

On the Recent Excavations on the Site of Dale Abbey, Derbyshire.

BY W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE.

IN laying before the Society an account of the recent excavations on the site of Dale Abbey, it may be as well first to show how the work came to be undertaken at all, before entering into detail as to what discoveries were made.

Some years ago the writer discovered, in a private library in Derbyshire, a small rough pen-and-ink sketch of the ground plan of the Abbey, taken by Dr. Stukeley, in 1730, which will be described further on.

On the formation of the Society, last year, a proposal was made to the Council that excavations should be made at Dale, taking the doctor's plan as a guide. The suggestion being favourably received, Earl Stanhope was communicated with, as Lord of the Manor, and readily gave the requisite permission to dig, subject to the consent of the tenant of the Abbey field, Mr. William Malin, junr. Mr. Malin kindly assented, and a small grant being made by the Council for a preliminary investigation, operations were commenced on September 9th, 1878, on the southern side of the western face of the existing arch. The result of the first week's work showing that further excavations would fully repay the trouble and expense, it was decided to continue the work, and to open a subscription list to defray the cost. This was accordingly done, and in seven weeks' work the areas of the greater part of the Church, and

of some of the Conventual buildings, were cleared out, and the foundation walls laid bare.

Before describing in detail the results of the excavations, a brief outline of the history of the foundation of the Monastery may perhaps be of interest.

The Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Dale, was originally founded about 1160, by Serlo de Grendon, Lord of Bradley, as a Monastery of Austin Canons. The Chronicle of Thomas de Musca,* a Canon of the Abbey, *temp.* Abbot John de Gauncorth, 1229-1249, states that these Canons built a Church, but, after a time, growing idle, and addicted to the pleasures of the chase, they were removed, by order of the King.

William de Grendon, a priest, and son of Serlo aforesaid, then invited six Canons of the Abbey of Topholme, in the county of Lincoln, to come to Dale, and thus brought it under the rule of the Præmonstratensian Order.

These Canons, however, after spending seven years in great poverty, bade farewell to Dale, and returned to Topholme. They were replaced by five Canons from Welbeck, also a Præmonstratensian House, but, after a stay of five years, during which they met with nothing save misfortunes, these, too, returned to their Nottinghamshire home.

Undismayed by these failures, William, brother of Serlo de Grendon, and his relatives, Galfrid de Salicosâ-Marâ and his wife Matilda, finally endowed the Monastery about 1195, and persuaded nine Canons of Newhouse, in the county of Lincoln, the chief establishment of the Præmonstratensian Order in England, to take charge of the Abbey. From this time Dale Abbey increased in possessions and riches, under the rule of eighteen successive Abbots, so that at the time of the Dissolution in 1539, when it was surrendered by the Abbot and sixteen Canons, its yearly value was estimated at £144 4s., a sum equal to nearly £3000 in these days.

* The original of this most interesting document is in the British Museum. It is given in full by Dugdale, and a fair translation will be found in Glover's "History and Gazeteer of the County of Derby," vol. ii, part i, pp 371-378.

Of the original Church, built by the Austin Canons, there are hardly any remains, beyond some fragments of incised slabs, and, perhaps, two or three bases of piers. These will be noticed in their place.

