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## **The architectural antiquities of Great Britain**

**Britton, J.**

**London, 1807-1826**

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Some account of Norwich castle.

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the Fifth, when it reverted to the crown, and continued in the Royal Family till the 36th of Henry VIII. when "the castle, manor, and chase of Rising," &c. were conveyed in exchange, to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk. In the 31st of Queen Elizabeth, the manor belonged to Philip, Earl of Arundel, who was then attainted and convicted. At that time a survey was made of this lordship by Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knt. and others. This survey specifies that the castle stock consisted of 600 wethers, but that the warrener had superseded them by keeping too many coneyes: his limited number was 5800, but he had killed in one year 17,000, and might kill as many more in the next year. It also complained that the walls, and castle ditches, were undermined and ruined by these coneyes. Many other curious particulars, relating to the borough and manor, are contained in the presentment. The church of Rising displays a very interesting and curious façade, with intersecting arches, also sculptured columns, &c.

[END OF THE ACCOUNT OF CASTLE-RISING.]

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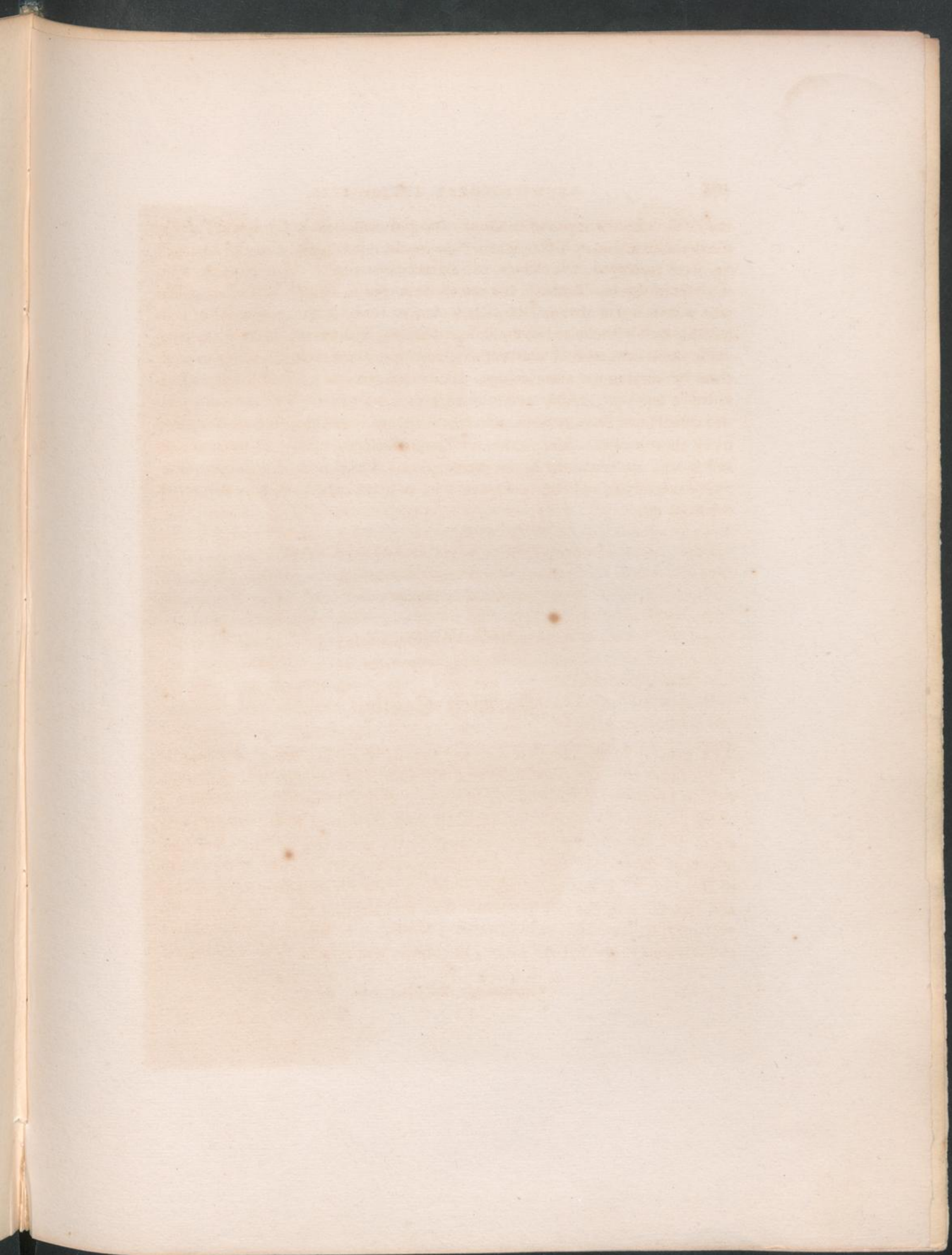
SOME ACCOUNT

