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The Castle of the Boyne

BY

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FRIDAY, 16th DECEMBER 1938.

There was a good attendance of members and others, presided over by Sheriff More, in the Town Hall, Banff, this evening, when Dr W. Douglas Simpson, Librarian of Aberdeen University, delivered a lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on The Castle of the Boyne. The lecture was as follows:—

THE CASTLE OF THE BOYNE.

By W. Douglas Simpson, M.A., D.Litt.

The Castle of the Boyne—or the "Craig of Boyne," to give it its more ancient name—is situated about two miles east of Portsoy, on the right bank of the Burn of Boyne. This is a considerable stream which rises on the moorland saddle between Lurg Hill and Hill of Inverkindling, and flows north-eastward, in a winding course of about ten miles, to empty itself into the Moray Firth in Boyne Bay, about half a mile below the castle. Around the latter the burn makes a big crook, enclosing a bold promontory which projects into the steep gorge here eroded in the crystalline limestone; and on the apex of this promontory is placed the castle. On three sides, west, north and east, the ground descends steeply in grassy slopes into the gorge, which is rocky and tree-lined, and through it the water hurries briskly along its boulder-strewn bed. On the south side the castle faces higher ground, which rises immediately on the far side of the fosse, so that the ruins when approached from the south are well-nigh concealed. The position is thus a remarkable one; and, as the castle is almost completely overlooked, it is clear that considerations of shelter and amenity, rather than defence, have led to the selection of the site. In a high degree the surroundings are picturesque and romantic, and only the small scale of the scenery prevents it from ranking as grand. Among the trees which line the gorge, thousands of crows have for generations built their

nests, and in early spring, when a solitary visitor approaches this sequestered ruin, their prodigious clangour is little short of deafening. In summer the grassy slopes below the grey old walls are gay with wild flowers, and the lower levels of the warm and sheltered glen are filled with rank umbrageous undergrowth, so dense as to be impassable.[1]

In October 1931 I contributed to the *Transactions of the Banffshire Field Club* a short description of the castle, with a ground plan.[2] Since then a good deal of additional light has been shed upon its history by the late Mr Alistair and Miss Henrietta Tayler, in their interesting monograph on *The Ogilvies of Boyne*.[3] The present paper proposes to furnish a more detailed description of the ruins, with a revised and completer set of plans.

The original castle stood on the coast, on the left side of the mouth of the Boyne Burn. Only a few scraps of it remain, and its disappearance is doubtless to be accounted for on the supposition that it has afforded the materials for its successor. The site is an almost detached limestone rock of considerable area, rising to a height of about 50 feet above the foreshore. The surface is extremely uneven, and on it various grass-grown foundations may still be traced. The entrance, a narrow causeway traversing a cross ditch at the neck of the site, is clearly visible, and within it to the left is a masonry lined pit, measuring 5 feet by 4 feet, and at present about 4 feet deep: it has evidently been vaulted. On the west verge of the rock are some bits of walling, and a garderobe vent, built over a slack in the cliff. The contents of a midden found on the site are preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities at Edinburgh.[4] This early fortalice was appropriately known as the Craig of Boyne; and the old name was transferred to the newer site, so that the present castle is repeatedly so called in the records of the seventeenth century.

Historical Sketch.

