

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Proceedings at the Annual Summer Meeting at Cheltenham and
Worcester**

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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING,

AT CHELTENHAM AND WORCESTER,

*Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, July 11th, 12th,
and 13th, 1905.*

THE Annual Summer Meeting commenced at Cheltenham, and the opening meeting was held in the Town Hall, when Mr. F. F. FOX presided in the absence of the Dean of Hereford, who wrote regretting that important business kept him away. There was a good muster of the members, amongst those present being Mr. F. F. FOX (President of the Council), BISHOP MITCHINSON (President), the Rev. C. S. TAYLOR (Hon. Editor), Mr. G. M. CURRIE (Hon. Treasurer), CANON BAZELEY (Hon. General Secretary), Mr. JOHN E. PRITCHARD (Hon. Secretary, Bristol), Sir BROOK KAY, Bart., together with many ladies.

CANON BAZELEY (the Hon. General Secretary) presented the report of the Council for the past year as follows:—

COUNCIL REPORT, 1904-5.

The Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society present the following report for the year ending July 11th, 1905. There are at present 455 annual members, 92 life members, and 3 honorary members on the Society's list, giving a total strength of 550 members.

The income of the Society for the year ending December 31st, 1904, including a balance of £208 13s. 4d. on January 1st, 1904, was £528 os. 11d., and the expenditure was £373 os. od., leaving a balance of £155 os. 11d. in the Treasurer's hands on December 31st, 1904. From this balance should be deducted the cost of the Society's *Transactions* for

1904, the first part of which is in the member's hands, and the second part is nearly ready for issue. Besides this balance, the Society has a funded capital of £832 3s. 8d. consols, worth at the present price about £748 1s. 11d.

The Council would again point out that the *Transactions* are only issued to those members who have paid their subscriptions for the respective year, and that a great deal of unnecessary work falls on the honorary officers of the Society by subscriptions being allowed to remain in arrear.

The Society has held two annual meetings since the presentation of the last report at Hereford, under the presidency of the Dean of Hereford, on July 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1904, and at Berkeley on June 6th, 1905. The proceedings at Hereford are duly chronicled in the twenty-seventh volume of the *Transactions*, and a valuable paper on "Some Gloucestershire MSS. in Hereford Cathedral Library," by Mr. Langton Browne, an outcome of the Society's visit, appears in the same volume. An account of the Berkeley meeting will be given in vol. xxviii.

The Council wishes to express its obligations to Lord Fitzhardinge for allowing the members to visit his historic castle on a day of the week on which it is not as a rule open to visitors; and to thank Colonel Noel for his very hospitable reception of the Society at the Great House, North Nibley.

The attention of the Council has been called to the dangerous condition of the Berkeley Chapel, in Berkeley Church, where the members were most kindly received by the vicar, the Rev. Canon Stackhouse. They trust that no time will be lost in strengthening the foundations and repairing the screen and the vaulting.

The Council, in accordance with the wish of the Bristol Local Committee, have gladly arranged to rent a room at the Literary and Philosophic Club, Clifton, and have placed there a set of the Society's publications. There have been, moreover, some gifts of books which it is hoped may form the nucleus of a branch of the Society's library at the Bristol headquarters.

The Council regret that, owing to the illness of the printer selected to print the *Illustrated List of Gloucestershire Church Plate*, and his consequent resignation of the work, the issue has been long delayed. They hope, however, that it will be in the hands of those members who are entitled to it, and of others who subscribe for it, this autumn. The Council again would express their gratitude to the Rev. J. T. Evans, Rector of Stow-on-the-Wold, who has edited the work for the Society.

The report of the Committee appointed to describe the Bristol and Gloucestershire effigies has been continued in the Society's *Transactions*, and the Council feel that a debt of gratitude is owed to Miss I. M. Roper for her indefatigable labours in connection with the Bristol

examples, which have led to such excellent results. It is proposed to issue with vol. xxviii. some illustrations of Bristol effigies to insert in Miss Roper's papers which appear in vols. xxvi. and xxvii. Certain rural deaneries have not yet completed their reports, and the Council would gladly accept further offers of assistance.

The Roman pavements at Great Witcombe have suffered wilful damage at the hands of visitors, and the attention of the owner, Mr. W. Hicks-Beach, having been called to the matter, he has taken measures to preserve them. It is a strange infatuation that leads persons, not always of the poorer classes, to break up beautiful mosaic patterns in order to possess themselves dishonestly of a few tesserae which cannot possibly in themselves have any interest or intrinsic value.

The long barrow, known as Hetty Peglar's Tump, at Uley was some twenty years ago placed under the protection of the Government by the owner, Colonel Kingscote, and a grant was made for its repair and for railing it in. Again, through the depredations of foolish individuals, mischief has been done to the main passage, and the iron railings require attention. The Council have asked the Rev. S. E. Bartleet, Mr. Phelps, and the General Secretary to act as a Restoration Committee; and application has been made to the Board of Works, through Mr. Stafford Howard, for a small grant.

The loan Magic Lantern Slide Collection of the Society has been considerably increased this year by gifts from Mr. Dugdale, Dr. Oscar Clark, Colonel Routh and others, and also by purchases. There is now a fine series of Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Worcester and Ripple misereres, to which the Council would be glad to add slides of the Bristol and Malvern examples. A circular has been issued to members giving a preliminary list and the terms for hire.

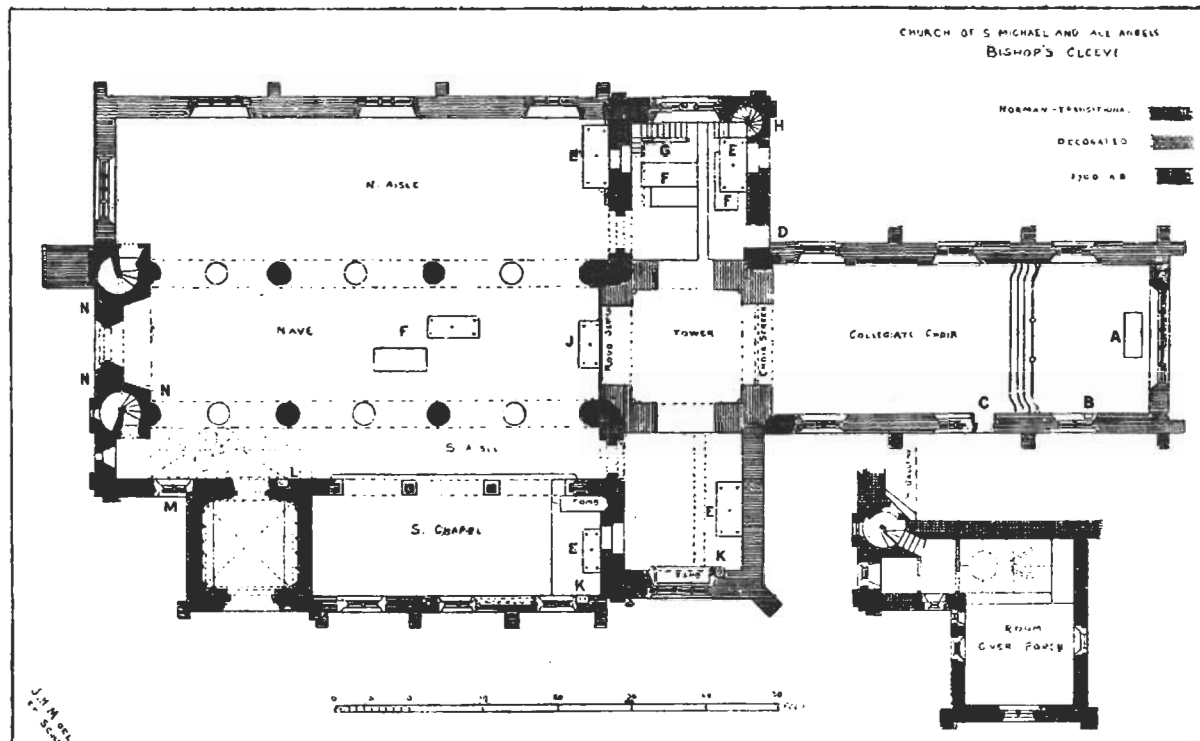
Evening meetings of the Society have been held during the past winter at Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury, and many interesting lectures and papers have been contributed.

The Council hope that the forthcoming visit of the Society to Worcester may lead to steps being taken for transcribing the episcopal registers, as far as they relate to Bristol and Gloucestershire, and printing them for the use of students of local ecclesiastical history.

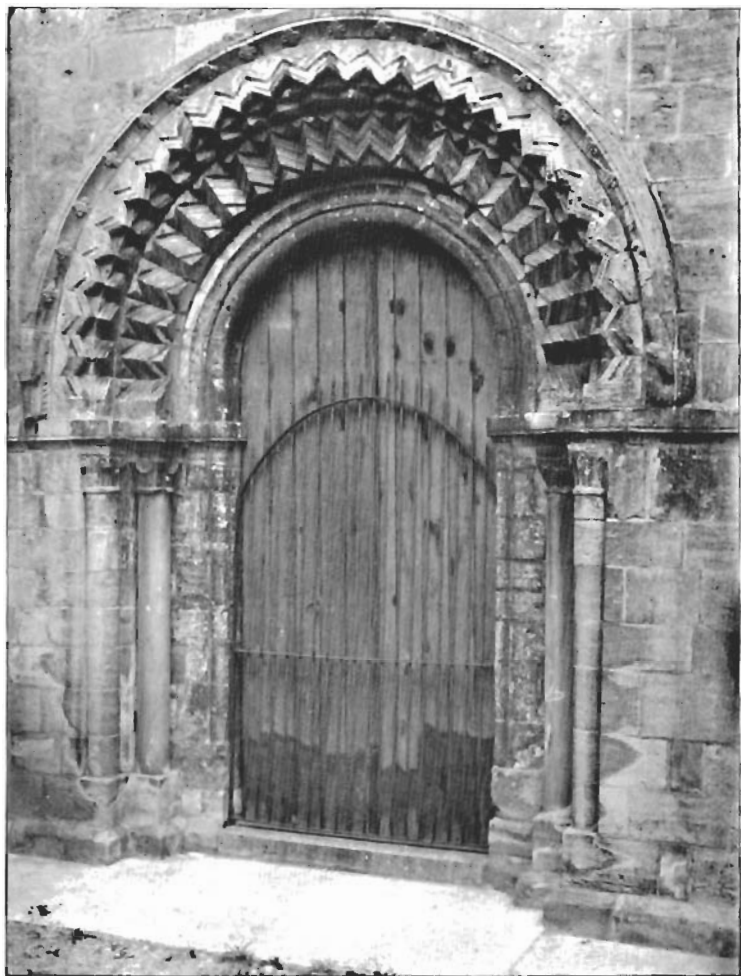
The Rev. A. C. Douglas, Rector of Hatherop and Diocesan Religious Inspector, has very kindly offered his help in the matter, and the Council trust that his example will be followed by others.

