

## The Town Wall of Great Yarmouth.

COMMUNICATED BY

CHARLES JOHN PALMER, ESQ., F.S.A.

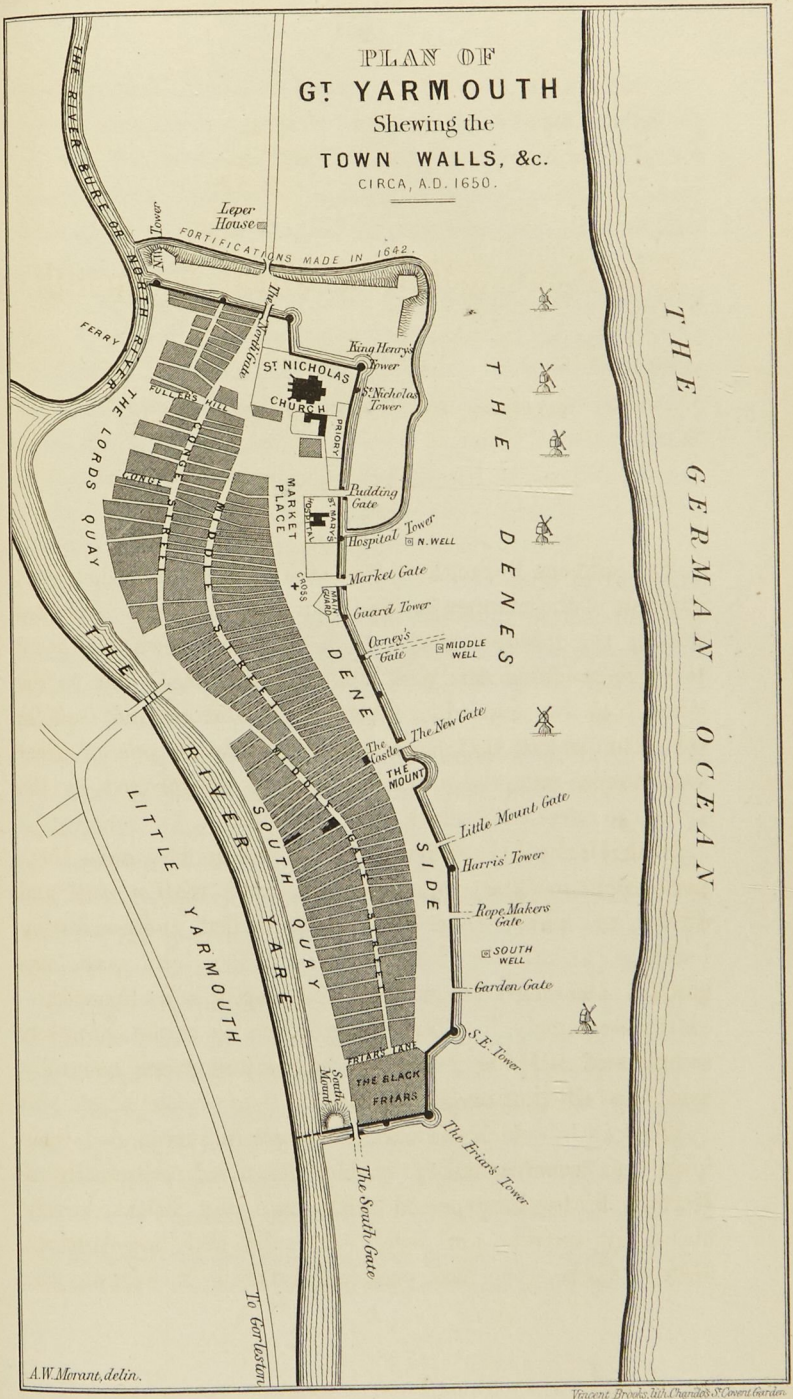
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THE ancient Borough of GREAT YARMOUTH affords a good example of the manner in which our Out-Ports were defended during the middle ages. As a "frontier town," exposed to "the machinations and malice of enemies," and as the "key" to the adjoining counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, this place was at that period considered to be one of great importance, and the inhabitants were encouraged by the Crown to exert themselves for its defence.

King Henry III. was the first monarch who gave them permission (in 1260) to enclose the town with a wall and ditch; of which they afterwards availed themselves by building, as *Manship* informs us, "a fair high wall, embattled, and most magnificently towered and turreted,—extremely comely." These fortifications were not, however, commenced till the following reign, and were not fully completed till that of Richard II.

