

CARLIOL TOWER.

Newcastle-vpon-Tyne.

Interior.

# ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA.

## I.—THE WALLS OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

BY SHERITON HOLMES.

[Read on the 29th May, 1895.]

### HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE early history of the town walls of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is of a very fragmentary character, and by no means conclusive as to the time when they were built.

The earliest mention of them occurs in the *Rhyming Chronicle* of Hardyng, in the time of Henry the sixth, who says, alluding to king William the Second:—

‘The towne to builde, and walle as did append,  
He gave them ground and golde ful great to spend,  
To builde it well, and wall it all aboute.’

Hardyng, however, is a very unreliable authority.

In his *History of Newcastle* Brand states that in the charter granted to the town, dated the 28th of January, 1216, by king John, express mention occurs of the walls; but there is no note of this in the digest of the charter printed in 1817 by John Clark in his *Newcastle Remembrancer*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1291 Edward the first was petitioned by the good men of Newcastle to grant a sum of money and a licence for the building of a wall round the town, which was granted accordingly.<sup>2</sup> He also, by a charter, dated at York, December 20th, 1299, granted the town of Pampendon (Pandon) to the burgesses and good men of Newcastle, and by a grant dated September 18th, 1280, he allowed the society of Black Friars to make a postern-gate through the town wall, then newly built, at the west side of the town, for the purpose of communication with a portion of their property which had been severed by the

<sup>1</sup> Brand, vol. ii. p. 136, gives the date of John's charter as 1217, the year after that king died, though at page 2 of vol. i. he dates it the preceding year, viz., 1216. The date 1217 is also given to the charter in the *Newcastle Remembrancer*, p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Newcastle Remembrancer* p. 12.

building of the wall, but with the reservation that if found necessary for the security of the town the sheriff of Northumberland should at any time have power to build it up. They afterwards, in 1312, got permission from Edward the second to make a drawbridge of wood, five feet broad, over the new fosse of the town, with a similar provision for removal in case of imminent danger.

Brand states that 'in a record, dated May 26th, 1307, the building anew of the wall of Newcastle, on the side towards the east, occurs: this was, in all probability, occasioned by the union of Pampendon, or Pandon, with that town, by the charter of Edward I., dated Dec. 20th, 1299.'<sup>3</sup> He also states that 'among the writings preserved in the hutch, or common treasury of Newcastle, A.D. 1565, was one intitled "A grant for building the walls of the town."' The original is now lost, and the date has not been transmitted.<sup>4</sup>

Leland, in his *Itinerary*, p. 114, vol. v., tells us that 'the waulles of Newcastle were begon in King *Edwarde* the firste Day, as I have harde, by this Occasion. A great riche Man of *Newcastelle* was taken Prisoner by the *Scottes* owt of the Town self as it is reportid. Wherapon he was raunsomid for a greate Sum: and returning home he began to make a Waulle on the Ripe of *Tyne* Ryver from *Sandehille* to *Pandon* Gate, and beyound in to the Towne agayne the *Augustine-Freres*.' He afterwards says the walls were not entirely finished until Edward the third's time. This king repaired the walls during his residence in the town in 1334.<sup>5</sup>

After the walls had been built the town was apportioned into twenty-four wards, which were named after the gates and towers the defence of which devolved upon them. Full particulars of these are given in the histories of Bourne and Brand.

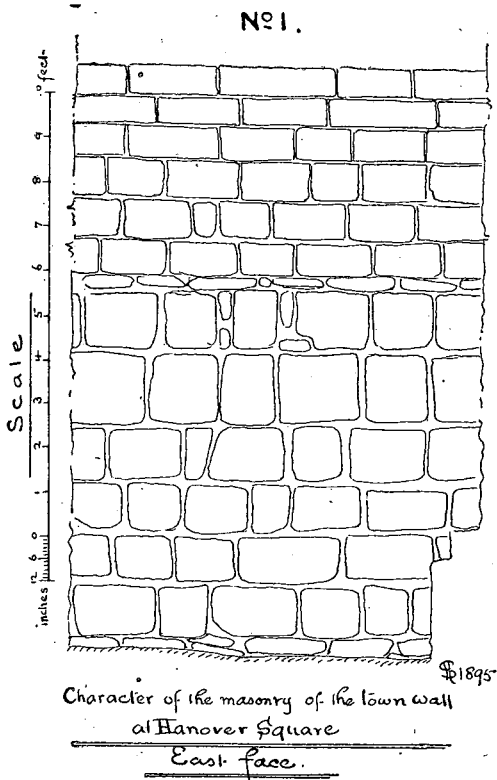
The evidence of age afforded by the walls themselves is not of a very definite kind, though they seem to present broad lines of the character of building adopted at different periods, and if this be taken in conjunction with other important buildings of the town, a sequence seems probable. Thus the walling of the keep of the castle, built in 1172-7, is of coursed work, with the stones very long in proportion to their depth. The Black gate masonry is also of a somewhat

<sup>3</sup> Brand's *Newcastle*, vol. i. p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 3n.

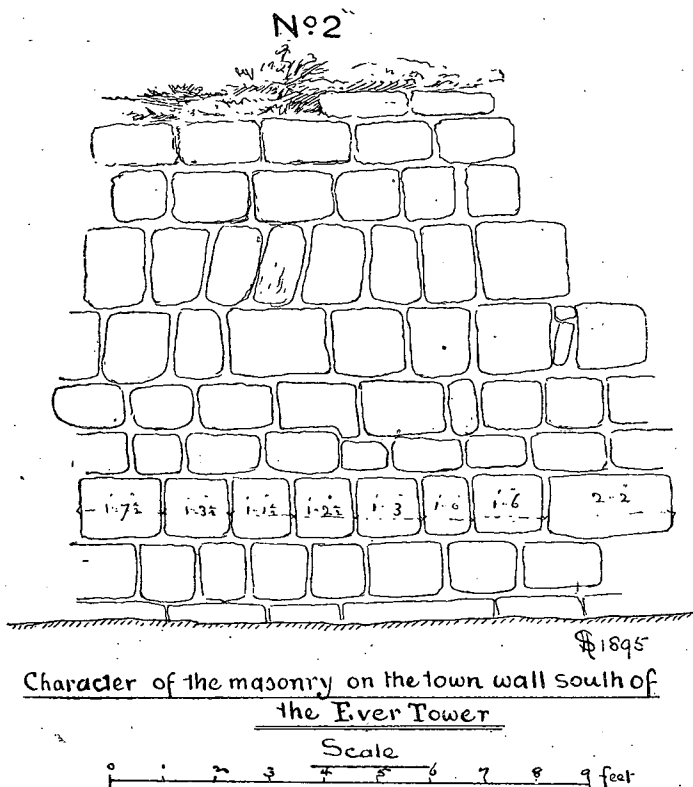
<sup>5</sup> MS. in the Bodleian library, Oxford. Bernard's catalogue, p. 86.

similar character,<sup>6</sup> whereas the masonry of the walls generally partakes of what may be termed a cubical character, the stones being more or less square on their faces and interspaced at intervals with upright stones much deeper on the face than their length of bed, and generally built with the quarry bedding reversed, that is plumb instead of being horizontal. If then the style of building at any particular time prevailed generally in the town, it follows that the walls had chiefly, if not wholly, been built after the date of the Black gate which is attributed to 1247-50, after the longwork had gone out of use and the cubical kind was introduced. With the exception of the walling of the portions in St. Andrew's churchyard, the masonry of the walls throughout (excepting where rebuilt or heightened) is of the cubical kind, though from evidence afforded by the wall in Hanover square, and particularly by that at the corner tower, the longwork would seem to have again come into use. In the latter the base and wall adjoining are of cubical stones, whereas the turret above is in longwork, and at Hanover square (see diagram no. 1), where the wall has been built at three several times, the longwork overlies the cubical.



<sup>6</sup> In his paper on the Castle (see *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. iv. p. 124) Mr. Longstaffe states that the front of the Black gate is of the debased style of James the first's time. This, I think, is not so, the masonry being of the same character as that of the Early English work below but with more recent windows inserted.

