

VII.—THE ARMORIALS UPON DURHAM CASTLE.

BY C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

[Read on 22nd February 1939.]



Azure a cross patonce gold between four lions rampant silver—Cathedral church of Durham.



Azure a cross gold between four lions rampant silver—The see of Durham.

The many shields of arms at Durham castle are not of the great days of mediæval armory, but they illustrate the work of heraldic artists, who carved in wood, stone and lead, from the beginning of the sixteenth to the middle of the nineteenth centuries. They are also useful historically as by them can be identified the alterations and additions made to the fabric by successive bishops, whose armorial shields certify the work carried out by their orders. It seems very probable that the building done in the fourteenth century would have borne some armorial marks of the bishops by whom it was designed, but if so these have been destroyed by later alterations. No heraldic memorial

remains of the warlike Antony Bek (1284-1311) who built the Great Hall upon its present site. He was the first English bishop to bear arms. He bore his shield at Falkirk¹ (1298) and displayed his banner at Caerlaverock² (1300) and, perhaps less fitly, wore his mill-rind cross embroidered upon his chasuble.³ Nor is there any memorial of Thomas of Hatfield (1345-81) who altered and enlarged Bek's hall. He also bore arms and went forth to war displaying his banner at Crecy and Calais, at the head of a retinue of 295 knights, men at arms and archers.⁴ His well-known shield is lavishly displayed upon his tomb-throne in the cathedral near by. A pelican in her piety borne upon the shield of bishop Richard Fox (1494-1501) is the earliest heraldic carving on the castle (plate VII, 1). It is upon the wall of the "screens" at the south end of the hall where he made great alterations, the chief being the building of the present magnificent kitchen. The only other pre-reformation heraldry now remaining is upon the three beautifully carved bench-ends, originally made for the chapel at Bishop Auckland, now in Tunstall's chapel within the castle. They display the arms of the cathedral church of Durham and also that shield impaled with the arms of bishop Ruthall (1509-20) (plate VIII). The work done by bishop Tunstall (1530-59) on the north side of the courtyard, where he built a stair turret, gallery and chapel against the front of Puiset's Norman gallery, is marked more than once by his armorial shield (plate IX, figs. 1 and 2). No building nor repairs of any magnitude were done during the troublous times from Tunstall's death in 1559 until the accession of bishop Cosin (1660-72).

The castle had by then become greatly in need of renovation; this necessary work Cosin carried out with energetic zeal besides making extensive additions and

¹ *Reliquary*, vol. XVI, pp. 30 ff., no. 22.

² *Roll of Caerlaverock*, ed. Wright, p. 22.

³ *Durham Seals*, 3125 and note 37, and plate 50.

⁴ *Crecy and Calais*, Wrottesley, pp. 34 and 194.

alterations. He built the present porch in front of Bek's doorway, the four large buttresses against the east wall of the Great Hall as well as the splendid staircase called the Black Stair, in the north-west corner of the court-yard. His well-known azure fret upon a golden shield is plentifully displayed upon both the outside and inside of his work (plate x, fig. 1). This shield, flanked or surmounted by his crest, the eagle of his name-saint John, is carved upon and above the screens and doorways which, removed from the cathedral, now divide and shut off the lower gallery (plate XIII, figs. 1 and 2). It also appears upon the screen at the end of Tunstall's chapel, flanking with shields of the arms of the church, a royal achievement of arms, painted with the arms of George III as borne from 1801 to 1816. The corbels of the roof beams of the western bays of this chapel are also emblazoned with the fret of Cosin alternately with the arms of the see. Nathaniel Lord Crew (1674-1721) apparently extended the chapel eastwards as his shield, with that of the see, appears upon the eastern part of the roof. Bishop Crew's chief work, however, seems to have been the strengthening and making water-tight of the outer walls of the castle. His shield, a silver lion upon an azure shield, is moulded upon many lead-heads. One of these (plate XIV, fig. 1) is a very fine example of decorative heraldry, whilst another shows his shield impaled with that of the church on the dexter and that of his first wife, Penelope Froude, on the sinister. His complete achievement of arms vigorously carved in oak now hangs above the fireplace in the Great Hall (plate VII, fig. 2). The work of succeeding bishops appears to have been mainly confined to strengthening and maintaining the walls and roofs, but there is no armorial mark of their work until bishop Butler (1750-52) whose shield, carved in stone, is upon the walls of the north terrace (plate XV, fig. 2) and also upon a lead-head on the same wall.

