ART. XV.—*A Sketch of the History of Egremont Castle.* By W. JACKSON, F.S.A.

Read at Egremont, August 31st.

THE early history of the Castle of Egremont is involved in the history of the wars between England and Scotland, during most part of the twelfth century, for the possession of Cumberland. It is not my intention to repeat more of the minor details which have appeared and reappeared in our County Histories further than to maintain a certain continuity of narrative, my object being to explain difficulties, to correct erroneous statements, and to relate new facts in the history of the Castle and Barony of Copeland, otherwise Egremont.

The remarkable natural hill, commanding the passage of the river Ehen, on which the castle stands, would seem to afford a desirable site for a fortress, but whether it was ever occupied for that object by the Romans, who certainly had some settlement at Egremont, may be considered doubtful. No traces exist of fortifications of earlier age than the twelfth century.

William de Meschines, the son of Ranulph, obtained a grant of the Barony of Copeland from Henry 1st when his brother Ranulph became Earl of Chester, about the year 1120. He fixed upon this cop, out of many which characterise the country so remarkably as to have given it the name of Copland, whereupon to erect his Baronial Castle; an erection peculiarly needful, for he was planting himself in the midst of a hostile population, and would need defence, not only from the attacks of the Scottish monarchs, who were eager to retain the territory which they had lost ever since the seizure of the district by William Rufus in 1092, but even more from the hostile feeling of the inhabitants who did not recognise the imaginary line, called in later

later times "the Border," which was supposed to divide them from their brethren of the same race inhabiting the northern part of the ancient kingdom of Strathclyde. It was probably this hostility which led William Rufus to transplant a colony from the south to Carlisle when he refounded the city; indeed, it is by no means improbable that inducements may have been held out to attract a friendly population to Egremont, and that liberties which existed at a somewhat earlier, may have been merely confirmed by the Charter of a later date. The herring bone work, which is still to be found in the western wall of the Castle, and of which traces probably exist elsewhere in the building, is a remnant of this easily and hastily erected structure, in which palisades would form a very prominent feature. William was the founder of the Priory of Saint Bees, which he constituted a cell of the Abbey of Saint Mary at York,* as his brother had done with his foundation of Wetheral. He married Cecily, heiress of Robert de Romelli, Lord of the Honour of Skipton, and by her had two sons, Ranulph and Matthew, and a daughter, Alice.† It has been stated that both sons predeceased their father,‡ but I am disposed to think that Ranulph was lord for a brief period, for the reason that a Ranulph was the founder of Calder Abbey in 1134. It is true that the Charter of the foundation of that Abbey has been ascribed by Dugdale§ to Ranulph, Earl of Chester, but it could not have been granted by Ranulph the first of that name and title, for he died in 1129, and he had absolutely surrendered into the hands of the Crown in 1120 his Barony of Carlisle (which included not only Cumberland, but the Barony of Appleby,) and the Barony of Kendal, (which he acquired by marriage with the heiress,) as one of the conditions of his being

* Harleian MSS. Brit. Mus. Chartulary of St. Bees—Copy penes Rev. Canon Knowles.

† Whitaker's Craven, edited by A. W. Morant, F.S.A., page 297.

‡ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, p. 89.

§ Dugdale's Monastican, vol. v, p. 339.

created

created Earl of Chester;* much less could it have been his son, who had no property in Cumberland. Moreover, the monks of Calder always recognised the possessors of the Barony of Egremont as representatives of their founder; and Tonge† absolutely states that the monastery was founded by Ranulph de Meschines, Lord of Egremont, and gives as arms of the Abbey, on one shield the coats of Fitzwalter, Lucy, and Harrington, the respective heads of which great families married in the fourteenth century the three co-heiresses of the barony. It was certainly this Ranulph who gave Ennerdale to Saint Bees,‡ rather an unlikely donation to have been conferred during the life of his father, and Tonge gives exactly the same representatives of founders for the Priory as for Calder.§ He no doubt died young, and Alice, his sister and heiress, became the wife of William Fitz Duncan, Lord of Allerdale-below-Derwent. He was the son of Duncan, second of that name, King of Scotland, who was slain in 1094. Fitz Duncan's mother, Etheldreda, is said to have been the grand-daughter of Waldeoff, first Lord of Allerdale, who certainly did not receive a grant of that Lordship until about 1120, assertions conflicting and irreconcilable. The Chronicon Cumbriæ, not a very good authority, I grant, says she was sister of the first Waldeoff, and this statement at any rate does no violation to chronology, and it has been adopted by Skene, and by Douglas.‖ The death of Henry I. in 1135, and the anarchy which resulted, would give Fitz Duncan an opportunity of indulging his Scotch leanings, and it may be that he manifested them openly and to his own detriment. In 1138 his uncle David, King of Scotland, took up arms, ostensibly on behalf of his

