

ART. XL.—*Calder Abbey*. By the Rev. A. G. Loftie, B.A.  
*Communicated at Carlisle, July 23, 1885.*

IN visiting the small, but picturesque ruins of Calder Abbey, we must first enter the modern village of Calderbridge;\* this is settled down, nestled in trees, close to the river's banks, where advantage having been taken of jutting rocks, here narrowing the Calder's stream, a bridge is found, which spans the deep black pool. As there could never have been a ford here, we do not wonder that from an ancient bridge built at this very spot—by the monks, it may have been—this village should take its name. The present bridge is modern, having been erected in 1880, in the place of an ancient one, formed of the original narrow bridge, built for pack-horses, or foot passengers alone, to which had been added later on, at each side, an addition to make it wide enough for wheeled traffic; this curious construction was disclosed, when it was being destroyed unnecessarily, to make room for the present very unpicturesque structure.

We then leave the High Street, as the road from Egremont was quaintly termed,† and instead of taking the usual course of following the beautiful path by the river, known as the “long walk,” we, turning in at the gate of the abbey mill, enter upon the ancient way, which for so many hundred years has led to the abbey precincts; further on through the narrow valley of the Calder, shut in with wooded banks, it gives access to the sites of ancient

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\* The only ancient house has the date 1727 carved upon it.

† Denton, MS. History of Cumberland.

granges,

granges, where now are modern farm steads; and still ascending upwards, it leads to rich common of pasture,\* upon the Coupland fells now, as of old, covered with sheep.†

But let us now follow the track, which keeps close by the rippling mill stream; we can hear its music even when low oak trees, and high banks, hide it from our view: we pass to right and left, the fields of the abbey home farm, some of which were named long since the "Milnez cloose", the "Dubhouse cloose", and the "Morecloose"; and, though we cannot now identify the exact boundaries of each, the modern names being different, we know that half-way up we must pass the enclosure of nine acres, which was formerly known as *Juxta crucem extra portas*, for here the western limit of the abbey sanctuary was marked, by a standing cross of wood or stone, to tell the flying wretch escaping for his life, from either tyranny or justice, that, though without the doors of sheltering cloister, he was safe from vengeance or pursuit; just as a Jew was in a refuge city of the Holy Land. We also pass close by the site of the "Oyster Garth", so called from the *Hosteria* or guest house, which was enclosed within. And now having crossed the stream, near a shallow ford, we see branching off to the left, a disused track, marked out still by its double rows of gnarled and stunted oaks; this joined the road to Hale, (or Haile) which runs up the steep hillside out of the valley. Then before we cross, on our left, the four acres of the "Horse close", the only field that has kept its ancient name, we see, just before us, half hidden by the remains of an ancient avenue of sycamores, the abbey gateway, with its porter's lodge above.

This road upon which we have come, so green and mossy, and now merely a cart track, was not so very long

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\* Deed of 28 and 29 Elizabeth among the abbey papers.

† The Thorne Holme flock is descended from the original sheep introduced probably by the monks.

ago, the public highway; only about 100 years or so have past, since the owner of the abbey, Mr. Senhouse, constructed the present road to the north of this older one; it measures about a mile or three quarters, and still retains, as no doubt it always will, the name of the "new road": besides being more convenient for the traffic of the public, it leaves the ruins of the abbey in greater quiet and repose, separate from the passing by, and coming to and fro, of busy men.

But may we not pause a moment, before we go further, and enter the precincts of the ruined abbey? May we not try first to realize the havoc that time, and the spoiling hand of man, has wrought upon the buildings that lie before us; and also to mark the change that has come upon the occupants of this secluded vale? If we could look back more than 300 years, before the dissolution of this Cistercian monastery, one of the lesser religious houses which were first marked out for spoliation by Henry the VIIIth and his rapacious courtiers, what a different scene might at this moment have been placed before our eyes! Is it in early spring time that we stand upon this spot? Then we can easily imagine that a crowd of poor, and maimed, and sick, and old, are gathered before yonder gate; they patiently wait with certainty for their annual gifts of bread and fish; if we look nearer, we will see, that those barrels of fish, are herrings white and red, (*allic' rubeis et albis*)\* perhaps taken at the abbey fishery, at "Monkgarth" near "Ravynglas."† The monks, with tonsured head, and pure white woollen garments, are standing within the gate to distribute this charity; which some kind donor, long since, had left for their annual distribution, on Maunday Thursday, for it is even to day, the Thursday in Holy week. We also can see, awaiting their turn, a group of boys; no doubt members

\* "*Elemos*" valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henry VIII., Dugdale new ed. num. iv.

† Paper surveys temp. H. VIII., augmentation office, Dugdale new ed. num. v.

of



of the choir, and taught in the abbey school, they are come to receive their annual gift of silver coin, (*argent pueris.*)

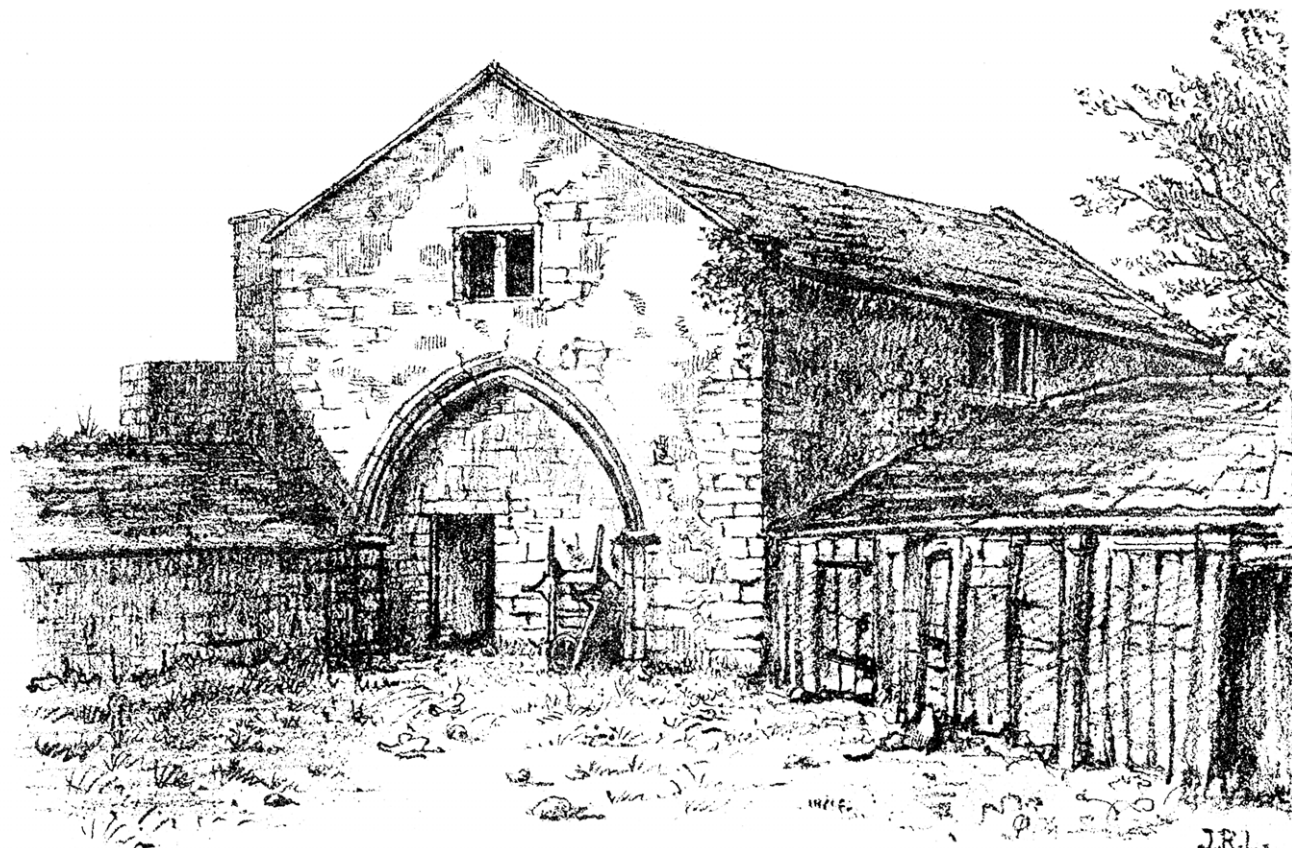
The date of this relief given to the poor, reminds us of "maunday money," and of "gate alms," as the gifts are still called which are distributed yearly, as of old, from the palace of our queen; but from here, the monks are gone! and with them these kindly doles, and seasonable gifts leaving Christ's poor, and sick, and aged, to other sources of relief and charity, these being for ever closed! To make up for this sacriligious robbery of money and lands devoted to this good purpose, the whole machinery of the poor laws, with their compulsory rates, had soon to be devised, and carried out throughout the length and breadth of England!

