

PRUDHOE CASTLE FROM THE SOUTH.

PRUDHOE CASTLE.

AMONG the leading Normans who came over with the Conqueror was Robert de Umfreville, better known as Robert with-the-beard, who received as his reward a grant of the wild district of Redesdale, on the Scottish Border. Henry I. added to the possessions of the Umfrevilles the barony of Prudhoe, and there can be little doubt that they soon built a castle there on the general lines of the existing ruins. The basement of the main gatehouse with its twin-faced corbels looks like the-work of the first half of the twelfth century; and the keep, to judge from the masonry, is older than any other keep in Northumberland, except that of Norham.

At the time of the invasion of Northumberland by William the Lion, King of Scots, in 1173, the castle of Prudhoe was held by Odinel de Umfreville, who had been brought up at the court of Henry Earl of Northumberland, that King's father. Odinel's active repudiation of the King's hereditary claims to the county was regarded by him as an act of the basest ingratitude that called for signal punishment. 'May I,' cried William on abandoning the siege of Newcastle, 'be loathed and disgraced, cursèd and excommunicated by priest, if I grant any terms or respite to Odinel's castle.'¹ So immediately marching his host up the Tyne, he bade his earls and barons pitch their tents and pavilions before the walls of Prudhoe.² 'As long as Prudhoe stands, never,' he declared, 'shall there be peace.'³ His camp, however, fell a prey to divided counsels. The Flemish mercenaries swore that they would destroy the castle, or forego all claim to pay or rations;⁴

¹ 'Dunc seie-jo maldit,
Escumengiè de prestre, huniz e descunfit,
Si jo le chastel Odinel duins terme ne respit.'

—*Chronique de Jordan Fantosme*, l. 592, Surt. Soc. Publ. 11, p. 28.

² 'Là fist li reis d' Escoce tendre ses paveilluns,
Ses tref e ses acubes, ses cuntes, ses baruns.'—*Ibid.* l. 600.

³ 'Tant cum esteusse Prudhume, jamès pès n'aurums.'—*Ibid.* l. 603.

⁴ 'Nus l'agraventerums,

U mar nus durrez soldeies ne livreisuns.'—*Ibid.* l. 604.

It seems to have been for the damage done to him by the Scots in this first siege of Prudhoe that Odinel de Umfreville obtained a grant of £20 from Henry II.

but the Scottish lords refused to hear of the delay incident to a formal siege, and urged the King to hasten on to the conquest of Cumberland. William was compelled to give way; but having in the following year arranged a truce with the governor of Carlisle, he made a sudden dash for Prudhoe, hoping to surprise the castle.⁵ His disappointment was extreme when he reached it on, or about, Monday the 8th of July, 1174, only to find that Odel had put it in an excellent state of defence. He summoned it to surrender. The brave garrison knew that if the castle were taken scant mercy would be shown to Odel, so they entreated him to make his escape and endeavour to raise a force for their relief. Bidding them, then, a sorrowful farewell, Odel mounted his good brown bay,⁶ and spurred day and night to the Archbishop of York. Enraged at his escape, the whole host of Scotland attacked the castle with a great shout. The garrison defended themselves manfully against the Flemings, and did not receive, says the chronicler, a silver pennyworth of injury,⁷ while many of the besiegers were so sorely wounded as to give them no chance of ever seeing their homes again. Not content with destroying all the corn in the fields and laying waste the neighbouring gardens, some of the Scots, in a spirit of mean vengeance, tore the bark off the apple-trees. At last, finding it impossible to reduce Prudhoe with his spears and arrows,⁸ the Lion-King raised the siege on the Friday morning⁹ and set out for Alnwick, where, the next day, it would seem, he was surprised and taken prisoner by the knights whom Odel had gathered round him.

towards supporting knights in the castle. It was paid by the sheriff of 'Carleilshire' and was entered by him on the Pipe Roll, ro. 7 dorso., for 19 Hen. II (19th Dec., 1172—18th Dec., 1173), under the heading 'Minaria Carleoli':—
'Et Odelino de Umfranvilla xx. libras ad tenendum milites in castello de Prudhoe, pro dampno sibi a Scottis illato.'

⁵ 'Ore vait li reis Willame tut dreit vers Odel,
Suzprendre le voldrad pur aver le chastel.'

—*Ibid.* l. 1649, p. 74.

⁶ This horse deserves to be as famous on Tyneside as the Cheval Bayard, on which the four sons of Aymon are said to have escaped from Charlemagne, is on the banks of the Meuse in Belgium. Fantosme calls it 'Bauçan le Kernu [the hairy]' and 'le bon brun bauçant.'—ll. 1669, 1671, p. 76. Possibly Bauçan was its actual name.

⁷ 'Itant cum amuntast à un denier d'argent.'—*Ibid.* l. 1681.

⁸ 'Ne prendra le chastel par traire ne par lancier.'—*Ibid.* l. 1687.

⁹ 'Vendresdi par matin.'—*Ibid.* l. 1703, p. 78. Fantosme says the siege of Prudhoe lasted three days—'Treis jorz dura le siege' (l. 1677). William of Newburgh, cap. xxxiii., gives the date of the capture of the King of Scots 'MCLXXIV tertio idus Julii die sabbati' i.e. Saturday, July 13th.—Surt. Soc. Publ. 11, p.



The siege no doubt rendered some repairs to the castle necessary. There is a curious legend connected with repairs done by Odinel.¹⁰ All his neighbours, so it runs, had, either from love or fear, given him assistance in the work, except the men of Wylam, a possession of the monastery of St. Oswin of Tynemouth, which had been freed from all contributions to castle-building by several royal charters. Neither the threats nor the persuasions of the king's officers had any effect. Odinel was so enraged that he sent for one of them who lived, without fear of God, in the city of Corbridge,¹¹ and bade him on his allegiance seize the property of the Wylam peasants and bring it to the castle. This man took with him two other officers named Richard and Nicholas, and proceeded at once to Wylam. According to the English law that had then been long established, a fine for neglecting to perform a customary duty like that of repairing a castle was first to be levied on the private property of the serfs, and only in case of this proving insufficient was recourse to be had to the lord's demesne. The Corbridge official, however, announced his intention of laying hands on whatever first came in his way, and it was in vain that his companions cautioned him not to interfere with the herd of St. Oswin. They came to the pasture where the demesne oxen were grazing, but these, together with the ruddy youth and his barking dog who were looking after them, were by the power of St. Oswin made miraculously invisible and inaudible to the wicked distrainer, though Richard and Nicholas had actually to drive them out of his way.

Odinel's grandson, Gilbert de Umfreville, called by Matthew of Paris, 'the Guardian and Chief Flower of the North,' held the barony of Prudhoe from 1226 to 1244.¹² He married the heiress of the Earl of Angus, and his son Gilbert assumed that title. In the very black record of Earl Gilbert's crimes he is said to have harboured a certain bandit named Walter Denyas and his accomplices in Prudhoe

149. He tells us also that Roger de Moubrai fled to the King while he was before Prudhoe, informing him that two of the castles he had been holding for him in Yorkshire had been taken, and that the whole force of that county was advancing against him.—*Ibid.* pp. 147, 148.

¹⁰ 'Potentium de Nordthanymbria potentissimus Odinellus de Umframvilla, ad castelli sui resarcienda sarta tecta indebitis exactionibus vicinos suos compellebat.' Odinel is made to speak of this as 'castelli mei reedificationem.'—*Vita Oswini*, cap. xxx. Surt. Soc. Publ. 8, p. 43.

¹¹ 'In Colebrigia civitate satelles regius.'—*Ibid.*

¹² '1244.—This year the Scots besieged Prudhoe Castle, but were obliged to raise the siege.'—Sykes, *Local Records*. No authority is given for this statement.

