

ON THE WHITEFRIARS OR CARMELITES OF HULNE,  
NORTHUMBERLAND.

By W. H. St. JOHN HOPE, M.A.,

About three miles from Alnwick, on rising ground overlooking the river Alne, are the remains of a house of Whitefriars or Carmelites called Hulne Priory.

These remains have been described a number of times notably by Grose, in his *Antiquities of England and Wales*, published in 1775, and by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in *Feudal and Military Antiquities of Northumberland*, otherwise known as Vol. ii of the *Memoirs illustrative of the History and Antiquities of Northumberland*, of the Archaeological Institute. Since the publication of these and other accounts much new matter has come to light, and as but little is known of the arrangements of friars' houses, a careful examination of the remains of Hulne will probably be found useful in elucidating the ruins of other houses, not only of Carmelites, but of other orders of friars.

The Order of the Blessed Mary of Mount Carmel was founded not very long before its introduction into England in or about 1240, and it is a matter of dispute whether the first English house was established at Hulne or at Aylesford.

Hulne is supposed to have been founded by William de Vesci, but its earliest charter is an undated one granted by John de Vesci, the son, between 1265 and 1288, reciting that he has given and confirmed to the brethren of the order of St. Mary of Mount Carmel in his forest of Alnwick

totam aream suam quæ vocatur Holn, cum oratorio et edificiis in eadem constructis seu construendis sicut in longitudine et latitudine clausura per rectas divisas suas circumquaque jacet munita,

<sup>1</sup> Grose, *Antiquities of England and Wales*, London, 1775, vol. iii.  
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which area his father, lord William de Vesci, first permitted them to dwell in, and appointed for their possession. He also grants to the brethren timber for building purposes, with many other concessions and privileges. These and later charters, contained in a small chartulary of the priory now in the British Museum,<sup>1</sup> are all given at length in the appendix to the Northumberland volume.

The remains of Hulne Priory deserve special attention for three reasons. In the first place the ruins are more complete, at any rate as regards plan, than those of any other house of the order in England.

In the second place we are able to identify all the different parts of the buildings from a minute and exhaustive survey made very shortly after the suppression, when the house still remained nearly perfect. So very few surveys of this character have been discovered, that every one is of the utmost value and interest.

In the third place, the noble owner, the Duke of Northumberland, has recently had the remains thoroughly excavated and planned, bringing to light many features mentioned in the survey which had disappeared from view.

The survey I have referred to forms part of a more extensive one, begun in 1567 by a person named Richard Clarkson, for Thomas, seventh Earl of Northumberland. Besides Hulne, it includes surveys of the castles of Alnwick, Prudhoe, and Warkworth, as well as other minor matters.

A good deal of the survey is printed in the appendix to the Northumberland volume, but on collating the portion relating to Hulne, which by the Duke's kindness I was able to do with the original at Alnwick Castle, I found it advisable to make an entirely new transcript, which has enabled me to clear up several doubtful passages that had not been quite correctly printed.

The survey is, unfortunately, incomplete in one respect. It was clearly Clarkson's intention to give the dimensions of the various buildings, spaces having been left for them in the manuscript; but in no case have the figures been filled in. Another curious feature is that the points of the compass are wrongly given, Clarkson's east and west

<sup>1</sup> Harl MS. 3897.



being really the north and south. Until quite recently I flattered myself this was my own discovery, but on reference the other day to the account of Hulne given by Grose, I found a copy of Clarkson's survey prefaced by the remark: "It may be necessary to observe, that, on comparing this survey with an accurate plan lately taken, it appears that Clarkson has made several mistakes as to the situation of the building, with respect to the points of the compass"; and on the plan Grose also notes that Clarkson "has committed great Mistakes with Regard to the Points of the Compass." In the following transcript of the survey I have added the true points of the compass in brackets:

"And as it were in the myddes of the saide two pkes called hulne and west parke is situate the laite dissolved monasterye of hulne lait in the tenure of the said S<sup>r</sup> Robarte Ellerker Knighte by the graunte of the laite Kinge of famous memorye henrye the eighte fo<sup>r</sup> the tearme of his lyffe onlye and without payment of any Rent and nowe his lordships Inheritaunce fo<sup>r</sup> that he did purches the same of Anthonye Roñe auditor and Mr Richard Ashtone the queñes ma<sup>ties</sup> receyver who did obteyne by purches of the prince the saide scite and howse of hulne with closinge and other medowe gronds lyinge w<sup>h</sup>in the saide pke and appteaninge unto the same, it haith bene inclosed with a drye stone walle the circuite wherof conteaneth in it selfe

roode w<sup>h</sup>in w<sup>h</sup>e circuite the<sup>r</sup> be thre closesse vidz one close lyeinge one the west (south) parte of the sayde howse conteyneth in it self (roodes *erased*) acres the seconde close lyng on the south (east) parte therof conteyneth in it self and the thride close w<sup>h</sup>e lyeth upone the east (north) syde of the garding conteaneth in it self the howse is environed with a curtaine walle maide of lyme and stone with a smale battlement and quadrant the entrie therunto is a towre called the gait howse and is of thre howse height coverede with sklaite and guttered with leade and w<sup>h</sup>in the same is a smale curtaine halfe quadrant conteyninge in length yerdes in breadth yerdes on the east (north) syde of the saide curtaine is buylded the halle coverede with sklaite whiche would be repared aswell in the tymber as in the sklaite worke it conteaneth in length

and in breadth                      and in the west (south) end of the same halle is the pantrie maid all of waynscotte and pannell worke and at the south (east) ende of the said hall is a lytle wall maid of Lyme and stone betwixte the halle and the garding walle it conteanethe in length                      yerdes and in the same litle walle is a dore maide of stone and lyme to serve for a passaidge into the cloyster chappell and other howses of offices and chambers which are aboute the saide cloystere. And from the saide stone walle to the said litle square towre called the gaithowse towre is a nother stone wall havinge also a stone doore hewen worke for the passaidge into the gardinge the same wall conteaneth in length                      yerdes frome the said litle towre towards the north (west) is a curtaine walle conteanyng in length                      yerde wherin is the lyke doore for passaidge into twoo generall stables whiche are betwixte the said walle and the said curtaine wall, And joyninge to the ende of the saide litle walle is buylded a howse covered wyth sklaite w<sup>ch</sup> is in length                      yerdes and in breadth                      yerdes the neather part of the saide howse is called the farmerye the over parte serveth for a gardner for corne the lofte maye be helped with smalle reparacons the sklait<sup>e</sup> are in decaye and must furthw<sup>th</sup> be repared the irone barres w<sup>ch</sup> were in the wyndowes of this howse are taken awaye sence my lordes purches by suche as were remaners in his howse; And at the end of this howse is a passaidge of sixe foote broade to the brewhowse standinge betwixte the said farmerye and the saide curtaine walle and to a nother litle curtaine w<sup>ch</sup> is behinde the kytchinge And overwhorte the northe (west) end of the said first curtaine ther is a howse buyldede of two house height covered with sklaite and in good reparations it is in length                      foote and in bread                      foote the neather parte therof serveth for the passaidge or entrie into the kytchinge whiche kytchinge is buylded most lyke unto the facione of a square towre with a rounde rooffe covered w<sup>th</sup> sklaite w<sup>he</sup> woulde be repared, and in the same kytchinge is two chymleyes with faire raindges one oven a dresser and a litle howse for the paistrie, and the west (south) end of the saide Lower parte of the saide crosse howse is a ceasterne of stone set in the grounde whiche receyveth the water be pypes of leade from the cōdyte for servinge