* Hodgson Hinde, Introduction to the Pipe Rolls for Cumberland and Westmorland, pp. xix and xliii.

† Visitation of the Northern Counties. (Surtees Society, vol. 41, p. 73.)

‡ Harleian MSS., Brit. Mus.

§ Visitation, ut supra, p. 94.

‖ Celtic Scotland, vol. i, p. 438. Peerage of Scotland, p. 438, ed. 1764.

niece

niece, the Empress, but much more probably for his own advantage. William Fitz Duncan was at the head of an expedition which marched through and ravaged in the most inhuman manner his own inheritance in Cumberland and that of his wife in Cumberland and Craven. He was victorious in a great battle fought near Clitheroe, and Richard of Hexham, a chronicler of that age, gives an account of the atrocities perpetrated, principally, no doubt, by the Galwegians in his army. "They ravaged Craven with sword and fire, sparing no rank, no age, no condition, and neither sex. They first slew children and kindred in the sight of their relations, lords in the sight of their serfs and the opposite, and husbands in the sight of their wives; then, oh, most shameful! they led away noble matrons, chaste virgins, mixed alike with other women, and the booty, driving them before them naked, in troops, tied and coupled with ropes and thongs, tormenting them with their lances and pikes. This had been done previously, but never to such an outrageous extent."* It was on the occasion of this invasion, in the year 1138, that the monks of Calder fled from their new habitation.† Although David met with a bloody defeat at the Battle of the Standard two months later than the success of his nephew at Clitheroe, he appears to have gained what was probably his principal object in the invasion, for Cumberland, Westmorland, and part of Northumberland, were ceded to him by Stephen in the following year.‡ He, or his son Henry, founded the monastery of Holm Cultram,§ and he and Fitz Duncan were benefactors to St. Bees,‖ as well as other religious houses in the district. He confirmed his nephew, Fitz Duncan, in the possession of Craven in 1151;** nay, the

* Richard of Hexham. (Surtees Society, vol. 44, pp. 81 and 83.)
† Beck's Furness, p. 124.
‡ Archæological Journal, vol. xvi, p. 232, on the Early History of Cumberland.
§ Dugdale's Monasticon, vol. v, p. 609.
‖ Harleian MSS.
** Chroniele of John, Prior of Hexham. (Surtees Society, vol. 44, p. 163.)

pretensions

pretensions of the Scotch monarch, consequent upon the weakness of Stephen, attained such magnitude that he presumed to promise to Ranulph de Gernons, Earl of Chester, the county of Lancaster in lieu of the district which had been surrendered by his father.* It was in this year, 1151, and, perhaps, consequent upon the death of Fitz Duncan, who had received a confirmation of his possessions in Skipton and Craven in the very same year from David, King of Scotland,† that his wife and son transferred her mother's foundation of Embsay for Canons Regular to Bolton,‡ which partly owing to its natural beauty and partly to the affecting death of this very William, the child of many hopes, some years subsequently, has become beyond any similar scene the theme and the inspiration of poet and painter. Upon the death of Alice, wife of Fitz Duncan, of which no record exists, the inheritance fell to three co-heiresses. Cecily is supposed to have had Skipton, Annabel Allerdale-above-Derwent, and Alice Allerdale-below-Derwent. Cecily, the eldest daughter, married firstly, Alexander Fitz-Gerald, and secondly, William Le Gros, Earl of Albemarle, who died in 1179, leaving a daughter, Hawise, who, February 21, 1180, married William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex; he died December 15, 1189, and she became the wife, probably in the same year, of William de Fortibus, who died in 1194. Her third husband was Baldwin de Bethune; all three, in right of Hawise, were known as Earls of Albemarle. I cannot say whether William, her son by her second marriage, succeeded at once to the title, or she retained it until her decease, for she survived her third husband, who died in 1212.§ I have been thus minute in detail because these facts bear upon the history of the Castle. Although the

* Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i, p. 38.
† John of Hexham. (Surtees Society, vol. 44, p. 163.)
‡ Skene's Celtic Scotland, vol. i, p. 472, *note.*
§ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i, pp. 62 and 63.

landed

landed possessions of Fitz Duncan and his wife were ultimately partitioned as I have mentioned, there seems to have been some usurpation, particularly on the part of Cecily and her daughter, for in 1182 occurs an entry in the Pipe Rolls, the first of a series which I cannot clearly understand, "Arthur the son of Godard (Lord of Millom), renders account of one hundred pounds and ten fugatores, (which Hodgson Hinde calls 'chascurs,') for the recognition of one Knight's fee against the Countess of Copeland, paid into the treasury twenty-five pounds, and he owes seventy-five pounds and ten fugatores."* This form of entry is repeated in payment of thirty-four pounds in 1183,† of twenty-five in 1184,‡ of ten in 1185,§ leaving one hundred shillings and ten fugatores owing, which sum is paid in 1185; "The Knights of the Court of the Countess of Copeland render account of one hundred shillings because they gave judgment on a plea which did not belong to them."‖ In 1188 the curious balance of ten fugatores is duly settled.** Another entry occurs in 1192; "The County of Copeland owes two marks for concealment on account of the land of Reginald de Lucy," and "Reginald owes five shillings and eleven pence for the same."†† Now, Reginald certainly married Annabel, the co-heiress, and Hodgson Hinde thinks that Annabel was Countess of Copeland, but I cannot subscribe to this view. I find a grant made to Calder Abbey by Cecily, Countess of Albemarle, and Lady (Domina) of Copeland, of a manse in the borough (*sic*) of Egremont, two salt pans in Withowe, a fishery in Derwent, and another in Egre;‡‡ and another grant by the

* Pipe Rolls for Cumberland, p. 31; and Introduction to same, p. xxxix.
† Ibid, p. 26-33.
‡ Ibid, p. 36.
§ Ibid, p. 38.
‖ Ibid, p. 40.
** Ibid, p. 51.
†† Ibid, p. 67.
‡‡ Archæologia Æliana, vol. ii, pp. 386-7.

Countess

Countess of Albemarle of the chapel of Loweswater and some minor benefactions to the Priory of Saint Bees.* During the period at which the above-cited entries occur in the Pipe Rolls, Cecily was a widow, her husband having died in 1179, and Hawise, her daughter, was wife of William de Mandeville and Countess of Albemarle in her own right, and as Cecily, her mother, was also a Countess, she was, it may be, called Countess of Copeland to distinguish her from her daughter. From 1189 to 1199 a regular annual payment occurs in the same accounts in which the Countess of Albemarle is mentioned.† From all this it seems certain that Cecily and her daughter had been exercising, and continued to contend for, rights which belonged to Annabel, the co-heiress, or her husband, Reginald de Lucy, who is only mentioned in one entry other than the one I have quoted.‡ It was during this period of comparative darkness in the history of the Castle that, about 1180, the entrance tower and much of the external wall were built. Upon the death of Reginald a ray of light is cast on the difficulties as to possession by some entries in the Pipe Rolls, for under the year 1200 occurs an entry of which I translate part. "Richard de Lucy, the son of Reginald de Lucy, renders account of three hundred marks, and the Earl of Albemarle and his wife, and Robert de Courtenay and his wife, &c."§ In 1201 a similar entry occurs, but Hawise is there mentioned as the wife of the Earl of Albemarle.‖ "In 1204 Richard de Lucy renders account of fifteen marks and one palfrey, that there may be an inquiry by the oaths of twelve lawful men what customs and services his men were accustomed and ought to pay, and what they were accustomed and owed to make to his ancestors for the tenements which they held from him in

* Harleian MSS.
† Pipe Rolls, pp. 52, 55, 59, 62, 66, 69, 73, 76, 85, 89.
‡ Ibid, p. 63.
§ Ibid, p. 97.
‖ Ibid, p. 103.

