

## CARTINGTON CASTLE.

CARTINGTON, written in early times 'Kertindon,' is first heard of as a detached portion of the barony of Ditchburn, one of the least and latest of the feudal divisions of Northumberland. It stands on high ground about three miles to the north-west of Rothbury.

From an early period half of the manor had been held of the lords of Ditchburn by the barons of Embleton. After the death of Simon de Montfort in 1265, the earls of Lancaster became possessed of Embleton; and, on reference to their earliest Roll, we find that so soon as 1316 their moiety of Cartington was sub-let to a certain John de Cartington at the fixed rent of five shillings. As far as local history is concerned, resident tenants are much more interesting than absentee landlords; but the Cartingtons are a difficult family to make out, for every father of them seems to have determined that his son and heir should be called John. In 1415 a John Cartington is returned as the owner of the Tower of Cartington, then for the first time mentioned. In 1428 a John Cartington was elected one of the knights of the shire of Northumberland, and in 1433 this name stands, as one of four, at the head of a list of the county gentry. On a Swinburne deed, dated 1452, is a seal of John Cartington, blazoned—*gules, a fess between three catherine wheels or*, with a horse's head for crest. In 1458, John Cartington was one of Henry the Sixth's commissioners for raising a body of archers in Northumberland; on the 21st of October in that same year he died, leaving a son John, born in about 1436. In 1462 we have for once a William Cartington entered on the Lancaster Rolls as paying the customary five shillings for his rent of the moiety of the manor; but he must have been soon followed by the traditional John, since we know a John Cartington married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Claxton, who died in 1485, the year of Bosworth, and thus acquired Dilston and other estates of the Claxton family. But 'what came with a lass' soon 'went with a lass,' and John Cartington, the last of his race in possession of Cartington, died in about the year 1494, leaving an heiress, his daughter Anne, the wife of Edward son of Sir Thomas Radcliff of Derwentwater. It

was in Sir Edward Radcliff's time that, on Monday the 16th of November, 1515, Margaret queen of Scots, the widow of James IV., and wife of Angus, reached Cartington on her journey from Harbottle Castle, where her daughter Margaret Douglas had been born on the 15th of October. The queen remained at the castle till the Saturday following, when she proceeded to Brinkburn Priory. She was so weak that she could not bear horses in her litter, so Lord Dacre caused his servants to carry it all the way from Harbottle to Morpeth.<sup>1</sup> The little Lady Margaret who thus visited Cartington became the wife of Lennox, the mother of Darnley, and the grandmother of our James the First.

Three successive generations of Radcliffs—Sir Edward, sheriff in 1502; Sir Cuthbert, sheriff in 1528; and Sir George, sheriff in 1558—appear to have made Cartington their principal residence. The Border Survey of 1541 reports, that 'at Carttyngton is a good fortresse of two toures and other stronge houses of the Inherita'nce of Sir Cuthb' Ratelyffe knight and kepte in good repac'ons.'<sup>2</sup> On the 18th of November, 1601, Francis Radcliff of Dilston settled Cartington on his eldest daughter Mary's husband, Roger Widdrington.<sup>3</sup> Their son, Sir Edward Widdrington of Cartington, was created a baronet on the 8th August, 1642. From his petition to Charles II. we learn that, in obedience to the late king's proclamation, he had left his dwelling in Northumberland at the approach of the Scottish army, losing by spoil and plunder £1,900. With his kinsman Lord Widdrington he raised at their own charge two thousand foot and two hundred horse to serve Lord Newcastle, as well as part of another brigade. After Marston Moor he was consequently banished, and his lands sequestered;<sup>4</sup> while his wife was fined £400 for giving information to the king's party, and his chief house Cartington Castle, worth £8,000 (an enormous sum in those days), pulled down.<sup>5</sup>

Cartington Castle had stood a siege of two hours on the morning of Saturday the 1st of July, 1648, when the Royalist forces quartered in the neighbourhood allowed themselves to be shamefully surprised by a

<sup>1</sup> *Letters and Papers, Hen. VIII.*, vol. ii., pt. 1, p. 365.

