

With A. L. Armstrong's compliments.

Final chapter will follow tomorrow.

22/4/29.

Chapter III.

Stuart Times

The Civil Wars & Demolition of the Castle

With the passing of the last Earl of Shrewsbury the golden days of Sheffield Castle passed away also. Its new Lords had other and wider interests and were but seldom in residence at either the Castle or the Manor, though at both they maintained small establishments, mere shadows however, of those of former days. Meanwhile, the town of Sheffield had been steadily growing in size & had become increasingly more industrialised. In 1615 the population was 2207 and Harrison, in his Survey made in 1637 states that at that time the ruins of Sheffield, the "Dourne", the "Sheath and other Rivers called Porter Water, Loxley Water & Riveling Water" were "very profitable ~~to~~ unto ye Lord in regard of the Mills & Cutlery Wheelles that are turned by these streames, which wheelles are employed for the grinding of knives by four or five hundred Master Workmen that gives severall markes". Obviously, the cutlery trade was ~~flourishing industry~~ already firmly established here. Harrison goes on to say that "this Mannor is not only profitable but for pleasure also" and provides us with a picture of the vicinity of Sheffield which is hard to visualise in these days of the 20th Century. He says the Manor was "furnished with red Deare and Fallow, with hares & some Rowes, with ~~Chesants~~ Chesants & great store of Partridges & moore Game in abundance both black & red as moore Coches, moore Hens & young pootes upon ye moores, as also Mallard,

~~Teale, Hearnest~~ Teale, Hearnshewes & Plover, ye
chiefest fishing within this Mannor is in ye River that
passeth through the same, wherein are great store of
Salmon, Trouts, Chevens, Eels & other small fish." Such
was the Sheffield of Stuart days.

The industrial development was marked by the growth
of a sturdy spirit of independence amongst the Townsfolk,
a spirit which was making itself felt throughout Yorkshire
at that time. Possibly the traditional respect for and the
influence of the Shrewsburgs, had the family survived, might
have held this spirit somewhat in check locally. The new
Lords, however, seem to have lacked this influence and had had
no opportunity to foster it. Hence, at the outbreak of the
disastrous Civil Wars, it is not remarkable that the
Townspeople were for the most part strongly Parliamentary,
stimulated by the example of a succession of Puritanical
Deans and the guidance of the popular & wealthy families
of Bright of Carbrook, Jessop of Broomhall & Spencer of
Astercliffe; all staunch supporters of the Parliamentary cause.

On the other hand, the house of Howard has always been
a loyal supporter of the Crown & naturally Thomas Howard,
Earl of Arundel, Surrey & Norfolk, husband of Lady Alethea
Talbot, the heiress of Hallamshire; espoused the Royalist
cause. Therefore Castle & Town were ranged on opposite
sides.

Outbreak of War.

Early in 1642 rumours

1 ~~Rumours~~ of the coming storm are indicated ~~early in 1642~~ by certain "notes of preparation" preserved relative to "gathering subsidies", "watching & warding at the Castle" and on July 29th 1642, a few weeks before King Charles ~~sett~~ raised his standard at Nottingham, the Lord Mowbray & Matheron son of the Earl of Arundel, ordered that "all the armes in Sheffield Castle (excepting sum to be left for defence and securitie of the place) be safelie delivered unto the Lord Savill - for his Maiesties use". Under his direction, whilst staying at the Manor, four brass cannon, wheel pieces, had already been sent to Doncaster for the Kings use, therefore the defences were considerably reduced and the Castle seems to have been but lightly held. Of this fact the Townsman were quick to take advantage & led by John Bright of Carbrook shortly after hostilities commenced they seized both Town & castle, apparently under the leadership of John Bright, of Carbrook, and with ^{the Parliamentary forces under} the support of Sir John Gell who was at Sheffield in Oct. 1642 and actively engaged in Derbyshire during the autumn. They held it until the following April, or May, when the Earl of Newcastle, having reduced Leeds & Wakefield and placed strong garrisons in York, Pontefract & Tadcaster, advanced with his victorious army southwards, having received intelligence "that in two market-Towns south-west from Wakefield, viz. Rotherham and Sheffield, the enemies was very busie to raise forces against his majesty, and had fortified them both about four miles

