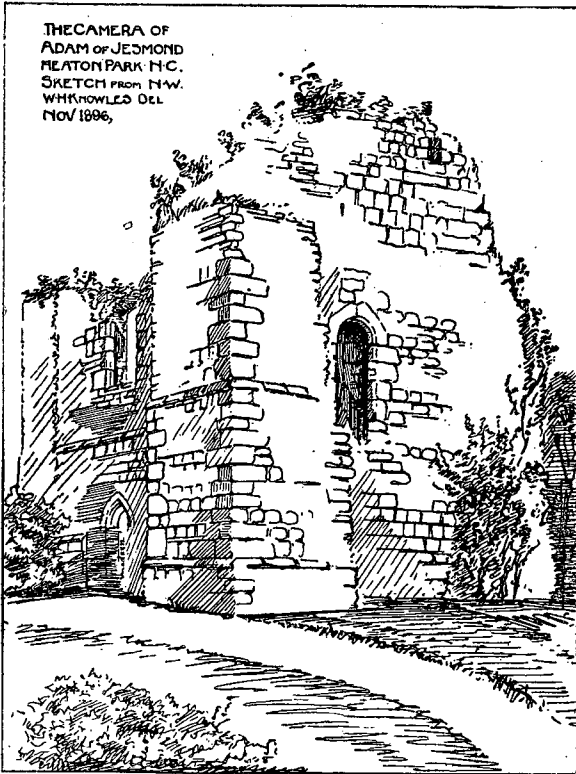


III.—THE *CAMERA* OF ADAM OF JESMOND, POPULARLY CALLED 'KING JOHN'S PALACE.'

BY W. H. KNOWLES.

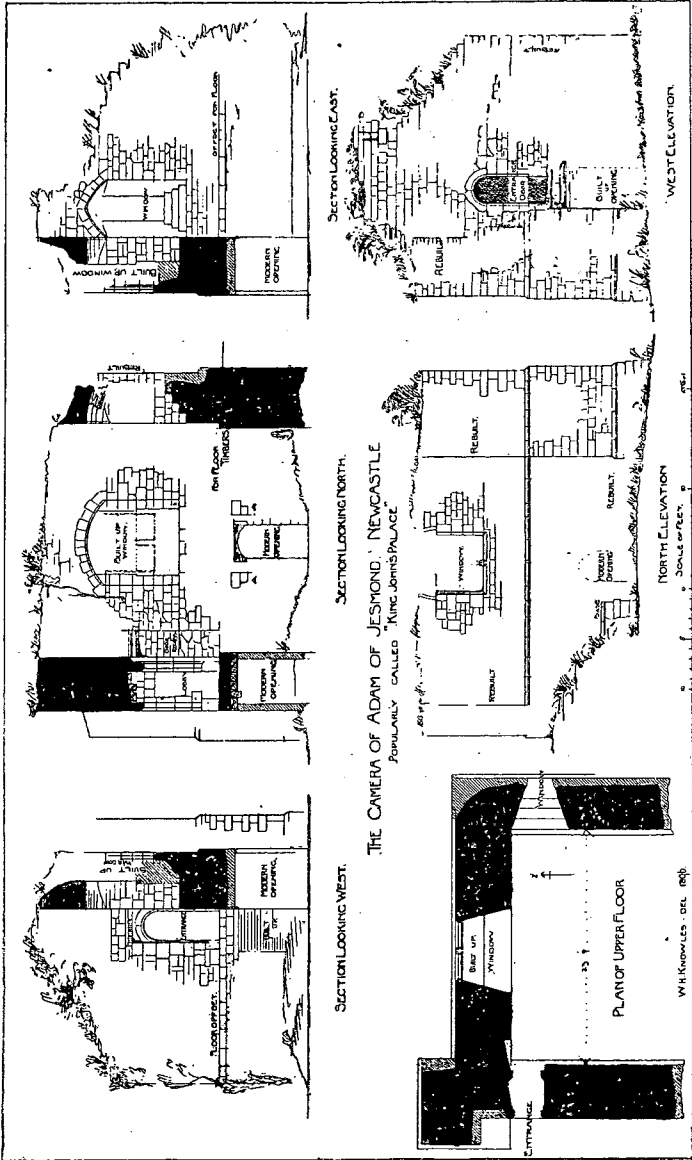
[Read on the 25th day of November, 1896.]

