

RELICS OF OLD SHEFFIELD CASTLE.

DISCOVERY OF INTERESTING LINKS WITH QUEEN MARY'S DAYS.

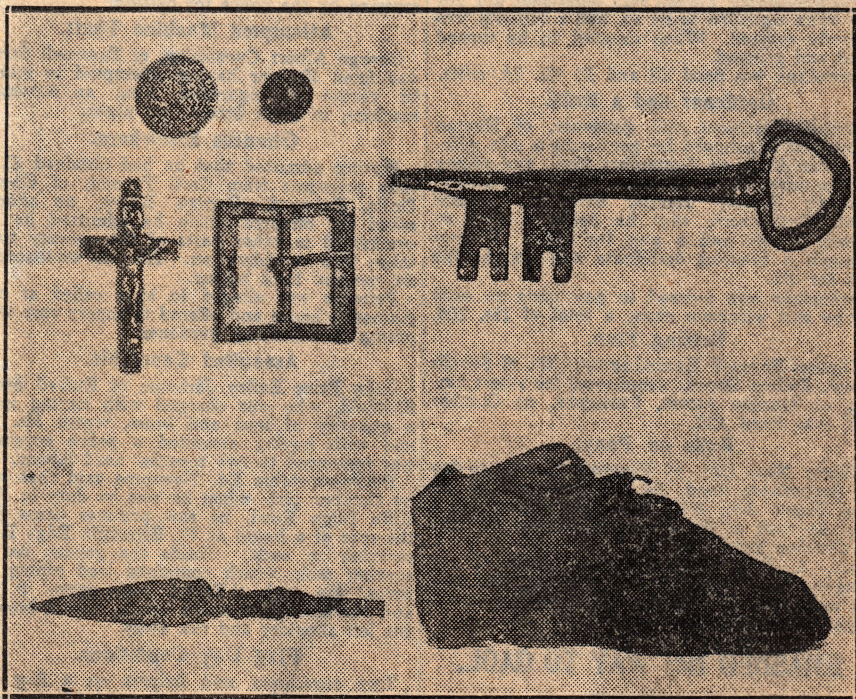
(By A. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A.)

Since the discovery of the Castle ruins, three weeks ago, on the site of the new central premises for the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society in Exchange Street, considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a secure foundation for the wall of the new building, east of the Castle remains. Day after day, the trial shaft has been sunk deeper and deeper through sticky black sludge, very wet and unpleasant in character, which seems to indicate the presence of a ditch, or possibly a rubbish pit, on that side of the Castle. Not until Thursday last was the bottom reached, and firm ground encountered at a depth of 24 feet below the present ground surface.

Whether this represents a defensive ditch or merely a refuse pit, it has obviously been a favourite dumping place for the general rubbish

found by the workmen, is a typical leather shoe such as the retainers of the Earl would wear. It is of stout leather, and in an astonishingly good state of preservation. The upper is cut from one piece of leather, and has been secured to the sole by stitching. There are no traces of nails or rivets. The shoe was fastened by means of a leather thong, which is still in place, and appears to have had a further fastening at the top, probably a buckle.

The most interesting find, so far, is that of a key for one of the interior apartments of the Castle, and this was found at the very bottom of the ditch. It is 5½ inches long, neatly ornamented and of elegant form. As the key was quite free from rust it was evidently not an iron one, and appeared to be of a white metal. It has been examined by Professor Desch and



Some of the Relics.

of the Castle, for the sludge enclosed quantities of charcoal ashes, fragments of broken pottery, and an abundance of animal bones, amongst which those of deer, sheep and pigs were most numerous.

The pottery ranges in date from the 14th to the 17th century, and includes portions of typical green glazed cooking pots, flagons and dainty goblets.

Glass is represented by portions of window panes, one or two of which are brown, and others dark green in colour. Pieces of the glazing leads have also been found.

By the courtesy of the contractors and the officials of the Co-operative Society the writer has been privileged to watch the progress of the excavations, and during brief daily visits, to recover from the sludge, before it was carted away, a representative collection of objects and other interesting relics of mediæval days, the variety and number of which testify to the extensive collection which could have been obtained had the excoavated material been systematically searched during the whole progress of the work.