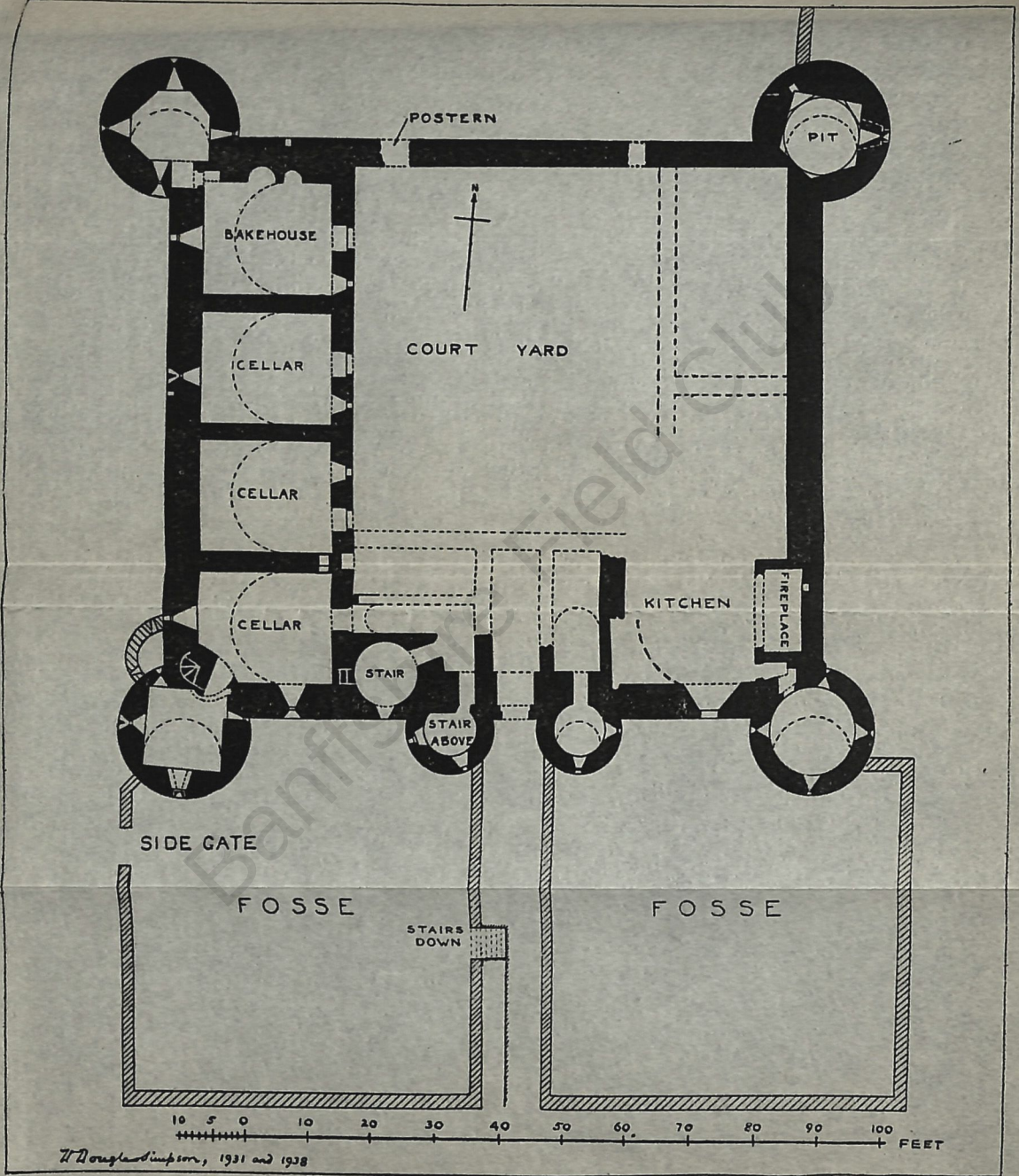
The ancient territory of Boyne comprised the coastal lands between the Deveron and the Enzie—i.e. roughly from Macduff to Buckie.

This territory was divided into two parts, the Thanedom and the Forest. The Forest included the upland portion, while the Thanedom covered most of the parish of Boyndie, with adjoining portions of Fordyce and Banff. "In the middle of the parishes of Boyndy and Fordyce, there's the marks of ane old stone dyke, divyding The Boyne in Thaindome, so called (lying towards the sea to the north and east), and The Forest of Boyne (lying south and west). The Thaindome belonged of old to the lairds of Boyne; The Forest, to an old family of the name of Hay, lord Forest of Boyne, now extinct."[5] These thanedoms, though occurring elsewhere, are a distinctive feature of the north-east of Scotland. Their origins are obscure, but they appear to represent portions of the old Celtic tribal territories not held in feudal tenure. Such lands were regarded as belonging to the royal demesne, and were held by the thane in feu farm. "We must not expect to find them in the fertile plains of the lowlands, which were speedily and entirely occupied by the southern settlers, become feudal barons; nor yet in the inner fastnesses of the mountains, where the Celtic institutions, unmodified, excluded the Saxon title or office. But along the borders that separated the races, along the southern foot of the Grampian hills, through the braes of Angus and Mearns, in the hilly skirts of Aberdeen and Banff, where the sovereign had established his dominion, imperfectly it may be, but had not driven out the native people, we find numerous thanes and lands held in thanage."[6] For the most part these thanedoms were converted into feudal baronies after the War of Independence. In the case of Boyne, this happened when David II. granted it, about 1358, to Sir John Gordon, of Gordon in the Merse and Strathbogie in Aberdeenshire;[7] but the old designation of thanage remained in use until at least the end of the fifteenth century.[8] The thanage did not long remain in Gordon hands; Sir John died in 1360, when it probably reverted to the Crown, and eight years later we find that King David granted it to Sir John de Edmonstone.[9]