Copeland

Copeland."* Similar entries occur, and others relating to his marriage with Ada, one of the two co-heiresses of Hugh de Morville, and her property, and others of an official nature. He died young in 1215, for in that year "Alda, who was the wife of Richard de Lucy, renders account of two hundred and sixty-five pounds four shillings and elevenpence for having her heritage, as is contained in the preceding roll, paid into the treasury by her thirty-five pounds, and sixty-five pounds seventeen shillings and tenpence by the hands of her sureties, and she owes one hundred and sixty-four pounds seven shillings and one penny."† In the same year that Richard de Lucy died, Thomas de Multon, with that chivalrous regard to his own interest which certainly characterised the time, paid a thousand marks to the king for the wardship of the deceased baron's two daughters; and he still further showed his business capacity by marrying the young ladies to his sons by a former wife, and espousing the widow, who was herself, as has been stated, a great heiress. Lambert de Multon, the eldest son, who married Annabell, the elder co-heiress, retained his name, and took the Barony of Egremont for his wife's inheritance; whilst Alan, who married Alice and adopted his wife's surname, took that part of her aunt Alice de Romelli's estate which came to the family upon her death without children, and established himself at Cockermouth. Passing over the first half of the twelfth century, I merely note that Thomas died in 1240, and his son, Lambert, in 1247.‡ Both these barons were benefactors to Saint Bees.§ Thomas, who succeeded his father, Lambert, probably erected the great hall of the Castle. His son, named Thomas de Multon, died in 1286, in his father's lifetime, leaving, as appears from the Inquisition,

* Pipe Rolls, p. 112.
† Ibid, p. 158.
‡ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, pp. 564, 567, 569.
§ Harleian MSS.

a son, also called Thomas, " who was eleven years old on Sunday, in the first week in Lent." The wife of Thomas, jun., called Edmunda, had pre-deceased her husband.* Thomas, sen., died 1293, leaving his widow, Margaret, surviving;† and Thomas, the third in descent, but the second by succession, inherited. He was one of the most important men of his age and country. His name figures on the Roll of Carlaverock,‡ and he also signed the Protest of the Barons of England to Pope Boniface. On March 2, 1275, an Inquisition was held on the death of Avelina de Fortibus, descendant and heiress of Cecily Fitz-Duncan, and wife of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, who died childless, and Edward took her lands into his own possession. In 35 Edward I., (1306), Thomas de Multon, third of the name, and his cousin, Thomas de Lucy, put in their claim for the Fitz-Duncan inheritance, as descendants from Annabell, sister of Cecily, when it appeared that in 4 Edward I. a certain John de Eston had claimed to be descended from Amicia, a second daughter of Cecily, and upon a jury deciding in his favour, Edward had compounded for his claim by conferring upon him "a hundred pound lands." At this point both the King and Thomas de Lucy died. In the first year of Edward II. he granted Skipton to Piers de Gaveston and Margaret his wife, niece to the King.§ In 9 Edward II. Thomas de Multon and Anthony de Lucy again sought to establish their claim,‖ and in the following year an agreement was come to that John de Multon, son and heir of Thomas, should marry Joanne, daughter and heiress of the unhappy favourite, the King giving a thousand pounds to her portion;** but this arrangement never took effect, so far as the marriage

* Calendarium Genealogicum, p. 379.
† Ibid, p. 491.
‡ Nicolas's Siege of Carlaverock, p. 8.
§ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, p. 42.
‖ Abbreviatio Placitorum. 9 Edw. II., p. 323.
** Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, p. 44.

was

was concerned, owing probably to her early death, yet Multon got the money, for Joanne had been previously betrothed by her father to Thomas, son of John, Lord Wake, who having neglected to carry out his agreement, perhaps owing to the miserable end of her father, had to pay that amount as a fine for breach of contract. John de Multon married* Annabell, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Laurence de Holbeche; and Robert de Clifford, who, in the 4th year of Edward II., had exchanged his paternal estate in Monmouthshire for Skipton, remained undisturbed in his possession.† So far as I am aware no further claim was ever made.

