

XXIII.—*Castle Rents anciently payable to the Castle of Newcastle.*

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Read at the Monthly Meeting, 1 March, 1854.

THE following account of the payments due from certain Baronies in Northumberland for the “Ward” or defence of the Castle of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is copied from *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, a miscellaneous volume compiled in the reign of Henry III.

A statement of these Castle rents is printed in Bourn’s *History of Newcastle*, and has been copied by Brand, but it is neither complete nor accurate. The amount due from the great Barony of Bailliol, nearly a moiety of the whole, is altogether omitted, the payment from Gosforth and Dilston is attributed to the latter only, and the contributions of Heron and Delaval are incorrectly given.

Under these circumstances, I beg to offer to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne a copy of the document preserved in the Public Record Office, with a few explanatory observations. The general scale of payment is one mark per knight’s fee ; thus—

Bolam Barony	3 fees is charged	£2	0	0
Delavall	2 fees	1	6	8
Whalton.....	3 fees	2	0	0
Cangi (or Guagi)	3 fees	2	0	0
Heron.....	1 fee	0	13	4
Bothal ..	3 fees	2	0	0
Dilston	$\frac{1}{3}$ fee } are charged	0	13	4
Gosforth ..	$\frac{2}{3}$ fee }			
Bolbec.....	5 fees is charged	3	6	8
Merlai..	4	2	13	4
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	25	£16	13	4

I am unable to explain what is meant by Copiun. It is not Cupun or Cowpen, for that was a member of the Barony of Bolam, which is otherwise charged with its full contribution in respect of three knights' fees. Copiun is charged as one knight's fee, one mark.

The Barony of Bailliol under the grant from William Rufus was bound to furnish thirty soldiers, being one man for each of the 30 knight's fees which belonged to that powerful family. In the reign of King John the whole compliment was furnished by the Barony of Bywell, which comprised only 5 knights' fees, or a sixth of the whole, but lay within a convenient distance of the Castle, whereas the other estates were scattered over various parts of the kingdom.

In the following reign, of Henry III., this service was commuted for a money payment, and the arrangement, which was previously adopted for convenience, was no longer called for. Henceforward each member of the Barony was chargeable with its rateable proportion, the Lordship of Barnard-Castle contributing $5\frac{1}{2}$ marks in respect of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ knights' fees of which it consisted. Some members however seem to have escaped altogether, as the total payment amounted only to $23\frac{1}{2}$ marks instead of 30, although the Baillols continued to hold the original number of knights' fees, and were still rated for the whole towards scutages, aids, &c.

In the 18th of Henry III. the Lordship of Barnard-Castle, which was previously held of the Crown, was attorned to the Bishop of Durham, to whom and his successors the homage of the Bailliol family was transferred. In the subsequent accounts of the Sheriffs of Northumberland, the total amount charged for Castle rent remains unaltered, but an annual arrear of $5\frac{1}{2}$ marks is duly recorded, and for this the Bishop is held responsible, unless he can show an acquittance by grant from the King or his predecessors.

There can be little doubt that the other Baronies, as well as Bailliol, originally furnished men and not money; for the *Pipe Rolls of Northumberland*, from which the above particulars are derived, contain no entry of any payment for Castle-guard previous to the reign of Henry III. The

thirty soldiers however which were furnished by the Barony of Bailliol are the only ones noticed in the *Testa de Nevil*.

The total amount, according to the *Red Book*, chargeable on all the contributing Baronies was 33*l.*, the sum actually received and accounted for by the Sheriff was 32*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* annually.

JOHN HODGSON HINDE.

In the Book called "The Red Book of the Exchequer," (remaining in the custody of the Queen's Remembrancer of the Court of Exchequer at Westminster,) at folio 195^b, there is, amongst other matters, found as follows, that is to say.

NORTHUMĚR.		
	De Warda de Baylloł die dñica p̄xima post festum S̄ci Luce v. m ^a r̄c.	
	De eadem die dñica p̄xima post festum S̄ci Martini..... xx. sol.	
	De eadem die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festum Circūconis dñi iii. lib̄.	
	De ejusdem feodo die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festum S̄ci Egidii iii. lib̄.	
	De eadem die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festum S̄ce Scolastice v. m ^a r̄.	
Feoda ptinent ad ward Novi Casti sup Ti- nam.	De Copiu ad eundem t̄minū i. m̄r.	
	De Boliu die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festum S̄ci Cuthberti in Marcio xl. š.	
	De feodo de Laval ad eundem t̄minū ii. m̄r.	
	De feodo de Waltoñ die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festū Aploz Phi 7 Jacobi..... xl. š.	
	De feodi de Cangi ad eund t̄minū xl. š.	
	De feodo de Herun die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festū S̄ci Barnaš Apli..... i. m̄r.	
	De feod de Bothale ad eundem t̄minū..... xl. š.	
	Defeod de Divalistun 7 Goseforde ad eundem t̄minū i. m̄r.	
	De feodo de Bolebeķ die dñica p̄x ^a p ^o festū S̄ci Jacoš Apli v. m̄r.	
	De feodo de Merley ad eundem t̄minū iii m̄r.	
		Sm ^a xxxiii. li.