

* “*Castle Hill*, situated on the top of a steep know, is a lofty ruin; but by whom it was possessed I never heard.” *Armst. Manor*.—“No antiquities are to be found in this parish, but a *Roman Camp*, which is pretty entire; in the neighbourhood of which were found, some years ago, a Roman urn, and some ancient coins, upon digging up a piece of ground, with a view to till it. At a small distance from this camp, there is a *Tower* raised upon an eminence, and commanding the best view in the parish. It appears to have been built several hundred years ago, and to have served as a watch tower, to give signals of alarm, when the enemy made inroads upon the country, and committed depredations.” *Stat. Acc. Manor*.—The seats of the proprietors coeval with this building, were, according to the extent of their possessions, either Castles, or Towers, or Peel-Houses. As their remains show, they were usually reared in sight of each other, and so constructed that a fire could be kindled on their tops. They formed a chain of beacons, by which an alarm could be carried by a smoke through the day, and a flame at night, to any distance in a very short time; whilst their strength enabled them, meanwhile, to resist an attack. “These *Castles*, or, as they are sometimes called, *Towers*, were generally built on the peninsula of a river, at a narrow pass, or in a moor, at angular distances, within view of each other. A deep ditch, and a draw bridge; a river, rock, or other impenetrable frontier, defended this garrisoned mansion from human force, and a few lofty trees, or a sheltering eminence, from the assaults of nature. Inferior land holders occupied what are now called *Peel-houses*, i. e.

houses with vaulted apartments, to secure their living property in imminent danger, and an outer stair leading to upper lodgements for the family. Every imaginable precaution was necessary to preserve the most valuable effects from the ruffian hand of a lawless banditti. Circular entrenchments were made on the summits, not only to secure cattle, but to serve as exploratory camps to the lower forts, and give a general alarm on any approaching attack. These circumvallations were raised on the most advantageous situations, to command an extensive prospect, and easy access; and were frequently adjacent, or opposite to each other. Their vestiges are yet extant, and many of them are, to a degree of enthusiasm, believed *Roman*, from their usual name *Chesters*; but most antiquaries agree, that all Roman stations, and forts, were *quadrilateral*; and that those of a circular form, though reputed so, must have been British or Danish camps. They are also often called *Rings, Camps, Castles, &c.* They chiefly consist of three or four rounds of earth, raised from the fosses that intervene; and with one, or more entrances, have a *prætorium* or beacon in the centre. The armed residences of the chieftains, though distant, were in view of each other, forming a confederate chain of strength, to oppose foreign invasion, or internal affray. The Strath of Tweed exhibits a scene of these hostile relics, more entire, and intelligible, than elsewhere. From Oliver Castle, down to Elibank Tower, may be traced the remains, real or traditional, of these connected Forts in this county; and in like manner from Elibank Tower, on, to Berwick." *Armst. Introd. p. 19. Glenrath, Easter*