The gold ramping lion, upon a shield divided per bend sinister ermine and ermines, of bishop Trevor (1752-71)

marks the work done by him upon the north terrace (plate XV, fig. 1) and upon the north wall of the Norman gallery. The triple chevrons and label on the shield of bishop Barington (1791-1826) appear on the east side of the south face of the gatehouse, upon the lead-heads on the east wall of the Great Hall as well as carved in oak in the lobby of Tunstall's chapel. The shields of bishops Van Mildert (1826-36) and Maltby (1836-56) are both carved beneath the oriel window on the south side of Cosin's porch; that of the latter, high upon the west wall of the keep, marks its rebuilding during his episcopate.

Finally the great restoration, carried out in the last decade, is commemorated upon the lead-heads of the western wall of the Great Hall by a shield of the church between the letters H. D. (Herbert Dunelm.) and above the date 1935. This reverts to the usage of Tunstall, who was the last bishop to use the cross patonce of the church to mark the work done by him; his successors all used the plain cross of the see. He was also the last to ensign his shield with the graceful, low triangular shaped mitre of the later mediæval style; after him all are shown of the high, curved oval shape—neither graceful nor beautiful. Ruthall's mitre (plate VIII) and that of all the later bishops is surrounded by a coronet intended presumably to denote the secular rank of the bishop as lord palatine. This use of the coronet dates from the fourteenth century when it appears upon the official seals of certain of the bishops' sheriffs.⁵ Its probable derivation is from the crest-coronet first used upon the helm on the equestrian reverse of Hatfield's great seal and afterwards upon that of his successors; in that position it had no special significance, being merely a part of the crest as often used by knights not even of baronial rank. It is first used upon other than a great seal by bishop Dudley⁶ (1476-83) on his privy seal and upon an episcopal seal of dignity by lord Crew and afterwards by all the bishops of

⁵ *Durham Seals*, nos. 325, plate 4; 1747, plate 28; 2512, plate 33.

⁶ *Durham Seals*, no. 3161 and plate 52.

Durham upon their seals of that type. It should not, however, be assumed that a coronet was actually worn around their mitres by the bishops of Durham; this could hardly be the case, but it was probably a symbol to signify their palatine rank.

LIST OF SHIELDS OF ARMS IN ORDER OF THE SUCCESSION OF BISHOPS¹

RICHARD FOX (1494-1501): *azure a pelican in her piety gold*; carved upon the "screens" at the south end of the Great Hall (plate VII, fig. 1).



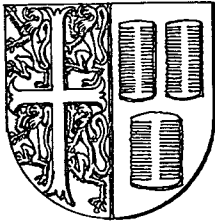
THOMAS RUTHALL (1509-23): *party per pale azure and gules a cross engrailed silver between four doves gold, on a chief quarterly gold and ermine two roses gules*; carved, impaling the shield of the church (incorrectly) on a bench-end at the east end of the south stalls in Tunstall's chapel.

It is ensigned by a finely jewelled and coroneted mitre. At the west end of the stalls on the south side is the same shield correctly impaled with that of the church as in the margin; on the north side is the shield of the church alone ensigned with a coronet of fleurs-de-lis (plate VIII, figs. 1, 2 and 3).



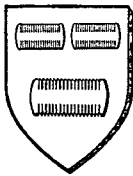
¹ Some of the armorials on the plates are made from photographs taken by Mr. C. A. Linge, clerk of the works, before the recent repairing and painting were done.

CUTHBERT TUNSTALL (1530-59): *azure three combs silver*.²



1. On the south wall of the Tunstall gallery, impaled with the shield of the church, ensigned by a jewelled mitre with a coronet of alternately large and small fleurs-de-lis (plate IX, fig. 1).²

2. On the lower part of the staircase tower: the same as no. 1 but with a small cock gold, wattle and legged gules as supporter at each side (plate IX, fig. 2).



3. On the left inside jamb of the lower window of the tower. On the right side is a plain shield.

JOHN COSIN (1660-72): *azure a fret gold*.³



1. On the east wall of the Garden staircase building, impaled with the see and ensigned by a jewelled and coroneted mitre (plate X, fig. 1).

