

On the Augustinian Priory of the Holy Trinity at Repton, Derbyshire.

BY W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, B.A., F.S.A.



THE subject of the architectural history of the Priory at Repton has not hitherto been gone into at any length; partly on account of the fragmentary nature of the buildings, and also because the arrangements of a medieval monastery are generally but imperfectly understood. Recent excavations on the site have brought to light the ground plan of the church and other buildings, and we are now able to ascertain, pretty clearly, the extent of the Priory and the disposition of its several parts.

It is not my intention to enter at length into the history of the ecclesiastical establishments which have from time to time flourished at Repton, but a few words are necessary to make the distinctions between them quite clear. I cannot pretend to add anything to what has been already printed by various historians, and more recently by Mr. Cox,* but the recent excavations have thrown much light on the history of its buildings, which, of course, was not available to previous writers.

There are very few places in England which can lay claim to so peculiarly interesting a history as that of Repton. Under our Old-English ancestors it was the capital of the kingdom of the

* *Churches of Derbyshire*, Vol. iii., 423. [Bemrose, Derby, 1877.] See also Bigsby's *History of Repton*. [London, 1854.]

Mercians, and its ecclesiastical importance actually dates almost from the introduction of Christianity into this country.

Shortly before his accession as king of the Mercians, in 655, Penda wished to marry a daughter of Oswy, king of Northumbria, but his suit was refused on the grounds of his being a pagan. He therefore embraced the Christian Faith, and was baptized by Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne. His attachment to the new religion appears, however, to have been more sincere than mere form for a wife's sake, for on his return from the north he brought back with him four priests to preach the Faith to his people. One of these priests, Diuma by name, was consecrated as first bishop of the Mercians in 656, and at his death, two years later, was buried at Repton. The seat of the bishopric remained here until the consecration of S. Chad in 664, when it was removed to Lichfield.

About this same period we have evidence of the existence at Repton of a monastery for men and women, under the rule of an abbas,* but whether founded by Penda or not is uncertain. What became of it is unknown. According to Ingulf, it was destroyed when Repton was despoiled by the Danes in 874, but he seems to be the only chronicler of the fact. We do not yet know where the Old-English town stood, so it would be in vain to attempt to localise the site of the first monastery. If it was destroyed in 874, it is useless to attempt to identify the earliest remains of the present parish church with it, as they pertain to a much later period.

When affairs had become more tranquil, after the confusion and turmoil of the Danish inroad, a parish church seems to have been built at Repton and dedicated to S. Wystan, a pious Mercian prince, who was murdered in 849, and buried in the monastery at Repton by the side of his mother Ælfleda. Mr. Irvine has stated his opinion† that this church was originally a wooden edifice, but in the time of Edward the Confessor the present chancel was rebuilt of stone, while the pillars and vaulting of the crypt are

* Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*.

† *Journal of the D. A. and N. H. Society*, Vol. v.

insertions of Norman date. At the time of the Domesday Survey there was here a church and two priests, which, as Mr. Cox has pointed out,* speaks of the size and importance of the building, and is shared by Bakewell alone of all the other Derbyshire churches. It must, nevertheless, be borne in mind that this building was at no time of its existence anything else than a parish church, and had not any connection with the medieval priory, other than being a chapel of ease served by the canons.

We now come to the history of the foundation of the Priory of Augustinian Canons which existed at Repton for nearly four centuries.

Shortly after the Norman Conquest a Priory of Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine was founded at Calke, and dedicated to St. Giles. Who the founder was, and the year of the foundation, are uncertain, but the Priory existed here as such for about a century.

During the episcopate of Walter de Durdant, bishop of Coventry (1149—1161), Matilda, countess of Chester, granted to God and St. Mary, and to the canons of Calke, the working (cultura) of the quarry of Repton, beside the Trent, together with the advowson of the church of S. Wystan, of Repton, and all its appurtenances, on condition that, as soon as a suitable opportunity should occur, the canons of Calke were to remove to Repton, which was to be their chief house, and Calke Priory was to become subject to it.

The removal of the canons from Calke to Repton is usually assigned to the year 1172, but I know not on what real authority, and the earliest portions of the conventual buildings seem to be anterior to that date.

The continuous acquisition of lands and other property by which the Priory was enriched is a subject into which I do not propose to enter; all that is necessary for my purpose being the fact that it was well endowed, and that its property was much increased during the reigns of Edward I. and his son. The

* *Churches of Derbyshire*, Vol. iii., 425.

Valor Ecclesiasticus (27 Henry VIII.) gives the gross annual value of the temporalities and spiritualities as £167 18s. 2½d., a sum equal to at least £3,000 per annum of the present time. At the visitation of the monasteries by Doctors Leigh and Layton, a few years previous to the suppression, the annual rental was £180.

