which is in the collection at the Chester Free Library. Broster's sketch shows the drawbridge as having chains, and in the upper storey of each tower, two lights, the whole surmounted with embrasures. This Great Gateway, according to the Elizabethan plan, was about 50ft. wide.

It is recorded that when that unfortunate monarch, Richard II, through the treachery of Northumberland, was ambushed by Bolingbroke at Flint, August 19th, 1399,<sup>27</sup> and brought prisoner to Chester, August 20th, he was confined in the room over the gateway, and next day, 21st,<sup>28</sup> was taken to London.

In King's *Vale Royal*, published in 1656, we read that the gateway was, at that time, used as a prison. Adjoining the western tower, extending about 80ft. in length, was the great stable.

In the earliest sketch of the castle, that in the Harl. M.S. (this has been reproduced in several well-known works) the space between the stable and the tower on the south-west side is filled by a curtain wall, but in other mediæval plans three buildings are shown as following the stable, but the purpose for which they were used is not recorded. Adjoining these was a flanking turret which commanded the east and west fronts. This stood exactly opposite to where the Great Entrance now stands. South of the flanking turret was what appears to be a raised platform with steps leading to the rampart and curtain wall, and adjoining it a massive mediæval tower 28 feet square, which stood about 48 feet south of where the south wing of the Doric entrance now stands. From this point the curtain wall continued—crossing the moat of the upper bailey—to the half-moon tower, now the sergeants' mess. Within the curtain wall, near the square tower, was a flight of steps with platform, about 40ft. in length.

About the middle of the lower bailey, 9ft. to the right of where the memorial to Queen Victoria now stands, was a well-house which supplied this lower bailey with water. It is shown on the Elizabethan plan, the military plans of the castle, and Lavaux's plan of 1745. A watercolour drawing in the collection at the Free Library omits the well-house, but shows a pump placed above the well. There is no record of when the well-house was removed, and the well covered over with a stone slab; probably this alteration took place at the time Harrison rebuilt the lower bailey. At times the well overflowed, and the ground round about it was always in a saturated condition, with little pools of water lying about, which caused the soldiers, when manœuvring on the castle square, much annoyance, as they had to march through them. To obviate this, the county authorities, in 1898, filled up the upper portion of the well, over a stone slab placed as support, and at the same time relaid the castle square with macadam.

Before one can picture the 13th century castle in one's mind, one must thoroughly grasp the fact that the castle square, or lower bailey, of to-day, is considerably larger than that which existed prior to Harrison's rebuilding of this bailey. On the north side, where "A" block now stands, it extends 220ft. beyond the earlier curtain wall of this bailey, and the present Great Entrance is 80ft. outside the old curtain wall on that side.<sup>29</sup>

Outside the castle, immediately east of the old gateway, and on the middle of the site now occupied by "A" block, was another shire hall which appears to have been erected principally of timber. It was purchased by the City from the County authorities for the sum of forty pounds, as it was in a very decayed state, and was removed in 1581 from the castle gate to the corn market in Northgate Street. The ground floor was used as a shambles for the country butchers who were, for the first time, allowed to come and trade in the city, owing to the excessive charges of the city butchers. The upper floor was used as a granary.

For a century following the siege of Chester, the city had little rest.

In November, 1655, the Parliament passed a resolution that the castle of Chester should be rendered untenable, and the city wall razed between the Eastgate and the Newgate, but the order was only partly carried out.

In July, 1659, attempts were made to restore the monarchy, and it was arranged that on a certain day the Royalists in each county should rise and assert the claims of Charles II. Aware of the royalist feeling throughout Cheshire and Lancashire, Colonel Croxton, the Parliamentary governor of the castle, ordered his soldiers to pull down part of the church tower of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, as it commanded a view of the castle yard. This order was carried out August 1st.<sup>30</sup> A few days later, Sir George Booth, of Dunham Massey, seized the city, but failed to take the castle, which was resolutely defended for three weeks by Colonel Croxton.<sup>31</sup> On receiving information that General Lambert, with 5,000 troops, was marching on Chester, Sir George,<sup>32</sup> with 3,000 troops, badly equipped, marched to meet him. The opposing armies met at Winnington Bridge, near Northwich, August 19th, where owing to lack of arms, of ammunition, and of capable officers, Sir George's army was defeated. After the battle, General Lambert, with his army, marched to Chester and took possession of the castle.

About midnight on Tuesday, November 22nd, 1688, two Roman Catholic peers, Lord Molyneux, with his Lancashire regiment (mostly Roman Catholics) and Lord Aston, seized the city for King James. Owing to the tact of the magistrates, and the threatening attitude of the citizens, who were hastily gathering together, the intruders retired without attempting an attack on the castle.

Owing to the incessant attacks on Chester, a plan for extending the works of the garrison was prepared, about 1745, by the military engineer Lavaux, but only a small portion of it was carried out. A copy of the plan hangs in the officers' mess at the castle, and another copy may be seen at the Town Hall.

Towards the end of 1745 the city was again placed in a state of defence, as the rebel army from Scotland was marching through Lancashire and it was feared an attack would be made on Chester. The Watergate, Northgate, and sally-ports were walled up, and several buildings adjoining the walls pulled down.<sup>33</sup> The walls were guarded day and night, and no one was allowed to pass through the gates without a passport. The city was garrisoned by four regiments of soldiers, commanded by the Earl of Cholmondeley, lord lieutenant of the county and governor of the city, and his brother, General Cholmondeley. So serious was the aspect of affairs that an order was made, November 19th, that all householders should lay in a stock of provisions for a fortnight. The fortifications of the castle were repaired, and some new works added.<sup>34</sup> These included a new battery erected on the garden east of the north entrance to the castle, near St. Mary's church; another battery placed by the curtain wall at the south-east end of the Shire hall; and other works in the upper bailey. On Sunday, November 24th, the commander of the castle commenced to pull down the churchyard walls of St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, and nearly one half of the tower, lest they should be made use of by the rebels who supported the Pretender's claims. The rebels, however, did not approach Chester, but marched from Manchester, where they remained two days, to Macclesfield, December 1st, crossing the Mersey near Stockport, and on to Derby.

From this time until 1788 little of special interest appears to have taken place at the castle, but in that year an Act of Parliament was passed for the taking down and rebuilding of the courts and gaol, and two years later the county authorities purchased Gloverstone, and the Nuns' Gardens which originally had been part of Gloverstone.

Gloverstone in Norman times was a large space of ground extending on the north to White Friars, on the west to the walls, and on the east to part of Lower Bridge Street. The Norman earls held it with a strong hand, but after they ceased to rule and the Palatinate was attached to the crown,

# CHESTER CASTLE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES.

## ENLARGEMENT OF SURVEY MADE CIRCA 1745.

### — Reference. —

Medieval Work existing 1745.

Do. do. restored from Authorities

Modern do. or not restored.

