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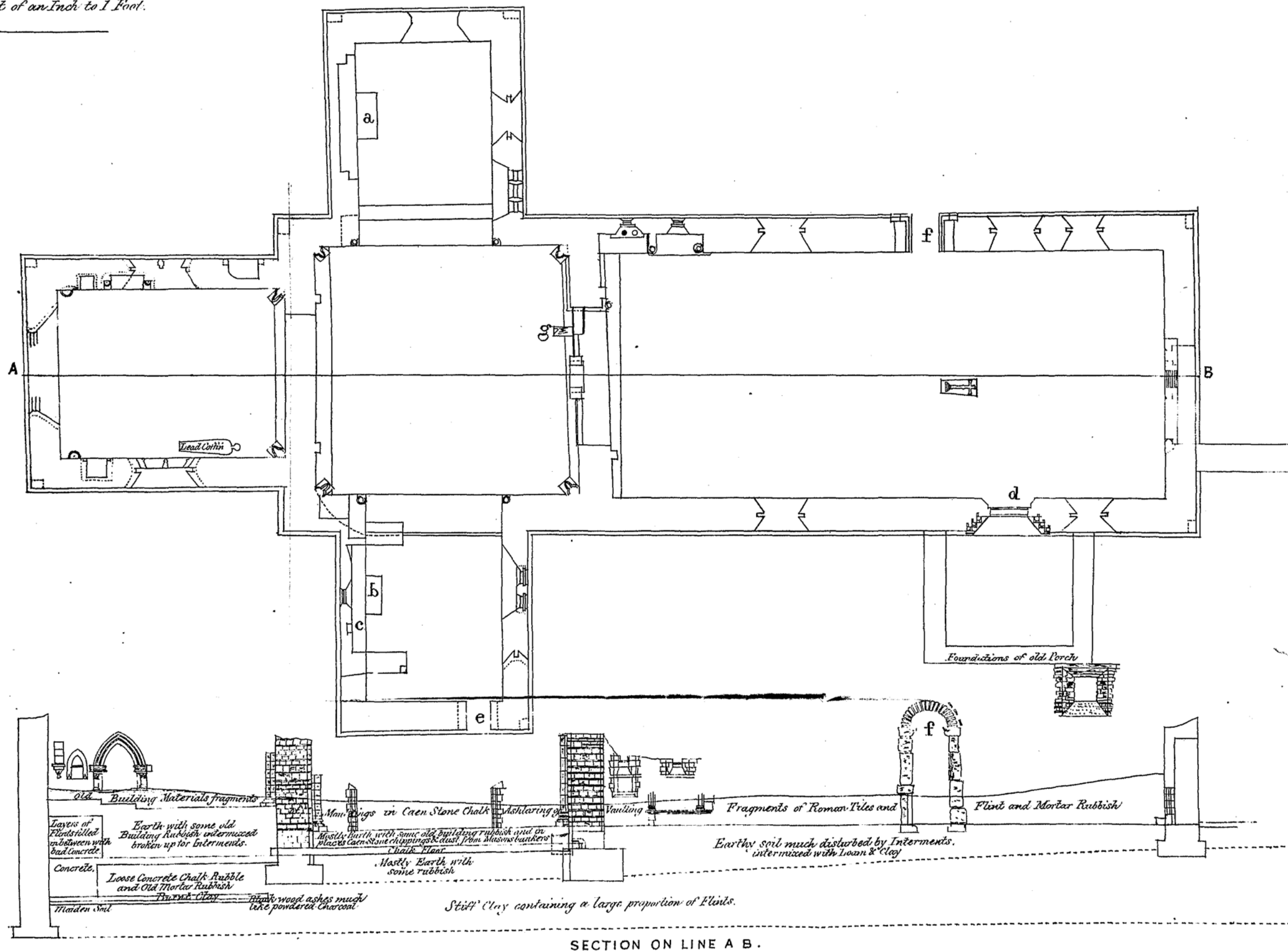
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# OLD CHURCH, DOVER CASTLE

## PLAN AND SECTION.

Scale, the 12<sup>th</sup> Part of an Inch to 1 Foot.



# Archæologia Cantiana.

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## THE CHURCH ON THE CASTLE HILL, DOVER.

BY G. GILBERT SCOTT, ESQ., R.A., F.S.A.

THE Church on the Castle Hill, at Dover, is probably about the most entire (as to its general outline at least) among all the pre-Norman remains which have come down to us: for though it was till recently a ruin, it retained the general form of nave, chancel, transept, and central tower so completely, that one felt that its entire design could with little difficulty be reproduced.

I will not venture into the disputed subject of its history. There is no question whatever as to its belonging to that variety of Romanesque architecture which we know, on the fullest evidence, to have prevailed in this country before the Norman Conquest. Though there are, however, very many remains of buildings in this style of architecture, it is an unfortunate fact that we have in very few cases any clue whatever to a knowledge of their actual age; all we know is, that the style is pre-Norman, and that it prevailed *up to* the Norman Conquest. The exceptions to the latter statement are such as only to confirm it the more strongly: for in the few instances (as that of Edward the Confessor's church at Westminster) where Norman architec-

ture was used before the Conquest, it is distinctly spoken of as a newly-introduced style; and in the cases, as at Lincoln,<sup>1</sup> where Saxon buildings are proved to date later than the Conquest, it is clear that they are the works of Englishmen still clinging to their old architecture. But what we cannot (or can only in a very few instances) prove, is, how long before the Conquest any of the existing buildings may have been erected.

