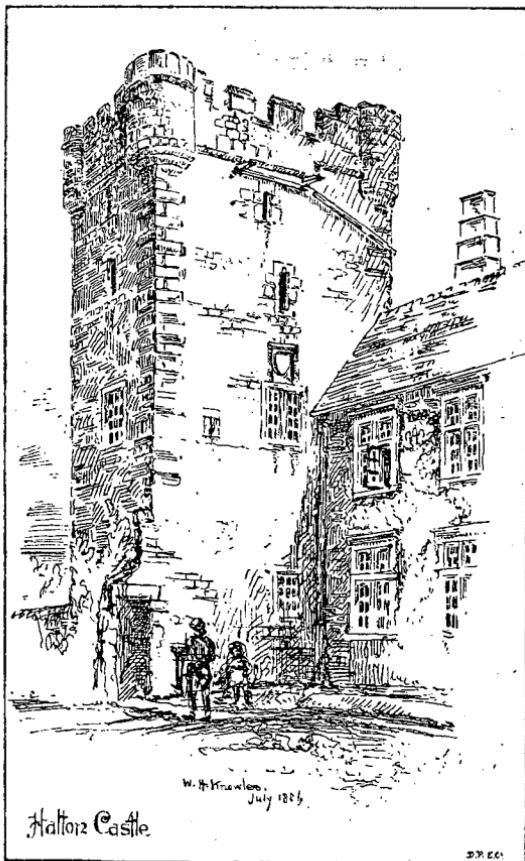


HALTON TOWER.

A LITTLE to the south of the station of HUNNUM on the Roman Wall stands Halton Tower, or, as it is popularly called, Halton Castle, in what for a Border hold is an exceptionally pleasant situation. The



HALTON TOWER FROM THE EAST.

view, well wooded in the foreground, extends far and wide over the valley of the Tyne; the pastures around, in which once grazed the celebrated shorthorns, 'Duchess' and 'Ketton,' are among the richest.

in Northumberland ; the tower itself is set in a quaint garden of old-fashioned flowers ; and at a short distance to the east of it is the curious little chapel with an early round chancel arch, that possibly marks the spot where Alfwold, king of Northumberland, was assassinated in 788.¹

‘ Hawelton’ with Whittington and Claverworth; now corrupted into Clarewood, formed one of the eight or nine estates in Northumberland that either escaped confiscation at the Norman Conquest, or were soon after regranted to Englishmen, to be held *in theinagio* from the king himself instead of being made dependent on any Norman barony. In 1161, about as far back as we can get with much certainty in a land beyond the limits of the Domesday Book, these three manors were in the possession of a thane bearing the famous old Northumbrian name of Waltheof—‘ Waldief de Haulton.’² His son, ‘ William de Haleweton’ pays three marks for theinage in 1203.³ A dispute having arisen between him and Simon de Roucester concerning certain lands in Halton and Clarewood, and a rent-charge in Whittington, recourse was had to wager of battle. On the 16th of October, 1212, William de Matham, who appeared as the champion of Roucester, was successfully encountered by Jordan de Eplingden in defence of the interests of Halton.⁴

In 1212 it is clearly stated that William de Halton holds three villas in theinage by the service of paying 40s. a year, giving merchet and aids, and performing all customs appertaining to theinage.⁵ The tenure is said, probably by mistake, to be drengage and to be subject

¹ *Arch. AEl. N.S. XIII.* p. 329n.

² *Pipe Roll*, 7 Hen. II.; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. iii. p. 5.

³ *Pipe Roll*, 5 John; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. iii. p. 84.

⁴ *Placita, Joh. 14 ro. 11*; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 341.

⁵ ‘ Willelmus de Hawelton tenet tres villas in thenagio de domino Rege per servicium xl s. per annum et dabit merchetet auxilia et faciet omnes consuetudines spectantes ad thenagium. Omnes vero antecessores fecerunt predictum servicium.’—*Testa de Nevil*, Inquisicio facta de tenementis et feodis; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. i. p. 237. In the *English Historical Review*, vol. V. p. 625 (Oct. 1890), is a well-written article by Professor Maitland on *Northumbrian Tenures*. This is not the place to examine Professor Maitland’s arguments and conclusions on the subject of these intricate tenures, but it has been thought desirable to aid their critical study by giving in full such notices of them as occur in documents relating to Halton. Professor Maitland, p. 629, has confused the accounts given of the tenure of William de Halton in 1212 and of John de Halton in 1240, and has forgotten that the *truncage* of Bamburgh was ‘ad faciendum rogum Regis,’ see above, p. 230n. It seems, too, possible that *cornage* may, after all, be a corruption of ‘coronagium.’



