

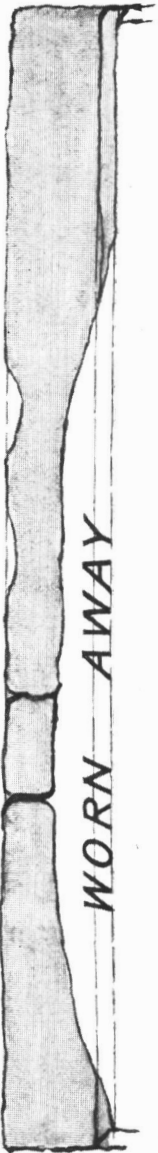
That ye com'issioners abovesaid after yey had putt this answe're into better forme delivered a true coppinge of it verbatim into ye hands of Mr. Richarde Greaves wheareunto all ye above said myners lykewyse subscribed where coppinges may be had thereof for better satisfacon heerein, Juste agreeable w'th ye answe're returned into ye Escheq'r by vertue of a comission forth of ye saide Courte."

It is interesting in view of the difficulties which the country has had to face in the present year, to note that the mining industry in Derbyshire was not without its difficulties almost exactly three hundred years ago.

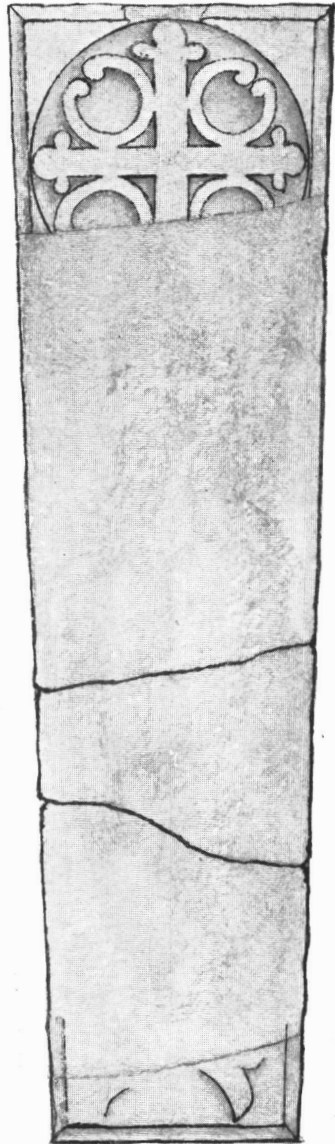
## IX.

### WILLINGTON CHURCH RESTORATION.

This small but interesting church has recently undergone a thorough restoration. It is exactly a century since the last structural alteration took place when the tower and north transept were built in 1824. The only important alteration to the structure at the restoration of 1924 has been the erection of a south porch, and the opening of the original south door which had been blocked since 1825. During the opening of this doorway, which is of late twelfth or early thirteenth century date, a large slab was uncovered about two feet below the surface. Unfortunately it was broken across in two places in course of removal. It proved to be a large sepulchral slab, dating probably from the very early years of the fourteenth century. The material is a yellow sandstone, somewhat soft. As a considerable part of the middle of the upper side has been worn away to a depth of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, there can be no doubt that it has served as a door-step at the entrance to the church for a considerable period. It is seven feet long, and 1 foot 8 inches wide at the head, tapering to 1 foot 2 inches at the foot. The slab is seven inches in thickness. There is a chamfered



SIDE.



WILLINGTON CHURCH.

XIV Century Memorial Slab found at South doorway 1924.

*Scale, one inch to one foot.*

edge and the greater part of the head of the cross with a small portion of the foliated foot are visible. The head consists of a trifoliated cross within a circle, the spaces between the arms being filled with penannular ornaments. The whole is a good example of late geometrical ornamentation. In the absence of any clue to identification it would be idle to speculate whose grave the slab once covered, but doubtless it was one of the lords of Willington in the fourteenth century. The broken pieces have been fastened together and fixed in the recently-built porch.

C. J. Dudeney.

## X.

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