

Awwhile for me yor lugs keep clear,
Maw spoke aw'll briefly bray ;
Aw've been se blind wi' blairin* that
Aw scairse ken what te say.
A motley crew aw lately met ;
Maw feelin's fine they sairly wounded,
By axin' if aw'd heer'd the news,
Or if aw'd seen Bowld Airchy drowned.

The tyel like wild-fire through the toon
Suin cut a dowly† track.
An' seemed te wander up an' doon
Wi' Sangate on its back ;
Bullrug was there—Golightly's Will—
Te croon the whole, awd Nelly Mairchy, ‡
Whe, as they roon'd the Deed Hoose thrang'd,
Whing'd oot in praise of honest Airchy.
Whack, row de dow, &c.

Waes ! Airchy lang was hale and rank,
The king o' laddies brow ;
His wrist was like an anchor shank,
His fist was like the claw.
His yellow waistcoat, flowered se fine,
Myed tyeliors' lang for cabbage cuttin's ;
It myed the bairns te glower amain,
An' cry, "Ni, ni, what bonny buttons !"

His breeches and his jacket clad
A body rasher-stright ; ||
A bunch o' ribbons on his knees,
His shoes and buckles bright,
His dashin' stockin's true sky-blue ;
His gud shag hat, although a biggin' ;
When cockt upon his bonny heed,
Luiked like a pea upon a middin',

The last was he te myek a row,
Yet foremost i' the fight ;
The first was he te reet the wrang'd,
The last te wrang the right.
They said sic deeds, where'er he'd gyen,
Cud not but meet a noble station ;
Cull Billy ¶ fear'd that a' sic hopes
Were built upon a bad foundation.

For Captain Starkey word was sent
Te come without delay ;
But the Captain begg'd te be excused,
An' come another day,
When spirits strong and nappy beer,
Wi' brede an' cheese, might myek 'm able
Te bear up sic a' load o' grief,
An' do the honours o' the table.

Another group was then sent off,
An' brought Blind Willie doon,
Whe started up a symphony
Wi' fiddle oot o' tune :—
"Here Airchy lies, his country's pride,
Oh ! San'gate, thou will sairly miss him,

* To *blair* is to cry vehemently, or to roar loud like a peevish child when touched or contradicted—a man or woman sympathetically drunk and giving full vent to his or her outraged feelings in a maudlin outburst ; or a calf bleating for its mother's milk. It is one of the many North-Country words borrowed from the Dutch, in which *blair* has the same meaning.

† *Dowly* means lonely, dismal, melancholy, sorrowful, doleful. It is from the Celtic *duille*, darkness, obscurity, stupidity. It is, perhaps, also cognate with the Danish *doilge*, conceal, hide, keep in the dark.

‡ All characters once notorious, now difficult if not impossible to identify.

|| As straight as a rush.

¶ Cull Billy, properly William Scott, of whom Sykes gives a long account under date July 31st, 1831. He also was one of the fourteen Newcastle eccentrics immortalised by Parker and Armstrong. Captain Starkey was a still more famous character, whose autobiography, with a portrait and fac-simile of his handwriting, was published by William Hall, Groat Market, Newcastle. 1818. 12mo. 14 p.p. His portrait and memoir were also given in "Hone's Every Day Book," and formed the subject of one of the most quaint and pathetic essays of Charles Lamb (Elia).

Stiff, drowneded i' the ragin' tide,
Powld** off at last ! E-ho ! Odd bless him."

While thus they mourned, byeth wives an' bairns,
Young cheps and awd men grey,
Whe shud there cum but Airchy's sel',
Te see aboot the fray—
Aw gov a shriek, for weel ye ken
A seet like this wad be a shocker—
"Od smash ! here's Airchy back agyen,
Slipped oot, by gox, frae Davy's Locker."

About him they all thrang'd an' axed
What news frae underground ?
Each tell'd about their blairin'
When they kenn'd that he was droon'd.
"Hoots !" Airchy mounded, †† "it's nowt but lees !
Te the Barley Mow let's e'en be joggin',
Aw'll tyek me oath it wasn't me,
For aw hear it's Airchy Logan."

