

## Archaeological Journal.

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JUNE, 1889.

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### BAMBURGH CASTLE.

By GEO. T. CLARK.

Whatever may be the value of the patriotic boast that

“Britannia needs no bulwarks, no towers along the steep,”

she is not altogether unprovided in this respect, and Dover on the south and Bamburgh on the north, have been from remote, and probably from pre-historic times, fortresses by nature almost impregnable, and rendered completely so, in proper hands, by art.

Nature has indeed done much for Bamburgh, but art has there done ample justice to nature. Bamburgh has been compared to Windsor and to Dover, and the comparisons are not to its disadvantage. It resembles Windsor in its length of front and in the position of its keep, a massy, lofty, and central structure, not inferior even to the celebrated Round Tower of the royal fortress. Of oaks and elms and velvet turf it cannot boast, but it has the wide waste of waters on the one hand, and the broad and highly cultivated lands of Northumbria on the other, and the roving Anglander who first fixed upon the rock as his residence, probably found the pathless ocean more to his taste, and productive of richer spoils, than the glades of even a Norwegian forest.

With Dover the northern hold has more in common. Less lofty indeed, and in area less extended, Bamburgh is by no means its inferior in strength of position, and is far beyond it in that stern and savage grandeur that so well becomes a fortress exposed to the fury of a turbulent ocean. Its walls seem to form a part of the rifted face of a great mass of basalt, a fragment of the vast sheet of Plutonic rock spread partially over Northumberland, and

the eastern edge of which forming the reefs and islands of Farne, renders all approach from the sea difficult and dangerous.

The basalt, black, intensely hard, and more or less columnar in its structure, is here about 75 feet thick, and rests upon a substratum of sandstone, the line of junction being a little above the level of high water. The platform, entirely occupied by the castle, includes an area of about three acres, large enough not only to accommodate a very strong garrison, but to afford protection to the adjacent villagers and husbandmen, who are recorded to have found shelter there during the not infrequent raids from Scotland. It is, naturally, precipitous all round, but with faces varying considerably in height. That to the landward retains its original cliff of 50 feet, unbroken, and predominates far and wide over moor and fen and not unproductive corn-land, but that towards the sea, naturally lower, is choked up by a mass of blown sand, which at one time threatened to overwhelm the castle, and had to be removed by art.

No inhabitant of these regions, in times when every man's hand was lifted against his neighbour, could afford to neglect a position so secure by nature, and fortunately so, since the bare scalp of rock would afford little material for any primitive defences, and any sort of fosse would be both unnecessary, and with the tools of a savage people, impracticable. Hence there is no trace of early occupation, nor of the works which are said to have been thrown up in the sixth century, and as to the exact character of which there is much doubt. In truth, however, no work, short of masonry, and that of a superior character, could long stand against the rude septentrion blasts from the German ocean.

The history of Bamburgh, though dating from so early a period as the sixth century, includes but few events of more than local interest, although the rock was for more than five centuries the chief seat of an important province, and was besides closely associated with Aidan the apostle of Northumbria and Oswald its Bretwald and its earliest martyr.

It is still a vexed question when, or even about what period the Northmen began to invade the shores of Britain,

or in what parts, from pirates and plunderers, first became owners of land, and collected their family settlements into provinces and kingdoms. It was however certainly a very early settlement that took the name and place of the Celtic province of Bryneich or Bernicia, a tract extending from the Forth to the Tyne, or it may be to the Tees, with a seaboard open to the still-arriving hordes from the loins of the North. All who so came were doubtless welcome, for besides the Picts and Scots from beyond the Forth the province lay open along its whole western length to the kingdom of Strath-Clwydd, at that time held by the remnant of the Britons with even more than their wonted bravery and tenacity. Never were these qualities made manifest more brilliantly than on the field of Cattraeth, and in the person of Urien Rheged, a battle and a hero fortunate in that they have been commemorated in enduring verse by such masters of patriotic song as Aneurin, Llworth hên, and Taliesin.

It was towards the middle of the sixth century, in the thick of the struggle between the rival races, those battles unjustly called of "kites and crows," but which were the making of the English nation, that Ida, son of Eoppa, tenth in descent from Woden, arrived with a strong body of Angles in forty ships upon the shores of Bernicia. He landed north of the Tweed, but speedily overcame or made common cause with his Jutish predecessors, and took possession of and identified himself with the rock known to the Britons as Dinguearoy, and to the Jutes as Cynclicanberg or "the royal dwelling" and afterwards

" . . . castrum a priscis jam nomine dictum "

as Bebbanburgh, so called, according to Bede, from Bebba, the queen probably of Aethelfrith, the grandson of Ida. In what condition Ida found the place we are not told; Gaimar describes it as even then a royal seat, and Ida's work as a restoration.

" Ida rescut Northumberland.  
 Sachez co fu li primers reis.  
 Ki la tenist del lin d'Engleis.  
 Icist Ida dusze anz regna,  
 E Baenburc ben restora."

He enclosed, it appears, the place with a hedge and

afterwards with a wall. "He timbrode Bebbanburh, seo was aerost mid hegge betyned har aeftermid wealle." Not certainly what we now understand by a hedge, for no thorn, even blessed by St. Joseph himself, would flourish on that weather-beaten crest; nor indeed was that or any other defence needed upon the greater part of the circuit. We may suppose the hedge to have been a palisade of timber, confined to the lower part of the cliff about the present entrance, and the wall reinforcing it to have been without cement, such as the Vikings sometimes employed with considerable skill in their sepulchres.

Nennius, who barely mentions Ida, says of his grandson Eadfered (Ethelfrith) Flesaur, that he reigned 12 years in Bernicia, and as long in Deira, A.D. 593-616, and gave to his wife Dingue-Aroy, called also from her, Bebbanburh. The fame of Ida has been proclaimed by his Celtic adversaries, who mention him only as "Flamddwyn," or "the Flamebearer," from the conflagrations that accompanied his progress. Though described, not unnaturally, by the Celtic bards as always overthrown, he was on the whole, victorious, and "semper armatus et laboriosus," closed his reign in battle, having consolidated Bernicia into a powerful kingdom which he transmitted to his descendants, of whom Eadwin gave name to Edwinsburgh or Edinburgh, and under whom Bernicia and Deira became the Northumberland of the Saxons, and finally an integral and very important part of the realm of England.

