

ART. XV. *The Abbey of St. Mary in Furness, Lancashire.*  
 BY W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A.

GENERAL HISTORY.

ABOUT the year 1112 there was founded at Savigny, in the diocese of Avranches in Normandy, an abbey in honour of the Holy Trinity.\* It appears, like Cluny and Cîteaux, to have been the centre of one of the reforms of the Benedictine Order then in progress, and to have sent forth colonies of monks, after the manner of the Cistercians, to establish elsewhere the new order of things.

In 1123 Geoffrey, the second abbot of Savigny, obtained, according to an inserted entry in the *Historiæ Continuatio* of Symeon of Durham,† from Stephen, count of Boulogne and Mortain, who was otherwise a benefactor to his house, the grant of a certain vill called Tulket, in Amounderness, near Preston, for the purpose of founding an affiliated monastery there. A colony of monks was accordingly sent over to take possession, under the leadership of Ewan of Avranches, who became the first abbot.

In 1127 a further grant was made to the Abbey of Savigny, this time certainly by Stephen, of all his forest of Furness, together with Walney, and all hunting rights in both, the towns of Dalton and Ulverston, etc. and all his demesne within Furness, except the lands of

\* This must not be confounded with another abbey of Savigny, a much earlier Benedictine house founded in honour of St. Martin in the diocese of Lyons.

† “Anno M.cxxiiij. Stephanus comes Bononicensis, postea rex Angliæ, dedit abbati Gaufrido, Savinniensi villam, scilicet Tulket, in Provincia quæ vocatur Agmundernes, super ripam fluminis Ribble, ad abbatiam construendam ordinis sui, tempore Kalixti papæ; et ibi fere per tres annos permanserunt.” *Symeonis Dunelmensis Opera et Collectanea*, vol. i. (Surtees Society 51), 120.

Michael Fleming. Precisely the same grant was made at the same time and in identical terms "to God and St. Mary of Furness and to the abbot of that place."

These documents clearly point to a migration to Furness from Tulket (which henceforth became a grange only), and to the erection of a monastery on the newly acquired site. As we are told that the abbey of Furness from its first foundation was built at the cost and expense of the mother house of Savigny,\* the simultaneous grants by Stephen to Savigny and Furness may, perhaps, be accounted for.

The statement just quoted as to the first building of the abbey does not agree with the metrical account of the beginning of Furness, which ascribes the work to the founder :

Hanc hac valle domum Stephanus Comes ædificavit.†

In 1148, during the abbacy of Peter of York, an event occurred which had a marked influence on the future history of the abbey and its buildings. According to the Furness Coucher Book :

In the time of this abbot, the venerable Serlo, fourth abbot of Savigny, which is the mother house of Furness, in a general chapter at Citeaux rendered his house of Savigny with its daughters‡ of the Order of Tiron to the Cistercian Order into the hands of St. Bernard, then abbot of Clairvaux. Against which rendering the aforesaid abbot Peter with his convent appealed to the pope and the holy apostolic see. To which see coming in person he obtained from the lord the pope Eugenius III. a confirmation that his monastery of Furness should for ever remain of the same Order of which it had first been founded, notwithstanding the rendering aforesaid. But on his return

\* *Calendar of documents preserved in France, illustrative of the History of Great Britain and Ireland.* Edited by J. H. Round (London, 1899), i. 295.

† T. J. Beck, *Annales Furnesienses. History and Antiquities of the Abbey of Furness* (London, 1844), 284; *The Coucher Book of Furness Abbey*, edited by J. C. Atkinson (Chetham Society, N.S. 9, 11, and 14), 21.

‡ Among these were the following English and Welsh abbeys : Basingwerk (Flint), Buildwas (Salop), Buckfast (Devon), Byland (Yorks), Calder (Cumb.), Coggeshall (Essex), Combermere (Chesh.), Fors (afterwards Jervaulx) (Yorks), Furness (Lancs), Neath (Glam.), Quarr (Isle of Wight), Rushen (Isle of Man), Stratford Langthorne (Essex), Swineshead (Lincs); and one Irish House : Dublin St. Mary.

from

from the Roman court he was seized on the way by the monks of Savigny and taken to Savigny. There he resigned his office as abbot, and became a most worthy monk in the same place, learning the Cistercian Order, and thence he was chosen fifth abbot of Quarr. To which Peter there succeeded at Furness as fifth abbot Richard of Bayeux, doctor in theology, a pious monk of Savigny, who ruled for a short time; by whose diligence and counsel the monastery of Furness itself was rendered to the mother house of Savigny and to the Cistercian Order before the same Richard was elected in the same to the abbacy.\*

The further history of the abbey is abundantly illustrated, so far as the continual acquisition of property is concerned, by the documents entered in the Coucher Book and the Duchy of Lancaster records now in the Public Record Office, but these unfortunately contain hardly a single fact relating to the buildings.

On 9th April, 1537, the abbey was surrendered by Roger the abbot, Brian the prior, and twenty-eight other monks,† and two months later the clear annual value of all its lands and possessions, as well spiritual as temporal, was estimated at £1051 2s. 3¼d.‡

From a letter dated 3rd July (1537), written to Cromwell by Robert Southwell, one of the royal commissioners, and printed in full by Beck,§ it appears that the monks were still living in the abbey when Southwell

\* "Tempore hujus Abbatis, Venerabilis Serlo, iiii<sup>us</sup> Abbas Savigneii, quæ est materna domus Furnesii, reddidit apud Cistercium, in Capitulo generali, domum suam Savigneii, cum filiabus suis de Ordine Tironensi ad Ordinem Cisterciensem, in manus Sancti Bernardi, tunc Abbatis Clarevallis: a qua redditione prædictus Petrus Abbas, cum Conventu suo, ad summum Pontificem et Sanctam Sedem Apostolicam appellavit. Ad quam sedem personaliter accedens impetravit a Domino Eugenio Papa iii<sup>o</sup> confirmationem ut Monasterium suum Furnesii remaneret imperpetuum de eodem ordine de quo primo fundatum erat, non obstante redditione prædicta. Sed in reditu suo a curia Romana captus est in itinere per monachos Savigniacenses et ductus ad Savigniacum. Ibi cessit officio Abbatiali, et factus est ibidem monachus probatissimus, discens Ordinem Cisterciensem, et inde fuit assumptus in Abbatem Quarrieræ quintum. Cui Petro successit in Furnesio quintus Abbas Ricardus de Baiocis, doctor in Theologia, pius monachus Savigneii, qui modico tempore gubernavit, cujus diligentia et consilio redditum fuit ipsum Monasterium Furnesii ad matrem suam, Savigneium, et ad Ordinem Cisterciensem prius quam idem Richardus creatus fuerat in eodem in Abbatem." *The Coucher Book of Furness*, 8, 9.

† Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, 350.

‡ *Ibid.* Appendix, No. VI. pp. lxi-lxx.

§ *Ibid.* 356-360.

arrived

arrived there on 23rd June; and he describes with evident satisfaction how he "gave eche of them xl.s. as the Kynges hole rewarde," and so sent them away. As touching other affairs at the time of his writing, Southwell says that "the demayns be holly survayde by the eie and be measure and not be credyte", "the catelle is alle redy solde," and "the leade is all moltene and cast in sowys wyth the Kynges marke fyxsyde therto and put in a suer house accordyng to his graces commandment, there can be no better leade as sayne the plomers. I humbly thanke your lordshippe," he continues, "for teachyng me to melte the Asshys wherin we ffounde grett profett, we shulde els therin have offendyde the kyng be Ignorance and not for want of will to serve." Two other passages refer to the buildings: one, in which Southwell writes of a projected visit to High Furness "as incontinent after the Church and stepull being clere dissolvede being now in good towardnes therto"; the other, where a Mr. Holcroft is referred to as having been "very diligent here for the whiche he was put only in trust to pluck downe the church." The writer also states that he has "yet left conveyent edifices standing meat for" a farmer or caretaker to dwell in, which "may be myche easyere at any tyme pluckyde downe thene sett upp."

It is clear from these references that the lead had been stripped from the roofs and the buildings begun to be dismantled as quickly as possible, even while the poor monks, whose home they had been, were still in the abbey.

Three years later the lands and revenues of the abbey were annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster, and so remained until the reign of James I. The site of the abbey then passed to the Prestons, in whose family it remained for several generations, and finally descended through the Lowthers and Cavendishes to the present owner, Victor Cavendish, Esq., M.P.

So

So far as we can judge from a long series of engravings, of which the most important are those published in 1727\* by the Society of Antiquaries and by the Brothers Buck, the standing portions of the ruins have existed in their present condition for a long time, and there has been no recent loss of any note. The plan published by West in 1774 also points in the same direction.† The lower parts of all the buildings remained more or less buried in rubbish until about 60 years ago, when the church and other parts were cleared out under the direction of Mr. Beck. But the sites of the cloister and the monastic buildings generally were not dealt with until 1881-2, when they were brought to their present state under the superintendence of Mr. W. B. Kendall. The walls were freed from the destructive growth of ivy and other parasitical vegetation by direction of the late Lord Frederick Cavendish, just before his lamented death in 1882. As these excavations had not been extended to every part of the abbey, and several important questions still awaited solution, a further exploration of the site was arranged by the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society, on the suggestion of the late Chancellor Ferguson, with the kind permission of Mr. Victor Cavendish, M.P.

These latest excavations were begun in September, 1896, under the direction of the writer, and continued in the same months of 1897 and of 1898. The most important work was the removal of a large accumulation of soil from the site of the abbot's house and other buildings on the east, and from a large octagonal kitchen once attached thereto, as well as the elucidation of a puzzling series of foundations to the south of the cloister; a number of minor discoveries were also made, as may be

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\* *Vetusta Monumenta*, i. Pl. XXVII.

† Thomas West, *The Antiquities of Furness* (London, 1774). West's view seems to have been boldly copied from that in *Vetusta Monumenta*.

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seen by comparing the accompanying plan with all or any of those that have preceded it.

The opportunities thus afforded for a minute study of the buildings have led to a careful revision of their architectural history, which has resulted in a further discovery during the last few months of the foundations of the eastern portions of the first church, and of other remains of the oldest buildings.

### ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY.

The settlement at Furness in 1127 was followed by the laying out of the new monastery, and the commencement of the buildings, pending the completion of which the brethren were housed in temporary structures.

The setting out of the existing cloister certainly belongs to the first work, and of this there yet remain part of the east side, all the north wall, and the foundations of the west side, but the fourth or south side, which completed the square, has been removed, and can now only be traced underground.

Of the church which was begun there are standing (1) the four piers of the crossing, and (2) the lower parts of the west walls of its transepts and (3) of the south wall of the nave. The last-named was included in the first works in order that the cloister might be built against it, otherwise there is no evidence that any further progress was made with the nave itself.

It will be seen from the plan that in the north transept the old work, which is coloured black throughout, ceases at a particular point in the west wall. In the south transept, the old work within the church does not extend so far, but it appears again along the south wall, and outside it remains as far as the angle. It here contains (1) the loop of a destroyed stair, and (2)

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a doorway which apparently once opened into the transept, though this would have been a very unlikely arrangement. Had, however, the first transepts been a bay shorter than those existing, this doorway would have presented no difficulty, and acting on a suggestion to that effect made by Mr. H. Brakspear, a search was recently made in both transepts\* for the foundations of the original end walls. In each case the result was successful, and in the north side the return wall begins exactly where the old work above ground ends. In the south transept the coincidence was not so striking, but this has since been explained by the discovery of the base of a stair turret in the angle, which fully accounts for the older wall being here of less extent; the blocked window of this turret shows towards the cloister. The doorway in the cloister thus falls into its proper place as the entrance into a passage or slype, such as was often placed next the transept, and of this passage the old work now remaining in the south wall of the transept formed the south side.

Since the first discovery of the ends of the old transept, the investigations have been continued eastward with the object of recovering the plan of the transept chapels and the original presbytery. The south transept wall was first followed as far as the arcade, where it was found to be returned southwards to form the east end of the passage. Further search revealed the re-entering angles at the corner of the first transept and the wall of the transept chapel. This wall in turn was followed, when the interesting discovery was made that the chapel was apsidal instead of square. On laying it down on plan it became obvious that the chapel between it and the presbytery must have been of larger size, and this was

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\* The investigations have been entirely carried out, under the writer's direction, by Mr. Jesse Turner, the guide to the Abbey, whose intelligent interest in the ruins is equalled by his knowledge of their various archaeological features.

immediately

immediately confirmed by digging. Corresponding investigations on the north side have brought to light two similar apses there. The lesser apses were  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and divided by walls 5 feet in thickness from the larger apses, which were over 12 feet wide.\* Their lengths seem to have been 12 feet and 21 feet respectively. The original presbytery appears to have been completely destroyed by later works. The plan of the first church, so far as it has now been recovered, is strikingly like that of another daughter of Savigny, the abbey of Vaux de Cernay in France,† founded in 1128, and not improbably copied from Savigny itself. Vaux de Cernay has the same arrangement of transepts and chapels, but its presbytery had a square end, and this may have been the case at Furness. As Savigny is said (see *ante*) to have built Furness there is every likelihood that Furness and Vaux de Cernay have a common origin, and were begun much about the same time. Their plan, moreover, is not one of which we have any purely Cistercian example, but it is not unknown in Benedictine churches of Norman date. We are entitled, therefore, to assume that the first church at Furness was planned and begun to be laid out before the union of Savigny and its dependent abbeys with Clairvaux and the Cistercians in 1147.

How far the first buildings at Furness had been carried up by 1147 it is difficult to say. Only the presbytery of the church can have been built, but the cloister had been laid out, together with the frater and kitchen on its south side, and probably the eastern range, since the shell of the reredorter in connexion with it still remains. The western range had only been begun.

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\* These dimensions are those of the foundations exposed.

† See the plan in L. Morize and A. de Dion, *Etude archéologique sur l'Abbaye de Notre-Dame des Vaux de Cernay* (Tours, 1889), Pl. II.; and M. Viollet-le-Duc, *Dictionnaire Raisonné de l'architecture française du xi<sup>e</sup> au xvi<sup>e</sup> siècle* (Paris, 1854), i. 274.

Shortly

Shortly after the abbey became Cistercian, the buildings seem to have been completed, and in part altered on the lines already adopted by that Order. First the nave of the church and its south aisle were built, probably for the first time. Next the south transept was continued, but its length was extended to three bays (thus absorbing the old slype), and an eastern aisle added in place of the apsidal chapels. A rebuilding of the presbytery followed, together with the completion of the north transept, which was enlarged like its fellow. Lastly the north aisle was built and vaulted, and the south aisle was similarly covered in. The crossing and upper works of the transepts were probably carried up simultaneously.

As regards the monastic buildings, the western range may have been completed, so far as its walls, floors, and roofs were concerned, before the nave was built. A new and enlarged frater would seem to have succeeded the earlier, and in a somewhat interesting way. The first frater stood east and west, Benedictine fashion; but the new one was built Cistercian-wise, north and south, with its north end abutting against the middle of the length of the old frater. The old frater was afterwards pulled down, and its area thrown into the cloister, which thus assumed its present oblong plan. The great gate also belonged to the works of this second period.

A pause in the general reconstruction seems to have followed, during which the vaulting of the *cellarium* or western range and other works of completion were carried out. The frater was also again rebuilt on a larger scale.

The third great work undertaken was the lengthening of the eastern range and the rebuilding of the chapter-house and of the sub-vault extending southwards from it, together with the monks' dorter above. The unusual length of this (fourteen bays) is without parallel in this country, Ford with its undercroft of thirteen bays being the nearest recorded example; but both were exceeded by

Vaux

Vaux de Cernay, which had four or five bays more than its Lancastrian sister. The ten southern bays seem to have been built first, together with the upper floor. The reconstruction of the chapter-house followed, with the remainder of the sub-vault, and then the upper or dorter story was continued northwards up to the transept. There is no evidence as to the size of the first chapter-house at Furness, but it probably occupied only half the area of the successor, which was built upon a large scale. An increase by this time of the number of monks is perhaps indicated by a lengthening of the reredorter at one or both ends; the rest of it, as already stated, is of the first date.

Following immediately upon the works just described came (1) another enlargement and rebuilding of the frater, (2) the building of the monks' infirmary, and (3) of an infirmary of the lay brothers. Of the first and third of these works only a few fragments remain, but of the monks' infirmary we have part of the main block, and the foundations of a large octagonal kitchen, which seems to have been one of its appendages. These three works are all of the second quarter of the thirteenth century.

A considerable pause next ensued, if we may judge by the remaining buildings or their traces; but it is possible that the energies of the monks were being employed on their granges and elsewhere.

By the end of the thirteenth century the old infirmary of the monks had apparently become too small; a new one was accordingly built to the south of the main buildings, consisting of a great hall, with a chapel and other offices at one end. Much about the same date is the pretty little chapel *extra portas*.

Soon after the completion of the new infirmary the building hitherto used as such seems to have been converted into a lodging for the abbot. Its upper story was then

then enlarged in a very interesting manner, and other additions made to its plan.

Among other works of the fourteenth century were the west gatehouse and a large building in the outer court, of which only a fragment of an end is now left. An important feature was also added to the church in the form of an upper story to the central tower.

Early in the fifteenth century the presbytery was rebuilt and enlarged, together with the transept aisles on each side of it; the attached vestry was also built out at the expense of one of the aisle chapels. Of the same date was a building of some pretensions, probably a guesten hall, in the outer court, the existing porch between the latter and monks' cemetery, and a house or lodging, perhaps for the visiting abbot, just east of the south end of the monks' dorter.

Later on in the century a threatened collapse of the central tower necessitated the strengthening of one of its piers by buttressing and the underbuilding of the adjoining arches, and the reconstruction of the upper stages of both transepts.

Towards the end of the fifteenth century the frater was taken down and replaced apparently by a two-storied hall of much smaller dimensions, the upper story of which served as a new frater, while the lower became the misericord, where flesh meat was eaten on fixed days. Certain sub-divisions of the south end of the *cellarium* are perhaps not unconnected with this. Further works of the same period are (1) a chamber at the south-west corner of the infirmary hall, and (2) a large apartment westward of the *cellarium*, a rebuilding of an older structure.

Quite at the end of the fifteenth century or the beginning of the sixteenth, a new tower was commenced at the west end of the nave, much in the same way and for the same reasons as was done at Fountains, but whether it was ever finished is doubtful. Such

Such are the main lines of the growth and architectural history of Furness Abbey, so far as they can be made out from the remains of the buildings themselves.

We will now proceed to consider its site and to describe in fuller detail the various structures of which the monastery is composed.

### THE SITE AND PRECINCT.

The abbey is stated to have been founded on its removal from Tulket to Furness *in loco vallis qui tunc Bekanguyll vocabatur*,\* which the metrical story thus fancifully expands and explains :

Hæc vallis tenuit olim sibi nomen ab herba  
*Bekan* qua viruit dulcis nunc tunc acerba  
 Inde Domus nomen *Benkanesgill* claruit ante.†

Whatever be the real meaning of *Bekan* or *Benkan*, it is certain that the abbey lies secluded in the bottom of a deep and narrow gill, along the eastern side of which runs a beck. The gill at first extends north and south, but just below the buildings it opens out with a semi-circular sweep before curving round to the east and following the course of the stream. The stream itself was utilized by the monks to form their mill dam,‡ and after running through and flushing various buildings built athwart it, to supply the fish ponds. The steep and rocky sides of the gill served as a ready quarry from which to build the abbey, and in order that they should not furnish foothold for ravaging Scots and freebooters they were included in a large oval area, of which the long axis runs from north-east to south-west, surrounded by a

\* *Furness Abbey Coucher Book* (Chetham Soc. N.S. 9), 8.

† *Ibid.* 22.

‡ This has been destroyed and the course of the stream considerably altered by the formation of the Furness Railway line.

