ART. XVI.—*The Præmonstratensian Abbey of St. Mary Magdalene at Shap, Westmorland.*

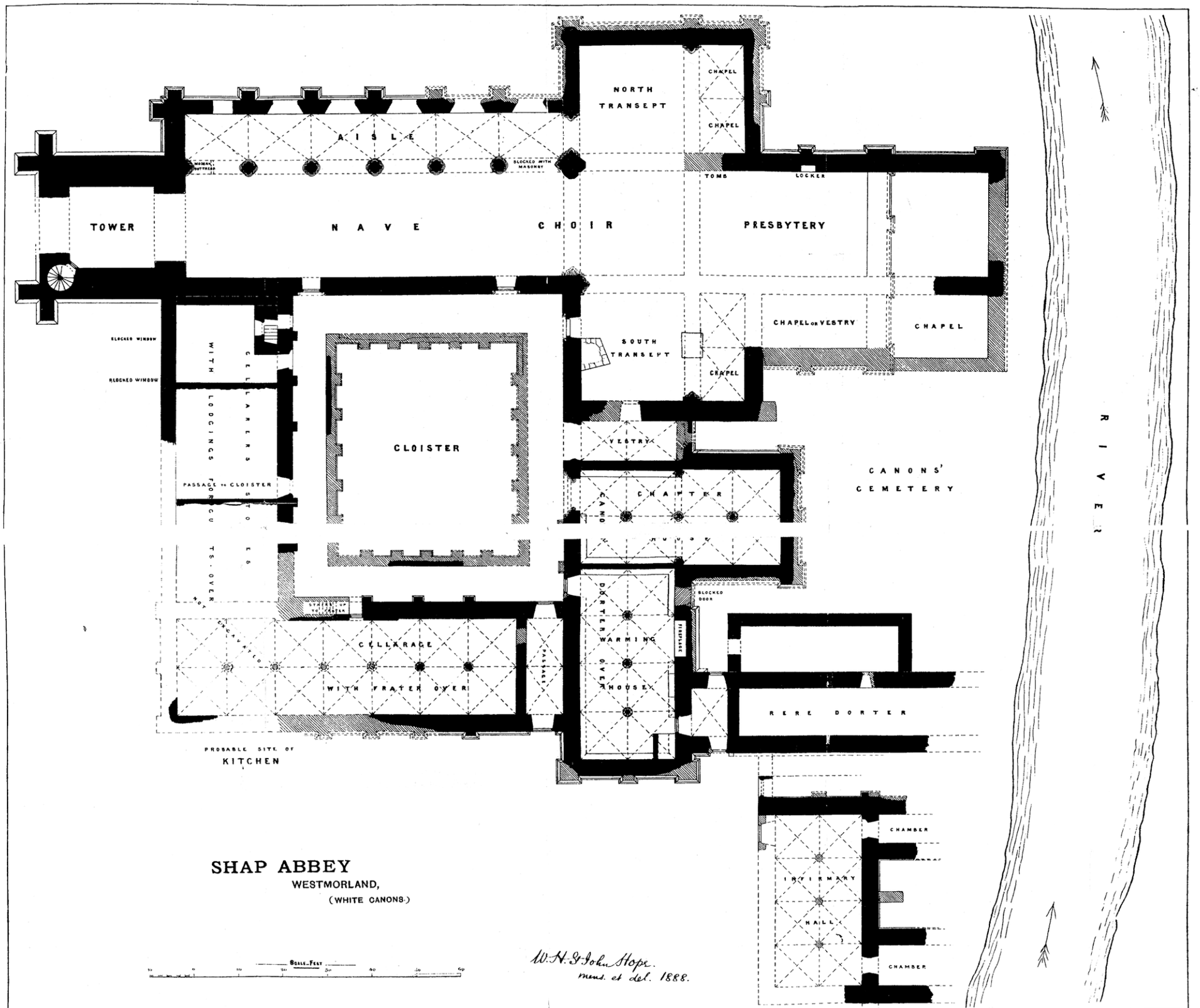
Part I.—Historical, by the late REV. G. F. WESTON, Hon. Canon of Carlisle and Vicar of Crosby Ravensworth.

Part II.—Architectural, by W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A.

Read at that place September 9th, 1886, *and July 12th,* 1888.

PART I.—HISTORICAL.

THE interesting ruins we have come to visit are the remains of a convent of Premonstratensian Canons. They were an Order that separated from the Augustinian or Austin Canons for the purpose of following a stricter rule. They originated in France, in the diocese of Laon, in the year 1120. St. Norbert was their founder. Acting under a sudden conversion, he quitted the court of the emperor Henry IV, whose kinsman he was, and desiring a life of more complete self-mortification than that adopted by the Augustinian Canons he took the advice of his friend the bishop of Laon, determined to found a new order, and together they sought a site for the erection of a conventual house to carry out these views. After much wandering a green spot in the depths of the forest of Coucy struck the fancy of Norbert, and in a small ruined building, once a chapel dedicated to the Baptist, he passed the night alone in prayer. In a vision the Virgin Mary appeared to him pointing out the exact site the building he desired to erect should occupy, and also the dress he and his associates should adopt. The green meadow thus pointed out was the *pré montré* or *pratum præmonstratum* which gave the name to the new order; and the dress, a white cassock, a rochet, and white cloak, symbolising purity of heart and life, became their habit and gave them the name, by which they were afterwards styled, of "White Canons," and by which they were distinguished from the Augustinians, known



SHAP ABBEY

WESTMORLAND,

(WHITE CANONS.)

W. H. St John Hope.
mens. et del. 1888.

known as the "Black Canons" from the costume they had adopted, as significant of the mortification of the flesh and its lusts, and of death to the world.

Founded thus in 1120 in France, the Order became first established in England at Newhouse, Lincolnshire, in 1140.

