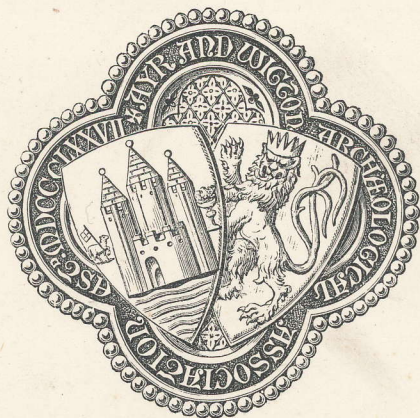


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X.

THE BOYD PAPERS.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Boyd Papers have remained in the custody of the town-clerks of Kilmarnock from the period of the attainder of the last Earl of Kilmarnock for accession to the Rebellion of 1745. A selection of these papers was published in the *Miscellany of the Abbotsford Club*, Vol. I., and some of them are to be found in the *Memorials of the Montgomeries*. Such of the papers already printed as are of special interest have been transcribed, and others have simply been noted.¹

The Boyd Papers, which cover a period of over one hundred years, are specially interesting as showing the rapid rise of the Boyd family to influence and wealth and their equally rapid fall.

Lord Boyd was created a peer towards the end of the reign of James II,² and through his influence, his brother, Sir Alexander Boyd, was appointed instructor in the art of chivalry to the youthful James III. Their ambition, however, aimed somewhat higher, and fortifying themselves, after the custom of the time, with a band,³ they hazarded the audacious enterprise of seizing the young King's person. While at a Court held at Linlithgow on 9th July 1466, the King was required by the Boyds and their friends to accompany them to Edinburgh. It does not appear that any violence was used, probably none was necessary, but that the

¹ It has not been thought necessary otherwise to refer to the following bands between the Boyds and the Lairds of Kelsoland, Bichoptown, Cauldwell, Kylbirny, Fargushill, Lochrig, Rouallane, Arroquhair, Cambustrodan, Blair, Cullellan, Ryisholm, and Assloss, William Farlie,

and Lord Angus; all of which will be found in the first vol. of the *Abbotsford Miscellany*.

² Crawford's *Officers of State*, p. 313. Douglas's *Peerage*, Second Edition, ii. 32.

³ Printed in Tytler's *Hist. of Scotland*, vol. iv. App. p. 404.

conspirators had grave fears as to what might be the ultimate consequences of their exploit is proved by the anxiety they displayed in the endeavour to secure their safety. At a Parliament, held at Edinburgh on 13th October following, the King is made to declare that he had conceived no indignation against Lord Boyd and the others, and that no prejudice should, in future, arise to them on account of that raid, and this declaration was confirmed under the Great Seal. The highest honours were now within the reach of Lord Boyd; he was at once appointed governor of the King, his brothers, and the royal fortresses, during the minority; while his eldest son was shortly afterwards raised to the Earldom of Arran and united to the Princess Mary, sister of the King. The power of the Boyds was, however, destined to be of short duration. In 1469 the mind of the King was alienated from them; they were tried and found guilty of treason in respect of the raid at Linlithgow, and their lives and estates were forfeited. Lord Boyd only escaped from death by timely flight, while Sir Alexander, notwithstanding the King's former affection for him, was beheaded on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh. The Earl of Arran, who was at this time engaged in escorting home the royal bride, received warning from his wife of the fate in store for him and fled with her to Denmark. At the command of the King, however, the Princess Mary was compelled to leave her husband; and a divorce was obtained on the flimsy pretext, it is supposed, of a prior contract to the Lord Hamilton. During the lifetime of the Earl of Arran the Princess is said to have been confined in Dean Castle,¹ and after his death she was married to Lord Hamilton.

The family fortunes were to a considerable extent retrieved by Robert, fourth Lord Boyd, who was for many years the faithful friend and trusty counsellor of Mary Queen of Scots.

It only remains to add that the plates of Dean Castle,² the ancient seat of the Boyds, were presented by the late Duke of Portland, and that the architectural description which follows is from the pen of Mr. Galloway.

¹ Grose's *Antiquities*, ii. 214.

² Called also Kilmarnock Castle: Pont says:—"Killmarnock Castle, it is a staitly faire ancient bulding arysing in tuo grate heigh towers and bult arround courteweyes vith fyne low buldings. It (*sic*) is veill planted and

almost environed vith gardens, orchards, and a parke, it belonged first to ye Locartts, Lordes thereof, then to the Lord Soulis, and now the cheiffe duelling almost for 300 zeirs of ye Lords Boyde."—Dobie's *Pont's Cuninghame*, pp. 292, 293.

DEAN CASTLE.

DEAN CASTLE, the ancient seat of the Earls of Kilmarnock and their predecessors, is beautifully situated at the meeting of the Borland and Craufurdland Waters, about a mile distant from the town which gave its title to the Earldom. Surrounded on nearly every side by gentle acclivities clothed with wood, the only open prospect is towards the south-west, where through a small valley, partly pasture-land and partly arable, the streams just mentioned meander in united strength, the name being now changed to "Kilmarnock Water." At the head of this valley the venerable ruins stand out prominently from their dark investiture of trees, and with a foreground full of browsing cattle or glinting water form a scene delighting the eye with its quiet and sequestered beauty. The castle is now the property of the Duke of Portland, and, maintained in good repair, mantled with ivy, its grim walls rising amid all the amenities of a well-kept garden, this ancient stronghold bids fair still to last for many a day in green old age. The ruins really comprise two distinct buildings, structurally independent, and referable to very different periods of time. There is first of all what may appropriately be designated the keep, forming, *per se*, the original castle, the true fortalice of the feudal chief, where he held his state and exercised baronial sway. It is a plain quadrangular mass, about 38 feet by 53 feet, with walls from 8 to 9 feet thick, and a sheer vertical height of 62 to 63 feet from the ground to the ragged top of the battlements, or 81 feet in all to the top of the chimney copes. Investing as it does this keep with an air of high antiquity, the first peculiarity which cannot fail to strike the observer is its evident adaptability for passive rather than active defence; the mere inert resistance of strong walls giving no inlet or point of vantage to the foe. The external aspect is thus stern and forbidding in the extreme, but internally the building has been admirably adapted to its purpose, and must have contained a large and varied amount of accommodation, increasing in comfort, and in facilities for light and air, in precise ratio to its height above the ground.

The recognised entrance to the Great Hall, accessible by an external flight of steps, is certainly not the original one, and is not older probably than some of the more recent additions to the adjacent building. The true entrance, or rather entrances, must be sought for at what is now the back of the forta-

lice, but which must at the first have fronted to the north-east, and have no doubt been protected at this point by advanced works. On the ground floor a low-browed arched doorway, 3 feet 9 inches wide by 5 feet 6 inches high,¹ gives access to a vaulted passage 10 feet in height, over 4 feet in width, and 8 feet in length. The door has been hinged to the left hand, and immediately behind it, on each side, will be noticed the square holes through which a strong back-bar was drawn. On the right may also be noticed a small recess, about 16 by 19 inches, for the deposition of a lamp or the keys. At the farther end of the passage a door of similar construction to the outer one gives access to a vaulted apartment 19 feet by 15 feet 6 inches, with two roughly formed recesses or aumbries on its southern side. Through a partition-wall about 2 feet thick, a doorway of the same width as the others, but only 5 feet high, and with the arch formed of two stones jointed in the centre,² conducts into the kitchen, an apartment of the same dimensions as the last, the central area of the keep, about 19 feet by 33 feet, with a barrel vault 11 to 12 feet high, being exactly bisected by the wall mentioned. At the farther extremity is the fireplace, which is somewhat peculiarly formed. It is about 7 feet 2 inches wide, gradually contracting with a circular back to the depth of 5 feet 7 inches. This vacuity goes right up to the vault, but at the height of about 5 feet 3 inches above the floor, and 2 feet 8 inches back from the face of the wall, a lintel 2 feet deep and 3 inches thick is inserted, the major portion of the space above it being filled in with a large stone of the same thickness, but 3 feet deep. An examination of the wall on the outside shows there is a small opening at some height above the ground, communicating with the vent above this fireplace. It can scarcely have served for the admission of light, but may have been inserted to quicken the current by a supply of external air, and so assist the more speedy exit of the smoke. In neither of the vaulted apartments mentioned is there the slightest provision for light, so that even during the daytime the inmates must have been entirely dependent upon their cruises, or on the fitful gleams shot from the burning logs or smouldering peat on the kitchen hearth.

