

HOWTELL TOWER.

IN a fine open valley between Flodden Hill and the Beaumont are the remains of the old tower of Howtell. The front, facing south, is still three stories high, and is of much better masonry than the other less perfect sides, which have been roughly built up with great boulders. The south wall seems also to be thicker than the others, being 7 feet wide in the basement, while the west wall, for instance, is only 6 feet 9 inches. All the angles except the south-east have been robbed of their quoins. There appear to have been originally two entrances, both on the south side: one at the ground level near the south-west corner, and the other under a relieving arch to the right of a loop on the first floor. Only the arch of the passage of the first of these is now left, and the other, which is 2 feet 3 inches wide inside, has been built up. The interior of the basement measures 17 feet 6 inches from north to south, and 16 feet 6 inches from east to west. In the west wall is a large square-headed loop set in a pointed recess. There seem to be no signs of any vaulting, and as there are some rough put-holes in the south wall, the first floor was probably supported on beams. If ever there was a stone stair it has entirely disappeared. A lean-to has been placed against the inside of the south wall for the purpose of forming a dove-cot. In the north wall are some traces of a first-floor window. Of the arrangements of the second floor a loop in the centre of the south wall is all that is left.

This tower was one of those 'rased and casten downe' by James the Fourth of Scotland when he invaded Northumberland in the interests of Perkin Warbeck in 1496.¹ It belonged to John Burrell in 1541, when a great part of the walls are said to have been standing, and forty pounds would, it was estimated, have served to put it into repair. It was still in ruins ten years later,² and again in 1584 the Border Commissioners thought that as it was 'a verve small thinge' fifty pounds would restore it.³ Howtell Tower is now the property of Mr. Watson Askew-Robertson of Pallinsburn.

¹ See above, p. 34.

² *Ibid.* p. 52.

³ *Ibid.* p. 73.



G. GIBSON, PHOTO.

HOWTELL TOWER, FROM THE WEST.
1891.

(This Plate contributed by Watson Askew-Robertson, Esq.)

