date. We can now, however, produce a bronze tripod vessel, of the usual coffee-pot shape, but of undoubted mediæval workmanship.

[Dr. Charlton, in addition to this Hexham instance, refers to Col. Howard's, mentioned by Mr. Way.] Both these must be admitted to belong to mediæval times; and we see no reason why the others, without mark or letter, should not be referred to a similar recent period of our history. A curious confirmation of the correctness of our views regarding these bronze tripods is to be found in a MS. of the fourteenth century, now in the British Museum. Here numbers of these bronze tripod caldrons are depicted as in daily use, some of them being exactly similar in shape to that bearing the old French inscription, and figured in the *Archæologia*. Moreover, in this same MS. we have a figure of an attendant carrying a tripod (coffee-pot) shaped vessel, exactly similar to those now in the Society's collections. In the other hand he bears a dish or platter; and possibly warm drink, or spiced wine, was handed to the guests in these vessels. The inscription on the Hexham tripod vessel would in such case be peculiarly appropriate.[2]

GOTHIC *v.* CLASSIC.—*Mr. F. R. Wilson*, architect, Alnwick, exhibited large drawings by him of the Forum of Rome, restored, as a creditable type of the classic styles of architecture; and of a cluster of mediæval cathedrals, churches, and domestic buildings existing in England. The object was to afford a fair means of judging between the styles in reference to modern adaptations. York and Durham cathedrals justly take a prominent position. [Mr. Wilson has since obtained very handsome photograms of these drawings.] He also exhibited a restored view of Brinkburn interior, and drawings of buildings, old and new, upon which he has been professionally engaged, including Cheswick House, the arrangements at Alnwick Cemetery, Kyloe Church, buildings at Alnmouth, &c.

CHIBBURN PRECEPTORY.—*Mr. Wilson* also presented detailed views and elevations of this interesting building, and read some "new notes" thereon. A previous paper, alluded to by Mr. Wilson, was read by Mr. Woodman, at the Newcastle Congress of the Archæological Institute, and, since the reading of Mr. Wilson's, has been published in 17 Arch. Journal, 35. Mr. Woodman observes that the establishment was possibly founded by the Fitz-Williams, the tenants in chief, or by the Widdringtons, who held under them in the twelfth century, and whose arms may be intended by a defaced quarterly escutcheon over the chapel doorway. He then cites the following evidences:—1. Bishop Kellaw's return (in his Register) of the Hospitallers' goods in 1313, before the

[2] See an article by Mr. T. Hudson Turner on Drinking Customs, in the Archæological Journal for 1845.

acquisition of the Templars' lands. The house of Chipburn was then worth 10*l.* yearly. 2. The document mentioned by Mr. Wilson, and printed by Dr. Raine, viz., a grant by Robert Grosthette, formerly master and keeper of the house of the hospital of St. John at Chibburn. It is witnessed by brother John de Crauinne, the preceptor of Chibburn, Alan and Robert, clerks, of the same place, and others.[3] 3. The Hospitallers' rental in England, in 1338, (published by the Camden Society), wherein, under "bajulia (bailiwick) de Chiburn," we find that brother John de Bilton the preceptor, brother John Dacombe the chaplain, and brother Simon Dengayne, and some enumerated servants of the household, resided at Chibburn. The manor-house was ruinous, and Mr. Parker attributes the present buildings to a period immediately succeeding. That this is the date of the chapel is admitted on all hands. 4. The crown minister's account, in 1540, after the Dissolution, mentioning the manor of Chibburn as parcel of the possessions of the late preceptory of Mount St. John, in Yorkshire, and the chaplain performing divine service there. 5. The grant of the manor to Sir John Widdrington and Cuthbert Musgrave in 1553. 6. The will and inventory in 1593 of Hector Widdrington, a constable of horsemen of Berwick, and natural son of Sir John; his chattels at Berwick were worth 55*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; and he had corn at Chibburn, with divers household chattels, worth 4*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* 7. The survey for the crown in 1717, after the attainder of Lord Widdrington. Two of the fields are called St. John's-flatt-meadow and St. John's-pasture. 8. A survey made for Sir George Warren, bart., a subsequent owner, in 1768. "The mansion house at Low Chibburn is the remains of a religious house. The walls and timber are extraordinary good, but the slate is much out of repair. It has never been pointed, nor any of the rooms ceiled. The slate ought to be taken off, dressed over, and what it falls short made up with new. The tenants make themselves conveniences for stables, &c., out of what were formerly a chapel and parlours." The manor is now Lord Vernon's.