Te see Bold Airchy thus restored,
They giv sic lood hurrahs,
As myed the very skies te split,
An' deaved a flight o' craws ;
Te the Barley Mow for swipes o' yell
They yen an' a' went gaily joggin',
Rejoiced te hear the droondit man
Was oney little Airchy Logan.

Durham Castle.

DURHAM was first peopled by the monks of St. Cuthbert in the year 995. In some way the city was fortified very soon afterwards. Amongst the historical literature of a very early date which has come down to our time, is a very curious tract, which has been ascribed, though doubtless incorrectly, to Symeon of Durham. It is entitled "Concerning the Siege of Durham and the Valour of Earl Uchtred." It tells us that, near the close of the tenth century, Malcolm, King of Scotland, having wasted Northumberland with fire and sword, laid siege to Durham. Aldhune, the bishop, had a son-in-law named Uchtred, the son of Cospatric, "a youth of great energy, and well skilled in military affairs." He, learning that the land was devastated by the enemy, "and that Durham was in a state of blockade and siege, collected together into one body a considerable number of the men of Northumbria and Yorkshire, and cut to pieces nearly the entire multitude of the Scots ; the king himself, and a few others, escaping with difficulty. He caused to be carried to Durham the best looking heads of the slain, ornamented (as the fashion of the time was) with braided locks, and after they had been washed by four women—to each of whom he gave a cow for her trouble—he caused these heads to be fixed upon stakes, and placed round the walls."

It would be vain to speculate as to the extent of the fortifications of Durham at the period of Malcolm's siege.

** *Powld*, pushed off the shore into deep water, launched like a keel, with a long pole.

†† *Mounge*, moonj, moonge, to grumble lowly, to whine.—*Brockett*.

The city of that day was no doubt chiefly defended by its strong natural position, and the walls whereon the heads of the vanquished Scots were mounted were in every probability only pallisades of stakes, enclosing the inhabited plateau round the cathedral.

After a few years, Durham was once more besieged, and this time also by the Scots. In or about the year 1040 Duncan, King of Scotland, invaded England. He was attended by a countless multitude of troops. "He laid siege to Durham, and made strenuous but ineffective efforts to capture it. A large proportion of his cavalry was slain by the besieged, and he was put to disorderly flight, in which he lost all his foot-soldiers, whose heads were collected in the market place and hung up on posts." Such is the brief narrative given by Symeon of Durham. Unfortunately it is not supplemented by other historians. Still, it affords evidence that the defences of Durham were uninterruptedly maintained and were of an efficient character.

Soon after the Norman conquest Durham was once more the scene of bloodshed. In 1069 the Conqueror appointed Robert Cumin to the earldom of Northumberland. "When the Northumbrians heard of this man's arrival, they all abandoned their houses and made immediate preparation for flight," but a sudden snow-storm and a frost of unusual severity kept them at home. They resolved, however, either to slay the earl or to die themselves. He, on coming northwards, was warned by the bishop of his probable fate, but he spurned all counsel, and proceeded on his way. "So the earl entered Durham with seven hundred men, and they treated the householders as if they had been enemies." This was not to be meekly borne, and "very early in the morning, the Northumbrians, having collected themselves together, broke in through all the gates, and, running through the city, hither and thither, they slew the earl's followers. So great, at the last, was the multitude of the slain, that every street was covered with blood, and filled with dead bodies. But there still survived a considerable number, who defended the door of the house in which the earl was, and securely held it against the inroads of the assailants. They, on their part, endeavoured to throw fire into the house, so as to burn it and its inmates; and the flaming sparks, flying upwards, caught the western tower [of the cathedral built by Aldhune], which was in immediate proximity, and it appeared to be on the very verge of destruction"; but, according to the chronicler, it was miraculously saved, in answer to the prayers of the people. "The house, however, which had caught fire, continued to blaze; and of those persons who were within it some were burnt, and some were slaughtered as soon as they crossed its thresholds; and thus the earl was put to death along with all of his followers, save one, who escaped wounded."

