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NORTH-EAST VIEW OF ST. MARY, STONE.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
STONE, NEAR DARTFORD.

BY GEORGE EDMUND STREET, F.S.A.

THE recent restoration of this Church confided to my hands by the Rector, the Rev. F. W. Murray, appears to afford a fair opportunity for giving a general description of the building and all its architectural features; and this may, I hope, be rendered more complete than previous accounts have been, by the aid of some of those discoveries which commonly reward the careful church restorer, and which in this case happen to have been of more than usual interest and importance.

The descriptions of the church given in Hasted's 'History of Kent,' in Weever's 'Sepulchral Monuments,' and elsewhere, have not thrown any light on the history of its erection. Nor have the more recent publications specially devoted to its illustration, done more than their predecessors. These publications are, first, a short notice, illustrated by ten plates, contained in the fourth part of Mr. Caveler's 'Select Specimens of Gothic Architecture,' published in 1836. The notice is meagre, and the plates far from being absolutely correct.¹ Secondly,

¹ In the transverse section looking east, for instance, the arcade under the east window is shown of three, whereas, in fact, it is of four divisions, and the mouldings generally are drawn very inaccurately. It is remarkable, indeed, how very seldom mouldings are drawn correctly: the reason is that good mouldings are full of expression, which is about as difficult to catch as expression in anything else.

a work published by the Topographical Society, which is very much more accurate in its illustrations than Mr. Caveler's book, but is necessarily incomplete as it could not contain illustrations of the chancel windows, and other portions of the work brought to light in the course of the restoration just completed; the description, moreover, is in several respects not so careful as could be wished.

I proceed first of all to give such extracts from county histories and other authorities as refer to the history of the parish, and after that I shall endeavour to give an accurate account of all the architectural features of the building.

Stone, Stantune, or Stanes, is thus referred to in Domesday:—

“The Bishop of Rochester holds Estanes: in the time of King Edward the Confessor it was taxed at six sulings, now at four sulings: the arable land is eleven carucates: in demesne there are two and twenty villeins. There is a church,” etc.

In Wharton's ‘*Anglia Sacra*’ I find a statement of the Monks of Rochester, that—

“Ethelredus Rex dedit manerium de Stone Godrico Episcopo Roffensi.”

The date of this statement is A.D. 1360.

Ascelin, Bishop of Rochester from A.D. 1142 to 1148, whilst at Rome, obtained from Pope Celestinus a bull conferring on the Monks of Rochester “ecclesiam de Stanes,” and many others, of which possession had been taken by a certain Archdeacon Robert.¹ The Bishops of Rochester appear from this time to have had a residence in Stone,—the manor-house.² This was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, A.D. 1185—

¹ Reg. Roff. p. 40.

² Bishop Gundulph of Rochester could not recover the manor of Stone till he gave William Rufus £15, and a mule worth 100 shillings.—*Storer's Cathedrals, Rochester, &c.* Authority not given.

1214, on the west side of the churchyard.¹ Throughout the episcopate of Glanville, a violent quarrel raged between him and the Monks of Rochester, from whom one of them, Edmund of Hadenham, says that he took the greater part of their farms and manors, besides appropriating the churches which had hitherto belonged to the convent.² It was at this time probably that the Church of Stone, so recently acquired by the Monks from Robert the Archdeacon, came into the hands of the Bishops of Rochester, with whom the patronage has rested to the present day. The Bishops of Rochester after Glanville, and in whose time the church may have been commenced or built, are :—

A.D. 1227–1235. *Henry de Sandford*, at whose accession the choir of Rochester Cathedral was for the first time used.

A.D. 1238–1250. *Richard de Wendover*, who is said to have been buried in Westminster Abbey, by special command of Henry III., as a very holy and pious man.

A.D. 1251–1274. *Laurence de St. Martin*, one of the King's chaplains, in whose time St. William was canonized, and the church of Rochester much enriched by the offerings made at his shrine.

A.D. 1274–1278. *Walter de Merton*; the church was no doubt rebuilt before his time.

A.D. 1278–1283. *John de Bradfield*.

A.D. 1283–1290. *Thomas Inglethorpe*. In A.D. 1284 we have the first record of the name of a Rector of Stone.

A.D. 1292–1317. *Thomas de Woldham*.

A.D. 1319–1352. *Haymo de Hethe*. This Bishop built a new wall at Stone, against the Thames, and

¹ The farm-buildings near the church probably occupy the site of the old Bishop's House. They were the property of the See of Rochester until A.D. 1856, when they were alienated by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

² Handbook to Southern Cathedrals of England, p. 514.

soon after repaired, at a great expense, all the buildings belonging to this manor.

The Chronicle of William de Dene, printed by Wharton, in 'Anglia Sacra' (vol. ii. pp. 362-374), contains the annals of the cathedral of Rochester from A.D. 1314 to A.D. 1348, and gives several references to Stone, which it may be as well to extract here. His work is, in fact, a journal of the proceedings of Bishop Haymo de Hethe.

A.D. 1321. The Bishop stopped at Stone on his way from attending the meeting of Parliament, and—

"Ibi Abbatem de Lesnes,¹ Rogerum de Derteford, cujus electionem apud Greenewych paulo ante confirmaverat, ei munus benedictionis impendit."

A.D. 1322.—

"Hiemavit hoc anno Episcopus apud Stone, Festum Natalis Domini ibidem celebrando."

A.D. 1329. The Bishop being at Hallyng, the Archbishop sent some of his clerics to examine the Bishop on certain complaints, one of which was—

"Item prosterni fecit boscum de Cobehambery et de Stone."

A.D. 1333.—

"Die Lunæ ante Nativitatem B. Mariæ Episcopus ad videndum novas domus apud La Place, quas fieri fecerat, est prospectus: et sic per Dertford ad videndum fenestram in cancello ecclesiæ quam similiter fecerat fieri:² et deinde apud Stone ad ordinandum novam wallam contra Thamisiæ."

A.D. 1337.—

"Episcopus Grangias de Brumheye, Fronesbury, et Donyton, necnon et domos manerii de Stone cum domo vaccarum apud Hallyng, in magnis sumptibus fecit reparare."

In the valuation made during the reign of Henry III.

¹ Erith.

² I fear that nothing of Haymo de Hethe's work now remains in the chancel of Dartford Church; but a rude drawing of the old east window, "before the late alterations," is given in Thorpe's 'Customale Roffense,' plate xxix.

of the manors belonging to the Bishop of Rochester, that of Stone contained 236 acres of arable land, worth 3*d.* an acre, or 59*s.*; 14 acres in the Marsh, worth 6*d.* an acre; the mill there, 10*s.* per annum; and the total annual value was £24. 8*s.*

The List of Rectors of Stone is as follows¹ :—

Daniel Digg, in A.D. 1284.

Edmund Digg, 1341.

Edmund Berham, 1346.

John Lumbard, died May 12th, 1408.

John Sorewell, died Dec. 30th, 1439.

Matthew Gifford, A.M., 1607.

Richard Tillesley, B.D., 1613.

Charles Semitary, A.M.

Richard Chase, sequestered in 1650.

William Pierce, 1654–1657.

Henry Price, 1657; ejected 1662.

William Thornton, A.M., 1702.

Thomas Spratt, *ob.* 12th June, 1720.

William Savage, D.D., Oct. 13th, 1720.

Robert Talbot, M.A., inducted 1st October, 1736; died May 12th, 1754.

Edmund Lewin, D.D., 1754, Aug. 1771.

Thomas Heathcote, 1772, Jan. 1st; died 13th July, 1811.

Richard Laurence.

Walker King, M.A., 1822.

Frederick W. Murray, 1859, present Rector.