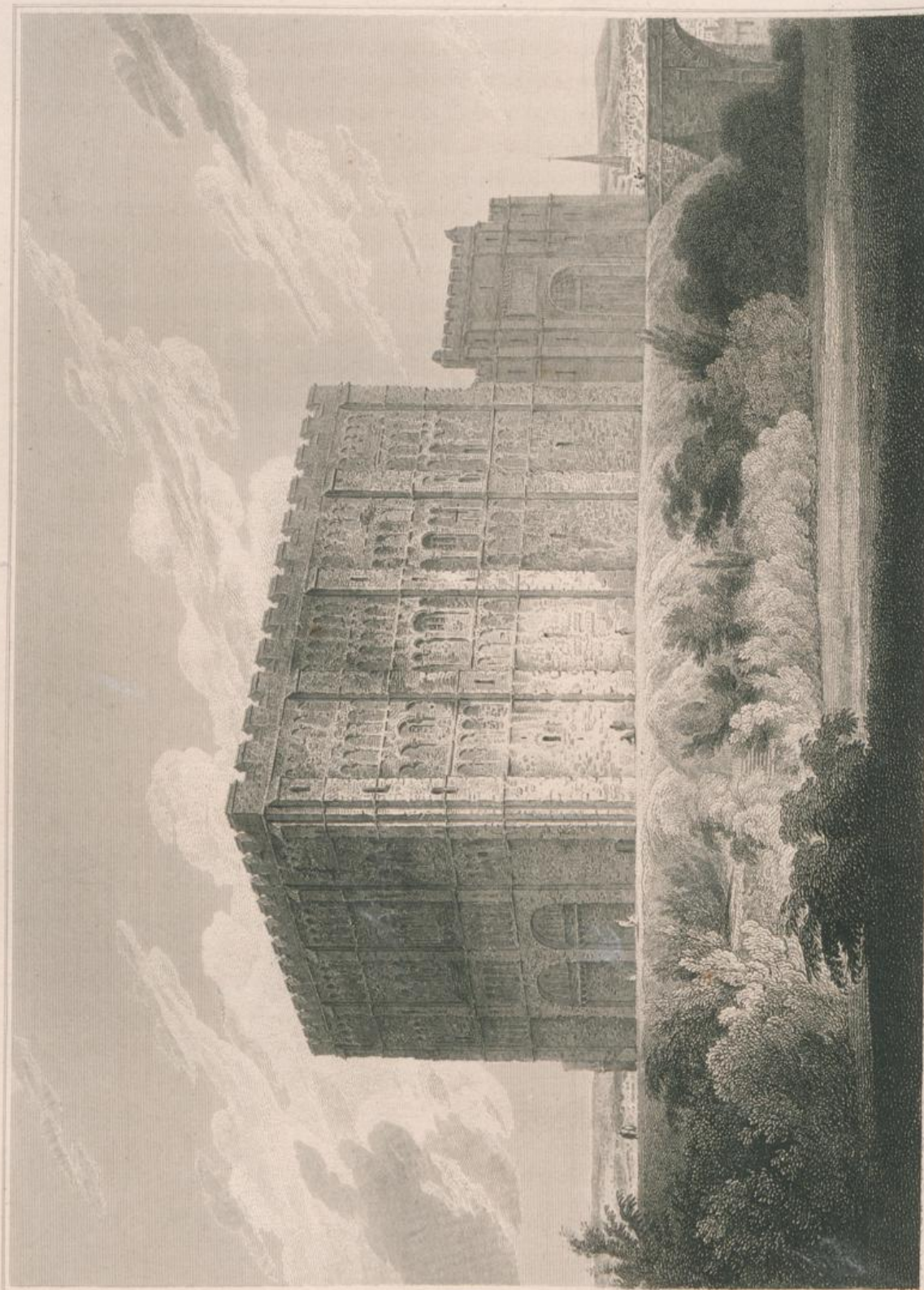
OF

**Norwich Castle.**

THE general form, situation and position of the keep-tower of Norwich Castle bears some resemblance to that of Rising, and therefore it is concluded to have been erected about the same time. Anterior, however, to the building of the present edifice, there was certainly some fortress at Norwich; for Bede states that part of the possession annexed to the monastery of Ely, about the middle of the seventh century, was held by castle-guard service of the Castle of Norwich.\* It was occupied by Alfred the Great, and also by other Saxon and Danish monarchs and generals. The first Norman monarch, about the year 1077, appointed Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk to be constable of the castle: and it is most likely that the present keep-tower was erected by that nobleman.

