

# FLAMSTEAD,

## *ITS CHURCH AND HISTORY,*

BY

I. VINCENT BULLARD, M.A., Vicar,

INCLUDING A CHAPTER BY THE SQUIRE,

SIR EDGAR R. S. SEBRIGHT, Bart., J.P., H.C.C., Lord of the Manor,

ON

HIS FAMILY, THEIR HOME, AND RELATIONS WITH THE PLACE.

WITH

*Notes on the Architectural History of the Church,*

BY

EDMUND FARLEY COBB,

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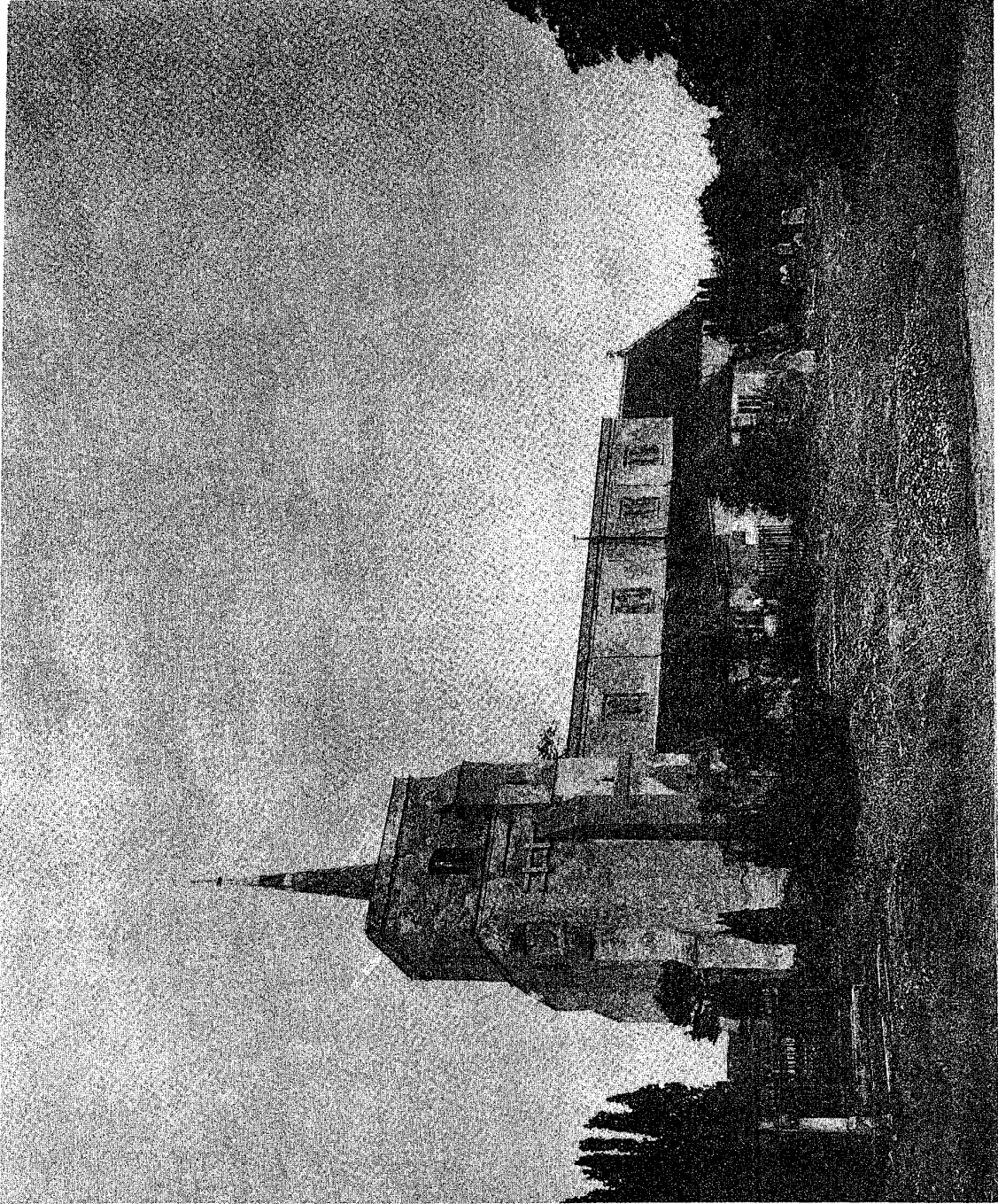
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## PREFACE.

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FLAMSTEAD VICARAGE,

EPIPHANY 1902.

For more than thirty years one Incumbent of Flamstead after another has waited for someone else to take the lead in doing the necessary repairs to the fabric of the Church, and I have pursued that policy until now; but when a portion of the overhanging arch fell into the pulpit in the spring of last year, it appeared to me at least excusable, on grounds of self-preservation, to attempt the task myself. Accordingly, finding myself alone, I appointed my school friend, Mr. E. F. Cobb, A.R.I.B.A., architect, and I now venture to print his report on the present dilapidated state of the building (which he shows to be the natural outcome of negligent construction in the past); together with a report on the Church by Messrs. Thompson & Sons, the expert builders, of Peterborough.

I have printed in this book also some historical notes on the parish, which embody most of the information not already familiar which is contained in the somewhat cumbersome county histories, as well as some information which I believe has not yet been published. For this reason it seems prudent to cite authorities and to risk the charge of pedantry for printing them in a book which is to serve as guide for tourists and as brief for a begging parson.

I have also to thank Sir Edgar Sebright for his kind contribution about his family, which has been so intimately connected with the parish during the last two and a-half centuries.

The spelling of names is still erratic, after many corrections in proof. But that seems almost unavoidable in dealing with times when people spelt their own names as the mood took them. For these and other imperfections I must plead for mercy, on the ground that the perpetration of this little book is my first offence.

I. V. BULLARD.

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## FLAMSTEAD PARISH HISTORY.

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## FLAMSTEAD.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

The name of "Flamstead" suggests little or nothing nowadays to people who do not live there and love the place—for you cannot live there without loving it; but there was a time when Flamstead was a name to conjure with, outside its own boundaries. Flamstead once provided a Commander-in-Chief of an English army. There was a Flamstead man among the original 25 Knights of the Garter, a man distinguished at Cressy and Poitiers. Flamstead was once the property of a man who bore one of the most ominous names in English History—Sir Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick, the "King Maker," the "Last of the Barons," who played even a bigger and stronger part in real life than he does in Shakespeare and Lytton. Flamstead was once a market town, with a statute fair of eight days' duration. And there was a Nunnery in the Parish, and a Chantry in the Church. The nuns were known to the Pope, and the King appointed the Chantry Priest. **Introductory.**

You cannot know much about Flamstead without getting to know something of the history of your country; and if you watch the history of the Church, the Chantry, and the Nunnery, you must learn a good deal about the Reformation—learn it not directly in school fashion, but in that most delightful way of learning anything, indirectly by sidelights. So those who love the place will read what follows, and even those who know little of and care less for it, may be induced for amusement's sake to read these notes, and help us in our need to repair the crumbling walls of the Nave of the Church.

Some people say the word "Flamstead" is another form of the word "Verlamstead." It is a derivation that connects the place with the river Ver, and the Roman Verulamium (St. Albans), where a Roman garrison controlled the passage of the great road to Chester through the wooded Midlands—the road that runs along the bottom of the hill where Flamstead stands. Others say the word is the modern form of an English word,—Fleomstead, the house of the fugitives. If this is so, the name points to the time of the English invasion of Britain when this part of the country was the happy home of robbers and others, who were able to **Derivation of Name.**

evade justice after the capture and destruction of the Roman garrison town Verulamium about the year 550 A.D., by the English invaders. The fall of St. Albans left Watling Street unprotected. "For centuries to come the broken and charred remains of the town were left in solitude without inhabitants." (Green's *Making of England*.) This was the opportunity of freebooters; an opportunity hardly minimised in the struggles for the supremacy which followed between Kent and Northumberland, Pend, Oswald and Oswy; when armed forces were almost continuously on the move through the whole country.