the said kytchinge the over parte of the saide howse is a faire chamber with one chymleye, and joyninge therunto is a nothe<sup>r</sup> litle Chamber right over the said paistrie howse in the north (west) ende of the hall is the butterye fo<sup>r</sup> the most parte square and betwixte the buttery and the halle is a passaidge to the said cloister and also by a broade staire of woode. to the said two chambers nighe aboue the entrie of the kitching as is aforesaid a lofte which is over the saide butterye pantrie and passaidge nighe the halle aforesaid nowe used for a gardner and before tyme fo<sup>r</sup> the lorde o<sup>r</sup> priors walke to se throughe trelleses the use of the S<sup>r</sup>vant<sup>e</sup> in the halle and also it serveth for a passaidge to the lordes great chamber and towre, The said cloyste<sup>r</sup> is square in the myddest therof groweth a tree of ewe it conteaneth in length                    yerdes and in breade yerdes it is well paved with stone a boutte the said cloyste<sup>r</sup> the windowes haith bene all glasyned and nowe fo<sup>r</sup> the most parte are in decaye the east (north) and west (south) sydes of the saide cloyster was covered with lead the<sup>r</sup> was of it foure foothe<sup>r</sup> by estimatione whiche was taken and caryed all away by wilm ellerker and his bretheren sence his l<sup>ps</sup> said purches the south (east) syde is the dorter wherin is                    chambers And joyninge ther unto also upone the grounde under the weste (south) end of the said dorter is one howse called the women howse wherin is two chambers with one chimley in the myddle of this end of the said cloyster is the chapell wherin is nothinge left but seat<sup>e</sup> and stalles and ther was one lytle ambre which served for the keapinge of the bookes and ornament<sup>e</sup> of the said chapell the same was taken away by Johne Recubye one of the Indwellers of the parke, And at the east (north) end of the said south (east) Syde ther is a passaidge to the saide dorter it is to be noted that in the tyme of the frears the chapell y<sup>t</sup> now is was ther chapter howse the churche is all downe and laid into the gardinge the said Dorter Chapell and womenhowse is covered all with sklaite in great ruyne and would be repared the windowes w<sup>h</sup> before tyme were all glased are lykwyse in greate decaye would be repared most specyallye the windowe of the chapell, Ande enlonge the north (west) syde of the sayd Cloyster is one house of two howse heighte conteaninge in length                    foote and in

breade foote in the neather part therof is two  
 sellers the over parte therof the Lordes great chamber  
 beinge nowe all roven and the tymbre therof in great  
 decaye the irone staynshels taken furth of the windowes.  
 Sence his Lordshipe purchessed the said howse And in the  
 north east (north-west) nooke of the sayd Cloyster is one  
 entrance into one howse of twoo howse height havinge in  
 the neather parte twoo chambers with one chymley in  
 the whiche the<sup>r</sup> was a faire bed of framede work closse  
 and all of wainscotte it was worth fortie shillinges and a  
 boue it was maide by the Laite Erlle of northumbreland  
 my lordes uncle tayken in peaces and caryed awaye by  
 Johne ellerker And in the over parte of the said howse is  
 also a Chamber with one chymley this howse is is (*sic*)  
 covered with sklaite and would be poynted with lyme In  
 the weste (south) nooke of the sayde north (west) parte of  
 the saide cloyster is a condyte of tryme freshe water  
 whiche water cometh frome one place of the saide parke  
 callede the frearewells in pypes of lead whiche are in  
 length yerdes and Rynneth into a ceasterne of leade  
 conteyninge in length foote and in breadth  
 ynches whiche staindeth of stone properlie set in the walle  
 and frome theire runneth in pypes of lead not onelye into  
 the saide ceasterne of stone fo<sup>r</sup> the S<sup>v</sup>ice of the sayde  
 kytchinge but unto the brewhowse also the said pypes of  
 lead woulde also be rep . . . . Upon the backsyde  
 of the saide farmerye is a litle curtaine and also joyninge  
 upone the curtaine walle is (buylded *erased*) a howse of  
 foote in length and foote in breade covered  
 withe sklaite ande in goode reparations in the une end  
 therof is a ptitione fo<sup>r</sup> the boultinge howse and in the  
 myddste a faire Chimley with a fornace and a lytle oven  
 And upone the backe of the said Chimleye stode ther two  
 litle smale brewe leades in two furnac<sup>e</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> were tayken  
 downe by Roberte Ellerker and yet remaneth in the howse  
 the<sup>r</sup> is also in that end of this howse whiche serveth for  
 the brewhowse certaine vessell unto the same appertayn-  
 inge as coolefatte and guylefatte with other such lyke  
 Implement<sup>e</sup> whiche are lykewyse stayed unto his L<sup>ps</sup>  
 pleasure be further knowen And at the north (west) ende  
 of the sayd brewhowse and behinde the said kytchinge  
 Butterye and great Chamber is a nother Curtaine whiche