The present access to the kitchen is from a doorway to the south, but it is by no means likely this opening was formed at an earlier period than that to the Great Hall above. That it is not original is evident, as there is a complete change in the style of masonry in the ingoing, compared with the rest

¹ *Vide* Plate 6.

² *Ibid.*

of the interior walling. For about 8 feet up from the floor, or to the spring of the vaulting, the walls are built of large massive stones laid pretty regularly, while the vault has been turned in long thin stones. If the doorway had been original, the likelihood is the same style of masonry as appears in the rest of the walls would have been carried round the two sides of the passage-way cut through the thickness of the wall. Instead of this we find it faced up on both sides with comparatively small stones, which form an awkward junction with the larger masonry at the internal angles, very unlike the carefully hewn masonry which everywhere else protects exposed or salient angles in the rest of the building.

Returning to the entrance passage, it may be mentioned that there is a considerable space to the right, to which until recent years there was no access from the ground floor, but as it forms an appendage rather to the floor above, I reserve for the present any further remarks. To the left, in the passage, a doorway opening outwards gives access to a narrow and tortuous stair, forming the only means of communication between the ground floor and the rest of the castle. It is difficult to believe that this stair was so formed otherwise than with a view to defence, and to increase the difficulties of assault in the event of hostile entry being obtained to the passage below. For service, especially between the kitchen and the Great Hall, nothing can have been more awkward. An enlarged plan of the stair is given with the supplementary details in Plate 1. The full height to be ascended is 16 feet, and there are 21 steps, arranged in three flights, giving an average of 9 inches in height to each step, some of them being however a foot in depth. The treads are in proportion equally narrow, and what with the variation in the position of the steps, and the perfect darkness, ascent even at any time is by no means easy; while to an enemy powerless to use their weapons in so narrow a space, and exposed to the full vengeance of an armed force above, the task would be almost insurmountable. In the first flight there are eight wheel-steps, forming a quarter circle, and terminating on the side of the staircase, a short flight of six steps then brings us to a narrow landing and turn in the stair, from which a flight of seven steps nearly at right angles to the other conducts to the top. At this point a doorway, only 20 inches wide and 4 feet 6 inches high, gives access to a long narrow apartment, 14 feet 6 inches in length by 4 to 5 feet in breadth, which may be looked upon as a guard or service chamber, as the case might be, and no doubt served both purposes. It is lit by two

openings, respectively 1 foot, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and 5 inches wide. From this chamber a doorway, of the same height as the last and only 2 inches wider, gives access to a narrow landing, conducting to another doorway, 2 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, close to one angle of the Great Hall. From this landing three steps, one of them forming the top of the stone bench, go down to the level of the hall floor. Such, until say the seventeenth century, were the arrangements connected with the ground floor of this Castle, and the only internal means of access from it to the floors above.

Returning to the outside of the Castle; directly over the doorway already described, the outline of a large arched opening will be seen, which must have been built up for a very long period. There can be no doubt that, just as the doorway below gave entry to the basement story, so was this the original entrance to the principal floor of the Castle. The height from the ground floor to the sill or threshold of this doorway is 13 feet 6 inches, corresponding exactly with the floor-level of the hall. By what means access was obtained to it can now only be conjectured; no trace of a stair remains, but most probably there would be an outwork from which a wooden bridge might be laid, capable of being elevated at pleasure. On either side of the doorway, indeed, the rybats have been cut back in a sloping form, as if to furnish rests for some timber construction; but as to how this opening was got at there is very little evidence to found upon either way. The doorway itself is 3 feet 3 inches in width by about 7 feet high. Like all the large windows above of original formation, there is a check about 4 inches in depth and as much in breadth carried round it; so that the full width externally is 3 feet 11 inches by nearly 8 feet. So carefully has it been built up, that, if we except the fact of the masonry at the sides and vaulting passing onwards into the thickness of the wall, there is internally no trace of its existence; and it is only from the built-up outline on the outside that we are enabled to judge of its original character.¹ I have been thus particular in the description of this doorway, as it involves the recovery of a fact in the history of the building which seems to have been entirely lost sight of. It gave entry to a small passage somewhat similar to that beneath. On the left a door 2 feet 3 inches wide leads to the turnpike stair conducting to the upper floors of the Castle, and which seems to have contrasted favourably with that leading to the basement story. The well is over 7 feet in diameter, and the

¹ For illustrations of this doorway see Plate 6.

steps broad and easy, although, unfortunately, very few of them now remain. On the right in the entrance passage is a small apartment 5 feet 6 inches in width by 10 feet 9 inches in length, lit by a small opening similar to those in the guard-chamber. In the centre of this apartment is a man-hole, 1 foot 10 inches square, and passing through a thickness of 5 feet of solid masonry. It has been carefully built at the sides, and at the top has a chack $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, for the insertion of a flagstone or trap-door. This man-hole conducted to a dungeon below, and formed indeed the only means of access to it. The floor of the dungeon was on the same level with the rest of the basement story, and the space itself about 13 feet 10 inches in length by 4 feet 10 inches in breadth, and about 8 feet 6 inches high. The full depth from the floor above was thus about 13 or 14 feet, through which space the prisoner would have to be dropped vertically by means of ropes or other appliances. The only means of supplying light or air was through a small orifice 8 inches by $2\frac{1}{2}$, conducted in a slanting direction through the thickness of the wall, from a height of 14 feet above the dungeon floor. To any one incarcerated within its walls escape from this living tomb must have been literally impossible; he was entirely at the mercy of his captors; solid walls surrounded him on every side, while death by starvation might take place without the slightest hope of relief. The only means of egress was by the man-hole and trap overhead, and without external aid to the immured any attempt at escape would be utterly vain.¹ At the further extremity of the apartment above there is a small recess in the wall, which may have served the same purposes as that in the ground floor passage.

Returning to the passage, an arched doorway 3 feet in width by 6 feet 5 inches in height opens directly into the Great Hall, a noble apartment, over 38 feet in length by 22 feet in breadth, with a full semicircular or barrel vault, about 26 feet in height from the floor to the crown. Close to the angle on the left is the door already mentioned, with its ascent of three steps, communicating with the tortuous stair to the basement floor. At the further extremity is the fireplace, which strikes one as being very

¹ A section through this dungeon, illustrating the features mentioned, is given in the supplementary details, Plate 1. Unfortunately for the romance of the place, at the cost of great labour a doorway has been broken through the

basement wall of the Castle, and, by a strange irony of fate, this whilom dungeon, stripped of all its horrors, now forms a very cool and convenient milk-house!

small for the size of the apartment. It is only about 4 feet 8 inches wide by 3 feet deep, and 4 feet high from the floor to the under side of the lintel. The lintel with the masonry above it is gone, so completely exposing the course of the vent, and also that from the kitchen. The masonry of this fireplace has been carefully dressed, but it is very plain, a simple roll moulding being the only decoration. It is a curious fact that the undermost stone on the north side has been at the first building turned upside down, the chamfered stop being above, and the continuation of the roll below, instead of *vice versa*. At the same extremity of the hall there has been on either side a window of some size, with a large internal bay, elevated above the general level of the floor, and benched on both sides. The most perfect is that remaining on the north side, a plan of which is given to a larger scale in the supplementary details, Plate 1. The daylight of the opening is about 4 feet 9 inches in height, by 20 inches in width. As already described in the case of the entrance doorway, the inner rybats are receded about 4 inches from the face of the wall. Internally the window is formed into a bay 7 feet 4 inches in width; the floor being elevated to the same height as the top of the benching at the sides of the hall, *i.e.* about 2 feet.