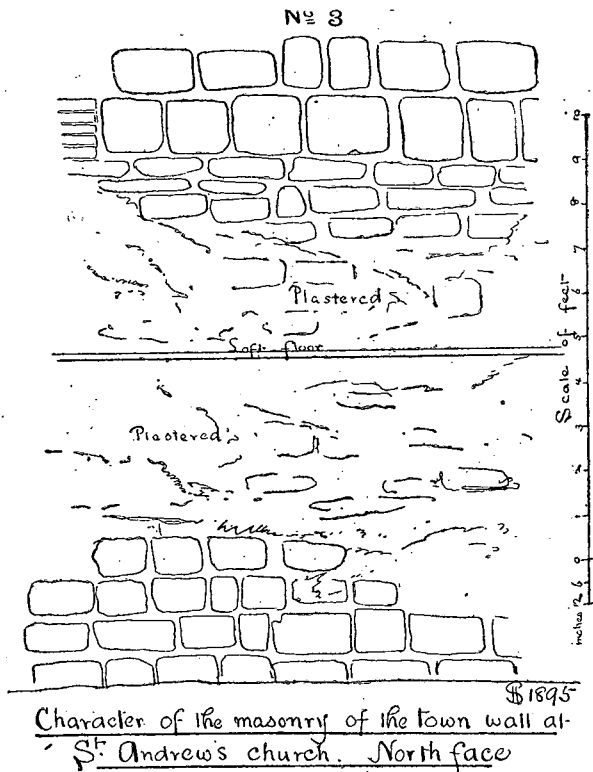
In this the first three courses from the top seem to be comparatively late work, long-bedded and close-jointed, the next three similar to the cubical below but more scientifically built, and the lower portion, down to the rubble foundation, being of the wide-jointed cubical character which prevails generally in the walls. Diagram no. 2 is characteristic



of the west walls, where not rebuilt, from near Westgate street to the Ever tower, beyond which through the churchyard there is a marked difference.

Diagrams nos. 3 and 4 (see pages 5 and 6) are portions of the north face of the east section of wall in St. Andrew's churchyard. In this the lowest masonry is of a very rude, ill-coursed, and wide-jointed kind which becomes worse upwards, until near the top we get to the true cubical masonry. Bourne was of opinion, from a comparison

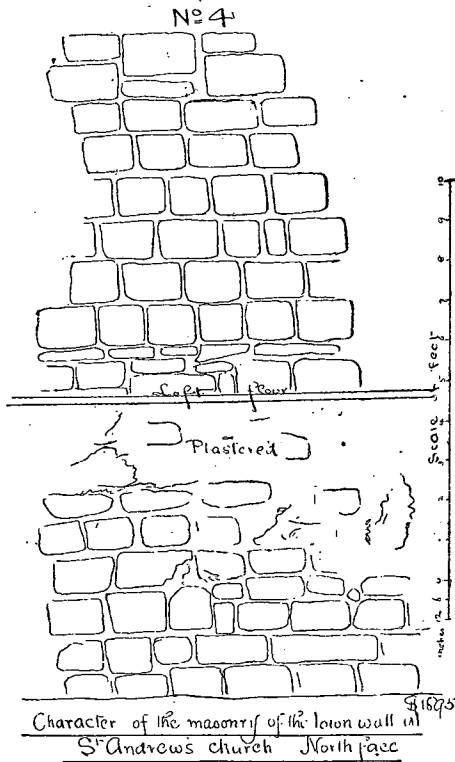
of the masonry, that this portion of the wall was the first built, and in this I am inclined to coincide. The inner or south face of the western portion of this wall is built of rubble work with little attempt at coursing, and from the sharpness of the punch- and pick-marks I am led to think that it has been rebuilt in very much later times.



The inner face of the other portion of the wall approaching New gate has also been chiefly rebuilt with old material, though underneath the turret and beyond it in the lower portion is a piece of original cubical work, but with the stones of a smaller character than those in the west walls.

The remaining portion of the inner castle wall extending westward from the postern on the castle stairs, is of the same character of masonry as the west walls, and must have been built about the same time, or at a later date than the keep or even the Black gate, without

it can be proved that the cubical masonry preceded the long-bedded work, which I think improbable. Mr. Longstaffe supposed this wall might have formed a portion of Rufus's work, but the cubical character of it would bring it to a later date if the succession of masonry character I have sketched holds good. And this seems to be strengthened



by a reference to the keep where it may be noticed that on the inner face of the gate tower the wall has been heightened or rebuilt up to the level of the modern addition of 1813 by work of the cubical character very similar to that of the inner castle wall before alluded to, and to the town walls generally.

It seems probable that the walls were built, as money could be got for the purpose, between the beginning of the thirteenth century and the early part of the fourteenth, but it is quite possible that a portion might have been built in John's reign, and if so,

I think, it would be the more northerly section of them.

The width of the town wall above the base plinth varies considerably. At the west walls and in Hanover square it is six feet ten inches wide. At the Wall Knoll tower the wall is seven feet two inches wide on the west side, but eight feet six inches on the East or Sally-port gate side, and this is also the width of the western portion of the wall in St. Andrew's churchyard.

At sundry times the walls appear to have been seriously damaged or suffered to get out of order, for, from time to time the kings were petitioned for money, or easement of payments, by the town, to enable the walls and bridges to be repaired.

In 1386 there was an assignment by Richard the second to the mayor and bailiffs to take workmen for repairing the walls of the town.<sup>7</sup> In 1403 Henry the fourth granted to the mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, all fines and forfeitures for the reparation of the walls and bridge of that town,<sup>8</sup> and in 1527 mention occurs of an annuity of £20 granted by king Henry the eighth for the support of the walls and bridge. For his aid in procuring this grant Sir Arthur Hazlerigg, bart., was presented with a silver basin and ewer of the value of £30.<sup>9</sup> The walls were much damaged during the remarkable siege, and at the taking of the town by storm, in the year 1644. There was afterwards a grant from Parliament of the sum of £2,564 for repairing them.<sup>10</sup> On June 17th, 1667, the walls, gates, and drawbridges were repaired by order of the Common Council, and in 1745 several houses, erections, buildings, and other obstructions near the walls were pulled down when the rebellion occurred in that year.

AUTHORITIES.

For information as to the condition of the walls at various periods, and the appearance of the towers and gateways before they were destroyed, I am indebted to the following authorities:—

A MS. drawing of the town in 1590, preserved in the British Museum, and republished in the *Archaeologia Aeliana* (4to series), vol. iii. p. 124, by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle.

Speed's map of Newcastle of 1610.

A MS. *Description of the walls* in 1638, preserved in the Record Office, London, and reproduced in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. xii. p. 230.

Corbridge's map of Newcastle, 1723.

Bourne's map of Newcastle, 1736.

Bucks' view of 1743.

<sup>7</sup> Aubone MS.

<sup>9</sup> Common Council books.

<sup>8</sup> Randall's MSS. Historical Events.

<sup>10</sup> Brand, vol. i. p. 4.



An undated view of the town from Gateshead, in my possession.  
Halton's map of 1770.

Brand's map of 1788.

Wood's map of 1827.

Mackenzie's *History* of 1827.

Oliver's maps of 1830 and of 1844.

M. A. Richardson's *Local Historian's Table Book*, 1843.

Sykes's *Local Records*.

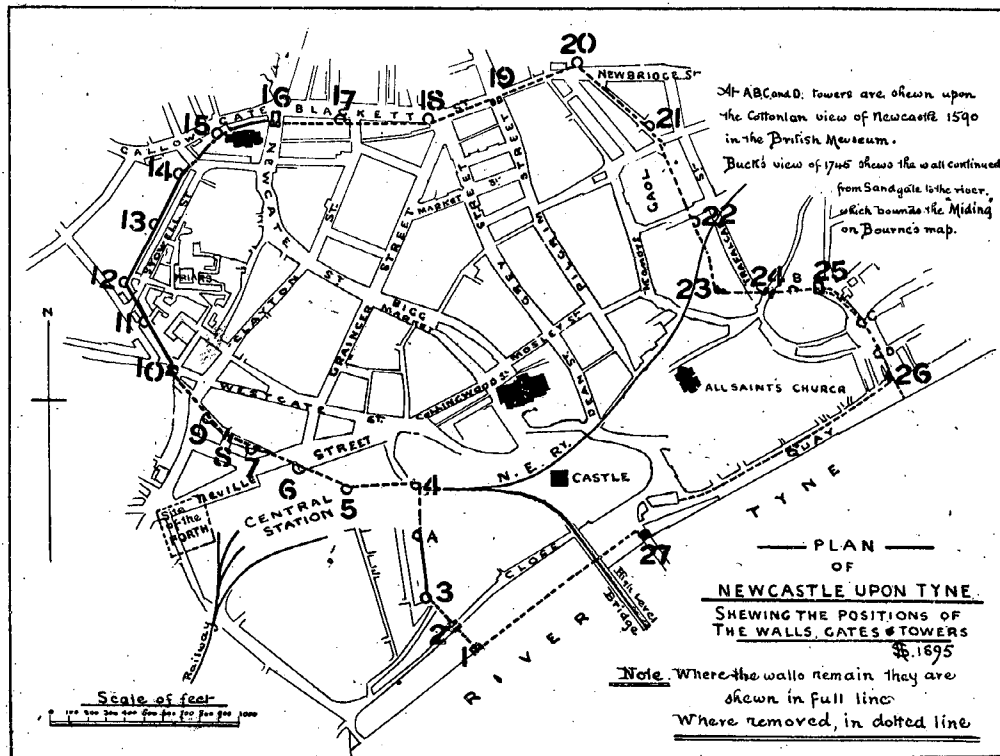
#### REFERENCE TO THE PLAN.

