

THE GATEWAY OF TYNEMOUTH CASTLE IN 1773, FROM THE INTERIOR.
(Reproduced from the copperplate in Grose's *Antiquities of England and Wales*.)

V.—TYNEMOUTH CASTLE AFTER THE DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERY.

By HORATIO A. ADAMSON, a Vice-President of the Society.

[Read on the 27th November and 18th December, 1895.]

ON the 12th of January, 1539, Robert Blakeney, prior of the monastery of Tynemouth and his convent, with their unanimous assent and consent, and of their mere motion, and of their free will and accord from certain just and reasonable causes, especially touching their souls and consciences, surrendered to their illustrious prince and lord in Christ, Henry the eighth, the monastery of the order of St. Benedict with all its extensive possessions—so reads the deed of surrender. When we know of the cruel death of the venerable abbot of Glastonbury and his subsequent dismemberment for his refusal to surrender his abbey, we can better understand the motive which actuated the prior and his convent to surrender their monastery. Prior Blakeney was the last of a long line of priors who had carried on their religious work upon the bold and bleak promontory which jutted into the North Sea at the entrance to the river Tyne.

It is not my intention to enter into the causes which led to the surrender, or the ruthless manner in which the illustrious prince dealt with the monasteries which he suppressed in the years 1536 and 1539. It is a humiliating chapter in our history.

Prior Blakeney retired to his manor house at Benwell on a pension which is stated by some authorities to have been £50 and by others £80 a year.

Within the walls of the castle at the time of the dissolution of the monastery stood the stately church dedicated to SS. Mary and Oswin; one portion, the beautiful Transitional east end, with its imposing lancet windows, was the monastic church; the other portion, to the westward of, but only separated from it by a screen, was the parochial church, the ruins of which are the first to meet the eye of the visitor as he enters the gate of the castle. They occupy the nave of the Norman church. In addition to the church there were the usual monastic buildings, which are shown in a plan drawn

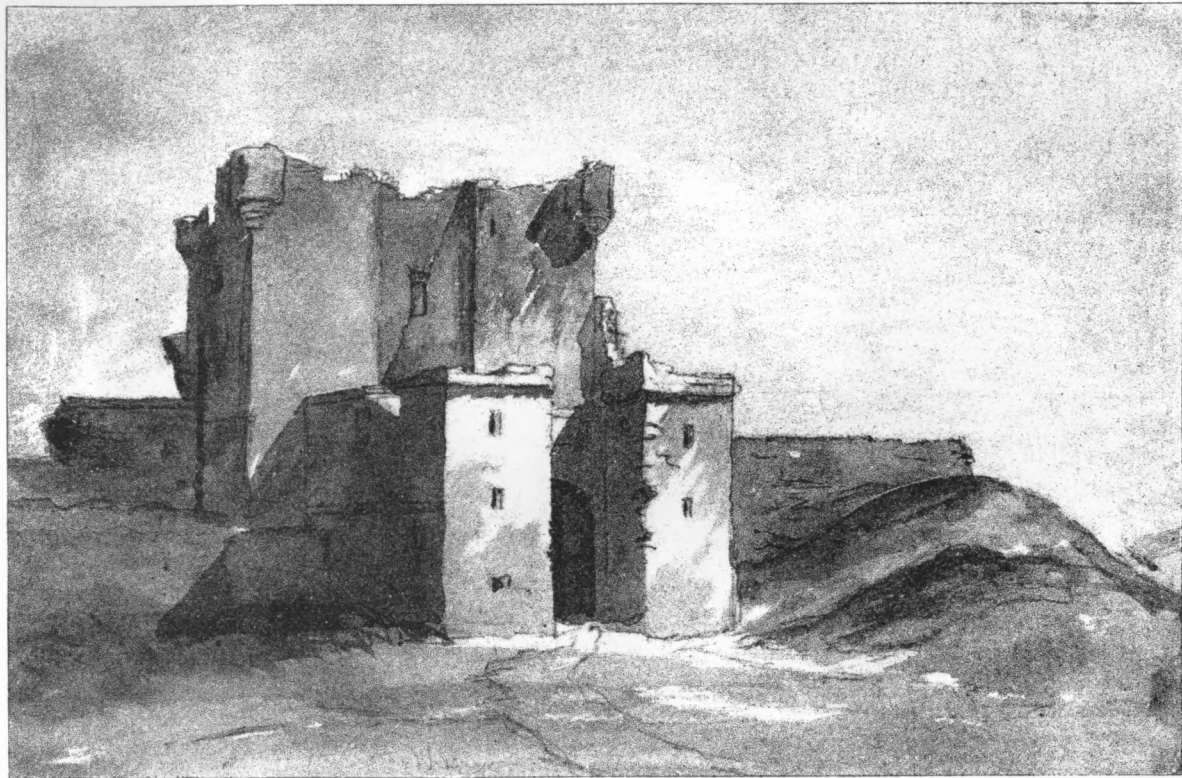
in the time of queen Elizabeth, to which I shall hereafter refer.¹ I think it may be assumed that the buildings shown upon this plan were all standing at the time of the dissolution of the monastery. Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the throne in 1558, and it is improbable any constructive work would be carried on in the short period of twenty years ; that there was much destructive work on the priory church we know too well.

The monastery remained in the hands of the king for about two months. On the 9th of March, 1539, it, with all its buildings within the site and precincts of the same, was demised to sir Thomas Hilton, knight, for twenty-one years, at an annual rent of £163 1s. 5d. The king reserved the castle, with the herbage of the castle dyke or foss. Sir Thomas Hilton was high sheriff of Northumberland in 1548. He was one of the Hiltons of Hilton castle, near Sunderland, and was four times married, but died childless. The castle was in the custody of a constable for the king's use.

In 1543 the king granted a commission to sir Richard Lee, Antonio de Bergoman and John Thomas Scala, Italians, experts in the skill of fortifications, to view the state of Tynemouth. In preparation for an invasion of Scotland in March, 1544, John Dudley, lord high admiral, came round to Tynemouth with a fleet of two hundred ships, from which they sailed with ten thousand men for the Firth of Forth. In the following year, while the war with Scotland was still pending, the earl of Shrewsbury and his colleagues reported that they had taken measures for protecting the 'new fortifications' at Tynemouth, and had directed a cannon, a saker, two falcons, and two slings to be sent thither from Newcastle. Among the English army at this time was a number of mercenaries. There were fifteen hundred Spaniards and five hundred Spanish *hackbutiers* (horsemen).² Whether the 'new fortifications' were those at the Spanish battery or were in the castle itself I am not aware. It is probable the Spanish battery may have obtained its name from some of the Spanish troops having been quartered in it. The earl of Hertford wrote to the king about the disposal of the hot-blooded southrons, and suggested that they should be placed at Newcastle, as they grumbled about being kept near the borders.

In 1550, Tynemouth is mentioned as being 'one of the King's Majesty's Castles and fortresses within the Middle Marches.'

¹ See p. 77. ² *Hackbutiers* were also foot soldiers armed with the arquebus.



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TYNEMOUTH CASTLE. *Circa 1780.*

FROM A DRAWING IN THE COLLECTION OF THE SOCIETY.



There is a grant on the 8th December, 1551, from king Edward the sixth to Dudley, earl of Warwick, who was created duke of Northumberland, of the site, circuit, compass, and precincts of the late monastery of Tynemouth, and all the demesne lands, which had been leased to sir Thomas Hilton. No mention is made in this grant of the castle; but in the following year the duke of Northumberland exchanged the site of the monastery, *with the castle of Tynemouth*, for lands in Wilts, York, and Norfolk.