But perhaps it is not spring time, but autumn, that sees our next visit paid to this house of charity. Is it on the glorious morning of a Saint Luke's summer day, that we gaze upon these groves of oak, and elm, and beech, and are dazzled by the sunshine gleaming upon their golden tinted leaves, shining out from the masses of russet green, and brown? Can we not then again see, in imagination, a repetition of the same scene, so often repeated here? But distribution is to be made, this time, of beef, not of fish which is but Lenten fare; as it is the feast of S. Luke the Evangelist,\* we would see a prime fat ox; either roasted whole, and then eaten here, by those who are gathered around; or cut up into pieces, it is divided among the waiting cottagers, to be taken by them to their homes, in the surrounding villages. Many would come from Cauder, and many from Bekarment, many from Ponsaby and Hale; neither Cleter nor Drege would be considered too distant; and surely there would be some from the distant farm of Brashaw behind Caldfell, and

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\* 18th October.

from



1886  
GATEWAY, CALDER ABBEY.

from the mountain hamlet of Skeldreskeogh sheltered behind the Stoards.\*

When we learn that the price of this ox, was, in those days, but 13s. & 4d., we can realize the largeness, *i.e.*, the purchasing power, of those sums distributed to those in want; this will tell us, that though the fields we past through were then valued at only about 1s. an acre, that shilling was equal to about £2 at the present day, at which sum they are now valued by the year.

The abbey gate house itself, has been much altered from time to time; we can see the pointed arches, now built up, dating from the 13th or 14th century, in its west and east faces, and over them four mullioned windows, of a much later date; the roof is now of a very low pitch, and dates, the gables of it at least, from the time when the square headed windows were put in; these windows themselves also seem to have been, at some time, reduced in size; for below the west one, we can trace, built into the wall, a mullion which formed part of the lower division; this must have almost touched the top of the pointed arch, and been on a level with the floor of the porter's room.

When this building was no longer required as an entrance from the public road to the abbey grounds, another entrance having been made to the north of this one from the new road, the owner ruthlessly turned it into a cow house, or byre! A new floor was put in, to serve as a hayloft, at a much lower level than the original one, being built across the entrance archways; and access to the cow house below was given by small square doors within the walled up arches. In A.D. 1794, when Hutchinson's history of Cumberland was published this building seems to have been in use as an entrance to the abbey.

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† The spelling of these names is taken from old documents.

There

There is now no trace of stairs, to give access to the upper chamber, nor of any fire place, or chimney; the doorway broken into the north wall of the loft, is of course quite modern.

Standing under the east gateway, and looking to the west, the abbey church must have been directly before the spectator. As it was built on lower ground, it must have been seen from here to great advantage; now the view is impeded by the wall of the stable yard, through which formerly there was a doorway, and beyond a row of stately elms, seemingly of about a hundred years of growth.

The enclosure to which this formed the chief entrance, contained 4 acres of land,\* upon which was the site of the church, and conventual buildings, the cemetery, the garden and orchards, the large oven and probably also a mill below the precincts† (*Molend' infra pcint*).

The west gable of the nave with the central tower appearing high above it, must have looked very fine; we have no means of knowing how high the tower was, or if it was surmounted, as it may have been (though contrary to Cistercian rules) by a lofty spire; but in two different documents dating from Henry the 8th time, we read in translations of the "bellfry,"‡ and "the steeple,"§ but this may be simply the one story which appeared above the line of roofs, covered with a pointed roof, perhaps of lead, which would account for its disappearance, probably even before the grant of the Abbey lands was made; for this we know was the case with other dissolved monasteries, where the lead roofs were at once stripped off, leaving the buildings to the mercy of the weather.

\* Paper surveys Henry 8 augmentation office.

† First fruits Hy. 8.

‡ Deed of gift or sale to Dr. Leigh.

§ Whellan.

We can still easily see what was the exact height of the nave, when complete; for the roof marks of its eastern gable, are still impressed upon the tower walls; above the south and east arches of the crossing the weather moulding can be seen; and here and there a slate or two from the ancient roof remain in their places. By tracing the slope of the nave roof line to its lowest points, north and south, we find that it reaches nearly to the top of the present side aisle walls, which stood above the triforium arcade; of this half an arch on either side still remains, and we can see from the side aisle roof lines, impressed upon the transept walls, what was its height; and that it exactly enclosed a small square-headed door, or small opening, from the triforium passage of the south transept, into the roof of the south aisle of the nave.

This investigation proves to us that between these roof levels, there could have been but a small clerestory,\* the openings of which must have been small; probably of the same design and size, as the trefoil headed top of the south transept windows; thus the church must have been chiefly lighted from the aisle windows, some remains of which might still be seen when the sketch of the abbey was made for Buck's views published in the year 1739.

Of the west gable of the church, which it requires an effort of imagination to believe was once higher than the tower arches, there remains standing only a very little; it extends, from the site of the north wall of the aisle, to just beyond the west door; here it is returned by modern work, as a support to the doorway; it is only high enough to leave a few courses of stone above the doorway arch, the rest is gone; this fortunately is preserved, and is a

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As at Lanercost and New Abbey, &c.

very

very small, though handsome, round-headed arch, with late twelfth century semicircular moulding, dating probably from A.D. 1180.

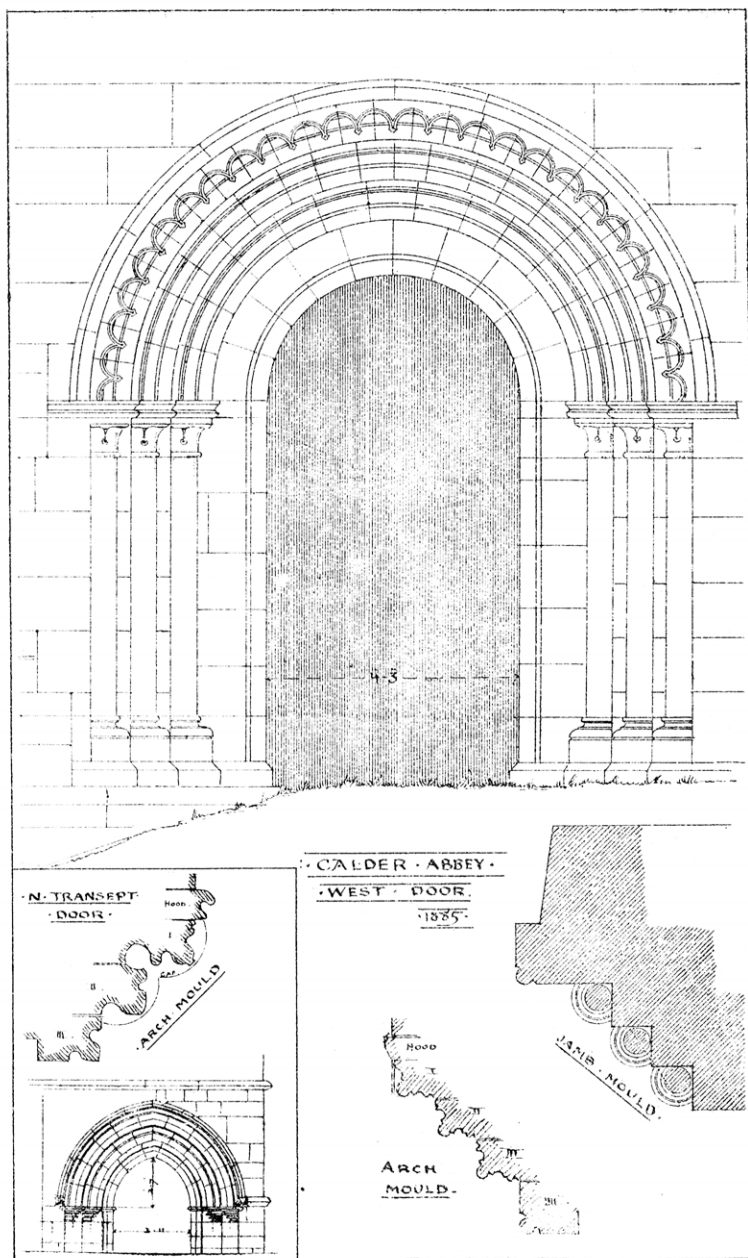
The large buttress against the ante wall to the north, has been removed, but its base remains, to shew that it once stood there, at no great distance from the doorway; with the corresponding one on the other side, it must have emphasized this entrance, in itself so small for so large a church.

The three detached shafts, which stood at each side of the recessed doorway, are gone; but their bases, and slightly ornamented capitals are in good repair; the two bevelled steps, which led originally into the nave, are in excellent preservation; being no doubt preserved by the soil, which had been heaped upon them, for more than a hundred years! This was removed, during some excavations made in the winter of 1881 and '82.\* This doorway, only 4 feet 3 inches across the opening, seems very small for the chief entrance of so important a building; but, when we remember, that the church of which it formed a part, must have been very much smaller than the present ruined one, we see the true conservative spirit that was shewn by the builders of the larger, and more magnificent structure, in leaving this beautiful piece of the ancient building in the place, where it had stood so long; and building, in their more modern style, a new and longer church, extending to the east, of which this door would still be the grand entrance; instead of doing what has been so often done in our own times—pulling down the remains of the old building to the very ground—before commencing to erect, in its place, that which is thought to be, an undoubted improvement.

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\* See account of these excavations by A. G. Loftie, B.A., illustrated by C. Parker, M.D. in *Cumb. and West. Archæological Transactions* for 1883.

