

ART. VI.—*Ancient Oak, recently restored to St. Mary's, Carlisle.* By J. H. MARTINDALE, F.R.I.B.A.

*Read at Carlisle, April 26th, 1917.*

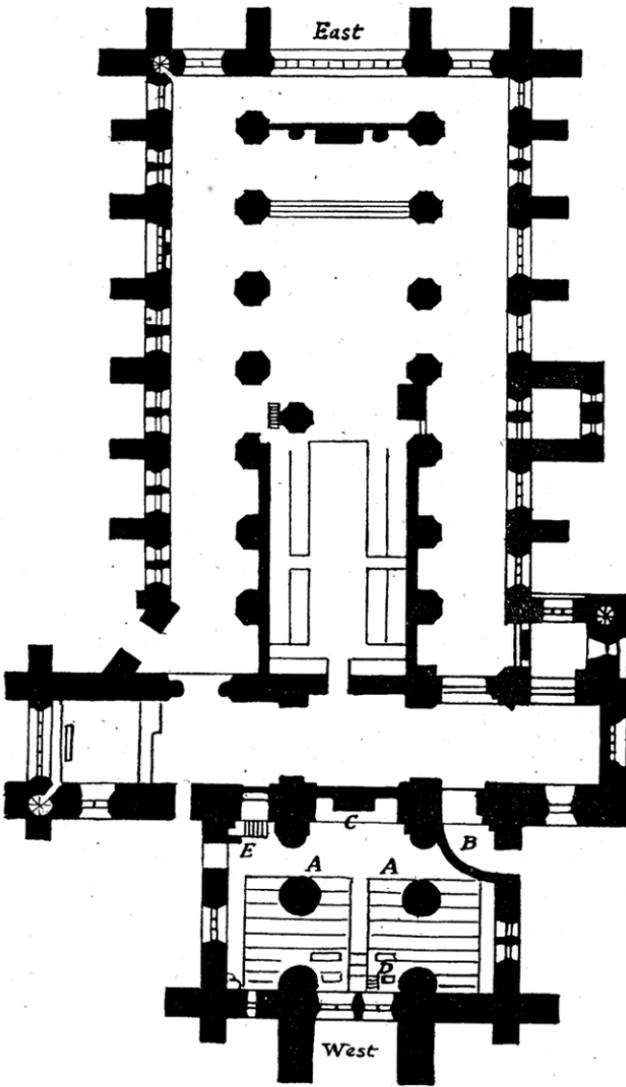
THE Central Control Board, when altering some of the premises acquired by them in Carlisle, handed over to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Mary's, Carlisle, a quantity of oak panelling, etc., which had probably been removed at some time from the Cathedral. The oak, when it was adapted for hotel purposes, has been cut up, copied, and added to, so that now it is a little difficult to identify or describe the various positions in the Cathedral it may formerly have occupied. It is reputed to have been removed from the nave of the Cathedral, when it ceased to be used as the church of St. Mary, and seems to me chiefly work of about the date 1764 by Bishop Lytton. I may be addressing some who can remember old St. Mary's; but for the sake of the younger members of our Society, I will briefly explain the parts of the Cathedral used for that purpose.

In some monastic houses for Regular Canons, the nave of the church was reserved for the use of the laity and had a separate altar. The division was marked by a second screen, frequently placed at the western bay of the crossing or even further west; and in these churches with two screens, the eastern one formed the chancel-screen or entrance to the choir of the Canons, and the western one, the rood-screen or east end of the lay or parish portion of the monastic church. In pre-reformation days this was probably the case at Carlisle. The western screen was usually solid and some 15 or 20 feet high, with two doors in it. At Carlisle the rood-screen was in post-reformation days (I cannot give the exact date, but the arch over the

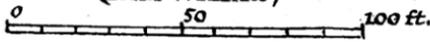
chancel-screen was closed up in 1764) closed up to the level of the capitals of the Norman arch of the crossing, and a ceiling placed over the nave about this level. Also the arches of the north and south aisles into the transepts were closed and an external door for access was made in the north wall. The old door from the eastern walk of the cloister to the south aisle was retained for the use of the canons and as main entrance to the choir, by forming a curved inner porch or screen. This arrangement left the two undestroyed bays of the nave with the aisles to form the church of St. Mary. No doubt at first the ancient altar, against the rood-screen, would be used for the parish altar. In fact, that this was the case is quite clear from the report of the architect in 1870, where he recommends "the ancient altar platform and step should be left as an historical record of the past uses of the nave, making good the wall at the back and filling in any deficiencies in the steps."