##### GATES.

Number on Plan.		Number on Plan.	
2	Close gate.	25	Sally-port.
8	Forth gate.	24	Pandon gate.
10	West gate.	26	Sand gate.
16	New gate.	27	Bridge gate.
19	Pilgrim gate.		
TOWERS.			
1	River side tower.	14	Ever tower.
3	White Friars tower.	15	Andrew tower.
4	Denton or Neville tower.	17	Bertram Momboucher tower.
5	West Spital tower.	18	Ficket tower.
6	Stank tower.	20	Carloli tower.
7	Gunner tower.	21	Plummer tower.
9	Pink tower.	22	Austin tower.
11	Durham tower.	23	Corner tower.
12	Heber or Herber tower.	25	Wall Knoll tower.
13	Morden tower.		

#### GENERAL SCHEME OF DEFENCE.

The general scheme of defence consisted of an ashlar-faced wall of stone about twelve feet high on the inside and from six feet ten inches to eight feet six inches wide, with a fosse or ditch on its outer side twenty-two yards wide and fifteen feet deep. Gateways were erected for the principal roads, and towers at convenient distances apart, with, between them, turrets, or, as Bourne names them, 'garrets,' which formed covered sheltering places on the top of the walls. These were thirteen feet in length, with an interior passage way three feet wide, loopholed on its outer side. The top, which was reached by a stone stairway on the inner face, had corbelled out parapets, which were ornamented by figures of warriors carved





in stone. Of these turrets only three now remain in a comparatively perfect condition, one of them between the Herber and Morden towers, one near the Ever tower, and the third in St. Andrew's churchyard.

The towers were generally of the form shown in the Durham and Herber specimens now remaining, and were horse-shoe shaped on their outer face, projecting their full size beyond the wall. The interior was rectangular, with three arrow slits, and the space arched over by a pointed and ribbed Early English arch. Stone stairways led to the roof, which had an embattled parapet. On the outer face of the tower there were heavily projecting corbels two and three stones in depth, which appear to have carried a shield round the outside to protect the defenders whilst throwing down stones or other defensive objects on the attackers below.

But the towers were not invariably of this form. The one at the river face near the Close appears to have been rectangular. The White Friars was octangular, with a circular chamber on the top. The Wall Knoll tower was nearly square, and the Corner tower was after the pattern of the turrets, merely a covered passage on the wall top.

The late George Bouchier Richardson, in a paper read by him at the meeting of the Archaeological Institute held at Newcastle in 1852, said there had existed seventeen of the circular bastions. That of these six were possessed of two obtusely arched apartments with bold ribs. Access to the first of these vaulted apartments was from the ground, and to the second by a winding stair leading out of the first, though in many cases they were provided with stairs leading at once from the military way on the inside of the curtain to the upper chamber. Nine of the bastions had but one apartment, but that of larger size than the others, upon the ribbing of which rested the platform which, in these cases, was always gained from the curtain wall and not by an internal stair. He alludes to the Herber and Pink towers as being good examples of the latter, and says that the single chambered bastions were all placed in successive order on the north-west quarter of the fortification, which would embrace the White Friars, Denton, West Spital, Stank, Gunner, Pink, Durham, Heber, and Morden, leaving the Ever, Andrew, Momboucher, Ficket, Carlol, and Plummer to make up the six

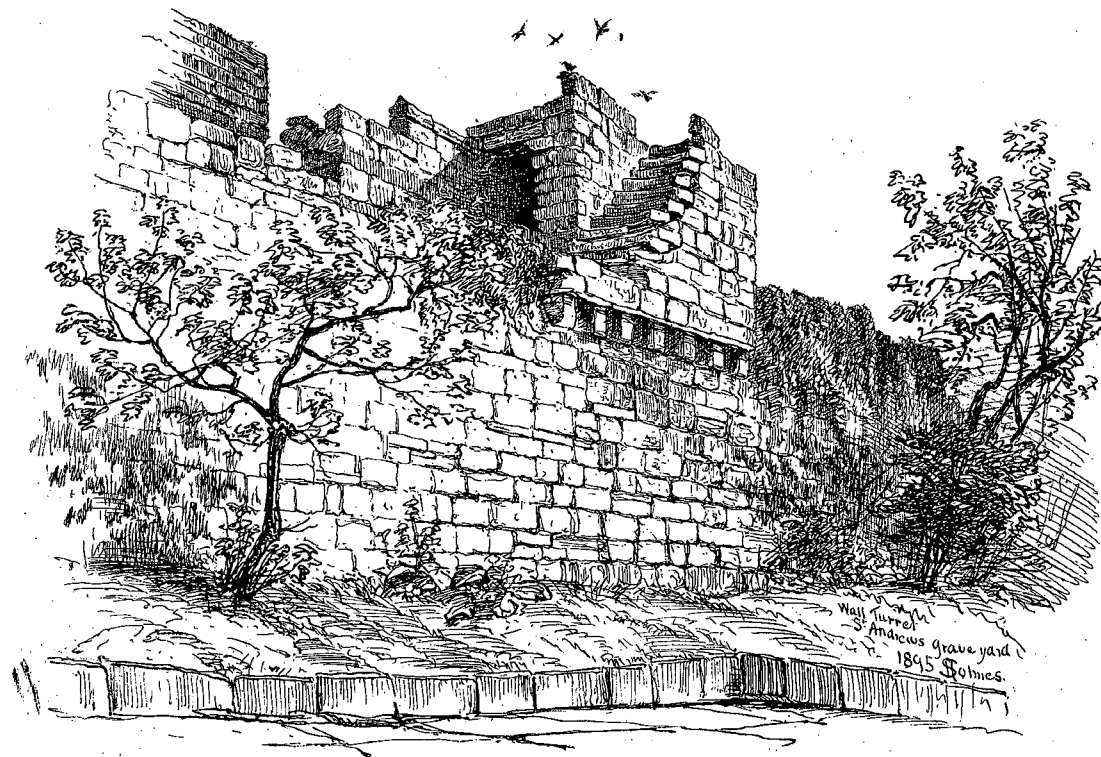
which had two arched chambers. At the time when Mr. Richardson resided in Newcastle there was doubtless much more opportunity of gaining accurate information concerning the walls than now exists, and as he sketched them a great deal his record is deserving of every consideration, but I am not sure that he is strictly accurate. When the Carliol tower was being pulled down I made some notes and find that the intermediate floor was a timber one, and not arched. I have, however, seen a sketch by him of the Austin tower, which shows both chambers arched and ribbed, the lower arch being pointed, and the top segmental. It is therefore probable that his distinction of the number of single chamber and double chamber bastions or towers is correct.

The main outlets were the Close gate, West gate, New gate, Pilgrim gate, Sand gate, and Bridge gate which spanned the passage way along the Tyne bridge near its northern end. Besides these there were several openings of less moment. Thus, a postern existed at the Denton tower, called the White Friars' postern, where the wall turns abruptly westward, and a gateway at the Forth walk, leading to a pleasure ground of that name, surrounded by trees, which was the property of the town. The Black Friars had an opening between the Herber and Morden towers, and a little beyond is another ancient doorway, three feet wide, now used as an entrance to the bowling green, but I find no historical reference to it. Then there were the gateway at the Wall Knoll tower, known as the Sally-port, and seven smaller openings through the wall along the quay. Bourne and Corbridge's maps show a larger opening or gateway in the wall along the quay, opposite the Broad chare, which may have been opened out at a later period, as the prospect drawing of 1638 does not show it.

At an early date, generally during the sixteenth century, the towers, and also some of the gates, became the meeting places of the various town's companies, who, as a rule, removed the original castellated top, and added a story to the tower to form a meeting hall.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS.

Commencing at the west side, where the walls abut upon the river, and following their course round the town, there was, firstly, a tower at the river side which, in Bucks' view and on Bourne's map, is shown

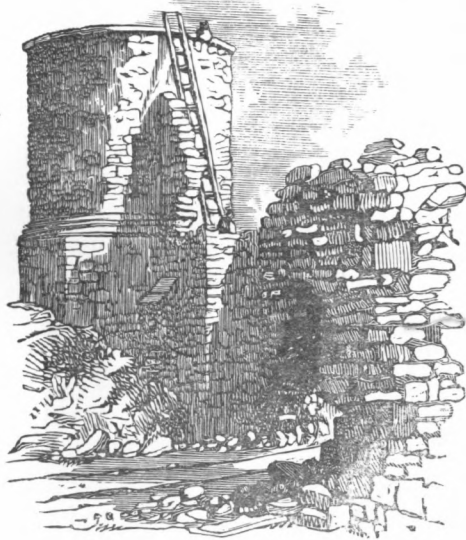




square in form, with an embattled top. Part of it remained in 1789, and Brand states that it was used successively by the Companies of House Carpenters and Sail Makers.