<sup>2</sup> See above, p. 44.

<sup>3</sup> *Royalist Composition Papers*, Series I. vol. 73, No. 53. P.R.O.

<sup>4</sup> Cartington was sold by the trustees for the sale of forfeited estates to John Rushworth, esq., on 25th of April, 1654.—*Ibid.* No. 183.

<sup>5</sup> *Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1660-1661*, p. 339.

forced march of the Roundheads from Chollerton. The tracts giving an account of this engagement are so rare, and their quaint contents have been so frequently misconstrued, that it is worth while to give them in their entirety. In the first tract, 'a Gentleman of quality' writes to his friend in London:—

' Sir,

' God is pleased to work wonders dayly; and when we least think  
' of help, but rather expect a ruine, God then is pleased to step in and  
' stay us, as may appear by this great victory God hath given to us  
' unexpectedly; the manner of it was thus: The Scots were near the  
' borders of England to joyn with Langdale, and those Forces that  
' belonged to Northumberland and Bishoprick, who were now in  
' Northumberland under the Command of Col. Grey and Sir Richard  
' Tempest, being in number about twelve hundred Horse, who lay  
' together expecting to joyn with six hundred Foot that were to march  
' out of Barwick that day they were taken, & had not they then bin  
' taken they had within 3 hours bin upon their march to meet the  
' Foot toward Barwik, being unwilling to engage without more  
' Forces though they were twelve hundred and we but nine hundred:  
' Our men very early on Saturday morning before break of day fell into  
' their quarters, and after they had beaten up one of their quarters and  
' taken them that were there prisoners, the souldiers then were so  
' resolute that they rode Post to all the quarters round about where  
' the Cavaliers were quartered, and took them in their beds, and their  
' Horses at grass: only Cartington Castle, where Sir Richard Tempest  
' was, stood out two hours, but we lost no men, only two horses killed:  
' It wil much daunt the Scots joyning with *Langdale* and interrupt  
' their present design, which was to march into England to engage the  
' Forces with LAMBERT: I see it is good to leave all to God; when we  
' think least God doth most: O that men would give the whole glory  
' to God! The Commanders that are taken were the chief Actors in  
' raising a new War in the North and bringing in the Scots. I have  
' much more to write, but I am in haste, in providing entertainment  
' for the prisoners, therefore say no more but give the glory to God.'<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> *A true and perfect Relation of a Great Victory obtained by the Parliaments Forces in Northumberland Together with a List of all the Prisoners, Horse and Arms taken; with the surrender of Curtington Castle with all the Arms and Ammunition.* London, Printed by J. M. 1648 (King's Pamphlets, Brit. Mus. Golden number 375, tract 22).

The second tract is the official despatch from Sir Arthur Hesilrige, addressed 'To the Honourable, William Lenthal Esq; Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons,' and enclosing Colonel Lilburn's report of the affair, and a list of the captured cavaliers:—

' *Mr Speaker,*

' You have heard how *Langdale* retreated upon Major General *Lamberts* approaching, and would not engage his Forces upon terms of advantage, resolving to preserve his Body whole to joyn with the Scots; and upon his retreat to Carlisle, he sent Colonel *Tempest* with Seven or Eight hundred of his Horse for to meet Colonel *Grey*, that was before that time kept up in Berwick by our Northumberland Horse, with the assistance of Major *Sandersons* two Troops: but upon Colonel *Tempests* coming into Northumberland, ours drew towards Newcastle, and Colonel *Grey* with his Forces from Berwick joyned with Colonel *Tempest* about Alnwick: I sent for the Bishoprick Regiment of Horse under Colonel *Wren*, to come into Northumberland to joyn with Colonel *Fenwick* (who commanded the Northumberland new raised Regiment) and Major *Sanderson*; I also mounted about One hundred of my Foot as Dragoons, and sent them to them: I writ also to Major General *Lambert*, letting him understand that the Enemy was joyned, and intreated him to send some assistance immediately to our forces: Upon Friday last, Col: *Lilburn* with three Troops of Horse, came to them to *Chollerton*, and that evening they marched towards the Enemy that lay about Eslington, and Whittingham, and all along Cocquet water; and having marched all night, the next morning they fell into their quarters, the enemy having no Scouts out, and they fell so close in from Town to Town for about seven miles, that they suffered the enemy to take no Alarum: There are taken most of the considerable Gentlemen of Northumberland and Bishoprick, that were the very first beginners of this War, and incouragers of the Scots to come into England, and at least Three hundred private Soldiers, and between 5 and 600 Horses, and good store of Arms, without the loss of one man of either side. I have inclosed a Letter sent to me from Col: *Lilburn*, in which you will see the Enemies intention, and have cause to give God the greater praise, That when the Enemy resolved, out of policy, not to fight, that God



