

Archæological Intelligence.

NORWICH CASTLE.—We are indebted to Mr. J. Mottram, whose untiring exertions and courteous co-operation at the Norwich meeting in 1889, are not likely to be forgotten, for the following notes on Norwich Castle, with reference to its future use as a Museum for the city and for the county of Norfolk. The alterations have proceeded apace, though the fittings will, of course, take some time longer.

“It must be remembered that this building, which is so prominent to all visitors to the capital of East Anglia, is really in two quite distinct portions. The old Norman keep, first used as a royal prison some time in the thirteenth century, and afterwards as a county gaol, stands on the mound towards its south-east corner. The remainder of the open space, on which in previous times had stood assize courts and other buildings, was, in the early part of the present century, encircled near its margin by a wall of granite some fifteen feet high, which, starting from the south-eastern, came round to the north-western corner of the Norman keep, and within this enclosure were then erected six blocks of prison cells in two or three stories. These blocks have now been gutted, and converted into spacious halls, lighted by glazed roofs and ceilings, and connected in a circle by corridors, which will provide considerable wall area. The vacant spaces between these blocks, and in the centre where formerly stood the governor’s house, will be laid out as a garden.

“But to the antiquary the great point of interest will, of course, be the keep, known to many who may not have visited Norwich by Wilkins’ paper in the *Archæologia*, vol. xii. ; by the illustrated work of the late Samuel Woodward, published in 1847 ; and by the late H. Harrod’s *Gleanings from the Castles and Convents of Norfolk*.

“When, in 1888, the prisoners had been removed, and the keep was handed over to the Norwich city authorities, it contained a three-storied building of cells, which, for the better security of its occupants, did not, except at a few points, touch the original walls. All the Norman and mediæval floors, fittings, and roofs, except so far as they formed part of the main walls, had long disappeared, and the latter had received much patching and mending internally in brickwork.

“The first thing done was to remove the inner hive of cells, and as these vanished, those locally interested saw for the first time, with ease, the loops, niches, windows, &c., which had been more or less hidden. Before the erection of this same building, the basement had for some reason been filled up to a height of some eight feet with earth, and on this comparatively modern floor, during the visit of the Archæological

Institute to Norwich in 1889, a meeting of its members was held, at which were also present several of the city authorities more directly in charge of the building. (See *Journal*, vol. xlvi, page 260 and 444). As the result of this and other consultations, this filling in of earth was dug out and carted away, being first carefully examined and sifted. The finds were practically of little interest, consisting chiefly of bones of edible animals, and these not of great antiquity. But there came to view the bases of the pillars which, in a line from east to west, had carried the floor of the great hall, various other massive partition-walls (the existence of those latter was known), and, most interesting of all, the top of the original well, all knowledge or repute of which had passed away. Curiously, no trace has been found of the well which is shown in Woodward's plans, as supposed to be situated in the western part of the main partition-wall.

"The old well above mentioned when found was filled up, and, as far as the requirements of the future of the building demanded, there was no reason to disturb it; but several members of the Norfolk Archæological Society were unwilling that its depth and contents should remain unknown, so a small fund was raised, and the well emptied. Its contents consisted to a large extent of blocks of stone, with Norman and later mediæval mouldings or tooling. From this it appears probable that when the original interior fittings either went to decay or were pulled down, some portions were thrown into the well; but at what date this occurred there is no record, though it seems as if it must have been long before the filling in of the eight feet of earth before referred to.

"Where the original double-ridged roof of the keep had stood was well marked on the interior of the western wall, and the new glazed roof, with massive deal principals, has been placed in exactly the same position, the centre between the two ridges being carried by a line of three arches in stone, which, though in keeping with their surroundings, tell their own tale, and make no pretention to be a restoration.

"At the level of the first floor and great hall a gallery has been carried round the interior, which will be reached by a substantial flight of stairs; and from this gallery the beautiful Norman doorway, the so-called chapel or oratory, the line of garderobes, and the wall-passages with their windows which formerly gave light to and looked into the great hall, will be reached. It was at first proposed that access to this gallery should have been by a flight of stairs outside the east wall as in old time, and then through the Norman doorway; but gratifying as this would have been to the antiquary, various difficulties in detail have caused the adoption of the plan above mentioned. From this gallery will also be reached, by the old circular stairs in the north-east and south-west corners, the well-protected walk behind the parapets, from which there is a most interesting view of the old city with its thirty-five churches, the cathedral, and many other points of interest, though the distant prospect is not, on the whole, so extensive as would be expected.

"It is obvious that some time must still elapse before all these buildings and the museum collections can be arranged, as it is hoped they one day will be; but may not the time be looked for when the Norman keep and the adjacent buildings, with the almost unique series of raptorial birds, the Gunn collection of mammalian remains from the forest bed,

the Fitch collection of local antiquities, the series of Norfolk and Suffolk crag fossils, the pictures by Norfolk artists, and the other general objects of interest, may supply constant interest and instruction to all East Anglians, and may also attract many strangers from greater distances to Norwich Castle?"