Two feet above this elevated floor rose the stone benching at the sides of the windows, the breadth of the seat being 15 inches, while those at the sides of the hall are only 12 inches. The opposite recess has been formed in exactly the same manner, and must undoubtedly have contained a window originally. It now forms the principal entrance to the Great Hall, but the evidences of alteration are unmistakable. In the first place, at the sides of the recess, close to the floor, the rough hearting of the wall is fully exposed to the height at which the elevated flooring must have stood previous to its removal. So roughly has the alteration been made that it was not considered worth while to reface this part of the wall; and above it, at a height which now renders them practically useless, are the stone benches, corresponding exactly to those on the other side of the hall. Except on the supposition that this was originally a window, these benches so raised would be altogether devoid of purpose or meaning; while the 2 feet of rough ragged work below shows beyond a doubt that this exceptional height is due to the removal of the elevated floor of the recess, which was cut down to admit of the new door being inserted at the ordinary level of the hall. All traces of the window are of course entirely

gone, but the rude and almost careless junction of the old and the new masonries is still distinctly traceable outside the inserted openings. These consist of a doorway and square window over it, now built up, substituted instead of that which was removed.

In the angle of the Great Hall, close to this bay, there is a stone bench 2 feet 3 inches high, and 3 feet by 2 feet broad; the seat or capstone being bevelled off below in the same manner as the rest of the stone benching. At the extremity of the hall opposite to the fireplace, and elevated about 11 feet 3 inches above the floor, is what, from its probable use, I take the liberty of terming the Minstrels' Gallery. I know, at least, of no other purpose to which, with its peculiar conformation, it could be applied; and here, doubtless, on festive occasions, when the Great Hall below was thronged with guests of high degree,—knights and ladies fair, from this benched recess overhead inspiring strains would urge the brilliant throng through the mazes of many a gay and courtly dance.¹ The entrance to this gallery was from the turnpike stair where a small doorway under 2 feet in width, and about 5 feet high, gave access to a narrow passage in which two or three steps brought the entrant to the level of the stone bench running round the gallery, and from it of course he must have stepped down to the ordinary level of the gallery floor. This gallery formed a kind of square recess about 7 feet in width, by about 6 feet 7 inches in depth, benched round three sides, and on the side next the hall probably protected by some wooden framework. The benching is 20 inches high, carefully formed, with a bevelled seat a foot broad and 8 inches thick, but a great part of it has been defaced; the gallery flooring is also entirely gone. Towards the hall this recess formed a circular-headed opening, about 12 feet 9 or 10 inches high, and rising to about 2 feet below the crown of the vault. The wall at the back of the recess is about 2 feet 6½ inches thick, and in it is a large circular-headed window 2 feet 1 inch in width, and 5 to 6 feet in height, with its sill about 5 feet above the gallery floor. Like the rest of the larger original openings this window has an external check 4 inches in depth carried entirely round it. The arch being very much wasted, the height is necessarily indeterminate.

¹ Amongst other items given in a list of certain nails of various sizes being bought "pro repairs on Maxstoke Castle, when the Lord's novo Oreyell pro *Trumpetes* Domini in aula parlour, and the Lady's closet, near the chapel, ibidem." Roll in the possession of the Right were built anew, in the 30th of Henry VI., Hon. Lord Stafford. *Archæologia*, vol. xxiii. notice of the oriel or minstrels' gallery occurs, p. 113.

At the side of the gallery, directly opposite to the entrance from the turnpike, is a small circular-headed doorway arched in two stones, and of nearly the same dimensions as that entering from the stair. The principal distinction is that it is "giblet-checked," so that the door opened up to the exterior instead of folding inwards as in the other case. This doorway gives access to an apartment about 9 feet 4 inches in length, by 5 feet 6 inches in breadth at the one end, and 4 feet 2 inches at the other. The floor is at the same level as the top of the benching in the gallery, the height of the ceiling about 9 feet 7 inches; it is flagged at the top with a slight inhang of the walls on every side. A small window about 14 inches high and 5 inches wide gives light to it.

The continuation of the turnpike stair which led to the second or chapel floor is now entirely demolished, and it can only be reached by means of a ladder. On getting to the top we are ushered into an apartment about 21 feet by 32 feet 4 or 5 inches. These dimensions are rather less than in the hall below, and result from the fact that the walls are built even thicker at this level, with the evident object of providing increased breadth for the battlements and walls above. This apartment must have been in all probability subdivided by some means or other, as there are two large fireplaces, but no indications remain as to how this was effected. These fireplaces are illustrated in Plate 5, and they present considerable contrast both in size and style to the two solitary examples in the lower floors of the building. On the south side there is a large window, forming indeed the only apparent means by which light could be admitted to this floor, with the exception of that to be afterwards noticed in the chapel, and so increasing the difficulties of subdivision. This window is constructed externally in quite a different manner from those previously described. The rybat head is built flush with the outer face of the wall, and finished with a simple quarter round. It is also checked for a window-frame in the regular way, while there is no such provision in the undoubtedly original windows on the first floor. These facts I think leave very little doubt that this window, externally at least, has been renewed, this renewal probably also including the scoinson vaulting which is in two lengths or rings, the voussoirs being much more carefully hewn than appears elsewhere. The same remarks are applicable to the external part of the window in the sacrarium or chapel, which is unfortunately now built up, but so far as can be judged is of exactly the same formation. Indeed the junction between

the old and new masonries within the rybats is unmistakable, there being a clear unbonded junction on both sides, the scoinsons and interior arch being of old date, and the rybats themselves new. In this re-edification, dating probably from the sixteenth or seventeenth century, I would include the two fireplaces; indeed it is very likely that the upper part of the building was then extensively remodelled. The massive corbelling which carried the floor above is certainly original, so also is the chapel, excepting the exterior part of the window; but the existing gables and chimney stacks, with the fireplaces and windows referred to, are undoubtedly of later date. The upper part of the tower, through exposure to the weather, would in the lapse of time be the most liable to decay, and so combine with the desire for more extended convenience to dictate the necessity for a renewal.

The most interesting feature in this floor is the sacrarium or chapel, a small space 11 feet 9 inches by 7 feet 10 inches recessed off the main apartment, with an aumbry on the one side and piscina on the other. An arch 14 inches broad, with a 2-inch chamfer off each side, and 10 feet from floor to crown, spans the entrance. A large aumbry or dark closet in thickness of south wall, and a cabinet or small apartment with narrow windows on either side at the south-west angle of this floor, complete its leading points of interest. Climbing still farther up the well-hole of the now demolished turnpike, access is obtained to the battlements, the attics, and guard-chamber at the south-east angle, the latter being well provisioned with fireplaces with plain chamfered jambs. The battlements are very much dilapidated, none of the embrasures, if such there were, remaining. The parapet walls are 2 feet 3 inches in thickness, the gables 3 feet, with a passage-way all round the summit of the tower.

Such is one of the most interesting examples we possess of a baronial fortress dating it may be from the thirteenth or earlier part of the fourteenth century. With exception of the modifications noted, so simple and so massive has been the original structure, and so complete in itself, that all subsequent alterations may be pretty safely traced. In imagination we can easily restore the appearance it must have presented in the days of old, with its two entrances facing the north-east,—one to the basement floor, the other to the Great Hall, with the existing staircase removed and its connected doorways built up. The outworks and the means of access alone have completely perished.

The same remark applies to that part of the courtyard wall of a later date, by which this massive memorial of an early age was surrounded. This wall must at the first have enclosed a quadrangular area of over 160 feet by 120 feet, walls inclusive. At the extreme south-west angle rises the tower illustrated in Plates 5 and 7, and termed by Pont the "laigh tower." It measures about 23 feet square, comprising four stories and attics, accessible by a turnpike stair at the south-east angle, and from which a doorway also opens out on the top of the courtyard wall. The ground and upper floors alone are vaulted, and it is the only part of the entire series of buildings which is roofed in stone. Instead of encroaching on the internal area of the tower as in the older castle, space is obtained for the parapet and way inside it by a series of bold corbellings carried round the four sides of the tower and interrupted only at the staircase. The parapet walls are entirely gone, and the grass grows green where once the warder kept his vigilant outlook.