Amongst those recovered in this way, or

Professor Fearnside, and proves to be of almost pure block tin. It would, therefore, originally have almost the appearance of silver, and there can be little doubt that it was the key of one of the state apartments, possibly that of Queen Mary herself.

For the Museum.

A gilt buckle, and two Papal medals of the Tudor period, are other relics which are contemporary with the key, also an iron spear head, 10 inches long. The latter is light and was probably more ornamental than useful, and possibly surmounted the shaft from which a banner or pennon was flown.

Of more recent date is a small crucifix of ebony, enclosed in brass, and with a well-modelled figure of the Saviour.

After a proper record has been made of these interesting links with Sheffield's historic Castle, the writer proposes to place them at the disposal of the Museums' Committee, if suitable accommodation can be provided where the public can have access to them.

S.D.T.

Oct. 13/27.

SHEFFIELD CASTLE.

Need For Preservation of Exchange Street Fragment.

CONTROVERSY ENDED.

What is Sheffield going to do for the preservation of the fragment of its ancient castle, which was recently discovered? Mr. A. L. Armstrong, in asking the question, calls attention to the importance of the find as solving the mystery of the castle's position, and also dwells on the necessity of taking immediate steps if the portions of wall now revealed are to be maintained.

Where did Sheffield Castle stand and what was it like (he writes). Most people learn with to be on the look out. Special police detach- grounds to the north of Paris have been told all night while all the emergency landing drome staff has been ordered to remain on duty arrives at the aerodrome. Part of the aero- napping, if and when the American Girl at Le Bourget are determined not to be caught progress of the flight the aviation authorities Though at present without any news of the Tuesday. 500 miles out in the Atlantic at 10.30 p.m. on since it was sighted by the American Banker No news of the aeroplane has been received morning (Paris time). near Paris, between 9 and 11 o'clock this Haldeman should land at Le Bourget Aerodrome, tions remain favourable Miss Elder and Captain ditions. It is estimated that if the weather con- together owing to a change in the weather con- the liners' route or taken another course also- the pilot may have strayed some distance from On the other hand, it is quite possible that certainible at a considerable distance. coloured body would make it easily dis- five o'clock yesterday, and its orange plane should have hit the ocean trail before Haldeman. It is pointed out that the aero- and for that of her companion, Captain Some anxiety is felt for Miss Elder's safety. sighted the plane (says the Central News). Paris reported last night that they had not Girl, should have taken in the flight to Ruth Elder's aeroplane, The American Miss All the vessels in the path which

GA. 13/27

CURRENT TOPICS.

IT would seem that at last the exact whereabouts of Sheffield Castle have been ascertained. Mr. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., tells us that definite remains of the structure have been revealed in the neighbourhood of Exchange Street, which is approximately the locality in which, according to the main body of antiquarian opinion, the castle was situated.

It is a strange thing that the site of such a place as this, certainly the most important and imposing building in mediæval Sheffield, should have passed out of record, and that no real trace of it should have been discovered until not far short of 300 years had passed since the Parliamentary troops razed it to the ground in 1648. These troops must have done their work most conscientiously.

Still, one would have supposed that some written evidence as to the site of the castle would have existed, or that at least an oral tradition about it would have been handed down.

A MATTER OF PRESERVATION.

The question now is whether, some authentic fragments of the castle having been found, these should be preserved, or whether they should be broken up and carted away. We are emphatically in favour of their preservation, and endorse Mr. Leslie Armstrong's appeal. It is unworthy of the dignity of a great city that it should neglect its historic past, even if that is represented only by a few relics of masonry. These, such as they are, should be cherished. It is not as if Sheffield were rich in memorials of its past; it is, indeed, singularly poor.

We are quite well aware that the discoveries of antiquarians are nearly always disputed by other antiquarians, and we shall not be at all surprised if a controversy arises. But, in the meantime, Mr. Armstrong holds the field.

"ALL-BRITISH" PROPAGANDA.

The "Buy Empire Goods" campaign has

RELICS OF OLD SHEFFIELD.

CASTLE REMAINS UNEARTHED.

It has now been definitely established that part of the old Sheffield Castle, which dates back to Norman times, has been unearthed in Exchange street, where excavations are proceeding on the site of the new premises of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society.