As to these Rectors I can find no information before the time of Mr. Richard Chase, when, by virtue of the Commission of Inquiry, made by order of the State, into the value of church livings, issuing out of the Court of Chancery, it was returned that Stone was a parsonage having a good house, and eight acres of glebe land, worth

¹ A charter of Richard de Waledene, given in Thorpe's Reg. Roff. p. 627, conveying to Bishop Laurence de St. Martin the tenement which he held in Stone by the gift of Richard late Bishop of Rochester, is signed, among others, by 'Alexander de Stanes,' and 'Willelmus Clericus,' who may *possibly* have been a Rector of Stone.

in the whole £170 per annum, and “that one Master Thomas Martyn enjoyed it, as a sequestration of Mr. Richard Chase, clerk.” (Parl. Surveys, Lambeth, vol. xix.)

The following extracts from the Petitions to Parliament, referring to the Clergy of Kent, have been very kindly communicated to me by the Rev. Lambert B. Larking, and are of extreme value, as determining certain architectural questions which in their absence would have admitted of much doubt and discussion.

*ARTICLES presented to the House of Commons against their Rector,
MR. RICHARD CHASE, by the Parishioners of STONE.*

After complaining that Mr. Chase was contentious, and had refused payment of his stipend to the Curate, goes on,—

“And, now, since our Church hath bynn burnt, wee have had neyther prayers nor any other function ner thes two yers : and he would have dismiss his Curat assone as the Church was burnt, which had bynn all one to us, wee having noe use of him ; but nowe, of late, wee have none resident in our parish to bury our deed. Soe that as Mr. Chasye leves our soules cure to the neighbaring ministers, soe our bodyes to lye as noysom carrion, unless the dead will bury ther dead.

“That, upon the burning of our Church, we resorted to the Bishop of Rochester, his lord and master, to desyre som place to serve God in for the present ; but, as wee were not suffered admittance to his Lordshipp, soe had this messag sent : ‘His Lordshipp had taken order with the Parson ;’ and the Parson gave this answer to the Curat, in our presence, telling him a place was found, convenient, consecrated, or used formerly for the service of God ; That he should not dare to offitiat there, or in any place, without his order, which order since he hath not given, beeing full two yeres. Nowe, wee humbly appeale to this honourable assembly, whether 200*l.* per annum doth not deserve prayers in two yeres once to be sayd in our Parrish.

“That, although a Carpenter offered to make the Church servisable for many ages for 1400*l.*, of which twenty would be for the chancell, the stone rooffe beeing untouched by the fyer, yet this neyther could be obtayned ; and, although it cost now

180*l.*, yett are wee never the nerer to serve God in it then before. Soe that it take of very much from our benevolence.

“That, very lately, wee all addressed ourselves by an humble petition, to complayne that our Church was no forwarder, and desired his Lordshipp’s assistance; but Mr. Chasye’s power was so great with his Lordshipp that wee obtayned neyther Justice nor civill usage from his Lordshipp.”

These articles are signed by nineteen persons, nine of whom sign their marks; and are indorsed, “Stone.—Articles against Mr. Chase and the Bishopp, in Parliament, 1640, 16 Ca.”

TWELVE ARTICLES presented to the House of Commons against their Rector, MR. RICHARD CHASE, by the Parishioners of STONE.

In the second article, is recited the refusal of Mr. Chase to pay his Curate till at last he was “inforced to leave the parishe; and sithence, wee have had noe able preacher there, nor upon a Sabathe daye, before the Church was burnt, neither service nor sermon, morneing nor eveninge, nor any minister to bury the dead, there being a corps to bee buried that day.

“3. That hee suffers the parsonage house and buildings to become ruinous, and without hospitality, ever since his beinge Parson there; and for four or five yeares togeather, before the Church was burnt, suffered the arched Roofe of the Chauncell, for want of sufficient cover, to become broaken and decayed, and above 200 or 300 foote of the windowes to remayne unglazed; soe that wee were often inforced to forsake our pews for shelter from wynde and weather; nor could the Communion Table bee kept drye in tyme of rayne; in soe much that, sometymes, it rayned upon the wyne and bread of Consecration, at the tyme of receiveinge of the Sacrament. And, albeit, the said Chauncell recieved little damage by the late fire, haveing very little combustibile matter in it, yett Mr. Chase hath caused a very greate parte of the Breife Mony, to bee uncessantly wasted and bestowed upon the same, soe that the Church is like to remayne unfynished.

“4. That, as Mr. Chase, before the burninge of our Churche, would not provide or suffer any able minister in our parishe, nor came himselfe above once or twice in a twealve month, and then only to reccon for tythes, or pick quarrels,” etc. etc. “Soe,

as soone as the fyre hapned, hee indeavoured to discharge his Curate,"—"as that wee have had none" (prayers) "thes two yeares and upwardes.

"11. That Mr. Chase was a very busy parson in the late convocation house, and a diligent observer of the late Papis-ticall Church Cerimonyes introduced," etc.

[*Indorsed.*] "12 Articles against Mr. Chase et al. 1640, p' Parishioners de Stone."

There are no signatures.

PETITION to the House of Commons, from WILLIAM GARNONS, late of STONE, detailing the persecutions of RICHARD CHASE, Rector of STONE.

"7. That the Petitioner was enforced to retayne a proctor in the said Courte, whoe depended on Doctor Wood (there beinge but two, and one of them his menyal servant)."

[Doctor Wood appears to have been Chancellor of Rochester, and a kinsman of Chase.]

[*Indorsed.*] (Wm.) "Garnons' petition to the Parliament, 17 R. Car. 1641."

Hasted, at p. 256 of his 'History of Kent,' gives a description of the church, from which I give one or two extracts:—

"The church has a large square tower at the west end of it, in which hang five bells. The vestry has been long since in ruins; adjoining to it was a beautiful chapel, built by Sir John Wiltshire, of Stone Place, which has lain in ruins for upwards of sixty years, about which time a large passage was broke through the midst of the pavement into the vault underneath, wherein were the remains of Sir John Wiltshire and his lady, with the bones scattered about."

Hasted says also, on the authority of Gough, that—

"On the 14th of January,¹ A.D. 1638, this church was greatly

¹ In the register of Upminster Church, Essex, was a record of the destruction by lightning of that church in December, 1638; with the further statement that "At the same time South Okendon Church and Stone Church were likewise burnt."

damaged by a violent storm of wind, thunder, and lightning, insomuch that the roof and steeple were burnt, and, as tradition reports, the heat was so intense that the bells melted as they hung."¹

The references to this church in Weever,² which appear to deserve quotation, are the following:—

"The whole Fabricke of this Church is upholden in wondrous good repaire; her inside is neatly polisht, and the Monuments of the dead (which are antient and many) very faire and carefully preserved."

He gives the inscriptions on most of the monuments, and the following notice of the founder of the Wilshyre chantry:—

"This Knight" (Sir John Wilshyre) "is entombed in a faire Chappell of his owne foundation: he was Controller of the Towne and Marches of Callais, Ann. 21 Hen. VII., 1506. He had onely one daughter and heire, named Bridget, married to Sir Richard Wingfield. As I have it in these words out of the Visitation Booke of Huntingdonshire, by Nicholas Charles, Lancaster Herald. Sir Richard Wingfield, Knight of the Garter, Chancellour of the Duchy of Lancaster, and of the Bed-Chamber to King Henry the Eight, by his wife Bridget, who was daughter and heire to Sir John Wilshyre, Knight; had Stone House, or Stone Castle, in Kent, near Gravesend. To whom the King gave Kimboulton Castle: he was of the privie counsell, and died Embassadour in Spaine and was buried at Toledo."

The only other references, of any importance, to the church, that I have found, are in extracts of wills. In A.D. 1456, August 18th, T. Maykin willed,—

"Quod de bonis meis una de illis fenestris quæ sunt in cancello de novo honeste ornetur, et utiliter vitrietur."³

And in another will, that of John Bokeland (Lib.

¹ I do not know how to reconcile Hasted's statements about the bells; probably we should read "hung" for "hang" in the first extract, as there is no evidence of the tower having had more than two bells since the fire.

