

a similar shape and many other interesting pieces: one which looks rather like an oil lamp; a number of fragments of jugs with handles; and most notably the very well executed face of a man, about three inches high, showing ears, eyes, nose, mouth and beard, which would seem to be part of a medieval Toby-jug. It is remarkably well-preserved with a fine green glaze on it.

There were no signs of building on the site, with the exception of the later flooring, and as the pottery was scattered fairly uniformly over an area about twenty feet square we presume it to have been a rubbish dump.

During July of this year the excavation became a rather hurried rescue dig as we heard that the G.P.O. had purchased the site for a new telephone exchange. Large quantities of fragments were discovered and it is hoped that from these we shall be able to piece together some more interesting objects during the winter months.

The more interesting pieces of pottery will be exhibited in the School Museum, in the Undercroft of the Priory.

### CROMFORD BRIDGE CHAPEL.

**B**RIDGE-CHAPELS, where travellers could worship on their journeys, were not unfamiliar features of the medieval scene, though to-day only five survive in this county. Derbyshire had at least three. There are the remains of the foundations of one at the north end of Swarkestone Bridge, on the south bank of the Trent. In Derby, there is St. Mary's Bridge Chapel, restored in 1929-30 under the direction of our Society. The third is at the crossing of the Derwent at Cromford, and members will recall the appeal made in 1951 for funds to repair this.

The Cromford Chapel was built in the late fourteenth century or early fifteenth. It probably ceased to be used for religious purposes about the time of the Reformation, but the building itself survived—complete to a gable which appears over the wall of the bridge in a contemporary water-colour — as late as 1786. It was afterwards converted into cottages. These in their turn fell into disuse,

and the remains of the chapel became more and more dilapidated. Some years ago the freehold was given by Captain Payne to the Derbyshire Archæological Society.

The work commenced in August, 1951, and concluded in 1952 under the direction of one of the members of our council, Mr. Bernard Widdows, L.R.I.B.A., had two principal objects in view. In the first place, various repairs and renovations were urgently necessary to prevent further damage to the structure. The building being roofless, the tops of the walls were open to the weather and the masonry joints had suffered in consequence. In addition, trees had rooted themselves in the walls, hastening the work of destruction. The stones themselves had to be removed, numbered, and then put back into position when all the vegetation had been cleared away.

In the second place, advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the repair work to make various exploratory excavations to see if digging would bring to light any evidence which would fill out the not very well documented early history of the chapel.

The first excavations were carried out at the point A shown on the accompanying plan to determine whether an external wall continued from A to B.

It was found that there was, in fact, a continuation, but the wall was found to be quite different. From the road to point A the stones were dressed and rectangular and there was a plinth with a large sloping top. From A to B the stones, though large and roughly squared, were quarry faced, there was no plinth and the lowest course was at a much higher level. The join between these two styles of masonry suggested that this was the point at which the east end of the chapel would be found. Excavation disclosed the footings of this east wall from A to C.

Further excavation disclosed that the wall returned at point A to point D. It is impossible to say whether there was a return to point C because of the complete disturbance of this ground some years ago when a sewer was laid. The small section of overlying wall at point D is the remains of a later boundary wall.

It seems fairly clear that the original limit of the chapel was at the wall A-C. The wall B.D. may have been the limit of a later extension or the limit of a larger building when the chapel was put to secular use.

The next step was to endeavour to uncover the footings of the west wall. The position was quite clear, particularly because the rough stones are clearly seen at point E where the west wall was broken away.