Castle.¹³ He appears, however, to have repented of his evil-deeds towards the close of his life. He founded a chantry in the chapel of St. Mary, in Prudhoe Castle, in 1300,¹⁴ and there is every reason to believe that he is represented in the knightly effigy with the Umfreville shield now in the north transept of Hexham Priory Church. From the inquisition taken after his death in 1307, we learn that there was a park at Prudhoe, a league in circuit, and 120 acres of arable demesne.¹⁵ Sir John de Crombwell and the Earl of Angus bound themselves in their indenture for the custody of the Marches of the 28th of September, 1319, to send ten men-at-arms to Prudhoe in case of need.¹⁶ In 1324 the castle and orchard, which had been worth 20s. a year in times of peace, are returned as of no value on account of the ravages of the Scots, who seem even to have destroyed all the pigeons.¹⁷ During the minority of the heir, Roger Maudit was appointed constable of Prudhoe by Edward II., who, in 1326, ordered him to construct a certain pele without the gates of the castle at the expense of twenty marks.¹⁸

The two great northern houses of Percy and Umfreville became allied by the marriage of Robert the only son and heir of Gilbert, third Earl of Angus, with Margaret daughter of Henry, the third Lord Percy of Alnwick, but the bridegroom died without issue in his father's lifetime. The old Earl married again, taking for his second wife Maud de Lucy the heiress of the honour of Cockermouth and barony of Langley, and at Prudhoe on the 16th of August, 1375, John de Haweburgh, parson of Ireby in Yorkshire, and John de Pykworth,

¹³ *Assize Roll* (Northumberland), 7 Ed. I. $\frac{M}{4}$ } 3; *Cal. of Doc. relating to Scotland*, ii. p. 45. Hodgson (*Hist. of Northd.* III. i. p. 109) calls this notorious robber Walter de Was, from a transcript of the *Rotuli Hundredorum*, 3 Ed. I.

¹⁴ *Inq.* 28 Ed. I. no. 86; *Proc. Arch. Inst.* 1852, ii. p. 248 n.

¹⁵ *Inq.* 1 Ed. II. no. 45; *Proc. Arch. Inst.* 1852, ii. p. 241 n. Hartshorne there gives the *leuca* or league as containing 1,500 yards. In 1244-5 the park at Prudhoe was returned as two leagues in circuit.—*Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland*, i. p. 305. Robert de Umfravill, Earl of Angus, by deed dated Prudhoe, 8th April, 1317, gave a quit-claim of common-right in Chopwell to the Abbey of Newminster, with the proviso, 'tamen si contigat averia mea vel her. meor. de castro nostro de Prodow propter defectum claustræ intrare dictum separale absque parcagio, rechacientur.'—*Newminster Cartulary*, Surt. Soc. Publ. 66, p. 50.

¹⁶ 'Et sont les ditz Gardeins chargez denvoier . . . dis ou douzse homes darmes . au chastel de Prodhou . . . selonc ce qil verront que le temps demande.'—*Escheq. Q. R. Misc. (Army)* $\frac{37}{8}$.

¹⁷ *Inq. p. m.* 18 Ed. II. no. 78; *Proc. Arch. Inst.* 1852, ii. p. 241.

¹⁸ *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* i. p. 299.

parson of Ovingham, and other trustees, having obtained the necessary royal licence on the 5th of July previous, conveyed the castle to the Earl and his young Countess and the heirs of the Earl's body, with remainder to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, and the heirs male of his body.¹⁹ By another licence procured from Edward III. on the 28th of October, 1377, for the consideration of twenty marks, Angus was empowered to assign an annual rent of five marks from his watermills in the vill of 'Shirmondesdene,' in Coquetdale, to the chaplain of the chantry of St. Mary in the 'pele-yrde' of Prudhoe, in augmentation of his stipend.²⁰ The Earl of Angus died in 1381. His widow became the second wife of the Earl of Northumberland, who on her death in 1398, became seized of the castle in fee tail under the settlement of 1375.

The Council held by Lord Say at Durham on the 25th of September, 1403, after Hotspur's death at Shrewsbury, and during the Earl of Northumberland's confinement at Baginton, resolved that Robert Lisle, who was present at Durham, should have the custody of the Earl's castle of Prudhoe confided to him.²¹ Say, however, does not seem to have considered Lisle's position quite regular, for he afterwards advised that Lisle should be instructed to ensure the safety of the castle as soon as the Earl's great seal could be obtained for the purpose of sealing the order to that effect.²² During the insurrection of 1405, in which the Earl was more deeply implicated, John Skipton was commanded, by letters from the King, dated Ripon the 15th of June, to surrender the castle of Prudhoe to David Throllope,²³ and on his return march, at Durham on the 18th of July, Henry IV. gave six oxen to John Coterrell, which the latter had driven off from the Earl of Northumberland's park at Prudhoe.²⁴

¹⁹ *Inq. p. m.* 14 Hen. VI. no. 36, m. 26, P.R.O.

²⁰ *Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland*, IV. p. 54; *Rot. Pat.* 1 Ric. II. m. 1.

²¹ *Proc. and Ord. of Privy Council*, I. p. 214. See above, p. 102.

²² *Ibid.* p. 211. See above, p. 104.

²³ 'De castro de Prodowe in manus Regis capiendo. Consimiles litteras de commissione habet David Throllope ad capiendum et seisiendum in manus Regis Castrum de Prodowe. T. R. apud Ryponn xv die Junii. Et mandatum est Johanni Skipton quod eidem David, &c.'—*Rot. Pat.* 1 to 11 Hen. IV. (No. 363) m. 17 (6 Hen. IV.) P.R.O.

²⁴ 'Pro Johanne Coterrelle. Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Sciatis quod de gracia nostra speciali concessimus dilecto ligeo nostro Johanni Coterelle sex boves que fuerunt Henrici Comitis Northumbrie, et quos predictus Johannes in parco de Prodowe cepit et penes se in custodia sua habet et valorem sex librarum non excedunt ut dicitur, Habendos eidem Johanni de dono nostro. In cujus, &c.'

Apparently Henry IV. held the Earl's estates to have been forfeited on the 6th of May,²⁵ and on the 27th of June bestowed the castles and baronies of Prudhoe, Langley, and Alnwick by letters patent on his own son Prince John, afterwards created Duke of Bedford.²⁶ On the 14th of April, 1416, Henry V. restored to Henry Percy, the second Earl of Northumberland, all the entailed estates of his family, having already compensated the Duke of Bedford for their loss. For some reason or other the entail of Prudhoe was not considered to be clearly established, and it remained in the possession of the Duke. The Earl lost no time in petitioning Henry V. to issue a commission of inquiry into the entail of 1375, and after its report to do him justice, 'as a work of charity.'²⁷ The inquiry held at Newcastle on the 16th of September, before Richard de Norton, Robert Strangways, and John Kirkeby, resulted in a verdict in favour of the Earl's claims.²⁸ Nevertheless the Duke of Bedford retained Prudhoe till his death on the 14th September, 1435, when it passed to Henry VI. as his nephew and heir.²⁹ The Earl of Northumberland appears to have commenced legal proceedings in 1437 for the recovery of Prudhoe, but it was not until after a successful Assize trial at Newcastle in 1441, that he actually obtained possession of it.³⁰

No mention of Prudhoe occurs in the chronicles of the Wars of

T. R. apud Duram xvij die Julii.—*Ibid.* Henry IV., writing to the Council from Warkworth on the 2nd of July, 1405, informed them that Prudhoe had already fallen before he invested the former castle.—*Proc. and Ord. of P. C.*, i. p. 275.

²⁵ 'Predictus Henricus nuper Comes fuit solus seisitus de castro et manerio predictis (Prodhowe et Ovyngham) cum pertinentiis habendis sibi et heredibus masculis de corpore suo exeuntibus virtute doni predicti sexto die Maii anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum Anglie sexto, &c.'—*Inq. p. m.* 14 Hen. VI. No. 36, m. 26, P.R.O.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ 'Plese a votre tresredoute et tresgracious seigneurie . . . de faire droit au dit suppliant en celle partie en oeure de charyte.'—*Inq. ad Q. D.* 4 Hen. V. No. 2, P.R.O.

