

## BEWICK TOWER.

MENTION of the tower of Bewick, over the foundations of which the road from Chillingham to Eglington now passes, appears first to be made in 1509. The tower was then owned by the prior of Tynemouth and occupied by Gilbert Collingwood. Forty horsemen, it was calculated, might be quartered in it.<sup>1</sup> By the suppression of the monastery of Tynemouth, it came to the Crown. In 1539 Robert Collingwood, the bailiff at Bewick, renders no account 'for any profit accruing from the farm of a stone tower there, because it is kept entirely for the defence of the inhabitants of the Lordship in time of war.'<sup>2</sup> Two years later we find that part of the tower had recently been covered with lead, the remainder was neither well covered nor in good repair, which was matter of regret as it stood in a fit place for the defence of the country.<sup>3</sup> The Commissioners of 1584 reported that it stood three miles to the south-east of Wooler and seven from the Scottish frontier; it was the Queen's property and had gone to ruin either in consequence of rough usage in war-time or of continued neglect; it would takè £20 to restore it to its former state, but it was much to be desired that a new barmekin thirty yards square, enclosed by a stone wall, should be attached to it, together with stabling for fifty horses, and this would increase the cost to £200.<sup>4</sup> 'Ther is yet standinge,' says the survey of Bewick in 1608, 'a faire stronge tower, with a garth and a dovecoate of hewen stone, which hath beene wholly covered with leade but most parte of the leade is now decayed or purloyned away wherby it is not inhabitable but in one corner that is vaulted over. This tower hath commonly beene a refuge for the Tenants ther in time of danger.'<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Gibson, *Monastery of Tynemouth*, i. p. 228. In an account of people fit to serve the King, living on the Border in about 1536, we meet with 'Robert Collingwood of Bewicke, six miles from Scotland, may dispend vñ yerely, and may serve the King under the Prior of Tynemouth, by the office of Bailihip of the same, with xx horsemen, and is a true sharpe borderer.'—*Ibid.* ii. clxxi.

<sup>3</sup> See above, p. 42.

<sup>4</sup> See above, p. 74.

<sup>5</sup> MS. in Land Revenue Record Office, Whitehall.