

# Castleacre Priory.

COMMUNICATED BY

W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A.

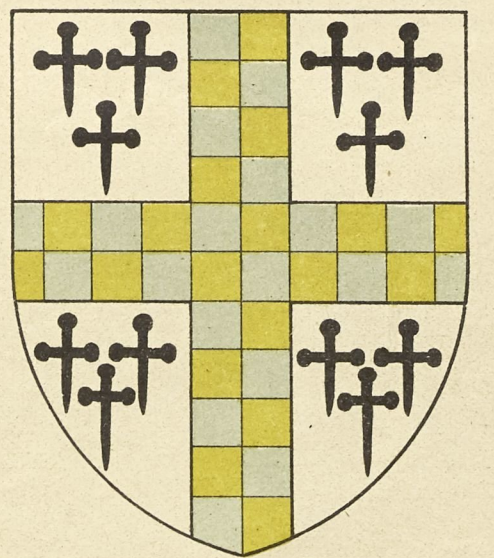
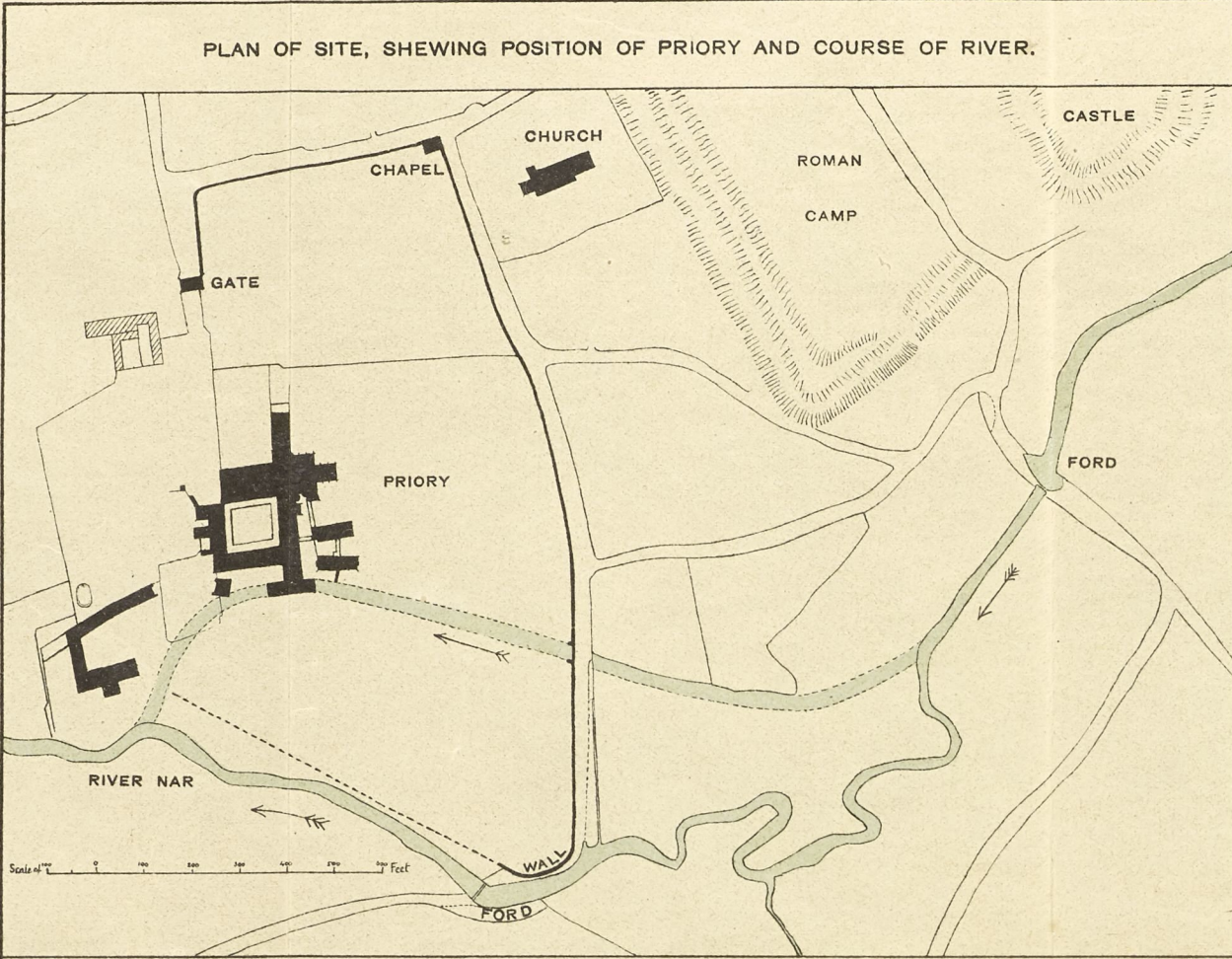
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THERE are not many places in England where, as at Castleacre, there may be seen, within a circle of only half a mile in diameter, a Roman camp, an Anglian burh, a Norman castle, a fine medieval church, and extensive ruins of a Cluniac priory, besides some interesting remains of ancient domestic architecture of various dates.

Each of these features presents material for a separate paper (and perhaps an opportunity may occur later for one on the camp and castle), but the subject of the present paper is the Priory of Castleacre.

We learn from William de Warenne's foundation charter of Lewes Priory, the date of which is between 1087 and 1089, that he and Gundrada his wife intended to found at Castleacre a monastery for monks of the Cluniac order, some of whom he had already placed in "the church of our castle of Acre." The new house was to always remain subject to, or a cell of the Priory of St. Pancras at Lewes. Before his death in 1089 De Warenne issued a charter of foundation to the new monastery, and endowed it with various churches and possessions, including the church of Acre.

PLAN OF SITE, SHEWING POSITION OF PRIORY AND COURSE OF RIVER.



ARMS OF PRIORY. FROM THE GATEHOUSE. & linear.



GROUND PLAN OF CASTLEACRE PRIORY, NORFOLK.

W. H. St. John Hope. ma.  
mens. et del.

W. GRIGGS & SONS, LITH.

William de Warenne the second of the name, on succeeding his father, confirmed the founder's gifts and added others. It seems from his charter that the monks established in the castle had already begun the monastery on its present site, for among De Warenne's gifts were "two orchards and all the cultivated ground from the orchards to my castle, in which by my encouragement and help they have now founded their church, because that in which they now dwell is too strait and very inconvenient for an abode of monks." According to Matthew of Westminster, "the church of the Blessed Mary of Castleacre was founded" in 1090, and Blomefield says it was consecrated by William Turbus,<sup>1</sup> bishop of Norwich, in the lifetime of William de Warenne III, that is between 1146 and 1148.

Later documents throw very little light on the architectural history. The *aula hospitum* is mentioned in an early deed, and others provide for the burning of lamps before the altar of St. Nicholas and the altar of the Apostles.

In 1275 there were thirty-two monks, who had increased in 1279 to thirty-five. The surrender made Nov. 22nd, 1537, is signed by the prior and ten of the monks.

The *Valor* of 1534-5 gives the clear yearly value as £306. 11s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. It also reckons 10s. as the usual amount offered yearly at the "arm of St. Philip within the monastery."

The priory stands immediately to the west of the village, its site or precinct being an area of about twenty-four acres, gradually sloping down from the lane which bounds it on the north to the river Nar on the south (see plan, Plate IV.) On the east it is bounded by another lane, now called Church Lane, and on the

<sup>1</sup> Turbus, 1146 to 1174. Warenne, 1135 to 1148.

west by cultivated land. The precinct was originally enclosed by a wall, of which considerable portions are still standing on the north and east, and a few fragments on the south. The western line is uncertain.

The entrance to the priory is on the north, through a fine Tudor gatehouse of flint and brick, which is set back about 180 ft. from the highway. The remains of the priory itself stand as nearly as possible in the centre of the precinct, and consist of large portions of the church, especially of the west front and the nave and transepts, of the chapter-house, dorter, reredorter, and frater, while parts of the cellarer's building are still complete even to their roofs. There are also some remains of other buildings on the south-west.

When I first visited the site in 1889 the eastern part of the church, and the sites of the infirmary and other outlying buildings, were only indicated by mounds of rubbish, and the floors of the other portions were buried under several feet of earth and stones.

With the exception of certain excavations made fifty years ago by the Rev. J. H. Bloom, who cleared out the nave and its south aisle, the transepts, and the chapter-house, no systematic examination of the ground plan of the buildings had been made.

Taking advantage of a projected visit of the Royal Archæological Institute during its Norwich Meeting, I was able, through the kindness and liberality of the noble owner, the Earl of Leicester, K.G., to begin the regular excavation of the site at Whitsuntide, 1889. Since then, by the aid of subscriptions collected by the Rev. Dr. Jessopp and myself, and of grants from the Society of Antiquaries and the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, extensive clearances have been made in the church and cloister, and elsewhere, while the undercroft of the dorter has been entirely opened out

through the liberality of Mr. Henry Willett. The result is the recovery of an almost complete plan of a Cluniac Monastery (see Plate IV.), which, besides presenting many interesting features of its own, is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of monastic architecture and arrangement.

The buildings are arranged in the following order round the cloister: on the north, the church; on the east, the chapter-house, and the dorter with its sub-vault; on the south, the warming-house and frater; on the west, the cellarer's lodging with the prior's *camera*. On the north of the transept is the sacrist's checker, and east of the dorter the group of buildings called the infirmary or "farmery." Across the end of the dorter itself is the reredorter, while the kitchen was semi-detached on the south-west of the frater. The outlying buildings will be dealt with in describing the outer court and precinct.

The first of the buildings was, of course, the church. This was planned and carried up quite independently of the other buildings, which are built up against it at the points of junction at the south-west angle and the ends of the transepts without any bond.

The original church of the beginning of the twelfth century consisted of a presbytery of three bays with an eastern apse, and narrow aisles of two bays each, also ending in apses; a central tower; north and south transepts, each with an apsidal chapel; and a nave and aisles of seven bays, with two western towers. Although it was only 200 feet long, the existing remains show that architecturally the church was a building of considerable importance, and despite its small size, with its three towers it must have held a high place among the Norman churches of East Anglia. With regard to its arrangements, a good deal can be made out from cuts and marks left on the piers and walls, and from analogy with

contemporary buildings. There can be no doubt that each of the five apses contained an altar, and although the parishioners of Castleacre had no rights in the church, there was a principal altar in the nave, and at least two others in the nave aisles. The monks' quire was under the crossing, and perhaps extended a little way into the presbytery, and the stalls were returned against a screen at the east end of the nave. West of this screen was another between the first pair of piers, against which stood the nave altar. The altar in the north aisle stood at its east end, but that on the south side was in line with the nave altar, so as to leave room behind it for the monks' entry from the cloister.

Early in the fourteenth century the church was lengthened 32 feet by the addition of three new bays to the presbytery. The east end of the south aisle was also rebuilt, and probably that of the north aisle also, but whatever existed on this side was removed during the fifteenth century, together with the apsidal chapel of the transept, to make room for a large north chapel.