²⁸ 'Predicta castrum, manerium, feoda et advocaciones cum omnibus suis pertinentiis prefato Henrico nunc Comiti ut consanguineo et heredi predicti Henrici nuper Comitis descendere debent.'—*Ibid.*

²⁹ *Inq. p. m.* 14 Hen. VI. No. 36, m. 26. The *Compotus Johannis Stynger prepositi de Prodhowe*, Mich. 15 Hen. VI.—Mich. 16 Hen. VI., is in the Public Record Office, Q.R.M.A. 33, but contains nothing of interest. Sir Richard Wydeville and his wife Jaquet, widow of the Duke of Bedford, released all claim of ward and dower in Prudhoe to Henry VI. in consideration of an annuity of £61 ls. 5d., on 18th June, 1440.—*Rot. Parl.* V. p. 310b.

³⁰ *Annals of the House of Percy*, i. p. 538. It must be remembered that in the meantime a fresh Act of Parliament had been passed in 18 Henry VI. to expressly declare that the forfeiture of the Earl of Northumberland's lands under the Act of 7 Henry IV. was not to extend to his lands held in fee tail.—*Ibid.* p. 537.

the Roses. It was granted by Edward IV., together with all the other Percy castles and manors in Northumberland, to his brother George Duke of Clarence on the 10th of August, 1462,³¹ who on the 26th of March following, appointed William Burgh constable of the castle and steward of the lordship. Burgh became 'servant and sworn man, to the said Right high and mighty Prince, and him to serve at his commandment after the King's highness before all other,' and agreed to keep the castle at his own cost and peril, 'unless that such casualty fall by infortune of war that it might pass his might and power so to do.'³² At the same time he obtained a lease of the demesne lands of Prudhoe for twenty years. Possibly these grants may have been part of a stipulation for the surrender of the castle by Burgh to Clarence. Like many more important persons in those uncertain times, Burgh seems to have wished to keep in the good graces of both the rival parties, since on the 8th of December, 1463, he procured letters of protection for himself, his son William, Christopher of Burgh, and six persons with them, with all their goods and chattels, to the following midsummer, from Henry VI., who was then at Bamburgh.³³ His son William had a grant of the orchard of the castle of Prudhoe for his life, on the 31st of May, 1465, from John Neville, Earl of Northumberland and Lord Montagu, who appears to have received Prudhoe with other Percy estates as a reward for his decisive victory over the Lancastrians at Hexham. The grant expressly provides that if the Earl or his household should afterwards abide and dwell at the castle, it should be lawful for them to have all such things growing in the orchard as should be to their pleasure.³⁴

After the politic restoration of the fourth Earl of Northumberland to his title and estates by Edward IV., we find William Ogle, esquire, constable of the castle in 1472.³⁵ The personal connection of the Percies with Prudhoe at this period is illustrated by the fact that in 1474 'the lady the Countess of Northumberland, the consort of the present lord' took into her own hands the orchard under the castle

³¹ *Rot. Pat.* 2 Ed. IV. pt. 1, m. 3.

³² *Notes on Documents belonging to Sir John Lawson, Bart.*, by C. S. Perceval, LL.D.; *Archæologia*, XLVII., p. 189.

³³ *Ibid.* p. 190.

³⁴ *Ibid.* p. 193.

³⁵ *Comptus Walteri Dod prepositi de Prudehove* (Mich. 13 Ed. IV.—Mich. 14 Ed. IV.), vellum roll c. viii. 6a, at Syon House.

which had been let to the constable during the two previous years,³⁶ while 16d. was paid that year by Cuthbert Newton, the bailiff of the barony, 'to divers men for carrying letters of the lord to divers gentlemen.'³⁷ Newton collected 26s. for castle-ward, and gave 10s. to a clerk for writing out the accounts of all the officials connected with the barony and buying the necessary parchment and paper. On the 30th of June, 1474, William Ogle the constable, and other officials made a scrutiny of the water of Tyne from the mill-pool of Ovingham to the sea, taking away and burning all improper nets and sinking fishing craft that had been illegally placed on the river.³⁸

In 1501 the castle chapel was served by William Franckishe, chaplain to Sir Ralph Harbottle, who was then probably the constable.³⁹ Sir Ralph, the owner of Preston Tower in Northumberland and of Beamish in Durham, had married Margaret, daughter of Sir Ralph Percy, who fell on Hedgeley Moor. We find George Swinburne constable of the castle in 1514.⁴⁰

The unhappy sixth Earl of Northumberland passed a week or more at Prudhoe Castle in June, 1528, in order to watch, as Warden of the Marches, over the preservation of order in Tynedale.⁴¹ Prudhoe became the home of his brother Sir Thomas Percy. During the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536, while the negotiations with the King, commenced at Doncaster, were still in progress, Sir Thomas Percy is said to have repaired with all speed to his house of Prudhoe. On his arrival he was welcomed by the leaders of the disaffected population of

³⁶ '[Super] Willelmum Ogle armigerum, de firma pomarii predicti similiter a retro domino debita pro annis xij^{mo} et xij Regis predicti, videlicet utroque anno xiijs iiij^d—xxvjs viij^d; Dominam Comitissam Northumbrie consortem domini nunc pro firma pomarii predicti pro hoc anno—xiijs iiij^d.'—*Ibid.*

³⁷ 'Et eidem xvjd solutis diversis hominibus deferentibus literas domini diversis generosis directas, ad diversas vices infra predictum tempus ex mandato Domini.'—*Comptus Cuthberti Newton ballivi Baronie de Prudhoe.*—*Ibid.*

³⁸ '*Expense scrutini aque de Tyne.* Et in denariis per ipsum computantem solutis pro expensis Willelmi Ogle Constabularii Castri de Prudhoe et aliorum diversorum officiariorum domini reddantium et scrutantium aquam de Tyne a stagno de [O]vyngham usque mare, et retres irrationabiles (*sic*) capiend' et comburend' et puniend', unacum deponicione kiddyll (?) non legitime in dicta aqua posit' ultimo die mensis Junii . . . nil, quia firmarius solvit.'—*Comptus Ricardi Crissop prepositi de Ovingham.*—*Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ecclesiastical Proceedings of Bishop Barnes*, Surt. Soc. Publ. 22, p. xxi.

⁴⁰ *Hodgson MSS.* Swinburne Charters, i. p. 53. The fourth Earl of Northumberland had appointed Thomas Swinburne and Robert Blakman joint foresters of his park of Prudhoe.—*Ibid.* D. p. 83.

⁴¹ 'I nowe have lven this sennet at my Castell of Prudhoe, within v mile of Tyndall, to see good orders to be kept.'—Letter of 6th Earl of Northumberland, *Annals of the House of Percy*, i. p. 385.

Tynedale and Hexhamshire, John Heron of Chipchase and his friends, Edward Charlton, Cuddy Charlton, Geoffrey Robson, Anthony Errington, and others, who are said to have formed as much a part of his family as if they had been his own household servants. The special object of their detestation was Sir Reginald Carnaby, who was one of the King's most active supporters in Northumberland. The Carnaby family had thought it prudent to place certain stuff and apparel, worth more than two hundred pounds, in the charge of William Swinburne of Capheaton, who had married Sir Reginald's sister. In good old Border style, Sir Thomas Percy despatched his servants to Capheaton, where they threatened Swinburne that they would burn his lands and do him 'other such displeasures' so that he was compelled to give up all the Carnaby goods, which were conveyed in triumph to Prudhoe Castle.⁴²

The Earl of Northumberland, a little before his death in June, 1537, gave Prudhoe among his other estates to Henry VIII., at the close of whose reign we find Sir Roger Lascelles constable, and Thomas Carey keeper of the gate.⁴³

At the time of the survey of chantries ordered by Edward VI. in 1547, that of St. Mary at Prudhoe had for its chaplain John Dixon, called the 'Lady Preest.' Dixon is returned as being fifty years of age, and meanly learned, but of honest conversation and qualities.⁴⁴

There is reason to suppose that the children of Sir Thomas Percy, who was beheaded for the part he took in the Pilgrimage of Grace, were allowed to be brought up at Prudhoe. By the time Thomas, the eldest of them, reached man's estate, it was natural for him to be on anything but good terms with Thomas Carey, who represented the royal interests. The accession of Mary brought Thomas Percy into favour at court, and on the 14th of March, 1556, the lords of the Council decided at Greenwich that 'whereas variance had of long time depended, between Thomas Percy, esquire, and Thomas Carey, gent., for the keeping of the castle of Prudhoe,' it should be entrusted to Percy from that Lady Day, and that Carey should not only 'wholly avoid' the castle at Whitsuntide, but pay Percy the sum of twenty pounds.