THE *camera* of Adam of Jesmond, popularly called king John's palace,¹ is situated in the Heaton public park, which lies on the east side of



the town of Newcastle. The building stands about three hundred yards east of the Ouseburn, and is about a mile and a half north of the river Tyne. The site slopes from east to west, and is screened on the north side by higher ground.

¹ It is difficult to say why it is so called, as no part of the existing building is of the time of king John.



The townships of Heaton and Jesmond are contiguous, but are separated by the Ouseburn. The name Heaton denotes the high ton, or settlement, and the name Jesmond, which appears in early documents as Gesmue, Gesemue, Gesemuthe, Jesemuthe, Jesmouth, is said to be derived from the *ews-burn* running by it.²

In the early part of the twelfth century, Heaton and Jesmond are mentioned as forming part of the barony of Ellingham, which was granted by Henry I. to Nicholas de Grenville, to be held by the service of three knights' fees. Nicholas was succeeded by his brother Walter. Before 1158 the barony passed into the possession of the family of Gaugy, by the marriage of Walter Grenville's daughter, Mabel, with Ralph de Gaugy. The barony was afterwards known as the barony of Gaugy, and comprised Ellingham, 'Osberwic,' Doxford, Cramlington, Heaton, Hartley, Jesmond, and Whitelawe.

Ralph de Gaugy the second was a minor at the time of his father's death and became a ward of William de Vesci. He held one moiety of the barony of Gaugy in 1168, and died *circa* 1187.

From 1195 to 1243, Ralph de Gaugy the third held the barony of the king, by the service of three knights' fees, as previously mentioned. He granted to a certain Adam of Jesmond a portion of the barony, including Jesmond and Hartley, to be held of him by the service of a knight's fee and a half.³ Although Jesmond and Hartley are alone mentioned, we know that Adam also owned Cramlington, Whitelawe, and Heaton.

The ruin now existing in Heaton park may be attributed to Adam of Jesmond, who was a sub-feudatory of the barony of Gaugy. Whether he was related to that family does not appear. He was a staunch adherent of Henry III., and rendered him services in Gascony in the year 1257.⁴ In 1264, he acquired a portion of the barony of Mitford from Roger Bertram the third, who took an active part in the barons'

² See an epitomized correspondence between professor Skeat, Mr. Richard Welford and others respecting the origin of the names Gosforth and Jesmond. *Proc. Newcastle Soc. of Antiq.* vol. vii. p. 299.

³ *Baronia de Gaugy*:—Rad's de Gaugy tenet in capite de d'no Rege Elingh'm Osberwic Doxford Cramelington Heton Hertelawe Josemuth & Witelawe p' tria feoda de vet'i feoffam'to. De eodem Rado tenet Adam Josemuth' & de Hertelawe p' unū feodū & dimid' feodū de vet'i feoffam'to. Rogūs de Meringg' tenet Doxford' p' quarta p'te unius feodi de vet'i feoffamento. *Testa de Nevill*, vol. i. p. 382.

⁴ *Pipe Rolls*, 41 Henry III., wherein the king is set down as indebted to Adam of Jesmond £21 4s. 0d. Hodgson, *Hist. Northd.* III. iii. 239.

war against the crown, and was taken prisoner at Northampton. Adam's portion comprised one messuage and one acre of land in Mitford, with the advowson of the church there, the vill of Benrig, and the wood of Wincheley.⁵ He had, in 1269, a grant of a market and fair at Cramlington.⁶ He was sheriff of Northumberland in 1262-4,⁷ and again in 1267, and must have attained to considerable prominence, since we find that in 1265 he 'was one of the northern barons summoned to treat for the liberation of prince Edward, who had been taken captive by earl Simon's party after the battle of Lewes.'⁸

Like other sheriffs of that time, Adam of Jesmond bore an 'odious character for peculation and extortion,' yet he appears in the Pipe Rolls as indebted to succeeding sheriffs. He also appropriated land which, after enquiry, he was obliged to relinquish.

