

ADARE AND SOME OF ITS ANCIENT BUILDINGS.

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IN this paper I shall endeavour to give a short, and I hope tolerably clear description of some of the ancient buildings at Adare, with just so much historical matter as is necessary to establish the actual, or approximate dates of their foundation and the various changes in, and additions to them, which have been made at different times.

I will commence with the old Parish Church which, though by no means the most interesting, is about the oldest building, as far as part of it is concerned, now remaining at Adare. It most probably dates from the end of the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century, but the earliest known reference to it is in a Papal Taxation to which the late Bishop Reeves and other competent authorities have assigned the date of 1291; it is also mentioned in the Taxation of 1302. This ancient part is the Chancel, which was originally the Parish Church, to which a Nave was afterwards added; this ancient church was small, being about 30 feet long by 18 feet wide inside. The east window which is formed of sandstone, is a single semicircular headed light, finished with a plain chamfer outside; it is 5 feet 2 inches high by about 6 inches wide, and very much splayed at top and bottom as well as at the sides. There are two windows also of sandstone at the south side, the heads of both are wanting: the one next the east end was about 4 feet high by 11½ inches wide, the other about 4½ feet high by 14½ inches wide, this is something lower down in the wall than the first. Between those two windows is a small door with a segmental head, it is 5 feet 6 inches high with slightly sloping jambs, being 2 feet 9 inches wide at top and 2 feet 11 inches at bottom, the arch and jambs are formed of the rudest possible rubble, the stones being small and without the least attempt

at dressing. The window at the north side is an insertion of an earlier date than the nave, very likely late thirteenth or early fourteenth century; it is 5 feet high by 1 foot wide and has a pointed top of the early English shape; the dressings are limestone. The nave, from the form of the only original window now remaining, evidently dates from the fifteenth century, when it was added to the west end of the old church, the latter becoming the chancel—a rough, pointed, chancel arch $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide by 10 feet high having been put in, and a double belfry added to the top of the gable. This nave which is 24 feet 6 inches wide was originally very long, it is now divided into two parts by a gable with a large arched doorway in the centre, the original fifteenth century windows have been entirely removed, except a small single light near the east end of the south wall, which has an ogree head with very acute and sharply cut cusplings; this window was so entirely covered up and concealed by ivy that when I went to look for it some time ago I had great difficulty in finding it, and would have given up the search but that I knew it was there. I spent a good while clearing it, and it is now fully visible, the other windows seem from the size of the apses, now built up, to have been larger. There is a two-light fifteenth century window—an evidently modern insertion—in the twelfth or early thirteenth century hall of the castle which, I think, belonged to the church, each light is 1 foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, they have ogree tops and acute sharply-cut double cusplings exactly in the same style of work, and the same stone as the single light still *in situ*. The church seems to have been entirely ruined, perhaps burned, and to have been repaired and re-roofed, but the old church being probably too large for the Protestant parishioners, the west part was cut off by the cross wall, (exactly the same was done at Croagh, where a small porch was put outside the door, as may also have been done here) and this wall became the west gable of the church as then used. It can be easily seen that this was the case, as the cross wall is not bonded into the side walls but simply built up against them; the length of the nave as thus shortened was 38 feet, the part cut off 20 feet 6 inches, and the cross wall being 2 feet thick, the original nave was over 60 feet long, this with the chancel of 30 feet long, and the thickness of the wall in which the chancel arch is, would give

a total inside length of over 92 feet from end to end. When the church went out of use, and was again unroofed and ruined, the arches over the large windows were broken down, the part of the churchyard to the south of the church was levelled and thrown into the demesne, and the window opes in the south wall built up, about 1812, when this church ceased to be used, and the church of the Augustinian Abbey was roofed and fitted up as a parish church.