Mr. Wilson's paper is printed below.

Having undertaken, with the sanction of the Venerable Archdeacon of Lindisfarne, the task of surveying and delineating every church in

[3] A remarkable document. "Frater Robertus Grosthette *quondam magister et custos* domus hospitalis Sancti Johannis de Chiburne—Priori et monachis de Insula, totam illam quietam clamacionem quam Adam filius Roberti *Templeman* tenens noster de Houburne fecit eisdem—de communa cujusdam petariæ.—Presens scriptum *sigilli domus de Chiburne impressione roboravi.* Hiis testibus Fratre Johanne de Crauinne *tunc preceptore* de Chiburne—Alano et Roberto tunc clericis de Chiburn et aliis.—*Seal, a cross.*" (Raine's No. Dm. App. 116, from Durham Treasury, ij. j. Special., H. iij.)

his archdeaconry, my investigations led me to Warkworth, where the courtesy of the vicar introduced me to what he considered a most interesting but somewhat enigmatical ruin in his neighbourhood—Chibburn. The great archæological interest I found the remains to possess, on attentive examination, induced me to return for three successive days, and to make a most careful delineation of every part of the buildings, stone by stone, which drawings I have now the honour to present to the Society. I have made no research for historical accounts of the place, as I learned that a paper, yet unpublished, had been read by one of the members of the Society; but I see, among the copies of charters printed in Raine's North Durham, a document mentioning the original building as the Hospital of St. John de Chibburn.

All mention of Chibburn, in any of the works on Northumberland, is bare and scanty always; and more than once incorrect. Mackenzie merely says:—"Chibburn is a very old strong building, which has been moated round; and the rivulet which passes it could easily be diverted into the ditch in times of danger." Hodgson goes so far as to say:—"It is a massive old-fashioned stone building, with a chimney like a huge buttress projecting from its south gable. I see no ground to believe that the building, now occupied as a barn here, was ever a chapel belonging to the established church, either in papal times, or since the Reformation, as some have supposed." But, in Turner's valuable book on Domestic Architecture, the subject is treated at greater length. Finding that the conclusions drawn in this more modern and important notice are not quite correct, and knowing also, that the opinions expressed in it are likely to be consulted for ultimate decision in any contested point, I deemed it would not be uninteresting to the Society to hear the evidence of the stones themselves.

The passage referred to is as follows:—"But the preceptory of the Hospitallers, at Chibburn, existing now almost as it was left by the brethren, affords too curious and interesting a subject to be passed over. . . . The building formed a hollow square, into which there was one gateway;[4] and in all probability all the entrances to the building were from the court yard. The principal dwelling-house, which was at the west end, is still almost perfect. It is a long, low building of two stories, having external chimneys at the south end, and others in the centre. The windows on the second floor were built with corbels, probably to attack assailants who were beneath.[5] Internally, we find the partition of oak plank placed in a groove at top and bottom, with a narrow reed ornament on the face three inches in thickness, placed at a distance of twelve inches apart, the interstices filled with

[4] "The principal entrance was by an arched gateway into the court on the north side. The dwelling-house is of two stories and has been divided into three apartments on each floor. On the ground floor is a passage with a low arched doorway, and there are four mullioned windows, two of three lights and the others of two lights each." (Woodman.)