is in length            yerdes and in breade            foote the  
west (south) end therof is the curtaine walle one the north  
(west) syde joyninge and upone the saide curtaine walle  
is buylded two howses the one called the byer w<sup>ch</sup> is in  
length            foote and in breade            foote it haith a  
dore through the said Curtaine walle fo<sup>r</sup> the cattell to  
passe in & through the over parte of the sayde byer will  
S've fo a haye lofte the other howsse is a barne conteyn-  
inge in length            foote and the lyke breade as byer is  
they are both covered with thatch and in good reparacōn  
and the barne haith also a doore through the walle for  
taykinge in corne into the same and in the east (north)  
end of the saide curtaine is the saide towre called the  
Lordes towre which is in length            foote and in bread  
foote and is of thre howsse height covered with  
leade the neather part ther of is a vount the other two  
howses are two faire chambers in eyther of theme one  
chymley and upon the top ther of aboue the leades one  
the south (east) syde therof is rayseed as it were a garrett  
wyth lyke battlement as the towre haith endlong all the  
south (east) syde of the saide towre whiche is also covered  
withe lead in length            foote and in bread            foote  
and in the same is a howse w<sup>he</sup> a Chymley called the  
studye howse the leades are esteemed to be of fyve fother  
and a half it rayneth in foure severall places of the same  
whiche fo<sup>r</sup> valewe of ten shilling<sup>e</sup> woulde be mended and  
much requysyte it were fo<sup>r</sup> to be helped the glasse of the  
windowes be all gone and broken and at the foote of the  
towre besyde the vounte is also a doore fo<sup>r</sup> the passaidge  
into the gardinge the entrance into the gardinge the  
entrance into the towre is through the lordes great cham-  
bre as before is mentionede And one the east (north) syde  
of the saide towre & Cloyster and within the curtaine  
walle aforesaide is twoo gardinges the one w<sup>ch</sup> is next the  
towre is in length            yerdes and in breade            yerdes  
havage a posterne throughe the sayde curtaine walle fo<sup>r</sup>  
a passaidge into the sayde close lyinge one the east  
(north) syde of the saide howse and haith also one grease  
o<sup>r</sup> staire fo<sup>r</sup> goinge upe to the battlemente of the said walle  
fo<sup>r</sup> a walke upone the same walle aboute the saide garding<sup>e</sup>  
and orcharde The other gardinge conteaneth in length  
yerdes and in bread            yerd<sup>e</sup> it was a very



faire gardinge nowe all fordoone and the herbes waisted and destroyed and lykwyse the other gardinge also the place where the churche was is nowe full of chery trees and upone the south (east) syde of the said dorter joyninge upone the saide gardinge and w<sup>h</sup>in the saide curtaine walle is a litle orcha<sup>d</sup> conteyninge in it self an half acre of grounde by estimatione in the w<sup>ch</sup> groweth one peare tree trees all the other be plome trees & bullester trees the<sup>r</sup> be also graft<sup>d</sup> of apple trees in the saide two garding<sup>e</sup> and lykwyse the said litle closse calle the south closse Ande withoute the sayde curtaine walle and w<sup>h</sup>in the outmoste walle nighe unto the saide byer dore is one barne o<sup>r</sup> laithe covered with thatch and is in length foote and in bread foote y<sup>t</sup> is in goode reparatione And right over one the other syde of the waye is a lytle do<sup>u</sup>ckette foure Squared covered with sklaite newe repared by his lordship wherin is a good flight off dooves.

And joyninge nigh the said scite of hulne toward<sup>e</sup> the west (south) is one closse called the calf closse conteyninge acres of ground it is laitlye maide arable by the sayd S<sup>r</sup> Roberte ellerker Knighte and suche places therof as will not be corne is kepte fo<sup>r</sup> medowe grounde the wood that groweth therin is oke and aller ther is sawen this yere by will<sup>m</sup>e Ellerker bowels of wheat in this said closse sence his fathers deathe whiche is supposed to be my lordes and not pteyninge to the executors of the said Will<sup>m</sup> Ellerker it were therefore expedyent that the dykes were maide that the corne were note destroyed and eaten and lykwyse the howse vewed by certen men of good experiance and knowledge that his L<sup>pe</sup> might determen whether he would alter facione of the buyldinge of the said howse or not and yf he dyd what sorte it should then be buylded and what chardges should be unto his lordshipe and yf not what howsses his L<sup>pe</sup> will have presently repared the other taken downe or stayed fo<sup>r</sup> fallinge and unto whome he will appoynte the custodye of the said howsse what his Lordshipe will appoynte to appteyne unto the same eyther in cattell gait<sup>e</sup> or other-ways it is neadfull that fyer were contynualle kept in the said howse and the gardinges and closinge repared and kepte in ma<sup>n</sup>er that the<sup>r</sup> were no trees growinge about the saide howse cutt downe no<sup>r</sup> yet no other woode

growinge nighe the same howse for no maier of use for diuars good considerations.

The scite of this howse of hulne standeth in a verye tryme ayre and upone the water of alne in the myddle of the parkes as before is mentioned w<sup>th</sup>in one myell off alnewycke and not foure myells frome the Sea syde so that yf the howse were well repared his L<sup>ps</sup> parkes and groundes in that order as is before recyted it were a tryme place for his L<sup>pe</sup> to lye at yf he dyd lye in the countrie duringe the tyme of the Somer quarter aswell for his L<sup>ps</sup> pleasure and comōditie as the ease of his ten<sup>ant</sup> furnyshinge of his L<sup>ps</sup> Castells alnewicke and workeworth with provisione for his L<sup>ps</sup> lyinge therin the other thre quarters of the yere yf all his S<sup>r</sup>vant<sup>e</sup> and gelding<sup>e</sup> could not be placed ther then were alnewicke castell nighe enough for that purpose Wherfore it were mucche requisyte his L<sup>pe</sup> well considered to whome he should appoynte the keapinge the said howse fo<sup>r</sup> when it was in the handes of S<sup>r</sup> Roberte Ellerker it was no lesse hurtfull unto his game then destructione of his woodes his parkes kepte therby in dysorde<sup>r</sup> through his Cattell w<sup>ch</sup> he hadd goinge therin and great resorte he hadde comyng to hime and in the end displesure because his Lordshipe dyde enter into his owne."

Let us now examine the buildings themselves in detail. For convenience we will begin with the church. This, Clarkson tells us, was in his time "all downe and laid into the gardinge," and "the place where the churche was is now full of chery trees." That the church is "all downe" is fortunately not quite true, for although the east and north walls are destroyed, and the area "laid into the gardinge," the south and west walls are still almost perfect, and the area is no longer "full of chery trees."

