

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

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REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 26, 1879,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY,  
1878—1879.

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ALSO

**Communications**

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXI.

BEING No. 3 OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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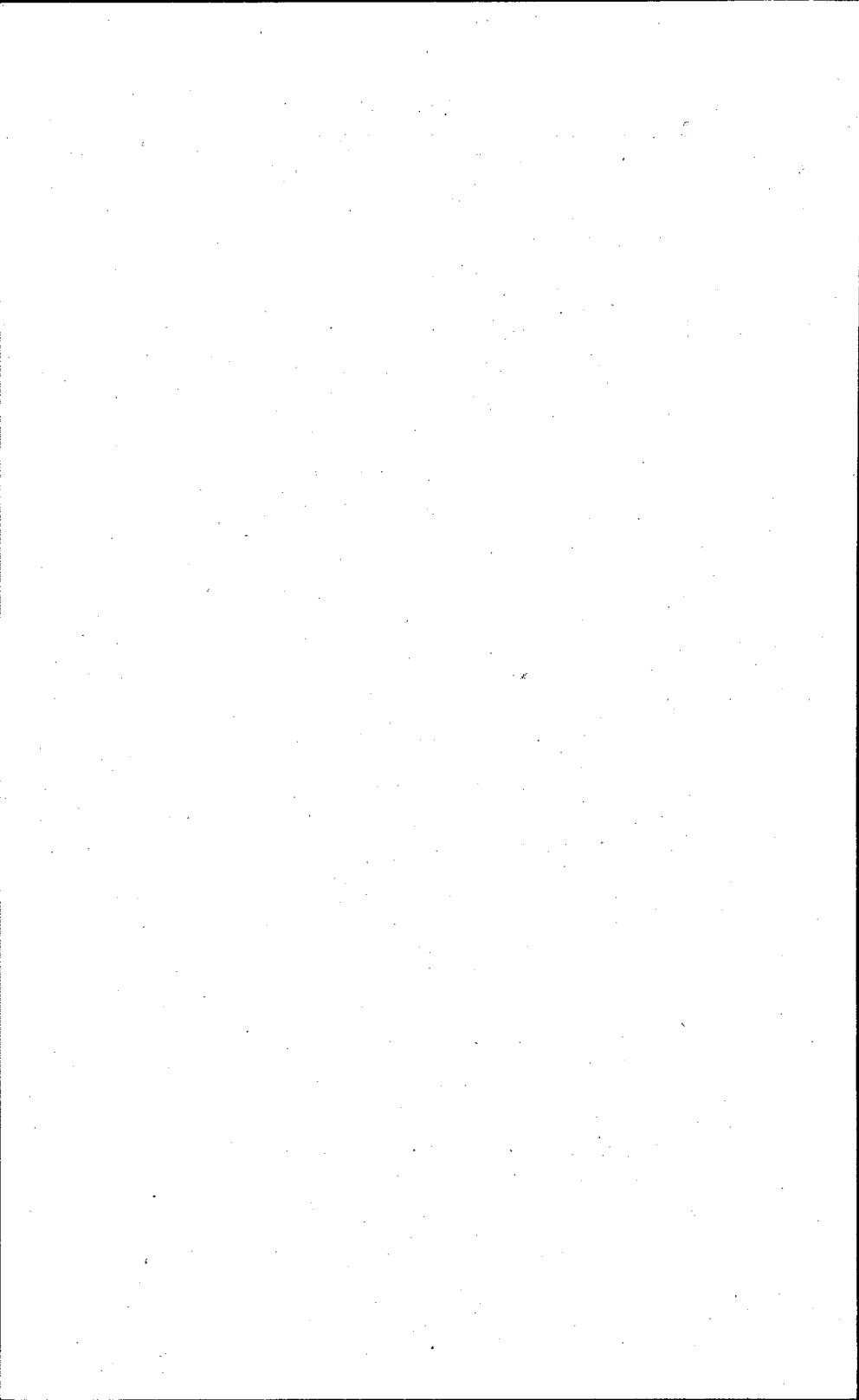
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1881

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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
COMMUNICATIONS,

BEING

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS

OF THE

*Cambridge Antiquarian Society.*

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No. XXI.

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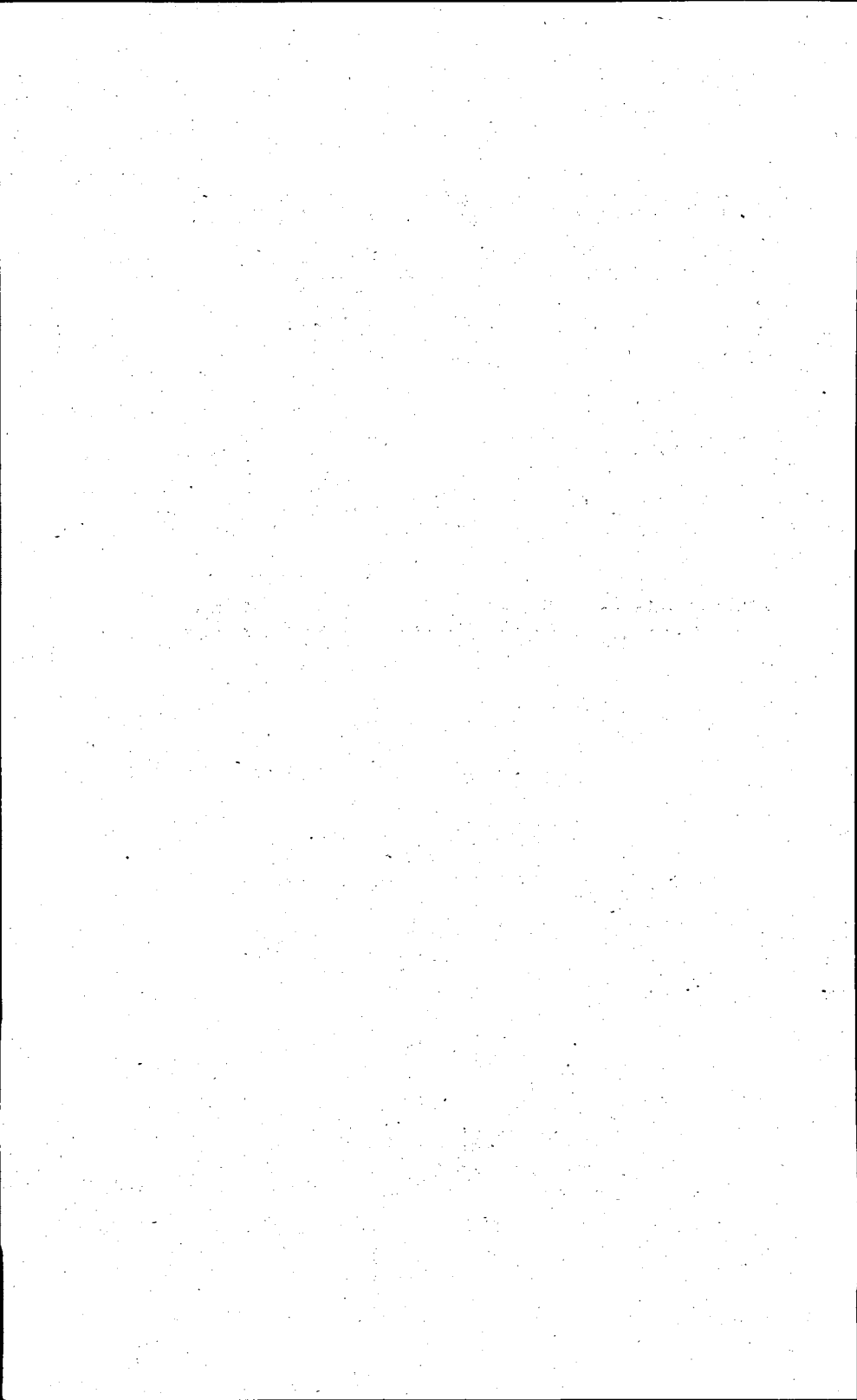
1878—1879.