distant from each other, hoping thereby to give protection & encouragement to all those parts of the country which were populous, rich & rebellious; he thought it necessary to blast those their wicked designs in the bud, & thereupon took a resolution in April, 1643, to march with part of his army from Wakefield into the mentioned parts, attended with a convenient train of artillery & ammunition".

Having reached Rotherham the Earl summoned the town to surrender, "but they refusing to yield my lord fell to work with his cannon & musket, & within a short time took it by storm & entered the town that very night." - - -

"After my lord had stayed ~~there~~ two or three days there, and ordered those parts, he marched with his army to Sheffield, another market-town of large extent in which there was an ancient castle; which when the enemies forces that kept the town came to hear of, being terrified with the fame of my Lord's hitherto victorious army, they fled away from thence into Derbyshire & left both town & castle (without any blow) to my Lord's mercy; and though ~~most of~~ the people in the town were most of them rebelliously affected, yet my Lord so prudently ordered the business, that within a short time he reduced most of them to their allegiance by love, and the rest by fear, and recruited his army daily; he put a garrison of soldiers into the castle and fortified it in all respects and constituted a gentleman of quality, Sir Will. Savil

At & bar' governour both of the castle, town & country; and finding & near that place some iron-works he gave present order for the casting of iron-cannon for his garrisons & for the making of other instruments and engines of war".*

For another account we are told that on the approach of Newcastle's army to Sheffield a band of gallant Parliamentarians attempted to stop the advance guard "at the bridge between Attercliffe & Sheffield", but that they were overpowered and put to flight.

It was whilst at Sheffield castle that news was brought to the Earl of Newcastle of the disaster to his army at Wakefield. Sir Thomas Fairfax had rallied and strengthened his troops and made a surprise attack on Wakefield, capturing the town & its commander, Lord Goring, and all his troops and stores. This was a serious blow to the Earl of Newcastle, as the loss represented half his army & it compelled him to immediately withdraw from Sheffield & fall back upon York, leaving Sir William Savile, a grandson of George the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, in command of the castle, of which he was appointed governor on May 9th 1643. The terms however were too critical for a soldier of Sir William's experience to remain inactive in a fortress. He seems to have stayed here little more than a fortnight & having ordered the defences of the castle and made Major Thomas Beaumont, a trusted

* From the "Life of William Duke of Newcastle", a contemporary record written by his Duchess.

officer of his own regiment, deputy governor of the castle, he joined the forces at Pontefract.

Much of the correspondence between Sir William Savile & Major Beaumont has been preserved and is now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford,* and throws many interesting side lights on the activities of the garrison at Sheffield in commandeering stores, goods & money ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ the surrounding district & the stern measures taken to secure such. In a letter from Sir William dated June 21st. 1643, he says—"be sure you want not any money neither for yourself nor your friends, so long as any Roundhead hath either fingers or toes left, within ten myles of the castle."

The Earl of Newcastle quickly recovered possession of Wakefield and during the autumn of 1643 was victorious throughout the West Riding & drove the Parliamentary forces under Fairfax, into Hull; the only town in Yorkshire which remained in the hands of the Roundheads. As a reward, Newcastle was made a Marquis & but his triumph was brief. The Parliament was steadily mustering its forces & employed the winter in making preparations for a vigorous campaign. Early in the spring of 1644 a Scottish army ^{of 16,000 men} under the Earl of Leven, crossed the border & moved southwards towards York, but was opposed & hindered by the forces of Newcastle who had marched out to meet the Scots. Taking advantage of this diversion Lord

* See Hutton's "Hallamshire", 2nd Ed. p. 137 for extract.