In the year 1315 Robert Bruce invaded England, and committed great ravages in the northern counties.‡ James Douglas at this time did much mischief at Egremont, and spoiled the church of Saint Bega,§ and it was probably either in this invasion, or that of 1322, (in which the Scottish monarch "spoiled the Abbey of Holm Cultram where the body of his father was buried, and proceeded through Copeland devastating and plundering,"‖) that injuries were inflicted on the Abbey of Calder which were never repaired, and which may be traced at the present day. Thomas died about this time (but whether before or after the second invasion I cannot say), leaving a widow named Eleanor, who had for her dower "the Castle of Egremont, with a multitude of lands to the said Manor and Castle belonging." John de Multon, the last of his name, died childless 23rd November, 1335, whereupon the Barony passed to his three sisters as co-heiresses, and the partition was made much in the same way as that in the case of the Barony of Kendal. The Caput Baroniæ, "the Castle, with a due proportion of lands," fell, as in that case, to the eldest

* Nicolas's Siege of Carlaverock, p. 110.
† Whitaker's Craven, Morant's ed., p. 299.
‡ Ridpath's Border History, pp. 173-4.
§ Leland's Collectanea, vol. i, p. 24.
‖ Chronicon de Lanercost, p. 246.

daughter

daughter, Joanne, wife of Robert, Baron Fitzwalter; a third passed to Elizabeth, wife of Walter de Bermicham, who subsequently married Robert de Harington; Margaret becoming the wife of Thomas de Lucy, of the kindred line of Cockermouth.* The next mention we have of the Castle is in the 44 Edward III. (1371), upon the occasion of Walter Fitzwalter, the grandson of Robert, being taken prisoner in the invasion of Gascony, when he was under the necessity of mortgaging the Castle to raise one thousand pounds for his redemption.† On November 20, 1449, Thomas Percy, a younger son of Hotspur, was created Baron Egremont, of Egremont Castle,‡ but he was slain at the battle of Northampton, July 10th, 1460,§ and the Barony is held to have expired, certainly it was never claimed. This creation took place during the minority of John Ratcliff, son of John Ratcliff and Elizabeth, heiress of the Fitzwalters. It is possible that the Castle may have been still unredeemed, and the money have been advanced by the Percies. It is stated by William of Worcester that a quarrel, the origin of which is unknown, took place between the Earl of Salisbury and this Thomas Percy, and that this disagreement was the occasion of a minor but still bloody civil war in the North before it developed, as it subsequently did, into the great war of the Roses; the one side ranging themselves under the banner of York, who being brother-in-law of the Earl of Salisbury had naturally espoused the Neville cause, whilst the other party rallied round the great Percy family, in which loyalty to the Lancastrian line was, however, as we well know, by no means an hereditary feature. The ordinances of Henry during the early stages of the dispute do not manifest any bias towards either side, though we seem to gather that

* Dugdale's Baronage, vol. ii, p. 569.
† Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i, p. 422.
‡ Collins's Peerage, vol. ii, p. 359.
§ Hall's Chronicle, p. 244.

Percy

Percy was not entirely blameless.* Between 1527 and, I think, 1529, Henry Algernon Percy, sixth Earl of Northumberland, called "the unthrifty," the unfortunate lover of Anne Boleyn, bought from Robert Fitzwalter (then Viscount Fitzwalter), the third part of the ancient Barony, including the Castle, and he thus became possessed of two-thirds, the other portion being then vested in Henry Grey, second Marquis of Dorset, father of Lady Jane Grey, whence that share is called the "Marquis's share. Notwithstanding the alienation, Henry Ratcliffe, second Earl of Sussex, who died in 1556, son of that Viscount Fitzwalter who sold the share, is called "Baro de Egrimond" on his tomb in Boreham church, as is also his son Thomas, who died in 1583, the great counsellor of Queen Elizabeth, so well known to all as one of the characters in Kenilworth.† His half-brother, Egremond Ratcliff, played a prominent part in the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1538, for his share in which he fled abroad, and was put to death on a charge of contemplating the murder of a Prince of Austria.‡ On the death of the Earl of Northumberland referred to, the whole of the Percy estates fell to the Crown, but they were granted by Philip and Mary, April 30, 1557,§ to Thomas, nephew and heir of the last possessor, on whose execution, August 22, 1572, for his share in "the rising in the north," his brother Henry inherited. He caused a survey to be taken of the whole of the Percy estates. When at a court holden at Egremont, May 20, 1578, it was found that "The Castle of Egremont is now all most ruinated and decay'd, save that some part of the old stone work and walls thereof are yet standing, and one chamber therein now used for the Court house in like ruin and decay. About which Castle is a pleasant dry dich, and without the

* Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council, vol. vi., 22 Hen. VI.—1443 to 39 Hen. VI.—1461, pp. 35, 59, William of Worcester, p. 476.