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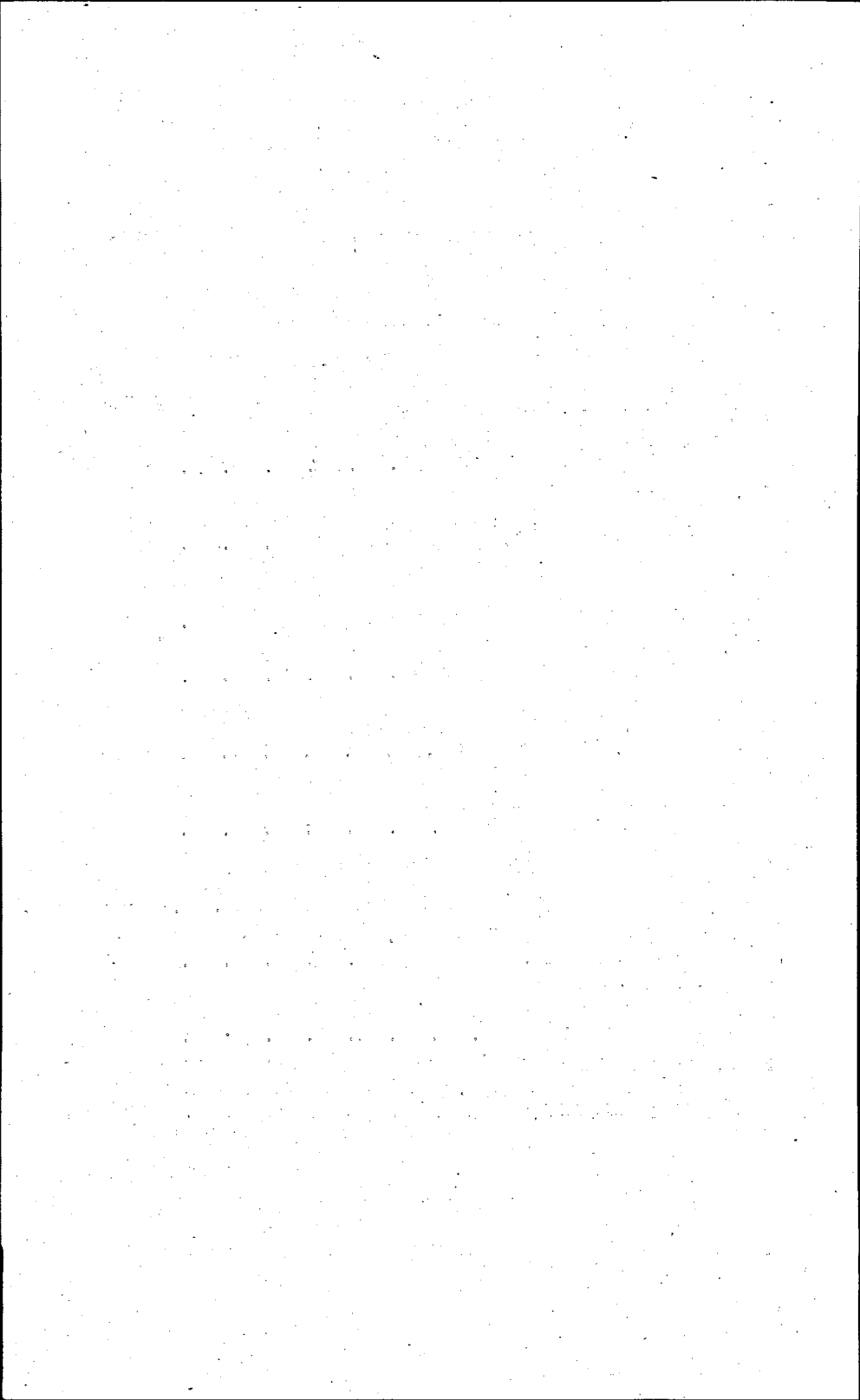
1881



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XIX. NOTES UPON DISCOVERIES MADE DURING THE  
RECENT RESTORATION OF LANDBEACH CHURCH, by  
the REV. BRYAN WALKER, M.A., LL.D., Rector.

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[May 26th, 1879.]

THE Rev. W. K. Clay, in his *History of Landbeach*, says that the builder of the Church as it now stands was Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, the fifth and last of the Chamberlaynes who were Lords of that one of the two Landbeach Manors, which now belongs to Corpus Christi College. But the architecture of the Church scarcely accords with this statement.

Sir Thomas Chamberlayne became Lord of the Manor in or about 1342, sold all his rights to Corpus Christi College in 1359, and died either in the following year or in 1361.