Although there is no continuous history of Bamburgh, it is occasionally mentioned in the chronicles as the scene of considerable local events, and it certainly continued to be the seat of the rulers of the province. Penda, the opponent and conqueror of Oswald, laid siege to the place in A.D. 642. It seems he collected fuel far and wide, and piled it up; probably in front of the works in timber, covering the entrance. The Pagan chief, however, reckoned without the Saint whom he had outraged, and at the prayer of St. Aidan the wind shifted, and the fire was kindled in vain. Above half a century later, A.D. 710, a second attack also failed, when Eadulf, the usurper of Northumberland strove to get possession of its lord, Osred, son of the Northumbrian Alfred, a boy under the

charge of Berthfried his guardian. Forty years later, A.D. 750, King Eadberht here imprisoned Bishop Kynwolf of Lindisfarne, and kept him here thirty years.

The next considerable mention of Bamburgh was in A.D. 866-7, when the Danes, then holding York, laid waste the country from Whitby to Melrose and forced the Bishop to leave Lindisfarne, and seek a safer resting place for the remains of St. Cuthbert. Later on, A.D. 924-6, Athelstan, the founder of the English monarchy having destroyed the castle of York, the mound of which still remains, dispossessed Ealdred from Bamburgh, and having defeated the Danes at Brunenburgh, added Northumberland to his kingdom, and established it as a Saxon earldom.

The next assailants of the fortress in force were again the Danes who, A.D. 993, having failed in their attack upon London by the Thames, ascended the Humber, and marching with their usual rapidity upon Bamburgh, found it in the hands of earl Eadulf, an aged man under whom the defences had been neglected, so that the Danes were able to enter by storm, and to obtain thence considerable booty. A few years before this, Lothian, less the castle of Edinburgh, had been ceded to the Scots, and their king, Kenneth, had been escorted by Eadulf to the court of the English Edgar. A little later however, soon after the Danish attack, Eadulf received a hostile visit from the Scots under Malcolm the son of Kenneth. They penetrated, almost unopposed, as far as Durham. Eadulf, unable to take the field in person, confined himself to Bamburgh, while Uchtred his son maintained the family reputation by defeating the Scots and putting them to flight. He died in 1016.

Duke William, on his arrival in England, found Morcar, and after him Copsi, in the Saxon earldom. They were succeeded by Cospatric, and he, in 1068, by Robert Comyn a Norman, whose death at the hands of the people led to William's celebrated march into the North, and to his savage treatment of that country. This was followed by the re-admission of Cospatric into the earldom and his establishment at the castle. During this brief second tenure of office Malcolm again invaded the earldom and reached the mouth of the Wear, and there

welcomed his Saxon relatives who were in flight from William. Cospatric meantime made a counter attack upon Malcolm's western territory, and returned thence laden with spoil to Bamburgh.

Bamburgh was next held by Waltheof, and after an episcopal interval, by Alberic whom genealogists have tried to establish as the de Vere ancestor, and then by Geoffrey Mowbray, bishop of Coutances, supported and succeeded by his nephew Robert Mowbray, the head of a most turbulent family. Robert, who had supported Rufus against his brother Robert, finding himself in a distant and independent position, played the robber baron at the expense of some Swedish merchants who had landed on his shores. The Red King summoned him to answer to their complaints. Robert declined to obey and garrisoned his castles. The King could not afford to pass by a defiance from such a quarter, and marched against the Earl, took Tynmouth and Newcastle, held by his brother, and laid siege in person to Bamburgh. A few particulars of the siege are preserved by Oderic.

An assault was out of the question, and Mowbray, a man of great personal strength and stature, was a bold and experienced captain. Rufus therefore laid out a regular camp, of which it is probable the traces remain in the fields south of the village, and within this he constructed a large tower of timber called in the Chronicle a "Malvoisin." The term, in mediæval warfare, is usually applied to a tower, also of timber, but placed upon small strong wheels, on which it could be pushed up to within a few feet of a castle wall, and from it a plank bridge be let fall upon the ramparts. Such a work was here impracticable. The cliff with the wall upon it was much too high for such an attempt, and the ground at the foot of the cliff far too steep. The "Malvoisin" was probably intended as a precaution against a sally from the garrison and as an intimation that the besiegers were prepared to undertake a blockade. It also would increase the power of throwing light projectiles over the walls.

Earl Robert, secure in the strength of his fortress and probably having a free communication with the sea, could afford to despise all open attacks. His enemy therefore had recourse to stratagem. A letter was written inviting



the earl to come to Newcastle, and pointing out how that castle might be retaken. In consequence Mowbray left Bamburgh with an escort of thirty knights and rode towards Newcastle. When nearly there he was attacked, wounded, and taken, and Rufus, who had left for the south, directed him to be brought before the walls of the castle, with the threat that unless it was instantly surrendered his eyes should be put out. Upon this, his wife, Matilda L'Aigle, and his kinsman and Lieutenant, Morell, gave way. Mowbray was imprisoned for life, Matilda allowed to find another husband, and Morell took service with the King. Bamburgh thus fell into the hands of the Crown and so remained, with some trifling intervals, castle and manor, for several centuries.

Bamburgh now appears in the Public records. Its castle-guard and other services were paid to the Crown, and the expenses incurred on its account are met by the sheriff and charged in the roll of the pipe. Various manors are named as held of the Crown and lands are granted in Bamburghshire. The Churches of St. Oswald and St. Andrew were given by Henry I to the Priory of Nostell, and in a later inquisition, 17 John, they are called "Baenburc church and chapel, attached to St. Oswald-Nostell juxta Pontefract:" but the parish church is dedicated to St. Aidan, and there are now three chapelries. Also a cell or sub-priory seems to have been founded. The castle and manor were placed in charge of a constable under whom all works were carried on, estimates of their cost being first certified by a jury.

Bamburgh did not stand alone as the property of the Crown. Wark at times, Berwick and Newcastle always, were regarded as royal castles, but Durham remained in the possession of the bishops, as did Norham, the keep of which, built by bishop Flambard in 1121, rivalled Bamburgh in size and strength. Newcastle had been provided with a Norman keep in 1080, and Carlisle in 1092. The particulars of Tynmouth and Harbottle castles are unknown. Prudhoe, an Umfraville castle, has a Norman keep. Wark had a shell keep on a mound, but the great Saxon burh, wholly artificial, a short distance north of Coldstream, did not receive any Norman additions.

The charges for works at Bamburgh lie very thick about the first half of the reign of Henry II, when [1169, 16 H. II] William son of Waldef was fined for refusing help to the king's work at the castle, and afterwards paid to have a respite concerning it. The internal evidence of the keep coincides generally with this period to which it may very probably be attributed.

There is no regular list of the castellans, they only appear from time to time in the Pipe, Patent, and Close rolls. The artizans employed are named from their trades, as Osbert cementarius, Philip carpentarius, Adam faber, Robert janitor etc.

There being no standing army, and the royal revenue being often levied with great difficulty, the royal castles were usually left with but small garrisons, often just enough to close the gates, and when a war was impending repairs were hastily and imperfectly executed, and mercenaries hired as a garrison. Still the continual danger from Scottish raids, caused more than usual attention to be paid to the Border castles.

