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The Abbey of St. Mary, Hayles

by W. Bazeley
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THE ABBEY OF ST. MARY, HAYLES.

BRIEF SKETCH OF ITS HISTORY, AND REPORT OF THE
EXCAVATIONS IN 1899 AND 1900.

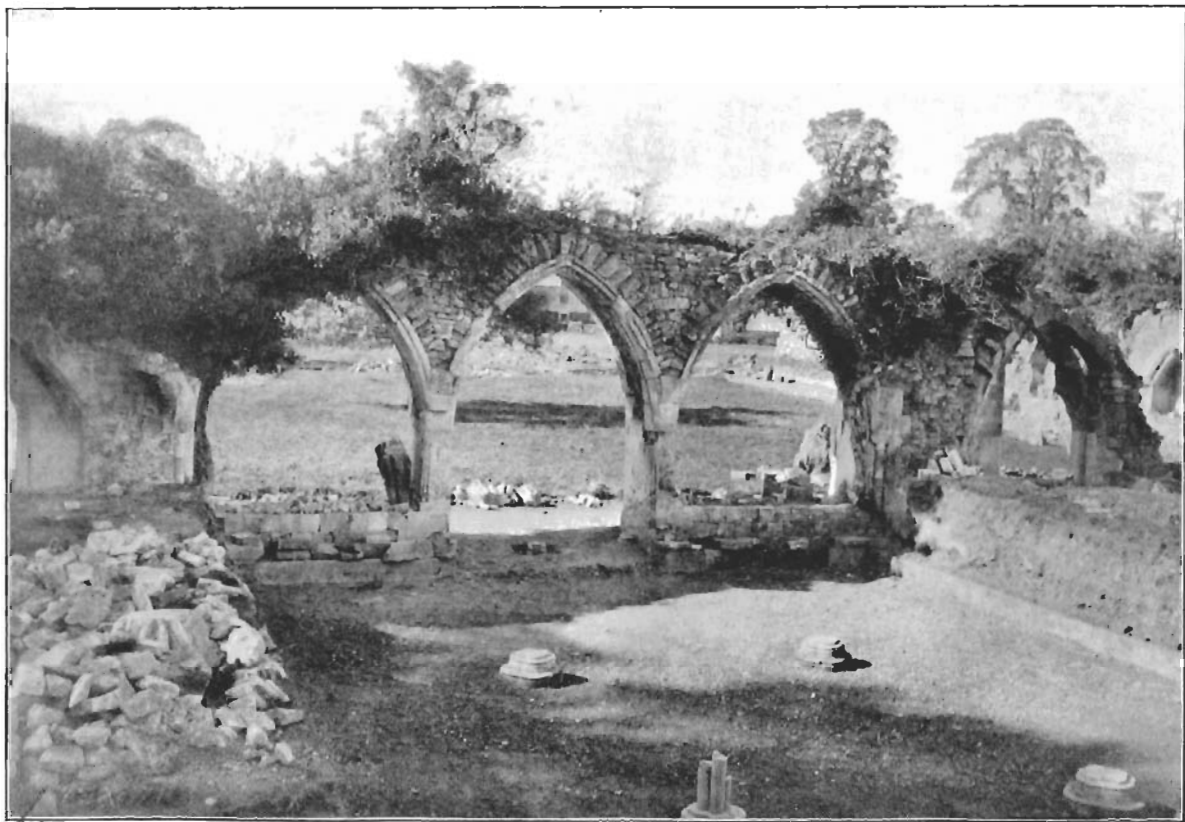
BY THE REV. WILLIAM BAZELEY, M.A., *Hon. General Secretary.*

THE Cistercian Abbey of Hayles, near Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, was founded in 1246 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III., and he transferred thither from the Abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire, twenty monks and ten lay brethren.

A short chronicle of Hayles, in the British Museum, tells us that the church was finished in 1251, together with dorter, cloisters and frater, at a cost of 8,000 marks. The ruined arches of the cloisters, on the outer side, are of this date. On the 9th of November in that year the church was dedicated to God's service. Henry III. and his Queen, Eleanor of Provence, and Earl Richard and his second wife, Sanchia, sister of the Queen, were present. Thirteen bishops, whose names and dioceses are given in an ancient manuscript preserved in the library of Wells Cathedral, said mass, each at his own altar, Grossetête, Bishop of Lincoln, consecrating at the high altar. Besides these were an innumerable host of nobles, clergy, and common folk, who crowded thither to do honour to the founder.

The first abbot is said to have been Jordan, a monk of Beaulieu. The lists of abbots hitherto given are not to be depended upon. Hayles has been confused with the Præmonstratensian abbey of Hales Owen, on the borders of Worcestershire and Shropshire.

In 1256 Richard was elected King of the Romans, and he and his wife were crowned at Aix. Queen Sanchia died in 1261, and was buried at Hayles, near the high altar. In the same year, Richard, an infant son of Earl Richard, is said to have died at Grove Myle, near Hayles, and to have



CHAPTER HOUSE, HAYLES ABBEY.