' was pleased to give them up into our hands, without striking a stroke,  
 ' and that to their everlasting shame. I have also sent you a list of  
 ' the Commanders and Gentlemen that are taken: I beseech you do not  
 ' apprehend that the work in the North is done, God having bestowed  
 ' this great mercy upon us, for be assured the Scots are come very near  
 ' the Borders, and *Langdale* is joyned with them, and their numbers  
 ' will be far too great for what we are able to withstand in these parts,  
 ' onely to God nothing is impossible. Some of the foot Soldiers of  
 ' this Garison, and some of our new raised Horse ran away to the  
 ' Enemy, and we have taken divers of them, and we intend to try  
 ' them by a Counsel of War, unless you please to dispose otherwise of  
 ' them; if so, we desire we may speedily know your pleasure; if not,  
 ' they will be suddenly knit up: Col: *Grey* compounded at Goldsmiths  
 ' Hall, and did take the Covenant, and so have some others, and there  
 ' is not a man in the North of England that hath done you more mis-  
 ' chief than Col: *Grey*: I shall take the best care I can to keep them  
 ' safe in Tinmouth Castle till I know what your commands are; and  
 ' you have now in custody your chiefest Enemies in Northumberland  
 ' and Bishopricks, for the begining of this new War in the northern  
 ' parts, and the taking of Berwick. I writ formerly to you, to intreat  
 ' the House to take notice of the diligence, pains, and faithfulness of  
 ' your few friends in Northumberland and Bishopricks, that have raised  
 ' the Horse, and now I hope you will be pleased to grant it, for their  
 ' service hath been very real and beneficial, both to you and the king-  
 ' dom: I have one more favour to beg, That you will be pleased to  
 ' keep Free-quarter out of the Garison of Newcastle, and then it will  
 ' be serviceable to you upon all occasions. We know not what to do  
 ' with the ordinary prisoners, I wish that some merchants had them  
 ' for a Plantation, for we finde by experience, That very few that have  
 ' fought against the Parliament do alter their opinions.

' Sir, Your humblest Servant,

' Newcastle, 2 Julii,

' 1648.

' ART: HESILRIGE.'

' *Honored Sir,*

' God having blest us with greater success then we expected this  
 ' day upon the Enemy, I cannot but admire his goodness, and speak of

'it to others to the praise of his Name. Having sent my man to  
 'acquaint you (in part) herewith, I have in the inclosed sent you a  
 'more perfect Account of the quality and number of Prisoners taken,  
 'having dissipated their whole Force in this County, that there did  
 'not escape above Two hundred and fifty in a Body, besides those that  
 'crept into hedges and hid themselves. This hath struck a very great  
 'astonishment into the Gentlemen that are Prisoners, and they confess  
 'it will much distract their Affairs, and alter the designs of *Langdale* :  
 'He had sent them Orders to march towards Dumfreise, to joyn with  
 'him and the Scots there; and had we but staid but three hours longer,  
 'they had been gone, and we lost our labor. I cannot enlarge, being  
 'very indisposed and weary at present, but intreat you to send a  
 'messenger speedily to Major General *Lambert*, to acquaint him here-  
 'with, because our Horses are much wearied: I shall leave that to Col:  
 '*Fenwicks* further Relation, and subscribe my self,

'Your very humble Servant,

'Morpeth, July 1.

'ROBERT LILBURN.'

'1648.

'PRISONERS

'taken in *Northumberland*, July 1. 1648.

