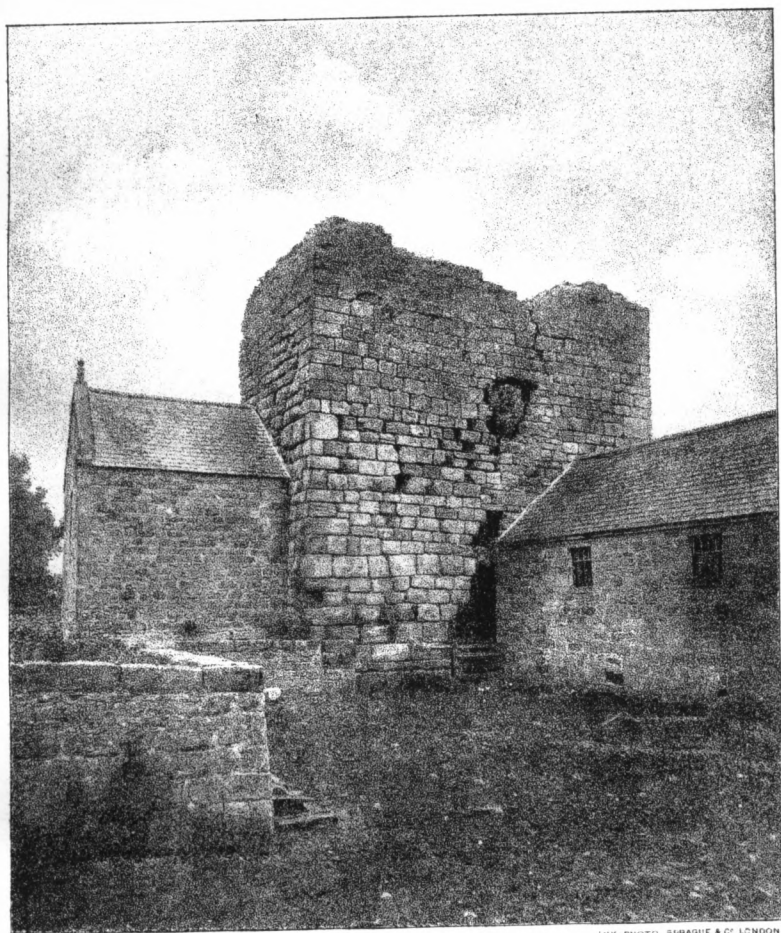


three under sides with trefoils, and the angles are covered with oak leaves. This window-recess probably formed a small oratory, as at Borthwick, in Midlothian, and the whole floor—the first, if we reckon from the south side of the tower, the second if from the north—was probably the living hall of the medieval rectors. The uppermost floor presents no particular features of interest, and the battlements are, of course, modern.

HEPPLE TOWER.

ORIGINALLY held by thanage, Hepple, or 'Heppedale' as it was anciently styled, was raised to a barony by king John in favour of Ivo de Tailbois, one of the three husbands of its heiress. Afterwards it was parted between the families of Tailbois and Hepple. The marriage of Jane de Hepple in 1331 brought her moiety to the Ogles, who probably acquired the whole during the Wars of the Roses. Hepple continued with the representatives of the lords Ogle till the third duke of Portland sold it in 1803 to the father of Sir Walter Buchanan Riddell, the present owner.

The tower is probably of fourteenth-century construction. It appears as one of the six strongholds of Sir Robert Ogle in 1415, and was 'decayed in the roofes and scarcely in good reparacions' in 1541. The walls are over 6 feet thick. The internal dimensions of the ground floor are about 26 feet east to west by about 17 feet north to south. The cylindrical stone vault rises to nearly 17 feet, and beneath it there has been a loft supported on stone corbels, two of which remain in the western angles. A slit for light at the west-end is set in a round-arched recess of wide splay. The entrance was by a pointed door at the east end of the south wall. The holes for the sliding bar, 7 inches square, are still to be seen. The roof of the passage between this outer door and that leading into the vault is pierced by a *meurtrière*. On the left, a straight stair seems to have gone up in the thickness of the south wall through a square-headed door, now built up. Beyond a small window opening in the west-wall, the first floor retains no details of interest.



J. P. CROWE, PHOTO.

INK-PHOTO, SHIRAZ & CO LONDON

HEPPLE TOWER, FROM THE W.
1884.

THIS PLATE CONTRIBUTED BY SIR WALTER BUCHANAN RIDDELL, BART.

