

Twizel, Sewingshields, and Shawden; the three fortalices of Capheaton, Dichant, and Harnham Hall; and the sixty towers of Bamburgh (Hospital), Bavington, Beaufront, Belsay, Berrington, Biddlestone, Buckton, Cartington, Chatton (vicarage), Chatton (Robert Forster's), Chipchase, Coquet Island, Corbridge (vicarage), Craster, Elsdon (rectory), Etherston, Elwick (Thomas Bradford's), Elwick (Thomas Elwick's), Embleton (vicarage), Fenton, Flotterton, Halton, Haltwhistle, Hepple, West Herle, Hethpool, Holburn, Hoppen, Howick, Ilderton, Kirkley, Kyloe, Lanton-in-Glendale, Lemington, Lilburn, Lowick, Meldon, Middleton-next-the-Sea, North Middleton, Nesbit-in-Glendale, Netherwhitton, Newton-near-Edlingham, Newton-in-Glendale, Preston, Scremerston, Seaton Delaval, Seghill, Shilbottle, Simonburn, Stamfordham (vicarage), Stanton, Thernham, Thropton, Troughend, Nether Trewhit, Wallington, Weteslade, Whittingham, Whitton (rectory), and Whitfield.

#### IV.—TOWERS ERECTED IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

The List of Castles and Towers drawn up in 1415 is unfortunately the only one now known to exist that relates to the whole county of Northumberland. But though hardly so prolific in towers as the close of the 14th century, the 15th added very considerably to the number with which the Border literally bristled. A most remarkable picture of the desolate and barbarous condition of the North of England has been left by Æneas Sylvius Piccolomini, afterwards Pope Pius II., who passed through it disguised as a merchant in 1436, on his return from a mission to Scotland. The entire male population of the town in which he spent the night after crossing the Border made off, he tells us, at the end of his protracted supper, for a tower at some distance for fear of the Scots, who were accustomed to take advantage of the tide being out to make a nocturnal raid across the river.<sup>121</sup>

<sup>121</sup> 'Sacerdos, et hospes cum liberis virisque omnibus Aenea dimisso abire festinantes, dixerunt se ad turrin quandam longo spatio remotam metu Scotorum fugere, qui fluvio maris refluxu descrescente noctu transire, prædarique soleant.' — *Commentarii Pii Papæ II.*, Rome, 1584, lib. I. fo. 7. This episode in the adventures of Æneas Sylvius has been related by Sir Walter Scott in his *Essay on Border Antiquities*, and most excellently by Dean Milman (*Hist. of Latin Christianity*, 3rd ed., VIII. p. 419); but the whole account is so curious, especially the statement that the men only took refuge in the tower, while the women were considered safe from the Scots, that the original Latin text and a translation, with some critical remarks, will be found in Note (D), p. 61.

In 1434 Henry VI. had granted the 2nd Earl of Northumberland and the burgesses of Alnwick a license to enclose that town with embattled and machiolated walls. The Bond Gate Tower there was consequently begun by the Earl in about 1443.<sup>122</sup> It was not, however, finished till 1450.<sup>123</sup> In the latter year; too, the Earl built a tower at the end of the chapel of South Charlton for the safety of the village in the time of war.<sup>124</sup> The great gate-house known as Bywell Castle is first mentioned in connection with the miraculous escape of Henry VI. from the battle-field of Hexham.<sup>125</sup> John Birtley, Abbot of Newminster, built (probably in about 1467), a tower at Rothley,<sup>126</sup> and before the Dissolution, towers appear to have been erected at the granges belonging to that Abbey at West Ritton and Nunnykirk.<sup>127</sup> To judge from the heraldic panels in their walls, the splendid tower of Cockle

<sup>122</sup> Pat. Roll, 12 Hen. VI. m. 5.—De includendo murando et battellando villam de Alnewyke.—Translated in Tate's *Alnwick*, I. p. 237.

<sup>123</sup> 'Factura 1 hostie duplicis (vs. ijd.) pro nova turri in Bond gate.'—Compotus of Thos. Archer, Reeve ('præpositus') of Alnwick Castle, Mich. 21 Hen. VI.—Mich. 22 Hen. VI. Syon Muniments, C. viii. 1. a. These particular accounts are unfortunately mutilated, more having been lost than remains. Mr. Tate has made most erroneous and uncalled for attacks on the share taken by the Earl of Northumberland in building the walls and gates.—*Hist. of Alnwick*, I. pp. 237, 241.