Queen Mary, on the 16th August, 1557, demised to Thomas, earl of Northumberland, for twenty-one years, from the feast of the Annunciation in 1560, the monastery. This was the year in which the lease to sir Thomas Hilton would expire. In the summer of 1559 sir Henry Percy was appointed by queen Elizabeth to the charge of Tynemouth castle upon the death of sir Thomas Hilton. In a letter, dated 10th January, 1559/60, from the queen to the duke of Norfolk, she says:—‘We did the last sommer appoynt Sir Henry Percy Kt: upon the death of Sir T. Hilton to take charge of Tynemouth, being a place necessary to be well guarded and sene to.’ Sir Henry Percy felt his position as governor of the castle an onerous one. In a despatch written from the camp before Leith, on 30th April, 1560, he says:—‘And as for mine own affairs which I have long troubled you in, I mean Tynemouth, I pray you let me not be burthened with so weighty a place as I am and so small Commission to rule the same by, for you know I have kept it this twelve months almost at mine own charges which is too sore a burthen for a younger brother of my ability.’ He did not succeed to the earldom of Northumberland until 1572. On the 13th December, 1561 (third Elizabeth), the queen, by patent, granted to sir Henry Percy the office of governor of the castle, which, it is stated, had been constructed in the place where the monastery lately existed. Tynemouth castle was used as a state prison. In 1563-4, James Hepburn, earl of Bothwell, afterwards the third husband of Mary, queen of Scots, was confined in the castle under the charge of sir Henry Percy.

Sir Henry Percy must have spent several years at Tynemouth as governor of the castle. He married his cousin Catherine, eldest daughter of John Nevill, last lord Latimer. His son, Henry Percy, afterwards ninth earl of Northumberland, was born at Tynemouth

on the 21st of April, 1564. His son, Thomas, was born there on the 19th of March, 1565, and his daughter, Lucy, in 1567. In a letter which sir Henry Percy wrote on the 27th October, 1566, to sir William Cecil, he made a most extraordinary proposal for the removal of the parish church from the castle. In his letter he said, 'I have already told you the annoyance to this House by the Parish Church being within it and much frequented by the Strangers who visit the Haven. At my request Sir Rich: Lee has inspected it and can report on the cost of a new one and the value of this towards it.' Happily, the suggested act of vandalism was not carried out, or one of our most interesting landmarks would have disappeared.

In 1570, queen Elizabeth granted to sir Henry Percy a new patent of the governorship of the castle upon more favourable terms, and with reversion to his two eldest sons, Henry and Thomas Percy. The receiver of Northumberland was to pay the following fees at Lady Day and Michaelmas :—

To the Captain	£100	0	0
To the Master Gunner, 12d. per diem	18	5	0
To 8 other Gunners, at 6d. per diem	73	0	0
To 11 Household Servants, each £6 13s. 4d. per ann.	73	6	8

£264 11 8

Sir Henry Percy was soon to experience a reverse in the royal favour. On the 23rd October, 1571, orders were issued from the Privy Council to sir John Forster to apprehend sir Henry Percy, and to visit Tynemouth castle and report upon its condition. On the 25th October sir John Forster wrote from Seaton Delaval to the Council as follows:—'On your letter for apprehending Sir Henry Percy I sent letters to all suspicious places. I then went myself to all places where I thought he would be likely to repair as Tynemouth. . . . I thought it good to continue the watches a little longer and doubting Tynemouth Castle most, lest he should come thither and keep himself secretly and there take ship and so pass over the seas. I went thither but only found John Metcalf a rebel, late Servant to the Earl of Northumberland who went with him into Scotland, standing at the gates with his keys in his hand, who declared he was the porter, and Thomas Dicam, another Servant of Sir Henry Percy. As I disliked Metcalf I appointed certain men

to remain there with them.' On the receipt of another letter as to the condition of the castle, which was stated to have been greatly neglected, and the ordnance almost useless, Percy was committed to the Tower. In the following year he was indicted for conspiring with others for the delivery of Mary, queen of Scots, out of the custody of the earl of Shrewsbury. He confessed his guilt, and a fine of five thousand marks was imposed on him. In April, 1572, Henry, lord Hunsdon, wrote to lord Burghley and said, 'Sir John Forster hopes to get the keeping of Tynemouth for Sir Francis Russell and has sent him up, and I know of promises made for some officer thereof.'

On the 12th August, 1583, sir Valentine Browne wrote to secretary Walsingham, and urged for the good of her majesty and our country that he should visit Newcastle, with the river and fort standing upon the mouth of the haven, which was called Tynemouth abbey, and so along the sea coast.

In 1584, queen Elizabeth required sir Henry Percy, then earl of Northumberland, to give up the charge of the castle, and he besought her pardon, and among other reasons for not delivering up the keys he gave the following :—

His estate was but small to maintain the countenance of an Earl being charged with 10 Children and the benefit of the office of Tynemouth being a good portion of his living without it would not be able to sustain the charge of housekeeping and the education of his Children. By holding this office he maintains 20 of his old servants who have served him from 10 to 30 years and he has no other means of so doing : if they should be displaced they would be left to beg their bread having been trained up to get their living by service. That disgrace will grow to him in his own country by removal from the office which he tenders as his life and begs Her Majesty to remember his former faithful services to her and Queen Mary her Sister in that time of his hardest fortune.

The earl was committed to the Tower. In the early part of 1585 lord Francis Russell was in possession of the castle. In one of his letters to secretary Walsingham he says the bearer, my deputy, can inform you what lack there is here for munition. The time is dangerous, and her majesty's house here had need be provided. I wrote you for my fee of Tynemouth and am very loath so oft to trouble you, but am constrained by necessity. On the 21st of June, 1585, the earl of Northumberland was found dead in his bed in the

Tower, slain by three bullets from a pistol. On the 26th June, lord Francis Russell wrote from Tynemouth to secretary Walsingham :—

The Lord of Northumberland's death will hardly be believed in this Country to be as you have written. (It was stated the wounds were self-inflicted.) Yet I am fully persuaded and have persuaded others that it was not otherwise. I wish you would be a means to Her Majesty that I might have such commodities belonging to Tynemouth Castle as the Earl of Northumberland had. I am scant able to maintain housekeeping with what I have, and I have sent my man to you for my fee, so that my present wants may be supplied.

I have not been able to ascertain who became governor of the castle after the death of the earl of Northumberland. In 1588, a Mr. Delaval was keeper of the castle. In 1591, Henry Percy, ninth earl of Northumberland, was restored to the governorship of the castle. His deputy, in 1594, was Thomas Power. In this year there are some interesting letters about the arrest at North Shields of a Dutchman and a Frenchman, the former being goldsmith and the latter footman to the queen of Scots, who had stolen from her and run away with a chain of pearls, two gold and pearl bracelets, a gold and diamond brooch, four diamond rings, and other articles of the value of eight hundred and five crowns. They were kept in custody in Tynemouth castle, and afterwards taken with the jewels to Berwick and there delivered to the deputy warden of the marches on a Tuesday, and on the Friday following were hanged at Edinburgh. In the letter which mentions the circumstance, it is added, 'such expedition does the King make now a days of justice.' The earl of Northumberland attained a high reputation for the pursuit of those literary and scientific studies to which he afterwards devoted so much of his enforced leisure. His kinsman, Thomas Percy, one of the sons of Edward Percy of Beverley, was made constable of Alnwick castle about 1594. In 1605, he took part in the Gunpowder Plot, and implicated the earl of Northumberland in it, and, in consequence, he was placed under restraint. Sir Henry Witherington (Widdrington) was ordered to take and seized possession of Tyne-mouth and other castles. On the 23rd June, 1606, by a decree of the Star Chamber the earl of Northumberland was fined £30,000 and ordered to be displaced and removed from every office, honour, or place he held by his majesty's pleasure, and to be returned to the Tower whence he came, and there remain prisoner as before

