

VII.

MURAL PAINTINGS FORMERLY EXISTING
IN LINGFIELD CHURCH.

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

No. I.—FROM EDWARD PANSON, ESQ., ARCHITECT.

MY DEAR SIR,—In sending you the tracings of some mural paintings from the fine church of Lingfield, in Surrey, I regret that my very limited knowledge of archæology does not enable me to offer any observations of interest.

All I can record is, that in the year 1845 I was employed on the partial restoration of the fabric, when the roof, the walls, and the decayed tracery and glazing of some of the windows were restored and repaired under my professional superintendence.

The church was built in the reign of Henry VI., and being a collegiate church, is much beyond the usual size of parish churches in this part of England: it is all of the same period, and consists of a nave and two aisles, with a tower on the south side; and contains in the interior several fine tombs and brasses.

In restoring the plastering on the walls, I found in all parts of the church traces of mural decoration, and evidently of two or three distinct periods, overlying each other, the more recent consisting of texts of Scripture surrounded by scroll borders, so far as I could judge, not earlier than the end of the seventeenth century; but they were nearly all mere fragments, and the only examples which appeared to me of interest, were those

of which I sent you the original tracings made on the spot, and of which you have engraved the figures. These were all situate on the wall of the north aisle. The figures are above half life-size.

In Nos. 1 and 2 the cloak is of a red colour, and the collar blue. No. 3 has also a red cloak, and part of the dress is red; the figure of the angel (No. 4) is also shaded with light red, and the other colouring, except the flesh-tints, is made out with a brown shading.

Besides these figures, I traced a very elegant diaper pattern with a flowered margin, which appears to have covered a considerable wall-space; and I believe, from what I observed, that formerly the greater portion of the walls of this church were covered with similar decorations.

I am, my dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

EDWARD I'ANSON.

CLAPHAM, *April 11th*, 1856.

NO. II.—FROM ALBERT WAY, ESQ., F.S.A., ETC.

MY DEAR SIR,—I should be glad if I had the occasion to offer you any information available for your purpose, but I am afraid I can only tell you what you must already be aware of, that the saint with the anchor is St. Clement, pope and martyr: the anchor with the cross bar is a form more familiar to us, but the form with a ring only is by no means unusual: the triple-barred cross is also commonly assigned to the pope, and even to an archbishop, although the double-barred cross is more familiar to us. The saint probably has a tiara on his head, and there is a curved line on



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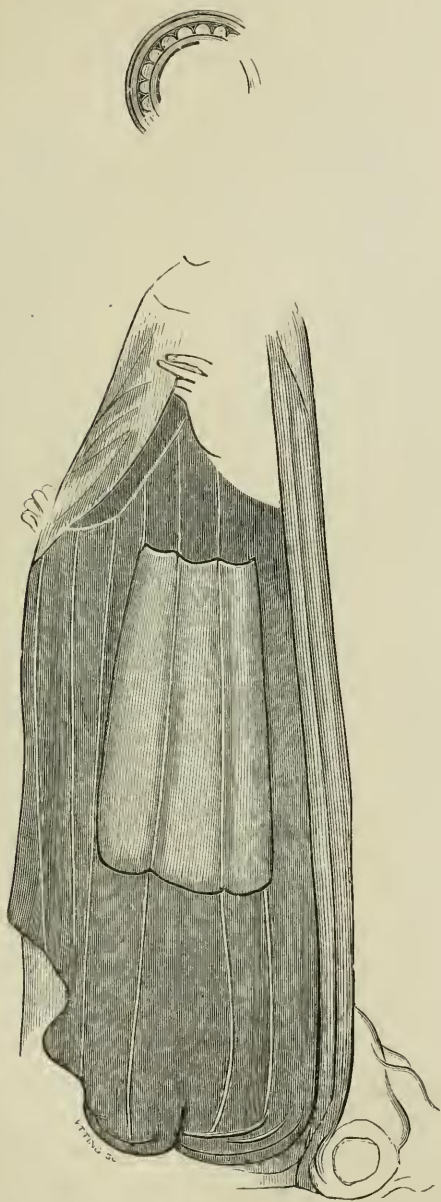
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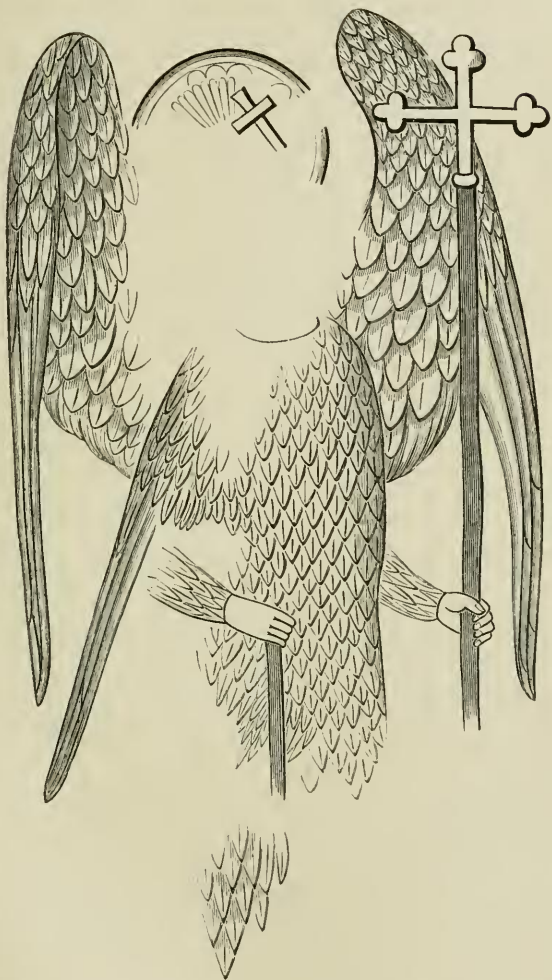
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its left side, which doubtless, on examination of the original, would prove to be part of the outline of the nimbus: it gives the saint the appearance now of wearing a turban. The mitre, however, sometimes takes place of the tiara. Thus, at Westhall, on the rood-screen, St. Clement appears with the mitre; at Denton, with the tiara; and in both instances he bears the *triple* cross; but at Houghton-le-Dale he appears with the double-barred cross.

On such subjects, which must often present themselves to you, I cannot recommend you a more useful hand-book than the Rev. Dr. Husenbeth's "Emblems of Saints."

I do not know of any negro bishop amongst the saints: there are several black saints, but not of episcopal character. In mural paintings I think I have noticed, where mineral red had been used, the colour has sometimes become black, and that may have been the case in the present instance.

The other figures may be St. Michael weighing souls in the balance, and St. Margaret; but they are too imperfect to hazard more than a conjecture on their intention.

I remain,

Yours very faithfully,

ALBERT WAY.

WONHAM, REIGATE, *April* 14, 1856.