On the accession of Stephen, when David of Scotland overran Northumberland, Bamburgh held out. It was besieged, and a part of the wall thrown down, but it was not taken, and when, after the battle of the Standard, David of Scotland was allowed the earldom, Bamburgh was at first withheld. It would seem however that Prince Henry of Scotland obtained it, since one of his charters in 1147 is dated thence. He may have retained it until his death in 1153, when it was again in the possession of the English Crown.

Soon after his accession Henry II visited the north as far as Wark, where works were in progress, but there is no evidence that he was at Bamburgh. It is probable that by 1174 the keep and exterior walls were completed and that the castle was thus able to resist the Scottish invasion which was fatal to Appleby and Brougham, where the keeps are of somewhat later date, and resisted by those, somewhat earlier, of Prudhoe and Carlisle. It was at the close of this expedition that William of Scotland was taken prisoner before Alnwick.

During the reign of Richard, Bamburgh seems to have remained unassailed; but it was included in the sale of



the earldom to Bishop Pudsey, on whose death the impetunious monarch offered it, but without Bamburgh, to William of Scotland. Nothing, however was concluded. Mr. Hodgson Hinde has discovered that, at the accession of Richard, Roger Hoveden, who is one of the authorities for the particulars of the castle, was one of the two justices holding forest pleas in Northumberland and Cumberland. At this time the men of Bamburgh are set down at £9, 3s, 4d. as a gift to the king. The repairs are continued through the reign and when John came to the throne, the king's houses were repaired and the castle was provisioned with pork and wine. King John, that most locomotive of sovereigns, was here 13th, 14th, and 15th of February, 1201, and again, 28 January 1213, when he dated a letter to the Emperor Otho from hence. When John's misgovernment tempted Alexander to cross the border to promote an English rebellion, Bamburgh remained faithful. Nevertheless the reign of Alexander is honourably remembered for the attempt then made for the first time to establish a general though rough code of laws for the border, to which either nation could appeal with some chance of being listened to.

Henry III was here in March 1221, when a grange or barn was ordered to be constructed within the castle, 180 ft by 34 ft, for which timber was supplied from the forest. In times of danger balisterii and soldiers were provided, and cross-bows and quarrell-bolts, bacons and wine were supplied. Sometimes the stores of wheat and wine suffered from keeping and were ordered to be sold, and fresh supplies purchased, but always under proper inquisitions and certificates. No doubt the greater part of the cost of the works was in labour and materials, which do not to any great extent appear in the sheriff's accounts.

Under Henry the expenditure was continued. Smiths' work and carpenters' work went on; balistæ of horn and of wood were supplied, and a thousand quarrells for ammunition. In 1221 Robert de Lexington, a justice, informs Hubert de Burgh that the Border was tranquil. Meantime the gutters of the keep were to be put in order, and the lodgings, the great gate, and its drawbridge were ordered to be repaired, and the stores of corn and wine to be replaced. The king's tower was to be covered with

lead, and the mill and mill-pool attended to, and so all through the reign to its end in 1272. Henry founded a House of Friars Preachers in Bamburgh towards the close of his reign.

Edward I does not appear to have visited Bamburgh, unless when in 1296 he summoned Baliol to attend him there, and on his neglecting to obey, marched to Edinburgh and made him prisoner. Under Edward II Roger de Horseley was castellan, but Edward committed the castle to Isabella de Bellomont, widow of John de Vesci, "*cum tronagio Regis ibidem*" that is with the royal toll on the weights of wool, but for this she was to pay £110 per annum. Probably she did not reside here, for in 1315 Horseley seized upon certain provisions on their way to the garrison of Berwick, the contents of a ship cast ashore below the castle, a breach of the law for which he was called to account.

Bamburgh was a part of the dower of Isabella, queen of Edward II and it was thither that Gaveston was sent, a nominal prisoner, in 1311, to be transferred to Scarborough just before his death. It was probably under the dictation of the Barons that in that year an ordinance provided "*Que le chastel de Bambourgh soit seisi en la maynes le roi sicom l'ordeynment veut.*" A few years later, 12 Ed. II the burgesses of Bamburgh and other crown tenants under the castle petition to be allowed to continue in their lodgings within the castle with remission of rent, their lands having been wasted by the Scots. This was granted, as were similar petitions from the other tenants. No doubt they had been allowed to erect temporary buildings in the lower ward. In 1323 the queen was here, and the castle seems to have been threatened by the Scots; a movement intended to divert the king from an attack on Berwick.

There is no special mention of Bamburgh during the reign of Edward III save that in 1334-5 the Earl of Murray, a prisoner at war, was lodged here until his removal to York, costing altogether £32, so that the castle was then inhabited, though probably not much more, for 86 Ed. III it appears that the "*fons*" in the great tower was corrupted by butcher's offal thrown into it in the time of Richard Pembridge. On the accession of

Richard II Parliament prayed that Bamburgh and other castles might be put in order. In this reign mention is made of three springs of sweet water belonging to the burgesses of the Vill; Wyderwell, Edgewell, and Maudlynwell.

In the war of the Roses, as the conflict moved northwards, Bamburgh came within its sphere. After the battle of Towton in 1461, when Queen Margaret sought assistance on the continent, and returned with 2000 auxiliaries, she landed first at Tynmouth, but finding herself unsafe there, re-embarked for Berwick. In the passage her lieutenant, Pierre de Bracy or Brézé, was driven ashore under Bamburgh and had to flee on foot to Holy Island, with the loss of 400 men. The Queen however recovered Bamburgh, which was held by the Yorkists till after the battle of Hexham, in May 1464, when Sir Ralph Gray fled thither from the field, and was besieged by the Earl of Warwick, who battered down a portion of the wall which fell upon and nearly killed Sir Ralph. The castle was given up and Henry Percy, afterwards Earl of Northumberland, had charge of it. He also abused his privilege of right of wreck by plundering a Scottish vessel cast upon that inhospitable shore.

Neither Henry VII nor his successor seem to have paid much attention to the border fortresses, and Bamburgh probably became ruinous. There was however a Captain, and from time to time the Warden of the Marches was admonished to keep his castles in proper order. In 1552 Sir John Horsey is to see to the castle beacon, and in 1587 Lord Wharton is to look to the general defences.

At the Dissolution John Forster got a share of the Bamburgh church lands and the family established themselves at Edderstone in the parish, and took an active part in the defence of the Marches; but there are complaints that the Captain does not reside in the castle, and finally John Forster got a grant of both castle and manor from James II. The family adhered to the Stuart cause, and in 1715 Thomas Forster joined the rebels and forfeited his estates.

Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, had married a sister of Thomas Forster, and at her instance he purchased the forfeited estate, and founded the beneficent trust which

bears his name, and is still in full activity. It would seem that Lord Crewe found the castle a mere ruin, and nearly covered up with blown sand which had choked up the keep and covered the remains of the chapel. This must have been going forward for a considerable time, for when the sand was removed in 1770 the well and the chapel were looked upon as discoveries.

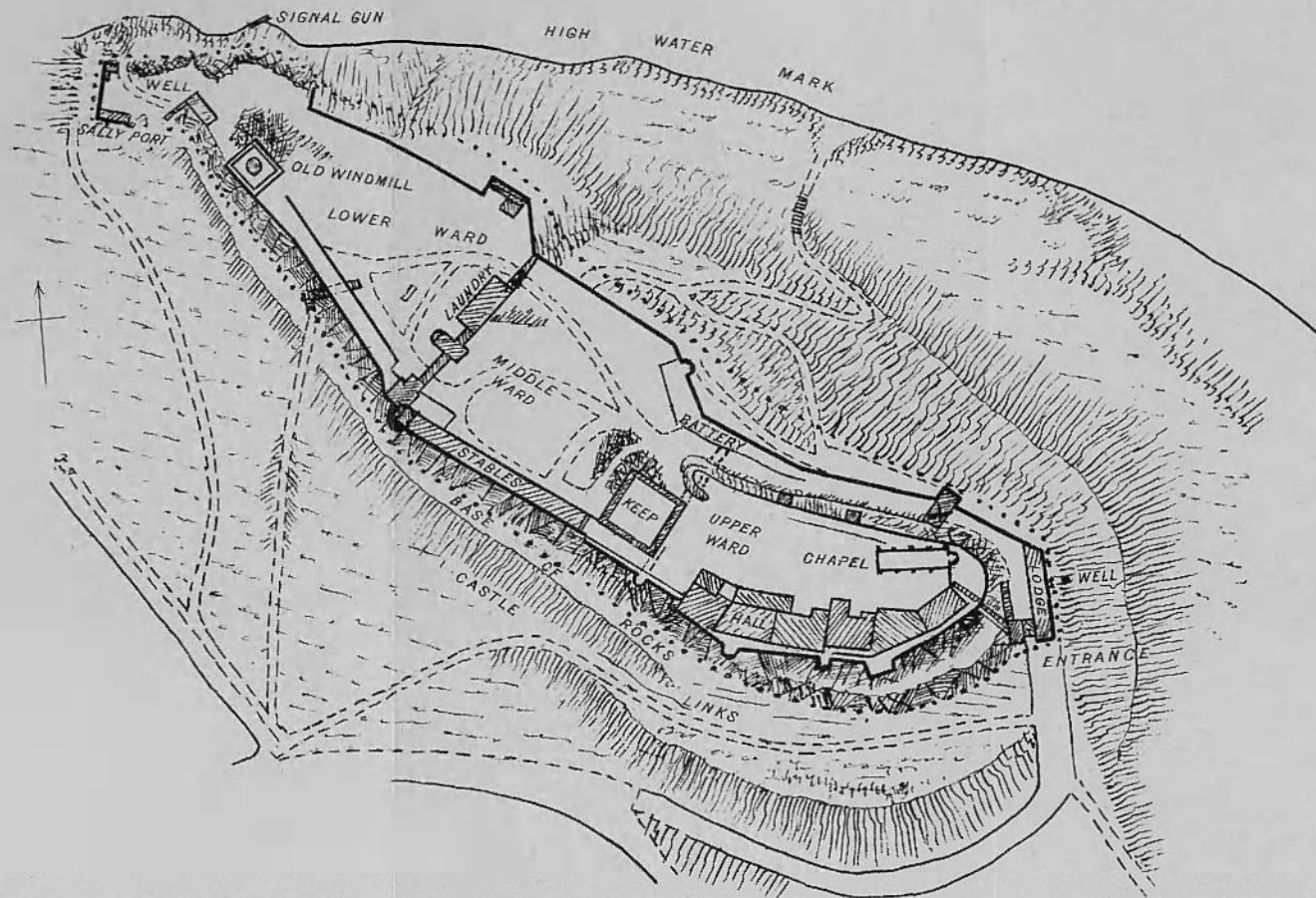
Happily for the success of the trust Dr. Sharp, Arch-deacon of Northumberland had a seat at the Board. Under his active care the sand was cleared out, the keep made habitable, and the great hall and lodgings fitted up and converted to their present uses.

#### DESCRIPTION.

The rock rises from 120 to 150 ft. above low water, for its surface though smooth, is not level, the central part on which the keep stands being the highest, and the extremities from 10 to 30 ft. lower. The area is long and narrow, being about 406 yds. long by, at the broadest, 100 yds. and at the north end much narrower. The whole area was contained within an exterior curtain wall, which towards the sea has decayed and been replaced by modern masonry capable of carrying guns and connected with a signal battery. It includes about 3 acres. Along the western or land front part of the curtain is original, though it has been sorely breached and battered and where necessary rebuilt. Its lower 20 to 30 ft. is built as a revetment against the rock, but above the interior surface it rises sometimes as a parapet, but more generally as a lofty wall supporting the domestic buildings, or as a mere plain curtain of 20 to 25 ft. high.

Upon this front are four half round towers or rather bastions, since they rise but slightly above the curtain. One, the largest, caps the junction of the main with a cross wall; a second, of no great size, is placed opposite to the keep, and two others are connected with the domestic buildings; that nearest the great gate commanding the approach. Between these last are two rectangular towers, also connected with the buildings. The keep is the grand and central figure of the group, rising far above the whole. It is difficult to exaggerate the grandeur of this landward front, the rock, and the curtain which seems to be a part of it, extending nearly a fifth of

# BAMBURGH CASTLE.



Scale: —  $\frac{1}{2500}$ .



a mile, with a height of from 130 to 150 ft. above the plain, and the rude massy keep rising some 70 ft. higher.

The area is divided into three wards, of which the upper or southern contains the ancient Entrance by steps, the Chapel, and the Lodgings or domestic buildings. The Keep stood upon a cross wall, now removed, dividing the upper from the middle ward, and this again is divided from the northern or lower ward by a cross wall, strengthened by a half-round tower with prolonged sides, and a gateway which has undergone restoration.

The main entrance is at the south end through a sort of barbican, between two half-round towers, once protected by a drawbridge, and duly portcullised. Entering, on the left, the ancient entrance, a steep narrow flight of steps cut in the rock, ascends to the ward above. The main entrance is continued, ascending, and having on its left the precipitous rock crested by the wall of the upper ward. The road thus reaches a second gateway, also strongly fortified, and is continued between the ward curtain on the left and a partial outer or seaward wall on the right, until it reaches the level of the middle ward, when it turns abruptly to the left, and through a gateway, long since removed, reached the upper ward, and the entrance to the keep.