\* *Archaeologia*, Vol. XII. p. 140.





F. Macdonald, del.

for the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.  
S.W. VIEW OF  
**NORWICH CASTLE**

To HENRY ASTON BARBER, Esq. who has displayed considerable ability in painting Panoramic Scenes from nature, this Plate is inscribed by J. Britton

London: Published Aug. 30. 1833. by Longman, & Co. Paternoster Row.

Printed by R. Clapham.

J. Britton, sc.

Mr. Wilkins thinks it "most probable that the present castle was built by Canute the Danish monarch. Although the building is of Danish workmanship, it is, notwithstanding, in the taste of architecture practised by the Saxons long before England became subject to the Danes, and it is the best exterior specimen of the kind of architecture extant."\* Mr. King first suggested and urged this opinion in his "Observations on ancient Castles, p. 35, where he asserts that Norwich castle is "one of the most complete Saxon remains in England." The family of the Bigods continued in possession of it, with little intermission, until Roger Bigod, the 5th in descent, surrendered it to King Edward III. A. D. 1325. In the year 1375 it was again granted to the Bigods. Thomas de Brotherton succeeded the Bigods in the constablership of this fort, and it is conjectured that this governor made some additions and alterations to the castle.

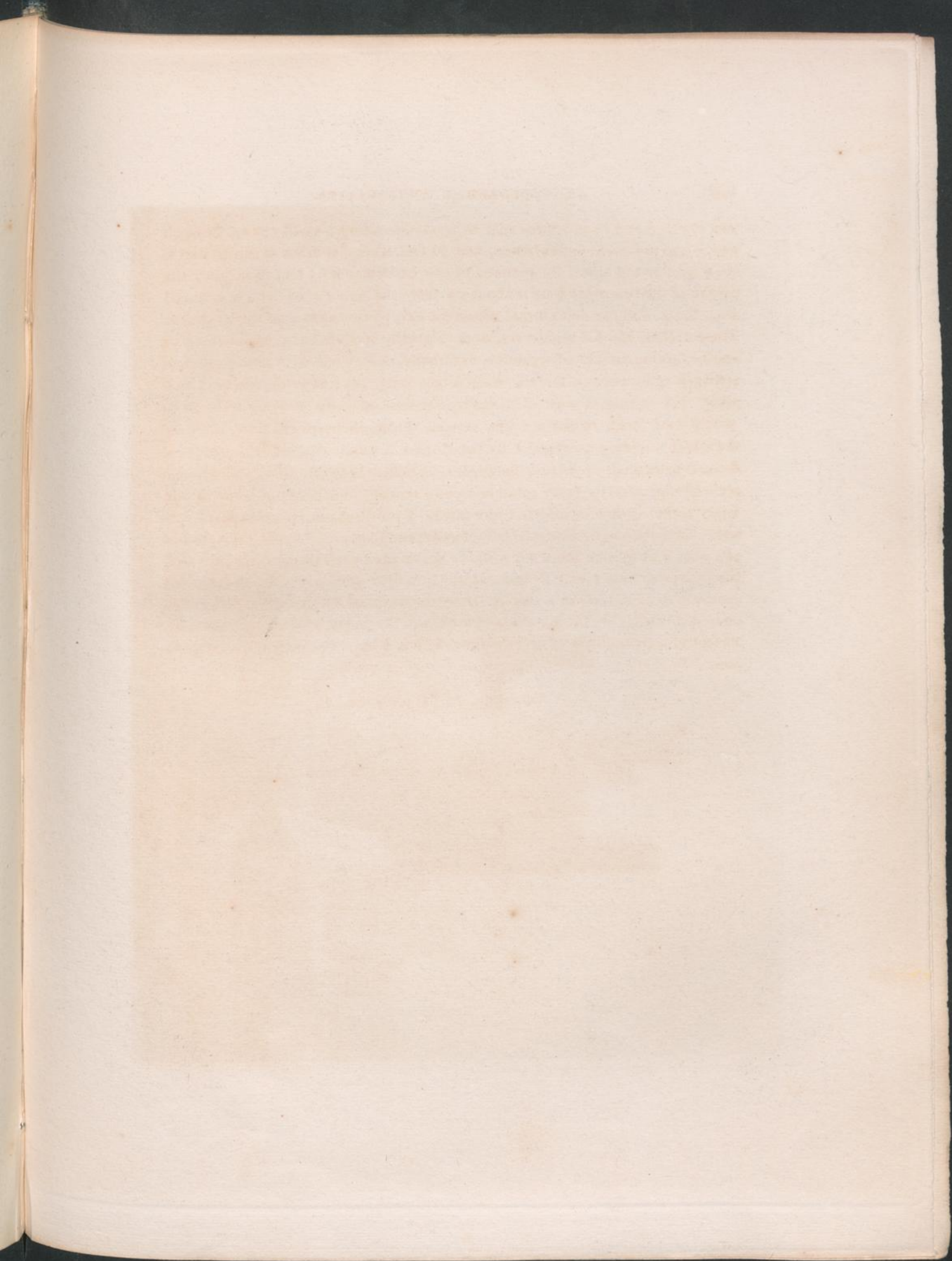
The annexed print shews the South and West sides of the present edifice: and also shews that the whole of the exterior surface is ornamented with columns, arched mouldings, panels and flat buttresses. The attached building, on the east side, is a modern county gaol, erected from the designs of John Soane, Esq. architect. A bold and grand bridge, of one arch, is thrown across the fosse, on the south side, facing which was the original entrance to the keep, up a flight of steps, on the outside of the tower, as at Rising. This keep was raised on a natural eminence, which was surrounded by three deep ditches and as many banks: but all these, except the inner one, are now levelled. The approach from the south was conducted along the brow of a natural terrace. There appears to have been a barbican, with fortified towers projecting beyond, and guarding the outer bridge. Two other bridges, each probably fortified, intervened between the outer barbican and the keep. The latter has been so much altered, by adapting it for a county prison, that it is impracticable to ascertain the original arrangement and division of the floors, &c. Mr. Wilkins, Senr. in an essay printed in the *Archaeologia*, Vol. XII. and in the accompanying plates, has pointed out all the features, proportions and arrangements of this castle, with every appearance of accuracy, and certainty after much investigation. Without such plans it is not easy to explain the arrangement of this keep. I must therefore refer to Mr. Wilkins's prints, and close with a few general remarks. According to this gentleman, the keep tower