Why this Order specially commended itself to Thomas, son of Gospatric, a member of a powerful family having large possesions in Cumberland and Westmorland we do not know, but he gave to God and St. Mary Magdalene and to the canons at Preston of the Order of Premonstratensians a portion of his lands at Preston in Kendal to build a house for the said canons. Why this proved unsuitable to them we do not know, perhaps it was too near to a large town, for they loved to be far away from towns in the seclusion of wild uninhabited districts. Unsuitable, however, for some reason or other it would appear to have proved, for the Society were removed by their patron and settled here at Shap, or Heppe as it was then called, receiving in lieu of their former estate, another, which must have fully met their love of retirement. The deed of gift preserved in Dugdale minutely lays down its boundaries, the chief points of which are still known by the same names. It is that part of his land which was *Karl*, a term still retained in *Karl-lofts*, denoting land probably tenanted by free husbandmen. Starting at Karlwath, a ford across the Lowther, a little south of the abbey, the boundary follows the stream as far as its little tributary the Langshawbeck; ascending this till it crosses the road from Keld to Swindale, it follows the road to a burial mound still known as Staniraise; thence it follows the path northwards to the little hamlet of Rayset; thence it makes down the hill to a large stone by the riverside to which a word used in hunting deer "Lestablie"* is ap-

* Ubi homines solebant facere Lestablie Stablye. Nicolson and Burn, vol. I, p. 470: a place where an ambush or trap, a *buckstall*, was made for the deer, who were driven to it.

plied,

plied, a spot at which men were stationed ready with bows and dogs to shoot or pursue the deer as they were driven past; going down the stream of the Lowther as far as the boundaries of Rosgill it then proceeds southward by the top of the hill Creskeld to a field called Almbanke, thus enclosing a considerable tract of pasture and brushwood on the eastern side of the vale, till the lane is reached which descends steeply at the starting point Karlwath. He also grants them pasture in common with his tenants at Rayset and pasture at Thamboord and at Swindale on both sides to the top of Binbarh on one side and on the other beyond Thengeheved for 60 cows, 20 mares to run in the woods, and 500 sheep with their young till the age of 3 years, and for five yoke of oxen, and wood also for the Abbey for timber, fire, hedging, and other necessaries, without the control of his foresters. At a nearly central spot on their estate, on a small level thwaite on the left bank of the Lowther, with steep tree-grown heights on the other bank, protecting them against winds from north and east, the canons fixed the site of their house. They would seem to have commenced building it early in the thirteenth century and to have taken no great number of years in completing it, its size indeed not requiring many, the greater part of it, as may be seen, being in the style of architecture of that period.

We may infer that they became popular from the numerous additions to their property which they from time to time received. The founder of the abbey gave them the whole rectory of the church of Shap. The church of Bampton was also appropriated to the canons about the time of the foundation of the abbey, which appropriation, as well as that of the church of Shap, was confirmed to the convent by Robert bishop of Carlisle, in 1263, who grants that in consideration of the smallness of their revenues they may officiate in the said churches by two or three of their own canons, one of

of whom was to be presented to the bishop as vicar, to be answerable to the bishop in spirituals; and another to be answerable to the abbot and convent in temporals, yet so that in each church they should have one secular chaplain to hear confessions and execute such other matters as cannot so properly be done by their own regular canons. Johanna de Veteripont, daughter-in-law of the founder, gave them nine acres in the vill of Heppe.

Robert de Veteripont among other grants gave them the whole of the vill of Renegill, now Reagill in the parish of Crosby Ravensworth, where the canons had a grange, and a chapel, served no doubt by one of their number. John de Veteripont, son of the former, gave them the hospital of St. Nicholas, near Appleby, on condition of their maintaining three lepers in it for ever.

In the reign of king Edward I. the church of Warcop was appropriated to the canons by Robert de Clifford, which appropriation was confirmed by bishop Halton in consideration of the poverty and ruined condition to which they were reduced by the incursions of the Scots.

In the 43rd year of Edward III., Margaret, widow of Hugh de Lowther, gave all her estates in Westmorland to the abbey. In the same king's reign the manor of Shap fell to them by gift from the Curwen family. They held property too of various kinds, houses, lands, tithes, and other charges upon land, in numberless parishes of Westmorland, and the neighbouring counties, so that at the dissolution their revenues were estimated at £134 7s. 7½d. a year.

To proceed, however, with the buildings of the abbey as far as their ruined condition will permit us to make them out.

To begin with the church. This consisted of choir, north and south transepts, nave with north aisle, and western tower. With the exception of an eastern prolongation of the choir and the tower, the rest of the church must have

 been

been built in the early part of the 13th century. The entire length of the original building was 153 feet by 23½ in breadth, the addition to the choir was 27 feet, making a total of 180 feet as the length of the existing building from west to east. The breadth across the transept is 81 feet.

The north wall of the choir is standing to the height of 6 or 8 feet; on the outside of it, and along east wall of north transept, may be seen the original early-English base course, the broad buttress which supported the original east wall, and a smaller buttress westward of it; also the base course and eastern buttress of the Perpendicular prolongation. Within is an aumbry for containing the service books and sacred vessels, 3 feet 8 inches wide, and 1 foot 8 inches deep, beneath which, close under the wall is a flat gravestone, having a sword incised along its whole length. The interior angles of the east wall are perfect. On the south side of the choir is a long limestone slab, 7 feet long by about half that width, now broken in two, which may have been the altar. The south wall has been entirely broken down.

The transepts have each two chapels on their east sides. The southernmost chapel of the north transept has been separated from the presbytery by a beautifully moulded segmental arch, beneath which may have been the tomb of the founder, who is known to have been buried in the church. At the entrance to this chapel is a gravestone having a crozier incised upon it.

In the southernmost chapel of the south transept is another flat gravestone now much broken. From the appearance of the capital in the south wall and of the base of the centre pillar in this transept, it is possible this corner of it may have been screened off as a treasury.