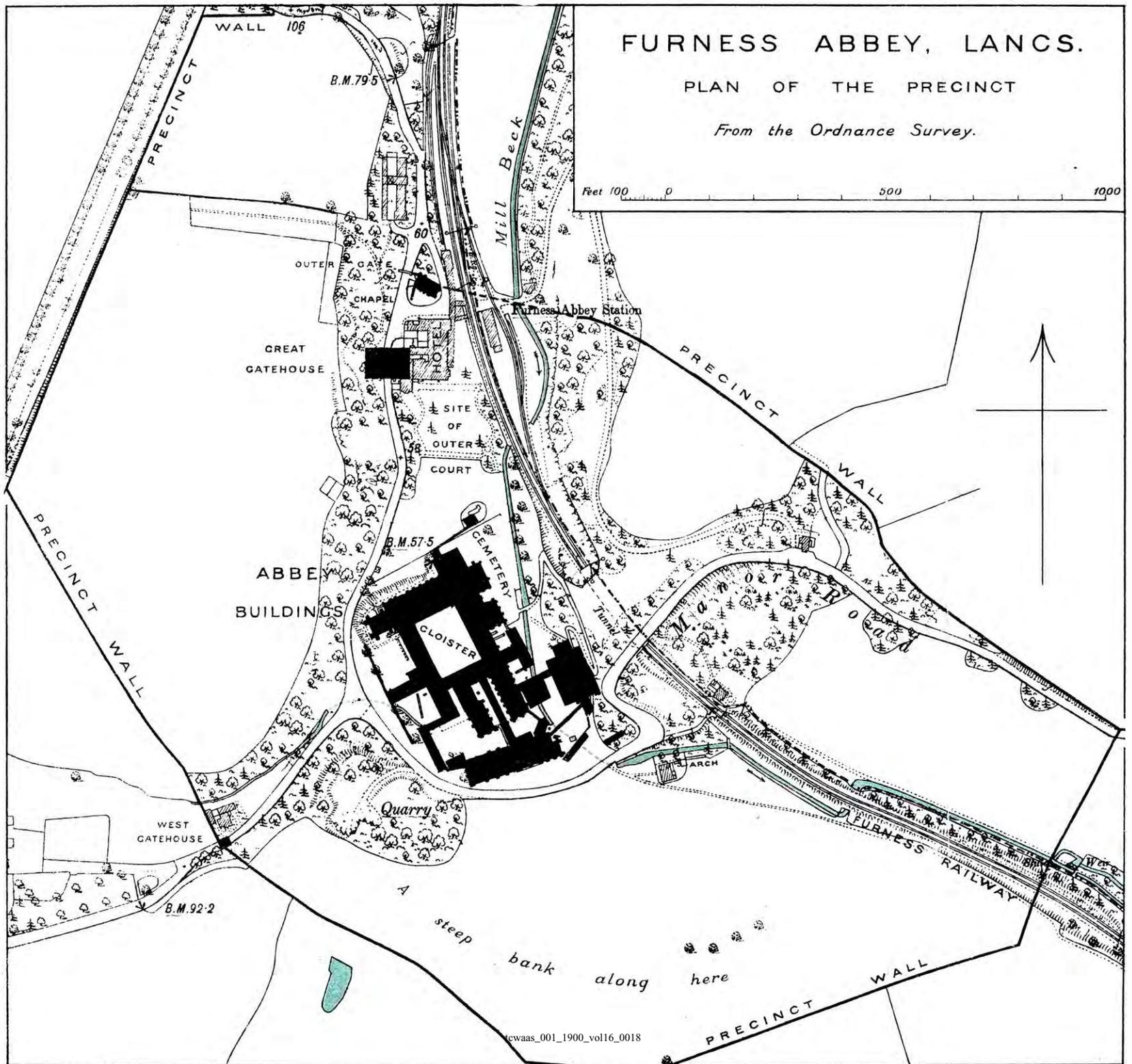
massive

# FURNESS ABBEY, LANCS.

PLAN OF THE PRECINCT

*From the Ordnance Survey.*

Feet 100 0 500 1000



massive stone wall. In the centre of this area, lie the main buildings of the abbey. (See plan of precinct.)

The chief approach was from Dalton on the north. Since the construction of the Furness Railway, which has in other respects greatly altered the ancient aspect of the valley, the old road down to the abbey has been abandoned for a new one that runs beside it, but it is still visible though now overgrown with grass. It wound gently down from the higher ground to the bottom of the gill and then made straight for the outer gate. On its right or west side was the abbey wall, which extended from the outer gate northwards, and after climbing the bank beside the road and following the curve of the latter, made a sharp turn southwards. It continues southward for 1150 feet, then turned south-eastwards for about 900 feet, descending suddenly towards the end into a small valley; here the western gate was placed. From the gate the wall again rises up to the higher ground, and after skirting the semi-circular sweep of the gill above the site of the fish ponds, crossed the valley through which the brook runs. It then again turned sharply in a north-westerly direction, still hugging the higher ground and finally descended into the gill and ended at the chapel *extra portas*. The area enclosed contained about 70 acres.

The principal entrance into the precinct is on the north, through a wide pointed archway, which looks at first sight a work of the fourteenth century, but closer examination shows it to be a make-up of old materials, the inner label being composed of thirteenth century vaulting ribs. A smaller archway to the south is of the same date as the larger. The latter stands, however, upon the chamfered plinths of an older structure of different plan which are clearly in place, and they probably belong to an original outer gate of the twelfth century. The story of the modern erection is thus explained by Beck :

Both the larger and the smaller arches of this gateway were removed from an ancient building close to the rock on the west side of it, and re-erected on old foundations of an entrance peculiar perhaps to the Abbot and his brethren.\*

Beck also states that :

On the west of the Manor-house under the rock within the last half century stood the remains of a large ornamental building, whence the arches of the present north entrance were removed; a shippon now occupies its site.†

Immediately within and adjoining the gate on the east are the remains of a very interesting chapel. It is entered by a round-headed west door, over which is a trefoil-headed niche, and beside its south jamb is the broken bowl of an inserted holywater stock. The chapel is 49 feet long and 28 feet wide, and of four bays, but is now ruined and roofless. Its north wall is a section of the twelfth century precinct wall, which seems to have been refaced on the chapel side, and has no openings in it; but the remainder of the building belongs to the latter part of the thirteenth century. The floor was flagged, and along the north, west, and south walls was a stone bench. At the east end is a platform two steps high, on which against the east wall is the base of the altar; this is 7 feet 11 inches long and 4 feet 6½ inches wide. In the north-east corner of the chapel is the base for a tomb, part of which remains. It is 7 feet 2½ inches long, 4½ feet wide, and 7 inches high, and of earlier date than the existing altar platform. It was enclosed at first by a grate, and afterwards by a screen. Sundry pin and other holes in the north wall may have had something to do with this.

In the south-east corner is a block of masonry, measuring 28 by 25½ inches, built against the east wall; its original height and its use are alike uncertain, but it

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\* *Annales Furnesienses*, 368.

† *Ibid.* 402.

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SEDILIA, ETC. IN THE CHAPEL WITHOUT THE GATES.

may have supported an image. The east window, which is not central, but set somewhat to the south, was of four lights, but only the sill and jambs now remain. Immediately to the south of the altar in the first bay are (1) a wide credence with panelled head, and (2) a piscina with octofoil drain and canopied head. Over these is a window of two trefoiled lights with a cusped circle above. Just to the west of the piscina is a floor drain with circular bowl.\* Between the first and second bays are three graduated sedilia, beneath pointed arches, with pinnacled canopies above, once carried by detached shafts. The lower of the two altar steps is returned in front of the sedilia as a platform to them. Just to the west of the sedilia there seems to have been a low screen across the chapel. The second and third bays each contain a window similar to that in the first bay, and between them is a beam hole. The fourth bay contains the remains of a round headed opening, perhaps a "low-side window," which has been cut down to make a doorway. Drilled at intervals into the stringcourse which runs under the windows, are a series of holes. They begin at the enclosing screen of the tomb and after crossing the east wall extend along the south wall as far as the sedilia. They probably contained wooden plugs for hooks to suspend hangings from or to fix joiner's work to.

Externally the chapel has on the north side an inserted buttress at each end, and another on the line of the screen. The east end has two buttresses, the northern

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\*Durandus notes the following custom, which seems to explain the use of these floor drains: "Sane sacerdos vel minister missurus vinum et aquam in calicem prius effundit modicum in terram non solum ut meatus sive locus vasis per quem fluere debet mundetur et si quid est in superficie vini vel aquæ emittatus: verum etiam ad ostendendum quod sanguis et aqua de latere Christi usque in terram fluxerunt: ad quod mysterium se præparat peragendum." *Prochiron vulgo Rationale Divinorum Officiorum*, lib. iv. cap. xxx. § 20 (Ed. Lyons, 1551, f. 866). I am indebted to Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, V.P.S.A. for this reference.

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of which continued as a wall. The south side has three buttresses, but the first is widened out below as a broad and deep projection, like that for a fireplace, behind the sedilia. There is no buttress at the west end, but instead a wall ran thence southwards as far as the inner or great gatehouse of the abbey. Against the west side of this was a stone bench, and along it ran a pentise which was also carried across the front of the chapel.

A *capella extra portas*, like this at Furness, was a usual feature in most, if not all, Cistercian abbeys for the convenience of women and other persons who were not allowed within the gates. At Coggleshall it has lately been repaired and again used for the services of the church; it also remains complete at Kirkstead. The ruins of similar chapels exist at Rievaulx and Fountains, and there are documentary references to those at Meaux and Byland. An interesting thirteenth century example at Croxden was destroyed so recently as 1884.

#### THE GATEHOUSES.

The inner or great gatehouse was a building of late twelfth century date. It stood about 170 feet to the south of the outer gate, but is now ruined to its plinths. It measured about 80 feet from north to south, but the length is uncertain owing to the eastern end having been destroyed to make room for the Furness Abbey Hotel. The entrance arch was of four orders, and there was a similar arch at the other end of the passage towards the court. This passage consisted of (1) an outer porch,  $38\frac{1}{4}$  feet long and  $23\frac{3}{4}$  feet wide, vaulted in two bays; and (2) the gate hall, which was 26 feet long, and also vaulted. Between them was the gateway proper, which consisted of (1) a wide arch with double doors for the passage of vehicles, and (2) a small doorway to the east for foot passengers. The east wall of the porch has bedded in it two quasi-  
piers,

piers, which carried arches closed with thin stone partitions; all standing on a bench. Right and left of the porch and entered from it by doors in its south end were two great chambers. The hall was similarly flanked by chambers entered from it, and that on the west had a large fireplace in the west wall. There is nothing to show that these chambers were vaulted. By the north-east corner of the hall is a stone seat in the wall for the porter, and the room behind was perhaps the *cella portarii* or porter's lodge. There was probably an upper story.

The remains of the western gatehouse show that it was a small tower of the fourteenth century, the front of which stood slightly in advance of the precinct wall wherein it was set. The ground story consists of a passage which had a segmental archway of two orders at each end, and was covered with a wooden ceiling instead of a vault. The outer archway was closed by doors. At the north-west angle is a vice to the upper floor; it had an external door, since a doorway from the passage would have been covered by the open gates. Of the upper floor only the south wall remains; it has a doorway in it from the bank which here overhangs the road.

#### THE OUTER COURT.

Although there must have been a road joining as now the western and the great gatehouses, there could not have been any buildings west of it owing to the steep bank along that side. The outer court must, therefore, have occupied the level area between the great gatehouse and the abbey church.

Whether any buildings adjoined the eastern end of the gatehouse it is now impossible to say. Whatever may have stood on the site was destroyed when the Manor House of the Prestons was built here at the beginning of the

the seventeenth century, and the enlargement and conversion of this into the Furness Abbey Hotel has further obliterated any old work that may have been spared.\*

The foundations of various buildings are known to exist beneath the modern garden in front of the hotel, but their date is, of course, uncertain. In the south-east corner of the garden, beside the path leading to the abbey ruins, may be seen in the shrubbery a short length of wall with one side of an elaborate doorway of the early part of the fifteenth century.

This doorway opened into some important building, probably a guest-house, which stood north and south on the east side of the court; but no more of the building can be traced than what is shown on the general plan. To the west of this is a fragment of foundation of uncertain date, which may or may not have formed part of the same building. Further to the south is one end of another structure of late fourteenth century date. It, too, stood nearly north and south, and was 18 feet wide; but everything beyond the existing piece has been destroyed. This has two doorways at its south end: the one opens into a vice which projects southwards from the building, the other is an entrance from without.† Adjoining this building are the remains of a late fifteenth century porch, which formed an entrance into the monks' cemetery from the outer court. On the court side it has a moulded arch of three orders, but the doorway from the cemetery, which had double doors, is a plain one. On each side is

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\* For a view of the Manor House before the hotel alterations, see *Vetusta Monumenta*, I. Pl. XXVII.

† In the view published by the Society of Antiquaries in 1727 (*Vetusta Monumenta*, I. Pl. XXVII.), the building of which this fragment formed part is shown complete, and covered with tiles. The lower story had a doorway in the middle of the eastern side with two windows on either hand, and the upper story was lighted by about ten smaller openings. A view published by Hearne & Byrne, in *Antiquities of Great Britain* (London, 1786), and dated 1778, shows this building as viewed from the west. On that side it had several buttresses, and was lighted on the ground story by narrow loops and above by small openings. The building was not improbably a stable or garner.

a stone bench, and in the wall a small loop opening from without. Above the porch was an upper story with a fireplace in the east wall, but only the corbels that supported the chimney remain; it is shown standing in the plate published by the Society of Antiquaries in 1727.\*

The cemetery gate was set in a wall that ran for some uncertain distance eastwards, but westwards to a porch which covered the north doorway of the transept of the abbey church. This porch has been destroyed only within the last few years, and Beck, who shows it in his plan and his north view, mentions the "portions of the side walls, with stone seats along them," which remained when he wrote.†

#### THE ABBEY CHURCH.

In all Cistercian churches there is a door from the outside into that transept which is remote from the cloister. It is not usually of any architectural pretensions, and was probably the way by which the dead were carried out for burial from the church to the cemetery, which lay round the east end of the church. At Furness, however, the doorway into the north transept is of exceptional richness,‡ and there can be little doubt that it was regarded as the principal entrance into the church. Like many other doorways in the abbey it is round-headed, and of four orders carried by jamb shafts; the outermost order is a rich example of the billet moulding. Since the plinth is cut away for its insertion, it would seem that the doorway first designed for this position was of the usual simple character, but replaced by a finer one as the

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\* This upper story was still complete and occupied when West published his *Antiquities of Furness* in 1774. See plate following the ground plan.

† Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, 383.

‡ A beautiful engraving of it (restored) forms the frontispiece to Beck's *Annales Furnesienses*.

work was carried up. To the east of the doorway is a blocked contemporary window, and above them a wide fifteenth century window of seven lights, which has lost all its tracery.

On entering the north transept there may be seen just to the east of the doorway the place of an holy-water stock. In the north-west corner is a doorway into a vice or staircase to the roofs, etc. All this north wall is of the second date. Parts of the old flagged floor of the transept also exist here and there. On the east are three pointed arches of three orders, carried by clustered columns, opening into an eastern aisle. Against each of the pillars, as may be seen from the cuts in the bases, stood, in later times, a pedestal for an image, and over the southernmost was a tall canopy for which the arch-molds have been cut away. Each arch was closed by a stone screen. Above the arches was a triforium consisting of three round-headed openings, each enclosing two trefoiled arches with a blind roundel sunk in the head, and carried by shafts with volute capitals and square *abaci*. All three openings were walled up later,\* but two have since been unblocked, and from one of these the sub-division has fallen out. The first clerestory windows, which seem to have been plain and round-headed, have been blocked up, and replaced by two fifteenth century windows, each of three lights, set towards the north. The transept was not vaulted, but covered with a wooden roof resting on corbels, some of which remain.

The transept aisle had originally a round-headed archway at its south end opening into the presbytery, but this was built up when the east side and north end of the aisle were rebuilt, on the older plinths, with the presbytery early in the fifteenth century. The outer walls are now reduced to only a few feet in height, but the jamb of a

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\* They are shown blocked in the last century prints already referred to.

window



EAST SIDE OF THE NORTH TRANSEPT.



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WESTERN SIDE OF THE TRANSEPTS, LOOKING EAST.

window is left on the north and of another against the presbytery. The aisle was divided by perpendicular walls into three chapels, each of which retains an altar platform two steps high, and paved, in the northernmost chapel with tiles, in the other two with square stone blocks  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches square and 6 inches thick, set diamondwise. Below the steps the floor was all of tile. The base of each altar remains, with a chamfered plinth and bevelled angle shafts. The northernmost chapel has a floor drain to the south of the altar. The southernmost altar had no end plinths, and south of it is a wall drain supported by a pretty inserted clustered pillar of the thirteenth century. Within the blocked arch to the presbytery, before its walling up, stood a simple tomb covered by a plain slab; over this the blocking has been carefully carried. The earlier aisle had a ribbed vault, but it was not replaced in the rebuilding, and the newer aisle was open to its wooden roof. This was of high enough pitch to include the triforium, which was not then blocked, but during the later alterations when the openings were walled up the roof was lowered and carried across them. The successive changes are plainly shown by the roof lines against the presbytery and the corbels in the transept wall. Before the alterations in the transept gable there was a wall passage across it from the vice to the space over the aisle vault.

The west side of the transept, in the lowest stage, is for two-thirds of its length (see plan) of the first date, and retains a piece of the string-course and part of a window jamb. The jambs of the arch into the nave aisle are also of the first date, but its bases, which are inserted, and the capitals with the arch itself are of the second date. The second stage has two wide round-headed windows, but in the fifteenth century these were each divided by the insertion of tracery into two lights. The clerestory originally had three windows like  
like

like those below, with a wall passage running through them from the staircase on the north to another vice ascending from above the crossing pier on the south.\* But in the fifteenth century the southernmost window was built up and the others replaced by new windows, each of three lights.

The only feature in the transept is a square block with five winding steps, with hole for a wooden newel, built against the crossing pier in the south-west angle. The steps seem to have led eastward to a loft or gallery over a stone screen that filled the north arch of the crossing, eastward of the quire stalls. A like arrangement existed at Fountains, and in the Black Canons' Priory of St. Mary Overie, Southwark.

The crossing piers are of the first date for a considerable height, but have capitals and carried pointed arches of three orders of the second date. Only the eastern arch is now standing. The jambs of the eastern and western arches are corbelled off about 12 feet up,† but in the others the shafts start from the floor.

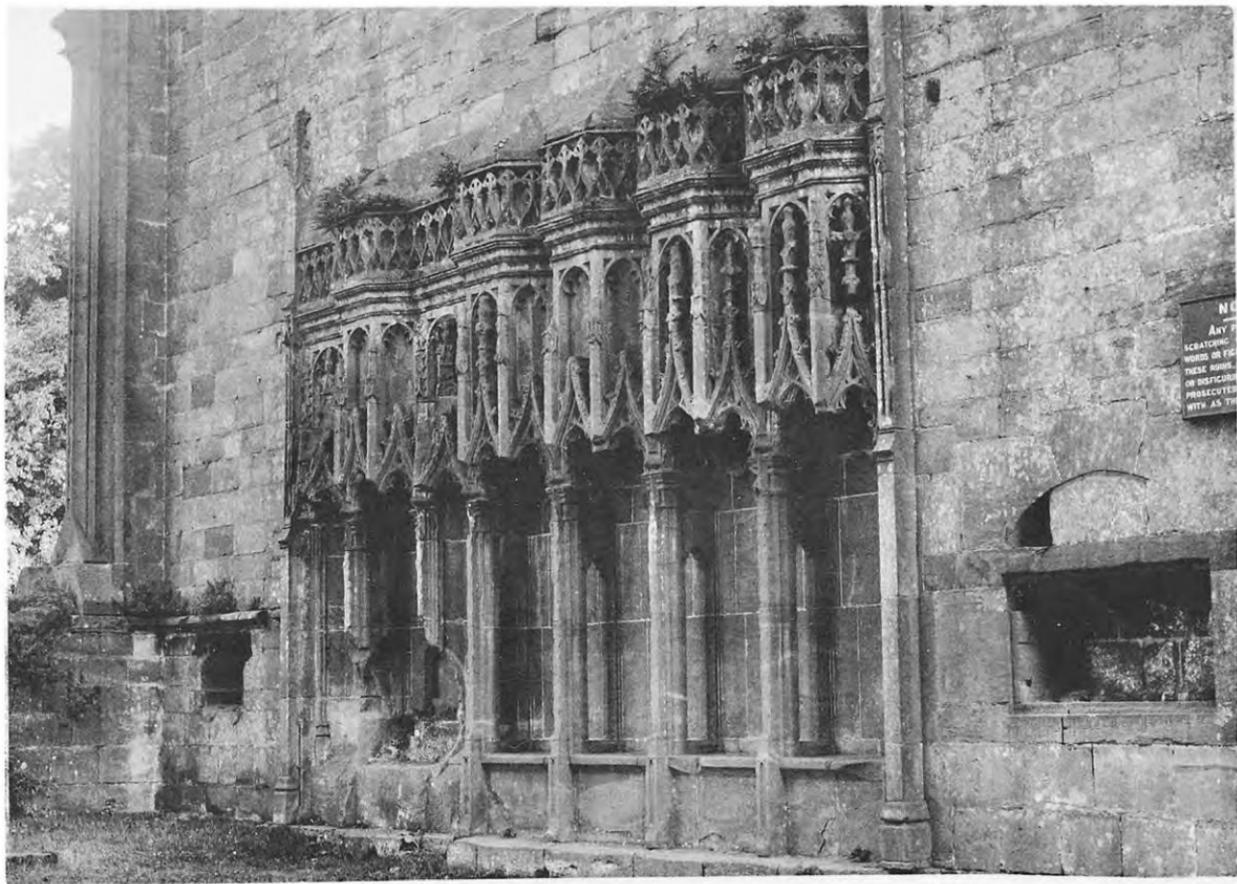
The presbytery was rebuilt in its present form early in the fifteenth century, and is 54 feet long and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad, and of three bays. Next the crossing on each side may be seen the walled-up archways from the transept aisles that originally formed the upper entrances. On the north this blocking is built over a plain tomb like that on the aisle side; but on the south it contains a rich doorway of three orders of the same date as the presbytery. The first and second bays on the north each contain a tall window, once of four lights with an embattled transom, but the tracery has fallen out. Of the east

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\* There was another vice ascending from the parapet level over the north-east pier of the crossing.