J. P. Gibson, Photo.

HALTON TOWER, FROM THE WEST.

(This plate presented by Sir Edward Blackett, Bart.)



to tallage, heriot, and merchet, in the great return of feudal estates made in 1240, by which time John de Halton had succeeded to the three manors in question.⁶ Seven years later, for the consideration of twenty marks,⁷ John de Halton obtained a charter from King Henry III. granting him and his heirs the three manors at double the old rent of three marks which had been paid by his ancestors, with the condition that they should continue to do the king's forinsec service of cornage and suit of the county.⁸ In 1266 Sir John de Halton was sheriff of Northumberland, but this does not appear to have restrained him from doing a little cattle-lifting in good old Border style. Anyhow, he stood accused of having come in that year with Thomas de Thirlwall and others of his household to Wark, in Tyne-dale, and driven thence the cattle and sheep of Thomas Fairbairn by force of arms to his manor-house at Sewingshields. Not till thirteen years afterwards, however, was Sir John called to account for this outrage before the Justices Itinerant of Alexander III. of Scotland at Wark, when he bought himself off by agreeing to pay Fairbairn ten marks in silver.⁹ On his death, in 1287, we find his house at Halton described as a capital messuage with two paddocks and a garden enclosed with a wall, the whole worth half a mark yearly beyond the charge of keeping up the houses.¹⁰ He had in hand there 337 acres under the plough—of which 210 acres were worth 8d.; 50 acres, 4d.; and 77 acres, 2d. The fact that the 24 acres of meadow in his occupation were assessed at 18d. an acre shows that the fame of the rich grass of Halton was established as far back as the 13th century. For the three manors of Halton, Clarewood, and Whittington Sir John had been accustomed to pay annually to the king the four pounds of silver stipulated in his father's charter, together with 2s. 4d. for cornage, and at the end of every 3½ years the further sum of 20s. for fine of court and suit of the

⁶ *Testa de Nevill*, Veredictum hominum de Northumbrie et de Elandesire; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. i. p. 223.

⁷ *Pipe Roll*, 31 Hen. iij.; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. iii. p. 214.

⁸ ‘Forinsecum servicium nostrum cornagii et sectam comitatus sicut ipse et antecessores sui facere [so]lebant pro omni servicio consuetudine servitute et demanda.’—*Charter Roll*, 31 Hen. iij. m. 6, P.R.O.

⁹ *Iter of Wark*, 31 Alex. iij m. 5 dors; *Proc. Arch. Inst.* 1852, ii. App. p. xxxiii.

¹⁰ ‘Capitale messuagium cum ij. pasturis et gardino muro inclusu.’—*Inq. p.m.* 15 Ed. j. 21, P.R.O.

county of Northumberland every six weeks.¹¹ It seems possible that the buildings at Halton, which were no doubt of wood, were burnt by the Scots during the incursion of Wallace in 1297, as on the death of Sir John de Halton's son and successor, Sir William, in the spring of 1299, the capital messuage at Halton, with the garden, is returned as being worth 40d. a year, half its value twelve years before, 'and this on account of the conflagration.'¹² The tenure of the three manors is now given as 'cornage and doing suit to the county of Northumberland from court-day to court-day, and by the service of four pounds sterling, paid yearly to the king through the sheriff of Northumberland.'¹³ Sir John de Halton, the last of his race, died on the 31st of March, 1345.¹⁴ Halton passed through his daughters Eleanor and Margaret to the Lowthers who remained in possession nearly forty years.¹⁵

Robert de Lowther died on the 3rd of May, 1383, seized of the two manors of Halton and Clarewood at the rent of four pounds with 14d. for cornage. His own heir was Eleanor, wife of William Ferour, but as soon as he was dead William de Carnaby took possession of Halton and its appurtenances, and continued to enjoy it without any apparent question as to his title for the next five years.¹⁶