Although the walls of the eastern half of the church are now reduced to only a few feet in height, chiefly on account of the poor character of the masonry, which is in strange contrast to the extraordinary solidity of the Norman work, many interesting features in the arrangements can be made out. The cause of the extension was probably due to a desire for more light, the only windows in the ground-story of the old presbytery being the three windows in the apse. In the new work, besides the east window, which was doubtless a large one, there were six other windows, three on each side. The platform of the high altar was approached by three broad steps extending across the presbytery, and paved with plain yellow, black, and green tiles. The finding of some of these tiles in place

enabled me to fix the levels, but of the altar itself no trace remained. To the west of the lowest step there is on each side a low recess in the wall, with curved back, apparently a seat. The *sedilia* proper were further east, but no trace of them remained, owing to the destruction of the wall. The third bay contains on the south side an almy or locker, and opposite to it an original doorway from without; this, however, was subsequently blocked and turned into a recess. The fourth bay has on each side a deep and wide recess coming down to the floor, and roughly paved with tile. These probably contained cupboards for relics or jewels. Immediately to the west, on both sides, is a skew passage cut through the wall when the presbytery was lengthened, for entry into the quire from the aisles. Between these entrances and the relic cupboards was the step called the *gradus chori* or *presbyterii*. The two westernmost bays, after the lengthening of the presbytery, formed the quire; the monks' stalls being placed on each side, and returned against a stone screen at the west end. Some idea of the importance of the quire stalls may be gathered from the interesting fact that in 1413 (or 1414) master John Waryn, chaplain, and Richard Buk, carver and carpenter, were sent by Mettingham College to Lynn and to Castleacre, to view the stalls there, prior to building new stalls in the collegiate church.<sup>2</sup>

The excavations were singularly unproductive of relics or architectural fragments throughout the quire and presbytery. Immediately behind the site of the high altar we uncovered the fragments of a coarse earthenware pot which may have contained a heart or the entrails of some person. A trench cut in search of the foundations of the original apsidal end brought to light a stone

<sup>2</sup> *Archæological Journal*, vi. 64.

coffin beneath the steps up to the altar, and immediately to the west the foundations of the apse itself.

The *pulpitum* or screen at the west end of the quire was 5 feet 10½ inches deep, but only its lowest course in part remains in place. The use of brick in its construction shews that it was chiefly of fifteenth century work. The entry or quire door has a pavement of plain tiles, and just to the west the site of a grave is marked out by a border of larger tiles.

The removal of the rubbish from the south aisle of the quire, where it was over 7 feet deep, brought to light several interesting features. First was the evidence of the replacing of the original apsidal end by a square chapel which still retained the base of its altar, with a broad sinking in the wall above it for a "table" or reredos. South of the altar is the lower part of the piscina, with a projecting half-hexagonal shaft to contain the drain. Just west of this is a door into a vestry or chapel, apparently an early addition. In the next bay the Norman wall is pierced by two fourteenth century doorways: the first<sup>3</sup> had a double door and opened into a covered alley communicating with the farmery; the second opened into a large circular vice or stair, octagonal outside, that probably led to a room over the vault of the aisle. This room was perhaps the treasury, but it may also have contained a pew or closet looking into the quire, like the royal closet at Windsor, or that at St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield, where the prior could hear mass without being seen. The westernmost bay of this aisle<sup>4</sup> had a stone bench against the wall, and over it a recess in the wall like a piscina, but with

<sup>3</sup> See Section 1, Plate II.

<sup>4</sup> Section 2, Plate II., is that of the base of the wall pilaster between this bay and that east of it.



no drain. On the quire side the piers were found standing to a height of some feet. Between them were the bases of two thin parallel walls: that on the quire side formed the foundations of the stalls; the other represented a wall closing each bay behind the stalls, and converting them into two wide and deep recesses, probably to hold presses for books and vestments. The aisle could have been lighted by one window only, that over the altar. The floor was of tiles laid in bands, and cuts in the arch into the transept shew that here was a wooden screen. Both this and the original north aisle were vaulted, but the presbytery and quire had a wooden roof, seemingly covered with tiles, if we may assume this from the quantity of fragments found.

I was not successful, as in the presbytery, in finding under the aisle floor any traces of the foundations of the apse, but it is possible to suggest a reason for its absence. In the case of the presbytery there can be no doubt that the eastern extension was carried up high enough to be covered in, temporarily or otherwise, before the apse was removed, so that the services might not be interrupted; the apse was then taken down to just below the floor level, and its foundations left. In the case of the aisle there was no need to keep the apse up while the new east end was being built, so it was entirely removed to begin with, and then the extensions carried out.

The north quire aisle was replaced in the fifteenth century by a large chapel with vaulted ceiling.<sup>5</sup> It was three bays long and 19 feet wide, or nearly twice the width of the old aisle. The masonry was of far better character than that of the new presbytery, and all the moulded work was of excellent character. The

<sup>5</sup> Section 3, Plate II., is that of the vaulting ribs of this ceiling.

walls are now reduced to about 5 feet in height, except at the north-east angle, which stands as high as the springing of the vault. The vaulting shafts are partly recessed in the wall. The chapel had three windows on the north, and one on the east, all filled originally with painted glass, of which many fragments were found outside. The removal of the rubbish inside disclosed large portions of the original flooring of plain yellow and black tiles, in which towards the west end is inserted a stone grave slab (6 feet 5 inches long) incised with a plain cross on steps. At the east end the remains of the flooring shewed that the altar stood on two steps. Against the wall is the base of the altar itself. It is 8 feet 6 inches long, and 2 feet 10 inches wide, and the plain marks on the plaster where the slab touched the wall shewed that its top was 3 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the floor, and that the slab, which was 4 inches thick, projected  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in front and at the ends, and so was 9 feet 1 inch long, and 3 feet  $0\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. In the north end of the altar was a plain recess 14 inches wide, and 18 inches deep, and another in the south end 16 inches wide, and 23 inches deep: their upper parts are unfortunately destroyed. The only altar in which I have found like recesses is that still standing in the chapel of the so-called "prior's house" at Wenlock, also a Cluniac priory. Such an arrangement seems however to have been not uncommon, and we have many representations of altars with a pair of cruets standing in a recess at the end, shewing that these recesses served the purpose of a credence table. To the south of this Castleacre altar are traces of the usual drain and of a projecting seat or sedile. On the quire side of the chapel the two bays behind the stalls were walled off and made into recesses.

The easternmost was probably the place for keeping the jewels and ornaments of the chapel.<sup>6</sup> The other recess was entered by a narrow door only 21 inches wide, and had a winding stair at its eastern end, probably to a wooden gallery or loft on the top of the stalls. The rest of the recess was perhaps a store-place.

The transepts, which are Norman, are far more perfect than the work east and west of them, and their restoration, architecturally, on paper would not be difficult.

The north transept was 32 feet long, and 25 feet wide, and stands to about two-thirds its full height. On its east side the ground story had two arches: the one opened into the north quire aisle, and later into the north chapel; the other originally opened into a semi-circular apse, but owing to the new chapel being wider than the old aisle, it was taken down and changed into a shallow polygonal recess against which the chapel abuts outside. The recess retains the base of its altar, which is 5 feet 2 inches long, and 2 feet 7 inches wide, and the marks on the plaster shew that it was 3 feet 1 inch high, and stood on one step. The arch has the cuts of a wooden screen that crossed it before the apse was removed, and has in each jamb a later mutilated recess. The arch into the aisle also has cuts for a screen. The blank wall between the arches contains a small square recess, and from the way in which the tile flooring ends at the south there seems to have been a small altar here raised on a step. The north wall of the transept has two doorways in it: a tall one in the middle, with an ascending flight of steps to the outside; and another at the east end, opening into a vice or stair to the wall passages and roof. The west wall had

<sup>6</sup> The base of the pillar forming the west end of this recess is cut away in places for former screens or fittings.

an arch into the nave aisle, but is otherwise plain. Just to the north of this arch there is built into the wall a vertical rebate for the door of a stone screen or enclosure about 6 feet high. This extended eastward, but not across, as there are no marks of it on the opposite wall, nor of its return against the north wall. The triforium stage has a wall gallery, which on the east side is pierced by two arches opposite others on the inner side opening into the spaces over the apse and aisle vaults. The north side was arcaded, but pierced opposite two windows, which themselves formed openings in an external arcade of intersecting arches. The west side was also arcaded, but pierced opposite a window and an arch into the nave aisle roof; outside, this window is set in the middle of three intersecting arches. The clerestory is much ruined all round, and on the east is entirely gone. The north gable has traces of an intersecting arcade, but nothing to shew how this was pierced. On the west was a like arcade, pierced by three windows.

The south transept closely resembles the north in its main features, especially in the second and third stages. The ground story has, on the east, an archway into the quire aisle and another into the apsidal chapel, which here remains fairly perfect. It has, however, been altered inside to get rid of the curved back, seemingly to make room for a large table or picture behind the altar. There are no remains of the altar itself, and the floor is nearly covered by a great fallen fragment of the vaulted roof. On the south side is a drain, and in the north jamb of the arch from the transept a large almary has been cut. The arch has at one time been closed by a massive screen. In the wall between the arches on this side of the transept

there is, at the floor level and partly below it, a small recess,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 21 inches deep, with a rebate all round. The back is not vertical, but curves forward at the top, where it is broken away. What this recess was for is not clear. It may have been closed with horn or glass, and held a lamp to light the floor at night, but I do not remember such an arrangement elsewhere, though I have seen lamps placed on the floor for this purpose in large churches. At the north end of the same piece of wall are two cuts in the plinth, as if for a screen. As there are no corresponding marks opposite, this perhaps enclosed an altar, or the cuts may have been made for some piece of furniture. The south wall has a door at its east end into a circular stair, as in the opposite transept, but instead of a central door, there is a large round-headed recess, as if for a tomb, which has been roughly enlarged at the east end. East of this is a locker, and west of it a square cupboard extending down to the floor, with traces of wooden lining and shelves. The west wall has a great hole knocked in it, to the north of which is a wide, shallow recess, with curved back, perhaps for a lavatory. A richly-ornamented lavatory occurs in the same position at Wenlock. The back of this Castleacre recess, Mr. Bloom describes as presenting "the singular appearance of an early English window traced with a pointed instrument upon the stucco while the cement was moist, and still exhibiting evident traces of the colouring with which it was adorned."<sup>7</sup> Very few traces of this now remain. The arrangements of the triforium and clerestory resembled those of the north transept; but there were no windows in the south triforium, owing to the chapter-

<sup>7</sup> Rev. J. H. Bloom, *Notices, Historical and Antiquarian, of the Castle and Priory at Castleacre in the County of Norfolk* (London, 1843), 198.

house outside. The clerestory openings were pierced in an arcade of round-headed arches, interesting traces of which remain on the east and south, but on the west the upper part of the wall has fallen.

The transepts had wooden ceilings, and were not vaulted.

Of the central tower nothing is left but the stumps of its piers, three of which stand about six feet high; but the fourth remains to nearly the height of the springing of the arches, though stripped of all its ashlar facing. The north and south arches were once closed by walls or screens; there are also cuts in the bases for other, and perhaps later, partitions. Some of these obviously belong to the time when the quire was under the crossing, but it is not easy to make out their exact sequence.