In the year 1484 the barony of the Boyne

passed by marriage from the Edmonstones to Walter, second son of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Auchleven, Deskford and Findlater; and in the hands of the Ogilvies it remained until early in the eighteenth century. The builder of the present castle was undoubtedly Alexander, fourth of Boyne, who in 1566 married the celebrated Mary Bethune, "the hardieste and wyseste of the Queen's Maries." It has usually been stated that this laird in 1560, in return for moneys advanced to him, transferred the property to his kinsman Sir George Ogilvy of Dunlugas: but the whole circumstances have been fully investigated by the Taylers, who have shown that although the laird was heavily embarrassed he never actually parted with his lands. It appears that he was in debt to Dunlugas to the tune of all but £18,000, and that in security the lands were temporarily, in the year 1575, apprised to his creditor. Very probably, as the Taylers suggest, this inordinate indebtedness was due to Alexander Ogilvy's expenditure in building the new castle—which certainly is on a far more ambitious scale than was usual, at the time, for the abode of a country gentleman of his rank.[10]

Probably the new castle was begun after Ogilvy's marriage to Mary Bethune in 1566. It would thus be in the older castle by the seashore that the laird entertained the young Queen Mary on her return from Inverness during the Gordon rebellion of 1562. "On the 19th September she departed from Spynie, dined at Cullen and supped and slept at Craig of Boyne. On 20th, after dining at Craig of Boyne she proceeded to Banff, where she supped and slept."[11] This laird's matrimonial history is rather interesting, for after Mary Bethune's death he took as his second wife, in 1599, the Lady Jean Gordon, whom, thirty-two years before, Bothwell had divorced in order to become the husband of Queen Mary. At the date of the marriage to Ogilvy Lady Jean was fifty-three years of age, and had consoled herself for Bothwell's desertion by marrying the eleventh Earl of Sutherland, who had died in 1594. Her marriage to Ogilvy, according to her son, "schoe did for the utilitie and profite of



BOYNE CASTLE: GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

her children." She survived her third husband twenty-eight years, and retired to Dunrobin Castle, where she died in 1629, being laid to rest in the Sutherland Aisle of Dornoch Cathedral. This remarkable woman was a daughter of the fourth Earl of Huntly; and one of her sons by her second marriage was the celebrated Sir Robert Gordon, the historian of the Earldom of Sutherland, who describes her as "a vertuous and comlie lady, judicious, of excellent memorie, and of great vnderstanding above the capacitie of her sex; in this much to be commended, that dureing the continuall changes and particular factions of the court in the raigne of Quein Mary, and in the minoritie of King James the Sixt (which were many) schoe alwise managed her affairs with so great prudence and forsight, that the enemies of her familie culd never prevaile against her, nor mowe these that wer the cheiff ruellers of the state for the tyme to doe any thing to her prejudice: a tyme indeid both dangerous and deceatfull." It is interesting to remember that she was the first person to work the coal mine at Brora, and she started a salt pan there.[12] Her portrait, showing a face of great charm and character, is at Dunrobin Castle.[13]

Walter Ogilvy, the sixth laird, was a zealous covenanter, and in consequence his lands in March, 1645, were soundly harried by Montrose. "The laird him self keipit the Crag of Boyne, quhairin he wes saif; but his haill landis, for the maist pairt, was thus brynt wp and destroyit."[14] The most notable among the owners of the Castle was Sir Patrick, the eighth laird, a distinguished lawyer who in 1681 was created a Senator of the College of Justice, under the title of Lord Boyne. Towards the end of his life he fell into pecuniary straits, and in 1709 he sold the barony to Lord Findlater.[15] But his son, James Ogilvy, who took a prominent part in the "Fifteen," still called himself laird of Boyne, and the latter's wife continued to reside at the castle until 1716, when Lord Findlater obtained a decree of the Court of Session ordering her to remove "forth and from the Mansion House of Boyne, office houses and yards."[16] At this time the laird

was skulking in Uist, whence he escaped to France. It had been proposed to place a garrison of twenty-five men in the castle on the government's behalf,[17] but this does not seem to have been carried out. A letter from Lord Findlater's chamberlain shows that it was intended to settle the Earl's son, Lord Deskford, at Boyne," and that this was done appears from a letter written to Deskford, by Dr James Keith, dated 7th Jan. 1718, and addressed to him at Craig of Boyne, Banff." It was not until 1721 that James Ogilvy, exiled and needy, in return for a bounty from Lord Findlater, formally and finally renounced his title to the estate of Boyne. Last of his line, he died in poverty in 1728, leaving as his only asset "a large breast jewel consisting of seventy-three diamonds great and small" valued at sixty guineas, or £720 Scots.[20]