The Close gate came next, of which a representation occurs in the *Table Book*, though, as stated, only a 'design from various sources.' This view shows a high tower-like structure, three stories in height above the archway, which is single, and pointed in form. When the Tyne bridge was washed away in 1771 the prisoners were removed from the Magazine tower upon it to the Close gate. The gate was much damaged in 1644, was repaired by order of the Council in 1648, and finally pulled down in 1797.

From this point the wall rose steeply up the bank to the White Friar tower, which from 1614, was the place of meeting of the Society of Wallers, Bricklayers, and Plasterers, and also the Company of Mettors, who occupied the basement. There are several views of this tower in Richardson's *Table Book*, from which it seems to have had an upper story, but the



WHITE FRIAR TOWER.

views differ so widely that from them alone it is difficult to determine its shape. He also gives a 'restored' view of it, which agrees with his description, that on clearing away the ground from its base they came upon the lower apartment, which had been converted into an ice-house in 1780. This lower story, he says, was found to be octangular, and the superstructure circular.<sup>11</sup> Corbridge's map shows it hexagonal. It was occupied by the Company of Masons

<sup>11</sup> *Table Book*, vol. v. p. 230.



before they removed to the Plummer tower in 1742. The wall near this tower was breached by the Scottish army in 1644, and the tower was taken down in 1840. When removing it, several Roman and other coins, and two Roman altars, were found,<sup>12</sup> also in the



heart of the wall a mason's setting pinch was brought to light. The remains of a human skeleton were found underneath the wall, and another at a little distance from it. Cannon balls and other things were also dug up.<sup>13</sup>

Between the White Friars and the Denton or Nevil towers the wall had two turrets upon it. The Denton tower seems to have been of the normal horse-shoe character, and beside it the White Friars had a postern gate, an illustration of which is given in the *Table Book*, vol. iii. p. 51. The Company of Wallers, Bricklayers, and Plasterers had their meeting place in this tower after they left the White Friars tower. After passing two turrets we reach the West Spital tower, of which there is an etching in T. M. Richardson's *Memorials*, where it is stated that the tower derives its name from St. Mary's hospital, and was thought to have been built by that charity, as in 1290 they obtained a patent for their postern through the town wall. The tower was removed at the time of the demolition of the hospital in 1844.

Then occur two turrets leading up to the Stank tower, of which tower I fail to discover any record.

<sup>12</sup> These are described in the *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, p. 15.

<sup>13</sup> *Table Book*, vol. v. p. 200.

Two more intermediate turrets lead to the Gunner tower, which in 1821 was converted into a hall for the Company of Slaters and Tylers. During the alterations many coins of the reign of Edward the first were found,<sup>14</sup> which might lead to the supposition that this part of the walls was built with the money he granted for the purpose of walling the town.

The Gunner tower was deprived of its top in 1885, when the offices of the Tyne Improvement Commissioners were built, but the base of it yet remains.

One wall turret and then the Pink tower, of which there is an etching by T. M. Richardson, dated 1826, which shows it very similar to the Herber tower, afterwards described. It does not appear to have had an added story at that time, but at the date of its removal it had a room above, which is shown by an engraving of it in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol ii. p. 22, and also in a drawing I made at the time of its demolition. Between the Gunner and Pink towers was a gateway leading to the 'Forth,' which was built in 1715, and removed in 1811.

Another turret and then the West gate. Of this there is an engraving in Brand's *History*, and an etching by Wm. Pybus in the *Memorials of Old Newcastle*. These show the opening to have been arched segmentally, but in the latter view the arch is pointed and ribbed. There was also a footway passage on the north side which was opened out in 1782. Two heavy buttress towers flanked the arch on the west side. The gate was removed in 1812. Brand, following Grey, says this gate is said to have been built by Roger de Thornton, which, if correct, would give the proper meaning to the West gate in the rhyme as applied to the roadway and not to the masonry structure.

'In at the West gate came Thornton in,  
With a happen hapt in a ram's skynn.'

A footway was opened out on the north side of this gate in 1782. It was formerly used as a prison for unruly apprentices.

There were two turrets between this gate and the Durham tower, two between the Durham and Herber, one between the Herber and Ever, and two from that to the Andrew tower, and one beyond to the

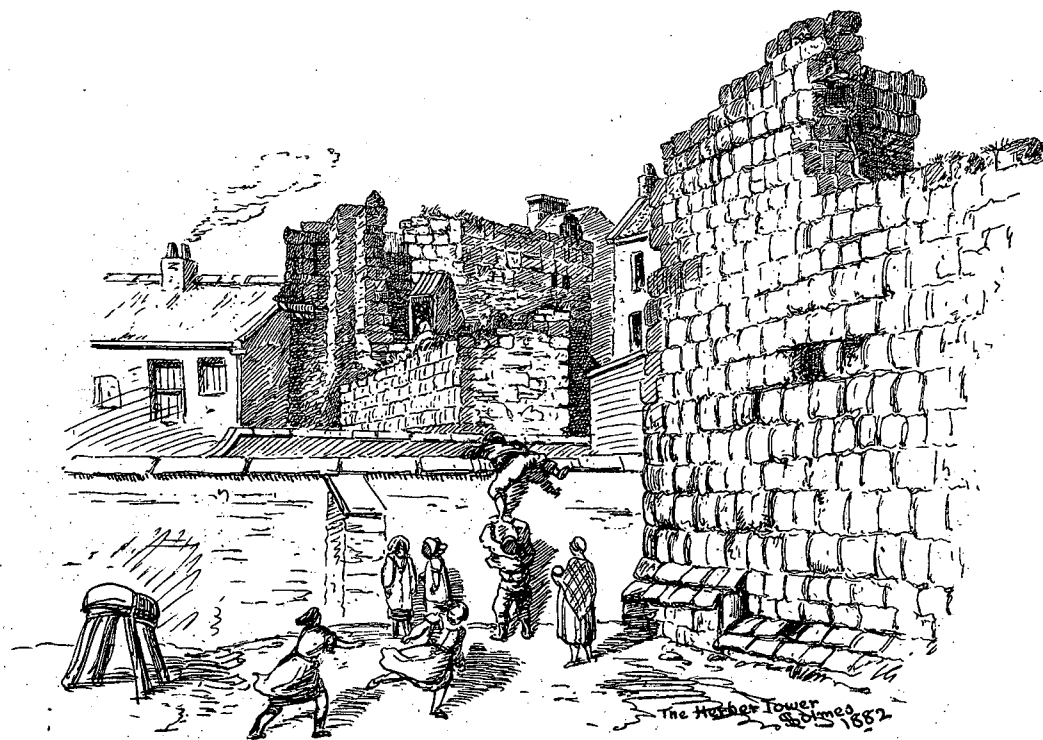
<sup>14</sup> *Table Book*, vol. iii. p. 220.

New gate. The Durham tower now stands in almost a complete state, excepting that the parapet has been destroyed. It is roofed by a pointed Early English arch with three ribs. The interior is rectangular, exterior horse-shoe shaped, with projecting corbels. There has not been any addition to its top. Its present office is a coal and lumber room for the adjoining school, and a doorway has been broken through the outer wall to give access to it.

We now reach the most interesting tower extant, namely, the Heber or Herber tower, which, with very trifling alterations, is now in its original condition, and forms a typical example of the form in which the towers generally were constructed.

On referring to the drawings of it accompanying this paper it will be seen to be of horse-shoe shape, twenty-three feet six inches diameter, projecting beyond the outer face of the wall, with a rectangular interior, sixteen feet eight inches by ten feet, having three splayed openings to arrow slits on the exterior face. This chamber is roofed over by a pointed Early English arch and three projecting ribs. A stairway leads from the interior to the top of the wall and from there to the roof of the tower, which has a flagged floor upon a steepish incline, and is surrounded by its original parapet, which has three splayed embrasures, the returning angles being ornamented by carved heads. On the outer face, at a depth of two feet six inches below the floor level on the top, are corbel stones, two in depth, projecting four feet from the wall, for the purpose of carrying an outer parapet or shield to protect the defenders when casting down stones or other missiles upon those attacking. This tower was the meeting place of the Company of Felt-makers, Curriers, and Armourers. There is a view of it in the *Table Book* (vol. iii. p. 29), dated 1826, which shows it much in the condition in which it remains at the present time. It is now occupied as a blacksmith's shop.