From these narratives we learn all that we can know of the earliest defences of Durham. The castle of Durham,

as we know it, is the work of many men and of many centuries. It was founded by William the Conqueror, when returning from Scotland in the year 1072. The statement that he was the founder has been more than once called in question, but, I think, without just reason. The continuation of Symeon's "History of the Kings" says—"When the king had returned from Scotland, he built a castle in Durham, where the bishop might keep himself and his people safe from the attacks of assailants." Of the work of William's day nothing remains beyond the very remarkable chapel, with its tall cylindrical shafts, grotesque capitals, and vaulted roofs—altogether one of the most interesting portions of the whole fortress, or, indeed, of any English castle. There can be little doubt that the present keep, which, so far as anything visible is concerned, is entirely modern—the work of the present century—stands on the site of a keep built by the Conqueror. The mound whereon the keep is raised is pronounced, by consensus of opinion, to be artificial. If this be so, we may safely associate it with the earliest fortifications of Durham, of which doubtless it formed the principal feature.

The See of Durham was held from 1099 to 1128 by Bishop Flambard, by whom the defences of Durham were strengthened and extended. "He strengthened the city of Durham with a stronger and loftier wall, although, indeed, nature herself had fortified it," says the continuator of Symeon's "History of the Church of Durham"; and, adds the same authority, "he built a wall which extended from the choir of the church [*i.e.*, the cathedral] to the keep of the castle." It is not improbable that parts of Flambard's walls still exist in fragments of ancient masonry, which may be seen in the gardens of some of the houses in the North and South Baileys. Another of Flambard's works deserves to be mentioned in this connection. To him we owe the large open space between the cathedral and the castle, known as Place or Palace Green. "He levelled the space between the church and the castle, which had hitherto been occupied by numerous poor houses, and made it as plane as a field, in order that the church should neither be endangered by fire nor polluted by filth."

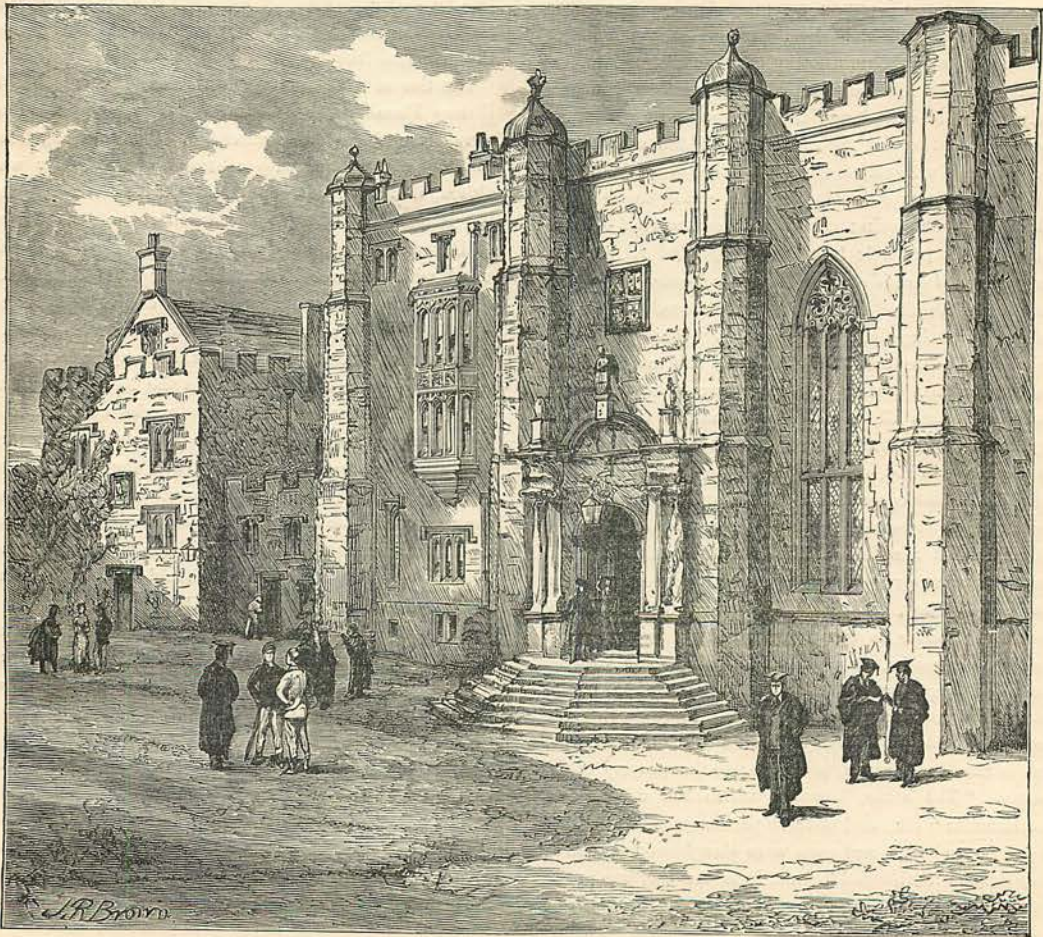
To Bishop Pudsey the castle of Durham owes much. Some of the most interesting and beautiful parts of the whole fortress must be ascribed to him. Unfortunately the information afforded by the historians as to the works he accomplished is disappointingly meagre. Galfrid of Coldingham tells us that "in the castle of Durham the buildings, which, in the earliest periods of his episcopacy, were destroyed by fire, he rebuilt." He built the great hall on the north side of the courtyard, or, I ought rather to say, the two great halls, the upper and the lower. A much later gallery which runs along the whole south front of these halls hides the principal entrance, a magnificent and greatly enriched doorway, one of the most splendid specimens of late Norman work to be

