



NORTH AISLE, CARLISLE CATHEDRAL. (From Billings.)

ART. XXI. — *The Monuments in Carlisle Cathedral.*

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Communicated at Caldbeck, August 25, 1883.

IN the north aisle of Carlisle Cathedral is a much battered and ill-treated effigy of a bishop. It has once been part of a magnificent monument; it is of Purbeck marble; traces of paint and gilding can still be made out upon it, while the *mitra preciosa* and the *rationale* on the breast have sockets, which have once been filled with jewels—imitation probably, possibly real. If it could be restored to its original brilliancy of decoration, I am afraid we should, in this æsthetic age, call it loud and vulgar. It has been subjected to great violence; its feet are gone, and that part of the slab which was under them. The damage is such that, if done of malice aforethought, it must have been done by aid of a sledgehammer; if by accident, by the dropping on it of a heavy weight. It was placed in the arch it now occupies at the time of the restoration, in 1856, of the Cathedral by Mr. Christian; and it only goes into this arch, owing to the fact that its feet have been knocked off. Prior to the restoration, it occupied a niche in the same wall, one bay westward, close to where Archdeacon Paley is buried, and it was in this position in 1723.* From a sketch by Mr. Carlyle, and from the account by Billings,† this niche was a very rude one, made by cutting away the wall, and one of the pillars of the arcading. With this paper is given a tracing from Billings, shewing the state of the north aisle prior to the restoration by Mr. Christian. From the rudeness of the niche, compared with the work that must have originally been bestowed on the figure, it is

* The Ichnography of Carlisle Cathedral, see p. 285 of the *Cathedrals of England*, by Browne-Willis, compiled 1723.

† Carlisle Cathedral, p. 68, plate xxix.

certain

certain the one was not originally meant to go into the other ; in fact, it only was got in by reason of its footless condition ; but as it had been in this position so long, one is at a loss to conceive why it was thought necessary to shift it into the tomb of somebody else, and to totally obliterate the niche, by building it up, and by restoring the nave arcading.

I propose to try and investigate the history of this effigy. It is thus described by Mr. Bloxam, F.S.A. :

Under an arch in the north aisle is a recumbent effigy of a bishop of the thirteenth century. He is represented bearded, with the *mitra preciosa* on his head, the amice about his neck, and in the alb, tunic, and dalmatic, over which is worn the chesible, which is long, with the rationale in front of the breast. The right hand, now gone, was in the act of benediction. The pastoral staff is on the left of the body. Above the head is an Early English canopy, now much mutilated. This is said to be Bishop de Everdon, who died 1254 or 1255.*

This monument was assigned by the eminent antiquary, Browne-Willis, on the authority of his Carlisle correspondent, Dr. Todd, [for he did not himself visit Carlisle] to Bishop Strickland, who died 1419.† This assignment was followed by all the local historians, by Burn and Nicolson, and by Hutchinson, down to Lysons, who first pointed out that the effigy was of a much earlier date. Mr. Purday seems to have been the first to assign it to Sylvester de Everdon,‡ and he has been followed by the late Mr. Mackenzie Walcott,§ and others.

The Strickland theory may be dismissed as untenable, and it is desirable to consider the 13th century bishops of Carlisle with a view to ascertaining which of them would be likely to have a monument of such magnificence as the one under consideration. A word or two, however, on the

* Archæological Journal, vol. xxxix., p. 449.

† The Ichnography of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle, *ut ante*.

‡ The Architecture of Carlisle Cathedral, by Charles Purday ; published by Thurnam, Carlisle, 1859, p. 16.

§ Memorials of Carlisle, p. 28 ; Thurnam, Carlisle, 1865.

architectural

architectural history of the cathedral will be well as a preliminary. Some writers are of opinion that the Norman choir existed until the fire of 1292, and that the present choir was then built, but Mr. Purday* has proved that the present choir was commenced about the middle of the 13th century, and was roofed in prior to the fire—that the building was commenced by Sylvester de Everdon, bishop, 1246 to 1255, and finished by his successors, or, at any rate, roofed in prior to 1292.