Mr. Parker has a theory that none of them are earlier than the time of Canute, and brings evidence to shew that several of them are of about that age. This does, however, nothing more than prove that the style prevailed up to the close of the Saxon period. We know well that many stone churches were built at much earlier dates, and against this absolute historical fact, the general prevalence of timber churches has no more weight than has that of timber houses in our cities during the fifteenth century against the existence, also, of stone or brick ones. If, then, there *were* stone churches, what was their style? We cannot conceive that the barbarous and heathen Northmen brought over a style of their own; on the contrary, we know that when they became Christianized, they adopted in their own country the architecture which they learned in England, and continued to follow its changes for a considerable time; nay, very possibly the timber churches in Norway were imitations of those in this country. What, then, can be so reasonable as to suppose that the same architec-

<sup>1</sup> It was argued at the meeting of the Archæological Institute, held at Lincoln in 1848, that the fact that the two towers in the lower town which possess some Saxon characteristics, have been proved to belong to the time of William the Conqueror, was a conclusive evidence that such features are not necessarily Saxon; but Mr. Freeman afterwards happily met the argument by showing that these churches were built by the Saxon inhabitants of the upper town who had been ejected to make room for the Norman Castle and Cathedral; and that, while the Normans were building in pure Norman above, these Saxons were building in their own Saxon architecture below.



ture (which we *know* was used here up to the Norman Conquest, and to have been partly derived from a rude imitation of debased Roman structures, and partly from following in stone the forms suggested by timber buildings), was that which had been made use of by the English Saxons from an early period whenever they built in stone?

Whether the Church at Dover, however, is late or early Saxon, is another question. I confess that in my Report upon it to the War Office, I—in ignorance of its reputed history—conjectured that it might have been erected by Earl Godwin, thus unwittingly making it accord with Mr. Parker's theory. I now know that there is no Saxon period early enough to satisfy the cravings of some of the investigators of its history, and that after attributing it to the age of Ethelbert, they are almost disposed to carry it out of the Saxon into the British period. I will content myself with a strong opinion that it is *Saxon*, leaving it to others to adjudicate on the claims of Eadbald and of Godwin, and of the great gulf of 400 years which severs them.

The nave is externally about 62 feet long by 34 wide; the chancel about 27 feet long by 25 feet wide. The transepts each about 22 feet long by 20 feet wide. The tower about 35 feet by 33 feet 6. The walls of the church generally are about 32 feet high, and those of the tower remain to a height of about 70 feet.

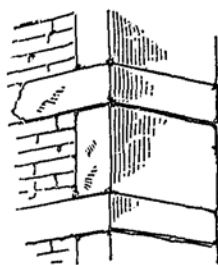
Of the three great classes of architectural features,—the doorways, the windows, and the arches supporting the tower,—all possess characteristics distinctively Saxon. The doorways, instead of having recesses or orders externally, and the door hung in some plane within the thickness of the wall, have their openings cut straight through the wall with perfectly flat and unrelieved sides, the door itself being hung against its inner face upon hinges projecting into the church. The openings in the

tower are in this respect treated as doors rather than windows.

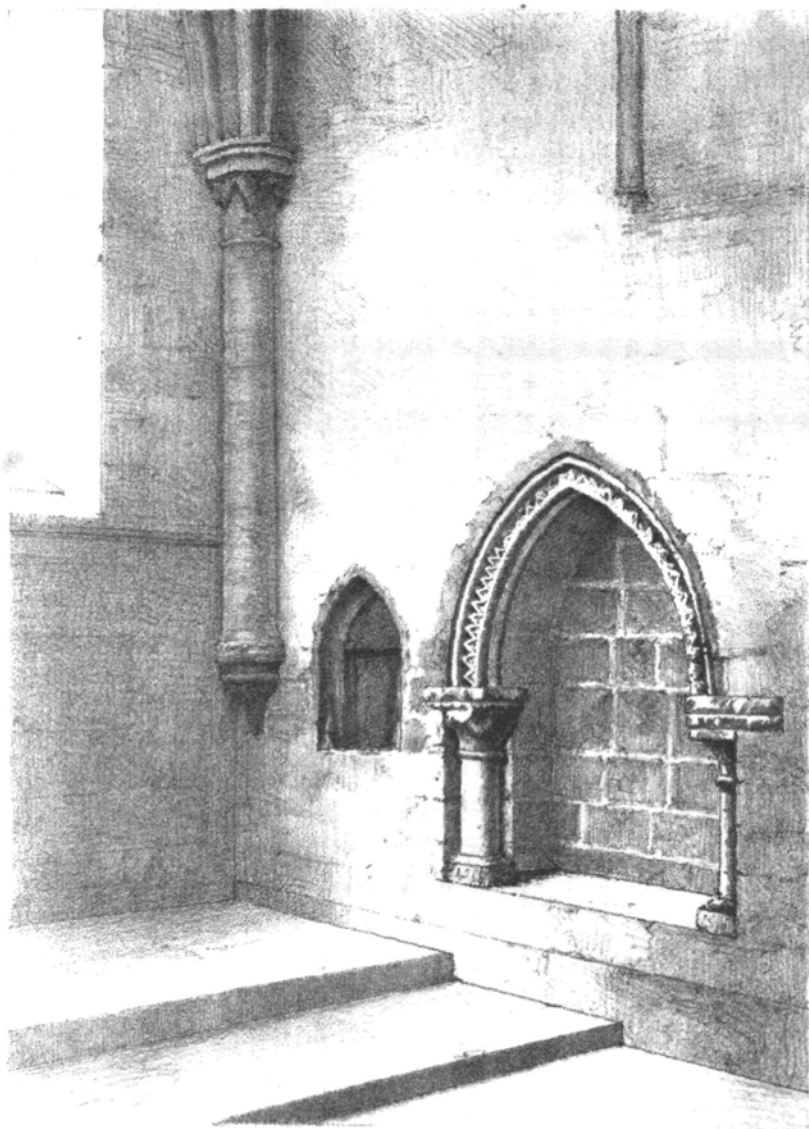
The windows proper have a rough splay of brick nearly equal and similar within and without, and meeting near the centre of the thickness of the wall in a groove which contained a wood frame; the sill was similarly splayed, and was plastered. Several of the windows added to the above another most remarkable feature; their heads, instead of being arched, were square, and were covered over by oak lintels, which assumed the same splayed form both within and without with the rest of the window. These lintels had perished, but the exact impression of their ends was left in the mortar, showing almost the very grain of the wood.