'Colonel *Edw: Grey*, Commander in chief of the Forces in Northum-  
 berland.

'Col: Sir *Richard Tempest* Baronet, Commander in chief of the Forces  
 for the County of Durham.

'Sir Francis Ratcliff.

Mr. Gowen Ratcliff.

'Baronet Ratcliffs Son.

Mr. Roger Ratcliff.

'Sir Gervas Lucas.

Mr. Ralph Bowes.

Mr. Geo: Bellasis.

Mr. John Wright.

'Mr. Geo: Collingwood } Refor-

Mr. Cholmley Wright.

'Mr. John Collingwood } madoes.

Mr. Jo: Thornton.

'Lieut: Col: John Salkield.

Mr. William Hodgson.

'Lieut: Col: Ralph Millet.

Mr. Charles Selby.

'Lieut: Col: John Thornton.

Mr. John Thurlwel.

'Major Tho: Salkield.

Mr. Will: Lampton.

'Major Trollop.

Mr. Shaw.

'Capt. Francis Brandling.

Mr. Lancelot Selby.

' Capt. James Shafto.	Mr. Nicho: Woodhouse.
' Capt. Hugh James.	Mr. Antho: Trollop.
' Capt. Smith.	Mr. John Fitzwilliams.
' Capt. Fetherstonhaugh.	Mr. John Sison.
' Capt. Francis Carlton.	Mr. Tho: Hardy.
' Capt. Ascue.	Mr. John Watson.
' Capt. Ambrose Carlton.	Mr. Ralph Claxton.

' And many other Gentlemen, Lieutenants, and other Officers; and  
' above Three hundred Soldiers, and between Five or Six hundred  
' Horses, and many Arms.

' The Enemy was about One thousand two hundred. and we about  
' Nine hundred. Six hundred Foot came out of *Berwick* this day, and  
' was within eight miles of the Horse, to have joyned with them about  
' *Cabilah*."7

The sequel to this miserable affair of Cartington was that over three hundred prisoners, many of them officers and gentlemen, had to trudge to Morpeth on foot, their horses having been already driven to Newcastle for sale by their captors. Sir Richard Tempest contrived to make his escape from Morpeth the next morning after breakfast.<sup>8</sup>

Sir Edward Widdrington's eldest son died in 1654, and after his own death Cartington appears to have become the property of Sir Edward Charlton of Hesleyside, who had married his daughter Mary. Sir Edward Charlton died in 1675, and the two widows, Dame Christina Widdrington and Dame Mary Charlton, continued to reside at Cartington for some years after, both their names appearing in the lists of recusants. Of the four daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Edward Charlton, Catherine, the youngest, married Sir Nicholas Sherburne of Stoneyhurst, and we find him living at Cartington at the end of the seventeenth century. On the brow of

<sup>7</sup> *A Letter from Sir Arthur Hesilrige of a Great Victory in Northumberland, &c.* '5-Julii, 1648. Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That these Letters and List be forthwith printed and published. H: Elsyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.' London, Printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Honourable House of Commons, July 7, 1648 (King's Pamphlets, Brit. Mus. Golden number 375, tract 25).