In plan the church was a simple aisleless parallelogram, 119 ft. long and 19 ft. 6 in. broad, without any dividing arch. The east wall is apparently standing to a height of five or six feet; but on examination it will be found to be a bit of sham ruin of eighteenth century date, with a pseudo-window-sill made up of the old plinth. Of the real east wall only the foundations are left. The north wall is also entirely broken down, but enough remains to

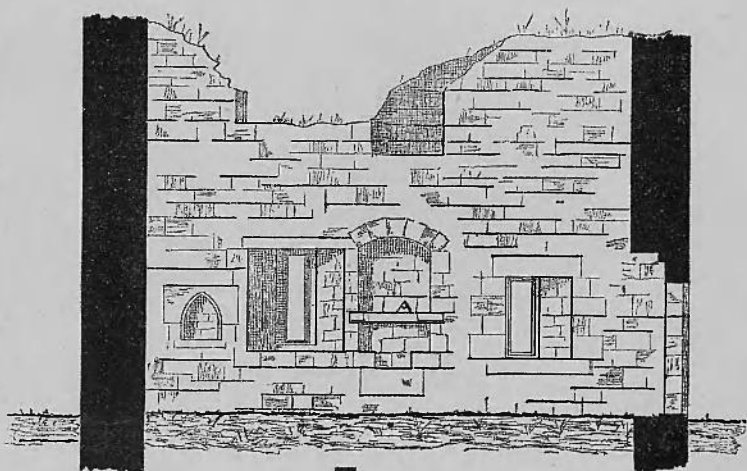
shew that there was a door in the middle of its length, and that the western half had a stone bench along it. Of the south wall the first few feet from the east are broken down, but the remainder is standing to its full height. On the east one side of the piscina is left, with an octofoil drain and one of the jambshafts that carried the arch. Above the piscina are traces of a window. Next to this are three stepped sedilia, under molded pointed arches once carried by detached shafts. The width of the stone bench is 16 in., and the seats measure 3 ft. 3 in., 3 ft. 1½ in., and 2 ft. 8 in. in length respectively. On the wall between the sedilia and piscina are two pin-holes, a foot apart, one above the other, the lower about 5 ft. above the floor line. To the west of the sedilia is a plain pointed door with continuous chamfered jambs, which led into the vestry. Between the sedilia and the vestry door, about 4 ft. up, the stump of an iron fastening is leaded into the wall, probably for a hook or pulley for the Lenten veil. Beyond the vestry door are two large windows, each of two wide and plain pointed lights with an uncusped circle in the head; the monials and central stones have unfortunately gone. These windows are rebated on the outside for the wooden glass-frames, but have had iron stay-bars added later; they gave light on the south to the choir of the brethren, whose stalls extended westward from the vestry door and were returned against a screen across the church at almost exactly the middle of its length. The wall beneath the windows is left rough on account of its being covered by the stalls. In the floor in the middle of the choir there still lies a stone with a square socket for supporting the lectern or desk on which the service books lay for the rulers of the choir. There were probably two corresponding windows in the north wall, with two, if not three, others to the east of them to light the presbytery. Owing to the overlapping of the vestry, the presbytery had only one window on the south.

Though no signs of the screen at the west end of the choir are visible, there can be no doubt not only that it existed, but also that there was a second screen a few feet further west; the intervening space being a passage or choir entry with a door from the cloister on the south,

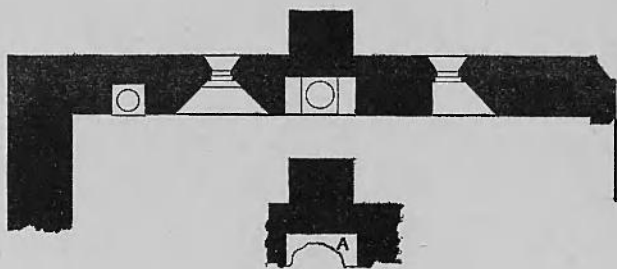


Hulne Priory, Northumberland.—Sedilia.





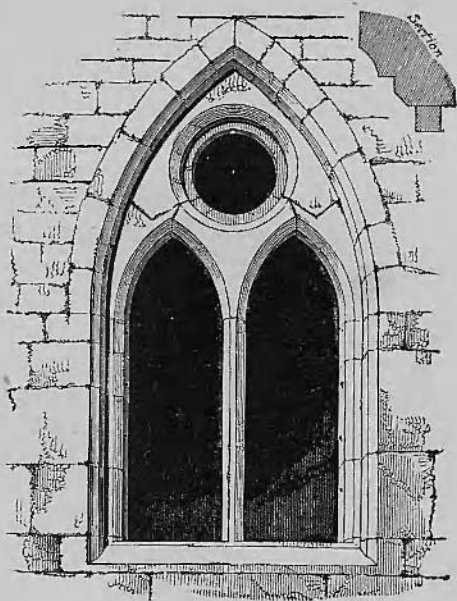
ELEVATION



PLAN

Scale of 5 0 5 10 15 20 Feet.

Hulne Priory, Northumberland.—Elevation and Plan of the south side of the Vestry.



Hulne Priory, Northumberland. Windows in Church.

and another opposite it on the north. The western screen had a central doorway between, on the nave side, two altars. The choir entry was ceiled over to form a loft or *pulpitum* above, on which stood the great cross.

The nave was lighted on the south by three small windows, placed high up to clear the cloister roof. Each consists of a trefoiled light with a flat cusped rere-arch and rebated on the inside for the glass frame. In the west wall is a tall single light of the same form, which has been subsequently grooved for glass. Over it in the gable, which is still surmounted by a fragment of the cross, is a small pointed oval light, deeply recessed. The north wall had probably three windows corresponding to those opposite. A stone bench, now nearly all destroyed, ran round the nave walls, but one of the chamfered slabs that formed the seat remains *in situ* (though loose) at the west end of the north side. In the floor of the nave lies an altar slab cut up into several pieces, and a very remarkable slab with a tau-cross pierced with three nails.<sup>1</sup> Another slab, with the indent of a brass shield and marginal inscription, has recently been uncovered on the north side of the presbytery. A much decayed slab, now fixed to the west side of the west wall of the nave, has been removed here from the ruins of the chapel at Alnmouth.

Before leaving the church I should say a few words about monuments now set up in the sedilia. The first of these is a slab 4 ft. 5 in. long, with the effigy of a lady in wimple headdress, holding a heart in her hands. Her head rests on a cushion, and from her mouth issues towards the sinister an uninscribed scroll. On either side of her are two kneeling figures, and on each side of the feet is a couching dog. The date appears to be early fourteenth century. In the next compartment is the lower part of a seated figure of the Blessed Virgin and Child. The Virgin's left foot, but not the right, has two holes drilled in it as if for fixing some ornament. The robes are also drilled with small holes in various parts as if for fixing something, but the holes are too capriciously placed to enable us to conjecture their real object. A broken slab, bearing a cross with a sword beside the stem, is also preserved in the ruins.

<sup>1</sup> See *Archæological Journal*, x. 171.

