

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 (Viollet-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

also were completed. Lyndesey intended to crenellate the tower and to surround it with a moat. If these fortifications were to be finished and a store of arms laid in, the place would become an admirable rallying-point for any who should come from the North with evil designs on England and on Northumberland in particular. Bolebec therefore asks the king to let him fully know his pleasure in the matter.

[Noveritis etiam, domine, quod quidam miles David de Lyndesey unam domum mire spissitudinis in Tyndal quam Rex Scocie tenet de vobis in Comitatu Northumbrie ad modum turre edificat et, ut dicitur, non sine assensu ipsius Regis, que jam ad ambulaciones facta existit, et ipse ambulaciones jam parate existunt, et kernell' et fossato eam munire proponit. Que si perfecta extiterit et armis munita sicut iste miles eam munire proponit ut dicitur, malevolentibus regno vestro et maxime Northumbr' si qui tales ex Aquilone venirent, optimum foret eis refugium et terre vestre magnum nocumentum. Quid ergo voles inde, plenarie mihi si placet significetis.]

A letter written by Bolebec to Henry III. in October, 1245\* (*Royal Letters Hen. III.*, No. 858, Rolls Ser. i., p. 187), mentions a David de Lindesey, Justiciary of Lothian (Laoudia) at the head of the Scottish Commissioners for determining the line of the Borders near Carham; and on 9th May, 1255, Henry III., at Reading, confirms to David de Lindesey and his heirs the whole of 'Chirden' in Tyndale which Margaret, sister of Alexander, formerly king of Scotland (*i.e.*, Margery, the *youngest* sister of Alexander II., *Cal. of Doc. rel. to Scot.* I: Intr. lii.) had given him.—*Rot. Chart.*, 39 Hen. III., m. 4. There can therefore be little doubt that the tower built by David de Lindesey is Dala (Dallie 1663, Dale 1769) Castle, situated on the north bank of Chirdon Burn. Hodgson in his 'Minutes of a Journey to Mounces, a seat of Sir John Swinburne, in North Tyndale, Aug., 1814,' wrote:—'Dalley Castle is on the brow of a hill against the Girden (Chirden): the stones of it all led away: the ground on the left side dry and fertile: on the right side rather swamped and wet, but inclosed and in grass.'—*Raine's Memoirs of the Rev. John Hodgson*, I., p. 159. Recent excavations, however, undertaken by Mr. W. L. S. Charlton, show that far from all the stones having been led away, the walls are still left seven feet high in places. An account of these remains, which from description appear to tally very well with the date 1237, will fall better under the heading of 'Dala Castle.'

\* The Rev. W. W. Shirley, who edited this volume for the Master of the Rolls, has falsely ascribed this letter to Oct., 1222, and led Mr. Burton, *Hist. of Scotland*, 1867, II., pp. 80-81, and the Editor of the *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, I., p. 147, into the same error—a good illustration of the folly of printing hap-hazard selections from a series of National Documents. If Mr. Shirley had not even printed, but merely read the very letter that comes immediately before this, viz.: No. 857 (see *App. to Deputy-Keeper's Report*, V., p. 83.), he would have seen that the English and Scottish Commissioners really met on the Friday after St. Luke's Day (18th Oct.), 1245, instead of which he wholly ignores letter No. 857, and refers to *Cal. Rot. Claus.*, i. p. 496 b., where Henry III. orders, 10th May, 1222, the Sheriff of Northumberland (Robert de Whitchester) to take Hugh de Bolebec and other knights, not to meet Scottish Commissioners, but to report on the line of the Border, a very preliminary stage of the proceedings.