



ANCIENT GRAVESTONES DISCOVERED AT ST PETER'S, DERBY. 1891-2.

## Old Grabestones Discovered at S. Peter's, Derby, 1891-2.

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THE gravestones represented on Plate V. were found in the foundations of the south wall during the recent restorations; and these notes and sketches of them were made from time to time by me as the stones came to light.

The very rudely sculptured fragments, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, were sketched in August, 1891, and are probably of the Saxon or pre-Norman era. These relics are now unfortunately lost. The devices were incised.

The stone No. 4 is probably next in antiquity. It is of grit, and was broken in four pieces. The cross is formed by four torque-shaped devices, a species of ornamentation prevalent in the twelfth century. It was found in June, 1892.

Fig. 5 is entirely incised; while Fig. 6, of which there were two examples, has the shaded parts sunk, while the remainder is incised.

No. 7 is a pleasing example of a foliated cross. The stone has a fine grain, different to any of the others. The pattern is partly in relief and partly incised, and is apparently of the fourteenth century.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 7 were small stones; whilst Nos. 4, 5, and 6 were of the usual size, No. 4 measuring 1 ft. 7 in. at the head, 1 ft. 4½ in. at the foot, and 6 ft. 8 in. in length.

It is much to be regretted that this venerable and beautiful church, the only very ancient ecclesiastical fabric in the town, should be allowed to remain so long in its half-dilapidated condition: its crumbling walls, decayed roofs, and tottering tower, reared by the affection and devotion of those who contributed to the corporate growth and well-being of the town, ought not to be allowed to reflect as they do so sadly the apathy and the worldliness of this more prosperous age.