



Effigy of a Priest in Ledbury Church.

ON THE SEPULCHRAL EFFIGY OF A PRIEST OF THE
THIRTEENTH CENTURY, IN LEDBURY CHURCH,
HEREFORDSHIRE, AND ON OTHER SCULPTURED
MEMORIALS IN THAT CHURCH.

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Till the fourteenth century, sculptured sepulchral effigies of ecclesiastics who had attained no higher degree in ecclesiastical rank than that of priesthood are rare. A fine and interesting example of the thirteenth century, is, however, preserved in Ledbury Church, Herefordshire. This, a recumbent effigy within a pointed canopy, trefoiled in the head, and springing from two lateral shafts with moulded bases and caps, has been removed from its original position, and is now placed upright against a wall in the north transept of the church. The effigy is in a better state of preservation than we usually find to be the case in effigies of so early a period. The head reposes on a lozenge-shaped pillow; the face exhibits the moustache over the upper lip, and short crisp beard, a fashion which generally prevailed till about the middle of the fourteenth century, circa A.D. 1350, when the fashion was introduced, perhaps gradually, of representing the face close shaven. The hair appears cut close round the forehead. The person commemorated is represented vested with the amice about his neck, in the alb, without any parure on the skirt in front, over this appear the extremities of the stole which are long and plain; the maniple which is worn over the left arm at the wrist is also plain, the sleeves of the cassock, *toga talaris*, are visible beneath the folds of the chesible and are cuffed at the wrists, the hands are conjoined as in prayer. The chesible which is

well defined is of moderate length, and is covered with the orfrey coming over the shoulders and disposed in front somewhat like an archiepiscopal pall. Few effigies of the kind are indeed more interesting than this, as will be seen by reference to the illustration. Of whom it is commemorative I have no note.

Against the south wall of the chancel, beneath a tent-like canopy, is the sculptured busto of a divine of the seventeenth century. He appears with a moustache and beard, both of which came in vogue at the Reformation, with a ruff round his neck, a hood falling behind, and vested in a surplice. His right hand is on his breast, his left hand is holding a book, his wrist is ruffed, a cushion is before him, and he is represented in the act of preaching. There are at this period few effigies of clergy beneath that of the rank of dean, and still fewer represented preaching in the surplice.

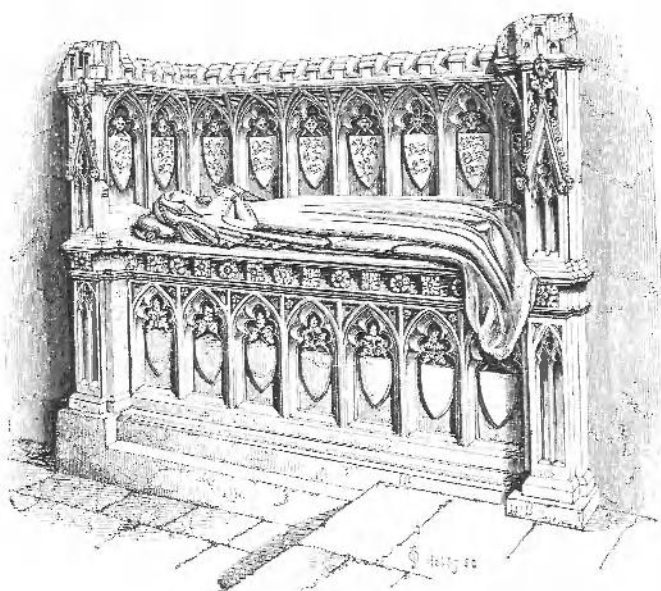
The epitaph runs as follows :

Sub pedibus Doctor iacet hic in Legibus Hoskyns
Esse pios docuit quoque docebat erat
Hoc Herefordensis, luget lectura sepulto
Et Templum lacrymis Lidburiense madet
Cura duplex studiumque duplex duplicavit honorem
Sed minuit fessos invigilando dies
O Fœlix quæ Christe tibi sua Tempora sacrum
Et moritur medium sedulus inter opus.

This John Hoskyns, LL.D., was installed as Prebendary of Hereford December 10th 1614. He died August 8th 1631, and was buried at Ledbury, of which place he was vicar.

Against the north wall of the chancel is another busto of a divine of the seventeenth century. He is represented wearing the moustache and beard. Round his neck is a ruff, a scarlet hood falls over his shoulders. Over the cassock or long side gown is worn the surplice, and over that the tippet arranged scarf-wise ; the sleeves of the cassock are black, the right hand, enveloped in a white glove, is uplifted, the left hand is placed on a book. The date of this monument is 1629. The name of the person commemorated I cannot find.

The monument of Edward Cowper, sometime Arch-deacon of Hereford, to which he was collated in 1567, and



Tomb in LeClary Church.

which he resigned in 1578 ; consists of an alabaster slab set against the north wall of the chancel. On this his effigy is incised. He is represented with the moustache and beard, a black scull cap is worn on the head, and a ruff round the neck. He is attired in a doublet, the upper buttons of which are apparent, and the black sleeves of which are cuffed at the wrists. Over the doublet the surplice is worn, and a tippet about the neck. In front of the breast a book is held in the hands.

The epitaph is as follows :—

Edward Cooper Grave Learned and Wise
Archdeacon of hereff and canon erst here
Of Ledburie Hospital Master in his life
The Poor did greet theyr land rid from strife
He decessed the xvi day of July, Ao. domini 1596.
The time will come when you shal be as I am now.

There is also in the church of Ledbury a rich and remarkable monument, which requires a pictorial illustration in addition to a written description. It consists of a high tomb panelled in front in seven compartments, with pointed arches, cinquefoiled in the heads, each compartment containing a heater shaped shield, the armorial bearings on which have disappeared. Carried horizontally along over these arches is a cavetto or hollow moulding enriched at intervals with rosettes and four leaved flowers. On this tomb is the well-executed recumbent effigy of a lady with veiled head-dress and gorget or barbe worn over the neck and chin. Her body attire consists of a gown close fitting to the waist, with ample skirts gracefully disposed ; the arms are covered with close-fitting sleeves, buttoned from the elbows to the wrists, *manicæ botonatæ*. The hands are conjoined on the breast as in prayer. Over the gown is worn a mantle, the train of which falls in ample and graceful folds over the lower end of the monument in front. Over this effigy is a singular shaped canopy, the back forming a semi-hexagon, composed in front of six pointed panels cinquefoiled in the heads, and two similar panels on each side. Each panel contains a heater shaped shield emblazoned with armorial bearings. This canopy is slightly coved and divided by small ribs ; an embattled cornice

surmounts the whole design. The whole composition forms a most graceful and elegant monument of a period comprised, I think, in the latter half of the fourteenth century. In the neighbouring church of Murch Marcle is a monument resembling this in general design, but varying in some of the details.