The wall by which the careful burgesses surrounded their town was constructed of rubble, composed principally of Norfolk flints, interspersed with hard flat bricks, firmly united by concrete, and faced externally with smoothly-cut flints. Caen stone was occasionally used in forming the

PLAN OF  
**ST YARMOUTH**  
 Shewing the  
**TOWN WALLS, &c.**  
 CIRCA, A.D. 1650.



A.W. Merritt, delin.

Vincent Brooks, sculp. Chapmains, St Oswald Gardens

loopholes and ornamental work, but bricks were more frequently employed, especially in forming the lower loopholes; and the flat roofs of the towers were covered with lead.<sup>1</sup> It was about 23 feet in height, and when finished admeasured 2238 yards in length; having ten gates, and sixteen principal towers.

The expense of building these fortifications and of keeping them in repair, besides the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants and the bequests of dying persons (of which *Swinden* gives several examples) was defrayed by a tax called murage, collected by officers annually chosen, named Muragers; and two muragers continued to be elected annually on St. John's day, until 1835, although the duties attached to their office had long previously ceased.

It is probable that nothing further was done to the walls until the wars with France and Scotland, in the reign of King Henry VIII., when, in consequence of the introduction of heavy guns, it was thought necessary to strengthen them. For this purpose the Duke of Norfolk was sent to Yarmouth, who, by virtue of his commission, ordered all the gardens which the inhabitants had made within the walls to be destroyed; and caused the walls themselves to be "rampired," by heaping earth against them on the inner side, thereby blocking up the arcade which supported the walk for the garrison, and rendering useless the lower loopholes for the cross-bow, one of which was in each archway.

In 1569 "a very high mount of earth" was erected at a spot about half-way round the wall, admeasuring 222 feet in length, and 32 feet without the town wall. It was breasted with flags; but "in the year of the coming of the great (yet by God's help made weak) Spanish Armada," says *Manship*, the lower part of this mount was enclosed by a wall of brick and freestone, 500 feet in length and upwards

<sup>1</sup> The accurate *Swinden* gives a detailed account of the materials used in the construction of the wall, and the prices paid for the same, and for waxes.

of 20 feet high, the materials for which were partly brought from the ruins of a charnel-house and chantry then lately suppressed.

These works were further strengthened by an inner wall, higher than the Town Wall, upon which, and upon the Mount, "great pieces of ordnance" were placed "to scour the roads at the time of the enemy's approaching."

The walls were at this anxious period raised and still further rampired, especially from Blackfriars' Tower to Market Gate; between which points the walls were "very fully and formally finished to the top with earth and manure more than forty feet in breadth, resistable (quoth *Manship*) by God's help against any battery whatsoever." Each gateway was arched over in the inside, whereby a very pleasant walk was formed from one end of the town to the other, which, from its fine elevation, commanded an extensive prospect, and gave (says *Swinden*) "great pleasure to all strangers that came to the town." In times of danger all the gates were "made up with lime and stone," and rampired like the adjoining wall, except the North and South Gates and Market Gate, which were kept shut and guarded night and day.

Near the Friars' Tower a raveline was at this period thrown out, no trace of which now remains; and another "great and mighty mount of earth," higher than the Town Wall, was raised between the South Gate and the river, upon which also were placed "great store of ordnance," not only to withstand the enemy "but to scour all along the Haven;" and a boom "to withstand the entrance of ships into the Haven" was placed across the river; and the ditch surrounding the wall was "made passable for boats and keels." These defences against the power of Spain cost the town about £2,000.

Nothing further was done to these fortifications until 1625, when a survey by some Deputy Lieutenants was made by order of the Lord Lieutenant. The defence across the river

being then decayed, a timber jetty was ordered to be constructed on either side, and a boom placed from one to the other. The Commissioners recommended that the wall should be returned inward next the haven for twelve feet, and that "two good culverins or sackers" should be placed thereon to command the river, and that three pieces of large ordnance should be placed on the South Mount, with a "murdering piece" on the east tower of the South Gate; that some of the towers should be rampired, (that is, the lower part filled with earth to make them more fit for artillery) and good pieces of ordnance placed on the Friars' Tower, the South-east Tower, and Harris's Tower, in order to scour the walls from tower to tower and to command the Denes and Roadstead. They also directed eight pieces of ordnance to be placed on the New Mount and Bulwark, two upon the Market Gate, two upon King Henry's Tower, and one on either side of the same, "to command the enemy landward;" and one on the North Gate, "to command that end of the town and haven's side."