The north aisle has been separated from the nave by an arcade of six arches, of which the bases and some of the

the stones of the pillars are still *in situ*. The pillars consist of four large filleted columns one foot in diameter, and four small of six inches, all engaged, the total height including base and capital being an inch or two over nine feet. Upon the top of this arcade was set, at the end of the fifteenth century, a range of three lighted uncusped clerestory windows. Rough walls of poor construction connect the nave pillars with the north wall, either to support them under the overloading of the clerestory, as some conjecture, or else to form a series of small chapels, after those of the transepts had been appropriated. The space between the last pillar eastward and the north-west pier of the crossing was walled up in the same rough way but more massively.*

The tower is a specimen of plain solid building of quite the end of the fifteenth century or perhaps the beginning of the sixteenth. Its walls rise nearly to the battlements; but they are rent by large cracks, and the fall of large masses seems inevitable at no distant period, unless measures be taken to prevent it. Much was done by the erection of massive buttresses to prevent the fall of the tower some years ago, and it is much to be wished that further steps may be taken soon to preserve the upper part from destruction, the tower being now the most noticeable and picturesque feature of the ruins. A lofty and perfectly plain arch connects the tower with the nave, above which may be seen the two lines of the high pitched early-English roof and the lead-covered roof of the Perpendicular period, depressed almost to flatness to admit of the construction of the clerestory. In the west face of the tower are the remains of a fine window with bold but shallow mouldings, beneath which may have been a western door-

* The churches of this Order had often no aisles to the nave, of which Egleston is an instance, and rarely, if ever, more than a north aisle, as here and elsewhere. None but guests were admitted to their services.

way.

way. The windows of the belfry stage were plain and uncusped like those of the clerestory. The addition to the choir, erected at the same period, either simply to lengthen the choir, or else to form a lady chapel, would seem, from engravings shewing the condition of the ruins 100 or 150 years ago, to have been lighted by very large windows of similar character to that of the tower. These additions to the sacred building can only have been completed a few years before its seizure out of the possession of the society, who for 300 years had been its reverent guardians, and its wanton handing over to destruction. Passing out of the nave by one of two doors in its south wall, we find ourselves in the cloister court. It is about 68½ feet from north to south, and is 61 feet from east to west. Around it ran a covered walk, the roof of which, on the inner side, rested on an arcaded wall, the base of which may here still be traced. It was in this part of a conventual house that much of the life of its inmates was passed, so much of it indeed as to lead to its being styled the life of the cloister or the cloistered life. In the intervals between the choir services, mealtimes, sleeping or daily occupation, it was the place of general resort for meditation, reading, working, and teaching. In the windows of the north walk, after they became glazed,* sat writers, illuminators, and transcribers at their work. In the west walk, the teaching of the novices in psalmody was carried on. The east walk was reserved for the Maundy, *i. e.*, the washing of the feet of poor men on Thursday in Holy week. There was always a door into the nave at the end of the east walk for those having seats in the choir. This door seems to have been removed and placed a little to the west.† Another door often

* As was the case in the 15th century.

† The bringing of this door a little westward, and the walling up of the easternmost bay of the north aisle may have been for the purpose of prolonging the quire westward.

faced

faced the west walk, as here, for those worshipping in the nave.

Had this been a house of Cistercians, every part of it, of which a trace above ground remained, might have been identified, so uniform was the plan on which they built. The Premonstratensians observed no such absolute uniformity: still a clue to the purport of the various parts of their buildings may be gained from the Cistercian arrangements.

Thus, entered from the east walk, and near to the transept was the chapter house, which we certainly have here in the chamber in this position 46 feet long by nearly 21 feet broad, down the centre of which were three beautifully finished pillars supporting a vaulted roof. It is not unlikely that this was lengthened, and perhaps to a great extent reconstructed sometime after the completion of the building, in a style of greater delicacy. The doorway pillars and vaulting must have been beautiful specimens of somewhat advanced early-English work. It may have been a reconstruction after injury done during some incursion of the Scots.

In the chapter house the brethren assembled after matin mass, taking their seats on the stone bench running round the walls in the order in which they sat in the choir; a novice then read a chapter of the rule of the house, from which the chamber took its name. Here faults were confessed and dealt with according to their gravity: for minor offences there was the penitents' bench before the chapter house door; for graver, the cell with its fare of bread and water, or the scourge inflicted in the presence of the brethren. In the chapter house novices were admitted: and the brethren selected for the various offices received their appointment.* Abbots were buried in the

* After vespers the brethren again assembled in the chapter house for a spiritual lecture called collation, delivered from the pulpit, and for prayer and devotion.

chapter

chapter house: we have, no doubt, an instance here in the stone coffin in the floor just within the entrance. The brethren were buried in a cemetery, lying generally eastward of the church.

Between the chapter house and the south wall of the transept there should be a sacristy and a slype or passage to the cemetery. Here the interval (10 feet) seems not sufficient for both. A door in the transept wall would seem to point to this space having been the sacristy and the more so as there seems to have been a wall across this space, the early-English base, still visible in the north wall of the chapter house, having been returned so as to carry it along a cross wall, at a point at about half-way down the chapter house. Adjoining the chapter house on the south is a chamber entered by a door in the south-east angle of the cloister, 43 feet from north to south, with a breadth of 21½ feet. Down the centre are three small plain octagonal pillars shewing that this chamber must have been vaulted. In the east wall has been a fireplace 8 feet by 6 feet in width, over which has been thrown a plain chamfered segmental arch. In the north wall which is thin, has been embedded a pillar similar to those in the room, and exactly as far from the first of them as that is from the second. I am of opinion that this was once included in the room. This would bring the fireplace exactly in the centre. And I think this chamber has been shortened in order to increase the width of the chapter house at the time it was rebuilt.

This chamber has, I think, been the *calefactorium*, the warming house of the brethren, which was the only place* where they were allowed the luxury of a fire. Above it would be their dormitory. This was always

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*Along the outside of the south wall of this building, and returned a short way down the sides, may be seen the early-English course, shewing that these were external walls and part of the original group of buildings.

erected

erected above a vaulted substructure, and in this position; a passage led out of it over the chapter house into the south transept, down into which was a flight of steps, for the convenience of the brethren attending the night services. On the south side of the cloister was a long vaulted chamber, 76 feet by 21 feet 9 inches, between which and the last chamber was a passage closed at each end by a door opening inwards. Down the centre of this chamber, if its length be accurately guessed at, must have been a row of seven or eight pillars. Guessed at its length must be, since the greater part remains unexcavated. A clue to the dimensions of this chamber, however, is got from a corbel protruding from the north wall of the farm-house, which is said to be *in situ*. Its level, with reference to the other pillars; the line and thickness of the wall in which it is embedded, corresponding as they do with the south wall of the chamber at its further end tends to confirm this, and gives us this corbel, so fortunately left protruding, as the south-west angle of this long apartment.