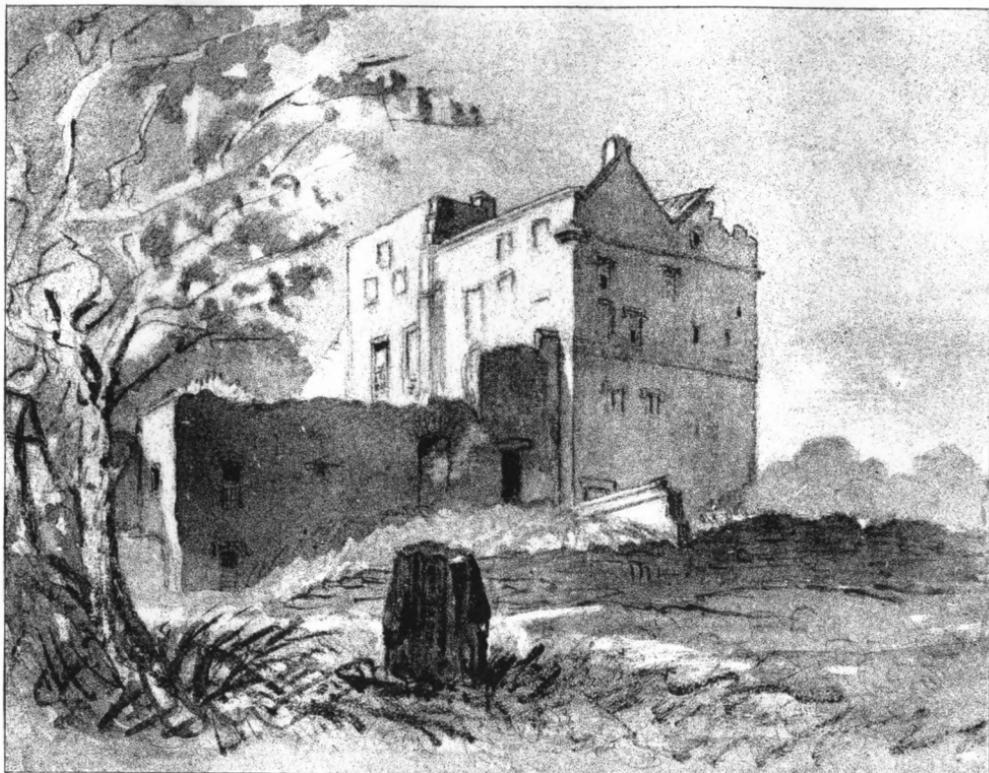
<sup>8</sup> *Packets of letters from Scotland, etc. brought by Post, July 11, 1648, in Reprints and Imprints, Historical*, vol. ii., M. A. Richardson, Newcastle, 1847. This letter from Major Sanderson, dated Newcastle, July 3, 1648, varies in some particulars from those given above, and, among other things, makes no mention of Cartington.

the hill to the west of the castle a weatherworn shield, with the arms of Sir Nicholas: *Quarterly* 1 and 4 [*Arg.*] a lion rampant [*vert*] SHERBURNE, 2 and 3 [*Vert*] an eagle displayed [*arg.*] BAILEY, over all a shield of pretence charged with the badge of Ulster, impaling *Quarterly* 1 and 4 [*Or*] a lion rampant [*gules*] CHARLTON, 2 and 3 [*Quarterly or and gules*] a bend [*sa.*] WIDDRINGTON is inserted in the east gable of the so-called Nunnery, an almshouse founded, it is said, by Dame Mary Charlton for four widows of her own faith. The crest has been a unicorn's head, and on the scroll below the third word of the motto TANT QUE JE PUIS still remains.<sup>9</sup> Sir Edward Charlton's second daughter, Mary, married, it seems, a Talbot, who was killed at the siege of Buda in Hungary in 1686. Their son, John Talbot of Cartington, joined in the rising of 1715, and was taken prisoner at Preston, but subsequently escaped from Chester. Cartington afterwards became the property of the Alcocks and the Becks, and was sold in 1883 to Sir W. G. Armstrong of Cragside.

Till 1887 Cartington Castle was one of the most romantic ruins in the North of England. Round none other of equal importance did there linger such an air of absolute desolation. Four or five centuries in succession had left their special imprints on a wreck that was a speaking monument to the loyalty and the misfortunes of the series of ancient families who made it their home. The shattered fragment of the buttress-like stair-turret, the one prominent feature in the place, threatened to collapse at any moment; the vaults were choked with loose stones, and the only access to them was by crawling in on hands and knees at narrow openings; a crop of nettles had to be mown down before a clear view could be obtained of the arch of the north doorway, and it was evident to the most casual observer that the external base of the castle was buried several feet in *débris*.

Lord Armstrong nobly resolved to rescue Cartington from the destruction that had overtaken it and to lay bare its architectural history by systematic excavations. In order that nothing might be

<sup>9</sup> Underneath this shield is a widow's lozenge with *Quarterly* 1 and 4, a lion rampant guardant; 2 and 3, an eagle displayed. Sir Nicholas Sherburne died in 1717, and his wife must therefore have retained some connection with Cartington after that date.