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been buried in the Abbey. The founder's eldest son, Henry, had been born in the Castle of Hayles, and baptised in the church in the year 1237. This castle and church were built by Ralph de Worcester in the reign of King Stephen. Only the earthworks of the castle remain, but the little parish church is intact. In 1267 Richard married, as his third wife, Beatrice von Falkenstein, the beautiful niece of Conrad, Archbishop of Cologne.

In the same year, the chronicle tells us, Edmund, the second son of the founder, purchased in Germany some of the Holy Blood of Jesus. A portion of this he gave to Hayles on the festival of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14th, 1270, and it was accompanied by a certificate from Urban, Patriarch of Jerusalem, afterwards Pope.

On March 12th, 1271, Henry of Almayne, eldest son of Richard, was cruelly murdered in the little church of San Sylvestro, at Viterbo, during the saying of mass, by his cousins, Guy and Simon de Montford, sons of the great patriot Earl. The flesh of the ill-fated prince was buried between the tombs of two pontiffs in the church of Santa Maria dei Gradi; his heart was placed in a golden vase and enshrined in the tomb of Edward the Confessor at Westminster. His bones were conveyed in a leaden coffin to Hayles, and buried in the Abbey Church before the high altar. Richard, broken-hearted at the untimely and terrible death of his son, had a seizure, from which he died on April 2nd, 1272. He was buried in the presbytery beside Queen Sanchia, and his widow, Beatrice von Falkenstein, placed above him "a noble pyramis" or raised tomb, which was ruthlessly broken in pieces at the Dissolution.

Richard was succeeded as Earl of Cornwall by his son Edmund, who in 1272 married Margaret, sister of Gilbert, Earl of Hertford and Gloucester. In 1277 "the new work at Hayles, together with the shrine in which was deposited the precious Blood of Christ, were dedicated by Godfrey Gifford, Bishop of Worcester." In 1280 Hugh is mentioned

HAYLES ABBEY EXCAVATION FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the Years 1899, 1900.

EXPENDITURE.	1899.		1900.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Wages of Labourers	56	0 11	79	0 9	135	1 8
Salary of Custodian			8	5 0	8	5 0
Travelling Expenses	6	6 9	10	3 6	16	10 3
Hire of planks, barrows, etc.			6	3 8	6	3 8
Fittings for Museum	0	11 6	3	10 4½	4	1 10½
Compensation to Toddington Orchard Co. for Damages			5	0 0	5	0 0
Printing			6	1 10	6	1 10
Maps, Plans, etc.	1	2 6	1	3 0	2	5 6
Impressions of Seals, etc. ...			0	5 9	0	5 9
Photographs	3	3 0	0	4 6	3	7 6
Purchase of Tent			3	0 0	3	0 0
Trust Deed			2	13 11	2	13 11
Petty Expenses	0	3 11	0	0 7	0	4 6
	67	8 7	*125	12 10½	193	1 5½
Balance in hand † ...					23	0 1½
					<u>£216</u>	<u>1 7</u>

RECEIPTS.	1899.		1900.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Subscriptions... ..	134	13 0	35	2 0	169	15 0
Entrance Fees, etc.	13	15 10	21	8 9	35	4 7
Sale of Photographs			11	2 0	11	2 0
	<u>£148</u>	<u>8 10</u>	<u>£67</u>	<u>12 9</u>	<u>£216</u>	<u>1 7</u>

G. M. CURRIE,
Treasurer.

Feb. 1, 1901.

* Various sums paid in 1900 were for work done in 1899.

† The cost of re-leading the Hayles Abbey Glass, and compensation to be paid to the Tenants for damages to grass will nearly absorb this balance —W.B.

as Abbot. In 1292 the Infirmary and the buildings attached to it were commenced. In 1295 Edmund gave to the Abbey a golden cross containing a portion of the true cross of Christ. In 1299 the boveria or oxbouses were begun and finished.

On October 31st, 1300, Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, died at Ashridge, and his bones were buried at Hayles in the presence of Edward I. and a great company of bishops abbots, and knights. Hugh, Abbot of Hayles, is mentioned in the Patent Rolls as one of the executors of the Earl's will.

Hugh appears to have been succeeded by John, who was still ruling the Abbey in 1332, though of great age.