² Weever's 'Sepulchral Monuments,' p. 333.

³ Custumale Roff., p. 253, extracted from Lib. Test. Roff. ii. 159.

Test. iv. fol. 233 b, etc.), dated January 23rd, 1473, it is directed,—

“That he be buried in the Church before the Rode, and to have a marble stone laid over him, and an ymage grayd thereon with a scripture of his name, the day of his death, and also at every corner of the stone a Bockyll grayd therein; that his executors, after the decease of his wife, do pave the procession way from the chancel-door unto the west door with paving tyles: that the rofe of the said church be new shyngled on both sides to the eves, over that place that he lyeth in, and by y^e space of seven feet of y^e length of the church: his anniversary to be kept yearly, and to be expended on it in masses saying, and pore people relieving, in meat, drink, and money, 13s. 4d.”¹

And with this view he settles, after the decease of his wife, an estate in Marshland.

John Colman willed—

“That all his lands called Chaundlers, that is to say, Penhaw Brokys and Diggillis, contayning 11 acres and . . . the profitts thereof I give to the parish Church of Stone.” (No date).—Lib. Test. v. fol. 178.²

In Thorpe’s ‘*Registrum Roffense*,’ p. 1052, are some notes on the Church, from which I extract the following passages:—

“The roof is fair and lofty. . . . The beauty of the chancel-arch is obscured by some old boards nailed before it to hang the arms of England against, miserably painted. . . . The windows are large and regular, as is the whole building, which for symmetry and proportion may be justly esteemed the finest piece of Gothic architecture in this diocese: and I wish we could now see it in the neat and decent state it deservedly merits, and appeared in Weever’s time.”

And at p. 252 of the same writer’s ‘*Custumale Roffense*’ he says,—

“When I last visited the church, in the year 1783, I was

¹ *Custumale Roffense*, p. 253.

² There are several other references to Stone in the old wills in the Diocesan Registry: but they appear to be all bequests to the poor and not to the church.

well pleased to find that the churchwardens, by an order of vestry, had beautified the church, by whitewashing the walls and painting the pews, etc., and that the old ragged boards which I had before observed to disfigure and obscure the noble arch which separates the chancel from the body of the church were taken away, and the arms of England new painted and more properly placed."

I have not succeeded in finding any other reference to the church than those which I have given, and though we are left in the dark as to the history of the original construction of the church, we have nevertheless amply sufficient information here to enable us to date with great exactness almost all the subsequent alterations. It is rarely indeed that so much can be learnt of the history of a village church as we know of this; but looking to the connection of the Bishops of Rochester with the parish, as patrons and lords, it may well be hoped that a careful search in the registry at Rochester would bring to light some new and important facts in regard to it. This search,—which, in the present unarranged condition of the Rochester archives, would be attended with the greatest difficulty, even if it could be allowed at all,—I have no opportunity of making, and I am driven to offer the best conjecture that I can, as to the date of the foundation of the present church.

The choir of Rochester Cathedral was first used in A.D. 1227, and the difference in style between the work there and that at Stone is so marked, that I think it would be safe to assume that it could hardly have been commenced for some years after this date, and probably not long, if indeed at all, before the accession of Bishop Laurence de St. Martin to the see in A.D. 1251. He was Bishop until A.D. 1274, and was succeeded by Walter de Merton, who held the see for only four years, and whose buildings, as we know, are in a more advanced

style than any portion of the First-pointed work at Stone. I believe, therefore, that it must have been during the time that Laurence de St. Martin was Bishop of Rochester that the church was rebuilt. It was in his time, and through his efforts, that St. William of Rochester was canonized, and the shrine of this saint, in the north-eastern transept of the cathedral appears to have attracted enormous numbers of pilgrims to Rochester, and greatly to have enriched its guardians. It was just the time, therefore, at which it might have been possible for the Bishop to provide or obtain the funds for so very remarkable and sumptuous a work as this church, on the road between the cathedral and London, and at a place where he possessed a residence and estate of some value. It was, too, during Laurence de St. Martin's episcopate that the chief portion of Westminster Abbey was built, it having been commenced in A.D. 1245, and first used in A.D. 1269, and the evidence of similarity between the work at Stone and that at Westminster is in many respects so marked, that I believe I may safely venture to affirm the architect of both to have been the same man. It will be better, however, to enter into the proof of this after having described the architectural features of the building.

Having given these preliminary notes, illustrative of the history of the church, it will be well now to give a detailed architectural description of the fabric, illustrated, as far as may be, by the discoveries which have been made in the course of its restoration.

The church appears to have consisted at first of a chancel, nave with north and south aisles, western tower with the aisles prolonged on either side of it, and western porch. The only subsequent additions were, in the fourteenth century, a small vestry on the north side of the east bay of the chancel, and in the sixteenth century the Wilshyre chantry, in the space between the

vestry and the east wall of the north aisle. In the fourteenth century (probably during the bishopric of Haymo de Hethe) the windows at the west end of the nave and aisles, and that in the west bay of the south wall, were inserted; and at the same time the tower-piers were altered. Probably they were, like the other piers throughout the church, exceedingly delicate, and were thought to be not sufficiently solid to carry the weight of the steeple; but at any rate it is clear that the piers, with their capitals, are not earlier than circa A.D. 1350, whilst the arches have earlier mouldings, and are of the same character as the rest of the church. It was at the same time that additional support was given to the eastern piers of the tower, by the addition of bold flying buttresses, spanning the aisles, and visible only on the inside of the church. The staircase to the tower, placed against the south-west angle, appears to me to have been added at the same time; whilst the upper part of the tower retains nothing but poor fifteenth-century work, and was probably entirely rebuilt at that time, if, indeed, it is not a work of the seventeenth century, undertaken after the fire, which melted the bells, in A.D. 1638.

No other alteration was made in the church before the Reformation, and in 1638 the church suffered from the fire caused by lightning, mentioned by Hasted and in the Petitions to Parliament. The roofs throughout must have been burned, and, covered as they were with shingle (Will of John Bokeland, p. 10), it is not surprising that when once set on fire no part of them was saved. Traces of the fire are very evident, particularly on the stones of the tower arches, which are reddened by its action. We found also in the upper part of the aisle walls portions of molten lead, which had run into the interstices of the stonework at the time of the fire. The extracts from the Petitions of the Parishioners of Stone, given at pp. 6 to 8, give most exact

information as to what happened before and after the fire; from them we learn,—(1) That before the fire the stone groined roof existed on the chancel, but was much dilapidated, and that the glass in the chancel-windows was in a sad state of decay. (2) “That the chauncell received little damage by the late fire,” yet that a very large part of the brief-money, raised for the repair of the church, was “unceassantly wasted and bestowed on the same, soe that the church is like to remayne unfynished.” This was in A.D. 1640, and I think we may gather from it the exact date of the alterations in the chancel. Its groined roof was taken down, its walls lowered some five feet, the tracery of the window in the north wall of the chancel partly destroyed in order to lower the walls, and the window then built up; the east window and probably one in the south wall destroyed, and imitations of Perpendicular windows—poor in character, but nevertheless very good for their date—inserted in the place of the original windows in the north, east, and south walls of the chancel. The wall was rebuilt on either side of these windows with numerous fragments of the old groining ribs, thus affording the final proof that the windows were inserted and the groining taken down at the same time. This discovery was most grateful to me, inasmuch as it had been objected to the restoration of the original windows in the chancel, that those which we had to remove were fair examples of Perpendicular work, and valuable in their way: in truth, they were examples of Gothic work in the years 1638–40, of no value at all in relation to the architecture of the rest of the church, though undoubtedly affording very interesting evidence of the undying love of Gothic architecture in this country, and of a not unsuccessful attempt at its revival.¹

I have been unable to learn the exact date of the

¹ One of these windows is still left in the south wall of the chancel.