But this being, as it ought to be, the position of the refectory, this length is not greater than we might look for. At St. Agatha's abbey near Richmond, a house of this order, the refectory is 103 feet long by 27 feet wide, the number of canons there being but 17, while here there were 26. This no doubt is the site of the refectory or rather of its undercroft, the fraters of canons being always over cellars which were used for the various kinds of work performed by the conversi or lay-brethren acting as servants.* The undercroft appropriated to them among the Cistercians was on the west side of the cloister, of which there is a perfect and very beautiful specimen at Fountains: but here there seems to have been no such arrangement. The

* This long room may have been divided into two, as was certainly the case at St. Agatha's, one apartment being the frater proper, the other perhaps the apartment known as the misericorde.

room

room above this undercroft was no doubt the refectory, or the refectory with its adjoining apartment, the approach to which would be found, could an excavation be made, by a stair at the western end, its usual position. This was the construction of the refectory in the other houses of the Order at St. Agatha's and Halesowen—as it will be remembered it is at Carlisle in what is known as the Fratry. Here the brethren partook of their frugal meals, for frugal we may believe them to have been, since the brethren of this Order were noted for having long maintained their original austere mode of living.

The kitchens with their offices ought to be found somewhere about the western end of the refectory building, and I think we find traces of them in the thick walls of the present farmhouse. At the extreme end of that range used to be an ancient fireplace, which I remember seeing many years ago in company with a friend, an architect, who counselled me to reproduce it in my own house in some alterations I was then making, and it was carried out pretty nearly from a sketch which he had made.

On the west side of the cloister are two arched cellars, about 17 feet by 16 feet, the arches flat, formed with large, rough, unhewed stones — the floors considerably below that of this cloister: one of them entered through a double doorway in the wall, the total width of which is about 9 feet.

It is difficult to say what these vaults have been. They have been called prisons or penitential cells. These were always in connection with the infirmary; and this was not the place for the infirmary. A building must have been erected over them, and this, opposite the chapter house, would most probably the cellarer's hall, and if so the vaults beneath are the cellars in which some of his stores were kept. There is but one other building that demands our notice, and that is one that stands south-east of the calefactory. It has been a vaulted chamber 39 feet long by

by 20 feet broad. No doubt there has been a chamber above it. This, I am inclined to think, has been the infirmary, for which this is a very usual position. North of it are the foundations of other chambers, and at its north west entrance angle are a few jamb stones of an Early English arched gateway. Along the east wall of the infirmary, and under these adjacent chambers, would very probably be found the usual well constructed drain flushed with a constant copious flow of water, if the necessary investigation could be made. A short distance up the stream on its right bank was the mill, which, though now in ruins, was, within the memory of many now living, still in use.

A portion of the precinct wall, beyond which no conventual might pass without special permission, is probably to be traced in the remains of a very thick wall, running for a considerable distance along the edge of the cliff on the east side of the river. This was probably pierced by an arched gateway, where the road from Shap makes a sharp descent down the brow to the stream. The abutments of the bridge by which the stream was crossed and the causeway beyond, leading to the abbey, a little southward of the present bridge may still be traced. The level field between the causeway and the abbey was the vineyard, and on a little bit of level land opposite the abbey buildings on the other side of the river are said to have been the fishponds.

The revenues of the abbey being under £200 a-year (£154 7s. 7½d. being their exact estimated value) it was one of those on whom the decree of dissolution first fell in the 27th Henry VIII., but either in consequence of its inmates being above the number of twelve mentioned in that act, or from its having a powerful patron in Henry earl of Cumberland, who was high in favour with the king, it received a respite. Not however for long. Its surrender took place on the 14th January in the 31st

Henry VIII. Richard Evenwode was its last abbot; he signed the surrender, but for some reason or other, under the name of Richard Baggot. However high the abbey may have stood under the rule of its early abbots, we cannot but see that corrupt times had been fallen upon under the rule of its last. This Richard Evenwode was an absentee. He was rector of the rich living of Kirkby Thore to which he had been presented by his patron, Henry earl of Cumberland, under a contract, which, if legal then, would not be now, to pay the previous rector a pension of £30 a-year on his resignation of the living. He appeared too, to have schemed the appropriation of this rich living to the abbey, and the transaction was all but completed when the dissolution took place. On surrendering the abbey he appears to have secured for himself a pension of £40 a-year: the remaining canons receiving pensions from £4 to £6 each.

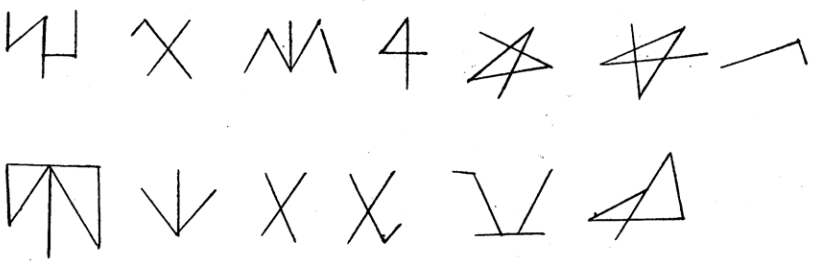
The possessions of the abbey were granted to Sir Thomas Wharton, governor of Carlisle. They remained in the Wharton family till the time of the notorious Duke when on their forfeiture they were purchased by Richard Lowther, of Maulds Meaburn Hall, and are now part of the Lowther estate.

PART II.—ARCHITECTURAL.