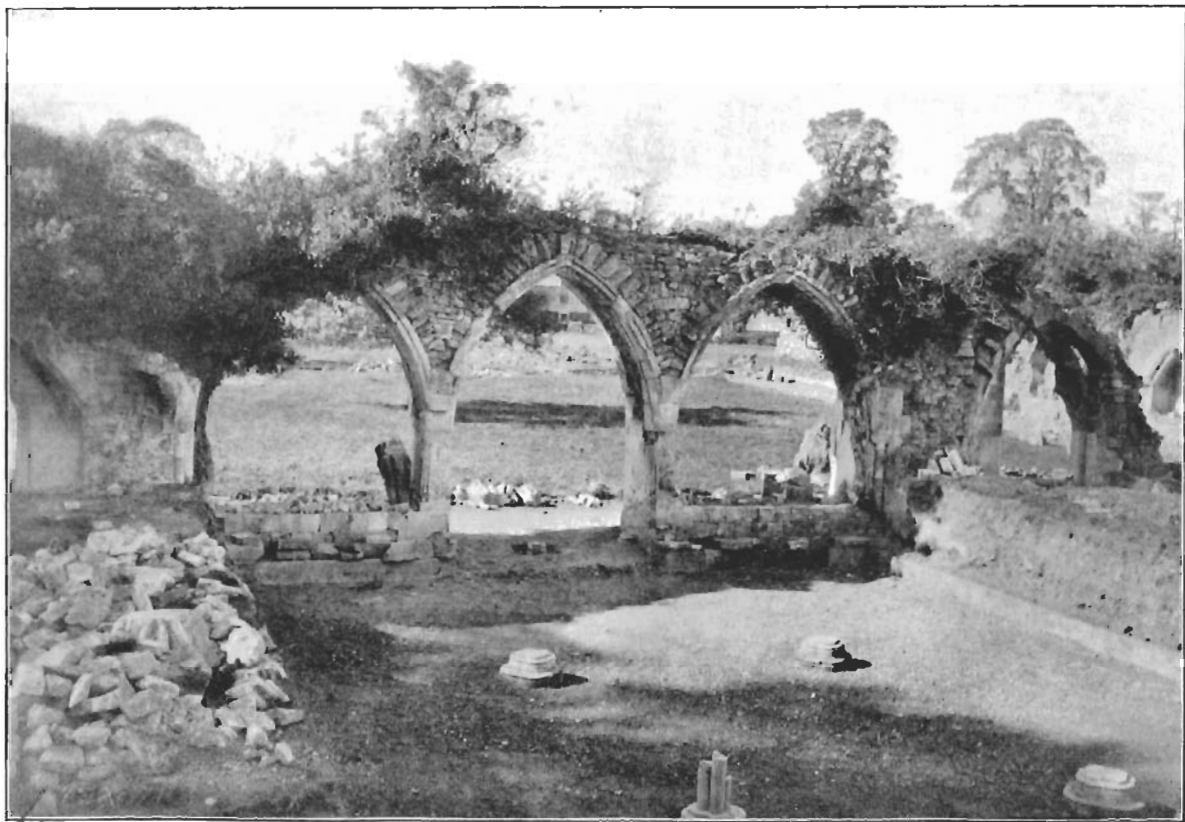
On the vigil of Corpus Christi, 1337, about the hour of Vespers, a great flood of water burst upon the Abbey, and caused much loss and destruction. The situation of the Abbey in the lowest part of the valley, between two high hills, has always laid it open to such visitations. Very little has been recorded about the Abbey during the long and eventful reign of Edward III. and the reigns of his immediate successors; but we know that the plague raged at Hayles in 1361-2, and nearly exterminated the monks, regular and lay. The last entry in the chronicle tells us that on Sunday, October 31st, 1364, some "satellites of Satan" broke into the sacristy and carried off many of the sacred vessels. In the same year many other English monasteries were similarly robbed. Robert Alcester, Abbot of Hayles, is said to have been buried at Dowdeswell, near Cheltenham, about 1420. He was succeeded by William Hendley, a native of Gloucester. I have found a deed amongst the muniments of the Corporation of Gloucester, dated 1426, bearing his signature and the Abbey seal. John appears as Abbot in 1463, and Richard in 1465. William Whytchurch, whose name as Abbot appears in 1466, has the credit for rebuilding the cloisters in the Perpendicular style, and converting the cellarium, or house of the lay monks, on the west side of the cloisters, into the Abbot's lodgings.

A document has been found amongst the Vatican papers, dated 1458, in which Pope Callixtus III. exhorts all the faithful to assist the monks of Hayles in repairing their ruined Abbey. Whytchurch was at one time Vicar of Didbrook, a parish adjoining Hayles. He rebuilt the church and had it reconciled in 1471, after the sacrilegious murder of some fugitive Lancastrians from the fatal field of Tewkesbury. He is said to have been buried in the church; and there are remains of painted glass in the east window with an inscription to his memory as founder of the church.

The name of John de Clitheroe, as Abbot of Hayles at the close of the 15th century, is given in a list of monks of Whalley Abbey. Two sets of 16th century tiles, of which we found fragments in the Chapter House, bear the initials, name, or rebus of Anthony Melton and Anthony Stafford as abbots. These cannot be earlier than the beginning of the 16th century, as companion tiles bear the Tudor Rose, Pomegranate, and Portcullis.