⁴² *Ibid.* i. p. 561.

⁴³ *Ministers' Accounts*, 37-38 Henry VIII. P.R.O.

⁴⁴ *Ecclesiastical Proceedings of Bishop Barnes*, Surt. Soc. Publ. 22, p. lxxxiii.

On the 1st of May, 1557, Mary created Thomas Percy Earl of Northumberland by a new patent, and at the same time restored to him the principal estates of his family. The castle and 780 acres of the demesne lands of Prudhoe were granted by him, at the annual rent of £52, to Thomas Bates,⁴⁵ who so greatly distinguished himself under the Earl's banner in an encounter with the Scots under Sir Andrew Ker at the foot of the Cheviots in the following October, as to receive an especial letter of thanks from the Queen herself.⁴⁶ After the rising of the Earls of Northumberland and Westmoreland in 1569, Thomas Bates was arrested and sent to the Tower on the charge of concealment of treason, and of having transmitted money to the Earl and Countess of Northumberland during or since the rebellion. Arraigned at Westminster at the same time as the unfortunate family of Norton, he was able to prove that the only money he gave the Earl was the stipulated rent of Prudhoe, and subsequently received a pardon.⁴⁷ He continued to reside at Prudhoe Castle till his death, which took place there on the 31st of August, 1587.⁴⁸

The survey of the castle and barony of Prudhoe, made by George Clarkson for Thomas Earl of Northumberland in 1567, has been unfortunately lost.⁴⁹ It is therefore matter of considerable congratulation that the similar survey completed by Stockdale for the ninth Earl in 1596 contains, contrary to his usual practice, the following elaborate description of the Castle⁵⁰:—

‘There is an old Ruinous Castle, Walled about, and in forme not much unlike to a Sheild hanging with one poynte upwardes, scituate

⁴⁵ *Stockdale's Survey*, Alnwick MSS. Thomas Bates was M.P. for Morpeth in 1554, but was succeeded in Queen Mary's second parliament by 'Henry Percy, gent.' (possibly the future 8th Earl of Northumberland). He again represented Morpeth 1555-1562; in 1561 was Supervisor of Crown Lands in Northumberland, and in 1567 chief steward of Alnwick barony.

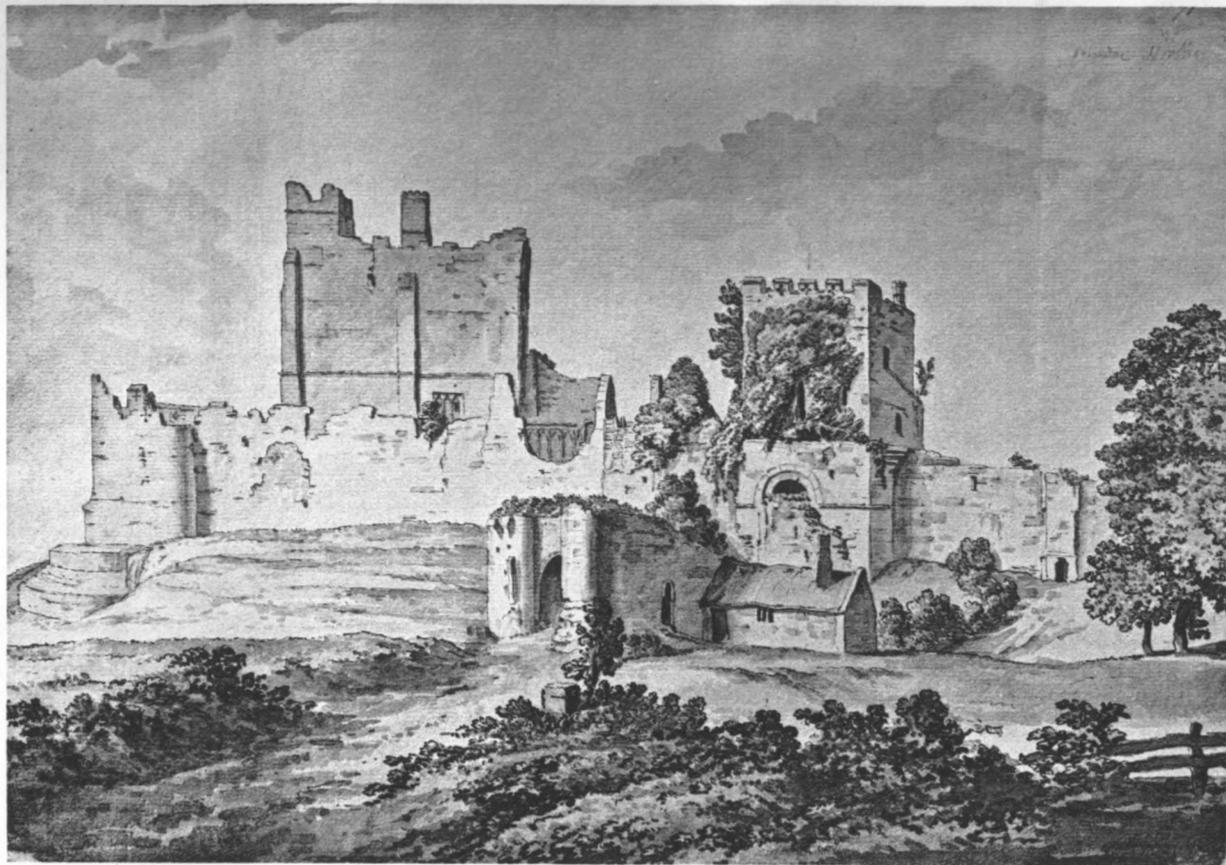
⁴⁶ *Original Letter* at Milbourne Hall.

⁴⁷ Sharp, *Memorials of the Rebellion of 1569*, p. 361.

⁴⁸ *Inventory, p.m. Thos. Bates*, Probate Office, Durham. Among the items at Prudhoe is 'All the Householdes stuffe priced together at £9. 14s 8d,' while the plate there was valued at the considerable sum of £20. There is also a will of Gilbert Swinburne of Prudhoe Castle, who died 4th February, 1590. See Surtees *Hist. of Durham*, II. p. 278.

⁴⁹ A note in Clarkson's MS. at Alnwick says 'The Barony of Prodhowe. The Barony of Tyndale. Memorandum that these remain with Robert Helme or els with Mr. Bates.' No trace of these surveys has been found at Milbourne Hall.

⁵⁰ *Original MS.* at Alnwick Castle. Mr. Hartshorne in *Proc. of Arch. Inst.* 1852, ii. p. 250, appears to have merely reprinted, with some further errors, the imperfect version given by Grose, *Antiquities*, IV. p. 138.



S. H. Grimm del. c. 1786.

B. M. Add. MS. 15,543.

PRUDHOE CASTLE FROM THE SOUTH.



upon a high Moate of Earth, with Ditches in some places all wrought with mans handes as it seemeth and is of content all the Scyte of the Mannor, with a litle Garden platt, and the Banckes by estimacon iij acr.