† Rubbings from Brasses, penes me.

‡ Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569, pp. 71, 73.

§ Copy of Grant, penes Rev. W. E. Strickland.

said

said dich hath been the base court now called the Castlegarth, the site of which said Castle together with the said Castlegarth contain by est. 2 acres, and worth to be lett p. ann. 14s. 6d."* This account of its condition in 1578 does not, after the further exposure of another three-quarters of a century, appear to leave much work for Cromwell and the Parliamentarians, to whom the destruction has been generally ascribed; and as Algernon, the ninth Earl of Northumberland, was on the popular side, I do not see how any further demolition could accrue at that period. And now, as Mohammed II. exclaimed when he entered Constantinople and contemplated the ruin he had made, "The spider has woven his web in the Imperial Palace and the owl has sung her watch song in the towers of Afrasiab."

"And many a century it stood,
To prove its ancient fame,
Though but some lowly walls now bear
Egremont's honoured name.
Its princely hall, its bastions strong,
Its chapel turrets fair,
Are gone like cloud-built palaces
And castles in the air."

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* Percy Survey, copy, penes Rev. H. Curwen, Rector of Workington.

Key to Egremont Castle.

A. The S. wall of the Great Hall. c. 1270

B The Entrance Tower. begun bef: 1150. finished. later & rebuilt later
still at N.E corner

C. A bastion Tower ? 13th Cy? now destroyed.

D A largish Tower is shewn here in Buck's view. 1739. Kitchen &c.

E Wet moat filled probably from the Book Well. deeper formerly.

F. Postern or Town-gate late Norman.

G. Dry Fosse falling into the valley. deeper formerly.

H. Site of Barbican & rear-way from the Town Bridge.

I. Town- or Church 'vent'

K. Probable gate on to 'fore-close' under the front wall.

L. Road from the Bridge

M An older Norman wall.

N. Possibly a tiltyard.

O,O. Probable line of palisades ? with Echauguettes of wood.

P. Bretesche to Hall gate, with portcullis groove.

Q Fragment of Window-jamb. fine

R. 'Fresaunce' or 'Screens' of the Hall.

S. Entrance way.

T Oldest Wall.

U. Probable site of a Barbican

V. Depressed Roadway.

a. Staircase-turret to Entrance Tower.

b. Wide-jointed early Norman masonry.

c. ? Late Norman work of 3 dates.

d. Large fallen fragments.

e. Site of sheds &c.

f fire-places. One in the Court-house 14th Century. notice the arch-stone.

g. Probable drawbridge.

h. ? Modern site of flagstaff.

Notes. The Outer Bailey, ab. 120 ft × 105 ft is considerably lower than the Inner ab. 65 × 36 across the ruins.

2. The inner face of Entrance Tower B is rather older than the outer.

3. From B to K in the old 'herring-bone' wall are 'put-log' holes of early Norman building; this is therefore the oldest part.