Though



Though this doorway from its date seems to us to have been the remains of the first stone church built upon this site, it is very probable that it followed one, if not two of wood, for the abbey was first founded in A.D. 1134, that is, about forty-six years before this door was built; the first temporary oratory, set up by the monks, who originally came from Furness Abbey, was destroyed, three years after, by the Scotch under David, (their king): some buildings had been then erected, for it is spoken of in a Latin history as "*nuper inceptam*."\* But the next year the site was again taken possession of by another colony from the mother abbey of Furness; soon afterwards, another building was erected by the nephew of King David, William FitzDuncan, of Egremont castle, for the perpetual service of God, for which the monks were set apart: this church in about 49 years or so was in its turn superseded by the stone erection, of which alone this little doorway, with a few fragments of the same moulding, have come down to us.

About A.D. 1220, a second stone church preserving in it this door was built, but another Scotch raid, about A.D. 1322 partly destroyed this larger church, which was soon after partly restored, and partly rebuilt with lower roofs in a later style.

In the remains we have of the nave arches and pillars, of which there are five bays of the north aisle now existing, we may recognize the building of Thomas de Multon, of Egremont castle, who died A.D. 1240, and who is said, by Denton, to have "finished the works, and established a greater convent of monks at Cauder or Caldre."† The aisle on the south side is gone; probably the bases of the pillars are still under the grass and soil, not yet removed, as they have been, to some extent in

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\* Abbot of Byland. Dugdale, mod. ed. num. vii.

† Denton's MS. History of Cumberland.



other places. In "Buck's views" we are shewn still standing, the outer S. aisle wall, with narrow windows, and the vaulting corbels still complete.\*

The moulding of these four remaining pillars is interesting. Each alternate one is different from the next: beginning at the west, the first and third are octagon in section; the second and fourth are indented and moulded, the section shewing a perfect quatrefoil; the capital of the first is plain, unmoulded and uncut, seemingly unfinished; the second and fourth are simply moulded, both alike; but the third capital is ornamented with zig zag leaf mouldings, eight members of which are seen on each face of the octagon.

The length of the nave, from the east door to the centre of the basement west piers, is 84 feet.

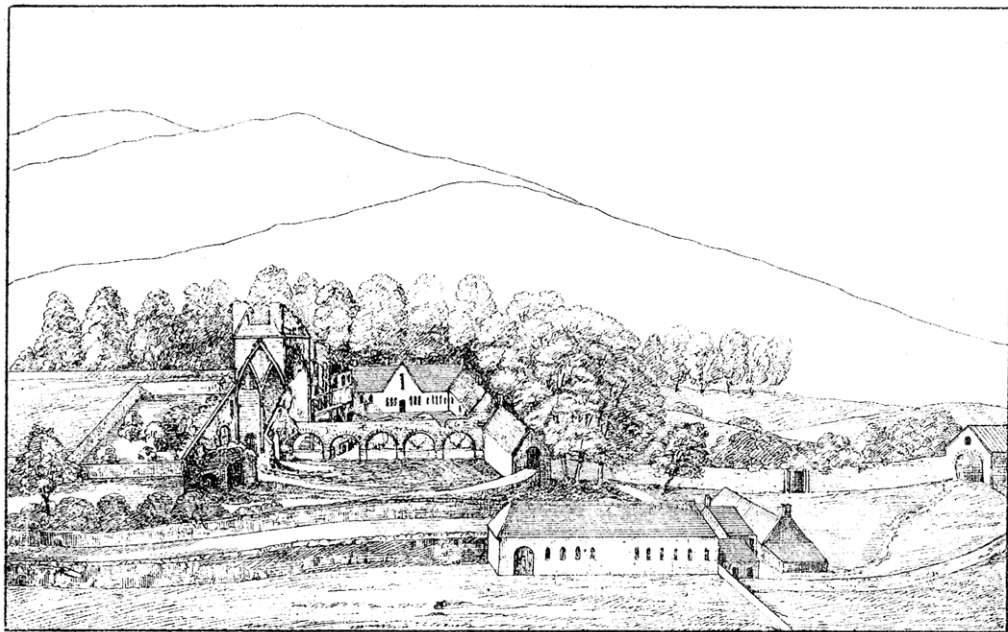
The base of the north-west pier has been unburied, to the level of the pavement, laying open the perfect plan of these finely moulded and clustered columns, with their carved bases.

On opening up the base of the pillar, immediately west of this pier, its deep hollow moulding, peculiar to the early English style, was laid bare; and the foundation of the *pulpitum* was discovered; the part uncovered, measuring 11 feet 3 inches long, by 5 feet 4 inches broad, is exactly half of the original structure, as we can see by the grooves made for the centre door to shut against: the rest is still buried under the turf, and we may hope to see it uncovered at some future time. The upper surface of this structure has been, like most of the ruins, robbed of its dressed stone, to be used in building the hideous modern front to the dwelling house, which now so sadly disfigures the abbey! About a foot in height of the foundation remains above the level of the pavement, which still in part surrounds it. The superstructure may have been formed of

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† Buck's views were taken in 1739.

wood,



CALDER ABBEY, *circa* 1710.

wood, but if we may trust the old rude but valuable painting on a large panel, affixed to the wall of one of the basement rooms of the modern dwelling house,\* much more of this screen was then above ground. It is shewn of stone, with an opening for a doorway in the centre; a sketch from this picture is given with this paper.

Further excavations would reveal the foundations of one, or more screens across the nave and aisles, invariable in Cistercian churches. There was very probably at the south-west of the nave aisle the usual door, giving entrance to the church from the *domus conversorum*, for the lay brethren, or *conversi* as they were called: they would occupy a building, (it would seem from the old picture to be one of one story,) lying between the south-west of the nave, or, in this case, it seems between a west porch or building, projecting beyond the west door, and the secular buildings, which extended westward from the refectory at the south of the cloister garth, thus filling up the whole west side.

There was another entrance to the church, eastward of the screen, opening into the east cloister, for the use of the choir monks alone, who, with the abbot, occupied stalls under the tower crossing, extending in this church, one bay west into the nave.

As this was not in any sense a parish church, there would be no need of any accommodation for a congregation in the modern sense of the word. The aisles in all Cistercian churches were cut off from the nave by solid stone screens, and the screens across the nave were continued across the aisles.†

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\* The picture is of about the date 1710, and may be assigned to the known local artist, Matthew Reid. These old pictures though very interesting, cannot be depended upon for any accuracy of details; this can be seen in "Buck's views," and in the illustration of Calder Abbey in the modern edition of Dugdale; both of these are manifestly very incorrect.

† See *The Cistercian Plan*, J. T. Micklethwaite, Yorkshire, Archæo. and Topo. Journal, vol. vii., p. 239.

The arch which led from the south aisle, not now existing, into the south transept (now used as an entrance for carts into the back premises of the modern house), is supported by pillars or pilasters of different designs, the capitals differing much one from the other, that on the south side being square. The arch on the other side opening from the existing aisle, into the north transept, is, as a ruin interesting from the marvellous growth of a stem of ivy, which runs up the pillar and then, embracing the capital, follows the curve of the arch for some distance before it again reaches upwards, and is lost in green leaves upon the higher wall; this ivy may be said to pull down the walls with one arm, while it holds them up with another; for in some places, the pushing shoots have torn asunder the yielding walls, while in others the embracing tendrils bind them strongly together.

The central tower is not quite square, the arches across the choir and nave, being wider than the others: the former are 25 feet 6 inches and 23 feet 6 inches wide respectively, a little narrower than the chancel arch of the great mother church of Furness, which is said to be 28 feet wide, though it is also said to be 287 feet from east to west, while this is only half that length! The transept arches are about 22 feet wide, between the pillars.

The north transept is 34 feet 5 inches deep, while the south is 34 feet 9 inches: here in the modern buttress wall, which was built to support the east arch of the tower, we can trace, built up in it, a part of one of the arches which led into its east chapel, now in ruins, and also the string coursing of the triforium.

The most northern arch of this transept aisle or chapel, where it abuts against the north wall, is finished off below the corbel or respond bracket, with a most remarkable moulding for a finial; it is in the form of a rope, tied loosely  
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in a knot ! A sketch of it is given with the illustrations to this paper. There is another corbel with a finial something like this one on the south side of the chancel arch, the corresponding one to the north being quite plain. In this transept, in very good preservation, is the north door of the church ; the steps, two in number, are still in their places ; they and the bases of the two pillar shafts were unburied during the recent excavations. This doorway is a remarkably beautiful example of the early English style ; the arch mouldings are very deeply cut, indeed so deeply that the contrasts of light and shade are distinctly marked in spite of the sunless aspect of the openings ; a section plan is given of these mouldings. A spurious or shallow porch has been constructed in the thickness of the wall, the wall being recessed above to give the effect of a porch roof, thus giving greater prominence and dignity to the archway itself.

On entering the church by this door, we find ourselves, just within the threshold, upon one of the pavement flags, the only one left in its place, but sufficient to shew the former level, so much lower than the present turf grown upon the heaps of stone and lime, mixed with soil, which have been levelled down to make a fair green sward.