during the king's pleasure. On the 24th November, 1606, the king required sir Henry Witherington to deliver up Tynemouth castle to sir William Selby, who was sheriff of the county of Northumberland. On the 4th December, 1606, the earl of Northumberland granted sir George Whitehead an annuity of £20 in consideration that he had been dispossessed of his post of lieutenant of Tynemouth castle, the keeping of which it had pleased the king to take away from him. On the 8th April, 1608, there is a letter from the king to the officers of the exchequer as to the profits of the lights at Tynemouth castle which had been received by the earl of Northumberland, out of which he granted to sir Allan Percy, brother of the earl, £40 a year so long as the profits remained in the king's hands. The earl of Northumberland had fallen on evil days. Although every effort was made to connect him with the ill-judged act of his kinsman, whose life paid the forfeit for the act, it was unsuccessful. His estates were, however, sequestrated for the payment of the fine which he described as the greatest fine that was ever imposed upon a subject. In the year 1613, the king agreed to accept £11,000 in payment of the balance of the fine, and on that being paid he granted the earl a full pardon and release, but he kept him a prisoner in the Tower until his birthday in 1622, when he was released after an imprisonment of sixteen years. He died on the 5th November, 1632, on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the discovery of the plot which had cast so dark a shadow over his life. There is much of interest in the life of the earl of Northumberland during the long, dreary years in the Tower. As an indication of his love of books he spent £200 a year in the purchase of them. On his death the grant from the crown, in 1570, of the governorship of Tynemouth castle came to an end. During the incarceration of the earl of Northumberland, sir John Fenwick was captain of the castle. In 1625, he states that the castle was so ruined that he could not remain there.

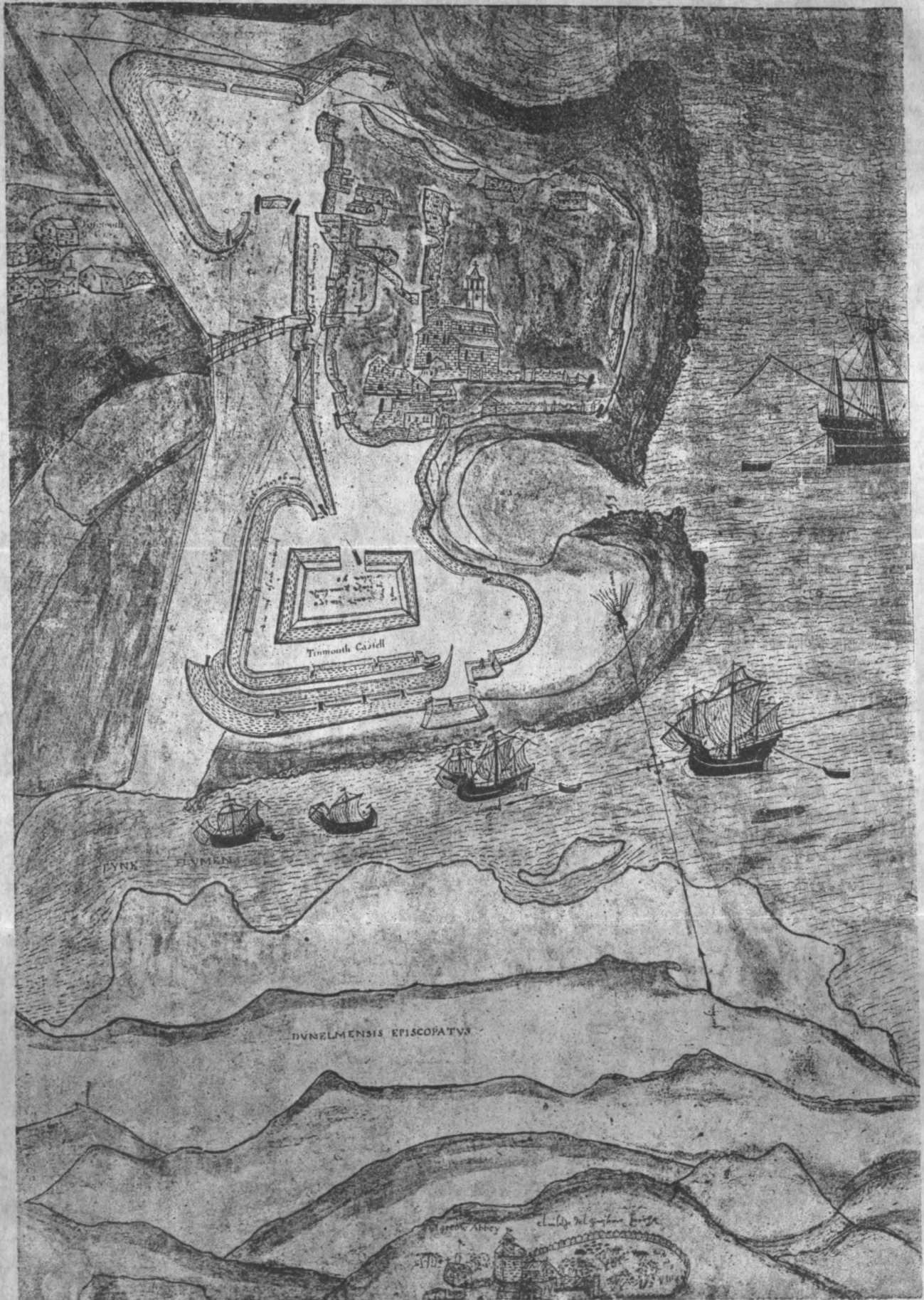
On the 3rd of June, 1633, the ill-fated king Charles the first entered Newcastle on his way to Scotland to be crowned. He was attended by Laud, bishop of London; White, bishop of Ely; the earls of Northumberland, Arundel, Pembroke, and Southampton, and other persons of distinction. On the 5th of June he went with his retinue, escorted by the master and brethren of the Trinity house,

Newcastle, to the castle of Tynemouth. He was the last of our monarchs who visited the castle. In the year 1635, the earl of Northumberland was appointed by the king, lord high admiral of the fleet.

In the year 1635, sir William Brereton, bart., the parliamentary general, made a journey through Durham and Northumberland and visited Tynemouth, and described the castle as a dainty seated castle, almost compassed with the sea, wherein hath been the fairest church I have seen in any castle, but now it is out of repair and much neglected.

The earl of Monmouth was captain of Tynemouth castle in 1638. He was ordered to deliver up to the earl of Newport, minister of the ordnance, all his majesty's ordnance, carriages, and furniture to be carried to Newcastle. In the same year, sir Jacob Astley (an ancestor of lord Hastings) and others were sent into the north to inspect the fortifications and muster train bands. In the extracts from the State Papers it is stated the fort of Tynemouth was to be slighted, and a fort made half-a-mile from the same. In the succeeding year he was appointed major-general of the field. In the month of January he inspected the castle, and reported it would be needless to demolish it, because the ground upon which it stood would command all the lower works to the waterside. It was he who, before the battle of Edgehill, offered up the short but celebrated prayer, 'O, Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me. March on, Boys.' I commend this prayer to our modern divines.