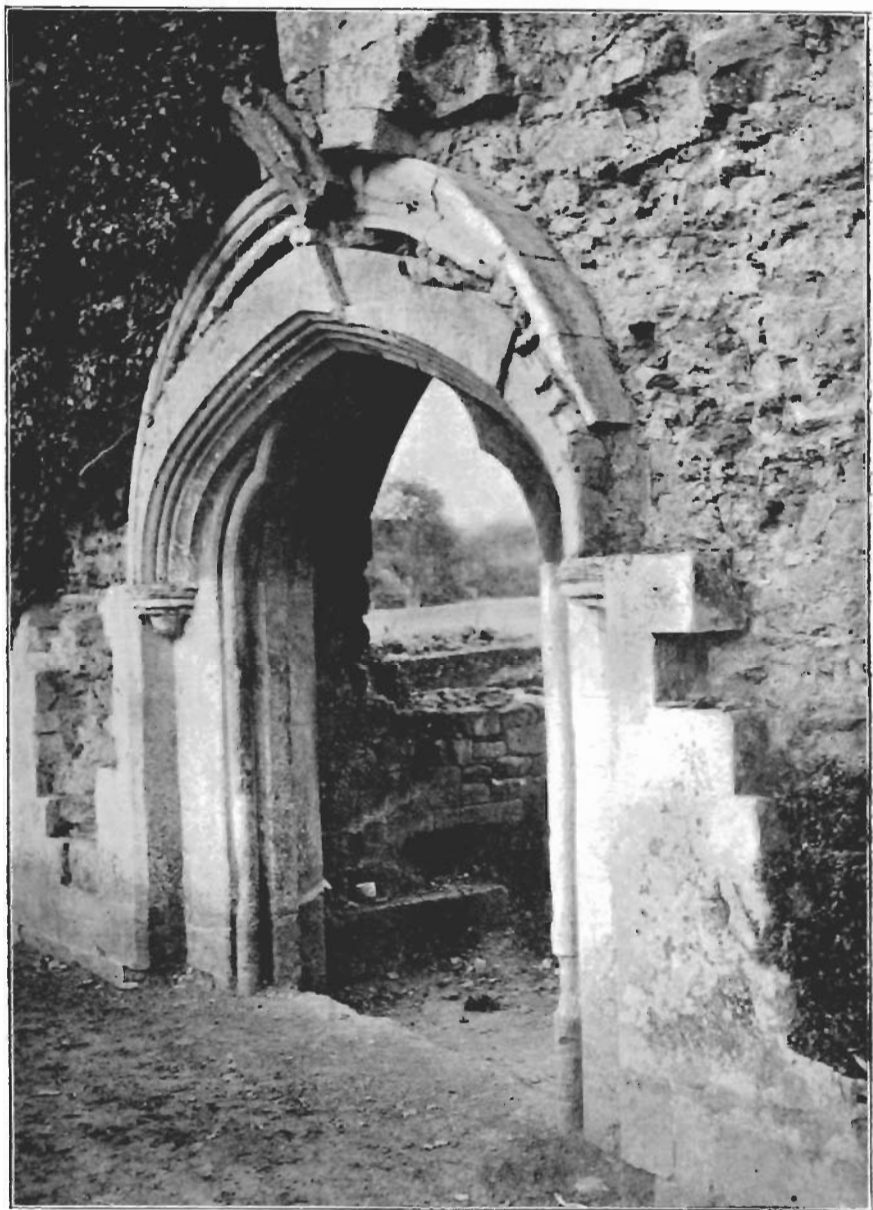
The last Abbot of Hayles was Stephen Sagar, also called Whalley, because he was educated as a monk of that abbey. He was made King's chaplain in 1537, and obtained a pension of £100 and the use of Coscombe House for his lifetime after the surrender of the Abbey to the King's Commissioners in December, 1539. He was buried with his brother in Warmfield Church, near Halifax, and the following inscription was placed over their grave:—"We be two brothers, I pray you let us rest, Stephen Sagar, some time Abbot of Hayles, and Otho Sagar, Vicar of this parish."

At the Dissolution the late Abbot's lodging, extending from the church to the frater southward, with pantry, buttery, kitchen, larder, cellars, and the lodging over the same, the baking and brewing houses and garner, the gatehouse, the great barn, two stables, the oxhouse, and the sheephouse were assigned to remain undefaced. The church with aisles, chapels, and steeple, the cloister,



CHAPTER HOUSE, HAYLES ABBEY.

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DOOR OF MONKS' PARLOUR, HAYLES ABBEY.

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chapter house, dorter and frater, the infirmary with chapels and lodgings to them adjoining, the prior's chamber and all other chambers lately belonging to the officers there, were deemed to be superfluous. Most of the possessions of the Abbey were granted to Admiral Seymour, and, on his attainder, to William, Marquis of Northampton, who leased them to Henry Hodgkins. Queen Elizabeth renewed this lease in 1565, and the manor passed by marriage to William Hobby, who restored the parish church, and was buried there, at the age of 103, in 1603. His son died in the same year, and the manor was sold to Sir John Tracy created in 1642 Viscount Tracy. His grandson, John, third Viscount Tracy, died at Hayles in 1686, after which time the house does not appear to have been used as a residence by the Tracys. Views of Hayles given by Atkyns (1712), Buck (1732), and Lysons (1794) show the process of ruin.

REPORT OF THE RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT HAYLES ABBEY.

It was for many years the wish of Mrs. Dent, of Sudeley Castle, whose death, early in 1900, all her many friends deplore, to arrest the unceasing destruction of Hayles Abbey, but the opportunity was lacking.