Among his benefactions may be mentioned one for the reparation of the Tyne bridge, which had been burnt in 1248. This is interesting as recalling the name of Grenville. Bourne quotes it as follows:— 'ADAM of *Jesumuthia* granted to GOD, and to the *Tine*-Bridge, on Account of the Soul of *William de Greenville* and the Souls of his Ancestors, part of the Ground in the Land of *Jesumuth*.'⁹

In 1274-5, Christiana,¹⁰ the widow of Adam de Jesemuthe, became the second wife of Robert de Brus IV., lord of Annandale, 'better known as the competitor, from his having been one of the claimants to the throne of Scotland on the death of the Maid of Norway.'

It may be conjectured that Adam of Jesmond died without children, because his estates were inherited in 1275 by Ralph de Stikelawe, chaplain, and Marjory de Trewick.

⁵ *Patent Rolls*, 48 Henry III.; Hodgson, III. ii. 360.

⁶ *Calendarium Rotularum Chartarum*; Hodgson, III. ii. 392.

⁷ Also sheriff in 1265. See Brand's *History of Newcastle*, vol. i. p. 149, where he is sheriff and keeper of the castle in 50 Henry III., i.e. 1265-6.

⁸ C. J. Bates, *Proc. Newc. Soc. of Antiq.* vol. ii. 339.

⁹ Bourne, *Newcastle*, p. 129. Does not this suggest the possibility that Adam was descended from a Gaugy? Adam was a Gaugy name.

¹⁰ Christiana was daughter of William de Irreby, and grand-daughter of Odardus de Hodalmia, to whom king John granted the manors of Gamelsby and Glassanby in Cumberland. They [Christiana and Robert de Brus] were married as early as 1274-5, when they brought an action against Robert de Hampton about land in those two places. Her *inquisitio post mortem* was taken in 33 Edward I., when it is stated she died without issue by her second husband. She appears to have been possessed of lands and tenements which through the failure of heirs by her marriage with Robert de Brus, reverted to John of Seton. See paper by W. Brown, *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. l. p. 254, and the *Calendarium Genealogicum*, vols. i. and ii.

In 1293, William of Stikelawe and Marjory of Trewick were summoned to show by what warrant they claimed to have free warren in all their demesne lands in Jesmond, Heaton, and Cramlington, to which they made answer that they had a certain charter of king Henry, made to their cousin Adam of Jesmond, dated 37 Henry III.,¹¹ by which the said king Henry granted to the said Adam that he and his heirs for ever should have free warren in all their demesne lands in Jesmond, Heaton, and Cramlington, so long as they were not within the bounds of the forest. The jurors found that the said William and Marjory did possess the licence, and had used all the liberties, etc.

In 1298, William of Stikelawe held lands at Heaton and Jesmond, and Marjory de Trewick in the same year died possessed of lands in the manors of Cramlington, Heaton, and Jesmond. William de Trewick is mentioned in 1300, and Emma de Stikelawe in 1306. In 1312, John de Trewick conveyed to Nicholas de Carliol (several times mayor of Newcastle) all suit of his court, and of his mill of Gesemuth, and all other services in respect of Carliol's lands in Gesemuth town and field (Wednesday after the feast of the Holy Trinity, 1312).¹²

In 1315, Richard Emeldon, mayor of Newcastle,¹³ paid to the king forty shillings for licence to receive from John Trewick a moiety of the manor of Jesmond.

Though many references occur, and the same names reappear in connexion with portions of the ancient barony, it is unnecessary in this paper to trace the various owners up to the present time, but it may be well to quote, in a somewhat disjointed manner, the following facts which occur in various documents, viz.: Henry de Trewick is mentioned in 1329, Richard de Emeldon in 1334, and in 1350 his daughters, Agnes, wife of Peter Graper, and Alice, afterwards wife of Nicholas Sabraham. In 1370, Matilda or Maud another of

¹¹ Hodgson, III. i. p. 123.