Of the 13th century bishops of Carlisle, Hugh died in 1223 at the abbey of *la Ferte* in Burgundy,

ingurgitatus absque viatico et miserabiliter.†

It is only right to say that the “ingurgitatus” is probably a lie on the part of the writer of the Chronicle of Lanercost, one of the Minorites, or Grey Friars of Carlisle. At any rate, Bishop Hugh was buried abroad. The next bishop, Walter Malclerk, resigned his bishopric in 1246, and died at Oxford in 1248 a friar predicant, or black friar. To him succeeded Sylvester de Everdon, who was bishop from 1246 to 1255 when

transit etiam, sed horribiliter, ex hoc mundo episcopus Karliolensis Silvester, equo lapsus et fractus cervicibus.‡

The chronicler does not say where this accident happened, or where this bishop was buried. Thomas Vipont, or de Veteripont, rector of Greystoke, succeeded, but died in October, 1256, little more than a year after the death of his predecessor. The next bishop, Robert de Chause, or Chausey, or Chalix, died in 1279, and Ralph Irton died in 1292, and was buried in the Cathedral of Carlisle, says Willis, who adds, where “no doubt his three Predecessors had been interred, tho’ there is no Memorial of them.” Irton’s death is thus described in the Chronicle of Lanercost :

* The Architecture of Carlisle Cathedral, *ut ante* pp. 13 and 14.

† Chronicle of Lanercost, *sub anno* 1223.

‡ Chronicle of Lanercost, *sub anno* 1255.

Quo tempore exivit e seculo episcopus Karliolensis Radulfus apud Linstok. Is enim fatigatus prolixo itinere, quod peregerat in profunda nive, redeundo a Londoniarum parlamento, minuit sibi in episcopo prædicto, et dum abundanter corpus refecisset soporare voluit. In qua quiete vena sibi crepuit, et priusquam adverteretur sanquine volutatus et loquela privatus humanis rebis valeficat.

As it is among these four bishops that we must look for the proprietor of the effigy under consideration, a few facts about them may be usefully given. Sylvester de Everdon was originally a clerk in the chancery, afterwards the King's Chaplain, and Vice-Chancellor and (in 1244) Lord Chancellor of England. Lord Campbell says of him that he

very soon retired from State affairs against the wishes of the King, being elected Bishop of Carlisle, and choosing to devote himself to the superintendence of this remote see.*

That is all Lord Campbell says, and it makes it probable that he died in the north and was buried in his cathedral. Of Bishop Thomas Vipont, or de Veteripont, nothing is known; he ruled but a few months. Of the next two, the Chronicler of Lanercost supplies the characters.

Transiit autem in Octobre [1278] Robertus de Chalize, Karliolensis episcopus, divini honoris fervidus, amator humanitatis, et urbanitatis promptus executor; qui quam dapsilis et largus extiterit sine nobis mundus attestari poterit. * * * Huic successit Radulfus [Irton or De Irton] prior de Gyseburne, vir callidus et providus, sed admōdum cupidus, qui visitationes ecclesiarum vertit in voraginem quæstum, et ad fabricam culminis† majoris ecclesiæ suæ sedis extorsit per totam diœcesem a simplicibus sacerdotibus anniversariis mulctam inhonestam."

It also expressly tells that these two bishops had tombs or monuments in the cathedral, for, in the account of the fire of 1292, it says:—

"Exinanita sunt ibi pretiosa armariorum et thesaurorum; sed ceteris solemnius, pretium tignorum, vitreorum et stallorum, quæ prædo, [i.e., Bishop Irton] non præsul, extorserat de marsupiis sacerdotum stipen-

* Lives of the Lord Chancellors, vol. i., p. 134.

† This proves that Mr. Purday is correct as to the rebuilding. Irton was at work (ad fabricam culminis) on the clere-story or the roof.

diariorum,

diariorum, malitia istac promerente et maledictione, ita ut mausoleum improbi exactoris flamma voraret, sed termini prædecessoris sui, Roberti de Chalix, ex omni parte intacti perseverent."

Now the effigy we are occupied with probably stood in the choir prior to 1292; it would be deprived of its feet, and be otherwise battered by the falling of the roof. After the fire, it was—damaged and battered—shifted into a niche hastily cut in the wall for it, destroying the shaft of the arcading, as shown in Billings. I rather think the bishop was re-interred under it. In that niche it lay until the restorers of 1856 pulled it out. It cannot have belonged to Bishop Chalix, for that was uninjured. Is not this battered effigy the wreckage from Irton's mausoleum, thrust temporarily into a niche hewn out of the north wall? There is no evidence that Everdon ever had a monument in the Cathedral: from the silence of the Chronicle of Lanercost one would infer he had not.