repair and re-roofing of the remainder of the church. The living was sequestered in A.D. 1650, and Mr. Chase must, I should think, in the ten years between the petitions from which I have quoted and this date, have put his church into tenantable condition. The nave roof appears to be of about this date, and is framed with tie-beams, queen-posts, and purlines, with arched braces above the collars, and though not very ornamental, has been re-opened with the very best result on the general effect of the church. Subsequently to the erection of the new roofs, they had been churchwardenized, in the usual way, by the addition of plaster ceilings,¹ and in a less usual way, by the addition of a second roof over the other, and supported by it to the serious damage of the walls and piers.² The vestry never seems to have been repaired after the fire, and the Wilshyre chantry was roofed with a steep lean-to against the north wall of the chancel, and ceiled with a flat ceiling, for which I cannot be too grateful, as it made it impossible to insert a new window at this place in the A.D. 1640 restoration, and afforded me the only chance of discovering and restoring the original chancel windows. Knowing this before making my plans, I cut into the wall at this point, and was rewarded, even beyond my greatest expectations, by the discovery of the window-jamb, the monials, and a sufficient portion of the tracery to enable me to restore it exactly to its original design in every respect.

¹ It appears from a note by Mr. Heathcote, a former Rector, in the parish book, that the church and chancel were ceiled in the year 1777. This is the only note in these books which refers to the building, if I except an entry in regard to the erection of a western gallery, which has been removed in the course of restoring the church. The old parish books are all destroyed, and no record exists earlier than the end of the last century.

² "Less usual," but not unique. The church at East Barnet afforded another example of the same mode of spending money in the palmy days of ample church-rates and irresponsible churchwardens.

Having thus completed the notice of the alterations in the fabric, it is time to give a proper account of all its architectural peculiarities. The church is internally a rare example of a building as nearly as possible in the same state as when it was first built. For a village church its character is unusually sumptuous and ornate; and perhaps there is no example of any First-pointed building in England in which the grace and delicacy which characterize the style have been carried to greater perfection. It is impossible, indeed, to speak too highly of the workmanship or of the design of every part, and close as is its similarity in many points to our glorious abbey at Westminster, it is a remarkable fact, that in care and beauty of workmanship the little village church is undoubtedly superior to the minster. This might well be, for with all its beauty, and with all its vigour, the mere execution of much of the work at Westminster is not first-rate, and hardly such as one might expect in so important a position.

The exterior of the church is exceedingly simple. There are doors at the west end and in the west bay of the north aisle. In front of the former there was a groined porch, of which a small portion of the springer for the groining on one side only remains; this was brought to light by the removal of a brick porch which had been erected in its place. The string-course above the door is of the thirteenth century, but the window above it of three lights, and three other windows of two lights in the western bays of the aisles, are of the fourteenth century, and the work, probably, of Bishop Haymo de Hethe. The north aisle door is remarkable for its rich detail and peculiar character. One of the orders is adorned with a chevron on one face and with dog-teeth on the other, and the inner order is enriched with a rose. The dog-teeth and the carving of the roses is quite consistent in character with the date of the church, and the

chevron is no doubt a curious instance of imitation of earlier work, rather than evidence of the doorway itself being earlier than the rest of the church. The dog-teeth are well developed, and the roses are similar in character to those in the internal jambs and arches of the transept doors at Westminster. The windows in the side walls of the aisles are all alike on the exterior, simply chamfered with labels over them, save the western window of the south aisle, where there is no label. Those at the east ends of the aisles are more important; that to the east of the north aisle being of four lights, and that to the east of the south aisle of two lights. The buttresses are very simple, of two stages in height, with plain weatherings. The north chancel aisle is the Wilshyre chantry, a late Third-pointed work, with a battlemented parapet. The erection of this chapel involved the removal of one of the chancel buttresses, and in place of it a very bold flying buttress was erected, which spans the roof of the chapel, and adds much to the picturesque effect of this side of the church. Its erection in the fifteenth century was good proof, in the absence of any other, that at that time at any rate the groined roof of the chancel was standing, for otherwise its erection would never have been required. The removal of the high, tiled, lean-to roof of the Wilshyre chantry has exposed the flying buttress, the fine east window of the north aisle, and the still finer window in the north wall, restored, as I have said, in exact accordance with the window which I was so happy as to find there. The vestry, which forms a continuation of the north chancel aisle, is lighted with two small windows, with ogee trefoiled heads. It was a roofless ruin, but now it has been re-roofed, and, as well as the chantry, is covered with a lead flat roof, which seems to have been the original covering, and has the advantage of not concealing any portion of the chancel. The east window is new, of

three lights, corresponding in all respects with the restored north window, save in its dimensions, which are rather larger. So much of the east wall had been taken down and rebuilt, that it was impossible to decide exactly whether the east window was originally of three or four lights. I am rather inclined to believe that it was of four lights, for towards the end of the thirteenth century it is not at all unusual to find windows of an even number of lights in the east end; and the arcade below the window inside is of four divisions. Still, as there was no evidence whatever that this was the case, I thought it, on the whole, safer to repeat simply that in which I was certainly following the old architect, and the grandeur of the two restored windows is so remarkable that one need not wish them to be other than they are. In the south wall of the chancel one of the windows inserted circa A.D. 1640 still remains; it is of some value to the antiquary, and the contrast between it and the new windows, I hope, will amply justify the course I have adopted, in removing its two companions. The chancel buttresses are of great projection, but all their weatherings and finishings are modern, and for lack of funds remain for the present unaltered. The chancel is of two bays in length, and between its western buttress and the south wall of the nave is a space of six feet, through which, on the south, there appears to have been a doorway.¹ This would have opened into the western portion of the chancel, close to the chancel arch, and serves to prove that the chancel was not originally intended to be filled with wooden stalls.

Before the restoration of the church, the roof over the nave was steep, and flatter in its pitch over the aisles; and the chancel roof presented two gables to-

¹ It will be observed that John Bokeland, in his will, talks of the *chancel door*: I believe he means the door in the Rood Screen, from the nave into the chancel.

wards the east, and had a gutter over the centre of the ceiling from end to end. All this is now altered. The nave roof has returned to its one uniform slope, simple and dignified in its effect; and the chancel walls, raised to their old height, so as to admit of the restoration of the groining, and surmounted by a high-pitched roof, finished with gable-copings and crosses, presents again the outline which no doubt it presented before the fire in A.D. 1638. The chancel roof is now much higher than that of the nave, but I hope some day to remedy whatever defect there is in the external proportions of the building, by the removal of the poor modern battlements, and the erection of a wooden spire, shingled after the common Kentish fashion. The roof of the steeple was burnt in A.D. 1638, and the heat having been so great that the bells melted, it is fair to assume that the roof so burnt was rather a spire than a flat roof, and, indeed, Hasted's expression that the "steeple" was burnt, refers, it can hardly be doubted, to a timber spire. The view which I give of the church (frontispiece) shows it with the addition of this proposed spire, but in all other respects just in the state in which it now is.

I will now proceed to give a detailed description of the interior:—The nave is entered by the west door, under the tower. The piers of the tower arches were re-cased in the fourteenth century, and the capitals, carved with poor stiff foliage at the same time, afford a marked contrast to the workmanship and design of the earlier capitals. The three arches under the north, south, and east walls of the tower are unaltered, of the same character as the arches in the nave, and evidently earlier than the piers which support them. The nave and aisles consist, in addition to the engaged western steeple, of three bays. The most remarkable feature in the design of this interior is the way in which the whole

of the work gradually increases in richness of detail and in beauty from west to east. This will be seen immediately on an examination of the building itself. It is a very charming feature, and though one might have supposed that it would not be so very uncommon,—suggested as it seems to be naturally by the respect which in almost all ages has been paid to the altar end of the church,—I believe I may affirm that Stone Church is unique in the studied way in which it has been done. At the risk of being very tedious, I give a detailed description of the interior, which will explain the variation of the design to which I have referred:—

Western Bay (north side).—The window is of two lancets, with quatrefoil above. The inside arch chamfered, with a simple label returned, without any carving at bottom. The jambs are simply splayed. Arches between nave and aisles moulded.

