

travelled beyond the sea. Coming down on each side of the shoulder in front of the breast is a collar of SS, clearly indicating that the person represented was a man of distinction. In front of the left shoulder may be seen his string of beads crossing the breast to the elbow on the right side. Suspended from a narrow belt crossing diagonally from the right shoulder is the Scrip, with escallop shells upon it: whilst under his left wrist passed the Bourdon, or Pilgrim's Staff, with a square knob or pomel at the head. The hands of the figure, which were raised in the attitude of prayer, are lost.

“Give me my *Scallop shell* of quiet
 My *Staff* of faith to rest upon;
 My *Scrip* of joy, immortal diet,
 My bottle of salvation;
 My *Gown* of glory, (hope's true gage,)
 And thus I'll make my Pilgrimage.”

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

No inscription is on or near this rare and remarkable monument; so that the enquirer is left to conjecture solely, to determine who is here commemorated, and when he was buried, but the style of the effigy and of the carving, with the collar round the neck, will help us to arrive at a conclusion. The low bend of the arch shows that the work is not of an earlier date than the middle of the fifteenth century, and the collar was worn as late as that period. The personage represented was in all probability a contemporary with William, Lord Hastings. Now as that nobleman had three brothers—Richard, Ralph, and Thomas—it may have been one of these. The first was baron Welles, the second was an esquire of the body to Edward IV.; of the third little appears to be known. Would it not, therefore, in all probability be an effigy of the latter?

September 10th, 1856.

EXCURSION. A party of members and friends drove from Leicester to Melton Mowbray, where a Public Meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, the Rev. W. M. Colles, Curate of the parish, in the chair.

The Hon. and Rev. J. Sandilands, read a Paper prepared by Mr. Vincent Wing, upon

S. MARY'S CHURCH, MELTON.

THE chief subject of this Paper is the Church in this town. In addressing the members of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society, introductoryly to the excursion of to-day, the writer desires to be particular in two points—namely, brevity, and

giving matter-of-fact, unexaggerated statements. This is the more necessary, as the admirer of mediæval art is very liable to be carried too far by his enthusiasm when adverting to objects of exciting merit, and such undoubtedly exist in the Edifice under consideration.

There is no mistake, however, in answering in the affirmative the question that may generally arise—"Is Melton church worth going far to see?" Though not so rich, possibly, in historical association as some, this beautiful House of God (it can be said advisedly), is the finest church in the county. The ground arrangement, the outline of the superstructure, and the details, possess a superiority, it is presumed, over every other.

It is a cruciform church, and is peculiar in its symmetrical proportions. The transept is of due length, a circumstance to which attention should be called, as in parochial churches this advantage is seldom found. Nor do we often meet with the two aisles and clerestory carried out in this part upon the same plan as in the nave. But here we have them in perfection. These are matters essential to true grandeur, and have been almost confined to cathedrals.

Some views of the exterior are unsatisfactory, but a good position near to the south-west corner of the churchyard will bring before the beholders a striking outline, and an array of beauty that cannot fail to astonish. The only drawbacks are the dilapidated parapet, and the plainness of some of the lower windows.

In details there is variety, and each of the three Pointed Styles is admirably exemplified. The clerestory and the upper part of the tower are of Perpendicular work of the time of Henry VII., and are a specimen of the excellent masonry for which that period was remarkable. The Decorated aisles, seen in this view, are rather poor; but this is fully atoned for by the beautiful porch, which, with its doorway and eight gorgeous niches, presents a show of elaborate sculpture of the time of Edward II. It is in very good preservation, with the exception of the pinnacles, which have perished, and have been superseded by a modern coping. Their restoration will ere long be accomplished, we trust, to the perfecting of this ecclesiastical gem. The lower part of the tower is Early English, and to this we particularly invite attention; it is, perhaps, the most perfect example to be met with. A long acquaintance with it reveals not a fault, but yields a growing admiration. At each angle, in the place of a buttress, the wall has a slight projection, finished by a cylindrical moulding at the sides, and banded by a prolongation of the abacus of the capital near it: the space between, receding a little, is overhung by a corbel table, and on each face of the tower is a triplet of windows. These windows are of equal height, having two lights each, and geometrical tracery and cusping in the heads, with a judiciously placed transom rather

below the middle of the opening. They are deeply recessed, and of this circumstance the architect has fully availed himself. Into each jamb he has introduced three banded shafts, separated by two lines of the dog-tooth ornament. Above their capitals is a lancet arch of very great beauty; the delicate dripstone, with the outer moulding which rises from the front capital, is arranged with great taste; and the archivolt, which contains two other mouldings with intervening hollows, has a ribbed appearance. When the two sides of the tower are seen together, the effect is that of six niched recesses with canopies, the light and shade of which must be seen to be fully appreciated.