In a line with this tower there extends a range of domestic buildings, about 24 feet in breadth, and with an entire frontage, tower included, of 80 feet 6 inches. The ground-floor only is vaulted, and in any degree of preservation. Cross walls divide it into a series of apartments of various kinds, the northmost of which is the kitchen, 18 feet 3 inches by 15 feet 6 inches, with an ample fireplace, 10 feet wide and 5 feet deep, next the terminal gable. At one side the oven, nearly 6 feet in diameter, still remains well preserved. All this part of the building is evidently coeval with the "laigh tower." Of much later date is the existing entrance and staircase projecting into the courtyard. A panel, illustrated in Plate 7, containing the armorial bearings of the Boyd family, with a monogram and all but effaced inscription, identifies it as the work of James, eighth Lord Boyd, who died March 1654. The monogram combines his own initials with those of Katherine Craik, his wife. The upper part of the buildings was entirely demolished in the great fire of 1735, and nothing now remains save the north gable, and raglin marking where the roof terminated immediately under the corbelling of the "laigh tower."¹

The other two sides of the quadrangle are still enclosed by the courtyard wall, a massive defence, from 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet in thickness.

Did space permit, the relative date of these various buildings would form an interesting topic of inquiry. Tradition carries back the origin of the keep to the thirteenth century, and it is said to have been besieged by Edward I. in 1296. Whether its erection was due to the Balliols or the

¹ *Vide* Plate 5.

Boyds it would be impossible now to determine; the simplicity and the severity of its architecture being equally consistent with the thirteenth as with the fourteenth century. Whensoever erected, the original arrangements appear to have sufficed the wants of its proprietors down to the latter half of the fifteenth century. At least, to this period I attribute the first great extension of the buildings, and modification of the old tower, when under the influence of Robert, first Lord Boyd, that family, as Drummond tells us, engaged in "laying foundations, for their power and greatness began to turn all to their own advantage."¹ We find from the accompanying charters, that, in addition to his other onerous duties, Lord Boyd was placed in control over all the royal fortresses, "strenthis castellis housis,"² and so circumstanced, with an ambitious rôle to play, and powerful enemies to cope with, it is by no means likely he would neglect his own. The buildings themselves bear witness to a simultaneous extension at some important epoch in the family history, when, with the desire for increased accommodation, it was found necessary to combine new means of defence. The "laigh tower," still grimly, sparsely windowed, with its frowning battlements and vaulted roof, the massive character of the domestic buildings, and above all, the great courtyard wall, combining the entire series of structures into one formidable square, are not only coeval in date, but bear witness to their erection in a very unsettled state of society. At the same time that these new works were undertaken, the upper stories of the original castle must have been extensively remodelled, new fireplaces inserted, the window to the south and that in the chapel enlarged, and doubtless much alteration made on the topmost story of all, to the extent perhaps of a complete renewal.

The changes thus effected in the old *berçeau* of the Boyds must have more than doubled the accommodation at disposal, without in any material degree weakening the means of defence, and these facts are quite in keeping with the position and prospects of the family when it first became ennobled. The barony erected to reward the trusted adherent of the Bruce, was now to be merged in the wide-ranging Earldom of Arran, their own descent from the yet uncrowned family of the Steward perhaps stimulating their ambition, was soon to blossom into an immediate alliance with the Royal House. That the fall was as rapid as the rise does not affect the facts so far as the buildings are concerned. They are the enduring witnesses to that brilliant future it was hoped the family had permanently secured.

¹ *Hist. of Scotland*, p. 122.

² *Postea*, p. 133.

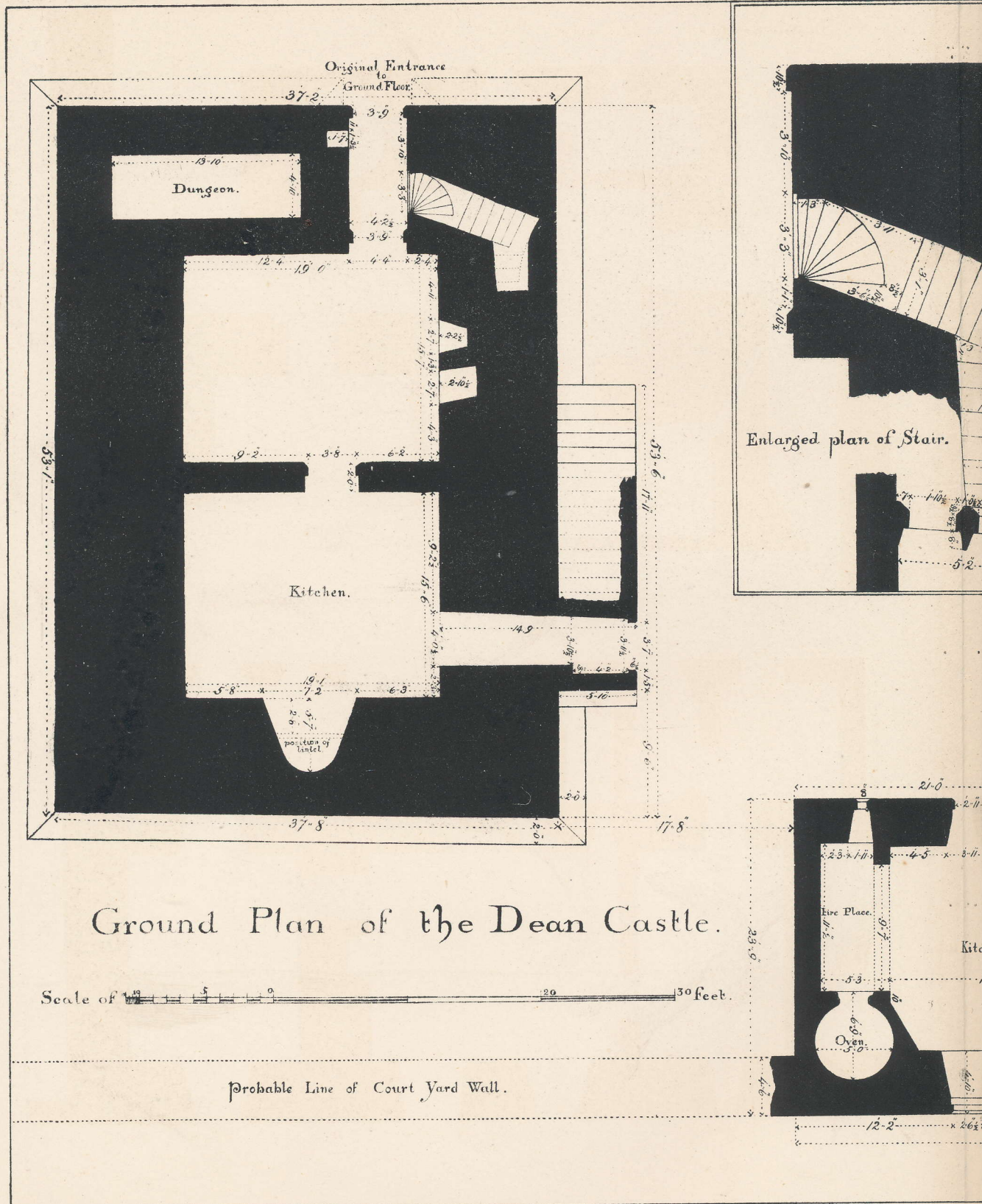
From the documents now published various items are to be gleaned, of interest even from an architectural point of view. In the series of charters granted simultaneously in 1466 by King James III. to the Earl and Countess of Arran, and constituting, *in toto*, the new Earldom of Arran, the fourth and last includes the Barony and Castle of Kilmarnock, under reserve of the liferent to Lord Boyd, and "a reasonable third part" to his widow. In the forfeiture of the family, three years afterwards, the Castle and Barony of Kilmarnock, together with all the lands embraced in the recently created earldom, are adjudged the inheritance of the "first born princes of the Kings of Scotland." By 1482 time had brought its revenges, and we find "at the Castle of Kilmarnock, at the iron gate thereof," the grandson of the forfeited first lord again seised in the inheritance of his fathers, under reserve of a liferent to his royal mother. In this Castle she herself, Drummond tells us, had been shut up during the lifetime of her first husband "as in a prison."¹ The restored heir died in 1484, and probably at his mother's death the Barony and Castle reverted to the crown. At all events, in 1508 we find them in the possession of Margaret Tudor, Queen-consort of James IV. The indenture in which this information is conveyed is a very curious document, and in it occurs the first detailed reference to the buildings as now extant. The Boyds appear only as lessees and tenants, where previously they had been proprietors, and the Scottish queen grants a tack for nine years of the lordship and lands of Kilmarnock and others, as "pertenying to the said princes and *gevin to her in dowry*."² Hitherto general reference only has been to the *Castle* of Kilmarnock, although the interesting event of 1482 is stated to have taken place "*apud portam ferream eiusdem*;"³ now, we have clear reference to the "*castell fortalice and pertinence*" connected with the lands, over which rights of tenantry are conveyed, still more expressly defined as "the *castell* and *place* of Kilmernok."⁴ In both instances the "*castell*" evidently means the original keep or stronghold, while "*fortalice*" and "*place*" just as clearly refer to the more recently erected "laigh tower," and residential buildings connected with it. As a case in point illustrative of the latter term, we may cite that noble but sadly neglected building, the "castle or *place* of Kilbirnie." It is one of the conditions of the indenture that, as proprietrix, "the said princes sall cause the *castell* and *place* of Kilmernok to be thekit and maid watter ticht incontinent with all deligence apoun the