Middle Bay.—Windows of same shape, but the inside arch and the quatrefoil are richly moulded, and the internal jambs are finished with a moulding and stone shaft, with moulded base and carved capital. The label is enriched with dog-teeth (it is the only label in the church in which they occur), and is terminated with heads of a queen on the right, and a king on the left, the latter much defaced.

The arches between the nave and aisles are moulded, but more richly than those in the western bay.

Eastern Bay.—Tracery of windows as before. The quatrefoil is not moulded. Jambs have two shafts (one stone and one marble) on each side, and a detached marble shaft in the centre. From these a richly-moulded rear-arch springs, with tracery of two lights corresponding with that of the windows. The whole composition of this window is of extreme beauty.

The arches between aisles and nave in this bay are richly moulded, and the centre of the soffit is enriched

with a large dog-tooth, making it much more ornate in character than the other arches.

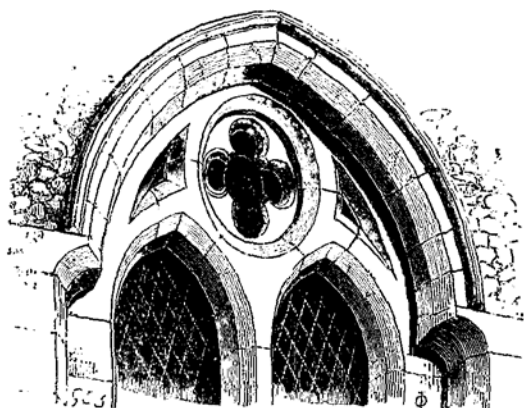
The windows in the south wall correspond generally with those in the north, and exhibit the same gradation of enrichment. In the window in the eastern bay there are two circular bosses of foliage in the spandrls of the internal tracery;¹ in the opposite window these circles are plain sunk circles without any sculpture: and it appears that the architect, wishing to avoid the expense of sinking the whole surface of the stone, so as to leave the sculpture in advance of it, let in his bosses into a rebate in the stonework. This is a very rare mode of construction, but appears to be perfectly lawful.

The east window of the north aisle is richer than any of the others in the nave. It is of four lights, with two marble shafts in each jamb, and one in the centre monial. The tracery has quatrefoiled circles over the side-lights, under enclosing arches, and a large cusped circle in the head: the arch is extremely pointed. The mouldings throughout are more delicate than anywhere else in the church, and the large circle has a dog-tooth enrichment. Externally this window is exceedingly simple: the rich mouldings of the interior being changed to a plain chamfer and broad flat tracery bars, very peculiar in their effect. This window was entirely blocked up, the cusping in the tracery concealed, and a four-centred brick arch under it connected the aisle with the Wilshyre chantry. We have taken away this brick arch, restored the old jambs and sill, and supported them on a flat stone arch. The flat roof of the chantry crosses the window just below the springing, and the portion above is to be glazed with stained glass, whilst that below is open through to the chantry. This was the best arrangement that could be made with the double object

¹ The central shaft and part of the internal tracery of this window are destroyed, and we have been unable yet to restore them.

of preserving the old window in all its integrity, and yet making the chantry available for use by the congregation.

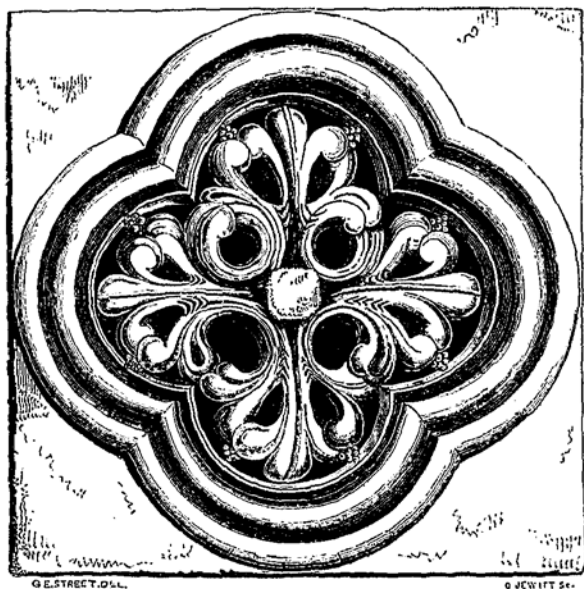
The East Window of the South Aisle is much less magnificent than that last described: it is of two lights, with two marble shafts in each jamb, and an engaged stone shaft in the monial. Externally this window is remarkable for the curious freak by which the outer chamfer is gathered in with a curve some six inches on each side just at the springing.



The Chancel Arch is more richly moulded on the west face than any of the others, and has a band of foliage enrichments of very magnificent character, very elaborate developments of the dog-tooth; each being of the general shape of a dog-tooth, but filled up with intricate and beautiful foliage.¹ Above the chancel arch on either side are two quatrefoils, within which are carved exquisite compositions of foliage, arranged in the form of a cross. Brilliant traces of red colour remain on these carvings. These quatrefoils were completely concealed by plaster before the restoration, and their reopening has amazingly improved the effect of the wall above chancel arch. The side walls of the nave are finished

¹ See illustration on p. 132.

at the top with a moulded string-course, which is returned for about a foot on either side at the east, and was probably continued all round the church.¹



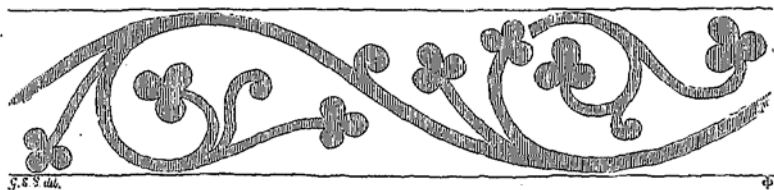
The whole body of the church was covered with a coat of plaster. Most fortunately this had been put up by some pious plasterer, who, though he loved plaster well, loved the church better, and had no heart for hacking holes in its walls to afford a key for his plaster. The consequence was, that in an hour or two the whole of the walls were stripped of their covering, and displayed their old masonry fortunately intact. The walls above the arcades are faced with chalk, regularly squared and coursed on the side towards the nave, and built roughly on the sides toward the aisles, and are finished with a course of Gatton stone below the string-course at the top. The aisle walls are built of rough flint at their base; above this is a course of squared chalk below

¹ I see no evidence of the existence of a clerestory; and the columns are so delicate that I think it is impossible that it can ever have been intended to erect one.

the principal string-course, and on this there are tracings of a thirteenth century pattern, painted in red. Above the string-course the walls are built entirely with coursed chalk, with quoins and dressings of Gatton stone.

The removal of the plaster between the two eastern windows in the south wall disclosed a portion of an arcade. This seems never to have been completed, for whilst the lower stone has the dog-tooth enrichment of the arch finished, the upper stone has it simply blocked out in the square: we found a corresponding fragment of arcading built into the upper part of the chancel wall, and whilst that which exists in the south wall appears to have been always in the same place, it seems pretty clear that the other piece was never fixed near it. The conclusion at which I arrive is, therefore, that these are fragments of a work commenced but abandoned for another scheme at the very time the work was going on.

