

BOTHAL CASTLE.

BOTHAL, or as the country-people used to call it *Bottle*, simply means a house or a village. The passage of the Old Testament where it is said ‘Pharaoh went into his house,’ was anciently rendered, ‘Pharaoh went into his *bottel*.¹ In Northumberland *bottle* is not an uncommon termination. We have Harbottle, Lorbottle, Walbottle, Shilbottle. ‘Schiplingabottel,’ the original form of this last, may



THE GATEHOUSE FROM THE COURTYARD.

show that the term was not applied exclusively to the house of an individual, but also to a village whose inhabitants rejoiced in a common patronymic. We have many instances of the use of the word in Germany, two of the most worthy of notice being Bransbuttel

¹ See the excellent paper on Bothal by Mr. Longstaffe in *Transactions of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland*, 1867.

and Tensbuttel, near the mouth of the Elbe, in the very corner that was the old home of the Angles. Bothal's early importance in Northumberland may be argued from the fact that it did not require to be qualified by any prefix, but was '*the Bottel, par excellence.*

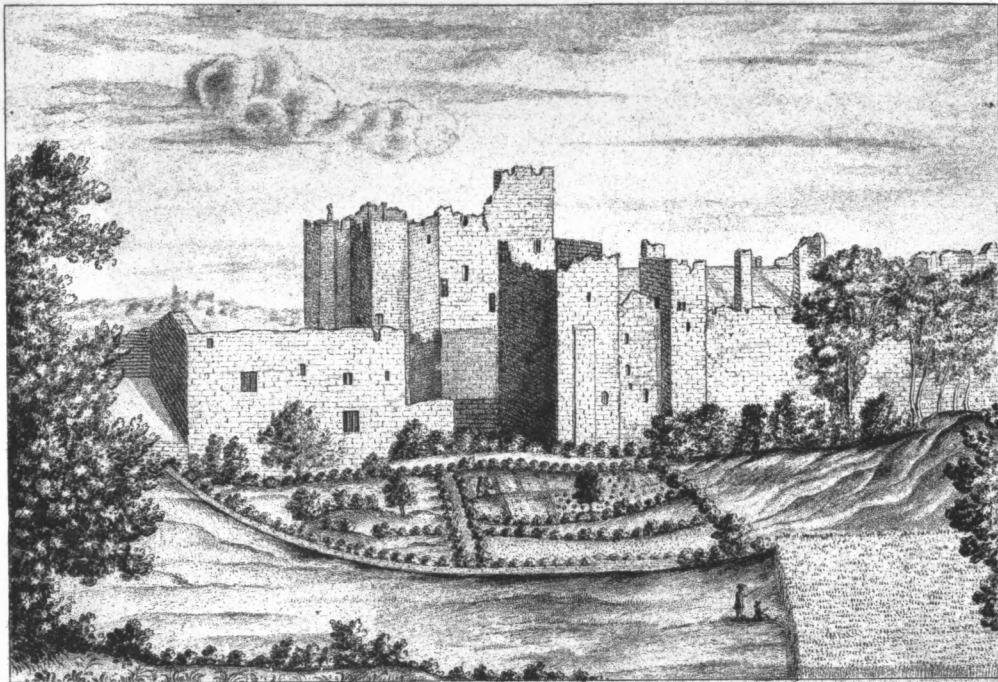
Bothal first appears in history in a grant of its tithes from Earl Robert de Mowbray to the monastery of Tynemouth. After Mowbray's rebellion it seems to have been given by Rufus to Guy de Baliol, and, together with Woodhorn, formed the northern *enclave* or detached territory of his barony of Bywell. As the marriage portion of Guy de Baliol's daughter it was probably constituted an independent fee held directly of the Crown, and as such we find it possessed in 1166 by Richard Bertram, the youngest brother of Roger Bertram of Mitford.²

Robert Bertram of Bothal joined in the Welsh expedition against Llewelyn in 1277, and was knight of the shire for Northumberland in 1290. His grandson, Robert Bertram, died in 1334, and left as his heir a son, Robert, born in 1322. This Robert Bertram, the fifth of his name at Bothal, built the castle in 1343, when although a young man of twenty-one, he was sheriff of the county. It seems singular that he had to obtain a license from the King for turning his manor-house into a castle, as the knoll at Bothal had no doubt been occupied from an early period.³ In all likelihood it was fenced in securely before the Norman conquest by its English lords, who may or may not—there are no means of determining—have borne the name, but certainly not the surname, of Gisulph.