"ENG-PRINT" SPEAR & CO. LONDON

CARTINGTON CASTLE, FROM THE S.E. *Circa 1780.*

This Plate (from a drawing in the collection of the Society) contributed by SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG.



done that could impair the historical and architectural interest of the fabric, he entrusted the direction of the work to Mr. C. C. Hodges.

The 'good' fortress' of Cartington, it will be remembered, consisted, according to the Border Survey of 1541, of two towers and other strong houses. These two towers conjoined form the main block. The eastern tower is a rectangle measuring externally 45 feet 7 inches along its east and 31 feet 10 inches along its north wall. Judging from a view taken in about 1780,<sup>10</sup> it was originally four storeys high, and its eastern angles were capped by rounded bartizans, the lower stones of which, with carved monsters on their under sides, are at present lying on the garden-wall of the farm-house. The western tower extended 37 feet, almost in a line with the south wall of the eastern tower, and 41 feet 7 inches along its west wall. The plain base of the eastern tower, on the north and east sides, points to its being of earlier construction; and the more elaborate base of the south side, similar as it is to the base round the western tower, shows that the erection of the latter was already determined on when this side was built, or that this side was refaced at the time of its erection. The western tower rose a storey above the eastern, and near their juncture on the south front is the unique buttress-like stair-turret already mentioned, the west half of which forms a quarter-octagon, the east a quarter-hexagon. The ground rises so much on the west that the basement is on that side considerably below its level.

On the south of these combined towers, as the recent excavations show, a paved courtyard about 67 feet wide extended 57 feet in front to an enclosing wall that does not seem to have been built for purposes of defence. At the south-east corner of this courtyard is a small tower or lodge with a vaulted basement and a garderobe above. A range of buildings, of probably Elizabethan date, stretched along the east side of the courtyard, connecting this corner tower with the main block. Some part of this corner tower and the outer face of these Elizabethan buildings have now been rebuilt with fourteenth-century ashlar.

<sup>10</sup> This view (here reproduced) is pasted into a scrapbook of *Sketches by G. B. Richardson*, Northumberland and Durham, p. 41, in the library of the Society of Antiquaries at Newcastle. A charming steel engraving of the castle from the south-west, by T. H. Hair, will be found in their scrapbook of *Prints*, p. 32. A small vignette taken from the latter appears in Richardson's *Borderer's Table Book*, Historical Division, vol. i, p. 271.

The question at once suggests itself whether this courtyard was inside the mediæval fortress, or whether it was of later formation and without the regular defences. This it is not easy to determine, since the main building had two principal doors, one leading into this court, and another immediately opposite to it opening to the north, on which side there is also a paved yard with a well and foundations of strong buildings of mediæval character beyond it. One thing is evident, and that is that unless there was an opening in the south wall of the front court no horse or carriage could reach the main south door, the ground on the west being so very much higher than the level of the court, which, indeed, must always have been commanded from that quarter. After the Restoration a new door, with a four-centred head and mouldings like those of the east entrance of Callaly Castle,<sup>11</sup> was inserted over the arch of the original south door, and an external flight of steps carried up to it from the court. Not very long afterwards, in the early part of last century, the court appears to have been filled in with earth to the level of the first floor, and a gateway, with two handsome piers surmounted by round stone balls,<sup>12</sup> was erected on the west side of it, thus enabling any one to drive up to the new front door. It is possible that the chief alterations in the main building were the work of Sir Nicholas Sherburne and his widow, and that their arms were originally upon the walls of it, and were subsequently inserted in the gable of the almhouse in order that they might be better preserved. The jambs and sill of the seventeenth-century doorway, which fell out when the soil was removed, are replaced by a Victorian shield and straight motto-riband set in mediæval ashlar-work. The remains of the flight of steps have been left, which may cause some perplexity to those who do not know that the doorway has been removed. The fragments of the seventeenth-century windows in the south front, which has here been rebuilt with mediæval ashlar, disappeared some time ago. No lover of the beautiful should fail to admire the traceried windows that have been inserted in

<sup>11</sup> The date 1676 appears on the sun-dial at Callaly, which, together with the arms of Clavering impaling Middleton, forms an integral part of the east façade. The initials of Ralph Clavering, the owner of the Castle at that time, and of his wife Mary are carved on the doorway itself.