In the same year the inhabitants obtained leave from the Privy Council to set up an Artillery Yard, "wherein the townsmen might learn the true use of all sorts of arms, as well offensive as defensive;" they declaring themselves to be "ready to undergo all the charges," and willing "to keep watch and ward day and night with shot and otherwise for the safety and defence of the kingdom."<sup>2</sup>

When King Charles I. raised his standard and a civil war broke out, Yarmouth immediately declared for the Parliament. It was then thought necessary to strengthen the fortifications and to place additional ordnance thereon.

A gate was placed at the foot of the Southtown bridge (the only bridge then existing) and the same was guarded day and night to prevent any approach from that quarter.

<sup>2</sup> The Artillery Yard occupied a portion of the site of the dissolved Monastery of Grey Friars, which comprised Queen Street and the adjoining buildings.

The keys of this gate, and those of the Market and North Gates, were every night placed in safe custody.<sup>3</sup>

As the north part of the town was then considered to be the most exposed to a hostile attack, a new moat or ditch, sixty feet wide and eight feet deep, was constructed at some little distance outside the north wall, extending from the river Bure, or North River, to beyond King Henry's Tower, where it turned at right angles and was continued to Pudding Gate; and a draw-bridge was placed over this moat opposite North Gate.<sup>4</sup>

When all civil strife had ceased, little attention was paid to these defences; and in the reign of James II. all the brass guns and pieces of ordnance belonging to Government were removed. Subsequently, a fort was built near the haven's mouth, and batteries were erected by Government close to the sea, for the defence of the town.

The wall and towers as they now exist may thus be described.<sup>5</sup>

Commencing with the south wall where it adjoins the river, there is now no appearance of the jetties which once supported the boom across the haven.

The Town Wall is here chiefly built of rough flints firmly massed together with mortar. It is faced externally with cut flints, presenting an even surface, and carefully put together. The upper portion, which has evidently been built at a later period, has a more slovenly appearance, not being faced, and bricks being used with the stone.

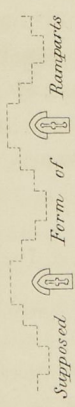
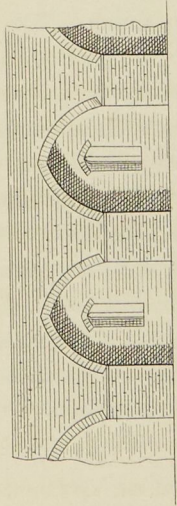
<sup>3</sup> In 1642, Mr. Wakeman was discharged from this duty, and Mr. H. Freeman was appointed. Afterwards, Mr. Norgate volunteered to relieve Mr. Freeman.

<sup>4</sup> During the civil war the towers and gate-houses were used as prisons for the Royalists.

<sup>5</sup> In a recent inspection of what can still be seen, the Author was accompanied by and had the assistance of T. W. King, Esq., York Herald, F.S.A., and A. W. Morant, Esq., F.S.A. To the latter zealous archaeologist he is indebted for the plan of the town of Great Yarmouth, showing the ancient wall, gates, and towers, which accompanies this paper.

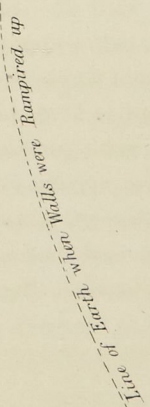
SKETCH SHEWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
OLD WALLS OF YARMOUTH.

Supposed  
Form of  
Ramparts

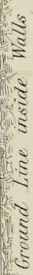
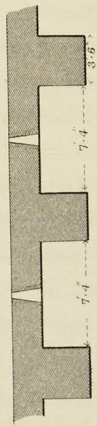
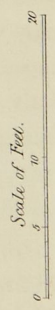



Elevation Inside Walls.