[5] "The windows of the upper floor opening towards the west are now flush with the wall, being of comparatively modern construction, but originally they appear to have rested on corbels projecting about 12 inches." (Ibid.)

loam.[6] The chimneys are of great size, having one very large stone over the opening for the fireplace. The steps to the second story are solid blocks of wood, those beneath being of stone.[7] The ceiling of the ground floor is of oak moulded,[8] upon which are laid narrow oak planks, having their undersides smoothed, and a reed ornament on them, so as not to require plaster. The south side was formed by the chapel, which is of excellent ashlar work. At the east end is the great window; and the chapel has this peculiarity—there is an upper floor of about two-thirds its length from the west, still remaining, with the fireplace at the proper level. This has clearly been part of the original plan, and is a good example of the domestic chapel as described in previous chapters; and it communicates with the dwelling. There is a similar instance of this in a chapel within the keep at Warkworth Castle. The east and north sides are missing; they doubtless contained the inferior dwelling rooms, stables, &c."

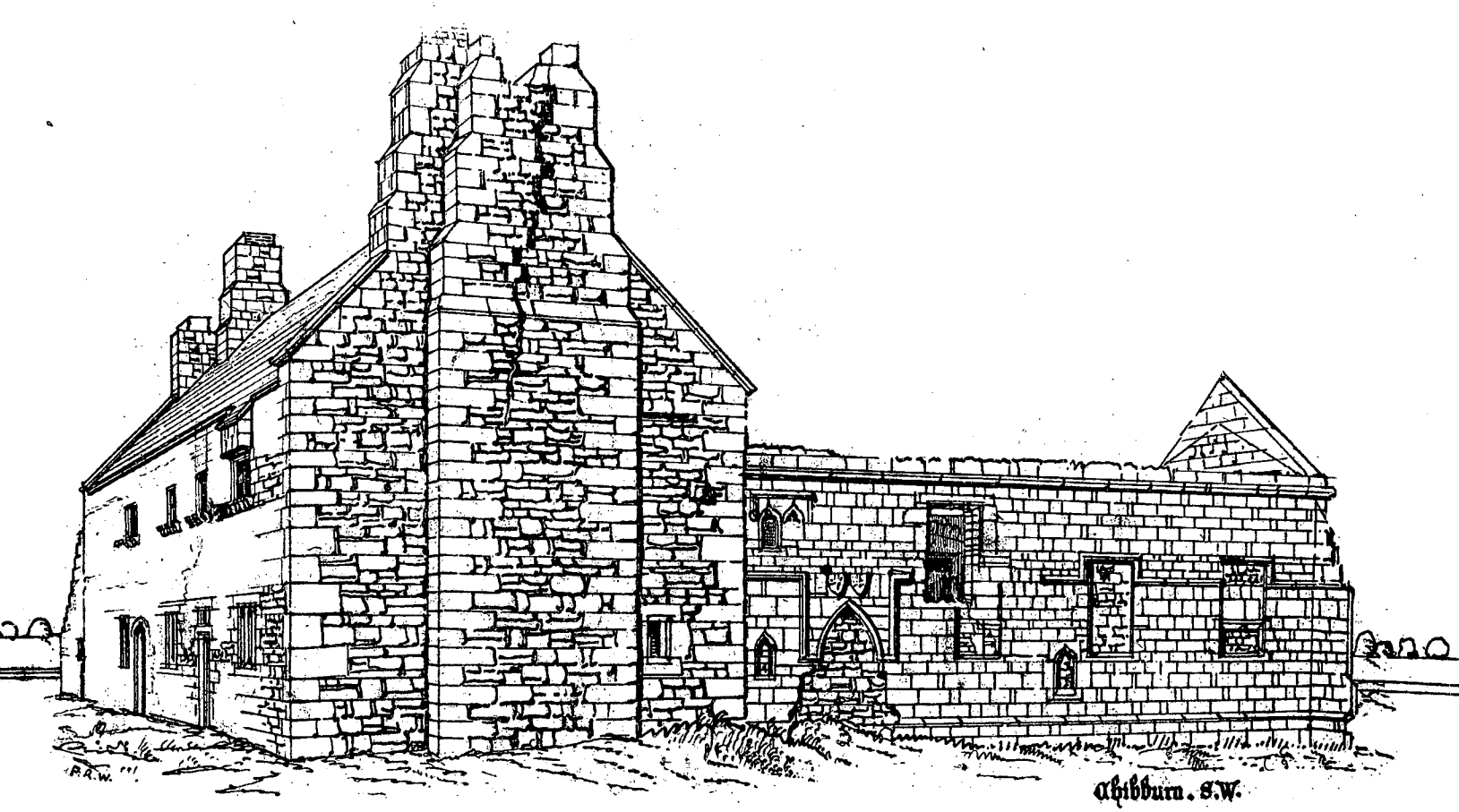
That part of the building called in the foregoing account the "principal dwelling house," instead of being part of the fourteenth century edifice, as conjectured, is clearly indicated by the character of the masonry to be post-Reformation work. It is built in the semi-fortified, semi-domestic style that prevailed in those fierce times when every man's house was his castle as well as his home. I incline to fix the precise date as immediately succeeding the Reformation, for this reason: when the dwelling house was building, advantage was taken of the fact of the chapel being in good preservation, and in disuse, to secure additional chamber accommodation. The floor, described in the before-quoted passage as only extending two-thirds the length of the chapel, was inserted; and fireplaces and doors made precisely similar in character to those of the new house, to make it thus available. The floor, however, extended the whole length of the chapel; for a door, leading to other apartments in an adjacent building, now in ruins, is situated on the very angle which is erroneously supposed not to have been floored. (See drawing at A.) I can well imagine it would be difficult to come to any other conclusion, after taking up the fallacious opinion that the work was all of one period; because the floor brought up to the east end cuts the east window in two. But, as will be seen from my drawings, the east window was filled up to meet this contingency, and two small square apertures left in the interstice—the one to light the upper floor, the other the lower one.