By arrangement with the British Record Society, six sheets of Gloucestershire *Inquisitions post-mortem* and indices of Gloucester wills are issued annually with the Society's *Transactions*. The importance of these records is fully realised by all students of local history and genealogy.

The excavations at Caerwent are being continued under the direction

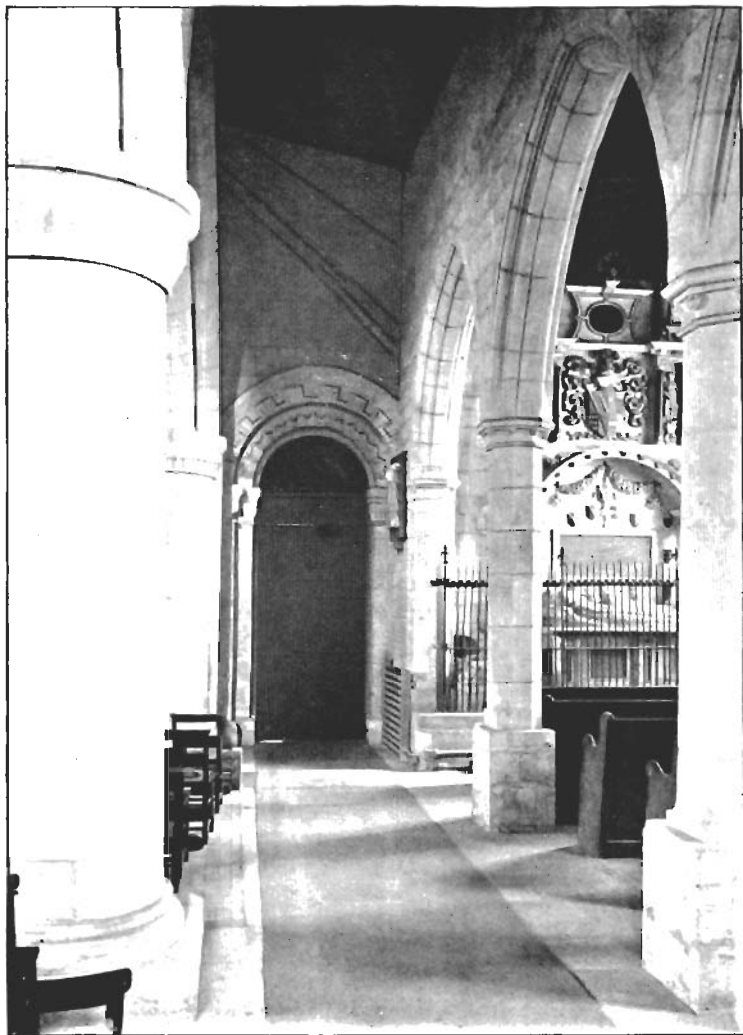


PLAN OF CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, BISHOP'S CLEEVE.



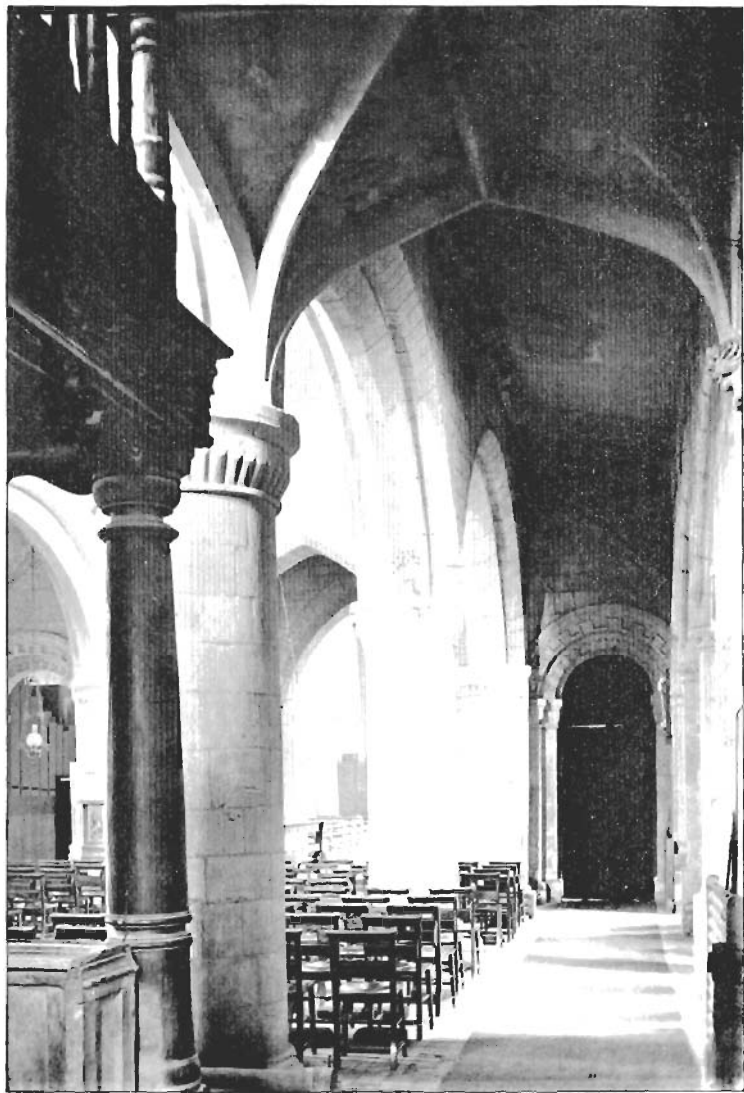
R. W. Dugdale, Photo.

NORMAN DOORWAY, CLEEVE CHURCH.



E. J. Neisinger, Photo.

SOUTH AISLE OF CLEEVE CHURCH



SOUTH AISLE OF CLEEVE CHURCH,
SHOWING WESTERN GALLERY OF NAVE.

of a committee consisting partly of members of this Society and Council and the sum of £10 has been contributed from the funds of this Society towards the expenses to be incurred this year. Two previous grants have been given.

The Council regret the loss by death of two of its members: of Mr. Waller, whose painstaking labours in connection with the repair of Gloucester Cathedral and of a large number of parochial churches extending over more than half a century needs only to be known to be appreciated; and of Mr. Godfrey Seys, who as Local Secretary at Chepstow has rendered very valuable assistance to the Society on several occasions.

The Council has held six meetings, three at Gloucester and three at Bristol, and desire to express their obligations to the Lord Mayor of Bristol for the use of the old Council Chamber and to the Guardians of the Poor for Bristol for the use of the old Court Room at St. Peter's Hospital.

The Council desire to nominate for election the Rev. A. W. Douglas as Local Secretary for Fairford, and the President of Council, the Vice-Presidents of the Society, the General Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Secretary for Bristol, and the Local Secretaries for re-election.

The following members of the Council retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election: The Rev. O. P. Wardell-Yarburgh, the Rev. W. Symonds, Dr. Oscar Clark, and Messrs. A. T. Martin, A. E. Hudd, F. Were, F. J. Cullis, A. C. Fryer, and St. Clair Baddeley.

On the motion of Colonel W. F. N. NOEL, seconded by Mr. W. M. LLEWELLYN, the report was adopted.

Colonel DUKE proposed the re-election of the Council for the ensuing year, with the addition of the name of Mr. McMURTRIE. This was seconded by Mr. E. J. SWANN, who thanked the Council for the great interest they had taken in the Bristol district.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. F. F. FOX for presiding at that meeting, and reference was made to the hard work he had put in on behalf of the Society, and his great interest in it.

Mr. F. F. FOX, in acknowledging the vote, thanked them for the support which they had given to the Council.

In proposing the Right Rev. Bishop Mitchinson as the president for the ensuing year, Mr. F. F. FOX said that he was the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and spoke of

his sincere and enthusiastic love for archæology. With his own hand he had photographed very many of the monastic buildings in the kingdom. He thought that under his leadership the Society would be greatly enriched by the learning he showed and the enthusiasm he would infuse into it. This was seconded by Mr. DYER EDWARDES and carried.

The president then proceeded to deliver his address, which is printed in this part of the *Transactions*.

Mr. DYER EDWARDES proposed a vote of thanks to the president for his address. Mr. J. J. SAWYER seconded the resolution, which was cordially adopted.

After lunch the members started in carriages for Badgworth, where they were received at the church by the vicar (the Rev. J. H. Hodges) and Major Selwyn Payne, while Mr. Prothero gave most helpful information about the church.