There is another church in the churchyard which is rather puzzling. It is about twentyfive yards to the north of the nave of the large church, and is about 33 feet long by 16 feet wide. The east window is a single light with a pointed trefoil head and is 8 feet 9 inches high by 1 foot 6 inches wide, and is very much splayed at top and bottom as well as at the sides. The window at the west end is high up, it has a similar trefoil head, is also very much splayed and has window seats which are about 12 feet from the ground, and is not quite central in the gable. There was a croft or parvis at this end of the church. The only window in the north side was a single light near the east end, it was high but the top is gone; it is 1 foot 6 inches wide. Opposite this there is a large gap in the south wall in which was a window, only the eastern jamb remains, which has the same section as those of the north window. At this side close to the east end is a trefoil-headed picena with a quatrefoil basin, part of which is broken away. The door, which is near the west end of the south side, is 7 feet 4 inches high by 4 feet wide, it is pointed, and each side of the arch is formed of a single stone, there is a small broken holy water stoup at the east side of the door. This church is unusually high, the walls have a considerable batter to about six feet from the ground, it seems to have had a projecting eave to judge from the projection of one of the lower stones of one of the barges which is not yet entirely concealed by the ivy; underneath, at least at the east end, there seems to have been a crypt or large vault. Nothing whatever seems to be known as to the origin or use of this church. I am inclined to think that it was the burial place and mortuary chapel or chantry of some person or family of consequence, who had built it, and provided an endowment to support a priest to say masses, and to provide candles for the altar, and that the croft was for the accommodacion of the

priest in charge. This is merely a theory ; there is not a particle of direct evidence in support of it, but it is not an unlikely one, and would account for this building which seems to have puzzled every one. I advance it now for discussion, or to draw out some alternative theory if any can be advanced. There are no ancient tombstones now in the churches or churchyard except the lower end of a large broken coffin-shaped stone, well cut, on which there is no inscription ; it has a small, hollow moulding round the edge and the face is rubbed smooth. A large piece of ground has of late years been added to the north side of the churchyard which is nicely laid out with gravel walks and well kept ; this addition was badly wanted as the old part was much overcrowded. In this one churchyard we have the advantage of seeing together churches of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. This advantage is, however, heavily discounted by the way everything is covered with ivy, which prevents one from properly seeing the peculiarities of the masonry of the different periods ; but then, an ivy covered ruin is *so* picturesque. Yes ; ivy is a great improvement to an old gate-lodge.

THE CASTLE. This is close to the church, and the oldest parts of each are probably of about the same age. There is no record of when, or by whom the castle was built, the earliest document connected with Adare, as yet discovered, is a grant dated in the year 1226, from King Henry III. to Jeffroi de Morreis, (Jeffrey de Maresco) Justiciary of Ireland, to hold a fair annually at his manor of Adare on the feast of St. James, July 25th, and the eight days after ; but no grant of the manor itself is now known to be in existence. De Maresco was owner in 1226, and a castle was certainly built there before then, either by him or some former Anglo-Norman grantee, if there was one, and a considerable part of this first Anglo-Norman castle still remains. The latest date at which there is any direct evidence of de Maresco being in possession is 1229, but it is likely that he continued to hold it till, at the earliest, 1234, when having joined in William Marshal's rebellion, which was suppressed by Maurice Fitzgerald, second Baron of Offaly, who had superseded him as justiciary, he made a grant of some lands to Fitzgerald, most likely with the object of getting his interest with the King to save the remainder. It seems to have effected this purpose, as his lands

and castles were restored to de Maresco, except some which "ought to be the King's," *i.e.* Royal Castles which he had held as justiciary, and saving those lands which he had granted to the justiciary, (his successor Fitzgerald), Adare is not mentioned in either the grant, or in the restoration, if it was not included in the former, de Maresco most likely held it till 1242, when he was outlawed: Fitzgerald got large grants of his lands in 1244, and he was dead in 1246, when his widow was granted dowry out of his forfeited lands; whenever Fitzgerald got Adare, it is almost certain that he had it at his death in 1257. The Castle consists of a Keep with an inner and an outer Ward, the latter enclosing a considerable piece of ground in which are several buildings; the Keep and the inner Ward evidently occupy the site of an ancient Rath which in prehistoric times commanded the passage of the river, as the Castle did afterwards, the nature of numerous finds in the moat and elsewhere about the Castle plainly show this; the present moat seems to have been nearly identical with that of the rath, and the inner ward accommodates itself closely to its circular plan.