There is a village of Carnaby in Yorkshire, not far from Bridlington. William de Carnaby seals the gift he made to the priory of Hexham in 1387 of lands at Yakesley and Hughesfield with a *bend*

¹¹ 'Et reddendo Domino Regi quolibet anno imperpetuum ad Festum Sancti Cuthberti in Septembri ij sol. et quatuor den. de cornagio et reddendo Domino Regi in perpetuum ad finem trium annorum et dimidii anni xx. sol. de fine Curie et sequendo comitatum Northumbrie de vj septimanis in vj septimanas.'—*Ibid.* See *English Historical Review*, v. p. 631, referring to *Coram Rege Roll*, Pasch. 6 Edw. j. 37m. 14d.; 38m. 7, and correcting *Plac. Abbrev.* p. 194, to which Hodgson refers, *Northd.* II. i. p. 332n.

¹² 'Et hoc propter combustionem.'—*Inq. p.m.* 27 Ed. j. 22, P.R.O.

¹³ . . . agium et sectam faciendo ad C . . . Northumbrie de comitatu in comitatum et per servicium quatuor librarium sterlinarum vicecomiti Nort . . . domini Regis etc.'—*Ibid.*

¹⁴ The *Inq. p.m.* 19 Ed. III. 60, taken on the death of Sir John de Halton is almost illegible.

¹⁵ 'Preceptum est Willelmo de Nessefeld esc. Regis in com. Northumbrie quod capta fidelitate Roberti de Louthre consanguinei et heredis Margarete filie Johannis de Hautlon militis defuncti de medietae maneriorum de Haulton et Claverworth etc. per servicium triginta et quatuor solidorum in dringagio et septem den. ad cornagium.'—*Originalia*, 36 Ed. III. ro. 8; Hodgson, *Northd.* III. ii. p. 328. This was after the death of Margaret, widow of Sir John de Halton in 1362, who had held this mediety in dower.—*Inq. p.m.* 36 Ed. iij. 91.

¹⁶ *Inq. p.m.* 10 Ric. ij. 24, P.R.O.

*flory impaling two bars, in chief three roundles.*¹⁷ This latter coat, which appears on a stone shield in a panel in the east wall of the tower, was no doubt that of HALTON, blazoned *Argent, two bars azure, in chief three hurts.*¹⁸ Preferred to their paternal coat as the more honourable by the next generation of Carnabys at Halton, in accordance with the usage of heraldry while it was still a living and practical science, its origin came to be so entirely forgotten that, during the rage for complicated bearings in the 16th century, the venal heralds of Crouchback's foundation actually quartered it as that of CARNABY with *Per pale gules and azure, a lion rampant guardant or* for HALTON, though this was borne by the Haltons, not of Northumberland, but of Cheshire.¹⁹

On the 24th of March, 1391, a son and heir was born at Halton.²⁰ The witnesses called to prove the age of this young William Carnaby more than twenty-one years afterwards confirmed their testimony by recalling various incidents that took place on the occasion of his being baptized in Halton Church:—John de Hôle bought a horse that day of the child's father; John Strother, while hunting a hare, met the woman carrying the child to church; Richard Craster's horse came down under him as he was returning to Dilston after the christening; and Nicholas Turpyn in riding home saw, or thought he saw, a fox breaking out of a wood with the huntsmen after him.²¹ William Carnaby the father died on Wednesday, the 18th of May, 1407, seised of Halton and its appurtenances, which are stated to be held of the king by military service and by the annual payment of four pounds to the sheriff as castle-ward to Newcastle, and 2s. 4d. for coronage.²²

¹⁷ MS. Copy of *Visitation of Northumberland*, in the Library of Soc. of Ant. N.C.

¹⁸ These are given as the arms of Robert de Halton (probably the same person as Robert de Lowther) in Jenyn's Ordinary, *Harl. MS. 6589*.—Papworth, *Ordinary*, p. 28.

¹⁹ In the same way the Ridleys of Ridley, Northumberland, were given the arms of the Ridleys of Ridley Hall in Cheshire, and a pedigree to suit this was manufactured in Flowers's *Visitation*, 1575. It is a pity that Hodgson printed this ridiculous rubbish in his *Northd.* II. iii. p. 339.