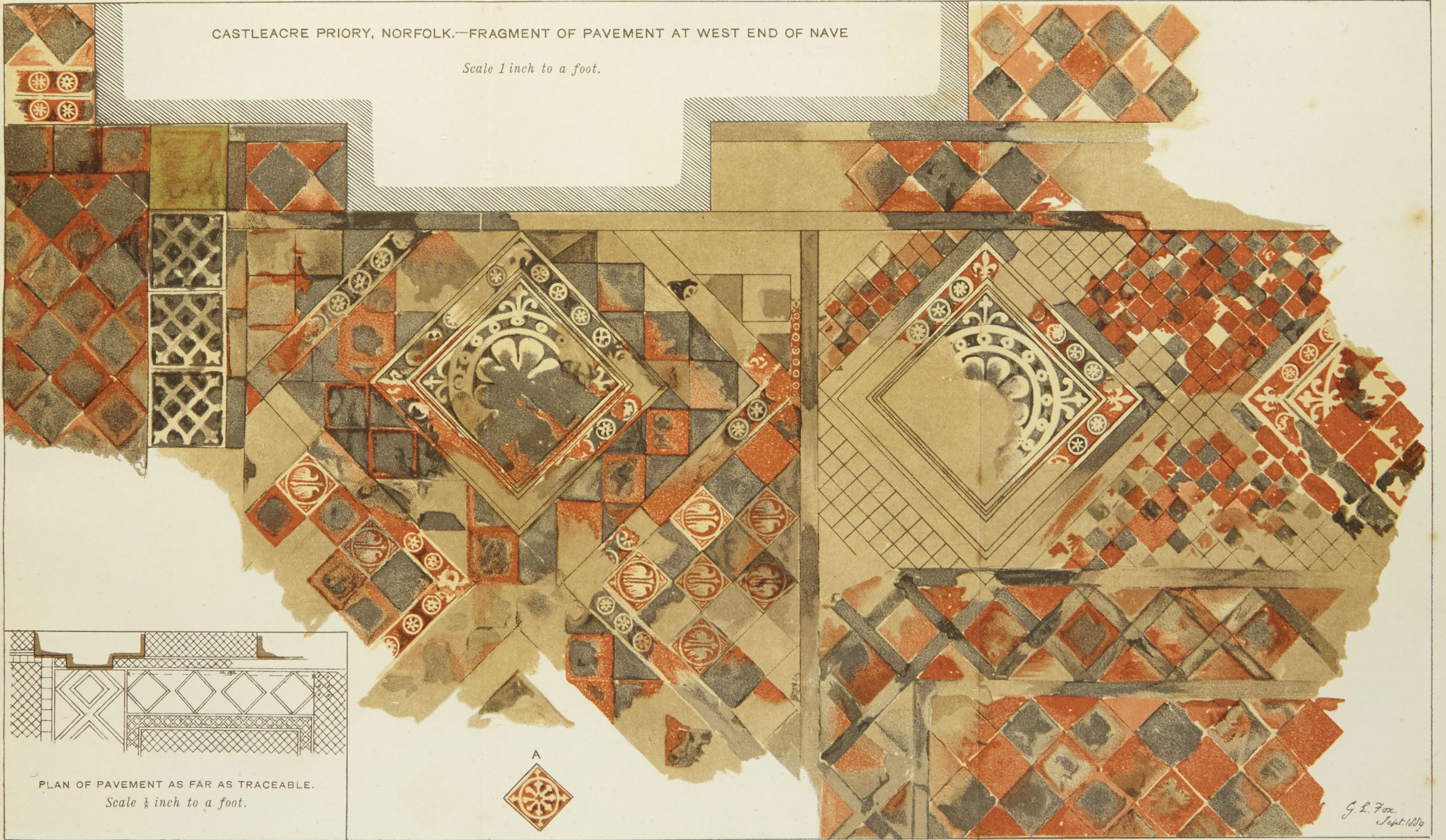
The nave has unfortunately been much ruined, and almost the whole of the clerestory and triforium have gone. Of nine out of the twelve pillars only the stumps or bases remain, and of two more only the cores are left. The only perfect pillar is that which supports the south-west tower. Although the arcades were alike, the piers carrying the arches were of a different pattern in each bay, and towards the west the work was of a richer character, such pillars as were semi-cylindrical being deeply incised with spiral grooves or a bold fretty or lozenge diaper, like the well-known examples at Durham. From certain irregularities in the plan there seems to have been a distinct break or pause in the work between the third and fourth bays, before it was again taken up and finished, and meanwhile fashion had advanced a step. At the west end is a wide Norman doorway with segmental rere-arch with a rich relieving arch above. The doorway is flanked by three tiers of wall

arcading, and has over it a lofty fifteenth century window, originally of five lights with a transom, but now devoid of tracery. This replaced three tall Norman lights, with probably a wheel window above them. The south aisle has also a door at its west end, and immediately beside it two others, one into a circular stair in the south-west corner of the tower, the other opening from the cloister. There was another entrance from the cloister at the east end of the aisle. Under the north-west tower were also three doors corresponding to those under the south-west tower. That on the north has an ascending flight of steps to the lay folk's cemetery. On the right of the entry of the west door of the north aisle, a square stone set lozengewise in the floor probably marks the site of the holy-water stock. The aisles, unlike the nave, which had a wooden ceiling, were vaulted throughout. The bases of the vaulting shafts shew the same curious variety as the pillars of the arcade, each being totally different from its neighbour. In the south aisle they are mostly torn out for the sake of the material, but in the north aisle I had the satisfaction of bringing to light the entire series from beneath 5 or 6 feet of rubbish. Each aisle was lighted by seven windows. On the north side the Norman windows were openings in a wall arcade of three round-headed arches in each bay (except in the first bay, where there was no arcade); but in the fifteenth century all the windows were enlarged, and the arcade built up flush with the wall. At the same time the pilaster buttresses were cut down. On the south side the windows were higher up, to clear the cloister roof, and some of them, at any rate, do not seem to have been altered.

Although the nave has been so completely ruined, the fortunate preservation of a single remaining bay,

CASTLEACRE PRIORY, NORFOLK.—FRAGMENT OF PAVEMENT AT WEST END OF NAVE

Scale 1 inch to a foot.



PLAN OF PAVEMENT AS FAR AS TRACEABLE.

Scale 1/2 inch to a foot.



G. E. Fox, Sept. 1889



which forms the north side of the south-west tower, enables us to recover the complete design up to the wall plate. The arches were semicircular, and enriched on both sides with two orders of chevron mouldings. The triforium had two round-headed arches within an enclosing arch, with rich chevron mouldings; and the clerestory, three tall semicircular openings, the middle one wider and taller than its fellows, all with chevron mouldings. The division of the bays was marked by the vaulting shafts, which extended without break from floor to ceiling. The triforium seems to have been lighted by a range of windows. The clerestory windows were pierced in a wall arcade. Some of the holes for the timbers of the nave roof remain in the tower wall. The nave and its aisles, the transepts and crossing, and the quire aisles were all of the same level, and paved with plain yellow and black or green tiles. But at the west end of the nave I uncovered the remains of a very rich pavement of the thirteenth century, of which a beautiful and most accurate drawing made by Mr. G. E. Fox, F.S.A., is reproduced in Plate I. A good deal of the north aisle floor, of yellow tiles, was found in place, and has been covered with turf for preservation.

The arrangements of the nave, as disclosed by existing remains and the recent excavations, are of an interesting character. In removing the accumulated rubbish at the east end, part of the stone wall of the roodscreen, and the base of the nave altar, were found in place. The wall, which crossed the nave from pier to pier beneath the west arch of the crossing, was 26 inches thick, and had on its east side a stone bench 1 foot broad. The base of the altar is 6 feet 3 inches long and 2 feet 3 inches wide. The extent of the platform on which it stood was clearly marked by the limits of the tile floor of

the nave, but the steps themselves had been taken away, and the platform destroyed. The stone jambs of the doors at either end of the screen had also been removed. Besides the cuts made in the bases of the pillars for the ends of the stone screen, there are others of earlier date. The first pair of bases westward have also broad cuts on their inner faces; and grooves for a light screen or grating occur on the second pair of bases. A little consideration of these signs and a comparison of the plans of the church, as now and originally, make all clear. Until the lengthening of the presbytery in the fourteenth century, the monks' quire was under the central tower, and perhaps extended a little way into the eastern limb of the church. The stalls were backed by the walls or screens blocking the north and south arches of the crossing, and were returned at the west end against a screen or *pulpitum* there. A bay westward was a second screen with the rood and its attendant images above, and the nave altar on its west side. The nave altar was protected by a screen or grating crossing the nave at the next pair of piers. There are plain marks in the aisles that they, too, were crossed by screens (probably with altars against them) in line with the roodscreen. The eastern and greater part of the church was thus completely cut off from the western. When the presbytery had been lengthened, all these arrangements were moved eastwards one bay; the quire into the two western bays of the old presbytery; and the roodscreen and nave altar to the east end of the nave. The east end of the north aisle was closed by a wall, which also served as the reredos for an altar. On the south aisle, where the principal entry from the cloister was, a different arrangement was necessary. The Norman doorway was partly destroyed and blocked up, and a new doorway made in its place close up to the

transept wall. A wall was then built obliquely across this end of the aisle, with an altar on its west side. So narrow an entry was thus left from the cloister that the angle of the arch into the transept was cut away to give more room.

In addition to the transverse screens and divisions already mentioned, the numerous cuts in the walls and pillars shew that there were other partitions in the south aisle. The first three arches were closed on the aisle side by solid walls or stone screens, and a similar screen crossed the aisle at the second pillar and converted the two first bays into a chapel. This chapel was itself divided by a wooden screen, as a fence for the altar. The third arch has also traces of another screen on the nave side, perhaps to enclose a tomb at some later period. The fourth, fifth, and sixth arches were filled by wooden screens, and two others crossed the aisle at the fourth and sixth pillars. The aisle was thus divided into three chapels, each of two bays, only the westernmost bay being left open for access from the cloister. The north aisle was comparatively free from divisions. It had an altar at its east end, against the wall closing the arch there, and a wooden screen at the first pillar. The first arch had also the cuts of two screens, a thick stone one, and a later wooden one. The second arch has been closed by a wood screen on the aisle side. The vaulting shaft on the north of the second pillar has slight cuts in it which have been partly filled up again, and close by there are two pin holes, side by side in the pillar, just above the plinth.

Externally the west front is a very fine and rich example of Norman architecture. The central part, which forms the west end of the nave, has in its lowest stage the principal doorway, of four orders, with detached jamb-

shafts (all now lost) and elaborate mouldings of various patterns; the capitals are uncarved. The doorway is set in a triple series of wall arcades, the lowest having interlacing arches and carved capitals, divided by ornamental stringcourses. Below the third or uppermost stringcourse is a curious corbel table with ornamental panels between. Above the doorway stage is a row of chevrony arches, upon which stood a tall arcade of five arches with richly-ornamented jambs and mouldings. The outermost pair are mere panels, filled with a large trowel-point diaper; the other three were destroyed when the great Perpendicular window was inserted, but were probably windows. How the uppermost or gable story was originally treated is uncertain; the commencement of a low arcade is left on the north side, but the gable was almost entirely rebuilt in the fifteenth century.