The arches of the tower (of which the eastern and western are the only original ones), are formed in the manner which is so frequent in and so characteristic of Saxon work. They have near either jamb a brick pilaster which, instead of stopping at the springing of the arch, is continued round the arch.

This is almost entirely of brick, as in fact are the majority of the architectural parts. The imposts are however of stone, and are singularly moulded. The external quoins are partly of brick and partly of stone, the latter being bonded on the "long and short" principle peculiar to Saxon work: that is to say, an upright stone like a gate-post alternating with a flat stone bonding into both of the wall faces. The door jambs seem to have been somewhat similar in construction, having alternately flat stones on edge forming the sides of the opening, and flat stones laid horizontally upon them.



The church underwent considerable alterations about the close of the twelfth century. These alterations con-



EARLY ENGLISH SEDILE AND PISCINA  
DOVER CASTLE CHURCH.

sisted, firstly, in the change of the whole internal character of the chancel into Early Pointed by adding vaulting, inserting lancet windows in the sides and east end, and a beautiful Early English sedile (Plate I.); secondly, of the vaulting of the space below the tower, and the formation of pointed arches on the north and south sides of that space; and, thirdly, of the insertion of a fine pointed doorway (and apparently a porch), on the north side of the nave. The character of the work introduced at this period is peculiarly fine, and it is pretty evident, on comparing it with the beautiful porch and chapel to the keep of the castle, that it was the work of the same architect; for though the latter has generally round arches, and has some Norman decorations, the details of the two are so much alike as to show the same hand. Some mouldings indeed are identical, not only in form, but in dimension, as if worked from the very same mould. There is however an additional circumstance which adds to my mind much interest to both of these works. I refer to the resemblance which the details of both bear to those of the second architect to the choir of Canterbury Cathedral. It will be remembered that the Norman choir having been burnt in 1174, a French architect, known as "William of Sens," was engaged for its restoration, and he, having been obliged after some years to relinquish the work, was succeeded by an Englishman, who had been engaged under him, and who is called "William the Englishman." To the work of this architect the details in question bear the closest resemblance, and I have no hesitation in attributing them to him, or to some of those who had been engaged under his direction.

One very curious circumstance with regard to this work has come to light during our excavations. We found many portions of the vaulting ribs of this period, several of which had been formed out of small baluster pillars belonging to the Saxon church, one side of which

remained quite perfect at the back of the Early English rib-moulding (Plate II.); these balusters are about two feet long, and do not suit any existing part of the church, yet they are so distinctly Saxon that one cannot doubt that they belonged to it. They are of Caen stone, and have been carefully turned in a lathe, the surface with the marks of the turning-tools being almost as fresh as if new. This latter circumstance makes it evident that they could never have been used externally, and I think it probable that they formed parts of a screen. They are most valuable relics, and, I trust, will be carefully preserved. The originals are, I believe, in the Museum at Dover, and I have deposited casts in the Architectural Museum in London.

The doorway of this period on the north side of the nave, though some symptoms of it were before visible, may almost be said to have been discovered during our excavations, for it was not till we had removed the earth to a considerable depth that its true form was found. The arch mouldings and the capitals had disappeared, but the full sections of the jambs with the bases were discovered. One of the early couplets of the chancel had been altered in the succeeding century into an incipient tracery window with a quatrefoil in its head, and the double arch of the interior had been converted into a semicircle. I at first intended to have preserved this altered form, but the inserted stonework was so ruinous and decayed, that it was found necessary to take it out, and during the excavations the capital of the central shaft was found in a perfect state, with others of its details, which led me to restore its original in preference to its altered form. The opposite window had had its external features destroyed, but on the south side the jambs remained, and, one window with another, and with the aid of discovered fragments, the original form and details were recovered with entire certainty.



SAXON BALUSTERS  
DOVER CASTLE CHURCH.

The capitals of several of the vaulting ribs were also found while excavating, and re-used. A portion of the boss of the chancel vaulting was also discovered in a similar manner.