Before going to the chancel a note should be added here, as to the painted decorations which have been discovered. A portion of these are architectural in their character, the rest pictorial. Among the former, is the running pattern forming a border under the string-course in the south aisle. This I hope to continue all



along the wall, it being sufficiently clear in the one place where it occurs to warrant restoration; and I have no doubt of the importance attached by the old architect to decoration on a line so marked as that of the principal string-course. There is also a faint border round the chancel arch, painted in red, but rather later in its character than the string-course. The pictorial

decorations are all on the north aisle wall. Between the first and second windows is a large sitting figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary nursing our Lord: St. Mary has a veil, and is not crowned, and had a red robe and a blue cloak. She is seated on a throne with shafts at the angles, and the canopy is a gabled trefoil with triple pinnacles on either side. As far as I can judge, this work appears to be very late thirteenth-century or early fourteenth-century work, and was evidently rich in colour. The painting between the two next windows is so damaged that I have been unable to decide what it represents. On the wall east of the eastern window is another figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also nursing our Lord, and seated under a trefoiled canopy.

No other traces of painting remain, save the colour, already mentioned, on the sculptured crosses over the chancel arch, and some painted crosses on the east wall of the chancel.

From this description it will be seen how systematically all this portion of the work has been designed: subject to the carrying out of the general scheme there are, however, some small peculiarities which may point, either to the Gothic love of variety on the part of the architect, or (and, as I think, more probably) to the fact that portions of the work may have been special offerings or donations from different persons. Certainly I see no other way of accounting for the repetition within a few years of two copies of the same painted subject on the north aisle wall.

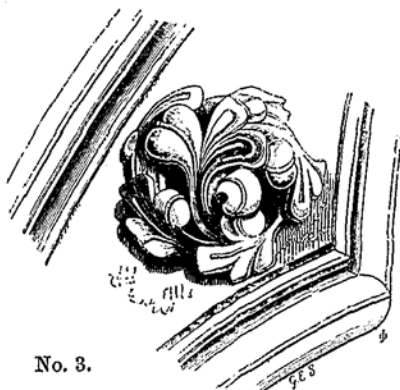
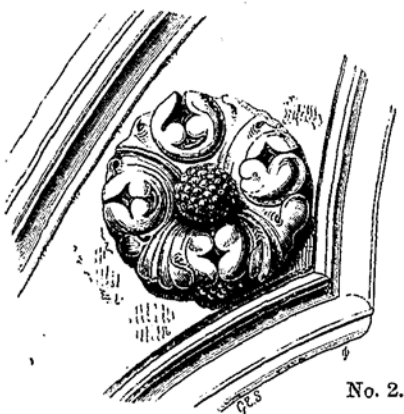
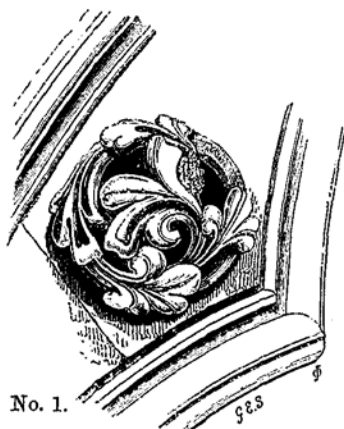
It is to be noticed that there is no sign of a piscina in either of the aisles. I thought it possible at first that the arcade we discovered in the south aisle might have formed a portion of the sedilia for an altar in the aisle, but I hardly think now that this could have been the case.

The chancel consists of a western bay of seven feet in

depth, from east to west, and east of this of two bays each 21 ft. 2 in. wide and 16 ft. 3 in. long, from centre to centre of the groining shafts. The west bay has no windows, but there is, as I have said, a trace of a doorway in the south wall. The other bays have each three divisions of wall arcading on marble shafts, and the east wall has four divisions of the same arcade. The spandrels of these arcades are filled in with sculptured foliage, so beautiful and delicate in its execution, and so nervous and vigorous in its design, that I believe it may safely be pronounced to be among the very best sculpture of the age that we have in this country. I shall have to enter again upon the subject of this portion of the work, in comparing it to the sculpture at Westminster. The work at Stone appears to me to be all by one man, and he seems to have been, if not the best of the Westminster sculptors, at any rate equal to the best.

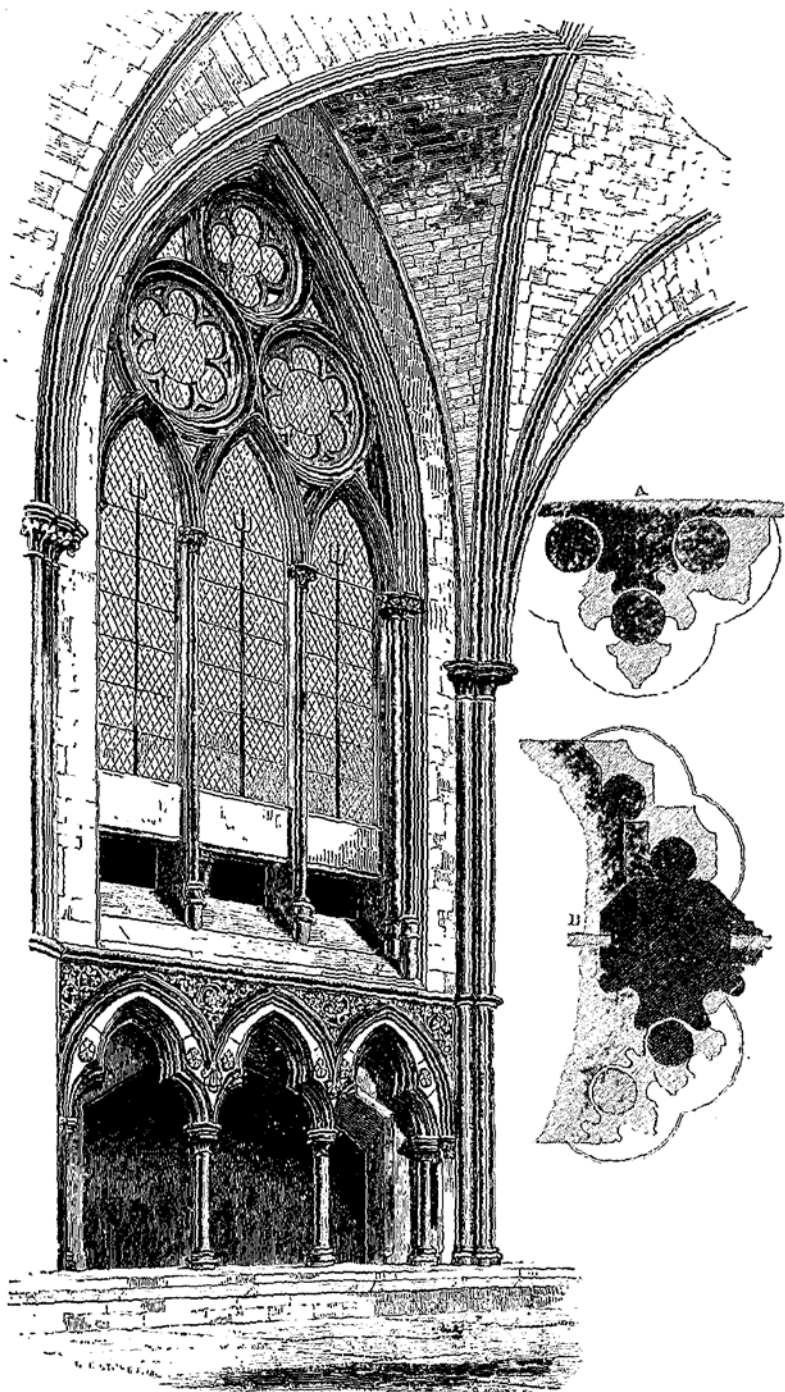
There are in this chancel twenty-one of these spandrels, all different in design, but all nearly equal in merit. The aggregate amount of work bestowed here is as nothing compared with that which has been lavished in scores of cases on sculpture in our new churches: yet is there any one modern work which possesses a tithe of the value of this work? And would it not be far better to limit our nineteenth-century carvers of foliage to rather less work in amount, and considerably more in merit, than that which they are wont to give us? The sculpture at Stone was no contract work: no exhibition of the greatest skill in covering the largest possible number of stones with the greatest possible quantity of carving: and it was executed with a delicacy of hand, a fineness of eye, a nervous sensibility so soft, that no perfunctory imitation can ever be in the least degree likely to rival its beauty. The small bosses of foliage which adorn the smaller spandrels in this arcade are very well carved. I give engravings of three of them, and it is

worthy of remark that the same design is repeated several times. No 1 is repeated four times, No. 2 six times, and No. 3 seven times; besides which the same design is used, simply reversed. It looks as though a model had been cut, and then copies made of it.