† In the jambs of the eastern arch are a number of pin holes of various heights, of uncertain meaning. They perhaps had to do with the hanging of the Lenten veil before the extension of the presbytery.

window



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SEDILIA, ETC. IN THE PRESBYTERY.

window, which was a wide one of probably eight lights, only the jambs remain, with the ends of the hoodmold of the arch. These terminate in the heads of a bearded man and a veiled lady, both crowned, perhaps representing King Henry IV. and his second queen, Joan of Navarre.\* The angle buttresses flanking the window are worthy of notice, and behind them may be seen the places for fastening down-pipes to carry off the rain-water from the roofs. The high altar, which stood clear of the east wall, against a screen crossing the presbytery about 6 feet from it,† was  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and 2 feet 8 inches wide ; only its base remains. Behind the screen in the south wall is a square locker, with groove for a shelf, and marks of the hinges of a folding-up door. West of the screen the lower part of the wall is filled for a length of 20 feet with the magnificent piscina and sedilia, of which a good engraving, with certain missing parts restored, is given by Beck.‡ The piscina has three niches at the back and sides respectively for the crewets, etc. but the bason which was perhaps of marble, has been torn out. It was flanked by two tall recesses, with sloped bases ; each having in the back a hole for an iron hook or rod to hang a towel from. The sedilia are four in number, and all on one level. Above them are two windows, but owing to the vestry roof on the other side of the wall they are high up, and being much shorter than those opposite were of three lights only and without transoms. Just to the west of the sedilia, on the level of the carved cornice, are three pin holes for the pulley of the *velum quadragesimale* or Lenten veil, which hung across the presbytery on this line. Next to the sedilia is a length of wall of the second date containing a broad locker, with a relieving arch over

\* The heads are engraved in Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, 403.

† The cut for this screen may be seen in the string course on the south. Immediately above it, at a height of 12 feet from the floor, there is a pin hole in the wall.

‡ *Annales Furnesienses*, Plate between pp. 378, 379.

its

its flat top. The locker, which is grooved for a shelf, and has marks of a hinged door, formed the *ministerium*, or "place where the chalice was made ready and whence the bread and wine were carried to be offered at the high altar."\* There are two steps at the entrance to the presbytery, but it is doubtful if they are original, and there is also a chase for another in the step below the sedilia and immediately to the east of them; and there were probably at least two other steps west of it.

Before leaving the presbytery it is desirable to put on record certain facts that have come to light with respect to its immediate predecessor.

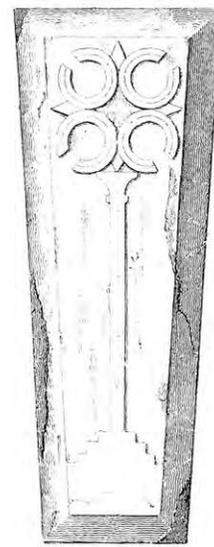
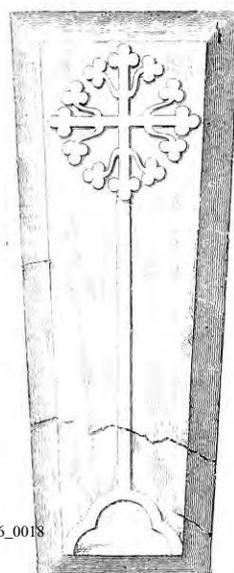
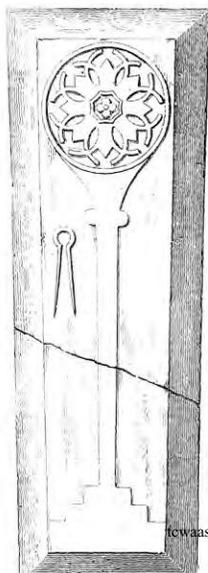
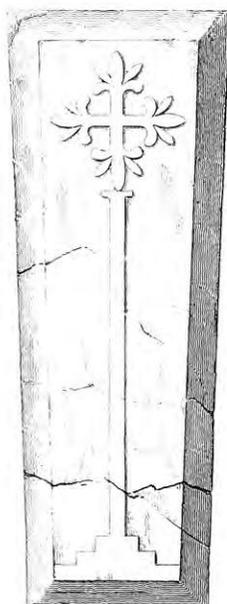
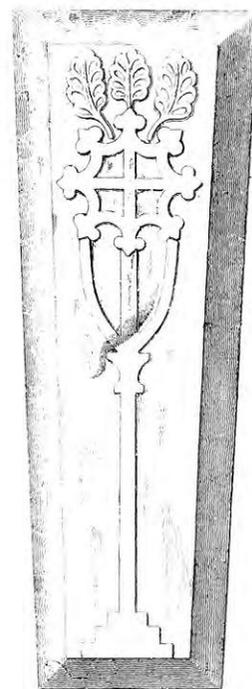
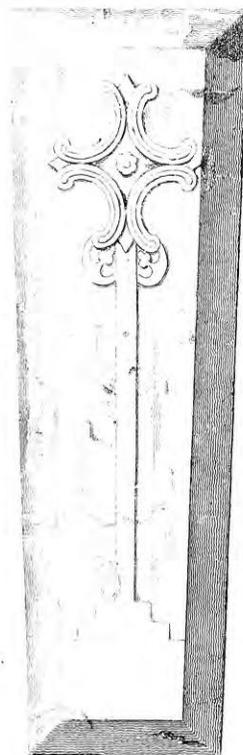
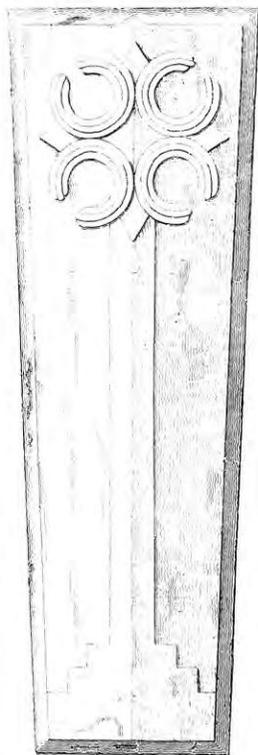
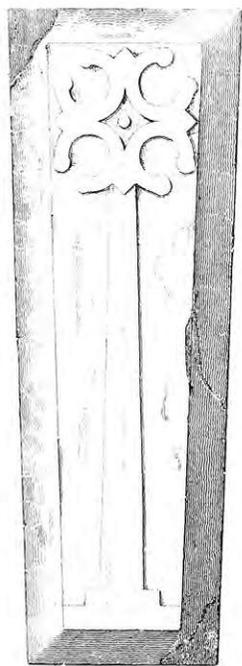
The investigations already described, which revealed the extent of the first work in the transepts, etc. were continued in the presbytery, by exposing the lower parts of the walls down to the footings. As will be seen from the accompanying drawings, for which the Society is indebted to Mr. J. F. Curwen, nothing remains of the first presbytery east of the crossing piers. Of the second work, the upper entrances exist, but they were completely walled up and refaced in the fifteenth century. Beyond these eastwards there remains a length of wall also of the second date, on the north below the later floor line, but on the south high enough to show the *ministerium* described above. This walling ends abruptly at a particular point, beyond which only the footings remain. These footings differed markedly from those elsewhere, in that the stones project obliquely from the wall, and are cut off in a manner strongly suggestive of their having formed part of a semicircular apse, which has otherwise been completely destroyed. The substitution of an apsidal presbytery and rectangular chapels for apsidal chapels and a square east end seems unlikely, but such a combination is not

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\*See a note by Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite on an example at Kirkstall in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, x. 554-6. The *ministerium* seems to have been restricted to the ascetic Orders such as the Cistercians, the Carthusians, and the White Canons.



MONUMENTAL SLABS NOW IN THE PRESBYTERY.



unknown in Cistercian abbeys abroad, as at Toronet and Obasine in France and St. Martin's near Viterbo in Italy. It also existed with an encircling aisle and chapels to the presbytery at Clairvaux, and at Croxden, Beaulieu and Hayles in England.

In the centre of the presbytery lies a much broken effigy of a knight in mail, and to the north and west are arranged a large number of grave slabs found during the excavations and placed here for safety. Most of them have been described and figured by Beck.

The vestry, which adjoins to the south and extends almost as far east as the presbytery, was built at the same time, and opened from it by a double door. It had a large east window, probably of four lights, and two south windows, each of three lights. The altar and its platform have been entirely destroyed, but south of its site are the remains of a handsome canopied drain. Next to this there stood against the wall a canopied tomb enclosed by a grate, but only the plinth is left. Just west of the tomb an iron bar or partition of some kind seems to have crossed the vestry. Between the door from the presbytery and the arch into the transept are two pair of large pin holes run in with lead. Not improbably a lavatory and bason stood here for the use of the ministers. The vestry roof was of wood and of four bays.\*

By the building out of the vestry one of the three chapels east of the south transept was done away with. The others were rebuilt at the same time on the older plinth.† They were divided like their fellows on the north by a perpent wall, but all traces of the altars and their platforms have here been obliterated. Each had an eastern window of three lights. The southern chapel has

\* Beneath the eastern part of the vestry is an extensive deposit of human bones, perhaps those that were disturbed in the building of the new presbytery and vestry on part of the monks' cemetery.

† There is a curious irregularity on this side, which results in the east wall of the aisle not being parallel with the transept, and a large base has been built out for the central buttress.

a mutilated drain in the south wall, and in the north wall of the other is a small locker with pin holes east of it.\* The wooden roof that replaced the older vault was almost flat at first, but its slope was afterwards slightly raised. A quantity of carved twelfth century stones are built in over the line of the old vault.

The east side of the south transept has three arches like those opposite, once filled with stone screens, but there was not any triforium as in the north transept. The clerestory was rebuilt in the fifteenth century. The roof was a wooden one of five bays. The two pillars of the arcade have each a little fourteenth century niche cut on the front member, with a pin hole below for a sconce, and once contained images, but the northern image after the building of the vestry gave way to one of much larger size, standing on a pedestal beneath a tall spire-like tabernacle, for which the hoodmold above has been cut away. In the south wall of the transept are two corbels, perhaps to support a gallery for the clock. The windows in the gable, which were high up on account of the dorter on the other side, were two in number and round headed, but were replaced in the fifteenth century, probably after a lowering of the dorter roof, by a single window of five lights. Lower down, and towards the west wall, is a good inserted doorway, two-centred, with moulded rear-arch, and of the thirteenth century. Its sill is 8 feet from the transept floor, and up to and through it led a broad flight of steps built against the west wall. There is a pretty corbel where the steps joined the door. By these steps the monks reached the church directly from their dorter when they arose about two a.m. to say their *vigiliæ* or night offices. The steps themselves have disappeared. At their foot are the remains of an inserted holy-water stock in the

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\* Both chapels are now filled with large moulded stones brought from various parts of the ruins.

wall

wall. As on the other side, the lower part of the west wall is of the first date, but here it is so for the full length, though partly refaced, and the south wall for some height up is of the same date. As will be seen from the plan the refacing on the west marks the place of (1) a large turret that projected into the transept like that in the north transept,\* (2) the junction of the original transept end, and (3) the blocking up of a doorway from the cloister into an original passage between the transept and the chapter house. When the transept was lengthened in the rebuilding the place of this passage was absorbed by the new work, which accounts for the chapter house here being immediately next the transept.† The upper stages of this side are like those of the north transept, but the lower windows are higher up to clear the cloister roof, and the clerestory was entirely rebuilt in the fifteenth century with windows differently spaced. The cause of this greater amount of rebuilding is interesting.

One of the rules of the Cistercian Order enacts :

Turres lapideas ad campanas non fiant, nec lignæ altitudinis immoderatæ, quæ ordinis dedeçant simplicitatem.‡

and if we may judge from the surviving Kirkstall and Buildwas examples, central towers, if built at all were only carried up one stage clear of the roofs. But the desire for higher towers in time asserted itself, and certainly at Kirkstall and no doubt Furness and Fountains, an upper story was added later. The result was probably satisfactory at first, but before long the piers began to give way beneath a weight not provided for by their builders. The Kirkstall tower stood the strain longer than the others and remained intact until 1779, but the

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\* A loop that lighted the vice may still be seen on the cloister side.

† A similar proceeding has brought about a like state of things at the Clunian Priory of Wenlock, Salop.

‡ Cistercian Statutes, *Yorkshire Archæological Journal*, xi. 240.

Fountains

Fountains and Furness examples gradually sank bodily into the ground some inches, tearing asunder their connections on all sides and distorting the neighbouring windows and arches. At Furness, where the tower was the first to show weakness, the two arches adjoining the south-west pier were forthwith built up, in the one case solid, in the other by reducing it to a mere doorway,\* and a massive buttress, ornamented with panelling and pinnacles, erected against the pier so as to enclose it.† The upper works of the south transept were then rebuilt and on the north the triforium and clerestory were walled up, and newer windows put in further away from the tower.

That the addition of the upper story to the crossing preceded the rebuilding of the presbytery and the transept aisles is shown by the fact that the piers carrying the south transept arches are out of the perpendicular, but the vestry wall which is built against one of them, purposely for strength, is vertical.

There is nothing to show whether the central tower was eventually taken down on account of its instability, or remained standing until the end, pending the building of the new one at the west end of the church.

With the exception of a portion of the blocked arch on the south side next the crossing, the nave has been so completely destroyed, that the bases of some of the piers alone remain to tell its story. It was ten bays long, and divided from its aisles by pointed arches carried by piers alternately round and clustered. The eastern responds belong to the first work, and have moulded bases of Norman character, standing on a chamfered plinth; these are, however, 13 inches below the later floor level, and not

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\* Together with an opening eastwards over the aisle vault. The distortion of this and of the roof line over it is very marked.

† At Fountains, where the tower was raised about a century after that at Furness, the south-east pier gave way, and was similarly strengthened. See *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, xv. 287.



ARCH AND RESPOND AT EAST END OF NORTH AISLE.

now visible. On the north side the bases of all the piers remain, but on the south the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth are missing. The ninth pair of piers are standing to a greater height than the rest through the new tower being built up against them. The last bay and the western responds have been destroyed to make way for the new steeple, which thus partly stands within the church.

The piers, as at first begun, had built into them towards the nave, but without bond, a longitudinal wall, 11 inches thick, running from pillar to pillar, against which the base mouldings abruptly stopped. Before, however, the work had made much headway this arrangement was given up; the first three piers on each side were left unaltered, but the rest were completed in ashlar and the base mouldings continued round them. In the case of the fourth, fifth, and sixth north piers the work had been carried up some height before they were altered; but in the next three only the bases had been laid, and after these had been completed the pier was carried up entire. The three last bases on the south side were carried up whole from the ground.

The north aisle, like the nave, is ruined to its plinths, which remains to a few feet in height throughout its length.\* It is entered from the transept by a pointed arch of three orders with square capitals with broad-leaved volutes. Adjoining it is a jamb of the original first window, but refaced with fourteenth century work. Above it is a fragment of the vault, which had transverse and diagonal ribs springing from the triple wall shafts between the bays. The first bay retains its flagged floor, but does not seem to have had an altar or any screen between it and the transept.† On the south side is a low stone wall decorated

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\* There is a break between the sixth and seventh bays, probably for the entry of carts to take away stone.

† In this bay, according to Beck (p. 376), were found, lying loose on the floor, the fine effigies of a knight and a lady that are now preserved in the infirmary chapel.

with

with ten traceried panels of beautiful design of the fourteenth century.\* This formed the base of a chapel or closet that stood within the arch, and was entered from the aisle by a flight of three steps. The chapel was closed on the aisle side by a wooden screen and towards the nave by the quire stalls. From a blocked niche in the face of the respond, it seems as if an altar that once stood against it had subsequently been replaced by another in the later chapel.

In the third bay, immediately west of the vaulting shaft, is a notch in the wall, probably for a screen crossing the aisle, although there is no corresponding hole in the pier opposite.

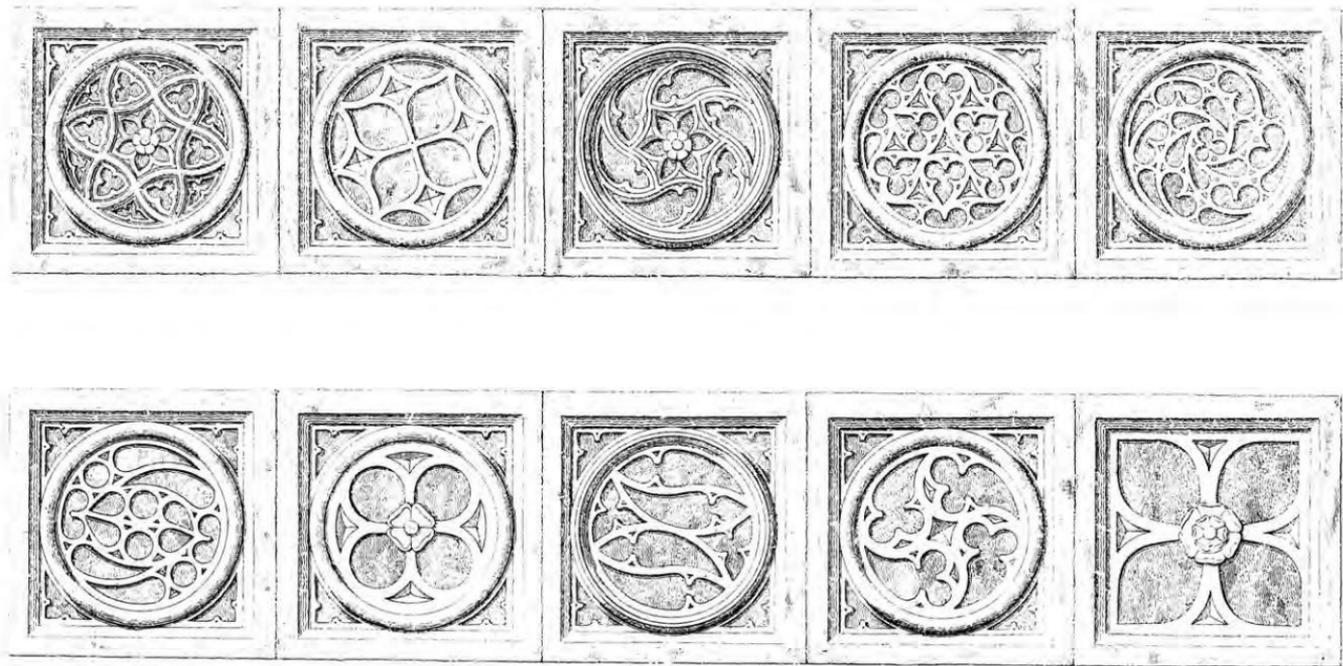
The fourth bay was closed on the east and south by stone screens to form a chapel. The platform of the altar, raised two steps high, occupies most of the bay, and has a floor drain on its south-west corner. The chapel was closed towards the west by a wooden screen which was also carried right across the nave and south aisle just west of the fourth pair of pillars.

The north aisle is now closed on the west by a wall which was built across it between the ninth and tenth bays when the last bay was destroyed to make way for the western steeple. Against this, and in the angle formed by it and the north wall of the aisle, is a broad flight of steps. The object of these is at first sight not apparent, but further examination shows that they led up to a doorway in the new wall. This doorway, since there was no entrance from without into the new steeple, formed the only means of access to the church from the west, and must have been approached by a causeway or bridge of some kind extending across the north side of the tower from the bank beyond. On this account the lower part of the destroyed bay of the aisle has been left for a support,

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\* See the engraving in Beck, plate facing p. 386.

and



TRACERIED PANELS IN THE NORTH AISLE.

and the tower plinths are built higher up than otherwise necessary.

The western tower, which seems to have been begun by partly underbuilding for support the last arch on each side of the nave, was evidently intended, from the thickness of its walls, which far exceeds that of the great tower of Fountains Abbey,\* to have been carried up to a considerable height. It opened into the nave by a lofty arch of three orders with stilted bases, and had in its west side a four-light window. This had a transom, and large square flowers and heads set as ornaments in the hollow moulding of the outer jamb. In the south-west corner is a vice to the upper floors and roof. The buttresses are of bold projection, and each has below the first set-off a tall niche with pillared pedestal for an image. The projection of the plinth, which is also carried round the buttresses, is very effective.† The tower is now reduced to 58 feet in height. It is uncertain if it was ever finished.

The westernmost or tenth bay of the south aisle is cut off from the rest by a wall as on the other side, but is itself destroyed to the lowest course. In the wall is a window which has lost its tracery. The south wall of the ninth bay is of the first date in its lower part, and contains a deep recess formed out of a staircase that once existed in the thickness of the wall, as at Jervaulx, descending westwards from the upper story of the western range. During the alterations of the second period it was converted into a cupboard or storeplace.

The eighth bay has traces of a wide doorway of the first period, which was blocked in the succeeding works.‡ Above it is a round-headed doorway of the second date,

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\* The walls of the Fountains tower are 7 feet thick ; in the Furness tower the side walls are over 9 feet, and the west wall more than 11 feet thick.