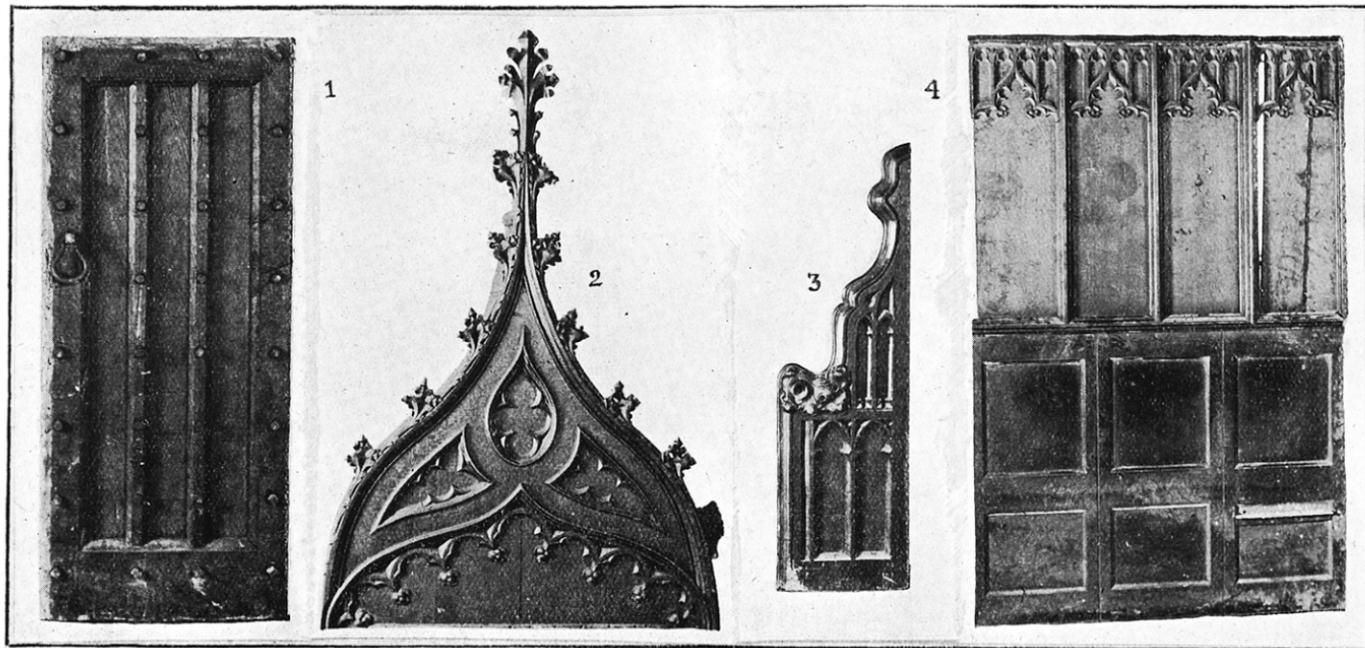
An engraving in "the Border Antiquities of England and Scotland," dated 1813, shows the pulpit against the south-eastern pier of the nave with an open roof. The engraving in Winkles' "Cathedrals," published about 1835, shows the pulpit under the west windows, and a ceiling as mentioned above.

About 1813 or 1814 the vicar and churchwardens applied for a faculty to erect galleries, the reason urged for this being that the floor of the church was very damp. A faculty was granted and galleries were placed over the north and south aisles and across the *east end*. The pulpit seems now to have been moved to the west end, and I presume the congregation sat facing west. That the altar was not moved at this time seems quite clear from the report quoted above. The access to the galleries was by a staircase in the eastern bay of the north aisle, near the new door. I believe the seats in the galleries were actually sold and conveyed to individuals as private pro-