Sir Robert Bértram, the builder of Bothal Castle, was one of the twelve northern knights who received the thanks of Edward III. for their bravery at Neville's Cross in 1346. One of the Scottish prisoners taken at the battle, Malcolm Fleming, Earl of Wigton, being too weak to be removed to London with the rest, was sent

² The arms of the Bertrams of Bothal, *or, an orle azure*, appear to be merely a modification of the Baliol coat, *gules, an orle argent*, differenced by change of tinctures.

³ 'De manso Kernellando. Rex omnibus Ballivis et fidelibus suis ad quos, etc., salutem. Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris dilecto et fidieli nostro Roberto Bertram quod ipse mansum sum de Bothale in Comitatu Northumbrie muro de petra et calce firmare et Kernalare et mansum illud sic firmatum et Kernalatum tenere possit sibi et heredibus suis imperpetuum sine occasione vel impedimento nostro vel heredum nostrorum, vicecomitum, aut aliorum ballivorum seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcunque. In cujus etc. T.R. apud Westm. xv die Maii.'—*Patent Roll*, 17 Ed. III. pt. I. m. 23, P.R.O.



The North West Prospect of BOTHAL CASTLE humbly presented to The Right Honorable
Edward Earl of Oxford & Mortimer by His Lordships Obeyt & Obedient Humble Servt T. Saunders 1724

"INK-PHOTO" SPRAEUS & CO. LONDON

Reduced from a drawing in the collection of the Society.



down to Bothal in the custody of an esquire named Robert Delaval, who traitorously allowed him to return to Scotland without exacting any ransom.⁴ Bertram died in 1362. His only child, Helen, had married Robert Ogle, and before his death he had the satisfaction of hearing of the birth of his grandson at Callerton. In true baronial style he gave the messenger who brought the intelligence to Bothal a husbandland at Stanton for life.⁵

Robert de Ogle, the first husband of Helen Bertram, died in 1364; and it was not until the death of her fourth husband, David Holgrave, in 1405, that her son, Sir Robert Ogle, came into possession of the castle and manor of Bothal. He at once entailed Bothal on his second son, John, surnamed, after his grandmother, Bertram, on condition of his bearing the arms of Ogle and Bertram quarterly, with remainder to his elder son, Robert Ogle. On the 31st October, 1409, Sir Robert died,⁶ and by virtue of the entail, John Bertram succeeded to Bothal, when the very next day, at midnight, Sir Robert Ogle appeared before the castle with two hundred archers and men-at-arms arrayed in form of war. Some of these were soldiers and others Scots, avowed enemies of the king. They brought with them scaling ladders, pavises, hurdises, and other ordnance of war, and lurked round the castle all that night in the hope either of surprising or carrying it by assault. The next morning two of Bertram's servants, Thomas Wodall and Thomas Coward, came out of the castle to treat with Sir Robert, who had pledged his honour that they should be allowed to return unmolested. Notwithstanding this, he had them seized and imprisoned. He then continued the siege for four days more, in spite of the protestations of Sir John Widdrington and Sampson Harding, two

⁴ 'Unus autem . . . captivorum, scilicet dominus Malcolmus Flemyngh, comes de Wyghtoun, (propter) infirmitatem Londonias cum aliis captis nullatenus transmissus, sed apud Bothale, proh dolor! dimissus, proditione cujusdam armigeri custodis sui, dicti Roberti de la Vale, in Scotiam sine redemptione aliqua est reversus.' — *Chron. de Lanercost*, p. 351.

⁵ The child was baptised at Ponteland on the Feast of the Conception, 8th Dec. 27 Ed. III.—Proof of Age, 85, 4th Report of Deputy Keeper of Public Records, App. p. 137; *Arch. Allaniana*, vol. IV. p. 327. The chronology of the Bertram family is perplexing: Robert Bertram, for instance, was born in 1322, yet we are asked to believe that his wife, Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Constance, wife of William de Felton, died in 1329, and that his grandson was born in 1353.