If we look at the building from the south-east, the staircase is seen to project. This is generally disliked, but we have the tower in more perfect proportions in the other view, and it is an advantage to see it in this, as well as from the north-east, in a more massive form. This excrescence, viewed from the north-west, is certainly clumsy, but even then it is effective in making the whole church appear much larger.

Some apology may now seem necessary for having used strong expressions in describing the excellencies of a church that has not hitherto been much brought into notice by architects and ecclesiologists. It is sufficient to say that it would be unjust to use tamer language. The inadequacy of impressions made upon visitors has arisen out of the following circumstances, which should be borne in mind this morning by those who have not yet seen the church, to prevent disappointment. Some conspicuous parts of the building, both outside and inside, and the first sight of it that a stranger usually gets, are detrimental. In the part nearest to the street are a debased east window and vestry, the aisles look plain, and the interior of the church is lumbered up with galleries and high pews—ecclesiastically and more properly called *scaffolds* and *cells*. The chancel is disfigured, not only by the present east window, but by a debased roof with tie-beams, and its best features are concealed. The cusps of the two large transept windows have been banished by the ingenious glaziers of the eighteenth century, and a veil of paint and plaster has completed the libel.

But a brighter day has dawned for true restoration: the celebrated Mr. Scott has been resorted to, and an east window, designed by him, is at this time preparing for insertion.* Let us call in imagination to help us, and anticipate complete reform—then we shall have unmingled satisfaction as we enter this sacred edifice. A vista of arches opens before us as we approach the western portal, the rich Decorated doorway of the porch is

* This window, filled with stained glass, beautifully designed and coloured by Wallis of Newcastle, has been inserted through the liberality of Robert Day, Esq., M.D., and members of his family (1862).

succeeded by the equally rich Early English entrance to the church, the grove-like arcades of the nave conduct us to the two arches of the tower, which are seen in succession, resting on their magnificent clustered pillars, and the anticipated appropriate east window is the extremity and crown of the perspective. We may also with propriety invoke the aid of music—

“Let the solemn organ pealing
Swell the tide of holy feeling;”

and our best senses will compel us to “reverence God’s sanctuary,” imparting the conviction that architecture, not less than music, is most powerful as a help to devotion.

The centre of the building is the place from which to see the clerestory, which must not be forgotten. It is peculiarly light and elegant, containing no less than forty-eight windows, each of three lights. The pendants and mouldings are almost innumerable.

It may occur to some to ask,—How came Melton to be honoured with the best architects and the best workmen in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and at the end of the fifteenth century? for the fact that it was so is proved by these architectural remains. No doubt it was then a place of more importance than now. *Medelton*, as it was anciently called (or *Middle-Town*), is one of the oldest market towns in England. It had an endowed school at least as long ago as the year 1347. But we suspect its church is chiefly indebted to the great priory at Lewes, which in the thirteenth century had the patronage, and to which priory the cell of twelve Cluniac monks at Melton was subject. And we must not forget its connection with the illustrious family of the Mowbrays.

Objects of interest, and some of great interest, are not wanting to the ecclesiologist.

Two unimportant brasses only remain. Of the many that once did honour to the dead, the matrices or vestiges show where the *robbers of churches* have laid their sacrilegious hands. Incised slabs and ancient tombs exist, but they are partly concealed by modern work. There are three high-tombs, dating about 1300, 1400, and 1500, respectively, commemorative of a crusader, a lady, and a knight. The first has his tomb, or cenotaph, in a recess in the south wall of the nave, as though a founder or benefactor of the church; the second, an alabaster enshrinement; the third, a Purbeck marble structure, formerly inlaid with a splendid brass, the outline of which enables the instructed student to recover the design. How delightful must have been the contrast of the two last, and how striking their appearance, when the “virgin white” and the shining sable, illuminated with glowing brass, did their best to honour these worthies, who were probably chief contributors to the magnificent temple wherein they have their resting place!

The bells are eight in number; the six largest are old, and

some have inscriptions*. There are two fonts; one of a modern character, has the well known Greek inscription, that may be read either backwards or forwards; the other is a gift of the family of the late Richard Norman, Esq., and is a striking piece of church furniture from an elaborate design by Scott.