¹ *Hist. of Scotland*, p. 130.² *Postea*, p. 152.³ *Ibid.* p. 140.⁴ *Ibid.* p. 153.

expense of the said hie and michtie princes ;” while the lessee undertakes on his part to “uphald the said *castell* and *place* unto the ische of the said nyne yeris siclik as it beis deliverit to him now efter the thekin and makin of the samyn watter ticht.” Two facts are thus brought under notice : first, that at this particular date, *i.e.* the very beginning of the sixteenth century, the buildings, or at least their roofs, had fallen into a certain measure of disrepair ; and, secondly, that the castle itself, and the place or residential buildings, were covered with thatch, the “fortalice” or “laigh tower” only being roofed with stone, and so agreeing exactly with what the present state of the building would lead us to believe. The indenture further makes the following interesting provision against the exigency of a royal visit : “And gif the said hie and michtie princes happinnis to cum to the said castell and place of Kilmernok the said Alexander and his aieris sall ressave the said princes with her court that cumis to the said castell and place of Kilmernok and mak thame to have fre ische and entre tharin till in all placis and houssis of the said castell at thare plesure and thar to remane als lang as plesis the said mychtie princes apoun hir awne expensis.” Whether during her many peregrinations throughout Scotland, as wife or widow of James IV., the queen ever visited Kilmarnock Castle, we are not informed. Dying in 1541, the barony she had so long held in dowry was restored in 1545 by her grand-daughter, Mary Queen of Scots, to Robert, fourth Lord Boyd, being conveyed “*cum castro fortalicio maneriis ortis pomariis molendinis*,” etc., the last and the most minutely detailed of these charter references (*vide postea*, page 175).

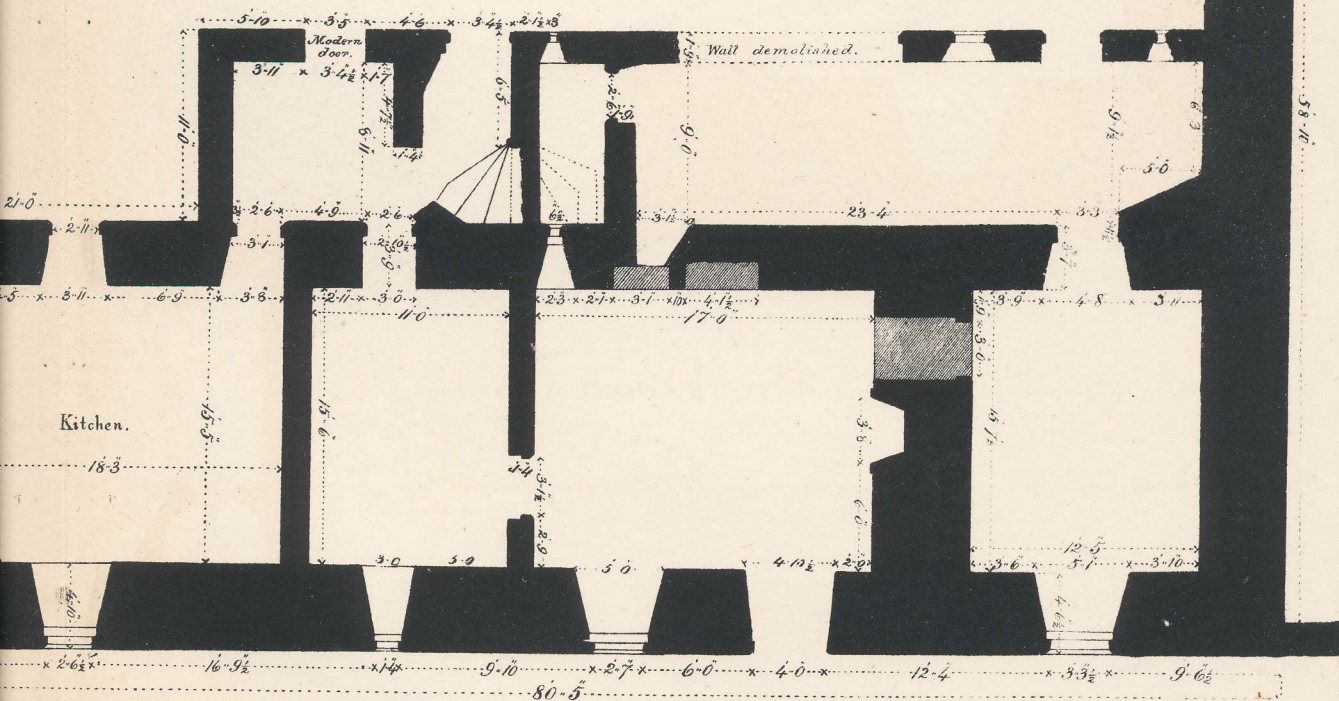
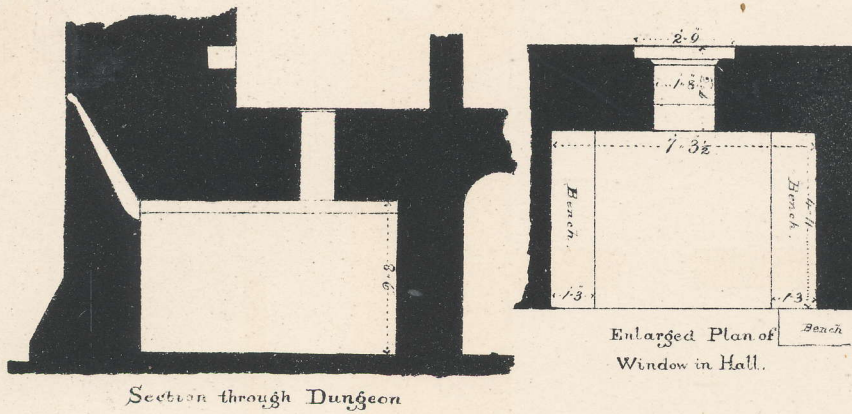
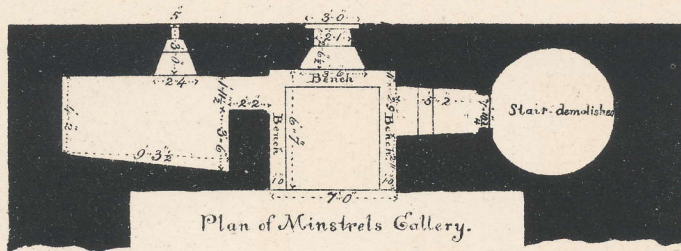
Sadly dilapidated as they are—the mere wreck of former grandeur, in all their main features the buildings exist to-day just as, from 1503 to 1541, they were held in liferent by Margaret Tudor. Even at her entry they had fallen into neglect, and there was no period between this date and the forfeiture of 1469 when they were likely to have been erected. Additions so extensive must have taken several years to build, especially in a style which made them worthy to rank as a royal demesne. Faithfully reflecting, through six centuries of Scottish history, the varying fortunes of the great family with which they were so long associated, twice forfeited to the Crown, and held by it in possession for a lengthened period, surely it is not too much to hope that instead of mere reparation, these interesting remains may be made the object of an effective restoration.