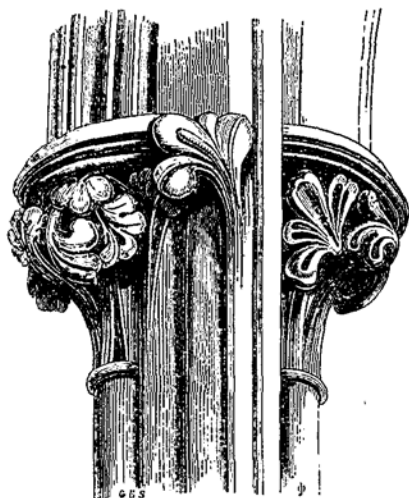
The walls of the chancel are only 2 ft. 3½ in. thick, but the great size of the buttresses amply compensated for this, and preserved them from suffering at all by the thrust of the groining. Before the restoration the state of the chancel was a sad falling off from its old state. The arcade at the base of the walls was perfect all round. The lower part of the groining-shafts remained, as also did the whole of a cluster of shafts on each

side between the short western bay already mentioned and the next. The groining was all destroyed, but marks of it remained against the wall, and it was easy therefore to obtain its exact section. The treatment of the western bay was peculiar. It was clearly never covered, as the rest of the chancel was, with a quadripartite vault. The mark of a vault remained against the wall above the chancel arch, whilst the side walls showed that a barrel vault had sprung from them. The cluster of three shafts between this bay and the next remained to be explained. One of them only was the groining-shaft answering to the others; but upon a very close examination of a fragment of the wall above them and of the marks on the caps themselves, I was able to ascertain beyond doubt that the two other shafts had carried an arch moulded on the east face, and the soffit of which, continued westward, formed the pointed barrel vault over the western bay. This has now been all restored, and with so much certainty as to all its parts, that I trust it will not be open to the criticisms to which too many restorations are liable, of being rather ingenious than true. I should mention that the new groining-ribs are of the same section as the old. The window in the north wall has been exactly restored after the old remains, some of which have indeed been incorporated with the new work. It is of three uncusped lights, with tracery composed of three cusped circles. The cusping was let into a groove, and a sufficient number of fragments remained to give the exact number of cusps, etc. The engraving shows both the design of the window and the fine section of its jamb. On the exterior the jamb has two engaged shafts, with caps and bases, and on the inside the monials are well moulded and have each a detached marble shaft, whilst the jambs have two marble shafts and are richly moulded. Internally the arch and tracery mouldings are very delicate,



NORTH-WEST BAY OF CHANCEL, ST. MARY, STONE.

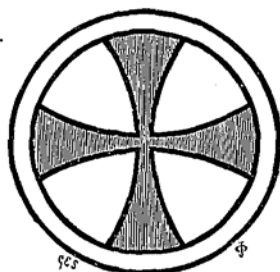
whilst externally they consist of bold chamfers and hollows only. The detail of the sculpture of the capitals of the monials was managed with rare skill, as will be seen by the illustration which I give of a fragment



found in the north wall. This window is now treated in the same way as that at the east end of the north aisle, being partly above and partly below the roof of the Wilshyre chantry. An old arch existed behind the arcade under it, and this has been replaced by one of stone, so that the chantry is now sufficiently open to the chancel for the purpose of use by the congregation.

On the south wall of the chancel is the old piscina, under one of the divisions of the arcading. The arcade is continued across the east wall of the chancel, in four divisions; and treated exactly in the same way as at the sides: it is pretty clear, therefore, that it can never have been intended to place the altar against the wall, and it was no doubt brought forward a few feet (with perhaps a low wall or reredos behind it) in the way so common in the case of apsidal chancels, and of which we have examples at Arundel and at Warfield in the case

of square-ended chancels. In the two divisions of the arcade we found, on removing the whitewash and plaster, a painted cross pattée, enclosed within a circle: it was red on a white ground, and outlined with black. Whether this was a dedication cross, or only painted in connection with the altar, it is impossible to say.¹



In the chancel floor are some ancient grave-stones, among which, those of John Lumbarde, Rector,—a fine brass cross of the fourteenth century,—and the little brass of Sir John Dew, are well known, and of much value. They have been carefully relaid in connection with a new pavement round the altar. The altar-rail has also been brought forward; the altar set on a foot pace about three feet from the east wall, with a low stone perpeyn wall at its back, capped with marble, and showing the old arcade above it.

It remains to mention a few ancient fragments which have been discovered during the progress of the works. They are,—

1. A fragment of very richly cusped thirteenth-century tracery, very delicately moulded. This has not formed part of a window, and perhaps belonged to the reredos, if there was one.

2. A fine head of a monk (small).

3. A half-destroyed carved capital of a large shaft clustered of three: it looks like the capital of a groining-shaft, but agrees with nothing in the church.

¹ I cannot express my vexation at finding that in spite of my earnest injunctions to the workmen to be careful, this painted cross was destroyed. It is often absolutely impossible for an architect to stop wilful destruction of this kind. I have sometimes thought that it might be a good plan to draw up a contract for church restorations, inflicting a heavy fine on the contractor for any such destruction of any old feature.

4. One moulded marble capital, and two fragments of a marble monial, with engaged shaft inside and out. There is no existing marble monial in the church, and the only suggestion I can make is, that possibly the same increase of enrichment that I have noticed was carried on to the east end, and the east window executed with monials entirely of marble; but on the other hand, this monial, though of marble, is not so rich in detail and moulding as the stone monial, with its detached marble shaft in the north window of the chancel.

5. A portion of the lower part of a sitting figure of our Lord. This figure is that of a man about four feet six inches in height. The feet are naked and pierced with the wounds. There is no sign of any place from which such a figure could have been moved. Its date is about that of the church.

6. A spandril of an arcade, sculptured with a portion of the resurrection of the dead. It very nearly fits the spandril of the arcade discovered in the south wall of the south aisle, and, in order that it may be preserved, I have had it placed there. The treatment of the bodies coming out of the coffins is good, and the work is about the date of the church.



7. A large number of fragments of the groining-ribs of the chancel, of the window tracery, capitals of monials, marble shafts from windows, etc. etc., were also found. The bulk of all these were built into the upper part of the chancel walls, and into the gable wall above

the chancel arch, and were no doubt placed there at the time of the alterations of the building, after the fire in the seventeenth century.