We come lastly to a portion possessing more than ordinary attraction—the *Galilee* Porch. The sculptured and ornamented parts, judging from the work, might seem to have had the same artists as were employed at the south-west of the church at Gaddesby, in this county, and, if possible, surpass that gorgeous production both in design and execution. But we are more disposed, from a similar agreement with the nave and chapter-house at York, on the strength of the following corroborating particulars to claim for this porch a common parentage with the King Minster. About 1280, a William de Melton was presented rector of Melton Mowbray. In 1317, a William de Melton was consecrated archbishop of York. The nave of the cathedral was built under this archbishop, as testified by his initials (M M M M M) furnishing therein a running ornament. That he was the same person as the rector of that name is chronologically consistent; for, in the common course, he might in early life enter upon the rectorship in 1280, and in advancing years, in 1317, become archbishop. This is suggested by the name, and with the strong family likeness in the ornamental features, we can scarcely escape from the conclusion that the principal builder of York cathedral erected the porch here, and was no other than William of Melton Mowbray. It is much to be regretted that the porch is mutilated by the disappearance of the presumed pinnacles. Its piscina, locker, and other relics will be explored with much pleasure; and a question for interesting discussion will arise upon a singular window, and more especially four openings in the walls. These latter resemble the mysterious lychnoscope, a name still retained, though the theory it denotes is exploded by more conclusive evidence that it was “an outward confessional window for all comers.” The apertures, to which we solicit attention, like the lychnoscope, had never been glazed, but have had a grating and shutter; they are not high from the ground, and had long been firmly blocked up by masonry. Much to the annoyance of the antiquarian, they have been recently opened and glazed. They furnish good examples to help further investigation

* Until the year 1802 there were only six bells here. In that year the two lightest bells were added from the foundry of Mr. John Briant, of Hertford, who also set up a new clock. The set of chimes, which now (1862) makes a not very successful attempt to keep up their old reputation, were then likewise added. The III. and IV. are ancient pre-Reformation bells, bearing the following inscriptions:—

III. *AVE SANCTA MARIA.*

IV. *BEATA MARIA.*

There is also a sanctus bell, dated 1688, traditionally said to have been brought from the chapel (now destroyed) at Eye Kettleby.—T. NORTH.

of the question; and if we be satisfied to regard them as outward confessionals, the number will not be staggering, provided we bear in mind that Melton was on the highway to the great leper hospital at Burton Lazars, which at certain times of the year would bring swarms of these 'all comers.' Besides the hospital, a spring at that place in great repute for the cure of leprosy, attracted them. Moreover, the farm house adjoining the churchyard, afterwards and to this day called the rectory, was inhabited by fourteen chantry priests. We may conclude, therefore, that there would be no lack of applicants or of priests to confess them.

It is not doubted that the members who visit the church this morning, will be greatly pleased in looking over the edifice which we have attempted to describe, and it is earnestly wished that they may be useful in promoting a safe guardianship of its antiquarian and architectural treasures, by giving encouragement to correct restoration, and dealing discouragement to ignorant and destructive meddling. Regarding it as we do as the pride of Leicestershire, being persuaded that it is the production of the first architects and the ablest workmen of the three periods of its erection, and not forgetting our obligations to them that have left us this monument of the best feature of the piety of those times, we are anxious to uphold and protect it, and gladly hail the day of its being brought under visitation by the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society.

The church at Kirby, dedicated originally to St. Mary, but on becoming conventual, to St. Peter, has a fine tower with a broach spire. When the north aisle was standing, the whole breadth was scarcely less than seventy feet. There are in the nave examples of Early English and Decorated work; the chancel and other portions are Debased. Here are also an interesting monument with two recumbent figures, about A.D. 1370, and a churchyard cross.

Great Dalby church has remaining the lower part of a fine tower, transitional from Early English to Decorated, with Debased work in the upper story. The chancel is a little earlier in style; and the nave is very remarkable, as a rare instance of a complete church of the Elizabethan period. It has on the exterior three shields, the sculpture of which is good.

Little Dalby church has for the most part been rebuilt, and in a costly manner. With the adjacent grounds, and recently beautified mansion of E. B. Hartopp, Esq., this will furnish a great treat to lovers of the picturesque. The north door of the church is exquisite, and the chancel-arch and many other parts are exceedingly good for effect. The architect does not appear to have aimed at any particular date, but it would seem that a mixture of styles has been adopted, forming a sort of Composite Gothic. It is a superior production, and as the experiment of a new Order, if we may call

it so, will elicit the opinions and exercise the criticism of architectural members.