⁶ The inscription on his tombstone in the priory-church of Hexham runs, 'Hic iacet Robertus Ogle filius Elene Bertram filie Roberti bertram militis qui obiit in vigilia omnium sanctorum Anno domini MCCCCx^o cuius anime propicietur deus amen.' See *Archæologia Allaniana*, vol. xv. p. 77; also plate. The Inq. p.m. 11 Hen. IV. 31. taken at Newcastle, 21. Apr. 1410, on a writ dated 9 Nov. 1409, clearly shows that the year is incorrect, and that it should have been 'MCCCCix^o'

justices of the peace, who bade him desist in the king's name. At last the garrison was compelled to surrender. The damage caused by the houses in the castle being burnt and the corn in the granaries destroyed was estimated at two hundred pounds.⁷ John Bertram promptly presented a petition relating these facts to the 'most wise the commons' of England, and they, on the 13th of February, 1410, considering that the castle and manor of Bothal lay so near to the east marches of Scotland that sufficient remedy could not be obtained by him at common law, commended his petition to the consideration of the king and his council. Accordingly the sheriff of Northumberland was directed to make a proclamation at the gates of Bothal Castle, that Sir Robert Ogle, and all the other people abiding therein, should be put out without delay, upon pain of forfeiture of life and members. The sheriff was to keep the castle in his own hands till the octave of Trinity, when the whole matter in dispute would be decided by the king's council, who received the authority of parliament to do so.⁸

Sir John Bertram, of Bothal, died in 1449. His eldest son, Sir William, appears with his cousins, the Ogles, to have followed the fortunes of the White Rose. The direct male line of Bertram ended in Sir William's grandson, Robert, at any rate before 1517, when Robert, 4th Lord Ogle, styles himself 'lord of Ogle and Bottell,'⁹ though

⁷ Un Robert de Ogle, Chivaler, fitz le dit Robert, ore tarde en le fest de Toutz-seintz darrein passe; a mye noet, ove deux centz hommes d'armes et archiers arraiez a faire de guerre, desquelles hommes d'armes et archiers ascuns feurent soudiours & ascuns gentz d'Escoce & pleines enemys a notre Seigneur le Roy et a son Roialme, venoient ove escales pavises, hurdises, & autres ordinances de guerre et la dit chastell assegeront; gisant tout le dit noet illoeques privement pur avoir emble ou escale le dit chastell. Et au matyn ensuant, le dit Robert assura les servantz le dit suppliant sur le foie et loialtie de son corps, esteantz dedeins le dit chastell, pur savement venir et parler ove luy hors du dit chastell, et savement retourner sanz estre endamagez ou grevez. Sur quoi le dit Robert, Thomas Wodall, & Thomas Coward, servantz le dit suppliant, qant ils feurent venuz a luy hors du dit chastell sur la dite assurance, prist, retenoit, et emprisona les loialx lieges notre dit tres souveraigne Seigneur le Roy, et celle assege issint continuer . . . nt pur quatre jours et plus, tan que le dit chastell; par force et assaut et doute de morte ovesque biens et chateaux le dit suppliant dedeins esteantz a la value de cc li., feust renduz, et ses maisons illoeques debruseront et arderont, et ses blees en graungez et autres choses a la value de cc li. illoeques trovez degasteront.—*Rot. Parl.* iii. 629.

⁸ *Ibid.*; Hodgson, *Hist. of Northd.* II. ii. pp. 170, 171.

⁹ Sir John Bertram's second son Edward appears to have been sheriff of Newcastle in 1431 and M.P. in 1441; whose only son Edward Bertram died twenty-four days after the battle of Towton in 1460, of wounds received on that evil Palm Sunday, leaving an only daughter whose issue came to be represented by Thomas Bates of Prudhoe, M.P. for Morpeth in the reign of Mary.—*Dodsworth MS.* 61, fo. 50, 51, Bodl. Lib.

indeed Sir Robert, 1st Lord Ogle, and his son Owen, actually dated a grant at *their* castle of Bothal 20th October, 1465.¹⁰

Robert Ogle, created Lord Ogle by Edward IV. 16th March, 1461, had married Isabella, daughter and heir of Sir Alexander Kirkby of Kirkby Ireleth in Furness.¹¹ His direct descendant; Cuthbert, 7th Lord Ogle, died in 1601, when the Barony fell into abeyance between his two daughters. This abeyance was terminated in favour of the younger one, Catherine, in 1628, and her son Sir William Cavendish, the celebrated Duke of Newcastle(upon-Tyne), became 9th Lord Ogle, but on the second Duke's death in 1691, the title once more fell into abeyance between his three daughters, Margaret, Countess of Clare, Catherine, Countess of Thanet, and Arabella, Countess of Sunderland. Bothal became the property of the eldest, and has so descended to her representative the present Duke of Portland.