Approaching the Castle from the west, we pass through the gate tower giving admittance to the outer ward. This is very ancient and of the rudest possible masonry. It has a quadrilateral plan with a lofty gateway at the outside and another at the inside, in which latter is the groove for the portcullis, which, when raised, ran up into the second storey of the tower from whence it was worked. Both stories had loopholes for defence, and on the top were crenelated battlements. The entrance, however, originally consisted but of the outer gate with the battlements over it, this is very ancient; the rest of the tower with the inner gateway and portcullis was added afterwards, as can be seen inside the outer gateway where the joint in the masonry is plainly visible; the addition is also very ancient, the masonry being but a very slight, if any, improvement on that of the older part. The outer gateway is 8 feet wide and the inner one 11 feet; there is a *reveille* of seven inches at each side of the outer gateway, the rest of the difference is made up by a sort of splay in the side walls of the tower which is twenty feet in depth from out to out and had a timber floor over the gateways. Passing a little distance beyond this tower we come to the entrance to the

inner ward which faces south nearly at right angles to the outer one, this consists of a gate tower smaller than the former, also with two gateways, the outer one was provided with a drawbridge which, when lowered, gave access across the moat, and when raised, entirely covered the gateway, part of it going into a recess above, the length of the drawbridge being greater than the height of the gateway. The recess into which the drawbridge went when raised is 4 feet 3 inches deep, and the archway is 6 feet 3 inches wide with a *reveille* of four inches. The inner gateway—the gate of which opened inwards—was about the same width, and there is a large stone threshold 1 foot 6 inches wide and 1 foot high, against which the gate shut. This tower is arched all through, but the present arch is a restoration; it also, is surmounted by crenilated battlements, as are all the walls of both inner and outer wards, the embrasures being very much narrower than the battlements between them, each division of which has a loophole. The ground in the inner ward is higher than that in the outer, preserving, in some degree at least, the level of the ancient rath, it is about 32 yards in diameter, and occupies the north-west quarter of the large outer ward, nearly half of its embattled wall forming part of the outer fortification; the moat is outside this part, which follows its circular course, but the rest of its circumference is inside the outer, though outside the inner ward. The keep is in the south-east quarter of the inner ward so as to be as far as possible from the outer wall, its east wall is close to the edge of the moat; it is about 41 feet square. Little remains except the north wall and two small turrets at the angles, of the rest of the east and west walls, and of the south wall, but a small height above the ground remains, which shows that there were turrets at the south east and south-west angles similar to those at the other two, they project as flankers 2 feet 10 inches from the east and west faces and measure about ten feet along the west face, but not quite so much on the east, and do not project at all beyond the north and south faces; internally, they are contained in the thickness of the east and west walls. The lower storey of the keep, nearly half the height of which is below the level of the inner ward, is vaulted, it consists of two parallel barrel vaults running north and south. There is a small dungeon-like cell, nine feet by seven, at the north