Yet another derivation gives us a glimpse of still later history, connecting the place with the Abbey of St. Albans, when it was in the full swing of working order, and got its wheat from *Wheatamstead*; its wool from *Hamelamstede* (the name is so spelt in Walsingham's *Gesta Abbatum*, recalling *Hamel-fleisch*, the German word for mutton); and its charcoal for fires from *Flame-steed*. This derivation, at any rate, explains "Friar's Wash" as the name of a pool in the river Ver.

**In Æthelred's  
time.**

But the first documentary evidence of which any trace remains is the charter granted by King Æthelred in 1006 to the Abbey of St. Albans, of which Mathew Paris speaks in *Additamentum ix.* at the end of his larger history. By this charter, certain land in Flamstead was assigned to the Abbey, and from this date onwards until 1223, when Flamstead was constituted a separate parish by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, the Abbey seems to have taken Flamstead under its wing for spiritual and other purposes.

**In Edward  
the Confessor's  
time.**

**Abbot Leofstan**

It is certain that by the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Abbot of St. Albans had more real power at Flamstead than the King himself; for King Edward gave the Manor to Achi, one of his Thaness, but Leofstan, the 12th Abbot, granted the Manor to three free lances, Thurnot, Waldef and Thurman. That illustrates the feeble government of Edward the Confessor, which made Norman William's task of conquest so easy; but it also shows the real character of Abbot Leofstan. He was private confessor to the King and Editha the Queen: he was their trusted friend, and yet he supported three highwaymen in ousting the King's thane from the King's Manor. The Abbot's object was a good one, for these three gentlemen were to hold the Manor upon condition of keeping the road clear of marauders and defending the Abbey in case of attack. But the Abbot's motive is rather spoiled by the fact that he pocketed for himself, not for the Abbey, five ounces of gold, a palfrey and a greyhound over the transaction.

**In William  
the Conqueror's  
time.**

**Roger Tony.**

But if such interference with crown manors was possible under Edward the Confessor, William the Conqueror was not the man to heed it. Thurnot, Waldef and Thurman were ignored, and Roger de Toden or Tony, William's standard-bearer at Hastings, received the Manor. The implied claim of the Abbey to the Manor was disregarded, and never again asserted by the Abbots, who confined their attention to cutting wood for charcoal, and supplying services at the new chapel in the village, which they regarded as an offshoot of the Church at Redbourn.

When the family of the Tony's was extinguished in the male line, and Thomas Beauchamp became Lord of the Manor in 1401, he held the Manor "per servitium custodiendi altam viam vocatur Watelyngstrete ducentum a Redburn versus Markeate." The survival of that condition attaching to the Manor shows that Roger Tony held the Manor on the same terms as his predecessors, "by service of guarding the highway called Watling Street for a couple of miles from Redbourn towards Markeate." But Roger did not hold it long. For by the time the Domesday Commissioners came round, his son Ralph had succeeded.

**Account in  
Domesday book**

"Ralph de Toden holds Flammestede. In King Edward's time it was rated at four hides and now at two hides. Arable land is twelve carucates. In demesne are two hides, and there are there two carucates, and twenty-two villanes have eight carucates and two more may still be made. There are seven cottagers and four bondmen. Pannage for a thousand hogs." "The total value is eleven pounds—when received, nine pounds. In the time of King Edward, twelve pounds. Achi, a thane of King Edward, held this manor."

The land measurements used in Domesday are these: Oxgang or bovat, = 12-15 acres; virgate, = 40 acres; carucate, = 8 oxgangs, or 100 acres; hide, = 120 acres.

**Points to note  
in Domesday  
Account.**

The decrease in value shews that there was a depression consequent upon the Norman Conquest, and the class that appear to have suffered is the villanes (working farmers) who are now insufficient in number to cultivate all the land they hold in common. Cottagers were free labourers; bondmen were those who had lost their freedom through debt or crime. The establishment of the Lord of the Manor does not appear to have been included in the census of the population of Flamstead. Later on, in the time of Edward the VI., a summary of the population states it as above 300 housling people, *i.e.*, poor people, who also seem to be counted without reference to the establishments of wealthier neighbours.

Few though they were, the men of Flamstead had a character of their own, and were regarded with some amount of respect by their neighbours. It appears that Flamstead people at the beginning of the 12th century thought they had some rights vested in Redbourn Common. They were wrong, but that did not prevent them asserting their supposed rights. "The malice of the natives of Flamstead did not allow anyone to build a house on Redbourn Heath without attempting to pull it down with all the crowd of rustics." That passage, written by a monk, does not look as if the Church had much hold of the people; and no doubt the monks who came over to take duty found only a rough welcome.

**Character of  
Flamstead folk.**

But the fact is, that the Abbot Richard at that time was generally negligent, and not much of an example in point of business morality, for he *lost* the Church of Flamstead, being the property of the Abbey, and his motive as judged by men of his own Abbey was appropriation of assets, and his method, collusion. It is possible that this very Richard was the builder of Flamstead Church, as he was of part of Redbourne Church. His zeal having outstripped his means, he may have *lost* the Church through the mortgagees foreclosing. Or, it is possible that when Herbert Losinga of Norwich came to consecrate Redbourne Church, *he* may have corrupted Richard, being himself notorious for his simony, whereas Richard was, at any rate, enthusiastic if not wise. But these are only suggestions.

**Richard,  
xii. Abbot.**

Not a pleasant retrospect, that! But it is more than balanced by the unwritten history of the road that passes by the village. If that could speak to us we should hear the story of the real religious enthusiasm, devotion and sacrifice of the Abbot's contemporaries, who passed along on their way to join in the Crusades. Their religion was not in word, like the Abbot's, but in power; they wrote their history with their swords, and the seal of their blood shines bright through the ages, and it is better for us to look on and remember, than the blots and errors of men like Richard and Losinga. It is good to remember that the Crusaders were more popular even than ordinary monks.

**The story of the  
Chester road.**

Among those Crusaders once rode Ralph Tony, Lord of the Manor of Flamstead. And that was not the only ride we should have liked to send him off upon, with hearty English cheers. He was one of those who joined the rebellious barons against King John, and it makes one's heart beat full to think of our Flamstead man helping to secure the Charter of English liberty. But it makes one's heart a little bit sore to think that people have so misunderstood the aim of our own Ralph. "The Church of England shall be free" from State control, is one clause of the freedom he and all his fellows won. And yet, after nearly 700 years, that is just the fight we have to fight again. Well, we are Ralph's men, and we shall win.

**Crusaders and  
Ralph Tony.  
Magna Carta.**

There is something contemptible about a man who, when he is beaten, gets into a corner and spits venom like a reptile. And there is only one way to treat such a creature—to ignore him. King John was the reptile when he attempted to deprive Ralph Tony of Flamstead, and gave the Manor to his partisan Walerand Teys, for defending Berkhamstead Castle. It was mere venom, for he had not the power to enforce it. Ralph appears to have taken no notice of the affair at all, for he still remained Lord of Flamstead, and the King got into trouble by rewarding Teys with another property down in Cornwall, which likewise was not his to give. When King John had gone to meet his murderer's doom, Ralph Tony was constituted, in conjunction with John de Monmouth, General of all the forces at that time in the confines of Wales, where trouble was brewing. And when that war was over, he sought an outlet for his energy by going a Crusade. He died on the voyage.