This church, which Rudder asserts is dedicated to St. Mary, but to which the dedication in the name of the Holy Trinity is also attributed, consists of a nave with porch and north chapel (St. Margaret's) and a chancel. As it stands, it is, with the exception of the chancel, mainly of fourteenth-century date, and it is conjectured that the head over the west window of the north chapel is that of Edward II., and the knight and lady near it those of Gilbert de Clare (d. 1314) and Maud, his wife.

The chief glory of the church consists in the windows and door of the north chapel, which are probably the most magnificent specimens of ball-flower ornament in existence. The flower itself is of the usual type, being like the little bells on a harness. The mouldings are of extreme richness. The present chancel replaces one which existed in the early sixties, and which was Georgian in character. There was no east window, and the east wall inside was covered from top to bottom by a large piece of tapestry representing Moses striking the rock (?), the removal of which from the church is much to be deplored. In front of it stood the old altar now in St. Margaret's Chapel.

An account of Badgworth and its church, by the late vicar, the Rev. A. W. Ellis, M.A., will be found in the *Transactions*, vol. xiii., pp. 63-68.

From Badgworth the party journeyed to Brockworth, where, under the guidance of the vicar (the Rev. J. H. Seabrook), the church was

inspected, while the Rev. S. E. Bartleet furnished those present with some particulars, both of the sacred edifice and the Court, which was also visited, by the kind permission of Mr. J. Priday.

The original church—or, it would be more accurate to say, the first church here of which anything survives—was consecrated about 1142, and of that there remain the two beautiful arches supporting the tower, and perhaps the font.

This church probably consisted of nave and chancel only; and the present plan, with its north isle and south chapel and porch, is an example of the development and wholesale alterations so commonly made in the fourteenth century. Before 1847 the tower had a very picturesque hipped roof of a type very common in Normandy and very rare in England. It seems, from the drawings that remain of it, to have surmounted a low tower, the windows of which had been altered in the fourteenth century.

The very curious cross in the churchyard seems to be the head of the churchyard cross. If so, it belongs to an earlier date than most of those that now remain, except perhaps in Cornwall.

An excellent paper on the parish and church of Brockworth, by the Rev. S. E. Bartleet, M.A., will be found in the *Transactions*, vol. vii., pp. 131-171.

The drive was then continued to Witcombe Park, where Mrs. Hicks-Beach kindly invited the party to tea. Here were to be seen a number of antiquities found during the excavations at the Roman villa some few years since. These included a bronze statue and various fibulæ, bone pins, pottery, and also from the same district a stone axe of the Neolithic period. A number of blue tapestries were also admired.

On the return journey a stop was made for a short time in order to afford a brief inspection of the Church of St. Mary, Great Witcombe, a little church which has not hitherto been noticed in the *Transactions* of the Society, but which has features of much interest.

It retains substantially its Norman nave and chancel, though the windows have been altered and enlarged. The north aisle was added in the fifteenth century; the arcade is of the same date. (This arcade, as so often happens, somewhat overshoots the older chancel wall. Did the builders intend to pull down and re-model the Norman church? Most likely. They were seldom influenced by feelings of veneration for the work of their predecessors.) The tower, containing six bells, is modern, replacing a wooden one with a spire.

The Norman chancel arch springs from very low pilasters. Across it the fifteenth-century builders put the customary rood-loft, perhaps reached by wooden steps (all attempts to find stone ones in the wall have hitherto failed).

The rood-beam¹ remains *in situ*, with mortices for the rood and figures of SS. Mary and John. On either side of this rood small windows were pierced in the wall behind it to light the loft, and the ceiling of one bay of the nave is specially ornamented to serve as a canopy to the loft, being separated from the rest of the roof by a very dainty little inverted brattishing.

A few fragments of old glass remain. The font, an ancient one from Lasborough, has lately been brought to the church by Mr. W. F. Hicks-Beach.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Oscar Clark for so kindly photographing the church.

Early on Wednesday members left Cheltenham in beautiful weather for Worcester, in order to visit the cathedral, which was for nearly nine centuries the mother church both of Bristol and of Gloucestershire east of the Severn. Moreover, apart from the ecclesiastical interest of the cathedral, there is much in the city itself which should have an especial interest, not merely for antiquaries, but also for historical students. No place suffered more considerably or frequently from civil wars and border feuds along the marches, but it prides itself on the loyal appellation of "The Faithful City," as it was the first in which a mayor proclaimed Charles II. at the Restoration. Arrangements had been made whereby on the arrival of the train a service of tramcars should convey the party to the cathedral, and as many of those present made their first acquaintance with Worcester, they were interested in watching the street spectacles along the route. The cathedral gave particular gratification, as, although the hand of the restorer is evident at many points, there are curious associations which are well worthy the attention of a learned body to trace.

When the party had assembled outside the cathedral, at the west end, the PRESIDENT (Bishop Mitchinson), proceeded to point out some of the details, remarking as he looked towards the great window that there was astonishingly little that required comment, as a great deal of what they saw was new. The present west window was new, and a great deal of the other work was new also. There was formerly no west door, as the great north door admitted the people who lived around to come and make their devotions. The monks obtained access to the cathedral through the cloisters. As they passed round the exterior of the building they would

¹ The survival of—

(1) Rood-beams is certainly not common.

(2) The cross very rare. I can only think of one doubtful instance.

(3) The figure of Christ very rare. There is one example which has served as a vestry poker, and another in the museum at Caerleon—a very interesting bit of history, for it was evidently broken under Edward VI., mended (not very skilfully) under Mary, and finally cast away under Elizabeth.

observe the nave was more or less Decorated, and the windows were Decorated. The choir was what it professed to be, Early English. The east end was a peculiarly beautiful composition, purely restoration or reconstruction. Still it was the east end of an Early English church, and he did not know that a better could have been evolved. The real interest of the exterior of Worcester Cathedral was when they got to the monastic buildings, which were on the south side, unlike Gloucester, where they were on the opposite side. The President then invited the party to walk round the building, remarking that they could use their own observation. They did not need a sermon from him at every turn, but in the cloisters he would draw their attention to what remained of the monastic buildings.

The main feature of the monastic buildings, the refectory, afforded scope for some interesting observations and suggestions. It is at present the King's School, and the President said they would be certain to like poking their noses inside, and he was certain the boys would welcome the intrusion. If his flock gave him permission he would act as the emissary, and ascertain if they might inspect the room. The Rev. W. O. Chappel, the head master of the school, expressed his pleasure at receiving the archæologists, who very much admired the singularly beautiful interior. The President explained that when Henry VIII. became possessed of the monastery he presented the refectory to the school, and it had been used as a school since. The oak panelling was new. In a few particulars furnished by the head master, he spoke of the destruction of some of the details, which might be due to Cromwell's soldiers, who were billeted there. The room was about the same date as Westminster Hall, and the lines were similar though smaller. The boys, who had been busy with their lessons when the archæologists entered, seemed diverted at the intrusion, which they no doubt considered to be a pleasant interruption to conjugations and inflections. To those of us who knew that Worcester is "Helstonleigh" of *The Channings*, the visit had a special interest.

In the cloisters Canon BAZELEY was the principal spokesman, pointing out the beautiful groining. The Jesse tree and its development, and our Lord's mother being crowned queen by the three Persons of the Trinity are the chief subjects. In the cloisters the attention of the visitors were arrested by the memorial stone with the sole inscription "Miserrimus," which probably covers the remains of a broken-hearted minor canon, a non-juror, who, losing his appointment for conscience sake, was reduced to poverty, and asked that "most miserable" should be the only reminder of his place of interment. The Chapter House was inspected, and soon after the Commandery (St. Wulstan's Hospital) was visited, this completing the programme before luncheon.

In the afternoon the party again repaired to the cathedral, now visiting the interior, with Canon Bazeley acting as guide. He had contributed

historical and descriptive notes of the edifice, and these were most helpful during the visit to the splendid interior.

After the victory of the Saxons at Dyrham in 577, the lower Severn vale was allotted by the conquerors to a people called the Hwiccas, who had taken a prominent part in its conquest.

Their territory appears to have extended from the Forest of Arden, in Warwickshire, to Bath; and from the Malvern Hills to Wychwood, beyond the Cotteswolds, in Oxfordshire.

For half a century they enjoyed more or less independence under the West Saxon kings; but after the accession of the heathen Penda in 626, of their own free will, or by conquest, their land became part of the great Mercian kingdom. If any Christianity existed here at that time it was the religion of British slaves, Thor and Woden were the gods of their Saxon masters; it was not until Penda was well stricken in years, or had been slain by Oswy at the Winwaed in 655, that missionaries from Northumbria and Iona were permitted to stir the smouldering embers of the true religion and claim the Mercian land once more for Christ.

We owe more than we have hitherto allowed to Oswy's grandson, Osric, whose dust sleeps at Gloucester in his chantry chapel by the high altar of the church of which he was the first founder. He it was who established mission centres in the Hwiccan land, where he ruled as viceroy under Ethelred his kinsman; and when, in 680, the Synod of Hedfield had parcelled out from Lichfield a new see in the Severn vale, he procured the election of Tatfrith, a pupil of the saintly Hilda, and fixed his bishop's stool at Hwiccan Ceaster. But Tatfrith died ere he could be consecrated, and Boisil, probably another monk of Whitby, was hallowed as the bishop by Theodore; again, when ten years later Boisil became infirm, St. Wilfrid laid his hands on Ofter, a third pupil of St. Hilda, and called him to rule as bishop at Worcester.

The cathedral where Boisil and Ofter served God with their "family" of monks was no doubt of wood, and as unpretending as the cathedral of one of our own missionary bishops in the far north-west of Canada, or in Mashonaland, south of the Zambesi.