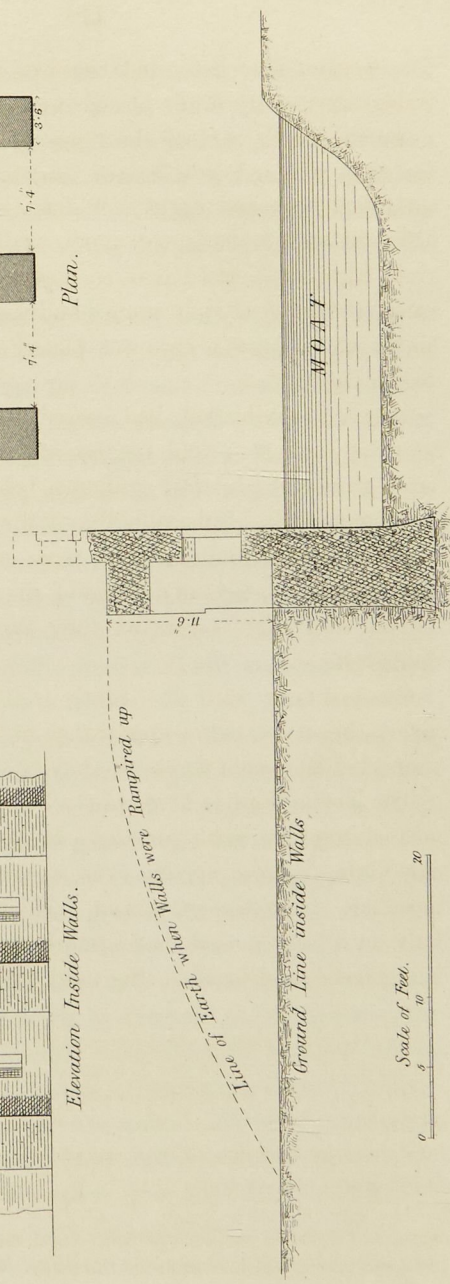
Line of Earth where Walls were Rampired up



Ground Line inside Walls

Plan.



This arrangement may, as a general rule, be traced throughout a considerable portion of the wall.

Internally, the South Mount, built behind the wall between the South Gate and the river, has been within the last few years removed to a considerable extent, thereby disclosing the arcade which extended along the wall and supported the walk for the defenders.

In each of these arches (which are built of brick) may be seen a loophole for the cross-bow; proving that this means of defence was used before the walls were rampired or backed by earth. On the town side, the ground, except the site of the look-out (built on what remains of the Mount) belongs to G. D. Palmer, Esq., and is in the occupation of the Receiver of Admiralty Droits for the Crown, and is used for the stowage of anchors and other derelict goods. Outside the wall is a yard belonging to the town, and occupied by the Local Board of Health.

This wall extends to the SOUTH GATE (anciently called *The Great Gate*) which was flanked by two round embattled towers, built of cut flint, placed a few feet in front of the line of wall. The upper parts of these towers were ornamented by smooth flints worked in square panels. They were connected by a square gate-house, extending over the arch which spanned the road. The latter, besides gates, was protected by a portcullis, the groove for which, on the west side, still remains, together with the stone loophole for the cross-bow which enfiladed the road. These towers, with the gate-house, were pulled down by order of the Corporation in 1812, and the road widened. All trace of the east tower has disappeared; but the base of the west tower remains, and is used as an appendage to a stable. Above it a chamber has been built connected with a cottage erected against the inside of the wall. This tower was nine feet in diameter inside, and the walls are three feet and nine inches thick.

King William III. entered the town through this gate in



1692; and before its demolition the west tower was used as a telegraph station.<sup>6</sup>

Pursuing the Town Wall, which runs due east from the South Gate, it will be found in a very perfect state, but the approach to it on the town side is blocked up by houses which have been built against and upon it. Externally, it forms the boundary to the yards of other houses which have been built in front of it, and which face a road now called Mariners' Lane.

*The first Tower* is so surrounded by houses as not to be easily reached, but some glimpses may be obtained of it externally. A modern sloping tiled roof has been placed upon it.

The next tower is called *Friars' Tower*, from the fact of its having been placed at the south-east corner of the precincts of the monastery of Dominicans or Black Friars. By the accounts of the muragers, as printed by Swinden, page 89, it appears to have been built in 1342. In front of the wall, immediately adjoining this tower, a ravelin was thrown out as an additional means of defence in the time of the Spanish Armada, but it has been levelled, and no remains are now to be seen.

The Friars' Tower remains entire, but is now merely a shell, having been unfloored and unroofed. A passage sufficiently wide for a cart has been cut completely through it, the superstructure on either side being supported by massive beams. This was done, it is presumed, to obtain access to the gardens from the Denes; but why an opening through the adjoining wall should not have been made in preference, it is difficult to imagine. The lower part of the tower appears to have been used as an apartment, and the holes remain for the joists which once supported the upper floor, which was lighted by six small windows, probably to enable

<sup>6</sup> There is an engraving of this gate in the *Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet*, vol. ii., and in Preston's *Picture of Yarmouth*.

the guard to watch the approach from all sides, except that towards the town, on which side the tower, which is otherwise circular, presents a flat surface, adorned with an arcade filled in with square-cut flints, the arches being neatly formed of red brick. The guard chamber was approached by an external staircase from the rampart, the greater part of which still remains.