The two towers flanking the front appear to have been almost exactly alike. They were originally four stories high, but the uppermost story (if ever built) has in each case fallen or been destroyed. Most of the north tower has also fallen, but when drawn for Grose in 1771<sup>8</sup> the first and second stories still remained, and the south side was as high as the wall plate of the nave roof. The stages of the towers are marked externally by ornamented stringcourses, which are also carried across the pilaster buttresses at the angles. The lowest stage contains a rich doorway with an arcade above of tall intersecting arches. The second stage has three wide and lofty arches, of which the middle one is pierced with a window. The third stage has on the three disengaged sides, in the north tower seven, but in the south tower six, low round-headed arches, with a stringcourse above, on which stand two large pointed window-lights. These were probably pierced

<sup>8</sup> Francis Grose, *The Antiquities of England and Wales* (London, 1774), vol. ii.

through an intersecting arcade, but both towers are too ruined to shew whether this was so or not. Only the lowest story was vaulted. A circular vice or stair in the outer angle of each tower gave access to the upper floors.

It has already been pointed out that the north end of the transept is pierced by a doorway, with an ascending flight of steps to the outside. These led into a large room of Norman date,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and  $19\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, abutting against the transept and standing north and south. This was probably the sacrist's checker or office, as well as the place where such vestments and ornaments were kept as were not in daily or ordinary use.<sup>9</sup> It was most likely cut up by partitions into two or more smaller rooms, but of these no traces remain, as the walls are only standing to a height of about 3 feet. At the far end are the remains of a large Tudor fireplace, with a small brick oven built in its western jamb, which would be convenient for baking the obleys.<sup>1</sup> A wide doorway in the east wall is the only other visible feature. This has been blocked since the suppression with pieces of moulded stonework.

Above this room (or set of rooms), which was 9 feet 9 inches high, was an upper story of almost the same

<sup>9</sup> Mr. Henry Harrod in his *Gleanings among the Castles and Convents of Norfolk* (Norwich, 1857), quotes on p. 17 with reference to a similar building in the same portion of the Cluniac priory at Thetford, a grant in 1521 by the prior and convent to Peter Nobbys, master of Benet College, Cambridge, of "an honest lofte chamber for his bedde chambyr, with another lofte chamber called a stodie chamber, in oon howse namyd the Sacrystye, being next adjoynaunte to the north cross ile of the church of the same priorye," etc. This description agrees most closely with this building at Castleacre. At Thetford there was a garden "adjoynaunte" to the said chamber, and a place where Master Peter kept his firewood.

<sup>1</sup> The fireplace was built of brick with stone jambs, and has a stone sill round the projecting hearth. Only the lowest stone of one jamb, the eastern, remains. The oven is about a foot in diameter, with a domed roof 16 inches high, and its floor is 2 feet  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch above the hearth.

height. This must have been reached by a wooden stair. It was certainly a living room, for the base of a garderobe shaft which communicated with it is built outside the south-west angle. The roof was of high pitch and partly blocked the transept windows.

From the north-west angle of this building a strong boundary wall, probably Norman, runs northwards for nearly 100 feet. It originally extended as far as a block of buildings of which only a fragment remains. On the east side of the wall, in the angle formed by it and the sacrist's checker, are the foundations of a room about 20 feet square, built of brick, probably a wood store. Beyond this again are the traces of another building of still later date, about 36 feet long and 21 feet wide. There is nothing to shew the use of this.

The ground to the east of this block of buildings may have been a garden, but some of it formed part of the monks' cemetery, which also extended round the east end of the church. The ground to the west formed the outer or lay folks' cemetery. Four graves were found here immediately to the west of the transept (see plan), each containing a stone coffin or cist with its cover. One was that of an adult, but the other three were clearly those of children. The northernmost of the group of three has a curious device, which I do not remember to have seen before. It consists of a longitudinal band or shaft running the length of the lid, and branching out near the head into three pointed lobes, one towards each of the upper corners, and the third vertical in the centre; all in low relief. The fourth grave is separate from the others, and covered by five transverse stones instead of a lid. These coffins have all been covered up again to preserve them. A fifth coffin, also of stone, but without a lid, was found when lowering the ground in front of the north-west tower. During my absence it was unfortunately taken up and

placed under the south-west tower, after its contents had been removed and buried.

The cloister is about 100 feet square, and was surrounded by covered alleys 10 feet 3 inches wide, with lean-to wooden roofs. The wall to the garth was entirely rebuilt of brick and flintwork at the beginning of the sixteenth century, but only the base of it now remains. It contained four large windows on each side, and had small doors into the garth at the south-east and north-west corners. The garth was merely a grass-plot, and so far as could be ascertained by digging, had no laver or conduit in the middle, as was sometimes the case. The north alley was practically the ordinary living room of the monks, and has against the church wall remains of a stone bench 21 inches wide, but no existing traces of book-cases or other fittings.<sup>2</sup> At each end were steps leading up to the church doors. The west jamb of the old Norman east door has a round pin-hole about 5 feet up, and beside the door is a hole as if for a small locker, perhaps for a lamp. The east alley has in the transept wall a wide and deep recess for the book-case known as the *armarium commune*, and next to this a late square-headed locker. Further south was the entrance to the chapter-house, and beyond it the door of the dorter stairs. Two other doors opened into the chambers under the dorter. Just to the south of the dorter door the alley was crossed by a step. The south alley contained two doors: one at the east end opening into the warming-house; the other at the west end leading into the frater. I found in this alley a large patch of the original flooring, of large 8-inch yellow and dark

<sup>2</sup> The removal of the ashlar of the pilaster buttresses has destroyed any traces that may have remained.

green tiles laid diagonally, with wall bands of yellow tiles. Under this at the west end was a shallow drain  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, running diagonally towards the frater door, for carrying off rain water from the cloister garth. The west alley is nearly all gone. At its south end, by the frater door, the remains of a plinth may mark the site of the lavatory, which was certainly on this side. Two gaps in the wall perhaps represent doors into the western range. Beyond the second of these is an inserted door of Perpendicular work, with pointed arch within a square head, and next to the church was once a rich Norman door into the outer parlour, now destroyed on the cloister side, and filled up with brick.

The first of the buildings round the cloister is the chapter-house, which here, as at Wenlock, immediately adjoins the transept. It was originally a handsome and lofty Norman room, with arcaded walls, a barrel vault, and an apse, and 52 feet 6 inches long by 23 feet 6 inches wide. The west end is almost all gone: it had a central door, flanked by two large round-headed unglazed windows, which seem to have been subdivided; and above were three large windows to light the room. All these windows had moulded arches of two orders on the inner and outer faces. Against each of the side walls was a stone bench, which was returned at the west end and probably carried round the apse. On this stood a low arcade of fifteen arches on each side with continuous mouldings. The arcade was also returned across the west end under the windows. Above it, on each side, was a tall arcade of eighteen intersecting arches, which supported a third arcade of twenty-two low round-headed arches with carved capitals. This arcade was divided by a corbel into two series of eleven arches, and carried a moulded string, from



which sprang the barrel vault. The vault itself has nearly all fallen; it was quite plain, and had no ribs, but was supported midway and at the ends by cross arches. The end arches rested on vaulting shafts, but the central one on corbels. At the east end of the south side is a door from without. This was perhaps the way to the cemetery, since the usual slype is absent, for the daily commemoration of the dead there. A little to the west may be seen one jamb of another door, which was intended to give access to the space under the dorter stairs, perhaps for use as a prison, as at Durham. This idea was, however, abandoned, and the opening was walled up, and the arcade carried across it. Of the architecture of the apse we know nothing, as it was taken down in late Perpendicular times, and its arch underbuilt by a wall pierced with a large window, now destroyed. The start of the apse exists on each side, it having been cut down and converted into buttresses.

Extending southwards 110 feet from the chapter-house was the *dormitorium* or dorter. It was nine bays long, and built as usual, on the first floor, upon a vaulted undercroft. The shell of it still remains in tolerable preservation, and it is not difficult to make out its arrangements. It was reached by a flight of nineteen steps at the north end, opening from the cloister by an enriched doorway which stands upon a step. The door was double, and only one leaf was ordinarily opened, as may be seen from the greater wear on the north half of the steps. Of the steps themselves only the first six remain. The stair was cut off from the dorter at the floor level by a wall 5 feet high. On this rested a floor or loft, which extended over the west end of the staircase for some 15 feet. The window sills were 5 feet from the floor, and had a stringcourse immediately below, now nearly all torn out. On the west side the first four bays had

each a window towards the cloister. These were pierced externally through an arcade of good round-headed arches,<sup>3</sup> which stood on a stringcourse about a foot above the cloister roof. There were three blind arches between the windows. The next three bays of the dorter have no windows, owing to the abutment against them of the southern range of buildings. The two last bays have their original Norman windows filled up and cut down for the insertion therein of smaller late Perpendicular windows, with brick rere-arches. On the east side there were originally eight windows; the southernmost bay being unpierced. Of these the seventh and eighth have their Norman heads, and the sixth alone retains its ornamented Norman rere-arch. All these windows have, however, been altered by filling them up and inserting late Perpendicular windows at a lower level, with arches made of brick. A window of the same date has also been pierced through the former blind ninth bay. Externally the pilaster buttresses on this side have been destroyed for the sake of the ashlar. The south wall has disappeared. It had, however, a door or doors on to a bridge to the rere-dorter, formed by a barrel-vaulted passage between the two buildings. Crossing the dorter between the fourth and fifth bays was a partition, and just south of it a doorway in the west wall opens into a small garderobe, which still retains part of the stone front of the seat, and grooves for the seat itself. This garderobe probably marks the position of the prior's or sub-prior's "cell" or cubicle. The monks' cells were, of course, ranged along the side walls.

The undercroft or sub-vault of the dorter was built after the usual fashion as one long apartment, divided down the middle by a row of massive piers. On these, and half-piers against the side and end

<sup>3</sup> One of these arches remains in a nearly perfect state at the south end.

walls, rested a series of transverse arches carrying the vault, which had no ribs. The vault itself has long ago fallen or been removed, and nearly all the ashlar work has been picked out from the piers, windows, and doors. During the past summer the accumulated soil and debris, which varied in depth from about 4 to 6 feet, was cleared out of the undercroft at the expense of Mr. Henry Willett, under the supervision of the Rev. Charles Houseman. I had previously ascertained that certain partition walls existed, but the effectual clearance of the rubbish has brought to light the whole of the arrangements.

The first or northernmost bay was completely walled off, and entered from the cloister through a handsome archway of two orders, with detached jamb shafts, and other shafts carrying the soffit. The vaulting shafts were also of an ornate character, but only those against the dorter stair are left. Opposite the entrance was a window. In the floor are two plain slabs of Purbeck marble, which Mr. Houseman ascertained to cover interments. There are no traces of any fittings, except against the eastern half of the south side, where there are some rough foundations for a press or bench. From the position and character of this room there can be little doubt that it was the common parlour, or place where talking was allowed. I do not, however, remember to have seen or heard of this room being used as a burying place.

