

Some Particulars, accompanied with a Figure,
 OF THE
 EASTERN WINDOW
 OF THE
 CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST,
 IN THE MADDERMARKEET, AT NORWICH.
 COMMUNICATED
 BY W. C. EWING, ESQ.

As a resident in the parish of Saint John Maddermarket, I feel anxious to give what publicity may be in my power to the fine East window of our Church; and with this view I beg to submit to my brethren of the Norfolk Archæological Society the accompanying drawing, kindly supplied me by Mrs. Gunn, to whose talented pencil our volumes are already greatly indebted. The window in question is much earlier than any other in the Church, and of a highly decorated character, surpassing in this respect all others in the city. Mr. J. H. Parker, of Oxford, no mean judge, thinks that a chancel formerly stood across the street, probably spanning it with an arch, in the same way as is now done by the Western tower, and by the chancel of Saint Gregory's Church in the adjoining parish; and under this supposition he believes, that on the removal of the chancel, its East window was inserted at the end of the nave, as it at present appears.

In one of the Corporation books is the following entry, bearing date June 24th, 20th of Eliz., 1578:—"The wall



East Window of the Chancel of St. John's, Maddermarket,
Church, Norwich. (1848)

CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. JOHN MADDERMARKET
CHURCHYARD.

To the Editor.

Sir—Seeing all this correspondence in your paper about St. John at Maddermarket churchyard, I, being one of the choir boys mentioned, must protest against the statement made in several letters, that it is used as a playground for the choir boys. The St. John's choir boys (the present choir) have never played therein.—
Yours truly,

J. H. S. TAGGART.

18, Connaught Road, Norwich.
April 8th.

ST. JOHN MADDERMARKET CHURCHYARD.

To the Editor,

Sir—The following details, supplementary to the antiquarian and other objections to the Maddermarket scheme, may have an interest for citizens.

The Council's plan, in brief, is to remove about two-thirds of the existing churchyard altogether; a not inconsiderable task as it stands between its containing walls, some six to eight feet above the passage ways either side of it; while the remaining portion adjoining the church is to be sloped to the level of the roadway and passage, planted with shrubs and surrounded by a low wall surmounted by ornate iron railings, with a gateway let in.

The estimated cost is not disclosed. It is interesting to note that the scheme originally thought adequate by the city authorities was sent back, the vestry view being, "The Corporation must carry it out handsomely or not at all." The Corporation, we are told, accordingly authorised the expenditure of an additional £120 upon railings and gate, the elaboration, apparently, to include the monograms of various churchwardens and others being worked in wrought iron into the design. This seems to the vestry eminently satisfactory; indeed, they say so. If it is equally satisfactory to the citizens who pay, it remains to be seen.

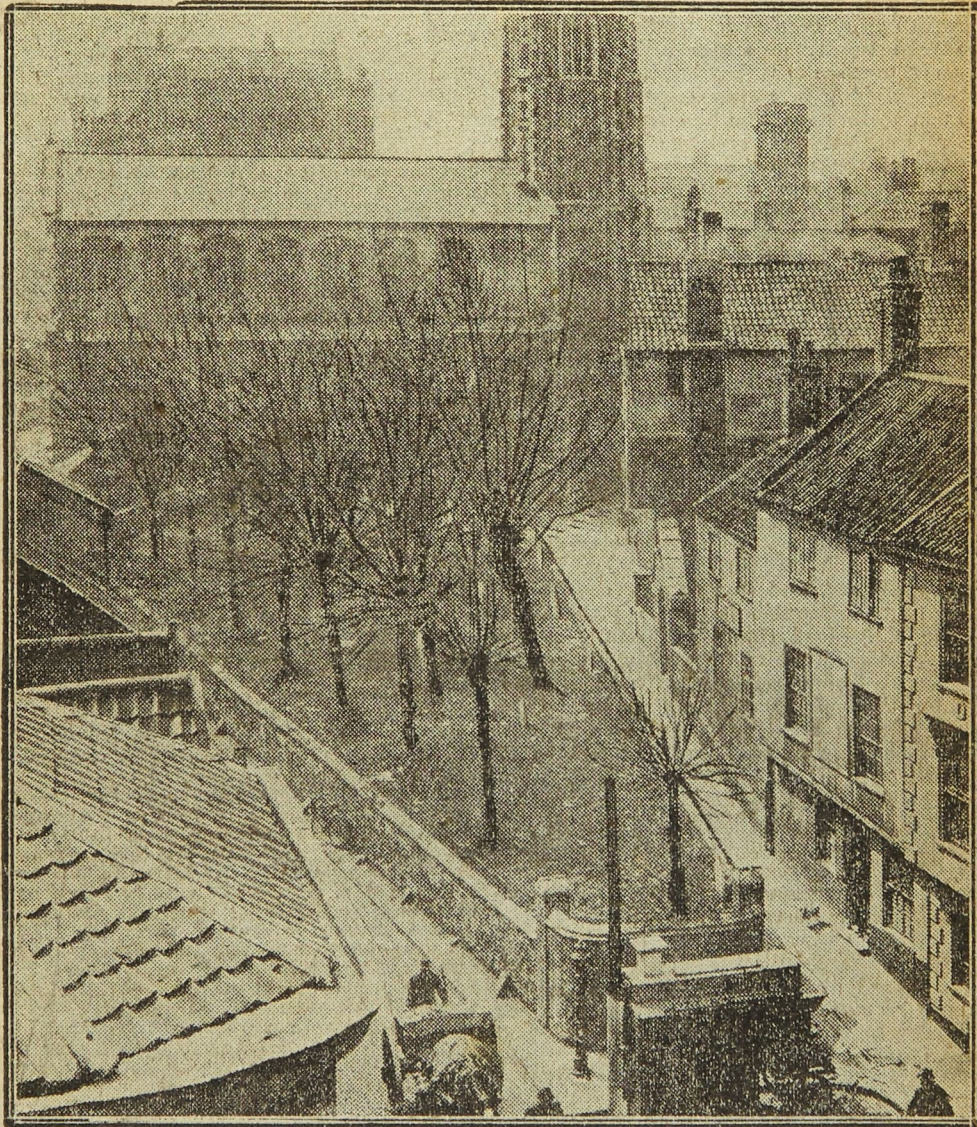
The Norwich Ratepayers' Association, on the evidence before them, have no hesitation in opposing the whole scheme. The expenditure of a comparatively trivial sum should suffice to protect the property, and being the property of the church, the cost should be borne by them.

