

reference to the bays of the fabric itself, and presents an extreme case of the sort of irregularity we find illustrated in the Bellingham chapel.

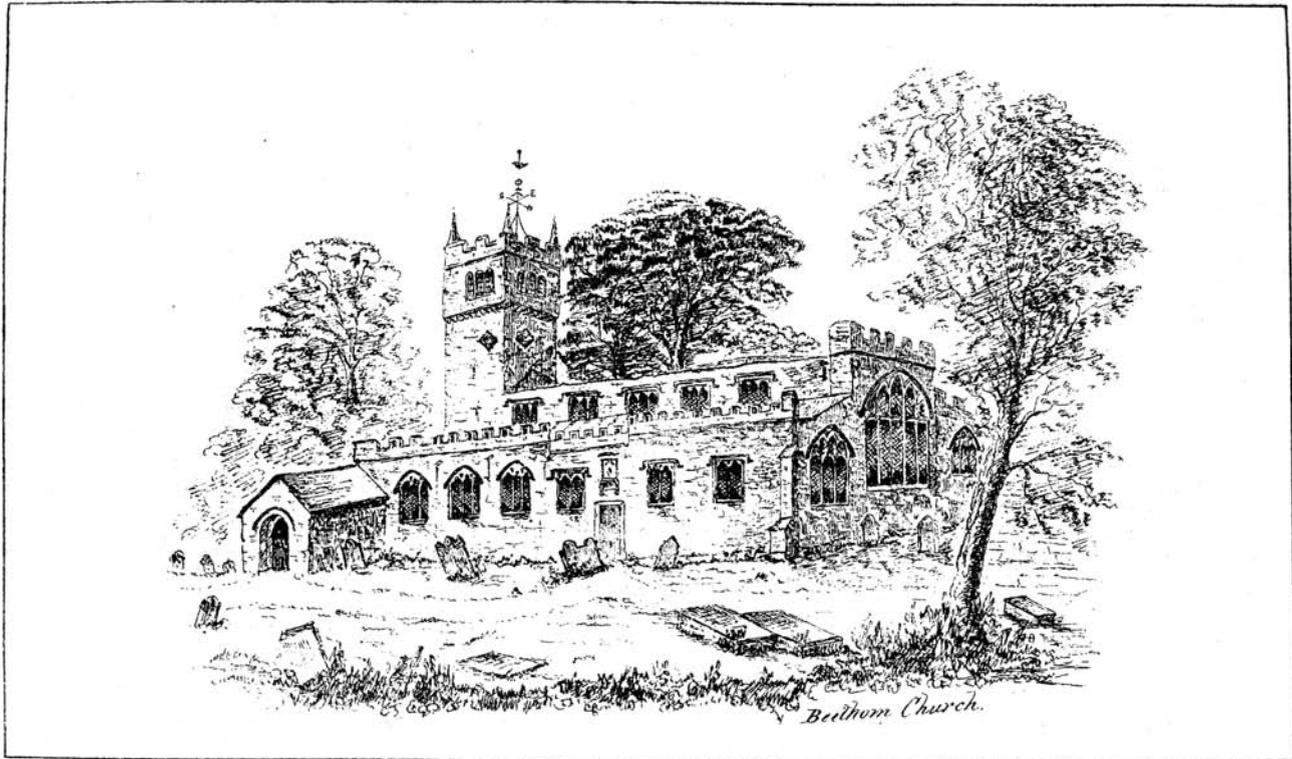
It is *just possible* that when the old south porch, which no doubt contained a parvise, was taken down, the loss of the parvise, especially if used as a muniment room or library, would be found to be so inconvenient as to compel the construction of a substitute in some other part of the church; but if so, why construct a room difficult of access, over the Bellingham chapel, rather than in the new west porch? We certainly know that the west porch was constructed without a parvise, and therefore the inference is that no such accommodation was needed.

I venture, with great diffidence, to submit these remarks to the notice of skilled Archæologists present at the meeting, and shall be much interested to learn the conclusion they may arrive at on this interesting subject.

ART. XXIX.—*Beetham Church.* By J. Bintley, Esq., Kendal.