In 1899, by the courteous permission of the present owners, the Economic Assurance Society, and the tenants, the Toddington Orchard Company, the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society were enabled to commence an examination of the site and the repair of the broken arches. The superintendence of the work was confided to me as Secretary of the Society, and with me was associated one of the members of our council, Mr. St. Clair Baddeley, an expert in Italian history and architecture. After consultation with Mr. St. John Hope, we determined in the first place to clear the cloister walks and remove the soil which had accumulated at the bases of the walls and arches. We felt that this would help visitors to understand the plan of the conventual buildings which surrounded the cloister garth and add to their interest. The abbey church, with the

exception of its south wall which forms the north wall of the cloister, has entirely disappeared, and what little remains of the foundations lies two feet below the turf.

We commenced work with four labourers and a stonemason on July 20th, and soon found the north-west angle of the inner wall of the cloister. The masonry is Perpendicular, of the same date as the remaining three arches of the west cloister walk.

We found traces of two fires, one earlier than the rebuilding of the cloister, and another considerably later than the Dissolution for the stratum of ashes lay a foot above the original floor line. It is probable that Lord Tracy's house, which stood on the site of the western range of buildings, was damaged or destroyed about 1775 by a conflagration.

The cloister walks are 132 feet long and 12 feet wide. The garth is about 100 feet square. The foundations of the inner wall have for the most part been destroyed. The base of the north-west doorway into the church remains. We found it blocked with Perpendicular stonework.

The five arcades in the north cloister walk are not carrels, as suggested by the late Mr. Loftus Brock, for a stone bench which he did not see runs along in front of them. Our mason restored the level of their floor line with dry walling, and we deposited there various interesting relics:—six heraldic bosses discovered in the west walk; the head of the doorway leading into the chapter-house, found where it had probably fallen¹; some window mouldings, which we found in taking the dimensions of the church; and a vaulting rib of the presbytery. The largest piece of moulding, which we believe to be the central portion of the great east window of the presbytery, we found buried in front of the shrine of the Holy Blood of Hayles. The curves, when produced, give us a three or a five light window, with trefoils, cinquefoils, and a quatrefoil in its head.

We found part of a carrel filling up the north-east doorway. The carrels were evidently in the same position

¹ These are now in the Abbey Museum.

as at Gloucester, in the inner wall of the cloister walk. A corbel carved as an angel with outspread wings, and the termination of the vaulting ribs resting on it, in the N.E. corner of the cloisters, are, we believe, the work of Abbot Whytchurch, about 1466; but Sir Arthur Blomfield, whose death has been a sad loss to us, thought they might be as late as the beginning of the 16th century, which is certainly the date of the vaulting bosses found in the west walk. All the arches on the north, east, and west sides of the cloister seem to be the work of the Early English builders in 1246—1251, though many of them have Perpendicular work inserted to carry the vaulting ribs.

The arch leading into the sacristy seems to have been fairly perfect in 1856 when the British Association visited Hayles. Half of the trefoiled and quatrefoiled head is now irreparably gone, but we found and replaced the blue lias base and part of the shaft. The eastern wall of this room is of considerable thickness. The vaulting was supported by two sets of shafts in a line with those of the chapter-house. The northern wall is completely gone. Ivy of long growth has been destroying and at the same time supporting the broken arches. We pruned the long branches, and have dealt more severely with it this year.

Next to the sacristy is the chapter-house, with its three arches. The sills of the side openings have been restored with dry walling, but a foot of soil has yet to be cleared away from the cloister walk before the original level will be reached.

We thoroughly cleared the chapter-house, which was 35 feet wide and 48 feet long, and found the four Early English bases of the columns, which divided it into three alleys and nine compartments.

Amongst the rubbish which covered the floor to the extent of nearly eight feet we found most of the vaulting ribs, many fragments of blue lias bell-shaped capitals, painted red as a ground for gold, six beautiful bosses almost perfect, and a trefoil shaft lying near its socket in the stone bench at the

east end, part of one of the responds of an arch. We found also some mouldings which probably formed part of the east window inserted after the fire of 1270. Many fragments of tiles of early 16th century date were also found, similar in every respect to the Hayles tiles at Southam-de-la-Bere.

The original position of the bosses in the vaulted roof may be ascertained from the number of vaulting shafts which sprang from them. One boss represents Samson rending the lion. The other bosses are ornamented with the stiff-leaved foliage peculiar to the thirteenth century, and are deeply undercut. We consider them to be the original work of 1250.

The doorway of the monks' parlour, to the south of the chapter-house, has been underpinned with Perpendicular work, and ruthlessly cut through to insert the corbel from which sprang the wall ribs of the groining. This room was about 32 feet long by 12 feet wide, and had a plain barrel-vaulted roof.