**King John.**

**Commander in  
Chief.**

There was another hero besides Ralph just then in Flamstead—the parish priest. His name is unknown; but this is the story of his bravery as told by Mathew Paris. In the year 1217 a band of robbers attacked and spoiled the Church of Saint Amphibalus at Redbourne, and among other spoil, carried off a cross of silver and gold containing a portion of the true Cross. The thief of this particular article tucked it away in his bosom. He became at once possessed of a demon, and drew his sword upon his companions. In self-protection they bound him, and taking him with them, came to Flamstead with the intention of also spoiling this Church. But when they entered the Church with their companion, they were met by the priest, wearing white vestments. They were already disconcerted by the frenzy of their companion, and the priest's courage seems to have still further shaken their resolution, for they were persuaded by him to restrain their hands from violence. Then as the frenzied man struggled in his bonds, the stolen cross fell out of his bosom in the sight of the priest and the crowd which had assembled. The priest recognised the Cross, and after some pointed reprimands, was commissioned by the thieves to take it back to the Church of Saint Amphibalus, which he did, to the great delight of the Redbourne people. A brave and useful man that priest, and a persuasive preacher to boot. His name is not recorded, but he did his work, and got things ready for the place to be constituted a parish in 1223 by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, in whose diocese it was. In that year the first incumbent of the place as a separate parish was appointed. His name was Thomas Barsingham.

**The brave  
Priest and the  
robbers.**

## CHAPTER II.

## FROM THE FORMATION OF THE PARISH.

- William, Incumbent (?)** In the list of the Rectors of this parish, compiled from the Records of the diocese of Lincoln, there comes the name *William*, 2nd on the list, but his name stands alone, and from the absence both of the Bishop's name and of the date, William appears to have never been instituted. What little bit of history is there covered by those spaces? The facts, as recorded by Mathew Paris not long afterwards, are these. Flamstead, vacant at the death of Richard Tony, was given by the Queen (1252) to her chaplain William, a clerk of St. Albans, and apparently tutor to the young squire of Flamstead. The Queen was exceeding her privileges. The King thought, and said so, (according to Mathew Paris in rather strong language), and by way of shewing his view of the matter Henry III. annulled William's presentation, and presented his own chaplain, Hertold, a Burgundian. A pretty quarrel, surely, without the interference of anybody. But someone did interfere, the Bishop of Lincoln, whose name, significantly enough, was Grossetete ("Fat-head"). He excommunicated Hertold, suspended the Church, and interdicted it, so that there were no divine services at all at Flamstead, and the dead had to be buried elsewhere than in the cemetery. "Ita ibidem cessarent divina et mortuorum corpora alibi quam in cimiterio sepelirentur." Times full of trouble for the kingdom, and full of trouble for Flamstead. The inhabitants, notwithstanding the Bishop's opposition to the King, took the King to be their friend. (Is it not strange to think of a Bishop being really independent?) For only twelve years after the interdict was put on them, (Inq. 49. Henry III. No. 26) they complained to the King of the oppression of Isabella, widow of Roger Tony. It seems that the men of Flamstead had, of their own free will and good feeling towards the fighting Tonys, given them fresh horses and other help from time to time when the fortune of war had gone against them in campaigns. Isabella had tried to exact an equivalent contribution to herself, as though her family were of right entitled to such subsidies. So Flamstead men appealed to the King in support of their rights. They would give if they wanted to, but they would not be driven. And we have not altered much in that direction yet.
- Flamstead under an interdict.**
- Flamstead men appeal to King against Lady of the Manor.** They were troublous times, too, in other ways. The Nunnery at Beechwood was never very wealthy, but five years after that appeal to the King (in 1269) a band of robbers made a night attack upon the nuns, pillaged and robbed the place of everything valuable. "But the alarm being given, some of the robbers were taken, and the country people rose with great diligence to apprehend and bring to justice the rest." Newcome, who tells the tale, seems to ascribe the attack to "persons of Dunstable who had been accustomed to robbery and plunder," a band of whom stole twelve oxen from the farmers dwelling at Colney, "about the same time."
- Robbers at Beechwood.**
- Bad Character of Dunstable.** When things were so unsettled as these last paragraphs have shewn, and the highways infested by robbers, it is not surprising that those people who were obliged to move about the country should have preferred to travel along lanes and field paths screened by hedges, rather than by the highways. It is not surprising that they disliked setting out so far as St. Albans or Dunstable to do their shopping, and so we find that in 1298, Robert, the last male Tony who held the Manor of Flamstead, obtained a grant for a market to be held every Thursday in his Manor, and a fair to be held on the eve and day, and six days following the Feast of St. Leonard, the patron saint of Flamstead Church. And so we find that we can walk from Dunstable to St. Albans without touching the main road, along sheltered footpaths and sunken roads, which afford an almost continuous cover from observation.
- Danger of travelling.**
- Flamstead a Market Town.** From this time onwards for nearly two hundred and fifty years nothing of peculiar importance happened to the life of the village. There were alterations and buildings at the Church from time to time; the Chantry priest settled down and became a regular feature of the parish. The Tonys died out, and the Beauchamps were lords of the manor for a time, and then gave way to a Nevil, before the Manor finally came back to the Crown. There was the occasional departure of a son or a husband—a Podyfat, a Turpin, or a Cordell—to take his share of the knocks and to give rather more than his share of the blows in the French Wars with the Black Prince, and the Wars of the Roses at home. And there was the local excitement for a few years about those reformers who lived before their time, the Rectors and Vicars of Flamstede and Gatisdene, Hamelamstede, Aldenham and Northmimes, who organised a refusal to pay Peter's Pence, or the "procession" fees to the Abbey, and had to be brought to order after five years' discussion by an injunction of the Bishop of Lincoln (1406) which backed up an injunction issued by the Abbot in the previous year. Thomas of Aldbury, the Rector of Flamstead concerned in this business, does not appear to have relished this treatment, (Is there something in Flamstead air that militates against discipline?) and he resigned the next year and gave place to a real live canon, of whose life and appointments a separate account is given below. (See "John Dudely," chapter ix.)
- French Wars and Wars of the Roses.**
- Refractory priest of Flamstead.**

But one cannot really pass by the families of the Tony's, the Beauchamps, and the Nevils so lightly, without indicating, however briefly, their connection with this place, with one another, and the history of our country; for they played big parts. The last Tony, Robert, died without issue, and the Manor passed to his sister Alice, widow of Thomas de Leyburn, who married secondly Guy de Beauchamp, 2nd Earl of Warwick, and became by him, mother of the famous Thomas de Beauchamp. He was 3rd Earl of Warwick, Lord of the Manor of Flamstead, and greatly distinguished himself at Cressy and Poitiers and subsequently in Palestine. He was one of the original 25 Knights of the Garter. He died at Calais 13th November, 1396. His wife Catherine was daughter of Roger de Mortimer. Thomas, their son, had an eventful life, being chosen Governor to Richard II. in the 3rd year of his reign, by the Commons. "This Earl was afterwards laid aside by the King; upon which he retired and built the Tower at the North East part of Warwick Castle. He also built the body of the Collegiate Church of Our Lady at Warwick. The King invited him to dinner. He went, and was arrested, and putting himself upon the Parliament, was found guilty and received sentence of death. But at the request of the Earl of Salisbury he was only banished to the Isle of Man, to be kept in safe custody there. His Castle and Manor of Warwick, with other Lordships, were taken away, and given to Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and his heirs male; and the rest of his lands to others. One aggravating circumstance there was, that the Earl of Holland, also Duke of Surrey, obtained a grant of a suit of arras hangings belonging to the banished Earl, containing the story of the famous Guy of Warwick. The Earl was afterwards carried prisoner to the Tower, and kept there during King Richard's life; yet we find him restored to all again in the reign of Henry IVth.

**The Lords of  
the Manor.**

**Thomas  
Beauchamp  
and his Son.**

**Thomas  
Holland.**

"This Earl is an instance of the vicissitude of Fortune. The turn in his favour may serve for comfort for the distressed, as well as his fall gives a hint to the prosperous to distrust the stability of greatness. He had given him all the goods that the Earl of Kent had in Warwick Castle, and particularly his hangings again, in which was the story of his Ancestor Guy, for Holland was now attainted, and his possessions forfeited to King Henry. He died 1401, in the 2nd of Henry IV., and was buried in the south part of the Collegiate Church at Warwick. His lady, Margaret, daughter to the Lord Ferrers of Groby, lies buried near him. Richard his son succeeded, who kept up the reputation of the blood, and shewed his valour against Owen Glendower and the Percys. He was accordingly honoured with the Order of the Garter, and at the coronation of Henry V. was High Steward. He was Ambassador in France to treat of peace and a marriage with that King's daughter. He it was that founded the Chantry at Guy's Cliff, the place of all others, perhaps, to be picked out for shade and solitude, where the cragged rock and murmuring streams make a scene so unlike the rest of the world as is not to be found but in the description of poets." (*Salmon's History*.)