*Read at Beetham, May 29th, 1872.*

**B**EFORE the present church was erected, there was an ancient chapel at Beetham, dedicated to St. John; this appears from the fact that there is still a place called Chapel Hill, on which I believe, a house built by Mr. Thexton now stands. During the excavations for the foundation of this building the foundations of the chapel were thoroughly exposed, and many human bones dug up; and three silver coins, together with an amber bead, were discovered. One of the coins was about the size of a shilling; on one side of this coin was impressed the Crucifixion, above the cross being the common motto, "I.N.R.I.," on the right of the cross a crescent, on the left a rising sun; at the bottom the Virgin Mary in a weeping attitude. On the reverse side there was a lamb with the standard and St. Andrew's cross. One of the other coins was of Edward the sixth's reign, and consequently of a comparatively late date, and therefore of no use in determining the date of the early structure, which must, I fancy, have been of  
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the Saxon era; the last coin was so defaced as to be unintelligible. Time, no doubt, and circumstances necessitated the erection of another and more commodious structure; to me it is a matter of wonder why this was not erected on the site of the old one, as our forefathers were very reluctant to destroy all traces of the munificence of their pious predecessors, though always anxious to rebuild and embellish their parish churches with the skill at their command. It would appear, however, that in this case the rule was departed from, nevertheless it has been carried out in the present building, as I shall hereafter show; but first I will endeavour to trace the history of the rectory from the earliest date down to the present time.

In 1076, 10th William I., Ivo Talebois gave the church of Beetham and the lands of Haverbrack to the monks of St. Mary's, York, who were then possessed, by gift from Ralph de Meschines, of the abbey of Wetherall; the monks of St. Mary's must have appropriated this portion of their vast possessions, together with Heversham and some more, for the support of their brethren of Wetherall, as in 1104 the daughter and heiress of William 7th Baron of Kendal, who married Gilbert, son of Roger Fitzbride, confirmed the gift to that Abbey. The church and lands remained thus for some ages, the abbot of St. Mary's being still the patron.

I find that King Edward the Second (1307) confirmed the gift of the manor to Conishead Priory, but whether this included the church or not, I cannot say. In 1460, the church and rectory were annexed to the chantry of St. Mary's church Eccles, Lancashire, with a reservation of 13*l.* per annum for the vicar, 3*l.* per annum to the approviator, 3*s.* 4*d.* to the dean and chapter, and 13*s.* 4*d.* to the archdeacon of Richmond; in the same year the advowson was granted to Nicholas Bryan, Esq., and others, reserving 20*s.* per annum to the abbot, and this he enjoyed till the time of the eighth Henry, when the monasteries were dissolved. In the time of Mary I. it was presented to Thomas Bradley, Esq., but for some reason it again reverted to the crown, being leased for 25*l.* per annum for 21 years, until, in 1612, King James granted the rectory, &c., to Sir Francis Duckett.

It would not be interesting to trace the decay of the Duckett family, or how they sold off portions of the tythe from time to time, until, in or about 1730, the skeleton of the rectory was sold to Daniel Wilson, of Dallam Tower, Esq., in the possession of whose family it still continues.

I think

I think I have said all I need as to the history of the living, so I will now briefly give a description of the church itself.

I believe that the church has originally consisted of nave, chancel, south aisle, and north transept, the south aisle extending eastwards as far only as the division between the two former; and I am led to this opinion from evidence yet traceable, which induces me to believe that there has been a chancel arch which, on the south, has been buttressed by the east wall of the south aisle, and on the north by the west wall of the transept. It will be observed that on the south, immediately opposite the position the chancel arch would naturally occupy, there is conclusive evidence that there has been a buttress, as a portion of the top-weathering yet remains, and as this is the only buttress I can find, I conclude its purpose was to form a natural finish to the wall of the aisle. That this portion of the church is much earlier than any other, is evident from the fact that the south arcade and the great south door are of a transitional character, and the tower still shows a portion of the weather-mould of a high pitched roof. It is evident also, that there has been an arch or arcade, with the arch or arches of very different radius to any others in the building, on the north side between the chancel and north transept or aisle, as the springer of one of the arches still remains. The roof over a portion of the present north aisle I consider to be coeval with the body of the church, as it is of a much more elaborate character than the roofs over any other portions of the aisles, having the principal rafters and purlins stop-moulded, and finished in altogether better style. I see that Mr. Hutton considers, from the fact that there are two inverted coats of arms in the south parapet, the arms of the Bannisters in the window below, and the arms of Fitz Roger over the vestry window, that the church was built in 1216; but against this we have the evidence of some old coins, which were found in 1834 in digging for a grave near the base of the pillar against which the pulpit stands; these coins were found to be of the date of Edward the Confessor, William the Conqueror, and William Rufus; and, as they had been placed in a block of ashlar hollowed out for their reception, it is probable they were placed there to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone, and as a guide to posterity as to the date of this portion of the structure. From this it would appear that the building belongs to the latter part of the eleventh or to the beginning of the twelfth century.