The Priory was suppressed in 1540, and the whole of its buildings and possessions were assigned to Thomas Thacker, of Heage, a steward of the *malleus monachorum*, Thomas, Lord Cromwell.

A very full inventory of the goods and possessions remains in the Public Record Office,* of which a transcript is here given :

Herafter Ensueth the names of all & ev'y such person & persons as was by Thomas ligh doctor in the lawe & Wyllmus Cavendyshe Auditor Commissiono's Appoynted by the Kyng o' sov'aigne lorde for the dyssolucon of thes Monasteryes foloweng† by them Indiferently chosyn and sworne of and for the valuyng & ratyng & app'syng of all & singler the gooddes & Catelle cumyng & beyng found at the surrenders taken in the same late dyssolvyd Monasteries & p'ories wthin sundry sheres or Counties the names as well of the seyd howses as of the persons so sworne foloweng herunder wryghten in order

That ys to say

Darby. Repton	{	Edmund Currer Rycha'd Iytster William day henry Cokken	} Jur'	{	Anthony Bott hu;h Manyrye Raffe holytoke Rychard hay	} Jur'	{	John Wryght George Smyth henry Bowyston Ryc' Bowilston	} Jur'
------------------	---	---	--------	---	---	--------	---	---	--------

* *Augmentation Office Book*, 172.

† Viz., Merevale, Warwickshire; Brewood, St. Thomas nigh Stafford, and Dieulacres, Staffordshire; Lilleshull, Salop; Darley, Dale, and Repton, Derbyshire; Gracedieu, Leicestershire; Pipewell, Northants; and Barnwell, Cambridgeshire.

The late
p^{ri}ory of
Repton in
the Countye
of Derby

herafter foloweth all suche parcells of Imple-
ments or houshold stufte corne catell Orna-
ments of the Churche & such otherlyke found
wythin the seid late p^{ri}ory at the tyme of the
dyssolucon therof sould by the Kyngs Com-
missionors to Thacker the xxvj day of
October in the xxx yere of o^r sov'agn lorde
Kyng henry the viijth

That ys to saye

The
Churche

ffirst at the hye aluter v great Images . j . table
of alebast' wth lytell Images . iiij . lytle Candle-
styks of latten . j . ould payr of Organs one
laumpe of latenn the Stalles in the quere
certein ould bokes . j . rode / In seint Johns
Chapell : j . Imag of saint John . j . table of
alebaster . j . partition of wode / in o^r lady
Chapell . j . Image of o^r lady & . j . table o
alebaster . j . table of wode befor the alter . j .
hercloth upon the same alt' . j . laumpe of
latenn . j . grate of Ieron ould stoles . j .
partition of tymber / in saint Nicholas Chapell
. j . Immag of seint John & . j . Image of
seint Syth . j . table of alebaster in partition
of tymber . j . Roode & a Image of seint
Nicholas . j . table of alebaster the partitions
of tymber & in the body of the Churche vij
peces of tymber & lytell ould house of
tymber the xij Apostells . j . Image of o^r lady
in o^r lady of petys chapell / . j . table of of
(sic) wood gylte . j . sacryng bell & . j .
partition of tymber seled ouer in seint Thom^s
Chapell . j . table of wode the partition of
tymber & . j . sacryng bell . j . longe lader . j .
lytell table of alebaster sould to Thaker
for

ls

	It' the Roffe glasse Ieronn the pavemet & gravestones in the seid Church	rem ^r un- soulde
The vestry	It' ther . j. Crosse of Coper too tynacles of baudkynn . ij. albes . j. sute of blake baudkynn . j. sute of oulde baudekynn w th Conys on them . ij. Copes of velvet . j. of tauny baudkyn . ij. of grene baudekynn . ij. of counterfeit baudkynn . j. Cope of Reysed velvet iiij towells & iiij alterclothes ij payented alterclothes . j. great presse of woode one oulde cheste ij Ieron stoles . j. ould tynacle ij holy water stokes . j. of brasse the other of leade soulde for	iiij <i>li</i>
The Cloyst'	It' the Chanons seats the glasse Ieron & the pavemet & a laver of lead ar soulde for	xxs
The Chapter house	It' the glasse and pavemet & a lectron of wode are sould for	v s
The Dorter	It' the Chanons Sells & . j. bell ar sould for	xxs
The frater	It' v tables . j. bell soulde for	vjs
The halle	It' ther iij tables iij formes . j. Cupborde . j. oulde banket & . j. payented clothe	ijs
The Buttery	It' ther vj oulde tableclothes vj ould towells iiij Coberdclothes xij napkyns . v. aletubbes ij oulde Chestes vj Candlestyks of laten & . j. bason & an ewyar sould for	xs
The priors Chamber	It' ther . j. Bedstedd . j. fetherbedd . j. blankett . j. quilte . j. Cov'lett . j. boulst' . j. pyllowe . j. tester of payented clothe ij Cov'letts of Blewe lynyon clothe the hengyngs of grene saye ij fouldyng tables iij chayers iij formes ij Coffers . j. payre of tonges & . j. aundyronn sould for	xxxxs