From this tower the Town Wall turns at a right angle, and runs nearly due north, bounding what were once the gardens of the Black Friars; the largest of which (divided among many occupiers) adjoining the wall, was for many years the property of the late J. D. Palmer, Esq., and, having been sold for building purposes, is now covered with houses; to afford an approach to which, from the outside, an opening was made through the Town Wall.

Externally, beneath the wall, the ground was also laid out for a garden, which was for some years the property of the late Samuel Paget, Esq.; but within the last few years this ground has also been covered with houses, fronting what is now called Blackfriars Road.

At the north-east extremity of the precincts of the Black Friars the wall forms an angle and runs off to the east. Greater attention appears to have been paid to this portion of the Town Wall, which, when rebuilt, was raised higher than the rest, and the stone facing is carried to the top, near which there is a regular series of stone loopholes; and the angle of the wall is adorned with Caen stone quoins. Evidently, some of the materials used in raising this part of the wall were brought from an ecclesiastical structure, for portions of three-clustered columns have been built in and appear on the surface; and it is highly probable that these and other stones were brought from the ruins of the "very fair church" belonging to the Black Friars, which in 1525 was "wholly consumed by fire;" thereby, as *Manship* says, "easing a labour to those who within ten years following demolished the same."

In front of this portion of the wall, which surmounts and is seen above them, the late Mr. Dover Colby erected a number of cottages upon what had previously been a ropery.

The next tower, called the *South-east Tower*, is the largest of the whole, and remains entire. It is converted into several dwellings, for the accommodation of which two chimneys have been built outside, and modern windows and a doorway broken out. A small tenement is also perched on the top. This tower, like the preceding one, presents a flat surface towards the town, whilst beyond the wall it is rounded;<sup>7</sup> and the flints with which it is faced are, towards the top, worked into square panels. Three curiously carved stone gurgoyles, probably brought from the ruins of the Black Friars' church, have been inserted.

On the inner or town side, the earth by which the wall and tower were rampired has been removed, and fish offices and other buildings erected on the site. A small portion of the wall south of the tower is now open, disclosing a portion of the arcade already mentioned. Within each arch is a loophole for shooting with the cross-bow.

In 1636, a gate was opened through the Town Wall, a little further north, which had many names, viz., *Little Gate*, *Garden Gate*, *Colby's Gate*, and, latterly, *Stevenson's Gate*; and from it there was a path leading to the "South Well." It was removed in 1776. The road which now runs through the opening towards the sea has recently been named Alma Road.

From this gate to the next the wall remains in a very perfect state. It had been well rampired with earth; and there was also a mount called Symonds' Seat, upon which a look-out (recently pulled down) was afterwards erected. The earth by which the wall was rampired has been much

<sup>7</sup> An etching of this tower, by Mrs. Bowyer Vaux, appeared in vol. iii. page 377.

cleared and levelled, to permit of the erection of St. Peter's Schools, which abut against the Town Wall. Here again the arcade so often mentioned is again visible.

On the outside, and at the foot of the wall, are twine grounds, at the back of modern houses which front Blackfriars Road, and in this twine ground the old moat is partially visible.

The next gate was called *Ropemakers' Gate*, probably from the fact of there then being a ropery within the wall, upon the site of which the houses on the east side of King Street now stand.

This ropery remained till 1677, when the ropemakers were sent outside the walls. This gate, which was then called *Symonds' Gate*, and more recently the *White Lion Opening* (from the sign of an ancient tavern immediately opposite) was taken down in 1785, and no vestige of it remains.

On the north side of this opening the church of St. Peter has been erected, to allow of which part of the Town Wall was taken down in 1833. The exact spot where the church crosses the wall may be seen by a slight crack in the brickwork over the second clerestory window, occasioned by the unyielding nature of this part of the foundation. The road which passes through this gateway is continued in a straight line to the beach, and was called Jetty Road, or White Lion Road, and is now named St. Peter's Road.

About half-way between this and the next gate, at a point where the wall makes a slight angle, there is another tower, called *Harris's Tower*, the base of which is now used as a stable, with a modern door opening upon St. Peter's Plain. The upper part has disappeared, and some rooms belonging to a modern dwelling-house (erected on the earthwork inside the wall, and now in the occupation of Mr. J. T. Bracey) extend over what remains of this tower.