There are also Early English remains of a second period, probably some thirty years later than those just described. They consist mainly of sedilia and a piscina in the south-eastern angle of the nave, and belonging to an altar which stood against the southern jamb of the tower arch. Each arch of the sedilia had a small window opening in its centre. These were discovered during the progress of the work, and only remained in any degree up to a little below the springing line. These arches having been destroyed, I found the outline of the capital—or rather of the corbel—of the eastern one remaining just sufficiently perfect to trace out its section, the corbel having been broken off. The arch mouldings are restored conjecturally only, but the remainder with certainty; indeed, it is mainly the old work. A little pedestal, probably for a figure, was found attached to the jamb and the tower arch adjoining, and was re-fixed where found.

The Early English work of this second period is distinguishable from that of the first period by its having been worked with the claw-tool, whereas the older work bears the marks of the plain chisel.

In explanation of my frequent reference to excavations, I ought to state that the church had long existed only in the form of a ruin. It appears to have been dis-used and unroofed early in the last century. The earth had accumulated both within and around the church to considerable, and in some places enormous depths, to which the changes made from time to time in the surrounding fortifications had much contributed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The church was used as the coal depôt for the Castle, and was in a state of utter ruin and desolation. Happily, the walls were in the main

On excavating internally, two ancient floor-levels were discovered—the original floor of the Saxon church, and that of the Early English period, which was on a slightly higher level. We have adopted the latter for the restored church. That portion of the older floor which was under the tower was paved with squared chalk about six inches thick, laid on concrete, and the bed, similarly prepared, was found in other parts. In the western arch of the tower were found the remains of a wall, in the centre of which was the sill of a doorway. I imagine this to have been the base of a screen of the Saxon period, possibly that to which the little baluster pillars already described belonged.

In the eastern walls of the transepts were recesses of considerable width under pointed arches. In excavating below them were found the lower parts of cross-walls projecting from them westward, and on a careful examination of the arches, evidences were discovered of groined vaulting having existed, rendering it clear that they were the remains of projecting vaulted canopies or ciboria for the reception of altars: their exact age I am unable to judge of, but I think they probably belong to the same period as the sedilia in the nave. The arches, which were of course ragged where the vault had been broken away, were unfortunately faced up with stone before their meaning was discovered, which renders it the more important to record what was their original form. During the excavations, a great number of ancient graves were discovered both within and without the church, all particulars of which have been carefully recorded by Mr. Marshall, the clerk of the works, some extracts from whose notes are appended. Many archi-

sound and upright, and much of the ancient work everywhere remained, but both without and within very large parts of the surface had been stripped or had fallen off, and the walls in many parts reduced in height, and left in ragged, ruinous forms. There was a large archway formed in the wall of the north transept, for the admission of coal-carts.



tectural fragments of great interest were also found besides those already mentioned, the original places of many of which I failed to discover; the stone made use of in the Saxon portions of the building is of (at least) three descriptions: some parts, as, for instance, the imposts of the tower arches, are of Caen stone; other parts, particularly some of the quoins, are of large masses of Kentish rag, such as one sees about Folkestone and Hythe; others, again, are of a very peculiar kind of coarse oolite, and it is a curious fact that the same stone has been found at St. Mildred's Church at Canterbury, which has been supposed by Mr. Hussey to contain old Roman materials, and that the curious pillars from Reculver, which are now put up at Canterbury, are of the same stone. Both of these points have been verified by Mr. Marshall, my clerk of the works.<sup>1</sup> Tufa also exists in the older

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<sup>1</sup> "Old Church, Dover Castle,  
"April 26th, 1861.

"Dear Sir,—Some time since, on running through the first volume published by the Kent Archæological Society, my attention was drawn to a paper read by Mr. Hussey (page 145) on a certain description of stone, so much resembling what I have here met with in the old church, that I feel it a duty to make the following communication.

"The stone above referred to, in St. Mildred's Church, Canterbury, I have recently had an opportunity of seeing, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be exactly of the same kind as we have here in the south doorway of nave; the remains of doorway, north transept; north-east quoin of chancel (three stones); west end of nave (one stone each quoin); south-east quoin, north transept (one stone). Also one in the interior, near the south-west angle of the tower pier, shown on plan. Most of these stones are of large dimensions—one contains over thirteen cubic feet; and all are built in the walls at a low level, as at St. Mildred's Church. Those that are in contact with the ground are remarkably hard, having quite a crystalline appearance in places when broken.

"On the north side of Canterbury Cathedral have recently been set up two stone columns with caps and bases complete, brought

parts of the work. The walls are mainly of flint, but the jambs and arches of windows, etc., and portions of the quoins, are of Roman bricks, some of which are rounded on their edges as if they had lain on the beach, and to others portions of Roman mortar are found to adhere.

It has been no easy task to restore a building which has been reduced to the condition of a ruin. In such a case, even the most necessary works seem to be a tampering with the identity of an ancient relic; yet who could wish to see one of the most ancient churches in our land left a ruin, and used as a coal store, or desire to forbid its restitution to its sacred uses?

The course which I have followed, has been to preserve every ancient feature which remained in its place, to restore to their places all fragments whose original position could be discovered, to leave unrestored those ancient features whose restoration was not necessary to the safety or the reasonable completeness of the building, and to restore others, as nearly as evidences would permit, to the old forms, without an attempt to disguise what was new, or to render it mistakeable for old work.

In cases where it was necessary to restore parts formed of Roman brick, I have either used similar brick from the excavations, or modern paving tiles. The latter sufficiently harmonize, but are at once distinguishable.

