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**Berkeley Castle**

by G. T. Clark
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BERKELEY CASTLE

BY

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Berkeley Castle was visited by the Society in 1876, at its first Field Meeting, under the guidance of the President. Lord Fitzhardinge was absent, but the whole party were permitted to range freely about the Castle and its grounds, and the courtesy of the owner was ably and cordially supported by his representative Mr. Cook, to whose attention the Society is indebted for the use of the ground plan and for copies of three of the four Charters which accompany the following memoir. It is hoped that the example thus set by Lord Fitzhardinge will be followed by those gentlemen whose castles or mansions may be on other occasions visited by the Society.

BERKELEY CASTLE.

The Severn, below Shrewsbury, which on the map seems to mark a natural division between England and the southern part of the Principality of Wales, neither is, nor ever has been, really the dividing line. It is not, even in those parts a county boundary, Gloucester, Worcester, and Salop being astride upon the stream, with large portions of their area upon its western bank. To go back to the 6th century, when the West Saxons, starting from the coast of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, pressed hard upon the Britons, many indications still show how firm was the resistance, so long as the ground was favourable: but when once fairly driven over the crest of the Cotteswold the Britons evidently retired more rapidly across the open country,
nor is it until the commencement of the high ground is reached, that we find works which abundantly shew how fierce was the struggle, how close and persistent the attack. The high ground which forms the western edge of the Marches is studded thickly with camps, the position and figure of which shew them to be British, while the adjacent frontiers of Gloucester, Hereford and Shropshire are covered with moated mounds, placed both within and without the Dyke of Offa, and which shew both the extent of the English conquests and the manner in which they were maintained before and during the 8th and 9th centuries.

The Normans trod very closely in the footsteps of the English, and although their fortresses were of a stronger and more permanent character, they occupy for the most part ancient sites. The three counties, from the bordering Chepstow, the home of Strongbow, to Clun, the cradle of the House of Stewart, were bristled thick with fortresses; some, like Chepstow, Goderich, Kilpeck, Ewias, Hereford, Ludlow, Wigmore, Richard's Castle, Cleobury, Brampton, Bishop's Castle, and Clun, either places of great strength or held by powerful Barons; others, as St. Briavels, Wilton, Penyard, Weobly, Croft, Clifford, Whitney, Eardisley, Huntington, Lingen, Hopton, de Botwood, Stoke- Say, or Wattlesborough, either fortified houses, or castles of smaller area and inferior strength. Upon the line of the Severn, in the rear of all these, there were but eight of any importance, Bristol, Berkeley, Gloucester, Hanley, Worcester, Hartlebury, Bridgenorth and Shrewsbury, and of these Berkeley was in many respects the most remarkable, and has endured the longest.

The other castles are either ruins or have altogether been swept away. Of Bristol there remains only a portion of a crypt. Gloucester, Hanley and Worcester are gone. Of Bridgenorth a part of the keep is all that is seen; and of Shrewsbury a fragment of a Norman gate-house, the much altered walls of the hall, and older than all, the mound that gave character to the whole. Berkeley on the other hand has been inhabited from its foundation to the present day. With one temporary alien-
ation to the crown, it has always been in one family, and it is as little altered as is consistent with modern usages and modes of life.

The Castle, Church, and borough town of Berkeley, contained within the hundred to which they give name, are placed upon the southern extremity of a tract of ground which rises about 50 feet above the meadows to the south and west, and the drainage whence is carried on by the channel of the 'Little Avon,' which falls into the Pill or Creek of Berkeley, and so reaches the Severn, here expanding into an estuary, the southern shore of which is about two miles distant from the Castle. The Castle stands upon the southern extremity of the high ground. A few yards to its north is the parish Church with its detached tower, and again a little to the north is the town, which has grown up under the protection of its lordly neighbour. A deep and wholly artificial ditch intervenes between the churchyard and the Castle, crossing the high ground, and cutting off and isolating the latter, of which it protects the northern and western faces. These, to the south and east, are made secure by the natural declivity, scarped and rendered steeper by art. The meadows out of which the castle hill rises, being but little above the adjacent Severn, were formerly an extensive and almost impassable morass, adding much to the strength of the place. Under the skill and labour of centuries they have become grass-lands of great beauty and fertility and form a charming foreground to the Castle. Beyond, are elms and oaks often of great magnitude, disposed in frequent hedgerows, and in the distance to the west are the Welsh mountains, and to the east the nearer scarp of the Cotteswold, here and thero covered with thriving plantations.

Town and Castle stand geologically upon the Old Red-sandstone, which, a very few yards to the east, is succeeded by the Ludlow rocks, which are again covered up by the marls of the Lias and New Red, and towards the Cotteswold by the Lower Oolite.
Like Warwick, Windsor, Arundel, and some other ancient piles, noticed by Shakespeare:—

'There stands the Castle, by yon tufted trees'

between its town and park, now indeed dispossessed, but which extended far and wide to the south-east, and is traversed by an extended avenue. As was the case at Warwick there is a deer-park entirely detached from the castle.

The main approach to the Castle lies through the town, on leaving which, a road, passing the church, leads up to the entrance, and crosses the ditch by a permanent bridge, by which the draw-bridge was superseded by Henry Lord Berkeley in 1587, and beyond and partly standing in which is the outer Gate-house. This is a rectangular building of no great merit, pierced by a portal having a low drop arch on each face. The passage is plainly vaulted in calcareous tufa, and in the crown of the vault are three square holes or meurtrières. There is no upper story nor, at present, are there any flanking towers or curtain. There is a basement below the road-way level, entered from the ditch, but probably at one time filled with earth. This gate-house may be of Decorated date. It has no portcullis. From the ditch the bridge is seen to be a single arch, the sides of which look old, and may have been, as at Goderich, the lateral walls between which was the pit of the draw-bridge, covered in by Lord Henry.

Entering the outer gate, the visitor finds himself upon a triangular platform, of which the outer gate-house is the apex, and the inner gate-house and part of the keep the base; on the left a modern wall which replaces the curtain, crests the scarp of the ditch, and forms the north side of the platform 66 yards long. On the right a low parapet 54 yards long forms the south side and caps a revetment wall of about 10 feet in height, at the foot of which the ancient scarp has been laid out in good taste in a terrace garden. This triangular platform is scarcely an outer ward: it is rather a barbican covering the main entrance and the keep. Its area is 7750 sq. yards. There is no trace of a second ditch in advance of this side of the keep and
the inner gate, but it is very probable that there was one, though, if so, it must have been filled up when the courts were added to the keep, as otherwise it would have completely occupied them.