**Richard  
Beauchamp**

This Richard was succeeded by Henry his son, and he by Anne his sister, in 1489, who was the wife of Sir Richard Nevil, known popularly in English History as the "King Maker." He was raised to the peerage by letters patent dated July 23rd, 1449, and chose as title that of his wife's family, become extinct when she succeeded. The story of his life is part and parcel of English history, and needs no telling here. He was killed at the battle of Barnet, when the Lancastrians were defeated on Easter Day, 1471. After trouble with the property, his widow finally conveyed it all, including Flamstead, to the King (Henry VII.) by an instrument dated 3rd December, 1487. Seeing that the widow was forced to do this, the deed well illustrates Henry VII.'s policy of crushing down the old feudal families, whose power had really kept alive the war and prevented the establishment of civil order throughout the country.

**Sir Richard  
Nevil.**

**Henry VII.  
and old feudal  
families.**

Before closing this chapter there is one document for us to look at. The original is in the Record Office, and its proper title is "Ministers' Accounts, 19 Richard II., Bundle 1123, Roll 5." It is badly written in abbreviated Latin, and is the account of Thomas Knight, the Receiver of Warwick, for the quarter from Michaelmas to December 1396. The part concerning Flamstead is this:—

**An old  
account and an  
old failing.**

"*Receipts*.—And from John Spencer, collector of returns there, balance of accounts on 23rd October, by tally, £4 12s. 5½d. And from Alexander Payn on 23rd October by tally, 20s. And from Adam Podyfat, provost there, balance of accounts for October by the hands of John Armesthorp, £16. And from William Warrenne there on the day and month aforesaid, bal. act., by the same hands, £8 4s."

These two last items are scratched through, and over them is written:—"Cancelled because they are in the account of Thomas Ald, receiver of the preceding year." At the bottom, in the same ink as the cancellation, is the entry:—

"And from John Spencer, collector, by the hands of John More, 20s. Total, £6 12s. 5½d."

Is it not amusing to see how the receiver tried to get some of the money twice over, and almost succeeded? Nowadays the Podyfats spell their name "Puddephatt."

## THE NUNNERY AT BEECHWOOD.

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### CHAPTER III.

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#### THE NUNNERY AT BEECHWOOD.

- Traces of the old Building.** In a dry summer, if you look at the level piece of turf opposite the front of the present Beechwood House just across the drive, you can see where the walls of the old Nunnery stood. So the local tradition says. There are corridors in the cellars of the present House which run in that direction, and are traditionally accounted for, as connecting the present House with the Nunnery cellars, although the tradition has not been verified. That is all there is left of the Nunnery of St. Giles in the Wood, founded about 1120 by Roger de Tony and Margaret his wife, for a Prioress and thirteen nuns. The charter granted by this founder contained a clause to the effect that the house was to be perpetually independent; by which was meant that the Bishop and local clergy should have no right of control over the Prioress and nuns. It was not a wealthy foundation; for in the year 1220 Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln, allowed the nuns a pension of five marks out of the living of Dallington, which was in their gift. It would appear from this that Dallington was part of the original endowment of the Nunnery. Eight years afterwards—1228—Agatha, widow of William de Gatesden, presented by a charter to the Nunnery, all her lands held of the King in Hemel Hempstead, which was held at the yearly rent of one pound of cummin seed. Following the custom of the times, it is more than likely that this lady "took the veil" herself in the nunnery to which she had given her property. Another generation grew up before Henry de Blanchfront gave a further endowment of lands and woods in Batleden and Potsgrave, in the county of Bedfordshire, in the year 1254, and was soon followed in his generosity by "Isabel, daughter of Bernard, son of Nicholas," who granted all her lands in Edelesburc to the nuns, and received 60 marks from them "de gersuma." One has no doubt that she distributed this sum to her friends as a parting gift before she also took the veil. As one spells out these old records written in a dead language, one feels that a novelist might let his imagination loose and find an unfortunate love affair between these two benefactors, Henry Paleface and Isabel, daughter of Bernard. Honour kept them apart, but their lives were ended. She took the veil, and he—well, the novelist must settle what to do with him. But, leaving such sheer romancing, and coming back to solid sordid money, it appears from the last document, Isabel's charter, that the nuns could lay their hands upon as much as 60 marks (about the value represented to us by £500) when they wanted it. That goes a long way to explain the night attack of fifty robbers, described in a previous chapter, which happened while Isabel in all probability was still living, in 1269.
- Foundation.**
- Charter.**
- Benefactors.**
- Possible love story.**
- Nuns their own bankers.**
- They appropriate Dallington.** The next document bears the date of 1313 (Pat. Roll, Edward II; 2, membrane 5), and is a licence to the nuns to appropriate the living of Dallington, of which they are the patrons. Surely the robbers must have done a great deal of damage to leave the nuns as poor as all that. Or was it the case that the Prioress knew the King's weakness and feebleness, and "made hay while the sun shone?" There must have been something not quite straight about this business (perhaps the parish of Dallington did not like being deprived of its parson), because

the nuns subsequently found it necessary to go to the Pope to confirm this arrangement, which Urban VIth. did, in a Bull now in the keeping of Sir Edgar Sebright. That Bull means a great deal to us in more ways than concerned the nuns. (i.) It shews that some one (parishioners of Dallington ?) had disputed the King's power to interfere in Church matters, which Magna Carta had declared to be free from State control. (ii.) It reminds us that the Popes claimed control of all monastic establishments. (iii.) It illustrates the Papal policy persistently pursued through the Middle Ages, of interfering at every opportunity, at every time and place, when and where the government was too weak or too silly to resist. This particular question was open all through the reign of Edward III., who could and would hold his own ; but the chance of interference came with the young, impatient, hot-headed and withal foolish Richard II., and the Pope took it. The vigilance of the Papal policy of *temporal* aggression through the Middle Ages can only be compared in our minds with the vigilance of the Tempter, who seeks to destroy.

Pope's Bull.

Temporal aggression of the Papacy.

From that time onward until the reign of Henry VIII., there is no record of any particular event happening to the Nunnery of St. Giles in the Wood. But in 1535 Henry set himself to reap the temporal advantages of his lately asserted political position (he called it a spiritual position), as head of the Church. An Act of Parliament was passed giving to Henry what the Pope had previously possessed, the first fruits of benefices and other ecclesiastical incomes, which were usually commuted for a tenth of the income payable yearly. In order to ascertain the value of this new accession to the King's income, the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* was made in the year 1537. This record puts down the annual income of the Priory as £30 19s. 6½d., and the tenth payable to the King as 60 shillings and 22½d. This was just about the time that Cromwell was suggesting to the King that a great many of these and similar monastic houses ought to be shut up because of the immorality of the nuns. That view is still so commonly held as being sufficient excuse for the suppression of the monasteries, that it is just as well to state the facts as set forth by an eminent writer who has specialised upon this period and question—Mr. F. A. Gasquet. There were at the time of the Suppression, 140 Convents of Women, mostly Benedictine, in this country. Cromwell's emissaries closely scrutinised the convents of 13 counties, and they found only 27 nuns guilty of any vice in their eyes, which were undoubtedly prejudiced against the nuns. And out of these 27, all but 10 are traceable as receiving pensions. One thinks that Mr. Gasquet might have added that these and all similar pensions were payable only during the good conduct of the pensioner. So it comes to this, that Henry VIII. suppressed the nunneries because ten nuns had been guilty of vices which, at the estimate of their enemies, were nothing like so vicious as his own.