This upper ward is protected towards the sea by an outer curtain, commanding the roadway just described. Along its west or landward side are placed the domestic dwellings, arranged against the wall, and overlooking the cliff. Nearest to the keep are some vaults, possibly for prisons. Then what may have been retiring rooms from the hall, and next the hall itself, 57 ft by 30 ft, having four windows and a door towards the court, and probably having had as many windows towards the cliff. Beyond the hall are butteries, and between them a curious vaulted passage leading to the kitchen and to a small chamber, probably a cellar. Other buildings extend towards the main entrance. These domestic dwellings have formerly been allowed to fall into ruin, and they have been restored, added to, partitioned and plastered, so that though most of the old walls, passages, and vaults remain, the whole has been so disguised that but little accurate knowledge



of the old arrangement can, at present, be obtained. The interiors of the mural towers have, however, been but little altered, and there remains a curious balcony or parapetted passage between two of the towers, commanding the exterior approach. There is no very evident Norman work in these buildings, they probably range from Henry III. to Edward II.

The chapel stood detached near the south end of the ward, at the head of the steps. It lies east and west, and was composed of a long narrow nave, 56 ft. by 12 ft. having a small door. An eastern archway opened into the choir, 15 ft. by 16 ft., beyond which was an apse, semi-circular, with prolonged sides and strengthened externally by flat pilasters of which the bases remain. The chapel is nearly levelled to the ground, and its existence, long forgotten, was only discovered late in the last century on the removal of a heap of blown sand. It is late Norman of about the age of the keep, but the apse and perhaps the choir, are the older parts, though not by much. The choir seems to have had a small south door.

The keep stands between the upper and middle wards, being entered from the former. It stood in the line of a cross wall, now removed, in which a gate, as has been mentioned, communicated with the middle ward.

The middle ward was divided from the lower ward by a strong cross wall or curtain pierced by a strong gateway now rebuilt. Near this, upon the wall, is a small half round tower, with prolonged sides. At the west end of this wall, where it joins the main curtain, is a three-quarter tower or bastion.

The lower ward, somewhat triangular in figure, is protected along its western front by the curtain, here of great height and strength, against which modern storerooms and stables have been built. In this wall is a small postern from which a steep narrow flight of steps descends into a sort of small outwork, intended to cover the postern and to give a safe passage to a spring of fresh water. This ward is at present very weakly defended towards the sea front. Probably an attack in force was not apprehended on this quarter. There do not seem to have been any detached buildings of a permanent character in either of

these two wards, they were no doubt intended for the barracks of mercenaries, and for a shelter for the tenants and their cattle on the occurrence, not infrequent, of a Scottish raid.

### THE KEEP.

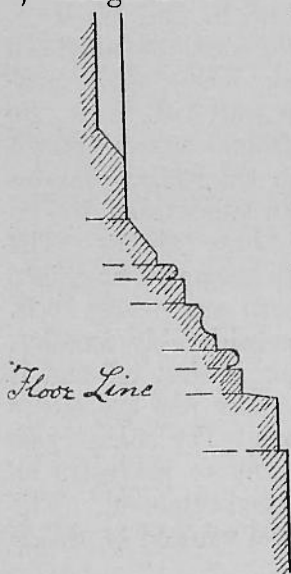
If, on the one hand, Bamburgh, as it now stands, presents nothing that can be attributed to its founder, or even to those who possessed it for the five and a half succeeding centuries, on the other hand the castle, at least in its general aspect, remains pretty much as it stood in the reigns of Henry III, or Edward II.

The predominating feature of the fortress, that by which it is known to those passing within view of it by sea or by land, is its grand central tower, a very fine, and on the whole a very perfect example of a late Norman rectangular keep of the first class, worthy to be named with Hedingham, or Kenilworth, or the tower of London, and resembling the latter, and the keeps of Dover, Lancaster, Newcastle and Appleby, in that it is at present inhabited.

Its base, laid upon a rock, probably but little below the surface, measures 77 ft. 2 in. east and west, by 69 ft. 8 in. north and south, as it will be convenient to describe it, though in truth the north face fronts about E.N.E.

These dimensions include a plinth with a projection of 4 ft. all round, and a height varying with the uneven surface of the rock, but averaging about 5 ft. 6 in. Its mouldings, are not altogether of a Norman character, and have probably been recut when the building was restored in the last century.

Each angle of the structure is capped by a pilaster 12 ft. broad, and of 9 in. projection, meeting at a solid angle, and between them are on the north and south fronts, two pilasters of similar projection, and 6 ft. broad and 11 ft. apart; and upon the east and west fronts a

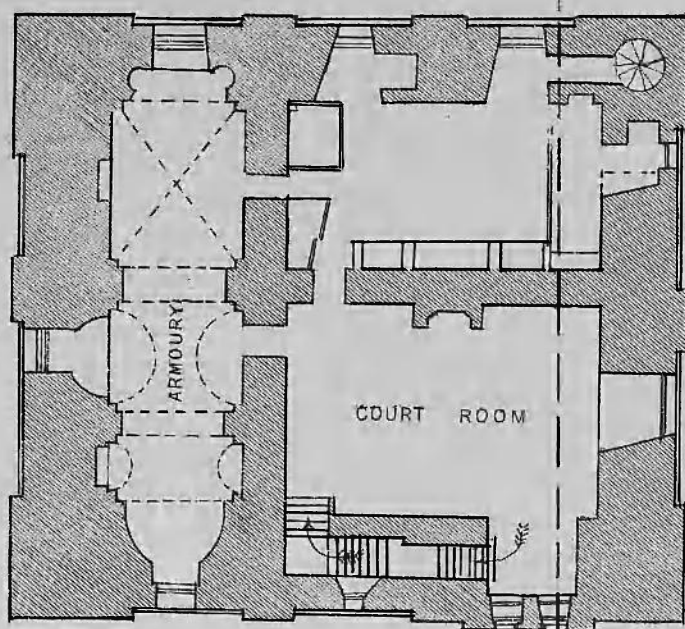


single pilaster, 7 ft. broad, and placed near the centre of each face. The capping pilasters rise vertically, without set off or reduction, 60 ft., to the top level of the intermediate parapets, whence they are continued as turrets, 7 ft. square, to a height of 8 ft. Their parapets have one notch or embrasure on each face, and the parapets of the intervening curtains have four and five each. The six subordinate pilasters retain their breadth, but are set back at two offsets of a foot each, corresponding to sets off or reductions in the wall, into which these pilasters die a little below the base of the parapet. Besides these, usual in such keeps, there is another pilaster 15 ft. broad and also 9 in. deep, placed near the east end of the south front, and carried up to the second floor. In this is placed, at the base, the entrance portal, and above it a pair of round-headed windows, no doubt representing earlier loops. This thickening of the wall to give depth to the portal may be taken as a part of the evidence that the entrance here is original.