James Ogilvy, Lord Deskford, afterwards fifth Earl of Findlater and second Earl of Seafield, the last occupant of Boyne Castle, was in some ways the most interesting, and certainly is the most attractive personality connected with its history. He was the foremost of that little band of north-eastern Episcopalians, who, after the disestablishment in 1690, found religious comfort in mysticism and quietism, becoming disciples of the two Fénelons, Pierre Poiret and Madame Guyon. A Jacobite in sympathy, if not a very zealous one, he underwent preventive detention in Edinburgh Castle just before the outbreak of the Fifteen, in which he took no part. As stated above, he was installed at Boyne Castle by his father and remained in residence there till the Earl died in 1730. Many letters addressed to him at Boyne Castle by Madame Guyon, the Chevalier Ramsay, Dr James Keith, and other leaders of the mystical movement, are preserved at Cullen House. Of special interest for our present purpose is a letter which he wrote, apparently from Edinburgh, on 2nd August, 1716, about his arrangements for furnishing Boyne Castle and transferring his household thither:—

"In a very short time I now hope to be in the north. By this time I hope Lady Boynd is out of the hous and W. L. has sent me the

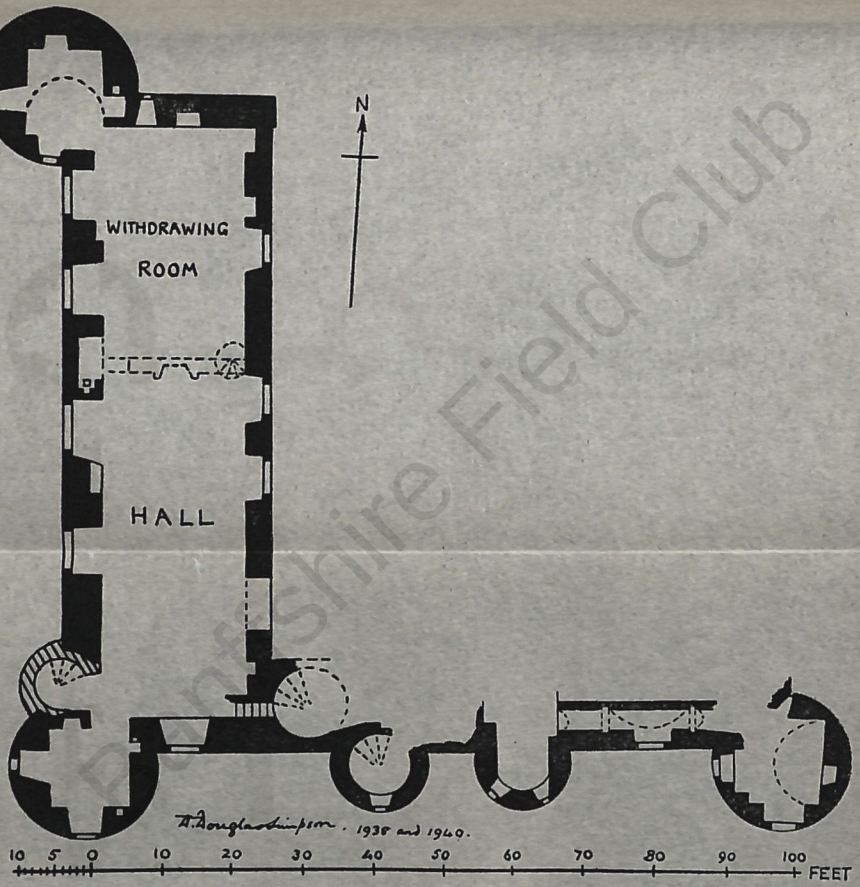
measure of the rooms, which is now the only thing I wait for. All our furniture save only stuf for hangings, which will soon be got, will be ready in the midle of next week, and is to go north in George Hay's ship, so that I expect to leave this place on the 15th or 16th, you'll therefor remember to caus G. M. despatch the two horses W. L. was to buy for me, so as to be at Edr. against the 14th. He must send some carefull man along with them, who will walk at the side of a Sedan in returning north, for people generally think that a better way of carrying the children than a Coach, and in that case my wife will ride. It seems ther are horse chairs in Edr. that can hold both the children's woemen, which makes this the easiest as well as the best way of transportation. Let G. M. likewise send the work horse for the bagage, if he has found one fit for the purpos. Findlay carrys north a loading of coals, which may eitheir be cellar'd in Portsoi, or immediately carry'd to the Boin, as W. L. thinks it most convenient for the tenants to spare their horses now or afterwards. Tell G. M. to take all care to prevent any of them being stolen in the livering at Portsoi or transportation from it."[21]

The exact date when Boyne Castle was deserted does not seem to be known. Probably no one lived there after Lord Deskford exchanged it for Cullen House in 1730. It is said that its dismantling began about the middle of the eighteenth century, "when the roof was removed, and the hewn stones used for buildings in the parish;"[22] in 1782 it was being used as a granary.[23]

Description of the Ruins.

