

done more to obscure the real history of Northumberland than that of any other county.<sup>11</sup>

After the Restoration the Nevilles of Chevet appear to have sold Willimoteswyke to the Blacketts, and it is at present the property of Sir Edward William Blackett, bart. of Matfen.

<sup>11</sup> Hodgson, *Northd.* II. iii. pp. 341, 342, has forsaken history for poetry in his account of the loss of Willimoteswyke by the Riddleys, and is not consistent with himself, since he there brands the Nevilles as 'receivers of republican favours,' while he had previously (*ibid.* II. iii. p. 325) admitted that Sir Francis Neville of Willimoteswyke 'was also a loyalist and heavily fined during the time of the Commonwealth.' The exact nature of the whole transaction can only be ascertained from the title-deeds of the estate.

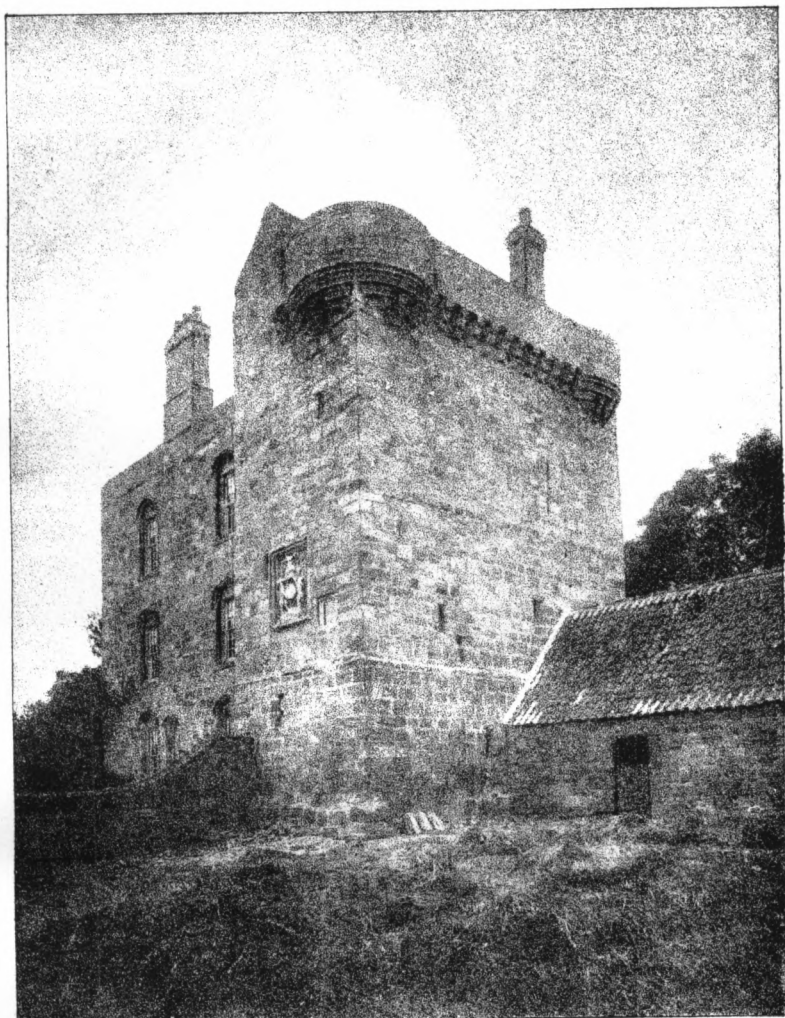
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### COCKLE PARK TOWER.

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THE tower of Cockle Park stands on high ground in the chapelry of Hebburn, about three miles to the north of Morpeth. The length of the entire building on the west side is about 54 feet, and its width 30 feet at the north end, which projects some 6 feet to the east in a small wing that contains the original newel-stair. On the east face of this wing is a large armorial panel much weather-worn. The whole of the southern portion of the building, now occupied as a farm-house, which is three stories high, has been so much altered first in the Jacobean style, when a stair-turret was added on the west side, and afterwards in the pseudo-gothic, that the only original part left is the so-called North Tower, which has fine moulded corner bartizans and machicolations.

The entrance is in the east wall, close to the re-entering angle of the wing. The remains of the vault in the north end of the basement that was probably continued through the whole building are now partitioned off to form a dairy. To the right of the entrance is the wheel-stair, with steps about 3 feet 7 inches wide and 9 inches high. Ascending this, past two loops, we reach a square-headed doorway, now bricked up, but which communicated with the first floor before this was included in the farm-house. At the level of the thirty-second



J. P. GIBSON, PHOTO.

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COCKLE-PARK TOWER, NEAR MORPETH, FROM THE S.E.  
1884.