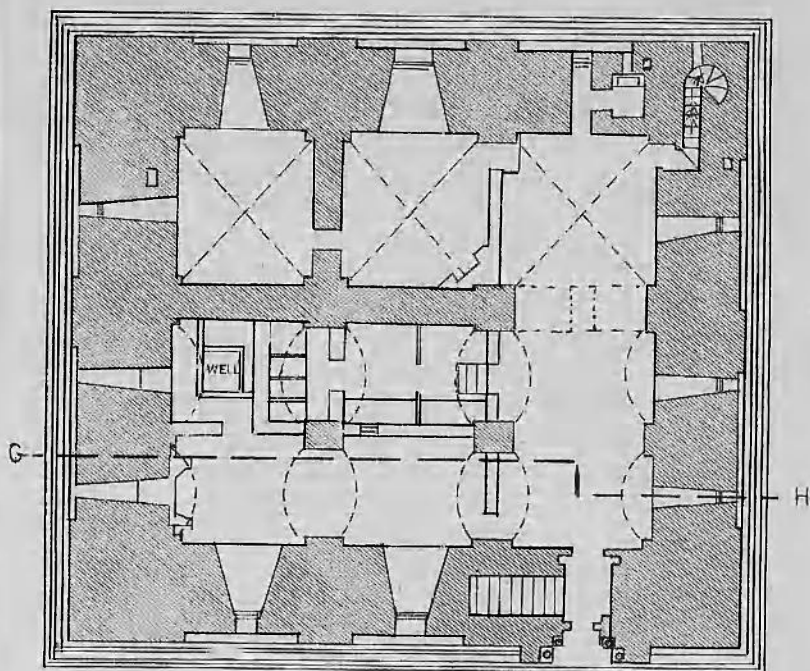
#### BASEMENT.

The dimensions of the building above the plinth are 61 ft. 8 in. north and south by 69 ft. 2 in. east and west, and the north, east, and west walls are 9 ft. thick, the south wall 9 ft. 4 in. leaving an internal area of 43 ft. 4 in. by 51 ft. 2 ins. This is divided by an E. and W. wall, 4 ft. 6 in. thick, into two unequal portions, the northern 16 ft. the southern 22 ft. 10 in. broad. These again were subdivided, the north part by a cross wall 4 ft. thick, the south wall by two arches springing from a central pier 4 ft. by 3 ft. and from two responds in the walls. Besides these the southern portion was again subdivided by an arcade, running east and west, of three arches. The general result is the subdivision of the basement area into nine bays of which the three northern are nearly 16 ft. square and the six southern are considerably smaller. The bay occupying the N.W. quarter is shut off and is entered by a small original doorway. The rest are either open or divided by modern partitions. The main cross wall, at its east end has been cut away to represent an arch, and thus a small doorway has been removed. The vaults are some groined and some barrel vaulted of differ-

# BAMBURGH CASTLE.



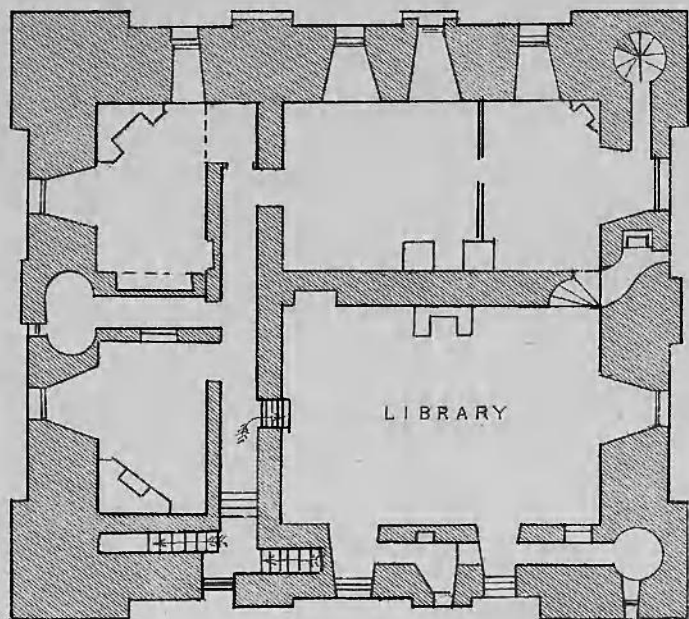
1ST FLOOR PLAN.



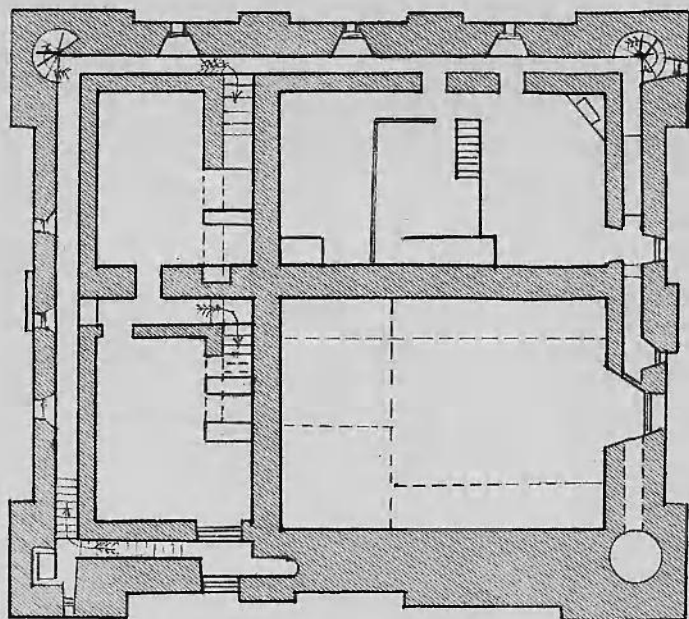
GROUND PLAN

SCALE 20"=1 FOOT.

BAMBURGH CASTLE.



