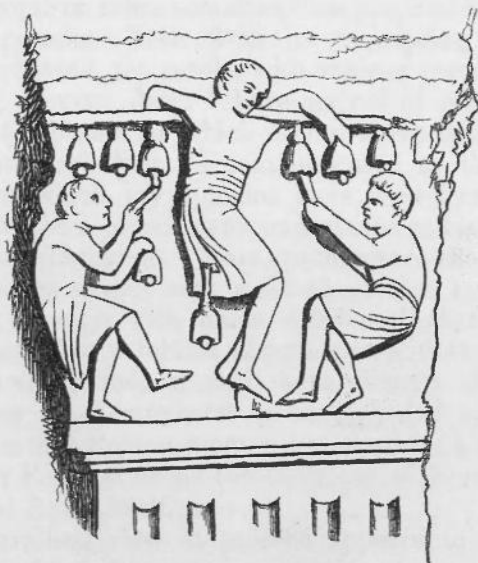


ON A SCULPTURED CAPITAL IN THE CATHEDRAL OF AUTUN.

By Mr. J. G. WALLER.

THE Cathedral of Autun, in which this sculptured Capital is found, was completed about the middle of the twelfth century. It is remarkable for having copied in its details many portions of Roman work yet existing in the city, notably that of the Porte d'Arroux. The fluted pilasters in the latter are imitated in the cathedral, and form a very remarkable feature. It is on one of the piers of the nave, forming a capital to a pilaster, such as alluded to, that this curious piece of sculpture is found.



It represents a performance upon bells, which is certainly singular. Probably the difficulties of the task are its chief recommendation. The principal performer seems to have

suspended himself to a cross, on which depend a number of bells, two of which he is ringing with his hands, another appears through a slit in his tunic, and perhaps is fastened to his thigh, and besides he appears to be going through a kind of jig at the same time. On each side of him is a companion, each of whom is striking the clapper of one of the bells suspended from the cross, and one is ringing another he holds in his hand.

This very extraordinary musical performance may be recorded thus to notify a benefaction to the structure by some company of minstrels; perhaps the pier on which it is carved might be erected at their expense, and the sculpture a representation of their last invention in the minstrel's or *jongleur's* art.

