

Drawings, &c., belonging to the Society, had been engaged, and would shortly be ready for the use of Members.

There were no objects of interest exhibited at this Meeting.

September 29th, 1890. Bi-monthly Meeting.

THE REV. W. R. MANGAN in the chair.

The Meeting examined and considered the plans of the proposed new Branch of the Manchester Sheffield and Lincoln Railway as to its injuring or destroying any of the antiquities of the town; but it appeared from the plans published, that, as far as was known at present, it would not destroy any object of interest, but it would be advisable to watch the proceedings.

Hugo Harpur Crewe, Esq., of Spring Hill, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, was elected a Member of the Society.

MR. S. KNIGHT exhibited specimens of Maundy Money for the year 1888, of the Jubilee pattern, consisting of two fourpenny pieces, one with the ordinary plain edge: Reverse with large 4: and the other with the milled edge: Reverse, BRITANNIA. The remainder of the usual pattern on reverse.

COL. G. C. BELLAIRS, Hon. Secretary, read the following Paper on

HALLATON CHURCH, AND THE RECENT DISCOVERIES THERE.

Having been invited by the courtesy of the Rev. W. Greville Hazlerigg, Rector of Hallaton, to see the recent discoveries at that Church, Captain W. Jesse Freer accompanying me there. We were very much struck with the Church generally which has a great many unusual features, and though visited many years ago (July 1858) by our Archæological Society, when several Archæologists of high standing were present, it would seem from the report of that Meeting in our *Transactions* that very little was said (or at least reported) on that occasion; and this is the more remarkable, as at that visit the late Rev. T. James, of Theddingworth, explained the various Architecture of the Church. I believe the present Bishop of Nottingham accompanied the Society, and I distinctly recollect the late Mr. Matthew Bloxam, F.S.A., and the late Rev. J. M. Gresley, F.S.A., formerly one of the Hon. Secretaries of this Society, being present. Mr. James on that occasion is reported to have observed of Hallaton Church as follows:—

“That three distinct dates were to be found in the Church. Two arches of the nave of the earlier Norman period probably in their original condition. It must have been a fine Church even then, as they seldom saw parish Churches with such a fine span of the Arches. The next date would be the chancel tower and spire, which are early English and very good in character. The tower and spire have great beauty of proportion, and are perhaps the best specimen of a parochial tower and spire they would meet with. In the 14th century the greatest changes were made when the whole of the south arcade was rebuilt. The east window had evidently been repaired in the Gothic of fifty or sixty years ago. The other windows of the chancel are of very early type, the early English just coming into the Decorated. In the modern work is built up the ancient tympanum of the Norman doorway. There seems to have been a chantry altar in the south aisle, as there are three decorated sedilia and a piscina. The Rev. T. James also called attention to some Norman tombstones which were placed against the East end of the churchyard.”

This report is evidently not that of a very good reporter and not altogether correct. I have no doubt very much more was said, but in the days when this excursion happened Archæologists were sometimes obliged to be careful in their observations in the presence of the then Rectors and Churchwardens and leading Parishioners.

On entering this Church from the north side, the first thing to remark is the north porch, formerly a very good specimen of the half-timbered porches of the 14th century, or perhaps early 15th. It is apparently the same date as the north aisle. There is enough left of this porch to restore it by. The very curious sculpture the tympanum of a doorway built into the wall of this porch said to be of the Norman period, represents St. Michael slaying the Dragon: it should be removed and placed inside the church. It is a very interesting specimen of early sculpture, the figure of the Saint especially, his spear and shield having more of the Saxon than the Norman in its appearance. I am rather disposed to think it is Saxon. The mullions of the windows in the porch are round and look very like parts of Norman or Early English shafts.

On passing through the north door I was struck with the very unusual number of steps descending into the Church making that entrance for old people especially dangerous. The original plan of the Church is very evident. It consisted as usual of nave and chancel with north and south aisle, the north aisle being longer than the other by nearly one bay, rendering a chancel arch impossible. The same occurs in St. Mary's Church, Leicester, and in both is substituted a thin arch, which in St. Mary's is a sham of lath and plaster, but in this Church is built of brick and

should be removed as the outward thrust may injure the walls, without being tied in some way, it would have been better if the nave and chancel roofs had been of the same height. The floor of the chancel was lower than it is now or will be when the present works are completed by about two feet. This is shown by the seats of the chancel sedilia being only a few inches above the floor. This sedilia which is *in situ* is very beautiful and in good preservation as also the sedilia and piscina in the south aisle. The north aisle was raised above the nave by three or four steps along the full length of the aisle, and the south aisle was similarly raised by one step.