<sup>124</sup> 'Custus turris et Porte de Bondgate infra villam.'—Comp. of Will. Cokke præpositus of Alnwick Castle, Mich. 28 Hen. VI.—Mich. 29 Hen. VI. at Syon. The total sum of 17*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* was laid out 'super turrin porte de Bondgate in Alnewyk,' and in this was included a payment of 30*s.* to Matthew 'Mason de Abathia' for carving the stone lion over the gateway. In architectural history absolute facts like this are worth volumes of conjectures.

<sup>125</sup> 'South Charleton. Ad edificacionem unius nove turris defensibilis ad finem capelle ibidem pro salva custodia dicte ville tempore guerre. lxxv*s.* viii*d.*'—*Ibid.* In the same roll the accounts for repairs show that the Scots had recently (probably in 1448 when they burnt the town of Alnwick) burnt the mill of South Charlton, the homesteads of 28 of the Earl's tenants in Houghton, of 28 in Lesbury, of 12 in Tughall, of 16 in Swinhoe, of 23 in Chatton, and the houses held by James Huntley and John Wilson in Wooler and Heworth (Ewart). Both tower and chapel at South Charlton have disappeared. The present church there is quite modern. The strong church towers of Ancroft, Long Houghton, and Ingram also served the purpose of refuges in time of war.

<sup>126</sup> 'Deliberata sunt in breve domino de Mowntagu castra de Langeley the Tawne (sic), turris de Exham; castrum etiam de Bywell. In quo quidam castro inventum est le helmet regis Henrici cum coronâ et gladio et faleris dicti Henrici. Et quo modo aut quo ipse evasit, novit deus, in cujus manû corda sunt Regum.'—*15th Cent. Chron.* in Camden Soc. Publ. 1880, p. 179.

<sup>127</sup> 'Perambulacio bundarum communæ pasturæ de Rothlee, capta per dominum Johannem Birtlee, abbatem Novi Monasterii, qui ædificavit turrin de Rothlee in diebus suis.'—*Newminster Chartulary* (Surt. Soc. Publ. 66), p. 262.

<sup>127</sup> In 1547 Richard Tyrell, Esq., assigned to Sir Thomas Gray, among other lands late possessions of Newminster Abbey, all 'the Graunge of Westryghton and a Towre there,' also 'all that Graunge called Nonnykirke together with a Towre there.'—*Ibid.* p. 311.

Park was not built before 1461,<sup>128</sup> nor that on the Heiferlaw, near Alnwick, before 1470.<sup>129</sup> An old inscription in Hulne Priory informs us, in a most fortunate and unique manner, that the well-preserved tower there was built by the 4th Earl of Northumberland in 1488.<sup>130</sup> According to Leland,<sup>131</sup> the tower on Farne Island was built by Thomas Castell, Prior of Durham (1494-1519). A tower at Chopington, in Bedlingtonshire, 'was buylded by Gawen Ogle' about 1503. The Fenwicks owned a tower at Ryal, near Stamfordham, in 1519.<sup>132</sup>

At Dunstan Hall (Proctor Steads near Craster), Newburn Hall, Welton (in Ovingham parish), Cocklaw (near Chollerford), Bitchfield (near Belsay), Cresswell, Long Horsley, Blanchland, Dilston, Causey Park, Burradon (near Seghill), and Rock, are towers of much architectural interest that must, in a general way, be attributed to the 15th century, in default of documentary evidence relating to their early history. To some period in the same century belongs the marvellous donjon of Warkworth. James IV. of Scotland, when he ravaged Northumberland in 1496 in support of the pretensions of Perkin Warbeck, destroyed, as will be seen from the subsequent surveys, the towers of Tilmouth, Howtell, Branxton, Shoreswood, Twizel, and Duddo, all mentioned for the first time, as also the castle of Heaton and the tower of Lanton.

Seven fresh holds—Fowberry, Hezelrigg, Hebburn (in Chillingham Park), Bewick, Wooler (on a mound once occupied by a Norman castle), Ingram, and Screenwood—make their appearance in the following return, in the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. (1509)<sup>133</sup> :—

<sup>128</sup> Hodgs. *Northd.* II. ii. p. 140. The arms of OGLE quartering BERTRAM were there supported by two antelopes collared and chained. (Grose's *Antiquities*, IV., p. 81.) Though the use of supporters was not absolutely restricted to peers, yet it seems probable that Sir Robert Ogle did not assume them till he was created a baron in 1461.

<sup>129</sup> There seems to be no evidence of the Percy badge, a crescent enclosing a locket, earlier than the time of the 4th Earl of Northumberland (1470-1489).—Longstaffe's *Percy Heraldry in Arch. Ael.* N.S. IV. p. 197.