Theories as to the site of the castle have interested antiquarians for many years, but before the present discovery nothing authentic was known. The Society of Antiquities, of which Mr. Leslie Armstrong is the local secretary, and the Hunter Archæological Society are deeply interested, and an effort is being made to preserve this relic of ancient Sheffield.

The South-east bastion of the keep of the Castle has been unearthed, and also the foundations of a rectangular building. The bastion was 12 feet thick at least, and was buried to a depth of six feet under debris. It has been found intact to a depth of about eight feet. The rectangular building, which is probably of a later origin than the bastion, has walls of only two feet six inches.

It is hoped that the efforts to preserve these valuable relics will be successful, and those interested in the matter have already succeeded in getting the demolition suspended. Officials of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society have promised to assist in the preservation so far as they can.

The proposal, if sufficient money is



gh Baths Gala last evening.

forthcoming, is to preserve the bastion in its present position in the new building. A recess would be made in the wall of the basement, and this would enable the bastion to be left intact.

Thursday, October 13th, 1927.

THE CASTLE.

WE learned long ago that Sheffield had a castle in the old days, and such names as Castlefolds, Castle Green and Castle Street suggested that to any intelligent child. We should also have divined with a fair approach to accuracy where the castle was. We have visualised its siege by the forces of King and Parliament, and its demolition in 1648. Going further back in fancy, we have pictured Mary Queen of Scots there, and, before her time, the stately pageant of more ancient days. It has always been a grief to Sheffield's own children that nothing was left of the castle except the name. Lately a few vestiges have been turned up as modern development took place on the site, but now a substantial part of one of the castle towers has been unearthed, and the question arises "What is Sheffield going to do about it?" The city owes much to Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong for his work, and not least for his strenuous advocacy of the preservation of the priceless historic relic which has been unearthed. The castle wall is part of the premises of the Brightside Co-operative Society, but Sheffield as a whole is concerned in this matter.

We learn that the preservation of the remains *in situ* is a perfectly feasible proposition. Naturally, they would be built over, but this would be merely following the practice which has long been observed in Chester, and other cities where there are historic remains. There is an alternative in the removal of the building, and its re-erection in a park, but no one with any feeling for history would care for that unless the alternative were the total disappearance of the relics. "Blest be the man that spares these stones."

The matter is of deep interest to Sheffield, but it is a national concern too. Vandalism in the past has deprived the country of relics of priceless value, and we rightly condemn it. But we shall hardly be in a position to criticise our fathers for their sins against art and history if we ourselves perpetrate even negatively a similar offence. If we cannot show another Carnarvon, or Conway, we should at least cherish the poor remains of what was once the stronghold of the Furnivals.

There should be no difficulty on the financial side, even in these hard times. The matter seems to be one for the Corporation to take up.

CASTLE SITE.

FATE OF SHEFFIELD

RELIC IN BALANCE.

Keen interest is taken in the discovery of the fragment of the old Sheffield Castle, in the excavations for the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society's new building in Exchange Street, and a widespread desire is expressed that this historic relic should be preserved for future generations.

The architect has suspended the threatened demolition for a few days to see if a feasible scheme is forthcoming for the preservation of the excavated section of the old fortification, and meanwhile Mr. Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., and the Hunter Archaeological Society, are making strenuous efforts to formulate a scheme by which the city will be in a position, should it so desire, to preserve this small portion of the historic site. The question is one of finance, and it is estimated that something like £100 will be needed to carry the scheme into effect.

Two Proposals.

A special meeting of the Hunter Society is to be held to-morrow afternoon to discuss the matter, and, if possible, lay a carefully-prepared plan before Sheffield people for their support. Two plans have at present been put forward:—

The first is to preserve the relic *in situ*, and this could be accomplished by building piers at each end of the site, with girders over, and thus form a sort of alcove in the basement of the new Co-operative premises.

The public would thus for all time be able to see the historic relic, although it would be on private property.

The second is to number all the stones and remove them for re-erection in one of the public parks of the city.

The length of the excavated fragment is about 50ft. The remains revealed are in one place some 8ft. in height, and consist of smooth-dressed masonry. They are of two periods, of which the bastion is the oldest. This is semi-circular, and the two segments exposed show it to have had a radius of 20ft. and a diameter of 40ft. It is faced with heavy masonry, with a handsome, deeply splayed plinth course. The backing is of flat bedded rubble, and appears to be at least 12ft. thick.