The great south doorway I have left intact (Plate III.), as a specimen of a Saxon doorway in a sufficient state of completeness to be intelligible; but in dealing with the small doorway in the north transept, I have taken

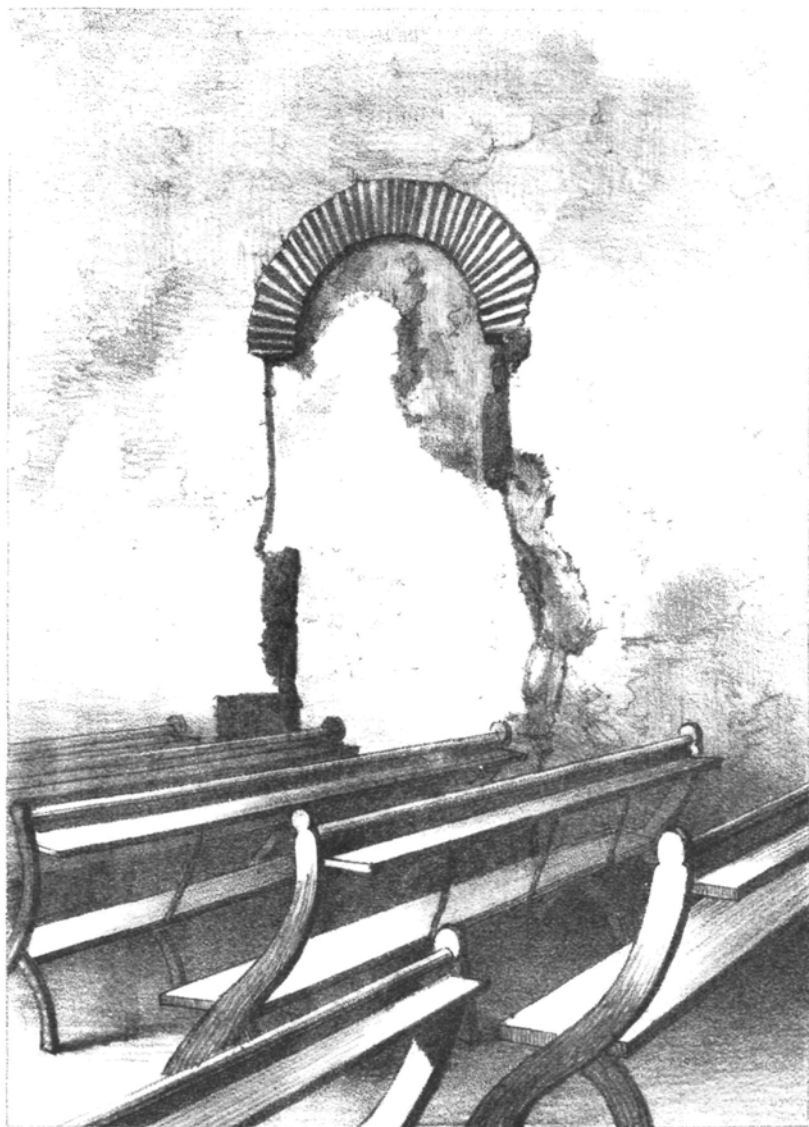
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from the ancient church of Reculver, of undoubted Roman origin; on examining the stone of which they are made, I find it exactly corresponds with that in the old church here and at St. Mildred's; indeed, I should little doubt but it all came from the same quarry.

"I am, etc.,

"J. N. MARSHALL.

"To G. G. SCOTT, Esq., R.A."



REMAINS OF SAXON SOUTH DOORWAY  
DOVER CASTLE CHURCH.

quite a contrary course, for which I must make my apologies to the strict antiquary. This doorway had been destroyed in making the great arched cart-entrance already mentioned, except the lower part of its jambs, and one of these (the eastern one) crumbled away when exposed. A door was needed, and it may be said the right course was to leave the fragment which remained, and to form a new doorway in another style. Another idea, however, occurred to me. What with the remains of the south doorway, and of that under consideration, the doorway high up in the west end, and some door-like openings in the tower, sufficient evidence could be gathered to show the exact construction of a Saxon doorway, but none remained perfect and in use. It occurred to me, therefore, that it would be interesting to make a reproduction of the doorway from this collected evidence. I wish it therefore to be clearly understood, that the doorway is rather to be viewed as a *model* than as a *restoration*. The lower part of its western jamb is original and untouched; its width is that of the old doorway; the mode of hanging the door was proved by the stump of its iron hook run with lead into the old jamb; but beyond this the doorway must be viewed as a model founded on collateral evidence deduced from other parts of the same building, and must appeal for the interest and forgiveness of the antiquary to the fact of its being a truthful exponent of a Saxon doorway when perfect and in use. The windows, as I have before said, were in parts sufficiently perfect to show their exact construction, and I have restored them precisely as they were, inserting wood frames into the old grooves which had contained them, or re-forming them where they had perished; four of the windows had had square heads with wood lintels. In these cases we have inserted lintels into the very holes which the ancient ones had occupied, so that, strange as is their form and ap-

pearance, they are precisely what the originals had been. I could discover no cause for this peculiar form, so far as concerns the western windows of the transepts; but as regards the north and south windows, near the west end of the nave, the purpose was rendered clear by the existence of holes for the reception of the timbers of a floor immediately over them. These, taken in connection with the existence of a Saxon doorway in the west wall at about the same level, prove the original existence of a gallery across the west end, which it would appear must have been approached from the exterior, possibly from the Pharos tower. If a similar cause should have given rise to the square-headed windows in the transepts, it would be an unfortunately early instance of the Anglo-Saxon love of galleries! I have had to convert the gallery doorway into a window, but have done so by merely introducing a wood frame, and without altering any old work. The Early English windows in the east end of the chancel and in the south transept had been broken down to within a few feet of their sills; with the exception therefore of the sills and the section of the jambs, their restoration is conjectural. The gable of the north transept remained, all the others had fallen. The roofs have been made to fit the old marks against the tower,<sup>1</sup> but in other respects there was no evidence as to the lacking gables. The opening in the west gable is conjectural, and I must apologize for its quasi-Saxon form. The gable-crosses are imitated from one found in the excavations.

