

ART. XIV.—*The Tithe Barn,* Carlisle.* By C. J. FERGUSON, Esq.

Read at Carlisle, August 13th, 1874.

THE building that I have asked you to step aside to visit is the ancient "horreum," or "tithe-barn" of the Priory of St. Mary's of Carlisle, and is said to have been erected by Thomas Gondibour, the 28th prior, who flourished towards the close of the fifteenth century. It is therefore upwards of 400 years old. This same Prior Gondibour it was who made considerable additions to the conventual buildings; those on the south of the present Deanery still remain, with his initials "T. G." cut thereon; and it is remarkable that there, as well as here, the stone selected is more than ordinarily tender, and consequently has gone much to decay. The barn consists of one long chamber, about 120 ft. long by 24 or 25 ft. wide. It stands at the extreme of the south-western boundary of the Priory grounds, and is enclosed from the street by fine ashlar masonry of red sandstone, chiselled and equally well finished to the inside as to the out; a great variety of mason's marks can be seen on the exterior of these walls, whose thickness is 3ft. 7in. To the south are narrow slits to give ventilation, and to the east, facing into St. Cuthbert's churchyard, is a two-light window of the Tudor period; a room or office may possibly have been screened off at this end, but at present the building is so enclosed by modern partitions that I have been unable to discover any actual traces of such room. To their own ground to the north, the barn was originally quite open, but the opening has been closed by a modern brick wall which has been built on this north side. The massive and fine roof, to which I wish especially to call your attention, is supported

* The Tithe Barn, Carlisle, is situate on the West Walls, between Bella Head's Lane and Christ Church Parsonage.

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on the north side on massive oak pillars, whilst on the other, not content with the support of a 3 ft. 7 in. wall, upright pieces are brought about half way down the wall, and supported on corbels. Above these rise a very forest of timber, the tie beams are no less than 1 ft. 9 in. deep, and the principal rafters proportionately weighty. The roof consists of seven bays, and is constructed throughout of English oak; a few of the braces are gone, but these might easily be replaced. When complete, the building must have been a fine example of a simple interior deriving great grandeur from its size and construction. Time has done something to impair its apparent strength, but injudicious repairs have done more. I hope that some day an appropriate use may be found for this building, and have no doubt that then its present guardians will not be slow to restore it.

By going round to the bottom of the City Wall, the arch of a sallyport will be found to exist directly opposite the end of this Barn; its staircase came upon the walls between the Barn and the High School. Now as the Priory's property lay mostly on this, the west side of Carlisle, is it not probable that this sallyport was for the convenience of the Priory, to enable produce to be brought to the Tithe Barn without passing the city gates?

ART. XV.—*Highhead Castle.* By J. A. CORY, Esq.

Read at that place, Aug. 13th, 1874.

I do not intend to detain you long, as Mr. Jackson is prepared to give you an interesting and original paper concerning the inhabitants of this castle; whereas I am about to confine myself to the fabric only, and I must, moreover, disclaim having made any search for original
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