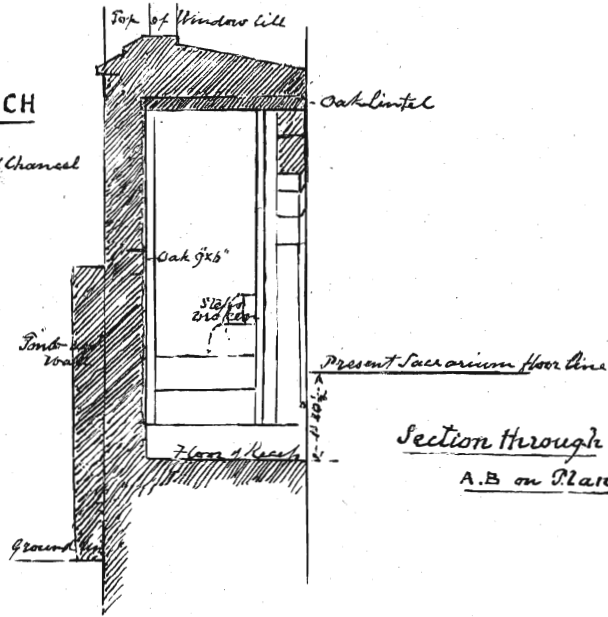
The most remarkable of the recent discoveries is a plain pointed doorway in the east wall of the chancel, the sill of which shows the original level of the chancel floor. This doorway measures 6 feet 3 inches from sill to point of arch, and is 2 feet 6½ inches wide; the jambs are plain chamfered; it opens into a passage in the thickness of the wall and appears to have pierced the wall. On the right in the passage are the remains of some steps leading upwards and curving round to the outside; the door opened inwards to the passage and a bar hole still remains, shewing it was intended to be fastened on the out or passage side. It is stated that the ground has been probed, and that there is no crypt or vault below as might be expected. The object of this singular entrance into a church is not at all clear, the upper part of the door encroached on the inside base of the east window, and the door is nearer the north than the south side, the upper step being the centre of the east wall. As the original window sill still remains, the staircase evidently did not ascend higher than is now to be seen. There is no priests' door on the south side of the chancel, but on the north is a recess with a segmental arch which may have been either a door or an Easter sepulchre. On the outside of this is a large monument. As this eastern doorway is in very good repair it is to be hoped that it will be preserved and not blocked out by a reredos, which might be advanced a little as it probably was originally. [See drawing of elevation and section of this doorway.]

Another discovery is a crypt or sepulchral vault at the east end of the north aisle, no doubt of the same date as the aisle. [See also illustration of this.] The dimensions of this vault are 11 feet 6 inch from north and south and 13 feet from east and west. The vaulting of the roof is quadripartite in four bays, but on centre pillar plain octagonal without capitol or base visible, the arches formed by the main ribs are pointed, and those formed by the diagonal ribs are nearly semicircular. There are two small apertures for air opening outwards and upwards, and in the east end an entrance on the north opening into the churchyard, by a doorway in a slightly projecting gable. This entrance in the