The year 1640 was a memorable one in the great struggle which had commenced between king Charles the first, his parliament, and his Scottish subjects. On the 30th of August in that year, Tynemouth castle was seized and garrisoned by the Scots. It did not long remain in their possession, as in the year 1642 it was put in a posture of defence for the king by William Cavendish, earl, marquis, and duke of Newcastle, general of the king's forces in the northern parts, and it remained in the possession of the king's forces until October, 1644. In March of that year, when the fort at South Shields was besieged and taken by the Scots, the guns from Tynemouth castle were used for the defence of the fort. On the 26th October, 1644,



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MAP OF TYNEMOUTH, temp. HENRY VIII.
(British Museum, Cott. MSS., Aug. I., il., Art. 7.)

articles of agreement for the surrender and delivery of Tynemouth castle were entered into between Alexander, earl of Leven, lord general of the Scottish army, and sir Thomas Riddell, knight. He was a colonel of foot in the king's army, and governor of the castle. The terms were, firstly, that every officer, soldier, gentleman, and clergyman shall march out with bag and baggage, and the officers with their arms; and that such goods as properly belong to them, but which they cannot now take with them, shall be kept for them till set opportunity. Secondly, that the national covenant shall not be enforced either upon officer, soldier, gentleman, or clergyman. Thirdly, that all who stay in their own country shall have protection for their persons and estates, and such as will go to his majesty shall have free pass with a safe convoy. Fourthly, oblivion for all things past in this service to be extended to officers, soldiers, and gentlemen who shall stay at home in their own houses. Fifthly, that sir Thomas Riddell shall deliver up the castle this day, with a perfect list of all arms, ammunition, cannon, and furniture. Sixthly, it is always provided that those who stay at home and have protection for their persons and estates shall be liable to all ordinances of parliament.

By an error in the *Calendar of State Papers* (domestic series) this agreement is entered under the same date in the following year, and this mistake makes some of the events in that year difficult to understand. The castle was surrendered on the 27th of October, 1644. In the journals of the House of Commons, under date November 5th, 1644, it is 'Ordered that Sir Thomas Widdrington do give notice to the preacher to take notice of the surrender of Tynemouth Castle, and that he give thanks therefor in St. Margaret's Church.' In the same month of November, sir Thomas Riddell was in custody, and the commissioners and committee of parliament residing in Newcastle were ordered to send him up to London as a delinquent. He, however, escaped to Berwick in a small fishing vessel, and died in exile at Antwerp in 1652.

The Scots having got possession of Tynemouth and other castles, the parliament was anxious to get rid of them and that they should return to Scotland, but the suggestion did not meet with their approval. On the 12th July, 1645, commissioners were appointed by parliament to proceed to Scotland to treat and conclude divers

matters concerning the safety and peace of both kingdoms. Among the matters to be dealt with was the immediate withdrawal of the Scottish troops from Tynemouth, Newcastle, and other castles where garrisons had been placed without the consent of both houses of parliament. On the 5th September, 1645, the commissioners met the commissioners for Scotland at Berwick, and on the 13th of November following, the speakers of both Houses of Parliament reported the answers which had been received, which were not satisfactory, and a further demand was made for the removal of the garrisons before the 1st of March following. Algernon, earl of Northumberland, had cast in his lot with the parliamentary party. In the year 1645 he wrote several letters about the Scots, and in one of these to sir Harry Vane he says:—‘Certainly the Scots detaining our Towns and Castles and continuing their Garrisons in them against our wills gives very just cause of jealousy to us and truly I believe will hardly be endured whatever the consequences prove.’ He speaks of the Scots as ‘Our Brethren.’ The Scots continued to occupy the castle, and made a claim of two millions sterling for their services, less the sums they had received in money or in kind during their stay in England. A dispute arose about the money to be paid, which was finally settled by parliament agreeing to pay to the Scottish commissioners £400,000, of which it was stipulated that £200,000 should be paid before the Scots left Newcastle. The £200,000 having been paid the Scottish army departed from Newcastle with their treasure in thirty-six covered waggons. The earl of Leven, lord general of the army, issued a proclamation commanding that the troops should not plunder on their way home. Before leaving Newcastle they gave up possession of Tynemouth castle, and handed over their king to the committee appointed by parliament to receive his person. It is said to be an error to suppose that the payment of the £400,000 had anything to do with the surrender of the king, but the payment of half of the amount and the surrender were concurrent acts. As they went north with their ‘siller’ the king was conveyed south by the troops of the parliament.

On the 11th of December, 1646, major-general Skippon was approved of by parliament as governor of Tynemouth castle. In 1648, sir Arthur Heselrige was governor of the castle. In April in

that year there was an order of the commons for £5,000 to be forthwith raised to be employed for repairing and fortifying the town of Newcastle and Tynemouth castle.

I read a paper to the society on the 29th of July, 1891, on 'Tynemouth Castle: the eve of the Commonwealth,'³ and gave an account of the revolt of lieutenant-colonel Lilburn, deputy-governor of the castle, and the recovery of the castle in the month of August, 1648. Since I read the paper additional volumes of the *Calendars of State Papers* have been issued, and among them a volume covering the period from 1648 to 1649. It contains the proceedings of the committee of both Houses of Parliament at Derby house, the old town house of the earls of Derby. On the 14th of August, 1648, the committee sat and ordered that a letter of thanks should be written to sir Arthur Heselrige for his care and diligence in recovering the revolted castle of Tynemouth. The letter is given in detail, and as it is so quaint I append it.

By yours of the 10th inst: we are informed of the traitorous revolt of Lieut: Col: Lilburn and of his just punishment. We have great cause to bless God for his goodness to us in so happy a recovery of a place of so very great consequence, which, if it had continued in their hands, would have given a great turn to the Parliament's Affairs in those parts. But it pleased God only so far to permit it to proceed that it might be a discovery of an unsuspected Traitor and a demonstration of His watchful providence in the conduct of his own cause, the approbation of which by the evident appearances of His own hand in the punishment of the traitors, the recovery of the place and preservation of our Men. He writes in characters so visible as he that runs may read them, to whom we desire to return praise as the Author of all. And also give you as an *instrument* our hearty thanks for your prudent, resolute, present and effectual care for regaining of it, as we do also to those Officers and Soldiers who in obedience to and in pursuance of your commands, did with so much alacrity and readiness undertake and with such resolution, courage and success, carry on a work of such great concernment to the public and so great difficulty and danger to the undertakers, which our thanks we desire you to make known to them all, in which service if any delay had been made the place had been in all probability irrecoverably lost, and the state of affairs most dangerously altered and hazarded thereby. We are confident after this experience we need say nothing to desire you to have a most especial care of a place of so very great importance.

From this letter it is clear that the parliament, although they recognized the Divine interposition in their favour, attached very

³ *Archaeologia Aeliana*, vol. xv. p. 218.

great importance to the *instrument*, mentioned in the letter, for the recapture and future keeping of the castle. It was on the 10th of August and not on the 11th, as generally stated, that the castle was retaken. The letter from sir Arthur Heselrige to the committee of the lords and commons, which formed the subject of my paper, is not in the *Calendars of State Papers*.

The castle remained in possession of the parliament and the commonwealth until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. For several years captain John Topping was governor of the castle, and in the *Calendars of State Papers* there are several letters from him to secretary Thurloe, commencing in the year 1654. In one letter he says :—

We have 11 Contrary (country) Gentlemen prisoners who are suspected persons and I expect more to be sent in this day. We have two Companies in this Garrison consisting of 70 Men in a Company. Yesterday I sent thirty men commanded by Captain Simpson to secure the Castle until 130 Men who are on their march from Barwicke come to secure the towne alsoe. We were on the third nights duty before I sent the party away; and indeed this place is as cold, standing in the sea as any place I ever came to which causes our Soldiers to fall sicke and will weaken us much if the Centinells go on every third hour. I hope our God will owne his people still for our enemyes witts are good; but they want hearts to act their diabollicall designs. See doubtless the Mercies of our God endure for ever.