In this transept, propped up against the buttress wall, are three effigies of knights, in carved red sandstone ; from their armour they seem to have lived at much the same date ; two have coats of arms still visible, carved upon their shields, the device upon the third is obliterated ; there are also two arms in chain armour, which do not belong to either of these, and a large slab carved with a very mutilated head in a helmet of chain work, with a rich crotched canopy of the 13th century work above it ; it is very much worn with weather, yet upon it we can trace angels as supports ; and very clearly a five pointed star, in one panel of the top, or back of the canopy, and a moon with the  
crescent

crescent shewing plainly upon it ; on the other, the figure in the middle seems to be the representation of a knight of the family of Layburne, or Leyburn, for they carry for arms, *gules, six lions argent, three, two, one,\** and we can trace distinctly the lions upon the shield of this soldier, carved in this order in high relief ; and we can easily trace the connection of the Leyburnes with this part of the county, if not directly with Calder itself ; for Roger de Leyburne was sheriff of Cumberland in A.D. 1265, and Robert de Leyburne, 4th, 5th, and 12th of Edward II.† But further, we can trace the widow of Robert Leyburne to Gosforth,‡ within three miles of the abbey, for in the second year of King Edward the III., she then held some property there. And then, when we find that a daughter of a Sir Thomas Leyburn was married in the 19th of Richard II. to a Sir Thomas le Fleming, Kt.,§ we not only connect the Leyburns with great benefactors of the abbey, who had a castle within three miles of it, but we find out a connection between the descendants of the original of this effigy, and of that one which lies close by on his right hand, and also, as we shall see, of the knight the upper part alone of whose effigy remains.

For if we may believe Dugdale,|| this is the monument of "Sir John le Fleming, of Bickermet," and he gives us unwittingly also a clue to the ownership of the canopied and mutilated head I have before alluded to, which now lies not very far off ; it is very probably that of "Sir Richard le Fleming," son of Sir John, for in the account given of the le Flemings in his "Warwickshire," he says :

Sir John le Fleming died in the reign of King Henry III.,¶ and was

\* West's Ant. of Furness.

† 12th Ed. II., 1318, Nicolson and Burn, p. 29.

‡ Denton MS. History of Cumberland.

§ West. Ant. p. 222, A.D. 1395.

|| Warwickshire, p. 506, "penes epis. Car." from Senhouse MS.

¶ A.D. 1216 to 1272.

buried

buried in Calder Abbey, near his castle of Caernarvon, to which he had been a benefactor, and where was to be seen a statue, in freestone, of a man in armour, with a *fret of six pieces*, upon his shield, lying upon his back, with his hands in an elevated position, and his legs across, which probably are so placed from his taking upon him the cross, and being engaged in the holy wars. This Sir John le Fleming left issue, Sir Richard le Fleming, Kt., his heir, whose seal affixed to one of his deeds, without date, bears a large *crescent with a star* upon an oval escutcheon within an inscription, not legible, which probably was a badge of his service in the Holy Land.

Does it not seem likely then that the crescent and the star carved upon the canopy of the broken figure, were the same symbols that appear upon the seal of Sir Richard, which he thus used as his badges? The style of the carving agrees also with this date; thus we here recognize in these mutilated fragments of ancient effigies, monuments of local worthies, who took part in the great crusades, and who endowed this abbey with churches and lands.

After so long a stay among the interesting remains of monumental effigies, we cannot speak in detail of any of the other carved stones which lie around. But entering the chancel from underneath the lofty chancel arch, we find that it was small and plain. From the marks upon the east gable we can trace the different slopes of two roofs, which have at different dates covered the chancel. There are no traces here, or in the nave, or transepts, of any groined or vaulted roof of stone, though the aisles would be vaulted, or designed to be vaulted.

By the excavations, which were continued here, the length of the chancel was discovered; by digging beyond the existing walls eastward 9 feet 8 inches, it was found to be 35 feet 6 inches long, thus shewing the extreme length of the church to be, from east to west, just 147 feet. Most of the corresponding north wall to that uncovered on the south is wanting, the stones being dug up and taken away to the very foundation! So also the wall

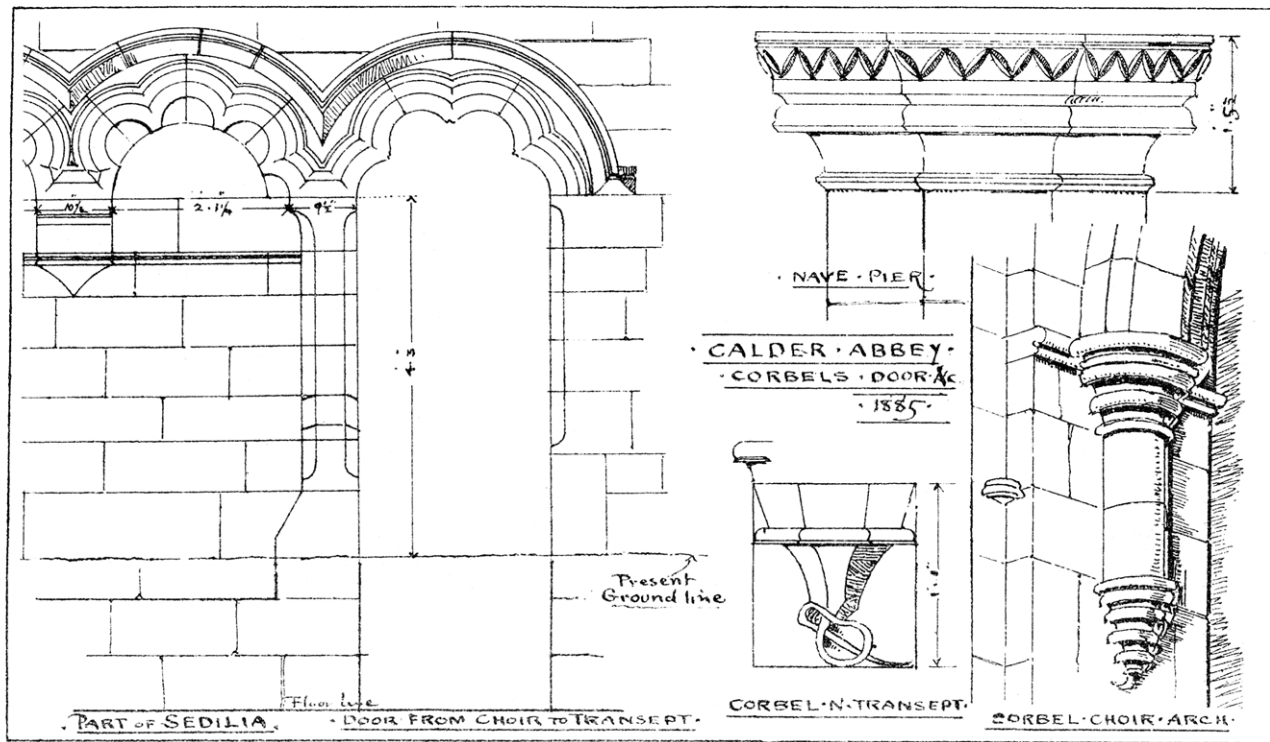
wall extending from the south-east angle of the sanctuary, across the east end behind the high altar, seems all to have been abstracted; but the site of the steps themselves could not be at the time uncovered, so they may still remain for future search.

A tall lancet window existed in that part of both the north and south walls, which formerly joined the east end of the chancel; these would, with the great east window, give sufficient light, though there may have been a clere-story, as in the nave, formed of a row of small trefoil or quatrefoil lights. There is no triforium arcade, or blind story, as it is sometimes called, to break the bareness of the walls, which are only relieved by a panelling of extremely long and thin pillar shafting, running up both walls; their monotony is broken by fillet mouldings at regular intervals, by which the shafts were attached to the walls, these fillets remain, but the shafts themselves are gone. The walls are recessed to the depth of the fillets at each side, the recess on the south side not coming so low as that on the north, to make room for the canopy of the sedila, immediately below.

The sedilia, or seats within the chancel for the officiating clergy, are covered by a not very elaborate canopy, or arcade, formed by a semicircular arch moulding, repeated over each of the three seat spaces, and enclosing within each a design formed by cusps; this canopy is continued over a small opening or doorway at the same level immediately west of the seats, but divided from them by a chamfered pillar nine and half inches wide, which has in the division to each seat been cut off above into a corbel bracket, with a triangular ending; a sketch is given of this door. The seats themselves may have been formed by a wooden bench laid across between two bracket like projections at each side of the sedilia recess, coming out of the pillars, which are chamfered off just above them.

There





There is at the top of the chamfered stone, forming the east side of the recessed space, a small carved fleur de lis; and below it, behind, in the thickness of the recessed east wall, there is a small locker, or square recess, 13 inches deep; the use of which is not known, as it is too small itself for a credence shelf, but such a receptacle is often found in Cistercian churches, in connection with the credence table.

In front of the sedilia a trench has been excavated to shew the original level of the floor, the ground line having been raised to the height of the bench for the seats; no pavement was discovered, but as the foundations of the walls were laid bare, it could not have been any lower down; it was thus found that there were no deep foundations whatever, the stones being laid on the earth, at but a few inches below the level of the floor.

