

THE SOUTH TRANSEPT OF REPTON CHURCH.

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DURING the recent restoration of the Lady Chapel in the South Transept of Repton Church some interesting features were brought to light.

1. The stripping of the plaster from the East wall of the Transept revealed a stone measuring $16\frac{1}{2}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches built into the wall, having one of its shorter sides roughly rounded, and crudely carved on the face of it in low relief. It was in such a position that it would have been partly hidden by the stone altar which has since been placed there, and it was accordingly removed from the wall and put in the Porch. The design of the carving is partially obliterated and difficult to trace with certainty, but may perhaps be described as consisting of irregular loosely interlaced strap-work, divided longitudinally by a fillet or beading into two portions. On its removal from the wall the stone was found to be 12 inches in depth, but cut away on the face opposite the carving to form a rounded arch 9 inches across and 5 inches high, reduced on one side by rabbeting to 7 by 4 inches and splayed on the other side to 11 by $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It would appear, therefore, that before being built into the 14th-century Transept wall it had already been used twice — first, perhaps, as part of the shaft of a pre-Norman cross, and later as the head of a small Saxon or Norman window.

2. A few inches below the floor level and about 5 feet within the existing East wall of the Transept a portion of the original Saxon East wall was disclosed. This is in line with the Saxon East wall of the North Transept, now incorporated with the North Aisle.

3. When the upper part of the passage leading into the Church from the South-West angle of the Crypt was cleared of obstructions the base of a round Saxon column was exposed to view, measuring 22 inches in height and $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and standing upon a plinth



photo by E. G. Harvey

CARVED STONE FOUND IN REPTON CHURCH

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roughly 22 inches square. It corresponds in position with the similar base of a column near the passage leading from the North-West angle of the Crypt. The upper portions of these columns, removed in 1854, now stand on either side of the inner door in the Porch. The parts recently exposed of the Saxon column and wall were observed during alterations at the Church in 1887, and are indicated on a plan of the Church in *The Journal of the British Archæological Association*, Vol. L, Part 3 (Sept. 1894), but the column is there incorrectly marked "Norman" and the wall "Transition or E.E."

4. Close to the head of the Crypt passage on the South-West side a leaden coffin containing human remains was found about 2 feet beneath the floor. It was inscribed with the name of Jane Burdett, the date 1637, and the motto "Augusta Animae Augusta Orbis". This lady was the daughter and heiress of William Fraunceys of Foremark, and in 1602 married Thomas Burdett of Bramcote, who was created a baronet in 1618-19, and in virtue of his marriage eventually succeeded to the lordship of the manor of Foremark. Jane's burial is recorded in the Repton Parish Register under the date March 24th, 1637 (1638 according to our present reckoning), as "The Lady Jane Burdit, wife of Sr. Thomas Burdit". Her burial here is accounted for by the fact that the old Chapel of Ease at Foremark was then in ruins and the present Church was not built until 1662.

5. Embedded in the West wall of the Transept and partly projecting from it, about 20 inches from the South wall, a small portion of a round column was found a little below the level of the floor. It measures 8 inches in height and about 14 inches in diameter, and stands on a square plinth, of which the North-East corner (the only one visible) is rounded off at the top. It seems evident that these stones are not in their original position; they may possibly have once formed part of a column of an earlier South arcade, or of the base of a mediæval font.