There is no great difficulty in assigning to the effigy in the south aisle its real owner. It is Bishop Barrow; it was always so designated (see Browne-Willis, Hutchinson, Billings,) until the late Mr. Mackenzie Walcott blundered into assigning it to Welton; and all recent writers of guides have followed Mackenzie Walcott. Bishop Barrow by his will bequeathed some plate to the cathedral, and twenty pounds to a priest to sing masses for his repose in the chapel of S. Catherine, within which the monument really stands, though it is now excluded by the screen having been shifted from the side of the monument on which it originally stood to the other side. The side of the monument to the aisle was, until recent years, mere rough masonry. Bishop Barrow died in 1429, a date much nearer to that (1469) assigned by Mr. Bloxam for this monument than the death of Welton, which occurred in 1362. Mr. Bloxam describes this effigy thus:

In the south aisle is the recumbent effigy of a bishop. His face is close shaven; on his head is worn the *mitra pretiosa*, with pendent *infulæ*

infulæ behind. The amice is worn about the neck. On the body appears, first the skirts of the alb, then the extremities of the stole, then the tunic, over that the dalmatic, over all the chesible, with the rationale in front of the breast. The maniple hangs down from the left arm; the right hand is gone, but was upheld in the act of benediction. The pastoral staff, enveloped in a veil, appears on the left side, but the crook is gone; the left hand is also gone. The shoes or sandals are pointed, and the feet rest against a sculptured bracket. The head reposes on a square cushion. Above is a canopy, partly destroyed. The effigy appears to be of the middle of the fifteenth century, circa 1469.*

Nothing need be said as to Bishop Bell's brass; it is *in situ*, and has been more than once engraved.† With the best possible intentions, it has been covered up with a rough matting of cocoa-fibre to prevent people from treading on it; through this, dust and sand and dried mud from dirty boots penetrate, and the effect is about equivalent to a weekly scouring with a hard brush and sand. Surely some means of affording it protection can be devised.

The brass to Bishop Robinson, who died in 1616, is also engraved.‡ This brass in 1703 was

behind the hangings on the North Corner of the High Altar.§

Browne-Willis says Bishop Robinson was buried on the north side of the altar, and in his *Ichnography* indicates the brass in this position, and says it was over the grave, *i.e.*, on the reredos at the head of the grave; the altar and reredos were then one bay westward of what they are now. Being hidden behind the hangings of the reredos, this brass was forgotten until the reredos and altar were shifted by Bishop Lytton. It was then taken down, and for long laid about loose in the almy in S. Catherine's chapel. At the same time Bishop Robinson himself was found; a manuscript, of which I have a copy, and which is proved by internal

* *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxxix., p. 449.

† Gough's *Sepulchral Monuments*, vol. ii., pl. cxvi.; and Hutchinson's *Cumberland*, vol. ii., p. 602.

‡ Jefferson's *Carlisle*, p. 180.

§ Nicolson's *Visitation*, p. 99.

evidence

evidence to be by one of the Carlile family about 1788, a member of which did all the new woodwork in the cathedral,* says :—

In repairing the church by Bishop Lyttleton this Bishop's [Robinson's] bones were found inclosed in a lead coffin above ground within a coarse tomb : his remains were buried, and the top or cover of the tomb laid upon his grave.

This top or cover will be the plain blue stone now in front of the present altar rails on the north side, and I should think it is about its own breadth out of its original position. I do not think from this that Bishop Robinson was buried in an altar-tomb ; if so, Willis would have said so. I take it, he was in a shallow grave very little below the floor within the altar rails. When the altar was shifted eastward, the floor within the old altar rails would be lowered, and the bishop had to be lowered also.

With regard to the two arched recesses in the north aisle, I prefer not to hazard conjectures ; I think documentary evidence can be found. There are stone coffins underneath them,† which have been opened, and shewn to contain nothing but rubbish. These were probably made for two prelates, who took part in the building after the fire of 1292. Willis says positively John de Halton was buried in one of them ; possibly his successor, John de Rosse, in the next one. They would be intended to contain effigies, but there is no evidence that such ever existed.

There is an arched recess in the south aisle ; this Browne-Willis marks in his *Ichnography* as the tomb of Sir Thomas Skelton, and represents an effigy as lying in it. In his text he speaks only of a tomb, and makes no mention of an

* The Bishop's throne, the pulpit and pews, now taken out, were all the work of Mr. Thomas Carlile of the city of Carlisle, cabinet-maker, organ-maker, and carver. Though he did a deal of mischief in the Cathedral by wantonly cutting into old work, his own work was good, and the late Mr. Street R.A., F.S.A. at first took some of it for 14th century work. Where is it now ?