end of the eastern one of those, the floor of which is below the level of that of the vault outside, it received a little light from a curiously shaped loophole, the top and bottom of which are very acute angles, and the sides curved so as to be about six inches asunder in the middle. The doorway, which now gives access to the keep, is a modern insertion in a breach in the wall of the western vault, and is below the level of the ground outside. The outer cut-stone arch is evidently quite new, but the jambs are also insertions though the lower parts are old, they originally belonged to a doorway in some of the ruined parts of the castle and are of a much later date than the keep, the inner rubble part of the arch, though it looks old and is a good imitation of the ancient work, is also modern. On looking up from the inside, it will be seen that the springing of the vault rests on this arch which makes the latter look as if it were original, but this part of the vault is, itself, a restoration, though it is done in the same rude style as the old work, a close examination will show the difference between both the stones and mortar and those used in the original work, some of which remains at the other end of the vault ; two stones which are close over the doorway give the whole thing away, being hammered corbells which had supported beams in the ruined part of the keep. Just opposite this there is a hole in the floor, now much filled up, which is said to have been a well, and underneath the entrance can be seen on the inside, a rough rubble arch, the top of which is hardly above the present floor, which would seem to lead to some chamber or vault beneath the ground outside. I have never heard if any attempt has been made to open and explore this. Opposite the entrance there is a door communicating with the eastern vault, the roof of the south end of this is broken away, and by a flight of modern steps access is gained to the floor above ; I think it likely that there was an original flight of steps somewhere about the same place. This is the only vaulted storey in the keep, the others had timber floors. There were originally but two stories over the vaults, the barge course of the first roof can be seen in the north wall, both the masonry and the stone in the lower part of which is different from that of the added storey.

Going up the stairs from the floor above the vaults, we come to more restorations; note the loophole at the right hand side ; the

north jamb of this is original work, the south new, and all from that out, the steps, the roofing, the side walls, and the doorway at the left hand at the level of the second floor, are all new work, which is, I believe, a substantially correct reproduction of the original building, and was absolutely necessary as a buttress to support the old part which was not even perpendicular, but was slightly overhanging. Ascending by those restored stairs in the thickness of the west wall, when we come to where they end, we have to climb up the rugged edge of the wall, the ascent of which, though steep, is rendered easy and safe by an iron handrail firmly fixed in the masonry. We next come to a small ladder, ascending which we enter a doorway in the south side of a little room in the north-west turret, leaving this by another doorway in its east side, we proceed along the watertable of the roof to the level of the ridge, from whence spring two half arches carrying steps to the angle turrets. We now come to not merely restorations, but additions, the eastern arch and the steps on it are original, but the western one had a good deal of its upper part broken away, and in repairing it the pitch of the arch was raised and five or six steps added. A small half arch was turned in the north side of the battlements of the turret and another in the west side, on which rests the platform on which we stand to enjoy the lovely views to be seen on all sides; the arches and platform, and all the battlements are modern, and not merely restorations, but actual additions. When standing on this platform we are slightly above the level of the summit of the original battlements, an embrasure of which can be seen built up under the half arch at the west side, the one under that at the north was left open and a stone lintel having been placed over it the new work was raised on it; the battlements of the other turret were raised to correspond, and the old embrasures were treated in the same manner as in this; the arched roof of the little room through which we pass, as well as its two doorways, are also entirely new; this turret having originally been open at the inside like that at the north-east angle, the north-west angle of the old battlements being wanting to nearly the level of the embrasures, was built up at the same time, and the new work can be easily recognised by the masonry and the dressing of the quoins. The central embrasure in the battlements between the turrets had a stone lintel

put across the top with a coping over it, and the entire thing was raised to correspond with the new battlements added to the turrets ; this can be very easily seen in the eastern turret, and it can also be seen that there was no means of access to the battlements at their present height, which I should say are at least five feet higher than they originally were.

