

Excavations in progress on the site for the new Market, in rear of the Co-operative Societies premises in Esc. St. have revealed, as was anticipated, further extensive remains of Sheffield Castle. ^{perhaps} The ~~most~~ ^{most} spectacular, ~~this recent~~ ^{find} is no less important than the portions uncovered ^{on the adjoining site} in the autumn of 1927 twelve months ~~ago~~ ^{ago} ~~the major part of which~~ ^{which} ~~has been carefully~~ ^{through the commendable public spirit displayed by the Director of the} preserved ~~by the~~ ^{by the} B. & C. Coop. & incorporated in the basement of their new premises.

The portion now exposed ^{together with evidence obtained ~~from~~ ^{from} a number of holes dug for ~~the purpose of~~ ^{for} ~~apparently~~ ^{apparently} formed part of the is a wall 5 feet in thickness having a double chamfered ~~plinth~~ ^{base course of dressed ~~stone~~ ^{stone} similar to that displayed on the ~~wall~~ ^{wall} ~~walling~~ ^{walling} uncovered last year. The total height ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~feet~~ ^{feet} above the footings of the ~~wall~~ ^{wall} is 4 feet, the portion above the plinth consisting of squared rubble masonry. An offset project — beyond the face of the main wall & appears to be a side buttress or possibly the breast of a chimney & has dressed stone quoins at the angle. ^{The masonry work is of fine class ~~quality~~ ^{quality} ~~and the walling~~ ^{and the walling} ~~extremely solid, despite its great thickness.~~ ^{extremely solid, despite its great thickness.} ~~The stone used for the plinth ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~apparently~~ ^{apparently} ~~to be~~ ^{to be} from the Handsworth neighbourhood or possibly Brimcliffe.~~ ^{The stone used for the plinth ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~apparently~~ ^{apparently} ~~to be~~ ^{to be} from the Handsworth neighbourhood or possibly Brimcliffe.}}}}

is part of a building at the N.E. corner of the ^{inner west of the} ~~castle quadrangle~~ ^{quadrangle} & represents ~~them~~ ^{them} & represents the court yard face of the building.

Thus valuable light upon the general plan of the castle. It is evident that ^{there was} an extensive central court yard ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~buildings~~ ^{buildings} ~~erected~~ ^{erected} on the south & east sides we have now direct evidence, also that an entrance ^{most} possibly the principal entrance of the building, was situated at the S.E. angle, flanked by ~~two~~ ^{two} massive semi-circular towers between which the gate house with its portcullis & drawbridge was situated & projected chiefly into the ~~deep~~ ^{deep} ~~side~~ ^{side} ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~field~~ ^{field} which formed the defence on ^{the} Exchange St side. ~~A~~ ^A ~~main~~ ^{main} ~~entrance~~ ^{entrance} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~river~~ ^{river} ~~Street~~ ^{Street}.

I appear before you tonight as the creature of circumstances. Medieval history is not really my forte. It is not "my period". I am more at home delving into the pre-history of mankind & piecing together from scraps of bone & tools of flint something of man's early story.

In comparison with that Medieval History is an exact science & when I see before me ~~such~~ ^{such well known} ~~authorities~~ ^{writers} on local history

~~writers of reports~~ such as Canon Odour, Mr. Charles Dray
Mr. ~~Walter~~ Hall

Mr. Wignall & authorities on local history like Mr. H. Richardson who is just steeped in it, Mr. J. B. Hinmuth & others who, for years, have been storing up facts & figures relating to Sheffield's past, I feel that I am the wrong man to be on the platform tonight.

However, circumstances having ~~materially~~ compelled me, not unwillingly I confess, to watch the excavations made on the site of our ancient walls during the erection of the Brightside & C. Co. Op. Soc. new premises in Exchange St. as well as on the Market site where work is still in progress, & to record the discoveries made there & collect all available relics uncovered, it is my bounden duty to the Society which deputed the work to me, to describe to them as well and as lucidly as I am able, ~~the~~ what has been found & how far the discoveries made have advanced our knowledge of Sheffield's ancient Castle. I'm doing this, I have tried to bring to bear on the Castle problem the experience gained in prehistoric research excavations & to employ these, as far as possible under the circumstances, methods which have proved successful in much more intricate & difficult problems elsewhere.

To properly appreciate the castle discoveries we ought at the outset to get a proper perspective of the Castle's history. To some of you that is perfectly familiar & I cannot teach you anything, I know very well, though I may commit ~~various~~ blunders, (not scream as I trust) & must crave your indulgence. Others there are to whom an outline of its history will be welcome & I think the time will be well spent in reviewing this.