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The desire of our forefathers to emulate the munificence of their predecessors, the increase of population, or other circumstances of which we possess no authentic record, led to the addition of the north aisle and Beetham Chapel. The De Beetham family were, about the time the enlargement would take place, in the zenith of their glory and power; and though the chapel that belonged to them at present only extends as far as would fill up half the space of the length of the chancel, I think a careful examination will show that it originally occupied the whole length of the south chancel aisle, from east to west. I consider this theory is born out by the fact that the arch separating it from the chancel is of much later date than the south arcade or nave, but seemingly of the same period as the north arcade, &c. The pitches of the roofs, over what I designate the De Beetham Chapel, are different, but it is apparent to any one, that a portion of these roofs is of comparatively recent date, being of pine, and good, whilst the remaining portion is of oak, and in a very dilapidated state. This, however, has been the original pitch of the roof, as is shown by the break in the east wall, which corresponds with the rake of the old roof. Another reason for supposing that this chapel has extended westwards as far as the chancel is, that there are some rough limestone corbels in the south wall, which extend thus far, and these, I imagine, have been to support wall uprights in connection with a roof, though I can see no mortises into which the tenons were inserted. There is a peculiar piece of workmanship in the rafter at the east end of south aisle, concerning which I shall be glad of the opinion of gentlemen present, as I can make nothing of it, and cannot think it is in its proper position.

I believe most of the windows in the church and of the additions before referred to, are of about the same date, the character of the tracery being precisely similar to those of the churches of Islip, Northampton, and Donnington, Lincolnshire; both these churches have been added to, according to Brandon, and mostly re-built on the site of Early English structures.

I cannot say much about the wood-work in the church; it is evident, however, there has been a rood-screen of later date, and there is part of an old screen in the De Beetham chapel, but no idea can be formed as to whether the former possessed any architectural merit, and the latter speaks for itself. A piscina still exists in the De Beetham chapel, and there is a square  
opening

opening between this chapel and the chancel, which may call forth some remark. The lime-stone corbel in the east wall has most probably been for the figure of the patron saint, and no doubt the chapel would contain an altar. The church windows have been originally filled with stained glass, but the only remains left, after the ruin done by the hand of a fanatic of the name of Sill, assisted by some of Fairfax's soldiers, consist simply of some coats of arms and a very perfect crucifixion in one of the clerestory windows. In 1707 some repairs were executed to the church, by command of the Archbishop of York: in 1714 some necessary repairs were done in the chancel, and in 1764 the chancel windows were re-glazed.

I have no more to add concerning the church, and as the description may have been rather dry to the ladies, I will, before I conclude, make an extract from a manuscript book, carefully compiled by a former vicar, grandfather of the gentleman who at present occupies that distinguished position. The book is kept in the vestry, and has been of great assistance to me in compiling this paper. The extract refers to the price of provisions and other things, in this neighbourhood—first in 1737, then in 1777—they can be compared with what we pay now:—

	1737			1777		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Butter, per lb. of 18oz. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eggs 6 for 1d. first date, and 4 for 1d. or 9 for 2d. second date.	0	0	3	0	0	6
Young ducks, each ...	0	0	4	...	0	10
Chickens, each ...	0	0	2½	0	0	4
Pigeons, ...	0	0	2½	0	0	4
A stubble goose from ...	1s.	to	1s. 6d.,	1s. 4d.	to	2s. 6d.
Four-year-old ewe, fat ...	0	5	0	9s.	to	11s.
Fat wether ...	0	9	0	1	1	0
Six weeks calf ...	0	10	6	1	2	0
Cow, three years old ...	4	0	0	8l.	or	9l.
A labourer per day with meat ...	0	0	4	...	0	9.
"    "    without meat ...	0	0	10	...	0	1 4
A carpenter per day, with meat ...	0	0	6	...	0	10
"    "    without meat ...	0	1	0	...	0	1 10
A tailor per day, with meat ...	0	0	4	...	0	8*
Beef, per lb. ...	0	0	2½	...	3½	d. to 4d.
Veal, per lb., in season ...	0	0	1½	...	0	0 3
Mutton, ...	0	0	2½	...	0	0 3½
Salmon, per lb. ...	1d.	to	3d.	...	2½d.	to 5d.
A thrasher per day, with meat ...	0	0	4	...	0	0 8
A good lamb ...	0	5	0	...	0	9 0

\* With fewer hours. No tea drunk in the year 1772, but by three families.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.—As to the monuments in Beetham Church, said to be those of Sir Thomas de Beetham and Lady, confer:—1. Burn and Nicholson's History of Westmorland, and Whitaker's Richmondshire. See also Burn and Nicholson for an account of Beetham Hall.