²⁰ The *Inq. p.m.* 9 Hen. IV. 14 would seem to give the date as 24th March, 1389, but the *Proof of Age* and the *Inq. p.m.* 13 Hen. IV. 2, which, taken on 11th Feb. 1412, states William Carnaby to be then 20 years and 45 weeks old, are conclusive.

²¹ *Inq. p.m.* 13 Hen. IV. 52; *Archæologia Eliana*, IV. p. 330.

²² 'Per servicium militare Reddendo domino Regi per annum pro warda Castri ad Castrum Domini Regis de Novo Castro super Tynam per manus vicecomitis iiii li. et pro coronagio ijs. iiijd.'—*Inq. p.m.* 9 Hen. IV. 14, P.R.O.

William Carnaby, the child christened in 1391, died, at the age of 62, on Wednesday, the 16th of March, 1453. There was at that time in the manor and town of Halton a site with a hall and chamber, a kitchen, and other houses built over them, which together with the garden are returned as of no annual value beyond the cost of repairs and maintenance.²³ The perplexities in which the tenure of Halton is involved culminate in the statements contained in the inquisition held after the death of Sir John Carnaby on the 9th of August, 1479, that Halton was held in socage at the annual rent of 40s. and owed tallage, relief, and merchet, and that Clarewood and Whittington were held in burgage; and owed relief, counsel, and service.²⁴

Two or three weeks after the stout refusal of the canons of Hexham to surrender their priory to the commissioners of Henry VIII., John Heron of Chipchase rode up to Halton Tower at about ten o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 15th of October, 1536. The canons, persuaded by the Archbishop of York, were already beginning to lose heart and to think of submitting. This did not suit John Heron, who as a follower of Sir Thomas Percy was anxious that the opposition to the royal authority should take the form of a regular rising, and especially that they should have an opportunity of revenging on the Carnaby family the wrongs Sir Thomas had suffered through Sir Raynold Carnaby's influence. On dismounting at Halton, John Heron persuaded William Carnaby, Sir Raynold's father, that he was really anxious for the pacification of the country, and in the end was sent by him to Hexham, in order to treat with the canons. He then treacherously advised the canons that their only chance lay in continued resistance, and that they should summon the men of Tynedale to their aid under promise of certain annuities. The canons were loth to ally themselves with the Tynedale freebooters if they could save their lives in any other way, and asked Heron in the first instance to take a message to William Carnaby begging him to use his influence with Sir Raynold, who had brought down the king's letters, to obtain a pardon for them from the king on condition of their surrendering the priory. Heron returned to Halton for the night, but instead of

²³ 'Est in eisdem manerio et villa quidam situs cum aula cameris coquina et aliis domibus super edificatis et gardino que nichil valent per annum ultra reprisas et sustentacionem eorumdem.'—*Inq. p.m.* 31 Hen. VI. 41, P.R.O.

²⁴ *Inq. p.m.* 20 Ed. IV. 34, P.R.O.

delivering this message to Carnaby, sent secret instructions to raise the men of Tynedale. The next morning he betook himself again to Hexham, and declared to the canons that all he had to tell them was that Sir Raynold had resolved to send up four of their heads to the king, with four from the town and shire. All idea of submission on their part was now naturally at an end. With the utmost complacency, Heron rode back to dinner at Halton, merely remarking as he took his seat, 'It is a good sight to see a man eat when he is hungry.' During dinner one Archie Robson of Tynedale came in and whispered to John Robson, his cousin, that the Tynedale men were all in arms. Heron perceiving that it was no use concealing matters any longer, called Carnaby to another chamber, and told him that he might expect the canons and their wild allies there at any moment with the worst intentions regarding him. Carnaby naturally complained that his friend need not have waited till dinner was half over to give him this information. In order to compromise Carnaby's loyalty, and leave Halton defenceless, Heron advised him to ride off with him to his own tower at Chipchase, and to this in his fright Carnaby consented. A servant of Sir Raynold had, however, fallen in with the Tynedale bands at St. John Lee, and on learning their intentions at once dashed off to Halton in order to protect his master's plate and money which had been deposited in the tower. Meeting Heron and William Carnaby on their road to Chipchase, he contrived to whisper in Carnaby's ear, 'That traitor thief that rideth with you hath betrayed you, and it will cost you your life yet if ye follow his counsel, I shall warrant you.' By his advice Carnaby then persuaded Heron to keep in the rear to turn back any pursuers, and putting spurs to his horse galloped safely off towards Langley Castle. Heron, baulked of his prey, turned back to Halton, with a false message from Carnaby to his son Thomas, commanding him 'of his blyssing that he should not tary in the hous.' Thomas Carnaby was actually enticed out by Heron's fair words; still Heron could not get his own way, as there were always some men left in the tower who bore him no favour. At last he extorted from William Carnaby's wife a casket containing the money Sir Raynold had left behind him. To complete his discomfiture, however, Arthur Errington, a kinsman of Sir Raynold, with seven Tynedale men, snatched the casket from his clutches, and