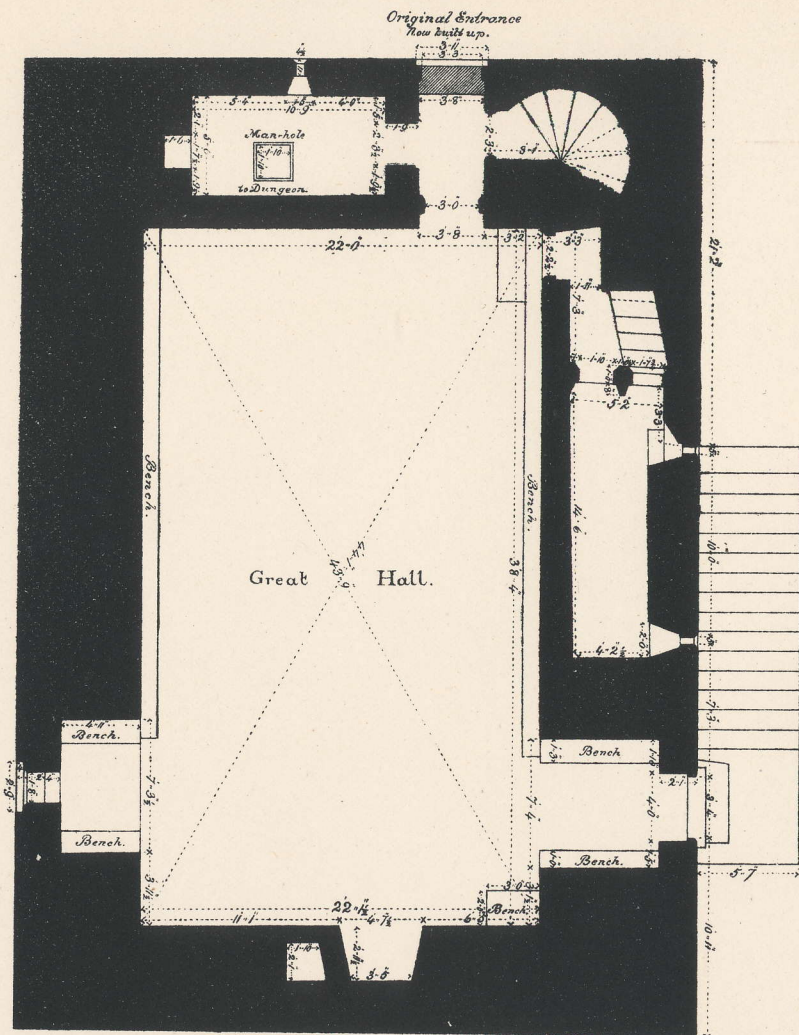
WILLIAM GALLOWAY.



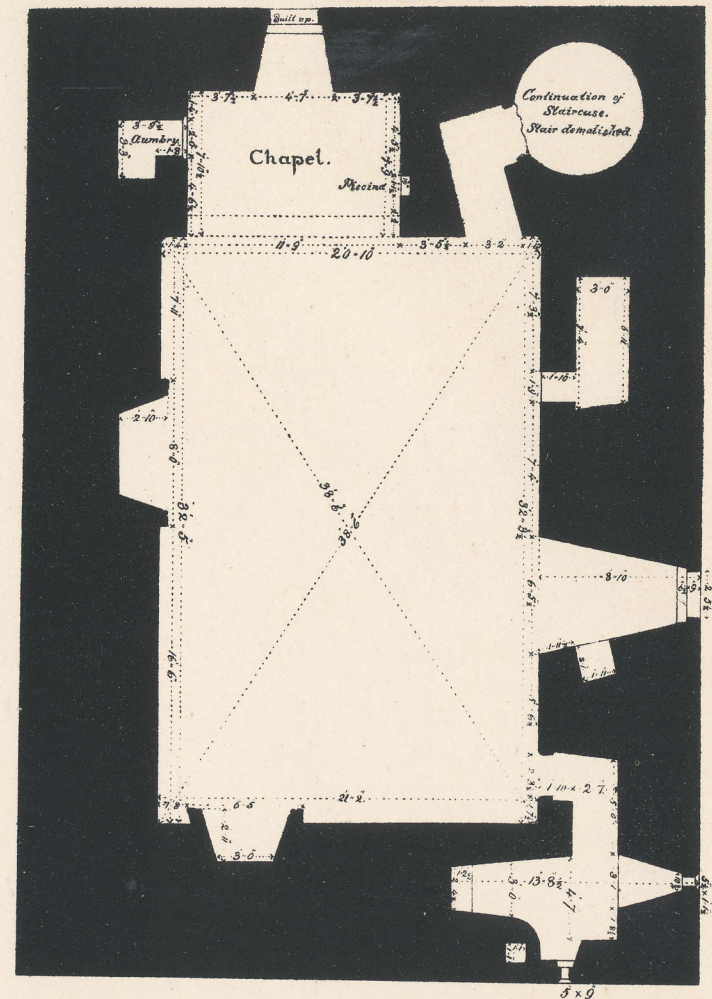
W. Galloway, Mens. et del.

Supplementary Details.





Plan of First Floor.