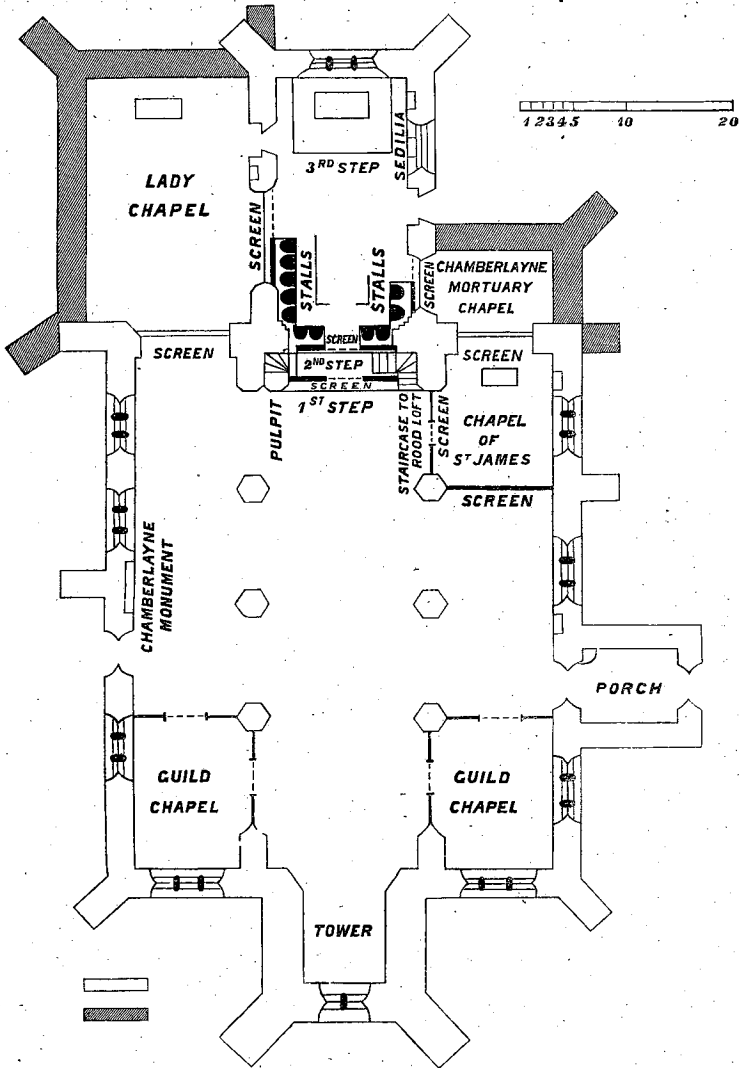
Now the tower of the church is of earlier date than 1350, and the chancel, which Clay and Masters make coeval with the tower, is probably of 12th century workmanship, and cannot be later than the middle of the 13th century: the nave with its octagonal pillars may most probably be put at about 1400, the clerestory perhaps a little later; and the aisles appear to have been rebuilt, and that on the south widened, about 1450. Hence, no part of the fabric seems contemporaneous with Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, except the tower and some insertions in the chancel, and possibly, but not probably, the arcade of the nave.

The ground-plan on the opposite page will serve to show what we may fairly assume to have been the state of this church about 1450.

The chancel in the *Ecclesiastical Topography of England* is described as "late Decorated, poor:" but in our restoration of last year proofs were brought to light that it is an Early English chancel with insertions of later date. For firstly, two Early English arches were discovered and reopened, leading from the chancel into the lady chapel, and from the latter again into the north aisle of the nave. Secondly, a debased fourteenth century window on the south side of the chancel was found to be inserted in an Early English arch, which it does not fill by a space of about eight inches on either side. The splay at its western end runs beyond the window and stops against the respond of the chancel arch; whilst on the east side of the window, although the splay is now levelled to the face of the wall, we found a respond running all the way up from the floor, and just as far from the east side of the window as the chancel arch is from its west side.

The mistake of supposing the chancel to be Decorated no doubt arose from the fact that there is a Decorated two-light window inserted above the sedilia; and yet close to it is an indubitable Early English priest's door, the counterpart of which has in the restoration been found walled up on the opposite or north side of the chancel, and is now reopened. The east window too had been generally supposed to be a Decorated one, from which the cusps had been removed; but the most careful investigation has failed to discover any proofs of such removal, and the window would rather seem to be an intersection of plain lancets, of the kind figured and described by Rose in his "Three Lectures read before the Northampton Society," and called by him "the second state of Early English, or transition to the Decorated Style." (See plate VII, facing p. 58 in Rose's work.) Hence it should be assigned to the end of the 13th century.





Conjectural Ground-plan of the Church of Landbeach, about A.D. 1450.

As to the date of the tower; we find on its northern face, just under the battlement, the arms of the Guild of Corpus Christi, and not the combination of these arms with those of the Guild of the Virgin which formed the armorial device of the college of Corpus Christi until the Reformation. Hence, the tower would seem to have been completed before the college obtained the patronage of Landbeach, *i.e.* prior to 1359. The spire is later, dating from the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th century.



With regard to the roof (which is of some celebrity) I have the following notes from Mr George Wood, who, in conjunction with his fellow-architect, Mr E. F. Clarke, has so carefully endeavoured to restore the church exactly to its pristine appearance: "all the curves and framing above the tie-beams, and the tie-beams themselves, may have been, and probably were, in an Early English roof of the nave; as they are much larger than they would have been if constructed *de novo* at the date of the erection in the present form. I think there was at the time the clerestory was added a good substantial oak roof, and that the beams were moulded on their lower edges before being refixed. The principal rafters have plainly been cut short at the purlin, with a view of keeping down the height of the roof, as was needful, of course, if an Early English roof was to be converted into a Perpendicular one. The mouldings of the beams above the purlins are uniformly different from those below."

The roof is one of the great ornaments of the church, and there is strong reason to suppose it was of home manufacture; at any rate carpentry flourished in the village a very few years later, for we have mention in Masters' *History of Corpus Christi College* (App. p. 7), that Nic. Toftys, carpenter of Landbeche, about the year 1450, "entered into an agreement with the cherche revys of St Benedict in Cambridge, for a new roof of their church with ornaments of angels, &c." He would have

a model in his own parish church, for angels of life-size occur in the Landbeach roof between each pair of tie-beams. These once had wings, the mortices for which still remain.

Landbeach, moreover, was famous for carpentry at a far earlier date, for in *Domesday* we find "Duo Carpentarii Regis" holding the manor which now belongs to the Worts' Trustees; and we may perhaps argue that they maintained a considerable number of workmen and dependants, from the fact that they retained in demesne 4 hides and a virgate out of their entire manor of 5 hides.

Amongst the discoveries of importance made in 1878 may be mentioned:

1st. The arches, already named, and a door, leading into the lady chapel, and of Early English style.

2nd. Indications of a chapel on the south side of the chancel.

3rd. A square double piscina in the chancel: Early English.