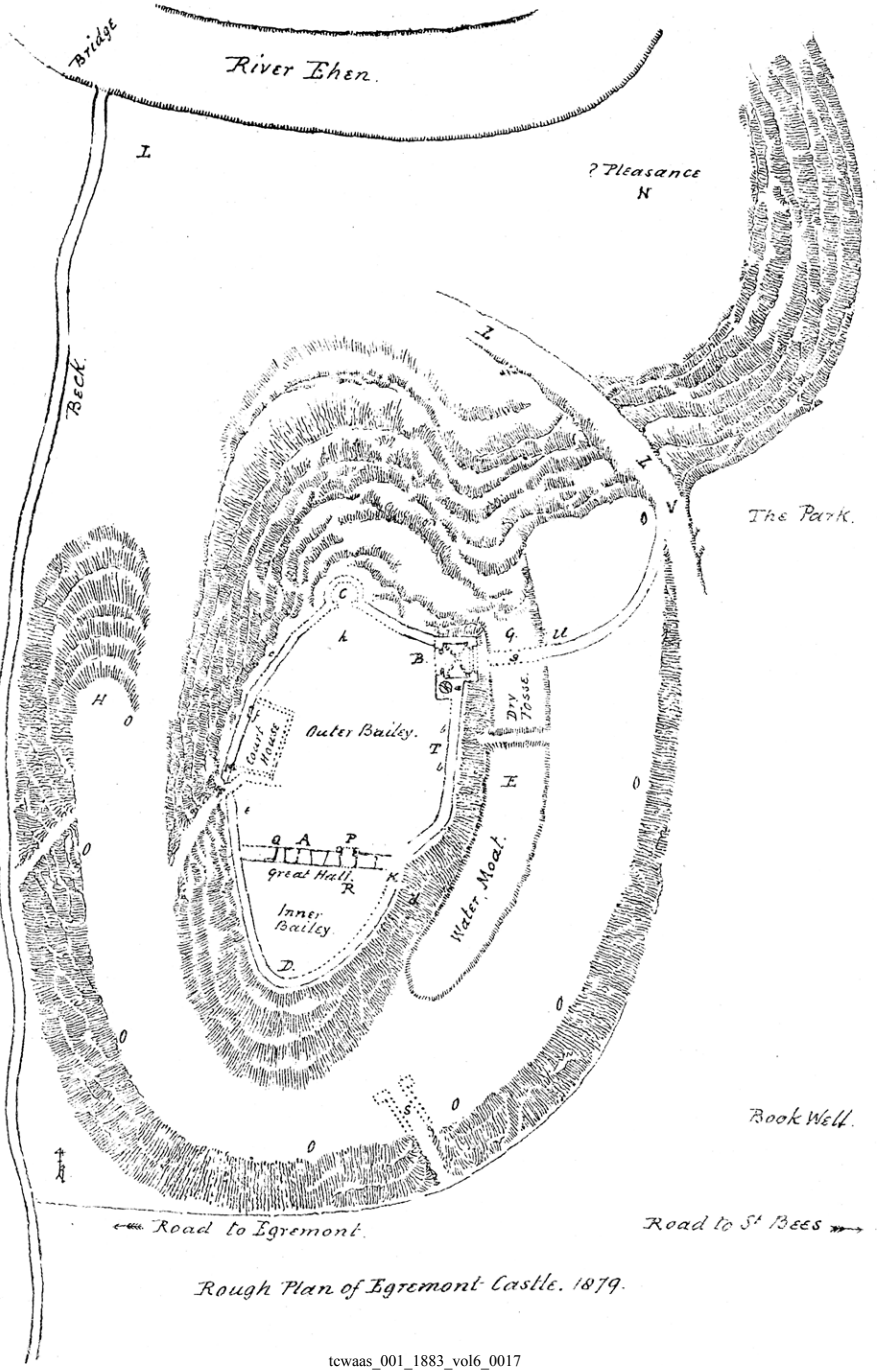
4. In the same wall are square holes probably for 'hourdes'.

5. Holes for ? wooden corbels in Hall.

6. The hood-mouldings of the Hall Windows.

7. B. the inside arch of portal too low for a man on horseback.

8. P. Section at Bretesche.



Rough Plan of Egremont Castle. 1879.

ART. XVA. — *Egremont Castle.* By the REV. E. H. KNOWLES, M.A., Hon. Canon of Carlisle, and W. JACKSON, F.S.A.

Read at Egremont, August 31st, 1881.

THIS site, on which we stand, is possibly that of a rude hill-fort of pre-historic times. Two fragments found in the ancient church of St. Mary here, make it certain to me that the Romans had a camp, and a considerable settlement in this place, to which I doubt not this castlehill gave outlook and strength. Here William de Meschines built a small stronghold; but it has altogether vanished, as the earliest remains now existing are later than his day by a good many years. Mr. Jackson and I offer you a rough plan of these ruins, to which I shall refer in these brief notes, and you must please accept our apology for some vagueness, and some curtness, since we have not been able to prepare for your visit to-day by any excavations.