The second bay was also walled off, and divided into two parts by a cross wall. As there is no opening on the cloister side, the western half must have been quite dark, except for such light as entered through the door, which can only have been on the south side. The eastern half had also its entrance on the south. It has a wide recess on the east, with a bold roll

moulding down the jambs, and over this was a window. The recess was not a fireplace, as the stones shew no signs of fire, and its purpose is uncertain, as is that of both divisions of this bay. The dark part was probably a cellar.

The third bay formed a passage from the cloister to the farmery. Its western entrance has been stripped of all its ashlar, but the opposite end retains the lower part of an inserted doorway of Decorated date.

The fourth bay has no opening on the west, and was lighted by a window on the east, at which end there may have been a door from the farmery passage. The party wall on the south only extends half way, there being no division east of the pier.

The eastern half of the fifth bay thus formed one room with the fourth bay. It has a window on the east, which has either been blocked or diminished. The western half of the fifth bay was shut off by a thick party wall, in which are the grooves for the wooden frame of a door. It was entered on the west from the warming-house by a door with ornamented jambs.

The sixth bay has a party wall on the south, and was entered from the warming-house by an important door. The east window has been enlarged to the full width of the bay, but is now stripped of all its ashlar. Under the window, and partly returned along the south side, are the foundations of a stone bench, composed in part of moulded stones.

Seeing to what a variety of purposes these undercrofts were put, it would be useless to speculate as to the uses of the chambers I have described.

The seventh and eighth bays were shut off from the rest by a thick party wall, and formed one room, which presents several interesting features.

In the north-west corner, and partly formed by the

division wall, is an oblong tank, 10 feet long by 4 feet wide, with another about 4 feet square attached to it on the south. Both tanks are 3 feet deep, with battering sides, and are constructed of chalk and flint masonry, coated all over, inside and out, with a curious hard dark grey cement. The bottom of each has been damaged, as if to extract lead pipes there, and the junctions with the west wall have been broken down to extract the ashlar facing of the vaulting shafts. The tanks are otherwise in good condition. There are no other features about them than what I have described. The room in which they stand was lighted by two windows on the east and two on the west.<sup>4</sup>

The south side was originally a solid wall, inasmuch as it carried the end wall or gable of the dorter above. It was probably pierced by a door or doors, but these were subsequently enlarged into two wide archways or openings into the space outside, which separated the dorter range from the reredorter. This space was at first open at both ends, and covered by a barrel vault, forming a bridge from the dorter to the reredorter. When the south end of the undercroft was thrown into it, the east end of this space was filled up with a wall in which was a doorway.<sup>5</sup> The west end was also closed, apparently by a furnace or kiln of some sort, of which only very slight traces remain. It is, therefore, not unlikely, as Mr. Micklethwaite has suggested to me after a careful examination of the place, that this part of the buildings was used as a malt-house. The tanks would serve for steeping the grain in; the enlarged floor space afforded plenty of room on which to spread

<sup>4</sup> The west window of the seventh bay was partly blocked up by the tanks, and that to the east has been blocked or altered.

<sup>5</sup> In the south wall, near the east end, is a wide and roughly made recess, which, when uncovered, was found nearly full of animal bones.

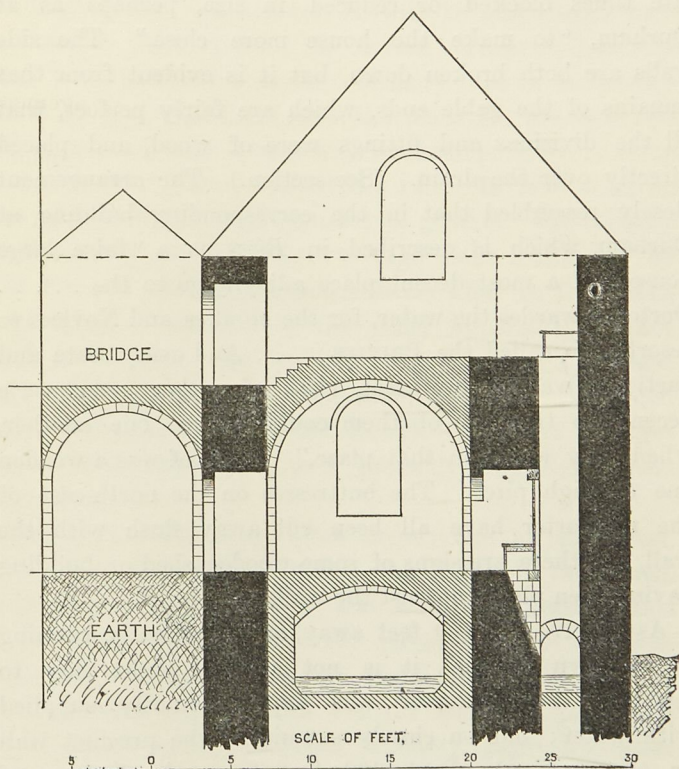
the grain to germinate; and the kiln would be handy for drying it. I was at first puzzled to find an entrance into this place, for the door on the east has been carefully blocked with masonry, and there certainly were no other doors on the east or on the north or west. I subsequently found a doorway on the south, leading into the lower story of the reredorter, and this must have been used as the entrance.

The reredorter itself is of Norman date, and one of the most complete examples that have come down to us. Moreover, all its arrangements can be clearly made out.

It stands on a much lower level than the rest of the buildings, and consists of a basement, a ground story, and an upper floor. (See section.) Its internal length is 91 feet. The basement was divided longitudinally by a thick wall into (1) a broad tunnel or water channel; and (2) a narrow drain. The former had a paved bottom and a segmental barrel vault, which was divided into four bays by transverse ribs or arches. This tunnel was 9 feet  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 6 feet 10 inches high to the crown of the vault. The drain is a narrow waterway,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, open up to the first floor, with vertical sides and a flat paved bottom.

The ground story consisted principally of a wide hall extending the whole length of the building, and lighted at each end by a window, with a barrel vault divided by transverse arches into six bays. In the north wall were three original doorways: one in the centre communicating with the dorter sub-vault; another to the east from the area between the dorter and farmery; and a third on the west communicating with the cloister through the warming-house. This last was subsequently blocked up, probably when the malting arrangements were made, and a new door cut obliquely through the wall to the west of it. The south side of the hall

is a partition wall, about 4 feet 3 inches thick, cutting it off from the drain. In it are somewhat irregularly pierced twelve round-headed openings, once faced with ashlar, and probably fitted with doors. The bottom of each recess has the rear half cut down with a steep slope as a shoot into the drain, and faced with ashlar,



SECTION OF THE REREDORTER, RESTORED FROM EXISTING REMAINS.

which has been repaired here and there with brick. The seats rested on stone brackets on each side, many of which remain; and the back of the recess was closed by a wooden partition. (See the accompanying section.) The south wall of the building has nearly all been destroyed

above the floor line of this story; like the corresponding building at Lewes, it was probably pierced at intervals for ventilation.

The upper story communicated with the dorter, also like the Lewes example, by a bridge. It had a window at each end, of which the southern, at any rate, was in late times blocked or reduced in size, perhaps as at Durham, "to make the house more close." The side walls are both broken down, but it is evident from that remains of the gable ends, which are fairly perfect, that all the divisions and fittings were of wood, and placed directly over the drain. (See section.) The arrangement closely resembled that in the corresponding building at Durham, which is described in *Rites* as a "faire large house, and a most decent place adjoyninge to the . . . . Dorter, towards the water, for the Monkes and Novices to resort unto, called the PRIVIES . . . . And every seate and particion was of wainscot, close of either syde, verie decent, so that one of them could not see one another, when they weare in that place." The roof was a wooden one of high pitch. The buttresses on the north-east of the reredorter have all been cut away flush with the wall, and there are signs of some wooden shed or building having been placed against the wall.

As the river is 400 feet away, and apparently running in its own channel, it is not at first sight easy to see how the reredorter was kept constantly supplied with water; but on closely examining the precinct wall on the east, at about 400 feet from the bottom of Church Lane, I found the remains of the arch of a bridge or tunnel passing under the lane, from whence a depression extended to the reredorter. On the east side of the lane it was difficult to see where the water channel joined the river, but I think the line I have indicated on the O. S. plan (Plate IV.) is approximately correct.



After passing through the reredorter, the stream skirted the kitchen and its yard, then turned towards the south, and again joined the river. There are no visible remains of sluice gates or other provision for damming or diverting the water.

Before proceeding with the description of the other buildings round the cloister, it will be convenient here to examine those east of the dorter. These collectively form the *infirmitorium*, or "farmery" as it is usually called in English, which was the place for the sick and infirm, and for those monks who were temporarily released from the strict observance of the rule. In later days its uses seem to have become much more general. The farmery at Castleacre consists of two large halls, built side by side, but not parallel to each other. That to the north is certainly Norman, and the other apparently of not much later date. The two halls were joined by a passage. Two other passages,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, connected the north hall with the cloister and the church. All these passages are of Decorated date, and probably replaced others built of wood.

The north hall had three doors: one on the west, which was the chief entrance; another on the north, containing a flight of steps; and a third opposite to this on the south, opening into the passage to the southern hall. At the upper end we found the stone step of the dais, with a rebate for the tile floor. A projection at the south end of the dais probably marks the place of a wall pulpit. It is possible that this hall in late times was used as the *misericorde*, where the monks might eat meat.

The passage to the southern hall has on its east side a wide doorway into some building, of which we could find no traces, and in the south end of the same side was another but smaller door. At this end the passage

suddenly widens out westward to double its first width, to cover the second of two doorways into the southern hall.

This hall is in the main of late Norman work, but the doors are fourteenth century insertions or alterations, and a large fireplace was added at each end at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The diagonal buttresses are also additions: that on the south-east of the fourteenth century; that on the south-west when the fireplace was inserted. The hall was divided midway by two parallel partition walls into two great chambers. The eastern chamber has a door in its south wall, and a blocked Norman door in the south-east corner. From the south door to the fireplace at the east end was a stone bench against the wall. In the north-east corner are the jambs of two doors, which were originally intended to afford ingress from the north and east respectively, but they were abandoned and walled up during the course of the building. Between the partition walls dividing the hall was a flight of stone steps ascending southwards. At the foot of the stairs was a small lobby, and under them on the south was a door with wooden frame from the western chamber. The stairs led to the upper floor of a long narrow building, extending as far as the stream, where it terminated in a garderobe with two vertical shafts. The lower story was probably a storeplace. The western half of the hall has two entrance doorways opposite to each other at its east end, and a large fireplace at the upper end. Both halls have unfortunately been so ruined that it is impossible to say how they were actually lighted or what were their precise uses. It is also a question whether, at any rate, the southern hall had an upper floor. A fragment of its north-west angle, which is standing to some height, shews no signs of one, and

the thinness of the walls is proof that one was not contemplated originally. On the other hand the two halls and such adjuncts as have been traced and planned do not form an infirmary capable of affording much accommodation. The area between the two halls west of the connecting passage was enclosed on the west by a wall and was perhaps a garden or court with pentices on the south and west sides;<sup>6</sup> it was entered from the western extension of the connecting passage. To the east of the farmery there seem to be traces of a large garden laid out in terraces on the slope of the hill.