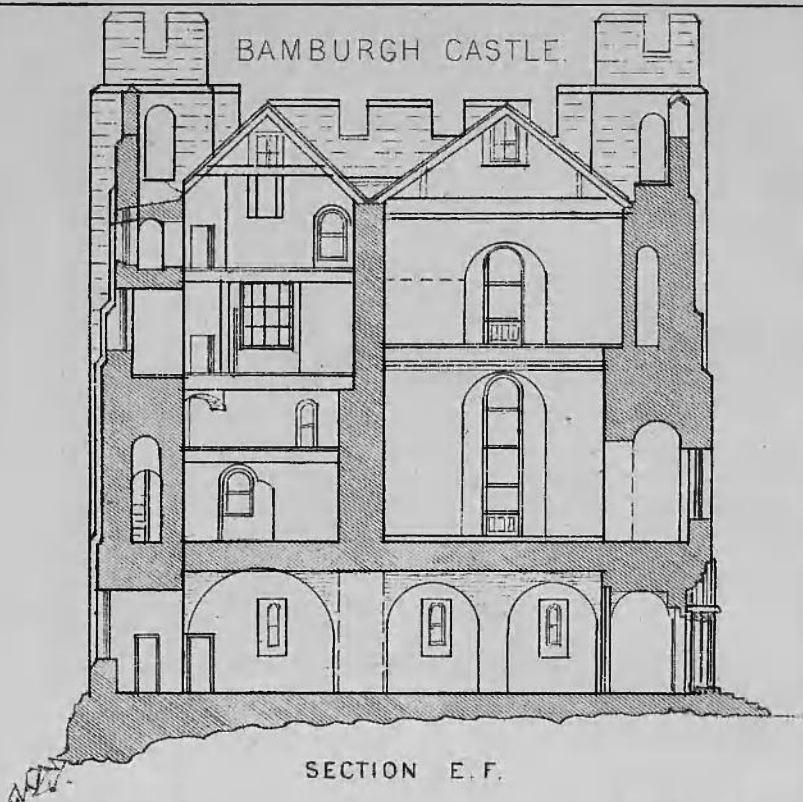
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR PLAN.



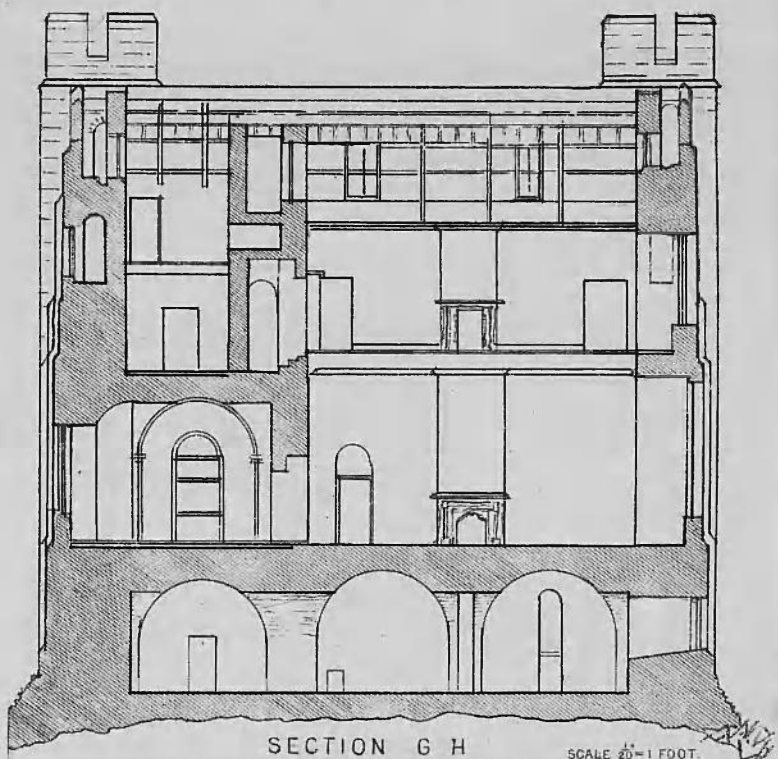
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE  $\frac{1}{20}'' = 1$  FOOT.

BAMBURGH CASTLE.



SECTION E.F.



SECTION G.H.

SCALE  $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 FOOT.



ent spans and height, the highest 13 ft. but all round-headed, and all very plain. The piers are rectangular, without caps. In the central western bay is the celebrated well, 150 ft. deep, now disused. The vaults are evidently original, and a fragment of plinth shews the original floor to have been about 10 inches lower than the present one.

The basement was lighted, or rather ventilated, by 12 loops, three on each face, or rather by eleven loops, the door taking the place of one, so that that each of seven of the eight outer bays had its loop. The six to the E. and W. are unaltered, and have narrow slightly splayed recesses, the others have been converted into small windows and the recesses enlarged. The eastern loop on the north front has been altered and in its side a small mural chamber has been excavated as a garde-robe, probably modern. Near to this is the entrance to a well-staircase 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter which rises by sixty two steps 52 ft. to the upper gallery, and communicates with each floor.

The only entrance to the keep is in the south front near its east end. Five steps lead up to the doorway which is 3 ft. 6 in. broad and 7 ft. 6 in. high, flat-topped and shoulder-headed. Above is a plain tympanum set in a round-headed recessed arch of two members. The arches spring from four detached shafts with plain Norman caps and abaci, two on each side; the passage within is 5 ft. wide and vaulted. There was no portcullis and the portal was only closed by a stout door supported by a strong wooden bar. Neither was there any drawbridge or exterior defence, as is proved by the unbroken surface of the rock.

On entering the doorway, in the passage, on the left, a small plain opening admits to a flight of 27 steps, the staircase threading the south wall, 4 ft. broad and vaulted, and lighted by a loop in the exterior wall. At the head of the staircase is a landing, and on the right 2 steps more reach the level of the first floor and open into the Court room.

This floor measures 43 ft. 4 in. N. and S., by 51 ft. 2 in. E. and W., and there is a reduction of the east wall to 7 ft. 10 in., the west wall to 8 ft. and the north to 8 ft. 6 in.; the south wall is increased to 7 ft. This area is

divided between four rooms:—the Court room, the Kitchen, and the Armoury. The Armoury occupies the whole west side of the building. It is 41 ft. 3 in. long by 14 ft. broad, and has a window at each end, and one near the centre of the west side. The windows are set in semi-domed recesses and have been enlarged. This room is vaulted and divided from the others by a wall 4 ft. thick. Two cross arches divide the room into three bays. The northern bay 16 ft. by 14 ft. has a groined vault with shafts at the angles. The other bays have barrel vaults laid crossways. There were originally two rooms divided by a wall 4 ft. thick, and this has been cut away to resemble an arch, so that at this time the room may be described as divided by two cross arches into three bays. The northern bay, 16 ft. by 14 ft., has a groined vault with shafts at the angles.

That there were two rooms is evident from the appearance of the masonry and by the existence of two original doors. Had not this chamber lain north and south it would certainly be taken for the chapel which even as it is, one half of it may have been. As at the Tower and at Colchester, it is the only vaulted chamber above the basement level.