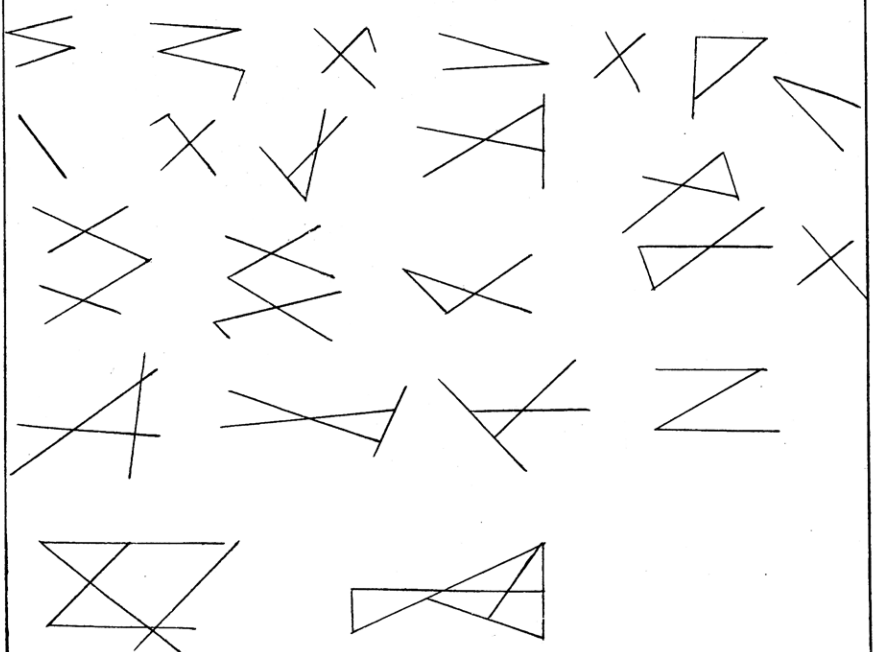
How, when, and by whom Shap abbey was founded, and who were the White Canons to whom it belonged, are questions that have been already set forth by Canon Weston in his paper. To what he has written on these points and on the history of the abbey generally, I have nothing to add; I shall therefore pass on without further preface to the subjects of my paper, viz. the architectural history of the abbey buildings, their growth, and the uses to which they were put. The deductions arrived at were made after a careful and critical examination of the remains of

MASONS MARKS FROM SHAP ABBEY.

FROM THE TOWER



FROM THE EAST BAY NORTH WALL OF CHOIR OUTSIDE.



of the buildings last Whitsuntide, aided by certain excavations made under my direction on behalf of your Society, on the kind invitation of your President, the Worshipful Chancellor Ferguson.

The remains of the abbey consist almost entirely of the church and claustral buildings. The various offices, etc. that stood in the outer court have utterly perished, including even the gateway—a part of the buildings often spared when all else has been destroyed on account of its affording a suitable dwelling for the caretaker put in at the suppression.

By the statutes of the Præmonstratensian Order, no new house might be founded unless there were at least twelve canons besides the abbot, a proper supply of service books, *nec nisi prius constructis his officinis, oratorio, dormitorio, refectorio, cella hospitum portarii*, that is to say, the church, dorter, frater, and porter's cell. These buildings, however, were not necessarily of stone, and the statute was considered to be sufficiently obeyed if temporary wooden huts or sheds were set up for the accommodation of the brethren till they could proceed with buildings of a more permanent character.

The first of the permanent buildings undertaken was always the church, but usually no more of that was erected than was sufficient for the choir services—for the White Canons' churches being in all cases purely conventual, there was no need to consider the wants of the parish as in a divided church. A temporary cloister was the next work, to provide for which the nave wall against which it abutted was carried up to a sufficient height for the cloister roof. Then followed the buildings round the cloister: first, those on the east, extending from the church southward (if the cloister was on the south); next, the south range; then the western range, and finally the nave of the church. Sometimes, of course, where funds permitted, several buildings were erected simultaneously

taneously, but in a small and poorly endowed house the construction proceeded much on the lines I have indicated, The gatehouse was generally included in the earlier buildings.

We know very little as yet of the arrangements of the outer court of a small or even moderate-sized monastery; but probably many houses were content with buildings of pan-and-post work, or of wood — structures of a more solid character taking their place when funds permitted.

The precinct of the abbey was also usually enclosed by a stone wall.

The abbey church at Shap, as originally set out, consisted of a short presbytery with a south aisle of the same length, a central crossing with north and south transepts —the latter having each an eastern aisle, and a nave with north aisle only. The western tower was a subsequent addition.

The church was begun very shortly after the foundation, that is, *circa* 1200, and as usual, at the east end, and was proceeded with in the following order: (1) the presbytery and its aisle; (2) the south transept; (3) the north transept; and (4) the eastern half of the nave, or as much as was sufficient to act as an abutment for the crossing arches.

Then followed the buildings on the east of the cloister, viz. the vestry, the chapter house, and the warming house, and in all probability (for there is nothing of it left to tell its own tale) the *dormitorium* or dorter, which occupied the upper floor above all these apartments. The *domus necessaria* or rere-dorter, to the eastward of this range, would also be a contemporary work. At the same time the unfinished north aisle was carried on a bay further. Then followed the buildings on the south of the cloister, consisting of an extensive range of cellars with the *refectorium* or frater above. The western range, that known as the *cellarium*, or cellarer's buildings, was the next work, which, with that immediately succeeding, the building

building of the western half of the nave and its aisle, also completed the circuit of buildings surrounding the cloister court. The erection of the infirmary on the south east appears to have been next undertaken, and was the last of the buildings required for the accommodation and convenience of the canons of the abbey.

The moldings and other details shew that the progress of the work was comparatively slow, and probably an interval of quite 70 years elapsed between the commencement of the presbytery and the completion of the nave.

Later works of which we have evidence are: (*a*) the elongation of the presbytery and its aisles in the fifteenth century; (*b*) the erection, *circa* 1500, of the western steeple; and (*c*) the addition of a clerestory to the nave.

We will now proceed to describe the buildings in detail.

Of the original presbytery there remains the base of the north wall to a height of some feet; the lowest course of the plinth of the east wall may also be traced at the ground level within, right across the church.

This original presbytery was three bays long. It had clasping pilaster buttresses at the angles, a pilaster buttress in the centre of the east wall, and another on the line between the two disengaged bays. Of the aisle absolutely nothing is left but the foundations, from which I find it was as long as the presbytery, but only half its width. The greater ease with which an arcade can be removed than a solid wall, accounts for there being nothing left of that which divided the aisle from the presbytery. The only trace of the arrangements of the original presbytery exists in the lower part of an almery or locker, which had two doors divided by a monial in front, in the north wall. About the end of the 14th or beginning of the 15th century the presbytery was extended eastward 27 feet, together with its aisle. What its architectural features were, is uncertain, for with the exception of the lower part of the north wall, part of the plinth of the

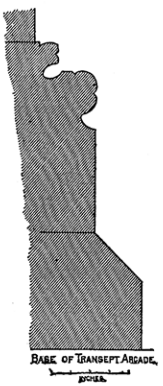
the east wall and two rough masses of masonry at the angles, it has been entirely destroyed. A small fragment is also left of its south wall, which serves to shew that instead of an arcade between the presbytery and the elongation of the aisle, the wall was, at any rate in part, solid to contain the sedilia, etc. In the north wall of the westernmost bay of the presbytery are the last remaining fragments of a recessed tomb of 14th century date. This I am informed was fairly perfect not so very long ago, but has now been destroyed by the growth of a great tree above it.