2. On a cartouche above the entrance called Cosin's porch; as no. 1 but without a mitre and supported from behind by a buxom, crowned angel (plate X, fig. 2).

² In the illustration in the margin the combs should have been placed fessways as shown in nos. 2 and 3.



³ All the shields of Cosin on the castle are depicted in the ugly modern manner: *a saltire interlaced with a lozenge*. His seals all show the older and more graceful style of *narrow interlacing bastons*, as shown here in the margin. In mediæval heraldry a fret and fretty were the same.

3. In a panel upon the wall above the doorway are four shields of arms (plate x, fig. 2).

a. The fret of bishop Cosin; the restorer of the hall and builder of porch and buttresses.



b. The shield of bishop Hatfield (1345-81): *azure a chevron gold between three lions rampant silver*; the builder of the hall as it was before bishop Cosin.



c. The shield of Robert Grey (1660-74) *gules a border engrailed and a lion rampant silver*; he was canon of the eighth stall in Durham during Cosin's episcopate.



d. The shield of William Westley (1356-62) *gules on a bend silver three cocks sable combed and wattled gules*; he was archdeacon of Durham and chancellor of bishop Hatfield (plate x, fig. 2).



4. Upon pedestals above the pillars on each side of the doorway: dexter, a jewelled and coroneted mitre; sinister, the eagle crest of Cosin upon a full-faced, closed helm (plate x, fig. 2).

5. On the outside wall of the Black Stair are two shields of arms, the upper as no. 1; the lower with a carved scroll below the mitre and at each side a cherub with folded wings (plate xi, fig. 1).

6. On a lead-head on the south wall of this stair, the date MDCLXII and the fret of Cosin on the pipe below.
7. On a lead-head at the west end of the south wall of Tunstall's chapel, the church of Durham with the date 1661 (plate XII, fig. 1).
8. On a lead-head on the east wall of the stair, the church of Durham between the date 1661 (plate XII, fig. 2).
9. On two cartouches at the north and south ends of the top of the screen at the west end of Tunstall's chapel; inside of these on each side is a shield of the arms of the church and in the centre the royal arms as borne by George III in the years 1801-16.
10. Upon the four western corbels of the roof beams in Tunstall's chapel alternately with the shield of the church.
11. Above the screen at the east end of the Tunstall gallery with a splendid example of Cosin's crest in gold above the cartouche of arms (plate XIII, fig. 1).
12. Above and inside the screen at the west end of the same gallery his arms upon a Gothic shaped shield ensigned by a noble mitre with its tasselled ribbons. At each side is the head of an eagle with one wing outspread along the upper edge of the tympanum (plate XIII, fig. 3).
13. On the Black Stair, upon a cartouche, the church of Durham ensigned by a jewelled mitre with coronet (plate XIII, fig. 2).
14. On the south side of the north wall of the Fellow's garden is a much weathered shield with a jewelled mitre above it; the shield has been carved with the arms of the see probably impaling Cosin.

NATHANIEL LORD CREW (1674-1721): *azure a lion rampant silver.*



1. Lead-head at the west end of the south wall of the Norman gallery between the letters N. D. the arms are repeated upon the two "ears" at each side.

2. Lead-head at the east end of the south wall of the chapel, the church impaling Crew with the date 1699. Above the arms, on the dexter, is a jewelled mitre with coronet and on the sinister a baron's cap and coronet. These are repeated on the "ears" at each side, and on the pipe below are coronets, mitres and fleurs-de-lis (plate XIV, no. 1, taken before painting and restoration).
3. Lead-head on wall joining the north gallery to the keep. Crew impaling the church on the dexter and on the sinister the arms of his first wife Penelope Froude *azure three lions rampant gold and a border ermine*. Above the shield is a jewelled and coroneted mitre and beneath it is the date 1699. On the wall "ears" are dexter a mitre and sinister a baron's coronet. The arms are repeated upon the pipe below.
4. On the east face of king John's tower on the north terrace, a greatly weathered shield with supporters and ensigned by a mitre. It has apparently borne the church of Durham impaling Crew. It is not in its original place.
5. Above the fireplace in the Great Hall the full achievement of the arms of bishop lord Crew finely carved in oak (plate VII, fig. 2).
6. Upon the eastern corbels of the roof beams in Tunstall's chapel, both alone and impaled with the church.