The castle is oblong in plan, measuring 104 feet in breadth across the south or front, by 90 feet in depth from front to back, with outer walls 5 feet thick on the front and sides, and 4 feet thick in rear. At each corner is a sturdy round tower, about one quarter engaged with the curtain walls. The two front towers measure about 20 feet in diameter, and the two rearward towers about 21 feet in diameter. Towers and walls alike are liber-

ally furnished with gunloops, of which those in the basement are of the usual widely-splayed type, with oblong mouths: two of them, one in the west curtain and one in the south-west tower, are doublets. In the upper floors the gunloops are generally plain round apertures, cut in a single block of freestone, and set in a small external rectangular recess. The entrance in the south front is approached over the fosse by a raised and walled causeway, 61 feet long and 9 feet 11 inches broad, and is defended by two drum towers, 14 feet in diameter, which also were fully provided with widely splayed gunloops. The portal has been round arched, and was furnished with the usual double barrier of an outer wooden door and an inner iron "yett." Between the two towers the curtain wall was thickened to 7 feet, and was pierced by the short vaulted trance, leading into what seems to have been a large gate-hall, now entirely ruined, but measuring apparently 17 feet 6 inches in breadth by 19 feet in depth. The entrance and gate-hall were on the first floor, and below them were vaulted cells, from one of which the circular vaulted basement of the east drum tower is entered. To the west of the gate hall was a lodge, likewise utterly ruined; and from this two short passages led, one into the basement of the west drum tower, and the other to the main newel stair, which occupied a special construction of masonry placed immediately to the west of the tower. This stair is now completely destroyed, all the steps having been torn out, so that only the circular well, 10 feet 5 inches in diameter, in part remains. It gave access merely to the first or principal floor, above which it is vaulted over: the upper floors were reached by a smaller newel stair provided from this level upwards in the west drum tower. The other drum tower contained, above the basement already described, three storeys of small alcoves opening off the corresponding rooms behind. The alcove on the second floor level has been covered by a shallow domed vault. In the other tower the stair head was finished similarly at the same level. These gatehouse



BOYNE CASTLE: FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

arrangements are unusual and interesting, and it is a pity that they have been so greatly destroyed.

On three sides of the quadrangle—east, west and south—were ranges of building, while the fourth or northern side was closed in only by a curtain wall. The lateral or east and west ranges extend through the whole depth of the building, the gatehouse being set between them. The walls of these ranges fronting the courtyard are about 3 feet thick: the eastern range was 17 feet in breadth internally, and the west range is 21 feet broad, so that between these two side ranges and the gatehouse the courtyard was reduced to an area about 57 feet in depth and 48 in breadth. The rearward curtain is now reduced to a few feet in height; and, from the tusks provided where it was intended to meet the lofty north gable of the west range, it appears that this curtain had never been carried up to the full height. It contains a loophole near the east range, and what seems to have been a postern near the opposite end.

The east range is now reduced to grassy foundations and moss-grown, ragged masses of collapsed and mouldering masonry; but traces of at least one partition wall may be made out, and at its south end the remains of the large kitchen fireplace, about 14 feet wide, are still visible: its great chimney stalk, long since fallen, is conspicuous in Grose's plate. From the kitchen an angled passage gives access into the circular, barrel-vaulted basement of the south-eastern tower. The west range still stands, a shattered shell, to almost its full height. Its outer wall as originally built, has evidently been raised in three successive stages. The basement of this range contains four lofty barrel-vaulted cellars, three of which have had a lintelled door and a small window towards the court, while the southmost was entered from the gatehouse lodge. This cellar is connected with its neighbour by a floor conduit. The north cellar was the bakehouse, and is provided with two ovens, venting in a roughly corbelled out construction in the outer wall at a height of 8 feet

10 inches above ground. From the bakehouse an angled passage leads through to the heptagonal barrel-vaulted basement of the adjoining angle tower, which had a wooden loft carried on rough stone corbels. The basement of the south-west tower is reached more simply by a straight gorge passage from the southmost cellar, and is rectangular, covered by a plain barrel vault. On the west side of the passage opens a service stair leading up to the screens end of the hall. The interior of the north-east angle tower has been pentagonal, with a circular vaulted pit below.