On the south side of the chapel, the label moulding of the ancient building points out the original features. It rose and fell regularly over three windows on one level, and arched over the doorway. It was broken up, when the floor was laid, in the manner we now see; the doorway filled up, and the original windows disposed of in the same

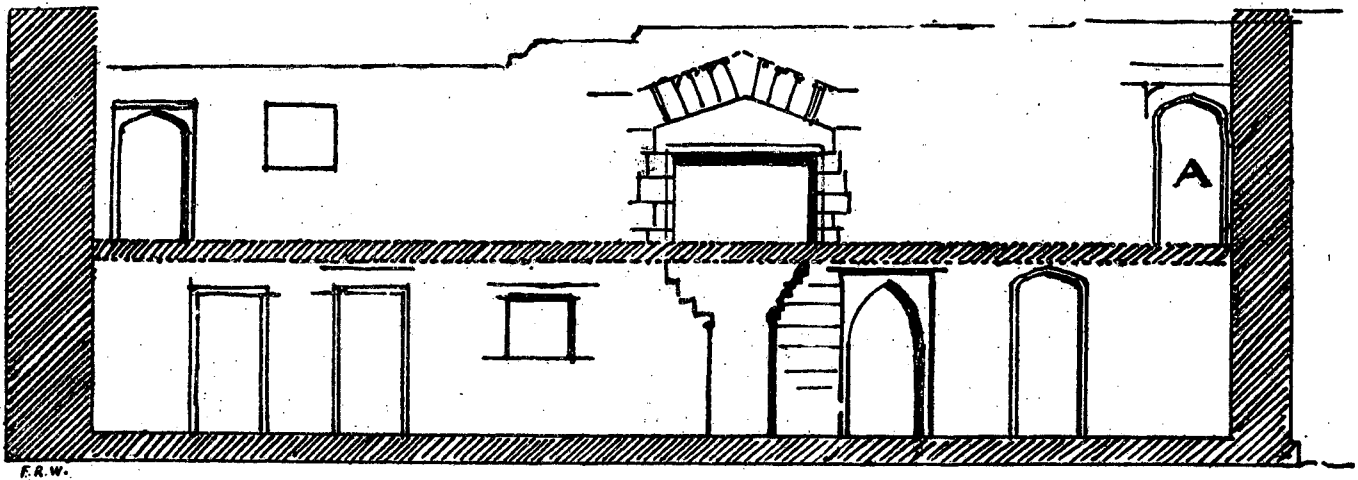
[6] "In one of the upper chambers an old partition remains, consisting of oak planks set in grooves at the top and bottom. The edges of the planks are reeded on the face. They measure about 5 inches broad and 3 inches thick, and are placed 4 inches apart, the intervening spaces being filled up with clay and straw." (Woodman.)