¹² *Arch. Ael.* n.s. vol. i. p. 29.

¹³ Flourished during the reigns of the three Plantagenet Edwards. Was appointed mayor eighteen times, and died possessed of the manors of Jesmuth, South Goseford, Elswick, Heaton, Jesmouth, etc., and divers lands in many other places in Northumberland, besides property in Newcastle. See Welford's *Men of Mark*, vol. ii. p. 180, for much valuable information about this distinguished citizen.

Emeldon's daughters, and wife of Alexander de Hilton, knt., is stated to hold a third part of the manor of Jesemuth, and as she had an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married Roger Widdrington, John de Widdrington, knt., son of Elizabeth, became her nearest heir.

In 1396, at an inquisition held at Morpeth, the jury found that John de Midilton (who inherited through another of Emeldon's daughters, Jane wife of sir John Strivelyn) on the day of his death, August 9th, 1396, was conjointly enfeoffed with Christiana, late his wife, in a third part of the manor of Gesemouth, with the advowson of a third part of the chapel, and also the third part of a water mill there, valued at £4 a year, held of the king by military service.¹⁴

In the fifteenth century the names of Orde and Lawson occur.

In 1553, the queen granted a pardon for all transgressions to Robert Constable of Wallington, and Dorothy, his wife. Constable had married the widow of sir Roger Fenwick of Wallington, who was a daughter of sir John Widdrington. In 1546, sir Roger sold to Christopher Mitford, of Newcastle, for £108 all his lands in the fields of New and Old Heaton, and at his death he was seised of Heaton Mill, etc.¹⁵ On May 31, 1581, died Alderman Christopher Mitford . . who gave to his son Henry . . all his lands at Heaton.¹⁶

On June 1st, 1605, sir Ralph Lawson conveys to trustees on behalf of Dorothy, wife of Roger Lawson, his son, 'one moiety of the manor of Heaton, and so much of the manor of Byker as is situate on the east side of one water called or known by the name of the Ewes-Burne, reserving to sir Ralph and his heirs, the coal and coal mines,' etc.¹⁷

On August 29, 1613, died at Wallington sir William Fenwick, knight, son of sir Roger Fenwick by Dorothy (daughter of sir John Widdrington), who, after her husband's death, married Robert Constable. . . . Roger Fenwick by his will gave to his eldest son John . . . half a water-mill at Heaton, called 'Dust-little Mill.' . . .¹⁸

In 1613, Henry Babington purchased the estate of Heaton-Jesmond;¹⁹ and on May 1, 1617, he received king James I. at Heaton

¹⁴ See Hodgson, pt. II. vol. i. pp. 354, 357, 358, 362.

¹⁵ Welford, *Newcastle and Gateshead*, vol. ii. p. 302. ¹⁶ *Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 7.

¹⁷ Welford, vol. iii. p. 167.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 199.

¹⁹ Babington, William (sir), knt., of Kiddington, who d. in 1577, leaving

hall, being knighted by him on that occasion. He appears among the freeholders of Northumberland in 1628 as 'Sir Henry Babington of Heton, kt.'¹⁹

The *camera* of Adam of Jesmond was probably not in use at this time; but if not, where did Heaton hall stand? It may have been incorporated with or have given place to the present building of that name,²⁰ which was erected in 1713 by ald. Matthew Ridley when he acquired part of the estate of Heaton. In 1840, sir M. W. Ridley disposed of a considerable area of land to Mr. A. L. Potter, and in 1880 the portion including the ruin passed from colonel Potter, C.B., to lord Armstrong, who presented it to the town of Newcastle to be used as a public park.

Of the *camera* of Adam of Jesmond, there are only scanty remains. It is built in a substantial manner with good angle quoins, the walling stones being roughly squared, both on the exterior and interior face. The portions remaining seem to indicate that the principal apartment was on the upper floor, and that its greatest dimension was from north to south. The walls now visible formed the north end and part of the east and west sides.