The keep covers about 35 yards, or above half of the base of the barbican, and lies to the left or north of the gate-house. Part of it has been removed and a large breach formed, showing that the interior is full 22 feet above the ground level outside. The inner Gate-house is in the same position as at Alnwick. It is in truth not a regular gate-house, and has no flanking towers or machicoulis, but the entrance passage pierces a lofty pile of buildings which connect the domestic apartments with the keep, and complete the circle of the main court. The portal is about 11 feet broad and 30 feet deep, and its roof is flat and of timber. It has two drop arches. On the right is a lodge door, and the inner archway has a half round portcullis groove. Above are two stories through which are doors, no doubt modern, into the keep. Probably the Norman entrance was here, a mere opening in the wall. Much of the structure seems Decorated with later alterations. South of, and flanking the gate, between it and the south-east angle of the place, is a small Tudor building.

The gateway opens into the Great Court of the Castle, a roughly rectangular space, having the circular keep encroaching considerably upon its N.W. angle, and the remainder of the space set round with domestic buildings built against and completely concealing the lofty curtain.

This court, which is in fact the Castle, measures outside upon its south face 60 yards, and its east face 72 yards, these two being set nearly at right angles. The north and west faces are about 60 yards and 76 yards, but the N.W. angle is occupied by the keep, which covers about 40 yards of the north, and 42 yards of the west face, forming a part of the enceinte. The buildings project about 30 feet, so that the inner and open part of the court is much reduced in area. The curtain, originally thick, has been strengthened outside, probably in the Decorated
period, by nearly thirty broad and thick and very clumsy buttresses, some of which probably conceal the early Norman pilasters, for most of the wall is certainly of that date. Some of these buttresses are pierced by loops, shewing an immense thickness of wall.

On entering the court, on the left is the high plain wall of the keep, with its forebuilding and exterior staircase ascending to the entrance. On the right are domestic buildings, drawing-rooms, bed-rooms, etc., extending to the S. E. corner. The face wall, though much altered and pierced with Tudor windows, seems in substance Norman with large Decorated alterations. The pointed Norman arches may be traced in the wall. These buildings have a basement and two upper stories. It is uncertain whether they stand upon a vault.

The Chapel occupies the S. E. angle. The hall is next to it along the east side, and the butteries, kitchen, and offices, fill up the N. E. angle and the north side as far as the keep. In the south-wall, near the gate-house, but at the exterior ground level, is a small pointed doorway, probably a postern, and connected with it a small chamber, about 6 feet below the level of the court, of doubtful age, but with an old door-way. It has a flat roof, and wooden floor of the room above: being filled with the bins of a modern cellar, it cannot be examined.

The Chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, rests on the vault of the great cellar, and measures 29 feet by 18 feet. It is entered by a modern door in the N. wall, west of which are traces of what seems to have been the original entrance. It has a rather flat apsidal east end of three faces; the vestry, a mural chamber, opening in that to the S. East. The south-side is the outer wall, 14 feet thick; it is pierced by a mural passage, a sort of aisle, at the floor-level, which opens into the Chapel by four foliated arches, each corresponding to a window or loop in the curtain. There is a small Decorated piscina. Against the west-wall is a sort of pew of two stages, the upper being an enclosed gallery for the family, opening from the principal rooms.
The roof is open, at a very low pitch, with timber ribs rising from corbels. These, with cross ribs, divide the roof into large panels of a very curious character. The walls of the Chapel are Norman, but the roof and fittings are mostly Decorated. Maurice, Lord Berkeley, 38 Edw. III, obtained from Pope Urban II., a Bull bestowing certain spiritual privileges upon all who worshipped here, or in the Chapel in the keep.

The Cellar below the Chapel is part of the original Castle. Its level is a little below the floor of the hall. It is in plan an equilateral triangle about 40 feet in the side. Its roof is vaulted and groined in three hexagonal bays, springing from three shafts of late Norman character. Nine triangular vaultings, abutting on the walls, complete this very curious roof. Opening from this is another vault, also a cellar, at a lower level by about 5 feet. It is much smaller and has a ribbed and vaulted roof. Unfortunately it is used as a cellar, and obscured by modern fittings. It has a small Tudor window.

From the Chapel and drawing-room a broad wooden 17th century staircase descends into the hall at its south or dais end, in which is a large and handsome fire-place, probably of the same date.

The Hall is 32 feet broad by 61 ft. long, and has an open pointed roof. It is built at the ground-level against the east curtain, which is, or was, pierced by four windows, three in the hall and one within the buttery-screen. This latter is late Norman with slender flanking shafts. The other three are full-centered with a keel bead at the angle and an interior drip. They seem Decorated and no doubt replace Norman loops. In the west or court wall are four large and lofty flat-topped and somewhat peculiar windows of two lights each, broken into four by a heavy transom. The upper lights are trefoil, the lower shoulder-headed. Between each pair, outside, is a triangular buttress. The entrance from the court is in the west-side, at the north end, by a handsome and spacious porch, vaulted and groined. The exterior door-way is an arch composed of four
quite plain straight sides, parts of an octagon, similar in outline to those above the Berkeley tombs at Bristol, known locally as the Berkeley arch. This is repeated with some ornament in the inner door-way, which opens into a narrow strip of the hall cut off by the screen. On the left, in the end wall of the hall, are three fine Berkeley-arches opening into the butteries, of which the central was formerly a door. Above this passage, high up, is a small music gallery, probably of Tudor date, or even later. The roof of the hall is poor, but said to be of the 14th century. No doubt this represents the original Norman hall, rebuilt, as regards the court wall, in the Decorated period.

In the hall are placed, not inappropriately, the earlier Charters of the family, protected with glass. Perhaps, however, looking at their extreme value as connected with the Castle, it would be safer to restore them to the muniment room, and replace them for public exhibition in position by photographs.