- The inner Chamber** { It' ther . j . matres . j . Cov'lett & . j . boulster } ijs
 Chamber { soulde for }
- The gardyn Chamber** { It' ther . j . fetherbedd . j . boulster . j . pyllowe } xvs
 Chamber { . j . cov'lett ij blanketts . j . tester of dornyx }
 Chamber { the payented hengyngs . j . ionyd Chayr j }
 Chamber { Cupborde . j . forme soule for }
- The next Chamber ther** { It' ther . j . matres . j . boulster ij Cov'letts } xxd
 Chamber { soule for }
- The halle Chamber** { It' ther . j . fetherbedd . j . boulster ij Cov'letts } xs
 Chamber { . j . tester of lynyann clothe . j . oulde table & }
 Chamber { . j . forme soule for }
- The bygh Chamber** { It' . j . fetherbedd ij matres ij boulders iiij } vijs
 Chamber { Cov'letts very oulde . hengyngs of redd saye & }
 Chamber { . j . Chayre soule for }
- The Kychenn** { It' ther . v . brasse potts ij spyttis ij pannes } xls
 Chamber { . j . dryppynge pann . j . fryenge panne . j . barre }
 Chamber { of Ieronn . iiij . hanches to heng potts upon }
 Chamber { . j . payr of Rostyng Ieronns . j . gridiron . j . }
 Chamber { Skymer . j . ladle . xvj . peces of peuter vessel }
 Chamber { oulde bordes & . j . ladder soule for }
- The larder** { It' ther . j . oulde borde & . j . oulde table } viijd
 Chamber { soule for }
- The Bruhouse** { It' ther . ij . bruyng leaddes . j . mashfatte . j . } lxxvs
 Chamber { buckett & a chene . ij . oulde bordes . ij . } viijd
 Chamber { tubbes . ij . Cowles & ij Skyppes soule for }
- The velyng house** { It' ther xvj Kelyngleades and ij mashfattes } xls
 Chamber { soule for }

The Boultyng house { It' ther ij troffes . j . boultynge huche & . j . } *xxd*
 { Syve sould for }

The kyll-house { It' . j . heyr upon the kyll & . j . Sestiron of } *xxjs*
 { lead soulde for } *viijd*

Grayne at the p^ory { It' . j . q^{rt}' of Whete — viijs, It' ij q^{rt}' of Rye } *vij li*
 { at vijs the q^{rt}' — xiijs It' xv q^{rt}' of barly } *xijs*
 { at iijs the q^{rt}' — lxs, It' iiij q^{rt}' maulte — xxs } *viijd*
 { It' vj q^{rt}' of pese at iijs the q^{rt}' — xxiijs, }
 { It' x lodes of haye at ijs viij*d* the lode }
 { amuntyng to the summe of — xxvjs viij*d* }

Catell { It' ther founde . iiij . kye — xxs It' x horssys & ij }
 { oulde Cartes . s . f . —iiii } *li*
Pese sould at Nutonn { It' . j . Reke of pese at Nutonn sould forviij } *li*

It' Recevyd of John Smyth & Rychard haye for money by them Imbesulyd from the seid late p^ory cxxij*li* xvijs vj*d*

The summe to^l of all the }
guddes soulde late app'teynyng }
to the seid late p^ory wth cxxij li } *clxij li xixs vjd*
xvijs vj*d* Rec' for money im- }
besulyd from the said p^ory }

Rewardes
 gyven to the
 Covent of
 the seid late
 pⁱory at y^e
 dissolotion
 th'of

ffyrst to S^r Rauffe Cleroke
 subⁱor xls
 It' to John Wood'xls
 It' to Thomas String'.....xls
 It' to Jamis yong xls
 It' to John Asshbyxls
 It' to Thomas prattxls
 It' to Thomas Webst'xls
 It to Robert Wardexls
 It to Thomas Brainston.....xls