found anywhere in this kingdom. It is needless to say that this doorway was originally reached by a flight of stairs leading up from the courtyard. The lower hall presents none of its original features except this doorway, for the whole of its interior is divided into modern apartments. The upper hall is entered through a plain doorway. It is, or rather was, surrounded by a beautiful arcade, much of which is hidden by plaster and students' rooms, but on the south side it is fortunately accessible and visible, and fairly well preserved.

It is remarkable that, so far at least as I know, none of the chroniclers mentions Bishop Anthony Bek as the builder of any part of the castle. He held the see from 1283 to 1311, and to him we can have no hesitancy in ascribing the great hall on the west side of the courtyard, and which is usually associated with the name of Bishop Hatfield. This hall must have replaced a Norman struc-

ture, possibly of as early date as the chapel, but almost certainly not later than the time of Flambard. Indeed, a crypt or cellar, beneath the hall, is throughout of Norman workmanship, and possesses features which appear to belong to an early period of that style. Bek's hall (now used as the dining hall of Durham University) has been much altered and restored, both in early and in recent times, and the distinctive features of its original character which still remain are slight. But the inner doorway, and a window a little way north of the fireplace, are comparatively unaltered, and enable the student of architecture to establish the date of this part of the castle.

We now come to the important episcopate of Bishop Hatfield, whose period extended from 1345 to 1382. William de Chambre, another of the Durham chroniclers, tells us that Hatfield "renewed the buildings in the castle



EXTERIOR OF THE GREAT HALL, DURHAM CASTLE.

which by antiquity or age had been destroyed or become dilapidated; and he constructed anew both the episcopal hall and the hall of the constable, as well as other edifices in the same castle." The phrase, "he constructed anew," must be understood with considerable latitude. The "episcopal hall" is undoubtedly the hall built by Bek, whilst the "constable's hall" is most probably the upper hall of Pudsey. Hatfield rebuilt neither of these; but that he made considerable alterations in both is certain, and, in addition to this, he no doubt put both halls into a

state of thorough repair. But Chambre proceeds to say that Hatfield "rendered the city of Durham, which was already sufficiently fortified by nature and a wall, still stronger by means of a tower, constructed at his expense, within the limits of the castle." That tower was the keep. The walls built by Hatfield remained till within living memory, and the present keep is raised on their foundations. But Hatfield was clearly rebuilding an earlier structure, which we have already attributed to the time of William the Conqueror.



INTERIOR OF THE GREAT HALL, DURHAM CASTLE.