‘The said Castle hath the Entrey on the south where it hath had two Gates, the uttermost now in Decay, and without the same is a litle Turne Pyke, and on the west parte a large Gate Rowme, where there hath been a passage into the Lodgings there scituate without the Castle (as is supposed) or to the Chappell there standing, and between the Gates is a stronge Wall on both sydes, and as it appeareth hath been a draw Bridge, and without the same before it come to the utter gate, a Turne Pyke for Defence of the Bridge. The Gate is a Tower all Massy Worke on both sydes to the Topp of the Vault, above the Vault is the Cheppell, and above the Chappell a Chamber, which is called the Wardrobe, it is covered with Lead But in great Ruine both in Leade and Timber, it is in Length Tenn Yeards, and in breadth six yeards or thereaboutes.

‘There is opposite to the said Gatehouse Tower joyning to the north wall of the said Castle one Hall of Eighteen yeards of Length and nine yeards of breadth or thereabouts within the Walls, covered alsoe with Lead, Albeit the Tymber and Leade in some Decay.

‘Between the said Gatehouse Tower and Hall on the left hand, at your Entry in at the Gate is a House of ij^o house hight of Length xxiiij^o yeards, in breadth six yeardes or thereaboutes, Devided into two Chambers covered with slate, the lower House hath a great Room to pass out of the Court through that House to the great Tower, and in the south end a Chamber called the Parlour, and in the north end a litle Buttery, in the house is two Chambers called the utter Chamber and Inner Chamber,⁵¹ Out of the Utter Chamber is a Chamber⁵² is a passage to the great Tower by a litle Gallary, on the other syde a Passage downe to the Buttery, out of the Inner Chamber is a passage to the Chappell, and on the other side a passage to a House called the Nursery.

‘On the west parte of the said House is another litle House, standing East and West, upon the south wall called the Nursery in

⁵¹ This passage is garbled past comprehension in Mr. Hartshorne's version.

⁵² *Sic.*

Length Tenn yeards, and in breadth six yeards or thereaboutes of two House height covered also with Slate.

‘At the South-west Corner is a House standing north and South, called the Garner adjoining to the West Wall, in Length tenn yeardes, in breadth six yeardes, of ij^o House height, the under house a Stable, the upper house a Garner covered also with slate.

‘At the north-west Corner of the said Castle is a litle Tower called the West Tower of thre house height round on the outside, in Length seaven yeards, in breadth six yeards or thereaboutes covered with Lead, but in decay both in Lead and Tymber.

‘Joyned to the said Tower is another House of ij^o house height, in Length nine yeards, in breadth six yeards or thereaboutes Covered with Slate, but much in Decay.

‘In the midle of these Houses, by it selfe standeth the Great Tower, one way xvij^o yeardes another way xij^o yeards north and South, of 3 Storyes onely and of height xv^o yeards or thereaboutes, besides the battlements it hath noe Vault of stone in it, it is Covered with Lead, but in some Decay of Lead and Timber, but necessary to be repaired, and a toofall or a litle House adjoining thereunto in Utter Decay.

‘At the East end of the Hall is a House called the Kitchen, of one house height, in Length xij^o yeards in breadth six yeards dim. or thereaboutes, covered with Slate.

‘In the east end as it were at the lower poynt of the Sheild is a litle square Tower in length vij^o yeards in breadth v^o yeardes or theiraboutes covered with Lead, but in utter ruine and decay, both in Timber and Lead. adjoining to the same is a House called the Brew-house, in Length viij^t yeards, and in breadth vij yeards and covered with Slate.

‘There is within the Scyte, and without the Walls, an Elder Chappell, which hath been very fair, and covered with Slate. In the tyme that diverse dwellers were on the Demeynes one Dwelled in the said Chappell, and made it his Dwelling House, and Byers for his Cattell, and by that means Defaced, sa’vinge the Tymber, Walls and greate parte of Slate remayneth.

‘There is alsoe within the precincts of the Scyte a litle Milne standing at the Castle Gate.

'There is under the Moate on the north syde a Barne, two Byers, and other such an old Kill and Kill-house all which were Buildded and Repaired by Thomas Bates in the xx^o Yeare of the Queens Majesties Reigne, (that now is,) and yet now in his late absencé Decayed.

'There was an Orchard, sett all with fruit Trees now all spoyled, and an old House, wherein the Keeper of the Orchard Did Dwell.'

Reginald Heron was, at the time of this survey, tenant of the castle and demesne, paying yearly to the Earl £66 13s. 4d., besides an out-rent of £6 to the parson. After the Gunpowder Plot, Sir William Selby and Sir Wilfrid Lawson searched Prudhoe Castle in vain, hoping to discover Thomas Percy, one of the conspirators, who it was thought might be hiding there.⁵³ On the 4th of December, 1606, the ninth Earl of Northumberland, then a prisoner in the Tower, directed a formal warrant to William Orde, bailiff of Prudhoe, to dispossess Reginald Heron of the castle.⁵⁴ Orde appears to have taken up his abode in the castle himself, and according to the quaint inscription on his tombstone in the chancel of Ovingham Church—

'Of sin's foule dregs and vile contagion free,
With credit great while he Lord Percy served,
Of High, of Low, of all, he well deserved.'⁵⁵

As late as 1617, the fee of the constable of the castle of Prudhoe is entered as £10 a year, and that of the porter as £3 0s. 8d.⁵⁶

After having been held by Sir Orlando Gee, one of the Earl of Northumberland's commissioners, in the reign of Charles II., the castle was allowed to fall more and more to ruin.⁵⁷ The 'Prospect' of it, dedicated by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck to Algernon Seymour Earl of Hertford in 1728, shows the south wall of the keep standing

⁵³ *Cal. of State Papers, Dom.* 1603-1610, p. 253.

⁵⁴ *Percy Family Papers*, 9, A p. 34, Alnwick Castle.

⁵⁵ He died 27th April, 1630. William Orde of Prudhoe Castle married Ellen, daughter of Gerard Salvin of Croxdale, who was living a widow in 1633.—Surtees' *Hist. of Durham*, IV. p. 119. He was the ancestor of the Ords of Sturton Grange, between Warkworth and Shilbottle, and not as Hodgson, II. iii. p. 107, suggests of the Ords of Whitfield. William Orde of Prudhoe Castle was married at St. John's, Newcastle, to Elizabeth Selby of Whitehouse, co. Durham, by Mr. Henry Horsley a justice in 1654, and appears to have still been living at Prudhoe when rated for Sturton Grange in 1663.—*Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions of Warkworth Church and Churchyard*, ed. by M. H. Dand and J. C. Hodgson, p. 85, privately printed, Alnwick, 1890.

⁵⁶ *Percy Family Papers*, Vol. XI. p. 28, Alnwick Castle.

⁵⁷ 'Anthony Isaacson, Esq., late Zacharia Gee, Esq., and Sir Orlando Gee, sometime Thomas Bates, gent., holdeth there the Castle.'—*Survey of Prudhoe in 1727*, Alnwick Castle.