The Morden tower has been similar to the Herber, but had an upper chamber added in 1619 to form the meeting place of the Company of Plumbers, Glaziers, and Pewterers. It was further added to in 1700 when the company built an inner face of brickwork to it. Suspended from a bracket in the hall was a cannon ball painted and gilded which has recently been presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, and is now in the Black gate museum. This was pro-

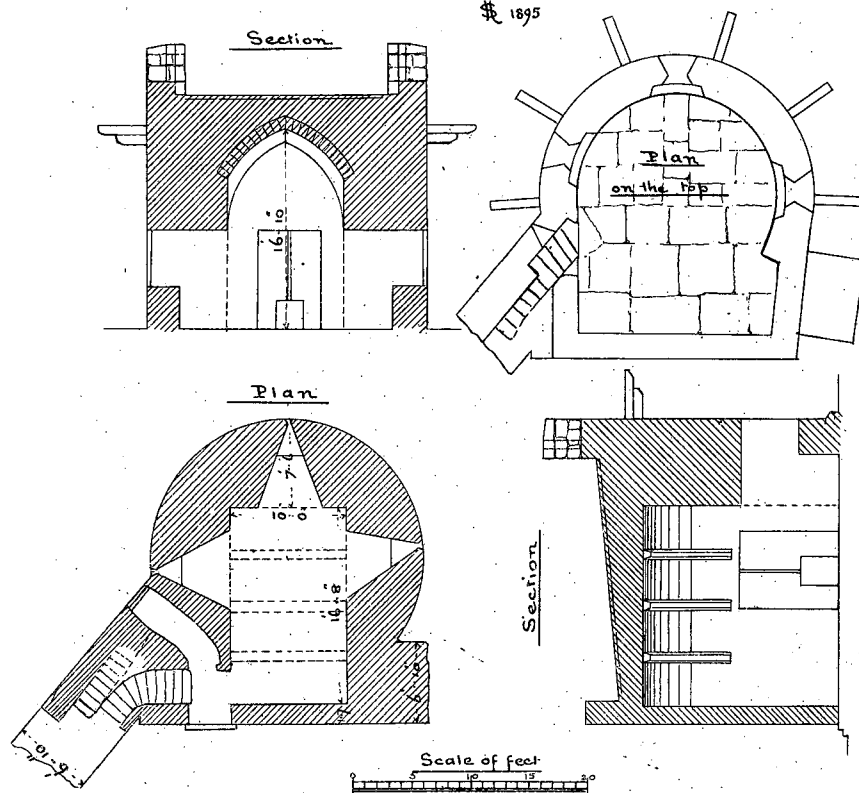




HEBER TOWER

Plate V.

1895





bably a relic of the siege by the Scottish army in 1644. It was found embedded in the wall when the alterations were made. The two chambers of the tower are now occupied as dwellings.<sup>15</sup>

Between the Herber and Morden towers there are two ancient arched openings through the wall. The larger one, five feet wide, would I think be for the Black Friars' postern.

The Ever tower has been greatly mutilated, the arch torn away and a three-storied stone building placed upon it. It forms a portion of the tanning premises adjoining, and the ground has been raised on the outer face which converts it into a cellar. Notwithstanding its filthy condition it was recently the abode of a well-known character who went by the name of 'Hairy Nanny.' Formerly it was the hall of the Company of Colliers, Pavours, and Carriage-men.

Brand says: 'This was built by some of the ancient family of Eure, or Ever, lords of Kirkley, near the river Blyth, and barons of Witton, in the county of Durham.'<sup>16</sup> So that the present name Ever would seem to be a perpetuation of the original pronunciation of the name Eure.

The Andrew tower was destroyed between the years 1827 and 1830. An etching of it by T. M. Richardson shows that it had not been added to. There is also a similar view of it in the *Table Book*, vol. ii. p. 256, dated 1818.

We now reach the most important fabric on the line of the wall, New gate, of which a great number of views are given in Brand's *History*, Richardson's etchings, and engravings in the *Table Book*. The original gate consisted of a massive tower, with semi-octangular buttresses at the angles, the opening being vaulted and diagonally ribbed. Previous to 1390 this was supplemented by the construction of a barbican and connecting walls on its northern front, which gave the name by which it was afterwards known, though, according to Brand, the original gateway bore the name of the Berwick gate. Above the archway of the later erection there were three ancient shields of arms, St. George's cross, the arms of England with fleurs-de-lis

<sup>15</sup> By an ordinary of September 1, 1536, the Company of Goldsmiths was incorporated with the Plumbers, Glaziers, and Pewterers, but separated from them in 1717. Arms of Incorporated Companies.

<sup>16</sup> Brand's *Newcastle*, vol. i. p. 12.

<sup>17</sup> Compare maps of Wood and Oliver of these dates.



semée, and those of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and above these shields, in a pedimented niche, stood the statue of a king, supposed to be James the first, which, in its sadly decayed condition, occupies a place in the guard chamber of the castle. This portion of the northern façade appears to have been rebuilt in Jacobean times. In 1822 an Act of Parliament was obtained for its removal, which was immediately afterwards accomplished. In 1400, when Newcastle was made a county of itself, and took charge of its own prisoners, the towers of the older gate were used as a gaol. When the structure was destroyed the felons were removed to the cells of the county courts, and the debtors to the castle. In an account of the demolition of 1823, by M. A. Richardson, he says, 'By the end of May the greatest part of the barbican had been removed. In June the demolition of the east wing of the inner gate was commenced, and was speedily followed by the west wing (both erected between the years 1702-6), with the remains of the barbican. The original gate was thus nearly isolated.'<sup>18</sup> There is considerable difficulty in reconciling the various views, and ascertaining what was meant by the wings. Some of the views show a flanking tower on the east side of the older building, and probably there would be a similar one on the west side. The view in the *Table Book*, vol. i. p. 402, appears to show them both, in which case they were flanking towers built on each side of the southern face of the older gateway. The *Table Book* proceeds to record that 'the portcullis which remained here until the final demolition of the gate, was the last existing in Newcastle. It was of oak, with spikes strongly shod with iron, and of an enormous weight.' 'In this portion were found many cannon balls of large size, and deep sunk into the wall.'<sup>19</sup> In a footnote it states 'the portcullis is now at Blagdon.'

From New gate to the Bertram Momboucher tower there were two wall turrets, then three to the Ficket tower, and two more to Pilgrim gate.

The Momboucher tower is figured in the *Table Book*, vol. iii. p. 293, where the face of the tower seems to be in line with the outer face of the town wall, which is unlikely. This tower and the next one, with the connecting wall up to Pilgrim gate, were taken down in

<sup>18</sup> *Table Book*, vol. iii. p. 272.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 273.

1824, for the formation of Blackett street, the stones being used for the sewer along that street. The Ficket tower, which occupied the site of the St. James's chapel portico, near the Grey monument, must, if Richardson's etching of it be a correct representation, have been in a state of complete dilapidation before it was pulled down. Corbridge's map shows a postern near this tower.

Pilgrim gate, so named, says Gray in his *Chorographia*, 'because of Pilgrims Lodging in that Street; and went out of that Gate to the Shrine of the Virgin *Mary* in *Gesmond*; to which Place, with great confluence and Devotion, people came from all parts of this Land, in that time of Superstition.'<sup>20</sup> In 1659, and again in 1716, this gate was repaired and 'beautified' by the Company of Joiners who held their meetings in it. Brand gives a view of the south front, and Richardson one of the north front of this gate. The roadway arch was very low, and carts had frequently to be partly unloaded to get through it.

The arch was pointed and ribbed, and there were footway openings on each side at some distance from the centre one. It was removed in 1802, and in pulling it down a cannon ball was found lodged in the masonry. The wall between Pilgrim gate and the Carliol tower was taken down in 1811.

From this tower forward there were three turrets to the Carliol tower, four to the Austin, two to the Plummer, one between that and the Corner tower, and one more to Pandon gate.

The Carliol tower was the meeting place of the Weavers' Company, who repaired it in 1682. In 1823 the building was considerably altered by the same company, and while the workmen were engaged in clearing away the accumulation of earth over the ditch on the outside of the tower several skeletons were found huddled together, and in the skull of one of them was a cannon ball. A twenty-four pound cannon ball was also found lodged two and a half feet deep in the wall.