Dotted Work shaded green outline from Survey 1841

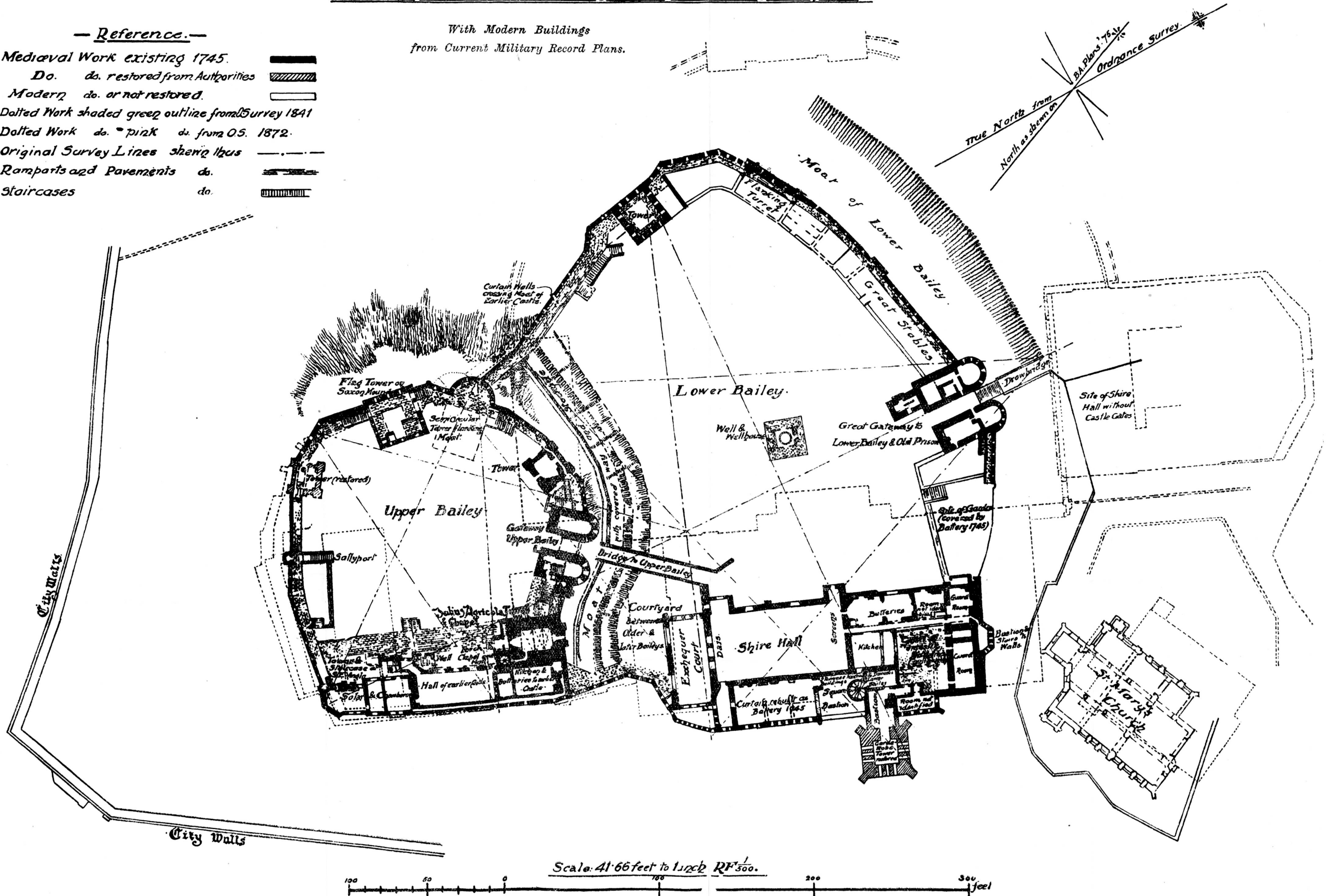
Dotted Work do. pink do. from O.S. 1872.

Original Survey Lines shown thus

Ramparts and Pavements do.

Staircases do.

With Modern Buildings  
from Current Military Record Plans.







the area gradually decreased. Gloverstone was a kind of no man's land; it was not under the jurisdiction of either the city or the county. Traders other than freemen of the city were allowed to ply their calling there, but only in booths or tents. Houses were not erected in the hamlet until the latter part of the 16th century. In evidence given at the Exchequer Court, December 1st, 1625, a witness said that certain houses then existing stood on the site of the old Shire hall or Common Hall of Pleas (removed in 1681). These houses were purchased and taken down by the County authorities at the time they bought Gloverstone (1790).

When the city was made a county of itself by the charter of Henry VII, the castle with its precincts was excepted. When prisoners were condemned to capital punishment they were delivered up by the constable of the castle to the city authorities at Gloverstone for execution. Prisoners tried at the Assizes or Quarter Sessions and ordered to be whipped were taken by the deputy constable of the castle to Gloverstone, where they were delivered to the city authorities, who had them whipped through the city. When offenders were arrested in the city for offences committed in the county, they were escorted to Gloverstone, and there handed over to the county authorities to be dealt with. The castle is still distinct from the city, and attached to the shire. On the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1922, the provost sergeant, when going his midnight round of the castle, found a strange man in the upper storey of "A" block. The man was arrested and confined in the guardroom for the night, and the following morning was handed over to the county police to be dealt with.

Most of the buildings of the lower bailey were taken down in 1789, so as to prepare the ground for the erection of the courts, new county gaol, etc., which it was intended should occupy the site. In the centre of this esplanade was the Assize Court, with its massive portico—which was an addition to the original plan. Each of the Doric columns, twelve in number, is formed of one single stone 23ft. in height, and

3ft. 2in. in diameter. The ceilings and roof are all of stone. The first stone of this portico was laid October 1st, 1797.

The following interesting account appeared in *The Chester Chronicle*, October 13th, 1797 :—

“ On Monday se’nnight, on the occasion of the erecting the first of the large columns of the portico of the New County Hall, building here, the Loyal Chester Volunteers assembled in the Abbey Square, and from thence marched with their colours and accompanied by the band of music belonging to Lord Falmouth’s regiment of Cornish Cavalry, to the Castle Yard. There a double guard of the invalids was drawn out to prevent the large concourse of people, who were assembled to see the operation, from approaching too near the workmen : among whom were several of the acting magistrates, with a number of ladies and gentlemen, and also the young gentlemen of most of the schools in Chester. The column being previously brought to its situation, and all the machinery prepared, several coins of his present Majesty, in a small urn of Wedgwood’s ware, enclosed in another of lead, were deposited in a cavity of the plinth, over which was placed a brass plate with a suitable inscription. This being done, the machinery immediately began work, the band playing ‘ God Save the King,’ and in about twenty minutes the column was raised, upon which the volunteers fired three excellent volleys, the field pieces firing likewise three rounds, and the cannon upon the battery ; together with three cheers from the whole of the corps, workmen, etc. These columns are of excellent stone of a good colour, and were brought from Manley, about eight miles from Chester, upon a carriage with six wheels, built on purpose, drawn by sixteen horses and when in the rough weighed from fifteen to sixteen tons each. They are three feet six inches in diameter and without the capitals measure twenty-two feet six inches long being considerably larger than those in front of the New College at Edinburgh. There will be twelve of these columns in the portico in two rows of the Doric order, without bases, and twelve more likewise of one stone, something smaller, of the Ionic order, forming a colonnade round the semi-circular part of the inside of the hall. This building, when complete, it is presumed, will be one of the most magnificent edifices of the kind in the kingdom, and from the manner in which it is internally contrived for the convenience of the court, and audience, it is hoped, too, it will both for hearing and seeing be one of the most useful. It has the same disposition within as, but larger than, the new hall nearly finished in the Gothic style at Lancaster by the same architect . . . ”

The interior of the court is semi-circular in plan, and round the hemicycle is a colonnade of twelve Ionic columns, each of one stone, 19ft. in height, and with the capital, 22ft. The hall is 80ft. by 50ft., and 44ft. in height. It is used as the criminal court and has accommodation for 1,000 persons, each of whom can obtain a clear view of the court.

To the left, or north side of the court, were the petty jury retiring room, the turn-key's lodge, and the entrance to the county gaol. To the rear, erected on two levels owing to the fall of the ground, one 26ft. below the other, and connected by a flight of steps, were the usual appurtenances for an up-to-date gaol of this size. The prison on the upper level was occupied by the debtors, and that on the lower level by the felons, the gaoler's house being on a level with the upper prison, which commanded a view of the lower yard, and the chapel below the gaoler's house. The gaol was completed and opened in 1798. On the south side of the Assize Court was the Grand Jury room, Prothonotary's office, and Record room. At the extreme ends were small colonnades, each of four columns. In the rear of that, at the south end, was the caretaker's house, and at the extreme north end, with an entrance from the colonnade, was the militia armoury, the whole forming a frontage of 310ft.

The building on the south-west side of the square, known as "B" block, was built, and occupied, as an armoury, capable of housing 30,000 stand of arms. It also contained a number of ordnance pieces and an immense quantity of military stores. The arrangements for piling the muskets was similar to that in the Tower of London. Swords and other side arms were hung on the walls, formed in various patterns. A detachment of artillery was stationed here for permanent service, but was removed shortly after the Crimean War.

The building is 120ft. in length. The façades are ornamented with ten attached Ionic columns. The columns are each of one single stone, 21ft.  $3\frac{1}{4}$ in., with capital 1ft. 1in., and base 1ft. 2in., total height 23ft.  $6\frac{1}{4}$ in., and surmounted with plain entablatures and attic. This block stands exactly

in a line with the old gateway to the upper bailey, and includes the site on which formerly stood the mediæval tower<sup>35</sup> on the west side of the inner bailey, occupied by the guard. The west angle of this block, with a frontage of 70ft., stands on the old moat of the upper bailey. The block was completed in 1807.