Returning from the farmery to the cloister, there is immediately on the left the eastern of the two doorways in the south alley. This was of some importance, with an ornamental head of two orders carried by jamb shafts. It opened into an oblong room placed between the dorter and the frater, and of good height, lighted by one window on the north, and originally by two on the south. The left side of the entrance is now torn away through the destruction of a garderobe pit that intervened between it and the dorter wall. This pit has on its south side a rebated sill for a door, by means of which it could be cleaned out when necessary. On the east side of the room are two doorways into two adjoining chambers beneath the dorter, the use of which is not known. Both doorways have been robbed of nearly all their ashlar work, but the lowest portions of both remain and shew that the northernmost door was ornamented with the trowel-point ornament, and the other with a bold roll moulding round the outer and inner

<sup>6</sup> If the southern half had an upper floor, there may have been a gallery over the western pentice, extending also over the farmery passage as far as the church.

arches. The south end of the room has been altered. Originally it had a doorway opposite the entrance, ornamented with a roll moulding. This opened on to a wooden bridge, placed under a pentice against the dorter wall, and leading direct to a similar doorway in the ground-story of the reredorter. When the end of the dorter sub-vault was turned into a malting-house, the drying kiln intruded upon the bridge, which was accordingly moved a few feet further west, and new doorways made at each end of it; the old doorways were then blocked up. The pentice was at the same time widened so as still to cover the bridge. A direct covered way was thus provided from the cloister to the reredorter. The west end of the room is a plain wall of division between it and the frater.

As to the use of this apartment there can be little doubt, notwithstanding the absence of any visible trace of a fireplace, that it was the *calefactorium* or warming-house, where the monks could come and warm themselves in cold weather. There are, as usual in such rooms, no signs of any fittings, and as there was no upper floor, no difficulty arose to prevent the smoke from an open brazier in the middle of the room escaping through a louvre in the roof. Before leaving this room it should be noticed that a broad strip of the east wall has been despoiled of its facing, perhaps because there was a wall arcade here; a similar strip, but narrower and shorter, occurs in the south end of the west wall.

The rest of the south side of the cloister is a plain wall with the base of a wide doorway at its west end, with certainly two jamb shafts on each side. It opened into the *refectorium* or frater, a large and lofty hall, 96 feet long in all, and 28 feet wide, which flanked this side of the cloister.

The frater is unfortunately much ruined, and although the walls are still standing to a considerable height, they

tell us very little of its architecture and arrangements. The windows in the north wall were set at intervals in an external wall arcade, in continuation of that on the west side of the dorter. The wall was also pierced with a gallery at the level of the window sills,<sup>7</sup> so there was probably an internal arcade also. How far the south side corresponded with the north we cannot tell, as the wall is too far ruined, but at its west end is the base of a small circular stair, with an external door only, that evidently gave access to wall passages on both sides, so that the arrangements were probably similar. In neither side wall is there any trace of the pulpit from which the weekly *lector* read during meals.

As the area of the frater was not excavated, save at its west end, we have no information as to its arrangements. But from the position of the door it is clear that the usual passage into which it opened, commonly called "the screens," divided the hall into two very unequal parts. The eastern part, or frater proper, was about 75 feet long, and was probably entered by two doors in the screen or partition at the west end. At its upper end would be the dais. The part west of the screens was about 12 feet long, and may have been divided into the buttery and pantry. In the west wall, near its south end, is the lower part of a large recess or locker. Over the screens and buttery, etc., was, doubtless, a loft or gallery.

As there was no doorway into the frater, save that from the cloister, it is difficult to see how the food was brought in from the kitchen.

Before, however, discussing this point, it will be convenient to describe the remains of the kitchen and its approaches. The kitchen stood obliquely and detached on the south-west of the frater, on a much lower level,

<sup>7</sup> The blind end of this remains at the east end of the north side.

and from so much as could be excavated seems to have been 32 feet square; but so little is left that nothing can be made out as to its arrangements. The character of its masonry points to its reconstruction at a late date. It was approached from the main buildings by a low passage, 21 feet long and about 10 feet wide, covered by a barrel vault. This was built outside of and against the west wall of the frater, and gave direct access from the kitchen to the cellars. Just inside the south end of this passage was a doorway into a small lobby at the foot of the spiral stair at the south-west corner of the frater. I am inclined to think that the back wall of this little lobby was pierced with the dresser window, through which food was passed into the frater, especially as there is no other place where such an opening could have been. There may, of course, have been a bridge from the kitchen, supposing it stood upon a basement, but no signs of such a connexion can be seen on the frater wall, which is here high enough to have shewn them.

The western range of buildings originally consisted of a single block, about 105 feet long, and two stories high, with a porch projecting from the middle of the front. The ground story was divided into seven bays, but the northernmost was walled off from the rest and formed a separate apartment. This, which is still fairly perfect, is a fine and lofty apartment,<sup>8</sup> 26 feet long and 17 feet wide, with a plain barrel vault without any ribs, springing from a rich stringcourse ornamented with sunk semicircles. This stringcourse is also carried across the west wall, and round the heads of the doorways. In the north wall is a handsomely-moulded entrance doorway of two orders, with voluted capitals to the detached jamb shafts. Beside this, on the east was a small square-headed

<sup>8</sup> A deep deposit of rubbish upon the floor unfortunately detracts greatly from the height and appearance of the room.

loop, now blocked; and west of it a like window, but of larger size and widely splayed, a fourteenth-century insertion. At the east end is a rich doorway into the cloister, with chevron mouldings, but now blocked and much injured on the cloister side. The south side had no original openings, but two holes have been cut through it in modern times. The west end has in the centre a Norman window, now blocked, with a rich entrance doorway<sup>9</sup> on the north. South of the window is a wall-locker.

There can be no doubt that this was the outer parlour, or chief entrance to the cloister from without, where the monks could talk with their friends or transact any necessary business; and, as at Durham, it was "a place for marchannts to utter ther waires."

The remaining six bays formed a great cellar, 78 feet long and 26 feet wide, divided into two alleys by a central row of cruciform piers, upon which and the side and end walls rested square-edged semi-circular arches. Each of the twelve divisions thus formed was covered by a quadripartite vault without ribs. The walls are now much broken down, and the whole of the vaults has gone, but enough is left to show the original arrangements. The north end, which abutted against the parlour, has a blank wall. The east wall, being towards the cloister, has no windows in it, but there is a later doorway, now blocked, in the northernmost bay, and two gaps further south may represent doorways. One half of the south end was overlapped by the frater; the other contained an opening into the passage, by which stores were taken to the kitchen. Five bays of the west wall were pierced by windows, of which remains exist: they were little more than loops, but some have been altered or

<sup>9</sup> Just outside this doorway, on the north, is a shallow niche in the wall, perhaps for holy water.

widened in later times. The third bay from the north had a wide arch into the porch, now filled by a modern partition. The porch retains its original vault, of two bays with keeled ribs springing from corbels. The entrance arch on the west is carried by half-columns with voluted capitals.

The whole of this block was under the charge of the cellarer, who kept his stores in the basement and housed in the upper story such guests as were assigned to his care. The upper story seems to have been reached by a circular vice or stair, entered from without, placed in the north-west corner of the cellar (into which it projects) at its junction with the parlour (see plan). This stair gave access to a chapel over the parlour and to the cellarer's hall, etc., which occupied the rest of the range. The chapel will be described presently in connexion with the later changes in this part of the priory. Of the hall, etc., practically nothing now remains, save the room over the porch, and this has been completely altered and modernized; it was, however, probably a sleeping chamber opening out of the hall. The hall had, doubtless, a bridge to, or some such communication with, the kitchen at its south end, but no traces of this are left.

During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries extensive alterations and additions were made in the cellarer's building, which can only be followed by careful study of the existing remains. The first work seems to have been the addition of a large two-storied building on the west side of the parlour, equal to it in length, but somewhat wider. The ground story was divided lengthways by a wall, and each of the divisions thus formed is vaulted into two bays with simple diagonal and wall ribs, springing from corbels in the angles, and from half-octagonal piers against the side walls. The eastern half of the party wall has been taken away, but most of the western half remains, with



the jamb of a doorway at its west end. The two northern bays have been divided by a party wall, thus forming two inner rooms. The easternmost has a window on the north, and may have been an adjunct to the parlour, with which it was in direct communication. The westernmost was entered by the doorway above described: it has one window on the west and another on the north, beside which is a fireplace,<sup>1</sup> with a large locker on the left of it. The two southern bays always formed one room, entered by a wide doorway towards the east with depressed head. There was a second but smaller entrance near the west end, from a building there, now destroyed. In the west wall is a square-headed window with four-centred rear-arch, and high up in the south wall is a very small window, now blocked. This basement was originally built, at any rate in part, as a cellar or storeplace, but it also served as a porch to the entrance to the circular stair already mentioned, which was purposely included within it, and furnished with a new pointed head.

Before describing the upper story it will be convenient to follow the other changes in the basement of the cellarer's building.

With the exception of the blocking up of its west window, now rendered useless by the building outside it, the outer parlour remained unaltered. In the great cellar an important alteration was made in the second bay. Here the two quadripartite vaults were taken down, and replaced by two strong barrel vaults running north and south (still standing), resting on additional masonry against the side walls and a thick party wall in the middle (see plan). On the south these vaults do not extend as far as those they replaced, but are stopped against a wall built right across the cellar a little beyond

<sup>1</sup> This fireplace may be a later insertion.

the middle of the bay.<sup>2</sup> The portion of the cellar thus walled off was probably entered by a new doorway on the west. The new party wall has two openings in it; one now blocked, apparently a window (though of questionable utility); the other of doubtful use and date. To the reason for this change we shall come presently. Of any further alterations in the remaining bays there is now no trace.

Abutting on the west wall at the extreme end of the range are the remains of a narrow building, 26 feet long and about 6 feet wide, of Decorated date.<sup>3</sup> At its west end is a fine entrance doorway with continuous mouldings (Plate II., section 4), with the dripstone ending in well-carved kings' heads. Immediately within is a recess on the right hand for the door to swing back into, and just beyond, on each side, is a doorway (Plate II., section 5) opening outwards<sup>4</sup> into offices now removed. These offices seem to have been of wood; that on the south probably led to the kitchen.

From its form and position there can be little doubt that this building contained a new and more convenient staircase to the guests' hall than the vice near the parlour door. The stairs have long disappeared, and their site is now filled by out-houses, etc. The staircase opened directly into the hall, or rather into the partitioned-off part, at its south end, which was called "the screens." The hall was now shortened by carrying up the new division in the cellar, mentioned above, thus reducing its length to

<sup>2</sup> These changes necessitated the blocking up of the window on the west that lighted the bay.

<sup>3</sup> This building has been most unaccountably overlooked, although standing to a considerable height. In Britton's plan it only appears in a rudimentary form, and was so copied by Mr. Bloom; Mr. Harrod and Mr. Willins omit it altogether.

<sup>4</sup> The heads of both doorways have been destroyed.