JOSEPH BUTLER (1750-52): *silver between two bends engrailed sable three covered cups bendways sable.*



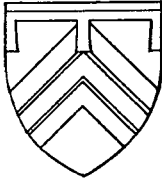
1. On the wall of the north terrace, east of the door, impaled with the church and ensigned by a mitre as before (plate xv, fig. 2, before restoration).
2. Lead-head on the same wall the same impaled arms on an ornamental shield, above it a mitre as before and below it the date 1752; the letters J. D. are one at either side of the mitre (plate XII, fig. 3, before restoration).

RICHARD TREVOR (1752-71): *party per bend sinister ermine and ermines a lion rampant gold.*



1. Lead-head to the east on the south wall of the Norman gallery, upon an ornamental cartouche, impaled with the see, above the shield a mitre between the letters R D, beneath is the date 1754 (plate XIV, fig. 2, before painting and restoration).
2. Carved upon the south wall of the Norman gallery at its east end, the see impaling Trevor, ensigned by a mitre as before (plate XI, fig. 2, before restoration).
3. On the north terrace above the door, on a shaped shield impaled with the see (plate xv, fig. 1, after restoration).

SHUTE BARRINGTON (1791-1826): *silver three chevrons gules and a label azure.*



1. On the east side of the south front of the gatehouse. On the west side is the shield of the see.
2. On the three lead-heads on the east wall of the Great Hall.
3. Above the bench in lobby at the west end of Tunstall's chapel; a helm without crest is above the shield.

WILLIAM VAN MILDERT (1826-36): *gules two scythe blades saltireways the points upwards, silver.*



1. Impaled with the see on the oriel window to the south of Cosin's porch.

EDWARD MALTBY (1836-56): *silver on bend gules between in chief a lion, in base a Maltese cross gules, three sheaves gold.*

1. On the oriel window south of Cosin's porch impaled with the see.
2. On a lead-head on the west wall of the keep, above it a mitre of low mediæval shape, between the letters E. D.



Fig. 1. ON WALL OF SCREENS IN GREAT HALL.



Fig. 2. OVER FIREPLACE OF GREAT HALL.





1



2



3

BENCH ENDS IN CHAPEL.





Fig. 1. ON SOUTH WALL OF TUNSTALL GALLERY.

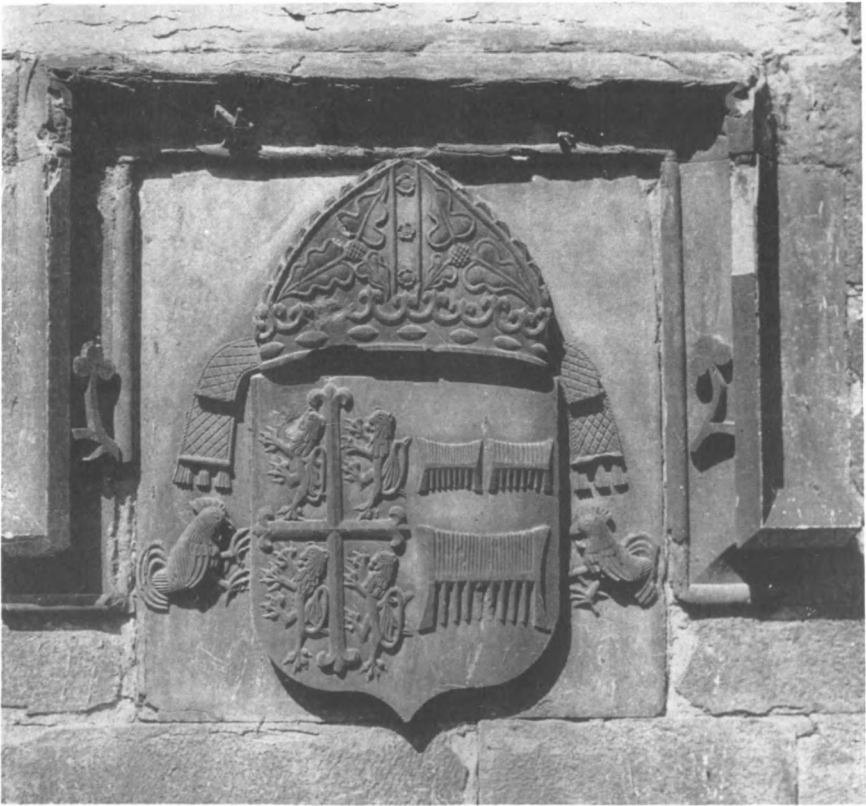


Fig. 2. ON WALL OF CLOCK TOWER.