The importance of Chester castle as a military dépôt and stores may be understood from the fact that Chester was responsible for the supply of all military stores necessary for the troops in the neighbouring counties, and throughout the Principality. The nearest dépôts for military stores were Weedon Barracks, Northamptonshire, and Hull on the east coast. The Governor of the castle at that time was General E. Morrinson, and General Sir J. Fraser was Lieutenant-governor. The chief storesman was Captain Henderson, and the master-armourer Mr. John Grimer.

In 1807 a further Act of Parliament was passed to enlarge the castle precincts, and improve the approach to it. The gateway, with its towers and drawbridge, the stable, the square tower on the south-west side, and other buildings were taken down, and the buildings now known as "A" block, and the castle gateway near St. Mary's church, were erected in 1809-10. This block, with the exception of the south-east angle, 68ft. to the front facing the castle square, and 20ft. deep on the east side facing St. Mary's church, was erected entirely on the land known as Gloverstone, outside the moat of the earlier castle. On the southern portion of the east side of this block, a new exchequer court was erected, two windows of which overlooked the square. The public entrance adjoined the gateway, and that for officials, with a small vestibule, stood at the north-east end. This court was 50ft. in length, 28ft. wide, and about the same in height, with a ceiling panelled in pine. An iron post let into the edge of the parapet marks the extension of the court on the east side.

In the centre of the frontage, facing the castle square, was the officers' entrance, and the three ground floor rooms at the western end were the sergeant-major's quarters.

Sergeant-major Mackay was the last to reside there. These apartments are now occupied as orderly rooms. On the west front was another entrance for the use of the rank and file. At the entrance to the building through this doorway to the left was a barrack room, and a few yards further on was another barrack room with beds on either side. This, eventually, was divided into two by a partition wall. The western part was then used as a schoolroom for adults, and "Adult School" was painted on the door. The eastern portion, to which was added a room with two windows facing the square, by cutting an archway in the inner wall, was then used as a coffee room, recently known as the A.T.A. (Army Temperance Association). It is marked on the castle plans as "canteen." The west portion is still used as a school-room, and the A.T.A., or dry canteen, having been removed to the upper bailey, the room has since been used as stores. The square building in the centre of the yard originally had a verandah with four stone pillars in front. There is no record of the date when it was removed. The west side of the building was at one time (1898) used as a butcher's shop, and the other part as a cook-house. It is now occupied by the quarter-master as offices. The length of building to the rear was erected as the "Provost," and in the centre were steps leading to the upper rooms on either side, with an open area surrounding the whole. The cell on the west side of the entrance still remains with its heavy oak studded door, and massive bolts and locks. The building ceased to be used as a provost when the guard-room and cells were erected in the upper bailey, and the rooms on the ground floor were then used as wet and dry canteens. To the rear, on the east side, was a skittle alley, and in the north-east corner the cook-house attached to the sergeants' mess, adjoining and in a line with the exchequer court and clothing stores. The cook-house is now used as a meat and bread store, and the sergeants' mess as an additional clothing store. The tailor's shop, formerly in the tower of the militia buildings, is now above the clothing store adjoining the old exchequer court. The two ablution houses on the

east side of the yard appear to have been put up about the same time as that in the upper bailey (1893). The gateway facing Bunce Street and Castle Street is not shown on the original plan. It stands a little east of the line of the old gateway. On the east side of the short lane (50ft.) which led to the old gateway, stood the Glovers' Stone, which, when the site for the erection of this block of buildings was being prepared, was buried where it had formerly stood. Four lead spout heads attached to the inner stone walls of this block bear the inscription, "G.R. III, 1810." About the middle of the south side of this yard, three feet from the bottom landing of the flight of iron steps, is a deep well, now covered over with concrete. This block was originally built to accommodate one hundred and twenty men with their officers. It is similar in style of architecture to the officers' block on the south-west side, has the same number of attached columns, and is also 120ft. in length.

The principal entrance to the castle, known as the "Grand Entrance," is on the west front. The first stone was laid 20th June, 1811, by Lieut.-Colonel Trafford, of the Congleton local Militia. This gateway took several years to complete, for we find in the local press of August, 1813:—

"On Thursday last one of the columns belonging to the superb entrance gate to Chester castle yard was reared on its plinth. The Denbigh Militia attended upon this occasion and after the column was reared, fired three excellent vollies. Their Colonel, Sir W. Wynn, after depositing in a small circular cavity, cut in the plinth, several coins of the present reign, placed over them a brass plate bearing the following inscription:—'Under this column, erected August 26th, 1813, in the presence of the Royal Denbighshire Militia, Sir Watkin W. Wynn,<sup>36</sup> Colonel of the said regiment, placed this plate to record the signal victory gained over the French by Field-Marshal Lord Wellington, near Vittoria, in Spain, June 21st, 1813, and 2nd of the Regency of H.R.H. Geo., Prince of Wales.' Round the plate, upon the stone plinth was cut the following memorial of the last triumph of the Marquis of Wellington:—'Victory of the Pyrenees gained by Lord Wellington, July 30th, 1813.' Most of the company present at the lunch having adjourned to witness the raising of the column, the castle yard was crowded with an assemblage of fashion rarely witnessed."

One cannot do better than describe this "Grand Entrance" in the architect's own words.

"The grand entrance to the castle is situated in the centre of a semi-circular fence or fosse, 13 feet deep, and 319 feet in diameter, cased with hewn stone, surmounted with stone pedestals, at equal distances, and the space filled up with handsome cast-iron rails, forming the north-west boundary of the castle-yard, or esplanade. The entrance stands in length 103 feet, and in depth 35 feet; it consist of three parts: a centre, and two wings or pavilions,<sup>37</sup> connected by short covered passages. The whole is of Grecian Doric, the centre is a peristyle formed of fluted columns 18 feet in height, and 3 feet in diameter, with their anti or pilasters, the carriage entrance being through the middle inter-columniation, and on each side another for foot passengers. The entablature is crowned with a low attic formed into panels, and over the centre of the two fronts large tablets are placed one of which is intended for an inscription,<sup>38</sup> and the other for a bas-relief. The wings resemble small open temples and have porticos of four columns in front, and two within, with their anti; the roofs terminating in pediments at each end. The ceilings of the different parts are entirely constructed of stone, and divided into compartments by some beams, some of which weigh from four to five tons, ornamented by caissons with simple mouldings, in the manner of those in the porticos of the temple of Theseus at Athens. The whole is constructed of stone of good quality and colour; the roofs, and their covering being likewise of stone.<sup>39</sup> All the columns used in the gateway and the different buildings of the castle, amounting to 84, are each formed of a single stone."

The fosse, or ditch, on the outside, extending from "A" block on the north side to the grand entrance was surrounded by a low wall of stone 2ft. 3in. in height. This some forty-five years ago had become the dumping ground for all kinds of refuse, so the authorities cleared the ditch and fixed iron railings 3ft. 6in. in height on top of the parapet wall, with a gate at the north east end. This was not necessary on the south-west side as the field, formerly part of the Nuns' gardens, was fenced in with iron railings when the new road [Grosvenor Road] was made through it to the new bridge [Grosvenor Bridge] erecting at that time.

The entrance from the lower to the upper bailey was through an open arch, put up in 1807, but this received

additional protection in 1817 by the strong wooden gates we see to-day.

The new lower bailey of the castle took twenty-eight years to complete. It was erected from the designs of Mr. Thomas Harrison, who was also architect for the Grosvenor Bridge, erected 1828-32. This bridge at the time it was built was the largest bridge of a single stone span in the world, and up to the present time (1922) has only been slightly exceeded by two others. Mr. T. Harrison also designed the Law Courts at Lancaster and other well known buildings.

All the buildings in the lower bailey are faced with stone from the Manley quarries; that below ground, and in the rear, is of the local red sandstone. The expense of building the armoury and barracks, that is "A" and "B" blocks, was borne jointly by the Crown and the County, and the other buildings by county rates aided by the revenues of the River Weaver Navigation.

Although Chester had been garrisoned by an entire regiment, at the time the lower bailey was rebuilt it was rarely garrisoned by more than two companies, generally invalids, except in war-time, when it was garrisoned by a detachment of regulars or militia. Several regiments, including the 46th (1849-50), 81st (1867), 2nd Battalion 14th (1871) and its immediate successor, 1st Battalion the 22nd, or Cheshire Regiment, 1873, Lt.-Colonel (later General) Anderson in command, have had their head-quarters stationed here.