Burton Lazars derives importance from the famous Roger de Mowbray, who, about 1145, built there an hospital for the relief of lepers and impotents of the military orders. The nave of the church is of the style of the latter part of the twelfth century, or semi-Norman, with Early English and Decorated work added. Extensive restorations have been carried out in good taste, chiefly at the charge of Mr. Hartopp. The Decorated aisles, which are of superior design and workmanship, have not been meddled with. It has chantry chapels, and a font of the time of Richard II.

Extensive ranges and mounds of earthworks, supposed to be the remains of the hospital, are to be seen at a little distance from the church.

A vote of thanks to both the writer and reader of this paper having been proposed and seconded:

The Chairman in putting the resolution to the Meeting said he thought what had been done in Melton Church was encouraging when they considered the difficulties they had to contend with. One reason, he believed, why it had been so long neglected, was the disgraceful state of the churchyard. The ground was so high from the accumulation of soil that the church was smothered. This, however, had now been completely removed. A portion of the gallery might perhaps be taken down, but he could not say anything decidedly.* With reference to the pews, the people there, as in many other places, supposed pews were private property; a man thought a pew as much his own as his parlour, and this occasioned an almost insuperable difficulty. This opinion, of course, was not true, but when people were disposed to contend for what they thought their right, it frequently raised great difficulties in the way of improvements. He thought, however, something might be done to restore the two pinnacles near the porch, which were very beautiful in their original state. What had been done had been approved by those capable of giving a correct opinion upon such matters. They had made a few trifling mistakes, but when he considered the difficulties they had to encounter, he thought it due to those who had taken an interest in the work, to say he did not know any place where so much had been done with so little means. He hoped this Meeting would be an encouragement for them to go on. It would be a subject of great regret to him if they should have to put common glass in their new east window, which he supposed would be one of the finest in this part of England, and he hoped the matter would be so taken up that they might have a window worthy of the church.†

* This, to a very limited extent, has been effected. (1862.)

† This window has since been filled with stained glass, most beautiful in design

After the usual votes of thanks, &c., the Meeting separated, and the Excursionists went to view the church; they then proceeded to BURTON LAZARS, where Mr. V. Wing pointed out the salient features of the church, attention being specially called to the Bell Turret, in which the bells are exposed to public view. Burton Lazars is so called from a hospital for leprous persons formerly existing there. This hospital was founded by Roger de Mowbray, in the reign of Henry I., in honor of the Virgin Mary and S. Lazarus, and was the chief of all the Lazar houses in England. A spring of water, supposed to be efficacious in cases of leprosy, existed near the church.*

Dalby hall and church were next visited. The church had lately been rebuilt by Mr. Hartopp, at his own cost. Both that and the hall, at which very extensive works have been carried on, were much admired. The party next pursued their course to Burrow Hill, the encampment upon which, Mr. Thompson considered, was not in the first instance of Roman but of British origin, and that the Romans, finding it already existing, appropriated it to themselves. Great Dalby and Kirby Belers were visited on the return of the party to Leicester.

October 27th, 1856.

MR. G. H. NEVINSON in the chair.

In conformity with recent arrangements of the Society, this was a Meeting open to all the Members and their friends. The order of business has been reversed, and the exhibition of antiquities and reading of papers now comes first, after which follows the Committee Meeting for the transaction of the financial and other affairs of the Society. The presence of several visitors showed that this arrangement is likely to prove advantageous.

and color, through the liberality of Robert Day, Esq., M.D., and other members of his family. (1862.)

* This spring of water, the salutary properties of which had probably been one cause of the erection here of the ancient hospital, had been neglected and its medicinal properties forgotten until the latter part of the eighteenth century, when it was searched for, found, and a small building erected on the left hand of the high way leading to Little Dalby, on the outskirts of the village, containing a pump and bath for the use of invalids. Very many tested the healing effect of the water, and according to the long list of cures preserved by Throsby in his "Excursions," very many received great and lasting benefit, especially those afflicted with skin diseases. Even within the last twenty years persons have sent to Burton for bottles of its water. The spring, however, was again neglected, the pump broken, and only about a year ago the building was taken down,—the last reminder of the time when the sufferings of the poor lepers were alleviated, and perhaps their disease removed, by drinking or bathing in the waters of Burton Saint Lazarus.—T. NORTH. (1862.)