Further excavations, it is expected, will reveal the intermediate portion of the bastion tower and a section of the wall above the level of the plinth.

NATURE OF THE STONE.

The bastion would seem to be a portion of the old Norman keep, which was built by Thomas de Furnival early in the 13th century, and is certainly of an earlier period than the wall which branches from it, and which may have formed part of a building.

It is interesting to note that the stone of the bastion is believed to be Brincliffe stone. Quarries in this district were worked as long ago as the 14th century. A piece of the stone is now being examined by an expert. It is thought at the moment that it is either Brincliffe or Handsworth stone, with all indications pointing to the former.

Were it possible to excavate the adjoining land on which the new Corporation market is to stand further interesting discoveries would be made. This land, however, it is understood, will not be excavated, so that all efforts are now being concentrated in preserving the one fragment which has been laid bare.

SHEFFIELD CASTLE RELIC.

LORD MAYOR FAVOURS SCHEME FOR PRESERVATION.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman J. G. Graves) and the Town Clerk (Sir William Hart) to-day saw the remains of the old Sheffield Castle that have been exposed during the excavations in Exchange street.

Mr. Leslie Armstrong, the antiquarian, who is keenly interested in preserving these remains, told the "Sheffield Mail" afterwards that both the Lord Mayor and Town Clerk were enthusiastic about the scheme of preservation.

MR. JOSEPH HALL RESUMES

SHEFFIELD CASTLE.

Local antiquarian opinion has long been divided as to the whereabouts of the site of Sheffield Castle. The Parliamentary forces who destroyed it in the middle of the 17th century, did their work remarkably well and, curiously enough, there was left no record concerning its exact situation. Doubt has been removed once and for all by the discovery of the remains now unearthed in Exchange street. An appeal has gone forth that they shall be preserved. It is possible to do this without materially interfering with the new business premises in course of construction if only enough money is forthcoming.

Sheffield is not so rich in relics of its historic past that it can allow the stones of its old castle to be carted away for the manufacture of so prosaic a substance as concrete. We, therefore, express the sincere hope that there will not be lacking citizens who are public-spirited enough to provide the money. But it must be given quickly.

SHEFFIELD CASTLE.

There is a proposal that the relics of Sheffield Castle, found on the site of the new premises of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society in Exchange street, should be preserved. The Society has promised its support, but it is obvious that, having agreed to allow a recess to be made in the wall of the basement in order that the Castle remains may be left undisturbed, it is entitled to look elsewhere for some contribution to the additional cost involved.

The Castle, which was demolished by Parliament after the Civil War, is of such historical interest that there should be no difficulty in raising the necessary funds.

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13/10/27

Mr. William Watts (82), one of the best known farmers in the Penistone district,

The case is a sequel to an alleged pocket picking incident at Otley auction mart on October 3rd.

SHEFFIELD CASTLE EXCAVATIONS.



Part of the wall and bastion unearthed during the Sheffield Castle excavations.

WILLIAM LE

SHEFFIELD CASTLE

RELIC.

FEAR IT MAY BE LOST TO CITY.

PUBLIC APPEAL.

There is grave danger of the fragment of the old Sheffield Castle, recently unearthed in Exchange street, being irretrievably lost beneath a modern building, and during the next few days people in Sheffield will probably be asked to support a fund for the preservation of the historic relic.

A considerable portion of what seems to be the South-east bastion of the keep of the Castle has been uncovered on the site of the new premises of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, in Exchange street, where excavations are now proceeding.

Unless some satisfactory scheme for the preservation of this historic fragment has been adopted by next Monday, the old stones will be coated with concrete and built into the foundation of the new Co-operative building. Thus, the last remains of the Castle, which dates back to Norman times, will vanish.

ABOUT £100 REQUIRED.

"Surely a town of Sheffield's size will be able to raise the comparatively small sum required for the preservation of the remains," Mr. A. L. Armstrong, local secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, said to a representative of the "Sheffield Mail". Mr. Armstrong has been watching the excavations on behalf of his society, and also of the Hunter Archaeological Society, and he was the first person to draw attention to the danger of the remains being lost.