This must have been done to get over the timber of the demesne for the sake of the beautiful views now to be seen on every side. Though I am an antiquary—at least by courtesy, and on principle most strongly opposed to any meddling with ancient buildings beyond what is necessary to preserve them, I have for considerably over half a century so much enjoyed those views, and have seen them so much enjoyed by others, who will never look upon them again, that I really cannot urge any serious objection to the addition to the height of this building which has made those lovely views available, but I think the fact of its having been made should be put on record, and as that, to the best of my belief, has never been done in all that has been written about Adare, I do it now. But to return to *terra firma*. The main entrance to the keep was in the south side. There is in the quadrant enclosed between that side of the keep, the wall of the inner ward, and the wall connecting that with the south-west angle of the keep, a curiously shaped platform with steps leading up to it ; this has been a good deal restored, (I believe quite correctly,) and was originally higher than it is now, a draw-bridge from the great door of the keep, which was in the storey above the vaults, was lowered on to this platform and gave access to the interior of the keep. There is a small sallyport in the north side at the same level, to which access from the outside was had by a ladder which could be drawn up ; any fireplaces or chimneys with which the keep was provided must have been in some of the walls now demolished. The total height of the keep from the present battlements to the level of the ground in the inner ward is 62 feet, the floor of the vaults is about five feet under this, and the outer court about the same.

In that part of the wall of the inner ward which is also part of the outer fortification, and which is inside the moat, there is a semi-circular flanking tower which rises above the general level of the

wall, and like it, has crenelated battlements, it is open at the inside and had a timber floor or platform dividing it into two storeys, each provided with loopholes. To the upper storey and battlements access is had by narrow stairs in the thickness of the wall, the interior is 11 feet 6 inches in diameter, and is more than a semicircle, the thickness of the wall increasing the depth to 8 feet 6 inches. At each side there are narrow stairs giving access to the battlements of the wall, which have no communication with those of the tower; all the walls have loopholes very widely splayed to be used from the ground level. Where this segmental part of the outer wall joins the north wall of the outer ward, there is a small square turret from which a wall runs to the north-east angle of the keep completing the circuit of the inner ward. One angle of this turret projects into the exterior angle formed by the segmental wall of the inner ward with the rectilinear wall of the outer ward; another angle of the turret projects into the interior angle between the latter and the short wall connecting it with the north-east angle of the keep; it thus acts as a flanker both to the outside and inside of the exterior fortifications; the wall of the outer ward is lower than that of the inner, and there is no communication between their battlements; a loophole in the turret, at the level of the top of the outer wall commands the inside of its battlements. At this point of junction, the moat leaves the outside of the outer defences and follows the outside of the inner ward by the east face of the keep, round by the south side and under the drawbridge of the entrance tower, to the junction of the south wall of the inner ward with the outer wall, through which the water has a communication with the part of the moat outside; this is a little to the north of outer entrance tower.

In the north wall of the outer ward, not far from the outside of the moat, there is a lofty entrance gateway, 8 feet 6 inches wide, with battlements which rise above those of the wall at each side, and in the east wall not far from the river, is a small gateway, 5 feet wide; this had a single leaf gate, the stone socket in which its post turned at the top still remains, at the left side as one enters. This has been a good deal restored; it opens into a small court connected with the domestic buildings on the bank of the river, at the angle where the wall abuts on the river the battlements rise above the general level; this angle has also been restored. Near this is a garderobe, and there is another in the

thickness of the wall near the north gate; the river runs along the south side of the outer ward, and along its bank are all the buildings now existing, except the keep. Returning to the western entrance tower. On the right hand and on the bank of the river, is a large building two storeys high; near the west end was formerly a large breach from top to bottom, where the original doors of both storeys had been, the upper was reached by an external flight of steps running along the wall, the foundation of which remains. Under the landing was an arch, inside which was the doorway of the lower storey; this breach was built up and the two doorways restored, but they have no pretence whatever to be reproductions of the originals, there being nothing to go by; it was absolutely necessary to do this to prevent more of the wall from falling. Inside are low walls dividing the lower storey into several apartments; the lower part of the outer walls is of very ancient masonry, and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet thicker than the more modern walls built on them, the former being 5 feet and the latter $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. The height of this ancient part of the walls varies, so that it looks as if a very ancient building had been ruined, and nearly demolished before the existing one was erected on its ruins; those old walls are not more than about half the height of the lower storey, in which are three loopholes in the south or river side, which are square-headed and much splayed, the western one has been restored. The timber floor of the upper storey rested on beams, which, to judge by the holes which contained them, must have been of great size; the ends of those rested at each side on timber wall-plates, which are now gone, and have left hollows in the walls under the rows of holes. Very curiously the wall of the upper storey projected at the level of the floor, about 10 inches beyond the newer part of the wall below it, but was not so thick as the old part. The upper storey consisted of one large room, 56 feet by 31; it had six windows, two at each side, and one at the east end, had each two semi-circular-headed lights with sandstone dressings; one in the west end is a small, plain single light, with square limestone head, and is so close to the north corner that it has no splay at that side, but a good deal at the other. More than half the breadth of the west gable has fallen, and there may have been another window, or a chimney, or both, in it. The dressing of one of the windows at the north side remains, and has a bold circular moulding; a good deal of this is a restoration, but, I think, a perfect