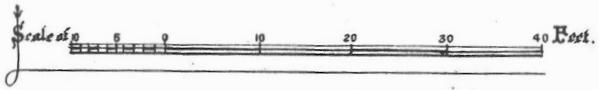
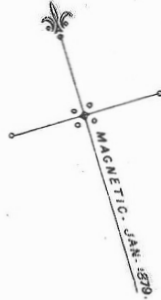
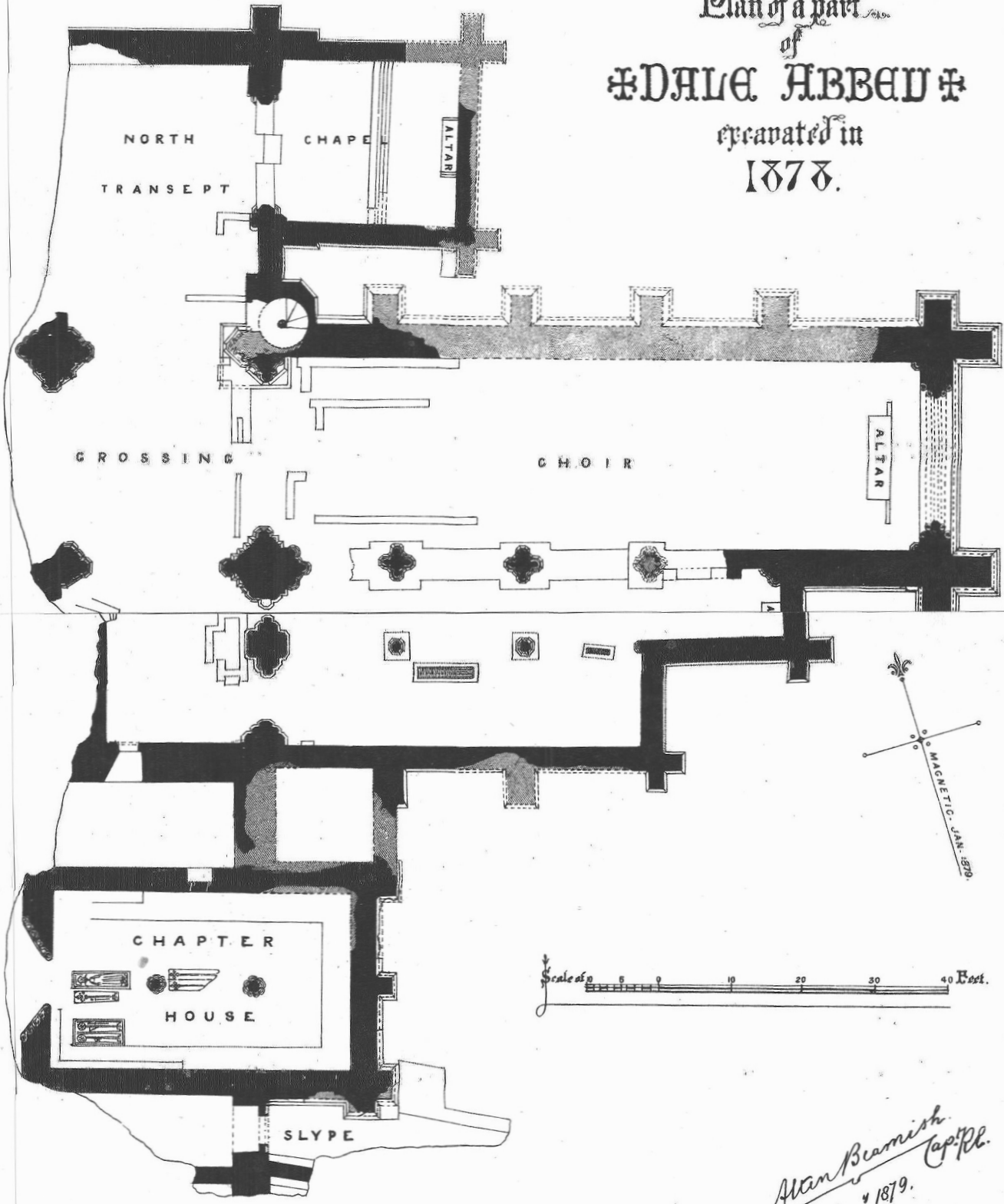
The existing buildings appear to have been commenced about 1200, and there are examples of the "Early English," "Early English Transition," and "Decorated" styles, with some later additions of the latter end of the fifteenth century.

Doctor Stukeley's plan shows an aisleless cruciform church, with two contiguous chapels on the south side of the choir—the cloister to the south, bounded by the transept and a large oblong chamber on the east; the parlour, refectory, and kitchen on the south, and sundry offices, with the Prior's lodging, on the west. The excavations, however, have proved that the doctor's survey is inaccurate.

The plan, as at present to be made out, consists of a long and narrow choir, with a double quasi-aisle to the south—central tower, nave, with north aisle—and north and south transepts, the former having a large square chapel on its eastern side. The cloister was on the south side of the nave; and the buildings on the east side of it, joining on to the transept, are a sacristy, divided into two rooms by a wall, and an oblong Chapter House. Beyond this, to the south, is the slype, or passage from the cloisters to the cemetery. The calefactory or parlour, the refectory, and kitchen ran parallel with the nave, and parts of the two latter are still standing. No excavations have yet been made on the western side of the cloisters, but probably here were the cellarage and other offices, and the Prior's lodging, which we may suppose extended to the existing road. It is at present doubtful whether the Dormitory was over the eastern or western ambulatory of the cloisters. The only portions visible before the late excavations were the arch of the great east-window* and parts of the refectory and kitchen, but Stukeley's MS. describes "the

* The inhabitants of Dale have a tradition that so long as this arch stands they are exempt from payment of tithes; and some forty years ago it was repaired and strengthened out of the highway rates!

Plan of a part
of
DALE ABBEY
excavated in
1878.



Alan Bannish
10 Jun. 1879.
Cap. R.E.

walls of the cloister, the kitchen, the hall entire, under it the cellars, at the end of the hall the Abbot's parlour, all the ceilings well wainscoted with oak, and a magnificent gatehouse just dropping." All this in 1730!