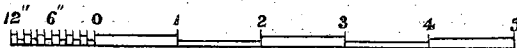
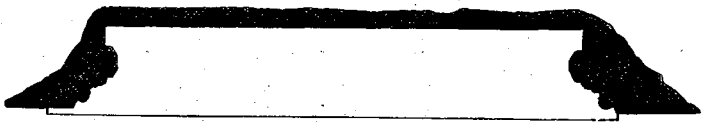
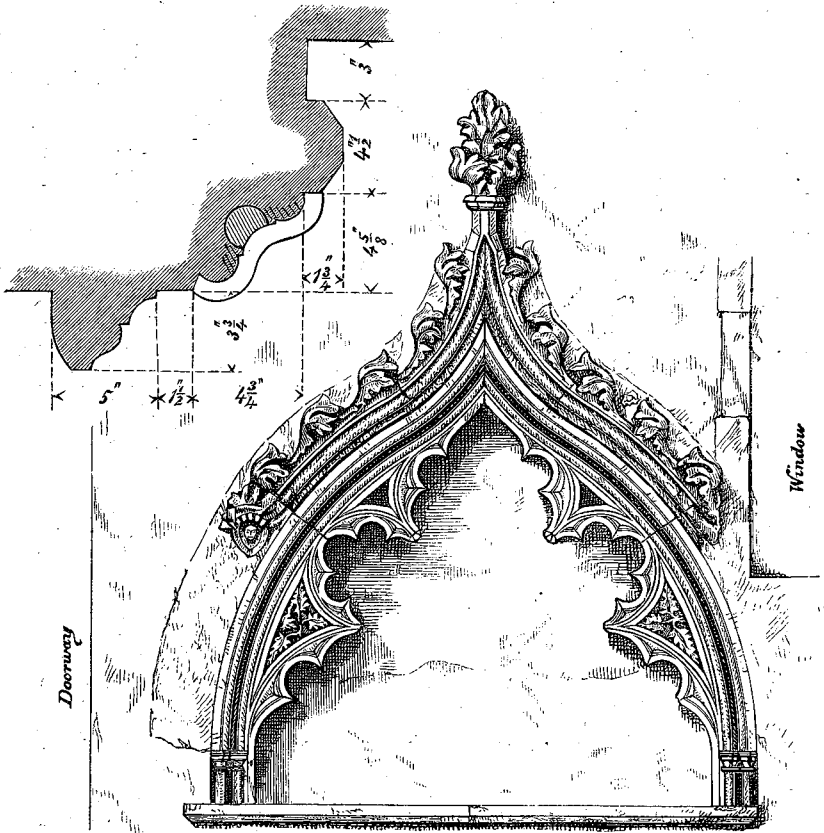
4th. A piscina in the lady chapel: Decorated.

5th. A piscina and credence in a double arch at the east end of the south aisle: Early English, and possibly not in the original position.

6th. A crock in the south aisle, just to the east of the entrance.

7th. A stoup in the porch, very much mutilated: probably 14th century work; formed by building a rough block into the wall, and afterwards working the face of it into shape.

8th. The lower portion of what is called the "Chamberlayne monument," considered by Cole, Masters and Clay to be a fragment; but now uncovered to its full extent, and found to be perfect on one side at any rate. In the *Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England* this is described as Decorated, and, although there seems to be some Perpendicular work in the crockets, the monument may probably be what tradition accounts it, a memorial to Sir Thomas Chamberlayne.



The Chamberlayne Monument.

9th. The back wall of the *sédilia*: though the seats have disappeared.

10th. A window, blocked up, but now reopened in the east gable of the nave.

On several of these matters no remarks are needed, and the Chamberlayne monument alone is sufficiently meritorious to be figured; but as to the lady chapel it may be noted that the arches were clearly blocked up long before 1616, since a memorial slab, bearing that date, had been let into the wall across the top of one of them; and it is incredible that a workman who knew there was stonework under the plaster would have given himself the trouble of cutting it away, when he could have fixed the tablet with perfect ease a few inches to the right or left. The chapel was standing in 1757, for Cole then sketched it; but he records that Mr Masters, at the time Rector of Landbeach, had already procured a faculty for its removal. We unbared the foundations of this chapel, and found that it was four or five feet wider than the north aisle of the church and of the same length as the chancel.

As to the chapel on the south side of the church, we have record that Henry Chamberlayne, the father of Sir Thomas, the reputed founder of the church, was buried there: at any rate in his will, dated 1345, he says, "*lego corpus meum ad sepeliendum in capella ex parte australi cancelli parochialis ecclesie de Landbeche.*"

When this chapel was taken away we cannot say; but it may be that it remained for a while after the Perpendicular nave was built. At any rate the arch that led into it from the chancel is filled with the latest and most paltry Perpendicular window in the edifice; and the Perpendicular window which stands at the east end of the south aisle, though uniform in pattern with the others in the nave, was scarcely so well-finished, and was the only one in the church which had to be reconstructed in 1878, as being in a ruinous state; from which

indications we should conclude that the architect, at the time the chapel was removed, filled in one arch with a window in the style of his own period, and failed in his endeavour to copy tastefully the windows in the nave, which he felt bound to match in the pattern of the other window, contiguous to them: besides which, in running up the end wall of the aisle, he built without proper foundations across what had been previously the interior of the church, and so his work, although the most modern, was the first to give way.

This chapel could not have been above 12 feet long, unless we assume that the priest's doorway has been moved westward; an assumption for which there seems no warrant at all.