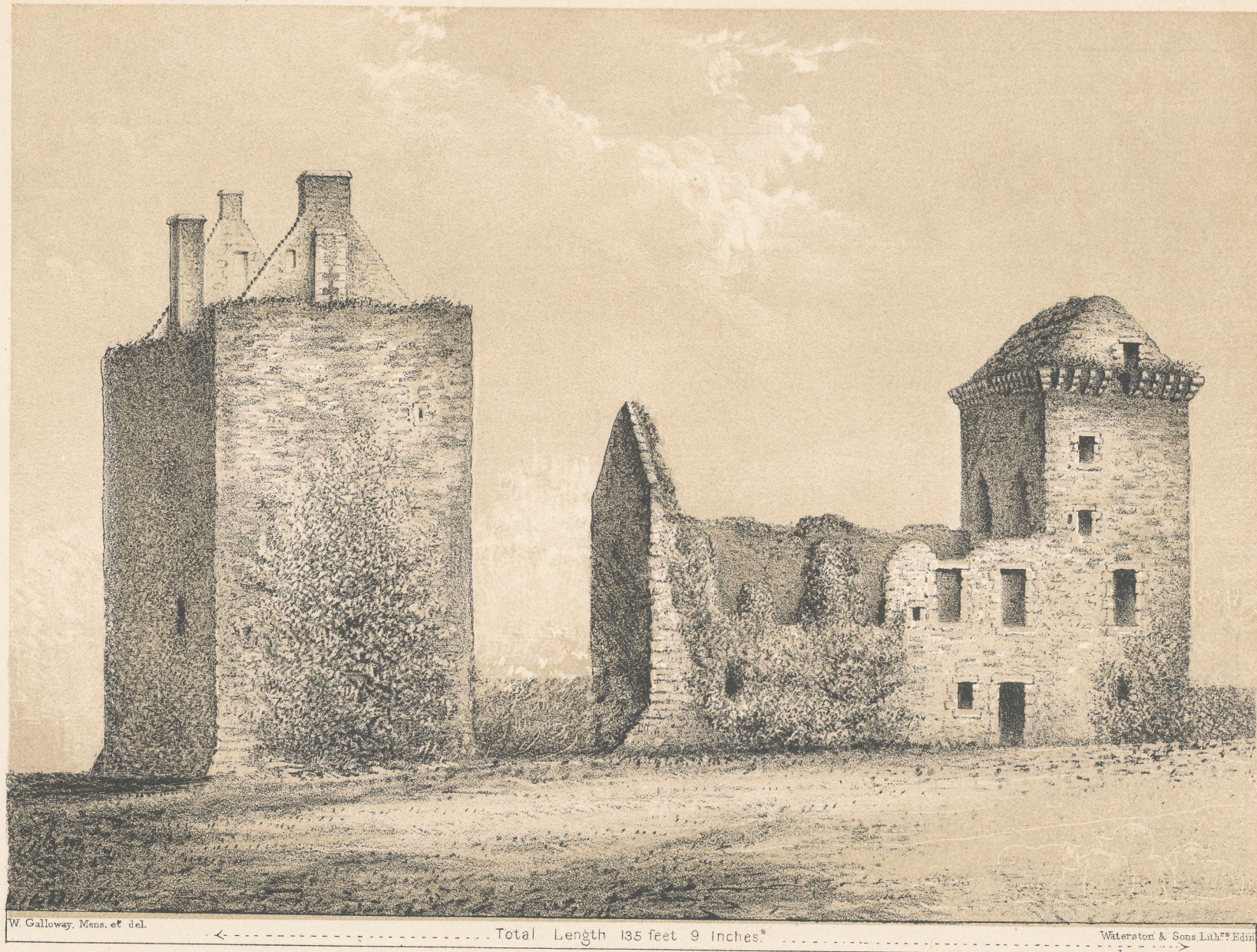


Plan of Second Floor.

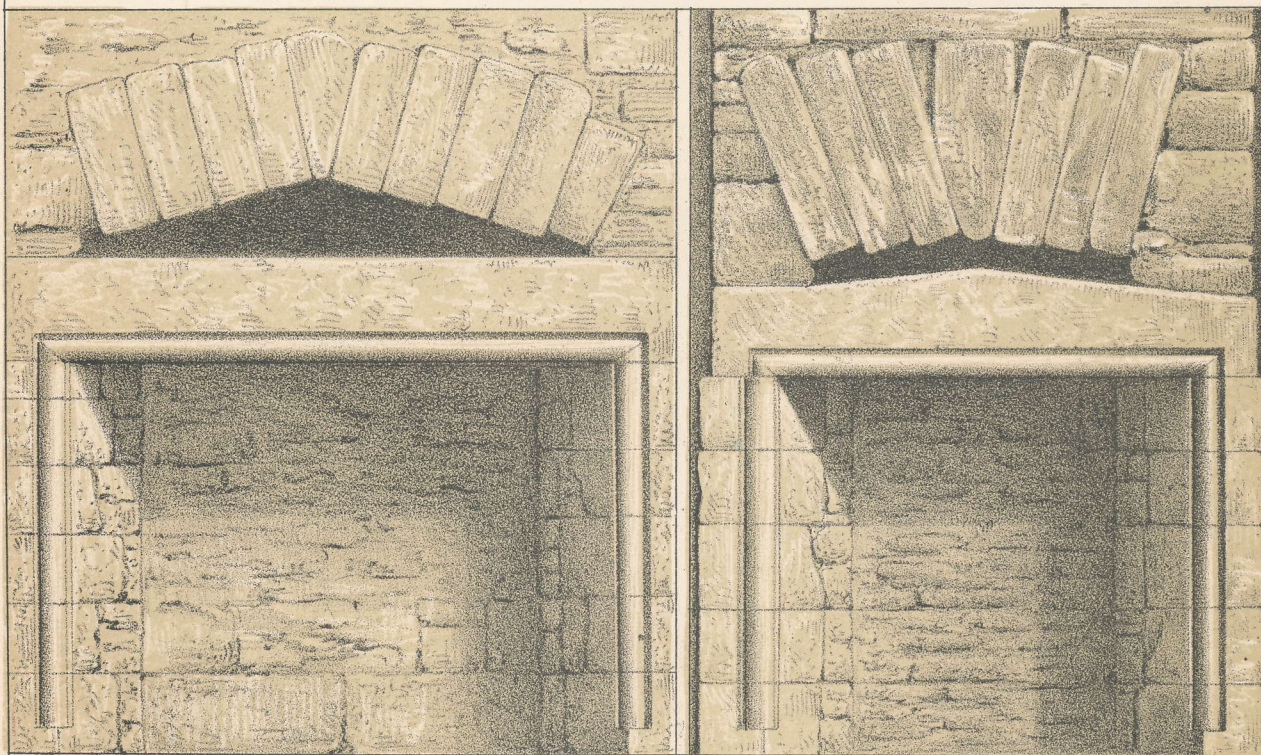
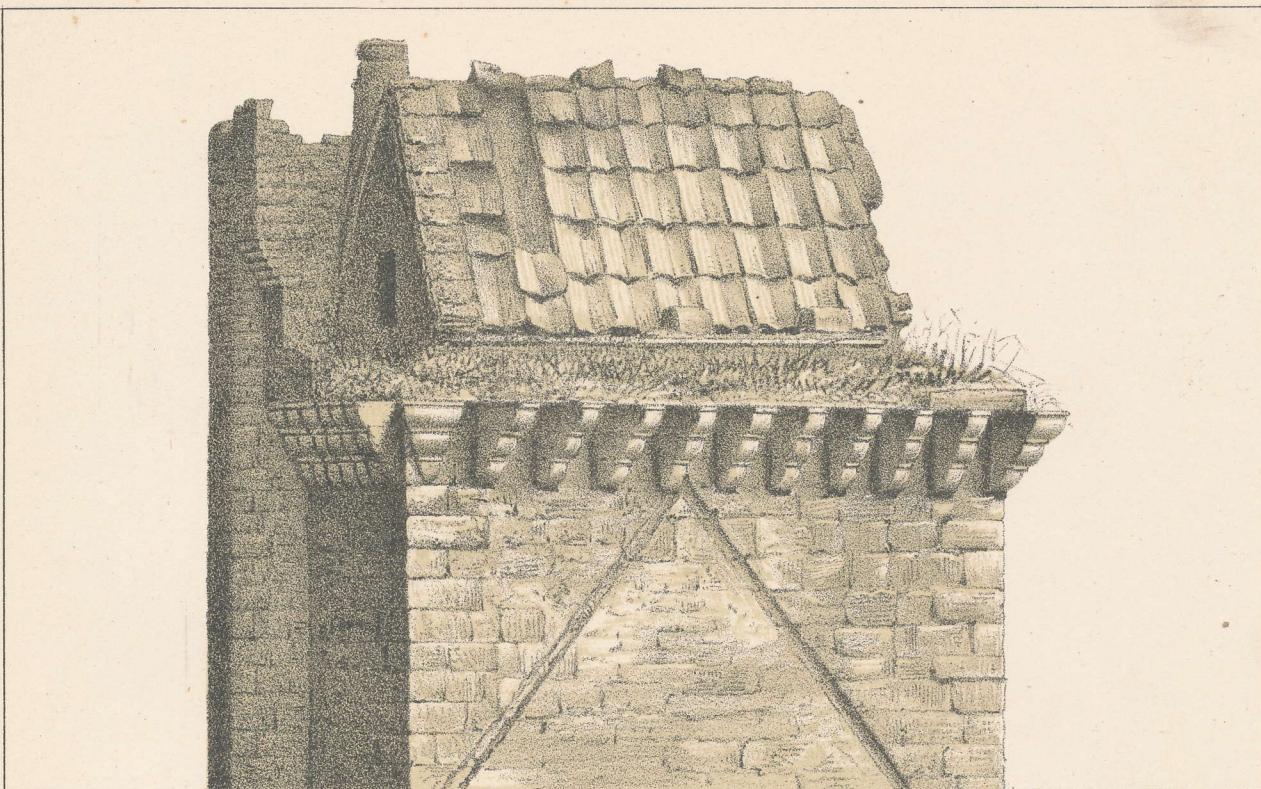
Scale of 30 feet



VIEW OF THE BUILDINGS FROM THE SOUTH.