It is a favourite theory with many, that the existing window-arch was not the end of the church, and the mark on the gable of the high-pitched roof of the eastern adjunct is pointed to in corroboration thereof. In refutation of this, it may be remarked that the bases of the buttresses are still *in situ* on the eastern face, having been recently cleared of the superincumbent earth—that the external plinth common to other parts runs beneath the window—that the workmen made search, according to orders, for further walls, but could find no trace—and, it is obvious to anyone who will carefully examine the buttresses, that no walls have ever been built on to them, but that they are the original buttresses of the eastern wall. Next, as to the supposed weather-mould. When the gable was originally finished, its section was equilateral, and the slopes were ornamented with a dog-tooth moulding. Abbot Richard de Nottingham, when he re-roofed the choir, about 1500, raised the side walls and formed a clerestory, and the jamb of one of the south windows is still visible. This, of course, altered the aspect of the gable, although not the height of the ridge of the roof; and the dog-tooth ornament was then removed, with the exception of a small portion on each side, which may still be seen. It is, therefore, obvious to any careful observer, that the pitch of the roof being altered from an acute to a very obtuse angle, would produce such an alteration in the gable as has been pointed out. Lastly, there is nothing in the Inventory of the Abbey which will in any way agree with the idea of an eastern chapel.

The Choir consisted of five bays, with perhaps that number of windows on the north, and one on the south in the easternmost bay—the south chapel abutting on the other four bays. The great east window was possibly of five lights; but as nearly the whole of the tracery, and all the window-cill, has disappeared, this cannot be positively determined. The mouldings of the arch

are very fine, of two orders, with jamb shafts, of which the interior have floriated, and the exterior plain capitals, thus affording an additional proof of the non-existence of an eastern chapel. The jamb of one of the north windows, of the same date as the east one, still remains. This section of the building is of Transitional character, and in all probability the work of Abbot Lawrence, between 1270 and 1285. In the angles are the triple vaulting-shafts, with floriated capitals, which from their lightness, and the absence of traces of a stone vault, doubtless sustained one of wood, of a similar character to that which covers the presbytery of S. Alban's Abbey Church. The excavations showed that almost the whole of the north wall had been removed, excepting a portion of the west end, bearing a well moulded plinth. In clearing the area, was found the most interesting object in the building, viz., the stone base of the high altar *in situ*. Its position and dimensions are remarkable, as it stands 3 ft. 10 ins. from the east wall, and measures no less than 12 ft. in length by 3 ft. 6 ins. in width. It has lost its marble covering-slab, and perhaps 2 ft. of its height. The stone base for a reredos, which the inventory informs us was "a table of woode paynted," remains at each end. The choir-stalls occupied the two westernmost bays, and were as usual returned against the rood-screen. The rough double basement walls on which they stood have been uncovered, each being 15 ins. thick, separated by an interval of about 3 ft. These would afford room for about twelve stalls on each side, with three on each side of the entrance. The rood screen was of wood, and double, and stood beneath the eastern arch of the Rood-Tower—the interval between being 5 ft. The central doorway was 4 ft. 6 ins. wide, leaving about 10 ft. on each side. The beautiful panelling which now forms the front of the Hall-pew in Radbourn Church, probably formed the base of part of this screen, which was originally surmounted by a rood-loft, with figures of the Crucifix and SS. Mary and John, and "a payre of organs," which, together with the reredos of the high altar, two candlesticks of brass, a lamp, and the choir-stalls, sold for 20s. at the Dissolution; whilst the screen itself, or "partition of tyMBER in the bodey of the Churche," fetched but

20d., and the "rode alter in the Church and a rode there" realized 2s! The whole of the tile pavement had been removed, but numerous specimens of the tiles, more or less perfect, were turned up. Besides these, the following curiosities were found:—Two Abbey tokens, a large and much corroded iron key, the bronze corner clasps and one of the bosses of a book-cover, a large brass lamp ring, an old razor, various pieces of ornamental pottery, and several other miscellaneous articles. Numerous mouldings were extracted from the rubbish, one being a fine piece of "dog-tooth," query from the nave arcade; but, singular to say, these and all others found have been covered with successive coats of *whitewash*, which is in some cases nearly $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick. Should anyone doubt this being the work of the pre-Reformation period, let it be borne in mind that the Abbey Church was pulled down shortly after the surrender, and was not therefore exposed to the tender mercies of a "beautifying" generation. The south and east walls, as well as the high altar, also bear traces of whitewash.

The South Chapel was separated from the Choir by three arches, supported by beautiful clustered piers, the bases of which remain. The fourth, or easternmost bay, was divided from the Choir by a solid wall, in which was constructed a sepulchral recess with a fine canopied tomb. Many portions of this, as sharp as when first cut, but whitewashed, were extracted from the surrounding debris. The stone coffin of a founder evidently occupied this recess, but is missing, although the leg-bones of the occupant were left behind. Remains of the altar are to be seen against the east wall. Numerous lengths of vaulting ribs were found at this end of the chapel; and others, together with a fine shield-shaped keystone, turned up some distance off. As these only suffice to cover one bay when placed together, I think they may be safely asserted to belong to the most eastern bay, especially as the bases and parts of the vaulting shafts remain in the N. E. angle. Beyond many mouldings and fragments of encaustic tiles, the only interesting objects of interest found in this long chapel are several very fine specimens of Early English carving.