Nothing can be seen of the next gate, which was called *Little Mount Gate*, and was removed in 1804, being then

called *Norfor's Gate*. It appears to have been called *Appleby's Gate* in 1677; afterwards *Harris's Gate*, and more recently, *Brewery Gate*, from the brewery erected on the Denes outside, by the late F. R. Reynolds, Esq., about the commencement of the present century. It also acquired the name of *Moyse's Opening* and the *Drum Opening*, and is now known as *York Gate*, the road leading through it to the beach being designated York Road.

The Town Wall, which is continued northward, is still rampired on the inside; and the ground is occupied by some buildings and an anchor yard. Outside and below the wall are seen some buildings, and a yard called the Middle Yard, belonging to the Local Board of Health. Here a breach has been made in the wall, and a small chamber excavated in the mound behind, whereby it can be clearly seen how carefully the earth by which the wall was rampired was deposited in layers.

We now come to "*The Mount*," the erection of which, as an additional means of defence against the threatened attack by the Spanish Armada, has been already described.

When no longer required for defensive purposes, this mount was used by the Corporation for the stowage of anchors and other derelict goods; but when the Local Admiralty Jurisdiction was abolished in 1835, the ground was granted by the Corporation as a site for a public Hospital, for which purpose, from its elevated position, it was well adapted. This arrangement having caused the removal of an old look-out, a round tower of white brick was erected as a substitute.

The wall which faced the mount is now so covered with buildings as to be scarcely visible; and the mound within the walls was levelled in 1714, when St. George's Chapel was erected.

On the south side of the mount there was a gate, long since walled-up; and on the north side there was another

gate, of which nothing now remains except the base of a round tower on the north side, which, with the wall beyond, divides the coach-house and stables of the Rev. J. B. Frere (which are built inside the wall) from a dwelling-house recently erected by Dr. Vores upon the site of what were until very lately the counting-house, warehouse, and twine ground of Messrs. Lettis and Son. This tower is connected with the adjoining town wall by an angle passage, supported by a curious squinch arch, which, during the late alterations, has been carefully preserved, and may still be seen in the coach-house of Dr. Vores.

This gate was opened in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and was called *New Gate* and *Mount Gate*, and (after the erection of St. George's Chapel) *Chapel Gate*.

Nearly opposite to this gate stood, as *Manship* informs us, "a CASTLE, or military fore-fence, seated in the midst of the town," having four turrets which served for watch towers, and a large yard, called the Castle Yard. In 1554 it was ordered to be strengthened, and a fire beacon placed upon it. In 1562 it was repaired; and in 1596, "the times being dangerous," the muragers were directed "to make ready the beacons," and to "repair every thing about the castle." It, however, "yielded to Time;" and in 1620 the upper story was removed, and the materials used in enclosing the mount; and in the following year the old castle was entirely pulled down.<sup>8</sup>

Returning to *Chapel Gate*, we find that in 1601 the muragers had orders to set up a new gate. This gate was removed in 1776; and in 1789 Mr. Richard Allen had liberty to take down six feet of the town wall on the

<sup>8</sup> Row No. 99 is still called the Castle Row, and no doubt bounded it on one side. The premises now occupied by Mr. Savage as a liquor shop, were built for coach-houses and stables by Thomas Penrice, Esq., in 1808, on ground purchased of the Corporation, which had belonged to this castle, and was then called the Castle Yard.

south side, in order to make the passage through more safe and commodious; and from the opening now left a road runs straight to the sea, called Trafalgar Road, whilst another, branching to the right and continued to the Jetty, is called St. George's Road. A foot-path to the left leads across St. George's Denes, and a newly-formed road connects the above roads with Regent Road.

Between *St. George's Gate* and the next there is a *tower*, the lower part of which is now occupied by C. C. Aldred, Esq., as a stable belonging to Dene House, the property of G. E. Tompson, Esq. The upper part of this tower is approached from the west, and is in another occupation. It is surmounted by a conical roof with a vane at the apex, bearing the date 1680, which no doubt was the year it was placed there by the Corporation; the initial letters of the bailiffs and chamberlains being displayed in open-work of iron. This tower was probably at that time, as it was long afterwards, used as a lock-up for nocturnal offenders. The adjoining wall is in a very sound state, and exhibits the smooth-cut flint facing which is found throughout. It forms a lofty west boundary to Dene House and grounds. Upon the raised ground inside the wall a Wesleyan chapel has been built, where a carpenter's shop and yard belonging to Mr. Howes formerly stood.