To the north, beyond the lower end of the hall, are the butteries, kitchen, and pantries, the latter against the curtain. The Kitchen is an irregular hexagon, averaging 13 ft. 6 in. in the side, three of the sides being 14 feet, and the three others, intermediate, 9 feet. In the three longer sides are recesses for a fire-place and hoods over cooking-places. The original doors were into the buttery on one side and the scullery on the other, and there were two windows towards the court. The roof is of open work, very plain, heavy and poor, and very high up. It is said to have been brought from Wootton Manor House, and placed here by Henry VII. The scullery, etc., occupy the N. E. angle of the court, and like all the adjacent chambers, is of irregular form, governed by the general outline of the Castle. The larders, dairy, etc., are against the north curtain, and from the bakehouse a modern vaulted passage leads to the ancient well, which is in the court. The oven is in the N. W. corner, and two bold drop-arched stone ribs traverse the chamber and stiffen its vaulted roof. All these rooms form the ground-floor, and carry an upper story. Their front towards
KEEP OF
Berkeley Castle
FROM THE HALL
the court seems to have been modernized, but in substance they are Decorated, with much remains of older Norman wailing.

The Keep is the most interesting part of this very remarkable castle, since it is a shell keep of a known date. It is nearly circular, about 50 yards diameter, and the containing curtain-wall is about 8 feet thick, reducing its inner area to near 45 yds. The floor, of earth, is about 22 feet higher than the exterior ground, and the wall being 40 feet high inside, is about 62 feet outside, the lower 22 feet being a revetment, and very thick. Upon its circuit are three half-round projecting towers or bastion turrets 20 feet diameter, of the height of the curtain, which seem to have been open at the rear, or closed only with timber. One of these projects to the east, and is abutted upon by the northern curtain of the castle court. In its base is a well, under a barrel vault, and above, resting upon this, is the oratory, dedicated appropriately to St. John the Baptist. The western or end wall of the oratory, and the outer stair leading to it, are modern.

The Oratory, at present used as a muniment room, contains the very curious evidences of the family and estate, with some illuminated pedigree rolls of the Careys and other families allied to the Berkeleys, the silver mace of the Borough, and other ancient things and records. The ecclesiastical features are much injured and obscured. The eastern end is a half round, and there are remains of the flanking shafts of the Norman east-window, and a small piscina. It appears certainly to have been vaulted.

The second half-round tower is 64 feet from the former, and projects to the south into the court, commanding the inner face of its gate-house, and the approach to the keep. In it, below the ground level, but not much lower than the level of the court below, is a circular dungeon 25 feet deep, into which Edward the 3rd. is said to have been finally thrust.

The third tower is 50 feet from the second, and projects to the south. Here also has recently been discovered a chamber somewhat similar to the dungeon already mentioned, also not
vaulted, and of very rough masonry, as though a more foundation intended to be filled up with earth. These two last towers are blocked in by later building, the first within, the latter both within and without, as it projects into the buildings of the gateway. As this tower could never have been intended to be thus concealed, it points to the conclusion that the keep was built before the wall of the inner court.

Besides these three half-round towers is a fourth, rectangular, and a much larger work, to the north, forming a part of the exterior line of defence. This is known as Thorpe's tower, and the family of that name are said to have held their adjacent estate of Wanswell by the tenure of its defence. This tower is 64 feet long by 17 feet deep. It forms a part of the curtain, having a very slight interior projection. At each end it expands into a square turret, that to the west 17 feet, that to the east 20 feet. The western turret and the body of the tower are thought to be solid, which is very improbable. They are not unlikely to have been filled in with earth to increase their power of resistance when the Castle was battered from the churchyard. The eastern turret contains a square well-staircase of 54 steps, which leads to the battlements, and has a mural-chamber on its way. The entrance below to this staircase is by an original full-centred arch, partially blocked up. This tower is somewhat higher than the curtain, with which it does not communicate. It is said to have been higher still by a few feet. At present it is the highest part of the Castle, and hence the family banner is displayed. Below and outside this tower to the north, are some modern offices.

Between Thorpe tower and the well tower is seen in the wall the outline of a recess for a loop, and above it a segmental arch and Norman moulding, now closed up. The whole south side of the keep area is occupied by a block of building, about 80 feet long by from 20 to 30 feet deep. No doubt part of this building may be original, but by far the more prominent part is
Section through Stairs to Keep, Berkeley Castle.

Showing Passage to Room in which Edward II.

Is said to have been Confined.

End Elevation.

Showing Door of Room in Distance.

J. P. Moore.

June 28th 1877.
evidently modern and sadly out of place. It covers the rear of
the two southern half-round towers which are thus not seen
from within.

The entrance to this keep is peculiar. Usually, as at
Tamworth, Lincoln, York, Cardi., and Arundel, the entrance to
a shell-keep was at its ground-level, and that of a rectangular
keep, as at Castle Rising, and Dover, at its first or second floor.
Here, however, both conditions may be said to be fulfilled, for
although the entrance is on the ground-level as regards the
interior of the keep, it is the full height of a first floor above
the ground outside, and this height is gained by an exterior
stair, guarded by a middle and lower gate, and above the latter
by a regular tower. This fore-building is common to rectangular
keeps, but does not occur elsewhere in shell keeps. Here the
Fore-building is 72 feet in length, and is applied to the S.E. side
of the keep, or that within the court. In breadth it varies from
15 to 10 feet. Five steps ascend to its outer gate, a large full-
centred archway contained within a plain chamfered moulding.
As the door-way has been blocked and reduced in size by a Per-
pendicular work, its jambs are concealed or may have been
removed. Within, is a vaulted passage, carried through the
gate-tower, which is 15 feet square, and has an upper story.
From the door-way 24 steps ascend to an open platform having on
the right a high and pierced parapet, and on the left the wall of
the keep. At the stair-head a ledge on the right serves as a
way to the upper floor over the gateway. This is a small chamber
lighted by two windows and a lancet loop. The two larger
windows and the door are of Tudor date, as may be the whole
room, but if so, it is a re-building, for the original tower must
have been on the same pattern. In the room is an ancient bed
and some hangings of needle-work or tapestry, very early, but
scarce of the age of Edward II, whose chamber this is reputed
to have been.

A little beyond the stair-head, against the walls, right and
left, are seen the rebates of the middle gate, and in front, in
the wall of the Oratory tower, is the weather moulding of a roof. Hence it would seem that the staircase, as at Castle Rising, was covered all the way up.

The main entrance to the keep opens upon the platform at the stair-head. It is a handsome full-arched door-way with closed tympanum and flat head. It was flanked by highly ornate shafts, of which one remains. This portal opens into a vaulted passage through the keep wall, and enters the keep under an original archway, segmented with Norman mouldings. The jambbs are worked in a very bold chevron pattern. From the exterior platform a narrow stair is continued to the battlements of the curtain, over the bakehouse, but this may be an addition, for usually every part of a Norman keep was complete in itself, and had no direct communication with any other part of the castle. There is another and parallel stair in the wall, but opening outside and leading to the room above the bakehouse. This is not original.