"The sum required may be £50 or it may be £100 or more," he said. "I am unable to estimate the exact amount at the moment, but certainly it will not be large, and whatever happens something must be done before next week if the remains are to be saved.

"I have watched with extreme interest the progress of the excavations, but unfortunately I was not able to be present all the time work was going on, and I am convinced that already many interesting smaller objects have been lost. Each time I have been to the site I have picked up objects that are of great interest, but not easily recognised by people unacquainted with archæology.

ASSET TO CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

"If the remains are preserved they will not, of course, be visible from outside the new building, but they will be easily accessible. They will project into the basement of the Co-operative building, and I see no reason why their presence in a recess should be inconvenient in any way.

"Officials of the Co-operative Society have been very helpful, but naturally they do not wish to incur inconvenient liabilities. I think, however, they could make the remains a very profitable asset."

"If part of a building of such great historic interest as Sheffield Castle were built into their premises, hundreds of people would wish to visit it, and in visiting the remains they must, of course, pass through the shop.

"A cafe might even be placed in the building near the position of the remains, but I leave the Co-operative Society to decide for themselves whether in preserving this last fragment of the Castle they would be benefiting both themselves and other people."

The remains now stand revealed in one place to a height of eight feet, and consist of smooth dressed masonry. They are of two periods, of which the bastion is the older.

DEMOLITION SUSPENDED.

This is semi-circular, and the two segments exposed show it to have been a radius of 20 feet, faced with heavy masonry and with a handsome deeply-splayed plinth course. The backing is of rubble, and appears to be at least 12 feet thick. Further excavations which are pending promise to reveal the intermediate portion of the bastion tower and an imposing section of the wall above the level of the plinth.

Mr. J. E. Forster, secretary of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, told the "Sheffield Mail" that the society wished to do everything in its power to preserve the remains of the Castle, but it could do nothing until a definite scheme is proposed.

"I see no reason, however, why the remaining portion should not be preserved in our new building," he said, "but naturally we wish to know whether other people are going to help us. The architect has agreed to suspend the demolition until Monday, and it remains to be seen what will be done."

Mail

14 BX/27

UNDER VULCAN'S EYE.

FARGATE, Friday.

PROBABLY not more than £100 will be required to preserve the ruins of Sheffield Castle which were unearthed in Exchange street, and Mr. Leslie Armstrong tells me that already numerous offers of help have been received by him.

The Lord Mayor has given the scheme his blessing.

There are two alternative schemes proposed for the preservation of the relics.

One is that they should be left where they are, and another is that they shall be removed stone by stone and erected just as they were discovered in one of the parks.

Mr. Armstrong thinks that the former scheme is the ideal one, and I have no doubt that if it is possible the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, who are building new premises on the site, will give their support.

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TRANSFERRING RELICS.

WHILE that scheme has much to commend it it may not be possible of achievement, and there is a great deal to be said for the second scheme.

It would make the relics more readily accessible to the members of the public.

The transference of such relics is a delicate business, but it is one that is being undertaken with greater frequency every year.

I have in mind two cases which came under my own personal notice.

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ENTERPRISING MUNICIPALITY.

IN one a municipality was faced with the necessity of widening a thoroughfare which teemed with historical associations and in which stood an old tavern going back to pre-Tudor times. It was essential that the tavern should go, but the wise Corporation had it carefully demolished and re-erected in a city park.

The other case concerned an old Manor House which stood on a site bought by a church for the erection of a vicarage.

The house had to go, and would have been lost for ever had not a local philanthropist come forward, bought it as it stood, and moved it to a site a mile or so away where it now stands, visited by thousands of people each year.

* * *

A MYSTERIOUS SCOURGE.

THE CASTLE.

SHEFFIELD RUINS FOR PRESERVATION.

£100 PLAN.

The suggestion that the ruins of Sheffield Castle, which have been unearthed during the excavations for the new Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society's premises in Waingate, be preserved is meeting with considerable approval by citizens.

The Co-operative Society, in deference to the general wish which has been expressed by the public, has suspended excavation operations with the idea of allowing a scheme to be formulated, and it is confidently anticipated that such a scheme will be put before the Society in time for its meeting next Monday.

Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong, the local secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, who is taking an active interest in the scheme, has already prepared a plan showing how the ruins may be preserved without seriously interfering with the Co-operative building, and to-day he submitted the plan for the examination of the Lord Mayor (Alderman J. G. Graves), Sir William Clegg, the City Surveyor (Mr. W. J. Hadfield), and other prominent citizens on the site.

The party made a thorough examination of the site, and the proposed plan, which is to be considered also to-day by the Hunter Archaeological Society.

It is estimated that about £100 would be required to carry out the work of preserving the ruins, assuming it is decided to permit them to remain on their present site.

Lord Mayor's Interest.

The Lord Mayor afterwards told the "Star" that his inspection had been most interesting to him. The discovery, he added, was extraordinarily interesting and absolutely authentic, and would settle for all time the actual position and, to a great extent, the dimensions of the ancient edifice. He should say that there would be no doubt that the public spirit of the owners of the new building would see to the preservation of the ruins, and that they would realise the value and interest of the discovery; of its enormous interest to the city and attraction to their own building. It was an extraordinarily fortunate find.

Sir William Clegg said that he was entirely in favour of adopting the suggestion that the remains be preserved providing it could be accomplished within a reasonable financial compass. "I realise that Sheffield has been somewhat remiss in preserving its amenities and antiquities in the past and that it would be a pity if such a historical site with all its associations were entirely obliterated," he added. "Therefore, I should be prepared to support any reasonable steps that may be taken from the city's point of view to preserve the site for the benefit of the public for all time."

S.D.T.
ODI. 15/47

SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD CASTLE.

Scheme For Preservation of the Ruins.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION.

A £100 scheme for the preservation of the ruins of Sheffield Castle, which have been unearthed during the excavations for the new Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society's premises in Waingate, will, it is hoped, be put before the society in time for its meeting on Monday.

The Co-operative Society, in deference to the general wish which has been expressed by the public, has suspended excavation operations with the idea of allowing the scheme to be formulated.

Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong, the local secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, who is taking an active interest in the scheme, has already prepared a plan showing how the ruins may be preserved without seriously interfering with the Co-operative building, and yesterday he submitted the plan for the examination of the Lord Mayor (Alderman J. G. Graves), Sir William Clegg, the City Surveyor (Mr. W. J. Hadfield), and other prominent citizens. The party made a thorough examination of the site and the proposed plan.

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Lord Mayor's Inspection.

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unday.

S.D.T. Oct. 18/27

PRESERVATION OF CASTLE RUINS.

The question of preserving the ruins of Sheffield Castle, which have been unearthed during the excavations for the new premises of the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society in Exchange Street, was before the Board of the society last night. Mr. A. Leslie Armstrong's plan was considered. The Board decided to defer any announcement on the subject until the society's architect, Mr. W. A. Johnson, has examined the site to-day.

S.D.T.

GDV.18/27

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Sheffield Castle.

Sir,—It is gratifying to notice the interest which is being taken in the remains of the above, but one is inclined to regret that systematic excavations were not commenced before arrangements were made for building on the site.

Canon Odom, who is among those who write as authorities on local history, states that the castle was a building which dates back to the 13th century. Seeing that, according to the Pipe Rolls, a sum of £7 was expended during the year 30 Henry II. (1183-4) on "enclosing the Castle of Sheffield" presumably building a wall or palisade round the courtyard, it is clear that the castle was in existence in the 12th century. He also states that there is no ground for the supposition that the Hall of Waltheof once occupied the castle site, but that the evidence is much to the contrary. Perhaps he will give the reasons for this view.

Waltheof of Doomsday Book apparently made terms with the Norman invader, but owing to taking part later in a conspiracy he was executed in 1075. His widow, the Countess Judith, was allowed to retain her husband's lands. It seems highly probable that the successor of Waltheof would continue to make his aula, or the site of it, one of their residences. The fact that Attercliffe and Sheffield, bracketed together as it were, and designated as "inland," i.e., demesne land of the manor of Hallam, in other words "the land adjacent to a manor-house or manor kept in the proprietor's own hands," suggests very plainly that the aula of Waltheof was not far off. I suggest that the irl or district referred to in the Norman survey as Escafeld (or Sheffield) was on the north or more level side of the Don and that Waltheof's aula was on the rising ground to the south, i.e., on the side of what became not very long afterwards Sheffield Castle.—Yours, etc.,

F. C.