The Dissolution

Morality of the Monastic Houses.

The suppression of the monasteries realised in round figures £79,000, and the account of the disposal of that money is the most eloquent reason Henry can have had for his sudden accession of virtue :—"Plate for the King, £4,800 ; money coined and sent to Ireland, £10,000 ; "coast fortifications, £10,000 ; King's own hand, £42,000. The balance to parks, Anne of Cleves, &c."

The real motive for the Dissolution.

When the charge of immorality was found to be inadequate, the charge was shifted to another ground, and all houses whose income was under £200 were swept away. Of these, St. Giles in the Wood was one, and its possessions were confiscated to the Crown. Of land there appears to have been 500 or 600 acres, the particulars of which are printed in an Appendix. The movable stuff was first sold, according to the following Inventory, and the proceeds paid into the Royal Treasury on the 12th May, 1537 ; the account being countersigned by the last Abbess, Anne Croke, or Agnes Crane, as others read her writing :—

The actual suppression of Beechwood.

" Ffurste sold the stuffe conteyned in the Inventory, beyinge				
" In the plor (parlour)	...	...	...	vs.
" Itm.—The stuffe in the Quayre for	...	...	...	vj.s.vij.d.
" Itm.—The vestery stuffe	...	...	...	lxvj.s. viij.d.d.
" Itm.—The kechyn stuffe	..	...	...	xv.s.
" Itm.—The stuffe in the high chamber for	...	...	...	xxx.s.
" Itm.—The stuffe in the myddle chamber for	...	...	...	xxxvj.s. iiij.d.
" Itm.—The stuffe in the buttery	...	...	...	xx.s.
" Itm.—Sold ij quarters of Whete	...	...	...	xv.s.
" Itm.—A carte olde and unshodde for	...	...	...	ij.s. iiij.d.
" Itm.—Sold vj horses for	...	...	...	xl.s.
" Itm.—vij. kyne and ij. heffores	...	...	...	lvj.s.
" Itm.—vij. swyne for	...	...	...	vijj.s.
" Itm.—xxxvij. shepe wt their lambs	...	...	...	lvj.s.
" Itm.—xlv. acres of whete sowen upon the Demaynes at vj s. viij the acre	...	...	...	xv li
" Itm.—Sold a Table of Alabaster for	...	..	...	xx.s.
" Itm.—The glass in the wyndowes in the Church for	...	...	...	xx.s.

	" Itm.—A Sensor of Latten and a shippe for (shippe = a vessel to hold incense).	...	...	iiij.d.
	" Itm.—The pavement stone in the Church for	...	...	x.s.
	" Itm.—The Tymber in the Quayre for	...	...	xxxvj.s. viij.d.
	" Itm.—A table of Alabaste for or Ladye aulter for	...	...	ij.s. iiij.d.
	" Itm.—The stuffe in the backhowsse sold for	...	...	xxvj.s. viij.d.
PLATE :—	" Itm.—A salte of syluer with a cover pcell gilt, p. ox. xij. oz, at iii.s. viij.d, the oz	...	...	xliij.s.
	" Itm.—vj syluer spones white p oz, vi oz at iij.s iiij.d, the oz	...	...	xx.s
	" Itm.—A chalice wt a patent gilte p. oz xij, oz, at iiij. s. ob the oz	...	...	xlviij.s vj.d.
	" Itm.—The garnyshynge of a Masor (drinking bowl), band gilte p. oz. iij oz, at iiij. ob the oz	...	...	xij.s, ob.
	" Sma Totalle of alle the goode, catalle and plate belongynge to the said priory of Seynt Gyles in the Woode	...	...	xliiijili. viij.s. ob.

**A Comparison.**

When one reflects that in all probability the Nunnery was as well furnished as any house in the parish, it is surprising to our modern eyes to note that the "stuffe" in the vestry was worth thirteen times as much as the "stuffe" in the parlour. What modern Church can say as much?

**Agnes Creke.** What became of the thirteen nuns it is impossible to say, but it is certain from the Pension Papers of Henry VIII. for the year 1537, preserved at the Record Office (aug. off. 64, 232, 256), that Agnes Creke, the Prioress, was pensioned on £6 per annum, a sum considerably

**John**

**Tregonwell.**

**Henry lets the  
Priory**

**and then  
changes  
his mind.**

larger than the income of the Chantry priest of Flamstead at that time. The House was not pulled down then, for on the 31st December in that year, one Doctor of Laws, John Tregonwell, of the Court of Arches, dated a letter from the Priory to Wriothesley, and sent him a small remembrance wishing him to remind my lord of his suit for the little Nunnery of St. Giles in Hertfordshire. He says in the letter he has long been a suitor for some such recompense of the service he has done the King for eight or nine years, but hopes now by Wriothesley's help to obtain some provision for his old age. The letter, or the "remembrance," achieved its object, and this unblushing suitor obtained a lease of the Priory of St. Giles in the Wood the next year, 1538. There is a list of the lands belonging to the Priory and their yearly income made in this year, and also preserved in the Record Office (Aug. Off., c. 29 Henry VIII.) "Priorat Monialum Sancti Egidii in Bosco. Terr. Dominical," which is printed in the appendices. The list was too long and the income too big for Henry to leave poor Tregonwell to enjoy it, and on the 8th August, 1539, Cromwell wrote to Tregonwell to tell him that the King wanted Sir Richard's estate at Molesey, and was going to give him in exchange the Priory of St. Giles, a lease of which had only the year before been given to Tregonwell! The letter says that the King wants Page to move at once, and therefore Tregonwell must leave at once to make room for Page. In his reply to Cromwell, dated from St. Giles on the 11th August, Tregonwell says he has been offered £100, or £20 a year, for the lease, and has spent £120 in necessaries for husbandry, hedging, marking the ground, &c., £40 of which was paid to the King at the suppression of the house. He says there are 140 acres of corn on the ground, and his hay and wood are already housed; he does not know where to go, and asks Cromwell to help him. That letter (Letters and Papers Henry VIII., Vol. 13, pt. 2, No. 74—Record Office), wherein the King's right to act in that way is undisputed, shews the temper of people who did believe in the divine right of kings. It is marvellous to think of. The 30th of the next month saw the Indenture of Exchange signed and sealed, whereby the King gave to Sir Richard Page all the possessions of the late priory, and took in exchange land and messuages in West Molesey, Walton-on-Thames, and Horsham, 30th September, 1539.



## CHAPTER IV.

## FLAMSTEAD PARISH HISTORY CONTINUED.

With the advent of Sir Richard Page to Beechwood, one feels that the history of the Nunnery is ended. From this point we shall consider events at Beechwood as part of the general life of Flamstead. And Sir Richard Page is the link that connects us closely with Edward VI. On the 19th May, 1537, John Husse wrote a letter to Lady Lisle telling of the late Queen's (Ann Boleyn) execution, and also of the imprisonment of "Mr. Page" in the Tower with "young Wyat." "What shall become of them God best knoweth." That letter is at the Record Office, and explains a letter from Sir Richard Page to Lady Lisle dated 18th July in the same year, which says he is "at liberty" and the King is his good and gracious lord, but hitherto he has not greatly assayed to be a daily courtier again. He is more meet for the country "than the Court." Obviously Sir Richard Page had been mixed up with the affair which ended in the execution of Anne Boleyn, and had managed to vindicate his innocence. It is also obvious that Henry was desirous to obliterate the imputation put on Sir Richard by his imprisonment, for he appointed him to attend upon his own person during the Northern Rebellion. Sir Richard is entered in the list of such persons as Sheriff of Surrey. We find him doing active service in attendance upon the Duke of Norfolk during the rebellion. And at Court he was prominent at the christening of Jane Seymour's son, Henry's "most dearest son," Edward VI. Sir Richard was lieutenant of the band of Pensioners, and subsequently a Privy Councillor. In the official record of the proceedings at Greenwich for the Reception of Anne of Cleves, Henry's fourth public venture in matrimony, Sir Richard Page again figures prominently, so that one is not surprised to find it stated by Lewis (in his Topographical Dictionary s.v. Flamstead) that the infant prince Edward VI. was sent to Flamstead to the house of Sir Richard Page, because the salubrity of the air was thought beneficial to him in his delicacy. It is certain that just after this time Flamstead was strongly represented at Court by Sir Bartholomew Fouke and Richard Cordell. Edward VI. on his accession to the Crown was Lord of the Manor of Flamstead until 1549, when he sold it to George Ferrers, son of Thomas Ferrers, of St. Albans. There is a local tradition to the effect that Edward VI. intended to build himself a palace at Flamstead on the site of the accommodation meadow belonging to College Farm, (It seems right to put these things down here, in the hope of their being confirmed: but I have found nothing to corroborate either Lewis' statement, or the above tradition, in the catalogued documents at the Record Office. But there is indirect support to Lewis in the fact shewn by the Register that in Elizabeth's reign it was a London fashion to send nurse children to Flamstead when they were delicate).