The keep is constructed of exceedingly rude rubble masonry. Upon two parts of its face are nine narrow and shallow pilaster strips: three towards the barbican, and six between the inner gate and the fore-building. The keep wall has a rude plinth, with no set-off or string. It is evident that this, as at York, and in other shell keeps, was lined by lodgings, having an upper floor, placed all round against the wall with an open court in the centre. These were probably of timber. In the part of the keep towards the barbican is a breach about 40 feet broad down to the level of the inner floor. It is said that this part of the wall was partially broken down during General Massey’s attack, and was afterwards enlarged to its present condition, as at Kenilworth, rather as a matter of favour, to render the Castle untenable without injuring it as a dwelling. Had the Keep been blown up as was usual, by gunpowder, it would have presented a very different aspect.

If the masonry of Berkeley Castle were to be removed, as at Kilpeck, or Ewias Harold, its remains would shew a mound of
earth, and attached to three sides of it, a platform, the whole encircled with a ditch or scarp. It would in fact be a moated mound with an appended platform of a character very common in England, in the Welsh Marches, and in Normandy, and would resemble such works as Tamworth and Towcester, the dates of which are given in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. The inference is, therefore, that Berkeley was the seat of an English Lord, probably from the 9th century. Had the fortress been an original Norman work it is scarcely probable that a shell would have been the form of keep selected, or that having been so selected, its lower 22 feet would have been filled up with earth. Evidently the Norman builder finding a moated mound of no great height but of considerable breadth, built his shell round it, as at Pontefract, as a revetment wall, and upon this, when clear of the top of the mound, raised his curtain. At a lower level, along the scarp of the existing ditch, he, or his immediate successor, constructed the walls, which, then as now, contain the whole Castle.

All the main walls of the Castle are either Norman, or rebuilt upon Norman foundations, or very nearly so. Probably the keep was built first and the court enclosed shortly afterwards. Much was done in the Decorated period. The inner wall of the hall at least, was rebuilt, and it may have been enlarged. The porch was added, the chapel much altered, and the domestic buildings possibly gutted and re-cast. Henry VII, when in possession, seems to have made some inconsiderable alterations, and others have been added since.

Berkeley is a rare example of an estate which has descended in the male line from the reign of Stephen, and in the female line from the Norman Conquest. The first of the latter ancestry is entered as the Lord of Berkeley in Domesday; the first of the former is also there entered, though as proprietor of other estates. Few if any of our oldest families can say with truth as much, but further than this the Berkeley tenure has been 'per Baronian,' and from the Conquest they have been Barons of the realm, first by tenure, and when, in the reign of Henry III,
tenure fell into disuse, then by writ; but by one right or the other they have ever sat in the great council of the nation.

There is no reason to suppose that the Romans had any settlement at Berkeley. Their camps and villas are frequent in the neighbourhood, which was traversed by Roman roads, but of their presence in Berkeley itself, there is no other evidence than the fact that the two main streets of the town cross in its centre at a right angle, in the Roman manner.

There is, however, evidence of a religious house at Berkeley in the 8th century. Tilhere, Bishop of Worcester in 778, seems to have been previously Abbot of Beorclea, as was Etheldene, also his successor at Worcester, in 915. Tanner thinks the family at Bereclea mentioned in the Acts of a synod at Cloveshoe in A.D. 824, may refer to a religious house here. There was also a nunnery, for a charter by Adeliza, Queen of Henry I., gives to the Church of Reading, Berkeley Hers, that is the Church of Berkeley with its appended prebends and the prebends, ‘duarum monalium’ which seems to refer to a nunnery. Camden says the nunnery was suppressed by Earl Godwin in the reign of the Confessor, and preserves a scandalous tale thereupon, which derives some support from a curious entry in Domesday, whence it appears that Gytha, the wife of Godwin and mother of Harold, had Ulecestre near Berkeley from her husband, he having bought it from Azor, that she might live there till she should live at Berkeley. ‘Nolebat enim de ipso manerio aliquid comedere pro destructione abbatia.’

In Domesday, Berkeley appears as a royal demesne and free borough, which had been held by the Confessor, and belonged to William, but was held of him by Roger, called thence of Berkeley. It was the head of a Soke or Barony, for attached to it were ‘Berews’ or members in 21 adjacent parishes. The Castle is not mentioned, but in ‘Ness,’ probably Sharpness, was a Castellam or Castelict, claimed by the same Roger. His holding in the Liber Niger is set down as 2½ knight’s fees. He gave liberally to Stanley Priory, and died there 1096. William
his nephew succeeded, and had Roger, father of Roger, who all held Berkeley and are designated by its name. This latter Roger was a partisan of King Stephen, and was turned out of Berkeley by Henry, who gave Berkeley to Robert, son of Hardinge, Prepositus of Bristol, who died 1170, 16 H. II., aged 75, leaving Maurice Fitzhardinge his son. To staunch the feud between the dispossessed and the new Lord, Henry made up a double alliance: Helen, daughter of Fitzhardinge, was married to a son of Roger de Berkeley, and Alice, Roger's daughter, to Maurice Fitzhardinge of Berkeley. The result was that the old Berkeley's fell back upon their manor of Cumberley, and finally died out, and the Fitzhardinges, with the estate, bore the surname of Berkeley, and have so continued. At that time the Manor or Lordship, sometimes called the Honour of Berkeley, included above 30 parishes, and extended over most of the hundred. It was rated at 160 hides, and paid a chief rent of £70.

Henry at the time of the gift was only Duke of Normandy and weak, and Fitzhardinge was an important man; hence the Duke treats as equal with equal, and with the estate makes a promise to build him a castle to his taste. 'Et pepigi ei firmare ibi castellum secundum voluntatem ipsius Roberti,' and on the other hand Robert promises to be Henry's liege. Henry visited Berkeley in 1155, when no doubt the present castle was begun. Henry's charter, here printed, is in excellent preservation and is kept at Berkeley.

Another charter by Henry, when King, also there preserved, confirms to Robert Fitzhardinge, Berkelai-Herness Manor by the service of one knight or, if he prefer it, 100 shillings per annum. A third charter is almost a copy of the second, but states the service at five knights, and is silent as to the composition. There is also a charter printed by Dugdale, by which Robert Fitzhardinge grants certain churches to St. Augustins' at Bristol. These are the earliest title deeds of the family. St. Augustins' was founded by this Robert in 1142, and consecrated in 1148. He died 1170.
Maurice son of Robert, is said to have dug the ditch between he Castle and the Church. He probably deepened it. He also is reputed to have built the castle exterior to King Henry’s keep, including the two gate-houses. He died in 1189.