The vaulting of the chancel and tower has been with reasonable certainty restored from the fragments which remained.

The tower has been carefully strengthened and rendered secure.

<sup>1</sup> It is probable that the church had, originally, flat ceilings below its high roofs. This is made still more likely by the openings in the tower walls, into the spaces against which the roofs abut.

The earth around the building has been lowered to its natural level, and the various floor-levels in the interior carefully brought back to what they appear to have been during the Early English period.

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MEMORANDA BY MR. MARSHALL, CLERK OF THE WORKS.

*(The references are to the Plan and Section.)*

“Old Church, Dover Castle.

“Wednesday, April 27th, 1860.—Workmen commenced clearing out the *débris* within the walls of the church, consisting chiefly of old mortar, flints, fragments of Caen-stone masonry, and human bones in all parts of the church, varying in depth from one foot six inches to five feet in the nave; but in south transept and chancel bones were found at a depth of eight feet below the surface, also a leaden coffin at the north-west corner of the chancel. Also a steined chalk grave in nave containing about three sets of bones, but these had evidently been before disturbed, as they were found to be placed indiscriminately at the bottom of the grave, which was arched over with hewn chalk.

“We are now finding several fragments of the vaulting ribs and wall ribs of tower-groining; these are of Caen stone, and some of them very fresh and sharp, the tooth moulding as perfect as if fresh from the ‘banker.’ Also some hewn chalk that had been used for the filling-in of vaulting, ranging from two inches and a half to five inches in thickness, and six inches deep. Some few pieces of square and chamfered quoins of Caen stone, a few pieces of old creased Roman tiles, as in the pharos, and pieces of old tufa from the same place.

“On the east side of south transept there appears to have been an altar, from the position of an old foundation (*a*) found in the centre of the arched recess; these foundations being so roughly formed of flint rubblework it is impossible to define the size, but I should judge the superstructure to be about five feet long, projecting from the wall about two feet. A recess had been formed here at a subsequent date to the walls being built, as it is quite evident that the old work had been cut into, and Caen stone jambs carried up to support the arch above it.

“On the east side of north transept an arch (*b*) similar to the last described, with old foundations of altar, was discovered on clearing

away the old rubbish. Also a slight recess (*c*) about nine inches wide, three feet high; the back had evidently been coloured, but as the old plaster was so much decayed I could not distinguish any pattern on it. Also a chamfered sloped quoin as shown on plan, and a trace of chalk vaulting in soffit of arch. At the back of wall rib on north side of tower, an old moulded capital (probably Saxon). At side of arch from tower to north transept, a piece of old carved stone, probably a portion of a cross.

"On clearing the earth away from the walls round the church, is brought to light, on the north side of nave, a very nice old early English doorway (*d*); the jambs are about five feet in height, with three shafts on either side curiously bonded in the jambs, all of which is in a very shaky condition; a portion of one of the inside jambs still remains, but no part of the arch has yet been found.

"At the end of north transept, and under the level of temporary doorway, in clearing away the old wall for the new entrance, is brought to light an old doorway (*e*), with jambs two feet eight inches apart, face-bedded; this doorway would appear to be of Saxon origin, it being a specimen of long and short work face bedded. One of the old jambs unfortunately crumbled to pieces on clearing away the old work which surrounded it; the other remains as found. The stone is of the same kind as some of the large quoins at external angles of church.

"On clearing away the earth on south side of nave is brought to light an ancient doorway (*f*), which was at first supposed to have been a Saxon window. This doorway is formed of the same kind of stone as above described, long and short work in the jambs, and the semi-circular arch is turned over in old tiles twelve inches square; and on the external side of jambs there remains a portion of the old tape moulding or parallel band, nine inches wide, projecting from the face of wall two inches and a half. On clearing out the old rubble-work between the jambs which had been filled in solid, I found three large pieces of carved Caen stone, apparently portions of the centre boss of chancel vaulting. Also some portions of a rear arch belonging to a door or window, the original position of which I hope to ascertain hereafter; traces of ironwork run with lead are to be seen in several parts of the old stone forming the jamb.

"At the end of south transept in forming the external trench, I discovered a singularly-shaped stained grave, formed with hewn chalk sides and top, the head or upper part being recessed to receive the head; the joints of this work are pretty closely fitted together, but no mortar appears to have been used in the construction. The depth is about eight feet to bottom of grave from the present surface, and about three feet below the floor of the church, which no doubt was about the surface-level on the outside at the time of in-

terment—the earth having been raised very considerably from here towards the chancel end of church. The bones were very much decayed in this grave, much more than those found embedded in the earth; I attribute this to the vault forming a dry cesspool for the water to penetrate into; no sign of any coffin or ironwork in the grave. Neither do I think there could ever have been one, from the position I found the bones to be in; a stiff clay formed the bottom, that being the natural soil at this level.