† Billings, p. 36.

effigy

effigy. He also says that, about a hundred years before his time, there was "painted" on the wall this inscription :

Orate pro Anima Johannis Skelton Armigeri, quondam Servientis illustrissime Regine — Henrici Quinti, et pro Anima Margarete, Uxoris ejus, et pro Animabus omnium Liberorum eorundem, quibus Animabus propitiatur Deus. Amen.

Willis got the inscription from the well-known manuscript at the College of Arms, c. 39.* Willis also says this John Skelton died 1420. By "painted," I consider he means on a brass plate. Just west of Sir Thomas Skelton's arch is a matrix in the aisle wall, which will hold a brass plate sufficiently big to hold this inscription, and I have no doubt it did hold it.

But where is Sir Thomas Skelton's effigy, given by Willis in his *Ichnography*? I think it never existed, for he only mentions a tomb in his text, and the effigy is probably an error of his artist. It certainly was not there in 1765, for the Carlile manuscript, to which I have before referred, makes no mention of any effigy, though it gives the following account of the tomb :—

In the south aisle was the tomb of Sir Tho^s Skelton Kn^t but was by the carelessness of the workmen built up in the wall when the church was repaired by Bishop Lyttleton.

These careless workmen knocked the mouldings off, and barbarously ill-treated the unfortunate tomb. It was opened out by Mr. Christian.

Bishop Whelpdale (bishop of Carlisle 1419 to 1422) by his will left £200 to found a chantry in Carlisle Cathedral for the souls of Sir Thomas Skelton and John Glaston, who lie buried in the south aisle of the cathedral. Glaston's burial-place is unknown, but Browne-Willis conjectures it might be under an unknown monument on the opposite

* In a newspaper, I said this inscription was on the wall recently. I must correct "recently," and say 250 years ago; but Jefferson, in his *History of Carlisle*, writes of it as if he had seen it.

side

side of the aisle, between the third and fourth pillars from the east. This is now gone.

Of deans, Browne-Willis says Launcelot Salkeld was buried in the cathedral without a monument. Dean Gibbon was buried within the communion rails, on the north side of Bishop Smith. Dean Tullie was buried in the south aisle, immediately behind the throne, where several of his family lie. Dean Wilson in the south aisle, and also Dean Cramer. Chancellor Fleming is by his father at the east end of the south chancel aisle. Archdeacon Paley and his two wives are in the north aisle. Chancellor Marshall is buried in the cathedral, place unknown. Chancellor Waugh in the south aisle behind the bishop's throne, no doubt with his connections the Tullies. The following prebendaries are buried in the cathedral:—Wardle (in the south aisle), Buchanan, Nelson (in the south aisle), Head, and Birkett.

Does any record exist showing the positions of the graves, or vaults (if vaults there are), in the cathedral of Carlisle? Many persons of importance rest there, but the sites of the graves are unknown; while on the other hand there are monuments and grave covers, which cannot be certainly assigned to anyone. Great confusion has been occasioned by the shifting of monuments from their original positions. Thus the monument to Bishop Lawson commences:—

Columnæ hujus sepultus est ad pedem.

And one naturally looks on the ground below as the bishop's grave, but the monument is now at the west end of the north choir aisle, while the Bishop lies, we believe, buried in the choir near the pulpit. If the position of his grave is still known, it ought to be in some way marked. The late Dean Cramer is buried in the south aisle, but his monument has been reft from him, and is stuck behind the reredos with a row of others. It is hard to believe that valid reason (architectural, æsthetic, or otherwise) can have existed for this shuffling about of monument

ments which marked actual interments. Besides Bishops Law, Bell, and Robinson, Bishops Smith, Fleming, Percy, and Waldegrave have monuments. Bishop Smith sleeps under his monument, a slab in the floor of the choir and his wife lies beside him. The monument to Bishop Fleming has been moved away from his grave. Bishop Percy is buried elsewhere, and his monument is the glass in the lower part of the east window. Bishop Waldegrave is commemorated by a cenotaph and recumbent effigy thereon.

The manuscript, to which I have several times referred, says that a monument to Bishop Milburn (d. 1624) was in the churchyard in 1788. Where is it now?