Should any desire to oppose the destruction of any individual grave before the Consistory Court on May 6th next, they are invited to communicate with this association, at the offices of which a list of the graves proposed to be destroyed can be inspected.—Yours faithfully,

R. H. RAY,
Hon. Sec.

Norwich Ratepayers' Association, 12,
Exchange Street, Norwich, April 15th.

A PICTURESQUE NORWICH CHURCHYARD.



Correspondence has recently taken place as to the advisability of altering the churchyard of St. John Maddermarket, Norwich. Our photo, which gives a birdseye view of the churchyard, showing St John's Alley and the entrance to the Maddermarket Theatre, was taken from a window of the Public Library.

in St John's Church Yard to be cleane taken downe for the wydenyng of the strete ; and, so far as the parishioners will bestowe the coste, so as it may be done and reedefyed ageyne before the Quene's Mat^s commyng, they shall have allowed and payed oute of the treasury, v^{li}."

It will be observed that this order refers exclusively to the churchyard, and that no directions are given in it for the alteration of the Church itself to increase the width of the street, which runs at the East end of it ; neither am I aware that there is any record elsewhere extant to that effect.

As regards the Church in general, I find the following notices in the hand-writing of that indefatigable antiquary, Mr. John Kirkpatrick, who died in 1728 :

" It appears by the Coroner's Roll of 48 Hen. 3, that one Tho: Pratt, who had feloniously smote John the son of Will: de Hedersete and gave him 2 wounds on his head, did thereupon put himself into this Church. It was ordered that he should be watched there ; but he made his escape, so that the Baillives were to answer.—*Rot. Coronat. in Gildhall.*"

Again : " A. D. 1504, Tho. Bowde, Clerk, willed to be buried within y^e Churchyerde of this Chirche, in y^e Alley at y^e Weste ende of y^e Stepille ther.—*Reg. Popye, f. 554.*"

" N. B. y^e Alley now runs under an arch directly beneath y^e Steeple. Qu. therefore, if y^e present Steeple were not built since A.D. 1504."

And again, in confirmation of my quotation from the Town books, Mr. Kirkpatrick writes : " Formerly, y^e Churchyard came further Eastward than now, so y^t y^e street was too narrow there. But, A.D. 1577, against y^e Queen's coming to Norwich, p^t of it was taken away, by order of y^e City, for enlarging y^e street, and a new wall made as now : y^e City p^d p^t of y^e charge.—*Vide Cur. 8 June, 19 Eliz.*"

In its interior, the Church is full of interest : the heads that

support the corbel-table in the North aisle are both graceful and uncommon; an angel holding a book, in a similar situation in the nave, is singularly elegant; and those painted on the ceilings of the chapels, in both the North and South aisle, bearing scrolls with portions of the *Te Deum* between crowns of thorns encircled with flowers, are at once most uncommon in design and costume, and far from ordinary in execution. The whole building was truly the work of no inferior hands. The monuments in it to Layer and Sotherton, together with several sepulchral brasses,—among them the remarkable one to John Terry,—still remain uninjured. The palace of the Dukes of Norfolk, now quite destroyed, stood in this parish.