Sir R. Page.

Visit of  
Edward VI

Nurse children.

After all, the public connection of Edward VI. with the parish is of more importance and interest than his private visits, as it leaves us with a list of the goods and furniture remaining in our Church in the last year of his reign, and which we may therefore regard with certainty as conforming to the Prayer Book, which is still our guide and authority in such matters. These Commissioners reported as follows:—

Edward VI. and  
Flamstead  
Church

- "Imprimis. iij Belles and a Sance Bell in the Steple.
- "Itm.—A Challise of Silver guilt p. oz.
- "Itm.—Another Challise of silver parcell guilt p. oz.
- "Itm.—A Cross of Coppar and guilt.
- "Itm.—One Cope of Crymosyne vellet imbroidered wt gold.
- "Itm.—One Cope of whitt silke.
- "Itm.—A Vestment of crymoisne vellet imbroidered wt gold.
- "Itm.—A Vestment of Gren and red sike (silk).
- "Itm.—Another Vestment of red and craine collored silke.
- "Itm.—ijj Albes,
- "Itm.—ij Corporase Caysses.
- "Itm.—ijj Alter Clothes of satten of Bridges yellow and Blew.
- "Itm.—A Crose Clothe of gren silke
- "Itm.—A Canape of silke one paine yellow and another Blew.
- "Itm.—A Pair of Orgaunes."

This list is countersigned by "Nicholas Drables." There is a most interesting omission from that list. The Chantry had been closed for at least four years, and the Churchwardens were still in possession of the Chantry lamps and the endowments for them, as the land was copyhold. The lamps ought to have been entered in the list of goods, for they were not illegal, as lamps were retained in many other churches—Kensworth among them. Why are they not entered? The answer seems to lie this way. The list was drawn up for the Commissioners by the Churchwardens, and as they held the endowments for the lamps, they chose, for reasons of their own, to give no account of them. Nicholas Drables (churchwarden) was probably the son of John Drables, who then held the Bury Farm.

Omission from  
the List.

## THE CHANTRY IN FLAMSTEAD CHURCH.

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### Authorities, in addition to those already cited.

- I.—F. A. Gasquet's *The Eve of the Reformation*.
  - II.—Chantries. Roll 20, entry 79. Record Office. 14th February, 37 Henry VIII.
  - III.—*Harleian M.S.* 605, fol. 29. 30. British Museum. 2nd Edward VI.
  - IV.—Augment: Office. *Chantries*. Vol. 27, entries 2 and 58. Record Office 2nd Edward VI.
  - V.—Augment: Office. *Pensions and Annuities*. Vol. 75, entry 16. Record Office. 2nd Edward VI.  
(These M.S. authorities are printed in an Appendix).
  - VI.—Paper by Rev. H. Fowler, M.A., in *Transactions of S. Alban's Architectural and Archæological Society*.
  - VII.—S. Alban's *Book of Benefactors*.
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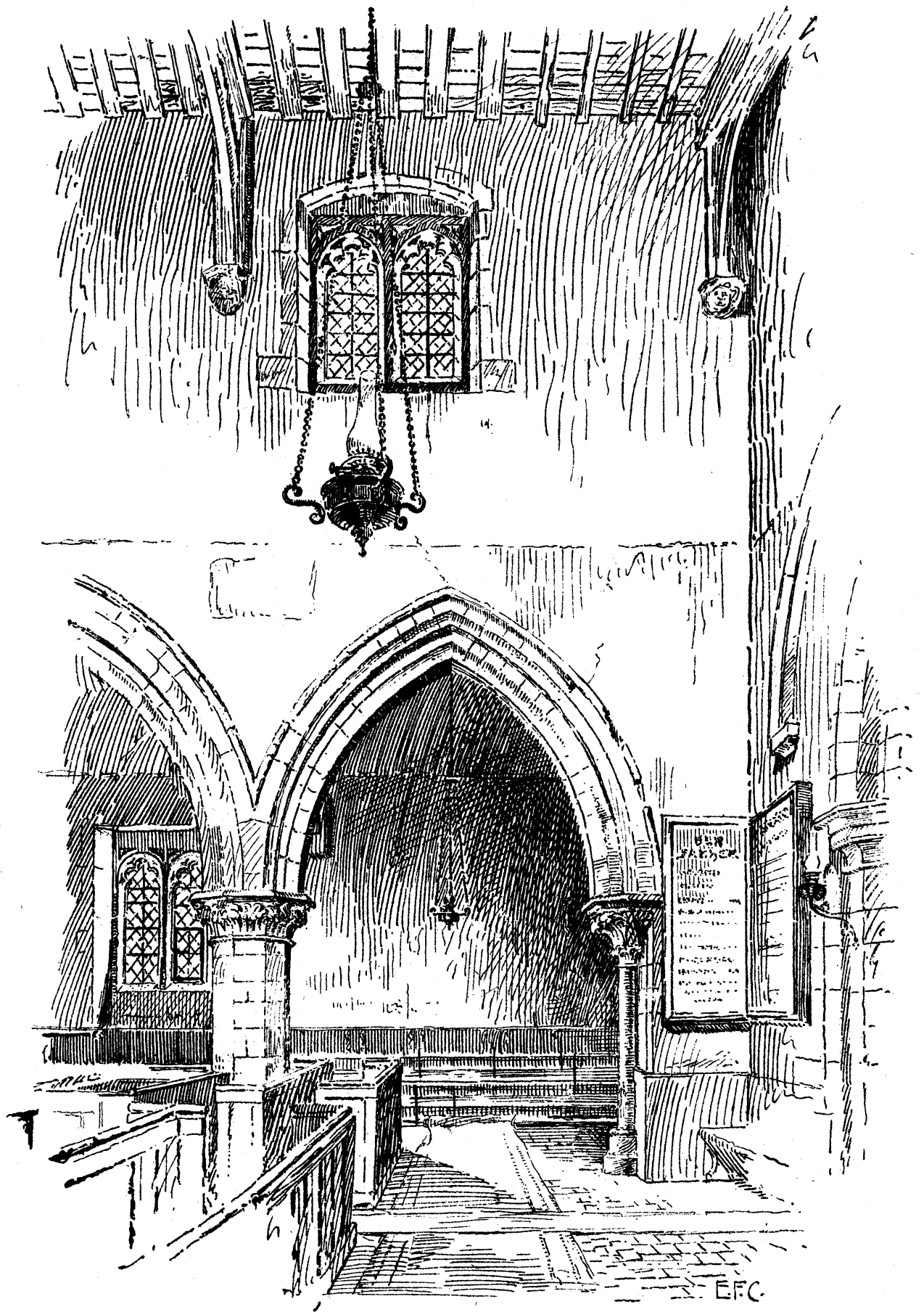
## CHAPTER V.

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### THE CHANTRY IN FLAMSTEAD CHURCH.