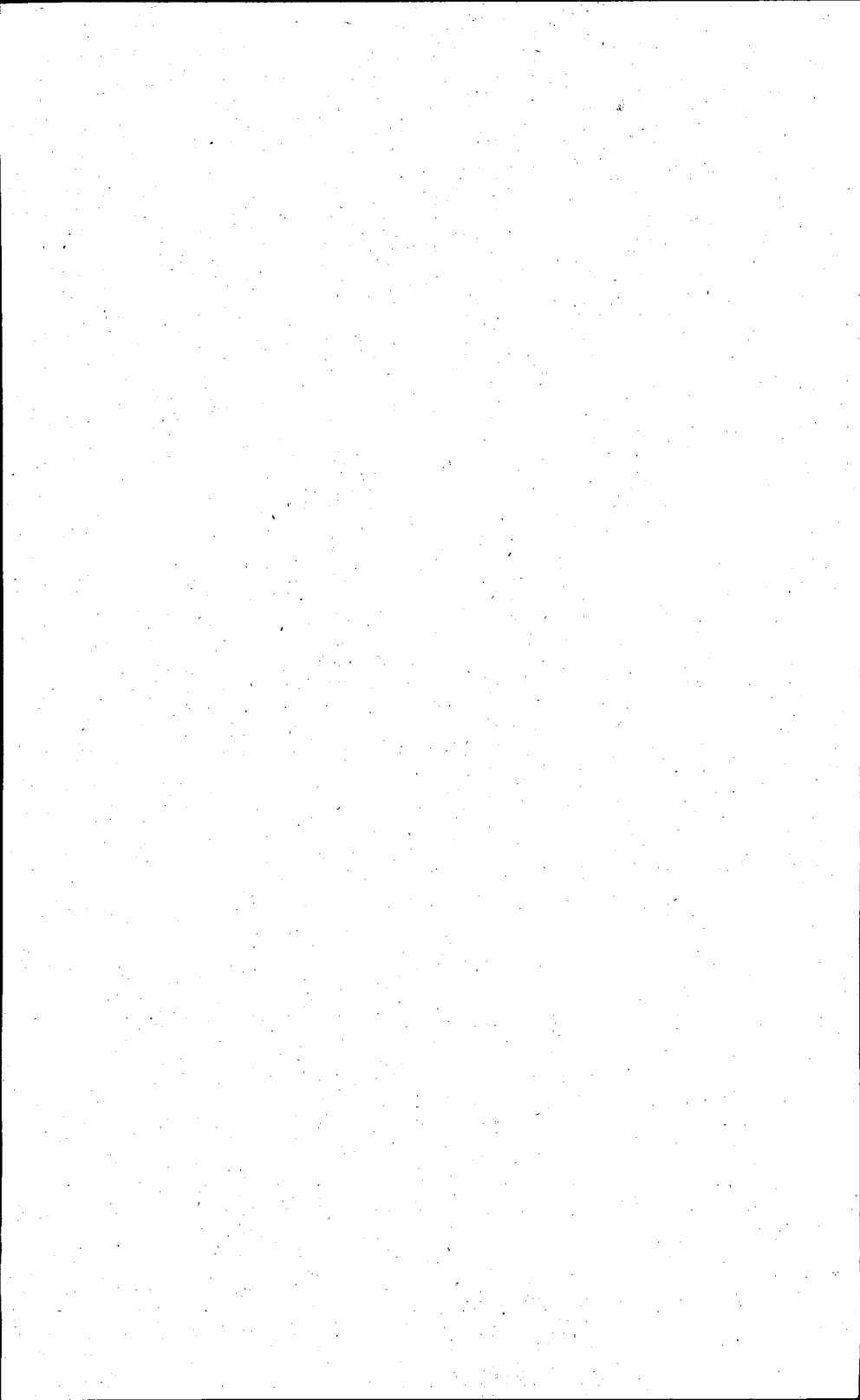
The sedilia are mentioned by Cole as perfect in his day. "Under the south window," he says, "are some descending steps:" also Masters specifies in his *Collectanea de Landbeche*, "seats of stone for the different orders of officiating priests, one below the other." These seats could not be found in 1878, although, as already stated, the back-wall was discovered, after the removal of the rubbish with which the space had been filled to the level of the wall-face.

The woodwork of the church, screens, tracery, stall-ends, misereres and panels, has been well-known for years; and the opinion has, I believe, been prevalent that the whole of it was bought from Jesus College at the end of the last century. This is not, however, the case: a large proportion seems to be coeval with the Perpendicular portion of the building; another considerable quantity came from Jesus College Chapel; but besides these Mr Masters collected odds and ends from many quarters. In his *Collectanea* we have this note: "in 1787 R. M." (*i.e.* Masters himself) "gave to the church the picture of the Adoration of the Shepherds, said to be by a good hand and very valuable, with the beautiful carved door from Bp Alcock's chapel, wainscot and rails adjoining." The door here mentioned



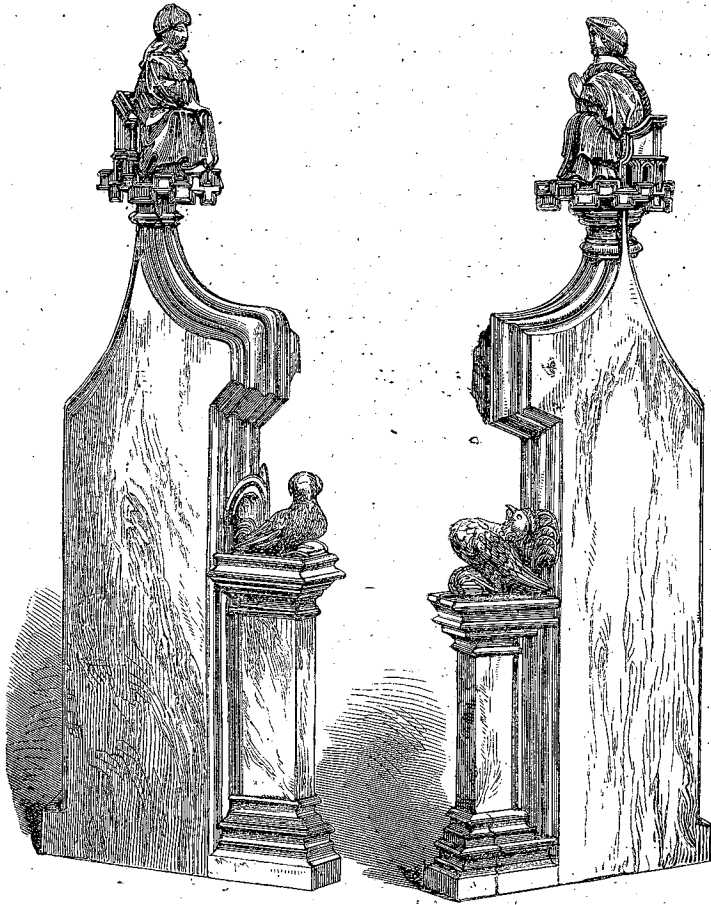
ARMS OF DE LISLE AND OF ARUNDEL, BISHOPS OF ELY.







was in Landbeach Church in 1827, as G. R. Boissier describes it in his *Notes on the Cambridgeshire Churches*. It was given back to the Dean and Chapter of Ely subsequently by Mr



Woodwork from Jesus College.

Addison, Rector from 1821 to 1843, and is now placed at the entrance to the vestry in the south transept of the Cathedral.

The stalls, four in number, standing in the Landbeach chancel, obviously did not come from Jesus College. They seem to have formed, with the screen and pulpit, parts of a single composition. Mr Wood's notes on this subject are: "The original arrangement of the wood-work at the entrance of the chancel we found *in situ*: it was evidently made for the church, and not adapted, (and probably was coeval with the clerestory windows and the roof as readapted). We found, at any rate, the sills of the screen (of which the pulpit formed part) immediately behind the returned stalls, and ascertained that these returned stalls were in position; also, by the sills again, that there had been at least one more stall on the south side and two on the north. The ends of the plates to carry the said stalls had been sawn off, so we could not ascertain the number of stalls originally existing; but on the north side there would be room for four or five, and on the south for two, if a passage was left into the south chapel, which I think would be entered thence rather than from the nave. Probably there was a screen in each of the side arches of the chancel similar to that in the chancel arch. The pulpit was part of the original early screen and built out of it, the bottom of the pulpit being level with the middle rail of the screen. The framing of the pulpit had only plain chamfers at first, and some of the panels from Jesus College were utilized and planted within the chamfers; besides which the outer side of the pulpit was greatly produced in panels ornamented with this tracery; the same tracery was also arranged in an upper tier round the back of the pulpit and chancel respond."