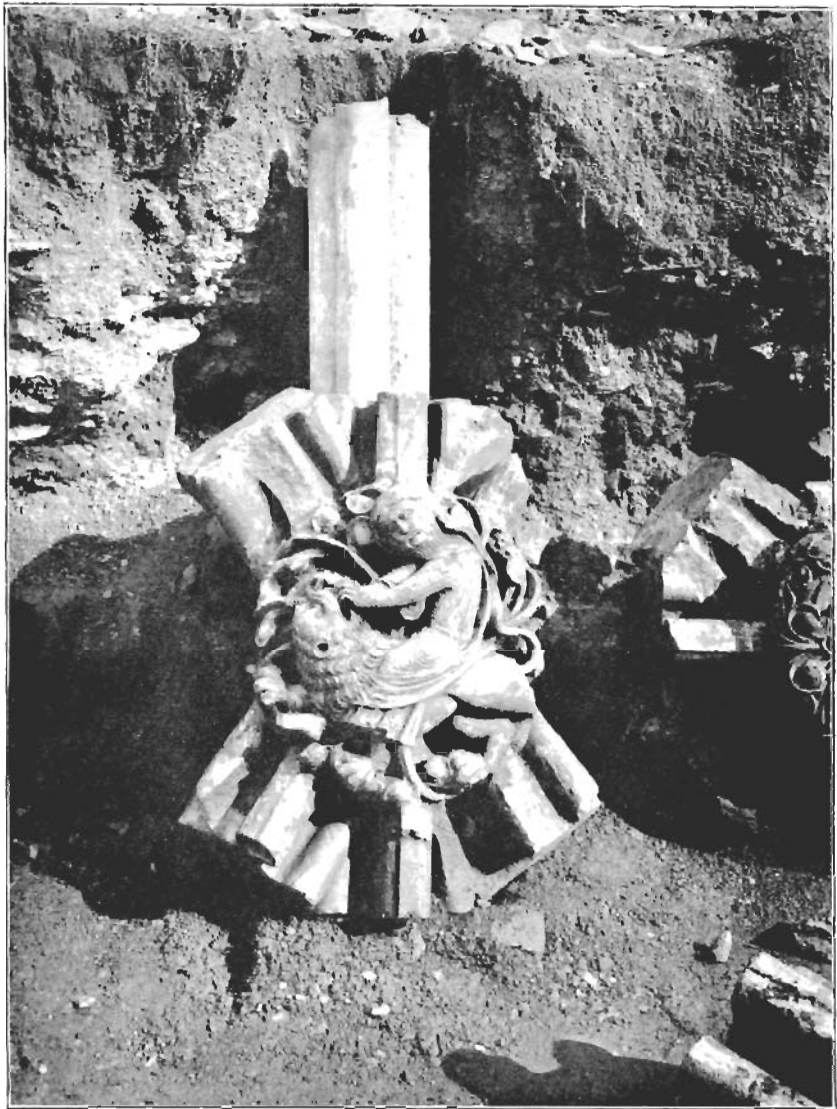
The doorway leading to the vaulted undercroft of the dormitory is semi-circular headed, and has no later insertion. There are two cupboards in the wall on the eastern side.

The broken arch at the south-east corner of the cloister leads to a flight of steps which were covered by the roots of a large ash-tree. This tree has been cut down and the dormitory staircase exposed.

The doorway of the warming-house has a trefoil-shaped head.

The lavatory was set in a deep recess with a flat 15th century arch and panelled soffit. The corbel from which sprang the wall rib remains. It is not in the centre of the arch. Part of the trough may be seen at the east end of the lavatory.

The doorway of the frater, with its seven orders of mouldings, its clustered shafts and conventional foliage, must have been a splendid example of Early English architecture. When the fifteenth century "restorers" inserted their plain arch they appear to have hidden the



BOSS FROM ROOF OF CHAPTER HOUSE, HAYLES ABBEY.

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DOOR OF FRATER, HAYLES ABBEY.

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earlier work with plaster. We found an Early English capital in a drain about two feet below the floor line of the frater. West of the doorway inside is a large cupboard, with two arches and a groove for wooden shelves. Adjoining it are remains of the usual hatch. The kitchen, butteries, and pantry have completely disappeared. On the east of the doorway are two smaller cupboards and traces of a table. We have only as yet excavated the frater to the extent of three feet south of the wall.

Three only of the inner arches of the cloister remain, on the west side. In clearing the floor of the west walk we found six bosses and a large quantity of late Perpendicular vaulting, also some tracery of the arches.

The heraldic bearings on the bosses are as follows:—

- (1) *Fretty*, for Huddleston of Melholme, Cumberland. Sir John Huddleston, second son of the Lord of Melholme, was governor of Sudeley Castle, two miles distant from Hayles, and also of Gloucester Castle, during the reigns of Richard III., Henry VII., and Henry VIII. He died January 15th, 1513, and was buried, as was his widow, Dame Joan, at Hayles Abbey.
- (2) *Quarterly*, 1 and 4 *fretty* (for Huddleston), 2 and 3 *three bars gemelles* (for Fitz-Alan) impaling a *lion rampant* (for Stapleton). Sir John Huddleston's father, John Huddleston, married Joan, co-heir of Sir Miles Stapleton, of Ingham, and Joan, his wife. Sir Miles Stapleton was the son of Gilbert Stapleton and Agnes, his wife, daughter and heir of Brian Fitz-Alan of Bedale.
- (3) Huddleston impaling Stapleton, or, if this boss be proved to be of later date than the other five and to have been inserted in the vaulted roof after the Dissolution, Huddleston impaling Barrantyne. Anthony Huddleston, grandson of the governor of Sudeley and son of Sir John Huddleston III.,

who built Southam-de-la-Bere, married in 1541 Mary, daughter and heir of Sir William Barrantyne, of Great Haseley, Oxfordshire. The tail of this lion is queued.