It would be a triumph of archæology to identify the knight and lady with three children commemorated by a fine brass, of which the matrix alone remains, under the west window, clearly not its original site. The matrix of another fine brass is in the choir, a figure in a mantle, possibly a female, hardly a priest. Bishops Irton, Kirby, Best, Mey, and Senhouse are all buried in the cathedral, but no one knows where. Stranger, because we come to more modern days, no one can tell where lie the Lord Dacres of the North. Stranger still is it, that the fact of their burial in Carlisle Cathedral is mentioned in no local history, recorded by no tradition. Yet there is no doubt that Lord William Dacre, of Gillesland and Greystoke, was buried in Carlisle Cathedral, on December 14th, 1563, and his son, Lord Thomas, on the 25th July, 1566, the bishop officiating, and Lord Scrope being the chief mourner.* Lord William's father and grandfather were buried at Lanercost, but, probably owing to the family burial-place at Lanercost being included in the grant to Sir Thomas Dacre the bastard, Lord William and Lord Thomas were brought to Carlisle. One would wish to see there these burials recorded in the cathedral by a modest monument.

* Transactions of this Society, vol. iv. p. 479.

In early youth one used to be taught that the bowels of Richard Cœur-de-Lion were buried before the altar in Carlisle Cathedral. Lysons says it is so said, but cites no authority. Rapin says Cœur-de-Lion's body was buried at Fontevraud, his heart at Rouen, and that his bowels were sent into Poitiers, by way of insult rather than compliment. They may have drifted to Carlisle, brought by some of the de-Vaux family, whom he had, I fancy, in his service; but this is conjecture.

Successive re-flaggings of the floor account in part for the sites of so many burials being lost. There probably was a re-flagging after the Commonwealth, when all broken grave covers would be discarded. This would account for Bishop Nicolson having so little to tell about inscriptions in the cathedral. There probably was another about 1768, when a deal of mischief was done in the cathedral. Prior to that time a puzzling inscription existed under the bishop's throne, which was read by one antiquary,

Hic jacet Ema quonda uxor Willi fil Rogerii;

by another,

Hic jacet Ema quonda uxor Willielmi filii Rogerii.

There are several stained glass windows in the cathedral by way of monuments, but they cannot be called monuments, certainly not personal monuments, unless they are of a portrait character like that to Chancellor Fletcher, which will some day be valuable as a record of early 19th century ecclesiastical costume, but the Fletcher window will hardly be followed as a precedent. As for the other windows, putting aside the one to the Tait children, only the virger and a few aged inhabitants know who they commemorate. Who can tell where is the Vansittart window? True, they have inscriptions, either on the glass, or on fillets of brass below, but they are written in characters that only an antiquary can read, and as the brass fillets are fixed at the eye-level of a man eight or ten feet high, he requires a glass to aid his eyes.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

BISHOPS SUPPOSED TO BE BURIED IN CARLISLE CATHEDRAL.

	Died.	Authority for the statement other than Browne-Willis, or Billings.	Position of tomb in the Cathedral.
Sylvester de Everdon	1254 or 1255		
Thomas Vipont	1256		
Robert de Chause or Chalix	1280	Chronicle of Lanercost	
Ralph Irton M.....	1292	Chronicle of Lanercost	
John de Halton	1324		
John de Kirkby	1352		
Gilbert de Welton	1362		
Thomas de Appleby	1395		
William Strickland	1419		
W. Barrow M	1429		S. Catherine's Chapel.
R. Scroop.....	1464	His own will*	Before the high altar.†
R. Bell M.....	1496	Brass	Centre of choir.
J. Best	1570		
R. Mey	1597	Dalston registers	
H. Robinson M	1616	Dalston registers.....	North side of altar.‡
R. Snowden	1621		
R. Milburne.....	1624		In the graveyard, monument re- maining 1788.§
R. Senhouse	1626		
T. Smith M	1702	Monument	Within the com- munion rails, in- scription & grave cover.†
Sir G. Fleming M	1747	Monument	Under east win- dow of south aisle.
G. Law M.....	1787	Monument	Behind the pulpit
S. Waldegrave M		Monument	In the destroyed part of the nave.

* He directed that he should be buried before the high altar, see Browne-Willis; but query, if this was carried out.

† The altar formerly stood one bay westward of present position. It was moved in 1765.

‡ † Last note.

The Carlile MSS.