xviiij li

Rewardes
 gyven to the
 s'vants ther
 at the same
 tyme lyke-
 wyse

ffyrst to Rauffe lathbury...vjs viij*d*
 It' to v men that founde
 certein platexxvs
 It to the Sheperdxvs
 It' to Richard yusexiijs iiij*d*
 It' to Robert Clerkexs
 It' to Kynton.....xiijs iiij*d*
 It' to John Browne xxs
 It' to Thomas Gysborne xxs
 It' to Robert Stephinson xiijs iiij*d*
 It' to William Kynton ...vijs vj*d*
 It' to John Kynghesse...xxs
 It' to Thomas byrch.....vijs vj*d*
 It' to hugh Kyntonxiijs iiij*d*
 It' to John Webster.....vijs vj*d*
 It' to Robert Ruttervijs vj*d*
 It' to Robert Eynysworth xvs
 It' to Robert hudson ...xxs
 It' to Robert at Oven ...xiijs iiij*d*
 It' to Thomas Mitchell .xvijs vj*d*
 It' to John Richardson. .xijs
 It' to William Abneyxiijs iiij*d*
 It' to John Websterxijs
 It' to ij boyez plowdryvers iiijs
 It' a gyude from Repton to
 Gracediewexxd

xxxiiij li
 viijs xd

xvli
 viijs
 xd

Cates bought { It' in Cates bought & spent at the tyme of the Commissiono's being ther for to dyssolve the seid p'ory and for the saffe keypyng of the guddes and Catell to the seid mon' late apperteynyng duryng the tyme } *cvij s viij d*

The summe of { the paymentes aforseid } *xxxviij li xvj s vjd*

AND ther remayneth a specialty of *xli* upon Thaker for money by hym due for the guddes & Catell of the forseid p'ory by hym bought payable at the fest of the nativite of Seint John the baptist whych shalbe in the yere of o' lorde god m' d xxxix } *xli*

and so remayneth in the seid Commissiono's handes of the money Rec' for the guddes before soule } *cxiiij li iij s*

Certeyn guddes or stufte late belongyng to the seid late p'ory whyche rem' unsoulde

Whyte plate { ffyrst ij chalesis x spones all whyte wayeng—*xlij* oz

Belles { It' ther Remayneth unsould *iiij* }
remaynyng { belles wayeng *xxiiij* hundreth at }
unsould { the C valued at }

leade { It' ther ys estemed to be *xxxix* }
remaynyng { fothers of lead at *iiij li* the fother }

AND ther remayneth unsoulde all the housys edyfyed upon the scite of the seid late p'ory the glasse Ieron & pavement in the Cloyst' the glasse Ieron & pavement in the Chapt' house soulde & only exceptid

AND that Thacker was put in possession of the scite of the seid late p^lory & all the demaynes to yt apperteynyng to o^r sov'aigne lorde the Kynges use the xxvj day of October in the xxx yere of o^r seid sov'aigne lorde Kyng henry the viijth

Pencions appoynted & allottyd to the Covent of the seid late p^lory

ffyrst to Rauffe Clarke.....	vj <i>li</i>	
It' to John Wood..	Cvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to Thomas Stringar.....	Cvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to Jamis yonge	Cvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to John Ashby	Cs	
It' to Thomas pratt.....	Cs	
It' to Thom ^a s Webster.....	Cs	
It' to Robert Warde	iiij <i>li</i>	
It' to Thomas Brauncetonn.....	iiij <i>li</i>	
It' to Thomas Cordall.....	Cvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
Sm ^a	li	vjs viij <i>d</i>

ffees and Annuities grauntyd out by Covent Seale before the dyssolucon of the seid p^lory.

ffyrst to Thomas Bradshawe	xxvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to M ^r bolles	xls	
It' to henry Audley	liijs	iiij <i>d</i>
It' to s ^r John Stelys pryst	xls	
It' to the Deacons offyce of the parysshe Church of Rypnyngdon.....	lviijs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to Robert lago vycar of Wyllyngton.....	liijs	iiij <i>d</i>
It' to John Smyth	xls	
It' to Richard haye.....	xls	
It' to Robert Sachev'ell	xxvjs	viiij <i>d</i>
It' to humfrey quarneby.....	iiij <i>li</i>	
It' to Robert hudsonn for hys Corody	ij	Chanons ryghtes
It' to Margaret Croftes for her Corody.....	i	Chanons ryght
Sm ^a	xxij <i>li</i>	xviijs viij <i>d</i>

Dettes owyng to the seid late Monastery by dyvers persons

ffyrst Thomas leason parson of Castell Ashby	...lxv	<i>li</i>
It' the seid parsonn for mares & folys	.....	iiij <i>li</i>
It' the seid parsonn for ij q ^{rt} ' of Maulte	.....	xs
It' Thomas Morley	.....	vj <i>li</i>
It' Rychard Wakelyn	.....	xiijs iiij <i>d</i>
Sm ^a	.....	lxxxj <i>li</i> iijs iiij <i>d</i>