56 feet, inclusive of the screens, the width of which cannot now be recovered, owing to the destruction of the main walls. The jamb of a Decorated window against the south-east corner of the porch alone remains, to shew that the hall was rebuilt or reconstructed in the fourteenth century. On the other side of the division wall considerable remains exist of the contemporary alterations made there. This part was divided into two floors,<sup>5</sup> which contained rooms of some importance. The first floor was one large room, about 27 feet long and 19 feet wide, divided by its ceiling beams into three bays. On the south was, apparently, a wide window looking into the hall; on the west is a fine four-light square-headed window, still quite perfect, even to its saddle bars, with the labels ending in lions' heads; on the east was a similar window, but this and the whole east wall fell down a few years ago. In the middle of the north wall is a fine large fireplace, ornamented with four-leaved flowers in the hollows of its mouldings; on either side of this is one of the corbels that carried the wooden ceiling. There are also three doorways: one on the north, opening into the chapel above the parlour; another in the north-west corner, opening into a skew passage<sup>6</sup> to the room west of the chapel; and a third in the south-west corner, opening on to a bridge thrown across the corner, outside, to the chamber over the porch. The only way into this room from the hall seems to have been through the chamber over the porch and across the bridge. Early in the sixteenth century an additional stair was made by inserting a large circular vice in the north-east angle. This did not, however, communicate with the outside, but led down to the cloister, so that whoever occupied these rooms

<sup>5</sup> Exclusive of the cellar below.

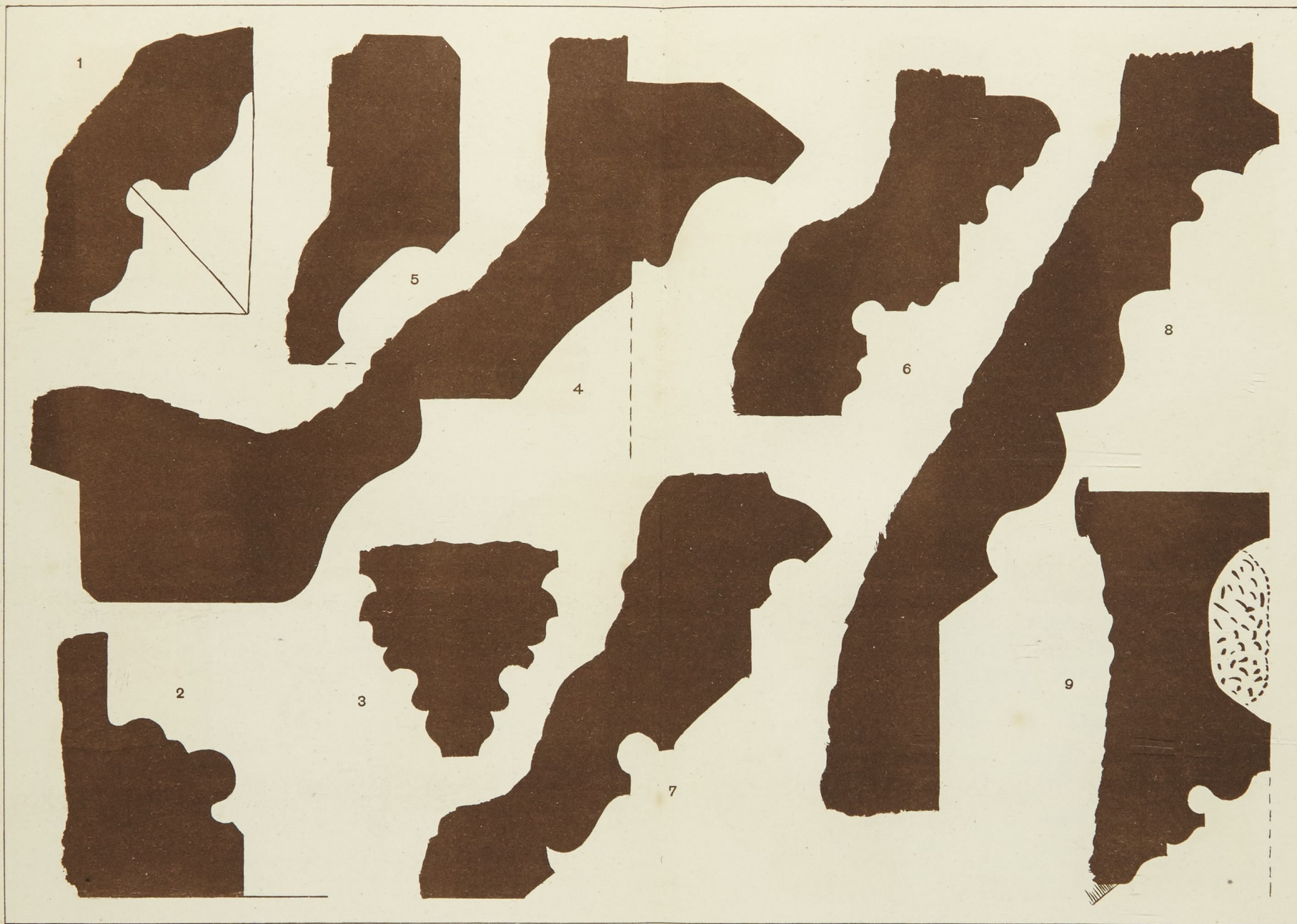
<sup>6</sup> To carry this the wall is corbelled out externally over a moulded arch resting on large heads, thrown across the angle.

might have easy and direct access to the church.<sup>7</sup> Of the upper floor all that is left is part of the west wall, with the remains of a Decorated window.<sup>8</sup> Beside this is a small door, through which the room was reached by an ascending stair above the bridge from the upper floor of the porch. When these rooms were made the old stair at the south-west corner of the parlour was stopped up.

Both the chapel and the extension west of it have undergone alteration since the fourteenth century, and it is therefore not easy to make out their original arrangements with certainty. The chapel was reached at first by the vice at its south-west corner; but, when this was afterwards stopped up, a new entrance was made from the room on the south. This remains, but is now blocked externally. The chapel has at its east end a recess, 17 feet  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and 6 feet 9 inches deep, covered by a broad semi-circular Norman arch rising from a stringcourse, which is also carried across the east wall. The arch is moulded on its edge, and one of the members has a curious ornament like a row of cones stuck one into another. The recess is raised one step above the rest of the chapel, and is paved with tiles; within it stood the altar upon another step now removed. The original window has been replaced by a wider one of three uncusped lights with intersecting tracery. On each of the window jambs are traces of a painted figure of a bishop, abbot, or prior, with crosier, etc., with a border of lions of England. There are remains of other painted decorations on the east wall, but only a diaper of the monogram *ih̄s* can with certainty be made out. There is no piscina. In the north wall of the recess is a small four-centred

<sup>7</sup> The steps of this stair have been used to form the present flight of steps up to the prior's chapel.

<sup>8</sup> The east side, now fallen, was like unto it.



CASTLEACRE PRIORY, NORFOLK. SECTIONS OF MOULDINGS,  $\frac{1}{4}$  LINEAR.

doorway with brick jambs of Perpendicular date, now blocked; it originally opened into the staircase in the corner of the south-west tower.

The north side of the chapel retains externally its Norman stringcourse and pilaster buttresses, but the windows have been replaced by two fine square-headed ones of two lights of Decorated date.<sup>9</sup> The jambs of these are carried down to the floor. In the south wall, just outside the altar recess, a beautiful Decorated sedile has been inserted, with a straight-sided cinquefoiled and double-feathered canopy, with panelled and crocketed side shafts and pinnacles. Two finely-carved corbels of this date also remain: one with a diapered shield of Warenne (*checky or and azure*); the other with a shield of *France Ancient and England quarterly, with a label of five points*.<sup>1</sup> Both shields retain their original colouring and gilding, but have been re-used as roof corbels in Perpendicular times. Towards the west end of the south wall is the inserted Decorated entrance doorway. The west wall of the chapel has been taken down, probably in Tudor times, and on its line stand two late Perpendicular fireplaces back to back: one in the chapel; the other, which is also the larger, in the room beyond.<sup>2</sup> These fireplaces have bricked hearths with stone curbs, and nearly flat four-centred heads, around which is carried, in each case, a deep hollow moulding (Plate II., section 9), painted red, and originally filled with carved leafwork, painted green; but this has been wantonly broken out. The space south of the fireplaces is crossed

<sup>9</sup> The westernmost of these has been mutilated and cut down to make the present entrance, which is reached by a modern flight of steps made out of the stones of the circular stair before referred to.

<sup>1</sup> These are probably the arms of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, but there are now no traces of any charges on the label.

<sup>2</sup> The larger fireplace is probably the successor of an older one, built in or against the west wall of the chapel, and of course destroyed when that was removed.

by a partition. The space on the north formed a passage into the western chamber, and has a curious arrangement of shelves and recesses in its south side. The chapel was originally 27 feet long and 18 feet 10 inches wide, but was extended about four feet westward, when the end wall was taken down.

The room west of the chapel is of ample size, being about 26 feet long and nearly 24 feet wide. It was entered, as has been said, by a skew passage at its south-east corner, with four-centred doorway. Another small door, also with a four-centred arch, on the same side, but at the west end, led to an outer chamber, now destroyed. The east side is taken up by the large fireplace above described. On the west is a square oriel window, carried down to the floor, of six cinquefoiled lights. This is of late fifteenth century work, and is carried externally on a bold corbelled-out bracket with double-ressant mouldings, and ornamented above and below the lights by a band of five sunk quatrefoils. Under the lower band projects the head of an old man in full relief. At the west end of the north wall is a door that originally led into a garderobe set askew to the main building. This is now destroyed, but the pit at its north end, as well as its foundations, remain underground.<sup>3</sup> On the left hand of the garderobe door, in the west wall, is an interesting lavatory with a trefoiled head. It has a shelf at the back for the little cistern, and a wide basin in front with shelving bottom and drain to outside. The middle of the north wall is pierced by a wide and depressed late-Perpendicular arch, opening into a large semi-circular oriel of the same date, of nine uncusped lights, divided into three groups of as many lights each. Just below the base of the lights, internally, runs a

<sup>3</sup> See plan. It is also shewn, as it remained in 1771, in the illustration on p. 152.

continuous stone shelf. The oriel is carried down to the floor, and has lost its original ceiling.

Externally the oriel is supported by a buttress of considerable projection, upon which rest two moulded transverse arches or squinches of Decorated date (Plate II., sections 6 and 7). These are segmental in form, and have beneath them smaller transverse pointed arches. Upon this Decorated base is a series of bold corbelled-out mouldings (Plate II., section 8) of the same date as the oriel, which rises from them. It is quite clear, therefore, that originally there was a Decorated oriel in the same place, which, if we may judge by the mouldings of its supporting arches, was a work of considerable architectural merit. Unfortunately, there is nothing else left to shew its form, size, or design.

In the fourth volume of Parkin's continuation of Blomefield's History,<sup>4</sup> published in 1775, is the following interesting account of the glass formerly in the oriel:—

“In a large room above stairs, called now the prior's dining-room, is a curious bow-window of stone, consisting of 9 pannels;—in the first, were the arms of the priory, painted on the glass; in the 2d, the arms of the earl of Arundel, and Earl Warren, quarterly, but now broke and gone; in the 3d, Mowbray, duke of Norfolk—gules, a lion rampant, argent;—4th, the red and white rose united, and a crown over it;—5th, France and England quarterly;—6th, the rose, &c., as above;—7th, Earl Warren's arms;—8th, quarterly, the earl of Arundel in the first and 4th quarter, and in the 2d and 3d, Matrevers, sable, fretty, or, and Fitz-Alan, baron of Clun, p. fess, azure and argent, quarterly;—9th, argent, a cross compony, or and azure, between 12 cross crosslets, fitché, sable; the priory arms, as I take it, and these letters, *I.W.* joined together by a knot, and under it *SPITV. PRINCIPALI. CONFIRMA. ME.* By this it appears that this window was built by John Winchelsey, prior in the reign of H. VII. or VIII.”