On taking down the officers' old quarters in the upper bailey, in 1830, the new armoury was re-arranged for officers' quarters.<sup>40</sup> At the west end is the dining room with its two windows overlooking the square. Between this and the chief entrance, which is in the centre of the block, are the adjutant's quarters. To the left or east side of the entrance is the ante-room, and at the extreme end, with its entrance from the upper bailey, was the quarter-master's residence. The quarter-master ceased to reside in the castle in 1909,<sup>41</sup> and from that to the present time, except when it has been temporarily occupied as offices, the residence has been used as officers' quarters.





*Photo.—F. Simpson, F.S.A.*

**The Lower Bailey, Chester Castle.**

*Copyright.*



In 1854-5 the County Records were removed from the castle and deposited in the new National Record Office, London, where they still remain.

In 1867 an attempt was made to establish a republic in Ireland. An organized movement planned with considerable skill was made to secure arms and ammunition, but was fortunately bungled in the execution.

A meeting of the Fenian brotherhood was held in Liverpool, and one of its plans was to make an attack on Chester castle, where, it was supposed, some 35,000 stand of arms, 4,000 swords, 900,000 rounds of ammunition, besides powder in bulk, were stored. It so happened that the majority of the arms had been sent away a few days before to be converted into breech-loaders. It was also well-known that 500 stand of arms, belonging to the Volunteers, were stored at the cock-pit, near the Newgate.

That the castle was practically unguarded was well known at the Fenian centre in Liverpool, it having been the custom for several years past to garrison it with a company of the regiment stationed at Manchester. At this time the castle was garrisoned by a company, sixty-five strong, of the 54th Regiment, under the command of Captain Edwards, and the militia staff numbering 27, who resided in the married mens' quarters opposite the castle gates.

Mr. W. Maysmor Williams was the first citizen to receive information that a Fenian plot was on foot to attack the castle, but it was due to the vigilance of the Liverpool detective force that full particulars of the plot were discovered in time. Two detectives were sent from Liverpool, late on the night of Sunday, February 10th, to give full information to the chief constable (Mr. Fenwick) of what was about to take place. A large number of the brotherhood were to rendezvous at Chester. In order that suspicion might not be excited, they were to go in small bands from Liverpool, Birkenhead, Stalybridge, Halifax and other towns where the Irish resided in large numbers; and were to concentrate in one body at a given point in the city, surprise the garrison of the castle at midnight of Monday, the 11th,

seize the arms and ammunition, hold the building until they were reinforced on the following day, then take possession of the railway station and leave for Holyhead, where vessels were in waiting to convey them across the channel. Prompt measures, however, were immediately taken to repel the projected attack. Major P. S. Humberston, commanding officer of the 6th Chester Rifle Volunteers, had an interview with the chief constable and the officer in command at the castle, when it was decided to remove the arms of the Rifle Volunteers from the volunteer armoury at the cockpit to the castle, where, with the assistance of some sergeants of the militia staff, they were placed under the care of Captain Durnford, the storekeeper, before 9 a.m. At 9-50 a.m. the volunteers, artillery and rifle, were ordered, by messenger, to muster at the castle in full marching order. Within an hour several officers and sixty men had reported for duty, and the number gradually increased to eight officers, twelve sergeants, and 162 rank and file. In the meantime a telegram was despatched to Manchester requesting a reinforcement of troops, in response to which a company of the 54th Regiment arrived in the city about noon. The Cheshire constabulary were summoned from different parts of the county to Chester, and on arrival were furnished with side arms, and a detachment of police patrolled the streets. The two twenty-pounder field pieces cast at Bersham in 1803 for the local artillery company were removed from the castle square to the upper bailey, where they were manned by the local artillery, and the Earl of Chester's Yeomanry received orders to march into the city next day, Tuesday.

As there appeared to be some legal doubt as to how the volunteers were authorised to act, the magistrates communicated with the Home Secretary, and until a reply could be received, arms were not issued to the volunteers, but were ready for use at a moment's notice. During the afternoon, at the request of the magistrates, the volunteers were marched to the cockpit (the castle being in the county) and sworn in as special constables for the city.

The rank and file of the brotherhood continued to arrive in detachments, and about 5 o'clock the chief constable had information that upwards of 1,800 suspected persons had reached the city by train, and that large numbers were arriving by road.

At 5-30 p.m. the volunteers were dismissed, with orders to re-assemble at the cock-pit at 7 p.m., and be prepared to act as circumstances might require. At 6-45 p.m. the following telegram was received at the post office, where the magistrates were assembled:—

“The Right Hon. S. Walpole, Home Office, to the Mayor of Chester.

“Volunteers ought not to be employed in their military capacity in quelling disturbances, but in point of law, they would be justified in acting as individuals in aid of the civil power, and in a serious emergency they might use their arms if necessary.”

The Mayor called a meeting of citizens at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall, at which nearly all present enrolled as special police.

On the volunteers re-assembling at the cockpit at 7 o'clock both arms were present in strong numbers. The Rifles were immediately formed into three companies of twenty-seven files each, with their officers and non-commissioned officers. The artillery formed another company; and in a few minutes the whole were marched to the castle, where they were supplied with arms and ammunition, and stood to arms during the whole night. In the meantime the chief constable was informed that strangers were mustered about 1,400 strong and were arranged in marching order on the principal roads leading to Chester; that they were well organised and well officered; and were evidently awaiting final orders to march into the city.

During the night the banks and goldsmiths' shops were guarded by armed men within the premises.

The news of the expected attack was telegraphed to London and re-inforcements asked for. About 2 o'clock on the Tuesday morning, a second detachment, fifty strong, of

the 54th Regiment, under the command of Capt. Stephenson and Lieut. McCarthy, arrived at the castle, and was quartered in the battery barracks ("C" block). An hour later a third company of the same regiment arrived.

About one o'clock that same Tuesday morning the *reveillé* was sounded in the St. George's Barracks, where the Scots Fusilier Guards, 1st Battalion, were stationed. The troops, 574 strong, in full fighting kit, under the command of Colonel H. P. Hepburn, left Euston in a special train composed of twenty-seven carriages. At 5 a.m., all being reported quiet, and information received that the Guards were on their way to the city, the volunteers commenced returning their arms into stores at the castle, and at 6 a.m. were dismissed on the understanding that they were to hold themselves in readiness to answer the bugle-call should their services be required.

The Guards arrived at Chester about eleven o'clock. As arrangements had not been completed for billeting the whole of the troops, part of the force piled arms in a field adjoining the "Queen" commercial hotel (now known as the "Albion" hotel) where they remained several hours before they became comfortably housed at the city hostelries. The remainder, headed by the band, marched into the city, and when they were nearing the Eastgate the pipers of the regiment struck up "The Campbells are Coming," and continued to play in front of the "Grosvenor" hotel, which had been made their head-quarters, until the halt was sounded.

Owing to the vigilance of the authorities, and the patriotism of the volunteers and citizens, the attack on the castle did not take place, and the unwelcome visitors, wisely concluding that discretion was the better part of valour, dispersed in a manner similar to that in which they arrived. Many arrests were made, and quantities of arms, ammunition, and equipment were afterwards found in the suburbs, having evidently been thrown away to prevent the detection of those who had carried them.

At a meeting of the Town Council held Wednesday, February 13th, it was unanimously decided "that the Town

Clerk prepare a memorial, setting forth all the transactions which took place in the city, and that the Government be asked for a sufficient number of soldiers to be stationed in Chester; and affix the seal of the council to the same."

The Scots Fusilier Guards remained on duty in the city until the following Saturday, when they mustered at the castle at 11-30 a.m. At 8 o'clock the same Saturday morning, the headquarters and four companies of the 81st Regiment, numbering 261 rank and file, twenty-two sergeants, and eight drummers (with the band numbering upwards of forty performers) under the command of Major J. B. Flanagan, left Aldershot and arrived at Chester at 4-30 p.m. The detachments of the 54th Regiment were formed up on the castle square ready for departure, and, after exchanging compliments with the 81st, then entering the castle, marched out headed by the band of the 6th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers,<sup>42</sup> proceeded to the station, and entrained for London.