<sup>12</sup> These balls have lately been broken off by a falling tree, and are now lying in a corner of the courtyard. A photograph of the gateway in 1884 is here reproduced.



J. P. GIBSON, PHOTO.

"INK-PRINT" SPRAGUE & CO. LONDON.

CARTINGTON CASTLE, FROM THE S.W.  
1884.

THIS PLATE CONTRIBUTED BY SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG.



it. The heads of the two eastern ones are ancient, but there is no authority for their position. The head of the western one is a restoration of a shattered head found beneath its site.

The original south door of the main building had a label above it. The late restoration has served to bring out the deep mouldings of the arch not visible before. Between it and an inner door a straight stair probably led up on the right to the first floor, but the present broad steps are new. On either side of the passage which terminates in the north door were vaults arched from east to west. The two vaults on the west side are 22 feet 6 inches long from north to south. The first one is 13 feet 3 inches wide and has an external door in the north wall, and a mullioned window and fire-place in the south. The inner vault, 11 feet 6 inches wide, has a mullioned window in the south wall and a fire-place in the north, while a wide newel-stair, its well about 9 feet in diameter, ascends in a projecting turret at the north-west corner. A remarkable flying buttress of very massive construction, 18 feet long by 9 feet 5 inches wide, has been built against the north wall of this western tower.

On the opposite side of the through passage is a vault leading to the basement of the eastern tower. The arch of the entrance doorway of the latter is somewhat of an ogee form, and is provided with bar-holes. The vault into which it opens would be about 18 feet broad and 20 feet long, if a square of between 9 and 10 feet had not been taken off its south-east corner in order to form a dungeon, with which, however, it has no communication. Originally the only access to this dungeon, which measures 7 feet by 6 feet 5 inches inside, was through a man-hole in the roof, but a door was subsequently broken through the southern wall into what is now a sort of mural passage, with an external four-centre-headed door immediately opposite. The shaft of a latrine comes down in an inexplicable fashion at the east end of this passage, but the whole of this south-east angle of the tower has been at some previous time tampered with. One of the ashlar stones has 'E W 1654' cut upon it. This was probably the year in which Sir Edward Widdrington was permitted by Cromwell to return to Cartington, and he would then naturally do something to repair his ruined home. The stone in question was found buried when the courtyard was cleared and has been built into the wall to preserve it.

In the south-west corner of the main vault a wheel-stair with steps about three feet wide ascends in the buttress-turret to the first floor only. An octagonal stone sink is placed in the angle formed by the east wall and the north wall of the dungeon, while in the north-east corner is the very remarkable well with steps down into it. Near the well in the north wall is a door into the vault that occupies the remainder of the basement. This vault is 10 feet 6 inches wide. A narrow, straight stair goes up in the thickness of the north wall to a room on the first floor that was probably the kitchen. Of this very little is left. A slit in the west wall has been diverted in an oblique direction when the western tower was added. The well comes up to this floor in the partition wall between this room and the one to the south of it, which may have been the buttery. This could also be approached by the newel-stair coming up from the vault below at its south-west corner.

Three doors—one from the supposed kitchen and two from the room adjoining it—did at one time or other communicate with the first floor of the western tower, but whether these were the stereotyped three doors at the low end of a medieval hall there does not seem to be sufficient evidence to determine. It is in the south-east corner of this floor that the present wide stair from near the south entrance emerges. In the same corner a widened door gives access to the newel-stair that wound its way to the roof inside the buttress-turret so often mentioned. It is curious that it has purposely had no connection with the stair below it which comes out on the east side. Scarcely anything more that is original remains of the first floor of the western tower except a closet in the south wall, the doorway of which has a good flat-pointed head of one stone.

The description of a stronghold which has undergone so many changes as Cartington cannot be expected to be very lucid or trustworthy.