Fig. 1. SEE AND COSINS, RESTORED, ON GARDEN STAIRCASE.

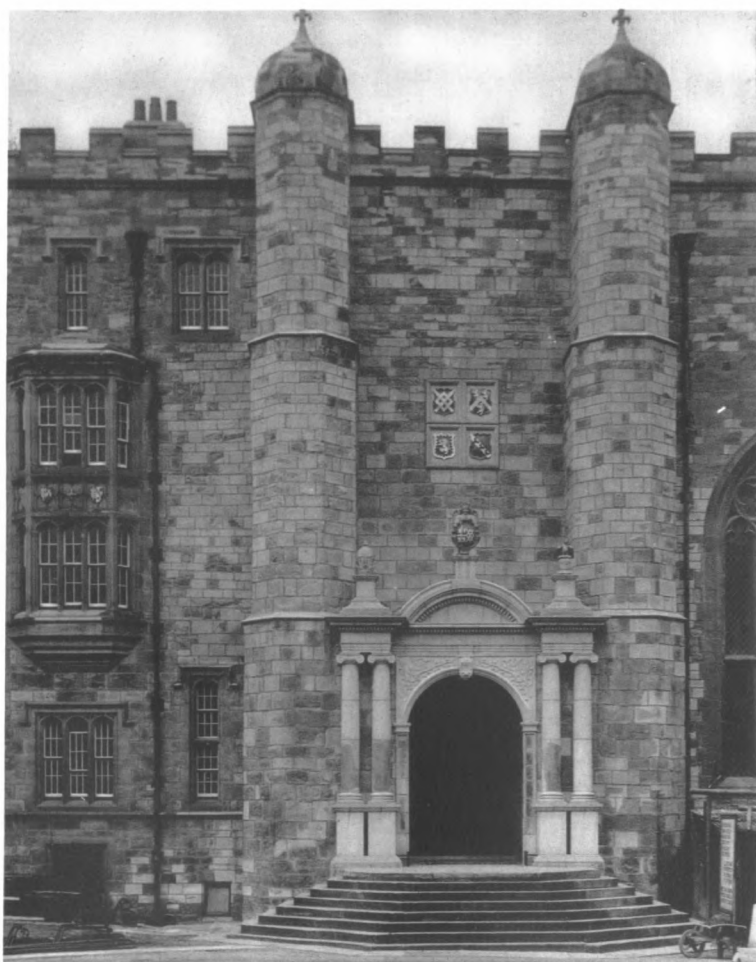


Fig. 2. ENTRANCE TO GREAT HALL, RESTORED.



Fig. 1. ON WALL OF BLACK STAIRCASE.



Fig. 2. ON SOUTH WALL OF NORMAN GALLERY AT EAST END.



Fig. 1. LEAD HEAD WEST END OF SOUTH WALL OF CHAPEL.



Fig. 2. LEAD HEAD ON EAST WALL OF BLACK STAIR.

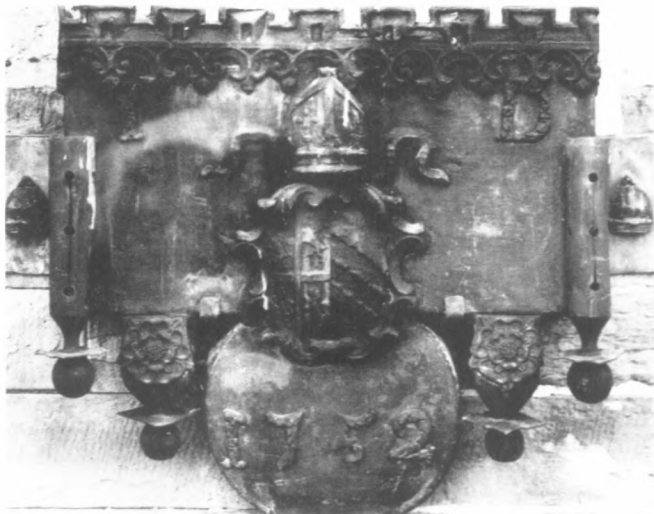
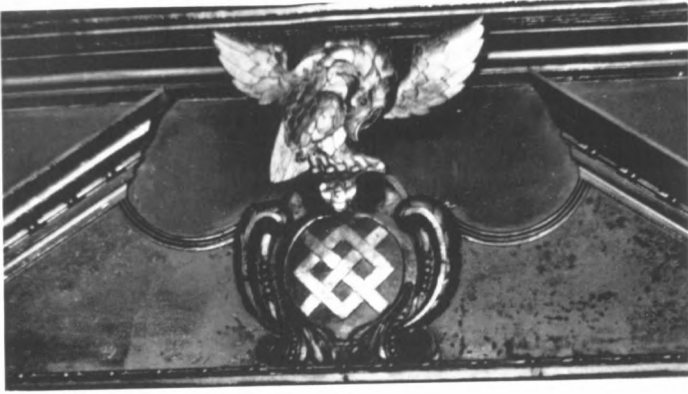