On the south side of the presbytery is the vestry. It was originally a lofty gabled room, 20 ft. 6 in. long, by 13 ft. 9 in. wide, and of unusually interesting character. In the east wall are two square-headed windows; the northernmost has plain chamfered jambs, but the other has the jambs worked into two hollow chamfers with an intermediate re-entering angle. There is no apparent reason for this difference. Above these two windows there is a third but pointed light, with shouldered rere-arch. Beneath the two lower lights are two large corbels for supporting the altar slab, and on the left a square recess in the wall. In the south wall is a plain pointed piscina, and two square-headed lights. Between the latter is a most interesting arrangement. It consists of a recess with segmental head, 3 ft. wide, 5 ft. high, and about 18 in. deep, with a stone shelf about 18 in. above the sill. The central portion of the bottom is cut down to a depth of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in., leaving a broad shelf on each side, and has a circular sinking with sloping bottom and a drain to the outside. Above the shelf, which is unfortunately mutilated, is a chimney carried up in the wall, which is thickened externally and carried on a buttress. I think there can be no doubt that the lower portion of the recess was used in some way by the sacrist when mixing the flour and water for the altar breads, and that on the upper shelf was a brazier of lighted charcoal for heating the irons for pressing the wafers. The charcoal for the censers could also have been kept here. The west wall is quite plain, but has a door in its south end, which, though modern, takes the place of an original entrance. After the suppression the vestry was divided into two floors. The upper, which was reached by a wooden stair, was made habitable by breaking a fireplace through into the chimney on the south, and making a window by the side of it; a two-light window with a transom was also inserted in the north wall after the church had been dismantled and "laid into the gardinge." All the floors and roofs have now disappeared.

In the chartulary of Hulne already mentioned is a very interesting inventory of the contents of the library and the ornaments of the church made in 1354. It has already been printed by Mr. Hartshorne, but no notice is



taken of added or inserted entries, and in the list of church ornaments a number of most valuable marginal headings have been omitted. The inventory does not throw much light on the arrangements of the church, but it mentions ornaments *pro summo altare*, *pro retro altare*, and *pro alio retro altare*, and further on "six white cloths marked with red crosses and lined with new canvas for the *three* altars in Lent." The three altars, I take it, are the high altar and the two in the nave, but the term "retro altare" is unusual as applied to the latter. A reference to cloths *pro pulpito* shews that there was a loft or *pulpitum* on top of the screen.

On the south side of the nave, and extending a few feet beyond the west wall of the church, is the cloister. This was a rectangular area about 78 feet square with covered alleys all round. The foundations of the garth wall have recently been uncovered, shewing that the east, north, and west alleys were each 8 ft. wide, but the south alley was a foot narrower. Each side contained five windows with intermediate buttresses; and in the two eastern angles of the garth are the remains of the drains for carrying off the rain-water from the roofs. Clarkson says the cloister was well paved with stone, and that "the windowes haith bene all glasyned and nowe for the most parte are in decaye"; the north and south alleys he also states to have been covered with lead. Why Clarkson says nothing about the roofing of the other sides will be seen presently. In the middle of the garth, he affirms, "groweth a tree of ewe." Nothing remains to shew how the cloister was fitted up. Along the church wall in the north alley runs a bold plinth, but there are no cuts in it indicative of furniture or fittings having been placed against the wall. Beneath the nave windows is a molded string course, and immediately below this is an upper row of hooked corbels and an inserted lower row of plain corbels, to carry the cloister roof. At each end of the north alley is a door: that on the east, a plain pointed one, opening into the church; that on the west into a chamber built against the west wall of the nave, presently to be described. On the east alley were five, if not six doorways, leading into a court or passage, and sundry chambers

forming the ground story of the eastern range of buildings, but now all thrown into one. The first door (now blocked) led into a small open yard or court on the south of the choir, between the cloister and the vestry. This court is 22 ft. long and 14 ft. wide, and besides the door into it from the cloister four other doorways opened out of it. One of these led into the vestry, another opened into a yard on the south of the vestry, the third was the door of the dorter stairs, and the fourth led into a chamber under the north end of the dorter, and was fitted with a draw-bar. All these five doorways opened into a corridor along the south side of the yard, thus forming what Clarkson terms "a passaidge to the saide dorter." The second of the doors in the east alley opened into the chamber just mentioned as under the north end of the dorter. This was a comfortable apartment, about 19 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, with a fire-place and a two-light window on the east. It was, perhaps, the prior's chamber. Next to it on the south was a lobby about 12 ft. square, entered from the cloister by a wide archway, in which, in early-Decorated times, another archway, with hollow-chamfered continuous moldings, has been inserted. The side walls of the lobby have now disappeared, but they are shewn on Grose's plan made in 1776, and their junctions with the other walls may be seen. The lobby was probably used as the parlour, or place where the brethren, by leave of a superior, might talk to one another. On the east side of the lobby a wide archway with plainly chamfered jambs opens into a large room, 38 ft. long by 17 ft. wide. This was the chapter-house. It had a large east window of five-lights and on the south four large trefoiled lancets of similar character to the nave windows, but with pointed rere-arches. The jambs are rebated on the inside, and grooves are cut in the sills to drain away condensed moisture from the glass. The north wall has only one window, towards the east, and at the west, a gap which may indicate a door into a narrow passage between the chapter-house and the yard on the south of the vestry. The roof of the chapter-house was of wood covered with slates. It appears from Clarkson that after the suppression, the church was demolished and the rest of the priory used as

a dwelling-house, the chapter-house being converted into a chapel for the use of the inmates. He thus describes its condition in 1567: "in the myddle of this end of the said cloyster is the chapell wherin is nothinge left but seat<sup>e</sup> and stalles and ther was one lytle ambre which served for the keapinge of the bookes and ornament<sup>e</sup> of the said chapell the same was taken away by Johne Recubye one of the Indwellers of the parke," and he adds, "it is to be noted that in the tyme of the frears the chapell y<sup>t</sup> now is was ther chapter howse."

South of the chapter-house lobby was another large apartment. It had at least one door from the cloister, and on the east a window and a large fire-place. The present three-light window is another bit of sham ruin. At the southern end of this room are three doorways, one from the cloister (now blocked), another opposite to it from the outside, and a third opening into a large chamber on the south. In this end is also a large two-light transomed window with straining-arch over, apparently of Elizabethan date.<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the south end of this apartment was partitioned off originally to form a passage from the cloister to what was doubtless the cemetery on the east.