\* *Archaeologia*, Vol. XII. p. 145.

was " 110 feet 3 inches from east to west, including a small tower, through which was the principal entrance, and 92 feet 10 inches from north to south. Its height to the top of the merlons of the battlements 69 feet, 6 inches; the height of the basement floor is about 24 feet, the outside of which is faced with flints, and has no external ornament except two arches on the west side. These arches, Mr. King observes, were originally intended as a deception to an enemy, giving an idea of weakness externally, where indeed was the greatest strength and security; for the wall is not only 13 feet in thickness in this place, but within it was additionally barricadoed with two oblique walls, which have been recently taken down. From the basement floor upwards, the whole building is faced with stone, and is subdivided into three stories, flanked with small projecting buttresses, enriched between with semicircular arches, supported by small columns in alto relievo, and between some of the upper arches is faced with what was called by the Romans, *reticulatum*, or *net-work*; from the stones being laid diagonally, the joints representing the meshes of a net; and to give the work a richer appearance, each stone was subdivided (by two cross lines pretty deeply chased) into four equal parts, the upper point receding so as to receive a shadow from the work above, giving it the appearance of Mosaic. On the East side of the castle is a tower projecting 14 feet by 27 feet of a richer style of architecture, which I have ventured to call *Bigod's tower*."\*

\* *Archaeologia*, Vol. XII. p. 162, &c.

[END OF THE ACCOUNT OF NORWICH CASTLE.]





PL. I.



Designed by James Lewis, from a Drawing by C. P. Piddling, for the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.

EAGLE TOWER, &c.