As at Dunstanburgh, the architectural interest of Bothal centres in the Gatehouse. So far as we can judge, this must have always been the most important building. The change of style that took place in the thirty years between the foundation of Dunstanburgh and that of Bothal is very marked. An ecclesiastical architect might call Dunstanburgh Early English, Bothal pronounced Decorated. In civil buildings the successive styles appear more fused and blended.

The main body of the Gatehouse covers about 40 feet by 30 feet. On either side a semi-octagonal turret projects about 15 feet further to the field. These turrets, which also extend two or three feet east and west beyond the lines of the Gatehouse, are not a true pair, the west semi-octagon being somewhat the larger.

Above the noble entrance arch is a very characteristic window of two lights, with a quatrefoil in the head between them. It is of about the same dimensions as the slightly later flamboyant windows on the second floor at Langley. In the upper story is a plain mullioned window of Elizabethan date.

A series of shields of extreme interest is carved on the battlements

¹⁰ *Lansd. MS.* 326, Ogle deeds, No. 91; Hodgson, *Hist. of Northd.* II. i. p. 392n. 12, b.

¹¹ A stone with the arms of OGLE and BERTRAM quarterly, quartering KIRKBY, taken from the New Chapel of Our Lady, three-quarters of a mile up the Wansbeck, has been built into the courtyard face of the Gatehouse. It is probably of the time of the 2nd Lord Ogle.

and the wall immediately beneath them. These shields were not put up in a spirit of family pride. They did not represent phantom ancestors, but living individuals—mailed warriors who would consider any attack on a castle protected by their shields a direct challenge to themselves. Some of them were perhaps related to the Bertrams: many may have been their connections; but others again only friends and patrons. No doubt each knight in his turn would be pleased to see his shield suspended on a castle like Bothal.¹²

Arranged in order, these shields appear to be:—

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| (1) THE BLACK PRINCE. | (2) EDWARD III. | (3) WAKE OF LYDEL. | | | | | | | | |
| (4) ATON. | (5) GREYSTOCK. | (6) PERCY. | (7) BERTRAM. | (8) DANCY. | (9) CONYERS. | (10) FELTON. | | | | |

1. This is, it is believed, a unique blazon of Edward the Black Prince, as Duke of Cornwall, so created in 1337. The arms of Cornwall were, *sable, ten bezants, four, three, two, one*. Richard, King of the Romans, younger son of King John, had, as Earl of Cornwall, borne *arg: a lion rampant gu., crowned or*, the arms of Poictou, *within a bordure of Cornwall, i.e., sa. bezanty*: a shield also borne by his son, the second earl. The Black Prince adopts the black bordure with the gold bezants, but naturally alters the charge of the shield to the three lions of England.

2. On the central merlon of the three over the archway the shield of Edward III., with the three lions of *England* in the 1st and 4th quarters, the fleurs-de-lys of *France ancient* in the 2nd and 3rd, an arrangement that gave great umbrage to the French, as insinuating that England was the superior kingdom. ‘The French king,’ Stow tells us, ‘said unto certain Englishmen sent unto him, ‘Our cousin doth wrongfully bear the quartered arms of England and France: which matter notwithstanding doth not much displease us for that he is descended from the weaker side of our kin and therefore as being a

¹² In stained glass down to the 17th century we often find the arms of the great statesmen of the day intermingled with those commemorating the alliances of the owner’s family.—See an account of the *Armorial Glass at Montacute House*, by C. J. Bates, in *Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society’s Proceedings*, xxxii. p. 90. Opinion has now so much changed that no one would think of using for decorative purposes the arms of his nearest and dearest neighbour if not related to him, still less those of Lord Salisbury or Mr. Gladstone.