Over the range of chambers just described and extending northward as far as the little court was the friars' dormitory. It also extended over the east alley of the cloister, and hence the non-mention by Clarkson of the covering of the cloister roof on this side. Its dimensions were 61 ft. long by 22 ft. wide. There are traces of the arch which was thrown across the south alley to carry the dormitory wall up to the south gable. The dormitory was reached by a staircase at the north end, the lower part of which remains, with a door from the little court. One of the steps is made out of an incised slab with a cross. Clarkson unfortunately tells us nothing about the dormitory except that it was divided into chambers, the number of which he has not inserted in the survey. Nothing remains of the structure itself, except the south gable, which contains a large two-light transomed window and a door into the upper floor of a long building running eastwards. The gable appears to have been entirely re-

<sup>1</sup> Over the window and the door is a row of joist holes for the upper floor.

built in the Elizabethan period. The roof was covered with slates.

At right angles to the eastern range of buildings, at its southern end, are the remains of a two-storied building, 44 ft. long and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide. On the ground floor it was divided by a cross wall into two chambers. The westernmost was 28 ft. long, and has in the west wall a door to the outside and a locker or cupboard. On the south are (1) a square-headed single light; (2) a two-light window, also square-headed; (3) a large fire-place with flat lintel; and (4) another square-headed light. The north wall is nearly all removed; at its west end is the doorway already described. The easternmost chamber has along the south wall a stone drain with battering sides and a groove for water running into it at the west end. At the east end is a square-headed opening for ventilation, and the drain is continued through the wall below it and underground to outside the curtain wall, as shown on the plan. In the south-east corner is a vertical chase for a pipe from the upper floor. This upper floor was entered from the dorter at the north-west corner, and had a window opposite the door. From the existence of the drain below, the eastern part was the rere-dorter, but all that remains of the arrangements are two very short loops in the south wall for ventilation. The western part may have been an extension of the dorter. The roof was covered with slates.

With regard to this part of the buildings Clarkson says, "joyninge ther unto also upone the grounde under the weste (*i.e.*, south) end of the said dorter is one howse called the women howse wherin is two chambers with one chimley." If by "women" we may read "wormen," the fire-place would indicate that this was the *calefactorium* or warming house of the brethren; it is, however, uncertain whether the name would be retained nearly thirty years after the suppression, and it is equally possible that before 1567 these rooms had been assigned to the female servants of the lord, who evidently was in the habit of using the place as a dwelling-house.

The south wall of the south alley of the cloister was entirely rebuilt in the Elizabethan period, as may be seen from the lower parts of three windows, and hence all the



old features have been obliterated. At the east end is a doorway, now blocked, which was the principal entrance to the cloister from without. It appears to have been covered by a little porch. The rest of the alley was flanked by the frater and its appendages, of which more presently.

The western alley has been completely destroyed. The building originally flanking this side, of which only a fragment remains, was very narrow, being only 9 ft. wide. It is described by Clarkson as "one house of two howse height . . . in the neather parte therof is two sellers the over parte therof the Lordes great chamber being nowe all roven and the tymbre therof in great decaye." The upper floor was built over the west alley of the cloister as well as over the two cellars, and was thus 20 ft. wide, by 77 ft. long. Whatever remained of the northern half of this building, and of the west alley of the cloister, was demolished towards the end of the last century, by the first Duke of Northumberland, who built on the site a two-storied summer house, still standing, though now unoccupied. In the remaining fragment of the southern half of the old building may be seen a blocked fire-place on the first floor, perhaps that of "the Lordes great chamber." On the ground floor is a blocked square-headed loop. The recent excavations have also disclosed a small chamber, 9 ft. long and about 6 ft. wide, in the southern end, where probably stood the conduit described by Clarkson: "In the west (south) nooke of the sayde north (west) parte of the saide cloyster is a condyte of tryme freshe water whiche water cometh frome one place of the saide parke callede the frearewells in pypes of lead."

Mention has already been made of a door at the west end of the north cloister alley leading into a building west of the nave. The survey thus refers to it: "In the north east (north-west) nooke of the sayd Cloyster is one entrance into one howse of twoo howse height haveinge in the neather parte twoo chambers with one chymley . . . And in the over parte of the said howse is also a Chamber with one chymley this howse is covered with sklaite." The remains of this building consist simply of a fragment of the chimney, and of a piece of wall adjoining the church on each side

containing a door with a two-light window over it. There are no traces of the abutment of the roof against the church wall. In any case it must have partly blocked the nave west window. On plan, as disclosed by the late excavations, the "howse of twoo howse height" appears to be separated from the church by a passage with a door in each end. As the "neather parte" had only "one chymley" to two chambers, this passage and the single large room shown on the plan may have formed the "twoo chambers," while the whole of the floor above formed one chamber, as described in the survey. I think the large room on the ground floor had not a separate door from the cloister, but was entered from the passage, which thus formed the "entrance" of the survey. Both the western range and this building were probably guest chambers in the time of the friars, with the cellarer's store places on the ground floor of the former.

We will now pass to the consideration of the frater and its appendages.

The late excavations have disclosed on the south of the cloister the foundations of a building 86 ft. long by  $20\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide; this was the frater. Nothing is left above ground but a fragment of the east wall with the jamb of a window. The north wall, as I have said, was re-built during the Elizabethan period. No traces of divisions or fittings have been found, but in the middle of the south wall is a projection for the pulpit and east of it another for a fire-place. The survey tells us that in the west end of the frater, or hall as it is called, was "the butterye fo<sup>r</sup> the most parte square and betwixte the buttery and the halle is a passaidge to the said cloister," forming in fact the usual arrangement with screens; and on the south of the hall, Clarkson says, was "the pantrie maid all of waynscotte and pannell worke." There also seems to have been beside the buttery a broad stair of wood to certain upper chambers presently to be referred to. Close to the south-west angle of the frater, from which it is separated by a passage a little over 3 ft. wide, is a room recently traced, perhaps the "litle howse for the paistrie." It appears to have been 25 ft. long and 12 ft. wide.

Extending from the frater southwards was a "howse buyldede of two howse height covered with sklaite.

. . . . . the neather parte therof serveth for the passaidge or entrie into the kytchinge." This passage was about 75 ft. long altogether, by some 12 ft. in width. In the southern part of it was "a ceasterne of stone set in the grounde whiche receyveth the water be pypes of leade from the condyte for servinge the said kytchinge." Elsewhere we are told that the water from the conduit in the cloister "Rynneth into a ceasterne of leade . . . . whiche staindeth of stone properlie set in the walle and frome theire runneth in pypes of lead not onely into the saide ceasterne of stone fo' the S'vice of the sayde kytchinge but unto the brew-house also." The site of this cistern is clearly indicated by the lead pipes found leading to it (see plan) and by a stone drain against the wall, leading to the brewhouse.