Separated from this chapel on the south, by three arches, is another chapel, which may be termed for convenience the South West Chapel. The octagonal bases of the piers remain, and are noticeable for their extreme plainness as contrasted with those of the parallel arcade. They are, however, remarkably elegant, and of pure Decorated work. Almost beneath the middle arch is a sepulchral vault about 7 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, and 3 ft. deep. When discovered, it was carefully covered by large slabs of stone, one of which on being turned over proved to be part of the lid of a stone coffin, with an incised cross head of very peculiar design. There appears, however, to be no connection between this and the vault. The vault was devoid of contents, but from the traces of charcoal in the surrounding soil, and of smoke on the wall of the vault itself, it had probably contained a leaden coffin, which had been melted down for portability; the bones of the tenant were scattered around. The eastern respond of the arcade of this chapel is built upon part of a monumental slab, with a fine incised cross fleury, very like one in the Chapter House; the next base also nearly covers an incised slab. Doubtless one or both of these are relics of the church built by the Black or Austin Canons, from Calke Priory, about 1160. No trace of the altar of this chapel remains, but there undoubtedly was one, as the inventory enumerates—"On the ryght hande of the Quier, 2 aulters, wyth 2 tables of allebaster" which "soulde for 6s." Some fragments of this last material were found amongst the debris in both chapels.

The whole of the area of the choir and two chapels has been carefully drained and levelled, and the turf relaid. In cutting the drain across the S.W. Chapel, a small cist was found beneath the eastern arch, 3 ft. long, 1 ft. wide, and 2 ft. 6 ins. deep, containing three skulls and several of the larger bones. Mr. J. Charles Cox suggests that it was constructed by the builders of the chapel to contain the bones disturbed by them during their operations.

The Rood-Tower was supported on four fine groups of piers, but the bases, which are *in situ*, are singularly unlike one another. The S.W. and N.W. are similar, but the S.E. one is somewhat

different, and appears to have been designed to correspond with the N.E. one, which is of Early English date, the others being Decorated. In the angle behind this last base, are several of the steps of an ample spiral staircase leading to the rood loft and belfry. The latter held six bells, which weighed 47 cwt. There is a tradition that one or more of these bells were carried off to Lincoln Cathedral, but there is no foundation whatever for this and similar tales relating to the Dale bells. The inventory states that they remained unsold, and there the record of them ends. Several of the ribs of the groined ceiling of the tower, and many pieces of the chamfered shafts of the piers, were found in the rubbish. Beneath the N.E. base is a large square chamfered one of earlier date; and from the care with which these two bases have been left, while the other three have been rebuilt, may we not assume that these are the foundation stones of the two churches erected? When cutting a drain across the tower area, many interments were met with, in each case without a coffin.

Of the nave, the only parts opened out are the bases of two of the clustered piers, of bold Early English character. On the north side of the second one, lies a most interesting coffin lid, with its foot to the west. It bears a very fine incised cross on steps, and by the side of the stem on the dexter side is an unusually short pastoral staff. From the design of the slab, and its association with Early English work, this is most probably the gravestone of Walter de Toteneye, the first Abbot of Dale, who died 1226. Incised slabs charged with a pastoral staff are of very rare occurrence.

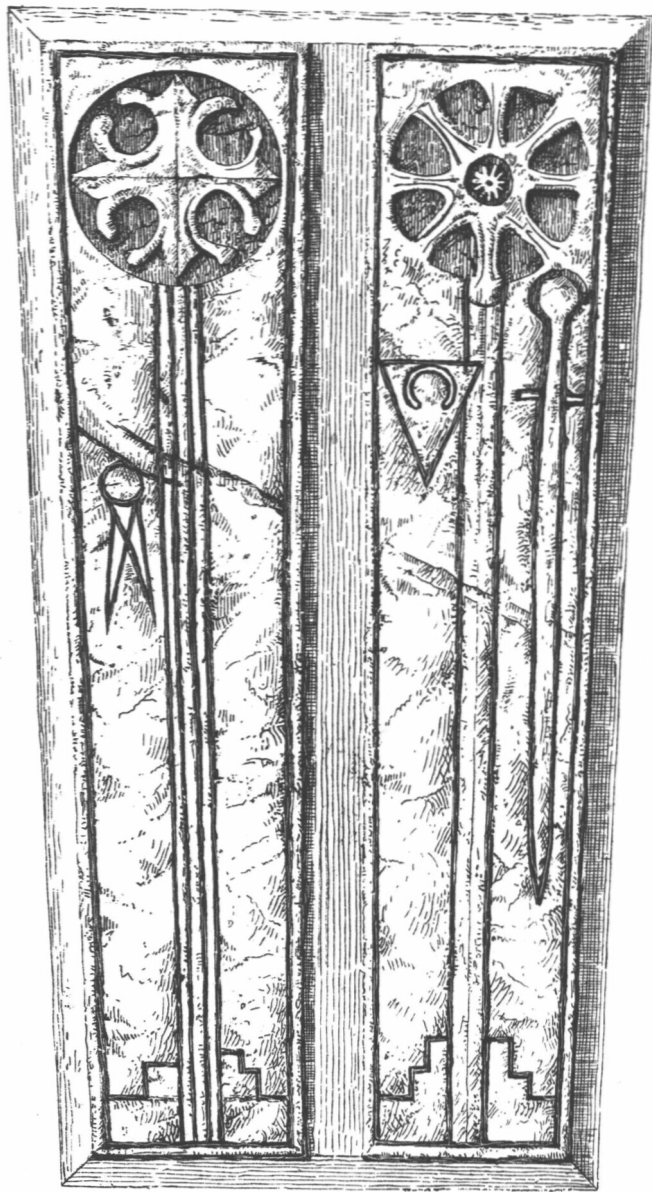
The whole of the western wall of the North Transept has been removed, but the masonry remains on the north and east to a height of several feet. Beyond a few portions of window tracery and odd mouldings, the only interesting discoveries were some portions of the effigy of one of the Canons of the Abbey, of early thirteenth century work, but the fragments are too incomplete to admit of anything more being made out. On the east side of this transept is a large square chapel, which originally had a vaulted roof, but, from the way in which