† A good view of the western side of the tower is given by Beck in the plate opposite p. 374.

‡ As this does not show on the other side of the wall it would appear to have opened into the space below the wall staircase.

that

that once opened on to a flight of steps leading down from the dorter of the *conversi* or lay brethren. The steps, which have long been removed, took the place of the older wall stair, and like them descended westwards along the aisle wall; they perhaps had a landing midway in front of the recess mentioned above. On account of these steps prettily carved corbels are substituted for the eighth and ninth vaulting shafts.

The rest of the aisle wall, as far as the transept, has been refaced with masonry of the second period, to which the vaulting shafts also belong.

The seventh bay once had a doorway from the cloister. This, however, was not original, but an insertion, probably of the fifteenth century, for the entry of the Sunday procession, after an older door in the tenth bay had been done away with by the works of the new steeple.

The fourth bay contained a chapel, of the same date and arrangement as that in the corresponding bay opposite.

The first bay contains a doorway, of the second period, which was the ordinary entrance into the church from the cloister. It has on the aisle side a moulded rear-arch and label, and over it is an original window, a wide and plain lancet. The vault, which was pointed, had chamfered transverse and wall ribs, but the diagonals were moulded. The vaulting shafts consist of a single semi-circular member only, instead of three as on the north side.

The arch from the transept into the south aisle is like that opposite, but has been walled up and reduced to a doorway for the support of the central tower. Over it is a blocked round-headed opening at the triforium level, which has been strangely distorted by the settlement caused by the tower before it was filled up with masonry.

The screens noted above as closing the aisles in the fourth bay had another in line with them crossing the nave between the third pair of piers. This screen was of  
early

early thirteenth century work, and had a central doorway flanked by two niches or panels, and with an altar on either side, each enclosed by a chapel.\* There were thus four altars in a row across the church. A bay eastward of the screen was another, but of plainer character, and the space between them was floored over at some height up to form a gallery or loft. The screens and gallery together formed the structure called the *pulpitum*, where the Epistle and Gospel were sung on festivals. The loft screens also appear to have crossed the north aisle, like that at Fountains, probably (as there) to hold a pair of organs.† The space beneath the *pulpitum* served as an entry or lobby to the monks' quire, which was placed east of it.

The original idea was apparently that the quire should occupy the crossing and the first bay of the nave, and on this account the shafts carrying the eastern and western arches are corbelled off at some height from the floor. The arches east of the crossing would then serve as the *ostia presbyterii*, or upper entrances (*superiores introitus*) as they were called, by which the monks usually came into quire.‡ But this arrangement must soon have been

\* Part of the base of the screen, showing the doorway and part of the stonework north of it may still be seen. The remainder towards the south also exists, but under the ground, into which it has been driven bodily many inches through the fall upon it of some heavy mass from above.

† At Buildwas the *pulpitum* seems to have filled the second bay of the nave, and across the second arch on the south are holes for beams which probably carried the organs. In this case the *pulpitum* stood on a platform two steps high extending across the nave and aisles, with, apparently, low screens in the aisles on the line of the west wall of the *pulpitum*. There was also a low screen crossing both nave and aisles on the line of the third pair of pillars. There seem to have been similar lofts for the organs at Revesby and Roche. At Tintern there are two carved corbels over the *pulpitum* (which was in line with the first pair of piers) just above the stringcourse of the clerestory on the south side, which had something to do with the organs; here and at Buildwas, as well as at Fountains, the organs were on the side of the nave remote from the cloister. At Exeter, the so-called "minstrels' gallery" in the north clerestory of the nave probably held a pair of organs, and there is a similar gallery on the south side of the nave at Wells. The projection from the south triforium of the nave of Malmesbury Abbey was also doubtless used for the same purpose.

‡ The door at the west end of the quire was called the lower entrance (*inferior introitus*), and used chiefly only for the entrance of processions.

abandoned

abandoned or altered, and when the permanent *pulpitum* was built in the thirteenth century the monks' quire occupied the second and first bays of the nave and extended only about half-way into the crossing, with room for the upper entrances just east of the stalls. The old archways beyond were then put to other uses, and that on the north filled with a double tomb. At a still later date, probably when the number of the monks had become much reduced, the quire was refitted with new stalls extending only as far east as the western arch of the crossing. Parts of the stone bases for them remain, and show that there was only one row of stalls on each side, returned as usual against the *pulpitum*. The arrangements must have exactly resembled that in the priory church at Cartmel, and the two sets of stalls would seem to have been about contemporary. After the withdrawal of the stalls from the crossing, its north and south arches were closed by stone screens, with doors for the upper entrances. Over the north screen was a loft,\* perhaps to contain another pair of organs, like "the Cryers" at Durham.

The transepts, which communicated with the quire by the upper entrances, were used simply as lobbies.

With regard to the arrangements of the nave and the use to which it was put, we have seen that the first and second bays formed the monks' quire, the third was occupied by the *pulpitum*, and the fourth by the enclosed altars on either side the quire door. There thus remain six bays unaccounted for.

Although the documentary evidence is but slight, there is clear proof that the western part of the nave formed the quire of the *conversi* or lay brothers. This is well shown by an inventory of Meaux Abbey made in 1396, which includes among the *ornamenta ecclesiæ*, in addition to the

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\* See *ante*, p. 242.

monks' stalls, *aliis stallis superioribus ex utraque parte et bassioribus ex utraque parte conversorum in occidentali parte ecclesiæ*.\* These stalls were of course arranged down the sides of the nave, and it is on this account that the aisles in a Cistercian church are cut off by stone walls built flush with the fronts of the piers. Such walls, as we have seen, were begun at Furness, but although the original arrangement was abandoned, probably from its unduly weakening the piers, there can be little doubt that it was carried out in a less risky manner by simply building a wall between the piers.† The removal of such a wall in later times would not necessarily leave any traces of its former existence.

The stalls of the *conversi* probably occupied the seventh, eighth and ninth bays, leaving the last or tenth bay open, as was usual, for the entry from the western range. The fifth bay would in that case form the *retro-chorus* where the old and infirm monks could sit to hear the services, and its position agrees well with the direction in the customs as to how they were to go up to the *gradus presbiterii* for holy water: "Qui vero extra chorum vel *in retro chorum* fuerint . . . veniant per superiorem introitum chori, et per medium chorum revertantur;" ‡ that is, they were to go round through the transept to the

\* *Chronica de Melsa* (Rolls Series 43), iii. lxxxii. The numbers are unfortunately not given, as in the case of the monks' stalls, blank spaces being left for them in the MS. The monks' stalls at Meaux were put in during the abbacy of Michael de Brun, 1235-49, and those of the *conversi* in the time of Abbot William of Driffild, 1249-69. The high altar was not hallowed until 1253. The *Chronica de Melsa* contains other references to the *chorus conversorum*. Thus among Abbot Hugh's works, 1339-49, is a most interesting account of a new crucifix of great beauty *in choro conversorum*, which had been carved from a nude model. Miracles were performed by it, and even women were allowed to visit it (iii. 35). On Abbot Hugh's death he was buried *in medio chori conversorum coram crucifixo quem fecit exaltari* (iii. 37).

† These screen-walls are to be traced not only in the naves, as at Fountains, Kirkstall, Jervaulx, Buildwas, etc. but where the presbyteries have been rebuilt with aisles in later times, as at Tintern, Rievaulx and Fountains, they are found between the presbytery arcades also. At Tintern these walls were provided for throughout from the first, being bonded into the piers and surmounted by a gabled coping.

‡ Julian Paris, *Nomasticon Cisterciense* (new edition by Hugh Séjalon, Solesmes, 1892), 133.

upper

upper entrance, but to return direct to the retro-quire *per medium chorum*.\* The retro-quire would be cut off from the sixth bay by the rood-screen, here probably of stone, as there are no cuts for a wooden one in the walls or piers, and on the west side of this would be the nave altar, with the great Rood, etc. above it. Right and left of the altar were doorways through the screen for the Sunday and other processions, and the altar itself was no doubt enclosed by a screen. †

In later times, when the *conversi* had given place to hired servants, as they seem to have done everywhere in England soon after the Great Pestilence of 1349, their quire in the nave was probably cleared away, as at Fountains, Jervaulx, Kirkstall, etc. together with the walls shutting off the aisles, and henceforth the nave would be used only for processions.‡ There are no traces here of later chapels or altars in the aisles or against the pillars, such as exist at Fountains and elsewhere.

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\* At Clairvaux in 1517 it is recorded: "Au bout dudict chœur, pour tirer en la nef et chœur des convers, y a séparation entre iceulx deux chœurs, en laquelle séparation y a trente-quatre chayses pour seoir à oyr le service les vielz et debilles religieulx; au bout de laquelle séparation y a ung grant autel de la Trinité, dessus lequel est le crucifix de l'église." Didron, *Annales Archéologiques*, iii. 227. At Durham, where there was a rood screen with the Jesus altar against it, as well as the *pulpitum* at the west end of the choir, "on the backsyde of the said Rood before the Queir dore there was a LOFT, . . . . and in under the said loft by the wall, there was a long forme, which dyd reche from the one Rood dore to the other, where men dyd sytt to rest themselves on and say there praiers and here devyne service." *Rites of Durham* (Surtees Society, 15), 29. This agrees exactly with the arrangement at Clairvaux.

† The fence screen to the Rood-altar at Furness and Fountains was probably of the same character as the one that enclosed the Jesus (or nave) altar at Durham: "at either ende of the Alter was closed up with fyne wainscott, like unto a porch, adjoininge to eyther roode dore, verie finely vernished with fyne read vernishe . . . . And in the north end of the Alter, in the wainscott, there was a dore to come in to the said porch and a locke on yt, to be lockt both daie and night . . . . Also the fore parte of the said porch, from the utmost corner of the porch to the other, ther was a dore with two brode leves to open from syde to syde, all of fyne joined and through-carved worke. The height of yt was sumthinge above a mans brest; and in the highte of the said dore yt was all stricken full of iron piks, that no man shold clymme over, which dore did hing all in gymmers, and clasps in the insyde to claspe theme." *Rites of Durham* (Surtees Society, 15), 28.

‡ At Fountains the place of the lay brothers' stalls is occupied by a long row of isolated stones on each side of the nave to mark the places of the monks at the "station" before the Rood in the Sunday Procession. The stones are now covered by the turf for preservation. See *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* xv. 307, and the plan accompanying it.

From

From the church we may now pass to a consideration of the monastic buildings.

#### THE CLOISTER.

The *claustrum* or cloister was the enclosed space which formed the centre of the monastery. It was surrounded by covered alleys in which the monks lived, and spent such time as was not occupied in the church or in sleeping, labour, meals, etc. Round the cloister, since it was their living place, all the buildings connected with the daily life of the monks were placed, and were accessible from it.

The cloister at Furness is on the south side of the nave. As at first planned it formed a square of 103 feet, but when the old frater was pulled down after the abbey became Cistercian, its site was added to the cloister, which thus became an oblong measuring  $135\frac{1}{2}$  feet from north to south.

The first alleys were no doubt of wood, but early in the thirteenth century the enclosure towards the garth was re-built in stone. Part of the north-east angle, with a triple base remains, but as may be seen from the plan its position is somewhat unusual and the actual arrangement by no means clear. Along the sides were open arcades, supported at regular intervals on twin shafts with marble capitals and bases. A number of fragments of these exist about the ruins. There is nothing to show whether, as is probable, this open cloister was replaced in later times by a glazed one for better protection from the weather.

The north alley, which was 12 feet 9 inches wide, was practically the monks' living room, and had a stone bench, the base of which,  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, is left against the church wall, on which the brethren sat.\* Higher up are

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\* On this bench, for a distance of 27 feet 3 inches from the north-west angle, something has been built up in masonry against the wall to a height of 16 inches, but in the absence now of any remains of it, it is difficult to say what it could have been.

the

the rafter holes and other traces of the cloister roofs, but these can be better seen against the transept. The original cloister door, at the east end of the alley, was replaced by a larger and finer during the works of the second period. This is round headed, with an outer order with hood-mold, and an inner of lesser height. There was no western cloister door until one was inserted, probably in the fifteenth century, but as its stonework has been torn out and the opening walled up, nothing further can be said about it.\*

The other three alleys served as passages, out of which opened the several buildings round the cloister. These buildings are enumerated in their proper order in the directions in the *Consuetudines* for the Sunday procession, as follows: *capitulum* or chapter-house, *auditorium* or parlour, *dormitorium* or dorter, *dormitorii necessaria* or rere-dorter, *calefactorium* or warming house, *refectorium* or frater, *coquina* or kitchen, *cellarium* or cellarer's building. These will be considered in their turns.

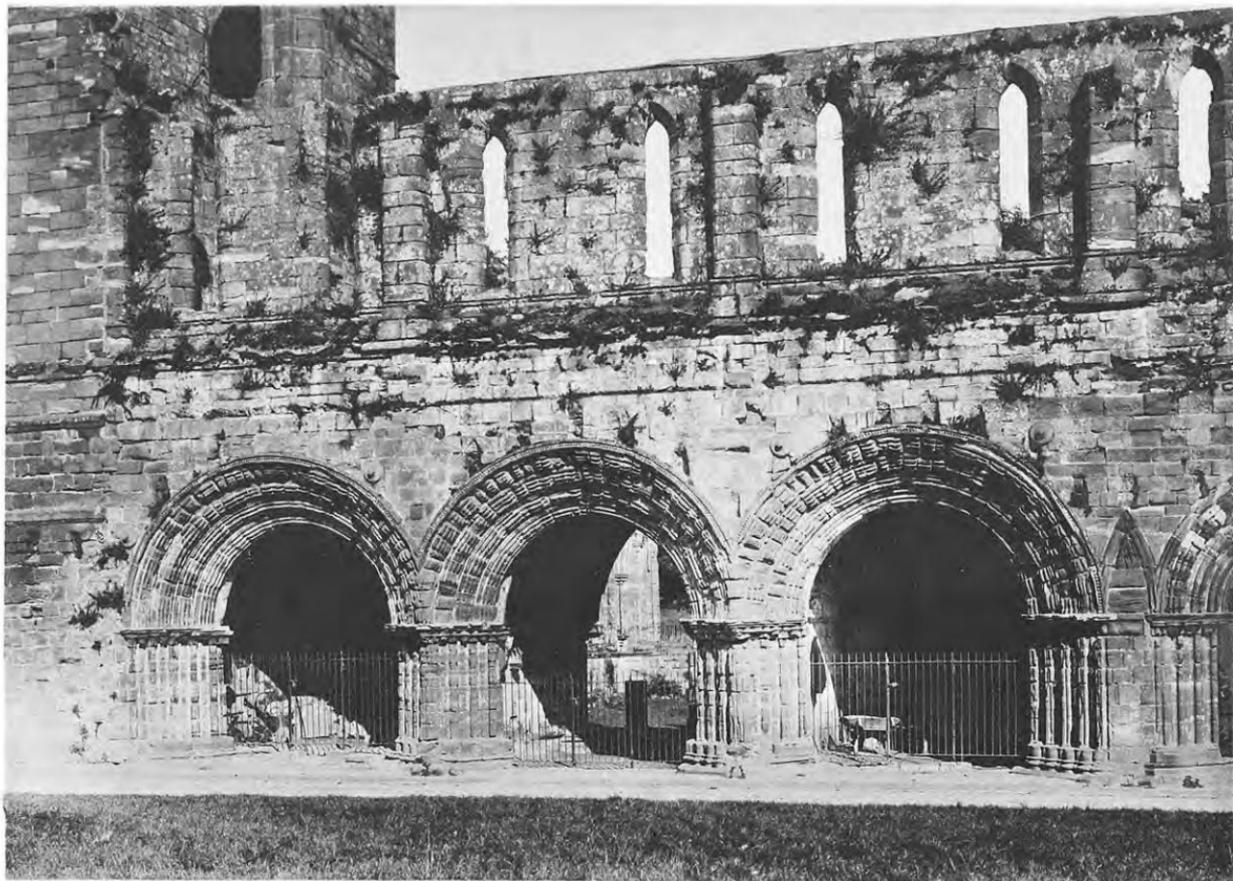
The northern part of the east alley, for a distance of 32 feet, is overlapped by the south transept. This consists of three stages. The lowest is entirely of the first date, and quite plain, with the exception of a round-headed doorway to the south, now blocked, on the inner side. As already noted, this once gave access to a passage or slype from the cloister to the cemetery. Between this doorway and the nave wall is a narrow slit that gave light to a former wall stair. (See above).† South of the doorway is the springing of another round-headed arch, no doubt part of one of the windows that flanked the first

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\* A western cloister door may have been provided for the first church, but when the abbey became Cistercian it would not be needed, since the Sunday procession which usually returned through it among the Benedictines and other Orders, among the Cistercians went through the *cellarium* and into the church by a door beyond.

† Three feet from the north-east angle is a wide cut in the plinth and there is a corresponding but narrower cut though the old stringcourse above, but it is not easy to see why these were made.

chapter-house



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ENTRANCES TO THE CHAPTER-HOUSE AND BOOK-CLOSETS, WITH DORTER WINDOWS ABOVE.

chapter-house entrance. The first stage extends as high as a contemporary string course, against which the earliest cloister roof abutted, as the joist holes show. The middle stage is of the second date, and contains two windows with inserted tracery. Their sills once began lower down, upon a string course of the second period which marks the height of the second cloister roof. This roof may be traced across and beyond the chapter-house entrance as far as the limit of the first cloister, and on the north along the church wall. On the building of the new dorter the string course below its windows, which is higher up than that last described, was extended westwards and northwards for the abutment of a third cloister roof, on account of which the transept windows were partly blocked and reduced to their present height. The third stage, as mentioned above, was entirely re-built in the fifteenth century.

From the transept southwards the whole of the existing work is of later date and distinctly advanced character. The ground story is pierced with five large and elaborate round-headed doorways with good mouldings, and labels with a delicate dog-tooth ornament. Three of these next the transept form a group. They are alike, and of five orders, once carried by detached shafts, now lost, of marble, of which material are also the uppermost members of the capitals. The innermost order, which is also lost, was carried by triple shafts, and certainly in the two side arches was sub-divided, with a clustered shaft rising from a quatrefoil base.\* The central arch opened, through a vestibule, into the chapter-house. The others open into large square recesses or chambers, with ashlar walls, and rubble barrel vaults springing from chamfered imposts on each side. In the northern chamber the vault is kept low and segmental, on account of the passage above it of

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\* The plinth of this base is left in the northern arch.

the

the dorter stair to the church, and the string course has been cut away on the south. The southern chamber has a high pointed vault. Neither chamber has had doors, but the northern has holes in the inner jamb suggestive of a grate of some kind, of uncertain date.