At the west end of the north wall, there is at the triforium level, a shouldered arch doorway,\* leading into the space between the slated roof of the north transept chapel, and its groined stone ceiling, that is if this latter was ever completed.

But to return again to the small opening under the fourth division of the sedilia arcade, we find it difficult to say with certainty what it is; some authorities deny that it is an original doorway at all, and hold it to be only a modern opening broken through the wall into the south transept chapel, at a time when this part of the church was made use of as cattle sheds, to which use the holes for rafters, and other marks, still point. The only evidence that there is for this assertion as to the origin of this door, lies in the fact that the cut stone jambs, or sides of the doorway, are absent, thus making it look, perhaps, a little like a place broken roughly through the wall.

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\* So named from its being in the form of a man's shoulders with his head cut off; it is not strictly an arch at all, but a flat lintel carried on corbels.

The use of this chapel or aisle, into which this door leads, is also doubted by the same authorities ; but if the door is original, then they might agree to the place to which it gives an access being termed the sacristry, or vestry ; this we are much inclined to call it, not only from its being the only part of the building which can be identified as such, but from the locker, or large wall-cupboard, the only one found in the ruins, being placed here in the north wall, close to the side of the small doorway into the sanctuary ; the groove for the wooden shutter is plainly to be seen, by which the sacred vessels would be kept in safety ; if this is not the sacristry, where was it ? Not in its usual place at the end of the south transept, for here is now found the chapter house ; it was in this position once, before the chapter house was rebuilt and enlarged in the 14th century, for there is a small door built up in the south wall of the transept which would have led into it, though it was closed when the later building was added in its place ; then from this time may not one of these small chapels have been used for this purpose ? If the abbey owners, 100 years ago, wanted an entrance for their cattle into the shed, built of wood, within these chapel walls, would they have chosen to take out the stones of the wall, within a narrow niche, formed by the arch moulding of the fourth space of the sedilia ? it is not very likely ! They would surely have left an opening in their wooden partition, by which the place was divided off ; and though the abbey owner at that time, did, it seems, allow his cattle to be housed in the church of God, yet he must have had some idea of preserving the building from the inroads of time, that it might form a picturesque object in his grounds : for to him we owe the massive bands of iron, with which the walls of the tower are braced together, above the slender piers, which support the graceful arches.

The east aisle of the south transept, which extends its  
whole

whole length of 31 feet 5 inches, has two bays of pointed arches supported on a central moulded and fluted pillar with a plain moulded capital. The foundation upon which the wooden screen stood, underneath the northern arch, has been laid open to a small extent ; and here were found to lie beneath the soil, close to the screen, the bones of some persons now unknown, thought, for some cause, worthy of this hallowed spot ; the two corbel responds, differing at each side, are worth examination, the north one especially. The stone groining of the roof above this chapel or chapels seems never to have been carried out ; though we can see from the vaulting corbels, and the corner stones, that it was included in the plan when this aisle was built, as in the aisles of the nave. Each bay has in it, to the east, a double lancet window ; or rather two separate lancets, connected formerly in the outside wall, with two detached pillar shafts, now gone, with nail head pattern capitals and fillets, supporting hood mouldings joined in the centre ; thus we may see the first attempt as it were at tracery, that is, one window being separated into more lights than one : this also gives us an idea as to the date of this building, which must have been about A.D. 1220. There is a flat buttress between these windows, and a larger one strengthened the south wall. In the inside, above the junction of the arches of each set of windows, a small quatrefoil ornament is sunk about 4 inches in the wall. On the transept wall above these two arches, instead of any triforium openings, there is some nice stone panelling, which shews the design of two windows ; in the upper division of each, there is found a quatrefoil ; within these are four projecting cusps, or short pieces of ornamental tracery, making a pattern, in one of which each alternate cusp is finished with a bowtell, or ball, while in the corresponding ones four fleur-de-lis are introduced.

Opposite, we find that the west wall is pierced high up with two tall narrow trefoil headed lights, which were probably  
made

made by cutting down two clerestory windows to the triforium level ; there are also below them two smaller ones ; the triforium passage is carried across the sills of these upper windows, and above the lower ones, piercing the wall between, and then entering the wall of the north-west corner of the tower ; this passage next ascends a steep step, close beyond a small square-headed doorway formerly leading into the roof of the south nave aisle, and then ascending a circular stair, the floor of the tower above the crossing was formerly reached ; now some steps are wanting, and the climb made difficult. There was here no lantern, or lighted story, open to the church below ; for we can still see the huge corbels that supported the floor timbers projecting from the wall, just above the lofty arches ; this apartment was lighted by large windows, the openings of which we can still see through the thick ivy.

In the south wall of this transept, about 9 feet from the floor, is the pointed door through which, by a flight of steps, entrance was given to the dormitory passage, and to a turret stair, lighted by loop holes, and supported without in the cloister court by a flat buttress ; this stair leads to the higher level of the triforium passage, to which a narrow door gives access ; passing this door and still ascending, we reach almost the level of the transept wall : the rest of the stair, which went much higher, is now broken down ; but we can see a narrow passage through the thickness of the south gable wall, which led by a square opening into the *Scriptorium* roof. On each of the stones of which this circular stair is built may be clearly seen on a cross crosslet used as a mason's mark.

Standing without the building, on the site of the east walk of the wooden cloister, we see the corbels, small ones below, and larger ones above, which formed supports for this erection, which is, in every monastic house, found to surround the cloister garth, and which formed so important a part of the monastic buildings ; for here, in the  
long

long summer days, the time of silent contemplation generally was spent ; here books were read, and even copied ; and here, when the days were wet and cold, the necessary out door exercise was taken during those short hours, when recreation was allowed : into this cloister nearly every door would open, to which it would form a grateful shelter.

If we look upward, before we enter the first door, we see next to the church, half hidden in the dark green screen of ivy, a row of carved small corbel tables, which shews us the original height of the transept wall, nearly the only piece of walling throughout the ruins that has remained at its full height. Then standing before an arched doorway, with an inner double archway formed by tracery still nearly whole, we see the pointed arches have mouldings, as far as they were finished, (manifestly they are incomplete,) of tooth and nailhead ornament ; this small apartment, with its stone groined roof still intact, so generally called the cell, is now known as the treasury, and the arches of the doorway shew the grooves for doors or shutters, so that it might be safely closed, and barred.\*

Here are kept many interesting fragments of tombs and carvings, found in different parts of the ruins ; the most interesting of these, to a historian of the abbey, is a slab which formed part of the monument of one of the lord abbots of Calder : we cannot now know of what the rest of it consisted ; it may have been a recumbent effigy of the abbot himself, in his long monastic habit, having a book in his right hand, and a pastoral staff, a symbol of his office, in his left ; thus it is we are told one of the abbots is depicted on his private seal, affixed to a document formerly in the Duchy of Lancaster office, but now supposed to be removed to the Public Record office : this inscription

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\* At some period there has been an opening in the south wall of this cell, into the Chapter House vestibule, so that it may have been used as an *auditorium*.

is

is the only record we can find of the abbot it comemorated : it runs as follows :—*Hic jacet dompnus Robertus de Wilughby Abbas de Caldra cujus animæ propicietur Deus.*

There is also a part of another sculptured slab, with the inscription, also in Lombardic capitals :—*Richard Gra.*, and below it the words *De Kendale*; this inscription has a deeply incised Maltese cross before the name, and between each word three dots, in an upright line, are cut. It is supposed that this abbot lived about 1450, A.D., but who Richard Gra (ham ?) of Kendal, was, we have no knowledge.

Among these fragments, may also be seen some carved stone heads, one of a bishop, or mitred abbot, is in very good preservation, with gilding still visible upon his mitre; this stone, with the small head of a monk with tonsured crown and cowled head, was dug up near the north-west pier, at the late excavations, though unfortunately, the pick took off the monk's nose in the process of unearthing.

But to many archæologists, the most valuable stone of all, that are here, is the rectangular slab of new red sandstone, for it is a fragment of a cresset stone, though somewhat mutilated;\* it shews clearly that when perfect, it had 16 circular cup-shaped cavities, each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep, scooped out of the plain surface, in four rows, the stone is  $21\frac{1}{4}$  inch broad, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick; though so long exposed to the weather, this stone still retains fire and soot stains. How often by the light of this cresset stone, with its many burners, have the white clad monks, in the dead of night, said their midnight offices in the gloomy choir! There are also preserved here some pieces of fan tracery, which seem to form part of two piscinas

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† These Transactions, vol. iii. p. 190. Archæological Journal vol. xxxix. 390 Articles by Rev. T. Lees, F.S.A.

or holy water stoups, but which they were, we cannot now quite tell.