J. P. Gibson, Photo.

BATTLEMENTS OF THE GATEHOUSE, BOTHAL CASTLE.



bachelor we would be content to grant him license to bear part of our arms of France: but whereas in his seals and letters patent, he nameth himself as well King of England as of France and doth set the first quarter of his arms with leopards before the quarter of lilies, it doth grieve us very much, making apparent to the beholders that the little island of England is to be preferred before the great kingdom of France.' To which Sir John of Shoreditch, knight, made answer 'that it was the custom of men in those days to set the title and arms of their progenitors before the arms and title of the right descending of their mother: and thus of duty and reason doth my lord, the King of England, prefer his arms.'¹³ This marshalling was subsequently altered, though it appears again on King Edward's tomb, and was occasionally used by Richard II. The chest of Richard de Bury, bishop of Durham, who died in 1345, provides another instance in the North.¹⁴

3. Somewhat unaccountably this shield on the left of the royal arms has proved a riddle to archæologists. They have tried to make it out Grey, Carnaby, and what not, without reflecting that the northern knights and barons whose arms appear on the series below would never have tolerated the elevation of one of their own degree into such close fellowship with the king and prince. Blazoned *or, two bars gules, in chief three torteaux*, it is that of Thomas Lord Wake of Lydel. His ancestors had obtained the barony of Lydel in Cumberland by marrying an heiress of the Stutevilles, one of whom so bravely defended Wark Castle against William the Lion. Thomas Lord Wake had married Blanche Plantagenet, daughter of Henry, Earl of Leicester, and sister of Mary, wife of Henry Percy III., of Alnwick. His sister Margaret, countess of Kent, was the widow of Edmund of Woodstock, the youngest son of Edward I. He served in the Scotch Wars in 1336 and 1338, and as he died, the last of his race, in 1349, this shield must have been put up before that year. On this showing the armorial series at Bothal is a little earlier than that on the octagon towers at Alnwick, which for a similar reason cannot have been carved before 1350. Lord Wake's niece and eventual heiress, Joan Plantagenet, known as the Fair Maid of Kent, married the

¹³ Longstaffe, 'Bothal,' in *Transactions of the Architectural and Archæological Society of Durham and Northumberland*, 1867.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Black Prince in 1361, an alliance that may almost be said to have been foreshadowed by these shields associated on the battlements of Bothal.

4. *Or, a cross sable* for Gilbert de Aton, the legitimate heir of the Vescis, lords of Alnwick, who died in 1344.¹⁵

5. A well-known coat—*barry of six or and azure, three chaplets gules*, that of William the Good, baron of Greystock and lord of Morpeth, ‘the most valiant noble and courteous knight of his time and country,’ who died in 1359.

6. *Or, a lion rampant azure*, borne by Henry Percy II. of Alnwick, who died in 1353.

7. Immediately beneath the royal shield, the centre of the seven smaller ones, *or, an orle azure*, the coat of Robert Bertram, the builder of the castle.

8. *Azure, semy of crosses croiset and three cinquefoils argent*, for John Darcy, who married a co-heiress of the Herons of Hadston, and died in 1357.

9. The Conyers coat—*azure, a maunch or*.¹⁶

10. *Gules, two lions passant within a double tressure argent*, the shield of William de Felton, lord of Edlingham, who died in 1359.

On the west turret are four more shields :—

(1) DELAVAL. (2) SCARGILL. (3) HORSLEY. (4) OGLE.

1. *Ermine, two bars vert*, possibly a reminiscence of Robert Delaval, the faithless squire who afterwards let go the Earl of Wigton in 1346.¹⁷

2. *Ermine, a saltire purpure borne, temp. Edw. III.*, by the Scargills of Scargill, near Rokeby.

3. *Gules, three horses' heads argent, bridled or*, the arms of Roger de Horsley of Scranwood, who died 1359, probably the same Roger de Horsley who was seneschal of Dunstanburgh in 1322. The reins are in this instance pulled so tight that the horses' heads seem charging like battering rams.

¹⁵ This shield could not be that of Sir John de Coupland, *arg. a cross sa.*, as he differenced this with *a mullet of the field*. Besides which, he only became famous after the battle of Neville's Cross.

¹⁶ The Hastings family, who bore a similar coat, *or a maunch gu.*, seem to have had no connection with Northumberland till Sir Edmund Hastings of Roxby, co. York, married a daughter of Sir John de Felton of Edlingham in about 1400.

¹⁷ The Mauduits of Eshet, who bore *erm. two bars gu.*, seem to have been under forfeiture at this time, and did not have their lands restored to them till 1358.—*Patent Roll*, 32 Ed. III. m. 9; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 374.

4. *Argent, semy of crosses croiset, three crescents gules*, as on the seal of John de Ogle, youngest brother of Robert de Ogle, builder of Ogle Castle, who was living in 1351.

On the east turret there is one escutcheon, but no trace of any bearings having been on it.

On the merlon above the royal arms is perched a rough stone figure holding a horn or some such musical instrument. A similar figure on the western turret seems to have been petrified in the act of heaving a stone on the heads of besiegers. The gargoyles are curious.