In another letter he gives an account of his interview with Mr. Robert Marley, son of sir John Marley (the gallant defender of Newcastle against the Scots), and of his attempts to extract information from him. He had come from Antwerp, where he had left his father, who was with the earl of Newcastle. The son is thus described :—

The young man is upwards of 19 years of age speakes good French and hath kist Charles Steward's hand. He hath been educated near two yeares in Antwerpe. I caused him to be sucked but could find noe letters only an ould piece of paper with some verses writ and in four places begun the verse with God damne me. In his Portmantle was French and Lattin bookes and in English Wallers poems and the pretenders booke of the late Kings to his Sonn with six of Newcastle's lady's pictures.

In another letter he says :—

I bless God we are all contented and I heare no unquietnesse, but want of pay hath begott mutinyes and I feare the worst.

I took bond of a Lynn Merchant for drinking the health of Van Tromp and De Witt and abusing a custom House Officer at Newcastle.

In 1655, the lord protector fixed the establishment charges at Tynemouth castle at £199 5s. 4d. per month. The castle was to have a complete establishment of fifty 'Centinels.' In September in that year an order was issued for the removal of arms from Raby castle to Tynemouth castle. Colonel Robert Lilburn⁴ appears to have been in charge of the castle in December, 1655. In August, 1659, captain Topping was ordered to send to the council of state a list of his prisoners in the castle, and what he had to say concerning each; and in the same month a warrant was issued to the farmers of the excise of beer, ale, and cider for the counties of Kent and Sussex for the payment of the troops in Tynemouth castle, late under lord Howard, but then under the command of captain Topping, of their arrears, amounting to £253 8s.

During the occupation of the castle by the Scots and during the commonwealth, the parishioners were deprived of the use of their parish church, which stood within the walls of the castle, and had been used for four hundred and fifty years. In 1658, the parishioners petitioned the justices of the peace for the county of Northumberland and the grand jury at the sessions at Morpeth for a new church. In the order of sessions it is stated the church was made use of for the garrison of the castle, so that some thousands of people were left destitute of the word and means of salvation, to the great dishonour of God and encouragement of many loose and ignorant people in profaning of the Sabbath and living in a lewd life and conversation. An assessment of two shillings in the pound was ordered to be levied throughout the county for building a church or place of public meeting. In 1659, general Lambert arrived in Newcastle with a large force of men. The soldiers in Tynemouth castle were marched into a chapel to sign an engagement to support Lambert and his party against the revived 'Rump' parliament, when the roof fell in and killed five or six of them. The commonwealth was rapidly drawing to a close. In January, 1659, there is a record among the municipal accounts of Newcastle of 'Paid John Hall which he disbursd for horse hire and a guide when he caryed a letter from Generall Muncke to the Governor of Tynemouth Castle 6s.'

⁴ He was one of the regicides, and signed the warrant for the execution of king Charles the first.

In 1660, sir Arthur Heselrige surrendered the castle at Tynemouth, along with other castles of which he was governor, on condition of having his life and estate preserved. He was, however, excepted from the Act of Indemnity, and was committed to the Tower, where he died on the 8th of January, 1661/2. In January, 1661, there was a grant of the office of captain and commander-in-chief of Tynemouth castle to the earl of Northumberland and lord Percy, his son, fee one hundred marks a year. In the same year, Edward Villiers was governor of the castle: I have in my possession a receipt, signed by him, which was given to me by Mr. J. C. Brooks, one of our vice-presidents. It reads thus:—

xv^{to} die Martij 1661.

Received by mee Edward Villiers Esq^r. Governo^r of his Ma^{ties}. Garrison of Tynmouth of S^r Job Harby Baronett S^r John Wolstenholme K^t, and others Commifision^{rs} of his Mat^{ies} Customes & Subsidies through out England &^c the sume of One Thousand five hundred sixtye eight pounds vpon the sume of cclxj^{li} vj^s viij^d per mensfor the pay of two Companies with their officers appointed for the said Garrison And is due for sixe Moneths beginning the seaventh of September 1661 and ending the xxjth day of february next followeing By feuerall Lres Patents dated xv^{to} Januar' 1660 and xxiiij^{to} Maij 1661. I say received.

Edward Villiers.

m^ovlxviiij^{li}.

In the collection of the 'Sufferings of the People called Quakers,' published in 1753, is an account, under the date 10th August, 1661, of George Linton and twenty-six other members of the society having been taken at a meeting at South Shields by major Graham, deputy-governor of Tinmouth castle, and cast into nasty holes there, where they lay a full month, and then he turned them out, having, so far as appeared to them, neither order, authority, nor warrant for any part of his proceeding. The George Linton referred to in the extract died in January, 1663/4, and by the 'fury of the tymes was by relations and Souldiers caryed away from Friends and buried in the down end of Tinemouth Kirke' (*vide* register book belonging to the Society of Friends). He is the only person mentioned in the Tynemouth registers as having died excommunicate.

Among the State Papers in 1662 is a letter from lord Fauconberg to secretary Nicholas. 'Heard much of the Meetings and night ridings of disaffected persons. Has taken bond of Bellwood and ordered Sir John Marley to have an eye on Tynemouth for the

Deputy Governor there keeps the old Chaplain and many of the Soldiers.' In the following year there was a grant to Villiers of £200 for the repairs of the castle, and in April, 1664, a warrant to pay £173 13s. 4d. for furnishing the garrison with flock beds, etc.

In 1664, the English and the Dutch were at war, and among the state papers is a letter from Wm. Leving to secretary Bennet, in which he says :—

They talk of the Dutch bringing over the English and landing them at Hull therefore Hull and Tynemouth should be cared for. Col. Villiers, trusts Love of Tynemouth, a Lieutenant who has been tampered with and will betray the place for gain. Sir Ralph Delavale was spoken of as encouraging the late business. They act cunningly and encourage private men who will not betray them to break the ice.

On the 28th June, 1665, the town council of Newcastle voted £200 towards the repair of the works of Tynemouth castle, in consequence of a letter received from king Charles the second informing them that colonel Edward Villiers, governor of the castle, had been directed to repair it on account of the Dutch war, and to protect the trade and port of the Tyne.

In June, 1666, some Dutch prisoners on board of the ship 'Ipswich' lying at Shields plotted with prisoners on board of other ships in the harbour to kill the master, secure the rest in their cabins, and carry away the ship, but were discovered by a Scot of their own party, and were all lodged in Tynemouth castle. The country was in a great state of alarm. In the same month, secretary Morice wrote to the governors of Tynemouth and other castles, and stated that being apprehensive of danger from sudden invasion the king wished them to use all industry to have their works repaired, fortified, and victualled for two months, and to fill up with the allotted number of soldiers. In the following month we have an account of an engagement near Tynemouth. One hundred and fifty landsmen were marched from Berwick to Tynemouth, and shipped in the 'Pembroke.' She set sail, and engaged a new Dutch man-of-war, well fitted out, of twenty-two guns, and fought until eight o'clock at night, and then the landsmen boarded and took her. The enemy had twenty killed and sixteen prisoners. The 'Pembroke' had five killed and sixteen wounded. In the months of June and July, 1667, the whole of Tyneside was in a state of great alarm about the attack of the Dutch

fleet at Sheerness, and their sailing up the Medway. The *Calendars of State Papers* contain letters from Newcastle and Tynemouth. In one of the letters it is said :—

All are sad at the attack of the Dutch at Sheerness and people are distracted and at their wit's end with the sad news. The Magistrates (of Newcastle) are very careful, they have prevailed with Col. Villiers for 600 Arms and will call the Shipmasters together to know what arms and ammunition they have. Sir Ralph Delaval and Col. Villiers consulted with the Shipmasters at Shields about securing their Ships. Four Companies of Guards were marched from Berwick to Tynemouth Castle. The Lords Ogle and Carlisle were at Tynemouth and ships were ready to be sunk if needful. The presence of these Noblemen inspired the people with great confidence. Lord Ogle remained in Newcastle and Lord Carlisle at Tynemouth where he was careful and vigilant and had so well ordered his business that no attempt by water need be feared.