On the west side of the building just mentioned was the kitchen, which according to Clarkson was "buylded most lyke unto the facione of a square towre with a rounde rooffe covered w<sup>th</sup> sklaite . . . and in the same kytchinge is two chymleyes with faire raindges one oven a dresser and a litle howse for the paistrie." These arrangements can only be made out generally on the plan of the excavations, from which the kitchen appears to have been about 18 ft. square. The paistry-house was clearly outside the kitchen on the north, for the survey states that over the kitchen entry was "a faire chamber with one chymleye, and joyninge therunto is a nothe' litle Chamber right over the said paistrie howse." The broad stair next the buttery led "to the said two chambers nighe aboue the entrie of the kitching as is aforesaid" and also to a "lofte" over the buttery, screens, and pantry used in 1567 "for a gardner<sup>1</sup> and before tyme fo' the lorde o' priors walke to se through trelleses the use of the S'vant<sup>e</sup> in the halle and also it serveth for a passaidge to the lordes great chamber and towre."

On the east side of the kitchen entry and separated from it by "a passaidge of sixe foote broade to the brew-house" is a detached building described by Clarkson as "a howse covered with sklaite . . . the neather parte of the saide howse is called the farmery the over parte serveth for a gardner for corne"; he also speaks of "the loft." There can be no doubt that not only the "neather

<sup>1</sup> i.e. garner.

parte," but the "over parte" both originally formed the *infirmatorium* or "farmery." The former being the farmery hall and the latter its chapel. The building is now converted into a dwelling-house, and has lost its original roof, but most of the windows remain, though the entrances have been modernised. The chapel has a plain two-light window formed of two lancets with a quatrefoil above. On the north are no windows; and the south wall is modern. The hall has two plain two-light windows on each side, and a west window of three lancet lights under a pointed head. It is not possible to say which is the original entrance; there is now one on each side of the hall. Clarkson's "lofte" was probably constructed after the suppression in the roof of the hall.

On the west side of the cloister is a lofty building called by Clarkson "the Lordes towre." He describes it as "of thre howsse height covered with leade the neather part ther of is a vount the other two howses are two faire chambers in eyther of theme one chymley and upon the top Therof above the leades one the south (*i.e.* east) syde therof is rayzed as it were a garrett wyth lyke battlement at the towre haith endlong all the south (east) syde of the saide towre whiche is also covered wth lead . . . . . and in the same is a howse w<sup>h</sup>e a Chymley called the studye howse . . . . . the entrance into the towre is through the lordes great chambre as before is mentionede." The ground floor of the tower now consists of two cellars, covered with plain wagon vaults, but Grose's plan (1776) shews the two cellars as being in one, as mentioned in the survey. Just within the door, which is on the north side, is a straight stair ascending eastwards in the thickness of the wall to the first floor, where there is a landing and a modern bridge to the building or summer house on the west of the cloister. From the landing a door opens into the principal chamber, a lofty apartment constructed by the first Duke of Northumberland at the beginning of the century by throwing into one the "two faire chambers" of the survey, which were one above the other. The present room exhibits nothing of interest except a much decayed slab over the fireplace recording the building of the tower by the fourth Earl of Northumberland in 1488. A copy of this inscription is fixed in the curtain wall at

the base of the tower, and marks the place of the old inscription before its removal into the tower by the present Duke of Northumberland. It is also printed in full by Mr. Hartshorne, who was so fortunate as to find part of the actual account for the building of the tower, amounting to £27 19s. 8d. From the first floor another staircase ascends southwards in the thickness of the east wall to a doorway now blocked by which access was gained to the destroyed upper chamber. From thence a circular stair or vice is continued upward to the leads and to the "garrett." This is a narrow room with an oriel window on the east, now used as a pigeon house, and destitute of any ancient fittings. From the leads of the tower is a beautiful view of the surrounding country and the Cheviots. The present bridge from the first floor apparently takes the place of an old one, for Clarkson says "the entrance into the towre is through the lordes great chambre" and the account quoted by Mr. Hartshorne mentions "the arch between the great chamber and the tower." The size of the "great chambre" in question is uncertain. I have described it as occupying the upper floor of the western range of buildings, but against the east face of the tower is the mark of a high roof which may indicate that the great chamber stood east and west and abutted against the tower. This building was probably carried on an arch, for the survey says: "at the foote of the towre besyde the voulte is also a doore fo' the passaidge into the gardinge," which was on the north. The tower is not now used for any purpose.

We now come to the consideration of the precinct wall and offices.

The priory is still, as in Clarkson's day "environed with a curtaine walle maide of lyme and stone," enclosing the "quadrant," as he terms the area, but the "smale battlement" is everywhere broken down. In other respects the wall remains pretty much in its original condition, except that two pretentious "Gothic" entrances have been made on the east and south-west. These entrances are part of the works done at Hulne by the first Duke. Grose's plan made in 1776 only shews a small door on the east, and no entrance at all at the south-west angle. The precinct, owing to the contour of the site, is an irregular polygon in plan, roughly resembling a square



with one corner cut off. On the south-east angle is the base of a small circular wall-turret. The original entrance is in the middle of the south side, and is built in an angle purposely made for it, and overlooking a steep bank; probably for defensive reasons rendered necessary by the nearness of the Scottish border. Clarkson says the "entrie" into the "quadrant" "is a towre called the gait howse and is of thre howse height covered with sklaite and guttered with leade." The gatehouse is now a plain square tower, with a low round-headed entrance door 4 feet 8 inches wide. This opens into a passage with a simple barrel vault, out of which a door opens on the right into a small barrel-vaulted cell for the porter, with a fireplace on the east and a single loop on the north. On the east side of the gate, in the inner angle formed by it with the curtain wall is a vice to the first floor. The latter is much ruined but retains part of the springing of a wagon-vault. The second floor has been utterly destroyed. Immediately to the east of the gateway are indicated on the plan the foundations of a house. This is shewn in Grose's plan of 1776, where it is lettered: "Modern House." It was probably removed by the first Duke and the curtain wall rebuilt on the old line. After describing the gatehouse the survey continues: "w<sup>th</sup>in the same is a smale curtaine halfe quadrant . . . on the east (north) syde of the saide curtaine is buylded the halle . . . and in the west (south) end of the same halle is the pantrie." There can be no doubt that "curtaine halfe quadrant" means the oblong (*i.e.* half-square) court between the farmery and the frater, but the words that follow are not quite so easy to understand: "at the south (east) ende of the said hall is a lytle wall maid of Lyme and stone betwixte the hall and the gardinge wall . . . and in the same litle walle is a dore maide of stone and lyme to serve for a passaidge into the cloyster," etc. . . . "And frome the saide stone walle to the . . . gaithowse towre is a nother stone wall havinge also a stone doore heweñ worke for the passaidge into the gardinge." The question is made more difficult because we are also told that "joyninge to the ende of the saide litle walle is buylded" the farmery. We should of course expect that the gatehouse passage would open into the court, in which case the farmery could join on to the little wall. If on the other

hand the "litle walle" extended from the porch east of the frater to the farmery, the gatehouse would be shut out from the court. From the mention of the little wall being in close connection with the farmery I am inclined, on the whole, to take the latter as the correct view, and to look upon the reference to the gatehouse as merely indicative of the direction of the wall. No trace of the wall has been found by excavation, and neither the gatehouse nor the farmery shew any signs of its junction with them.

