

on a smaller scale, the baste-house at Doddington, one of the most charming remains of Border architecture, only finished, as an inscription on it informs us, in 1584. Nothing seems known of the 'castle' of Hurst, near Woodhorn, before 1562, nor of the tower of Kirk Harle before 1583.¹⁹² The great tower of Coupland is probably of even later date, and may possibly not have been completed till 1619, sixteen years after the personal Union between England and Scotland.

In addition to the number of castles and towers which are recorded in the old Surveys, or still impress the traveller in their ruined state, there are scattered up and down Northumberland traces of fortified dwellings of a humbler order, and possibly more recent origin, some of them sites and nothing more, others perfectly imbedded in modern houses. These it is purposed to enumerate and describe in a separate chapter. A comparative account of the architectural features of the various surviving castles, towers, baste-houses, and peles is only possible after the buildings themselves, and their history, have been studied in detail.

¹⁹² In 1581, an Act (23. Eliz. cap. iv.) was passed to appoint Commissioners to report on the defences of the Border, see Note (G.) p. 65.

APPENDICES.

(A.)

Note, p. 7.—BRETESCHE.

A *Bretesche*, according to Viollet-lé-Duc (*Dictionnaire de l'Architecture Française*, II., p. 244), signified primarily an embattled wooden erection of several stories used for the attack or defence of a fortress. This signification is brought out very distinctly in the account given by Guillaume le Breton in his *Gesta Philippi Augusti* (Duchesne, *Historia Francorum Scriptores*, V., p. 63) of that king erecting, in 1202, seven double *bretesches*, or very strong forts (*Bretaschias duplices per septem loca, castella videlicet munitissima*) round Château Gaillard which he was besieging, each *bretesche* being surrounded by a double quadrangular moat with draw-bridges over it.

One important characteristic of a *brètesche* was the ease with which it could be moved from place to place. William of Normandy (*Roman de Rou*, prt. xi., v. 9448-51) having gained possession of Domfront, ordered the *bretesches* there to be carried to Ambrières, where he fortified a castle:—

'Li *brètesches* en fit porter.

A Aubrieres les fit lever :

Un chastel fit iloez fermer.'

In like manner Henry III., in 1221, directed Daniel, the son of Nicholas the Constable of Newcastle, and Robert de Whitchester, Sheriff of Northumberland, to remove to Bamburgh the large building timber ('grossum maeremium') and the *bretesche* at Nafferton, though he afterwards sent them instructions to convey them to Newcastle instead, and there to erect the *bretesche* in the place of a turret which had fallen down on account of its bad foundation (*Calend Rot. Claus.*, i., p. 459 b).

The great value of these *bretesches* and the recent importation of the term into England is made manifest by the description Matthew of Paris gives of the famous siege of Bedford Castle in 1224. It was not, he tells us, till the royalist troops had stormed two shelters, called *Brutesches* in French (*dua testudines, quas Gallice Brutesches appellant*), and had many of them been severely wounded in the process, that they were enabled to pour from all sides into the castle.

The correspondence of Matilda Countess of Nevers in 1245, in a passage where the Bishop of Auxerre accuses a certain esquire of having made in his house a wooden *bretesche* and other things of the nature of fortifications (*Episcopus (Autossiodor.) dicebat dictum armigerum fecisse in domo sua quandam Breteschiam ligneam et quadam alia ad fortensiam pertinentia.*—Du Cange, *Glossarium*, ed. Favre, in voc. 'Breteschia') affords a curious parallel instance to that at Nafferton of the erection of wooden towers of this description without the permission of a feudal superior, being considered a dangerous piece of insubordination.

Nothing can be more bewildering than the changes of meaning acquired in the course of history by technical terms of military architecture. The name *bretesche* was afterwards applied (Violet-le-Duc) to (1) a permanent wooden story placed on the top of a tower so as to project slightly over it; and to (2) a pent-house, with loops and *meurtrières*, attached—generally over a gate-way—to the side of a tower or wall, and differing from a *hourd* in not forming a continuous gallery around or along it. It is in this last signification that it now seems employed in Archaeology. The word, from which the English 'brattice' is derived, is of uncertain origin.

(B.)

Note, p. 7.—SIR DAVID LYNDESEY'S TOWER IN TYNDALE, 1237.

Among the Royal Letters, not yet calendared, at the Public Record Office, is one, with no date nor signature, relating to the repairs of the castles of Newcastle and Bamburgh which proves on internal evidence to have been written to Henry III., in 1237 by Hugh de Bolebec, then 'custos' of Northumberland. In the concluding paragraph of this letter, Bolebec informs the king that in Tyndale, which the King of Scotland held of him in the county of Northumberland, a certain knight named David de Lyndesey is building a house with remarkably thick walls in the form of a tower. It was reported that this was being done not without the approbation of the King of Scotland himself. Already the tower was built up to the walks of the battlements, and the walks