In March, 1667, there was a grant from the privy seal to colonel Villiers of £200 for the repairs of the castle and adding such fortifications as might better secure the mouth of the Tyne.

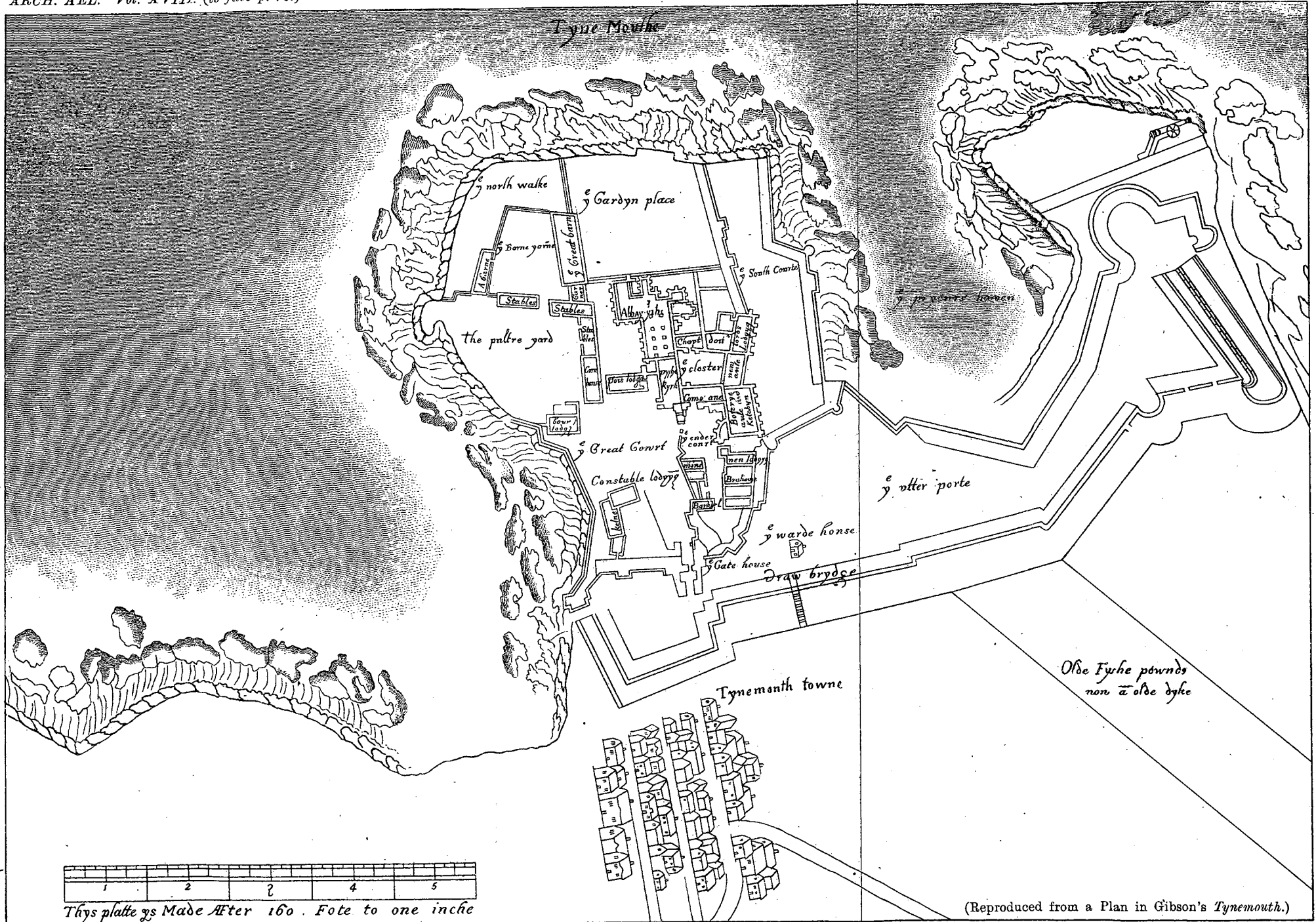
Ralph Thoresby, the historian of Leeds, visited Tynemouth castle on 8th September, 1681. He says :—

Went with E. H. (Eleazar Hodshon) to Shields by Water but it proved a most terrible stormy day. Visited Tinmouth Castle now almost ruined and maintained by a slender Garrison.

In the memoirs of Ambrose Barnes,⁵ merchant and alderman of Newcastle from 1627-1710, is an entry about the castle. In 1686, when the government was alarmed by the rumour of a great armament in Holland, colonel Widdrington in a great huff came to Mr. Barnes requiring him to order some guns down to Tinmouth castle. 'That is not my business,' said Mr. Barnes, 'the King never made me Governour of that Castle.' He was conveyed to the castle, and charged upon suspicion with a design against the government. Colonel Edward Villiers was knighted in 1680, and died in July, 1689, and was buried in Westminster abbey. He was succeeded by his second son, colonel Henry Villiers, as governor of the castle. In 1691, the establishment of the castle was rated at £474 10s. per annum. In August, 1707, colonel Villiers died and was buried within the castle.

It was during the time the Villiers were governors of the castle that many of the old monastic buildings were pulled down, and irreparable damage was done to the priory church. Grose, in his *Antiquities of England and Wales* published in 1774, says :—

⁵ 50, Surtees Society publications.



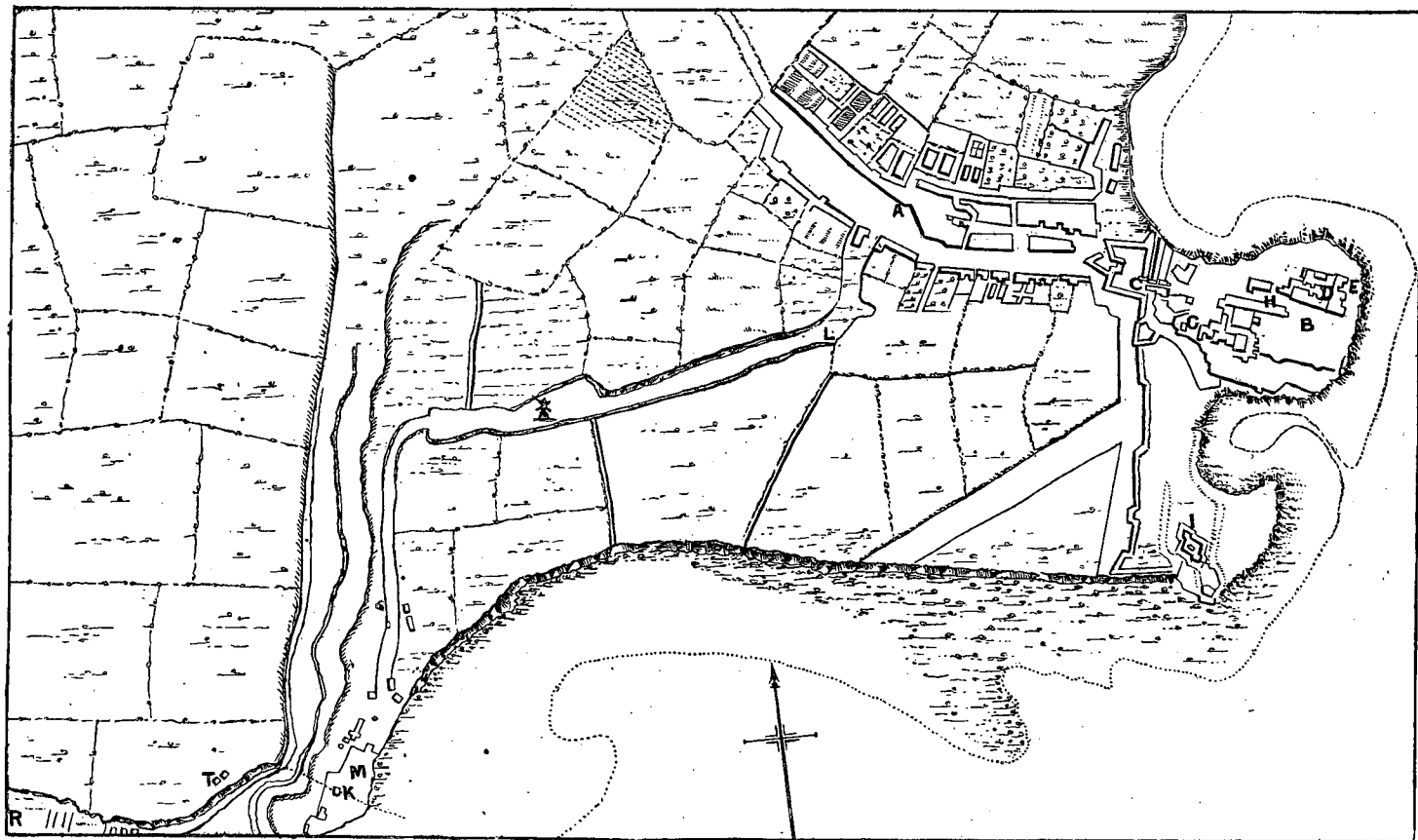
MAP OF THE EDIFICES AT TYNEMOUTH IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