The later structural history of the castle I must record as briefly as possible. Cardinal Langley, who was bishop of Durham from 1406 to 1437, is stated to have built the entire gaol of Durham, and to have constructed the gates of that gaol with most costly stones, in the place of gates of earlier date which had fallen into ruin. This gaol and gateway, which stood at the foot of the North Bailey—a most picturesque and interesting structure—was taken down in 1818 or 1819. Bishop Fox, who occupied the see from 1494 to 1502, made great alterations in Bek's hall. Whereas, prior to his time, there were two royal seats in the hall, one at the upper end and one at the lower, he only allowed the upper one to remain, and in place of the lower seat he made a larder with pantries, and over these he erected two galleries for trumpeters or other musicians in the time of meals. He also erected a steward's room, a large kitchen, and other apartments at the south end of the hall, and in this way reduced its original length fully one-third. He had other works in progress when his translation to Winchester put an end to his plans. Cuthbert Tunstall, bishop of Durham from 1530 to 1560, partly rebuilt the inner gateway, and also erected the present chapel; besides which he raised the gallery which hides the front of Pudsey's halls. Bishop Neile still further reduced the dimensions of Bek's great hall. Cosin, the first bishop after the restoration of Charles II., built the portico which is now the principal entrance to the castle, and to him also we owe the magnificent oak staircase. Minor alterations have been carried out by later prelates, but to these it is not necessary to refer.

The castle of Durham has witnessed many scenes of pomp and splendour. Monarchs and nobles of the land have been royally entertained within its walls by the great and powerful prince-bishops of the palatinate. Here, in 1333, Bishop Bury entertained Edward III. and his Queen, the Queen-Dowager of England, the King of Scotland, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, five other bishops, seven earls with their countesses, all the nobility north of Trent, and a vast concourse of knights, esquires, and other persons of distinction, amongst whom were many abbots, priors, and other religious men. In 1424 Durham was crowded with the nobility of England and Scotland on the occasion of the liberation of the Scottish king and his marriage with Jane Seymour. The royal pair arrived in Durham attended by a numerous retinue, and remained here a considerable time. In 1503 the Princess Margaret, daughter of Henry the Seventh, on her way to Scotland to become the bride of King James, arrived at Durham. "At the entering of the said town, and within, in the streets and at the windows, was so innumerable people, that it was a fair thing for to see. . . . The 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of the said month [of July] she sojourned in the said place of Durham, when she was well cherished, and her costs borne by the said bishop, who, on the 23rd

day, held whole hall, and double dinner and double supper to all comers worthy to be there. And in the said hall was set all the noblesse, as well spirituals as temporals, great and small, the which was welcome." In 1633 Charles I. was for several days the guest of Bishop Morton, who entertained the king with a degree of splendour which cost him £1,500 a day. Six years later the king was again entertained by Morton, but with much less magnificence, for the shadow, which *darkened day by day*, even to the end, had then already fallen across the unhappy monarch's path. The last great scene of festivity witnessed within these ancient walls was enacted in 1827, when the Duke of Wellington, then on a visit to Wynyard, together with many of his old companions in arms, and the nobility and gentry of the county, was entertained by Van Mildert, the last of the prince-bishops of Durham. Sir Walter Scott was amongst the guests, and in his diary gives a picturesque description of the scene in the great hall, and speaks in warmly eulogistic terms of the dignified bearing and princely hospitality of the host.

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The Grand Allies.

DURING the palmy days of the Coal Trade, when prices could be kept up to an unnaturally high figure by a junta of monopolists agreeing together to "limit the vend," or, as we would now say, to "limit the output,"* a few great territorial magnates in the Northern Counties, popularly called "The Grand Allies," were long the leading spirits. The association consisted of the Russells of Brancepeth, now represented by Lord Boyne, the Brandlings of Gosforth and the Felling, Lords Ravensworth, Strathmore, and Wharnclyffe, Matthew Bell of Woolsington, and some others. They were owners of the most noted collieries in the North, the produce of which had always brought the highest price in the London market; and this enabled them virtually to dictate terms to all the rest.

Wallsend Colliery, which had been sunk by the Chap-

* The compact styled the "Limitation of the Vend" has been thus explained:—The plan was to apportion among the different collieries the quantity which was to be raised and sold, with reference to the probable immediate market demand. The several interests of the Tyne and Wear were watched over by their several representatives. The principal proprietors fixed the minimum price at which they would sell their coals, and the remaining owners acceded to their conditions. A committee met at Newcastle twice a month, and there issued its mandates, which all were bound to obey. The probable demand for each succeeding fortnight was calculated on the average price in the London market during the fortnight previous. If this had been higher than the price fixed by the coalowners, permission was given to each member of the association to raise a larger quantity of coal, or *vice versa*, according to a pre-determined scale.