Robert, his son, bore the name of Berkeley. He was in arms against John, who held the Castle from 1211 till his death in 1216. Lord Robert died 1220. His brother, Lord Thomas, received Henry III here in 1220. He died 1243. Maurice, his son, here entertained Prince Edward in 1256. He added to the estates and is said to have strengthened the Castle. Thomas, his son, 6th Lord, was a great soldier, and served at Bannockburn. He died 1321. Maurice, his son, took part against the Despensers and was imprisoned by the King till his death, in 1326. Edward seized the castle, which was held by the Despensers. Lord Thomas, his son and successor, received Edward II here as a captive, 15th April 1327, and here he seems to have been murdered by Mahravers and Gournay, 21st Sept., 1327. A payment was charged to the Exchequer for prayers for his soul in the Castle chapel.

Lord Thomas held the Castle from 1326 till his death in 1361. He fought at Cressy and Poitiers and probably made money in the wars, for he is reputed to have made great alterations in the Castle, and probably the hall and the Decorated work generally is his doing. He is said to have built Thorpe Tower. He may have raised it, but it is apparently as old as the keep. The Berkeley arch, seen in great perfection in St. Augustin’s Church, now Bristol Cathedral, and here introduced, as was proper, in a plainer form, is attributed to Knowle, Abbot of St. Augustin’s from 1306 to 1332. The connexion of the Berkeleys with the Monks of St. Augustin’s was intimate, and the same architect was likely enough to be employed by both.

Another Thomas, grandson to the former, here received Richard II, in 1366–7. This is the Lord Berkeley mentioned in Shakespeare’s Richard II, when the Castle is described as:—

‘Manned with three hundred men, as I have heard,'
‘And in it are the Lords of York, Berkeley, and Seymour.’ Lord Thomas pronounced the deposition of Richard in Parliament in 1399. John of Trevisa, whose translations from the Apocalypse are yet seen on the ribs of the Chapel roof at Berkeley, was vicar of this parish during the life of this Lord. Lord Thomas left a daughter only, who married Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who strove hard to oust the heir male, James de Berkeley, who however held the castle, though with difficulty. Lord Warwick appeared before it in 1418 with an armed force, and his heirs preferred a suit at law which lasted 150 years, varied with occasional combats, one of which, known as the battle of Nibley Green, led to the settlement of the dispute; Lord Lisle, the claimant being slain in the field by William Lord Berkeley. William, the next Lord, was created Earl of Nottingham by Richard III, and Marquis of Berkeley by Henry VII, in return for which he alienated the estate from his brother and male heir in favour of the latter King and his heirs male, nor did the Berkeleys recover it until the death of Edward VI.

Henry VII is said to have erected the kitchen, but probably he only put a new roof upon it. The Castle was recovered by Henry Lord Berkeley, after an alienation of 61 years 4 months and 20 days.

During the Parliamentary struggle, Lord Berkeley seems to have been a moderate Royalist, with strong friends among the Parliamentary leaders. In 1642 it was surrendered to Lt.-Col. Arthur Forbes, for the Parliament, but was not pillaged, and even the arms contained in it were not removed. Probably this moderation was abused, for 24th Sept. 1645, being held by Sir Charles Lucas, it was stormed from the churchyard by Colonels Rainsborough and Morgan, and free plunder allowed to the soldiery. Fortunately, at the moment of victory, a pressing order came for the march of the troops to assist Fairfax, on which the plunder was compounded for at 5/- a head. Such goods as were taken away were enquired after and restored.
and the chief mischief seems to have been confined to the
muniment room, where the Charters and title deeds were torn
and mutilated. In 1646 the outworks were destroyed, and the
arms, ammunition and drawbridge, removed to Gloucester.
Probably the great breach was then made by the workmen
employed upon the earthworks, which would account for the
careful manner in which the wall has been cut away.

George, Lord Berkeley was created in 1679, by Charles II,
Viscount Dursley and Earl of Berkeley, titles still extant.
ORIGINAL ROYAL LETTERS
PRESERVED AT BERKELEY CASTLE.


2. Queen Mary, to Henry Lord Berkeley, dated St. James's, 26th January, in the 1st year of her reign.

3. The same to the same, 30th January, same year. These refer to Wyat's rebellion; the signatures are Autograph.

4. Queen Elizabeth. Two letters to George Lord Hunsdon.


7. The same to the same, wholly in Autograph, dated Holyrood Palace, 14th October, 1584.
1. The first charter of Henry Duke of Normandy, afterwards King Henry II., to Robert Fitzharding, from the original at Berkeley Castle.

2. the second Charter of Henry Duke of Normandy, afterwards King Henry II, to Robert FitzHarding, from the original at Berkeley Castle.

H. Di gra Dux Norm. et Aquitaniae et Comes And Omnibz Archiepisc Epis Abbibz Consulibz vicecom baronibz justiciis et amicis fidelibus Franciis et Anglicis Sal. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Rodbtto filio Hard et Heredibus suis Berkelai et totum Berkelai hernesse maneriu cum omnibz appendiciis suis plenè et integre sicut erat in tempore Henrici Regis Avi mei Tenendum in feodo et hereditate sibi et heredibus suis de me et heredibz meis per serviciun unius militis vel si Rodbtus aut heredes sui melius voluerint centum solidos reddant pro serviciu militis per annuum. Quare volo et precipio ut ipse Rodbtus et heredes sui prædictum manerium et omnia pertinentia sua in ecclesiis in nemoribus in planis in pascuis in terris in aquis in viis in semitis et in placitis et in omnibz rebus et eventibz teneant et in perpetuum habeant liberè quietè et honorificè, cum Tol et Tem et soch et sache et Infankenethef et cum oibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinizb suis et quietanciis que ibi fuerunt in tempore Henrici Regis Avi mei Et præterea dedi et concessi eis habero in pdicto manerio liberum Marchetum cum oibus libertatibus que ad Marchetum pertinent quacunque die septimane voluerint et monetam cum proprio monetario suo. Et quando feci hanc donationem predcto. Rodbtto. ipse dedit mihi quingentas marcas argenti de recognitione. T. Abbate Sci Augustini de Bristow et Henrico Thesaurario, Willmo. Camino, Rogero Comite Hereford, Ricardo de Humez Constabulario, Mansier Biseth Dapifero, Robto. de Salsemareis.
3. THE CHARTER OF KING HENRY II. TO ROBERT FITZHARDING, FROM THE ORIGINAL AT BERKELEY CASTLE.