The roof-line of a pent-house built up between the turrets when the ruin was occupied by an old woman who rented the gardens is still visible. This pent-house is shown in some good sketches of Bothal made in about 1790.¹⁸ The flanking turrets have been refaced to a very considerable extent: neither of the doorways, now built up, as if they had once led directly into them are genuine. In the jambs of the entrance arch is a half-round portcullis groove, and a little within are the iron hinges of the gate. The passage, about 33 feet long and 12 feet wide, is vaulted over in stone. This vault is considerably higher than the arches at either end, the inner arch not even being in the true centre. It is supported on eight pointed ribs, between which in the roof are three *meurtrières* or openings, through which to assail enemies already in possession of the archway. In the south-east corner close to the side wall there appears to have been another opening of the same kind. Naturally, during peace, these holes would be used for hauling up stores of all sorts as a preferable alternative to the awkward spiral stair.

The Survey of Bothal Barony in 1576 mentions both the porter's lodge and the prison as being in the Gatehouse.¹⁹ In the east wall of the passage is a shoulder-head door leading into a chamber measuring about 18 feet by 7 feet 6 inches with segmental-ribbed vaulting. Originally this chamber had three loops to the east: but in one of these a doorway evidently taken from some other part of the building has been inserted. At the same time a false wooden ceiling was run across to convert it into a cottage. A wide passage communicates with an

¹⁸ Exhibited through the kindness of Canon Greenwell at a meeting of the Soc. of Ant. N.C. held at Bothal, 16th Oct., 1885.

¹⁹ *The Booke of Bothal Baronrye*, published in *Antiquarian Repertory*, vol. iv. p. 423; Hodgson, *Northd.* II. ii. p. 169n.

inner chamber measuring 10 feet by 7 feet in the base of the eastern flanking turret. This chamber appears from the loops in it to have also been divided by a floor though probably at an early period; the vaulting, if it is vaulted, is hidden by modern boards.

On the west side of the passage at the court-yard end, is a shoulder-headed doorway under a relieving arch, that leads straight to a wheel-stair in the south-west angle of the Gatehouse. It is perplexing to understand how access was obtained to this door when the half of the inner gate, the hinges of which yet remain, stood open back against it. Terrible too must have been the complication of doors and bars in the draughty cross-passage at the foot of the newel. On the left is a small slit that does not look as if it occupied the place of any more convenient entrance; on the right a doorway with a bar-hole on the *inside* opens into a shouldered passage through a three-foot wall that terminates in a vaulted chamber of similar dimensions to the first one on the east side of the gateway passage. The chamber is lit from this passage by two characteristic loops. Four segmental arches support the vault, which is composed of especially fine long stones. At the further end of this chamber is a door into the room in the base of the western flanking turret. At present this room is devoid of character, and has a boarded roof. Which of these four vaults was the prison it is now difficult to determine: as far as can be seen all had bolts and bars on the *inside*, facilities for keeping their gaolers out with which prisoners are not usually provided.

A dozen steps of the wheel-stair bring us to the present entrance to it, broken from the modern house through the west wall: eighteen more, to the original doorway, now built up, of a passage lit from the west that opened into the south-west corner of the Great Chamber above the archway. A partition now divides this chamber into an ante-room and dining-room. In its entirety it measured 25 feet from east to west by 19 feet 6 inches from north to south. In the north-west corner was a very narrow door into the turret: this has now been pulled out to make room for a more convenient staircase to the upper floor. In the ante-room is a recess, robbed of its ribs and benches, but still containing a Decorated window, which was originally the only one on the south side of the chamber. A couple of feet further east was the entrance into latrines in the thickness of the south wall,

which were lit by two external loops. The place of the western loop is occupied by a remarkably fine Perpendicular window in a three-ribbed recess removed here *en bloc* from Cockle Park Tower when the Gatehouse was done up as a residence for the Duke of Portland's agent forty or fifty years ago. A fire-place of late character, consisting of a broad roll-band surmounted by a sort of embattled mantel, came also from Cockle Park to replace on the east side of the chamber the original fire-place, which we are told was of 'very spacious range.'²⁰ To the left of this in the east wall is an original Decorated window set in a recess with a rather flat vault relieved by two ribs. The stone window seats are preserved though encased in wood. In the north-east corner of the chamber is a door into the other small turret room. Exactly in the middle of the north wall and over the centre of the gateway is the third original window precisely similar in its details to the last. The portcullis when raised must have come up through the floor in front of this window. This together with the fact of there being the four openings in the floor down through the archway vaulting, covered as they were with large stones, must have precluded this chamber from being used originally for any except purely military purposes.