Not only was this done, but the elegant pedestal of the pulpit was boxed in with rough wood-work, in continuation of the planes of the pulpit panels, and the whole (like every other portion of wood-work in the church) coated over and over again with paint, and finally grained in imitation of oak, being itself oaken to begin with.

The chancel screen was standing in 1757, or a little earlier, for Cole has an entry that Mr Masters about that date "took the screen between the nave and chancel quite away, and removed the pulpit and desk to the south side of the chancel." Boissier in 1827 speaks of an altar screen "covered with panels;" which is only to be explained by supposing he means the west screen in the tower arch, which till last year was filled up with panels, and that he fell into the same mistake as ourselves, of supposing that Masters had moved the screen from east to west.

This, however, we found to be an error, for Masters had evidently sawn off the tracery of the chancel screen, and left the lower part, some three or three and a half feet high, in its position, where we discovered it. Still, the screen which we found in the tower arch can scarcely have been constructed for that position: it was too large for the arch; and a suggestion has been thrown out that possibly there were originally two screens at the entrance of the chancel, some few feet apart, facing eastward and westward respectively, and having above them the roodloft<sup>1</sup>; one of which Mr Masters destroyed, and the other he, or some one before him, removed to the west. In our restoration we decided to bring the west screen to the chancel arch in replacement of the demolished screen.

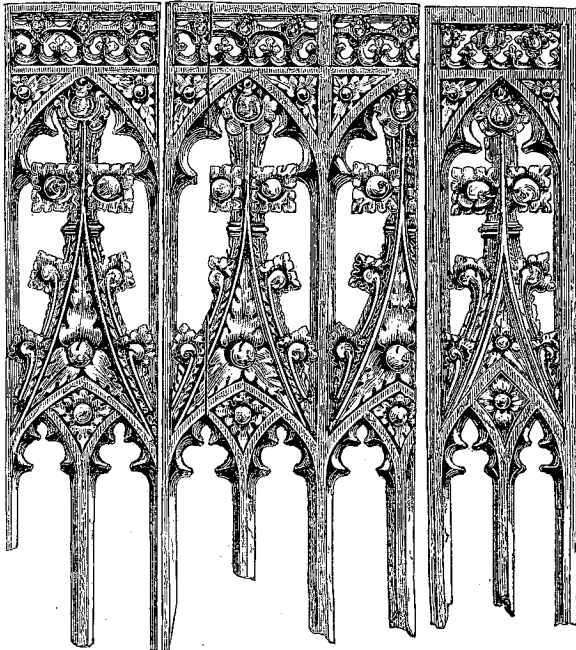
As to the four stalls above mentioned, we may note that two of them have under the seat in place of misereres the arms<sup>2</sup> of l'Isle and of Arundel, bishops of Ely from 1345 to 1361 and from 1374 to 1388, respectively, who, as far as I know, had nothing to do with Jesus College, or the foundations out of which it sprung; though they might naturally enough be benefactors

<sup>1</sup> The roodloft was standing in 1594, for amongst the entries for 1562 in the Parish Register is found this strange note: "Pope, the fox will eatè no grapes; and whi, he can not git y<sup>m</sup>; so at this towne thei loue inglish seruis, because thei can haue none other, as apperith bi the candilbeme and rode lofte, as I think: iudge you by me. Nicolas Nemo, A.D. 1594."

<sup>2</sup> Given on the adjoining page.

of a parish as to part of which they were the superior lords. The arms of Arundel are not quite correctly blazoned, as the bordure ought to be argent, whereas it is left uncoloured. Those of de l'Isle are blazoned correctly, the chevrons sable, but it is clear, now that the black paint is becoming thin through age, that they were at some time blazoned gules instead of sable. (For proof of the connection of Landbeach and the See of Ely see the extracts from *Domesday* and from various Inquisitiones collected by Clay in his *History of Landbeach*, pp. 23, 24.)

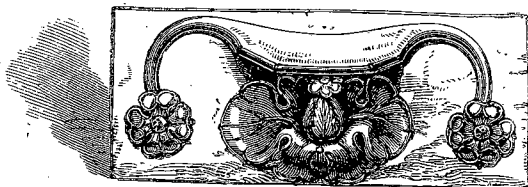
Our smaller screenwork, of which there is a considerable quantity, seems, like the stalls and the westscreen (now made the chancel screen), to have belonged to the church from the beginning.



Woodwork from Jesus College.

I submit to your notice drawings of some of the best specimens of the wood-work which indubitably belonged to Jesus

College Chapel, and which we held from 1787 to 1879 (though much of it, including the stall-ends and miserere sketched, was never fixed in position, but stored away in the vestry and elsewhere). This is now going back to Jesus College.



Woodwork from Jesus College.

Before passing from the subject of the wood-work, I may add that the old nave seats were all utilized in our restoration, according to what we believe to have been the original arrangement of the church (save only that the space once occupied by side chapels is now seated, as well as the nave itself). They are ornamented on the back and front of the outer tiers with a vervain pattern in the spandrils, which again does not appear to have any special connection with Jesus College. The western bays of the aisles were screened off till last year (as indicated in the ground-plan herewith), and there is every reason to suppose that we had here the two original chapels of the Guilds of All Hallows and Jesus, which we know, from various wills preserved in the Ely Registry, had their altars in the church, and chaplains to serve them; also that there was in the church a chapel and altar to St James (which again are frequently named in the aforesaid wills); and this chapel, from the existence of a piscina referred to above, we may perhaps place in the E. bay of the S. aisle<sup>1</sup>. We have also record of images of