the ribs lay on the floor, it is evident that it was demolished by knocking out the keystones, and letting the whole fall. At its east end is the base of the stone altar, in front of which was discovered the original footpace of encaustic tiles; these were taken up for safety, after a careful sketch had been made of their arrangement. The altar had once been approached by three steps, and the two lower are still in position. These, when found, retained their "tread" of encaustic tiles, but it was thought advisable to remove them for safety, as in the other case, so that they may be relaid in concrete or cement. It is curious that the first pavement of the chapel had been taken up, and relaid on a level with the edge of the bottom step, but, with the exception of a few large and peculiar yellow tiles, the few which had been suffered to remain were much crushed, apparently by the fall of the groining, and have been removed to show the perfect ones beneath. The vaulting ribs are of different design to those found in other parts of the Abbey. Beyond a few fragments of window tracery, and parts of what was probably a canopied tomb, no objects of interest were found. This chapel was entered from the transept by a wide arch, which is not in the middle line. A wooden screen has been set up here, as may be seen from the holes cut for its insertion in the jambs. Between this arch and the tower stood a small chantry altar, within a parclose. May not the large chapel* and this small one be the Lady Chapel and "lyttle chapel of our Lady" respectively?

The South Transept was separated from the two southern chapels by two arches, and against the central pier stood a chantry altar, within a parclose; query was not this the chapel of S. Margaret? At the north-west corner is part of a flight of steps, but, as the area beyond has not been excavated, we must await the solution of their use. Possibly they led to the Dormitory. In the south-east angle is a doorway, descending by two or three steps into an oblong room, divided into

* Mr. J. Charles Cox thinks the larger one may be the Chapel of S. Margaret, for which the rectorial tithes of Kirk Hallam were specially appropriated.

Tomb in Chapter-House. DALE ABBEY.



two by a wall. The western apartment was doubtless a Sacristy, but the use of the eastern one is doubtful, as the walls are in a fragmentary condition. Perhaps it was the Treasury or Muniment room. The western end has not yet been cleared, so we cannot see whether it opened into the cloister or not.

To the south of these chambers is the Chapter House, second in importance only to the Church. It is an oblong building, as is usual in Monastic houses, and measures 40 ft. by 24 ft. 6 ins. Its groined roof was supported by two most elegant clustered columns, the bases of which remain *in situ*, but the capitals and some portions of the shafts were recovered from the rubbish, as well as the entire series of vaulting ribs and springers. The bases differ slightly in details and level. They bore shafts consisting of eight filleted three-quarter rounds, clustered round a centre. The difference of level is possibly accidental rather than intentional. All these moulded stones, as well as the walls, bear abundant traces of whitewash. Round the room is the base of the stone platform, upon which the benches were ranged where the Canons sat when assembled in chapter. A most interesting series of monuments were found on the floor of the Chapter House, which we will proceed to describe. In the south-west angle is a large double slab (Plate X.), instances of which are not common; each half bears a fine incised cross, the sinister one having a sword, and shield charged with a horseshoe (?) on either side of the stem; and the dexter one, a pair of shears on one side. The accompanying plate renders further description unnecessary. This is certainly the monument of a married couple, and of fourteenth-century date. It is a curious circumstance that the incised lines have been originally coloured red. Next to this is another slab, bearing a fine cross fleury, with a sword on the sinister, and a shield and small triangle on the dexter side of the stem. This latter emblem is peculiar, and may perhaps represent a stirrup-iron. By the side of this slab is a very fine early effigy of a man vested in cassock and surplice, and holding a book on his breast (Plate XI.). Respecting this figure, Mr. Matthew H.

Bloxam, to whom I sent a drawing of it, has favoured me with the following most interesting particulars:—

“The effigy of which you have kindly sent me a representation, is exceedingly interesting, and as far as my knowledge extends, is perfectly unique; and, in pronouncing an opinion upon it, I do so with reservation till I have seen it, and examined it with care, which I hope to do sometime in the early spring. . . . My impression, judging from the drawing, is that it is the sepulchral effigy of a Lector or Reader, or that of an Exorcist,* both minor Orders in the Church. At the ordination of both these orders a book was delivered by the Bishop, which will account for the book held in front. The surplice was the vestment worn at the services of the Church by those of both of these minor orders, and we have it in this effigy worn over the *Tunica Talaris* or Cassock. It is not a Monastic habit, but a vestment.”