Of the works recently executed in the church, it will be sufficient to say, that the nave has been re-seated with open seats, and paved with the best red, black, and buff tiles. The eastern part of the chancel floor has been repaved with marble and encaustic tiles, and want of the necessary funds alone has prevented the re-laying of the remainder of the chancel floor and the completion of the seats. The lettern for the Bible is of oak. The whole of the chancel has been groined in stone and chalk: the groining-ribs being of Caen stone, and the filling in of the vault of chalk.¹ I have been unable, on account of the cost, to introduce any bosses at the intersection of the groining-ribs; we found no remains of any, but as they were used in the groining at Westminster Abbey, I should have preferred their introduction. On the same account the wall-ribs are chamfered, not moulded. The other ribs are exactly copied from the old fragments found in the chancel wall, and I was also able to obtain the exact height of the vault, and as nearly as possible the mouldings of the bold arch on the eastern face of the waggon vault at the entrance of the chancel. The east and north windows of the chancel are both new, and copied from the old fragments found by me in the north wall. A pulpit of stone, alabaster and marble, carved by Mr. Earp, and the gift of the family of the late Archdeacon King, is placed in the north-east angle of the nave. The window in the east bay of the north aisle is filled with stained glass, and is to form one of a series,—those in the north aisle illustrating the mi-

¹ It is a duty to mention the name of the mason who executed this work—Mr. Middleton, of Gravesend—as having exercised great care, and shown considerable skill in his execution of this important portion of the work.

racles of our Lord, and those in the south aisle the parables. This window is the gift of Mrs. Cooper, and is executed (as are the others) by Mr. Wailes, of Newcastle. The east window of the north aisle is a memorial window to the late Archdeacon King, erected by his parishioners: and the subject is, our Lord in Majesty, with angels on either side. The east window of the chancel is also a memorial to the Archdeacon, and erected by his family; it contains a long series of subjects from the life of our Lord, in medallions, and is richly treated in Mr. Wailes's usual style; and it is only to be regretted that in brilliancy of colour and nervousness of drawing he does not yet by any means equal the old school of painters on glass. The altar-cloth is of red velvet, embroidered in the old manner by Mrs. G. Murray.

Many works still remain to be done, and among them are,—1. The restoration of the marble shafts¹ and bands, many of which have been repaired in compo. 2. The induration of all the sculptured stonework, much of which is in a very friable stone, and in urgent need of this protection. 3. The restoration of the stonework of the exterior where decayed. 4. The seating and paving of the western part of the chancel. 5. The spire shown in the frontispiece; and many other small works for which the subscriptions raised in the place, though liberal in the extreme, could not be expected to suffice, and for which the Rector and people of Stone, having done so much for themselves, are entitled to ask the help of all who are interested in the art of the thirteenth century.

¹ A suggestion made by me after the re-opening of the church, that individual offerings of marble shafts for the chancel windows and groining piers would be gratefully accepted, was met within a month by donations which enabled us to order the whole of those required for the chancel; but we still want as much as ever to replace those in the nave which have been repaired with compo.

I referred, in the earlier part of this paper, to the similarity between the detail of the work at Stone and that of the earlier portions of Westminster Abbey; and before I conclude I will, as well as I can, explain the extent of this similarity. Few subjects are of more interest to me, and I suppose to all students of our ancient architecture, than this of the extent to which the work of the same artist may be traced in different buildings. I have been able, in a considerable number of cases, to prove pretty clearly what I now wish to prove about Stone and Westminster;¹ but I need hardly say that the evidence is always of a kind which it is extremely difficult to give in writing, though it is difficult to resist its force if the two works are examined one after the other, and their special peculiarities carefully noted. I will endeavour however to show the existence of something more than the ordinary likeness of all works of the same date and style, between Westminster Abbey and some portions of Stone Church.

I. *The Arcades round the Chapels* of the choir at Westminster are almost identical in shape and design with that round the chancel at Stone. The proportions of their trefoil cusps are very peculiar, and as nearly as possible the same. The spandrils are filled with foliage carved exactly in the same spirit. The labels are terminated upon small corbels level with the capitals: a very unusual arrangement. The arcades rest upon a stone chamfered seat; and the arch-moulds, though not the same, are of the same character, and both of them undercut at the back.

II. *Window Tracery*.—The original window tracery at Westminster is the same as at Stone. The windows

¹ See particularly papers by me on some Churches in Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, in the 'Ecclesiologist' for 1850, and 'On the Middle-Pointed Churches of Cornwall,' in the Transactions of the Exeter Architectural Society, vol. iv.

in the south triforium of the nave (four eastern bays) are of precisely the same character as the window discovered in the chancel at Stone. The latter are remarkable for the great width of the lights (3 ft. 1 in. and 3 ft. 10 in. in the clear), and this is very characteristic of the Westminster windows. The Stone windows are remarkable also for very broad chamfered tracery-bars on the outside, corresponding with very rich mouldings on the inside. The triforium openings at Westminster are treated just in the same way on the side next the triforium, and a comparison of the triforium of the choir and north transept there with the east window of the north aisle at Stone would well illustrate the identity of character. The stone cusping in both is let into grooves in the way common in early tracery.

III. *The Sculpture of Foliage* is very similar in both churches. The spandrils of arcades are treated just in the same way: at Westminster sculptures of subjects are introduced here and there in place of foliage; at Stone all the spandrils are filled with sculpture of foliage; but we found in the thickness of the wall one spandril sculptured with figures, which appears never to have been used.¹ The foliage of capitals is generally similar, and the very remarkable bosses of foliage in the chancel-arch at Stone, arranged in something of the outline of an enormous dog-tooth, are all but repetitions of the similar archivolt enrichments in the triforium of the north transept at Westminster.² The roses round the archivolt of the south door at Stone are of the same kind as those round the inside arches of the north transept doorways at Westminster.

The foliage carved in the form of crosses in the qua-

¹ There are one or two points which appear to me to make it possible that the sculpture of foliage was not done at Stone, but wrought elsewhere and sent there to be fixed. The northernmost spandril in the east wall should be examined with a view to this point.

² See illustration, p. 132.

trefoils over the chancel arch at Stone are repeated in a quatrefoil over the door in the cloister at Westminster, leading to the private apartments of the abbat. The crosses are, of course, not identical in their treatment; but the idea is the same, and one of rare occurrence.



IV. *The Materials* used in the Abbey and at Stone are as nearly as possible the same. The wrought stonework is executed in Caen stone and Gatton stone, and a great deal of chalk is used for wall-lining and groining, and all the shafts are of marble.

V. Finally, the same *general system of proportion* is observed in the Minster and the village Church. In both, the width from the aisle walls to the centre of the columns is equal to half the width of the nave. At Westminster the height is given by three equilateral triangles, whose base-line is the width across the nave

from centre to centre of the columns ; and two of these triangles give the height for the springing of the groining, and the third the height of the groining to its apex. At Stone, if we erect triangles on the same base-line, the first gives the top of the capitals of the nave arcade ; the second, within very little, the height of the top of the wall ; and the third may very well be supposed to have marked the height of the ridge of the timber roof. The width of the bays in the nave of Stone, is equal to the diagonal of half the width of the nave ; and the width of the bays in the chancel is equal to the diagonal from the centre of one column to the centre of the nave or aisle opposite the next column ; whilst the height of the chancel is given by two triangles similar to those in the nave, whose base is the width from centre to centre of the groining-shafts.

I do not wish to lay too much stress on any one of these points of resemblance : it is not to be expected that two churches, built by the same architect, so unlike in size, in position, and in dignity, should show anything more than some general resemblance of character : but I cannot help thinking, that when I have pointed to such a general agreement in the proportions, the materials, the sculpture, and the details, as we find at Stone and Westminster, it would be almost enough to decide the question, even without the final and (as it appears to me) conclusive evidence afforded by the all but exact identity of the cusping and the general similarity of design in the wall-arcades in the two churches, which must either have been copied one from the other, or designed by the same architect.

It may, I hope, be permitted to me, in concluding this notice, to call attention to the work which has been done, mainly at the cost of the Rector and Parishioners of Stone. The care of such a church ought not to be left to fall altogether upon the inhabitants of a small

country parish. In France, the government would have classed such a building among national monuments, to be preserved at its own cost; and, if we boast of an opposite system in England, at least it may be asked that that system should be applied in the heartiest way in so good a cause. The free offerings of the people of Stone have done much, but much still remains to be done in the way of repair to the decayed stonework and other parts of the building. Special donations for the particular work, and the fact that unless done now the work would perhaps never have been done, have led to the chancel windows and groining being restored at very considerable cost. The works still remaining to be done are of equal importance, but they can all be done from time to time; and all who are disposed to aid the work may still do so by sending their contributions to the excellent Rector, the Rev. F. W. Murray, to whose hearty zeal and liberality the church already owes so much.