It remained for St. Oswald, the friend and successor of St. Dunstan, in the See of Worcester, 950-992, to build a church of stone. The dedication of the earlier church, as at Gloucester, was to St. Peter. St. Oswald built his in honour also of our Lord's mother. Elsewhere the secular canons were forcibly dispossessed: under the gentler rule of Oswald the Worcester canons accepted the Benedictine rule and became monks.

Of Oswald's church no traces remain. Worcestershire was harried by the Danes in 1041, and the new church was given to the flames. Yet, phoenix-like, it rose once more and lasted till 1084, when Wulstan, the only

Saxon bishop who had retained his see under the Norman conquerors, commenced the erection of a third cathedral.

Of Wulstan's church there remains intact the beautiful crypt in which he held a synod of his clergy in 1092. As at Gloucester, this crypt gives us the form of the original church. It was cruciform, with a semicircular apse surrounded by an ambulatory. From the transepts extended eastward two chapels with crypts: the one on the south, with its richly-carved arch, is still preserved; the other on the north has been destroyed. Perhaps as at Gloucester there were projecting apsidal chapels; but these, if they existed, have been blocked up in comparatively modern times.

In 1088 Wulstan's church was sufficiently advanced to be consecrated. Perhaps the choir, the transept, and the cloisters were complete. The crypt below the refectory and the slype are of Wulstan's date.

Then during the rule of Wulstan's successors, as of Serlo's at Gloucester, the building of the nave went on without interruption, and as the twelfth century passed into middle life the style changed. The two western arcades and the vaulting of the west end of the south aisle are probably the work of Bishop Roger, son of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and a grandson of King Henry I. The chapter house, the western slype, and other work, mercifully preserved here and there for us by mediæval restorers, are good examples of Transitional Norman. The late twelfth-century builders used Bredon oolite, and the grey limestone from the trias beds at Higley in alternate courses. The effect is something like what we see at Pisa and Siena.

Wulstan died in 1094. More than a century later he was canonised by Innocent III. because works of healing were wrought at his tomb through faith in the sanctity of his relics. For many years pilgrims crowded to his shrine, and so great was the sum of their offerings that William de Blois, bishop from 1218-1236, was enabled to rebuild and transform the eastern limb in all its now restored beauty. Above and beyond the crypt he constructed a choir, north and south-eastern transepts and a lady chapel in the purest style of Early English, rich in sculptured foliage, in deeply cut mouldings and shafts of Purbeck marble. His successor, Walter de Cantelupe, 1237-1266, continued and completed the work; and their effigies, as indeed is fitting, lie in front of our Lady's altar in the midst of the beautiful work, which in itself would have been their lasting monument.

For awhile the Worcester builders laid aside their tools and rested: then in the reign of Edward II. the work began again. The seven eastern bays of the north arcade of the nave, and the north aisle were rebuilt in the Decorated style. The Guesten Hall, now alas! a ruin, was also finished. Then the architectural style changed once more: and Perpendicular, which we claim to have originated at Gloucester,

was used in the reconstruction of the seven eastern bays of the southern arcade of the nave and the completion of the triforium and clerestory of the third and fourth bays from the west on the north side; the refectory, now the college school, was rebuilt in 1372, the great central tower in 1374, and the vaulting of the nave was completed in 1377.

Henry Wakefield, who was bishop from 1375 to 1394 went on with the work of restoration and built the north porch. He was buried, as great builders are wont to be, in the nave which he had completed. The fabric had now attained its permanent form and beauty.

Many years later, in 1503, Arthur, Prince of Wales, died at Ludlow, and his father and his broken-hearted mother buried him at Worcester, erecting a chantry chapel, still beautiful, notwithstanding its desecration, and rich beyond the telling in figures of angels, saints, and kings, and in royal badges.

Had Arthur lived to be king instead of Henry, the subsequent history of England might have been altogether different. The time would have come in any case when the rule of a foreign potentate would have become unbearable to a free people, and societies of monks and nuns would have been dissolved or reformed, but at least we should have been spared the disgrace of Katharine's divorce; and a reformation of our national church would have been brought about under the influence of the "new learning" by gentler and purer methods.

For eight hundred and sixty years the closest connection existed between Worcester and that part of Gloucestershire which lies on the left bank of the Severn. In 1540 this connection was abruptly broken by Henry VIII.'s creation of a new see for Gloucester; and although, for a brief period, the two sees were reunited in the person of Bishop John Hooper, they were quickly severed again, to remain independent of one another to the present time, and probably for ever.

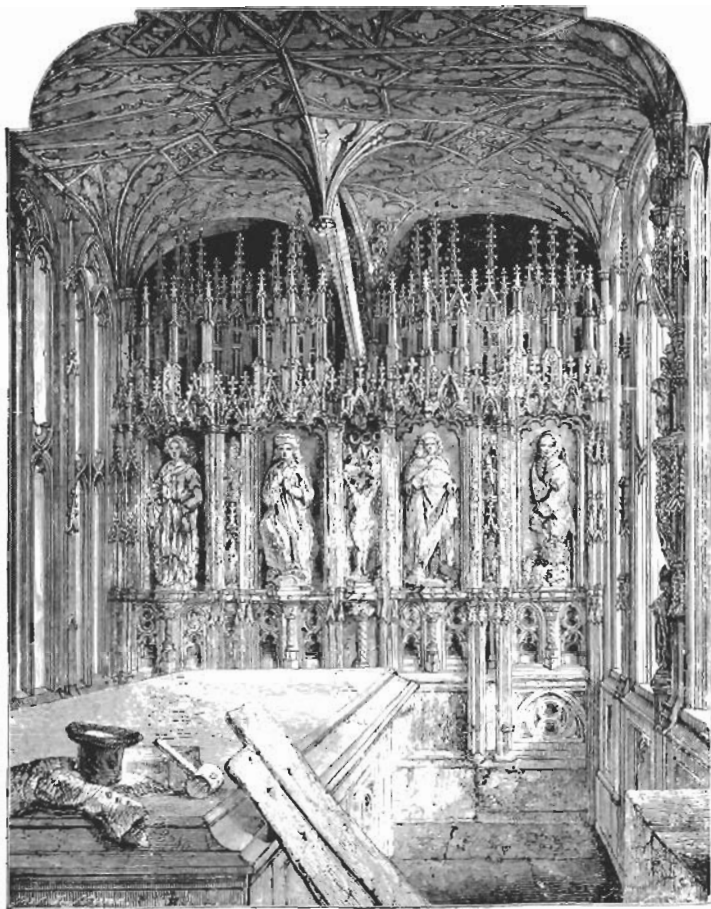
The importance of the episcopal registers, stored in the Edgar Tower at Worcester, to Bristol and Gloucestershire students of mediæval local history cannot be overrated. Surely the time has come when a branch society of our own should be formed to abstract and print from these registers all that relates to our own county.

The exterior of Worcester Cathedral, if we except the beautiful central late fourteenth-century tower, is plain and somewhat uninteresting. Half a century ago the walls were almost ruinous, and the sculptured figures time-worn beyond recognition. The princely generosity of the late Lord Dudley and the carefully repairing, nay, reconstructing hands of Perkins and Scott, the architects, have removed the unsightly accretions of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century botchers, and have given us back the sacred building as it was four hundred years ago. The great east and



Kindly lent by Mr. Murray.

TOMB OF KING JOHN.



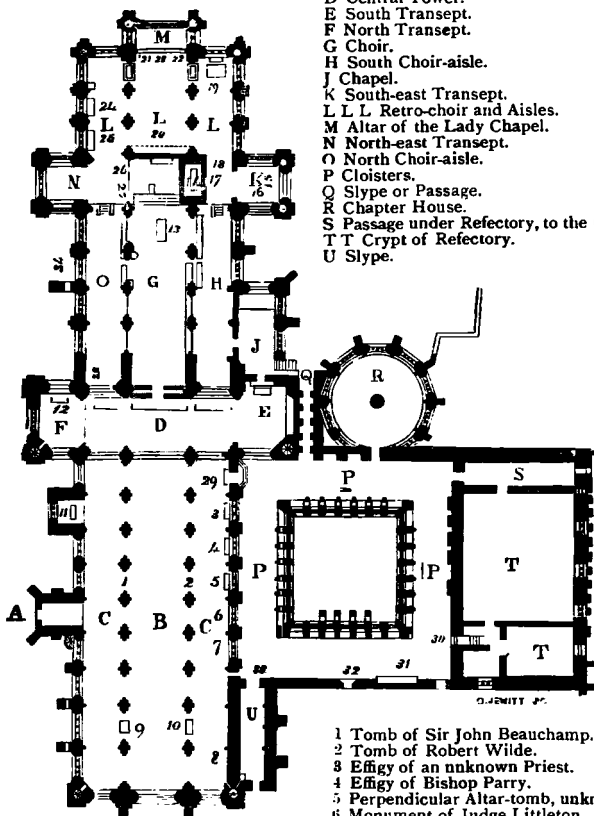
Kindly lent by Mr. Murray.

PRINCE ARTHUR'S CHAPEL.

GROUND-PLAN OF WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

REFERENCES.

- A North Porch.
- B Nave.
- C C Nave-aisles.
- D Central Tower.
- E South Transept.
- F North Transept.
- G Choir.
- H South Choir-aisle.
- J Chapel.
- K South-east Transept.
- L L L Retro-choir and Aisles.
- M Altar of the Lady Chapel.
- N North-east Transept.
- O North Choir-aisle.
- P Cloisters.
- Q Slype or Passage.
- R Chapter House.
- S Passage under Refectory, to the Close.
- T T Crypt of Refectory.
- U Slype.