If we come out again into the cloister court, we find close to this cell door, two more arches, much like it, but somewhat higher; these form the double-doorwayed entrances to the chapter house, but unfortunately the arches were closed with stones built into them, and their tracery destroyed, entrance being obtained by the south transept, through a large modern opening, broken through the wall: entering by these arches we see that there was a vestibule, just the depth of the treasury, which encloses it at the the north side as well. Immediately beyond, extending behind the treasury wall, stood the chapter house itself; much of it is still standing, it was built against the wall of the south transept, thus occupying the usual place of the sacristy; its plan was nearly a square, being 30 feet 11 inches from east to west, and 29 from north to south; there still remains one bay of the groined roof, which formed one-third of the whole, in good preservation, having been repaired and pointed within a few years, when the excavations were made; it was taken just in time, for it was beginning to fall, and would have soon become a ruin like the rest, which covered the space now left open at the west side of the only remaining rib, which spans the whole space from north to south. From the remains of the large decorated window, which occupies nearly the whole of the east side, and the smaller one of the same date, which pierces the south wall, we can judge that this was the latest erected part of the abbey buildings; it was most probably added after the visit of Robert Bruce, when he ravaged the north of England, after defeating Edward II. at Bannockburn. It was at this time also, it is supposed, that the rest of the church was partially destroyed, and then rebuilt, except the groining of the aisles; no doubt the abbey suffered greatly, for it must have been full in their way, when, as the historian says,  
“ the



“ the Scotch went towards Furness, in Lancashire, burning and destroying all the way they went.”\*

There is no doubt that the chapter house was a later addition, even if the change of style had not told us so, for though it is built close against the church wall, yet it is detached from it; a window and a door at least of the transept were then built up, that before had opened out this way. The floor has to a certain extent been opened up, and the stone seats which surrounded it on the north, south, and east sides uncovered, but much more remains to be done; here the abbots were buried under the floor. The great window is not in the centre of the east wall, but extends more to the south, opposite the vestibule; from this we may see another proof that this space opposite the treasury east wall was taken into the chapter house at a late date, when it was enlarged.

Again we return to the open air, and still on the site of the eastern cloister, we find next to the third double door another arch, lower and less pointed, and also closely built up: this was the door of the passage leading from the cloister garth into the cemetery lying beyond; it was a narrow chamber running thus, due west and east, from this small doorway to another in the opposite wall, which was also built up, it is slightly pointed.† We can trace the barrel vaulting against the two walls in which these doors are placed; the partitions between this passage and the apartments on either side have been removed, except two small fragments of that forming the south side of the chapter house, about a foot length of wall projecting from the west wall north of the passage doorway, and about the same length from the east wall at the same side.

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\* Nicolson and Burn, p. 4.

† Is it possible that this is an original (13th century) door, built at the same date as the rest of this building; the other archways being introduced later, when the chapter house was added between the older church and calefactorium? All these doorways have been opened in 1886, by the present owner, Thomas Rymer Esquire.

This

This passage may possibly have formed the auditorium, where alone, during the long hours of enforced silence, the monks might meet to transact such necessary business as would require this silence to be broken ; and thus, coming by this slype, as this passage was called, from either the seclusion of the cloister to the west, or from the closes and granges beyond the cemetery enclosure to the east, they would have a meeting place.

At the extreme limit to the south of this same east cloister walk, there must have been in the east wall a doorway ; a close examination of the wall, which has here been partly rebuilt, will shew where it was, and at the other side of the wall within the corner formed by the modern kitchen north wall and this cloister wall, a recess about 4 feet broad shews us exactly where it was. This door led into the calefactorium, or day room of the monastery ; here in this common house, the monks did not seem to warm themselves, as we should have thought from its name ; for we find no trace of fire place or chimney, unless the modern kitchen one, built into an arch or window, be in the place of an older one. Indeed one authority tells us that the arches to be found in these apartments were always left open to the air, surely then comfort must have been counted luxury !\* In this fine room which measures 50 feet 9 inches, by 25 feet 5 inches, we can trace four of these arches in the east wall, which now encloses one side of the yard and modern kitchen. The most northern one, that one next the passage door, is not much pointed ; in the outside of it, facing the east, a pointed small window, still perfect, with grooves for shutters, has been introduced ; again to the right of this one we can trace another nearly round, into which a modern door has been built ; in the kitchen a third can be seen which is pointed, and outside this wall, behind the fire place, the fourth is found. The

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\* Sharpe, Cistercian Architecture

modern kitchen has been formed by dividing off the south end of this room\* by a partition wall across it ; a door in the end wall of this room, opened through 4 feet of walling, shews us the south gable, through which this door (probably original) led through the side wall of a range of two storied buildings, running east and west, with its east gable built on a line with the east side of the calefactorium ; it extended across its breadth, and westward met the south end of the refectory building ; in this building close to the refectory, between it and the calefactorium, the kitchen of the abbey was placed ; so that the monks, living so much of their time in this day-room, working and fulfilling their allotted tasks, (for their stern Cistercian rule, allowed no time for idleness, no place for leisured ease,) would not be very far from a fire at which no doubt they obtained leave from the prior or abbot to warm themselves when the weather was exceptionally cold. In this range of offices containing two or three rooms below, and as many above, the abbot's private rooms may have been situated ; their windows facing south and overlooking the river. We can trace the place where the stairs must have led from the kitchen floor to the room above, leading directly to the refectory ; it is cut out of the thickness of the north wall of these rooms, which divides them from another range of rooms, formerly it seems of one story which run parallel with these, extending from the south part of the west side of the calefactorium, to meet the north portion of the refectory ; their east gable has been in modern times continued across the calefactorium space, to form a kitchen : this whole building was rebuilt about 30 years ago. Over the calefactorium was the dormitory of the monks, with windows both east and west ; some five of these are still in their places, though but one only of those on the west side can be found ; for upon the site of south-west end of this

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\* See the ground plan annexed.

room, a modern bed-room has been built, with a coal house underneath it; the other two small windows looking east and west, over the auditorium, were perhaps not in the dormitory itself.\*

The passage from the dormitory, over the vestibule of the chapter house and the treasury roof, still remains in part complete; it is lighted with four windows facing west, opening over the roof of the east cloister; here, as was usual, the monks would have a covered way, ending in stairs in the south transept, by which they might at depth of night, or early morning, find their way in silent procession into the choir of the abbey church; thus literally fulfilling the words of the psalm that they so often chanted, which said, "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee.†"

To the right of this passage, the monks would pass on their way the full length of a fine apartment, occupying the space over the chapter house. It is not quite determined what was the use of this room; it may have been the library, or the scriptorium, where the copying of MSS. was carried on, a very necessary work before the art of printing was fully known; here the monks may have engaged in literary work, when unable to endure the cold or damp of the open cloister, or the distraction of the common room. But the Cistercian rule recommended labour more than learning; unlike that of the Benedictines, which encouraged rather reading and meditation, and of course, both intended these arts and works to be but handmaids of almost unceasing prayer.‡ When this room was built, there was a decorated window looking to the south, pierced in the gable which extended eastward beyond the dormitory limit, as well as a smaller one above it in the same gable, and windows to the east, where the wall

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\* They may have lighted a small vestibule with a stair into the scriptorium.

† Ps. cxix. 62.

‡ Could this have been used for an infirmary? A window in its north wall would open into the south transept chapel though at a high level.

was

was lower ; a trefoil head of one of these may still be seen, perhaps not far from where it once had been placed, though now, merely for safety, it is built into the top of the broken wall.

It is very interesting, though now it may be found a difficult work, to examine the remains of the south window, for it will be found that it gives a curious, but not the only\* instance of a fireplace being introduced in the 15th or perhaps the 16th century, into a window of the 14th century ! the window can still be seen from the floor of the room *i.e.*, the roof of the chapter house, by looking up into the chimney, where the flue is seen to be led through the tracery at the top, to the outside of the gable. There is a trace to be found of the stairs, which must have given access to this room and the dormitory, in a recess cut out of the west wall of the common room, now occupied by a wooden stair to the modern room before alluded to ; the stair leading from the church to the dormitory would only be used at night for the midnight and early morning offices.

The rude old painting before mentioned, a print of which we give, shews the cloister garth complete, surrounded on every side with buildings ; on the south, where the modern house now stands, there is seen a long one storied building, shewing in its centre the gable of the refectory which was always placed in this position, running north and south ; from a door in this gable, which has in it an upper window, steps decends to the court below, and low mullioned windows, are also shewn on each side.

In 1850 the roof of this old building was cut through, and the south part alone left of the refectory, to form the modern dining room. The south gable can still be traced in the wall facing the river, though it has been altered in

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\* See Micklethwaite on the Cistercian plan, Furness and Jervaulx, York Arch. Journal, 1881.

shape

shape to fit the added west rooms. The south part of the old roof is still in its place, though covered from sight below by the ceiling ; it is formed of strong oak beams, only roughly dressed, the northern part, that was removed to make place for the skylight over a passage, was considered to be in too dilapidated a state to remain. In the ground floor rooms of the modern house, the original extent of this room can easily be traced by the thickness of the walls : and by looking down upon these buildings from the tower stair, the original plan can be made out, in spite of its modern disguise.