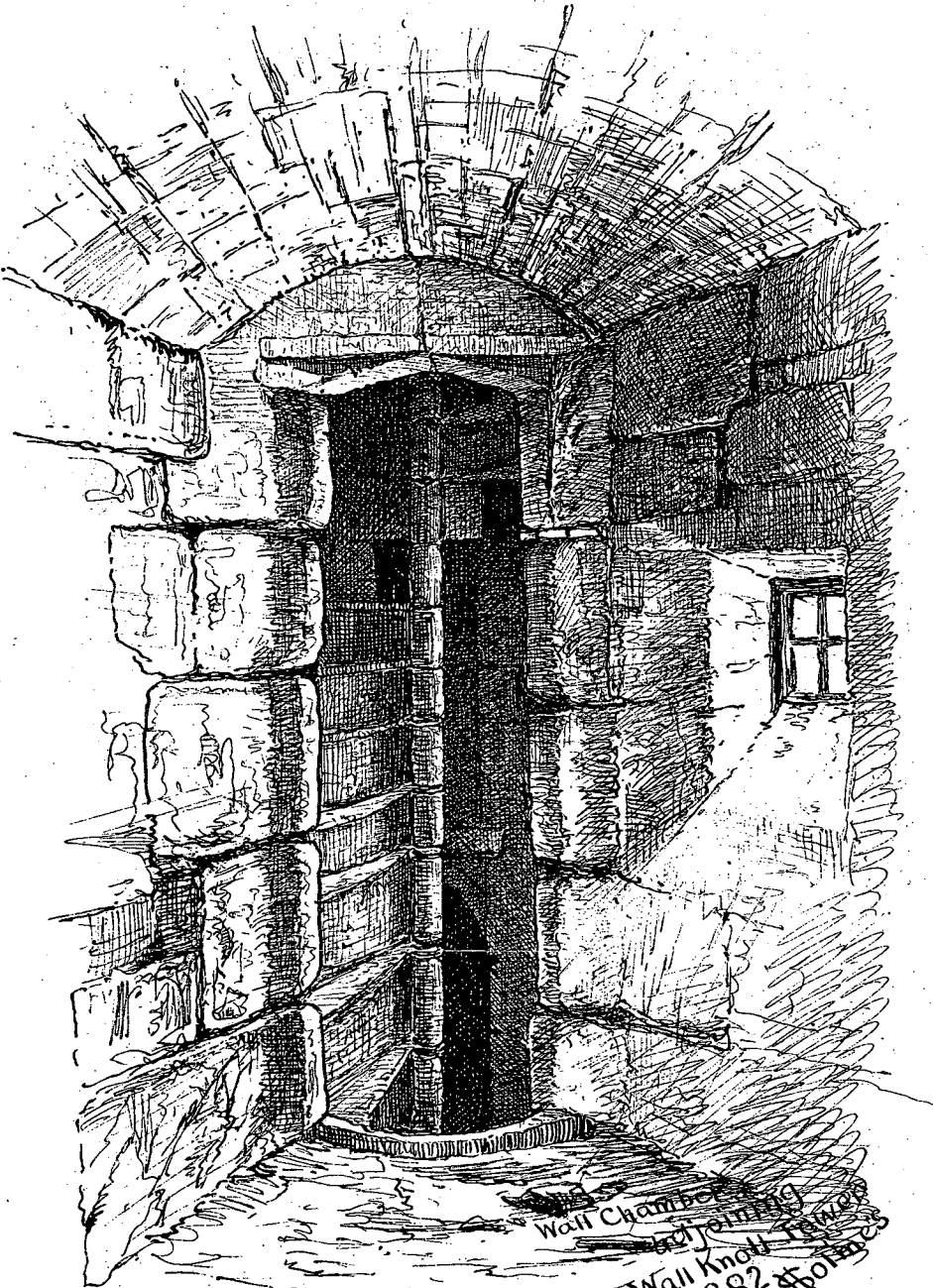
Richardson gives an etching of the front of the tower which shows it much in the condition it was in at the time of its demolition in 1880, when it was removed to make way for the Public Library building. The builders of the earlier portion, erected for a Mechanics' Institute, respected the ancient relic, and adapted its shape to the

<sup>20</sup> *Chorographia* (Newcastle, 1649), p. 8.

preservation of the tower; but to make way for the buildings added for the library it was swept away entirely. In the *Table Book* are representations of it. A front view in 1800 before it had the pointed windows inserted, and a view of the outer portion in 1783 show the wall with its three turrets along to Pilgrim gate. This tower, though of the prevailing horse-shoe form, seems to have been of a more imposing character than the others, and had been divided by an intermediate floor which may have been original. The upper arched chamber, for some years the meeting place of a musical and fine arts club, under the name of the 'Bats,' was barrel-arched with projecting ribs. Of this there exists a drawing by the late John Storey, of which the frontispiece is a reproduction (see plate I). A staircase tower at the west angle contained a newel stair communicating with the upper chamber and the roof.

The Plummer tower was granted to the Company of Masons in 1742, previously to which it bore the name of the Cutlers' tower or Carlel-croft tower. In 1750 the masons built an ornate ashlar front of classic design to the tower, but in their alterations they destroyed the original arched top. The outer circular face has evidently been altered at various times, loopholes having been enlarged to window size and again blocked up. In making their alterations the Masons' Company had apparently used two kinds of stone, one for the flat ashlar face work, including doors and the lower windows, the other for their enrichments in pilasters, cornices, etc., so that whilst the former remains in sound and good condition the latter is in a state of utter decay from weather action. Attached to this tower is a short length of the town wall within which is an arched chamber which, at one time, had been entered from the tower. This, I think, has been a similar chamber to the one at the Wall Knoll afterwards described, but it has been widened by digging into the wall faces on each side. T. M. Richardson gives an etching of this tower much in its present condition. The two chambers are now occupied as dwellings.

The Austin tower. This tower evidently had its name from its vicinity to the house of Austin Friars. It has been, successively, the hall of the Millers and Coopers, and afterwards of the Ropers who repaired it in 1698. It was taken down to make room for the terminal station of the Newcastle and North Shields railway in 1836



Wall Chamber  
The Wall Knott Tower  
1882



or 7, as the parliamentary plan of that railway appears to show it standing in 1835. The wall then descended to the Corner tower, from which originally it would go direct to the river, leaving the town of Pandon outside on the east. This, although one of the wards of the town,<sup>21</sup> seems never to have been a tower proper, but merely an L-shaped turret with a covered way through it, and the top corbelled out on both sides for parapets. It is now in a very ruinous condition.

Pandon gate comes next. It was occupied by the Company of Barber Surgeons until 1648 when their new hall in the Manors was built. The only illustration I can find of it is in the *Table Book*, which is stated to be from a drawing by the late Rev. Mr. Hornby. This shows a single archway for traffic, and near the top a curiously flat arched opening with a corresponding smaller semicircular opening on the opposite face. The hall windows must have faced north as there are no windows shown on the south side of the gate. The gateway was defended by folding iron gates, but had no portcullis. It was pulled down in 1795. A further description of the structure will be found in the *Table Book*, vol ii. p. 374.

Between Pandon gate and the Wall Knoll the wall had one turret, and four between that and Sand gate.

The Wall Knoll tower (plate VI.), attributed by Grey and Bourne to Roman times, is only, in its oldest portion, coeval with the town wall which abuts upon it at each side. This is clearly shown by the similarity and continuity of the masonry, and by the angular bond stones connecting the two, which are cut to form the angle of junction. The original tower is a rectangular building, twenty-eight feet long by twenty-five feet six inches wide, with an interior room, eighteen feet ten inches by fourteen feet nine inches, loopholed on the three outer faces, and vaulted over by a flat pointed stone arch. In the south-west angle of the tower is a newel stairway which formerly led to the embattled roof, and at an intermediate height communicated, by means of an arched doorway, with a chamber in the town wall which was twelve feet long by three feet nine inches wide, lighted to the south by a small window. See plan (plate VII.). The tower base has been enlarged for the construction above it of a hall for the Society of Carpenters or Shipwrights, which was built in 1716 the

<sup>21</sup> Account of the wards in the archives of the Corporation.

original top of the tower having been removed for the purpose. The whole building had a narrow escape from destruction in 1882, when the new roads were formed, and was much shaken and cracked at that time, but is now securely seated upon massive buttresses. The present occupant, Mrs. Isabella Gleghorn, informs me that a stairway leads down from the foot of the newel stair. This is now filled up, but might possibly have led to a lower chamber, and it would be interesting to ascertain whether, if so, there were any remains of Roman work in it. On the east side of the tower is an arched passage through the town wall, protected by folding doors, which was named the Sally-port. Another tower named the Habkin is mentioned in this district. It was allied with the Wall Knoll tower in the apportionment of the wards of the town.<sup>22</sup> The reference on Bourne's map of the Wall Knoll tower names it the Carpenters' tower, Wall Knoll and Habkin tower.<sup>23</sup>