H. Di Gra Rex Angl. et Dux Norm et Aquit et Comes And Oibus Archiepiscis Epis abbatibus consulibz Vicecom. Baronibz justic et amicis suis fidelibus Francis et Anglicis Saltm, Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Rodbto filio Hard et heredibus suis Berkelai et toto Berkelai herness manerium cum omnibus appendiciis suis plene et integre sicut erat in tempore Regis Henrici avi mei Tenendum in feodo et hereditate sibi et heredibus suis de me et heredibus meis per servicium quinque militum quare volo et tiruiiter precipio ut ipse Robertus et heredes sui predictum manerium et omnia pertinentia sua in ecclesiis in nemoribus in planis in pascuis in terris in aquis in viis in semitis in placitis et in omnibus rebus et eventibz teneant et in perpetuum habeant libere quiete et honorifice cum Tol et Tem et soch et sache et Infankenethef et cum oibus libertatibus et liberis con-suetudinibus et quietanciis que ibi fuerunt tempore Henrici Regis Avi mei Et praeterea dedi et concessi eis habere in predicto manerio liberum Marchetum cu omnibus libertatibus quae ad Marchetum pertinent quacunque die septimane voluerint et monetam cum proprio monetario suo Et quando feci hanc donationem predicto Roberto ipse dedit mihi quingentas marcas argenti de recognitione. Testibus Abbato Rico Sci Augustini de Bristow, Reginaldo Comite Cornubiae, Rogero Comite Heref, Rico de Humes Constabulario, Mainsier Biseth Dapifero, Willno filio Hamundi, Guarino filio Gerald, Robto de Salsomarics.

These Charters are all without date, but Nos. 1 and 2 were granted between Sept. 7th, 1150, on which day Henry became, by the death of his father, Duke of Normandy, and the 25th October, 1154, when by the death of Stephen, he became King of England. No. 3 was granted immediately after his accession to the throne, in 1154. The following Charter, from the Monasticon, is of the same period.
CHARTER OF ROBERT FITZHARDING, GRANTING TO THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, AT BRISTOL, CERTAIN CHURCHES, A PART OF HIS OWN GRANT FROM KING HENRY.

ON THE ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS IN THE
CHAPEL AT BERKELEY CASTLE,
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
JOHN TREvisa,
BY
JAMES HERBERT COOKE, F.S.A.

On the walls and roof of the chapel in Berkeley Castle are
the remains of some ancient black-letter inscriptions, now almost
illegible from age and dilapidation. They are not mentioned in
any of the county histories, and almost all local knowledge or
tradition of their nature or origin seems to have passed away.
They are portions of the Book of Revelation translated into
Norman French by the venerable Trovisa, the first translator of
Higden's Polychronicon, who was vicar of Berkeley and chaplain
to three successive Lords Berkeley during the latter half of the
14th century. They are interesting not only archeologically, as
specimens of early decorative religious art, but they possess a
high historical value and significance as being one of the earliest
attempts to render any part of the Holy Scriptures into the
language of Englishmen; one of the first manifestations of that
spirit of enquiry to which we owe our present religious and
intellectual liberty.

The Chapel, dedicated to St. John, is situated in the south-
est angle of the inner court-yard, and is generally considered
to be of the 14th century. It is 36 feet long by 18 feet wide,
not including an arched passage or Cloister 3 ft. 4 in. wide,
which extends along the southern side. The roof is nearly flat
and covered with lead. It is supported by heavy tie-beams, the
spaces between which are divided by the purlins and ridge-pieces
into nearly square panels. On the flat part of the sides of all
these roof-timbers the inscriptions may be traced. The writing,
of which there are generally one or two, but sometimes three or four, lines on each beam, is in black on a white ground, the initials in red; the lettering is of the kind most in use in the 14th and 15th centuries. The beams and timbers seem to have been originally painted white, the spandrels being picked out with red, but the whole has been at some subsequent period painted over black and white. Five centuries of gradual decay and the scarcely less destructive process of ignorant or careless repair have, however, left the inscriptions legible in very few places. On the stone-work inside the arched passage I have mentioned a good deal of similar black-letter writing may also be traced, but having been repeatedly white-washed over it has become totally illegible. Except here the walls have all been plastered, so that it is now impossible to ascertain whether the inscriptions originally extended to them, but it is very probable that they did.

The specimens here shown are taken from careful tracings of all that remains legible. Two of the lines are parts of the 12th and 13th verses of the 8th chapter. In the Authorized Version in this place we read "an angel flying," which is here rendered "un egle volant." The Vulgate, however, from which Trevisa most probably made his translation, has "aquila," and this reading, supported by many other versions, is received as genuine by most Biblical critics. Trevisa himself tells us that the Apocalypse was here written in Latin as well as French, but the Latin version, probably in another part of the chapel, has now quite disappeared.

John Trevisa, (there is no authority for the "de" often prefixed, the name being one of the old Cornish "Tre, Pol, and Pen" names,) was born at Crocadon, in the parish of St. Mellion, near Saltash, about A.D. 1322. The family possessed the estate of Crocadon, where they resided for many generations, and the name is frequent in the Parish Registers down to the beginning of the 18th century. Gilbert says the arms of Trevisa, gules a garbe or, appear among the quarterings of several of the principal families of Cornwall, and that few have a fairer claim
with respect to antiquity. The estate was sold about 1630 to the ancestor of its present owner, Colonel Coryton, of Pontillie Castle, by William Trevisa, who died in 1703, when the family seems to have become extinct.

Bishop Bala, in his "Lives of the most eminent writers of Great Britain," gives the following account of Trevisa and his literary labours:

"John Trevisa, a gentleman of Cornwall, was a priest and vicar of Berkeley, a man famous for learning and eloquence, who especially above others laboured to adorn the English tongue, and to remove the old harshness thereof, whereby he became very dear unto many of the nobles of the land, but especially to his excellent Lord Thomas of Berkeley; and amongst other studies which much delight the minds of men histories and antiquities best pleased him, as from whence the best councils and examples of life might be drawn; wherein whilst he studiously laboured, he sometimes showed himself harsh and biting towards monks and their profession, taxing their pride, riot, and hypocrisy; as where he saith 'We read that Christ instituted Apostles and Priests, but never ordained Monks and begging Friars,' with many other the like taunts. Into the English tongue he likewise, at the request of his said Lord, translated the whole Bible, as well the Old as the New Testament, Polychronicon of Ralph Higden, alias Raynulph, monk of Chester, Bartholomew De Proprietatibus Rerum, and many other works, all into English, and continued the Polychronicon unto the year of Christ 1397, being the 21st of King Richard II. till when and somewhat after himself flourished."