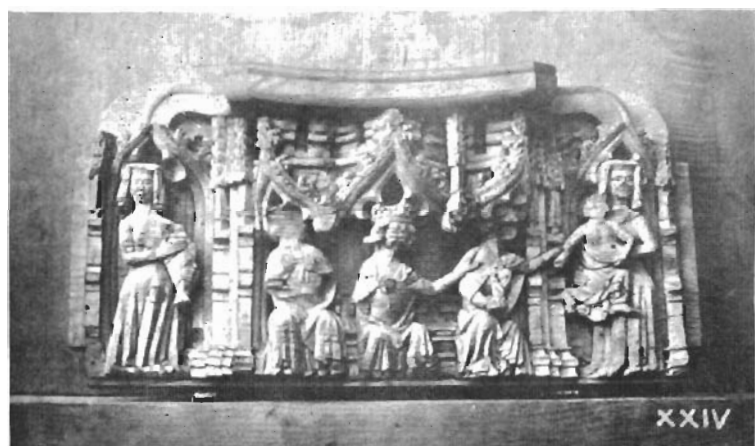


- 9 Monument of Bp. Thornborough.
- 10 Monument of Dean Eedes.
- 11 Monument of Bp. Bullingham.
- 12 Monument of Bp. Hough.
- 13 Tomb of King John.
- 14 Chantry Chapel of Prince Arthur.
- 15 Effigy of Sir William de Harcourt.
- 16 High Tomb of Sir Gryffyth Ryce.
- 17 Effigy of Bp. Giffard.
- 18 Effigy of Audela de Warren.
- 19 Effigy of an unknown Lady.
- 20 Effigy of Abbot Philip de Stafford.
- 21 Effigy of Bp. William de Blois.

- 22 Effigy of Bp. Walter de Cantilupe.
- 23 Effigy of Bp. Brian (?).
- 24 Effigy of an unknown Lady.
- 25 Effigy of an unknown Knight.
- 26 Effigy of Bp. Cobham.
- 27 Effigy of Bp. Bransford.
- 28 Monument of Bp. Maddox.
- 29 Prior's Entrance to Cloisters.
- 30 Entrance to Refectory.
- 31 Lavatory.
- 32 Entrance to Dormitory.
- 33 Monks' Door to Cloisters.
- 34 Entrance to Crypt.

Scale of 100ft. to 1in.

Kindly lent by Mr. Murray.



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL MISERERES.

west windows, the north and south windows of the transepts, and many more are quite modern, but none the less pleasing to an unprejudiced eye.

We enter by the north porch, and a pleasing vista of columns, arches, and vaulting in well-nigh every style of Gothic architecture, yet harmoniously combined, greets the fortunate visitor.

The nave consists of nine bays, the two westernmost are Transitional Norman, the remaining seven on the north Decorated, on the south Early Perpendicular. The vaulting of the south aisle near the west is late twelfth century, the rest late fourteenth. The south wall with its semi-circular headed blank arches is Norman, and is a relic of the early twelfth-century builders. The removal of the stone screen and of the organ which rested on it is an example which we might well follow at Gloucester. The days are past when the view of the eastern limb should be thus obstructed.

The nave is rich in monuments of ancient men of note, ecclesiastical and lay. The plan so kindly lent to us by Mr. Murray from his unsurpassed *Handbook to Western Cathedrals* shows us their position and tells us whose they are.

We pass into the transepts, and here are quaintly blended in the walling the marks of successive changes: the Early Norman, to be recognised by the uncoursed rubble work; the Transitional by the ashlar or alternating courses, green and white; the Early English by the broken trefoil heads of an arcade high up on the western wall, and the Perpendicular facing by the frequent use of red sandstone.

The crypt, with its forest of columns and its innumerable stilted arches, consisted originally of central nave divided into four walks or gangways, and a double ambulatory. The eastern part of the ambulatory has been blocked by sepulchral vaults, and it is impossible to ascertain whether it had apsidal chapels or not. Moreover, several of the arches are now filled with solid masonry, as at Gloucester, to support the superstructure of the choir. The general effect, however, is very pleasing, and has been likened to that of the Moorish mosque at Cordova. The eastern limb of the cathedral is uniformly Early English, but evidences are forthcoming that the base of the great Perpendicular central tower, reconstructed about 1374, is Norman.

As we enter the south aisle of the choir from the transept we detect Norman or Transitional work on either side. The Chapel of St. John the Baptist, restored by Lord Beauchamp in 1895, was transformed from Norman into Early English by the early thirteenth-century builders, but its crypt was preserved intact.

The choir is of five wide bays with octagonal piers and detached Purbeck shafts. The brass rings surrounding some of these shafts were given by Bishop Giffard, 1268-1301. He was a member of the

Gloucestershire family who took such a leading part in the civil war between Henry III. and the barons. His effigy, and the effigy of a kinswoman of his, a daughter of Lord Giffard of Brimpsfield, lie below the chantry chapel of Prince Arthur, on its south side. The choir fittings are for the most part modern, but the original fourteenth-century misereres remain, forming a most interesting set of thirty-seven subjects.

In the centre of the presbytery, on a sixteenth-century altar-tomb, lies the effigy of King John, the earliest regal effigy in England. When he was dying at Newark Castle, in 1216, John besought those around him that his body might be laid between the shrines of St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, at Worcester. He hoped that notwithstanding his sins his body might be unmolested by the evil one when thus protected. At the Reformation the commissioners of Henry destroyed the shrines and buried the bones of the saints, leaving the king's tomb standing alone, but intact. Mr. Murray has very kindly lent the Society the illustration of King John's tomb, which forms a second frontispiece to his *Handbook*, and also a beautiful sketch of Prince Arthur's Chapel, looking eastward. We gladly acknowledge his courtesy, with many thanks. The figure of King John is now gaudy with gilt, but originally the robes were coloured appropriately. As, however, the tombs of monarchs are held to be royal property, certain officials, acting in the name of the late Queen about forty years ago, substituted the gilt grandeur. Mr. Dauncy, of Gloucester, produced a pamphlet in which the original state of the effigy was described.

The hagiology of Prince Arthur's Chapel deserves careful study. It is said that the larger figures at the east end, including St. George and perhaps St. Edward, St. Edmund and Henry VI., were damaged by the soldiers of Cromwell after the Battle of Worcester; but Green thinks that they were nearly covered with plaster and the projecting parts broken off in the time of Elizabeth to form a level surface for the queen's arms. Poor Oliver has had more than his meed of blame; it is quite unfair to make him responsible for all the barbarities of the ages which preceded and succeeded the Civil War as well as for his own.

In the north aisle of the choir there is a small oriel window which once gave light to the sacrist's lodging.

The arcading of the eastern transepts and lady chapel is very beautiful, the sculptures being most quaint. The subjects in the south-eastern transept are somewhat appalling: Death, Purgatory, Resurrection, Judgment, Hell. Elsewhere they are more mundane: a queen instructing an architect, a bishop [probably William de Blois] making an offering of a church, and many strange birds and reptiles.

The tombs in this part of the church, ancient and modern, are many of them very fine, but some confusion has been caused by the restorers removing them from their original position.

The walls of the cloisters are Norman. Perpendicular vaulting was substituted for the original Norman wooden roof about 1372. The carved bosses are very fine, especially in the south walk. On one is depicted the coronation of the Virgin by the Holy Trinity; and a long string of kings, with foliage, seems to form a Jesse tree or genealogical table of our Lord's ancestors.

The western slype is a fine example of Transitional Norman architecture, and is of the same date as the adjoining part of the nave of the church.

The lavatory is in the west cloister walk, where also was the dormitory or dorter. The fine refectory or frater, on the south side of the cloisters, is now used as a college school. There is a fine Norman doorway leading into College Green at the south-east angle of the cloister. In the east walk are doorways leading into the chapter house and the eastern slype. In the north walk, on a stone seat, is a time-worn effigy, said to represent Alexander Neckam, the famous abbot of Cirencester, who wrote treatises on the Mariner's Compass, Chess, the Silkworm, &c.

Over this walk is a long room containing the cathedral library and numerous fragments of ancient sculpture.

The gateway now known as Edgar's Tower has, of course, no connection with that king. It was the great gate of the priory.

The Commandery, in Sidbury, was formerly the Hospital of St. Wulstan, founded about 1085, the master of which was called the "Commander." It was the headquarters of the royal army during the siege, and the Duke of Hamilton died here.

In the corn market is a house in which tradition says Charles II. took refuge after the Battle of Worcester. It bears the motto—

"FEARE GOD. DONOR DE TRUAE."

The following works on Worcester may be referred to: "Murray's *Handbook to the Western Cathedrals*"; Professor Willis's article in the *Arch. Journal*, xx., pp. 83, 255, and 301; F. Bond's *English Cathedrals Illustrated*, George Newnes Ltd.; E. F. Strange's *Worcester*, in George Bell's series; Green's *History of Worcester*, &c.

Some of the members of the Society remained in the choir for evensong, and admired the work carried out some years ago by Earl Dudley.

At night there was a conversazione in the Town Hall, Cheltenham. A short address on the "Early History of Cheltenham" was given by Mr. John Sawyer, followed by a most interesting lantern lecture on the miserere seats at Worcester and Gloucester by Dr. Oscar W. Clarke, of Gloucester.

Early on Thursday morning members and friends assembled at the parish church of St. Mary, where they were received by the rector (Canon

Roxby), who invited Mr. J. Sawyer to make some remarks on the history and architecture of the building, and he told a most interesting story.

It is in connection with a church that Cheltenham first appears on the written page of history. At a council held at Cloveshoe in 803 there was a dispute between Deneberht, Bishop of Worcester, and Wulfheard, Bishop of Hereford, respecting the food-rent from estates belonging to a minster at Cheltenham; and Deneberht substantiated his claim by proof that his predecessors had received the food-rent thirty years previously. A church therefore existed in Cheltenham in 773, or about two centuries after the Battle of Dyrham opened the way into Gloucestershire for the tread of English feet.