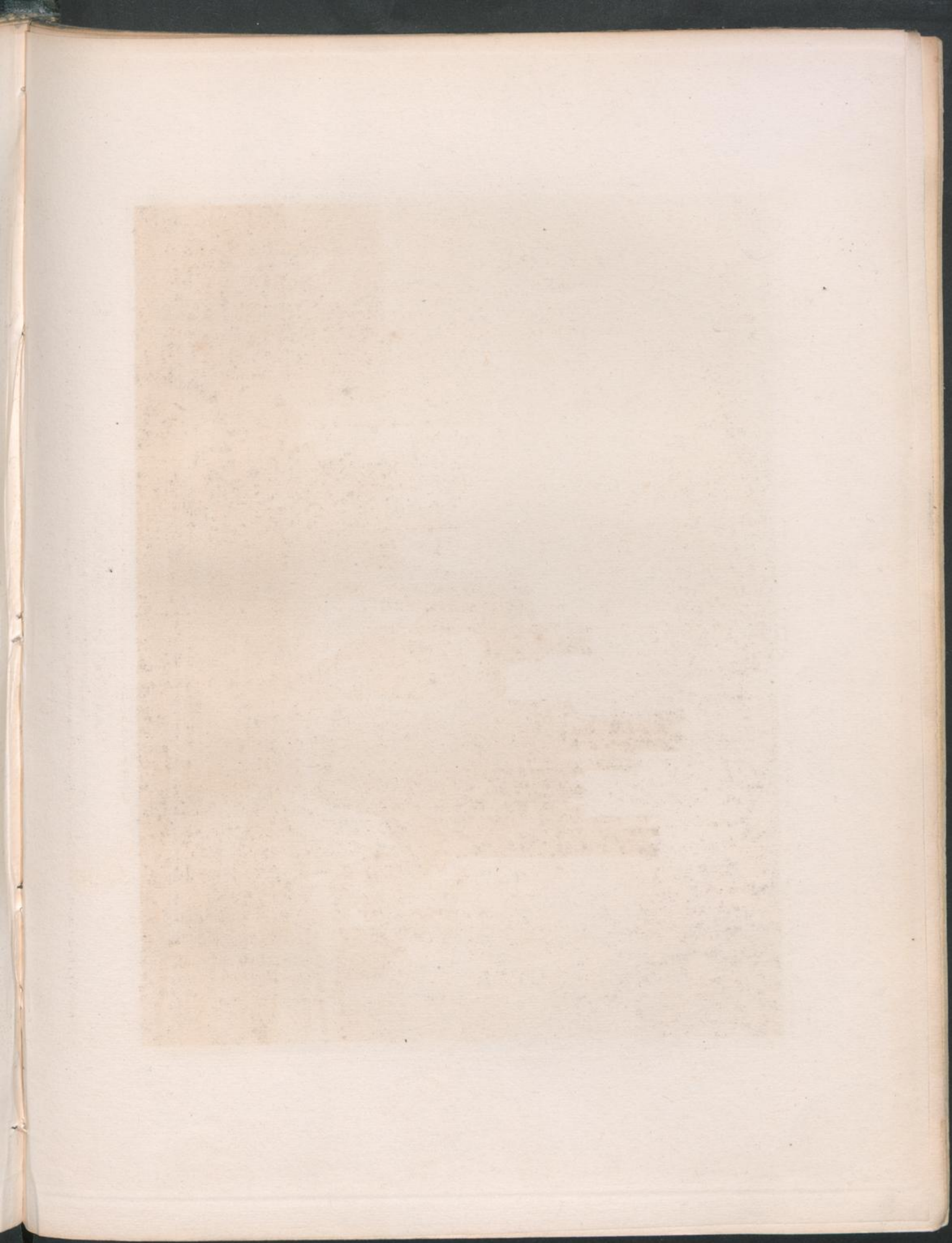
**CARNARVON CASTLE.**

CARNARVONSHIRE, NORTH WALES.

To AUGUSTUS WALL CALLCOTT, ESQ. B.A. whose Paintings of Landscapes &c. are highly honorable to his own professional talents, & to the English School, this Plate is inscribed, by J. Britton.

London, Published May 1814, by Longman, & Co. in Pall-mall Row.

Designed by J. Britton.





Engraved by W. Smith, from a Drawing by G. P. Harding, for the Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.  
 SOUTH SIDE OF  
**CARNARVON CASTLE,**  
 CAERNARVONSHIRE, NORTH WALES.  
 To PETER TURNER, ESQ., Sculptor to Her Majesty, &c. &c. as a memento of esteem from the Author.  
 London: Published May 22, 1824, by Longman & Co. in Pall Mall.  
 Printed by W. Smith.