“On continuing the excavation further forward toward the east or chancel end, I found another steined grave of Caen stone, about six feet below the surface, and about six feet above the level of the other grave. The earth rising here very considerably will account for the disproportion of the levels. This grave was formed of sawn Caen stone, put together without mortar and covered over with the same material. The bones were those of a very young person, and much decayed, as those described in the former grave. Many other skeletons were also found about this part of the excavation, varying in depth from three feet to fifteen feet, a circumstance conclusive that the place was used as a burial-ground many years after the church had fallen into decay; for this portion of the earthwork was not formed in the year 1735, and at that date the church had been without a roof many years, and all the walls were in a very dilapidated condition.

“Being very anxious to discover, if possible, one or a portion of one of the capitals belonging to the old door of north side of nave, I made a very careful search throughout the church, hoping to find some trace of it built in the old walls, as I had before found many pieces of moulded stone used up for that purpose. My search proving unsuccessful I determined on examining all the old stone I could find on the face of the embankment round the church. I accordingly set to work and nearly completed this portion of my task when I discovered, as I thought, a singular coloured piece of Caen stone, embedded in the earth. I immediately set to work and removed the clay which surrounded it, and soon had the pleasure of bringing to light a slight trace of a carved capital, which I then thought to be the object of my search; however, on getting it out, it proved to be the capital belonging to centre shaft of the window in south side of chancel, and in excellent preservation. This was at the north-east corner of north transept, and six feet below the surface level, which is another proof that this earthwork was formed after the church fell into decay.

“On clearing out the old walling filled in between the jambs of north chancel window, I found two arch stones and a portion of a carved capital belonging to the window on opposite side of chancel,



and two small pieces of circular shaft about seven inches and a half in diameter.

"On clearing out between the jambs of south window of chancel, I found one base, four pieces of moulded jamb, and three pieces of arch belonging to said window; also two pieces of shaft six inches and a half in diameter, one piece of arch stone with three inches and a half roll, one piece of arch stone with four inches and a quarter roll, one springer, and several pieces of perpendicular square-headed window, four pieces of rear arch with hollow on each side, one piece with half-round roll, two inches and a quarter diameter, worked on face; one piece with chamfered sinkings, probably a piece of Norman moulding; one piece of ashlar, with black paint marks on face, worked out of old tooth-moulding.

"Clearing away the old jambs of east window brings out several pieces of the jamb of old window in south side of chancel, also two pieces of the centre shaft of south chancel window. And a fragment of a capital eight inches and a half in height, similar to the caps of shafts in couplet windows of chancel. Also the mutilated base belonging to angle north-east pier under tower.

"The foundations of the church are formed mostly of large flint, with flat pieces of stone at the sets-off and plinth lines, of the green sandstone formation and very hard. Some few pieces of the same description of stone are to be seen in the ancient pharos laid to bond with the Roman tiles, the only difference being, that used in the church is somewhat thicker and the edges appear to be rounded off by the action of the sea. No doubt they were brought from off the beach with the sea boulders that are used in the flint walls.

"(I have, since writing the above, found that this description of stone used formerly to be quarried at Saltwood, about eighteen miles west of Dover. The set of the tide from the direction of Saltwood Castle would bring the stone on the coast at these parts.)

"The whole superstructure rests upon a very uniform and most excellent bottom, formed of very stiff clay with a large proportion of flints intermixed. The strata dip toward the east; this will account in some measure for the chancel walls being taken down to a greater depth than the other foundations. (*Vide* Section.)

"At the south-east corner of chancel, on the soil, a space of about ten feet square was covered with a thin layer of chalk lime about an inch and a half thick, and although very wet it was remarkably fresh considering the many hundreds of years it must have been there.

"The layer of black ashes much resembles powdered charcoal, and was about two inches and a half thick, over which was laid a layer of finely powdered burnt clay, about two inches and a half thick; it was probably much thicker when laid on.

"The first filling-in on the burnt clay consists of loose concrete with some beach and small chalk intermixed, some earth and old dry rubbish and flints; all this was very loose. I was very particular at this part to ascertain if any fragments of old worked stone could be found among the rubbish, as it might give a slight clue to the date of its being filled in, but nothing of the sort could be discovered either worked or plain.

"The layer of concrete over this was not very compact; it varied in thickness from nine to twelve inches, in places sunk considerably. Some parts of the upper surface bore the impress of some kind of block paving, but not sufficiently distinct to make out what description it could have been—probably a continuation of the chalk floor as under tower.

"The lower block of concrete under chancel window extended the whole width of chancel. It was not very sound, and, as it had been partly broken up before, I could not ascertain its exact dimensions.

"The upper block was composed of layers of land flints of about a foot in thickness, laid dry, and then a layer of inferior kind of concrete laid over it and brought up to the required height.

"The layer of rubbish which covered the concrete and the whole surface of chancel, consisted mostly of dry earth and some old building rubbish, a few fragments of moulded Caen stone, pieces of Roman tile, and about a dozen encaustic tiles four inches and a half by four inches and a half, seven-eighths of an inch thick, four of which form a pattern complete. Here was also a lead coffin, the position and shape of which is shown on the plan.

"The chalk floor extends over the whole area of tower, but not beyond, except on the east side, where it runs one foot into the chancel, and finishes off to a straight line. The other sides stop against the walls under the tower arches leading into transept, the walls of which stand about one foot above the said floor-level. The floor is formed of blocks of hewn chalk, averaging nine inches square, six inches thick, and firmly bedded and jointed in coarse mortar.