The opinion of so eminent an authority needs no comment.

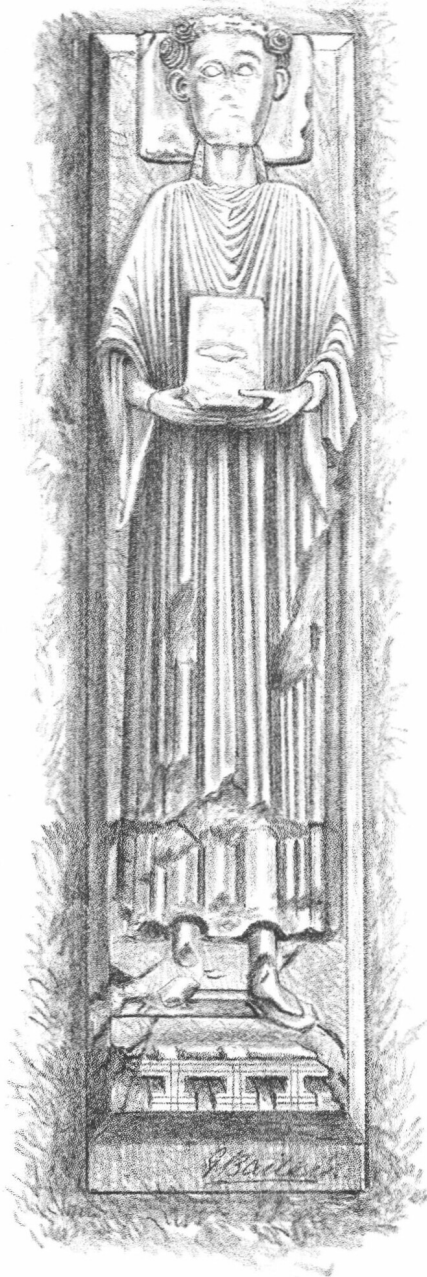
The effigy, of which the fragments were found in the North Transept, was evidently of the same date, and the work of the same artist.

Another singular monument lies between the two bases. This is a double coped tomb of Purbeck marble, but unfortunately very much decayed. Each half is charged with a cross fleury. This is probably the memorial of a married couple. Mr. J. Charles Cox suggests it is that of the persons who found the funds to build the Chapter House.

On the north side, and built into the stone platform, is part of a very fine incised cross-slab. Besides numerous tiles more or less perfect, and miscellaneous curiosities, a large portion of an heraldic achievement from a monumental brass, *circa* 1470, was found. There is the helm and most of the lambrequin or mantling, but the crest and shield are at present missing. The material of this appears to be zinc.

* The office of a Lector was to read the lessons in Church, and of an Exorcist to exorcise the catechumens, and to prepare the water for Baptism.

EFFIGY IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE, DALE.



Another portion is difficult to assign, it is of brass, or rather *latten*, inlaid with white metal, and adorned with a kind of twisted or plaited border. It is one of that class of memorials known as "palimpsest," as it bears on the reverse part of it the head of a lady, *circa* 1360, with wimple head-dress.

In the north wall is a blocked-up doorway into the Sacristy, with the iron hinge of the door still embedded in the masonry.

The Chapter House was entered from the Cloisters by a descent of two or three steps, through a magnificent doorway, about six feet wide, of no less than five orders. The jamb shafts had the dog-tooth ornament running up between them. The five bases on each side, with portions of the dog-tooth moulding still remain, but have only been sufficiently uncovered to allow of measurements being taken. Surely if some of the wealthier members of the Society would but make a pilgrimage to Dale, and behold the tantalizing spectacle of this unexcavated portion, they would loosen their purse-strings without delay.

The doorway and outer walls are of the best period of the Early English style, but the groining and vaulting shafts are of a later date, perhaps the work of Abbot Simon, 1264-1269.

The slype adjoins the Chapter House on the south, and shows abundant traces of whitewash. Beyond this is what may be the Fraternity or Calefactory, where the Canons greased their shoes, warmed themselves, and let blood. Funds are urgently needed to complete the excavations in this most interesting portion of the Abbey.