During the latter quarter of the 19th century, considerable alteration took place on the east esplanade of the castle, both in the buildings and their occupancy, but the frontage facing the square was not interfered with. The house occupied by the caretaker of the courts, in the rear of the colonnade at the extreme south end of the east side, was taken down in 1875, when the site was being prepared for a new Nisi Prius Court, designed by Mr. T. M. Lockwood, and erected during that and the two following years. At the January Quarter Sessions of the Peace for this county, held Monday, January 3rd, 1876, in taking the civil business, the chairman said: "They were, as the court was aware, at present building a new Nisi Prius court, and in order to carry out the plans it was necessary to build upon a small portion of ground which did not belong to the county, and make some arrangement with the Crown for its acquisition." The county magistrates and the Crown authorities did not at first come to terms, but later, Mr. Gore, of the Office of Woods and Forests, wrote saying that he was ready, on certain conditions named, to convey the Crown's interest in the part of the wall at Chester

castle required for the extension of the Nisi Prius court-house. The third condition reads :—"That notwithstanding any cornice, stringcourse or other projection from the new building over the part of the wall which remains the property of the Crown, full power is reserved to the Crown to build upon the said wall at any time and to any height." The court sanctioned the arrangement, and the clerk of the peace was instructed to draw out the conveyance. This, no doubt, accounts for the inscriptions carved on either side of the wall forming the south side of this colonnade. Within the colonnade is inscribed :—

" W.D.

26D

W.D. Boundary extends

13 inches east

of this stone."

And on the other side of the wall, inside of the upper bailey :—

" W.D.

26D

W.D. Boundary extends

to other side

of wall."

Within the court are five interesting oil-paintings of royal personages. They are fully explained by the following extracts from the old Quarter Sessions minute books :—

" Knutsford Quarter Sessions, 6th October, 1730.

Ordered by this Court that the County Treasurer do pay unto Mr. James Fellows, Limner,<sup>43</sup> or order, the sum of £20 15s. 0d. in full of his bill delivered in and allowed by this Court for repairing the picture of :—

The Late King Charles the Second,  
which stood in the Shire Hall of the said County in pursuance of a former order of Sessions for that purpose, and the same shall be allowed the said Treasurer on passing his accounts."

" Knutsford Quarter Sessions.

2nd October, 1733.

Ordered by this Court that the Treasurer of this County do pay unto Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, Baronet, the sum of



£111 19s. 0d., being the charge of the several pictures of their late Majesties :—

King William the 3rd.

King George the 1st.

His present Majesty King George the 2nd; and

His Royal Highness Frederick, Prince of Wales.

painted in London by Mr. Worsdall, to be placed up in the Shire Hall of this County pursuant to a former order of this Court for that purpose and the same shall be allowed to the said Treasurer on passing of his Accounts."

"Ordered by this Court that the Treasurer of this County do pay unto Mr. Edward Ffoulkes, Limner, the sum of £20 2s. 0d. for his care, trouble, service and expense about the pictures of the Royal Family bought and painted in London to be placed up in the Shire Hall of this County, and the same shall be allowed to the said Treasurer on passing his accounts."

"Ordered by this Court that the Treasurer of this County do pay into Isaac Ffaulkner or his order the sum of £3 6s. 6d. for carriage of the aforesaid pictures from London to Chester."

"Chester Quarter Sessions.

23rd April, 1734.

The like Order on the Treasurer for the payment of 17/- to . . . . . for her labour and care in looking after the pictures of the Royal Family before they were put up in the Shire Hall, and providing coals and making fires to air and preserve the same and the same shall be allowed to the said Treasurer on passing his accounts."

In 1877, the government took over all the local prisons, numbering 113, and closed thirty-eight of them at once. The county (Chester) gaol continued to be used for prisoners, and Mr. J. B. Manning remained in charge until 1884, when it was closed as a county prison, and the prisoners were removed to H.M. prison at Knutsford. Although the gaol was finally closed as a civilian prison, a small part of it continued to be used as a military prison under the charge of Mr. J. Martin.

The exchequer court (east side of "A" block) ceased to be used as a court, and was conveyed by the county to the War Department on the 18th July, 1892. The interior of the court, 28ft. in height, was reconstructed, and a floor, on steel girders, placed across the middle height, thus forming two storeys. The ground floor was used as a clothing stores,

and the upper storey for 3rd Battalion stores. The militia armoury at the extreme north end of the east esplanade was at the same time conveyed by the War Department to the county.

In 1895 the Cheshire county council acquired the military prison, so that they might extend the law courts and provide offices for the county officials. A large number of military prisoners confined at the castle were removed on Thursday, June 13th, to the military prison at Kendal,<sup>44</sup> and the remainder were removed on the following day.

The militia armoury is now occupied as the county surveyor's, and Weights and Measures departments. The entrance which formerly led to the gaol, now leads to the county council chamber and the county Auditor's offices. The council chamber was erected in 1891, and the first meeting of the council in the new chamber took place February, 1892. The contractor was Mr. Thomas Mayers.

The interior of the Crown court was re-arranged under the supervision of Mr. Stanhope Bull, then county surveyor, who acted as architect, and Mr. Bridgewater, in 1895-96. By these alterations and adjustments, all the buildings on the east side of the castle square are now occupied by the Crown and county authorities.

During the years 1900-1902 great alterations took place in the rear of the castle. The site on which formerly stood the felons' prison was made into a drill ground for the local artillery, then known as the 1st Cheshire and Carnarvonshire Volunteer Artillery, with an entrance for guns, etc., at the west end of Shipgate Street. The County Standing Joint Committee also granted the corps the use of some of the old gaol cells for offices and stores. Beyond the stone and iron rail fenced boundary of this drill ground, the high wall of massive masonry which surrounded the old gaol and extended to the city wall was taken down, and the ground left as an open site. The lower ground—that on a level with the walls, which had been partly occupied as a garden attached to the gaol—was grassed over, and part of it laid out with shrubs and flowers. The City Corporation seized

this opportunity to extend the road round the walls, which already reached from the Northgate to the Grosvenor Road, and by arrangement with the county council, who gave to the city the necessary land in the rear of the courts, the road was continued through the little Roodee (which prior to 1828, when Grosvenor Road was made, formed part of the Roodee that we know to-day) to the Bridgegate, adding much to the beauty of this part of the city.

The bronze statue in front of the grand portico of the Assize courts, was put up by public subscription in 1903, to the memory of the late Queen Victoria. It represents the Queen, erect in her robes of State, holding in her right hand the sceptre, and in her left the orb. The statue was the work of Mr. W. Pomeroy, of London. It stands on a pedestal of Derbyshire stone with a granite base. On the four sides are panels bearing in front the Royal arms, on the north side the city arms and motto, "*Antiqui colant Antiquum Dierum*"; and on the south side the arms of the county to which has been attached the city motto; and on the back, the shamrock and thistle entwined with a Tudor rose supporting a crown in the upper centre, and at either side V.R., and in each corner of the panel a small Tudor rose. Below the mould of the capping is inscribed: "*Victoria . Dei . Gratia . Mag . Britt . et . Hibern . Reg . Fidei . Defensor . India . Imp . 1837—1901*" all of which is carved in high relief. On the lower part of the front of the base is inscribed:—

" This statue was erected in honour of  
a good and beloved Queen

and in grateful remembrance of her long and glorious reign  
by her Majesty's loyal subjects A.D. 1903."

The stonework was designed by the county architect, Mr. Harry Beswick. The memorial was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of the County (Earl Egerton) on Saturday, 17th October, 1903. The cost, £1,360, was borne two-thirds by the county and one-third by the city.

The County Territorial Force Association took up its quarters in the castle, and occupied offices above the

luncheon room south end of the east side, 5th May, 1908.

On peace being declared (after the Great War) the Territorial Army practically ceased to exist. In the re-organisation of the Force some difficulty arose in regard to the local artillery, who had done gallant service in the eastern theatre of war, and the corps was not re-formed. The parade ground in the rear of the Assize courts thus became vacant, and in 1921 hard tennis courts were made at the north-east end of the site for the use of the N.C.O.'s of the dépôt.

### RESTORATION OF " A " BLOCK.

In January, 1920, cracks were noticed in the walls of the front rooms in " A " block, erected in 1809-10; and a crack in the inner wall of the former Court House had opened two inches wide. On examination of the exterior stone work, a general disjointure of the blocks of stone was noticed, and in some cases the large blocks were split through, and the joints of the heavy stone cornice, with its entablature above, severed apart. The upper part of the masonry on the south-east side (facing St. Marys' Church) was in a very precarious condition, the jointure of the stones in some cases having opened at least six inches—that angle of the building leaning over towards the castle square to that extent. On February 1st, 1920, cement tell-tales were placed across the cracks, but within a few weeks these were broken. On March 20th tell-tales were again placed on. These the writer noticed (May 29th) were also broken. The cause of the trouble was thought to be a faulty lead water pipe under the cement flooring of the inner yard, which had been covered when the yard was cemented about 1890. The writer doubted this explanation, and concluded that a large portion of the frontage had been erected on the old fosse, or ditch, which, having been filled up with *débris*, had in course of time sunk, helped by the well in the inner yard which was situated about the middle of the south side, and which had caused considerable trouble, and flooded the front basements on several occasions.