although ‘putting a kercher as a pensell upon his spear point’ he strove to rally the plunderers after them, it was to no purpose, and he had to return thoroughly disappointed to Chipchase. On the Tuesday he tried again to get possession of Sir Raynold’s goods at Halton, but he found the tower protected by the presence of Lewis Ogle, Lord Ogle’s brother, and although he assured him that if he knew as much as he did, he would not remain there till night-fall, even for the sake of ten thousand pounds, his threats were wasted, and he was obliged finally to abandon his enterprise.²⁵

During the armistice that succeeded the Pilgrimage of Grace, Sir Thomas Percy, it is said, sent his priest to take possession of the dwelling of Sir Raynold Carnaby’s grandfather at Halton, as Sir Raynold had fled and was against the Commons.²⁶

A curious inventory of the goods of Lancelot Carnaby of Halton, who died on the 11th of July, 1624, is preserved in the Probate Registry at Durham :—

‘*In the Hall.* Thre tables, five formes short and long, one old Carpet, one Cubbier cloath, one clock, two chaires, five old cushions, ‘one leverye cubbert,²⁷ 20^s. One iron Chimneye vi^s 8^d.

‘*In the parlor.* Two tables and a square cubbert, two formes, vjs. ‘One presse 13^s 4^d. One bedsteade with curtins and vallance of a ‘blew coller and one covering of the same, one fether bed, one mat, ‘two boulsters, one pillow, two blankets, and two coverlets, 26^s 8^d. ‘One fether bed, one mattresse, two blanketts, two coverletts, one read ‘covering, one boulster, and a pillow, 16^s 8^d. Two lowe stooles and ‘two chaires, 3^s 4^d. Thre bars of iron in the chimney, with a poor²⁸ ‘and an old shovell and tongs, 2^s.

‘*In Mr. Carnabye’s Chamber.* One low bed with a cannibye, one ‘mattresse and a fether bed, a paire of blanketts, one coverlett, one ‘greene rug and a Courting belonging to the cannibye, two boulsters, ‘30^s. One cubbert; a long sattle bed vjs 8^d.

²⁵ *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII.* vol. xii. 1090, 35; Raine, *Hexham Priory* (Surt. Soc. Publ.) i. App. p. cxl.; Charlton, *North Tyndale and its Four Graynes*, p. 59.

²⁶ *Letters and Papers, Henry VIII.* vol. xii. 1090, 9.

²⁷ ‘An open cupboard with shelves, in which the liveries intended for distribution were placed.’—Halliwell, *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*.

²⁸ A poker.—*Ibid.*

'In the closett. Thre bedsteads and there forniture, 20^s. One 'presse, 3^s 4^d.

'In the great chamber. One long table with a frame 40^s. Thre 'leverye cubberts with a pare of virginalls²⁹ 40^s. A dozen and a halfe 'of buffet stooles,³⁰ 24^s. Halfe a score of cushins with thre long cushins 'for the windowes, 30^s. A long carpet cloath with two cubbert cloaths, '20^s. A cubbert cloath of wrought nedle worke with two low stooles, '18^s 4^d. One blacke chayer 3^s 4^d. One turkye cubbert cloath, 13^s 4^d.