Dettes owyng to dyvers persons by the seid late p^ory

ffyrst to Isabel Rowe	.....	xiiij <i>li</i> vjs viij <i>d</i>
It' to Robert baynbrygge	.....	xj <i>li</i>
It' to to (<i>sic</i>) John Dampere p ^o ste	.....	xiiij <i>li</i> xvjs xd ob
It' to John lawrenson p ^o ste	.....	liijs iiij <i>d</i>
It' to John Debanke p ^o ste	.....	lxxiijs iiij <i>d</i>
It' to Thom ^s Bagnall p ^o ste	.....	lvs
It' to Thom ^s Walker of Burton	.....	xxvjs
It' to John hyde of potlake	.....	xvijs
It' to Robert bakewell	.....	xls
It' to Rychard pusey for hys lyv'y	.....	xs
It' to John Smyth	.....	lxiijs
It' to Rychard haye	.....	xvjs viij <i>d</i>
It' to Robert Stephyn	.....	xs
It' to Thom ^s Guysbo ^o ne	.....	xs
It' to John Kynton	.....	xs
It' to Thomas Mychell	.....	xxvijs
It' to John Broune	.....	lvs iiij <i>d</i>
It' to William Kynton	.....	xs
Sm ^a	.....	lxiiij <i>li</i> xiiij <i>d</i> ob

The priory buildings were not destroyed immediately after the suppression, but appear to have remained fairly intact until fourteen years later.

Thomas Thacker, the grantee, died in 1548, leaving his property of the late Priory of Repton to his son and heir, Gilbert. This person, according to Fuller, "being alarmed with

the news that Queen Mary had set up the abbeys again (and fearing how large a reach such a precedent might have), upon a Sunday (belike the better day, the better deed) called together the carpenters and masons of that county, and plucked down in one day (church-work is a cripple in going up, but rides post in coming down) a most beautiful church belonging thereto, saying 'he would destroy the nest, for fear the birds should build therein again.'"* That the church was a beautiful structure anyone can judge for himself from the remains now uncovered, but how far Fuller's account be true is not evident, for there are no traces of such dislocation of walls and shattering of easily broken stones like molded bases, etc., as would have resulted if the building had been hastily and violently demolished.

In choosing the site of a monastery the first consideration of the old men was the water supply. The domestic needs of the house, the mill, and the sanitary arrangements all depended on this, and the whole disposition of the buildings was regulated by the relative positions of water and site.

The parish church at Repton stands at the extremity of a lofty ridge or spur, which once overlooked and formed the right bank of the river Trent. The stream has, however, been diverted since the suppression of the Priory, and the "Old Trent," as it is now called, is reduced to a mere sedgy pool. On the same ridge, but a few yards east of the parish church, the monastery was placed. The site was in every way an admirable one, for its height above the alluvial flat through which the Trent flows rendered it secure from floods, and the immediate proximity of the river supplied the necessary water course for sanitary and domestic purposes. Eastward of the Priory the ground slopes down to the level of the plain.

The usual plan of a monastery consisted of a square cloister enclosed on all sides by buildings, the church always forming one side and the frater (or refectory) the opposite one. The east side was bounded by the dormitory, and the west by the

* Fuller's *Church History*, Bk vi. p. 358.

cellarer's buildings for guests and stores. When the site permitted, the church occupied the north side of the cloister, so that the north walk of the latter, which formed the living room of the inmates, might have the benefit of the mid-day sun, and shelter from the north winds. If, however, the water supply lay to the north, the church formed the south range, and the fraterie the north. Whatever be the origin of the monastic plan, it is certainly a most admirably contrived one for its purpose, and that it perfectly answered the needs of the inmates is shown by its persistent adoption throughout the middle ages. The church was always cruciform, and the cloister square invariably joined the nave.* The cloister was an open court, enclosed round its four sides by covered alleys, which served different purposes. The alley next the nave was the living room of the brethren, and furnished with book-cases against the church wall, and reading desks or "carols" in the window recesses looking out on the central area. The western alley seems to have been used for the novices, and the other two were passages. The eastern side of the cloister was bounded by one arm of the transept of the church, next to which was the chapter house, and beyond that the *calefactorium*, or common-house; as it was called at Durham—a long vaulted apartment with a fire-place. Between these three buildings were often placed other small apartments or passages, such as the vestry and the regular parlour—the latter being a place where necessary conversation might be carried on, for the Statutes of most of the Orders forbade speaking in the church, cloister, fraterie, and dormitory. Over all these apartments was the dormitory. It usually had two staircases, one descending directly into the transept to enable the brethren to go to matins at midnight without going through the cold cloister, the other communicating with the cloister itself. At the end of the dormitory was the *necessarium*, a building always of considerable size, and most admirably contrived