The masonry of the south front for a distance of 33ft. from the west end was in sound condition, but the remainder of the front, 87ft., was considerably damaged. On the east side of the building, facing St. Mary's Church, the masonry was very badly damaged for a distance of 29ft. 2in. from the outside face of the gateway, but the principal cleavage was 16ft. from the outside face of the gate. Tell-tales placed across the cracks in the masonry, 10th July, 1920, were broken, and those placed just below them, 8th October, 1921, within a week had broken and opened a quarter of an inch.

On the ground being tested for foundations, about 4ft. in front of the columns, rock was met with at the following depths, west to east:—First column, 10ft. 6in.; third column, 27ft.; between columns four and five, 27ft.; sixth column, 26ft.; between columns seven and eight, 32ft.; tenth column, 45ft. 3in.; in front of first window, east side, 46ft.; in front of second window, 11ft.

About 4ft. in front of the third column the outside red sandstone wall of the moat was seen, circling towards the fourth column, where it continued under the building, coming out below the second window on the east side, opposite St. Mary's church. The moat here took a line under the present road, and continued between the churchyard wall and the old gaol. The top of the moat wall in front of the third column was 6ft. 10in. below the present flagged parapet, but at the entrance below the fourth column, the upper part of the wall must have been considerably reduced in height during the erection of the present building. The present building therefore, stands on the old moat for a distance of 68ft. of the frontage facing the castle square, and 19ft. opposite St. Mary's church.

The tender of Messrs. George Greenwood and Sons, Brixton Road, London, S.W., for the restoration of the building was accepted by the War Office, and Mr. Bromley was put in charge of the work. The contractors commenced to put up the scaffolding on March 14th, 1922, and it was hoped to complete the work within nine months.

When the masonry was taken down (each piece being numbered) the six semi-circular columns, weighing upwards of four tons each, were left standing, and were raised and placed on timbers ready to receive them. The ninth column was the first to be raised (Saturday, May 6th) and on the chipping away of the mortar from the moulded base below it, a brass plate came to view. On the removal of the plate, in a cavity 4in. deep and  $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter, cut in the circular moulded base, was a white Wedgwood unglazed cup, in shape more like an enlarged egg-cup,  $3\frac{7}{8}$ in. in height and  $2\frac{7}{8}$ in. in diameter at the lip, containing three farthings, two halfpennies and one penny. The dates on the coins were 1805 and 1806. One farthing and one half-penny had the Irish harp on the reverse. The cup was broken just above the base in getting it out of the cavity.

The brass plate, 7in. by 6in. was inscribed :—

“ This column was erected  
in the presence of the  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Robert Dallas and  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Francis Burt  
His Majesty's Justices of Chester.  
Aug. 31st, 1809, in the  
XLIX of George III.  
Thos. Will<sup>m</sup> Tatton, Esq., Sheriff.  
Thomas Harrison, Architect.”

Columns eight and ten were then raised, and banded to number nine. Column number seven was raised at 9 a.m., May 17th, and on the clearing of the mortar from the top of the moulded base, a wooden plug was seen fitting a cavity in the stone. On the removal of the plug, the cavity,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep and  $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, was seen to contain a brass box, measuring  $2\frac{5}{8}$ in. in diameter at the top,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the bottom, and 1in. deep. The box was ornamented with four chased lines round it. The lid was boldly embossed with a bust of Lord Nelson, and inscribed round it in block letters was :—  
“ Admiral Lord Nelson, Duke of Bronte, etc.” The box,

probably a snuff box, contained the following copper coins :—

One two-penny piece, George III. 1797.

One half-penny piece, George III. 1799.

One half-penny piece, George III. 1805. This had a harp and Hibernia on the reverse.

Two half-penny pieces, George III, 1806.

One penny piece, George III. 1807.

On the removal of the lower courses of masonry below, and near number ten column, a circular lead tobacco box with inside weight and lid was found, May 18th, in the rubble about level with the third course of masonry below the surface. In the box were three pennies of George III, dated 1797, 1806, 1806. The box was  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. in height, and the same in diameter. It will be noticed that not one of the coins is of the year the stones were laid, and that they are all of the lowest values. To place coins of various years in the foundation stone would frustrate the object for which they are generally intended.

When the masonry of the south front was taken down, the ends of the tie-beams, rafters, and joists were found to have rotted away, and the wall plates were in a similar condition, probably caused by faulty lead gutters. The floors at the front, facing the castle square, had therefore dropped, and had to be shored up, and the entire roof was removed from that part covering the old exchequer court.

During the excavation along the south front for foundations, nine oak piles, about 3ft. 9in. apart, were found under the site of the fifth column, the tops of which were 10ft. 6in. below the surface. These were in a group of threes; most of these piles had completely decayed, but the earth into which they had been driven retained its round shape. At the extreme east angle twelve piles were discovered, across the top of these, reaching from one to the other, were lengths of oak, 1ft. square. The diameter of the piles averaged 8in. In one was cut the date 1806. The head of the piles at this part was 25ft. below the surface. The pile with the date on was 7ft. in length, and below it was 13ft.

of *débris* and silt before reaching the rock, making a total of 45ft. When excavating under the site of the seventh column, i.e., 25ft. from the east end, at a depth of 33ft. 8in., the workmen came upon a seam of light grey sandstone permeated with a silvery looking substance. When a piece of the stone was pressed on the palm of the hand it left a thick deposit of the same glittering substance. Under the end (tenth) column, at a depth of 35ft. 8in. the workmen came upon red sandstone rock which had a worked face sloping towards the castle square. And at a depth of 45ft. they again came across the grey sandstone with the silvery looking spots. The writer accompanied the foreman engineer (Mr. Thornton), a man getting on in years but as nimble as a cat, down the 45ft. shaft (13th June) and procured another sample of the rock. This was much browner than that previously found at a depth of 33ft 8in. in front of the seventh column. It was also much softer, and very wet and shaly, a layer being easily obtained with a shovel. The silvery markings were not so distinct, but were sparkling throughout the stone. At this point the light-coloured sandstone seemed to branch out from the red sandstone, and proceed at an angle of about 45° towards the Crown court, on the east side of the castle square. This, so far as the writer is aware, is the first time this laminated micaceous sandstone has been found in Chester—a view supported by several prominent local building contractors to whom a sample of the sandstone was shown. A sample was also sent to the geological department at the British Museum, who replied that “the seam may have been cut off by a fault, and this also might affect the flow of water. Such seams are not uncommon in the red sandstone.” Mr. Ridgway, the well-known local well-sinker, states that he has not come across any similarly coloured stone in Chester; it is always red sandstone.

