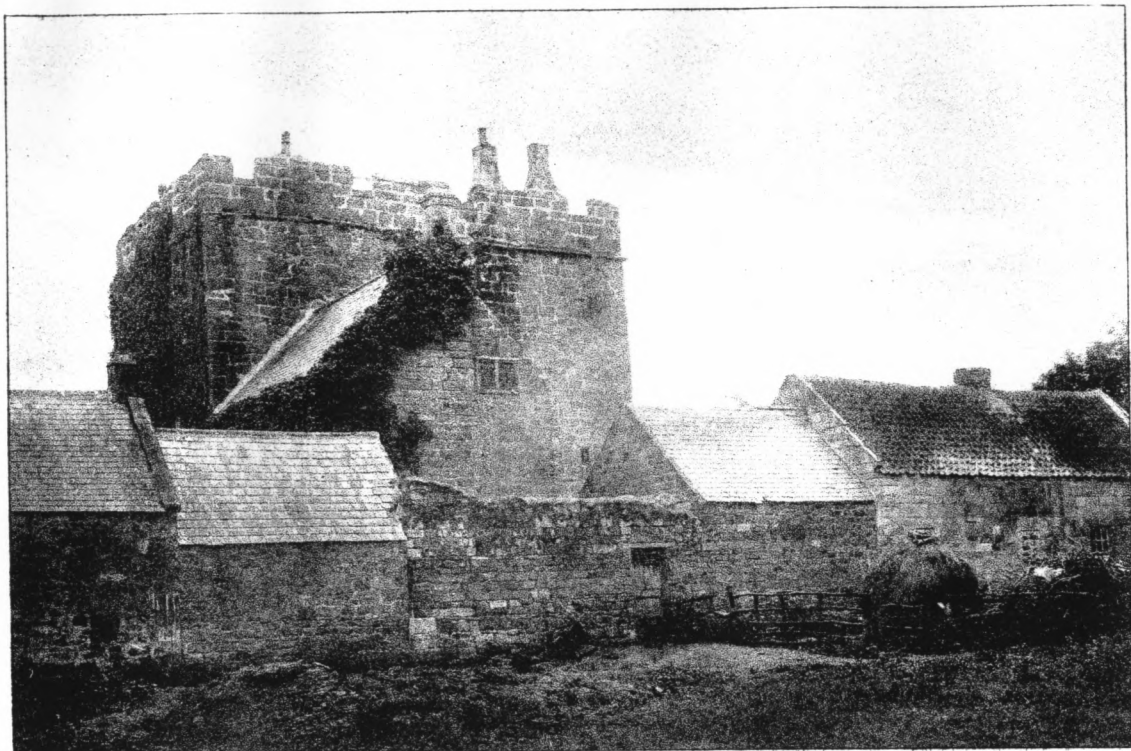


LONG HORSLEY TOWER.

THE tower of Long Horsley, about six miles to the north-west of Morpeth, appears to have belonged to the ancient family of Horsley, the last of whom, Sir Thomas Horsley, an honest old knight, entertained General Monk with his whole train, on their march to Morpeth, very kindly and nobly on the 3rd of January, 1660. Sir Thomas told them that Lambert's forces had recently been quartered on him, and did not scruple to say that he had rather that these should have prevailed,¹ a sentiment that seemed strange for him to indulge in, if he was a member of the Roman Church.

The tower is a plain rectangle, measuring about 42 feet from east to west by 30 feet from north to south. It has a number of large windows with stone labels over them on the south side, some of which at any rate do not look like insertions. The present entrance is in the east wall, but an older square-headed doorway in the south wall, now turned into a window, led directly into the vault which occupies the western portion of the basement. This vault with a cylindrical stone roof was 22 feet 2 inches long by 17 feet 10 inches broad before it was divided by modern partitions. At the north end of the east wall is a door into a small vault, 6 feet 4 inches long and 6 feet wide, now used as a pantry. Through this was the way to the so-called Lady's Room, on the ground floor of a gabled addition made to the tower, parallel with the east wall, apparently about the close of the seventeenth century. A short passage from near the former entrance at the south-east corner of the main vault leads to the wheel-stair which ascends to the battlements. On the north side, just before coming to the stair-foot, is a door into another small vault, in the east wall of which the present entrance door has been inserted. The three upper floors contain little that is remarkable. A latrine chamber that turns the north-west angle of the tower on the second floor is carefully concealed behind some eighteenth-century panelling. There is also

¹ Hodgson, *Northumberland*, II. ii. p. 104, quoting Kennett's *Reg.* pp. 4, 7. Sir Thomas Horsley's will at Durham shows that he lived at Brinkburn.



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LONG HORSLEY TOWER, FROM THE N.

1884.



another similar mural chamber at the north-east angle of this floor. The third floor is very low. The wheel-stair in the south-east angle of the tower terminates in a small turret, on which a bell has been placed, the chain for ringing it coming through a hole in the stone roof. There is nothing left to show the actual way in which the stair itself originally finished. The turret, although its south wall rests on the battlement of the main tower, seems to have had embrasures of its own. A square door of the stairhead leads on to the walk. The battlements are perfectly plain and are in an almost unique state of preservation. They are rather low, and the embrasures have the ordinary proportions reversed, being 2 feet 5 inches in width by 2 feet 1 inch in height, a sign of late work showing more regard to ornament than design.

The tower, which belongs to Mr. Riddell of Swinburne and Felton, the representative of the Horsley family, is occupied by the priest of the adjoining chapel. On the north side of it are the walls of a small park, said once to have contained some fallow deer.