If you could have visited the Church in 1548, you might have found an old man of 60 years, Steven Garrett (then chaplain of the Chantry by patent from Edward VI.), celebrating a Requiem Mass for the Lords of the Manor and the founders of the Church, to whom three tombs then in the Church were said to belong. He would be standing before a side altar at the end of one of the Nave aisles, and above his head, hanging from the ceiling, would be burning a Holy Presence Lamp, and on the altar itself certain lights, to pay for which the Churchwardens had been endowed with a cottage and three acres of land, an acre of meadow, and another acre of land. On the altar would be the chalice of silver gilt and corporas case, and one of the altar cloths belonging to the parish; and the priest himself would be wearing one of the albes and copes mentioned in the Inventory of goods and furniture at Flamstead Parish Church made by Edward VI. Commissioners. He had to borrow these from the parish priest, for the Chantry had "no jewels, goods or chattels of its own." The cross of "copper and gilt" leaning against the wall where the Server had placed it, belonged to the parish too, but it was in no way comparable to the richly enamelled cross in use at Kensworth. Like his Chantry, Steven Garrett himself was poor, the endowment of the Chantry being only six pounds, three shillings and four pence a year, or according to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, £4 4s. Still, as we are expressly told that this was his only source of income, and as we know that he was subsequently pensioned in the same year by King Edward VI. with four guineas a year when the Chantry was closed, we may assume that it was a sufficient living for him, especially as he had none of the responsibilities or liabilities of the parish priest, whose income was £41 6s. 8d. Steven Garrett was still alive in the 3rd year of Phillip and Mary, for his name is set down in Cardinal Pole's book as a pensioner.

**Duties of a Chantry Priest.** In these days, when country parish priests are nearly always single handed, it is satisfactory to think of the time, when in a parish like this, there was an endowed curate, for that is practically what a chantry priest was when the Chantry was founded in the parish church. There is no document traceable to give us the exact duties of the chantry priest at Flamstead, but doubtless they were similar to the duties of other chantry priests on the eve of the Reformation. A good example is the foundation made for a chantry at the altar of St. Anne in the church of Badsworth. It was founded in 1510 to pray for the soul of Isabella, wife of William Vavasour and daughter of Robert Urswick. The charter deed ordains that the chaplain shall be a secular priest, without other benefice, and that he should say a Requiem each week with Placebo and Dirige. At the first Lavatory of the Mass he is to turn to the people and exhort them to pray for the soul of the founder saying "De Profundis" and the prayer "Inclina Domine." Once every year there is to be an anniversary service, on Tuesday in Easter Week, when ten shillings and eight pence is to be distributed to the poor under the direction of the Rector. The Chaplain is to be learned in grammar and plain song, and should be present in the choir of the church at Matins, Mass, Vespers, and Compline, with other divine services on Sundays and feasts, when he is to take what part the Rector shall ordain. He is not to be absent for more than a month, and then only with the leave of the Rector, by whom for certain specified offences he may be deprived of his office. Steven Garrett was the last chaplain.



SOUTH WEST BAY OF ARCADE

From the "Pensions and Annuities" Accts. of Edward VI. it appears that the endowment for the chantry priest's income went into the King's hands, and it seems most likely that the churchwardens applied the endowment of the lights and lamps to the relief of the poor of Flamstead, when the poor law question was dealt with under Elizabeth, although the money belonged to Flamstead and three other parishes (Aug. Off., Chantries 27, 2)—presumably, Aldbury, Wotton at Stone, and Wakely, which are bracketed together with Flamstead in "Chantries Roll 20, Entry 79. 37 Henry VIII." It appears that the three acre field was "Church Field," and the cottage was that called "The Priory." At any rate, the Churchwardens sold Church Field when the Poor Law Reform put Flamstead into Hemel Hempstead Union, and the money went to the building of the workhouse. Money left to pay for a particular adjunct of worship in the National Church, impounded, secularised, and spent, although the National Church is supposed to be established! Surely it was a better thing for the village to have an old man leading a holy life, teaching to the village the Catholic Faith by his acts of worship at the altar, than to pocket his income and call his faith mere superstition. Surely it was a better thing for the village that something short of three shillings a year should be spent upon the ever burning lamp to remind them of the ever glowing warmth of God's presence that is never extinguished, but burns steadily on—at once a fire of love ready to illuminate and a fire of jealousy ready to destroy: surely that symbol had more value for the village than just a few bricks buried in the workhouse at Hempstead. But those who had the power saw things otherwise. The history of our Chantry is, in brief, the history of the Reformation.

The name of one other chantry priest of Flamstead is given by the Rev. H. Fowler, in the *St. Alban's Book of Benefactors*, fol. 138—John Bullock, who died in 1412.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### ON "CARDINAL POLE'S BOOK."

Mention has been made above of an Act of Parliament whereby Henry VIII. became possessed of the first fruits and tenths of all ecclesiastical incomes—as Head of the Church. It has also appeared that at the suppression of monasteries he became responsible for certain pensions which he granted. It was an unsatisfactory arrangement, and according to the preamble of an Act of the 3rd year of their reign, it offended the consciences of their Majesties, King Philip and Queen Mary. By this Act for the extinguishment of First Fruits, Philip and Mary resigned all property in the First Fruits and tenths which had previously been theirs and gave to Parliament the income from tenths which were still running on bonds already made; Parliament undertaking, in return, to pay the ecclesiastical pensions lately incurred. Thus it became necessary to have a proper list of such pensioners. The list was made and written in duplicate. The Queen signed one copy and Cardinal Pole the other. This copy is at the Record Office, and the signature of the Cardinal was witnessed by *William Cordell*, presumably an attendant of the Queen's, related to the other courtier Cordell of Flamstead. The names of Steven Garrett, late incumbent of the Chantry in Flamstead, and of Anne Croke, prioress of St. Giles in Bosco, both occur.

This book, with its formal recitation of the Act and its stately order, seems like a burial certificate of the troubles of Henry's time.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### FLAMSTEAD AND THORNTON ABBEY.

The right of presentation to the benefice of Flamstead remained with the owner of the Manor, until the King retained the presentation when Sir R. Page had the Manor. Edward VI. in the first year of his reign, gave the benefice by Letters Patent to the Dean and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Thornton. (Rot: Pat: 1 Ed: VI. part 5, opposite the name of William Herbert in the left hand margin, about 25 yards down the roll.) Thornton Abbey was a monastery of Black Canons founded in 1137, and was suppressed by Henry VII. in 1542, who, in its place endowed the Collegiate Church above mentioned. The Collegiate Church itself underwent dissolution at a later date; and the advowson and presentation of Flamstead having been returned to the Crown, was granted by James I. to Frank Norris and Frank Phillip, as appears from Letters Patent granted on the 24th March 1613, an extract of which is printed in the Appendix. From these gentlemen the living came into the hands of Mr. R.

Gunsley's  
Exhibitioners.

Robert Gunsley, the curate, and James I. granted the reversion to Trustees for him in 1618. Mr. Robert Gunsley gave part of the tithes to his heir-at-law, who sold them to Mr. Saunders, then of Beechwood, to which estate that part still belongs, and he gave the other part, with the Rectory, to University College, Oxford, who have since then usually presented to the living, preference in the appointment being given to those who have held a Gunsley exhibition. "Usually presented" is written, because the rule was broken during the troubles of the Commonwealth period. At any rate, in 1650 Commissioners appointed by Parliament reported that the living was worth £32 per annum, and was granted to Lady Barrington, who paid sometimes £20, sometimes £40, to the occupant of the cure, who was chosen by the parish. Since those times nothing of extraordinary interest has occurred in the history of the parish.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## THE REGISTER.

"For all those that have departed this life in Thy faith and fear."

Firmyne  
Adames.