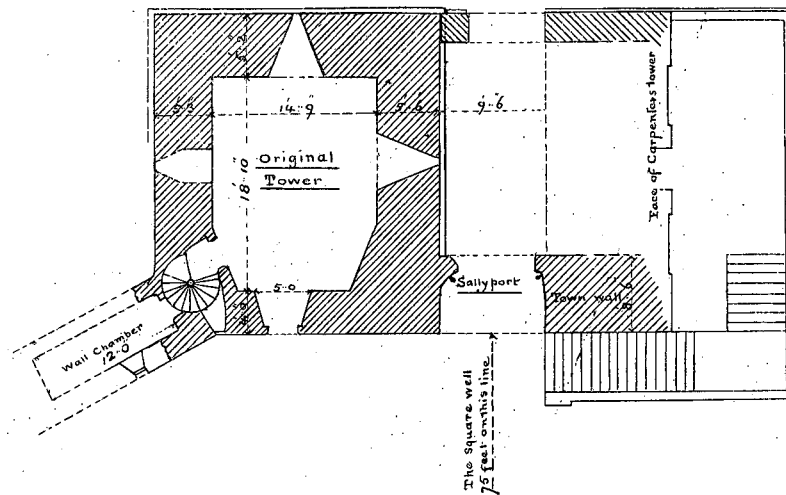
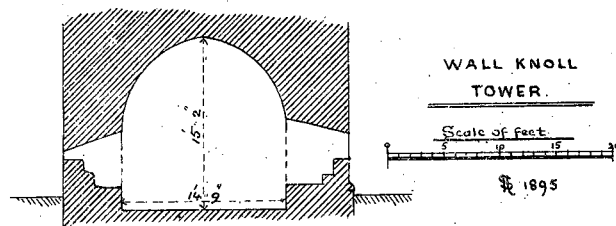
From this point the wall descended steeply to the Sand gate, of which there is an etching in Richardson's *Memorials* and a similar engraving in the *Table Book* showing a tower of two storeys over the archway with a footway opening on one side. It was taken down in 1798. From here the wall ran along the quay to the buildings near the end of Tyne bridge. It had seven openings in it of a small character, though Corbridge's and Bourne's maps show a larger opening or gateway at the foot of the Broad chare.<sup>24</sup> This portion of the wall was almost swept away in 1839 on the occasion of a heavy flood in the river when one hundred and sixty-seven lives were lost.<sup>25</sup> In 1762 the Corporation petitioned the Crown and got leave to take down the wall from Sand gate to the Sandhill and to use the stone in the re-erection of St. Ann's chapel, the ancient building having become ruinous. The Water gate stood at the north end of Tyne bridge. It is shown on Corbridge's and Bourne's maps, and from the latter appears to have been a hexagonal structure of stately proportions. The bridge had also two other towers or gateways upon

<sup>22</sup> Brand's *Newcastle*, vol. i. p. 17 n. Could this have been the tower alluded to by Grey as the Roman tower?

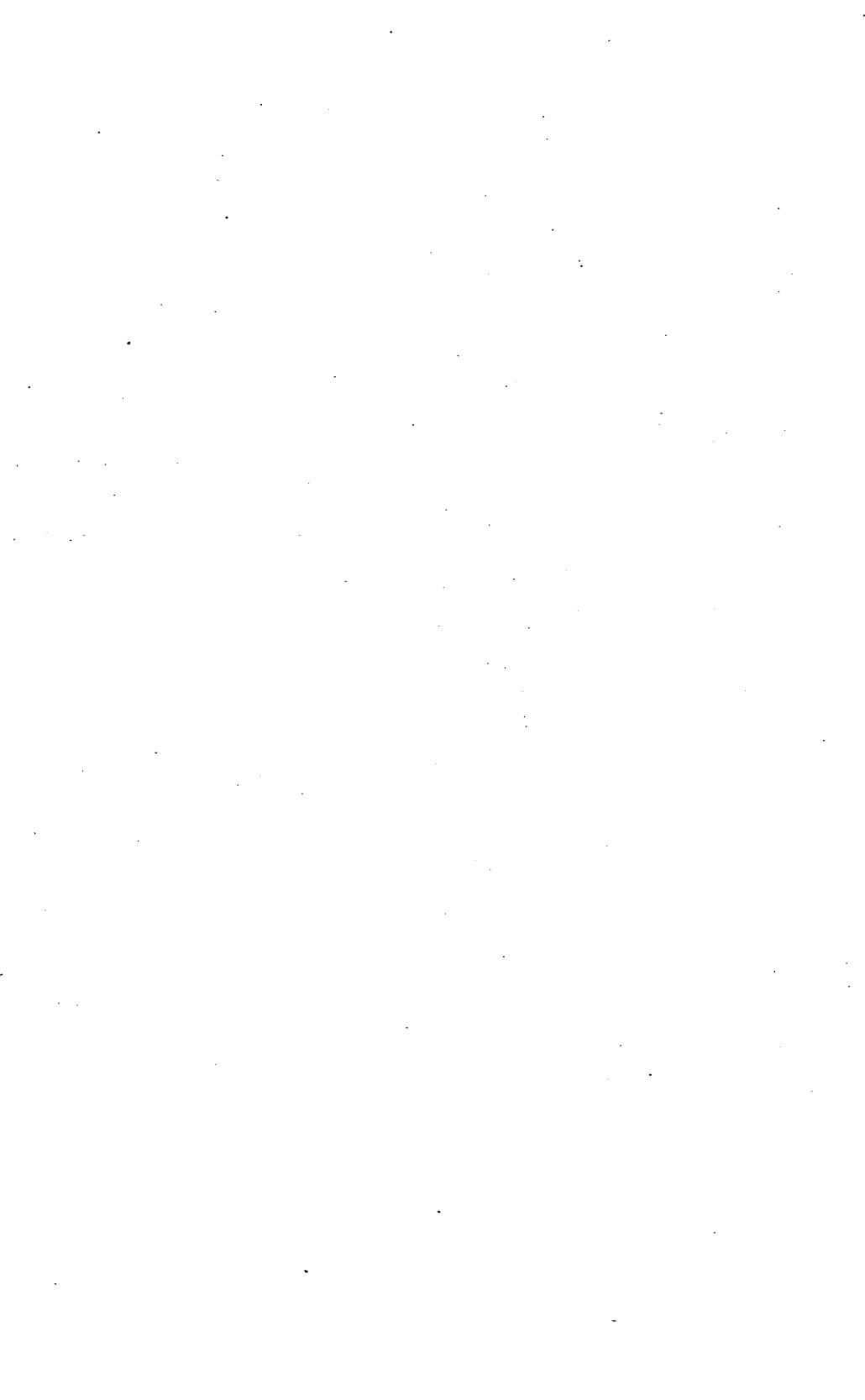
<sup>23</sup> Could this have been the tower alluded to by Grey as the Roman tower?

<sup>24</sup> This larger opening is not shown on the MS. view of 1638. It was therefore probably constructed some time between that date and the time when Bourne wrote in 1736.

<sup>25</sup> *Table Book*, vol. i. p. 116.







it; the Magazine tower, which stood upon the third water pier from the north end, was erected in 1636 and taken down in 1771, and the Bishop of Durham's tower at the south end. The wall then continued on the river face along to the tower near the Close gate.

Leland's *Itinerary* alludes to the building of this portion of the wall, and Brand mentions that the wall continued along here. But on the MS. draught of the walls preserved in the London Record office it is clearly shown, extending from the Close tower to where houses are built on the river face, and beyond that it appears to form the foundations for these houses.

#### PRESENT CONDITION.

The present condition of the walls, etc., may be thus summarised. Commencing at the river side, where formerly stood a rectangular tower, the foundation walls of which I saw exposed in 1872, when a trench had been cut for the purpose of laying in pipes, but of which and the Close gate no traces now remain above ground. From the Close gate a portion of the wall in a ragged condition, but with some of the parapet work remaining, goes up the steep bank towards where stood the White Friar tower.

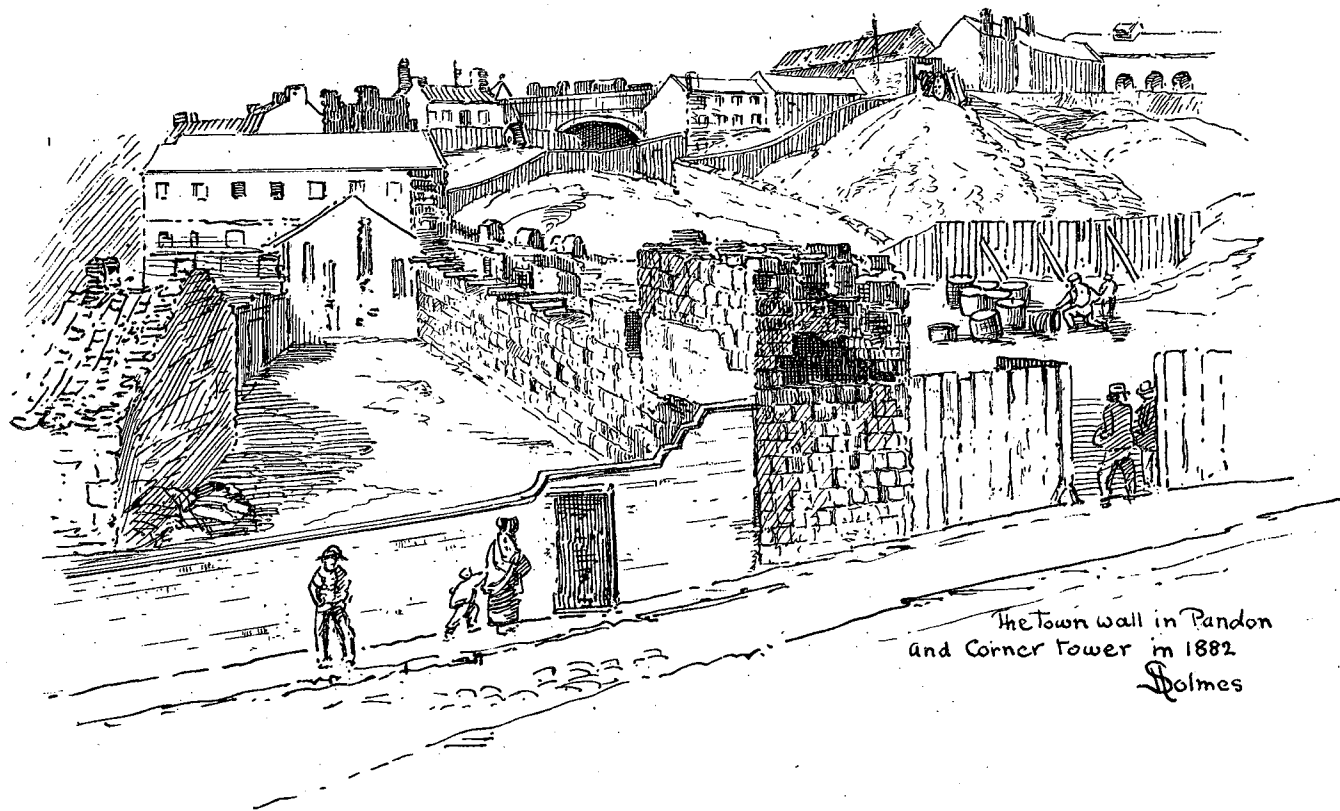
From a little beyond this tower, along the back of the Orchard street houses, the wall remains in very good condition, with its parapet standing where not incorporated with later buildings. Until within the last three years, when ground was required for station extension, there was much more of the wall in this length of it standing.