Fig. 3. LEAD HEAD ON WALL OF NORTH TERRACE.



1



2



3

IN TUNSTALL GALLERY.



FIG. 1. LEAD HEAD AT EAST END OF TUNSTALL'S CHAPEL.



FIG. 2. LEAD HEAD AT EAST END OF NORMAN GALLERY.



Fig. 1. ON WALL OF NORTH TERRACE ABOVE DOOR.

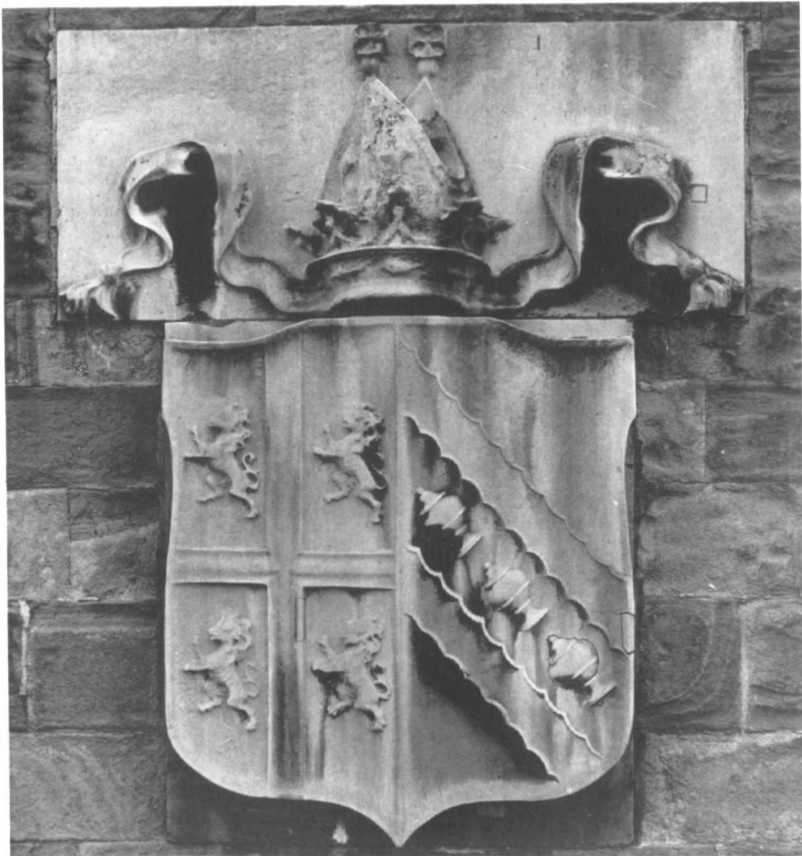


Fig. 2. ON WALL OF NORTH TERRACE TO THE EAST.

3. Lead-head on the south face of the wall joining the chapel to the keep, as no. 2.

HERBERT HENSLEY HENSON (1920-39).

On two lead-heads on the west wall of the Great Hall a shield of the arms of the church of Durham between the letters H. D. and with the date 1935 beneath it.

Above the fireplace in the senate room within the castle is a finely carved and painted oak overmantel said to have come from a house in the Bailey; this has been illustrated and described in *Archæologia Aeliana*, 4th series, vol. XII, pp. 27-8 and frontispiece to that volume.

Above the west door of the Fellow's garden leading to the bishop's walk are shields of the church and of the see, on the inside that of the see, on the outside that of the church.