[7] "There is also access to this floor by stone stairs from the court" (Ibid.)

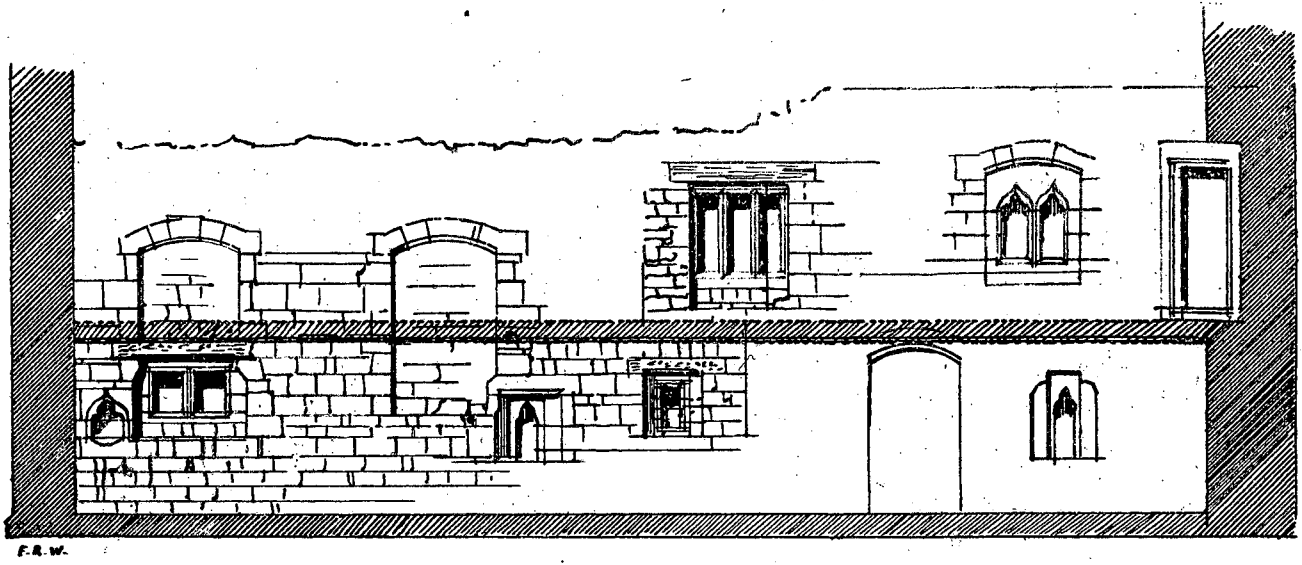
[8] "Both joists and boards having a reed run along their angles." (Ibid.)