Of the south transept and its aisle, the walls are still standing to a height of some feet. The aisle was of two bays, and certainly contained one altar, if not two. The arcade has disappeared, with the exception of the south respond, from which and other indications we learn that the aisle was vaulted, and cut off from the transept by wooden screens, as may be seen from the notches in the masonry. The altars were doubtless similarly partitioned from each other. In the south wall of the transept is a door into the vestry, and there also a door on the west from the cloister. Immediately within this latter door, to the south, is an irregular platform of masonry. This marks the position of the bottom of a flight of stairs from the church up to the dorter, which extended southwards from the transept, used by the canons to enable them to descend direct for service at midnight.

The north transept has suffered destruction equally with its fellow, and has also lost the whole of the external casing of what is left of its main walls. It had an eastern aisle with two altars, vaulted and screened off like that on the south. Of the arcade only the north respond remains. On the west was an arch opening into the nave aisle. The responds of this arch though of the same plan as the others in the transepts—viz., a bold keel between two circular shafts—are of different dates. The south respond

respond and the responds of the transept arcades and of the arches of the crossing have bases with the section shewn in Fig 1 ; but the base of the north respond is of much later character, and is of almost the same section as those of the fourth and fifth piers of the nave, from which it differs only in having the lowest member a scroll molding instead of a plain roll. (Cp. Fig. 4).

Fig. 1.



Of the crossing nothing whatever is left save the western responds of the north and south arches, and the north respond of the western arch. Imperfect as these remains are, they nevertheless tell an interesting tale. All the responds were originally of the same date and plan as those of the transept arcades, but at some later period the north-west angle of the crossing gave way — perhaps because the canons were trying to make the arches carry a tower. To remedy the mischief, the original north-west piers were cut away and replaced by plain and massive semi-octagonal ones, beneath which may still be seen the old molded bases. At the same time, the arch opening from the transept into the north aisle, and the first arch of the arcade, were filled up with solid masonry, much of which still remains *in situ*.

The nave was 87 feet long to the middle of the arch dividing it from the crossing. In the south wall are two doorways from the cloister, the westernmost of which appears to have been walled up before the suppression*. The same wall also shews at almost exactly half the length of the nave, a strongly marked junction of two works of very different dates. On the north, and separated from the nave by an arcade of six arches, is an aisle, 10½ feet wide.

* See *A Lecture on Shap Abbey*, by the Rev. Canon Simpson, LL.D., F.S.A., late President of this Society. (Kendal, 1862).

This

This had a vaulted roof, and a wide window in each bay except the westernmost, where there seems to have been a door. The piers are all of the same plan, consisting of four larger and four smaller engaged circular shafts, of which the former are filleted. The moldings of the bases vary in a manner which is of great interest as shewing the gradual progress of the buildings. The eastern respond and piers 1 and 2 have bases of the section shewn in Fig. 2; the third pier has a similar base, but with the hollow omitted as in Fig. 3, and the bases of piers 4 and 5, have a much later and very different section, Fig. 4, which is of distinctly early-Decorated character, while the others are clearly early-English. From the fact of piers 1 and 2 having the same base as the transepts it is quite clear that the aisle was thought of from the first. Its plinth too, is throughout of the same section as that of the original presbytery.

Fig. 2.

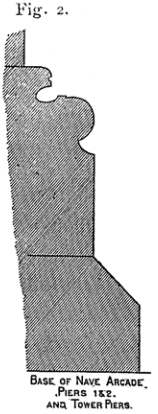


Fig. 3.

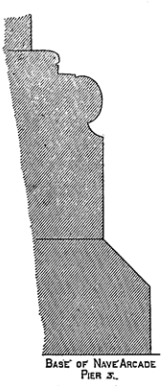
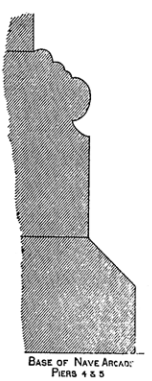


Fig. 4.



The piers, which are standing to a height of about four feet, are now connected with the aisle wall by rough walls of masonry, 2 feet 6 inches thick. Canon Weston, Dr. Simpson, and others, think these are medieval insertions to

to strengthen the arcade when it began to give way beneath the added clerestory. This view seems justified by the thickness of the walls; but their very rough character seems to me to be against such a theory, and it is quite as likely they have been built up long posterior to the suppression to convert the aisle into a row of sheep or cattle pens.

What the west end of the nave was like originally we do not know. The present western tower, which is the most conspicuous portion of the abbey ruins, was built quite at the end of the 15th or early in the 16th century. It is still standing almost to its original height, but in view of the serious cracks that are visible, it is doubtful how long it will continue to do so, unless something is speedily done to keep the wet out of the masonry, and prevent the growth of plants and shrubs. The tower, though of the plainest character, is not without a certain amount of dignity. None of its windows have cusps to the tracery, and in this and several other features, as well as its general proportions, it strongly resembles the stately tower of Fountains abbey, with which it is clearly contemporary. Externally it is divided into two stages by a stringcourse a little below the belfry windows, but internally there are three stages. The east side opens into the nave by a lofty pointed arch of extreme plainness, above which appear the marks of two roofs: (1) that of the original high-pitched roof of the nave; (2) that of a nearly flat roof put on when the nave walls were heightened by a clerestory, which was erected after the building of the tower. The upper stage of the east face has a two-light square-headed window.

On the north face, the easternmost buttress, through having been built on top of the aisle west wall, encloses a fragment of the aisle stringcourse, and shews part of the curve of the aisle window arch. The lower stage is here quite plain; the upper retains the jambs of a three-light window.