<sup>130</sup> Proc. Arch. Inst. Newcastle 1852 ii. p. 270.

<sup>131</sup> Leland, *Itinerary*, V., fo. 106 (Hearne's ed. 1769, Vol. V., p. 115).

<sup>132</sup> Raine's *North Durham* p. 371. Hodgs. *Northd.* II, ii. p. 267. n. 7.

<sup>133</sup> Chapter House Book. B  $\frac{1}{2}$  Northumberland, fo. 116 (Publ. Rec. Office). A summary of this List has been printed in Hodgson Hinde's *Hist. of Northd.* p. 339. The date is substantiated by the fact that Thomas Grey, the minor for whom the Bishop of Durham is stated in it to hold the castles of Chillingham and Heton, succeeded his father, Sir Ralph Grey, in 1507, and died 2nd Aug., 1509. (Raine's *North Durham*, pp. 326-327.)

Owners inabytauntes,  
or officers.

Holdis and Towneshyppes too lay in  
Garnysones of horsmen And how fer  
they bee from Tevedale & the Mars<sup>124</sup>  
& who be the owners & the inaby-  
tauntes in the howses.

## Menne.

Syr Jamys Strangwys Harry Denton & Roberd Awarke own' & inab't	} Lowyke iiij <sup>xx</sup> . and from Twede vj myle & from tevedale viij myle.
George Mostians own' & inab't	} Barmer xxx & from Twede vj myle & from tevedale vij m.
Thomas Forster own' & inab't	} Ederston lx & from tevedale x myle and from the mars xij m.
My Lorde Conyers and Thomas Armorer	} Belford lx & from tevedale ix myle & from the mars x m.
Thomas Holborn own' & inab't	} Holborn xx & from tevedale vij myle & from the mars viij m.
My Lorde of Dorram for mast'. Gray & inab't	} Heton xx & from the mars ij myle & from tevedale iiij m.
Raffe Candelyng <sup>125</sup> My Lorde Ross & inab't John Colyngwod	} Etall c & from the mars & from tevedale iij m.
Christoffer Clapam inab't	} Fenton xl & from tevedale v myle & from the mars vj m.
Syr Rog <sup>r</sup> . Graye own' & inab't	} Horton lx & from tevedale vij myle & from the mars viij m.
Syr Rog <sup>r</sup> . Graye rewler & a Wedow inab't	} Fulbery xx & from tevedale vij myle & from the mars viij m.
My Lorde of Northumber- land & Thomas Revelay inab't	} Chatton iiij <sup>xx</sup> & from Tevedale viij myle & from the mars ix m.
Thomas Hagerston own' A wedow inab't	} Heselryg xx & from tevedale viij myle & from the mars viij m.
My Lorde of Dorram for m'. Graye & Edward Graye inab't	} Chelynggam c & from tevedale viij myle & from the mars x m.
Thomas Hebborn own' & inab't	} Hebborn xx & from tevedale viij myle & from the mars x m
The Prior of Tynmouth inab't Gylberd Colyngwood	} Bewyk xl & from tevedale viij myle & from the mars xj m.

<sup>124</sup> The Merse is a level district of great fertility, extending for nearly twenty miles along the north bank of the Tweed, and about ten miles in breadth.

<sup>125</sup> *Sic* in orig. MS.; but it is evidently meant that 'Raffe Candelyng' was the inhabitant of Heton. Hodgson Hinde has erroneously made his name into 'Chamberleyne.'

Jeffere Prkt' & rewler Lyell Graye	}	Lylborn & lylborn <sup>136</sup> xl & from tevedale vj myle & from the mars ix m.
Christoffer Clapam inab't Ector G <sup>a</sup> ye <sup>137</sup>	}	Woller xx & from tevedale v myle & from the mars vij m
Wylliam Heron inab't William Selbye	}	Fowrde xl . and from tevedale or the mars iiij m.
Lorde Ogell inab't nihil	}	Inggerram xl & from tevedale iij myle & from the mars xv m.
Norram from the mars the prede of twede & from tevedale v m.		
Berwyk from tevedale x m.		
Heselryg own' Robert Colyngwood inab't	}	Eslynghon xx men & from tevedale ix myle & from the mars xv m.
Wylliam Heron own' inab't nihil	}	Wittynggam xl & from tevedale x myle & from the mars xv m.
My Lorde of Northumber- land inab't nihil	}	Elnam <sup>138</sup> xl & from tevedale vj myle & from the mars xvj m.
Thomas Horsley own' & inab't	}	Skrynwood xx & from tevedale vj myle & from the mars xvj m.
John Selbye own' & inab't	}	Bedylsden xx & from Tevedale iiij myle & from the mars xvij m.
Syr George Tayleboys Rewler & gov'ner My Lorde Dakers	}	Herbotelle lxxx & from tevedale v myle & from the mars xix m.
Rog' Horsleye own' inab't nihil	}	Thernam xx & from Tevedale vj myle & from the mars xix m
My Lorde Oggel inab't nihil	}	Heppelle xx & from Tevedale vj myle & from the mars xvij m.
Syr Edwarde Ratcleff inab't nihil	}	Thropton xx & from tevedale x myle & from the mars xvj m.