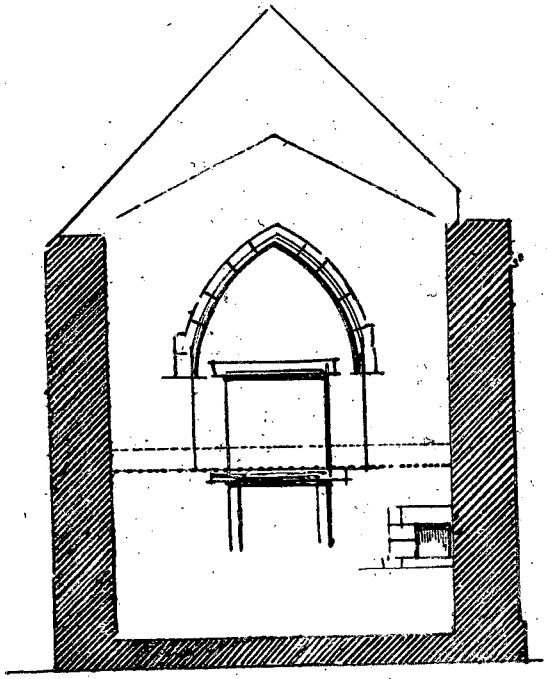
Chibburn. S.W.



Chibburn. North wall of Chapel. Interior.

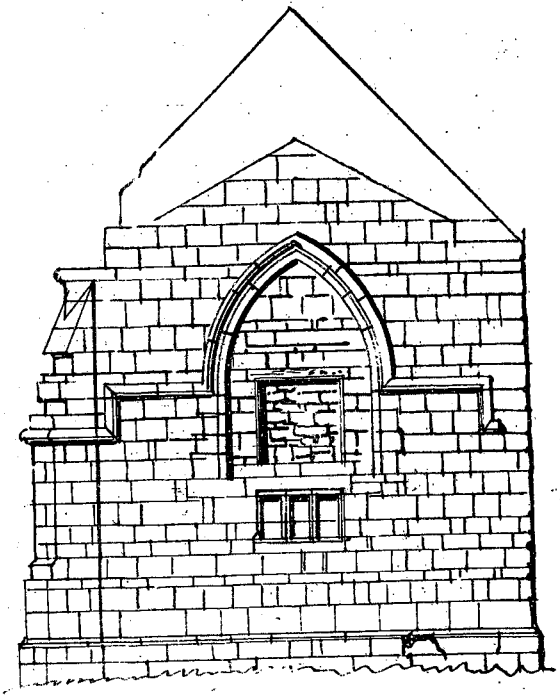


Chibburn. South wall of Chapel. Interior.



F. R. W.

Interior.



Exterior.

Chibburn. East end of Chapel.

manner, except the bases of two of them, which were cunningly turned into small square lights for the lower floor of the chapel thus divided. The two small ogee-headed single lights, so curiously below the level of the other windows, were also left to light the lower part of the building; while a new square mullioned opening was made on the same line as an existing double ogee-headed window, to furnish more light for the upper part.[9]

The story of Chibburn, then, is thus told by its stones. The hospital, situated a seven-miles' stage from Warkworth, on the road between Holy Island and Durham—a welcome sight, no doubt, to many a weary pilgrim—was in decay when the dwelling-house, now standing, was erected. But the remains of the chapel were in such preservation as permitted additional accommodation to be obtained by throwing a floor across it, and converting both stories into chambers. A fire-place above stairs, and another below stairs, were inserted for the convenience of this arrangement; and the original windows, now inconveniently situated, with regard to height, for both stories, were filled up for the sake of strength and snugness, and others made in more suitable positions.

The present state and prospects of the buildings are most lamentable, and needful of this learned Society's attention. A few years ago, they were used as a kind of farmstead; which occupancy, rough as it was, afforded some protection. But now, the farm buildings are removed to a great distance, and the sole occupant of the dwelling-house is a herd. The chapel, dismantled of its oak for the benefit of the new farm buildings, is floorless, roofless, and uncared for—save by the bats, jackdaws, and starlings. The ancient roads are obliterated; and there is every reason to fear that this quaint old place, which should be sacred to the memory of the Hospitallers, and subsequently to that of the dowager ladies of the house of Widdrington, who made it their pleasant home in Elizabethan times, will as completely disappear to meet the exigencies of additional cow-byre requirements. [Mr. Wilson adds the following note.—"Five months after the above paper was read, I again visited Chibburn; when I found that the projecting masonry over the corbels which marked the height of the upper windows of the dwelling house,

[9] Have the various ogee-headed lights been abstracted from the principal windows?

