

ART. XII.—*Carlisle Cathedral. Apse in East Wall of Transept.* By C. J. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

*Read at Carlisle, Aug. 8th, 1895.*

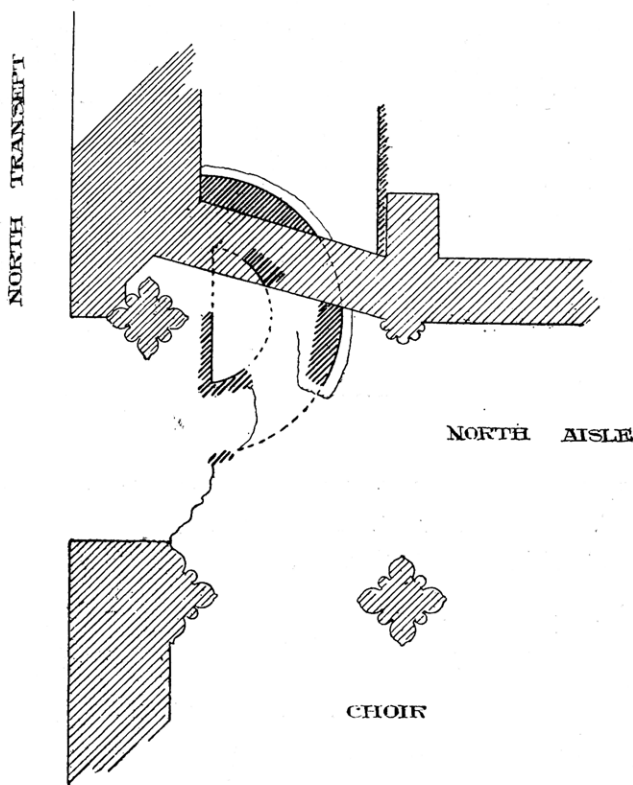
IN October, 1892, in making a channel through the north aisle of the choir of Carlisle Cathedral in connection with the organ, the foundations of a circular building were cut through, which proved on investigation to be the remains of an ancient feretory or apse, projected from the eastern face of the north transept of the Norman Church which preceded the present choir.

The Cathedral Church of Carlisle consists of incomplete portions of two buildings of different design and character, never intended to be brought permanently together, and each intended to form part of a complete Church. To the west we have portions of the nave, aisles, transepts, and central tower of a Norman Church of moderate dimensions, and eastwards a choir and aisles commenced in the 13th century on a much larger scale, greater in width, length and height, the increased width being gained on the north side so as not to interfere with the conventual buildings of the earlier church. The 13th century choir, covered the ground therefore formerly occupied by the presbytery of the Norman Church.

As however this later choir spread 12 ft. further to the north, the arches leading from the northern transept of the Norman Church were useless and were partly destroyed, and with them their apsidal recesses or feretorys, and were replaced by one new arch, giving access to the new north aisle of the choir. In the south transept the original Norman arches still remain and in use, the inner one to give access to the south aisle of the choir, and the outer one to give access to St. Catherine's Chapel which  
replaced

replaced the apse known to exist there by discoveries made in the restoration of 40 years ago.

The foundations of the apse found in the north side formed a segment of a true circle, having its centre about



APSE CARLISLE CATHEDRAL.

six inches eastward of the outer face of the transept wall, the walls at about 3 feet below the present floor level are 4 ft. 3 ins. thick with an internal diameter of 7 ft. 9 ins. increased by an offset at that level to a diameter of 9 ft. 9 ins. The walls are entirely of stone, dressed with a hatchet

hatchet, built stone to stone, with no sign or trace of a concrete core in the more usual manner of the Normans. The walling stones are of the local red sandstone, not the white stone of which the nave is built.

The accompanying plan to a small scale, shows the position of the apse, at a level of 3 feet below the present floor or thereabouts. I may add that the walls of the aisles of the Norman nave are only about 2 ft. 4 in. thick or thereabouts, which implies a stone construction, the more remarkable as the walls of the adjacent keep of Carlisle Castle are of concrete and of great thickness.

The remains of similar apses in like position, generally on a slightly larger scale, exist at Canterbury, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Norwich, and other places.

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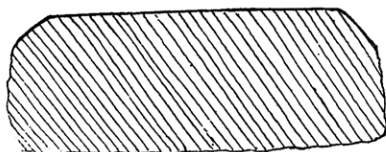
ART. XIII.—*On an Incised Slab found at Croglin, Cumberland.* By the REV. R. S. G. GREEN, M.A.

*Read at Carlisle, August 8th, 1895.*

I HAVE the honour to exhibit a rubbing from a small sepulchral slab, found recently in digging a grave in Croglin churchyard. The slab is about 20 inches long by 9 inches at the broadest end, and 7 inches at the narrowest. The central portion is occupied by what is apparently intended for some sort of floriated cross upon degrees, to the right of which is a pair of sharp-pointed shears. The inscription is much worn, but has been deciphered at the Society of Antiquaries of London, as:

+ HIC JACET I TVMBA HISABELA.

The same authorities say that the slab is apparently of the early part of the fourteenth century. This Society is indebted to them for the loan of the cut given herewith.



SLAB FOUND IN CROGLIN CHURCHYARD.