

## A REPORT ON LIVERPOOL CASTLE

2ND OCTOBER 1559

*Communicated by Robert Gladstone, Jun.,  
B.C.L., M.A.*

[*Preliminary.*—On 10th June, 1 Elizabeth (1559), commissioners were appointed to report on the condition of Liverpool Castle, and to make recommendations regarding repairs, as Sir Richard Molyneux, Constable of that castle, had sent word that it was in a ruinous state. The commission was directed to William Cade, Esq., General Receiver of the Duchy of Lancaster, Francis Samwell, John Grimsdiche, Ralph Assheton, and John Bradill, Esquires. On 2nd October 1559 Francis Samwell, Ralph Assheton, and John Bradill (*alias* Bradell) inspected the castle, and drew up the following “certificate” or report. There is a note on the back of it stating that it was delivered on 30th October.]

[*Formal opening and recitals omitted here.*]

Firste the said castell is scituate upon a rokk of stone and joyneth harde to the towne of Litherpole, beinge a port towne, in so much that the castell yate [gate] is full into the face of our strete of the said towne. And also the said castell is scytuate neare upon the haven ther, in which haven, by reporte of honeste marchauntes of the said towne, ther may lye at harbour three hundreth sayle of shippes. The said castell is but a smale [small] thinge, beinge in manner square, and the longeste waye within the same by estimacione not lx yardes,

<sup>1</sup> Duchy of Lancaster, Special Commissions (MS. List at Record Office), No. 9. The “certificate” or report is attached. Part of the date is torn off the commission, but it is recited in the formal opening of the report, which is omitted here.

having three rounde towres of stone scytuate at thre severall corners therof. And the gatehowse, beyng made tower fasshyone sware [square], serveth for the fourth corner. All which said towres, with the gatehowse, ar in utter rwyne [ruin] and decay, so that ther remayneth neither tymbre or lead, other then [than] such as hereafter is expressed, for that ther was no lead at any tyme in the remembraunce of man remayninge upon any buyldynge within the said castell.

Also ther is one tower of the three rounde towres, which is the greatest of them all, which towre hath hadd a rooffe of tymbre and coverede with slate, as it appereth, nowe utterlie decayede. And within the said towre ther is too [two] flowres [floors] of tymbre much in decaye, for that the rayne doth contynuallie fall upon the said flowres to the great consummacion [consumption] and waste of them, which is greate pytie. Neverthelesse, if the said rouffe of the towre were newe made agayne, and well coverede with slate, and some lead to make the gutters, the said towre would be made for to contynewe a longe tyme, wherin the Quenes Majesties courtes for Her Graces Wappentacke of West Derbyshyre, beinge a verye greate soken, may be from tyme to tyme therin kept; and also a convenyent place may also be made for the salfe [safe] custodie of the Quenes Majesties courte rollees touching the said Wappentack, with others, beinge greate in nombre.

Moreover the ringe walle of the said castell is metelie in goode repayre, savinge that in diverse placys therof the stones be fallen downe and gone. Notwithstandinge, with xxx li. chardge the said ringe walle would be made to contynewe for a longe tyme, otherwyse it were a greate defacement to the said towne.

Furthermore, the said castell is of little effecte

for the defence of the haven, for that the entre [entry] into the said havyn is so daungerous that ther is no navye that will gyve the attempte to entre therin to endomage the countrie therabout, in asmuch as yf they shuld comme in, they cannot quyetlie get owt agayne, for that both Worrall, Lancashyre, and also Walles, do back and also adjoyne unto both sydes of the said havyne, by reason wherof hit is thought in the countrie ther that the said haven is sure [secure] inough for any invasione therin to be made by the adversarie. Otherwyse, if nede shuld so requyre that the inhabitautes of the countrie therabout shulde for salfegarde of them selves be enforced to secke [seek] succour at the said castell, hit would for a tyme preserve them untill such tyme as they may be rescwede [rescued] by the inhabitautes of the hole countrie therabout, which is verie populus.

Also the Maire and inhabitautes of the said porte towne of Litherpole doth humblie make requeste that the said castell might be repayrede, and so contynued. Otherwaies it were a greate defacement unto the said towne of Litherpole.

And further, we the said Comysioners do certyfie that yf it may please the Quenes Majestie, by the advyse of Her Chauncellour and Councell of Her Duchie of Lancastr', to be at some chardge in the repayringe and amendinge the said round towre, for the cause before alledged, appoyntinge sufficient tymbre for the said towre, one hundret poundes or therabout would exonerate and dischargd all the reste of the chardges. And that beinge done, the said castell may be well kept in repaire for xl s. yerlie, communibus annis.

FRANCIS SAMWELL.

RAFFE ASSHETON.

JOHN BRADELL.

[Tags for three seals, all missing.]