- (4) *Quarterly, 1 and 4, five fusils in fess (for Percy), 2 and 3, three bars gemelles, over all a bend (for Poynings).* Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, was the grandson of Eleanor, sole heiress of Robert, Lord Poynings, and in her right he was Lord Poynings, Brian, and Fitzpaine. It was probably through the influence of Christopher Urswycke, Almoner of Henry VII., that the Earl of Northumberland became a generous patron of Hayles.
- (5) *Quarterly, 1 and 4, a lion passant gardant between three helms (for Compton), 3 and 4, a chevron within a bordure.* This was the ancient bearing of the Compton family, and commemorated some gift to Hayles Abbey by Sir William Compton, ancestor of the Marquises of Northampton. The lion was an augmentation granted to him by Henry VIII., in the fourth year of his reign. Sir William Compton succeeded Sir John Huddleston in 1513 as governor of Sudeley Castle, and by his will he left 20 marks to Hayles Abbey. He died in 1529.
- (6) *A chain with a shack-bolt at either end, between three mitres.* The chain and shack-bolt refer to a legend of Egwin, third bishop of Worcester, the founder of Evesham Abbey in 702, and were used as arms by that Abbey.

On the 22nd of March, 1900, I laid these facts and many drawings and photographs of the chapter-house tiles and the ruins, &c., before the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House. On the following day, I had an interview with the representatives of the present owners, the Directors of the Economic Assurance Society, and this led to their very generously repairing and placing at our disposal an ancient barn as a Museum.

This year (1900) we have been examining the site of the Abbey Church with most interesting results. Many of the facts recorded in the Chronicle of Hayles (mentioned above) have been verified by recent discoveries. The church, as shown by the mouldings of the stonework, is distinctly of two dates; viz., Early English of c. 1250, and Transitional Early English of c. 1275. The older church ended eastward with a straight wall behind the high altar. In 1271-7, the new work, an eastern apse, was constructed with five polygonal chapels, two semi-circular ambulatories, and a structure, eight feet by ten, from a point in which radiated all the rest. This structure is, without doubt, the base of the shrine where rested for 260 years, together with the piece of the true Cross, the Holy Blood of Hayles. This, the most sacred spot at one time in the county of Gloucester, was visited by thousands of pilgrims annually from all parts of England and Wales. We can picture to our minds a shrine like Edward the Confessor's at Westminster, or like those of St. Albans, Ely, Durham, and Canterbury—an ark-like structure with gabled roof, and carved with canopied figures of saints. In 1533, the last Abbot, Stephen Sagar or Whalley, begged Thomas Cromwell that the case which contained "that feigned relic of Christ's Blood, which standeth where it did IN THE NATURE OF A SHRINE, may be put down, every stick and stone, and so leave no remembrance of that forged relic." At another time he is willing, he says, to suffer the most shameful death if ever the Blood were trifled with; and he speaks of an old monk, eighty years of age, who has had care of the sacred relic for forty years, and will certify the same.

Fortunately the matrix of a beautiful seal was found some years ago in Yorkshire with the figure of a monk, perhaps this very monk of whom Sagar speaks, holding in his right hand the phial containing the Holy Blood, and in the other the *aspergès* (Lat. *aspergillas*) with which he sprinkled with holy water the pilgrims kneeling before the shrine. It bears the following inscription: "Sigillum fraternitatis monasterii

beatae Mariae de Hayles." Probably Abbot Sagar, when he went some years later to his brother Otho Sagar, vicar of Warmfield, to die and be buried in his church, took the seal with him, and it was subsequently lost. A copy of this seal, as well as of another from the muniments of the Corporation of Gloucester, is in the Hayles Museum.

It is a marvel, when we consider that the site of the church has been twice dug over for material to build a home for the Tracys at Toddington, and again and again to build farmhouses, cottages, and barns, that the base of this sacred shrine should remain intact. The beautiful apse in which it stood reminds us of the choir of Westminster Abbey, which was completed in 1269. The apse at Hayles was built to be, as it were, a crown on the head of the cruciform church.

We found several yards of plinth, bases of shafts, and portions of the inner walling *in situ*, and many vaulting ribs, shafts, caps, mullions of windows, and one boss lying among the *débris*. The two chapels of the eastern apse on the north and the two on the south were floored with late 13th century encaustic tiles bearing the royal arms of England (three lions passant), King of the Romans (an eagle displayed), Queen Sanchia (a paly of eight), Earl of Cornwall (a lion rampant, with a bordure bezanty), and De Clare (three chevrons). The central chapel was refloored in the 14th century with large, thick tiles ornamented with natural foliage, etc. Examples of all these tiles have been desposited in the Museum at Hayles.