Fairfax & his son Sir Thomas Fairfax, moved swiftly from Hull & made an unexpected attack on Selby, routing the garrison of 2000 men under Colonel Pellasis & driving them out with great loss of men, artillery & stores, which compelled Newcastle to return hastily to his base at York, the Fairfaxes, meanwhile, effecting a junction with the Scots at Wetherby. With their combined forces of 20,000 men they then advanced on York, & on April 19th, 1644, laid siege to it, being later joined by the army of the Earl of Manchester 6000 foot & 3000 horse, commanded by Oliver Cromwell as lieutenant-general. The siege was maintained with great spirit & by the end of June both garrison & town was beginning to suffer severe privations, the ~~the~~ Marquis of Newcastle informed the King of the straits to which he was reduced & that if not relieved in less than three weeks, he should be obliged to surrender the city. In response to this appeal Prince Rupert was ordered to go to the help of Newcastle & by rapid marches brought his army to York & relieved the city practically without a blow, having by skilful generalship avoided the parliamentary army which had been drawn up ~~up~~ on Hessay Moor to give battle to his forces.

Having relieved York Rupert was determined to attack the enemy & destroy them, though they had already raised the siege & were preparing a withdrawal toward Tadcaster. The more experienced Marquis of Newcastle realised that

a battle between such large armies, almost equal in numbers & quality, might well prove the decisive battle of the campaign & counselled the Prince to await the arrival of expected reinforcements before offering battle. Rupert, however, rejected this prudent advice with scorn himself assumed command of the Royalist forces & gave orders for an immediate offensive. The rear ^{division} of the Roundhead army, composed of the pick of their troops under the command of David Leslie, Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Oliver Cromwell had reached the village of Long Marston when the vanguard of the Royalists, in hot pursuit was first perceived. They therefore took up a position ~~there~~ ^{outside the village,} on the Marston Fields, where the high ground favoured them, & awaited Rupert's attack. The battle commenced about midday on July 2nd. 1644, and raged fiercely until midnight. 30,000 men were engaged and it resulted in the complete defeat of the Royalists, of whom 4,000 were slain, 1,500 taken prisoner & all Rupert's stores & materials of war captured.

This serious blow shattered the Royalist cause in Yorkshire and forces were quickly sent out by the Earl of Manchester to subdue the various fortresses which held out for the King, including in South Yorkshire Tickhill Castle & Sheffield Castle. On July 27th 1644, Major Beaumont, governor of Sheffield Castle, received a summons sent by the Earl of Manchester from Doncaster, demanding immediate surrender of the castle. This he refused & appears to have fired upon

The messenger.

The Siege.

On receipt of Major Beaumont's refusal to surrender, a force under Major General Crawford & Colonel Pickering was sent to reduce the castle & having entered the town sent the following letter to Major Beaumont.—

"Sir. I am sent by the Earl of Manchester to reduce this place you hold, and therefore send you yet a summons, though my trumpet was shot at, against the lawes of armes, the other day. You may easily perceive I desire not the effusion of blood, otherwise I should have spared myself this labour. If you think good to surrender it, you may expect all fair respects befitting a gentleman and souldier: otherwise you must expect those extremities which they have which refuse mercy. I desire your answer within one hour, and rest.

Your servant
L. Crawford.

Sheffield.

Aug. 4th, 1644.