On the first floor of the west range was the great hall, 47 feet by 21 feet 7 inches, having the withdrawing room, 31 feet 10 inches by 21 feet 7 inches, to the north. The partition wall between them has now disappeared. The hall was reached, rather poorly, by a short narrow flight of steps, only 2 feet broad, ascending from the main newel stair. It seems also, however, to have been entered with more dignity from a large vaulted room on the corresponding level in the south wing. This vault, and the masonry above, are applied to the west wing, and seem to have been built when the latter was heightened. Both hall and withdrawing room have been well lit on either side, towards the courtyard and towards the field; but they are now so greatly ruined that little of their interior arrangements can be made out. Where the hall fireplace was is not now apparent: probably it was in the partition wall. At the east end of the latter a small newel stair, contained partly in the partition and partly in the east wall of the hall, led to the original garret before this range was heightened. The withdrawing-room fireplace was in the north gable. Opening off the withdrawing room is a bedchamber in the round tower, vaulted, well lit, and provided with a fireplace and a garderobe.

Originally there was a garret storey overhead, with windows on both sides: but later on this western range was heightened to provide a full upper storey and garret, the former lit by large windows on both sides. A plain blocking course marks the heightening of the wall on the outer side. Below this blocking

course are two garret windows which were closed when the alteration was made. Towards the court the heightening is no less clearly seen in the different tint and texture of the upper level of masonry, and in the building up of the windows of the original garret. The new north gable is set back within a parapet walk which ran along the original wall-head, in continuation of that on the north-west tower as first built. The lines of the original gable are still clearly visible from the interior side. In connection with this heightening of the west range a small subsidiary staircase tower, or turret rising from the ground, was built in the north re-entrant of the south-west angle tower. This turret blocks a gunloop at the ground level.

The garderobes in the west range, on the first and second floors, were placed midway in the outer wall, so arranged as to be entered both from the hall and the withdrawing room, and similarly above.

The towers at either end of the south front have been four full storeys in height, each storey above the basement containing a living room entered from the corresponding floor of the main building. A remarkable feature is the long passage, vaulted in three sections and defended by two doors, which led through from the gatehouse to the south-east tower. The north-east tower is now only about 25 feet in height, and as the old engravings show it in much the same condition, it is possible that, like the north curtain wall, it was never completed. Originally the north-west tower contained three storeys and a garret, arranged similarly to the others; but when the west range was heightened, an extra storey was added to this tower, carried up from the original corbelled parapet, which still remains. Below this parapet is a stringcourse, with hollowed under surface: above this stringcourse the tower wall is set back. The parapet is almost the only decorative feature now left on the castle; and its two rows of corbels arranged chequerwise, each of two filleted courses, are beheld with relief by an eye wearied in contemplating the gaunt

and shapeless masses of masonry to which this interesting old castle is now in large measure reduced. The upper or bearing row of corbels are very much larger and carry the continuous tabling upon which the parapet rested. This tabling has a hollowed under edge. Between each pair of the upper row of corbels a circular unprojected runnel drain is introduced. The design of this corbel table is unusual, and it is a very pleasing feature. On top of the heightened tower still remains a tall chimney stalk with moulded cope—the only one now extant on the castle. The south-west tower also had a corbelled parapet, of which only the merest fragment at the south re-entrant remains. Within the parapet an inner cylinder of walling rose higher and carried the coned roof. Internally the floors of this tower have rested on corbels of two filleted courses.

The range of building fronting the south, where the castle was overlooked, were from the outset three storeys and a garret in height. The high-pitched gables seem not to have been crow-stepped but had very tall slender chimneys with moulded copes as Grose and Cordiner show. The loftiness of these chimneys was doubtless due to the low nature of the site, with higher ground closely adjoining. As the copes shown by Grose seem to conform in pattern to that of the single chimney remaining, which is part of the addition to the north-west tower, I suspect that the other chimneys of the castle were heightened at the same time. The windows in the original structure seem to have been uniformly treated with freestone dressings showing a 2½ inch chamfer, but those in the heightened storey have had slight projected or shouldered margins, wrought square on the reveal. These projected margins, adapted for harling, are common in seventeenth century work, for example in the north wing of Linlithgow Palace, dated 1620; at Saughton Mills, Midlothian, dated 1623, and at Drumlanrig Castle, built between 1679 and 1687. Both in the original and later work the windows are grooved and bored for leaded glass. A stone near the base of the inserted stair turret is carved

with what appears to be a griffin's wing outstretched, and doubtless originally formed part of the supporter to an armorial bearing. In the south wall next the south-west tower, on the second floor there is a blocked loophole having the unusual form of a long slit with eyelets at top and bottom. All four frontal towers, like that at the north-west corner, have a plain string-course, hollowed underneath, on the second floor level, above which the wall is set back; and one of Grose's plates shows what looks like a heavy cornice on the east section of the south front. The masonry everywhere, both in the primary and in the later building, shows the frequent use of small packing material, so usual in the north-east of Scotland during the later sixteenth and the seventeenth century.