The next glimpse we get of a church in Cheltenham is in the Domesday Record: "King Edward held Chinteneham . . . One hide and a half belongs to the church. Reinbald holds it . . . The priest has two plough teams." Reinbald was one of the favourites of the Confessor, and had come to England with his royal master when, on the death of Harthacnut, England was tired of foreign rulers and, in the language of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, "all folk chose Edward to King." On the death of Reinbald, a portion of his inheritance became the property of the church at Cirencester, wherein, according to Leland, he was buried. In 1117 Henry I. enlarged the church and conventual buildings at Cirencester, and converted the College into an Abbey, which he endowed with "all the estate of Reinbald the priest, in lands and churches, and . . . the church of Cheltenham, with the land thereof, and the mill, and the chapels, and all other appurtenances to the said church belonging."

With this royal grant of the Rectory of Cheltenham to Cirencester Abbey the history of the existing church at Cheltenham begins. For Norman work we must look at the two ends of the nave. Except the doorway and window the west end is part of the original edifice. The billet-pattern string-course and the flat, plain buttresses are characteristic Norman work. So too are the piers of the crossing, with their square abaci, crudely-fashioned capitals, and shallow bases. The width and position of the buttresses at the west end of the nave show that in the Norman buildings there were north and south aisles, which, however, were widened in the fourteenth century.

Only two years after Cirencester Abbey was consecrated William of Sens was rebuilding the choir of Canterbury Cathedral in the Early English style. The builders at Cheltenham seem to have felt the influence of the coming Gothic development, for in the lower portion of the tower, particularly in the east and west arches of the crossing, we see the style which English church builders began to adopt after the Romanesque had been in use for nearly a hundred years. The use of the pointed arch for constructional purposes led to its adoption for windows,

and one variety of this design is seen in the windows of the tower immediately above the roofs of the main building. Early in the thirteenth century, when it was completed, the church consisted of the present nave and transepts, two narrow aisles, a chancel, and a tower and steeple.

Scarcely had the work been finished when a rebuilding began, possibly prompted by the architectural zeal which in the latter part of the thirteenth century was, among other places, finding expression in the Franciscan and Dominican Friaries being planted at Gloucester. The nave and aisles, with the solitary exception of the western wall of the nave, were pulled down, as also was the steeple, then little more than a pyramidal roof. The nave arcades were reconstructed upon exactly the old lines, which were determined by the west wall and the untouched piers of the crossing. The aisles were considerably widened, nearly obliterating the cruciform plan of the church by diminishing the projection of the transepts. The upper stage of the tower was altered, and on it was placed the present spire. Whether or not any alteration was made in the chancel it is impossible to say. In all its main features, therefore, the church to-day is the church of six hundred years ago.

The windows of the church are of great variety and beauty. The Lancet style is seen in the lower stage of the tower, where over two separate lights there is a continuous hood-moulding or dripstone. The form of tracery known as Late Geometrical was used when the lighting of the newly-built nave and enlarged aisles was begun. The west window of the north aisle is a fine example of reticulated tracery; the large window over the west door has intersecting tracery, and so also have the two windows in the east wall of the south transept, where, however, the foliage is different in character. Before the lighting of the church had far proceeded, the Late Geometrical style was supplanted by the Curvilinear, of which the most noteworthy example is the rose window in the east wall of the north transept. The transition of window tracery from the Flowing to the Perpendicular is illustrated in two windows which are exactly alike—the east window of the chancel and the west window of the south aisle. Both windows are excellent examples of a style which combines richness of tracery with ample space for that display of painted glass which Fergusson regards as the important formative principle of Gothic architecture.

The sacarium or piscina, of which an illustration is given, is Decorated in style as late perhaps as the middle of the fourteenth century.

The latest addition to the church during the four great periods of ecclesiastical architecture was the north porch, which is in the Perpendicular style, with lierne vaulting ornamented with the Tudor-flower.

Over the porch is a room which may have been a parvise or room for the priest.

With the dissolution of Cirencester Abbey, the church at Cheltenham passed into the possession of the Crown, and with it property recorded as worth £90 a year, and the value of which may have been much larger.

In 1598 Queen Elizabeth leased the rectory and church at Cheltenham and the chapel at Charlton Kings, with all the property belonging thereto, to Francis Bacon, for forty years, on payment of £75 13s. 4d. a year to the Crown, with an obligation to support two priests and two deacons to celebrate divine service in the said church and chapel, and also "to find bread and wine for the Sacrament and all other necessaries for the celebration of divine worship." A sub-lessee was found in a Mrs. Badger, who persistently refused to carry out the covenants into which Bacon had entered, and the end of a long dispute was an arbitrator's order that £40 a year should be paid to the minister at Cheltenham and a like sum to the minister at Charlton Kings. It was stated in the course of the proceedings that the rectory was worth £600 a year; and from the description of the property as set out in the lease to Bacon it is certain that had the property remained in the hands of the church the endowments of the livings in Cheltenham and Charlton Kings would to-day amount to several thousand pounds a year.

An able paper by the late J. H. Middleton, F.S.A., on the Manor and Parish Church at Cheltenham will be found in the *Transactions*, vol. iv., pp. 53-72, with a ground plan opposite page 57.

As the party passed round the interior Mr. Sawyer pointed out different features, one of which was the long-winded appreciation of Captain Skillicorne upon a mural tablet, certainly the most lengthy eulogium of the kind to be found in any church. In the course of the praise lavished upon the deceased it was stated: "He could do business in seven tongues; he was of great regularity and probity, and so temperate as never to have been once intoxicated." When the party were outside the church, Mr. Sawyer directed attention to some old epitaphs in the churchyard, one to John Higgs, famed for killing pigs, and another to John Payne, blacksmith. He said the oft-quoted lines—

"Here I lies with my two daughters,
All through drinking the Cheltenham waters:
If we had stuck to Epsom salts
We shouldn't be lying in these here vaults"

did not appear upon any tombstone, but were simply a wicked reflection upon the merits of the local waters, and their alleged curative properties.

The vehicles were drawn up near St. George's Hall, High Street, and having entered them, the company enjoyed a ride by way of the

Tewkesbury Road to Tredington, where the church of St. John the Baptist was inspected.

A description of this church, by the Rev. J. Green, appears in the *Transactions*, vol. xiv., p. 203. Consisting of a simple nave and chancel, it preserves its original twelfth-century plan unaltered, masonry of that period appearing both at the east and west ends, and the only addition being the south porch. It has, however, this peculiarity, that while the nave inside is some three feet wider than the chancel, outside there is, on the south side, no break. The walling of the nave is superior to that of the chancel, and this alone has a plinth. The east end has a gable, of finer masonry than the wall below, set back.

With the exception of one in the south wall of the chancel, all the original windows have been altered in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, but the two doorways remain, that on the south side having two orders with chevron ornament, and a label mould ending in dragons' heads. The tympanum of the north door is a very fine example of the date, having three strongly-carved figures, the centre one seated and holding a pastoral crook, the other two kneeling and holding books; this represents, no doubt, the Saviour throned in majesty, and angels in adoration. The rood-beam remains over the chancel arch, with the cavity in the centre for the insertion of the crucifix.

The interior of the church has many interesting features. The belfry is supported on timber framing standing on supports within the church. The woodwork of the seats retains the solid bench-ends of the fifteenth century, with panels of the seventeenth, on which appear initials but no date. To the same period belong the altar and the pulpit panels, and perhaps the rails; also probably the curious plaster ceiling adorned with heads, roses, oak leaves, lilies, etc.

The walls having been entirely stripped retain no trace of decoration. The low chancel arch of the twelfth century remains, and above it, at the level of the wall plate, a beam which seems to have supported the rood. A vertical groove in the wall may be connected with this.

Of the more ancient fittings nothing remains except a chest and two fragments of glass, one on the north side of the chancel, in good order, with a conventional king's head of the fourteenth century. There is an aumbry in the east wall—a not uncommon feature in this neighbourhood.

The churchyard cross, with its very tall and slender stem, also follows a local type. (Cf. Ripple.)

Considerable time was spent in examining the interesting church. Nor were the secular associations of the neighbourhood forgotten, on the opposite side of the road being a substantial building in which Edward IV. lodged the night before the eventful Battle of Tewkesbury.

A short drive brought the archæologists to the primitive-looking church

at Stoke Archer, not the least agreeable feature in the ride being the essentially rural aspect of the district, and it would have been no difficult effort to carry the mind back and imagine that the country presented much same aspect many centuries ago.

The church was carefully described and illustrated by the late Rev. J. L. Petit, whose notes and drawings appear in the *Transactions*, vol. xiv., p. 20. It is only necessary now to call attention to one or two points.

1. In plan and architectural features the church is one of the least changed in the county, being very nearly as its original builders left it. It retains four of its narrow round-headed windows, much of its Norman chancel arch, a very early piscina, and a fine carved font.

A few of the windows were altered in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and the east wall has been rebuilt, otherwise it is *qualis ab initio*.

2. The church has been much plastered within and without. Inside there are, as usual, many successive coats, concealing, and in some cases preserving, a *most* interesting series of wall paintings of various dates. Of these, in the present condition of the church, it is impossible to say much at present, but the design on the west wall is a remarkably fine one; the dignified figure of our Lord seated sideways, with one hand raised in benediction, suggests the coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; if so, the rest of the subject is on the other side of the window. Another figure is partly uncovered, and the background is powdered with stars. In other places various rich patterns appear, and it is plain that here, as elsewhere, the church has gone through successive periods of decoration and destruction, the latest attempt to adorn it being by texts (Commandments), with an ornamental frame in what was evidently the usual and common-sense place, *i.e.* on one of the walls of the nave. Here also the rood-beam remains, and there are some good old oak benches.