John Trevisa entered the University of Oxford, first at Exeter College, but subsequently at Queen's, of which he became a Fellow. In 1367 we find him at Berkeley, where he finished his translation of Higden's Polychronicon, as he himself tells us, in that year. This seems to have been his first important work,

* Professor Babington, on the authority of a MS. in the Bodleian Library, makes this date 1357. It is probable, however, that this is a clerical error, or perhaps a later copy in which the scribe has altered the date to correspond with Thomas IV, 10th Lord Berkeley, grandson of Thomas III. Smyth, quoting perhaps from Trevisa's original MS., thus fixes the date:—"This translation is ended on Thursday the 18th day of April, 1357, the 31st year of King Edward the third the year of my lord's age Lord Thomas Lord Berkeley that made me this translation, the 5th."
and it is dedicated to Thomas III. eighth Lord Berkeley, at
whose instance it was undertaken. Prefixed to the translation
is a dialogue between the Lord and a Clerk, (his Patron and
himself,) from which the following is an extract.

THE LORD. And yet for to make a sermon of holy wryte alle in
latyn, to men that can Englysshe and no latyn, it were a lowde
dede, for they be never the wyser. For the latyn but it be told hom
in Englyssh what it is to mene. And it may not be told in Englysshe
what the latyn is to mene without translacion out of latyn into
Englysshe. Thenne it nedeth to have an Englysshe translacion,
and for to keep it in mynde that it be not foryte, it is better that
such a translacion be made and wryten than sayyd and not wryten,
and for this forsayd lowde reason should mene no man that hath any
wytte to leve the makyyng of Englysshe translacion.

THE CLERKE. A grete dele of these bokes standeth moche by holy
wytte, by holy doctours and by phylosophye, thenne these bokes
sholde not be translated into Englysshe.

THE LORD. It is wonder that thou makest soo febell argumentes
and hast goon soo longe to scote. Aryanstole's bokes and other bokes
also of logyke and of phylosophye were translated out of greuc (greek)
into latyn. Also at prayeng of King Charles Johan Scot translated
Denys bokes out of greuc in to latyn and thenne out of latyn in to
Frensshe, thenne what hath Englysshe trespaced that it myght not be
translated in to Englysshe. Also Kynge Alured that founded the
unyversyte of Oxenford translated the best lawes in to Englysshe
tonge. And a grete dele of the Psalter out of latyn into Englysshe.
And caused Wyreftre byshop of Wyrecre to translate saynte
Gregorye's bokes the Dyalogues out of latyn into saxons. Also
Cedmon of Whytbye was ensyredd of the holy goost and made wonder
Poyysyes into Englysshe nyghe of all the stories of holy wytte. Also
the holy man Beda translated saynt Johan's gospel out of latyn
into Englysshe. Also thou wost wher the Apocalypys is wryten in
the wallis and roof of a Chappell both in latyn and in frensse. Also
the gospel and propheye and the right fayth of holy chirche muste
be taung and precheed to Englysshe men that can noo latyn. Thenne
the gospel and propheye and the right fayth of holy chirche muste
be told hem in Englysshe, and that is not done but by Englysshe
translacon, for such Englysshe prechynge is very translacion. And
such Englysshe prechynge is good and nedefull, thene Englysshe
translacon is good and nedefull.
THE CLERKE. Yf a translacon were made yt myght be amended in any poynct, some men it wolde blame.

THE LORD. Yf men blame yt is not worthy to be blamed, thenne they ben to blame. Clerks knowe well ynoogh yt no synfull man dothe soo well that it ne myght do better, ne make so good a translacon yt he ne myght be better. Therefore Origines made two translacons, and thereon translated thryse the Psalter. I desyre not translacon of these the best yt myght be, for yt were an ydle desyre for ony man that is nowe a lyve. But I welde have a skylfull translacon that myght be knowe and understanding.

THE CLERKE. Whether is you lever have a translacon of the Cronyceles in Ryme or in Prose.

THE LORD. In prose, for comynaly prose is more cleere than ryme, more easy and more playne to knowe and understande.

THE CLERKE. Thene God grante us grace, redely to gynne, wytte and wysdome wysely to worche, myght and mynde of righte menyng to make translacon trusty and trewe, pleasyng to the Trynyte thre persones and one God in mageste that ever was and ever shall be.

The above is taken from a fragment in the Evidence Room at Berkeley Castle, printed probably by Caxton, who published an edition of Trevisa’s Polychronic on in 1482. The changes which a century had produced in the English language rendered it however necessary for Caxton to alter not only the orthography but many words and expressions which had become obsolete, and he so altered and embellished Trevisa’s text that the language is no longer the English of the 14th but of the 15th century.

The artfulness of the wily chaplain in setting up his “fubell argumentes” to be knocked down again by his lord, is amusing, but he and Lord Berkeley were entirely of one mind in their desire for religious and intellectual improvement, and in their labours to promote it in others. Many of this lord’s preceedings shew him to have been very much in advance of the age in which he lived. Smyth says that in 1340 he founded and endowed chantrys in the chapels of Newport, Wortley, and Cambridge,
on his Gloucestershire estates, making special arrangements for the masses and prayers there to be said, and for the regulation of the lives and conduct of the chaplains, forbidding them to take money of any or to be servants to any but God in spiritual matters, and to himself in temporal concerns; enjoining them to live chastely and honestly, and not to come to markets, alehouses or taverns, nor frequent plays or unlawful games; and "all this" says Smyth "he did in so devout and holy a manner, that "unless he had been a disciple of Wickliff who now lived, he "could not have come nearer to the doctrine of the Church of "England in these days." (A.D. 1618.)