The answer was in the negative, and a bombardment of the castle followed immediately. The siege, & event which led up to it, are graphically described in a contemporary account, Dicar's Parliamentary Chronicle, "The Burning Bush not Consumed", published in 1646, which states:—

"After this, this noble and victorious general, the virtuous and valourous Earl of Manchester, advanced farther, and sent out a party of his army (consisting of about one thousand two hundred foot, and a regiment of horse, commanded by Major-General Crawford & Colonell Pickering, with three of their biggest pieces of ordnance) to take in Sheffield Castle, a strong hold in Yorkshire, wherein were a troop of horse and two hundred foot, strongly fortified with a broad and deep trench of eighteen foot deep, and water in it, a strong brest-work pallizadoed, a wall round of two yards thick, eight pieces of iron-ordnance, and two mortar-pieces. Our forces being come near this castle, sent them three great shot, which did execution in the castle, after which they sent a summons to the castle, who shot three times at the trumpeter, two of which shots came very near, and hardly mist him, and they flourishing their swords cried out, " they would have no other parley". Where-upon ours advanced into the town and there quartered that night, in which night and next day they raised two batteries within threescore yards of the enemies outworks, whereupon our ordnance fell to play upon them, and did as much execution on the walls as pieces of their bignesse could doe, the greatest being but a demi-culverin. And after about foure and twenty houres playing and plying thus with their ordnance, and finding it would protract too much time

to be thus battering with their pieces, they resolved to send to my Lord Fairfax for the Queen's pocket-pistoll and a whole culverin, which accordingly were soon brought thither and presently mounted, and the next morning betimes, after their coming, those three began to play, which did very great execution upon one side of the castle, and brought the strong walls thereof down into the trenches; and made a perfect breach. And the noble Major-Generall having prepared all things in a readinesse for storming the castle, both faggots, ladders, and other accommodations thereunto, and digested the form of storming by a councell of warre, it was resolved to send another summons to the castle, which produced a present treaty between three gentlemen sent out of the castle, and three like men of our party, who speedily concluded the surrender of the castle upon fair articles. Wee took in this castle foure hundred armes, besides the great gunnes aforementioned, twelve barrells of powder, much match, twenty tuns of great iron shot, about foure hundred pounds worth of corn, beef, bacon, cheese and other provisions, all which and many other things (except a hundred muskets and a mortar-piece, which were brought away, were left in the castle for supply thereof, the country thereabout giving my Lord's soldiers five hundred pound among them for their good service against the place".

The terms upon which the castle was surrendered ~~are~~ were exceedingly mild and are honourable to both parties. They are as follows:—

* Articles of agreement between the commanders authorized by Major-General Crawford, & Major Thomas Beaumont, Governor of Sheffield Castle, for surrendering the same to the right honourable the Earl of Manchester;—

Art. 1. The Castle, with all the fire-arms, ordnance and ammunition, all their furniture of war, and all their provisions (except what is in the following articles) to be delivered to Major General Crawford to-morrow, by three o'clock, in the afternoon being the 11th of this instant August, without any diminution or embezzlement.

Art 11. That the Governor and all other officers shall march out of the castle upon the delivery thereof, with their drums and colours, and each his own horse saddled, sword and pistol, to Pomfret Castle, or wheresoever they please, with a sufficient convoy or pass, for their security; the common soldiers to their own home, or where they please.

Art. 111. That all officers and soldiers, marching out on this agreement, shall have liberty to carry with them their wives, children, & servants, with their own goods, properly belonging to them, and shall have all convenient accommodation for carrying the same away.

Art. IV. That the Lady Savile, and her children and family, with her own proper goods, shall and may pass with coaches, horses, and waggons to Thornhill, or elsewhere, with a sufficient

'guard, befitting her quality; and without injury to any of their persons, or plundering any of their goods or otherwise. She, they, or any of them, to go or stay at their own pleasure, until she or they be in a condition to remove themselves.

Art.V. That the Gentlemen in the Castle being no soldiers, shall march out with each his own horse saddled, sword and pistol, and shall have liberty to remove their goods, and to live in their own houses, or elsewhere, without molestation; they conforming to the ordinances of Parliament. And they shall have protection of the Earls of Manchester and Leven. And all officers and soldiers, who chuse to lay down their arms, shall have the same protection.

