

NESBIT CASTLE, BERWICKSHIRE.

This castle is situated about two miles south from Duns. It is an oblong building (Fig. 914), with a round tower at each end of the south front, and two square towers, containing the staircases, on the north

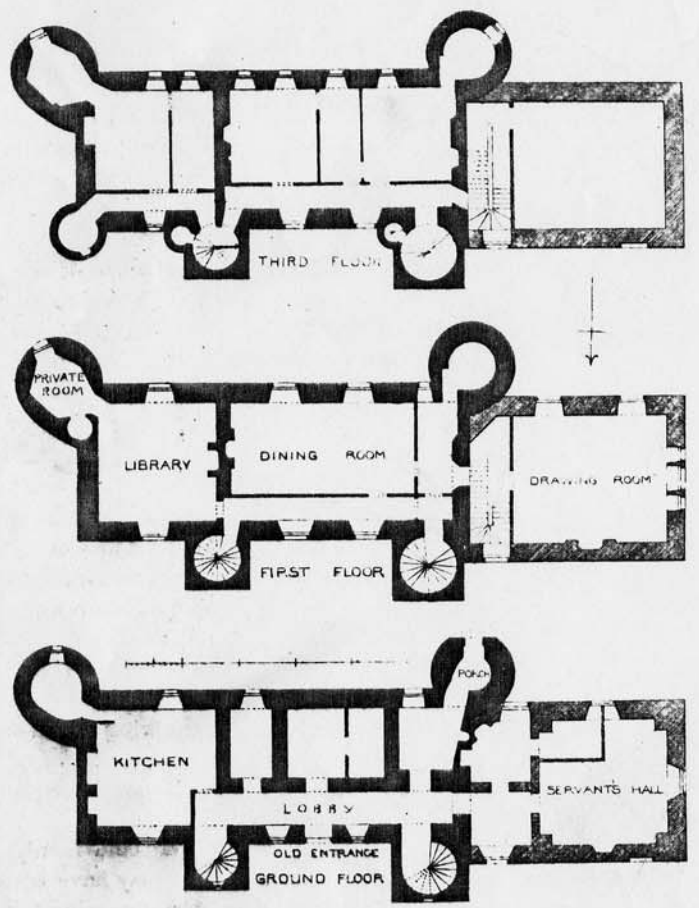


FIG. 914.—Nesbit Castle. Plans of Ground Floor, First Floor, and Third Floor.

side. These stairs run up to the third floor, from which level projecting turrets lead to the attics.

The portion of the house at the west end (shown hatched on the Plan, and of which a part is seen in Fig. 915) contains outside, on the stonework, the initials I. L. and the date 1774. At that time the arrangements

of the castle were evidently remodelled to a considerable extent, and a new entrance door was provided on the south side. The original entrance was on the north side, and is now built up. It is a simple lintelled doorway (Fig. 916), surrounded with a great breadth of flat mouldings, and



FIG. 915.—Nesbit Castle. View from North-West.

surmounted by a heavy circular hood, above which a panel in the wall contains the owner's shield and initials.

The Ground Plan of the castle is of an advanced kind, and consists of the usual oblong main structure, with rooms entering through each other

and extending from side to side. The ground floor contains the kitchen and a row of cellars entering off a passage. On the first floor is the hall or dining-room, which measured 40 feet by 21 feet, the partitions forming the lobbies being all modern except the one on the ground floor. In addition to the hall on the first floor, there is a large private room, and both the hall and the private room have chambers attached in the round towers. The house is provided with a wide public staircase in the western tower and a private stair in the east tower, both of which lead up to the second floor. Along with these signs of advancement, it will be observed that there are also signs of defence in the numerous shot-holes in the staircases, seven being visible from one point of view (see Fig. 915).

The arms over the old entrance doorway are those of the Kerrs, with the initials I. K. twice cut, and the motto—"FORWARD."

It was not the Kerrs, however, but Sir Alexander Nisbet of that Ilk who "built the house of Nisbet"* during the time of Charles I. He took down the old castle, which probably stood on the same site, and was surrounded by water. The above shield and arms are doubtless a relic of the more ancient house.

The plan of this structure is a combination of the Z and T forms, which indicates a departure from traditional types; and the central doorway, with a tower on each side of it, shows a tendency to the symmetrical arrangement introduced in later times.

WOOLMET HOUSE, MIDLOTHIAN.

A large and well-preserved example of a mansion of the latter part of the seventeenth century, afterwards modified in the style of the eighteenth century, and presenting features characteristic of both periods. It is situated on level ground, about four miles south-east from Edinburgh and two and a half miles north-west from Dalkeith. Some relics of an older structure are observable in a vaulted outhouse to the north, and possibly

* Nisbet's *Heraldry*, Vol. I. p. 314.



FIG. 916.—Nisbet Castle.
Entrance Doorway.

the irregular shape of some of the existing walls arises from the presence of more ancient constructions.

The present edifice bears the date of 1686, and its arrangements and details are in the style of that period. There are here no signs of any of

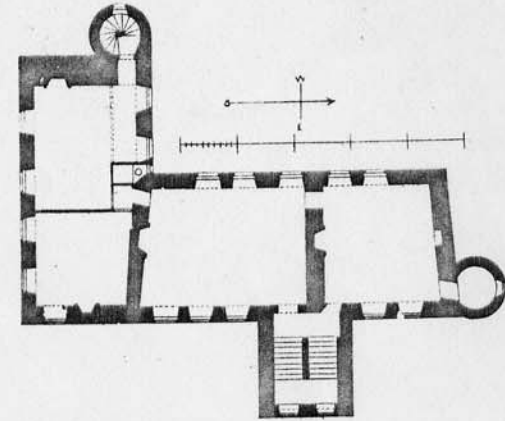


FIG. 917.—Woolmet House. Plan of First Floor.

the traditional plans having been followed. The main building (Fig. 917) forms two sides of a courtyard. The entrance doorway is in the centre of the west face of the longer limb, and the windows are arranged symmetrically on either side (Fig. 918), the south wing being apparently an after-

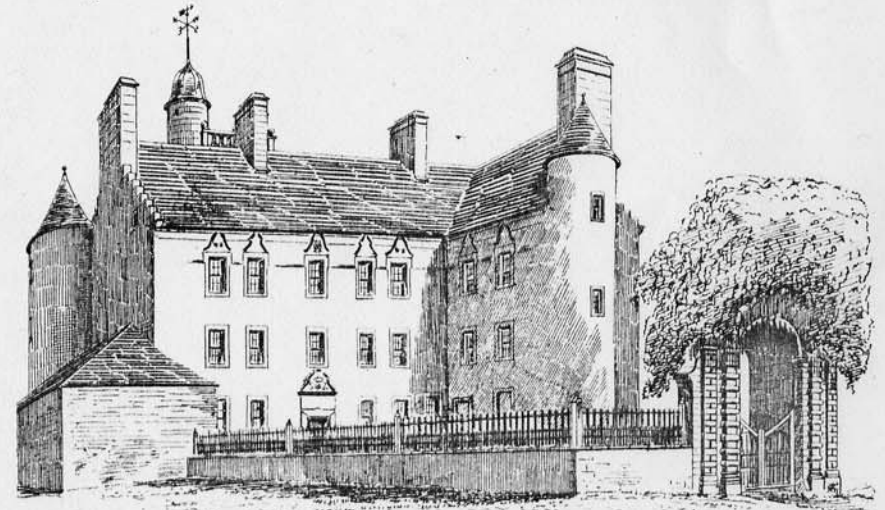


FIG. 918.—Woolmet House. View from North West.