Again mounting the wheel-stair we meet with a very characteristic slit with an unusual number of different mason-marks. The mason-marks at Bothal are many of them so similar to those on the barbican of Prudhoe that there can be little doubt that the same hands contributed to their construction. The arrangements of the second floor of the Gatehouse were very similar to those of the first: but the large chamber must have been made very bright and airy with its three Elizabethan windows. It has now been cut up into modern bedrooms that exhibit no features of antiquarian interest.

The wheel-stair finishes in one of those umbrella vaults of which we have examples at Alnwick, Warkworth, Dunstanburgh, Belsay, and Haughton. The Bothal umbrella has six large ribs with six smaller ones branching out at a higher level between them so as to form a hexagon of pointed arches round the drum. The curious thing is that the newel—the umbrella stick—does not appear, as is usual, to have run up to the keystone of the vault, but to have stopped short at the top of a low stone parapet, remains of which may be

²⁰ Hutchinson, *View of Northumberland*, ii. p. 307.

noticed behind the door leading on to the roof. There is a hook, possibly for a lamp, in the keystone of the vault.

Out on the roof, a closer acquaintance can be made with the figures of the piper and stone-thrower. Traces of the base of a third figure are left on the merlon above the centre of the inner archway. The battlements seem to retain their ancient outlines, the merlons, for the most part, being about double the length of the embrasures. On the sides of the merlons are still to be seen the round holes in which the swing-shutters worked, though the only perfect pair are at the north end of the west flanking turret. Archers could throw up one of these shutters and take a shot at the enemy, and before the fire could be returned the shutter fell to again. A shutter of this description is still preserved at Alnwick, and pivot-holes are particularly numerous on the battlements of Aydon. The chimneys at Bothal are all modern, but there is a good original chimney-base on the west side. A straight external stair leads to the roof of the turret above the newel, on which the flag-staff is planted. The gargoyle projecting from the angles of this turret must when perfect have had a very striking effect.

The courtyard of the castle extends for about 60 yards south of the Gatehouse in the direction of the Wansbeck. It varies in width from about 100 feet near the centre to about 45 feet at the south end, the curtain-wall adapting itself to the contour of the knoll. Round this courtyard were grouped the domestic buildings—the great chamber, the parlour, seven bed-chambers, a gallery, buttery, pantry, larder, kitchen, bake-house, stable, ‘gardine,’ nursery, chapel, and ‘pastrie.’²¹ Judging from a drawing made by Saunders in 1722, the Great Chamber and parlour probably stood along the west curtain, where we find a flat-arched fire-place, like those at Langley, at the ground level. Above are traces of another fire-place, and a little to the south a row of nine double corbels, of the 14th century type, packed very close together and more or less mutilated. Below them is a row of put-holes for beams. Near the south-west corner of the enclosure is a massive fragment of the west curtain about 15 feet high. The outer face exhibits a loop, while on the inner are two corbels near each other but at different levels. A view of Bothal in Grose’s *Antiquities*, taken from the south-east in 1773, shows what

²¹ *Booke of Bothal Baronrye*, 1576; Hodgson, *Northd.* II. ii. p. 170n.

looks very much like a Norman arch near the centre of the east curtain. This may have been the chapel of St. John.²² At the north-west corner of the castle-yard stood a great tower called 'Ogle's Tower,' and about five yards south of it a small tower, the base of which is still visible. The best preserved piece of the curtain, which in places has been entirely rebuilt as a mere garden wall, is at the south-west angle, which is capped by two adjacent buttresses.

The castle was no doubt subjected to a restoring process some fifty years ago which may have somewhat impaired its interest, but when we see so many historic buildings throughout the country utterly abandoned to instant ruin, we must overlook even the appropriation of the spoils of Cockle Park, and be grateful for the evident care now bestowed on the preservation of Bothal. Outside also every effort is evidently made to maintain the ancient reputation of Bothal, as mentioned in the Survey of 1576, for its 'fair gardinges and orchetts, wherein growes all kind of hearbes and floures, and fine applies, plumbes of all kynde, peers, damsellis, nuttes, wardens, cherries to the black and reede, wallnutes, and also licores verie fine.'