A considerable gap now occurs. The Denton, Stank, West Spital, Gunner, and Pink towers, with their connecting wall, having all disappeared, with the sole exception of the base of the Gunner tower, which yet occupies its position behind the office buildings of the River Tyne Commissioners. The Stank tower stood on the line of the eastern face of the Central Station portico. From near the site of the West gate to St. Andrew's churchyard there is an almost continuous length of the wall remaining in very good condition, broken only by openings for Stowell and Heron streets, and having its original loopholed parapet standing, though in it there are many evidences of alterations and rebuilding. In it are the Durham, Herber, Morden,

and Ever towers, previously described, and two of the wall turrets in a moderately complete state, also the two ancient arched passages through the wall. In St. Andrew's churchyard are two detached portions on each side of the site of the Andrew tower, the more westerly portion having upon it the remains of two of the turrets, which are shown in the engraving in Brand's *History of Newcastle*, and the other, along by the back of the baths building, a turret almost in a complete condition. The masonry of this portion of the wall bears evidence, in the character of the work, of having been almost rebuilt at a time much later than the date of the original work. Nothing now remains of the wall until reaching the Plummer tower at the foot of Croft street, the Momboucher and Ficket towers and their connecting wall along to Pilgrim gate having been swept away for the foundation of Blackett street, and beyond that to the Carloli tower for New Bridge street. Croft street occupies the forward position of the wall to the Plummer tower, which yet remains in its mutilated condition. Beyond this the railway and gaol works have cleared away all traces of the wall with the Austin tower down to the Corner tower, which yet stands, but in a sadly dilapidated condition and tottering to its fall. A portion of the wall a little further on forms the lower part of the end of a large warehouse. Then every trace is obliterated by the formation of the Pandon new roads, until reaching Wall Knoll tower on its commanding situation, rendered the more so from having been completely isolated and perched like an ancient sentinel up the top of its massive retaining buttresses. Beyond this point all trace of the walls must be sought for in history and that only.

#### REMOVALS FOR PANDON NEW ROADS.

Although nothing now remains beyond the works hitherto described, it may be of interest hereafter to know what did exist immediately previous to the destruction occasioned by the formation of the new roads in Pandon by the Corporation in the year 1881. When these works were about to be commenced I was requested by the society to keep watch over them, and to note anything of interest which might be revealed during their progress. This I did from time to time, making notes and drawings as the walls were cleared of the



The town wall in Pandon  
and corner tower in 1882  
Holmes



adjoining houses and the excavations carried through the Wall Knoll, with the intention of writing a notice of them for the society. As, however, another member of the society, who also took a lively interest in the alterations, and who visited the works occasionally, wrote a short paper upon them, which was printed in the *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. x. I thought it inadvisable to do anything further in the matter at that time. The following account of the alterations embodies the notes I took at the time.

When the houses were cleared away for the purpose of founding the large retaining walls for supporting the embankment of the new road, a very interesting length of the town wall was exposed to view, extending from near the Corner tower to Sandgate, and forward up the hill to the Wall Knoll tower. This was built of the usual large square-faced block-work characteristic of the walls generally, with a chamfered course forming the cap of the extra thickness of wall towards its base. From below the Corner tower to Sandgate the wall stood to its original height, and had upon it portions of the outer parapet. It was eight feet six inches in breadth, and upon its inner face were heavily projecting stone corbels, three stones in depth, which would probably have carried an inner parapet, and so have allowed more top width of wall. About midway in this length was a segmentally arched opening through the wall, allowing a passage for the Pandon stream, the opening of which was ten feet wide and eight feet six inches in depth from the springing of the arch, which had a versed sine of two feet three inches. The chamfered base course of the wall had been neatly stepped down to the level of the opening, and through the opening the Pandon sewer had been carried at a later date. In clearing the mud from the fosse for the retaining wall foundations, a line of riven oak stakes was brought to light. These were eighteen inches to two feet apart, and at a distance of eight feet from the face of the wall. The stakes were four feet long by four to six inches square. As they were merely stuck into the mud of the ditch, and not pointed at the top as spikes, it is difficult to imagine what purpose they could have served.

Pandon gateway had its western abutment standing, and this, with the exception of a few of the top casing stones, I prevailed upon the contractor to spare, and consequently it remains deeply buried for a future race of antiquaries.

Between Pandon gate and the Wall Knoll tower the wall which had served for the backs of the houses built up to it, was in fairly good condition, but not to the full height generally. At one place in this length a curious feature occurred, the wall having a foul junction of its parts, the face of one portion ranging in line with the back of that adjoining, and the two pieces of walling ending squarely where so joined, thus



The walling here was founded in strong clay by ill-built rubble work, at a very slight depth below the surface, and without any trace of having been previously occupied by the Roman wall, with which repeated surmise had accredited it.<sup>26</sup> Similarly, the Wall Knoll tower, which both Grey and Bourne ascribe to Roman times, was, in its oldest portion, only the age of the town wall abutting upon it as previously noted.



From the Wall Knoll tower to the foot of the Causey bank the wall appeared to be double, the two walls forming the front and backs of houses between them. Of these the more westerly one was evidently the original, as it had the inner corbels indicative of the base of a turret. The other had, however, been built of similar shaped stones, and as the two walls came together at the foot of the bank at a very-acute angle, it seems unlikely that it had been built for the purpose of forming the front walls of the houses.

On making the excavations in Pandon opposite the 'New Road,' two of the stone figures which had graced the coping of the wall turrets, were found. These are now in the Castle, as are also a cannon ball and other objects found there. Within the wall a circular-chamber was dug into, which had probably communicated with the

<sup>26</sup> Grey's *Chorographia*; Bourne's *History of Newcastle*.

floor of a house by means of a shaft. And from this chamber, running under the wall to the outside, was a driftway or passage lined with wood, the uprights and head timbers of which seemed to be old boat spars mortised and tenoned into each other. In the chamber was a cask, the aroma from which was strongly suggestive of whisky or some other spirit. This seemed to have been an ingenious device of some enterprising smuggler to get his goods introduced into the town free of tollage.

On the Wall Knoll were some remains of the monastic buildings, forming the bases of the brick houses and stables built upon them. These had in them portions of door and window casings, and some of the tracery of the chapel windows was brought to light. On digging through the deep covering of rubbish the fine rich soil of the former monastery gardens was reached, with an apple tree *in situ* which had been buried up, and at its foot a buried cat and dog. Several human skeletons of bodies which had been buried here were also found. A well having some curious features about it was discovered on the edge of the high ground twenty-five yards south of the tower. It was rectangular, with the sides four feet ten inches and six feet eight inches, arched over with brick and stone lined. A portion of it was narrower than the general width, and this was covered by a circular stone like a millstone, five feet diameter and nine inches thick, with a square hole through its centre. An entrance had been left in the arched roof of the well, and in it were some lengths of cast iron piping three inches diameter with flanged joints. The oak timber stays of which had become quite black from age. A culvert of curious construction led towards the well. It had flat slabs of stone forming the bottom, on which rested stones cut out in the form of a semicircular arch eighteen inches diameter internally, and uniformly three inches and a half thick. The stones were truly dressed inside and out, and why the exterior portions of them should have been cut away at considerable expence of labour and a decrease of strength it is difficult to make out. They may have originally been designed for some other purpose and afterwards used as drain covers.