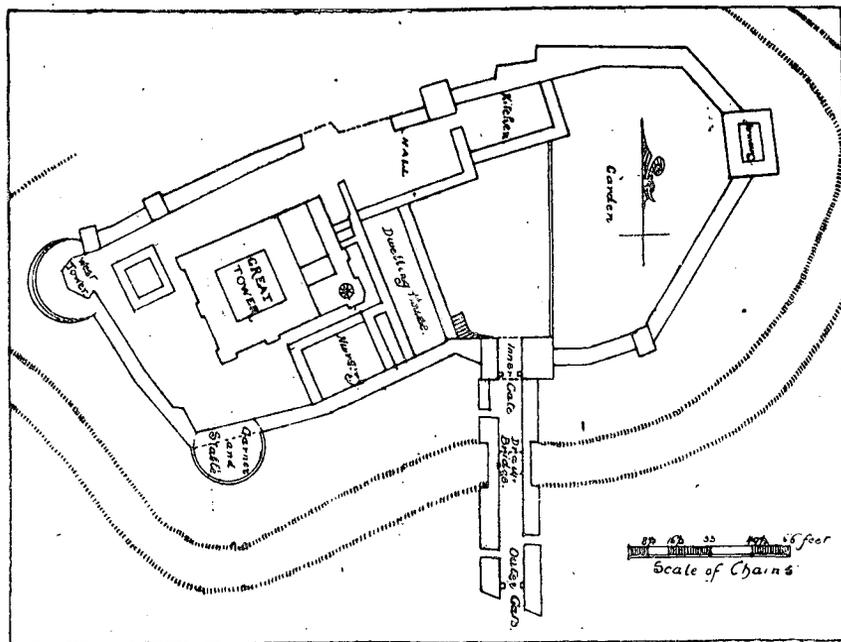
almost perfect, with the foundations of St. Mary's chapel in the foreground. A more faithful drawing of the castle by Grimm, in about 1786, represents the walls in much the same condition; but by the end of the century, the south-east corner of the main building of the keep appears to have collapsed. Considerable works of repair and alteration were carried out by the order of the second Duke of Northumberland, whose younger son, Algernon Percy, afterwards the fourth Duke, was summoned to the House of Lords as Baron Prudhoe of Prudhoe Castle in 1816.⁵⁸ Writing about this time, Sir David Smith, after quoting Stockdale's Survey, adds:—'The interior of the Castle is somewhat altered since the period before-mentioned; the ruinous walls of the Hall, Kitchen, Nursery, Garner, and Stable are taken away—The dwelling house has been rebuilt and enlarged, by continuing its northern end, as far as the foundations of the north wall, where it ends in a bow—the decayed square building between the Great and west Towers has been removed, and a Stable has been built, between the last mentioned Tower, and the former Garner, adjoining to the west wall, the east tower has been converted into a powder Magazine and Armoury; and a new Garden has been made without the Castle, between it, the millpond, and the western exterior ditch, comprehending the site of the old chapel.'⁵⁹ Sir David, whose labours as an antiquary deserve wider recognition, has preserved in his collections a sketch-plan of the castle as it was before being subjected to these well-meant alterations.

Seated on an isolated mount, about five hundred yards to the south of the river Tyne, Prudhoe, though of small dimensions, attains more nearly to the ideal of a Border castle than does any other in Northumberland.⁶⁰ The positions of Wark and Norham on the Tweed

⁵⁸ 'A gold ring set with a sapphire was found in 1808 at Prudhoe Castle: weight, 64 grains. It is of a peculiar form, the bezel projecting with a peak of considerable height, surmounted by the setting—probable date, fourteenth century; preserved at Alnwick Castle.'—*Archæological Journal*, vii. p. 191. Sir David Smith gives a rough sketch of a rusty iron arrow-head dug up at Prudhoe Castle in 1818.

⁵⁹ Sir David Smith, *Collections relating to Camps and Castles*, Alnwick Castle MSS.

⁶⁰ Mr. G. T. Clark delivered an address on Prudhoe Castle to the members of the Royal Archæological Institute, assembled there on Tuesday, the 12th of August, 1884. The substance of Mr. Clark's address is given in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, vol. i. p. 281. In the architectural portion of the present account of the castle the order of Mr. Clark's remarks has been purposely followed.



GROUND PLAN OF PRUDHOE CASTLE.

From Sir David Smith's Collections.

H. & C. N.C.





may possibly be finer, but the first has almost entirely disappeared, and the latter is in absolute ruin. It is, indeed, a pity that the fanciful derivation of the name of Prudhoe from 'the proud height' cannot be sustained, so admirably does it suit the scornful look which, in all its beauty of wood and tower, the castle seems to cast on the rows of wretched cottages at the foot of the hill and the ugly iron bridge thrown over the river to Ovingham. The castle is about 150 feet above the Tyne. Three small burns running down the steep hill to the south of it unite to form a deep dene defending it from the east. Of these the western and middle burns are caught in the mill-pond that occupies the neck of land immediately in front of the castle; while the eastern and largest burn is crossed by a fine mediæval bridge of a single ribbed arch. Along the west side of the castle area a very deep outer moat has been cut from near the southern extremity of the mill-pond, and in addition an inner moat extends from this at the foot of the south of the curtain of the castle till it gradually combines with the dene already mentioned. Between these two moats and the mill-pond, outside the castle walls, was the 'pele yard.'⁶¹ This now forms a most charming garden, the site of the chapel of St. Mary being covered with rose-bushes.⁶² The earth-works of the castle may easily belong to a period long before the Umfrevilles. The deep western moat does not seem to have formed part of the Norman defences, though of course the 'pele yard' may have been a base court surrounded by a wooden stockade. Traces of what look like early outworks can also be seen on the eastern slope of the castle-mound.

The castle proper is approached across the dam on the east side of the mill-pond. The ruins of the mill appear below this causeway on the right. The barbican, about 36 feet long by 24 feet wide, is

⁶¹ See above, p. 57, for note (C) on the word PELE. It is perhaps more satisfactory to give the whole extract relating to the construction of the pele without the gates of Prudhoe:—'Rex Rogero de Mauduyt constabulario castri de Prodhou salutem mandamus vobis quod in reparacionem et emendacionem castri predicti necnon construccionem ejusdam peli extra portas ejusdem castri pro maiore salvacione castri usque ad summam viginti marcarum de exitibus ballivie vestre per visum et testimonium Ricardi de Emeldon maioris ville Novi Castri super Tynam poni faciatis et nos, etc.'—*Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*-i. p. 299. Stockdale really says that the pele-yard was entered by a 'a large Gate Rowme,' and not by 'a large gate-toure' as Mr. Hartshorne's inaccurate transcript led me to suppose.

⁶² 'On the brow of a hill, opposite to Ovingham, is *Prudhoe-Castle* . . . The castle is now in ruins: as is the chapel of our lady, at the foot of the hill.'—Wallis, *History of Northumberland*, 1769, vol. ii. pp. 163, 166. As to the chantry founded in this chapel, see above pp. 202, 203, 207.

entered under the slightly pointed arch of a gateway vaulted with cylindrical ribs, and flanked by two side walls, that on the right projecting about 11 feet, while the other, probably extending to the mill-pond, was pierced by the gateway into the 'pele yard' mentioned by Stockdale, the springers of the arch of which remain. The pas-



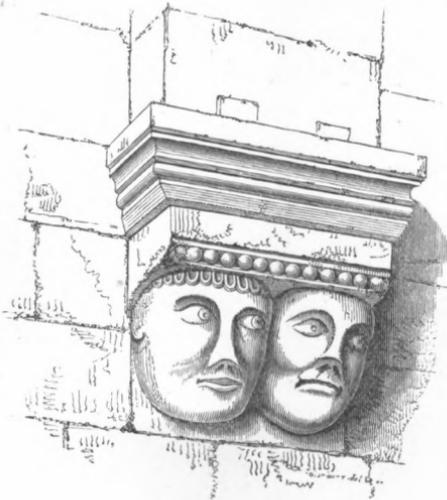
THE GATEHOUSE TOWER FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

sage within the barbican is about 11 feet wide. A small round-headed door on the left opens into the 'pele yard,' and a similar one on the right leads on to the scarp above the eastern dene. From the inner end of the passage straight open stairs ascend on either side to the battlements. The numerous mason-marks on the barbican correspond so closely with those on the gatehouse of Bothal Castle,

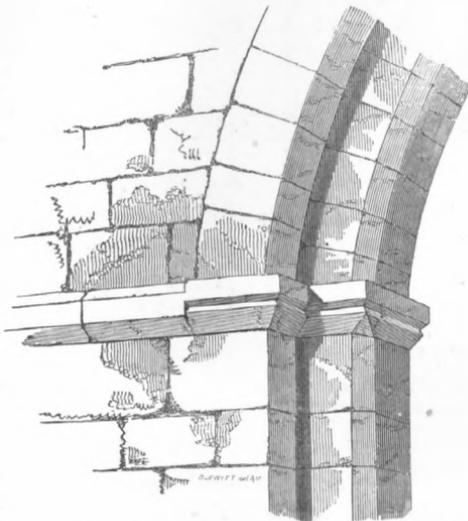
which is known to have been erected about 1343, that it may, with tolerable confidence, be regarded as the work of Gilbert de Umfreville, third Earl of Angus, in the middle of the fourteenth century.