Sum of the number of thys men m<sup>l</sup>cclxx men

Over and above Noram and Berwyk.

<sup>136</sup> Referring to the two towers at Lilburn; Hodgson Hinde has merely 'Lilburn' once. A list of the gentlemen of Northumberland printed in his History at p. 347 states that 'Lyell Gray, being porter of Berwick, is a younger brother, and hath the rule of Lilburn under divers gentlemen, inheritors of the same': and the survey of 1541 plainly says that Lyell Gray was the farmer and occupier of both the towers at West Lilburn.

<sup>137</sup> Hodgson Hinde has 'Ector Gray.' The first name is very badly written in the MS., and may be 'Erthor' for Arthur.

<sup>138</sup> Alnham.

Before the battle of Flodden in 1513, the Scots destroyed the little tower of the parson of Ford. The stone-house attached to the tower of Kirk Newton appears to have been burnt by them during the foray they carried as far as Fowberry in 1532.

#### V.—BORDER SURVEYS IN THE 16TH CENTURY.

In 1538, or soon after, John Leland, the Royal Antiquary of Henry VIII., arrived at Newcastle on one of his long journeys through the kingdom. For his information concerning Northumberland he appears to have been chiefly indebted to Anthony Musgrave, Vicar of Corbridge, and Dr. Robert Davell, Master of the Hospital of St. Mary the Virgin in Newcastle and Vicar of Bedlington. Of a most disappointing character, very meagre and often inaccurate, it comprises the following notices of our ancient bulwarks:—<sup>139</sup>

There appere ruines of arches of a stone bridge ouer tyne ryuer at . . . .  
castelle<sup>140</sup> longging to y<sup>e</sup> e'le of westm<sup>r</sup> a ('litle' *erased*). 3. mil<sup>es</sup> lower on the  
ryuer then Corb'dge

\* \* \* \* \*

Hasilrig of Northamptonshire<sup>141</sup> hath about a .50.li lande in Northubreland  
And Esselington wher is a pratie pile<sup>142</sup> is Hasilrigg<sup>es</sup>: and one of the Colinwoodd<sup>es</sup>  
dwellith now in it and hath the ouer site of his land<sup>es</sup>.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tarset castelle ruines in Northumbreland ha'd by north Tyne long now to the  
lord Borow.

\* \* \* \* \*

The wauill<sup>es</sup> of Newcastle were begon as I haue harde in King Edwarde y<sup>e</sup>  
first day as I harde by this occasion A great riche man of Newcastle was taken  
prisoner by the Scottes owt of the town self as it is reported. Whe'apon he was  
raansomid for a greate sum: And returning home he began to make a wauille on the  
ripe of Tyne ryuer from Sandehille to Pandon gate and beyound y<sup>t</sup> to the towre  
agayne the Augustine freres.

<sup>139</sup> Leland's *Itinerary* (Orig. MS. Bodl. Lib.) vol. v. fo. 102. The date of this portion of the work is approximately fixed by the mention it makes of Harbottle's lands coming 'of late days to 2 doughters wherof the one was married to S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Percy that was for treason hangid at Tiburne. The other was married to Fitton of Chestershire.' Sir Thomas Percy, brother of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland was executed at Tyburn in June 1537 for the share he took in Aske's rebellion.

<sup>140</sup> *i.e.* Bywell Castle.

<sup>141</sup> This is corrected by the words 'Leicest<sup>r</sup>shire of Nouseley' in the margin, said to be in the hand of Dr. Burton.

<sup>142</sup> Leland seems to use the word 'pile' much in the modern acceptation of 'a pile of buildings', and not at all in the modern acceptation of 'pele.' Caverswall Castle in Staffordshire and many more in the southern parts of England are 'castelets or praty piles' in Leland's diction. See Note (C) p. 57.