<sup>4</sup> Rev. Francis Blomefield, *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, continued from vol. iii. p. 678, by the Rev. Charles Parkin (Fersfield and Lynn, 1739, etc.), iv. 497.



The whole of this glass has long disappeared, and until the recent excavations, all the lights were bricked up, except the three central ones. They have since been opened up and glazed by the Earl of Leicester. The western oriel, which was bricked up, has also been opened and reglazed.

Both the chapel and the room west of it are covered by an original fourteenth century crossed-rafter roof of high pitch, with continuous ridge, but as the two chambers have not the same width, the roof of the chapel does not cover it symmetrically. At the same time that the Tudor fireplaces and oriel were built, the old roof was underdrawn by a nearly flat wooden ceiling, with moulded beams and curved braces. The whole of the beams and the intervening boarding were painted white, and powdered with slipped roses, red and white alternately on the beams, and red only on the boarding. The whole arrangement is shown in Plate III. (restored), from a beautiful drawing by Mr. George E. Fox, F.S.A. A good deal of this ceiling has now disappeared, but what remains still bears traces of its original decoration. The ceiling was symmetrically placed in each chamber, so the irregularity of the chapel roof did not appear within.

In the plan given by Britton in his *Architectural Antiquities*,<sup>5</sup> the western half of the chapel is shown partitioned off to form a small room, leaving only a narrow passage-way on the south. The studwork is described as "adorned with a profusion of red roses with their leaves, on a white ground, in water colours." There are now no traces of this partition, but it was evidently part of the Tudor alterations of the building, and bore the

<sup>5</sup> John Britton, *The Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain* (London, 1812), iii. 15\*.



CASTLEACRE PRIORY, NORFOLK.—PART OF PAINTED CEILING (RESTORED) OF THE PRIOR'S LODGING. *George E. Fox. Oct. 1889*

Scale 1 inch to a foot.

same decoration as the remaining portions of the ceiling. The room was very probably the prior's bed-room.

Most of the external features of this block have already been noticed. It should, however, be noticed, that the lower part of the Decorated addition is faced with cut flints, but the upper with small uncut flints with thin tile courses. Just to the west of the round oriel, the cut-flint facing is carried up to the roof. The western gable is stepped with brick, probably of Tudor date.

Early in the fifteenth century the porch of the western range was extended westwards to twice its former length by a handsome addition, two stories high. The new west wall has a wide four-centred arch, with square label and blank shields in the spandrels, flanked originally by two niches<sup>6</sup> and traceried panels inlaid with flint. Similar panels are let into the buttresses. Above the arch is a deep band of ashlar and flintwork checkers, and over that a fine four-light window with embattled transom. This lights the room on the first floor, which has also two three-light windows at the sides. This addition retains its high pitched roof, but all the internal arrangements are modern. Against the south wall, externally, is a chimney breast, which may be original. East of it, in the Norman part of the porch, a small two-light Decorated window has been inserted on the first floor; and above this is a pointed loop on the second floor. The upper part of the Norman porch now has a gabled roof standing north and south, of no great age. But originally it seems to have been carried up higher, and to have formed a tower of three stories. On the north side of the extension of the porch was another building, perhaps of the same date, connecting it with the earlier extension of the north end of the range. This has been pulled down during the last fifty years,

<sup>6</sup> The northern niche has been destroyed.

but is shown in Byrne and Hearne's view, drawn in 1771,<sup>7</sup> part of which is given in the accompanying illustration.

These alterations and additions to the western range of buildings were, no doubt, made to provide more room for guests. In earlier times these were generally either tramps, for whom there was accommodation in the "casual ward"



Part of a view of the western range of buildings, reduced from an engraving published by Hearne and Byrne, 1778 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  linear).

near the gate, or persons of quality who were the guests of the prior; but in the fourteenth century the growth of the mercantile and commercial element led to a corresponding increase in the number of merchants and other middle-class travellers, for whom the cellarer had

<sup>7</sup> T. Hearne and W. Byrne, *Antiquities of Great Britain* (London, 1785), i., pl. iii.

to find room. The later additions (to the porch, etc.) show that this increase was going on in the next century. By the end of the fifteenth century the demands on the prior's hospitality would also appear to have grown, for the rooms adjoining the church were then appropriated by or assigned to him, and converted into his *camera* or lodging. A new and ample staircase placed him in direct communication with the cloister, and a small doorway from his chapel enabled him to visit the church at any time. The hall and porch chambers were probably now reserved for the prior's guests, and accommodation provided elsewhere for those in charge of the cellarer.

On reference to the plan, it will be seen that the west wall of the garderobe of the prior's *camera* is continued in a north-westerly direction as far as another building, of which only a part has been traced. Some distance west of this are some fragments of walls, which may belong to a building shown by Grose, in 1771,<sup>8</sup> as a pigeon-house, with a large blocked arch on the east side. It is not improbable that, as suggested by Mr. Harrod,<sup>9</sup> this may have been a gate-house. In that case it most likely stood in the middle of a range of buildings containing lodgings for guests, and forming a division between the inner and outer courts of the monastery. Such an arrangement would correspond closely with that described as existing at the sister house of Daventry, which also had two gate-houses, one into the "utter court," the other into the inner court, which was "a feyr large court and cumpassed round abowte with buyldynges . . . . wherein is comprehendyd the haull w<sup>t</sup> divers chaumbers, the buttere, the kechyn, the pantr' with all

<sup>8</sup> Francis Grose, *The Antiquities of England and Wales* (London, 1774), vol. ii.

<sup>9</sup> *Gleanings*, 124.

other howsez of office."<sup>1</sup> At Castleacre these buildings formed the eastern side.

On the south side are the remains of a large group of buildings which have not been excavated. Roughly speaking, they form three sides of a large yard or court. The principal building, that on the north, was 18 feet 6 inches wide, and two stories high, divided into four bays externally by buttresses of good construction. The ground story had a door at each end and four windows, one in each bay, on the north side. The south side is nearly all broken down, but had a door at its west end. The upper story had a wooden floor, but none of its arrangements can now be made out. To the west of this building was another of the same size, but the remains of it and of the buildings forming the west and south sides of the yard are almost entirely buried, and cannot be planned without being first excavated. The entire group probably contained the stables and other offices.

Of the buildings of the "utter court" only the gate-house now remains. Until 1838 there stood just within this on the west a fine garner or barn, over 100 feet long, with open roof of peculiar construction. A view of the interior was published by Mr. Bloom.<sup>2</sup> The present barns are built upon its site.

The gate-house is an interesting example of the beginning of the sixteenth century. It stands east and west, facing the road, from which it is set back some distance, and is built entirely of brick. It is oblong in plan, about 43 feet long and 25 feet wide, and of two stories. The ground story is divided by an archway into two unequal parts. The eastern part was subdivided by a partition (now destroyed) into (1) a passage for foot

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, ed. Caley, Ellis, and Bandinel (London, 1817, etc.), v. 184.

<sup>2</sup> Plate facing p. 257 of his work.

passengers and (2) a porter's lodge. The passage was nearly seven feet wide, with a four-centred doorway at the north end and an open archway at the other end. Over the doorway is a sunk panel containing a sculptured shield of the priory arms: (*argent*) a cross checky (*or and azure*) between twelve crosses-botonny fitchées (*sable*).<sup>3</sup> The porter's lodge has a square-headed window, originally of two lights, on the north and south, and a smaller one on the east, and was entered by a door in the partition. In the north-east corner is a fireplace, and in the side walls two recesses or lampsteads. The western half of the gate was also subdivided by a partition (now gone) into (1) a passage about 12 feet wide for carts and other vehicles, and (2) a room or recess. The passage has at each end a wide and lofty arch with pointed segmental head, of which the northernmost retains the hooks for the great gates that closed it. The recess on the west side of the partition was probably a waiting place. It has a broad window on the west, with the sill cut down to form a bench, and a smaller window looking north. To the south of it is a wide circular stair that led to the upper floor. This formed apparently one large chamber, but is too much ruined to show any subdivisions or traces of its arrangements.<sup>4</sup> On the north face of it, under the windows, is a row of four sunk panels containing sculptured shields of arms. These are, counting from east to west:

1. Fitzalan (*gules, a lion rampant or*) quartering Warenne (*checky or and azure*).
2. The Royal Arms: *France modern and England quarterly*.
3. Warrenne.

<sup>3</sup> Shewn in the corner of the plan, Plate IV.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Bloom (p. 183) says it was divided into two rooms, "each lighted by four windows, with a narrow passage of communication on the southern side of the wall."

4. Maltravers (*sable, fretty or*).<sup>5</sup>

Between the remains of the two upper windows on this front, is a fifth, but smaller panel, now empty.

It will be noticed that the arms on the gate-house are identical with those described as formerly existing in the north oriel of the prior's lodging, which was built by Prior Winchelsea at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The gate-house is clearly also his work. The royal arms are therefore those of Henry VII., and the other three shields those of former lords of Castleacre who were benefactors to the priory.

There were evidently some buildings to the south-east of the gate-house where the wall running up from the transept abuts against an existing fragment, but their extent is not known.

In the extreme north-east corner of the precinct are the remains of a small fifteenth century chapel, now turned into a cottage. Only its north and east walls are left, and the former has a blocked pointed window with flint and stone checker work below. Mr. Harrod<sup>6</sup> concludes, on the evidence of an old plan in which the surrounding garden is called "Almoners' Garden," that this was the almonry chapel. If it were so, it is a long way from its more usual position near the gate-house.

After the completion of the excavations it was found necessary to again cover up some of the later remains, to preserve them from the weather, but as they are carefully laid down on the accompanying plan (Plate IV.) they can at any time be easily re-examined. In other cases the

<sup>5</sup> In the drawings of these shields, published by the late Mr. E. P. Willins, in his *Castleacre Priory, Norfolk*, the royal arms are shewn with the French quarters *semés-de-lis*, instead of with three fleurs-de-lis only, and the other three shields with diapers, which do not exist in the originals. He also omits the crosses bottonny in the priory arms, though they are plainly visible.

<sup>6</sup> *Gleanings*, 110.



masonry has been pointed up and protected by a coping to keep out the wet.

Antiquaries in general, and the Society in particular, are much indebted to the Earl of Leicester for his kindness in permitting, and his great liberality in contributing to the excavations, and to the Rev. Dr. Jessopp, Mr. Henry Willett, the Society of Antiquaries, and other subscribers to the work.

Thanks are also due to Mr. Thomas Moore Hudson, the tenant of the site, for the liberal spirit in which he assented to the excavations, and for much kind assistance generally.

The Society is also indebted to Mr. George E. Fox, F.S.A., for permission to reproduce his beautiful and accurate drawings of the tile flooring in the nave and the ceiling of the prior's lodging.