Extending along the curtain wall westwards from the gatehouse are fragments of a number of buildings, which the survey fortunately helps us to identify. The first of these consisted of "twoo generall stables," and according to Grose's plan, when it was more perfect than now, its length was 38 feet and its breadth about 16 feet. The next building was the brewhouse, measuring about 50 feet long by 15 feet wide. In Clarkson's time it was "covered with sklaite ande in goode reparations in the une end therof is a ptitione fo<sup>r</sup> the boultinge howse and in the myddste a faire Chimley with a fornace and a lytle oven And upone the backe of the said Chimleye stode ther two litle smale brewe leades in two furnac<sup>e</sup> . . . ther is also in that end of this howse whiche serveth for the brewhouse certaine vessell" enumerated. The position of the chimney, furnace, etc., is still traceable, as described in the survey, and three sides of the building are remaining more or less perfect, particularly on the south and west. The east end has disappeared and also a cross wall shewn by Grose as dividing the building into two chambers. "At the north (west) ende of the sayd brewhouse," says Clarkson, "and behinde the said kytchinge Butterye and great Chamber is a nother Curtaine" which he states extends from the curtain wall on the south to the lord's tower on the north. On the west side of this "curtaine" were built "joyninge and upone the saide curtaine walle" two houses covered with thatch: "the one called the byer . . . it haith a dore through the said Curtaine walle for the cattell to passe in & through the over parte of the sayde byer will S<sup>r</sup>ve for a haye lofte the other howsse is a barne" which "haith also a doore through the walle for taykinge

in corne into the same." The byre door still remains in the curtain wall, though now blocked. It is 4 feet wide and has over it four corbels, as if it were covered by some defensive work on the top of the wall. The barn door "for taykinge in corne" is not now visible, perhaps it was where the present door is. The only remains of the byre and barn are a fragment of the east wall with a loop in it, and what appears to be an imposing and ornate north gable. The latter, however, is a sham ruin of the end of the last century, constructed of old materials. Besides these remains, foundations of divers other walls and rooms have been laid bare in this part of the precinct by the excavations. No buildings in this position are alluded to by Clarkson, and they are almost certainly of later date and of no account.

Within the precinct wall on the north, the survey says there were two gardens, the western one "havinge a posterne throughe the sayde curtaine walle . . . . and haith also one grease o' staire fo' goinge upe to the battlemente of the said walle fo' a walke upone the same walle aboute the saide gardingē and orcharde." The blocked postern may yet be seen, and in the angle of the wall still remains the "grease o' staire fo' goinge upe to the battlemente." This north-west angle of the wall was surmounted by a small round turret or watch-box, as I have already described the opposite south-east angle to have been. The other, or eastern garden appears from the foundation uncovered to have been divided from the western garden by a wall. Clarkson says "it was a very faire gardinge nowe all fordoone and the herbes waisted and destroyed and lykwyse the other gardinge." The ground on the east side within the precinct was "a litle orchard conteyninge in it self an half acre of grounde by estimatione in the w<sup>th</sup> groweth one peare tree trees all the other be plome trees & bullester trees ther be also graftē of apple trees in the saide two gardingē and lykwyse the said litle closse calle the south closse." Where the friars' cemetery was is not stated. Several skeletons were found during the late excavations in the ground on the north side of the church. One was also found in the little yard between the vestry and chapter house.

In the Public Record Office is the following description of the site of the priory, which though undated is long

anterior to Clarkson's survey, and of great interest as giving the old names of the gardens, etc. :

"firste The Scite of the late howse with oon Towre within the same with Byez and howse of office. oon Gardyne called Kirke garthe. a gardyn called prio<sup>r</sup> garthe oon Gardyn called Kitchyn Garthe/ all which conteyn in quantite oon Acre as it is Inclosed w<sup>th</sup>in a stone walland is worth by the yere ou' all chargez. . . . .<sup>v<sup>s</sup>''1</sup>

The precinct of the priory was enclosed by an outer "drye stone walle"<sup>2</sup> within which were three closes; one on the south, a second on the east, and a third on the north. On the west side "withoute the sayde curtaine walle and w<sup>th</sup>in the outmoste walle nighe unto the saide byer dore" Clarkson says there was "one barne o<sup>r</sup> laithe covered with thatch . . . . And right over one the other syde of the waye is a lytle do<sup>o</sup>ckette foure Squared covered with sklaite . . . wherin is a good flight off dooves." No traces are now to be seen of either barn or dovecote.

Although the late excavations have not brought to light so much as might have been expected, they have cleared up a number of doubtful points, and antiquaries owe a debt of gratitude to the Duke of Northumberland for the liberal manner in which the work has been carried out at his expense under the direction of Mr. Reavell, the obliging clerk of the works at Alnwick, to whom we owe the accompanying plan. Very little of interest other than the remains of buildings has been found, the most noteworthy discovery being a piece of the shaft of an early cross with interlaced ornament. How it got to Hulne, it is impossible to say. Careful search was made for further fragments, but without success.

P.S. Lord Percy has called my attention to a passage in a letter from Lord Hundson to Lord Burghley in April 1572, quoted in *Annals of the House of Percy* (ii. 65) which seems to shew that instead of acting upon Clarkson's Survey the Earl of Northumberland himself further destroyed the building at Hulne: "And for the Abbey that standes in Hulne Parke he hathe left neyther lede, glasse, irrne, nor so much as the pypes of lede that conveyed the water to the howse, but he hathe brought yt to hys owne howse." It is possible, however, that Alnwick Abbey is here referred to.

<sup>1</sup> P.R.O. Augmentation Office Misc. Bk. 399, p. 318.

<sup>2</sup> Parts of this remain, principally on the east.