(Reproduced from a Plan in Gibson's Tynemouth.)

Much of these buildings have been pulled down by Mr. Villars (Villiers) for erecting the Barracks, Light House, his own House near it and other edifices; he likewise stripped off the lead which till then had covered the Church. This I was informed by an ancient man who lived near the spot, and who likewise said, a great deal, particularly a long gallery, had fallen down itself.

In the plan of the castle, *temp.* Elizabeth, here given, all the buildings within the walls are shown. On the north and east sides the castle was inaccessible, and on the south and west sides there were two walls, one of which ran along the escarpment, and the other was at the top of the slope. There were also walls to the westward of the gates of the castle which extended to and included the Spanish battery or fort, in which one gun is shown as mounted. The entrance to the castle was by a drawbridge, not opposite to the gateway but some distance from it, and nearly opposite to the old road which lay to the southward of the garden of the house which recently belonged to Mr. Alexander S. Stevenson. This drawbridge must have crossed a dry ditch or fosse. After passing the drawbridge was the gatehouse in which the porter resided, and then the ward house for the armed retainers of the monastery. Passing through the gatehouse the great court was entered, on the south side of which stood the principal domestic offices of the monastery within an enclosure or inner court (*y^e* ender court). To the eastward of these were the parish and priory churches. To the southward of the parish church were the cloisters (*ye* closter), on the east side of which were the chapter house and dormitory. To the southward the lord's lodging and the new hall (*new aule*). On the west side of the cloisters was the common hall (*como aue*), and adjoining it the buttery and kitchen (*boterye aule* and *ketchyn*), and to the westward stood the new lodging. Within the inner court were the brewhouse, mill, and bakehouse (*bruhouse*, *mine*, and *barkh*). On the north side of the parish church was the prior's lodging, and among other buildings and places were the corn house, stables, poultry yard, kiln, great barn garner, north walk, garden place, south court, the outer port, and beyond the walls was the 'olde Fyshe pownde now a olde dyke.' In the inventory of the goods of sir Thomas Hilton, who died in 1559, his goods at Tynemouth castle are enumerated, and some of the buildings mentioned in the plan in the time of queen Elizabeth are referred to. In the British Museum is 'a plan of Tinmouth Town and Castle and Clifford Fort scituate

'A PLAN OF TINMOUTH TOWN AND CASTLE, AND CLIFFORD FORT, SCITUATE AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE RIVER TYNE.'



A Tinmouth town. **B** Tinmouth castle, the works defensive being gone to ruin. **C** The Main Gate. **D** Mr. Villiers's house. **E** Tinmouth Light House, belonging to Mr. Villiers. **F** The house formerly belonging to the Governor, gone to ruin. **G** Storehouse belonging to the Ordnance, much out of repair. **H** The Abbey, demolished. **I** The Spanish fort, gone to ruin. **K** The road from Tinmouth to Newcastle. **L** The road from Tinmouth to Clifford Fort. **M** Clifford Fort, or battery of thirty guns, fronting the mouth of the river. **N** Formerly a redoubt, now a

at the entrance of the River Tyne.' In the explanation to the plan the house of Mr. Villiers, the governor, is shown. As the Villiers were governors of the castle from 1661 to 1707, and Clifford's fort, built in 1672, is shown upon the plan, it is probable it was prepared towards the close of the seventeenth century. The house built by Mr. Villiers is still standing, and is known as the 'governor's house.' Upon the ground floor, at the right hand side of the doorway, are two interesting panelled rooms. The stairs and balustrade are old, and are objects of interest. The plan in the British Museum I have had photographed. I believe it has not been published. The castle at the time was in a ruinous state. The works defensive were in ruins. The house which had formerly belonged to the governor had gone to ruins. The storehouse belonging to the ordnance was much out of repair. The lighthouse built by sir Edward Villiers is shown. The Spanish fort had gone to ruin. Clifford's fort is shown with a section of it. By a very singular arrangement the barracks in Clifford's fort, inhabited by a company of invalids, are in the upper part of it, and immediately below them is the powder magazine. The abbey is described as demolished. Happily the abbey, or more correctly the priory, has not reached the final state described in the plan. It still stands beautiful in its ruin, and is one of our most conspicuous and cherished landmarks.

On the 1st of May, 1717, John Campian, a soldier, who was shot for desertion, was buried within the castle. Beyond the simple entry in the church registers we know nothing of him.

In the same year the establishment at the castle was rated at £573 15s. per annum, made up thus:—

The Governor	£0 16 5½	per diem;	£301 0 0	per ann.
Lieut.-Governor	0 10 0	„	182 10 0	„
One Master Gunner	0 2 0	„	36 10 0	„
3 other Gunners, each 12d.	0 3 0	„	54 15 0	„
		<u>£1 11 5½</u>	„	<u>£574 15 0</u>	„

The regulation allowance for fire and candles was £18 a year.

In 1745, there were French prisoners in the castle, and in the following year Dutch and Swiss soldiers were quartered in it, some of whom died and were buried within its walls. In 1747, on two occasions, French prisoners escaped from the castle. In 1759, the

Trinity house of Newcastle subscribed two guineas towards the relief of the French prisoners in it.