The chambers just described probably contained the library, in wooden presses arranged round the walls. In the earlier Cistercian abbeys, when books were few, one small recess or chamber sufficed, as at Kirkstall, but in later times, an increase in the number of books called for more room, and so long as they continued to be kept in the cloister, accommodation had to be found for them; hence these large chambers at Furness. The series of arches in the church wall at Beaulieu and Hayles may have been used for a like purpose.\*

#### THE CHAPTER-HOUSE.

The vestibule of the chapter-house was probably entered by a double portal, but the innermost order of the entrance has gone, as well as any remains of a central shaft. The vestibule is 13½ feet square, and has a pretty vault with diagonal, longitudinal, and wall ribs, with central boss like a cross flory. The side walls have an arcade of richly-moulded trefoiled arches, once carried by detached shafts with capitals and bases all of marble, standing on bench tables of the same material.† Two similar arches

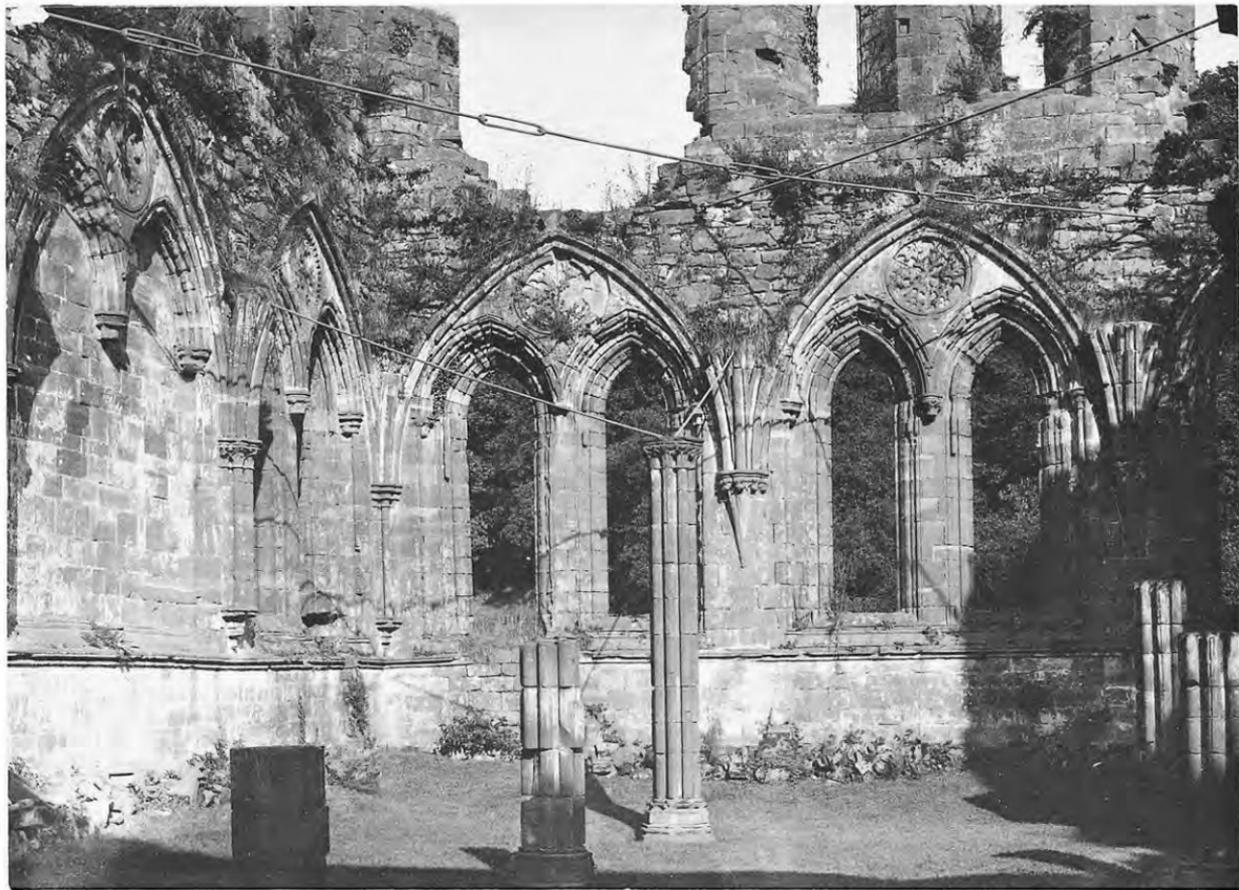
\* In many Cistercian abbeys, e.g. Beaulieu, Jervaulx, Netley, Kirkstall, Tintern, Croxden, and Roche, there was a room between the chapter-house and transept which formed the vestry. Its west end was cut off by a wall and formed into a closet entered from the cloister, as at Kirkstall, Beaulieu, Hayles, and Tintern, and sometimes raised above its level, as at Roche. The closet formed the library, and at Meaux we know not only what books it contained, but how they were arranged; there were four psalters *in communi almario claustris, in suprema theca supra ostium*; nearly forty volumes stood *in suprema theca apposita*; and about 280 other volumes were placed *in eodem armariolo in aliis thecis distinctis per alphabetum*. See the list in *Chronica de Melsa* (Rolls Series, 43), iii. pp. lxxxv.—c. At Fountains the two corner bays at the west end of the chapter-house were screened or walled off in later times to afford room for the library, thus reproducing the same arrangement at Furness. At Calder, one bay was thus cut off from the first, and for the same reason.

† The marble work has suffered greatly from wanton injury. It is of a local blue kind, very hard, and without fossils.

flank



WEST END OF THE CHAPTER-HOUSE.



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THE CHAPTER-HOUSE, LOOKING EAST.

flank the entrance from the cloister. The chapter-house is entered by a lofty pointed archway of three orders, formerly with marble jamb shafts rising from a moulded plinth. The arch was not sub-divided. Its hood-mold has towards the chapter-house a carved floral finial.

The *capitulum* or chapter-house was so called because a portion of the rule of St. Benedict was read in it daily after terce. It was reckoned in importance amongst the buildings second only to the church. That at Furness is four bays long, and divided by clustered pillars into three alleys. The lower part of the side walls is of plain ashlar, and had against it the bench and seats whereon the monks sat in chapter. The upper part of the wall in each bay is filled by a tall pointed arch, formed by the wall-rib, within which are two smaller pointed arches carried by jamb shafts, and in the spandrel above is a circle containing geometrical cusping. In the three end bays, together with one on the north and two on the south, the sub-arches are pierced with lancet windows, the mouldings of which considerably add to the rich and dignified effect of the design. Between the bays on the north, south, and west sides are the vaulting shafts. These are charming groups of three complete and two half shafts with foliated capitals, rising from moulded corbels placed just above the string course below the wall arcades. Between the east windows the shafts die off into conical brackets directly under the capitals. The vault had transverse, diagonal, longitudinal and wall ribs, all moulded, and with small bosses at the intersections. The large stones forming the springers above the pillars, and the capitals of the latter have lewis holes on top. The drums of the pillars have each a central perforation, as if for a vertical tie rod. The floor has disappeared. Beneath it a broad and strong sleeper wall runs from pillar to pillar and thence to the side walls, so that very little room was left for the burial of the abbots, who were usually interred in the chapter-house. Until

Until late in the last century the chapter-house remained perfect, but the encouragement given to the growth of vegetation above it, where there was a garden, led to the inevitable result, and the fall of the vault also brought down part of the south wall. The remaining shell is now strongly tied together with iron bars to arrest further settlement.

From the chapter-house there extends southwards for  $202\frac{1}{2}$  feet the ruin of the dorter sub-vault. It is 30 feet in width, and was vaulted throughout with quadripartite vaulting with wall ribs, springing from corbels along the side walls and supported by a row of octagonal columns down the middle.

The sub-vault is entered from the cloister by the two doorways south of the chapter-house and library entrances. They are of similar design to those, but of smaller span. Each is of four orders, once carried by detached jamb shafts with square capitals, and had outer shafts to carry the hood-mold, which is returned as a small pointed wall-arch between them and the southern arch of the chapter-house series. The arches are plainly moulded, but the outer order of the northernmost doorway is ornamented with a series of billets. This doorway is also distinctly earlier in date than the other, although both have the same bases and hoodmolds, and is contemporary with the north doorway of the church, which it closely resembles. It must therefore have been prepared for or removed from some other place, since there is nothing to shew that it was set up before the doorways right and left of it.

#### THE PARLOUR.

Although these doorways now open into a roofless sub-vault which apparently formed, as it was at first built, one long chamber, it will soon be seen that each formed the entrance to a separate room. The northernmost opens into the first bay of the sub-vault, which was cut off from  
the



VAULTING CORBEL IN THE DORTER SUB-VAULT.

the rest by a thin wall, the base of which remains, and thus formed a chamber two bays long. This perhaps served as the *auditorium juxta capitulum* or parlour, where such talking as was necessary might be carried on instead of in the cloister, where it was strictly forbidden. The vault had moulded ribs, springing from moulded and foliated corbels. Those against the north wall are intact, but the next pair south have a deep vertical groove cut roughly in them for the insertion of the division wall. This wall, as may be seen from the plan, was purposely thinned off as it approached the walls and central pillar to avoid covering up as little as possible of the corbels and capital on its line. In the east end of the parlour was a window, but the stonework of it has been torn out.

#### THE DORTER SUBVAULT.

The bay next the parlour, into which the southernmost of the above-mentioned doorways opened, had also moulded ribs to the vault, which likewise sprang from carved corbels. The springers to the south of the entrance exhibit the peculiarity that the diagonal ribs towards the north are moulded, whilst the transverse rib and the diagonals going south are plain semi-octagons. This second bay therefore appears to have been walled off like the parlour, and as it has another doorway in the east wall it no doubt formed a passage from the cloister to the cemetery, or to some destroyed building or buildings beyond. According to Beck's plan, the eastern doorway, which is a plain pointed one, opened into a covered passage or gallery, with buttresses at regular intervals, like that at Fountains connecting the infirmary with the church and cloister. The remains indicated by Beck have now disappeared, as have all traces of any building to which the gallery may have led.\*

\* An indulgence from Thomas, Bishop of Whithern (*Candida Casa*), dated 1314, mentions the burial place of Elias of Egremont, formerly cellarer, "in Cimiterio juxta magnam ecclesiam dicte Abbathie scilicet in oriente sicud itur ad domum Sacriste de claustro." (Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, 250.) Perhaps the gallery led to the sacrist's "house" or checker in question.

The

The third and fourth bays of the undercroft have each a tall pointed recess in the west wall,\* and a pointed window opposite. The vaulting corbels are not foliated, but quite plain, to match the chamfered ribs that sprang from them. This is very marked on the east side, but the western corbels have delicate mouldings. Immediately beyond the fourth bay there is a break of joint in the masonry in the west wall, beyond which there were no more wall recesses, and the eastern wall suddenly thickens out at the same point opposite from 4 feet 1 inch to 5 feet 7 inches. These alterations evidently mark a difference of date between the work to the south, which is the earlier, and that to the north, which is obviously later.

The thickened portion of the east wall is the for most part ruined to the window sills and stripped internally of a good deal of the ashlar facing. The west wall has been similarly stripped, but is otherwise perfect. Its fifth, sixth, and seventh bays are blank, owing to the dorter stair on the other side of the wall, but the next five bays contain each a window † with pointed head of two orders.

The east wall had similar windows in bays 6-10, and 12. Its fifth bay has in it a plain round-headed doorway, and there was another doorway in the eleventh bay.

The two southernmost bays of the subvault differ from the rest in that they were pierced with tall pointed archways instead of windows, as is the end wall. Five of these archways are about ten feet wide and the sixth eight feet wide, but the actual opening was two feet less in every case at the ground level owing to a battering plinth on each side. A similar arrangement existed at Jervaulx and originally at Fountains, but the object of it is obscure. As the dorter subvault was at first probably a mere store-

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\* The parlour and passage (west) doorways are set in similar recesses. See plan.

† The window in the twelfth bay has in one side a recess for a urinal opening into a drain below.

place

place, it has been supposed that these openings were for the admission of carts, but this would not necessitate so many entrances. Whatever was the object of them it soon passed away, for at Fountains they were not reproduced in the rebuilding after the fire of 1145, and at Furness they were walled up almost immediately after they were built, and in one of those on the east side a large fireplace was inserted.

The remaining bases of the central row of pillars, which are octagonal in plan, are all of late thirteenth century work. It would therefore appear that the vault was not completed until then, since it is hardly likely that it was reconstructed so soon.

Owing to the stripping of the ashlar there is now no evidence of any other subdivisions of the subvault than those mentioned above, nor anything to show to what uses it was put. The several doorways in the east wall prove that at any rate the greater part of it must have served as a thoroughfare, and if the eastern alley were so occupied, the western alley might well have been used, towards the north as a storeplace, towards the south as the novices' department. The fireplace in the south-east corner is suggestive of that part being partitioned off to form the checker or office of the chamberlain or some such officer.

The alteration at the fifth bay noted above was evidently due to the fact that the eastern range was first lengthened to provide a new and enlarged dorter, which the monks could use pending the reconstruction of the old and the rebuilding of the chapter-house. These operations filled up with new work the space between the transept and the southern limit of the cloister as enlarged by the taking in of the old frater area, and included the continuation of the subvault northwards and of the dorter above as far as the transept.

THE

## THE DORTER.

The monks' *dormitorium*, dormitory, or dorter,\* as it was more shortly called, occupied the first floor of the whole of the buildings just described, as well as the room over the chapter-house. It was provided with two staircases: the one on the west, leading up from the cloister, for use by day; the other on the north, leading down into the transept, by which the monks went to the church shortly after midnight to say their *vigiliæ* or mattins. These night stairs did not open directly into the dorter, but into a lobby 13 feet wide formed above the chapter-house vestibule and its flanking chambers. This lobby, which was three bays long, was lighted by a pair of lancets in each bay, but the first pair of lancets are three feet taller than the rest, to give more light to the descending stairs that passed beneath them.

The room over the chapter-house was open to the lobby, but owing to the greater height of the chapter-house, its floor was about five feet above the general level of the dorter. It was lighted by pairs of lancets in each bay, but these were much shorter than the other dorter windows, so that the roof might be kept down to the same height as the main one, which abutted against the transept. There is no evidence that this room was used for a *scriptorium*, or for any other purpose than a place to sleep in.

The rest of the dorter was lighted from end to end by pairs of lancets like those in the lobby. Externally the bays are marked towards the cloister by recessing the windows between pilaster buttresses rising from a string course, but on the east, and probably on the west after the windows cleared the day staircase there, the buttresses

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\* The old English word "dorter," meaning a dormitory or sleeping place, occurs in the form of "dortore" before the end of the thirteenth century. It is derived from the old French *dortour* or *dortier*, which in turn comes from the Latin *dormitorium*. See *A New English Dictionary*, iii. 607, s.v. *Dortour*, Dorter.

started

started from the ground. The windows are not grooved for glass, but rebated for a frame in which the glazing was fixed. Only the northernmost part of the dorter walls now remains, but the west wall extends far enough south to include one side of the entrance from the day stair. A regular series of beam holes between the windows internally seems to show that the dorter was, as usual in later times, divided up into cubicles.

Against the dorter wall may be seen the mark of the day stairs. They started in the corner of the cloister, and passed upwards through the arch to a landing in front of the dorter doorway. The steps seem to have been about forty in number, with a rise of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches and a tread of  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches; their breadth is uncertain. The staircase was covered by a pointed barrel vault, with transverse ribs, of six bays, springing from an ornamented stringcourse. It was lighted apparently by a window towards the cloister. At the foot of the stairs is a trefoiled niche in the wall for a light or cresset.

#### THE REREDORTER.

Over the fifth pair of windows on the east side of the dorter, and extending from buttress to buttress, are two round-headed arches, carried by an intermediate corbel, and built out about two feet in advance of the parapet. There is nothing to suggest their object or use, but they may have had something to do with a destroyed building that here abutted against the fifth and sixth bays. This was a two-storied structure that formed, on the first floor, the way to the *dormitorii necessaria* or reredorter. This latter, of which only the lower parts now remain, stood north and south parallel with the dorter, from which it was distant 31 feet. It consisted originally of a long narrow basement at least 40 feet long, and of the first date, divided longitudinally by a thin wall into two parallel water-courses. This wall was no doubt carried up as high

high as the first floor to carry a partition dividing the rows of seats there, which would be placed back to back against it over the water-course below. After the erection of the new dorter, the reredorter was added to at each end, thereby increasing its length to 97 feet, and afterwards connected with the dorter by the building above mentioned. This building or bridge was entered by a door at the dorter level, but this too has been destroyed. The lower or ground story had a doorway into it from the dorter subvault, which seems to have been partly overlapped by an added staircase to the first floor; there is also an original doorway opposite in the reredorter basement. The south wall had in it at least one window, and in its lower part are formed two massive straight-sided straining arches, as if to distribute the weight over a soft or marshy spot. An added wall further on against the southern end of the reredorter contains a similar arch, but segmental in form.

Owing to the diversion of the water-course in recent times the stream no longer runs through the reredorter, and its southern part has been destroyed in making the new channel. But West's plan shows that in his day there was still water running through the building.

#### THE WARMING HOUSE.

The buildings on the south side of the cloister have been so completely destroyed that very little else than their foundations is left to tell of their position, extent, and history.

Immediately west of the dorter stairs was the *calefactorium* or warming-house, containing a fire or fires at which the monks might come and warm themselves in winter. From the existing foundations the *calefactorium* at Furness was 40 feet long and had certainly one fireplace, in the west wall. The width is uncertain, since there seems to have been a passage on the east which was probably shut off by a wall or partition from the rest of the room.

THE

## THE FRATER.

According to the direction for the Sunday procession, the place visited next after the *calefactorium* was the *refectorium* or frater,\* where the monks took their meals.

Of the frater at Furness nothing is standing above ground, but the site is marked by a puzzling series of foundations. These were partly uncovered in 1881-2, but have since been more fully investigated and planned. It is still not easy to make out their sequence, but the following explanation may help to elucidate it.

The first frater stood east and west on the south side of the old square cloister, and was  $26\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and 55 feet long.† On the east of it was a passage through the range,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, and in continuation of it westwards as far as the *cellarium* was a large chamber, about  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet square, which probably served as the kitchen, or contained the buttery and pantry and the way to the kitchen. Both this chamber and the passage probably had, or were intended to have, rooms over them.

When the abbey became Cistercian a new frater,  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide and 71 feet long, but standing Cistercian-wise, north and south,‡ appears to have been built up against the old frater. The latter was thereupon pulled down, with the buttery, etc. and their area added to the cloister. The south wall of the new frater was extended westwards to the *cellarium* and pierced with a doorway opening into the kitchen yard thus formed.

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\*The old English word "frater," meaning a dining-hall, is at least as old as the thirteenth century. It has nothing to do with *frater*, a brother, but is derived directly from the old French *fratur*, a shortened form of *refreitor* which comes from the Middle Latin *refectorium*. See *A New English Dictionary*, iv. 515, s.v. Frater.

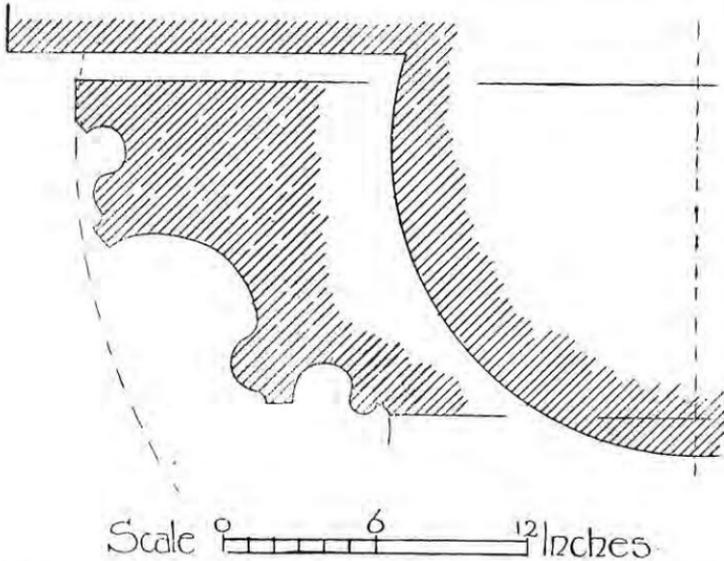
†The foundations of the north wall have lately been traced by Mr. Jesse Turner, and examined and planned by myself, and Mr. Turner has since traced the foundation of the passage on the east.

‡The frater at Sibton, in Suffolk, was, however, built east and west from the first, for no apparent reason. That at Cleeve was rebuilt in the fifteenth century in the Benedictine manner, but originally followed the Cistercian plan.

This

This state of things did not long continue, inasmuch as the second frater seems to have become too small for the growing convent. It was accordingly taken down and replaced by a bigger hall, about 100 feet long and 40 feet wide, at the expense southwards of about a third of the kitchen and its yard. This alteration appears to have been made much about the time the church was begun to be enlarged.

Early in the thirteenth century the frater was again rebuilt, and extended in length to 153 feet. But the new (fourth) frater was narrower than its predecessor, the width being reduced to 37 feet, probably to make room for



PLAN AND SECTION OF A PURBECK MARBLE CORBEL PROBABLY PART  
OF THE BASE OF THE FRATER PULPIT.

a new and larger kitchen on the west. A very large corbel of Purbeck marble, apparently part of the base of the pulpit, now lying on the bank west of the *cellarium*, and a number of other architectural fragments can

can hardly have belonged to any other structure than the fourth frater, and they show clearly that much good work must have been lavished upon it. Part of its cornice, carved with masses of leafwork, set at intervals in a broad hollow, was dug up on the site in 1897, and there are other pieces of it in the museum. Some small remains of a lavatory of the same date exist in the south alley of the cloister, between the sites of the old frater and kitchen doorways.

Last, probably late in the fifteenth century, the fourth frater was pulled down and replaced by a new building of much smaller dimensions. For some obscure reason, this was built a little further to the west than its predecessors, and the few remains of its plan have added considerably to the confusion attending the existence of so many series of foundations. It seems to have been about 88 feet long and 32 feet wide, and to have been divided into five bays, with a half-bay at the north end to contain the screens.

For the history of this new hall it is necessary to consider certain points in the constitutions of the Cistercian Order. According to the Customs in force down to 1240, it was directed that "within the monastery let no one eat flesh or anything fat, except the sick and workmen,"\* and by an institution of general chapter between 1240 and 1256, this rule, which seems to have originally adopted in 1157, was re-enacted in more precise terms.† But within a hundred years later circumstances had so far changed that by a constitution of Pope Benedict XII. in 1335 the monks were allowed, under certain conditions, to eat meat

\* "Intra monasterium nullus vescatur carne aut sagimine. nisi omnino infirmi et artifices conducti." *Consuetudines*, section ii. § xxv. *Nomasticon Cisterciense*, 218.

