

## Incised Slabs in Croxall Church.

DRAWN BY MARY USSHER.



HERE is an unusually large number of incised monumental slabs in the Church of S. John Baptist, Croxall, chiefly to the memory of the Curzon and Horton families. It is proposed to give fac-simile drawings of the whole of this interesting series in successive numbers of the Society's Journal. Two of the larger ones are now given.

The earliest of these lies on the north side of the chancel, and is to the memory of John Horton, of Catton, and Anne, his wife. The following is the marginal inscription:—

*Hic jacent Jofes Horton filius et heres Rogeri Horton de Catton  
Armig<sup>r</sup> et Anna uxor ejus filia Johis Curzon de Croxhall Armig<sup>r</sup>  
Qui quide Jofes Horton Obiit die Octobris anno Dni  
Millimo cccc<sup>o</sup> xxi<sup>o</sup> et dicta Anna obiit die ix Anno dni  
Millo b<sup>o</sup> quorn aiabus propicietur deus Amen.*

It is perhaps superfluous to specify the armour in which the effigy of John Horton is portrayed, sufficient to say it is plate armour, and is almost identical with that of Henry Stanley, Esq., 1528, on a brass at Hillingdon, Middlesex (see Haines' Brasses, vol. 1, page ccxxxii). Anne Horton, his wife, wears a kirtle fastened at the waist with a belt, from which hangs a chain to which a pomander is attached. Pomanders were used to contain perfumes, or supposed preservatives against diseases. She wears a head-dress with falling lappets, usually termed the pedimental, kennel, or diamond-shaped. At their feet are depicted the figures of three sons and three daughters. Between

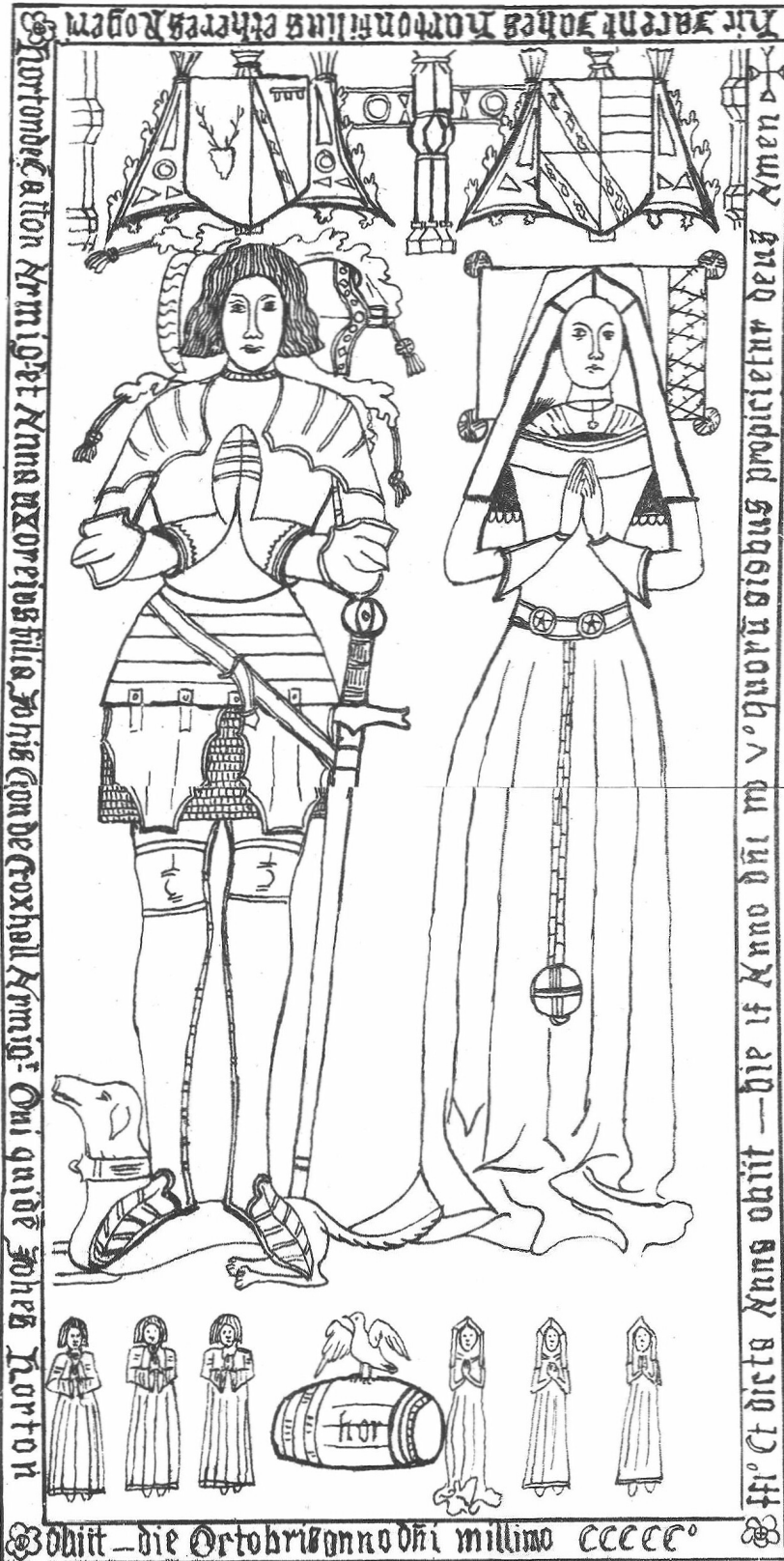
the sons and daughters is a figure of a barrel, or tun, with the word "hor" upon it, being a rebus for Horton, and on its top is a popinjay rising—representing the crest of the Curzons. It will be observed that the dates of the month on which John and Anne Horton died are omitted. The shield in the canopy above John Horton is Horton, *Sab.* a buck's head, caboshed *arg.*, impaling Curzon, with a label, *gules*, on a bend *arg.*, 3 popinjays, *sab.*; over Anne Horton is a quartered coat of Curzon quartering, possibly, Ashby, her mother being of that name, but now almost quite illegible.

The second of these monumental slabs lies on the south side of the chancel, and is to the memory of George Curzon and Katherine his wife. The following is the marginal inscription, it is in Roman Capitals.

HIC JACET CORPUS GEORGI CURZON DE CROXAL ARMIGER QUI  
 OBIIT                    DIE MARCH ANNO DOM                    ET KATHERINA UXOR  
 EIVS QUE OBIIT                    DIE AUGUSTI AN.                    DOM. 1605. ESTO  
 MEMOR MORTIS.

George Curzon is in plate armour; his wife Katherine in the French hood, ruff, pointed stomacher, and embroidered petticoat. Here also the dates of death are omitted. This slab was evidently erected by George Curzon, who must have survived his wife, as the year of her death, 1605, is stated, but, curiously enough, not the day of the month. The month of March is stated to be the month he died in, but neither the day nor the year is given. I take it that the workers in alabaster were given the order to make the slab, but were not given the respective dates, and so left blanks.

R. U.





HIC IACET CORPVS GEORGI

CVRZON DE CROXAL ARMIGER QVDBIT

DIE MARCH ANNO DOM

DIE AVGVS AN~DOM~1605 + ESTO MEMOR MORTIS

EIYS QVE OBIIT

ET KATHERINA VXOR