reproduction of the original; the jambs and the outside halves of the heads of both lights remained, and the angle stones at the bottom showed that the moulding there, was the same as that at the sides and top; the remainder of the bottom, the central mullion, and the inner halves of the heads have been restored; it was necessary to do this as more of the top was in danger of falling.

This restoration was done by direction of the present Earl of Dunraven. Portland stone was used; it was stained to match the colour of the old stone, which, I think, was rather a mistake. There was a horizontal sandstone string-course under those windows, the section of which is similar to that of the mouldings of the windows, but all the remaining part of this is now hid by the dense growth of ivy. The other north window, the dressings of which are wanting, may be presumed to have been the same as this; neither of those windows were splayed inside. The other three two-light windows in this storey have plain flat sandstone mullions and dressings; they have also been a good deal restored; the stone used was got somewhere near Knockfierna. The window nearly opposite the entrance has a very good sandstone moulding, which goes round the large interior arch and down to the cill; the stone is a good deal weathered and decayed, but enough remains to give a perfect section; the windows at this side had window seats. At the south-west of this building and connected with it, a tower stands out into the river, only two sides of which remain to their full height; the water runs through the basement of this through a course with an arch at each end. The lower storey of this tower is older than the newer part of the large building, but the upper is of the fifteenth century, and the only original fifteenth century work now remaining *in situ* in any part of the castle. This can be at once seen from the outside, the dressing of the quoins in the angle being very different from any to be seen elsewhere around, and a marked contrast to that of the quoins in the lower part of the same angle. Half an ogee window with double cusps can be seen near the top of the south side, and there is a single light in the west side, which, to the best of my recollection, has a similar head, but it is now, and has long been, so covered with ivy that it is impossible to tell what it is like. At the junction of this tower with the large building, up high, a thin wall cutting off the angle has a loophole in it which seems to have lighted

stairs in the wall, the large building had battlements on the top of the wall next the river. Going to the outside of the west end of this building it can be seen that it was built independently of the wall between it and the outside gateway, which are the same age. In those there is but a very slight batter, but in the gable it is much greater batter, so that though in a line with them at the ground, as it rises it goes back from the other wall, in which there is thus formed an angle projecting beyond the gable; it has also a greater batter than the wall of the water tower, which shows that it was built, or rather rebuilt, later than the walls at both sides of it. There has been a great difference of opinion as to the age of this building, some good authorities, among them Dr. Petrie assigning it to the first Anglo-Norman settlers. If this is correct, it seems to me to be certain that there must have been a castle here previous to the Anglo-Norman Conquest, as this evidently stands on the site of a much older building; if, on the other hand, we come to the conclusion that the first castle here was built by the early Anglo-Norman settlers, it is necessary to assign this building to the time of the Geraldines, and not earlier than the latter half of the thirteenth century. I am inclined to prefer the latter alternative, but do not presume to give a decided opinion on the question, which is a very nice nut for some architectural antiquary to crack.