The Kitchen, 17 ft. 2 in. N. and S. by 33 ft. 2 in. E. and W. occupies the north-east quarter. It is entered by original doors from the Court room and Armoury through walls 4 ft. thick, and has two windows to the north and one to the east. All have been enlarged and small cupboards cut in the window jambs. There was originally a short passage in the wall leading from the side of the east window to the well-staircase. This has been blocked and a more direct opening made.

The Court room occupies the S. E. quarter. It measures 33 ft. 3 in. by 22 ft. 3 in., and is 17 ft. 3 in. high. It has a large window in a splayed recess towards the east, and to the south a deep recess, 10 ft. by 8 ft. contains the two coupled windows over the entrance doorway. From the west side of this recess a staircase 3 ft. wide ascends in the south wall to the upper floors, It is lighted by a lateral loop enlarged into a small window. This staircase ascends twenty steps to a small landing, whence a passage passes off to the right, up three steps, and reaches the second floor level.

At this level the walls are again reduced in thickness, the west wall to 8 ft. 2 in., the north to 8 ft. 6 in., the east to 7 ft. 10 in., but the southern wall remains at 9 ft. 6 in. The area is 51 ft. 7 in. by 43 ft. 8 in.

This floor like the lower one contains three rooms, but none are vaulted. They are three bedrooms and a library. The first and second bedrooms occupy the west side, being over the armoury. That in the S.W. quarter is 18 ft. 7 in. by 10 ft. 8 in., and has a window to the west. That in the N.W. quarter is 18 ft. by 10 ft. 8 in., and has windows to the west and north. The partition between them is 7 ft. 1 in. thick, and is threaded by a vaulted passage 3 ft. 9 in. broad by 6 ft. high, which leads into a mural chamber in the west wall lighted by a small loop. The chamber has been enlarged into an oval, 8 ft. by 6 ft., and serves as a dressing and bath room. The third bedroom faces the north. It was 33 ft. 3 in. by 17 ft. 8 in. and had three windows to the north and one to the east, with splayed recesses, from one of which a narrow mural passage leads into the well staircase. There is some slight doubt whether this passage be original. This room has been divided into two by a modern partition.

The fourth room is the Library. It occupies the S.E. quarter and measures 33 ft. 3 in. by 22 ft. 8 in., and is 13 ft. 4 in. high. Its floor is four steps higher than the others, to give height to the Court room below. This arrangement is no doubt modern. There is one window to the east and to the south are two. The two communicate by a mural passage which at its centre expands into a small chamber, lighted by a loop. This passage is continued on the further side of the easternmost window and leads into a circular chamber, 5 ft. 6 in. diameter, contained in the S.E. angle, and lighted by a south loop. Probably this chamber was originally a well staircase ascending from the second floor to the upper gallery. In diameter it matches with the N.E. well staircase.

This floor contains an arrangement which is exceedingly rare in these keeps, being found only at Dover. The wall separating the eastern and western rooms 7 ft. 8 in. thick, is threaded by a vaulted passage 3 ft. 9 in. broad, which gives access to all the rooms, and from which the cross passage already described is given off. The wall between

the north bedroom and the library is solid: at its east end is a doorway which opens both into the bedroom and into a chamber in the east wall, probably an original garde-robe. It will be remarked that the mural staircase from the landing upon which steps led to the second floor was mentioned as continuing to the floor above. From that landing 15 steps ascend to the S.W. angle of the building, which contains a mural chamber lighted by a southern loop. Thence the staircase is continued, rising by 6 steps, in the west wall, to the upper gallery 2ft. 6in. broad 6ft. high, which threads the W.N. and W. walls. Within the two former it is unaltered, and is lighted by three loops on each face, but in the east wall the gallery has been blocked in modern times, though in places it is still seen. It was evidently continued to a cylindrical chamber in the S. E. angle, now closed, and which no doubt, as already mentioned, contained a well stair ascending from the second floor to the gallery. There has always however been a difference between the east side and the two others. In them the windows are simple apertures in the outer wall. In the third side the gallery traversed the splayed sides of the windows so as to admit the light into the rooms within. At the N.E. angle the well stair below ends and communicates with the gallery. At the N.W. angle a fresh well staircase commences and ascends by fourteen steps to the allure or rampart walk.

There is some doubt as to the date and original arrangement of this upper floor. It was clear from weather mouldings now concealed in the east and west walls that originally there was no third floor, but the second floor was roofed ridge and furrow, no doubt with a covering of shingles, and a central gutter: the whole being concealed within the outer walls. This was so at Porchester, Kenilworth, Bridgenorth, and in many other keeps. Soon afterwards, quite within the Norman period, more space was wanted and lead coming into use, an upper floor was added, and a flat roof laid on. Here the walls of this new chamber with the original doorways remain, though plastered over in quite modern times, probably about 1770. The flat roof, then no doubt rotten and gone, was replaced by a ridge and furrow, but at a higher level, as now seen, so as to give more bedroom accomodation.

The rampart walk along the top of the outer wall, still remains, and from it short staircases ascend the four angle turrets. The peculiarities of this keep are the entrance at the ground level, not, it is believed, known in any other large keep; the mural stair, as at Richmond and Prudhoe, but found nowhere else to the same extent; and the absence of fireplaces and flues which the Tower of London, was long supposed to be without, but recently one or more have been discovered there, though without flues, the smoke having been allowed to escape by small apertures in the outer wall a few feet above the fire, as at Colchester and Rochester. It is not likely that any fireplaces or smoke vents should be concealed here; they would have been discovered when the keep was re-fitted, nor in this case would the Crewe trustees have gone to the expence of building fireplaces and running up flues against the face of the walls.

It is probable that Dr. Sharp found the keep open to wind and weather; the roof and floor gone; the basement choked with sand; and the parapets and angle turrets much broken down. These he replaced, preserving, as may be seen, a great deal of the old work. He laid new floors, put on a new roof, cleared out the well, put fireplaces and flues into the rooms, converted many of the loops and some of the smaller openings into Norman windows, and made the whole building not only habitable but comfortable. Looking to the period when all this was done, and what the Canons of Durham were then about to do to disfigure their cathedral, Archdeacon Sharp surely deserves praise, not only as an active trustee, but, at least at Bamburgh, as what was then far more rare, a skilled and tasteful restorer.

This paper would be very incomplete did not the writer acknowledge the hospitality he received from Sir John Lubbock, at his visit, the occupant of the keep, and the assistance he has had from Mr. R. G. A. Hutchinson, the able and active Resident, under the Crewe Trustees. His are the plans and sections of the keep, and with them he has favoured the writer with his own valuable observations upon the details of the building. The general plan is taken, in substance, from the Ordnance Survey.