There is a remarkable coincidence between the lives of Wickliff and Trevisa, as well as a similarity in their opinions. Born about the same time, they both entered as students at Oxford, where Wickliff became Master of Batiol, while Trevisa held a Fellowship at Queen's College. Both threw themselves with ardour into the controversies then raging between the secular clergy and the monastic orders. Trevisa translated a sermon preached at Oxford against the Mendicant Friars in 1357 by Fitzralph, Bishop of Armagh; Wickliff in 1360 commenced his vigorous attacks on the Friars, whose hostility in return soon drove him from his chair at Batiol. He subsequently occupied for many years rooms at Queen's of which College Trevisa was a Fellow. When Wickliff was appointed in 1374 to the crown living of Lutterworth, he also held the Prebend of Aust in the Collegiate Church of Westbury-on-Trym, in Gloucestershire, of which Church Trevisa was likewise a Canon. With all these points of contact however neither Trevisa nor his patrons appear amongst tho recognised followers of the great Reformer. Probably the opinions of Wickliff, who in 1363 broke into open heresy, and in 1381 formally and publicly denied the doctrine of Transubstantiation, soon became too advanced for the lords Berkeley and their chaplain. It is not improbable also that the early experiences of Thomas, 8th Lord Berkeley had taught him the value of a quiet life; charges arising out of the murder of Edward II. had been kept hanging over him from
1327 to 1340, and he would therefore probably be indisposed for any unnecessary conflict with the authorities.

The same causes would also operate to prevent the publication, or the multiplication of copies, of Trevisa's translation of the Holy Scriptures. That Trevisa translated the whole Bible has been much doubted of late years. It is however affirmed by Caxton in the prohemio to his edition of the Polychronicon printed 70 years after Trevisa's death. It is repeated without any expression of doubt by Bale, Hollingshead and Pits; by Smyth the family historian of the Berkeleys, and by the Translators of the Authorized Version in their address to the Reader; it is also believed, in more recent times, by Ussher and by Wharton. Dibdin first expresses a doubt of the fact in a note amongst his additions to Ames's Typographical Antiquities, because Caxton does not give his authority for the statement, and because he did not think it at least as deserving of publication as the Polychronicon; and Wanley who compiled the Catalogue of the Harleian MSS., remarks that "he should be very glad to see one of them," i.e. copies of Trevisa's translation. The truth or falsehood of Caxton's statement, made so soon after Trevisa's time, would however be well known to many persons, and it was not necessary at that period to bring forward proofs or anticipate objections. Had it been false, the Berkeleys, all of whom were good Catholics, would have been only too anxious to clear their chaplain and themselves from the suspicion of heresy which the charge at that time involved, by denying it. So far from being contradicted however; Caxton's assertion is repeated by every writer of eminence down to the beginning of the present century. Caxton most probably had not access to Trevisa's translation of the Bible, but if he had he is not likely to have undertaken a publication which would have immediately embroiled him with the authorities. The translation of the Bible had brought nothing but persecution, toil and trouble to Wickliff, and its publication soon afterwards cost Tyndale a life of exile and a death at the stake.
Trevisa’s three patrons the 8th, 9th, and 10th Lords Berkeley were however all their lives faithful and devoted sons of holy church, as is shewn by the long list of their benefactions to various religious foundations, and by the special acts of grace and indulgence which they received from the Popes. It is not likely that in those stormy times they would identify themselves with the reforming party by allowing Trevisa’s translation to be copied and circulated, and hence it would probably remain confined to the family and household at the Castle, for whose use it was made.

These objections started by Dibdin and others, have probably acquired greater form and substance from a letter, vague in its terms, and incorrect in its statements of fact, written by the Rev. John Hughes, (who was Chaplain and Tutor at Berkeley Castle in 1805,) to Dibdin, in answer to an enquiry of the latter whether any relics of Trevisa were in existence at Berkeley. This letter which is given at length by Dibdin, seems to have misled Professor Babington into the belief that the Inscriptions now before us were in Berkeley Church. The remark of the Lord to the Clerk in the extract which I have given from Trevisa’s Dialogue, can however only refer to the Apocalypse inscribed on the walls and roof of the Chapel in the Castle. No such inscriptions have ever been known to exist in the Church.

There is however in the Evidence Room at the Castle a copy or draft of a letter, in the handwriting of George the first Earl of Berkeley, addressed to James Duke of York, afterward King James II, in which the Earl begs the Duke’s acceptance of “an ancient collection in manuscript of some part of the Bible,” which he says “has been carefully preserved near 400 years.” The name of “Treveyse” occurs in this letter, though not as the name of the author of the MS., of the real nature of which Lord Berkeley was evidently entirely ignorant. In the Rev. John Hughes’s letter to Dibdin, referred to above, he states that he is informed by Lord Berkeley, (Frederick Augustus the 5th Earl,) that Trevisa’s manuscript translation of the Bible was presented
by one of his ancestors to the Prince (of Wales?) and that it is now in the Vatican. That this refers to the manuscript given by George the first Earl to the Duke of York, I think there can be no doubt. James, being as is well known, a Papist, the manuscript would very probably find its way to Rome. There is in the Catalogue of the Vatican Library a manuscript of Trevisa’s, and if this is not the missing translation of the Bible it will probably be found at Frascati, as the collections of James II. descended to Cardinal York, by whom they were bequeathed to the monastery there.

Besides the works already mentioned Trevisa translated Bartholomew de Glanville’s Treatise “De Proprietatibus Rerum,” an original MS. copy of which is now in the Bristol City Library. The translation was finished in 1398, and is dedicated to Thomas, 10th Lord Berkeley, the grandson of his first patron. He is also said to have written a “Description of Britain,” now lost, and a “Dialogus inter Militem et Clericum,” translated from the Latin of William of Ocean. His last work was a translation of Vegetius “de Re Militari,” finished in 1408, and dedicated to Thomas, 10th Lord Berkeley, four years after which he died, in his 90th year, and was buried in the chancel of Berkeley Church. The translation of Vegetius has been attributed to Hoecele, from a MS. copy of it in the Bodleian Library being bound up with Hoecele’s “De Regimine Principis.” The characteristic dedication however, at its conclusion, sufficiently proves its true authorship, and with its final words I here close this imperfect sketch of the life and labours of John Trevisa.

“To us alle God graunt grace of our offendpyge,
“space to our amendpyge, and his face to be seen
“at our endpyge. Amen.”
View of part of ceiling of Chapel
Berkeley Castle
showing the position of inscriptions

J. R. Moore Armit
1. St. Paul's Rd
@ Lewes 1877

(White section lost when removing binding)
le parvis unlawe nuere Maau

d'estivement par la petite devant le la chande en

p'elestreilles est firne de losante INq celepare neunt lei

un un egle volant par m' ....

ay Iba' alhabitansen

w j la une parlie le loiui, levalyme erreuir in en o uingmeque

e nehmable ne pet elloyer prme dreantule II lur tout la grace par mo "f" presas

- HALF. FULL SIZE -