* The only exception at present known is Rochester Cathedral Priory, where it is on the south side of the choir, and even this is probably a later alteration.

for its purpose. It was well ventilated, and the waste water of the monastery, or the mill race, constantly ran through it and effectually flushed it. On the opposite side of the cloister to the nave was the *refectory*, or *fratry*, a long and lofty hall, usually in canons' houses raised upon an undercroft. In the side wall was a pulpit, from which portions of pious works were read every day during meals. There was often a passage from the cloister between the east end of the *fratry* and the dormitory range. At the west end of the *fratry* was the *buttery* and kitchen, the latter being sometimes semi-detached. The whole of the western block of buildings pertained to the cellarer, who had charge of the stores, and upon whom devolved the care of guests. His range was, therefore, always two, and sometimes three, stories high, the lowest being cellars for provisions, etc., and the first floor a long hall where guests might eat and sleep. The sick and infirm brethren had a separate dwelling called the *infirmatorium*, which was much the same sort of establishment as our modern almshouse, and furnished with its own hall and chapel. It usually stood on the east of the monastery, so as to secure peace and quiet. The bakehouse and brewhouse and other offices were placed in the outer court, which was entered by a gatehouse, with porter's lodge and almonry adjoining, and a lodging-house for tramps, etc. There was sometimes a small chapel nigh the gate.

The Priory of Repton differed in no marked way from the usual plan, but owing to the water being on the north, the cloister, with its surrounding buildings, was placed on that side of the conventual church.

Of the church itself we are now able to say a good deal, and as the excavations proceed we shall know very much more. The whole of the nave and tower have been completely cleared out to the floor line, and the limits of the transept and choir can be fixed by holes dug for the purpose. Portions of the north east and south east angles of the choir have been exposed for many years. The usual type of a canons' church was aisleless and cruciform—aisles having been added afterwards as necessity demanded or increased wealth permitted. At Repton, the augmentation of

the possessions of the Priory during the reigns of the Edwards appears to have enabled the canons to rebuild their church out of the ground with aisles to the nave as well as the choir. What the plan of the eastern arm was is not yet quite certain. It seems to have had either double aisles, or a single one on each side, with a large southern chapel. The choir proper was twenty-six feet wide, and the stalls were returned against the *pulpitum*, or choir screen, which stood under the eastern arch of the central tower. A notch cut in the base of the tower pier shows that a wooden screen was carried along between the piers behind the stalls, and separated the choir from its aisles. The aisle immediately to the south was 10 feet wide, and the arch opening into it from the transept had a wooden screen, as may be seen from the holes cut for its reception. The pier which divided this aisle from the chapel to the south, and whose beautiful base I uncovered in the summer of 1883, has been strengthened at some period very shortly after its own erection, by adding a respond on its eastern face. This was apparently done when the chapels which lay to the east of the transept were extended eastward to form aisles. The arch to the south of this base has also been filled by a wooden screen, and in front of this, as may be seen from the traces left by the masonry against the pier, stood an altar. The south transept was about 20 feet wide, but its area has only been partially cleared, and its length and arrangements are not yet ascertained. The central tower measured about 25 feet from north to south, by $21\frac{1}{2}$ feet from east to west, and its walls were 5 feet 2 inches in thickness. It is of later date than the nave and transepts. Between the eastern pair of piers stood the *pulpitum*, a solid stone screen 5 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep; it had a central door 4 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, with molded jambs, flanked on either side by a buttress. The face of the screen was perfectly plain, and when I uncovered it in 1883 showed no traces of colour, though the moldings of the door were brightly painted with red and black. In the north half of the screen was a straight stair 3 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, leading to the loft above, on which stood "ould payr of Organs." The step from the nave still remains in front of the "quere dore," but

singularly enough there is a step of *descent* into the choir itself, much worn by the constant tread of the canons' feet. It should be noticed that the *pulpitum* is an integral part of the tower piers, and has the same hollow chamfered plinth, showing the work to be contemporaneous. The north transept is still buried beneath five feet of rubbish, but from holes sunk during the past summer its length has been found to be about 33 feet. What its arrangements were, and how its eastern aisle opened into it cannot be known until the area is cleared. Traces ought to be found of the stairs leading from the dormitory.

