

STRONGHOLDS OF THE BARONS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649714681

Strongholds of the Barons by J. Ivo Ball

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. IVO BALL

**STRONGHOLDS
OF THE BARONS**

Strongholds of the Barons

BY
J. IVO BALL, M.A.

LONDON:
ARNOLD FAIRBAIRNS
1906

Ba 3619.06.9
~~24855~~

F. Parkman fund

THE CAMPFIELD PRESS
ST. ALBANS

Engravings by the Photochrom Company, Ltd.

Illustrations are selected from the Series of the Photochrom Company, Ltd., and are Copyright

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-------------------------|-----|
| AUTHORITIES | 8 | Hever | 67 |
| INTRODUCTION | 9 | Hurstmonceaux | 68 |
| Alwrick | 16 | Kenilworth | 71 |
| Arundel | 19 | Kidwelly | 72 |
| Ashby-de-la-Zouch | 20 | Knaresborough | 75 |
| Bamborough | 23 | Langley | 76 |
| Barnard | 24 | Leeds | 79 |
| Berkeley | 27 | The Tower of London | 80 |
| Berry Pomeroy | 28 | Ludlow | 83 |
| Bodiam | 31 | Middleham | 84 |
| Bolton | 32 | Naworth | 87 |
| Broughton | 35 | Newark | 88 |
| Caerphilly | 36 | Norham | 91 |
| Cardiff | 39 | Norwich | 92 |
| Carisbrooke | 40 | Oxford | 95 |
| Carnarvon | 43 | Pembroke | 96 |
| Castle Rising | 44 | Pevensey | 99 |
| Chepstow | 47 | Raby | 100 |
| Compton Wynyates | 48 | Raglan | 103 |
| Conway | 51 | Rhuddlan | 104 |
| Corfe | 52 | Richmond | 107 |
| Dover | 55 | Rochester | 108 |
| Ford | 56 | Skipton | 111 |
| Goodrich | 59 | Tintagel | 112 |
| Hadleigh | 60 | Warkworth | 115 |
| Harlech | 63 | Warwick | 116 |
| Hastings | 64 | Windsor | 119 |

AUTHORITIES

- BADDELEY, M. J. B., AND WARD, C. S. "Thorough Guide Series"—Wales and Yorkshire
- BEATTIE, W. "Castles and Abbeys of England"
- BLACK'S GUIDES
- BRAYLEY, E. W. "Ancient Castles of England and Wales"
- CAMELL & CO. "Historic Houses"
- CLARK, G. T. "Medieval and Military Architecture"
- GARDINER, S. R. "History of England"
- GREEN, J. R. "History of the English People"
- GWILT, J. "Encyclopædia of Architecture"
- HOME, GORDON "The Evolution of an English Town"
- HOWITT, WILLIAM AND MARY "The Ruined Abbeys and Castles of Great Britain"
- HOWITT, WILLIAM "Visits to Remarkable Places"
- HUNNEWELL, J. F. "England's Chronicle in Stone"
- LEWIS, S. "Topographical Dictionary"
- MACKENZIE, SIR J. D. (BART.) "The Castles of England"
- MACMILLAN'S "Highways and Byways"
- MORRIS, F. O. "The Ancestral Homes of Britain"
- MURRAY'S HANDBOOKS
- OMAN, C. W. C. "A History of the Art of War"
- POWELL, YORK "History of England to 1509"
- TIMES, J. "Abbeys and Castles and Ancient Halls"
- VARIOUS LOCAL GUIDES

For notes on Norwich and Windsor the writer is indebted to Dr. C. W. PEARCE

INTRODUCTION

MAGNIFICENT in their ruin, and splendid in their decay, the ancient strongholds of the Barons—the survivals of bygone times—built by rugged men in a rugged age, are landmarks in the history of a great nation; memorials of chivalry; silent witnesses of heroic deeds; symbols, too, of cruelty and oppression in days of lawlessness, when might was right, and the strong triumphed over the weak.

These colossal warders in stone, that frowned over the Marches, or flung defiance across the Border-land, have passed, some into peaceful dwellings, where Feudal strength and domestic comfort are happily blended; while others have fallen into decay, and the mouldering walls draped with ivy, and the picturesque remains of keep and turret and tower, lend an added charm to the delight of an English landscape.

Our British ancestors exhibited considerable acquaintance with the best methods of defensive warfare in selecting for their stronghold a spot already fortified by nature. One of the best examples of this kind is Old Sarum, which, according to Clark, was a fortified enclosure of the ancient Britons.

INTRODUCTION

It embraces an area of nearly thirty acres, surrounded by a double vallum and moat, and was successively occupied by Roman and Saxon. But the largest British camp is Maiden Castle, near Dorchester. Its ramparts rise to a height of 60 feet, and it extends 1,000 yards from east to west, and measures 500 yards from north to south. In time of war the tribes resorted to their fenced city, which was protected by a trench, a wall, and a stockade, within which their families and cattle found shelter. *This was the "dun," or stronghold, whence the names London, Maidun, Sinodun.

The Romans left their mark upon the land in cities encircled by massive walls flanked with towers. Portions of the old Roman wall may be seen in London, Chester, Richborough, and many other places. Its chief characteristic is the string course of red brick or tiles which occurs at regular intervals in the masonry.

The Saxons had crude notions of fortification, and even Alfred the Great was content to defend his frontier with a ditch and palisade. But what remains of their stonework exhibits great strength and solidity of structure, as at Coningsburgh Castle, near Doncaster. The masonry consisted of rough stones coarsely dressed with "long and short" work in the quoins. The windows were generally single with semicircular heads, and narrow in proportion to their length. The arches were ornamented with varied moulding, and

* York Powell

INTRODUCTION

the columns and other parts of the fabric were sometimes decorated with fern-leaf or herring-bone work, such as may be seen in a portion of the wall at Corfe Castle. Spiral and zigzag ornament is also found.

The Norman structure had wider arches and taller columns; the windows are double, with rounded tops, and the doorways often richly decorated.

“William the Norman was not a great builder of Castles.” Many of the structures raised in this period were wooden erections, or improvements of Saxon forts already existing. But the distinguishing feature of Norman fortification was the Keep. A square tower of vast proportions, built on an area of from 50 feet to 100 feet square, and, with walls from 7 feet to 20 feet thick, was erected on the old Saxon mound and encircled by a wall and trench, guarded by a ring of forts, with a bridge across the fosse. *The English called the “motte” or mound the “burh,” and the title afterwards included the settlement which grew up under shelter of the Castle, and subsequently became a burgh. The finest specimen of a Norman Keep is the Tower of London, or the “White Tower.”

The entrance to the Keep was through a fore tower or vestibule tower, as in Rochester Castle, built on one face of the main structure, and about two-thirds of its height. †A stairway rose within this outer defence to the

* Oman

† Clark