In Grose's *Antiquities of England and Wales* the picturesque gateway of the castle is shown. (See frontispiece.) In 1296, king Edward the first granted a licence to crenellate it. Grose says :—

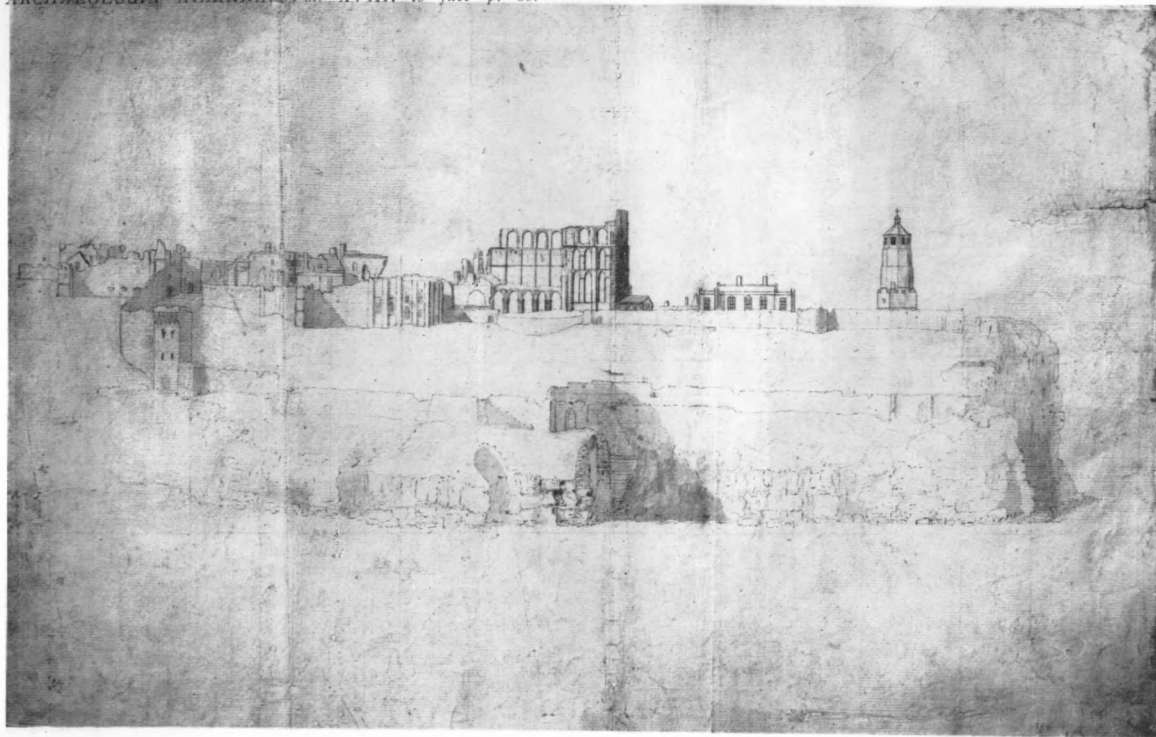
There is still standing here a strong square Gateway having small turrets like guerites at each angle. It was formerly fenced by a ditch over which there was a drawbridge ; but these have long been demolished.

This gateway was the most important defensive work within the castle. There was no keep.

There was an outer and an inner gateway, the outward gateway having two gates at the distance of about six feet from each other, the inner of them being defended by a portcullis and an open gallery. The interior gateway was in like manner strengthened by a double gate. The space between the gateways being a square of about six spaces was open above to allow those on top of the battlements to annoy assailants who had gained the first gate. The gateway shown in Grose represents the inside of it. There is a drawing in the Richardson collection in the library of the society showing the outer part of the gateway in 1780.⁶ Both of these drawings show the turrets at each angle, but in neither of them is shown the circular tower which surmounts the present structure. I have recently examined it, and although the new staircase has an old look about it, I am of opinion it is not older than the work executed in 1783. In a drawing in my possession by Ralph Waters, which I believe has never been engraved, the machicolated barbican is shown in the position where the drawbridge was.⁷ At some distance from the barbican and nearer to the haven are shown some outworks with a flight of steps leading into the haven. In 1783, the government resumed possession of the castle, and the old and interesting features of the gateway were completely obliterated, and the hideous superstructure, as we now know it, was built, and the old stonework covered with plaster. In a picture of Newcastle published in 1807, the duke of Richmond, who was master of the ordnance, is charged with having entirely destroyed the entrance which had been for ages the chief ornament of the castle, and that he had rebuilt it in a contemptible style of architecture, over which barracks were fitted up

⁶ See plate facing p. 62.

⁷ See plate opposite.



View of Tynemouth from the South in 1786.

From an original drawing by Ralph Waters, in the possession of Mr. H. A. Adamson.



for the soldiers. The work was planned and executed under the superintendence of Mr. Leonard Smelt, engineer *extraordinary*. Of the monastic domestic buildings very few remain. The vaulted 'Boterye Aule (hall) and Kitchen' were converted into and are still used as a powder magazine. The building has a vaulted roof and is of two bays.

The fate of Tynemouth castle is the common one which befalls our historic buildings when they come into possession of the government. The effacement of the old features and a senseless pulling down of all that is historic, and the erection of buildings of the most unsightly shape and of material little in harmony with the buildings around them is the usual feature of government work.

In the year 1828 the War Office furnished a list of the governors of Tynemouth castle and Clifford's fort, which comprised the following:—

	Date of Appointment.
Sir Edward Villiers ^s	Unknown.
Col. Henry Villiers	2 nd February, 1702.
Thomas Meredith	20 th February, 1707.
Alg ⁿ , Earl of Hertford	11 th January, 1714/15.
Alg ⁿ , Earl of Hertford	20 th June, 1727.
Sir Andrew Agnew, B ^t	13 th February, 1749/50.
Hon. Alexander Mackay	8 th August, 1771.
Lord Adam Gordon	4 th April, 1778.
Charles Rainsford	2 nd Nov ^r ., 1796.
General David Douglas Wemyss	27 th May, 1809.
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS.	
Henry Villiers	7 th May, 1713.
John Middleton	28 th January, 1714/5.
Edward Hall, Capt. Commandant in the absence of the Governor and Lt.-Gov ^r	27 th September, 1715.
John Lewis de le Bene	17 th July, 1717.
Henry Villiers	20 th June, 1727.
Thomas Lacey	11 th June, 1753.
Spencer Cowper	19 th October, 1763.
Hon. Alexander Hope	16 th March, 1797.
Charles Crawford	9 th January, 1799.
Lieut.-General James Hay	2 nd April, 1821.
Do. William Thomas	6 th Sept., 1826.

In the *Annals of the Northern Counties*, published in 1839, it is stated that the governorship of Tynemouth and Clifford's fort had become vacant by the death of general Wemyss, and the government had

^s His appointment was in 1661 as shown by the receipt signed by him.

determined not to fill up the sinecure appointment. The governor had a salary of £284 7s. 11d., and the salary of the lieutenant-governor was £173 7s. 6d. General Wemyss, while he was governor, made a claim of 10s. for permitting the burial ground within the castle to be broken for each interment, which was resisted by the parishioners. A voluminous correspondence was carried on between the years 1826 and 1833. In one of the letters from the irascible governor he says:—

I have only to lament that your Vestry had not more able Counsellors than those who advised a contention with the authority I have the honor to be invested by King in Council. I can let them know should I see cause—prevent both the living and the dead from entering these walls. I want neither their money nor their dead.

The exaction was withdrawn, and a few years afterwards the old governor passed to his rest.

General Thomas was an old veteran who had served throughout the long continental war, as well as in America and Ireland.

The Spanish battery which, as I have stated, was within the line of fortifications of the castle, has entirely disappeared. The unsuccessful attempt forty years ago of the contractor of the Tyne Commissioners to find stone for the piers destroyed the old wall and outworks along the escarpment, and partly, but not entirely, isolated the castle. A few years ago the houses of the lighthouse keepers which, with their trimly kept gardens, were the admiration of visitors, were pulled down and destroyed, and the lighthouse is threatened with destruction.⁹ It is intended to pull down the governor's house and the buildings which surround it, and a grant has been made for the purpose.

At present, brick buildings, out of keeping with all their surroundings, are rapidly rearing their heads within the castle, and when finished may not be required.

For much of the information in this paper I am indebted to the *Annals of the House of Percy*, the invaluable volumes by Mr. Welford on *Newcastle and Gateshead* and on *Men of Mark*, and the *Calendars of State Papers*, and I am also under an obligation to major Porterfield, R.A., for his uniform courtesy in allowing me to see over the buildings in the castle.

⁹ The lighthouse was purchased of the descendants of the Villiers family in 1840 for £124,678 17s. 2d. by the Trinity House, London.