'In the low tower.³¹ One bedsteade, mattresse, one fether bed, one 'boulster, two pillowes, a pare of blankets, a greene rug with an over- 'sea covering, curtins and vallance, a pare of tongs and a shoole, vjⁱⁱ. 'A trundle bed,³² one mattresse, one fether bed, two boulsters and one 'pillow, thre coverlets and a pare of blankets, 24^s. One leverye 'cubbert with a cloath on it, 13^s 4^d. One greene chaire with two low 'stooles, 13^s 4^d. Six hangings with peces, 10ⁱⁱ.³³

'In the middle tower.³⁴ One ciprus³⁵ bed, one mattresse, one fether 'bed, a pare of blankets, two coverlets with an oversea covering, one 'boulster with two pillowes, a paire of curtins and vallance, 3ⁱⁱ. One 'low bed with a mattresse, a paire of blankets, thre coverlets, a boulster 'and a pillow, 13^s 4^d. One leverye cubbert with a cloath on it, 13^s 4^d. 'A chaire with a stoole 2^s vj^d. A paire of tongs, a shoole, and a 'pore, 2^s.

'In the high tower.³⁶ One bedsteade, a fether bed, a paire of 'blankets, tow coverlets and an oversea covering, a paire of courtins 'and vallance and a trundle bed under it, 40^s. One cubbert with a 'cloath vj^s 8^d. One chaire, two shorte formes, 7^s.

'In the loft above Mr. Carnabye's chamber. A flanders chest '13^s 4^d; another chest v^s; thre trunkes, 20^s; a counter 10^s; another 'trunke 3^s.

²⁹ Oblong spinnets.—*Ibid.*

³⁰ Small stools variously described. The term was at an early period applied to those having three legs. There is a saying in Suffolk, "a dead ass and a new buffet stool are two things that nobody ever saw."—*Ibid.*

³¹ I.e., the first floor of the tower.

³² A low bed on small wheels or castors, trundled under another in the day time, and drawn out at night for a servant or some inferior person to sleep on.—Halliwell.

³³ I.e., views, just as we still say battle-pieces, sea-pieces, etc.

³⁴ I.e., the second floor of the tower.

³⁵ 'A fine curled linnen.'—Minshew in Nares, *Glossary*.

³⁶ I.e., the third and uppermost floor of the tower.

'In the high chamber.' One bedsteade, one fether bed, a mattresse, 'two blankets, two coverlets, a covering with courtings and vallance, 'one boulster and a pillow, 40^s. One liverye cubbert with a cloath, 'thre chares, vs.

'In the chamber adjoining.' One bedsteade, a mattresse, a caffe 'bed,³⁷ thre coverletts, a boulster and tow pillowes, tow blankets and 'a trundle bed, 16^s. A paire of tongs, a shoule, 2^s.

'In the butler's chambers.' A bedstead, a mattresse, two blankets, 'two coverlets, one boulster, 10^s. A bedsteade and a table, 2^s.

*'In the kitchen chamber.'*³⁸ Thre bedsteads with a fether bed, one 'boulster and a pillow, a paire of blankets, two coverlets, and a covering 'with courtings, 16^s. Thre other bedsteads; the one, paire of blankets 'and two coverlets, two boulsters; the other bed, a mattresse, two 'blankets, a boulster, and two coverlets and courtings; and a table, '20^s. A bedsteade, a mattresse, two blankets, a boulster, two cover- 'lets, vjs 8d.³⁹

Sir William Carnaby of Halton Tower was chosen to represent Morpeth in Parliament in 1623 and 1640. On the 26th of August, 1642, the House of Commons passed the following: 'Resolved that Sir William Carnaby shall be disabled to sit any longer a member of this house during this parliament, for refusing to attend the service of the house upon summons, and for raising arms against the parliament.' Sir William fought at Marston Moor in the Northumberland regiment commanded by the Marquess of Newcastle; his lands were confiscated by the Commonwealth, and he fled the country. The Carnabys seem never to have recovered from this reverse. To the south of Halton Chapel is a flat tomb with the arms of Carnaby and the inscription 'William Carnaby, Esq.: who was buried the 18th of August, 1698.' He was probably the last of his race here. Halton was purchased in 1706 by Mr. John Douglas, a Newcastle lawyer. The arms of Douglas are to be found on a curious sun-dial on the garden wall. Oley Douglas, esq., of Halton, was M.P. for Morpeth in

³⁷ 'Caff' in the North is the same as chaff; 'Caffa' is a rich stuff like taffeta.

³⁸ I.e., the room over the kitchen.