The nave must have been one of the most beautiful in this part of the country. The work was all of exceptionally good character and design, and pertained to the transitional period of architecture which prevailed during the reign of Edward I., when the severe simplicity of the Early English was merging into the more flowing lines of the Decorated. The nave itself was 95 feet 6 inches long, and 23 feet 2 inches wide. It was separated from the aisles by an arcade of six arches, supported by clustered pillars of good design. The first two pair of pillars are, however, of different plan to the other three and the western responds, for though both consist in the main of a great quatrefoil with nook shafts, the former have the principal members keel shaped, and the angle shaft was a beautiful triple one; while the latter had a fillet on each face, and a circular shaft in the angles. Again, the former rise straight from the floor without a plinth, but the latter stand on a square edged plinth set lozengewise. There cannot, however, be very much difference in date between the two designs; but the fact is interesting, as showing how the work was done piecemeal as funds allowed. There are signs of a screen having stood between the first pair of piers, and an altar has been placed against the western face of the second pier of the south arcade. On the north side only the first base is left; the next three have quite disappeared, and of the fifth only the square footstall remains. The first south base has also disappeared, but the other four remain in a more or less perfect state. Against the west wall of the nave, but not of the aisles, is a stone bench table. One jamb of the

inner arch of the great west door remains. A heavy wall has been built along the top of what was spared of the west end at the demolition of the church, and until it is removed nothing can be said as to the plan and design of the doorway. Of the south aisle, which was 12 feet wide, nothing is left except a few feet of the wall at either end, where it joined the transept and the west front; all the rest has been entirely removed. In its west wall is the doorway and lowest steps of a circular stair, 2 feet 3 inches wide. The base of the north aisle wall remains intact for its entire length to a height of 2 feet; it has the usual doorway at each end communicating with the cloister, though now carefully blocked up. In the wall opposite the first pier is a small semi-octagonal respond, showing there was an arch thrown over the aisle at this point. The reason of this is not clear, for there could have been no lateral thrust; and the base is not an insertion, but contemporary with the wall. In the first bay is also another curious feature. Immediately to the east of the cloister door is a low, but acutely pointed arch, only 1 foot 10½ inches wide, opening into a small recess. A modern cesspool has been built against it on the north side, to receive which it has been much cut about, and in the wall above it a chimney shaft appears to have been constructed; a fireplace it can hardly have been, but since the tower piers are not large enough to carry a staircase, we most probably have here the entrance to a circular vice leading on to the aisle or transept roof, whence there would be another up the tower. To the east of this arch the wall suddenly turns north at a small angle to a remarkable straight joint in the wall. The existence of this is puzzling, but I think it may be explained thus: when the arch opening into the aisle from the transept was constructed, the present aisle wall was not built, but an aisle was contemplated of slightly greater width than was eventually carried out; also, when the reconstruction of the nave was taken in hand, it was begun at the east end, as far as the arcade was concerned, but the work came to a standstill after it had got as far as the third arch, and when the final resumption of the work took place, it commenced

at the west end. The aisle was then set out on slightly narrower lines than had been projected when its eastern arch was built, and the work having been carried up too high to permit of an alteration, the junction with the transept wall was made in the curious way we now see.

There is one more interesting point to be noted before we leave the church. Previous to the excavations, I was at a loss to explain how it was that the nave joined so awkwardly with the present school block, which is structurally the *cellarium* of the monastery; for when a conventual establishment was first planned its buildings were generally arranged with some regard to symmetry. I have, however, since found that at a distance of 4½ feet from the present north aisle wall there is the foundation of a wall, 6 feet thick, running parallel with it, which is exactly in line with the south end of the *cellarium*. It is obvious, therefore, that the nave was at first aisleless, and that when the rebuilding began the new lines were so set out that the work might proceed as far as possible before the old walls were removed, for there was room to construct the new wall while the old wall was standing. I have not yet been able to recover the old south wall.

In the centre of the nave is a stone covering a grave; another lies in the south transept, and a third has been removed from its position in the south aisle.

Of the cloister and its surrounding buildings not much can be said. The parts that were not demolished at the suppression were subsequently converted to the uses of the school, and the sites have been encumbered by still more recent structures. The cloister area in particular has been divided by a wall, and so encroached upon by various out-buildings and enlargements of the school block, that its original square form is only evident on plan. Nothing is now visible of any of its arrangements. The east wall remains *in situ*, but sundry recasings and patchings have quite obliterated all traces of the various doorways.

Of the buildings that surrounded the cloister, commencing on the east, we have first the chapter house. It immediately adjoined the transept, but only part of the north, and the much patched

west walls remain above ground. The junction of its south and west walls was uncovered during my excavations in 1883, from which the width was found to be about $27\frac{1}{2}$ feet. Its extent eastward is unknown, but the length can hardly have been less than 40 feet. Part of the jamb of one of the window openings that flanked the door may be seen on the cloister side of the west wall. Very interesting discoveries of tombs, etc., may be looked for when the area is excavated.