† "Nulla persona Ordinis nostri extra infirmitoria nostra carnes comedat, etiam jussu alicujus Episcopi vel praelati . . . . In ipsis autem infirmitoriis, nullus Abbas, monachus, vel conversus pro minutione, solatio, consortiove alicujus, aut aliqua occasione, nisi, quemadmodum in Regula continetur, omnino debilis fuerit aut ægrotus, carnes audeat manducare." *Institutiones Capituli Generalis 1240 et 1256, Distinctio xiii. § i. Nomasticon Cisterciense*, 349.

in the farmery, and by invitation with the abbot in his lodging. By the end of the fifteenth century it had become the general custom for the monks to eat meat three times a week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, except in Advent, Septuagesima, Lent and other seasons of fasting ; while on the other days they were restricted to the vegetarian diet prescribed by the older rules. But the relaxation in favour of meat did not permit it to be eaten in the frater, nor to be cooked in the common kitchen, it became necessary therefore to provide a special hall, or "misericord," as it was called, for the purpose. As the first indulgence was at first permitted only in the farmery, the new chamber usually formed part of that establishment as at Waverley and Fountains, the meat being cooked in the farmery kitchen. At Clairvaux, where it was also in the farmery, it was called in 1505 "le reffectoir gras, pour ce que lesdicts religieulx y mengent chair les dimanches, mardy, et jeudy . . . . et à costé dudit reffectoir bas est la fenestre par où l'on sort de la cuysine, appellée la cuysine grasse."\*. But in some abbeys, as at Kirkstall and Jervaulx, the case was met in another way, by dividing the frater into two stories and using the lower as the misericord and the upper as the frater ; and in each case, a new meat kitchen was built on the south-east to serve the misericord, while the old kitchen continued to serve the frater, *reffectoir maigre* as it was called at Clairvaux.

Now with regard to Furness, there does not appear to be any hall or room attached to the farmery which might have served as the misericord, and it is therefore not improbable that the new fifteenth century frater was a two-storied structure, like that at Kirkstall, with the misericord below. A projecting foundation on the west is suggestive of an external service stair to the frater on

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\* Didron, *Annales Archéologiques*, iii.

the first floor, and a possible reason for the interval between the new building and the warming-house on the east was to afford room for a staircase there leading up from the cloister.

To recapitulate, it will be seen that the first Cistercian frater of about 1150 was replaced by a larger one some twenty-five years later; that this in turn gave way to a longer and narrower frater about 1220; which again was replaced in the fifteenth century by a new building of different character.

Such, at any rate, seems to be the story told by the remaining fragments and foundations, and it is difficult to see what else they can be made to represent.

The history of the frater suggested above has been further complicated by the recent discovery\* of an earlier foundation underlying the southern end of the first Cistercian frater, and composed of rubble with ashlar quoins. The extent to which it could be traced is shown on the plan. It belonged to a building  $30\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, but what that was it is difficult to say.

#### THE KITCHEN.

An even greater difficulty than the history of the frater is presented by that of the *coquina* or kitchen. Of the earliest kitchen there are no remains. When the first Cistercian frater was built, a new kitchen was erected to serve it, probably in the usual place, just off the cloister, from which it was entered, between the frater and the *cellarium*. At the enlargement of the frater in the twelfth century the kitchen must also have been reconstructed, and if it continued in its old position it can only have been extended southwards. The rebuilding of the frater in the thirteenth century also involved the erection of a

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\* By Mr. Jesse Turner, in February, 1900

new and larger kitchen. When the frater was at length pulled down and replaced by a two-storied hall, the further encroachment upon the site of the kitchen necessitated its removal elsewhere, and it may have occupied part of the ground story of the cellarer's building, which had then begun to be put to other uses than originally. The remains of this, however, are hereabouts so destroyed that it is now impossible to say whether such was the case or not. It must not, however, be forgotten that two kitchens were needed to serve the two-storied hall, and if the kitchen in the *cellarium* basement became the *cuisine maigre*, another would be wanted as the *cuisine gras*.

It is not improbable that this was obtained by the retention and conversion of the southern end of the thirteenth century frater. The bonded junction of the remains of its west wall with the south end of the later building is strongly suggestive of some such retention, and a kitchen in this position would correspond with those at Jervaulk and Kirkstall, which served the lower halls there. A further point in favour of this view is that such new kitchen would also serve the monks' infirmary, which, as will be seen below, became in need of it at the same time.

#### THE CELLARER'S BUILDING.

The range of building on the west side of the cloister was 223 long by 29 feet wide, and was divided into two vaulted alleys, fifteen and a half bays long, by a central row of pillars. Of these only some of the bases and plinths remain, and of the outer walls little is left beyond the plinths except at the church end, where the northern gable retains part of the upper story.

It is evident upon an examination of the existing foundations, etc. that in the first laying out of the monastery there was begun here a two-storied building at least ten bays long and two bays wide, which was to have had

had a vaulted basement. The responds at the north end, and some of the remaining bases, show that the piers to carry the vault were cylindrical in plan with four small detached shafts, the whole fitted to square scalloped capitals and bases of the type then in fashion.

We are unable to say how far this building was carried up, but as the only remains of it are the north end and the foundations of its east wall, there is little left to tell the story.

After the abbey became Cistercian this range was extended in length and completed, with an external stair on the west side, covering bays 8-10, to give access to the upper floor by day.

In the *Consuetudines* this building is called the *cellarium*, a loose term which gives no clue as to its actual use, since the *cellarium* practically included all those parts of the abbey in the cellarer's department. As a matter of fact this building was for the accommodation of the *conversi* or lay brothers: their frater and other offices forming the ground floor, while the upper story was their dorter.\*

As the division of the abbey buildings into two great groups for the use of the monks (*monachi*) and lay brothers

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\* The identity of this building with the *cellarium* is clearly shown in the history of the sister abbey at Meaux. After describing the building of the monks' dorter and the rest of the eastern range, and of the frater and the buildings flanking it, the chronicler states that the fourth abbot, Alexander (1197-1210), "*refectorium conversorum ab abbate Thoma inceptum perfecit; et domum superiorem, scilicet dormitorio eorundem, inchoavit.*" [*Chronica de Melsa* (R.S.) i. 326.] The *dormitorium conversorum* was finished by the fifth abbot, Hugh (1210-1220). [*Ibid.* i. 380.] Its position is fixed on the west side of the cloister by two entries: one recording that Abbot William (1372-1396) leded *inter alia* part of the monks' cloister "ab ostio refectorii monachorum usque ad dormitorio conversorum;" the other that Abbot Burton (1396-1399) "ipsam partem claustrum a dormitorio monachorum usque ad dormitorio conversorum juxta ecclesiam" (*i.e.* the north or church side of the cloister) "fecit tabulis plumboque reparari." [*Ibid.* iii. 224, 241.] At Kirkstall the first stone buildings are recorded to have been, besides the church, "*utrumque dormitorio monachorum scilicet et conversorum, utrumque etiam refectorium, claustrum, et capitulum, etc.*" *i.e.* all the buildings round the cloister, and since the positions of the monks' dorter and frater are known, there is no doubt that the frater and dorter of the *conversi* formed the western range. [Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, v. 531.] The *dormitorium conversorum* is mentioned in the *Annales de Crohesden* among the buildings erected by Abbot London (1242-1269). [Cott. MS. Faustina B. vi. f. 74.]

(*conversi*)

(*conversi*) respectively is a feature peculiar to the Cistercians, a few words on the difference between the two classes may make matters clearer. Both *monachi* and *conversi* were equally monks in that they had taken the three monastical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but the *monachi* spent their time in church and cloister, and never left the abbey precincts except in cases of necessity. They were not necessarily priests, although in course of time most of them became so, and then their life differed little from that of the regular canons. The *conversi*, or *fratres laici* as they were also called (in contradistinction to the *monachi*, who were *fratres clerici*), were practically monks who could not read. They were not necessarily of humble origin, but might be, and often were men of good family who desired to enter the monastic life, and being unlettered could only do so by becoming *conversi*, in which condition they always remained, since a *conversus* could never become a *monachus*. They had charge, under the cellarer, of all the secular and external affairs of the monastery, and many of them lived in the granges or farms, which they worked, under the direction of obedientiaries chosen from among themselves. When resident in the abbey, as some of them always were, they kept certain of the hours in the church like the monks, and at the same time, but inasmuch as they could not read they substituted for the regular quire offices certain prayers and psalms which they learnt by heart. As has already been pointed out, the nave of the church was the quire of the *conversi*, and the buildings for their accommodation, which included a dorter, frater, infirmary, etc. were in immediate connection therewith, just as the monks' buildings adjoined their part of the church. The great size of the buildings for the *conversi* has often been commented on. Nothing is known of the number of inmates of the abbey at Furness, but at Waverley at the end of the twelfth century there were 120 *conversi* and 70 monks,

monks, and at Louth Park during the second quarter of the thirteenth century 150 *conversi* and 66 monks. At Meaux in 1349 the *conversi* were only seven in number, all of whom died of the Great Pestilence, as well as 32 out of 42 monks then in the abbey.

After the middle of the fourteenth century the *conversi* in this country seem as a class to have died out, and to have been replaced by hired servants and labourers; probably because the gradual spread of education and other causes had extinguished the class from which they had been formerly drawn. Meaux is one of the few English abbeys where they are known to have been continued, but their number is not recorded, and in the time of Abbot William of Scarborough (1372-1396) they all struck work and were superseded by monks.\* Their buildings were then put to other uses. At Hayles the *cellarium* had been converted into the abbot's lodging for some time before the Suppression, and a similar thing seems to have happened at Ford, where the sumptuous hall and other apartments of the abbot's house built by Abbot Chard in 1525 still remain in a most perfect state, extending westwards from the former site of the *cellarium*.†

The *cellarium* at Furness, although built, as to its ground story, as one great apartment vaulted from end to end, was divided as usual by cross walls into several sections. The first and second bays, counting from the north, formed one chamber, which was probably used as the outer parlour, where the monks could meet their friends and transact business with outsiders. For this reason it had two doorways: one from the cloister, the other on the west from

\* "Ejus tamen tempore, *conversi* omnes de monasterio defecerunt; pro quorum numero monachos supplevit, et annuum pensum pro victu conventus augmentavit. Infirmatoria *conversorum* et *sæcularium* ab incolis et invalidis destituit. Coquinam infirmatorii *conversorum* diruit, ac aliam coquinam antiqui hospitii in cameram super polanyhat reformavit, et penticum deinde usque ad magnas portas construxit, quod de capella extra portas fecerat amoveri." *Chronica de Melsa*, iii. 229.

† See a paper by Mr. Gordon M. Hills, published by the British Archæological Association in *Collectanea Archæologica*, ii. 145-159.

without.

without. The next four bays formed two more chambers, separated by a thin wall, and at first probably served as a beer cellar and storeplace, and in part as the buttery. The seventh bay had a doorway at each end and was the main entrance into the cloister. It had also a doorway on the north into the buttery and cellar, and another on the south. The latter opened into the frater of the *conversi*, which occupied the remaining bays, and had also its only doorway from without in the eighth bay.

Of the lay brothers' dorter on the first floor there only remains part of the north gable, with the later doorway already described that gave access to the staircase down into the church.

In later times considerable changes were made in and about the *cellarium*. It had no doubt originally had, as at Fountains, a wooden pentise extending along the west wall from the outer staircase to the church door. In the thirteenth (or perhaps the fourteenth) century the pentise seems to have been rebuilt in stone, and its south end replaced by a porch covering the cloister entry in the seventh bay.\* This porch was built in an angle formed by the *cellarium* and a building extending westwards from it, and had a doorway in its north wall into the pentise. After the foundation of the western tower and the consequent shortening of the nave, the doorway to which the pentise led was done away with. The pentise having thus become useless, seems to have been taken down and the doorway into it from the porch walled up.

The extinction of the *conversi*, which probably took place at Furness, as elsewhere, about the middle of the fourteenth century, led to a rearrangement of the building hitherto occupied by them. The two bays forming the parlour were made more comfortable by the insertion of a fireplace in the wall to the south. Another fireplace

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\* There seems to have been a like porch at Fountains.

back to back with this shows that the next two bays had ceased to be cellars and also become habitable; and the walling up of the doorway from the cloister entry into the old buttery suggests that a third room had been formed out of this also, although no traces of the fireplace remain. The doorways into the former frater of the lay brothers from the cloister and entry were also blocked, and the frater itself was subdivided into at least two chambers. One of these, occupying the four bays (8-11) south of the entry (7) may have served, in later times, as suggested above, as one of the kitchens to the two-storied frater, and the wide arch in the east wall of the eleventh bay was perhaps then inserted to facilitate the service. The remaining bays, which were partly subdivided towards the south, may well have served as cellarge instead of the chambers further north.

Of the use to which the upper story was put we have no information. Perhaps it became a wool store.

It has been already noted that a building extended westward from the middle of the length of the *cellarium*, with which it seems to have been contemporary. Not improbably, as in the corresponding example of Jervaulx, it served as the lay brothers' rere-dorter. In the fifteenth century, however, it was taken down, with the exception of the lower part of its west wall, and replaced by another building of about the same size, of uncertain use. Of this only the lower parts are left, on the north side with three windows, two being squareheaded and of two lights, the third a mere loop.

At its west end the building just described abutted against a retaining wall running north and south against the bank. This wall is now considerably ruined, but there seems to have been a gateway in it just to the north of the building, to give access from without to the entry to the cloister.

THE

## THE INFIRMARY OF THE CONVERSI.

From the building west of the *cellarium*, there extend southwards for at least 60 feet the foundations of a stone wall. This evidently continued some 26 feet further and there abutted against the end of a large building, attached to the south-west angle of the *cellarium*. Of this edifice, which is now almost entirely destroyed, there remain a few detached fragments of the northern end, a considerable length of walling on the west, with a water-course along its base, and a piece of the rough foundation of its south-east angle, within the area of a later building.

These remains when laid down on plan are seen to be those of a large hall, probably of five bays, about 90 feet long and 17 feet broad, built north and south, with an aisle of the same area on the east, divided from it by piers and arches. On the west was a narrower aisle or attached building through which ran the watercourse above noted. The hall had a wide entrance doorway on the north, of the thirteenth century, to which date the whole structure probably belonged, and was no doubt approached from the *cellarium* porch by a pentise, built against the wall already mentioned.

From the fact that this building was in contact with the *cellarium* as well as in communication with it by the pentise, it is almost certain that, like those in the corresponding positions at Fountains and Jervaulx, it was the *infirmitorium conversorum* or infirmary of the lay brothers, consisting of a large hall, perhaps with a kitchen in the north end of its aisle,\* and a garderobe or reredorter on the west.

Such a department was certainly included among the buildings of the abbey, as well as an infirmary for seculars,† and there is positive documentary evidence of

\* A convenient drain here ran beneath the floor.

† See Beck (p. 128) for an undated deed of the twelfth century which mentions gifts made *ad usum pauperum in infirm[aria] seculari*.

both

both at Pipewell and Meaux. At Pipewell they are enumerated in the list of places to which *ligniferi* were appointed *ad portandum cotidie siccum boscum et mortuum* for the fires.\* At Meaux the *infirmatorium conversorum* is recorded to have been built by Abbot Driffeld, 1249-69; and during the rule of Abbot William of Scarborough (1372-96): "*Infirmatoria conversorum et secularium ab incolis et invalidis destituit. Coquinam infirmatorii conversorum diruit, etc.*" †

The garderobe on the west of the building at Furness is of such a length that it is not improbable that it was subdivided, and also served as a reredorter in connexion with the *cellarium*. The manner in which the infirmary is attached to the last-named building would render communication between them quite possible by means of a bridge across the north end of the hall. Some remains of a second line of wall on the bank above the watercourse shew that the reredorter had an upper story which extended westward beyond the line of the drain, and formed a passage in front of the garderobes.

The almost total destruction and even uprooting of the foundations of the lay brothers' infirmary, and the fact that its southern end is overlaid by a later building, seem to point to its demolition some time before the Suppression. The great garderobe may, however, have remained until the last, together with some part of the north end of the hall to carry the bridge to it; the preservation of their remain would thus be accounted for.

#### THE INFIRMARY OF THE MONKS.

The southern end of the monastic precinct was closed by a large block of buildings standing east and west, extending from the infirmary of the lay brothers to some little way beyond the south end of the eastern range.

\* Cott. MS. Otho B. 14, f. 150b.

† *Chronica de Melsa*, iii. 229.

This

This block formed the *infirmitorium*, infirmary, or "farmery" as it was more usually called for short, of the monks. The monastic infirmary was, as its name implies, not only the hospital for sick, but also the abode of infirm monks, and such as had been professed fifty years (*sempectæ*). It was, further, the temporary lodging of the *minuti*, or monks who had been let blood. This operation was undergone by the Cistercians in companies four times in the year, usually in February, April, September, and about Midsummer-day, but not during harvest, nor in Advent or Lent, nor the first three days of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. For the accommodation of these several sections of the convent, an establishment of some size was necessary; and the great infirmaries at Canterbury, Peterborough, and Fountains were probably fully tenanted when the monastic fervour was at its height. According to the *Consuetudines*, the *minuti* among the Cistercians did not go into farmery, but remained in cloister and took their meals in the frater. But probably by the time these infirmaries were built at Fountains and elsewhere, they were used in the same way as in other Orders. In later times, when the number of the monks had diminished, the infirmary seems to have been devoted to other purposes as well.

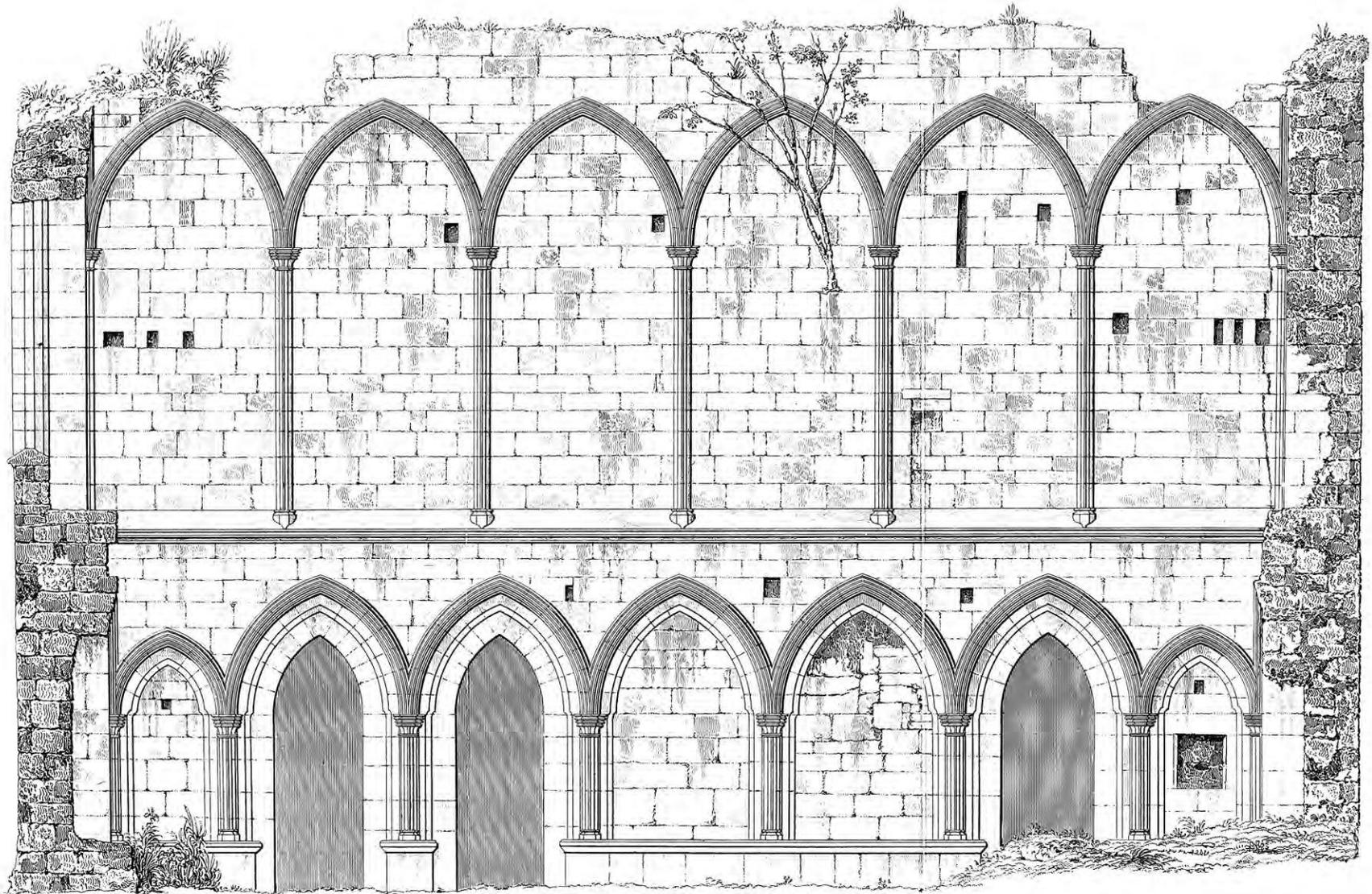
The monks' infirmary at Furness consisted of a great hall with a two-storied building at the west end, and a chapel and buttery at the other extremity with chambers over them. From the buttery a passage led round to a detached octagonal kitchen on the east. The infirmary communicated directly with the cloister by means of a pentise reaching from the hall doorway to the warming house, built parallel with and some 10 or 12 feet distant from the west wall of the dorter range, so as not to obscure the subvault windows. With the exception of the kitchen, which was older, the whole block dates from one period, the last quarter of the thirteenth century.

The



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WALL ARCADE AT EAST END OF THE INFIRMARY HALL.