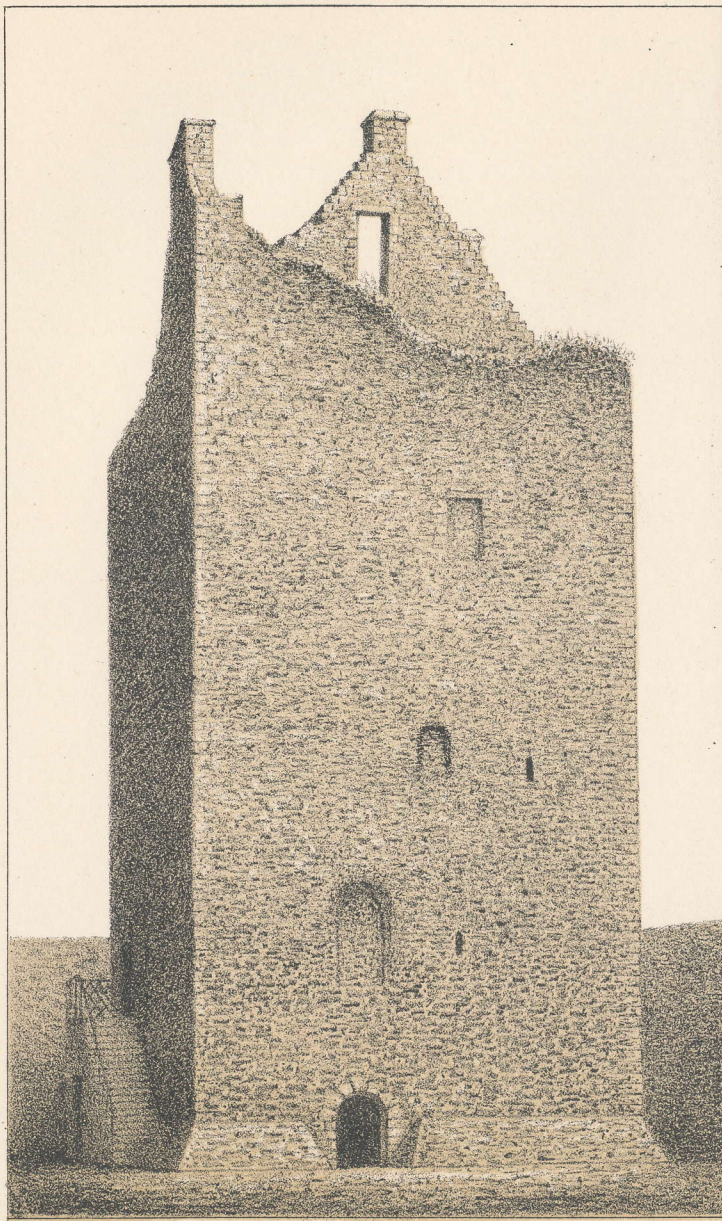


VIEW OF THE BUILDINGS FROM THE SOUTH WEST.



W. Galloway, Mens. et del.

Waterston & Sons, Lith^{rs} Edin^r



View of Principal Tower showing the Original Entrance &c



Enlarged View showing upperpart of Original Entrance to the principal Tower



Entrance Door to Basement.



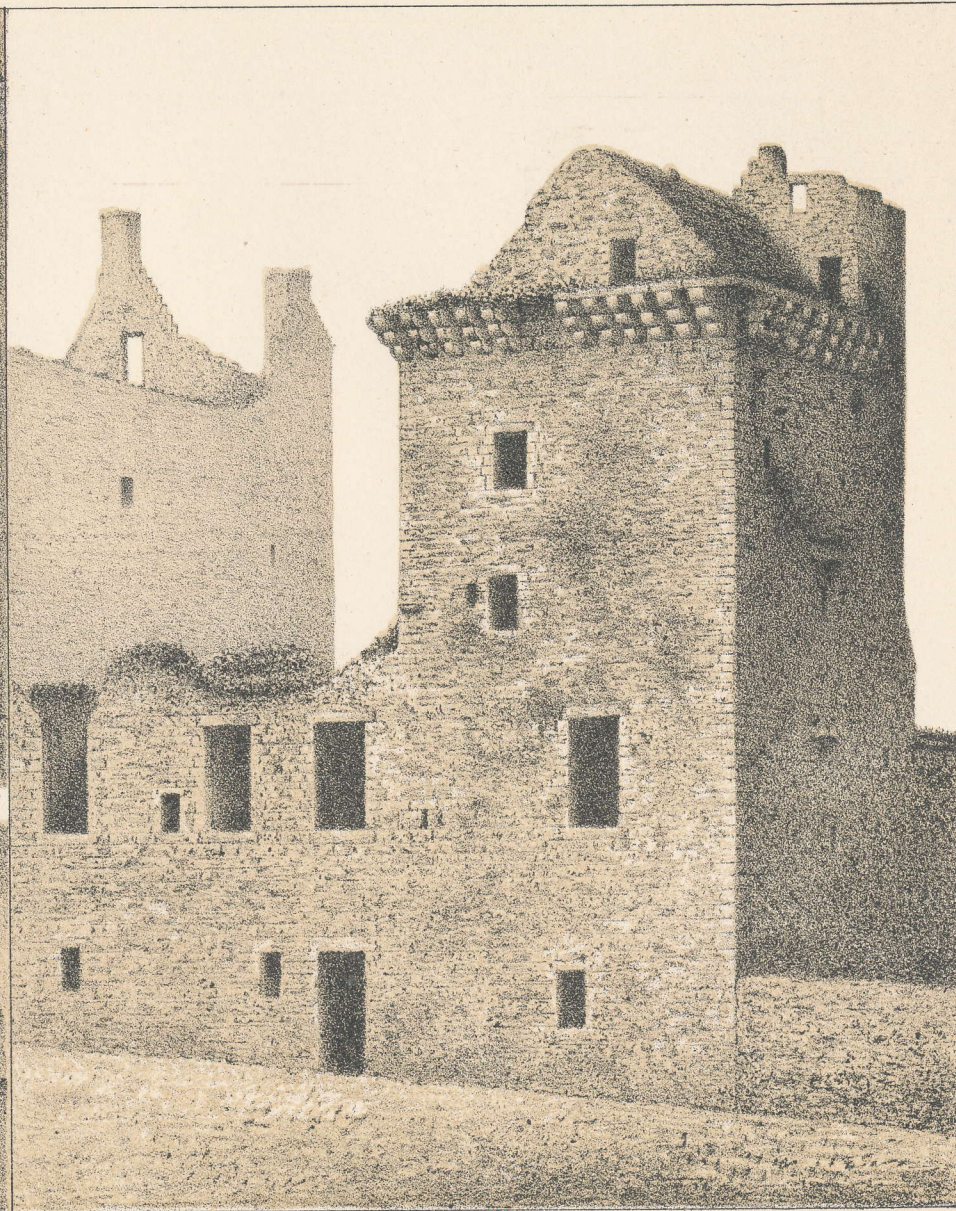
Interior Door to Kitchen.



Coat of Arms over Doorway in Quadrangle.



Monogram below Shield, at the full size.



Enlarged View* of Tower at South Angle of Buildings.

W. Galloway, Mens. et del.

Waterston & Sons Lith. Edin.