

and constructed of solid layers of stamped clay about three inches in thickness, rose on a terrace of hard clay which had been cut away to within ten feet or so of the outer wall faces to form a natural base. As the latter stood fully fifteen feet above the low-lying ground occupied by the enclosure, and as the walls of the halls in spite of their decay still rose in parts to twenty-five feet or more, the height of the whole ruin was impressive.

A wall of large sun-dried bricks had once formed an enclosure around, keeping with its sides parallel to the outer faces of the great structure but at different distances. While on the north this enclosing wall ran within fifteen yards of the base, on the south it receded to about 106 yards from it, leaving a wide courtyard for approach. Owing to moisture from the low-lying ground, the enclosing wall had in most places crumbled away into a mere mound. But at four points of it, diagonally facing the four corners of the great block of halls, there still rose massive watch-towers to heights of over twenty feet. The fact that these towers were built within the enclosure seemed to indicate that they were meant, not for defence, but as points of vantage for sentinels.

Owing to erosion under-cutting the base, the south walls of the halls had fallen for considerable stretches, and deep hollows had been scooped out in the floor and base by the drainage of occasional rainfall escaping on this side. This made it difficult to ascertain where the main entrances of the three big halls and the stairs once giving access to them had been situated. Large windows, such as halls of this great size would have needed for their proper lighting, there were none to be seen in the extant walls. But, curiously enough, the latter both to north and south were at irregular intervals pierced by triangular openings about three feet high, on a level flush with the floor as well as about fifteen feet above it. It was clear they could have been intended not so much for lighting as for ventilation. Of internal fittings or arrangements which might have thrown some light on the purpose of the whole building, I could trace no remains. A narrow platform or plinth which ran round the foot of