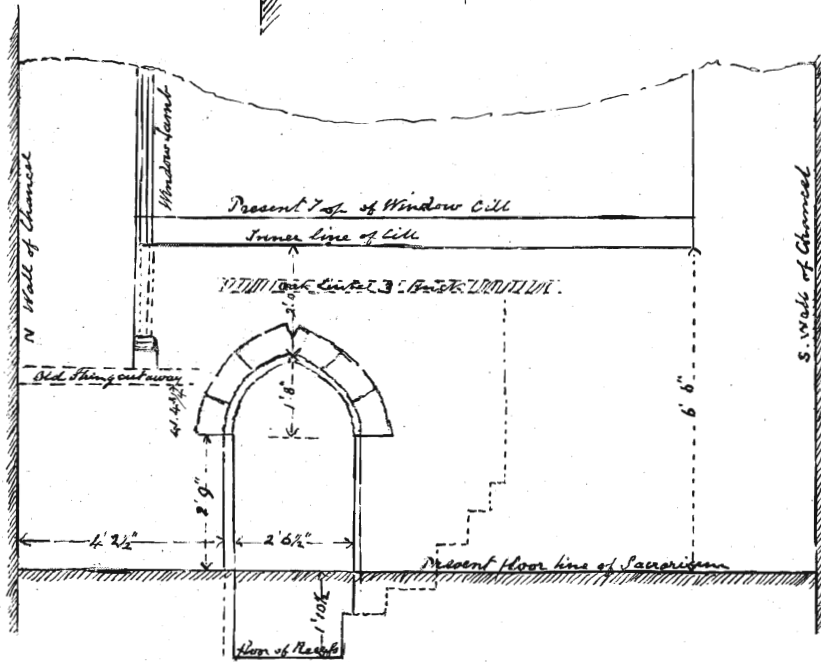
HALLATON CHURCH

Details of Recept in E. wall of Chancel

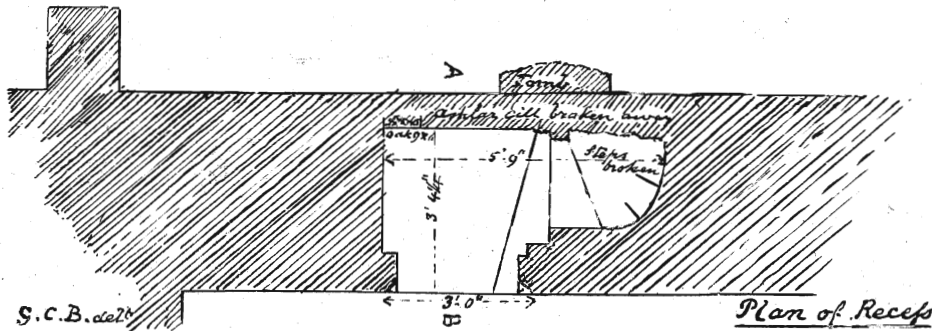
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ in to 1 foot



Section Through
A.B. on Plan



Part Elevation of East End of Chancel
showing recept under E. window.

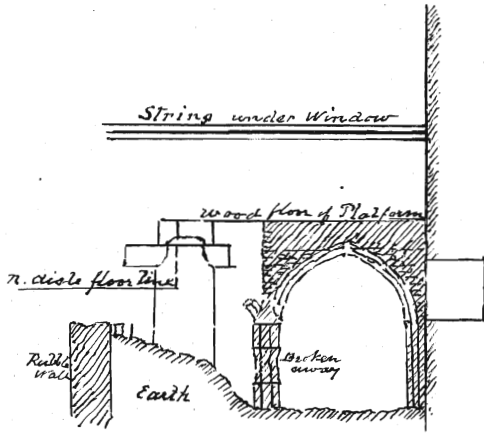


Plan of Recept

Hallaton - Church.

vault at East end of N. Aisle as existing July 1890

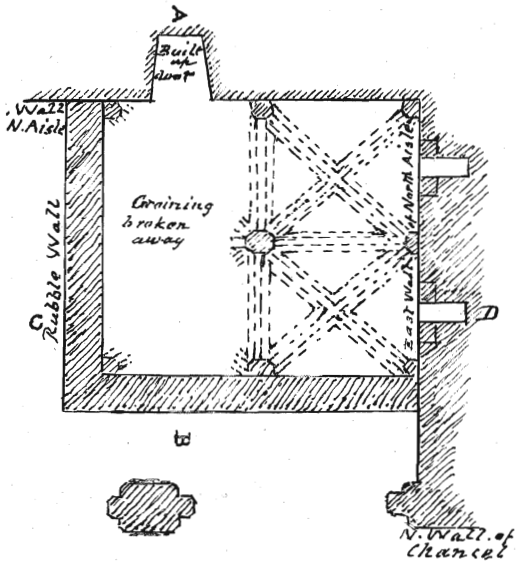
Scale about 8 feet to an Inch.



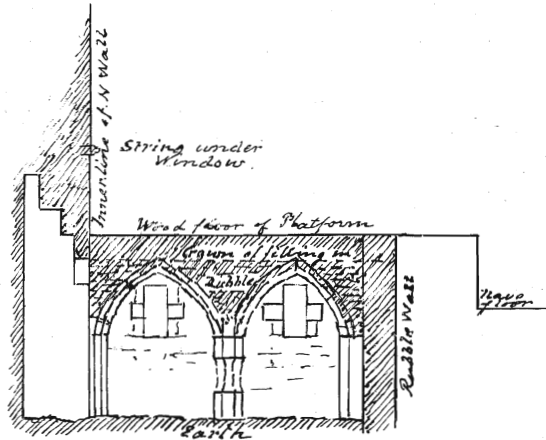
Section on line C.D.