**CARLISLE CATHEDRAL**  
 (from Winkles)

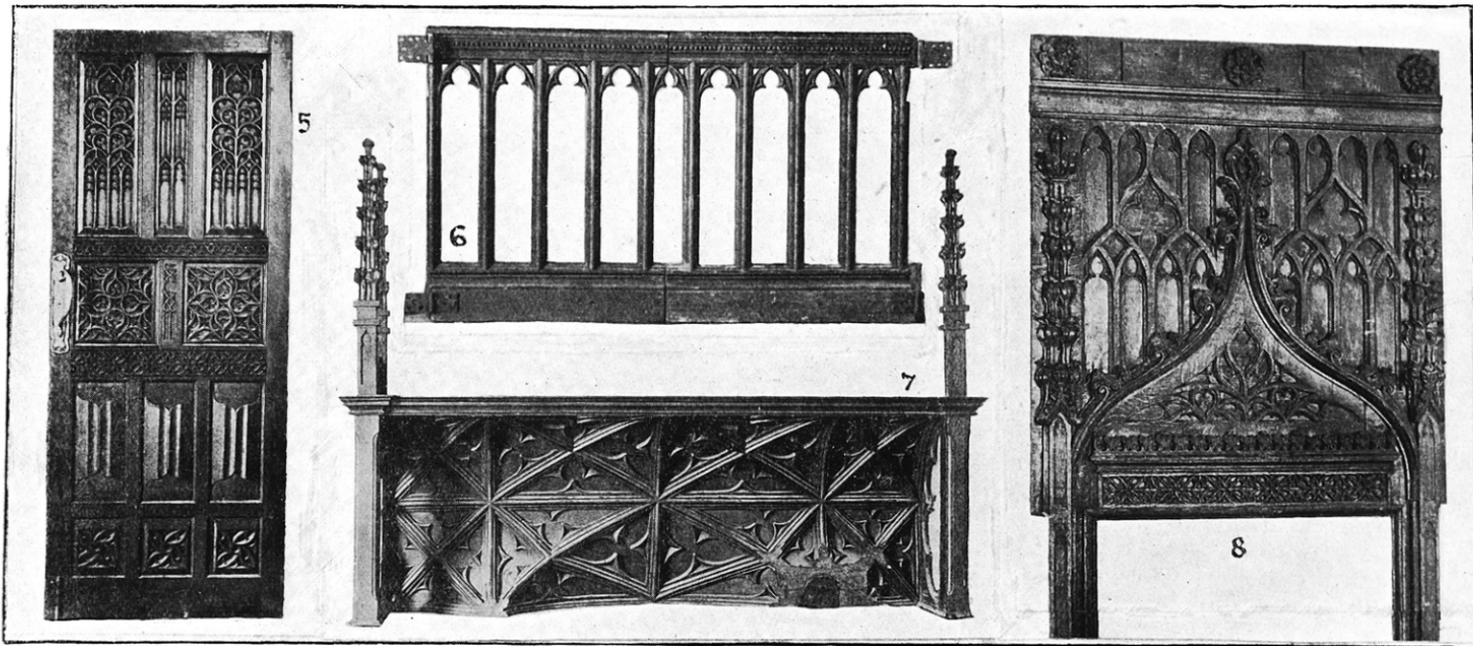




OLD OAK, RESTORED TO ST. MARY'S, CARLISLE.

*Phot. by F. W. Tassell.*

TO FACE P. 81.



OLD OAK, RESTORED TO ST. MARY'S, CARLISLE.

*Phot. by F. W. Tassell.*

tcwaas\_002\_1917\_vol17\_0008

TO FACE P. 81.

perty; the front seat in the end gallery was priced at £60, and the others from £50 down to £30 according to position and size.

You will now be able to form your own opinion as to the fitting up of the interior and the positions the oak may have occupied.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

A ground plan of the Cathedral from Winkles' "Cathedrals," showing the nave (AA) as St. Mary's by the blocking up of the western arch of the crossing and the arch of the north aisle, also the curved porch (B) in the south aisle, retaining the south door as principal entrance to the Cathedral. The altar in the nave is shown in the normal position against the screen (C), the pulpit under west window (D) and the stair to the gallery (E) in the east end of the north aisle.

Fig. 1.—Part of the right-hand half of a double or folding door. This has had an arched head and may be the south door to the Cathedral from the eastern walk of the cloister.

Fig. 2.—A pediment, of which there are also two similar but smaller.

Fig. 3.—Bench-end from an open seat; there has probably been another piece dowelled to the back to house the book-board; the elbow is well carved and the sunk tracery is repeated on the inside.

Fig. 4.—Two distinct pieces of framing, one on the top of the other. There is a large quantity of such. The upper part is the front desk of seats facing a passage or aisle and the lower part is the back or division of box-pews, which might be from the gallery.

Fig. 5.—A door. The five top panels and two rails are made up with tracery panels of Prior Gondibour's date and very similar in character to the screen forming present entrance to St. Catherine's chapel; the lower panels are linen-pattern of later date.

Fig. 6.—The gates of an altar-rail. There is also a single piece about 14 feet long.

Fig. 7.—The vaulted ceiling or canopy of a recess. It has been laid on its side and the pinnacles are not in proper position. The crown is cut out of a solid balk and the back shows the gouge marks. There is another small piece but not so good.

Fig. 8.—This pediment and tracery has been fitted over the

last mentioned door, but it is very doubtful if the connection is original.

In addition to the above there is a considerable quantity of wall-panelling or solid parclose screen-work of not very early date, together with a number of pinnacles and other fragments of screen-work.