Westward of this beautiful apse is the Presbytery, with north and south aisles, ten and a half feet wide. On the north side of the high altar, the floor of which remains, or immediately in front of it, was, probably, the "pyramis" of the founder and his wife, Queen Sanchia, and, perhaps, on the south side, the tomb of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. Of Richard's tomb we found a few fragments, one ornamented with a human head of the Edwardian type. Moreover, we found parts of the effigies of a mailed warrior and his lady, as well as the heads of the lions which lay

at their feet. The lower part of a heater-shaped shield bearing the foot of a lion and a bordure bezanty is just the evidence we could have desired to enable us to assign the tomb to the founder and his Queen. Lying *in situ* on the floor of the north aisle of the Presbytery, we found many scores of late 13th century tiles, bearing the arms of Ferrers, Peverell, Badlesmere, Warren, Stafford, &c. The floor of the central gangway of the Presbytery was relaid with tiles in the last quarter of the 14th century. This is shown by the heraldic bearings on some of them :—

- (1) *Fretty, on a canton a cross fleury*, for Henry Wakefield, Bishop of Worcester, 1375 to 1395.
- (2) *A fess between six crosslets*, for Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, impaling *seven mascles 3.3 and 1.* for his wife Margaret, daughter of William de Ferrers of Groby. He died in 1400.
- (3) *Barry of six, an escutcheon, on a chief three pales gyroned*, for Mortimer.
- (4) *A fesse between six martlets*, for Beauchamp.
- (5) The same *quartering a maunch*, for Hastings or Toney.
- (6) *Semée of fleur de lys*.
- (7) *A chevron, or perhaps two chevrons, between three wheels*; and many others.

In front of the Presbytery steps we found a beautiful row of early 14th century tiles :—(1) the Despencer fret alternate with (2) a queer bird with two heads and a long neck, and (3) many border tiles with the castle of Eleanor of Castille and the fleur de lys of Margaret of France, Queens of Edward I. Specimens of all these tiles will be found in the Museum.

Between the Presbytery and its aisles on either side were four arcades and a connecting wall or screen, probably about ten feet high, as at Tintern. This arrangement is always found in the naves and aisled Presbyteries of Cistercian churches. Immediately in front of the high altar we found a round stone vessel, three feet in diameter at the

top and one foot four inches at the base, and near it we found masses of lead intermixed with clay. Mr. St. John Hope, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, believes this to be a vessel for melting the lead sold at the Dissolution. Westward of the Presbytery is the monks' choir, occupying the crossing and one bay of the nave. Beyond the choir are the pulpitum or screen and the retro-choir. The easternmost bays of the north and south aisles of the nave were cut off by stone screens, forming them into chapels. In the chapels of the south aisle we found traces of two tombs, between the pillars of the arcades, and hundreds of fragments of two 15th century monuments. In the north aisle we found a beautiful 13th century carved bracket with three dragons devouring one another. To the right and left of the choir are transepts, each with three eastern chapels, as is usual in Cistercian churches. There are traces of a central tower as at Tintern. The church, with the apse, is about 320 feet in length, as long as Gloucester Cathedral without the Lady Chapel.

The Church has now been covered in again. Next summer we hope to examine the remains of the abbot's lodgings, the frater, the warming house and the infirmary.

Mr. Harold Brakspear, Architect of Malmesbury Abbey, a well-known expert in Cistercian architecture, has made a careful ground plan of all that has been uncovered. This plan, with subsequent additions, will be reproduced in these *Transactions*.

While searching for some stained glass said by Rudder to have been removed from the Abbot's lodgings to old Toddington House we discovered, in a box, twenty-one mosaics of beautifully painted glass with the following inscription on a piece of white glass:—"This window was new glazed and the figures from Hailes Abbey placed here by Thos. Chas. Lord Visct. Tracy in 1789."

The owners having courteously given us permission to place this glass in the Museum at Hayles, it has been carefully releaded under the immediate direction of one of the

members of this Society, Mr. C. H. Dancey. Nine mosaics represent the Apostles SS. Andrew, James the Greater, John, Philip, James the Less, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, and Simon. SS. Peter, Matthias, and Thaddeus are missing. S. Andrew repeats the second clause of the Apostles' Creed, "Et in Jesum Christum Filium ejus unicum Dominum nostrum," and the rest continue it as far as "Remissionem peccatorum." As in the beautiful glass at Fairford, the Prince of Wales' feather appears in nearly all these nine mosaics, which are apparently of 15th century workmanship. Seven others are composed of fragments of glass of similar date. The remaining five belong to the Renaissance period; the designs of these last are—two angels, two cupids, and the arms of the Founder as well as of the Abbey.

The ruins of the Abbey and the contents of the Museum have been vested in five Trustees:—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Mr. C. Wise, appointed by the owners; Mr. St. Clair Baddeley and the Rev. W. Bazeley, appointed by this Society; and the Rev. C. H. Stanton, Vicar of Toddington, Didbrook, and Hayles, appointed by the owners and this Society conjointly. The Trustees held their first meeting on the 3rd of September, 1900.

More than 800 visitors were received at the Abbey last summer and autumn, and lectures on the history of the Abbey and contents of the Museum were given by Mr. Baddeley and myself on Thursday afternoons.

The Excavation Fund, for which no special appeal was made in 1900, is well-nigh exhausted; but the work is of such thrilling interest, that we feel sure fresh subscriptions will be forthcoming from the members of this Society and other friends.

G. M. CURRIE, Esq., 26 Lansdown Place, Cheltenham, is Treasurer of the Fund.