The west side, according to Buck's view taken in 1739, had a large doorway, over which was a window of five lights with tracery in the head. Since then these features have been much altered; the tracery of the window has disappeared, and the jambs have been chopped down to the ground line, thus forming an arched opening to correspond with the tower arch. All traces of the west door have of course been obliterated. Above the window is a good canopied niche, with a hook in the back for the lost image (probably that of St. Mary Magdalene). The upper stage has a large three-light window, pointed, with six lesser lights in the head. On the south side of the tower the lower stage is quite plain, but just below the string is a two-light square-headed window, grooved for glass. Above the string, and set a little to the east, is a single headed light. The parapet and pinnacles of the tower are missing, but the plinth is very perfect on the three disengaged sides.

Internally the tower has a narrow vice or stair up the south-west angle, entered by a small door with four-centred head. About half way up the height of the tower arch, in the north and south walls, are the holes for the floor joists of a gallery or loft, which must have been reached by a wooden stair of some sort. Above the level of the crown of the tower arch, a door opened from the circular stair into a low chamber below the upper floor. This chamber was lighted by a window on the south, immediately to the west of which was a fireplace. The chimney of this fireplace was carried up in the thickness of the wall and ended in the tower parapet, thus accounting for the window of the upper stage on this side being narrower, and set out of the centre. The upper floor of course was that where the bells hung.

Whatever vestiges remained of the ancient arrangements of the church were unwittingly but effectually removed in the excavations made some thirty years ago, when the whole

whole area was cleared of rubbish. Portions still remain of the stone paving of the nave then uncovered, which is raised 20 inches above the original level. The *pulpitum* or screen at the entrance of the choir stood under the arch at the east end of the nave, with the rood screen and nave altar a bay to the west; the eastern cloister door thus would open into the choir entry between the two screens. The choir proper extended beneath the crossing, being shut off from the transepts by screens, of which the stalls probably formed part. A great slab that doubtless covered the high altar now lies on the south side of the presbytery. The several tombs and slabs found in the floor have already been enumerated by Canon Weston. Dr. Simpson's paper already quoted, speaking of the south side of the presbytery says: "It is well known that there was a door in this south wall leading into what was probably a vestry, and that another door opened out of the vestry into a small plot of ground near the river, used as a burial place." There are now no signs of these doors. All the roofs of the church except in the aisles of the nave and transepts were of wood.

We will now leave the church and examine the cloister and the apartments round it.

The cloister itself is here placed on the south side of the nave, and is a rectangular area about 60½ feet from east to west, and 69 feet from north to south. It was surrounded by covered alleys, about 8 feet wide on the south and east sides, 7½ feet wide on the west, and nearly 9 feet wide on the north, enclosing a small open court or garth covered with grass. The wall enclosing the garth was about two feet in thickness. The base of it is fortunately left on three sides, from which we learn that the alleys were lighted by six windows, or rather openings, on each side, with pilaster buttresses between. From fragments lying about, these openings appear to have consisted, as usual in early work, of narrow arches supported

ported by pairs of detached shafts with twin caps and bases. The cloister roof was of wood. I failed to find any evidence of a laver or conduit in the middle of the garth. The north alley, being that next the church, was the place where the canons spent most of their time during the day, when not engaged in the church or elsewhere. This explains the extra width of this alley, the other and narrower alleys being merely passages. Opening into the church from the north alley, are two doors. The easternmost door is of early-English character, and has an inner and outer order of moldings, and detached jamb-shafts. The westernmost door, though it has detached jamb-shafts, has the hollow-chamfer and other moldings indicative of its early-Decorated date. The difference in date between the two doors is further marked by a strong break in the masonry of the intervening wall. The jointing of the masonry between the easternmost door and the angle nearest it is very uneven, and suggestive of alteration; in fact, Canon Weston thinks the door has been reset a little to the west of its original position.

At the north end of the eastern alley of the cloister is a third door into the church, opening into the south transept. It is of the same date and fashion as the adjoining door in the north alley. Its use was to enable the canons to reach the high altar and transept chapels without going round through the choir.

About two-fifths of the length of the east alley is overlapped by the south transept. Immediately to the south of this was a narrow chamber, 21 feet long and 9 feet wide, entered from the transept, probably the vestry. Its west wall is now utterly broken down, which rather suggests that there was also a door from the cloister, but no trace of this is left.

To the south of the vestry, and separated only by a thin wall, is the chapter house. This was a building of some architectural

architectural importance, and one moreover that furnishes us with some interesting and unusual features. The existing remains shew it to have been a rectangular apartment, 45 feet long and about 21 feet wide, divided into two alleys by a central row of three pillars, and vaulted in eight compartments. The first and third pillars were octofoil in plan, the members being alternately plain and filleted. The middle pillar had a cruciform centre, set saltirewise, with a detached shaft on each of the cardinal points, that on the west being larger than the others. The vaulting ribs springing from this middle pillar to the side walls rested on shafted responds, and were probably of greater strength than the rest of the ribs, in order to carry the weight of a main wall or arcade in the dorter above. The chapter house was thus divided into two distinct halves. The eastern half projected beyond the main range of buildings, and was probably lighted by six windows. The western half is furnished with a stone bench all round, and I think also served as the *auditorium* or regular parlour. The chapter house door, unlike any other example, is here set to one side. It had three detached shafts in each jamb, whose shattered bases may still be seen. Just to the south of the door, in the cloister, is the base of a pilaster buttress, which is not one of a series nor does it line with any part of the existing chapter house. Taking this in conjunction with the unusual position of the doorway, it seems that when the cloister wall was built, it was intended to erect a *polygonal* chapter house. The existing door would then properly open into a vestibule about 12 feet wide, whose south wall would come exactly opposite the seemingly useless buttress in the cloister. The polygonal part, or chapter house proper, would have stood clear of the range as at Westminster and elsewhere. By a strange oversight, I omitted to dig a hole on the probable line of the vestibule wall, to see if its foundations were

were yet *in situ*. In the floor immediately in front of the chapter house door, within the entrance, is a stone coffin.