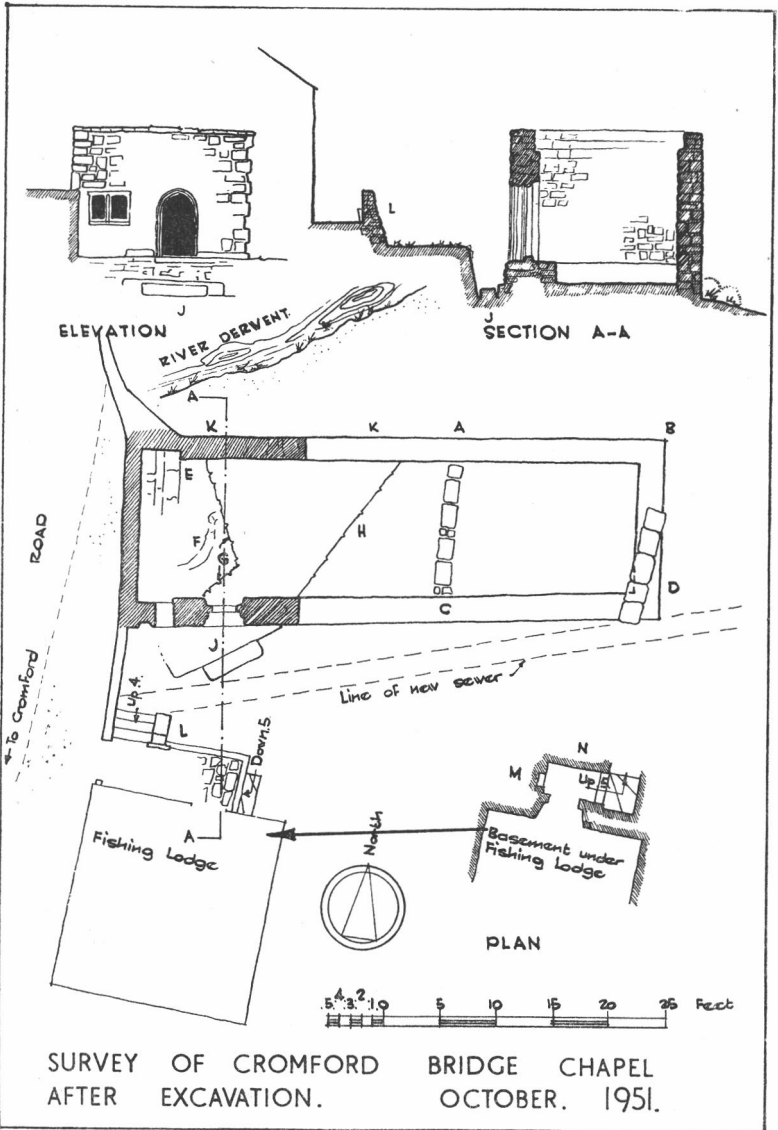
It was surprising to find only loose rubble filling instead of a proper footing. The excavation was continued on the line of the wall when a thin curved wall was uncovered at F. It was faced on the road side only and no explanation can be found for its existence.

Further exploration followed when a very well built wall face was uncovered at G. The stones were large, squared and well faced with thin joints. Excavation followed eastwards to uncover the other side of what was then assumed to be a wall. At the other side of this, masonry was found at H. In between the facing masonry was well consolidated large rubble filling.

The logical sequence of excavating at point J followed. This showed that the wall face H took an obtuse bend westward. Close up to it was a large stone about 5 ft. 6 ins. long, worn on the arris on one side giving the appearance of a step. It should be pointed out, however, that a step normally shows most wear on the tread, whereas in this case the wear is wholly on the nose.

The external wall of the chapel clearly shows that the face between the points K-K is not contemporary with the remainder of the wall up to a height of approximately three feet below the chapel floor level. There is no doubt that this earlier structure was utilised when the chapel was built.

The Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings of the Ministry of Works showed interest in this work and after visits to the site a report was received which stated: "It is felt that the foundation marked as K.H.G.J. on the plan is a stone abutment to a timber bridge, being an earlier structure than the existing bridge. J on the plan is undoubtedly an approach to this stone area and the step down may have led to a building which



lay under or near the existing fishing lodge. The first chapel terminated at line A-C and an extension is shown A.C.B.D. on plan. These two periods are clearly shown on the site and I would recommend that these should be grassed down, but the foundation to be shown as stone, as we agreed on the site. I feel that F on plan, a rough stretch of masonry, should be covered and also the pit on the river side of wall K, as the amount of money which your committee has in hand will not cover any elaborate treatment."

After records had been made the exploratory holes were refilled. The ground inside the chapel has been left open for inspection. On three sides a "shelf" has been formed to indicate the level of the chapel floor.

[The first part of this account has been taken largely from the *Derbyshire Countryside* (No. 4, Vol. 19) where it appeared above the initials of Mr. K. Mantell, M.A. The notes of the discoveries are from Mr. B. Widdows.]

## THE EXECUTION OF CHARLES I.

### A newly discovered account.

By FRANCIS FISHER.

THE letter from which the following transcript has been made was discovered whilst sorting a second miscellaneous collection of papers from Radbourne Hall, Derbyshire. The previous letter mentioned in the second sentence has not been found.

The writer may fairly be identified as the Robert Cotchet of Mickleover (1611-1657) given in an account of the family of that name published in this *Journal* for 1939. The author, Mr. F. Williamson, says Robert was probably a parliamentarian, being described in the Mickleover register for 1657 as "Captain and Justice of the Peace."