The next gate, which was, with a tower belonging to it, pulled down in 1766, so that no vestige remains, was called in 1677 *Mitchelson's Gate*, afterwards *Owney's Gate*, then *Steel's Gate*, and latterly, *Theatre (or Play-house) Gate*, from the theatre which was erected on the plain within the wall, between this gate and the Main Guard, in 1778. A road ran from this gate past Middle Well to a windmill near the beach, which stood upon ground now forming the site of a dwelling-house belonging to Edward Steward, Esq. This road, slightly deviated to the north, now leads direct to Britannia Pier, and is called Regent Road.

Between Theatre Gate and the next gate there is another tower, formerly called *The Guard Tower*, the base of which remains; but the upper part has been removed, and rooms belonging to a dwelling-house, approached from Theatre Plain (in the occupation of Mr. Douglas) have been built over it. Outside the wall the ground is occupied by gardens, carpenter's yards, and stables. The old moat or ditch can still be traced immediately under the Town Wall, from St. George's Gate to the Guard Tower.

Between this tower and the next gate, inside the wall, was the *Main Guard*, having a large enclosed yard, now occupied by the premises of Mr. E. O. Johnson, builder, the chandlery of Messrs. Fenn, and other buildings. It was encompassed by a wall, higher than the Town Wall, with a mount inside.

Further on are the remains of a tower which flanked *Market Gate* on the south side, and standing a little in advance of the wall. The lower part remains entire, and is seen in the premises of Mr. George Arbon (where Benjamin Button, Esq., has a stable); but the upper part has been built over, and the whole is used for domestic purposes. It may be observed of the wall from Theatre Gate to this tower, that, owing to houses having been built upon the ramped earth within the wall, and no sufficient provision made for drainage, the water perforating the soil has loosened the facing of cut flints, which have in many places fallen to the ground.

In 1797, Mr. Richard Miller, the then lessee of the Guard Yard, had leave to take down the top of *Market Gate*, and the whole building was demolished in 1830. The road was then widened on the north side, but some of the original stone-work may be observed on the other. The gate-house was a square building surmounting an arch which spanned the road running from the Market-place, past another well to the sea, and now called Market Road, with other roads



branching right and left, called North Market Road and South Market Road.

From the last-mentioned gate the Town Wall, running northward, was never rampired. It separates a cemetery for Nonconformists (now closed) from slaughter-houses built without but alongside the wall.

The next tower, about midway between Market Gate and the next gate, is called *Hospital Tower*, from the ancient hospital of St. Mary, the precincts of which it adjoined. This hospital is now possessed by the Charity Trustees, and is called the Children's Hospital (used for schools) with which this tower, surmounted by a modern tiled roof, is now used.

The next gate was the last removed, for the gate-house was allowed to stand till 1837. It was for centuries called *Pudding Gate*, and it had a tower of which there is now no trace.<sup>9</sup> Outside was the burial place for those who died of the plague which ravaged the town in 1579. The road which now runs from the Market-place through this gate towards the sea, is called St. Nicholas' Road.

The wall to the north of this gate is called *Pudding Wall*, and forms the east boundary of Priory Plain. Against it, on the town side, the Primitive Methodists have erected a spacious chapel and schools; and beneath the wall on the east side are gardens, long known as Mendham Gardens, but now partially built upon.

Proceeding northward, the wall bounds the precincts of the Benedictine Priory attached to the church of St. Nicholas (where the chaplains and monks who anciently served the church resided) until it reaches the S.E. corner of the old churchyard, where stood another small tower, the remains of which are still to be seen. Between this and the next tower, and in the wall which formed the east boundary of

<sup>9</sup> This gate was some time called *Mendham Gate*, under which name Captain Manby (who then resided near it) had leave to take it down, but of which permission, as it appears, he did not avail himself.

the old churchyard, there was another tower with a gate called *St. Nicholas' Gate*, or *Church Gate*. In 1642, Anthony Winn had leave to take down this tower; and the gate, says *Swinden*, was "long since blocked up." The wall was in 1799 entirely thrown down, in order to enlarge the churchyard, but its foundation can be distinctly traced.

The tower at the north-east corner of the churchyard was called *King Henry's Tower*, which differs from all the others, being octagonal and decorated with Caen stone dressings. The lower chamber had a vaulted roof, the springing stones of the groining ribs of which still remain, but the arches of the floor which they supported are gone, and the tower is now unroofed and open to the sky, the lower part being filled with skulls and dead men's bones. Previous to the Reformation there was a carniary or charnel-house, with a chantry for two priests, near or adjoining the church; but this, at that period, was entirely destroyed, and the stone employed in repairing the Town Wall and in building the mount. Subsequently, these remains of the dead were thrown down *King Henry's Tower*, which, viewed from the elevated ground in the churchyard, formed a huge and convenient well for the purpose.