Beyond the barbican the inner moat was spanned by a drawbridge, which was worked apparently from a sort of fore-building erected 20 feet in advance of the main gatehouse, and probably dropped on a cill projecting 5 feet in the rear of the barbican. The space between the drawbridge and the main gatehouse appears to have been at one time covered in. A recess in the wall of thirteenth century masonry, on the west side of the roadway, has had a late square-headed door inserted in it. Of the wall on the east side, only the foundations are left, and the lower portion of the gatehouse has been refaced so as to efface the marks of the ties.

The Gatehouse Tower is a rectangle 18 feet 6 inches deep by 30 feet in width. There are no lodges; the lateral walls of the passage are solid, that on the right being no less than 14 feet thick. There was no portcullis. Much of the plain barrel vault that rises and expands towards the court-



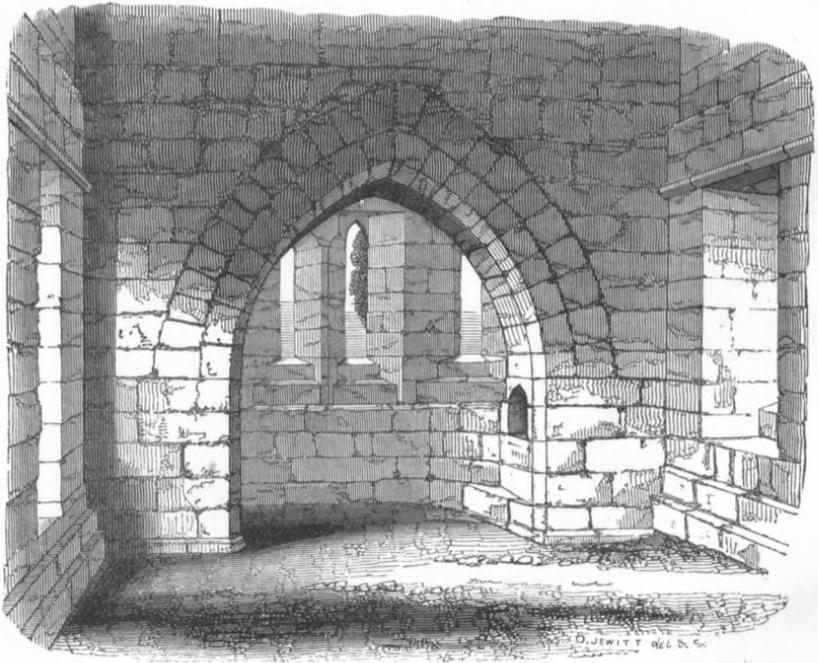
EAST CORBEL OF GATEWAY.



IMPOST OF INNER ARCH OF GATEWAY.

yard is modern. It is traversed diagonally by a single unchamfered rib that rests on two twin-faced Norman corbels with almost classical entablatures. These corbels, like similar ones in Durham Cathedral, may be definitely referred to the opening of the twelfth century. There seems no reason to question the inner archway being Norman along with all the rest of the basement of this most interesting early gatehouse.

In the early part of the thirteenth century a chapel was built over

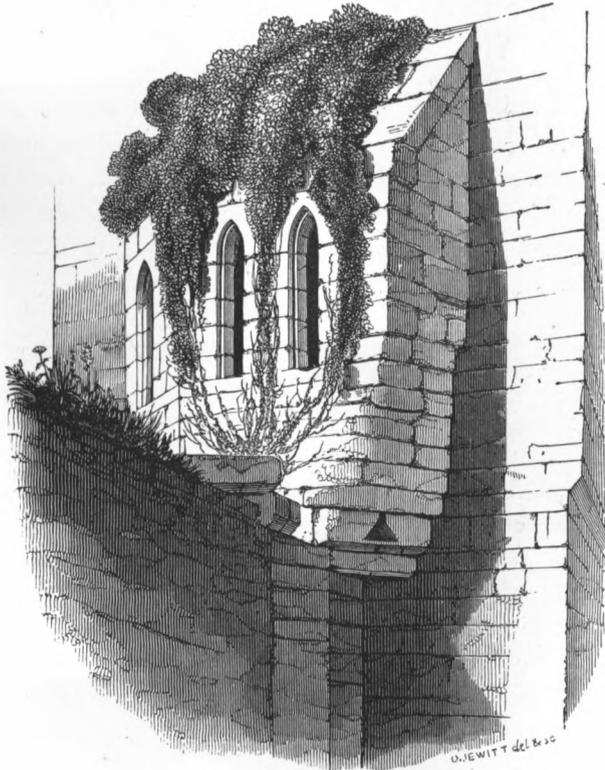


INTERIOR OF GATEHOUSE CHAPEL.

the gateway.⁶³ Entered by a square-headed door in a sort of projecting porch with a slanting stone roof, it measures internally 24 feet in length by 14 feet 6 inches in width. There are two lancet windows in each of the side walls and an oblique one in the south-west corner. An eastern bay or oriel, 7 feet wide, and resting on the curtain-wall, is thrown out 4 feet beyond a heavy pointed arch, low down in the

⁶³ Mr. Hartshorne, Professor Freeman, and Mr. G. T. Clark, have confounded this small chapel in the Gatehouse with the chantry chapel of St. Mary, which was situated in the pele-yard. The numerous other writers who have been content to follow them blindly have fallen into the same error. Both chapels require also to be carefully distinguished from the chantry chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, which Stockdale informs us was 'in the Towne of Prudhoe', and of which the interesting 13th century doorway still remains.

south jamb of which is a rough piscina.⁶⁴ This stone-roofed oriel has two irregular lancets in its east, and a small one in its south east wall. About the end of the thirteenth century a second floor appears to have been placed over the chapel, which was then reduced to the height of only 8 feet. The outlines of two of the embrasures of the original battlement of the chapel may still be made out on the



ORIEL OF CHAPEL FROM THE COURTYARD.

south front of the gatehouse. One of these has been built up internally, while the other has, with a similar embrasure in the east wall, been converted into an aumry. This second floor was used as

⁶⁴ Under this arch a curious stone originally carved with four faces, but of which three have almost been obliterated, is placed on the apex-stone of a gable. There is a similar stone, of more modern appearance, in the porch of Ovingham Church. They were probably mere finials, but bear a strong resemblance to the four-faced images of Sviatovid or 'See-the-world,' the double Janus of the Slavs, of which there is a good example in the Academy of Sciences at Cracow.

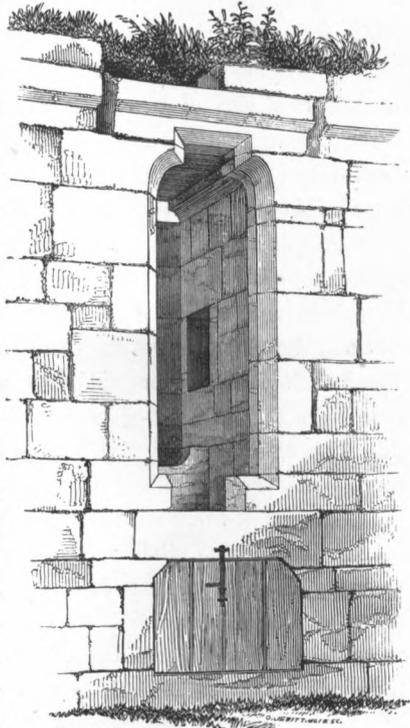
the Wardrobe. It has two fine cruciform loops in the south wall commanding the barbican; a loop of this description in the south-west corner has been built up. There is a large square window in the north wall, and the plain head of a fire-place across the north-east angle. Both the chapel and the Wardrobe are approached by a break-neck stair, the lower portion of which is modern. Opposite the entrance to the chapel is a small doorway in the wall of the modern house, which, at any rate, occupies the place of the door which, Stockdale tells us, led out of the Inner Chamber. The stair continues to the battlements of the gatehouse. Except on the north side, the merlons of these battlements are pierced with small cross loops, while the embrasures have been provided with swing-shutters, several of the pivot-holes of which still remain. The fine octagonal chimney shaft of the fire-place in the Wardrobe is a prominent object in the north-east corner.