The refectory was of nearly the same size as the calefactorium, as we find from its basement story which is plainly one large room divided only by very modern partitions ; it measures 46 feet 1 inch by 23 feet 4 inches : in the walls, old stone corbels, one of them quaintly carved, still support the beams of the floor above. The upper room was entered from the south cloister, near which a lavatory would be situated for the ablutions of the monks, the water being obtained from the stream which flows underneath the offices.\* We cannot help thinking that this fine building would be unsuited to the meagre fare supplied within its walls, vegetable soups, and oaten porridge, washed down with water : this abstemious diet was diversified, on extraordinary occasions, by fish and eggs very plainly cooked, if they attended to the spirit of their founder's rules, for one of S. Bernard's objections in the 11th century to the Benedictine rule, which he reformed, was the way in which they varied their simple food to make it more palatable ; " to mention eggs alone " he said, " who can number the modes in which they are twisted and plied, now fried, now boiled, now stuffed, now mixed, now simple."† But these very strict rules were not very long

\* The course of this stream has been, in 1886, diverted from beneath the dwelling house.

† Monastic annals, *Churchman*, July 1883.

kept

kept, and in the year 1485, by a bull of Pope Sixtus VI., they were allowed to eat flesh three times a week, on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays ; for which purpose a particular dining room, separate from the refectory was fitted up in every monastery.\* This relaxing of their former severe rules accounts for the dove house we find always alluded to in deeds relating to the suppression of the abbey†: dubhouse close may be a corruption of dovehouse close.

The original north wall of the buildings joining the calefactorium to the refectory, was pulled down and rebuilt, it is said on the same site, by the late Captain Irwin, as it was thought unsafe, and the rooms within were very low ; it was found to be without foundations. It is supposed that the coats of arms, now on this wall, were then placed there ; they form the arms of the abbey, as given by Tonge, in his visitation of the northern counties, and include in one shield, the coats of FitzWalter, *or, a fess between two cheveronels gules*, Harrington, *sable, a fret, argent* : (which is also repeated within a border on a separate shield), and Lucy *gules, three lucies, hauriant argent*. These are the arms respectively of the husbands of the three coheiresses in the 14th century, of the barony of Egremont, viz : Joanne, wife of Robert Baron FitzWalter ; Elizabeth, wife of Walter de Bermicham, who subsequently married Robert de Harrington ; and Margaret, wife of Thomas de Lucy, of Cockermouth. They were the daughters of Thomas de Multon, of Egremont castle, and sisters of John de Multon, the last of that name, of Egremont, who died childless.

The great stone oblong building, west of this wall, was built by Joseph Tiffin Senhouse, father of the late Mrs. Irwin, who died in 1885, aged 90, so it is about 100 years old ; it was built, as far as we can judge without digging

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\* West Ant. p. 13.

† Grant to Thomas Leigh, by Hy. viii., &c.

for

for the foundations, partly upon the site of the one story building, that filled the rest of this south side of the court yard ; and upon some of the site, perhaps of that building, of the same height, that at the time the old picture was painted occupied the whole of the west side, and which had taken the place, if it was not the same, of the dwelling-house with dormitory above of the lay brethren who assisted in the outside work of the abbey, in its gardens, and orchard, its fields, mills, and farms. According to the picture this building seemed to project beyond the west limit of the church, and to enclose between it and another house placed to the north, a space which would form a west porch, or *narthex*, containing the west door of the church, but of this there has as yet no trace been found. The portico, which covers in the steps to the hall of the new house, was added in 1859.

In digging among the refuse of ages, heaped upon the roof of the chapter house, therefore of course upon the floor of the *scriptorium* above it, some pieces of stained glass, chiefly of a green or yellow colour were found ; one piece still in its leaden frame and one piece of black, with a white enamelled pattern : some authorities deny that these are pieces fallen from the windows of the ancient buildings as they think that they would have been more corroded by time, and the effect of the weather, even than they are ; and others say, that Cistercians used no stained glass at all in their buildings, as they had to obey very strict rules, as to any ornament or decoration in their churches, and other buildings, for which they are termed the Puritans of the middle ages ; there is little doubt but that these are specimens of coloured window glass, for being buried deep in sand and soil, they have been preserved from the weather ; still, it is also true to a certain extent, that these severe rules were considered binding upon the builders of these abbeys, until the later times when they were interpreted in a more lax way.

In



In examining the remains of the ruins here left to us at Calder, we are reminded that the subject of masons' marks is one upon which much light requires yet to be thrown, before we can say that it is thoroughly understood; but the examination of those found in many different buildings, religious and secular, and the comparison of those of corresponding dates, must in time lead to a greater knowledge, and perhaps to an explanation of the mystery, supposed to hang over the building, or masons' societies of the olden times. Of the ordinary medieval masons' marks, about 19 different ones have been discovered, as yet, at Calder abbey; they resemble those at Furness abbey and Carlisle cathedral; they may be described as W's turned different ways, and interlaced; as X's and crosses, those in the turret stair being cross crosslets; there are also A's with different kinds of cross pieces introduced; we find arrow heads with different lengthened sides, which form four or five combinations. There is one also like the letter N, and no doubt more varieties might be found if all the buildings were accessible to the careful searcher.\*

A very peculiarly marked stone was cut out of the modern yard wall, near the gate house, in 1882, and is now in the cell; it exhibits representations of incised hearts and squares, repeated exactly upon its four sides, each side being surmounted by a label of four or five points; it is thought by some, not to be older than the 16th century, but no satisfactory explanation has yet been given of its use or meaning, though its marks seem to shew a likeness to the symbols of freemasonry.† There was formerly kept with the other fragments in the cell a very interesting and valuable one; it was a slab of red sandstone, measuring  $10\frac{1}{8}$  inches by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick, the upper edge being bevelled off. It has incised upon it five small crosses

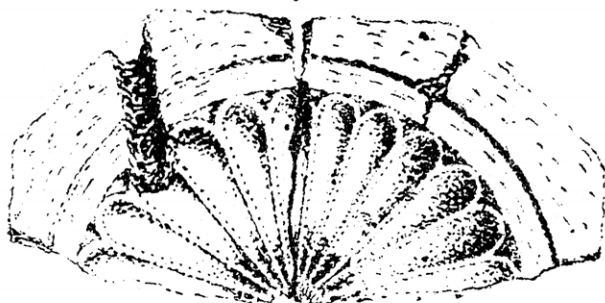
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\* These marks are figured in these Transactions, vol. vi., p. 357.

† It is engraved in these Transactions, vol. vi., opposite p. 370.

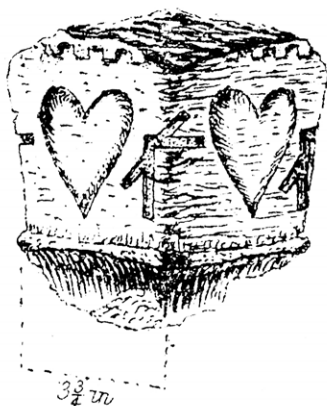
bourdonee ;

Fig 3.



Two fragments of Piscina c. — dug out of soil on floor of Chapter House.

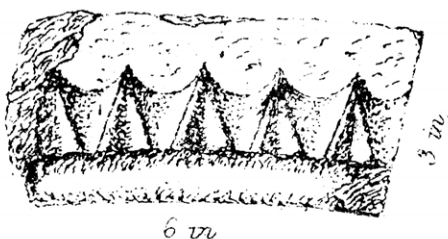
Fig 4



Found in the wall of the stableyard

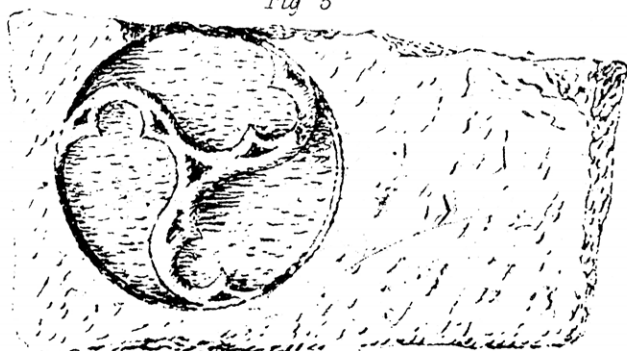
Fig 6.

7 in.



Segment of Arch c. 1170,  
found in digging out west door.  
Transition from Norman.

Fig 5



Found in the Garden.

Culder Abbey



TURRET STAIR

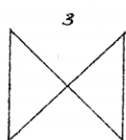


CELL ROOF.