To the north of the chapter-house is the slype, or covered passage from the cloister to the cemetery on the north east. It is $11\frac{3}{4}$ feet wide by $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and still retains its roof, a plain barrel vault without ribs, springing from a chamfered string. The segmental rear arch is the only part of the west door that remains in a perfect state. Nothing can be made out of the west doorway, and the east end has had the opening enlarged in recent times.

Next to the slype was the *calefactorium*, but its site is so encumbered with out-buildings and offices that no more can be said about it, beyond the fact that it was $25\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and covered by a vaulted roof, probably carried by a row of pillars down the central line. The segmental rear arch of a door from the cloister remains in the south west angle. This door may, however, have been that to the dormitory day-stairs.

Above the chapter-house, slype, and *calefactorium* was the dormitory. It was 25 feet 6 inches wide, but its length cannot now be ascertained. From the inventory of 1540 we know it was divided into cubicles for the canons.

Towards the north end of the dormitory we should look for the *necessarium*, but its site and extent have not yet come to light.

On the north side of the cloister, and forming the whole of its length, was the fraternity or dining hall. It appears to have been built, as was customary amongst canons, upon an undercroft. One of the north windows of the latter remains, and at its east end was a slype from the cloister to the building now called the "Hall." The fraternity itself was about 96 feet long and 24 feet wide. Its north wall does not range with the north end of the *cellarium*, and perhaps shows that when the new north aisle of

the church encroached upon the cloister the fraternity was rebuilt a few feet further north too, though such a proceeding would hardly be necessary.

The western side of the claustral buildings consisted of the block under the charge of the cellarer, called the *cellarium*. It is here complete to the roof as far as the structure is concerned, but the original round-headed windows have been superseded by larger ones, and sundry partitions and insertions have quite destroyed its ancient arrangements. The ground floor consists of a large hall about 90 feet long by $26\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide, divided into two alleys by a row of six massive Norman circular columns with scolloped capitals. The two southernmost have, however, been removed. At the south end of the hall is a chamber $11\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, which doubtless originally served a two-fold purpose as the slype to the cloister and the outer parlour, where conversation was carried on with secular persons, and the ordinary business transacted. Its use as a passage must, however, have ceased when the north aisle was rebuilt, as the new wall blocked up the doorway. The north end of the *cellarium* is formed of a space 21 feet long by $26\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide; originally one room, but afterwards divided irregularly into three, so that the eastern half forms one room and the western half two. The northern of the latter is $9\frac{3}{4}$ feet wide and about $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, with a groined roof. The ribs were intended to be ornamented with the dogtooth molding, but the work was begun and never finished. The three apartments may form the kitchen and larder. The main hall was probably used for stores. The first floor consists, like the undercroft, of a long hall, with a large square chamber at the north end, and a narrower one at the south end. It was used for the housing and entertainment of guests of the better sort, and the hall probably had originally a row of pillars down the middle, forming two alleys, one of which was divided into cubicles, perhaps forming the various chambers enumerated in the 1540 Inventory. The *cellarium* appears to be the only remaining part of the original Norman monastery, built when the canons migrated here from Calke, in the middle of the twelfth century.

The block of buildings now called the Hall has been so completely modernised, with the exception of Prior Overton's brick tower at its east end, that it would be useless to discuss its probable arrangements. Since the prior had a chamber in the monastery, this cannot have been his house, for the Statutes did not permit it, and there can be little doubt the building was really the *infirmitorium*, or abode of sick and infirm monks.

The monastery was approached by a gatehouse on the southwest, the outer arch of which still forms the entrance to the priory precinct. Originally it had a gatehouse hall with upper chamber, and a room for the porter. There seems also to have been a long building extending from it northwards along the edge of the churchyard, which would contain the almonry and a lodging for tramps and paupers.

The precinct of the monastery was enclosed by a high stone wall, much of which remains.

The excavations were commenced under my direction and supervision on August 30, 1883, and have since been continued under Mr. Blomfield's direction. Many beautiful fragments and tiles have been discovered, but as the subsequent excavations will lay bare many more, a description of them, together with the entire ground plan, must be reserved for another paper.

When Doctors Legh and Layton visited the Priory preparatory to the suppression, they reported concerning Repton:—

“Superstitio. Huc fit peregrinatio ad Sanctum Guthlacum et ad eius campanam quam solent capitibus imponere ad restinguendum dolorem capitis.”

It is possible that in clearing out the choir and transepts some traces may be found of St. Guthlac's shrine.

The full consideration of the architecture and arrangements of the church must await the completion of the excavations.