The walls at the ground level are six feet in thickness. The doorway at the north end and the built-up opening on the west side are modern. The stones marked A, A, on the section looking north, are splayed, and are the internal quoins of a slit which lighted the basement. At a height of eight feet nine inches above the present ground

several children. His grandson, Henry Babington, esq., sold his estates in Oxfordshire in 1613. Burke, *Landed Gentry*, vol. iv. p. 514.

BABINGTON, HENRY, of Oxon., arm, ORIEL COLL., matric. 10th June, 1597, aged 16; son of Philip of Kiddington, Oxon.; aged 14 at the Heralds' Visitation in 1595; sold his paternal estate, and purchased the estate of Heaton, Jesmond, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne; knighted by James I., 1st May, 1617, either at Heaton or Hexham. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*.

BABINGTON, WILLIAM, Is. Henry, of Ogle castle, Northumberland, militis. UNIVERSITY COLL., matric. 16th April, 1624, aged 16; of Heaton Jesmond, Northumberland. *Ibid.*

BABINGTON, PHILIP, student of CHRIST CHURCH by parliamentary visitors 1650, of Harnham, Northumberland (son of William, 1624); of Gray's Inn, 1661; M.P. Berwick-on-Tweed, 1689-90; a colonel in the parliamentary army; governor of Berwick for Charles II. *Ibid.*

See also *Monthly Chronicle* for 1887, pp. 375-6.

¹⁹ *Arch. Ael.* o.s. vol. ii. p. 317.

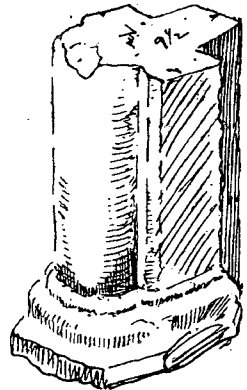
²⁰ I have recently been informed that some old buildings were removed when an addition was made on the north side of the hall.

line, the east and west walls are reduced in thickness by six inches, the projection thus formed serving for the support of the floor timbers.

The main entrance doorway is on the west side, at the level of the first floor, and was reached by an external staircase. The doorway opened into a small lobby, whence a second door gave access to what was possibly the common room or hall, which was twenty-three feet four inches wide. Both doorways are two feet eight inches wide, and have semicircular heads formed of two stones only. The jambs and head are rebated for the doors, which were hung on the north side, and when open stood in recesses specially formed to receive them, as indicated on the plan. The outer door was secured by a bar sliding into a hole six inches square and four feet long in the south jamb of the doorway. The jambs and arches of the doorway are chamfered on the exterior face. Portions of two windows remain, one of two lights in the north wall, and the other a single light, in the west wall. The north window has a chamfered sill and jambs, rebated for shutters and iron bars. A seat for a mullion is worked on the sill, indicating that the window was of two lights,²⁰ each two feet six inches wide. The internal jambs are splayed, and the rear arch is segmental. The window in the east wall has widely splayed jambs internally, a stepped sill, and a pointed segmental rear arch; it has been repaired on its exterior face.

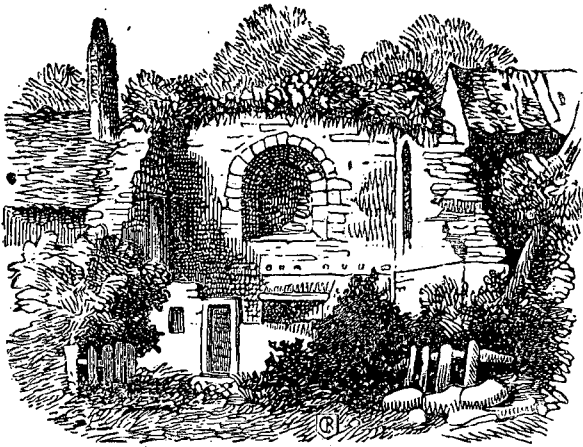
The walls still stand to a height of about twenty-five feet. The north end has been flanked by angle turrets, of which one remains at the north-west corner. There are two splayed courses on the exterior, at the height of four feet and twelve feet respectively above the present ground level; the remaining portions of the lower course are only slight, and almost confined to the north side. The masonry, at a point (not easily accessible) near the letter B on the west elevation, suggests a window.