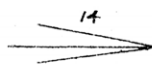
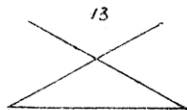
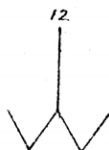
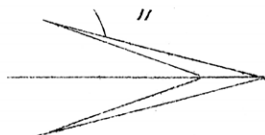
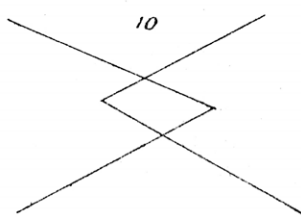
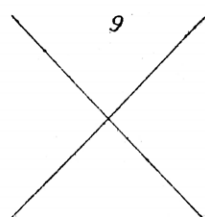
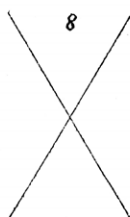
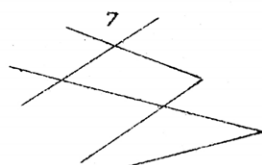
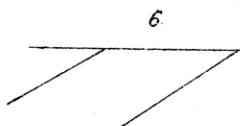


O N P I E R

NORTH DOOR



IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE



A. G. L.

bourdonee ; these represent, in the beautiful language of symbol, the five wounds of our Blessed Lord ; by some accident this stone was broken into two pieces, and some mischievous person had scratched upon its surface, an imitation of the crosses already there, so that the writer of these pages thought it well to get possession of it, that it might be placed in safety : it was given to him by the owner of the abbey, and when it had been framed in old oak, taken from the chancel roof of Ponsonby church, and set upon an old carved oak cherub as a bracket, it was removed to the sanctuary of the church at Calderbridge, where it now remains. What is this stone ? Was it used for a *sigillum* or seal, to cover the opening made in the stone altar slab, to contain the bones of some saint, or perhaps to hold that relic described by the commissioners appointed to visit this abbey, by Henry VIII., as *Cingulum (ut putatur) Bte Marie parturientibus salubre*.<sup>\*</sup> But it has been thought by some, in spite of its weight to have been used as a portable altar ; and it has been very ingeniously connected with the abbot, whose inscription has been noticed before : † if this connection can be proved, it gives us a guess at the date of the abbot Wilughby, not otherwise attainable.

In the publications of the Surtees Society we come across an entry stating that on the authority of a brief from Pope Nicholas V., Archbishop Kempe of York, consecrated nine super altars for divers important persons ; the first one, granted in 1448, was for Hugo Wyllughby, *armiger*, ‡ then the argument is, that this stone, having been found near the monument of the abbot Robert de Wiloughby, may have been buried with him in his coffin ; it having been given to him by his supposed relative Hugh, as a precious and valuable relic.

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\* These Transactions, vol. iv. p. 90, Canon Dixon.

† Revd. T. Lees, these Transactions, vol. iii., p. 190.

‡ Surtees Society, vol. lxi. York Pontifical p. 387.

A mill stream, taken from the Calder, higher up the valley, not much above Stakes bridge, was conducted through the abbey precincts, and still runs under the modern house though probably not quite in its old course ; it has also lately been taken at its beginning from the river, somewhat higher up the stream : here, as at Furness and so many other monastic buildings, by this means a plentiful supply of water was brought within reach of the domestic offices, and at the same time, a most efficient sanitary system, was assured. An archway opening low down in the south wall of one of the basement rooms of the old offices on the east of the refectory, may have been used as an outlet for the stream, which would have been led in some yards further east, *i.e.*, a few feet further north of its present course. There was also within easy reach, a spring of purest water springing out of the living rock, close to the river brink ; it is now, as no doubt it was in the days of the monks, enclosed in a shallow well cut out of the sandstone rock, and surrounded with cut stones, leaving in the west side an opening ; this stone rim has six sides, which with the opening may have formed a kind of octagon font or basin, though a stone cut to fit its shape is now fastened upon the top.

There is also an ancient oven, situated above the ruins close to the mill stream, where was most likely placed a private corn mill ; some ruins which may have belonged to one, still lie around. The oven is still in good preservation, though its opening doorway sadly needs repair, lest the sheep that take shelter in it should throw down the loosely fastened stones :\* it has a groined stone roof roughly put together, and is exactly like the common brick oven still used, though it is much larger ; it is certain that there was also here a mill within the precincts, as we find in Furness abbey in much the same position. In the early

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\* The doorway arch has been now rebuilt, 1886.

records,

records, there is only mention made of one mill, as in the confirmation of the Furness abbey possessions by Pope Eugenius the III., in 1145, there is specified Calder with its mill, (*molendinum*).<sup>\*</sup> So in 1534 we find in the return made to Henry VIII., after the description of the immediate surroundings of the abbey, the words in contracted latin *molend' infra p̄cint'*<sup>†</sup> which must mean the mill within the precincts; yet we find in a deed dated not so long after, *i.e.*, in A.D. 1586, in which the Leighs received a title to sell the abbey, the item, two water corn mills.<sup>‡</sup>

No doubt this original one, belonging altogether to the monks themselves, for their sole use, would be disused and fall into decay at the dissolution; so that one below at Calder bridge, which would have been used by the tenants of the abbey granges and other outsiders, alone would be kept in repair, so we read of but one water corn mill, this time no doubt the lower one, in a deed by which the Fletchers sought in 1637 to obtain a right to settle the abbey estate upon Bridget Fletcher, (afterwards Patrickson). Which mill was the original one, that seems from the Pope's letter, to have been older than the foundation of the abbey, we cannot quite be certain; when the new church of S. Bridget at Calder bridge was built by Captain Irwin, in 1842, close to the present mill where the stream falls into the river again, some piles were found of a great age, deeply imbedded in the soil.

A pond, which tradition called a fish pond, was formerly situated to the north-west of the modern house; it probably was formed from the mill-race, which close by emerges into daylight after its subterraneous course; it was filled up by the late Captain Irwin, about 1825. It was probably one of the two lakes mentioned in a deed of 1586,<sup>§</sup> as belonging to the abbey, but not mentioned

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<sup>\*</sup> West. Ant. of Furness, p. 62.

<sup>†</sup> Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henry VIII., Dugdale, new edition.

<sup>‡</sup> Abbey title deeds.

<sup>§</sup> Abbey title deeds.

in any of the more modern documents. As no doubt the original use of this pond was to contain fish, caught elsewhere, until they were required for use, we can imagine it the scene of much tame sport, when the white robed monk whose business it would be to supply fish for the brethren's use, would come here in haste with his fishing gear, to provide for the needs of some noble guests from Egremont castle; or some travelling brother, to whom the abbot desired to shew the hospitality of the abbot's parlour, or the refectory table, instead of trying the more uncertain waters of the neighbouring trout stream; this well-stocked fish pond would be ready for such an emergency. But fishing though frequently mentioned in old documents,\* was not always the safe clerical recreation it has since become; for with the monks it was a necessity, fish forming an important article of their diet, as well as of their alms: and even in the waters of their own river Calder, there was danger in the lawless days of the olden time; for from an old family legend of a neighbouring house, we learn that in the reign of Henry VI., there lived a Thomas de Sevenhouse, whose mother was a de Lucy of Egremont castle, an ancestor of the Senhouses of Seascale; his strength, the story goes on to say, was rather extraordinary, for in a warm altercation with a monk of the abbey of Calder, relative to the claim of a right to fish in the river of that name, Thomas was so highly exasperated, that he caught the monk in his arms, and heaved him over the battlements of the bridge!† We suppose this was an ancient stone bridge at Calder bridge, not Stakes bridge; built no doubt of wood, which stood at some distance above the abbey.

We cannot tell where the abbey infirmary stood, as no doubt there was one attached to the buildings. Nor do we

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\* Henry VIII., surveys.

† The late Sir H. Senhouse's papers.

know

know where the home for old men was situated ; but if we interpret the latin words *infra abbathiam*,\* which are applied to it, as within the abbey,† it must have been near the mill, which was said to be *infra pcint'*, i.e., within the precincts : but, as there is a field beyond the abbey, still called Chapel Holme, it is here we might have expected to find the hospital, with its chapel attached : this alms house was founded in ancient time, it was forgotten by whom, for four old men, weighed down by age and infirmity, of whom the old account says, let them take victuals and clothes, to the value of £4.

In searching into the uses of the existing buildings of this most interesting ruin ; and in trying, sometimes vainly, to discover its obliterated foundations ; we find that our work of complete identification becomes nearly an impossibility ; and then, half unconsciously we say, we wish the old legend of the monk‡ would come true for us. What a fund of information might we not gather from such a strangely clad and sandaled monk, who would just have wakened from his fabled trance of 360 years ! Surely all remembrance of the sweet song of the beguiling bird, that lured him from the abbey, would quickly vanish from his mind, when in vain he would look for a door at which to knock for admittance to his cloistered home ! When last he had seen it, in quiet beauty, Richard Ponsonby had just been elected Lord Abbot of the monastery ; and in the early autumn, before the winter storms set in, he had started on his perilous journey to York, to swear obedience, and to receive in turn the Archbishop's blessing.§ Can we not picture to ourselves such a poor confused and astonished monk ; the last of a race, prolonged without a break, for full 400 years, now vainly trying to comprehend

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\* Dugdale, mod. ed., *valor ecclesiasticus temp. H. viii.*

† The Rev. T. Lees.

‡ Pascuets of advice from Rome, published 1682. *Guardian*, Dec. 17, 1884.

§ 23rd Sept. 1525.

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the changes wrought during nearly as long again, while monastic rule has been banished from this vale. Can we not see him, at last with returning recollection, turn from the ruins of the abbey and look upon the moving stream of the well-known Calder? Then surely, as he listens to the murmur of its water, he would echo the sentiment which has been written of the ruins of Imperial Rome, with its ever flowing Tiber; and sadly say to those around him,

*Disce hinc quid possit fortuna ;  
Immota labascunt,  
Et quæ perpetuo sunt fluitura manent.*

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