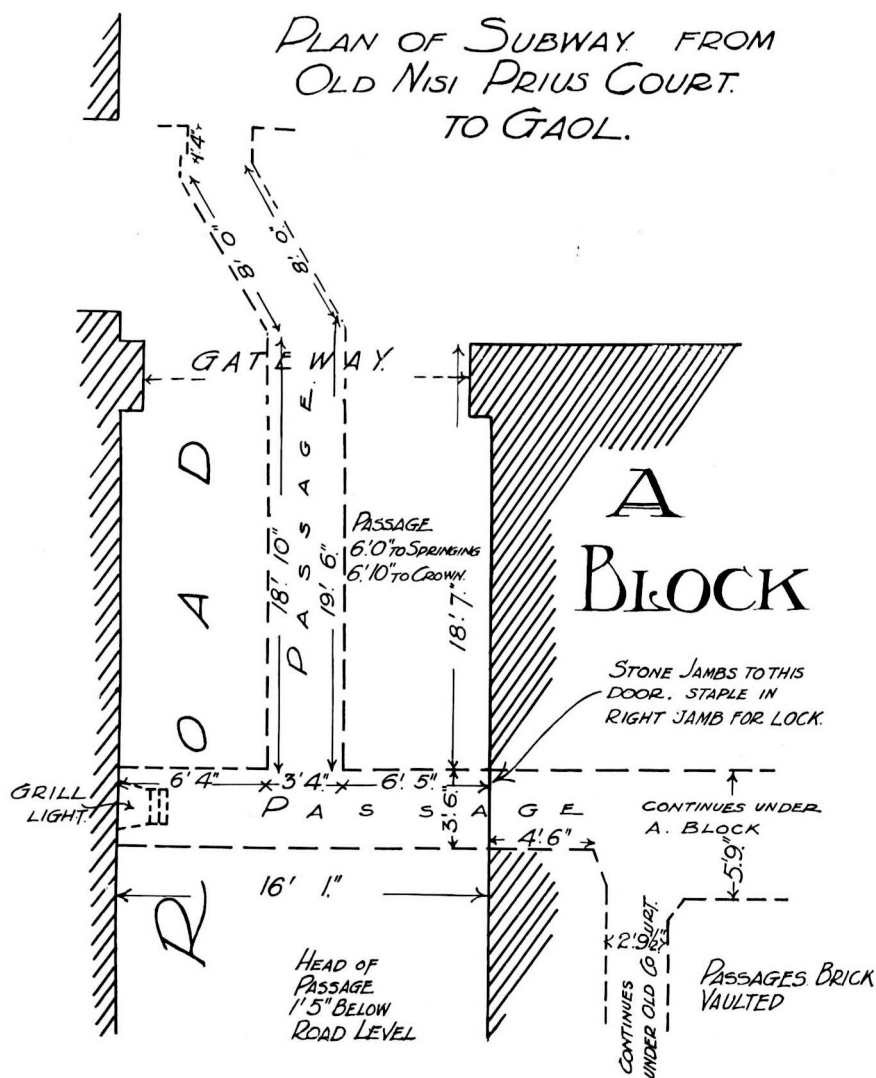
During the excavations on the east side of “A” block, opposite St. Mary’s church, the workmen, 15ft. 6in. from the outside face of the castle gateway, came across a doorway with stone jambs. This had been bricked up, evidently





# CHESTER CASTLE.

## PLAN OF SUBWAY FROM OLD NISI PRIUS COURT. TO GAOL.



at the time the outside exchequer court was transferred to the military authorities. In the left jamb were iron gudgeons, and let into the right jamb was a heavy iron ring or staple, which led one to believe that prior to the doorway being bricked up the space had been occupied by an iron gate. On the removal of the brickwork, a straight subway was seen, and at the extreme end was an iron grid let into the wall opposite the churchyard of St. Mary's. This admitted a little light and ventilated the passage, which was lined and arched over with brick, 1ft. 5in. below the surface of the roadway. About halfway, on the right-hand side, a similar passage branched off toward, and under, the castle gateway, for a distance of 19ft. 6in., and there turned to the left, and 6ft. beyond was a heavy iron gateway which came just in front of the colonnade adjoining the county surveyor's, and the Weights and Measures offices. From below the colonnade, immediately in front of us, we enter a large room under the Weights and Measures office, with a flagged floor, in the centre of which are some massive monolithic columns. This room was formerly used by the warders, and to the left a passage, with cells on one side, leads to the old gaol.

From the doorway<sup>45</sup> on the east side of "A" block, and the passages just described, the subway continues under the whole length of "A" block, but this was bricked across under the west wall of the old exchequer court, 27ft. from the roadway. On the right, or north side, 4ft. 6in. from the doorway was a branch subway which led under, and gave access to, the court. These subways were made at the time Harrison built the lower bailey, so that prisoners might be taken privately from the gaol to the outside court. Reference to the accompanying plan, particulars of which were taken by the writer, and checked by the foreman of the work (May 18th, 1922) will make the position of these subways quite clear.

The colonnade mentioned stands on stone piers, and was also erected on the old fosse or ditch, which accounts for the outside masonry splitting similarly to that in "A" block.

In June, 1922, the county authorities had the space between the piers bricked up to obviate further thrust on the gateway and building, for which that body is responsible. The bricking-in of the piers is only a temporary measure, as the masonry here will have to receive more serious attention in the near future.

The ceremony of re-laying the ninth column took place at 12 noon on Saturday, August 5th, 1922. As the bank clock struck twelve the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Lieut.-Gen. Sir H. de Beauvoir de Lisle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., arrived at the castle, the drummer beating a flam, and the guard presenting arms. Awaiting his arrival were the Vice-chairman of Cheshire County Council (R. T. Richardson, Esq.), Colonel H. W. Gordon, D.S.O., (chief engineer) and Mrs. Gordon, Major G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O., R.E., division officer, Major G. Adshead, of the Cheshire Regiment, O/c the Dépôt, and Mrs. Adshead, Captain M. G. G. Campbell, R.E., Captain R. L. M. Scott, of the Cheshire Regiment, Mr. Harry Beswick, county architect, Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., Mr. W. N. Thornton (late R.E.) Civilian foreman of works, and Mr. Bromley, the contractors' representative in charge of the work. Col. Gordon gave a brief sketch of the history of the building, and said the south-east angle had formerly been an exchequer court, but was transferred to the military about 1893.

The white unglazed Wedgwood cup in which were placed some of the copper coins found on the taking down of the columns was replaced in the cavity in the moulded base, as also were a penny, 1921 (a similar coin of the current year could not be obtained) and a half-penny and a farthing, 1922. Over the cavity the Vice-chairman of the County Council (Mr. R. T. Richardson) replaced the original brass plate found there, and a new brass plate was placed above it (both being face downwards) by General de Lisle. The General, assisted by Mr. Richardson, spread the cement on the stone base. The column was lowered into position and the General declared it well and truly laid. The ceremony, which was of a semi-private nature, occupied about twenty minutes.

The new brass plate, 9in. by 8in., is inscribed in block letters, deeply cut :—

“ During the reconstruction of the south-east portion  
of this Building this Column was taken down and  
was re-erected in the presence of  
Lt.-Gen. Sir Beauvoir de Lisle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.,  
General Office Commanding-in-Chief,  
Western Command,  
Hercules Campbell Yates, Esq., J.P.<sup>46</sup>  
Chairman of Cheshire Quarter Sessions,  
Richard Taswell Richardson, Esq., J.P.  
Vice-Chairman of Cheshire County Council,  
On August 5th, 1922, in the XIIIth year of The Reign of  
George V.

Colonel H. W. Gordon, D.S.O., Chief Engineer.  
Lieut.-Colonel D.M. FitzG. Hoysted, D.S.O., R.E., C.R.E.<sup>46</sup>  
Major G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O., R.E., Division Officer.  
Mr. W. H. (*sic* N.) Thornton (late R.E.) Civilian Foreman  
of Works.

Contractors : Messrs. George Greenwood & Sons, London.”

This column was originally erected August 31st, 1809, just twenty-six days short of 113 years of the time of its re-erection.

The brass snuff-box, bearing the bust of Lord Nelson, found under the seventh column, was not replaced. This, with some of the copper coins found upon the taking down of the columns was presented to the O.C. the Depôt, Major G. Adshead, so that it might be included in the collection of the Cheshire Regimental relics exhibited in the ante-room of the Officers' mess.

The D.O.R.E. (Major Fenton) and his able assistant (Mr. W. N. Thornton) are to be congratulated on planning out a most complex work, and seeing it carried out in a sound and satisfactory manner. The contractors, also, are to be congratulated on the careful way in which they have carried out the work, and on completing it (without accident of any kind) within the specified time. No less than 323 tons of cement and two and a half tons of steel rods (for re-inforcing)

were used—principally for foundations—in the restoration of this angle of the building. So well has the work been carried out that it is difficult to see where it began, or ended.

The quadrangular pile of red sandstone buildings opposite the great entrance, with its frontage to Castle Esplanade, is the quarters of the married non-commissioned officers of the *Depôt*. It stands on part of the "Nuns' Gardens," purchased by the county in 1807. The building was designed by Mr. Penson, architect, Chester, in imitation of the 13th century style of architecture, and was erected in 1858-9. Recent (1921-2) alterations, including the removal of the diamond lead lights from the windows in the northern half of the front block and substitution of wood frames and large square panes of glass; also the raising of the chimney stacks with brick, cemented over, and now plainly seen from the roadway; somewhat detract from the 13th century style of architecture, but probably add to the comfort of the families residing in the quarters [as do the baths which have been fixed in several of the quarters].

The two-storied red brick building enclosed by a brick wall, and standing opposite to "A" block, is the military hospital, erected in 1826. On three lead spout-heads, on the north, west, and east sides is inscribed, G.R. 1826. This very much out-of-date hospital is, at the time of writing, being re-constructed.