The remains of monuments found have been duly noticed where they occur, but there remains one to be mentioned to which no place can be assigned, inasmuch as its fragments were found in different parts of the building. When complete, it was a large slab of Purbeck marble, bearing an effigy in brass with marginal inscription in detached Lombardic letters of the same metal between two narrow fillets. The brass insertions are of course missing, except two or three of the letters. Only some six or seven pieces of the slab have yet turned up, of which five bear the following letters:—**□ HIC : I.....**
DE : HORSE.....PIETV... Mr. Cox

thinks it may be the monument of Wm. de Horseden, Governor of the Peak Castle, 33 Henry III. ; but seeing that the legend is in Latin, the canonical language, and not Norman-French, as was more usual in the case of Knights, it is probably the brass of Abbot John de Horsley, who ruled 1301-1328, and died 1333—the entire inscription being:—

† HIC : IACET : DOMINVS :
 IOHANNES : DE : HORSELEY :
 QVONDAM : ABBAS : HVIVS :
 MONASTERII : CVIVS : ANI-
 ME : PROPICIETVR : DEVS :
 AMEN

A Lombardic **D** which had formed part of the legend on another slab, has been picked up

From the fact of two of the marble fragments having been found in the centre of the S.W. chapel on the floor, it is possible that the slab, when complete, covered the large sepulchral vault beneath the centre arch, and the date 1333 will coincide with the period when the arcade in that chapel was built.

Of stained glass many fragments have been met with, but the continued action of the soil and moisture has rendered it quite opaque and brittle. The design of the painting can, however, easily be made out.

The find of encaustic tiles has been unusually large, and affords a most interesting series of over fifty different patterns, of which a large proportion are heraldic. These tiles were manufactured at Dale, and the kiln in which they were burnt was found some years ago when levelling a stack yard to the west of the Abbey, but has since been destroyed. In the absence of any connecting link between the benefactors of the Abbey and the arms on many of the tiles, I am inclined to think that most of the moulds were originally made for the monasteries of Leicester and Thurgarton. The following is a tolerably complete list of the heraldic tiles:—

1. France Ancient and England Quarterly (reversed). These were the Royal Arms from 1340 to 1405.

2. Two interlaced crosses, the arms terminating in fleurs-de-lis and lions' heads alternately. The allusion to the Royal Arms is obvious.
 3. England with a label of France, for the Earls of Lancaster. There are three varieties of this tile.
 4. A fesse, ? for Saer de Quinci (without label).
 5. (*Gu.*) a fesse between 6 crosses botonnées (*or*). Beauchamp of Warwick.
 6. (*Az.*) a fesse dancettée between 10 billets (*or*). Deincourt—Two varieties.
 7. Seven mascles (*or* masculée) with label. De Quinci or De Ferrers.
 8. Eight mascles conjoined, a bordure engrailed. De Quinci.
 9. A lion rampant crowned, in angles of tile, 3 bells. De Segrave, or De Morley of Morley.
 10. (*Gu.*) a fesse vair, between 3 leopards' heads jessant-de-lis (*or*). Cantilupe of Ilkeston.
 11. Quarterly 1 and 4 (*Argent*), 2 and 3 (*Gu.*), a fret (*or*), over all a bend (*sable*). Le Despencer.
 12. Barry of 10, a label of 3 points, circumscribed
REDLINGTON
 13. (*Arg.*) 3 bars embattled (*gu.*) De Barry of Tollerton.
 14. Barry of 6 (*arg* and *az.*) De Grey.
 15. (*Or*) a cross (*gu.*) ? for De Burgh. 2 varieties.
 16. On a bend (cotised) 3 eaglets displayed (reversed). De Mauley of Rossington.
 17. Quarterly 1 and 4 (*gu.*), a lion rampant (*or*) 2 and 3, Checquée (*or* and *az.*), all within a bordure engrailed (*arg.*) (reversed). Thos. Fitz Alan of Arundel, Abp. of Canterbury, 1396-1414.
 18. A Cinquefoil. Robert be Bossu, Earl of Leicester.
 19. Compartment tile with De Warrenne and Beauchamp
- Of the other tiles we may enumerate the following:—
- Monkey playing on an instrument; another dancing.
- Church bell between key and sword, for SS. Peter and Paul.
- A crowned letter M, with crowned A on either side.

Figure of Ram, with SOL IN ARIETE.

An alphabet in Lombardic capitals.

Cross staff and pennon, with letters R W (reversed). Query, for Richard Wheatley, last Prior.

Four-tile pattern, with fine King's head.

Four-tile pattern, with butterfly. De Muschamp, a benefactor to the Abbey, bore 3 butterflies.

But the most interesting is a large, thick tile, of a rich green glaze, bearing the impress of two knights on horseback tilting, between two rows of fleurs-de-lis and quatrefoils. From the flat-topped helms worn by the combatants, we may safely assign this tile to the Early English period, *temp.* Richard I.

Part of a singular wall-tile bears a most elaborate pinnacled canopy, and much resembles the famous Great Malvern examples.

Search was made before the high altar and in the south chapel for interments, but without success. In the south chapel, however, at a depth of three feet, the skeleton of an aged man was found, but there was no trace of a coffin, and we may suppose the bones to have belonged to a canon of the Abbey. Several skeletons were met with when driving a necessary drain across the choir and chapels.

The absence of flooring in the Church and Chapter House is easily explained by the following entries in the inventory:—

It' The roffes, ieron, glasse, pavyng stones, and grave stones, and pavyng stones in the Churche sould for £18.

