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DUDDO TOWER, FROM THE S.E.

1884.

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THE ruin of Duddo, in Northhamshire, a landmark for miles around, stands on a precipitous crag that rises three hundred feet above the sea level out of the plateau on the east side of the Till.

The northern portion of the tower has quite disappeared, but the plan seems to have been more or less of a square, measuring about 36 feet outside, with a rectangular stair-turret, 13 feet 7 inches broad, projected about 10 feet from the south wall, at a distance of 16 feet 6 inches from the south-west corner of the tower. The south wall of this turret is rent from top to bottom. On the east face of it, in the re-entering angle, is the entrance, a four-centred door of rude construction, with two bar-holes on the right. The recess under a rough arch over the door was no doubt for an armorial panel. A round angle turret is corbelled out above the entrance. This is entered off the main wheel-stair at the third floor level. The south wall of the tower to the west of the entrance turret contains two square-headed windows.

James IV. of Scotland rased and cast down a tower at Duddo when he invaded England in the autumn of 1496.¹ Only a piece of this tower was standing in 1541, and it had not been repaired before 1561, when half of it is stated to have been left with a barmkin round it. The present ruin, which is built of rubble, exhibits none of the characteristics of a tower of the fifteenth century. The angle turret is indeed an evident sign of late sixteenth-century construction. Like Doddington and Coupland, the existing tower was very probably built subsequent to the report of the Border Commissioners in 1584.

William Clavering of Duddo, the third son of Robert Clavering of Callaly, was slain in a skirmish with the Scots at the end of November 1586, and being 'verie craysed and sore wounded in his bodye' made a nuncupative will.² A large old barn-like building was standing near the tower on the very verge of the rock in 1821, and was removed about thirty years afterwards.³

¹ See above, p. 38. By 1561 the Warbeck raid had been to a great extent forgotten, and the destruction of Duddo was said to have taken place 'at Flodden field'; see above, p. 53.

² *Wills and Inventories*, ii. Surtees Soc. Publ. 38, p. 51.

³ Raine, *North Durham*, p. 317.