To hide so unseemly a sight as these bones presented, a lofty wall was some years since erected, which screens this side of the tower from the churchyard; and the only approach to this curious charnel-house is now by a trap-door and down a few steps into the tower, the floor of the apartment being formed of human bones. Since the closing of the old churchyard no bones are now thrown up, and, consequently, this charnel-house is not now used.<sup>1</sup>

From *King Henry's Tower* the wall turns at right angles,

<sup>1</sup> In the new ground just outside King Henry's Tower were buried in 1813, without ceremony, and having no stone to mark the spot, the dissected remains of John Hannah, the last man hanged in Yarmouth before the abolition of the capital jurisdiction formerly possessed by the borough.

and runs westward, bounding the churchyard on the north side until it reaches the premises belonging to an ancient hostelry, called the King's Arms (which in the time of King Charles II. belonged to Sir Thomas Medowe), where it again turns nearly at right angles, and runs northward to the *North-east Tower*, the lower part of which still remains and is occupied by Mr. Stolworthy. Here the Town Wall again turns at right angles, and is carried westward straight to the river Bure.

*North Gate*, which crossed the road leading to Caister, was the most considerable edifice of the kind in the town. It had a square tower on each side of the gate-house, on the external face of which there was some attempt at Gothic tracery.<sup>2</sup> There is a tradition that this gate was erected by those who, during the great plague of 1349, amassed large sums by the loathsome office of burying the dead. In 1807 William Spelman and others had liberty to take down this gate-house: not a vestige of it now remains, but its exact position can be defined by the remains of the Town Wall on either side.<sup>3</sup>

About midway between the North Gate and the river, there was a small tower, the remains of which are still to be seen. Against this portion of the wall almshouses have been erected in what is known as Ramp (a supposed corruption of Rampart) Row; and outside the wall, but at some distance from it, (adjoining the site of the moat) is a road called Garrison's (otherwise Kerrison's) Walk.

Towards the west end of the wall an aperture has been made sufficiently large to admit the passage of carts; and here the massive character of the wall and the enduring nature of the masonry are conspicuous. Outside this portion

<sup>2</sup> In 1804 a foot-way was made through the West Tower, an accommodation not afforded by any of the Yarmouth Gates.

<sup>3</sup> Engravings of this gate are to be found in the *Antiquarian and Topographical Cabinet*, vol. ii., and in Preston's *Picture of Yarmouth*.

of the wall are gardens vested in the Charity Trustees, and there being no buildings against it, the wall can here be seen with great advantage; the lower portion being faced with smooth-cut flints, and the upper part and the battlements being formed of brick.

The last tower, and one of the most considerable of the series, is the *North-west Tower*, which adjoins the river Bure, and completes the circuit of the town. It is in excellent preservation, and forms a very picturesque feature when seen from Braydon, or as the town is approached by railway from Norwich. This tower, which differs from all the others in having the ground level on both sides, is circular, and is faced with smooth-cut flints to about three-fourths of its height; the remaining portion being entirely composed of thin red bricks. The headings of the windows and doorways are also formed with red bricks. The lower part, into which there was formerly an entrance from the town side, (now covered by lean-to buildings, above which may be seen the doorway leading into the Guard Chamber from the Town Wall) is now used as a stable, and the upper portions as a hay-loft and pigeon-house, and the whole is surmounted by a conical roof.

The *North-west Tower* remains vested in the Town Council, and was for many years in the occupation of Mr. Philip Nuthall, lime-burner, whose business premises were just outside the Town Wall.

Of the moat, which was constructed in 1642, nothing now remains, as it has been entirely filled up by order of the Local Board of Health, the water which remained in it being stagnant and pestilential; but its course can be traced from the river Bure through the low ground at the foot of the embankment called Garrison (or Kerrison) Walk, until it reaches the Caister road, where all further vestige of it is lost.

If the rampired ground within the walls had been planted

with trees, and walks formed, as has been done at Lynn, and all encroachment prevented, very agreeable boulevards would have been preserved for the inhabitants. — An effort was made to do this in 1601, when the Corporation made an order that “the inhabitants should have the walk round the Town Walls as anciently, and that all places stopt should be opened;” but, ultimately, the encroachers prevailed, and it is now impossible to restore what has been thus lost.

It only remains to be hoped that the present Town Council, and their successors in office, will have the good taste to preserve so much of the walls and towers as still remain under their control, and that individual owners will do nothing to destroy them.