Sketch of outside door of vault
not drawn to scale
but narrower than inside



Plan of East End of North
Aisle showing Vault



Section on line A B

G.C.B. del

inside is as high as the vault, which is now about 6 feet from the floor to the point of the arch of the vault, and is about 2 feet 5 inches wide inside, but narrows, and is much less outside, and not wide enough for any coffin to pass through : there is no other means of entrance now visible. This vault has been broken into from the top and used for recent interments, and also as a charnel house, half the vaulting being destroyed. It is not quite decided what is going to be done, but it is hoped that this interesting relic will be preserved. The part of the vault destroyed might be replaced with a brick arch, if stone would be too expensive, and as it is intended to place the organ on this part, it would insure it against damp. At the north east angle of this aisle outside is an ornamental solid turret or buttress, with niches for statuary and rich crocketed canopies, and on shields are the arms of Bardolf and D'Engaine, former lords of the manor, therefore most likely this vault was intended for those families ; but there is no record of any monument to this family or of any of them being buried here. At the west end of each aisle have been lean-to's, of which the weather mouldings remain, and in the west wall of the south aisle the original pointed door has just been discovered on the removal of a large board containing a register of the charities belonging to the parish, and this also exposed the inside of a very fine triangular decorated window, in very good preservation, which has been visible outside, but built up. There was also some wall painting of the Elizabethan age, consisting of a border, enclosing some black lettered English, which I had not time to decipher. These west ends of the aisle should be restored and the lean-to's rebuilt, and used as vestries, which are very much wanted. Outside the Church, at the east end, are the coffin lids, alluded to by Mr. James : these are very handsome, but are sadly injured by exposure. It would be very little expense and a very good thing to remove these to the inside of the tower or elsewhere in the Church. And the ground at the east end should be examined, to see if there are any remains of an exterior building, as possibly there may have been a revestry, or perhaps the passage mentioned may have led to a churchyard pulpit. There is an old wooden lintel or roof of oak, 3 inches thick, covering this passage, which, if original, would shew that it is not older than the 16th century. Nichols states in his history of this parish (quoting from Gascoign's MS.) that considerable alterations were made in the Church on "Sept. 7th, 1637," and the present east window tracery, though it looks more modern, may be of that date, more especially as it is the same as shewn in Nichols's engraving of this Church. And this raises the question whether this passage or recess may not be of that date, and the door removed elsewhere, perhaps the west end of the north aisle, where there evidently has been a door, and it is very like the door at the corresponding end

of the south aisle. The decorated string course has been cut away from under the east window, both inside and out. Nichols also mentions, on the authority of the same MS., the destruction of another column or buttress, similar to that now at the north east angle of the north aisle.

There is in the chapel of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle a doorway piercing the east wall with a circular arch, which looks like an insertion, and made to communicate with some apartments, probably those of a priest, built subsequent to the chapel, at the north east angle.

The tower and broach spire of Hallaton Church are a very fine specimen of Early English, and in remarkably good preservation; but the crosses in the windows, gables, and finials of the pinnacles (an unusual feature in a broach spire) are lost. If these were replaced it would much improve the appearance of the Church, and the cost need not be very much.

November 24th, 1890. Bi-monthly Meeting.

THE REV. L. W. WOOD in the chair.

Mr. W. J. Freer, Hon. Sec., reported the result of an interview with Alfred Paget, Esq., with reference to the taking of land in St. Nicholas Square by the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, and the probable demolition of the Jewry Wall, upon which the following Resolution was put from the Chair, and carried *nem. con.*:—

“That the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society cordially supports the action taken by the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, with respect to the Jewry Wall, and most strongly urges the Corporation of Leicester to use all the means in their power to preserve this ancient and interesting relic of Roman time, and also the Tessellated Pavement in Jewry Wall Street.”

“And that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, the Leicester Corporation, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company.”

Herbert Parr Rodgers, Esq., of Mapleshurst, Knighton, was duly elected a Member of the Society.

The following antiquities, &c., were exhibited:—

By MR. E. JACKSON:—A series of interesting photographs of the rood screen at Atherington, Devon. This screen reaches from the ground nearly to the roof, and consists of four half divisions