In the south-east angle of the cloister is a door into a large apartment extending from the chapter house southward. This was the *calefactorium* or warming house, so called because it was the only apartment provided with a fire where the canons might come and warm themselves. It measures 43 feet in length by 21½ feet in width, and has a central row of octagonal pillars to carry the vaulted roof. The capitals now placed on the pillars do not give their true height. It was originally intended that this room should be 51 feet long, with a central row of four pillars which were actually set up, and whose bases still remain, but after the idea of a polygonal chapter house was abandoned, the northernmost bay was cut off by a thin partition wall and taken into the area of the rectangular chapter house. The lower part of the fourth pillar may still be seen built up in the north wall of the apartment we are now de-

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

scribing. There is a singular variation in the base-mouldings of the central pillars; the southernmost is of the section shewn in Fig. 5, but the other two detached pillars (and presumably the built up northernmost one) have bases of the section of Fig. 6. Immediately opposite the door from the cloister was another door, now blocked, that led to the canons' cemetery on the east. Probably this bay

bay was screened off as a passage. To the south of this are the remains of the large fireplace, 8 feet in width, from which the room gets its name. Around the walls was a stone bench.

Extending over all the three apartments just described, from the transept southwards, was the canons' *dormitorium*, or dorter. Its total length was probably 76 feet, but as nothing whatever of it remains, we have no idea of its subdivisions or arrangements. Curiously enough, I can find no trace of any staircase up to the dorter, except that in the church, which of course was not that in ordinary use during the day. In the south-east corner of the warming-house is a block of masonry suggestive of the required staircase, but on examination, it yielded negative results, and it is doubtful whether it is medieval work at all.

Close to this block of masonry, in the south wall of the warming-house, is a door that originally opened into a long narrow hall or room, about 11 feet wide and over 45 feet long. The westernmost bay of this was cut off by an arch, and vaulted to form a lobby, with doors on the north and south, as well as that by which it is entered from the warming-house; the arch was at a later period filled up with masonry. On the north of this hall is another room, subsequently added, 36 feet long and about 10½ feet wide, but devoid of any architectural features.

Although the arrangements cannot now be made out, there is no doubt that we have here the *domus necessaria*, or rere-dorter of the abbey. It was as usual on the first floor, and was separated from the dorter, from which it was entered, by a bridge formed by the vaulted lobby above-mentioned. The large rooms beneath were store-houses. Owing to the existence of drains from the farm-yard still running underground here, it was not possible to make any excavations to ascertain the original drainage system.

Immediately

Immediately to the south of the rere-dorter, and about 10 feet distant, are the remains of a large hall, 39½ feet long and nearly 20 feet wide, standing north and south, and originally vaulted in four bays with a central row of pillars. It was entered by a door in the north-west corner, and had other doors at each end of the east wall. Only the north end and east side remain, with the return of the south wall, and we are therefore ignorant of the internal arrangements. The doors in the east wall severally led into small chambers, now entirely destroyed with the exception of parts of the side walls. How the upper chambers were reached is not clear. On the outside of the north-west corner is the jamb of a Decorated doorway, which may have led to an external flight of stairs, approached by a paved alley or pentice along the north wall, between it and the rere-dorter. There are some fragments of walling to the south of the vaulted hall above-mentioned, which are all that remain of the abbey buildings in this direction.

The group of buildings just described formed the *infirmitorium* or "farmery" of the abbey. It was the abode of the sick and infirm brethren, and of canons who were temporarily relaxed from the observance of the Rule.

We must now return to the examination of the buildings on the south and west sides of the cloister.

At the eastern end of the south alley, is a door that opens into a passage, 8 feet 8 inches wide and 21 feet 9 inches long, by which access was gained from the cloister to the outer court. On the west of this passage, and extending along and beyond the whole of the south side of the cloister, are the remains of a vaulted undercroft about 75 feet long, and of seven bays, with a central row of octagonal pillars. Nearly the whole of this undercroft, which was used as cellars, is now filled up with rubbish; and as it extends beneath the farmyard a detailed examination of it is impracticable. Its length is fortunately fixed by

by a springer of the vault of its south west angle remaining low down close beside the back door of the farm house. During the excavations at Whitsuntide last, we uncovered in the fourth bay a doorway from the cloister into the undercroft. In the west jamb of this doorway was found the lowest of a flight of steps about three feet wide, leading in the thickness of the wall up to the floor above. The whole of this upper floor, which was the canons' *refectorium* or frater, is utterly destroyed, and we have no evidence of its arrangements, or how it was approached. The narrow wall stair cannot well have been the canon's entrance, but was more likely a way to bring up stores from the cellar. The staircase proper must, I think, be looked for in that part of the undercroft which is now beneath the farmyard; as the narrow width of the cloister alley seems to preclude its having been external.

Of the buttery, pantry, and kitchen nothing remains above ground; the last named probably stood on the site of the present farmhouse.

The west side of the cloister was covered by a range known as the *cellarium*, or cellarer's buildings, where that officer kept his stores and took charge of the better sort of guests. Its total length was about 69 feet by 21 feet 9 inches in width. It was at first divided into, and perhaps vaulted in seven bays, but later alterations have almost completely obliterated the original arrangements, which are further obscured by the destruction of the southern end, and by the great accumulation of rubbish on the west side.

On the cloister side the original divisions are clearly marked by the pilaster buttresses. There are also the remains of four doorways. The southernmost bay we found had been entirely destroyed, but in the next bay were uncovered the jambs of a Decorated doorway, of the same section as that at the north-west corner of the infirmary; it probably opened into a chamber occupying the two southermost

southernmost bays. Next to this is a doorway with a molded rere-arch, which on that account was almost certainly the inner door of a passage to the cloister from without, which passage probably also served as the outer parlour. The next two bays are blind. The last but one has a door, described by Dr. Simpson as having an oak threshold, inserted when alterations were made in the last bay. The latter has a door which originally was the entrance to this part of the building, but it has been subsequently diverted from its first use and a staircase built up inside. This staircase has also a second door, opening westwards, and itself led to the upper floor, now wholly destroyed, where the cellarer lodged his guests. By this stair the guests could enter the church, and stores could be brought up for their provision. The later alterations to which I have alluded consisted in substituting for the original ceiling, whether groined or otherwise, two (probably three) heavy and massive wagon vaults; these were built quite irrespective of buttresses, divisions, or windows, and several of the latter may be traced on the west side which were blocked up in consequence. The northern apartment occupies two bays, and may be examined. The next one is almost filled up by being used as a kitchen midden, and is inaccessible. These two vaults are the only examples left standing in the abbey. The great accumulation of rubbish about this range of buildings ought to be carefully removed, and thereby render its arrangements more visible.

The outer court is now covered by farm buildings, but none of these show any signs of medieval work.

The gatehouse probably stood to the north-west of the church.