²⁰ The writer found in his garden, which is about three-quarters of a mile north of the ruin, the lower portion of a mullion with a moulded base (shown in the accompanying sketch). This mullion fits the seat on the window sill and may have belonged to the window.



In 1840, a stable which had been erected within the walls, and some farm buildings, which abutted on the east and west sides of the ruin, were taken down. At the same time some foundations at the south end were removed, which proved that the length of the chamber was much greater than at present. Both at this time and when lord Armstrong presented the park to the Newcastle corporation considerable repairs were carried out, whereby some portions were destroyed and others rendered more secure.

In the Patent Rolls it is recorded that Tasset castle²¹ is to be fortified after the manner of the *camera* of Adam of Jesmond at Heaton



RUINS AT HEATON. INTERIOR (1839).

(From Richardson's *Table-Book, Historical*, vol. iv. p. 121.)

near Newcastle, with a moat and encircling wall. Mackenzie informs us that Tasset was a place of considerable strength, being almost surrounded by a deep moat ten yards broad; and Hutchinson records the fact that it possessed turrets at each corner.

With this information, and the evidence afforded by the ruin still existing, it is not difficult to imagine the general aspect of this fortalice of Adam of Jesmond, which was doubtless as large as most manor houses of the period. The main structure, with its angle turrets and battlements, would be surrounded by subordinate erections for the

²¹ See *Patent Rolls*, 52 Hen. III., m. 31, quoted by C. J. Bates, *Arch. Ael.* vol. xiv. p. 7.

accommodation of the dependents, stabling for horses and cattle, and stores for the harvest produce. The whole was enclosed by a strong wall, which in its turn was encompassed by a wide moat.²²

Such a stronghold was a necessity to all men of position and wealth in the thirteenth century. Even when peace reigned between England and Scotland, there were frequent feuds between neighbours, sometimes provoked by the confiscation of lands by the ruling power, and at others by jealousy and rivalry, quickly matured by fighting men who lacked occupation and were ever ready to take sides in any quarrel. Sheriffs, who were occasionally unscrupulous, had particular need of the shelter of such fortresses.

The remains of the *camera* of prior Derlington at Muggleswick, in the county of Durham,²³ built after the middle of the thirteenth century, very much resemble those of the *camera* of Adam of Jesmond, and the Blackgate of Newcastle, erected about 1250, is also similar in character to the ruin under consideration. It is, however, unnecessary to quote examples whereby to fix the date of its erection, as the reference already mentioned in the licence for the crnellation of Tasset, given to John Cumyn in the year 1267, makes it clear that Heaton preceded that castle.

It is most desirable that this interesting ruin should be diligently preserved. At present it is constantly overrun by children, who climb the trees and damage the stone work. The ivy, which now strikes its roots into the joints and cracks in the masonry, and so tends to dislocate and ruin the walls, ought to be entirely removed. The north window should be opened out, the tops of the walls should be cemented, in order to protect them from rain and frost, and a light fence should be fixed around the building. These protective measures could be undertaken by the city council at very trifling cost, and would help to preserve from destruction the remaining fragment of this once important dwelling.

²² A chapel existed at Heaton in 1299, the wardrobe accounts of Edward I. for that year containing the following, viz.: 'On the 7th day of December, [paid] to a certain boy-bishop saying the vespers of St. Nicholas before the king in his chapel at Heton, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and to certain boys coming and singing with the aforesaid bishop, out of the alms of the king, by the hand of lord Henry the almsgiver, to be divided amongst the aforesaid boys, 40s.'

²³ *Transactions of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland*, vol. iv. p. 287.