³⁹ Original Inventory, in Durham Probate Office. The inventory proceeds to give the particulars of Lancelot Carnaby's 'buttery ware,' 'kitchen stoff,' and 'wane geare,' together with the contents of the milk-house loft and the 'guile-house,' or brewery.

1713; his daughter and heiress married Sir Edward Blackett, Bart., and Halton is now the property of Sir Edward W. Blackett, their descendant.

The 'castle' is of three different dates; you have the tower, first mentioned in 1415,⁴⁰ but possibly older; the manor-house that at no long period after was appended to the north side of the tower; and lastly a 17th century mansion, something in the style of Capheaton, that, fronting the south, fortunately leaves most of the east face of the tower unencumbered.

Passing through this wing, which contains the principal suite of rooms, we enter a large chamber in the basement of the manor-house, having a low ceiling with old oak beams. Here in the south-west corner is the original outer doorway of the tower, a rough pointed-arched one, bearing on its jambs the marks of strong bolts and bars. Three feet inside this, another door of similar character opens into the great vault with a cylindrical stone roof that, as usual, occupied the base of the tower: to the left, between these two doors, a straight stair probably led to the first floor, but in order now to arrive there we have to cross the large chamber by which we entered; and leaving it by a wide door with a shouldered head, ascend the broad newel-stair that protrudes in its north-west corner.

The first-floor room of the tower is called *par excellence* the Tower Room, since the two upper stories were left in a ruined state open to the sky till about fifteen years ago. The entrance is at the north-east corner exactly where the original stair would have landed us. The Tower Room was probably roofed in and renovated after the Restoration when larger windows were inserted to the south and east: the wooden mantel-piece and dado resemble those of the Green Room at Bitchfield. There are two very curious trefoil-headed recesses, one in the west wall to the right of the fire-place only two feet from the floor, the other, considerably larger, higher up in the centre of the north wall. The stone-work is unfortunately concealed by a modern wall-paper. Another peculiarity of this room are the small chambers or closets at each of the remaining angles. The door into the north-west one has been built up, but its narrow slit can be seen outside on the west face of the tower.

⁴⁰ 'Turris de Halton, Willielmi Carnaby.'—See above, p. 18.

Communication with the second and third floors which have been thrown into one room is cut off except through the manor-house. The wall which has been pierced to give access to them in this way is $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. The interior of the tower is here 23 feet from north to south by 14 feet from east to west. In the south and east walls are the original windows of both storeys. There is a little closet in the north-west corner similar no doubt to that walled up on the floor below. An extremely narrow newel-stair leads in the north-east corner up to the roof. Ascending, we notice several mason-marks on the newel and pass the flat-arched doorway, now bricked up, that opened into the uppermost room.

The battlements are of a most excellent and genuine description. At each angle is a turret that is corbelled out beyond the adjacent faces of the wall so as to present a circular appearance. These turrets—the stair comes up in the north-east one—have always been roofed in as is made evident by the stone spouts high up in their battlements; but the beauty of their sky-line has been much impaired by the embrasures being built up. The same fate has befallen the central embrasure of the battlements on the west side in which a chimney has been inserted, the tower apparently having been built without one.

Externally Halton Tower measures at the base about 30 feet from north to south by $22\frac{1}{2}$ feet from east to west. On the east face above the modern window of the Tower Room, there is, as has been mentioned, an ancient stone shield, protected on three sides by a weather moulding, and charged with *two bars, and in chief three roundles.*

ADDENDUM.

P. 314, n. 14. This Inquisition taken at Corbridge, 30 April, 1345, shows that Sir John de Halton enfeoffed John de Lowther in the manors of Halton and Claverworth, two messuages, sixteen cottages, 60 acres of land and 21 of meadow in Halton excepted; and that Lowther afterwards temp. Ed. II. reconveyed them to Halton by fine, for his own life with remainders to Robert de Lowther and Eleanor his wife, and Thomas de Lowther and Margaret his wife. Thomas died before Halton, and his widow married William 'de Kernetby,' but on her death, her moiety reverted by the entail to her brother-in-law Robert de Lowther, and it was only on his death without issue that her son William Carnaby obtained possession. Halton left a third daughter Agnes, wife of William Cottellar, who probably received the excepted lands as her portion.