THIS PLATE CONTRIBUTED BY HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND







COCKLE PARK TOWER,  
FROM THE NORTH-EAST,  
IN ABOUT 1830.

step of the newel the doorway of the second floor admits us into a passage, 4 feet 3 inches wide, running along the east wall. This passage has also been bricked up at the far end, and an opening been made through the thin internal wall to lead direct into what must have been the principal chamber of the tower. This room is 16 feet 4 inches broad, and at present 18 feet long to where the brick wall cuts off the southern portion of it, which has been incorporated in the farm-house. A jamb of what has been the great fire-place, thrown out externally on corbels, may be noticed in the west wall, from which a window has also been removed. At the north end, under a rather flat arch with a chamfer hollowed and stopped, is a recess about 5 feet wide and 6 feet deep, that contained the handsome pointed window with perpendicular tracery that forms one of the main features of the tower in the views of it given by Grose<sup>1</sup> and Hodgson,<sup>2</sup> and which has unfortunately been removed and inserted in Bothal Castle. A stone seat, 14 inches wide, is placed along the east side of the recess, and opposite to it is a square-headed door leading to a mural latrine. The chamber has also been despoiled of the fine ornamented fire-place in the north-east corner, which is now in the room over the archway of Bothal gatehouse.

Returning to the wheel-stair and ascending a few steps, we come to a small roughly vaulted chamber 6 feet 4 inches long by 4 feet 5 inches broad, a loop in the east end, and a square recess in the west. The stair terminates under a small gable with doors leading on to the walks of both the east and north battlements. The north gable of the main building contains a plain two-light window.

According to Grose the armorial panel on the east side of the tower, now much weather-worn, contained a shield supported by two antelopes collared and chained, and surmounted by the Ogle crest of an antelope's head. It seems therefore improbable that the tower was built before Robert, first lord Ogle, came into definite possession of Bothal barony in about 1465, especially as its name does not occur in the list of Northumberland fortalices in 1415. It is first actually mentioned as having been the dower-house of Anne widow of Robert

<sup>1</sup> Grose, *Antiquities*, vol. iv. p. 80.

<sup>2</sup> Hodgson, *Northd.* II. ii. p. 139. The accompanying woodcut by Mr. Edward Swinburne, representing the tower in about 1830, has been kindly lent by the historian's grandson, Mr. J. G. Hodgson.

fourth lord Ogle, who died in 1539.<sup>3</sup> In like manner, when the fifth lord, being 'commanded to invade the realm of Scotland in the king's 'majesty's wars,' made his last will in 1543, 'in case of being slain by 'the chance of war,' as actually did befall him on Ancrum moor, he bequeathed to his wife Jane 'Cockell Parke and Towre.'<sup>4</sup>

'A projection on the west side of the tower, which had small 'windows in it, fell,' Hodgson informs us, 'in 1828, when the opening 'occasioned by the fall was filled up in a line with the rest of the wall; 'and the mantelpiece of one of the two curious old chimneys formerly 'in the tower, and cleverly decorated with dentils and mouldings, was 'inserted high up in the gap on the outside, by way of curiosity and 'ornament.'<sup>5</sup>

Cockle Park has descended to its present owner, the Duke of Portland, in the same manner as Bothal Castle.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> 'Cocleparke cum Turre &c. que dudum fuer. in manibus Anne Ogle matris mee.'—Trust deed from Robert 5th Lord Ogle, dated 4 Apr. 35 H. viij; *Lansd. MS.* 326, fo. 82; Hodgson, *Northd.* II. i. p. 394 n. A deed from Robert 4th Lord Ogle to his brother Sir William Ogle of 'Cokill Park,' relating to Cawsey Park, and dated 10 May 18 H. viij, and one from Robert the 5th Lord to the same, his uncle, relating to Earsdon, and dated 2 Dec. 28 H. viij, are in the possession of Mr. Brumell of Morpeth.—*Hist. MSS. Comm. App. 6th Report*, p. 540.

<sup>4</sup> Hodgson, *Northd.* II. i. p. 393 n.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* II. ii. p. 141.

<sup>6</sup> See above, p. 287.

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## TOSSON TOWER.

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LITTLE can be said of the tower of Great Tosson, about a mile from Rothbury, on the south side of the Coquet. It is mentioned in 1541 as 'a tower of the lorde Ogles Inherytance & not in good reparacions.'<sup>1</sup> The Ogles obtained lands here through a marriage with the daughter of Sir Robert Hepple in about 1330, but the tower is probably of later construction. It measures about 25 feet from east to west, by 18 feet from north to south. There has been the wonted slit for air and light at the west end of the vault. Very near the south-east corner there remain portions of the jamb and springing of the inner arch of the doorway. Some traces of the stair are left in the north-east angle, and above these a square-headed door and flat-roofed passage is seen from outside.

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 45.