The next stopping-place was Bishop's Cleeve, and here luncheon was served in the tithe barn by permission of the rector (the Rev. T. Jesson). Mr. F. F. Fox presided, and after luncheon he said it had been proposed to have the next summer meeting of the Society at Bristol. That was not finally settled, and he asked that they should leave it to the Council to make the arrangements for the meeting. This proposition was agreed to.

Canon BAZELEY proposed the customary votes of thanks. He first mentioned Colonel Noel and Miss Noel at the Great House, North Nibley, who welcomed them at the spring meeting. He remarked when they were received as on that occasion, when they had very muddy shoes, and were made welcome and were pressed to stay till their brakes were ready to start, they must all feel grateful for such hospitality. They had now to thank the Mayor and Corporation of Cheltenham for affording them the use of the new Town Hall, and he congratulated the town upon the



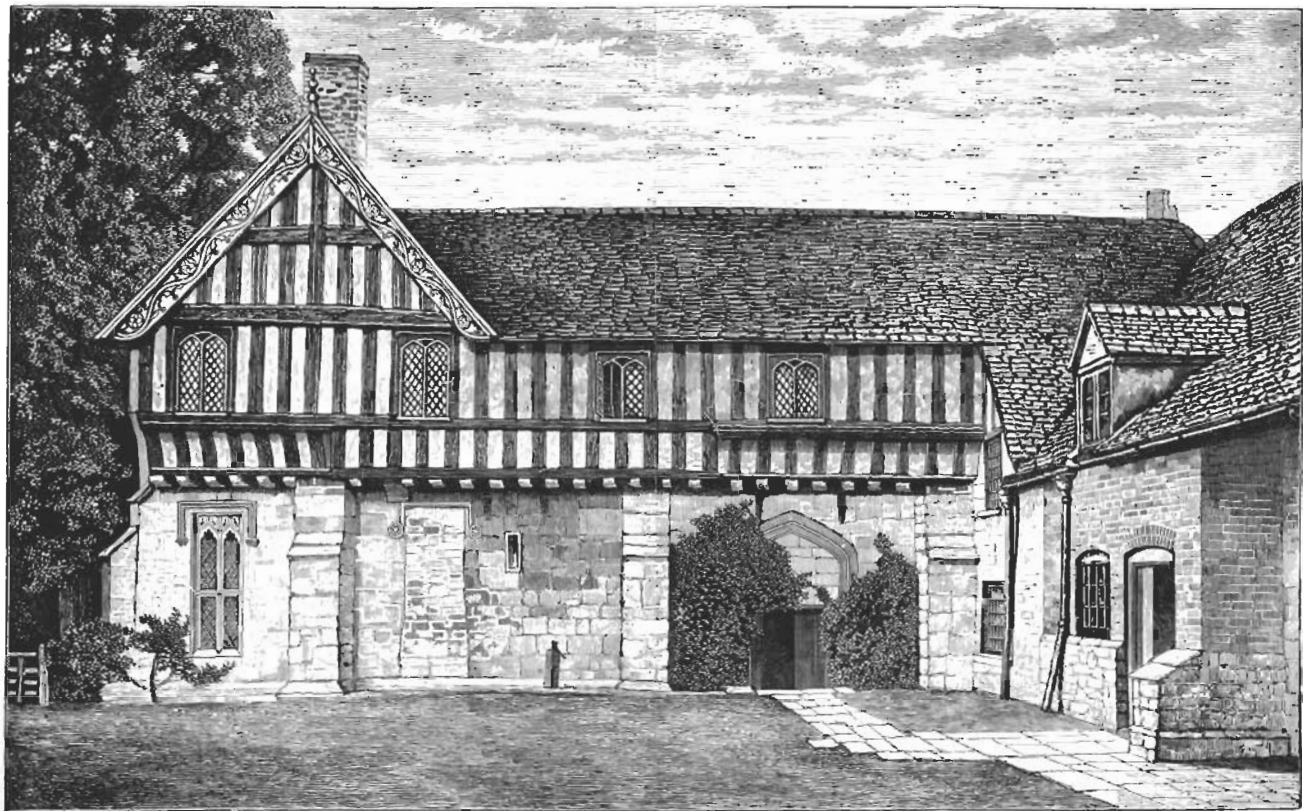
E. J. Neinger, Photo.

NORTH CHAPEL, BADGWORTH.

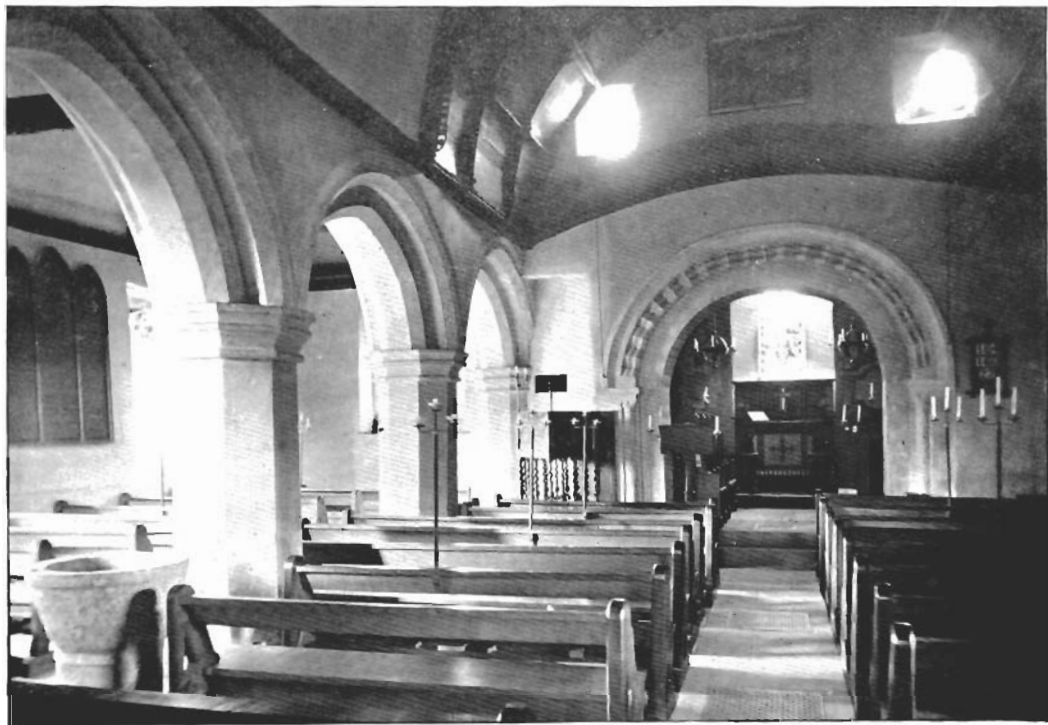


E. J. Neisinger, Photo.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BROCKWORTH.

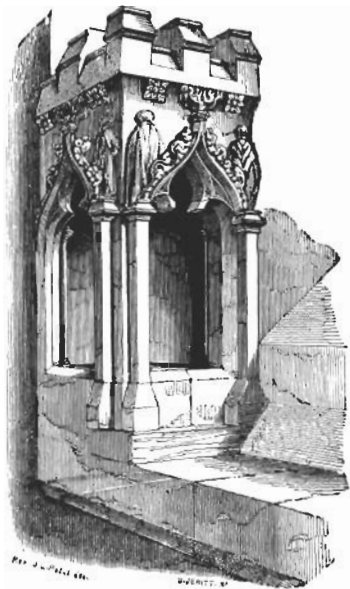


BROCKWORTH COURT.



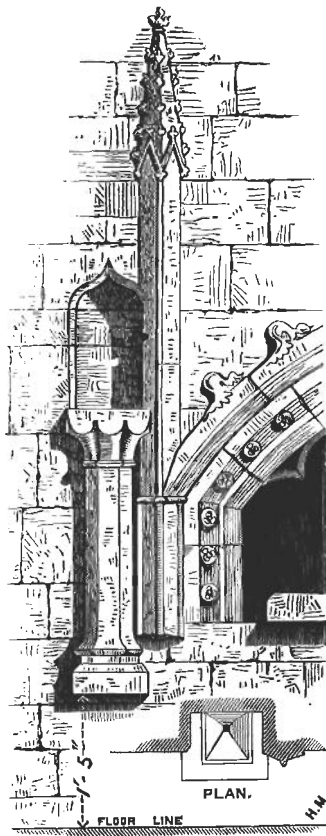
Oscar W. Clark, M.B., Photo.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WITCOMBE.



PISCINA.

ST. MARY'S, CHELTENHAM.



PISCINA.
BISHOP'S CLEEVE.



From a Drawing by J. W. Pettit.

STOKE ORCHARD CHURCH.



Col. Routh, Photo.

SOUTHAM DELABERE CHAPEL.

possession of so fine a building. They thanked Mrs. Hicks-Beach and Mrs. Ratcliff for the afternoon tea they provided. They must not forget those who made the arrangements for the meeting, and they desired to recognise the efforts of Mr. Prothero and Mr. Currie, and especially the latter, who had done much of the work pertaining to a local secretary for the Society.

The resolution was carried, and Mr. CURRIE briefly responded.

A move was then made in the direction of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, of which the main architectural features were described by Mr. PROTHERO, who also most kindly provided the following description of the growth and present condition of this noble church.

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, BISHOP'S CLEEVE.

This large and stately church, one of the most interesting in the county, was described in the *Transactions*, vol. iv., pp. 248-269, by the late J. Henry Middleton, in a paper which was (like everything else he wrote) accurate and exhaustive. A plan was given, which is here reproduced, and it is the purpose of these notes—

(a) Merely to recapitulate the dates, etc., of the plan.