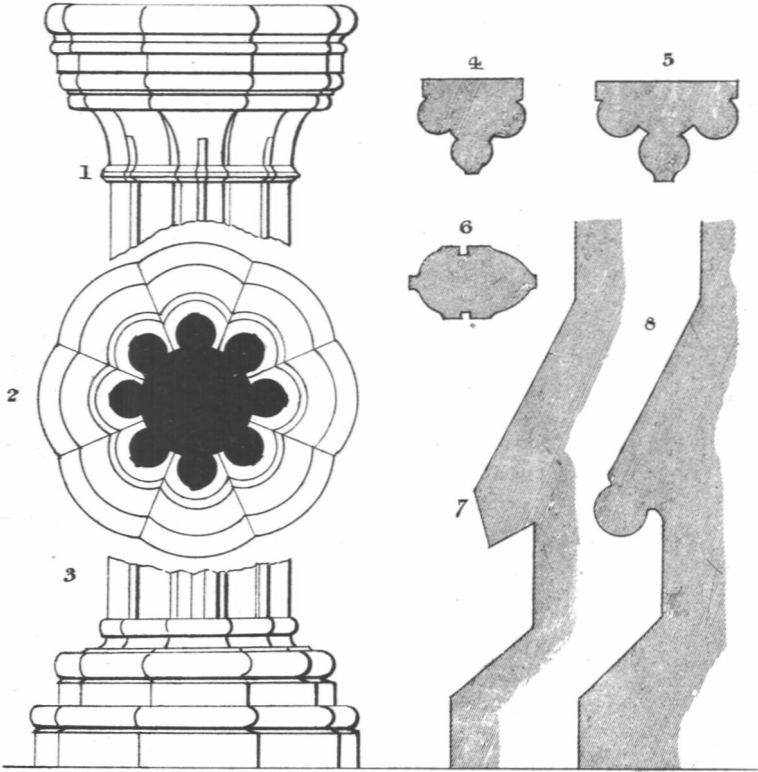
It' The glasse, ieron, pavyng stones ther (*i.e.* the Chapter House) sould for 5s.

In a few isolated places were small portions of tile paving, the arrangement being simply the alternation of a plain with a figured tile, without any reference to the pattern of the latter.

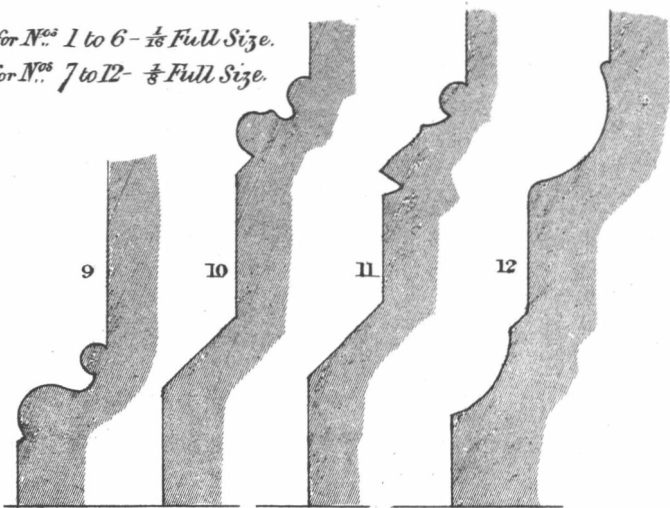
Besides the portions already quoted, the inventory mentions the Abbey Clock, the Dorter, Vestry, Cloister, Chapter House, Fraternity, Refectory, Buttery, Kitchen, Brewhouse, "Yelyg" house, Bake house and Malt house, the "Bysshops Chamber," the Bonney Chamber, two inner chambers, and the Elton Chamber.

A full and exhaustive account of the Abbey and its history

DALA ABBEY. — DETAILS.



Scale for Nos 1 to 6 - $\frac{1}{8}$ Full Size.
 Scale for Nos 7 to 12 - $\frac{1}{4}$ Full Size.



will be published under private auspices when the excavations are completed.

The plan and Plate X. which accompany this paper have been done by Capt. Beamish, R.E., from drawings and measurements taken on the spot, and the sketch of the effigy by Mr. Bailey.

In conclusion, it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the members of the Society and their friends, that the works so well begun are necessarily of a costly nature, and if operations are to be resumed in the spring, subscriptions must not be lacking.

PLATE XII.

REFERENCES.

- Fig. 1. Capital of Western Column, in Chapter House.
,, 2. Plan of ditto.
,, 3. Base of ditto.
,, 4 and 5. Sections of Vaulting Ribs, Chapter House.
,, 6. Section of Mullion, Chapter House.
,, 7. Section of Plinth, South Chapel.
,, 8. Section of Plinth, North Transept.
,, 9. Section of Eastern respond, Nave Arcade.
,, 10. Section of Base of N.W. Tower Pier.
,, 11. Section of Base of Columns, S. arcade, Choir.
,, 12. Section of Base of Octagonal Columns, S.W. Chapel.