"On the west side, and under tower arch, are some slight remains of a doorway the sill of which is level with chalk floor; and on either side of the doorway remains a portion of the plinth which formed the door-jambs, projecting two inches and a half before the face of the wall. There are traces of plaster on the face of this wall on the tower side. The thickness of the wall I could not ascertain, as it had been broken up at some former period.

"The excavations were not continued down the nave, except in places, and to examine the state of the foundations.

"I could find no trace of floor in either of the transepts.

"On the east side, between piers of tower, I have no doubt the foundation remains in precisely the same condition as when first built with the tower. No additional height appears to have taken place; the upper surface as well as the sides have the appearance of being roughly plastered over with coarse mortar.

"On the west side, in addition to what I have before stated, the stone abutting on the south-west pier appears to have been placed there as a step (*g*); the front edge is chamfered off; or it might possibly have been portion of the plinth to screen wall between piers.

"The block of stone standing on end within the tower, I can assign no place for. I think it must have been placed there by accident. It is of the coarse oolite kind, the same as at the old doorway on the south side of nave.

"All the other stone here is Caen, including the step between the jambs; this step appears to have been prepared for a body-stone originally, and bears some curiously incised marks upon it.

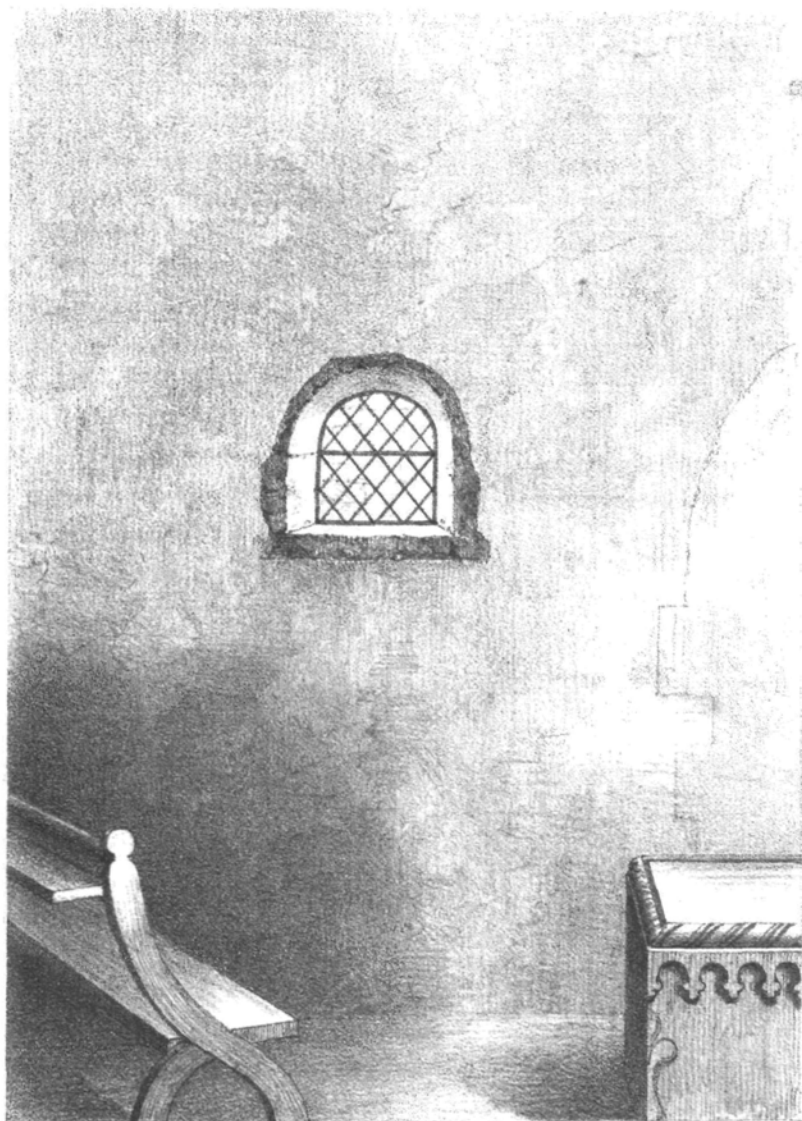
"The remains of walls between the piers leading to transept had been so much disturbed and broken up for interments, that I could find no trace of a doorway whatever. That the walls were built of flint, and had been plastered on *both* sides, was all that I was able to ascertain.

"On clearing out the old window on west side of south transept, which was supposed to have had a semihead, I found the indent of splayed lintels, as in the two small windows of nave. It also makes this window agree in form to a portion of one on west side of north transept."

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[NOTE.—The accompanying Plate (Plate IV.) represents a curious window or Hagioscope in the western wall of the church, south of the western door, and opening towards the Pharos. Its use has puzzled architects.

Among the laws of Stephen de Penchester, made for the government of the Castle during his constablenesship in the reign of Henry III., will be seen (Arch. Cant. III. 199) an order "that a sergeant and a watchman be chosen from the garrison to guard the light of the church which is not in the chancel." It has been suggested that this order was the continuance of an old custom in the garrison, and that the opening in question, which commands the whole nave, was a Lychnoscope, made to enable the watch to discharge this duty without entering the church.—T. G. F.]



HAGIOSCOPE IN WEST WALL  
DOVER CASTLE CHURCH.