(b) To point out some features which in the condition of the church in 1879 Dr. Middleton had no means of discovering, or could only guess at.

(a) As the plan shows, the dates of the existing church are as follows :—

Twelfth century. The west end with its turrets, part of the nave arcade, the south porch, the north transept, part of the base of the tower with the arches on either side of it, and the west wall of the south transept.

Fourteenth century. The north aisle, the west buttress, the south chapel, most of the south transept, and the whole of the chancel.

Fifteenth century. Fan vaulting and window in south aisle.

Seventeenth century. The very beautiful, and now perhaps unique, west gallery.

1700 A.D. The tower, which replaces one which fell in 1696, and was surmounted (according to Rudder) by a spire. Also probably the somewhat ungainly arches of the nave arcade, and part of the walling over them.

The twelfth-century church consisted of the nave, two narrow aisles, a central tower, probably lower than the present one, and surmounted by a spire, two transepts, and a chancel of unknown length, but shorter no doubt than the present one.

The nave remains, but altered, as will be explained later. The magnificent porch, with its parvise over, is intact; and the west end of the south aisle with its original window is unaltered. The north transept and

part of the south transept are of the same period, and retain the Norman arches leading into the aisles. Over these arches the weathering of the old aisle roofs is visible, marking the original width on either side. The fine west front, with its two lofty pinnacles surmounting staircases, is intact, except that the window is a fourteenth-century insertion. Of the fittings of that period there survives a piscina on a little column in the south transept.

In the fourteenth century very important alterations were made. The aisles were pulled down, the north aisle made very wide, and the south aisle rearranged and added to, its original outer wall being marked by a very graceful arcade with slender shafts and ball-flower ornament on the capitals, and beyond that a south chapel or outer aisle. Part of the south transept was rebuilt, and the whole of the chancel, a long aisleless conventual choir, which remains practically unaltered.

In the fifteenth century not very much was done. The windows in the south chapel are of that date, also the beautiful but insecure piece of fan vaulting put up to serve as a floor to the enlarged parvise. This is a bold and rather reckless bit of construction; until lately it was supported on a wooden pole resting on the gallery, which it split from top to bottom, and it is now stirruped up in a very modern way with iron from the back.

The sixteenth century one may pass over in silence. Nothing was put in, but much was taken out. Altar, screens, rood, figures, glass, paintings, everything that could be broken or sold disappeared, and this church has no trace (or only one dubious one) of the partial revival of care and decency in the later years of Elizabeth.

To the seventeenth century (probably Charles I.'s time) belongs the magnificent gallery—one of the most beautiful examples of Jacobean work in the country. Unhappily in the days of the Gothic revival most of the fine work of the Stuart period fell a victim to misplaced zeal and disappeared: one must be the more thankful for what remains.

In 1696 the tower and spire fell down. Why they fell down in this case it is difficult to see. They often did fall down, but that was because the fourteenth-century people opened out such big arches into the transepts that the tower, losing its supports, collapsed. (If the tower of St. Mary's, Cheltenham, had come down one would not be surprised; but here there was no such change to account for the fall.)

The tower was rebuilt in 1700—lofty and not without dignity, but with rough detail. It seems probable, unless there is documentary evidence to the contrary, that this was the time when a very unfortunate alteration was made in the nave. The alternate pillars were removed, leaving only two out of five on each side, and with them the original round arches with chevron ornament. Instead were inserted the sprawling and shapeless

arches we now see. The springing of the original arches is now visible, the plaster being removed, at the east and west ends of the arcade.

Of the roofs not much need be said. They were much decayed and covered with plaster and paper, and the whole of them let in water freely before the church was repaired. The north aisle roof was put there in Charles II.'s time (1671).

The roof of the Delabere aisle is a fifteenth-century roof, of very good design; as much of it as did not fall to bits is still there, mended and re-loaded.

That is the story of the actual fabric. Now for a word or two about its contents.

1. First, the altars. Of these there were six. The conventual high altar was at the end of the choir under the east window; it was pulled down under Edward VI. or Elizabeth and the present marble slab was put up in 1794.

The parish altar was in front of the rood-loft, west of the tower, the space under the tower and the two transepts serving as a passage from the parochial to the conventual church.

Each transept contained one altar under its east wall, and there were two more at the east ends of the aisles: of that on the northern side, now replaced by a modern one, there remains the ornamental cornice above the dossal and the footpace; the southern is wholly eclipsed by the Delabere monument. How many of them there are at the present moment in the church one cannot feel sure,¹ but probably three, besides the two modern ones.

2. The pews at the bottom of the church are of the fifteenth century, and no doubt stood farther eastward.

3. Very few fragments of painted glass escaped. In the south aisle are a few scraps, and there are some more waiting to go back in their old places in the north aisle: among these are remains of a figure playing a harp.

4. There are three important monuments—

(a) A cross-legged knight in the south transept of the latter part of Henry III.'s reign. Mr. Hartshorne points out that the whole of the mail has been stamped upon the stone surface in gesso, which is an unusual treatment.

(b) Then inside the rails of the Delabere monument there is a recumbent effigy of a lady. It is admirable for its dignity and fine draping; but Mr. Hartshorne, who puts it down to the time of Henry VII., rather quarrels with her clothes, and says she wears "a loose and badly-arranged wimple, a degenerate descendant of the beautiful folded facecloth

¹ The altar slabs were commonly buried in the pavement face downwards, and thus used as tombstones, the inscription being on the back. One of these at Cleeve is face upwards.

and kerchief of the fourteenth century." However that may be, she is a beautiful little figure.

- (c) Lastly, there is the magnificent Delabere monument, not only a fine piece of decoration, such as so often appeared in our churches under the Stuarts, but the figures are admirably sculptured, the lady's face being especially good.

Now about the wall-paintings. There is not very much to show, for when a church has been allowed to become rotten and ruinous it is luck indeed if any of its wall decoration survives.

The earliest painting here is in the splay of the Norman window, in the west wall of the south transept, which can be seen from the vestry. It was walled up, and when we took out the filling, two if not three layers of painted decoration came to light. The Norman churches, both here and in France, were painted over with what one can only call sham masonry lines, with a little pattern in the middle of each stone. This window splay was so treated: it was very dull, and people soon wanted something better, so over it a fine bold plant is drawn in strong, effective black lines. There is also a small crowned head.

In the north transept we removed the filling-in of what proved to be a recessed arch, and at the back, forming the reredos of the altar, we found a painting of the crucifixion, with St. Mary and St. John, St. John the Baptist, and a king—probably Offa. The drawing is rude, and no scale is observed, but the colour is simple and effective.

The north wall of the aisle was a mass of painting; but as it was unluckily dangerous and had to be partly rebuilt, it was possible only to save scraps. There is a curious design with fish or eels; over it were eighteenth-century commandments, of which one wishes some part had been preserved; and there is still a scrap of sixteenth or seventeenth-century decorative bordering left in one place.

Lastly, in the parvise are the curious drawings on the walls, whereby the village schoolmaster of one hundred years ago instructed the children of the parish. His name was Sperry, and he deserves mention as a pioneer of the system of teaching by the eye.

The arrangements of the north transept are curious: the winding staircase in the north-east corner must have led to a gallery passing over the altar to the rood-loft; and opposite is a remarkable staircase leading to the belfry, made of solid log steps, with a fine panelled balustrade. A very ancient log chest is also in this transept.

In its long career this noble church has suffered in various ways, not only from the havoc done by the spoiler and fanatic, and the utter neglect of later ages, but also one must admit from the scamping of the ancient builders. To the absence of proper foundations was probably due the fall of the tower, and certainly the dangerous inclination of the west

front; while the decay of the fourteenth-century north wall must be ascribed to the heterogeneous stuff (a coffin *inter alia*) of which its core was composed.

It is to be noted that the old marble altar slab is still in use on a new frame.

The company then made their way to the chapel at Southam Delabere, which is a small building, so that when the party had taken their seats they proved a crowded congregation.

The chapel and Pigeon House Farm form a charming group. The former, notwithstanding very considerable alterations made by the late Lord Ellenborough when it was restored for public worship, retains its original form and a great deal of its twelfth-century masonry.

Of the windows, that in the north wall of the chancel alone remains unaltered, with a curious ornament over it. A fine old door survives, and the chapel contains four stalls of Renaissance design, and two good pictures—one of the Flemish school—both representing the legend of St. Veronica.

The Pigeon House Farm is partly a fourteenth-century building, with mullioned windows of that date, partly a later half-timbered house. The tithe barn is a fine example of timber construction, with stone ends and low walls supporting the framing. The little building to the east of it has a small fourteenth-century window, and a curious stone shoot, said to be for distribution of corn.

The manor house has a frontage of very good seventeenth-century work (1631), with delicate mouldings to the chimneys. The back is a beautiful example of half-timber work, perhaps earlier than the front of the house. The old staircase remains, but the panelling has been removed.

The tithe barn was also inspected, after which the party were entertained to tea by Mrs. Ratcliff at the manor house. In the grounds the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell read an account of the Huddleston family, of Millom, Cumberland, who built Southam House, which is one of the oldest mansions in Gloucestershire. A ramble through the grounds and an inspection of some of the apartments of the charming residence completed the visit, and in the evening the party returned to Cheltenham.

Thus ended one of the most enjoyable summer meetings in the annals of the Society, for everything was well arranged, and ample time was allowed for seeing thoroughly everything which appeared in the programme; and though Worcester Cathedral was the only notable building visited, the little country churches provided abundance of points of interest, of which some at any rate were unexpected; for instance, it would probably be difficult to find elsewhere three ancient rood-beams remaining in so small a space as those at Witcombe, Tredington, and Stoke Archer. Little buildings are often quite as full of instruction and interest as big ones are.