"Immediately over the arch of the south doorway are two escutcheons.—Traces of a cross patée, doubtless for the Knights of St. John, may be seen on one, and a quarterly coat on the other. It is not improbable that this may have been the coat of Widdrington, an ancient family in the neighbourhood. In Willement's Roll, temp. Ric. II., we find Monsr. Gerrard de Wythryngton bearing Quarterly, argent and gules, a bendlet sable. Considering the perished state of the escutcheon, the bendlet may very likely have disappeared." (Woodman.)

"The piscina remains in the south-east angle. There remains in the chapel a corbel or truss rudely carved in oak, which may have been intended to represent the mitred head of a bishop, or possibly an angel, with a fillet round the forehead ornamented in front with a cross. [St. Gabriel?] Of the roof, now wholly fallen, a few strong oak rafters remained in 1853, supporting thatch. The original roof may have been of higher pitch. Human bones have been occasionally found, and a grave-slab with a cross flory now forms the threshold of the door leading from the courtyard into a stable. In one of the windows the upper portion of a stone coffin may be seen, placed in a cavity in the wall." (Ibid.)

as shewn in the drawings, had been removed; the corbels had been suffered to remain; and thus the aspect of the building is rendered more enigmatical then ever. I may add that, since the reading of my notes on Chibburn, I have had the pleasure of perusing the paper written by Mr. Woodman on the same building, and that the evidence brought forward by him confirms my affirmation that the dwelling-house was erected after the dissolution. The date of the grant of the manor to Sir John Widrington, 1553, and the period of the masonry precisely agree, a coincidence which points in a very indicative manner to Sir John as the builder of the dwelling house in question.—F.R.W."]

NORTH TYNDALE AND THE BORDERS IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.—*Dr. Charlton* read the following paper:—

Sir Robert Bowes, in his report upon the state of the Borders in 1550, tells us that "the countreye of North Tynedaill, which is more plenished with wild and misdemeaned people, may make of men upon horsbak and upon foote about six hundred. They stand most by fower surnames, whereof the Charletons be the chiefe. And in all services or charge impressed uppon that countrey the Charltons, and such as be under their rule, be rated for the one half of that countrey, the Robsons for a quarter, and the Dodds and Mylbornes for another quarter. Of every surname there be certayne families or graves (graynes) of which there be certeyne hedesmen that leadeth and answereth all for the rest."

We learn from documents printed by the Surtees Society that these famous thieves of Tyndale and Redesdale often fell under ecclesiastical censure. The "Monitio contra famosos latrones de Tyndale" gives a fearful account of the disorder that prevailed in these vallies, and the Book of the Sanctuary of Durham shews that in 1518 Alexander Charleton, of Shotlyngton Hall, had slain one Alexander Elliott ("Illot"), at Espleywood, by striking him in the left side with a dagger. The Elliotts were of Scottish surname, and perhaps the homicide resulted from a national quarrel. The Elliotts are recorded in a Cotton MS. as being at feud with the Fenwykes of Northumberland, as were the Armstrongs of Liddesdale with the Robsons of North Tyne; and Sir Thos. Musgrave reports that they are "grown soe to seeke blood, that they will make a quarrel for the dethe of there grandfather, and then wyll kyll anie of the name." We learn from the same report the very route taken by the Scottish invaders, Elliotts and Armstrongs, &c., when they rode a foray into England. "When Liddisdaill people make any invacions to the Fenwickes they goe without Bewcastell 10 or 12 miles, and goe by the Perl-fell withoute the Horse Head, near Keldar, and soe along above Cheapchase. When they goe to the Water of Tyne, they goe by Kyrsoppe head, and without the Gell Crage, and by Tarnbek and Bugells Gar, and soe along by the Spye Crage and the Lamepert, and come that way."

In the early part of the sixteenth century, Sir Ralph Fenwyke of Wallington was keeper of Tyndale, and he was sheriff of Northumberland in 1515, when Edward Charlton of Hesleyside became bond in