In Cordiner's time trace of painted decoration still remained on the plastered interior walls. The ruins, he tells us,

"exhibit the mouldering memorials of many historical paintings. In the largest tower, where the apartments seem to have been assigned to devotion and philosophy, the paintings have been preserved by a peculiar fortune. It appears from dates that about a hundred years ago a new coat of plaister had been laid over the whole, probably when the zeal of reformation led them to obliterate every relic of the Catholic institutions; but now that coat of plaister is dropping off, and discloses saints and prelates pourtrayed on the walls, and in departments between them many parts of the history of the New Testament designed. Figures also in devotional attitudes, with emphatic scrolls, in Saxon characters, *sursum corda, sic itur ad astra, etc.* But what is perhaps still more remarkable, the adjoining apartment is no less full of encomiums on divine philosophy than that is of expressions of evangelic piety. One female figure, in particular, appears intent on the celestial sphere, in deep meditation; while an Apollo, pointing to the heavens, seems to teach its application. The one of these apartments has doubtless been the chapel of the castle or

devotional retirement, the other perhaps the school of erudition, where the youth were tutored in the paths of philosophy and knowledge.""[4]

From these particulars it is clear that the mural decorations of Boyne Castle must have been emblematical and allegorical paintings, probably in tempera, such as were very common in Scottish mansions of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The mixture of pagan and Christian subjects is, of course, quite in the spirit of the times. As the towers are all more or less equal in diameter, it is possible that by the "largest tower" Cordiner meant the tallest—i.e., the heightened north-east tower. Considerable portions of the old plaster still adhere to its walls, but a careful inspection of these has failed to reveal any traces of painting.

The great dry ditch, or rather sunk area, 9 feet 6 inches deep, in front of the castle, was clearly designed to keep an attacking party at arm's length, and thus to counterbalance the disadvantage of the higher ground which here overlooks the building. Traversed midway by the causeway leading to the entrance, the ditch measures 57 feet in breadth and 120 feet in length. It is walled all round, and had a side gate on the west flank near the castle. For access to this gate there were steps down into the ditch on the west side of the causeway.

At first sight the external appearance of Boyne Castle, with its stout round towers at the angles and gateway, gives a delusive suggestion of formidable strength. Essentially, however, it is just a castellated mansion, equipped for a certain amount of defence by firearms, but otherwise designed as a fortress rather in appearance than reality, a piece of feudal bravery in fact, a parade of pride in stone, after a fashion which was common in France about this period or a little earlier. Verger and Bury and Chambord, figured by Viollet le Duc—these and other similar chateaux, when allowance is made for the humbler scale of things in Scotland, are the proper counterparts to Boyne: like them, it is a parody of a military castle, and its martial

features are primarily *un signe de puissance*. They are mere *appareil feodal*, an outward and visible sign of the baronial dignity of its lord.[25] Not that defence could be entirely neglected, in the Scotland of Mary and James VI. The builder of Boyne did not anticipate an attack with cannon, yet his house had to be strong enough to beat back a raid by a neighbouring laird or by "broken men" equipped with small arms. For an antagonist such as these the castle, inaccessible in rear and on the flanks, and protected in front by its fosse, with a plenty of gunloops in its walls and towers, would be hard enough to come at even in more regular warfare. And so it proved; for when in 1645 Montrose ravaged the baron's lands up to the walls of his mansion, he made no attempt on the house itself. In the words of the old chronicler already quoted, the laird "keipit the Crag of Boyne, quhar in he was saif."

The additions to the west wing were, in all probability, made by Lord Boyne, a man of splendid tastes, who showed great energy in developing his lands, providing Portsoy with its first harbour, and fostering the quarrying and export of its so-called "marble"—in reality an olivine-serpentine—with such vigour that Louis XIV. ordered slabs for his mantelpieces at Versailles.[26] That Lord Boyne did leave his mark on the castle is proved by the fact that an armorial stone, formerly at Boyne but now removed to Cullen, shows his arms impaled with those of his wife, and the date 1668. This was two years after his father's death, and probably improvements on the castle were set in hand as soon as he succeeded.

Old writers have preserved to us particulars of the stately policies which once adorned the castle. "The orchards on either hand," says Cordiner, "that still abound with various fruit, and rows of aged trees, which shade the avenues leading to the castle, and in decaying grandeur open the prospect of the falling towers, impress one with a sense of the early taste and opulence engaged in adorning the environs of these deserted walls." Even as late as 1842, we read that "the orchard of the

castle yields abundant crops of black and red wild cherry": and that "in front may be traced a double row of gardens and terraces, with wild cherries."[32] "Trees of the orchard," wrote a botanist in 1901, "are still apparent in the gean, crab-apple. and plum trees, which along with one tall, scraggy. wind-blown holly, struggle on in the hollow to the south of the ruin." [33] Even these last vestiges have disappeared. Considerable fragments of the boundary walls of this orchard or pleasance still exist on the high ground south of the castle. These formed an enclosure measuring about 115 yards north and south by 83 yards east and west: the wall is 2 feet thick and still survives to a height of 9 or 10 feet. The work seems late in the seventeenth century, and is doubtless due to Lord Boyne. In the glen a little below the castle remains of the ancient mill, with its stone lined lade, may still be seen.