Attached to the north curtain immediately opposite the gatehouse was the Hall, apparently a building of the thirteenth century, about 54 feet long and 27 feet wide.⁶⁵ Traces of one of the windows are seen above a small oblong slit. The dwelling-house, which in Stockdale's time stretched from the Hall to the south curtain near the steps up to the chapel in the gatehouse, thus dividing the castle into an outer and an inner ward, was extended over the west end of the Hall in the beginning of the present century, and made to terminate in a great bow-window immediately above the northern slope. The kitchen, measuring about 36 feet by 20 feet, was built against the curtain at the east end of the Hall. The lower portion of one of the windows is left, but so low down as to clearly prove that the courtyard was intentionally filled up to its present level. This, besides making the ascent to the castle unnaturally steep and burying the foundations of the Hall and kitchen, has had the effect of pressing out the curtain-wall. A fence formerly ran across the outer ward between the kitchen and the north-east corner of the gatehouse, leaving the ground east of it to be used as a garden. The north-east portion of the curtain is of most massive construction. An oblique passage in it leads down to a latrine. The basement of

⁶⁵ The Hall is still clearly seen in the views of the castle from the north-west given by Grose and Hutchinson.

the small tower at the east end of the castle, with two cross-loops in its outer face, appears to be original. Just south of this, a few yards of the battlement of the curtain are still left, and nearer the gatehouse there is a very elaborate latrine entered by a good shouldered doorway of the Carnarvon type. A small oblong window between the latrine and the gatehouse, now built up, shows that there must have been some building against the curtain there.

Immediately west of the external stair of the gatehouse, a modern archway under the dwelling-house leads to the Inner Ward, which contains the Great Tower or keep. This archway replaces one that was considerably further north, with only a buttery between it and the Hall, and the old dwelling-house, the position of the eastern wall of which appears to have coincided with that of its successor, was not more than 20 feet wide. The two picturesque gables of the south end of the old house, shown in the Bucks' view, have been supplanted by a vile servile imitation of the gatehouse battlements. Under the modern archway a very early carved stone, with two grotesque heads, has been built into the south wall.⁶⁶ It was probably a corner-corbel.



LATRINE IN SOUTH CURTAIN.

The main building of the Great Tower, standing nearly in the centre of the Inner Ward, appears to have been almost square, 41 feet north and south by 44 feet east and west, and about 45 feet high to the parapet from the present ground level. A sort of forebuilding is, however, built on about 12 feet beyond the broad flanking pilasters of

⁶⁶ There is an early corbel representing the head of a wide-jawed monster on the first floor of the interior of the keep of Appleby Castle.

the east face, so as to make the north and south face about 56 feet long on the ground plan. Both the Bucks' view in 1728, and the more reliable drawing by Grimm in about 1786, seem to conclusively prove that this forebuilding did not rise to much more than half the height of the rest of the keep. The basement contains two chambers, about 14 feet long east and west. The northern of these, now a cellar, has a doorway of late character in its east wall, opening into the front hall of the modern house. Probably, however, the original entrance to the keep was in the east wall of the southern chamber. If so it has been destroyed to make a wider passage. A wheel stair, with steps 3 feet 4 inches wide, ascends in a sort of turret at the south end of this forebuilding. After passing a latrine-chamber in the east wall, we reach a square-headed door which opened into the first storey of the main keep, but at some height above the floor level. There was no direct communication between this stair and the first floor of the forebuilding. A few steps higher the stair ends at a door opening eastward of what appears to have been the level of the battlements of the forebuilding, as a slopsout in the north wall of the turret must have emptied on to its roof. The first floor of the forebuilding seems to have formed one chamber, remains of the early fire-place of which are left in the east wall. It was with this chamber that the gallery mentioned by Stockdale as leading out of the dwelling-house must have communicated.

The walls of the main building of the Great Tower are about 9 feet thick. There is no plinth visible, the same process of levelling having probably been adopted as in the outer ward. The south and west faces have each three flat and narrow pilasters, which after three 'set-offs' die into the wall below the parapet. The central pilaster of the south face is shorter; there was a chimney above it. The south-west corner turret is the only one that remains.

The interior of the keep is about 23 feet square. In the basement there is a semi-circular rubble arch in the north wall, which may possibly have been a window-recess as there is no sign of any other opening in the external walls. It has been refaced outside and turned into a doorway. The well appears to be buried like so much else of interest in the castle. The first floor, about 15 feet high, had a window of two fine shouldered lights, inserted in an original rubble-arched recess in the remaining fragment of the north

wall, probably about 1300. This wall was refaced at the same time, and has a good labelled string-course above the window. According to the views taken in last century, there was also a window of three lights to the left of the probable fire-place in the south wall.⁶⁷ From the north-west corner of this floor a mural stair rises in the thickness of the west and south walls in the direction of the probable south-east corner turret of the battlements. The lower part of this stair is a restoration, the original is vaulted with rubble. The keep had no vault, but the floors were supported on corbels from all sides. The second floor was entered from the mural stair in the west wall by a square-headed doorway. Above this are the marks of a comparatively modern gable. There were two windows of a single light like those of the first floor in separate recesses in the north wall.

In the curtain-wall south of the keep, the lower portions of two window-recesses of the Nursery, which Stockdale speaks of, may yet be traced. It appears very possible that the name may be derived from the children of Sir Thomas Percy being brought up in it. West of this is a triangular recess pierced with a cross-loop. The base of the large three-quarter round bastion that capped the south-west angle of the castle is now occupied by a conservatory. Within this angle there formerly stood a building called the Garner, which extended 30 feet against the west curtain, and consisted of a stable with a granary above. The north-west angle is also covered by a similar bastion, but the outer walls of this, known as the West Tower, still stand almost perfect. The basement and the merlons of the battlement are pierced with cross-loops. A building connected with this tower seems to have been carried as far east as a door-jamb at the head of the first flight of a stair that leads to the walk on the north curtain-wall. The stair is continued westward in the thickness of the curtain itself. In the buttress at the junction of this last with the West Tower is a small mural chamber, apparently a latrine. The

⁶⁷ A fragment of tracery belonging to a square-headed window of the middle of the 14th century, is now lying on the rockery on the site of the Hall. Possibly it came from this window in the keep, although the Bucks in their Prospect show a two-light and a three-light window in the south gables of the dwelling-house, which have been replaced, their relative positions transposed, by traceried windows of this kind, which may be genuine copies. Grimm in his view has a large window of four lights in what seems to be the wall of the Nursery on the courtyard side.

portion of the north curtain opposite the keep also contains two mural chambers. In the western of these is a latrine, approached by a short stair. The purpose served by the other is not so obvious, but its extremely low level again calls attention to the fact that the whole area within the castle walls was artificially raised at the time of the fortunate repairs and the unfortunate alterations made by the second Duke of Northumberland, in order to secure the monotonous symmetry then in vogue.

ADDENDA.

1300-1307.—‘Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, shows the King and Council that for time beyond memory his ancestors and himself have warded prisoners within their franchise of Redesdale in the prison of their castle of Hirbodelle, but it is so ‘abattu’ by the Scots, that prisoners can no longer be safely warded there, and prays the King to permit him to keep them in his castle of Prudhow in the same county till he can repair Hirbodelle.’

(Endorsed) ‘As these facts are attested before the Council, he has leave to imprison for 10 years in Prudhow castle.’—*Parliamentary Petitions, No. 3,249*; Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland, II. p. 523.

March 20, 1336.—‘The King permits Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, to keep the prisoners of Redesdale in his castle of Prudhow for 10 years, as the castle of Hirbodell is insecure from its damages by the Scottish wars.’—*Pat. Roll, 10 Ed. III. p. 1 m. 33*; Cal. Doc. rel. to Scotland, III. p. 220.