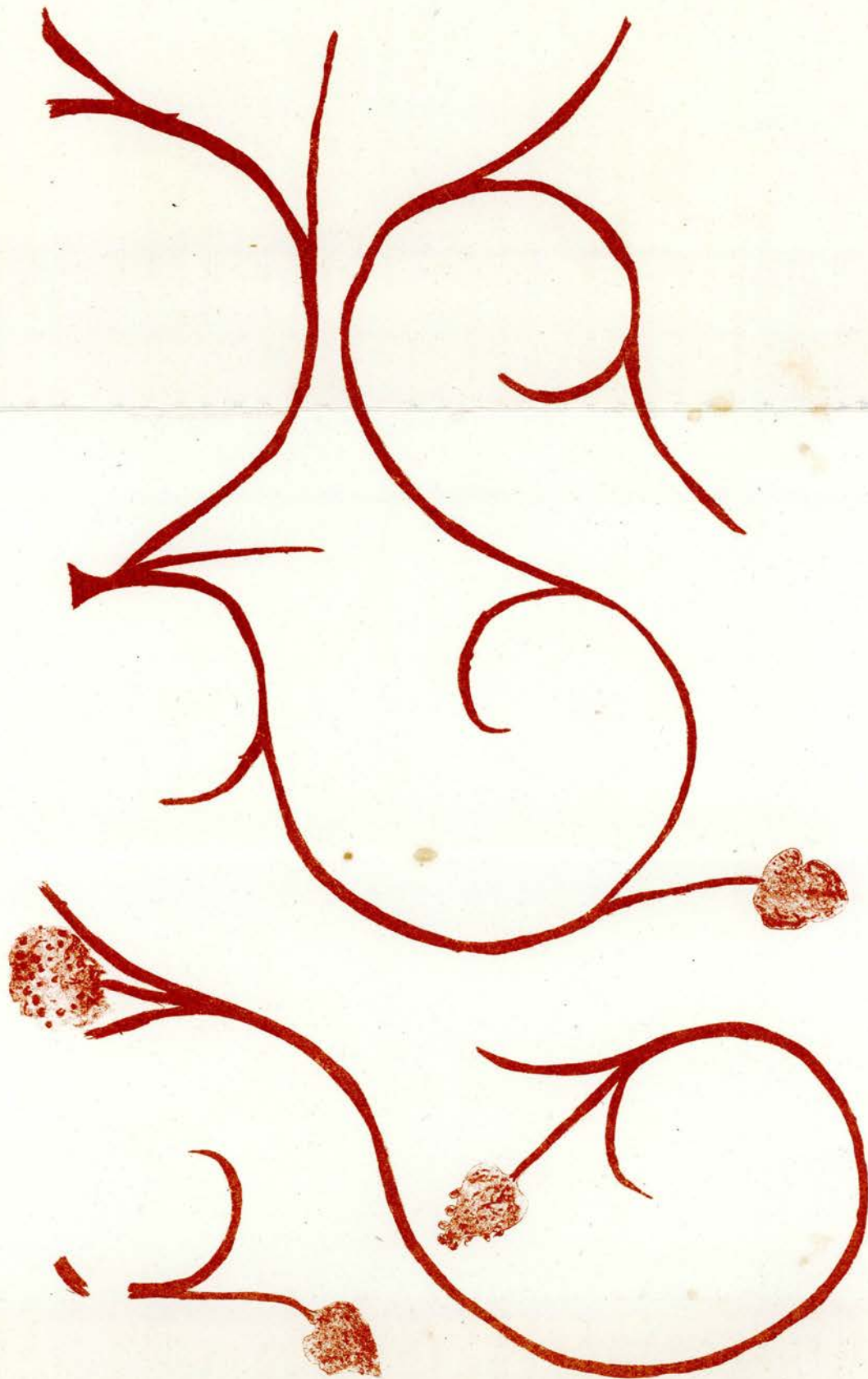
<sup>1</sup> For instance, mention is made of the altar of St James by John Kirby (will proved 23 March, 1520—21), and by Robert Kirby (will dated March, 1520); of the image of St Nicholas, by Thomas Lane (will proved 4 June, 1519); of our Lady at the Chancel Door, by Roger Warde (will

St Nicholas, of our Lady of Pitie, and of our Lady at the Chancel door. A bracket, in the position marked *V* in the plan, still exists, consisting of a headless angel supporting the arms of the See of Ely, and on this no doubt one of these images stood, possibly the one designated our Lady at the Chancel door.

The levels of the chancel floor are restored as originally constructed. The first step was without the screen, about 3 feet in front; not a very common arrangement in a country church, but still to be found elsewhere. As the end of this step was found in position, and the sill of the screen also, there can be no doubt as to what the arrangement was. There was a second step at the chancel arch, and the door from the Lady Chapel to the chancel shows that this level was unaltered throughout the chancel, so that the high altar must have been on a detached platform.

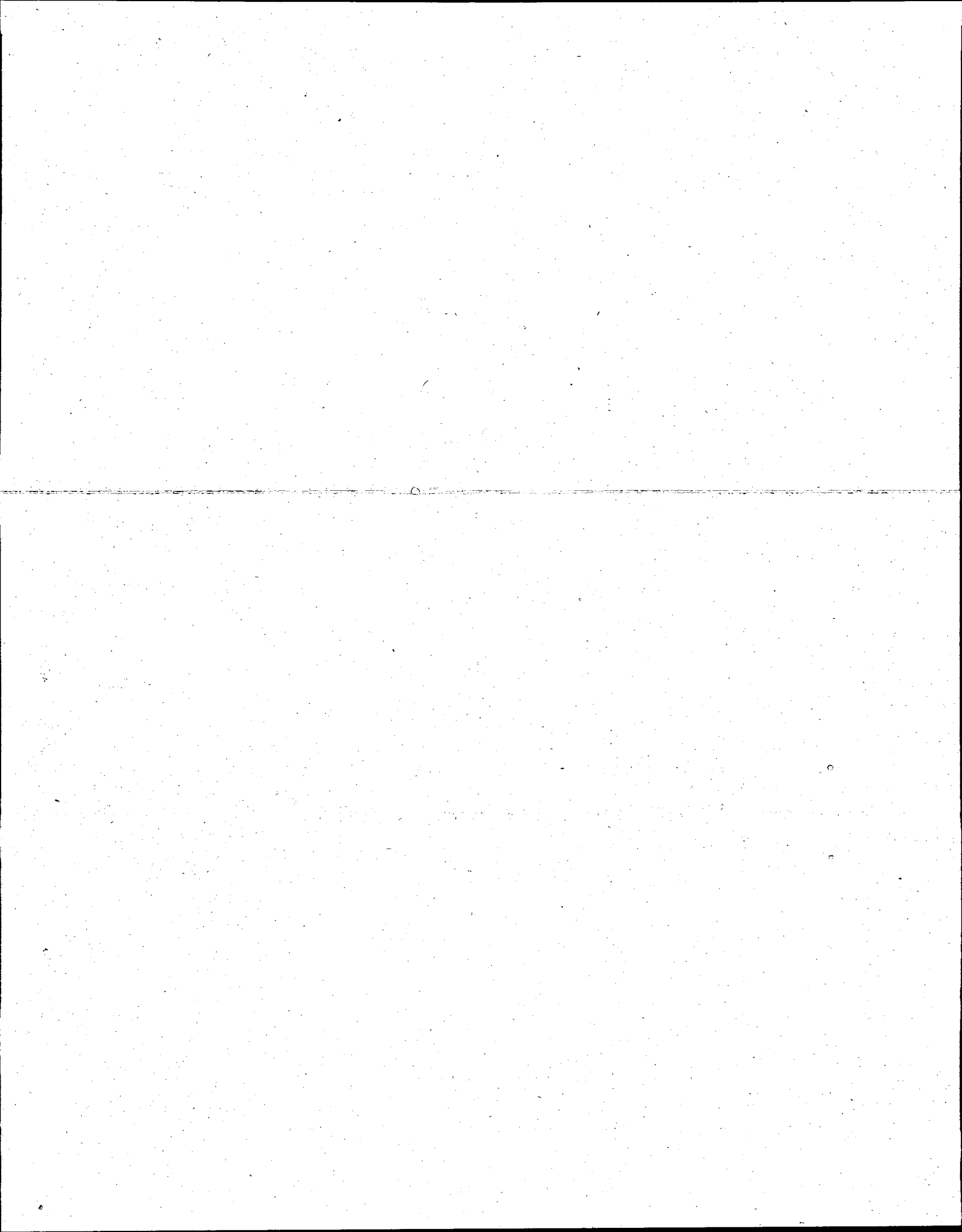
There are many indications that the walls and roof of the church were everywhere painted and gilded. The angels in the roof, and many parts of the roof itself, have patches of colour still adhering. The Early English arches lately reopened are coloured in squares of red, brown and black. We found by the side of the pulpit, behind the wainscoting, a very perfect piece of tracery painting, of which a facsimile is given on the adjoining plate. This in all probability is as old as the wall on which it was found, and was apparently the pattern used to fill up the spaces between the numerous pictures of saints and groups of figures with which we know the walls to have been covered. Several of these were in existence till 1857, when some old colour-wash was removed preparatory to recolouring; and