EAST END OF THE INFIRMARY HALL

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The great hall, which was of five bays, was 126 feet long and 47 feet broad, but has been so completely destroyed that only its east end is now standing to any height, and its north and south walls are ruined to their foundations and plinths respectively. A small fragment, however, of each remains attached to the east end, and from these it is possible to recover some of the arrangements.

The walls were divided into two stories. The lower or ground story, which was 14 feet high, seems to have had a continuous arcade of moulded pointed arches carried by triplets of shafts set in front of as many dividing piers, the whole being set upon a stone bench table. On the east wall, there are seven such arches, five broad, three of which are pierced as doorways, and two narrower end ones, each containing a locker recess. Along the side walls there were three arches to a bay, and within each was a wide recess 6 feet 7 inches long, 3 feet deep, and 9 feet high, lighted by a low window. These recesses probably held beds for the inmates. A similar arrangement existed in the aisles of the farmery of the lay brothers at Fountains, a century earlier. At Furness the fifth arch on the north side seems to have contained the main entrance, and on the south side the sixth and seventh arches had fireplaces in them. This leaves fourteen bed recesses on the north and thirteen on the south, and there seems to have been room for four more on the west, making a total of thirty-one. The floors of the recesses were level with the bench table on which the arches stood.

The upper story, which was at least 20 feet high, seems to have had in each bay a four-light window, with pointed rear-arch, flanked by two acutely pointed wall-arches. On the north, a jamb of the easternmost window is left, together with one of the side panels. Internally these arches formed a continuous arcade carried by triplets of engaged shafts. The arcade was also returned across the east

east (and probably the destroyed west) wall, but here it consisted of six blind arches of equal height and breadth.

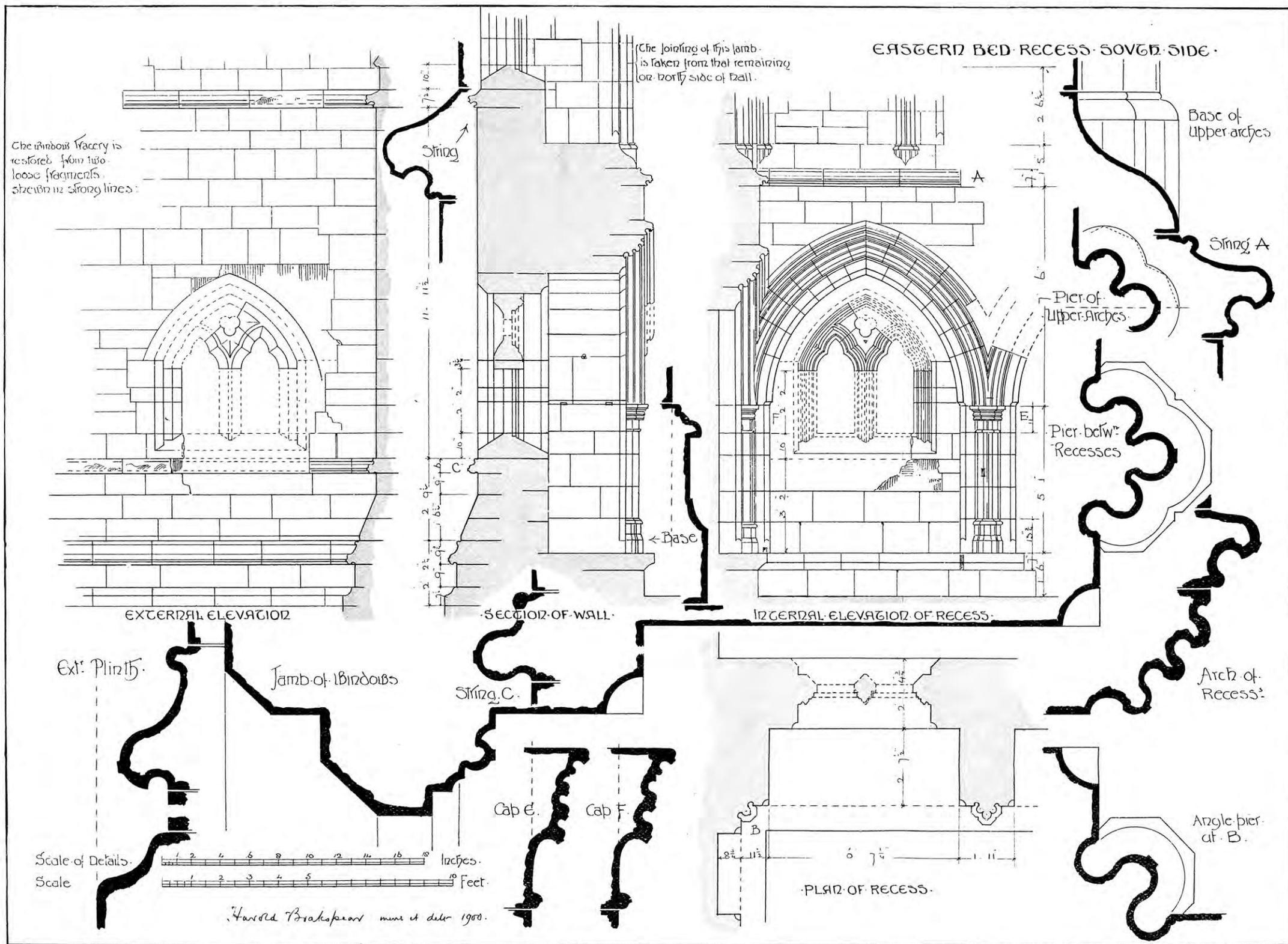
How or whether the hall was subdivided there is nothing whatever to show. The arrangement of the side walls and the remains of the east end rather suggest that instead of being cut up by arcades the hall was roofed in one span. But at the time of its building a roof with tie beams over 50 feet long would scarcely have been left entirely unsupported save at the ends, and not improbably the main divisions were also upheld by wooden posts or pillars. From such posts, if placed near enough to the side walls, it would have been possible to run partitions so as to form cubicles in front of the bed recesses. The arrangement would thus have afforded an example of the transition from beds laid along one side of the hall or in an aisle to the separate chambers traceable at Fountains and elsewhere. The substitution of wall fireplaces for the open braziers beneath a central louvre is also noteworthy. A like feature occurs in John of Kent's farmery hall at Fountains.

The west end of the hall was covered by a two-storied building, externally of the same width, but internally nearly 21 feet wide from east to west and  $50\frac{1}{4}$  feet from north to south. The northernmost third of the ground story was cut off from the rest by a cross wall,\* but there is nothing to show what it is used for, unless it contained latrines, over a drain that ran beneath its floor. The larger chamber had a doorway from the hall, and against its western side are the lower portions of four stone piers with chamfered bases, but unequally spaced. Behind them towards the south two deep recesses are sunk into the wall, with an opening through the intervening masonry. These are contemporary with the hall and were probably

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\* In the western end of this wall are the traces of a narrow doorway.

cupboards



FURNESS ABBEY.—DETAILS OF THE INFIRMARY HALL

cupboards, but the piers are a little later and not bonded into the wall,\* and the object of them is not apparent.

Of the upper story nothing further can be said than that it existed, and that it was reached by a narrow vice at the south end of the west wall of the great hall, from which it was apparently entered. It was most likely the infirmary's *camera*.

Attached to the north-west corner of the infirmary block are the ruins of a roughly-built structure of late date, about  $32\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide. It partly overlies the foundations of the south-east angle of the old infirmary of the *conversi*, which exist under the remains of its flagged floor. There is a doorway in its north wall towards the west, and immediately within it in the angle an ascending flight of steps. As a large tree stands within the building it is not possible to investigate it further, and its use must remain doubtful.

In the southern end of the east wall of the infirmary hall is a moulded doorway into the chapel. This was about 42 feet long and 25 feet wide, and of three bays. It has lost its floor and fittings, and the easternmost windows have lost their tracery, otherwise the chapel is complete even to its vault. Around all four walls is a bench table, on which the vaulting shafts stand, and above this is a belt of ashlar about four feet high surmounted by a moulded string course. The west end and the two westernmost bays of the north side have the rest of the wall also of plain ashlar, but the first north bay, the east end, and the three south bays were severally pierced with windows. The east window was a wide one with a depressed head and seemingly of five lights, but its sill has been destroyed and only a few fragments of the tracery are left. The two windows next it on either side have also lost their tracery. They were, however, clearly

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\* The chamfered base of the fourth pier is a piece of older work re-used.

of the same pattern as the two remaining south windows, which are fortunately fairly perfect with the exception of their mullions.\* All four windows have depressed and almost straight-sided heads, following the line of the vaulting, and are of two lights. These were trefoiled with a small quatrefoil over, and in the head a cusped circle. The windows had moulded rear-arches carried by shafts, and their arches were themselves richly moulded. In the sill of the first south window are the remains of a somewhat remarkable piscina, etc. It consists of a broad and flat half-octagonal recess, supported in front by a triple shaft, and originally surmounted by a groined canopy. This had on each side a small drain, fashioned in the top of a circular shaft that flanked the central triplet. There are no traces of the altar or its platform. The vault has moulded transverse, diagonal, and wall ribs, without bosses, with narrower longitudinal ribs along the junction of the groins.

The chapel is now used as a museum for the more important architectural and other remains which have from time to time been found in the ruins. Among them are examples of the twin marble capitals and bases of the thirteenth century cloister, and pieces of some rich fourteenth century screenwork from the church. Here also lie the fine effigies of a knight and lady which were uncovered in the north aisle; † also the remarkable marble figures of two knights in flat-topped helmets, removed from the presbytery, ‡ which are among the earliest monumental effigies in this country. Next to them lies another effigy in the same material of a deacon, unfortunately headless, in girded albe, stole, and fanon, holding the *textus* or gospel-book. §

To the north of the chapel, and entered from the hall

\* These have been replaced by rough and clumsy blocks of stone.

† See Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, 376 and engraved plate opposite.

‡ *Ibid.* 382, and engraved plate opposite.

§ See the engraving in M. H. Bloxam, *The Principles of Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture*, 11th edition, iii. 55.

by





Scale of 0 1 2 3 4 Feet.

Drawn by H. Shaw, F.S.A.

Engraved by J. Le Keux, San?

### EFFIGIES IN THE CHANCEL.

NOW REMOVED TO THE INFIRMARY CHAPEL.

by a double doorway, is a chamber of two bays, about  $25\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $17\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, with a plain quadripartite vault of two severies with chamfered ribs springing from corbels. Although now one room, it is evident upon examination that it was originally divided by a longitudinal partition into two narrow sections, each with its own door from the hall. The southern division has on the east a window of two trefoiled lights with a transom, of which the upper part was glazed, and the lower shuttered. The south wall is plain, and from the cutting away of the vaulting corbel seems to have had a tall press or cupboard against it. A like press perhaps stood against the partition opposite. This division not improbably formed the buttery.

The northern division, which was at first the entry from the kitchen, has another doorway from without opposite to the entrance from the hall, and two other doorways in its north wall. One of these opens into a large circular vice leading to an upper story; the other into the passage to the kitchen. This passage for a few feet runs north, then deflects to the north-east, then again to the east, and finally turned abruptly southwards to the kitchen. From its width,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet, it was also perhaps partly used as a store-place. Its eastern extremity was over the stream and has been destroyed, and the remainder is standing only to the height of a couple of feet.

The north wall of the kitchen entry is  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick and of curious construction. It will be seen from the plan that the north-east angle of the great hall was covered externally by a narrow branch from the gallery of communication with the cloister. From the east end of this branch a small doorway, in the angle between the buttress and the hall wall, opened into an ascending staircase in the thickness of the wall. This staircase, which is at first oblique, but afterwards straight, is carried up sufficiently high to pass over the doorway of the  
kitchen

kitchen passage below and thence to the vice beyond, into which it led. The vice opens into a narrow passage, also in the thickness of the wall. This passage has a wide doorway in the middle of its length, with a small square-headed window beyond it, and was roofed with stone slabs. The doorway opened northwards, apparently into a wooden gallery surmounting the passage to the kitchen. Opposite the doorway an ascending flight of eight steps led up to the chambers above the buttery and chapel. This upper story has been so ruined that it is difficult to make out its arrangements, the east and south walls being levelled to the floor. It seems to have been divided into two rooms corresponding to those below. That over the buttery had two trefoil lights of unequal width in the north wall. The room over the chapel was subdivided by a broad but low arch\* on the line between the first and second bays, and had a garderobe on the west, with a shaft descending through the wall into the drain below. The whole thus comprised (1) a living room and bedroom above the chapel, (2) a lobby and servant's room over the buttery and kitchen entry, and (3) a gallery or walking-place, and perhaps an oratory, over the kitchen passage. It had further an independent connexion with the cloister, and communicated directly with the kitchen, etc. The entire arrangement and its approaches are so curious that they must have had some special use apart from the infirmary, and it is therefore not improbable that, like the similar lodging in the corresponding place at Fountains, we have here the original *camera* for the father-abbot of Savigny, or his deputy, when he held his annual visitation of the abbey.

Close to the north-east angle of the infirmary block are the remains of a large octagonal kitchen, 37 feet in diameter, of the first quarter of the thirteenth century.

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\*The springing of this remains on the north side.

Although



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NORTH SIDE OF THE EASTERN PART OF THE INFIRMARY.

Although afterwards connected with it by the passage already described, and by a wooden pentise directly with the entry from the hall, it is clear from their difference of date that the kitchen did not originally belong to the infirmary block, the east end of which was specially planned to avoid it. It had a fireplace in one angle, and a flagged floor, on which stood several stone troughs or sinks, with a convenient drain through the wall. The beck which ran beneath the building served to carry away all refuse thrown into it. The recent excavations disclosed a number of architectural fragments, which shewed that the kitchen had been covered with a ribbed vault and surmounted by an octagonal lantern, all of stone. Some portions of a hooded fireplace were also found.

At some time in the fifteenth century the kitchen either fell down or was demolished, and henceforth, as suggested above, the infirmary would be served by the new kitchen formed in the south end of the old frater.

To the south-east of the kitchen are the remains of several other buildings that seem once to have formed part of the same group. The most prominent of them stands only a few yards away, and consisted of a square chamber, also of the thirteenth century, and originally vaulted, built athwart the beck. From it a long narrow edifice extended westwards,\* and another smaller one eastwards, and other walls run southwards, but there is not enough to indicate or suggest what purpose they served. The structure above the beck may have been a conduit. A little to the east, but now concealed by the shrubbery, are the remains of another thirteenth century building. It was about 16 feet wide and at least 60 feet long, with certainly two narrow windows on the north, and a small doorway on the south, but its west wall is set at a very considerable angle, perhaps to avoid a too near

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\* This retains towards the north the base of a narrow window, through the sill of which a leaden pipe (see plan) passed in the direction of the kitchen.

approach

approach of the south-west angle to the beck, which runs through a tunnel hard by. This building, which had an upper story, impinges upon the wide angle of an earlier edifice to the south of it, which had good ashlar walls over 4 feet thick. Of this only a fragment is left, but there is enough to show that the angle was bisected by a cross wall running southwards from it.

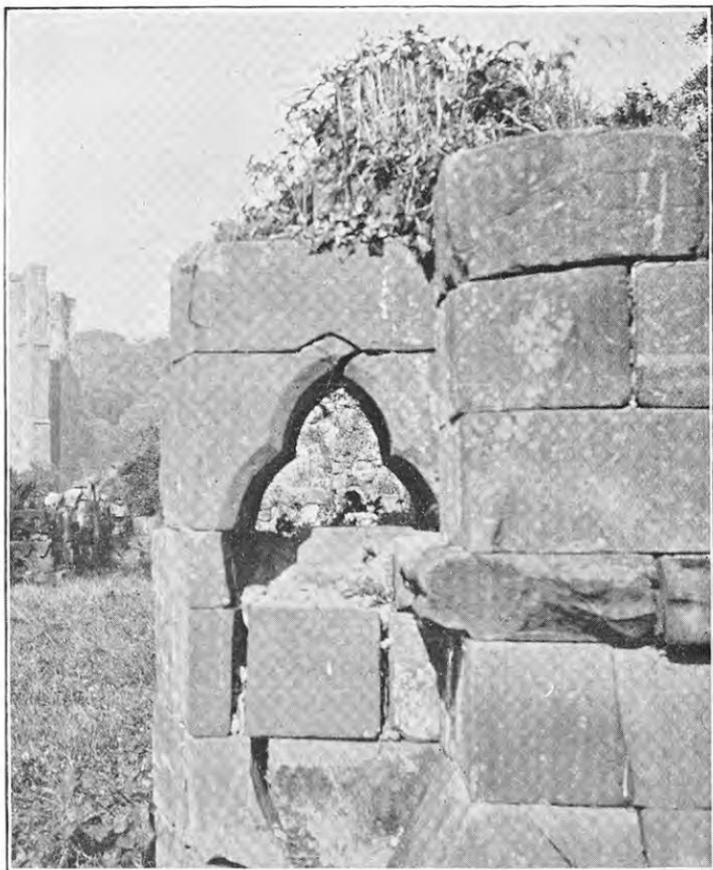
The cottage to the south on the other side of the modern road, now tenanted by the abbey guide, is partly ancient and may have formed one of the mills. Behind it is a remarkable arch 6 feet 4 inches high and of  $21\frac{3}{4}$  feet span, and built of voussoirs  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet wide and from 15 to 18 inches deep. The arch stands detached upon a wall 18 inches high, parallel to and within a few yards of the beck, but its object is not apparent. It is probably of the fifteenth century. Another but smaller and roughly built arch which spans the beck some 50 feet further down probably formed part of a bridge.

#### THE OLD INFIRMARY AND ABBOT'S LODGING.

To the north-east of the octagonal kitchen was a group of buildings, which must now be described.

This group, which has only recently been completely laid bare, consists of (1) a central block of the same date as the octagonal kitchen, etc., (2) additions and rebuildings of the fourteenth century, and (3) extensions and alterations of the fifteenth century.

The original central block stands roughly north and south, within a few feet of the face of a low cliff, probably the remains of one of the quarries from whence the building stone of the abbey was got. It consisted of an undercroft or hall of five bays, 70 feet long and 26 feet wide, with a staircase block at the north-west angle leading to an upper floor, and a two-storied garderobe at the south end. The octagonal kitchen evidently belonged to it, and there was another building away to the north. Both were probably connected with the main block by pentises. The



TREFOILED OPENING IN THE SOUTH WALL OF THE  
OLD INFIRMARY HALL.

The thirteenth century upper floor has been destroyed, but of the hall beneath there are some interesting remains, although its west wall has nearly all gone. It was entered by a doorway in the west wall, in the second bay from the north. The first bay was blind, owing to the staircase block against it, but the other three bays on this side no doubt had windows like those remaining opposite. The east wall had a central fireplace, originally of some architectural pretensions, and at least three two-light windows in the remaining bays; the northernmost bay has been cut through for a later doorway. The windows were coupled lancets, with the sills carried nearly down to the floor and fitted with stone seats. The north end has a perfect window of the same pattern, but with narrower lights, and an entrance doorway from without, now blocked. The south end was no doubt similarly arranged, but the place of the window has been cut away and the doorway mutilated. Immediately to the east of both the north and the south doorways, at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the floor, is a trefoiled aperture  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide and 13 inches high, carried right through the wall. The object of these openings, which were not closed in any visible way, is not apparent.

Beneath the eastern side of the hall, as may be seen from the plan, once ran a branch of the drain, in an arched tunnel, 6 feet wide. On emerging from beneath the hall this drain continued on for some yards and then turned sharply westwards, traversing in so doing the end of the garderobe mentioned above. In order to afford as wide an angle as possible to the drain the end of the garderobe is built obliquely. From its south-west corner a wall extends as far as the corner of the vaulted structure athwart the beck, already noticed.

The staircase block at the north-west corner of the hall seems to have consisted of (1) a series of piers supporting the steps, which led upwards from north to south, and (2)

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a square chamber beneath the landing at the head of the stair. This chamber had a door on the south and apparently a window on the west, and perhaps served as the prison.

The beginning of the staircase has been destroyed by later works, as well as the means of communication between the hall and an original building further north, of which only some foundations and part of a flagged floor are left.

As to the use of the thirteenth century buildings just described, there can be little doubt that at first they formed the monks' infirmary, being connected with the cloister by a gallery or passage extending from the staircase foot to a doorway opposite in the dorter subvault. The lower story formed the "fermery hall," while upstairs would be the chapel and accommodation for the sick, and perhaps for the visiting abbot.

After the building of the new infirmary block early in the fourteenth century, the old infirmary seems to have become the abbot's lodging, and various alterations were thereupon made in and about it. First the hall was vaulted in ten compartments, with a quadripartite vault with moulded ribs, resting on a central row of four octagonal columns and on corbels let into the walls. The upper floor was next extended westwards about 17 feet, upon arches carried by massive buttress-like projections, probably to form a large hall with western aisle. A similar extension was also made eastwards to the face of the cliff there, supported by arches built into the rock.