No complete history of Chester castle had been written before the present writer's attempt to tell the story of this noble and historic building. That the endeavour was made was largely owing to the encouragement and keen interest shown in the undertaking by the Officer Commanding the castle (Major Gerald Adshead). It was in October, 1919, that Major Adshead, of the County Regiment, was appointed to the command of the castle, and it is owing to his energy and "pride of the regiment," that this Cheshire *Depôt* at the castle now ranks foremost of all those in the Western Command. In the history of the castle generally, and especially in that of the chapel in the tower of the upper bailey, he showed a keen interest, and to him is due the

credit of enlisting the sympathies of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Lieut.-General Sir H. de B. De Lisle, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., and one or two other officers of his staff, each of whom supported whole-heartedly the project of restoring the chapel so that it might again be used for divine service for troops at the castle. Fortunately, the Division Officer, Western Command (Major G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O., R.E.) entered fully into the scheme and proved an indefatigable worker in the restoration of the chapel and its internal fittings, showing every regard for its antiquity. The Office of Works has restored the chapel, etc., in a very painstaking and skilful manner, and used every possible care to preserve the remains of the wall paintings and other antiquities.

When part of the foundations of "A" block gave way, in 1920, the writer was brought into close contact with the engineers of the Western Command, and early the following year with the representative of the firm of contractors for the work of restoration. To each the writer's thanks are given for the facilities and information they at all times gave him, without which his labours and almost daily visits to the castle would have availed him little.

The writer would congratulate the chief draughtsman (Mr. Chorlton) Lancs. Area Command (which includes Chester) on the excellent plan he made of the castle, 1922, in which are embraced all previous plans. The writer's thanks are also given to Mr. W. N. Thornton, foreman engineer; and to his old friend, Mr. Horace Davies, F.R.I.B.A., for the interest and assistance freely given at all times.

## NOTES.

<sup>1</sup> War Office plan.

<sup>2</sup> Removed when the new armoury, now the officers' mess, was built, 1806-7.

<sup>3</sup> Royal Cheshire Militia, Digest of Service.

<sup>4</sup> War Office plan.

<sup>5</sup> See Hugh Lupus Hall, lower bailey, p. 95.

NOTES—*Continued.*

<sup>6</sup> The two brass field pieces were in the possession of the Royal Chester Artillery, or, as they were later known, 3rd Welsh Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, until the close of the Great War, when, unfortunately, they were not re-embodied. They were removed to the Volunteer Drill Hall where they remained for many years. Upon the removal of the artillery to the new drill ground in the rear of the courts at the castle, the cannon were placed there, where they still remain.

<sup>7</sup> See illustration "Masons' marks and description," pp. 92, 93.

<sup>8</sup> See illustration "Masons' marks and description," pp. 92, 93.

<sup>9</sup> From this landing a passage, now cut off, led to the governor's apartments.

<sup>10</sup> The shafts (set up) vary from 4ft. 6in., to 4ft. 7½in. in height.

<sup>11</sup> On the removal of the wood floor, during the restoration (1922) of the chapel, the caps, shafts, and base were found to vary in height from 7ft. 3½in. to 7ft. 6in.

<sup>12</sup> Pennant, writing in 1784, mentions a "Holy Water pot" as then in the chapel. There is now no trace of it.

In making his reports on the work in the chapel, the foreman informed the writer that he had taken the position of the altar as the east side, and the other sides accordingly. The altar is usually placed in that position, but local surroundings do not always permit of this. In the chapel, due north—according to the Ordnance Survey Map, etc.—is exactly in the angle of the room, on the left side of the altar, and due south in the middle of the window, at the opposite end. The writer's description of the interior of the chapel, and crypt, is drawn accordingly.

<sup>13</sup> November, 1923, the ground floors of these sheds were rearranged and dressing rooms and lavatories formed in connection with the gymnasium.

<sup>14</sup> See illustration "Masons' marks and description," pp. 92, 93.

<sup>15</sup> See p. 79.

<sup>16</sup> Hacker was barrack warden at that time.

<sup>17</sup> See illustration "Masons' marks and description," pp. 92, 93.

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix.

<sup>19</sup> *Close Rolls*. 35 Henry III [1251]

<sup>20</sup> *Knight's History*. Vol. I, p. 368.

<sup>21</sup> Pennant's *Tours in Wales*. Vol. I, p. 165.

<sup>22</sup> Pennant's *Tours in Wales*. Vol. I, p. 166.

<sup>23</sup> *Tudor Period*. p. 98.

<sup>24</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* Vol. XXVIII, p. 162.

<sup>25</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* Vol. XVII, p. 29.

<sup>26</sup> Some of these decorate the vestibule to the sergeants' mess, and men's dining halls.

<sup>27</sup> *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* Vol. XLVIII, p. 155.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> War Office plan, 1922.

<sup>30</sup> Church Registers.

<sup>31</sup> Thomas Croxton, 1603-1663. Colonel in the Parliamentary Army 1650; Militia Commissioner for Chester, 1650; arrested for conspiracy, 1663. *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* Vol. XIII, p. 248.



NOTES—*Continued.*

<sup>32</sup> Sir George Booth, first Baron Delamere of Delamere, 1622-1684, took the Parliamentary side in the Civil War; Military Commissioner for Cheshire, and Treasurer-at-War, 1655; M.P. for Cheshire 1645, 1654 and 1656. Joined new Royalists and commanded King's forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, and North Wales 1659, raised to peerage at coronation of Charles II; *custos rotulorum* in County of Chester, 1660-73. *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* Vol. V, p. 73.

<sup>33</sup> Cowper MS.

<sup>34</sup> Cowper MS.

<sup>35</sup> This tower was taken down when the site for this armoury was prepared.

<sup>36</sup> Sir Watkin W. Wynn was Mayor of Chester this year, 1813.

<sup>37</sup> These wings, or pavilions, were enclosed with iron railings about 1880.

<sup>38</sup> After the battle of Waterloo, 1815, "Britain Triumphant" was painted on the centre tablet, but it was afterwards obliterated.—Henshall's *Cheshire*.

<sup>39</sup> This description refers to the interior of the grand entrance.

<sup>40</sup> See upper bailey.

<sup>41</sup> Lieut. T. Dutton, Cheshire Regt. was the last Q.M. to reside here.

<sup>42</sup> Later known as the 5th (Earl of Chester's) Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, but since the Great War as the 4th/5th Battalion.

<sup>43</sup> Portrait painter (Murray's *English Dict.*)

<sup>44</sup> Military prisoners are now removed to Stafford.

<sup>45</sup> This doorway was again blocked up June 29th, 1922, by placing in front of it a massive concrete pier.

<sup>46</sup> The Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Hercules Campbell Yates, Esq., J.P., and Lt.-Colonel D. M. Fitz-Hoysted, D.S.O., R.E., C.R.E., were not present.



## APPENDIX.

The chapel, after numerous delays, was re-opened for the use of the men of the Cheshire Regiment and their families, for communion and other services at which attendances are not likely to be large enough to warrant a service being held in the Regimental Chapel in Chester Cathedral.

The re-opening of the chapel was part of the Empire Day celebration. As Empire Day (May 24th) this year fell on a Sunday, it was generally observed on Monday.

The Chaplain-General of the Forces was to have performed the ceremony, but owing to his inability to be present (as he was consecrating new Regimental Colours at York), the Bishop of Chester officiated in his stead. The service, which took place at 3-15 p.m., though brief, was unusually impressive. Owing to the smallness of the chapel, the congregation was limited to the clergy, the press, officers of the Regiment and the Western Command, and representatives of the various ranks of the regiment. The service concluded with the singing of the hymn, "We love the place, O God," and a prayer. The Bishop was assisted by Canon Eck. Among those present were: The Dean of Chester, Major-General H. D. De Prée, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Col. Sir Hereward Wake, Bt., C.M.G., D.S.O., the Assistant Chaplain-General, Major P. H. Hanson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Major G. J. V. Shepherd, Major G. C. V. Fenton, D.S.O., Major J. Ryan, Captain Adshead, of the 1st Battalion the Cheshire Regiment, Lieut. Cunningham, the Officer Commanding (Major Bently) and all Officers of the Depôt, the Cheshire Regiment, with the exception of Capt. Leicester and Capt. R. Morton, M.C., who were unavoidably absent, Mr. Frank Simpson, F.S.A., and the Rev. Minor Canon Gravell. The latter played the harmonium, which was kindly presented by the Chaplain (the Rev. W. M. B. Hogg) and congregation of the Fulwood Garrison Church, Preston.

The massive stone building in the rear of the castle, is a new up-to-date cook-house, completed July, 1925.