The Aberdeen Journal of 5th January 1853, records the sale in Portsoy, for the price of two pence, of a "kitchen table of the Castle of Boyne, fully two hundred years old."

This paper has been prepared as part of a programme of research supported by a travelling grant from the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. I have pleasure in acknowledging the assistance which I received, in completing the measurements, from Miss Susan Scott, M.A., Aberdeen, and Miss Sheila Reid, M.A., Portsoy.

APPENDIX.

1. The Den of Boyne was a happy hunting ground of Thomas Edward, the self-taught Banff naturalist; and in a vault of the old castle he had the terrific nocturnal encounter with a polecat, described in his biography by Samuel Smiles (*Life of a Scotch Naturalist*, pp. 116-20). Sir George Reid's fine drawing of the castle is there reproduced.
2. "Three Banffshire Castles" in *Trans. Banffshire Field Club*, Oct. 1931, pp. 69-96.
3. Published by the Aberdeen University Press in 1933.
4. See *Catalogue*, p. 250.
5. A description of the Parish of Boyndy, by Mr William Ogilvy, 1724, in *Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, vol. ii., p. 118: *cf. Macfarlane's Geographical Collections*, ed. Sir Arthur Mitchell, vol. I., pp. 75-6, where there are some textual variations. For Sir John Hay of Boyne, 1390, see *Annals of Banff*, ed. W. Cramond, vol. I., p. 9.
6. Cosmo Innes, *Book of the Thanes of Cawdor*, Preface pp. xi.-xii. For a full discussion of the thanages see Skene, *Celtic Scotland*, vol. III., chap. vii.
7. W. Gordon, *Concise History of the House of Gordon*, ed. 1890, p. 15.
8. See Charter of 1495 in *Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, vol. II., p. 132.
9. *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, 1306-1424. New ed., No. 240.
10. Taylers, *op. cit.*, pp. 18-20.
11. Ogilvy's *Diurnal of the Queen's Journey* (M.S. in Nat. Lib.), see *Banffshire Journal*, 9th and 16th April 1935.
12. Sir R. Gordon, *Genealogical History of the Earldom of Sutherland*, pp. 168-9, 409.
13. Reproduced in Sir William Fraser, *The Sutherland Book*, vol. 1, p. 168.
14. Spalding, *Memorialls of the Trubles*, vol. II., pp. 451-2; cf. Patrick Gordon, *Britane's Distemper*, p. 110. Parliament in 1645 included Ogilvy in a list of those whose "pre-

judices, loises and sufferings" were to be relieved out of the Public Exchequer. *Act. Parl. Scot.*, vol. VI., pt. i., p. 434.

15. See his letter to Lord Findlater about his embarrassment in *Seafield Correspondence*, ed. J. Grant, pp. 398-9.
16. Taylers, *op. cit.*, p. 54.
17. Sir William Fraser, *The Chiefs of Grant*, vol. III., p. 251.
18. James Grant, *Records of the County of Banff*, p. 319.
19. G. D. Henderson, *Mystics of the North-East*, pp. 156, 161.
20. Taylers, *op. cit.*, pp. 60-2.
21. G. D. Henderson, *Mystics of the North-East*, p. 129. Lady Boyne was of course the last laird's wife, ejected by the Court of Session. W.L. is William Lorimer, Lord Seafield's chamberlain; G.M. is George Mackie, Lord Deskford's factor.
22. *New Statistical Account*, vol. XIII., Banffshire, p. 228, footnote.
23. F. Douglas, *General Description of the East Coast of Scotland from Edinburgh to Cullen*, p. 302.
24. *Remarkable Ruins and Romantic Perspects of North Britain*, 1795.
25. Cf. Viollet-le-Duc, *Dictionnaire Raisonné de l'Architecture Francaise*, vol. III., pp. 182-9.
26. *New Statistical Account*, vol. XIII., Banffshire, p. 180; cf. M. F. Heddle, *Mineralogy of Scotland*, vol. II., p. 134. For Lord Boyne's activities at Portsoy see *Reg. Privy Council*, vol. VI., pp. 134, 654; *Act Parl. Scot.*, vol. X., p. 278.
27. *New Statistical Account*, *ut supra*, pp. 224, 228.
28. *Trans. Banff Field Club*, 1900-1, p. 55.