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The eight figures in oak discovered yesterday high up in the chancel of the Canon's stalls of Sheffield Cathedral during the renovations.

AN "ANGELIC CHOIR."

Discovery in Sheffield Cathedral.

Carved in old oak, an "angelic choir" has been found high up in the chancel of the Canon's stalls of the Sheffield Cathedral by the men who are busily engaged repairing the destructive work done by the "Death Watch" beetle. There are eight of these interesting figures, and the wonder is that the ravages of time, together with the havoc wrought by the beetles, has not brought them down.

Yesterday a "Sheffield Telegraph" representative climbed up to the top of the scaffolding to inspect the bastions which supported the carved choir, if a choir it is. Each of the figures had been tenoned and dowelled to a point of the arches.

In the forest of spars and cross-pieces where the figures remain, only a feeble ray of light has ever glistened on the eight immobile faces, now as black as ebony with the passing of years. Electric lights, which seem out of place, dispel the gloom. Everywhere is dust and grime.

It is believed that the wooden figures were put up there with the erection of the transept, probably during the latter part of the twelfth or the beginning of the thirteenth century. For years and years they have remained there unknown. The organist of the Cathedral says that on bright days it was possible, by concentration of the sight towards the roof of the chancel, to make out certain forms.

Three of the figures are holding scrolls; one is playing a wind instrument; another has a shield; one a crown; and two are holding up their hands as if in praise. Two of the figures appear to represent angels, for they have the markings of feathers on their breasts. One appears to have a scarf knotted around the neck, and two others appear to be wearing vestments.

There is also a figure of the Paschal Lamb, but this was taken out of the baptistry. The figures are all in a state of splendid preservation. They have been carved by hand and are surprisingly heavy.