In the ancient church of St. Andrew which stands near the castle, we may notice the rose and rays, a badge of the Ogle family, in the stained glass of the north aisle, while in the first window from the east of the south aisle, the arms of DAVID HOLGRAVE († 1405), the fourth husband of HELEN BERTRAM, are still left in the uppermost light: *erm., an inescutcheon gu. for HOLGRAVE, impaling or, an orle az. for BERTRAM.*

But the chief glory of the church is the alabaster monument within the iron rails between this window and the chancel arch, which with the exception of that to Sir Ralph Grey at Chillingham, is the finest tomb in Northumberland. The recumbent figures are those of Ralph, 3rd Lord Ogle, who died March, 1513, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Sir William Gascoyne of Galthrop, co. York. On the west side of the tomb are a series of statuettes, and an armorial shield supported by a lion (?) a dog) collared and chained, and a monkey chained round the waist. Only the principal charges which were

²² 'David Holgrave et Elene uxori ejus pro quodam capellano cantarie in ecclesia Sancti Johannis de Bothale.'—Cal. Inq. p. m. 20 Ric. II. num. 123; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 261. 'David Holgrave pro cantarie in ecclesia Sancti Andreæ de Bothale.'—Cal. Inq. p. m. 22 Ric. II. num. 69; Hodgsou, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 262. The parish church is dedicated to St. Andrew.—*Arch. Ael. N.S.* XIII. p. 336.

carved in relief are now discernible : the accessories shown merely in colour have long since disappeared. There is little doubt of the blazon originally having been Ogle impaling Gascoyne, as follows :—

Quarterly :—1st Grand Quarter—1 and 4, *arg.*, *a fesse between three crescents gu.*, for OGLE ; 2 and 3, *or*, *an orle az.*, for BERTRAM. 2nd and 3rd Grand Quarters—*arg.*, *two bars, gu., on a canton of the second a cross moline or*, for KIRKBY. 4th Grand Quarter—1 and 4, *erm.*, *an inescutcheon within a bordure engrailed gu.*, for HEPPLE ; 2 and 3, *per chevron, gu. and arg.*, *three crosses bottony counterchanged*, for CHARTNEY ; impaling Quarterly—1, *arg.*, *on a pale sa. the head of a conger eel or*, for GASCOYNE ; 2, *gu.*, *a lion rampant arg. within a bordure engrailed compony arg. and vert*, for MOWBRAY ; 3, *gu.*, *a fesse counter-compony arg. and sa. between six crosses patty fitchy*, for BOTELER ; 4, *gu.*, *a saltire arg. a hawk's bell for difference*, for NEVILLE OF OUSELEY.²³

The removal of the pews during the careful reparation of the church in 1887 has disclosed five little knights of different heights on the north side of the tomb, and on the south side four figures, probably daughters of Lord Ogle. At the foot is a stone bracket intended probably for an image, and bearing the Bertram *orle*.

On the bosses of the timber roof are several old shields of arms held by angels. Those in the nave appear to be :—*Arg. (? or) an orle az.*, BERTRAM, occupying the most central position ; *arg. a bend sa.* ; *gu. a lion arg. within a bordure engrailed*, GREY ; *gu. a cinquefoil within an orle of crosses croiset or*, UMFREVILLE ; *gu. three balks and a hammer* ; *quarterly arg. and gu. a bend sa.*, WIDDINGTON ; *arg. three martlets and a chief gu.* FENWICK (?) ; *sa. a fesse arg.* ; *arg. three covered cups sa* STRIVELYN (?) . On bosses in the north aisles are :—*Gu. three water bougets arg.* ROS OF WARK (?) ; and *gu. three shells arg.*, DACRE. In the south aisle the only shield left bears *arg. a cross moline gu.*

²³ It is curious to read of this connection of the Ogles with the Gascoynes in the old ballad on Flodden Field :—

‘The Moone that day did shine full bright,
And the Luce-head that day was full bent,
The Red Crescent did blinde the Scots' sight.’

Allusions which the minstrel, who had mistaken the conger eel of the Gascoynes for a *luce* or pike, goes on to explain by the sequel :—

‘Sir William Percy and Lord Ogle both came,
And Sir William Gascoyne theyr cosyng here was hee.’

—Longstaffe, *Percy Heraldry* in *Arch. &l. N.S. IV.* p. 178.