It is gratifying to be able to record that the efforts of our brethren in Norwich who so learnedly share our pursuits, for the common benefit of East Anglia, have thus far been crowned with success; the completion of the great scheme looked forward to by Mr. Mottram is "a consummation devoutly to be wish'd."

NORTHUMBERLAND EXCAVATION FUND. The following note has reached us :—

"It is proposed to establish a small fund for the purpose of carrying on excavations in Northumberland in furtherance of archaeological science. At the outset, the chief object of these excavations will be to increase our knowledge with reference to that most interesting monument of the early history of Britain—the Roman Wall. The amount of information to be derived from books as to the history of our island during the Roman occupation is disappointingly small. More than three centuries and a half intervened between the subjugation of Britain and its abandonment by the Romans, but the history of that period as delivered to us by Greek and Roman writers could be compressed in a small pamphlet. Coins and inscriptions, the trophies of the excavator's spade, have done something to fill up this lamentable chasm, and it is believed that much more may yet be done in the same way. Especially, if a regular and scientific exploration were made of the camps along the line of the Roman Wall, it is almost certain that our knowledge of the conditions of military life among the Roman garrison which defended that great barrier would be largely increased.

"We have in the treatise on the Fortifications of Camps by Hyginus, a Roman engineer of the time of Trajan, a very full, and on the whole, intelligible account of the general principles on which a Roman camp was constructed at the end of the first century after Christ. We can trace the direction of the main streets, the position of the Forum or market place, of the Quaestorium (near the rear of the camp) in which the plunder and the prisoners taken from the enemy were guarded, of the Praetorium or quarters of the general highest in command, the stables of the horses, in fact the general disposition of this little military town in which everything was arranged beforehand and nothing was left to chance. Now in order to reconstruct in some degree the daily life of the Roman garrisons in Britain, the camps which still exist upon our Northumbrian moors ought to be carefully excavated and compared step by step with the earliest plan of Hyginus in order to see how far they correspond with that place and where they differ from it or from one another. Though so much has been said and written about the Roman Wall, this obvious work has not been accomplished, has hardly even been commenced. The careful excavations made about thirty-five years ago by the late Duke of Northumberland at High Rochester, and the operations commenced by the late Mr. Clayton at Chesters and continued by his nephew, the present owner, are admirable in their way, but even these have not accomplished all that could be desired.

“The work will be a gradual one, and no large yearly outlay will be needed, but it is important to make a beginning. We propose to invite subscriptions for say £100 a year, and devote the money thus raised in the first place to the ascertainment of the ground-plan of one of the camps, say *Procolitia* or *Aesica*. When this is accomplished, other camps will successively be excavated and the results carefully compared both with one another and with the Roman military treatises. It will be strange if we are not thus enabled to throw light on several antiquarian questions which are now obscure. Above all, we shall, we trust, escape from the region of guess-work and have to say with something like certainty what was the intention of the builders of most of the structures whose mouldering remains have hitherto perplexed us.

“We undertake the work with the full sanction and encouragement of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries to which most of the projectors belong, and though it will not be our *primary* object to search for works of art or even for inscribed stones, we shall hope to enrich its museum with some antiquities of this kind discovered by our excavators in the course of their labours.”

Doubtless, many of the members of the Institute who have had the imagination quickened and the soul stirred on the occasion of visits to the greatest monument in England, under the auspices of the late Dr. Bruce, and in the courteous society of the numerous northern antiquaries, who tread so worthily in his steps, will be glad of the opportunity thus afforded of strengthening the hands of the projectors of this sensible scheme. That the spade is the tool *par excellence* of the antiquary has become an axiom of archæology; that it will be as intelligently guided at *Procolitia* or *Aesica*, as in Cranborne Chase, Bokerly Dyke, and Wansdyke—if the admirable example that General Pitt Rivers has set be at all followed—there will be no question. Persons desirous of supporting our Northumbrian friends will be kind enough to communicate with Dr. Hodgkin, Bank, Newcastle.

THE OLD MANORIAL HALLS OF WESTMORLAND AND CUMBERLAND. (By Michael Waistel Taylor, M.D., Edinburgh.)—This work, on which the author has been engaged for several years, has for its object to preserve in a permanent form an authentic record of the ancient Pele Towers, Old Manorial Halls, and Domestic structures, of which so many remarkable specimens still survive in the two counties of Westmorland and Cumberland.

Though the county historians, Nicolson and Burn, deal very amply with the genealogies of the baronial and manorial lords, yet no attempt was made by these topographers, or any others, to describe the habitations of our forefathers, or to furnish any sufficient details of the domestic architecture or plans of the interior arrangements of these edifices. It has been the endeavour of the author to deal systematically and completely with the hitherto unexplored series of domestic structures, and to elucidate from his researches the various changes in style which have occurred in building construction, and in the domestic life and customs which have prevailed during various epochs in these counties.

This account of the early domestic architecture of the land of Cumbria will embrace the period from the thirteenth century to the Restoration.