proved 19 March, 1528—29); of our Ladie of Pitie, by Ed. Lane (will proved 5 Feb. 1529—30); of the Gilde of All Hallowes, by John Lane (14 March, 1518—19), by Thos. Page (will dated 14 May, 1521), by Thos. Lane, Ed. Lane, and by Robert Kirby; of the Gilde of Jesus, by Alice Lane (1526).



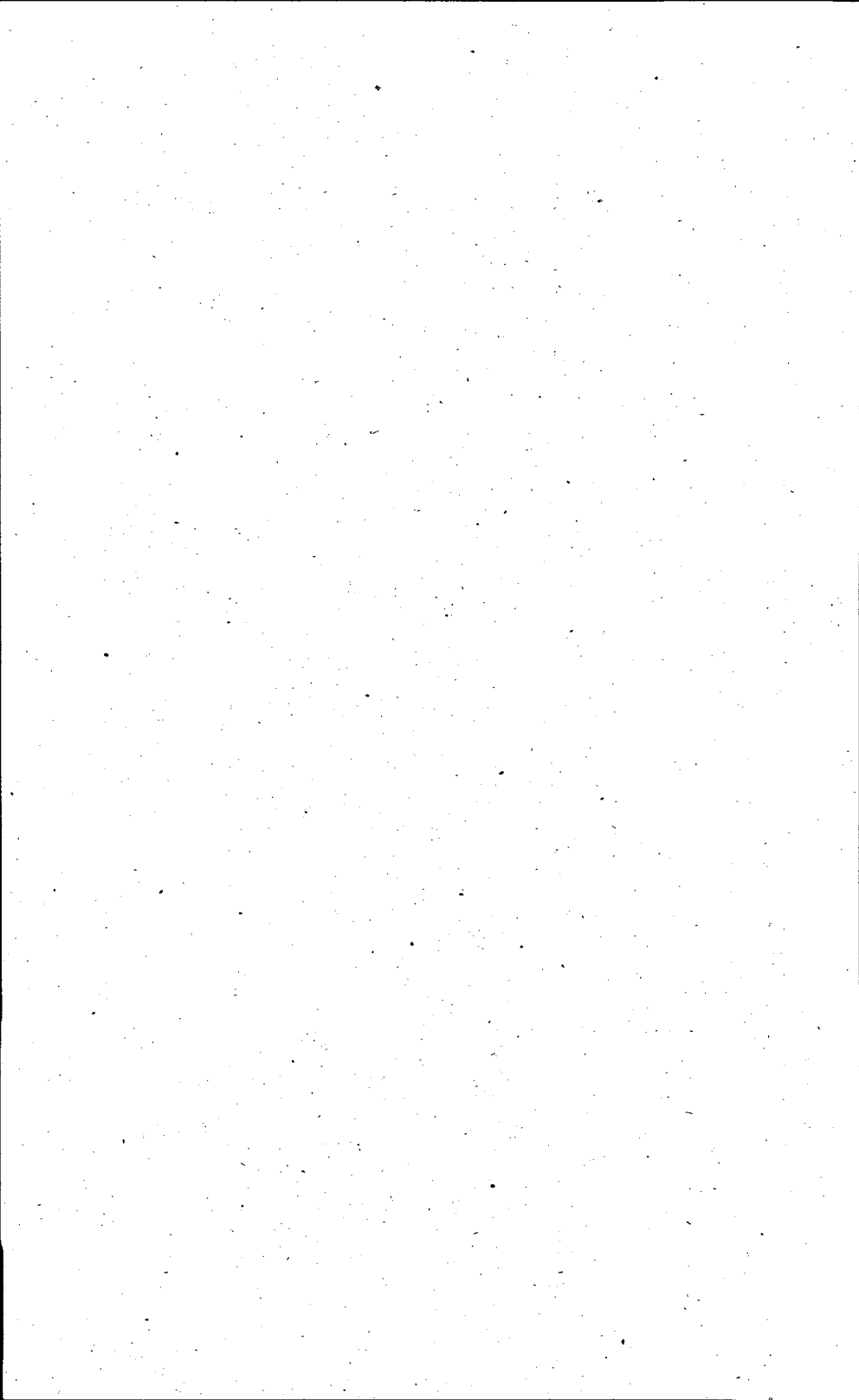
TRACERY ON THE SOUTH WALL OF LANDSEACH CHURCH NEAR THE CHANCEL ARCH.

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there is a general consensus of testimony amongst the parishioners that there were figures then visible on the walls. For some time I could get no definite particulars, except that over the chancel-arch were two very large angels with outspread wings, till Mr Sadd, of King's Parade, lent me sketches taken by himself at the time when the pictures were temporarily uncovered. I exhibit these as indicating in general the character of the decoration, but my obliging informant, Mr Sadd, disclaims (perhaps unnecessarily) all pretension to be an accurate draughtsman, and therefore I regret that I cannot advise the Society to engrave, and thereby perpetuate them. The group shown was over the north door: the coloured figure was between the sounding-board and the adjacent clerestory window. Where the other was Mr Sadd could not remember. There were more, he tells me, but he copied only those in the best preservation. Their desire to fix the new coating of plaster securely induced the authorities of the day to chip the walls, and thus the frescoes were entirely destroyed.



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