From the arrangement of these supports it appears that this eastern addition consisted of three divisions: (1) a large chamber, perhaps the abbot's solar, about 40 feet long and 23 feet wide, standing north and south; (2) a chapel, about 38 feet long and 13 feet wide; and (3) a bedroom, some 23 feet long and 14 feet wide. This last extended a few feet south of the hall, to give access to the  
upper

upper floor of the garderobe; it apparently had a fireplace in the east wall. The solar also probably had a fireplace, on the west side, and at its north-west corner was a vice from the basement or ground floor. The western part of the chapel seems to have been carried upon wooden joists, but the altar platform was supported partly by masonry and partly by the rock. The chapel must have been lighted by an east window high up. Of the western extension nothing is left save the bases of three of the buttress-like supports, but of the eastern addition parts of the walls remain, both above and below the cliff, as well as the springers in the rock, the supports of the chapel floor against the under hall, and the lower part of the vice at the northern end. Besides the evidence afforded by these and by sundry architectural fragments found during the excavations there is, however, nothing to prove that the arrangements described actually existed, and they can therefore only be regarded as suggestions.\*

From the fragments above referred to it is clear that the additions described were architecturally of some importance, and the utter destruction of them is much to be deplored. The restoration † (on the next page) of a wheel window from a surviving fragment will give some idea of the excellence of the work.

It will be seen from the plan that the changes above described must have had the effect of converting the original hall on the ground floor into a cellar or servants' apartment, lighted by its end windows only, and not improbably it was so used.

Whether the abbot's lodging continued to be served from the octagonal kitchen, or from another elsewhere it is impossible to say.

At some time during the fifteenth century further

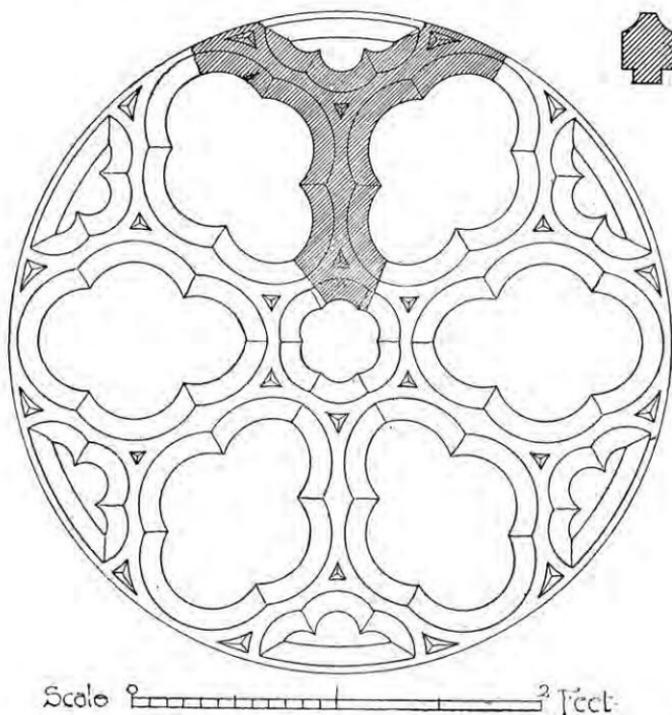
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\* For them I have to thank my friend Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A.

† For this I am also indebted to Mr. Brakspear.

alterations

alterations were made in the abbot's lodging. Access to the upper floor had hitherto continued to be by the original western staircase, which opened into the screens at the north end of the abbot's hall. The steps were now, however, done away with, the lower ones entirely removed, and a large building erected between the old thirteenth



SUGGESTED RESTORATION OF A WHEEL WINDOW IN THE ABBOT'S LODGING.

century hall and the contemporary structure further north. The new building has unluckily been so destroyed that only the plinth of its western side remains. It had a doorway, of which the step is left, on the north, but there is nothing else to show its plan or extent, or whether it was

was roofed or merely a yard. Much of it is roughly flagged. Of the same date is a wall extending across its southern end as far as a large and somewhat rudely-built mass of masonry erected against the north wall of the old fernery hall. From this mass another wall extended obliquely in a northerly direction to a large stone step or slab, 26 feet away. This seems to have formed the base of a new staircase to the upper floor, leading, as before, into the screens of the abbot's hall, but through the north wall, instead of the western end. The openings in the remaining portion of the old staircase were then built up, probably to carry a new additional chamber on the upper level.

Besides these new works, there extends northwards from the north-east angle of the hall a massive wall over 8 feet thick and at least 36 feet long. It contains two two-light windows, set as it were at the outer ends of two tunnels with flat sills and segmental heads, and clearly formed part of a building in continuation of the eastern addition to the old fernery hall, extending behind nearly to the rock. Of the north and east walls, however, there are no remains. Besides the windows the west wall has a recess in the south end, divided midway by a stone shelf. In the lower division is a drain. On the ground floor, therefore, the building no doubt belonged to the service department. Between the windows is a circular shaft in the thickness of the wall, of carefully built masonry, nearly 4 feet in diameter, which descended from an upper floor to the level of the stream below. This clearly served as a draw well, and near the top the stonework is worn away by the friction of the bucket rope. The upper chamber thus indicated was reached from the new staircase by an existing stone bridge or landing thrown across from it, and most likely served as the kitchen to the abbot's hall. The thick wall would amply suffice to carry the fireplace, etc. The kitchen itself has been completely destroyed.

From

From the south end of the abbot's lodging there extends nearly to the opposite angle of the monks' infirmary a high and massive wall, 5 feet 2 inches thick, pierced midway by a wide pointed arch with depressed head. From the fact that it traverses the site of the thirteenth century octagonal kitchen some have been led to regard it as of post-suppression date, but it is certainly ancient, and its history and purpose seem to be as follows.

It has been suggested above that after the building of the fifteenth century frater and misericord, the southern end of the thirteenth century frater was converted into the meat kitchen, and served both the misericord and the fermery hall. As the abbot had also just provided himself with a new kitchen on the first floor of his lodging, the old octagonal kitchen now became useless, and was pulled down. The upper chambers of the east end of the infirmary were then connected with the abbot's lodging by a gallery running along the top of the thick wall, which was built to carry it, and could thus be utilized at need for guests, or any other purpose.

Before leaving the abbot's lodging, it may be as well to quote the description of the "Scyte of the Monastarye" in the certificate of the revenues of the abbey made by the King's commissioners after the suppression :

Also the Scyte of the said late Monastary standith in a valey and hath a greate Course of water ronnyng thorowe the same and is inclosed with a greate stone walle whiche is in Circuite by estymacion nere aboute A myle wherin is yet lefte standyng for a ffermour to inhabyte and dwell in A ffayer Hall with a buttrye a Pantry a Kechyn and two greate brasse Potts there ffastenyd as standardes to the Howse a Larder a Seller a Backhowse a Brewhowse and a Leade to brewe In a greate maltyng Howse a Garner a Stable and many other Howses necessarye for a ffermour and a xj. Chambers greate and smalle wherof Dyvers of them have Chymneys and Wyddraughts\* with a greate garden and a greate Orchard hard adjoyneng to the late Abbottes lodging and many

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\* *I.e.* garderobes.

other

other smalle orchardes and gardens lately occupied by the monks of the same late Monastery being well Replenysshed with Trees of sundry frutes and moche ffayer pasture grounde and many Trees of Oke Asshe and other wood growing within the same Walls sufficient for the yerely ffewell of the ffermor there And also a Horsemyll and ij Watermylles to grynde the ffermors Come upon alle whiche the premysses within the said Walle ys extendyd by the said Comysseyoners to the yerely value of vj.li.\*

On comparing this description with the plan and arrangements of the abbot's lodging and its surroundings, it will be seen that the building "left standing for a ffermour," although not named, was most likely the abbot's lodging itself. It is improbable that any other building within the precinct would possess such adjuncts as those described, whereas they fit in excellently with the existing remains on the eastern part of the site. The "ffayer Hall," etc. with its buttery, pantry and kitchen would be, as suggested, on the upper floor, with larder and cellar below, while the bakehouse and brewhouse and the great malting house may well have been in the northern end of the block. The garner, the stable, and "other Howses necessarye for a ffermour" may be looked for southwards among the foundations and fragments of buildings east of the *infirmitorium*. The reference to "a xj. chambers greate and smalle," divers of which had chimneys and "Wyddraughts," also points to such a mansion as the abbot's lodging, which contained sundry rooms, and some of these, as the remains show, had fire-places with ornamental chimneys, and garderoberes adjoining. †

\* Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, appendix, lxii. The text printed above has been kindly collated for me with the original by Mr. William Page, F.S.A.

† If the suggestion be correct that the building left standing for the "ffermour" was the abbot's lodging, its destruction may be explained by the following document from Duchy of Lancaster Depositions and Examinations, Edw. VI. [Vol. 55. R. 4], for a transcript of which I am also indebted to Mr. Page:

"Edwarde the Syxte by the grace of God King of England &c. To oure trustie and welbelovyd William Layton Nycholes Thornburgh John Arcscot Thomas Carus esquieres Wylliam Sandes & Water Curwen gent | wher by credyble

OTHER

## OTHER REMAINS.

One other building has yet to be described. This was a detached structure that stood between the abbot's lodging and the southern end of the dorter subvault, within a few feet of the latter, athwart the beck. A few fragments only of it remain, and these are on opposite sides of the stream, which here, as in other parts of its

report and relacyon made unto our Chauncelor and Counsaill of our Duchie of Lancastre apou the behalffe of John Preston squyer ffermor of the Scyte Howse and Demeane Landes of the late Monastery of ffurnes in our Countye of Lancastre it appearyth that the Halle and other Howses ther be verey Ruynous and in great Decay | The reparacyones wherof heretofore haithe beyn and hereafter is verey lyke to be chargeable and Costely unto us by reason the howses and buyldynges ther beyn overe great to be usyd and maynteynd for the Mansion Howse of the ffermor of the same | And wher as the said John Preston beyng desyrous to have a newe Halle parler Chambres and other howses of offices bylt and made ther apte meett and convenient for a ffermor ther to Inhabyte . . . mayn | and offred to beare a porcyon of the charges towards the byldyng of the same | and after the same so bylt to dyscharge us of the reparacions therof duryng his terme yett to Cûme in . . . We have by thadvyse of our said Chauncelor and Counsaill Concludyd and agreid with the said John Preston towchyng the premysses that is to saye | That the said John Preston schall have of us the some of one Hundreth markes towards the byldyng of one Substancyall apte and convenient howse ther wth halle parler Chambres and other howses of offices meett for a gentleman of one hundreth pounce landes to dwell in | apou the buyldyng wherof the said John Preston haith grauntyd to bestowe one hundreth markes of his own charges overe and besydes our, said allowance to hym gyvyn and after the same so bylt of his owen charges to kepe the reparacions therof suffyciently duryng and by all his terme yett to Cûme in the premysses | Wherefore our wyll and pleasur is that the said John Preston schall rase and pull downe so many of the olde howses yett ther standyng and beyng as to the dyscrecyons of you . . . iij or ij of you schalbe thoght requysyte and convenient | And that by the lyke dyscrecyons of you v iij or ij of you | you s . . . to have and take suche and so myche tymbre stone and other thynges of the said olde howses whiche schalbe so Rasyd or pullyd down as schall serve for his purpose towards his said Buyldyng to thintent that he may employ and bestowe the same about the reedefyng of suche the said other newe howses as schalbe buyldyd ther in stede of the said olde howses | And further we wyll and requyre you to putt in Save Custodye to our use all such tymbre and stone whiche schalbe sparyd and remayn not spent in and about the making of the said new howses Always forseynt that the said John Preston doo not Rase and pull downe ony of our barnes or stables ther but that the same be preseryd and maynteynd from tyme to tyme for the use of our said ffermor ther | And further we wyll that you Wylliam Sande doo by warraunt herof content and paye to the said John Preston the said some of one hundreth markes of the revenues of our possessyons of the said late monasterye of ffurnes in your handes beyng | and thes our present letteres of comyssion schalbe your sufficient warraunt & dyscharge for the allowance of the same at your next accompt apou the sight of these presentes | faylle you not to accomplysse the premysses as you tendre our pleasur | yevyn &c. at Westm. the xij of february Ao RR. E vjth Tercio.

WILLM PAGET  
JOHN CARYLL.<sup>11</sup>

COURSE

course, was anciently covered in;\* but the covering has long since gone, and with it almost all of the building under notice.

It consisted of a quadrangular block, of the fifteenth century, with french buttresses at the angles, measuring externally 50 feet from east to west, and 44 feet from north to south. It was divided lengthwise by a wall into two unequal parts. The northern division, which was the larger, had thick outer walls, and a vice in the north-west angle to an upper floor. Along the south wall was a stone bench, interrupted at the east end by a fireplace, the hearth of which remains. There is nothing to show whether there were any subdivisions, or the position of the door or doors. The southern division has the base of a wall or platform across its eastern end, but is otherwise too ruined to say anything about. Against the north wall of the block, outside, is a short length of a gallery or covered passage of the same date,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, leading eastwards from a doorway in the dorter subvault. Besides giving access to the block itself, it probably continued up to the abbot's lodging, and so connected that with the other buildings.

From the imperfect remains of the block just described, it is not easy to say how it was arranged or for whose use it was built. It clearly formed a *camera* or lodging for someone, perhaps for the visiting abbot. The ground floor may then have contained his hall with a kitchen and servants' department, with the solar, bedroom, and chapel on the floor above, and inasmuch as the difference in the thickness of the walls suggests that the northern division was higher than the southern, there may have been an upper story over the hall and solar for the accommodation of servants.

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\* The greater part of the section of the stream eastwards of the church was covered with a segmental barrel vault, the springing of which remains along both sides. A branch of the beck starting from the modern bridge opposite the chapter-house and rejoining the main stream south of the old reredorter end still retains its covering.

upper

There are other buildings connected with the abbey of which we have documentary evidence only.

Thus certain interrogatories and depositions made in a suit in the Court of Augmentations in 1542, mention "a place called the Srepter," or, as it elsewhere appears, "the Scriptorium."\* It seems from the context to have formed part of the bursary, or bursar's checker, wherever that was. It may have been over the warming-house.

In 1344 letters close from Edward III. were directed to the abbot of Furness, *inter alios*, directing him to make, for the collectors of the tenth and fifteenth lately granted to the king by Parliament, "quandam domum, congruam et fortem, in eadem abbazia, ubi denarii prædicti securius custodiri," and to which the collectors should have ingress and egress at will.† There is, however, no evidence to show if such house was built, or where.

The writer cannot conclude this paper without expressing his indebtedness to the President, the late Chancellor Ferguson, and to the Council of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archæological Society for having afforded him such ample opportunities for exploring and examining the ruins of Furness Abbey. He has also to thank Mr. W. Whitworth of the Furness Railway Company for much useful help during the excavations, Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite and Mr. John Bilson for overlooking his proofs, and Mr. Harold Brakspear, Mr. C. R. Peers, and Mr. J. F. Curwen for their valuable aid in

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\* Beck, *Annales Furnesienses*, appendix, lxxxviii. xc.

† T. Rymer, *Fœdera* (ed. 1825), iii. part i. 24.

preparing

preparing the plans and drawings. The writer also wishes to put on record the important help rendered by Mr. Jesse Turner, the abbey guide, through the investigations so successfully carried out by him, and to thank him for much useful information.

Of the illustrations Mr. Curwen has kindly contributed the elevations of the lower parts of the presbytery walls. For the remainder the Society is indebted to Mr. Harold Brakspear.

For the ground plan the writer is himself responsible, but he has to thank Mr. Brakspear for the plans of the gatehouses and gatehouse chapel, and Mr. Peers for the plan of the abbot's lodging, which form part of it.

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#### POSTSCRIPT.

In the account on p. 244 of the remains of the second Norman presbytery, mention ought to have been made of the differences that existed between its floor levels and those of the later work.

During some preliminary excavations in September 1895, a trench was cut in front of the sedilia in the hope of finding some remains of the Norman east front. No such remains were met with, but at a depth of 3 feet 5 inches below the step on which the sedilia stand part of an old floor was exposed. It consisted of two bands of slabs, one 19 and the other 20 inches wide, extending across the presbytery, west of which were other slabs, each  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, laid diamondwise. The eastern limit of the transverse bands was 9 inches east of the buttress dividing the first and second sedilia. The northern end of this strip of flooring was uncovered by Mr. Jesse Turner during his excavations at the beginning of this year (1900).

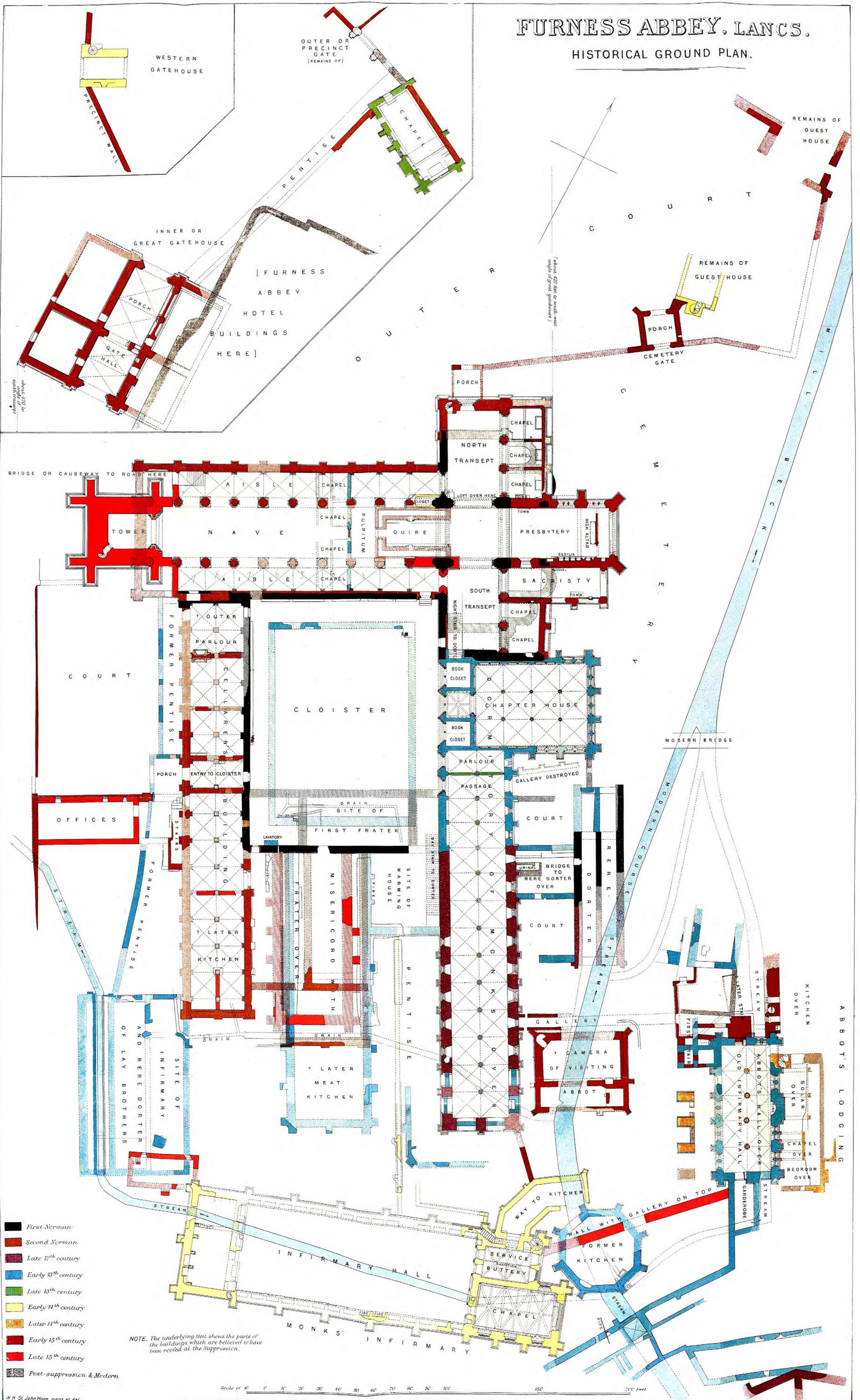
The

The level of this floor with respect to the later work is shewn in Mr. Curwen's sections, which also shew that a step crossed the presbytery just to the east of the blocked Norman arches. As this step is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches lower than the old floor described above, there was a second step, or more likely two, up to the higher level, probably immediately to the east of the Norman wall pilaster. There must also have been another step further west, perhaps at the entrance of the presbytery, from which the floor extended westwards through the crossing and into the monks' quire in the nave. Here the bases of the eastern responds stood upon it, at a depth of 2 feet 9 inches below the existing later floor of the north aisle.

The probable positions of the later steps have already been indicated.

# FURNESS ABBEY, LANCS.

## HISTORICAL GROUND PLAN.



- First Norman
- Second Norman
- Late 12<sup>th</sup> century
- Early 13<sup>th</sup> century
- Late 13<sup>th</sup> century
- Early 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Later 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Early 15<sup>th</sup> century
- Late 15<sup>th</sup> century
- Post-suppression & Modern

NOTE. The underlying tint shows the parts of the buildings which are believed to have been erected at the suppression.

Scale of 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 150 200 Yards