To the east of this building, along the river, there is a curtain wall 46 feet long; it is very old and had battlements; it is 6 feet thick, and projects by nearly its entire thickness beyond the buildings at each end of it; inside is a well with steps leading down to it, and in one corner what looks like an oven; there are some slight tracings of buildings inside, but they seem to have been comparatively small and insignificant. To the east of this is the great hall, which is 75 feet by 37 feet; the walls were 15 feet high, and the west gable, the only one standing, is 35 feet high. It is said that the roof was supported on four pillars, the foundations of which were formerly visible, but no trace of them now remains. In the south wall are three windows overlooking the river; they were evidently originally all alike, and had each two semi-circular headed lights, with a rather thick pier between them; the masonry was rough rubble. The one near the west end and the arch and wall over it had fallen; this has been restored by putting in a new arch at a higher level than the old one, and inserting the head of a two-light fifteenth

century window with ogee heads and very acute double cusping very sharply cut, which, I feel confident, belonged to the nave of the parish church; the mullion is new, and the cill, though old, belonged neither to the window nor to the ope. The old window was not much splayed, but the inserted lights being narrower than the old ones, which were 2 feet wide, and the mullions 1 foot 4 inches, whilst the lights in the inserted window were only 1 foot $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the mullion but 7 inches wide, the splay was altered to match, by new masonry put in, as can be quite easily seen, with the old masonry of the original splay still behind it. There is a small door near the east end opening on the river; there are heavy square buttresses abutting on the river, but they, and the entire outside is so overgrown with ivy, that it is impossible to see details, or indeed anything but ivy. The north wall is too low to show anything; there are buttresses outside it, but though only a few feet high, they have evidently been repaired and tampered with. The entrance was near the east end and appears to have been very wide, and to have had a porch outside, but the foundations of this have certainly been altered; if the east side is correct, the west side has been moved back so as to increase the width; at the west jamb of the door, very low down, there is a rough mass of the old masonry projecting beyond it, which makes it impossible that the modern jamb over it can be in the original position. The north east angle and buttress, which are pretty high, are also new masonry, and there is so much new masonry and so little old about the east end, that we cannot feel very implicit confidence in the accuracy of anything there. There appears to have been a wide entrance in the east end, with a small room at each side of it, opening into the great hall; beyond this is the small court into which the gate in the east wall of the outer ward opens. In this, along the bank of the river, is the foundation of a building 45 feet long by 19 feet wide, with a well and what appears to have been an oven in it; between this and the building last mentioned is an open passage down to the river, and between it and the east wall of the outer ward is another.

We have now completed the circuit of all the buildings. I have spoken pretty freely of the repairs and restorations executed on the castle, but in doing so I have not forgotten that restoration of ancient buildings is a subject on which there will always be a difference of

opinion, or that whatever opinion I may hold and express on particular details, we owe the preservation of this most interesting group of ancient buildings to what has been done to them by the Earls of Dunraven. Very nearly all of it was done by the second earl, in or about the year 1840, when he spent a large sum of money on it. His successors have ever since done anything necessary to preserve the buildings. There is a constant watch kept on them, and as soon as a stone is seen to be loose it is fastened, or a wall appears to admit water the top is sealed with cement, so that everything now remaining is likely to be preserved for a very long time.

The growth of ivy, however, which is spreading and increasing to an enormous extent year by year, now conceals much which was formerly visible and most interesting, and will, if not checked, and a good deal of it removed, shortly conceal a great deal more, and convert, as it has in a great measure done already, this fine pile of buildings into a mere mass of green leaves.

The way also in which trees have been planted around the Castle, and are still being planted close to it, almost entirely obstructs every view of it, except that from the opposite side of the river, even the well-known view from the bridge is now considerably obscured, and that from the north west, of the lofty circular embattled wall with its flanking tower, the moat at its foot, and the massive Keep towering above it, has been effectually planted out. It is the greatest possible pity that this should be done in a demesne of upwards of 1,600 acres, all well planted, and some of it, in the opinion of many, over planted—*Liberavi anima mea.*