Art.VI. That the governor, officers, soldiers, gentlemen, and all others who are by this agreement to carry their own goods with them, shall have a week's time for removing the same; and in the meantime they are to be in the castle, and secure from embezzlement. And this article is to be understood of all such goods as are at present within the castle, or under the absolute command thereof.

Art.VII. That Kellam Homer,* now living in the Castle, shall have liberty to remove his goods into the town, or elsewhere, without molestation.

Art.VIII. That the governor, officers, gentlemen, and all other persons, shall (according to the articles above mentioned) march

* A Steward, or armourer, of the Earl of Arundel, owner of the castle.

out without injury or molestation.

Art. IX. That hostages, such as Major Crawford shall approve, shall be delivered by the governor, upon signing^N the articles for delivery of the castle, and safe return of the envoy; which hostages shall be returned safe, upon the performance thereof, unto such place as they desire.

Signed by us, Commissioners authorized by
Major Crawford, at Sheffield this 11th
of August 1644.

J. Pickering.
Mark Grimston.
William Hamilton.

*Signed by us, Commissioners authorized
by Major Beaumont, governor of Sheffield
Castle, this 11th. of August, 1644.*

*Gabriel Hemsworth,
Sam. Savile,
Thos. Robinson.*

*See back of this sheet!
for page 15. Through
error have taken it for a
blank & have not time
to re-write.*

With the fall of the Castle General Crawford appointed Colonel John Bright, of Carlbrook, as governor & himself advanced with his forces against Bolsover Castle and Winfield Manor which he quickly subdued. John Bright had served with great distinction throughout the campaign, under Sir Thomas Fairfax & had risen quickly to the rank of Colonel. Within a short time of his appointment, to the command at Sheffield, he was withdrawn to take up the more important post of military governor of York and Captain Edward Gills, of Norton, succeeded him as governor of the castle & town of Sheffield, which position he held until 1646.

Ichabod.

On April 30th. 1646 the doom of Sheffield Castle was pronounced by Parliament in a resolution passed by the House of Commons, resolving that the castle should be made untenable, and on July 13th of the following year a further resolution was passed commanding that it "be slighted and demolished".

For a ~~brief interval~~ ^{short time} the noble old pile was allowed to remain, scared and shattered by the results of the last siege, but its respite was brief, and by January of 1648 the work of demolition was in full progress. Careful accounts were kept of the sums expended on this work & of the payments received for materials sold, such as stone, lead, timber, doors, glass &c., together with the names of the purchasers. ^{Amongst these is that of} ~~See note.~~ Colonel Bright, who paid £8 for "two flores and 10 great joyst".

These accounts make

A pitiful, though fascinating, reading* and indicate how the stately towers and massive walls which had ~~been~~ ^{for 400 years,} ~~been~~ the home of the Furnivals & Talbot were torn down piece by piece & the noble halls, chapel & other apartments which had been so long the place of confinement of the unfortunate Queen of Scots, were destroyed & their furnishings dispersed.

So thoroughly was the demolition carried out, and supplemented later by the depredations of the towns people, for whom the ruins doubtless provided a quarry; that a century afterwards no vestige of the ancient building remained visible. The deep & wide ditch on the south side had been filled up with debris & levelled over so that its very existence was forgotten & in ~~some~~ time buildings were erected above it. Before the end of the 18th century the site of the once stately castle of Sheffield had become a matter of tradition and in course of time became a subject of controversy. With the growth of the town and development of its industries the area of the castle hill was gradually occupied by furnaces and workshops. On the east side, what remained of the castle ditch had become a steep narrow lane - "Castle Fold Lane" - flanked by slaughter houses & workshops, backed up against the ancient rampart of the castle & only the names of the locality, such as Castle Hill, Castle Green, Castle Folds, remained to indicate that Sheffield had once possessed a great medieval stronghold & that it had stood thereabouts.

* See Hunter's Hallamshire, 2nd Ed. p. 144.