The wall at T, and the lower part of the Entrance Tower at B, are surely of earlyish Norman work, for they are rude and wide jointed, shew what has been called herring-bone work, and have one curious feature, which I have found only in buildings of the first half of the twelfth century. Norman builders of that age, in making thick walls, at every three or four courses laid on the wall an oaken log, smoothed round and sloping into the wall for some four feet, at a gentle inclination upwards. Before the mortar set, they pulled it out, and afterwards stopped the opening with a small stone, which has often decayed and fallen out. This was adopted, I think, for the cooling and drying of walls, the heart of which was hot grout. Observe that these holes occur here, with the herring-bone masonry, only in the wall of the west front, at T, and they mark the oldest part

part of the ruins, dating from about 1140. If ever there was a keep of stone, it was small, and probably became ruinous, or was removed as uncomfortable by the middle of the thirteenth century.

To describe these remains very briefly: They stand on an oval hill, steeply scarped on all sides, and rising rather suddenly towards the north end, where the lord's keep or house always stood, fronting the road over the moor, from the Abbey of St. Bees to the town of Egremont. A lower plateau, some eighteen to thirty yards wide, also scarped, and most probably palisaded, surrounds this small fortress, except on the side of the river. Gateways, to the two upper yards or baileys, exist at B and F, and probably at K. The last opened on to a palisaded "lice" or "foreclose," made for sallies in time of siege. Three roads approached the castle, one from the coast, one from St. Bees, and another was the great southern way, surely a Roman road, from the south, Calder, Millom, &c. At V, in the plan, you will notice a depression, which warrants me in saying that, from the bridge and southern gate of the Borough of Egremont, one way led up here through a barbican, of which are some traces at H, to the postern gate of the castle, while the other, bent upwards along the tilting ground or pleasaunce at N, and then curved back to the front or principal portal. Again, at S, we think, are traces of a fortified way through the palisades up to the lower even plateau, and so up to K. At U, probably stood a barbican tower, which has altogether perished, for the protection of the drawbridge or the causeway. Crossing the dry ditch here, we have, directly in front of us, the entrance tower, the lower part of which may date from 1130—1140, coeval with the most ancient walling at T. There was no portcullis. In this far north, we think, such things were not used in small fortresses so early as the twelfth century. Strong doors were the only defence, except the drawbridge, which was raised by a chain

chain that passed through the small loophole, visible in the face of the tower, at B. The entrance, you see, is up a very steep incline, and all its details are gone. The lower part seems to have been filled with a very strong wooden platform, on which the doors opened and the drawbridge was worked. Horsemen must have dismounted and led their steeds up a short paved way, flanked by narrow stone steps, to the inner door, which was, I think, contracted in the latter part of the thirteenth century.

Of the two upper courts or baileys, the outer one is about one hundred and twenty feet in length by sixty-three in breadth. Its north side is commanded by the facade, once very noble, of the great hall, which, somewhere about 1260, superseded the lord's Norman keep or dwelling-house. This has three interesting features, a simple but excellent hoodmoulding, a good fragment of window-jamb at Q, and a small bretesche, if I may call it by that somewhat vague name, provided with a groove for a portcullis, and projecting some two feet from the wall above the doorway, at P. A rough section of this is given on the plan. Entering the site of the hall, we see only traces of the "screens," and of the window-seats. The windows, doubtless, had two lights, and were protected partly by their height above the lower court, partly by strong stanchions and wooden shutters. We may add that there are no signs of a chapel; my lord was, possibly, contented with the masses said in the church of his burgh, which was built about 1140, on the site, probably, of a still older church, for Egremont must needs have been one of the many missionary stations of this district. We find neither well, nor garderobe, but probably the accumulation of rubbish accounts for this. The walls of this inner bailey have nearly perished; fragments alone remain detached here and there on the hillside; for, until the last few years, this castle has been a quarry for the builder, and wholly at the mercy of the more mischievous visitor.

To

To conclude, the smaller boroughs of Cumberland, such as Cockermouth and Egremont, seem to have had neither stone walls nor stone gates. Secondly and lastly, this is a natural hill, only scarped and improved by art. It was possibly a pre-historic fortress, then fortified by the Romans for a watch tower to their Egremont camp, then built on by the Norman lord, harried by Scotch invaders and re-built; then for a long time neglected, more or less; then ruined by some such Parliamentary coup-de-grace as dismantled so many large feudal castles; then for two hundred years the prey of the builder, and the spoil of the idler; but the wreck is noble, and has at least some of its history written on it and we may be thankful for what remains, and hopeful also, seeing that due care is now, at least, taken for its preservation.