Among all the names of priests who have served here, that of Firmyne Adames forces itself into recollection at the time these words are used. One loves to think that it is caused by something more than the stamp of individuality he left upon the Register. But that alone is interesting. He took up work at Flamstead in 1578, and on the last of July 1581, he married Cissell Armstronge. He must have been one of the first married priests in this parish. His son Christopher was baptised in 1582, and John, the second son, in 1584. There was a Thomas Adames with his family, a new comer into the parish at that time—probably Firmyne's brother. It was this Firmyne Adames who, in 1598, copied out such records of baptisms, marriages, and burials as were at hand, and supplemented them as far as he could from local knowledge, starting from the year 1548, and thus beginning the present Register. He wrote on parchment in a beautiful Elizabethan hand. Obviously he was neat and clean. He lived with his people and ministered to them all through that anxious time when the Spanish Armada, with the Inquisition, was expected; and after the English victory led the thanksgivings all the more heartily because his own wife and boys were saved. He loved the people, and had his own old-fashioned views of the practical method of teaching them, and patiently set himself to that task in his own long-headed way. This fact is shewn by a consideration of the inscriptions on the nave pillars, which were cut in his time. They make up a small calendar of local saints, to whose characters and example he could appeal just at a time when all such examples and characters had been ruled out of the calendar of the current prayer book. And Mr. Adames was diplomatic, too, in his selection of such local saints, for Miss Francys Cordell was probably the sister, or perhaps niece, of Mr. Cordell at Queen Elizabeth's Court; and she—the Virgin Queen, as she loved to style herself—would never object to any honour paid to a "virgin mayde, who lived and died in godlye fame," especially when such mayde was related to one of her attendants. Mr. Firmyne Adames certainly had a way with him. And one thinks of the power for good exerted by this patient methodical Catholic Protestant, this family man who came to the village as a revelation of goodness and sympathy, and an example of order and tactful obedience, bringing out of his treasure things both new and old. The inscriptions which are put here in order to associate them with Parson Adames, are these:—

*On the South.*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>I.—"At this seate's end<br/>in the middle alley<br/>there lieth buried<br/>John Pace of ye valley."<br/>año. 1596. June xiiij.</p>                                                                         | <p>The Register says,<br/>"buried at <i>his</i> seate's end<br/>in the middle alleye."</p>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>II.—"Within this pier<br/>where bricks are laide<br/>there lieth buried<br/>a virgin mayde<br/>Ffrauncys Cordell<br/>was hir name<br/>she lived and died<br/>in godlye fame."<br/>año. 1597. June vij.</p> | <p>The register says of Francys that she was<br/>"a yong maydin and a fonde daughter."<br/>Buried in the South aisle alley</p> <p>Compare Register, 1597:<br/>"The xiii. May buried George<br/>Smithe, a batcheller of former<br/>fame, brother to Bartholomew<br/>Smith."</p> |

*On the North.*

III.—“In this middle space  
and at this seat's end  
There lieth buried  
our neighbore friend.  
olde John Grigge  
of Cheverills end.”  
Año 1598. April 15.”

The Register says he was  
buried at evening prayer at  
his seate's end in the middle  
allye.

Firmyne Adames was still Vicar in 1605.

The two following entries are supposed to point to an old right of shelter in the North **Right of shelter**  
Porch used by “travellers.”

*Entries 51 and 52, year 1578.*—“The xxvth November buried Margery Readinge, a  
poor child.” “The xxvith November buried Robert Readinge, father unto the  
sayd child, who both died in the North porch.”

After entry 547 in the list of christenings for 1602, there is this note inserted :—“This  
night died Queen Elizabeth. 13 March.”

And the year 1603 is ushered in with the announcement : “Nowe entered King James—  
Proclaymed King, etc., xxiii. March 1603.”

*Buriales.*—1604. “This year was a plague in the parish.” **Plague.**

*Baptisms.*—March 16th, 1616. Marie, daughter of Richard Halsey of Holmersend,  
baptized at Redbourne.”

This parish priest had his eye on his parishioners even when they wandered. Was he  
Robert Gunsley? There is a gap from 1644-1647, July 16th, which gap Christopher Comyn,  
who then “came to officiate in this place,” officiously explains as due either to “the carelessness  
“and neglect of the then present ministers, or the distraction and violence of the times.” Well,  
well, careful Mr. Christopher! and yet you upset your inkpot at the bottom of the next page,  
and your writing gets worse and worse. **Christopher**  
**Comyn.**

March, 1723.—“Martha, a child, was left at a door in Flamstead, March the 3rd day,  
1716, and was baptized March 22nd, 1723, and put to nurse to William Stepneys.” **Waifs and**  
**Strays.**

One hopes Martha had something to eat before she was baptized!

Addresses of parents are not given as a rule before 1735. Spelling is quaint at times.  
Sertivicates = certificates, in 1725; and Hagness = Agnes, in 1726.

“Año. Dñi, 1578.—The second of November married Wm Vahan and Elizabeth  
Chappell at Am'ibles Chapell.” **Chapel of**  
**S. Amphibalus.**

Was this a “chappell” of St. Amphibalus which is reported locally to have stood near  
the Mill gardens?

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CHAPTER IX.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND GENERAL REMARKS.

“*About John Dudeliy.*”—On a Purbeck marble slab is an effigy in brass, wearing cope,  
amice, stole, maniple, albe and girdle. Underneath there is this inscription :—“HIC JACET **John Dudeliy**  
MAGISTER JOHANNES DUDELIY QUONDAM RECTOR ISTIUS ECCLESIE ET DE BARUGHBY LINCOLNIENSIS **or Oudeby.**  
DIOCESEOS ET CANONICUS IN ECCLESIA COLLEGIATA BEATÆ MARIAE IN WARWICK AC CAMERARIUS  
EX PARTE COMITIS WARWICK IN SACCARIO DOMINI REGIS. QUI OBIT VII<sup>o</sup> DIE MENSIS MARTII ANNO  
DOMINI M<sup>o</sup>CCC<sup>o</sup>XIII<sup>o</sup> [CUJUS ANIMÆ PROPICIETUR DEUS.]”

Chauncy gives this as proceeding out of his mouth on a scroll :—

“MISERERE MISERATOR QUIA VERE SUM PECCATOR  
UNDE PRECOR LICET REUS MISERERE MEI DEUS.”

“Here lies Master John Dudeliy, formerly Rector of this Church and of Barughby in  
the diocese of Lincoln and Canon in the Collegiate Church of the Blessed Mary in Warwick  
and Chamberlain on behalf of the Earl of Warwick in the Treasury of the Exchequer of the  
Lord King, who died on the 7th day of the month of March in the 1414th year of our Lord.”  
[“On whose soul may God have mercy.”]

**Gaps filled in.**

The last words of the inscription are those in general use at that time, and the space to which they are restored is exactly filled by the abbreviated form CUI' ANE PPICIET' DE', so that there is no doubt about the accuracy of the restoration of the inscription. The words were probably cut out under the influence of Puritan theology; to which also may be due the removal of the scroll proceeding from the mouth of the brass effigies. But as that scroll was there in Chauncy's time, it may have been removed when it accidentally got loose through the wear of the feet which passed over it. In 1812 the *Gentleman's Magazine* speaks of a Virgin and Child being on the stone. They must have been on the brass canopy; but where are they now? A rough translation of the leonine verse which used to come out of his mouth gives this meaning:—

“Pity on me! Thou who pitiest  
For I am of sinners chiefest;  
Spite of all my guilt I pray Thee,  
God, shew all Thy pity on me!”

Dudeliy had a curate or chaplain to do duty at Flamstead named Henry de Benyngton.

**Bygone robbery from Graves.**

When the air drain was put round the chancel and the chancel walls underpinned in 1898, the Vicar and Churchwardens obtained leave in the faculty to raise this slab as part of the operations. It appeared that the body had been buried in a Purbeck marble coffin, which had been broken open and presumably robbed at some earlier date. The next grave on the South, of the knight and lady and children who are unnamed, was examined at the same time; it had also been disturbed. These had been buried in a wooden coffin. The scattered remains were gathered and replaced as reverently as possible.

**Painting on screen.****Picture instead of Rood.**

It does not appear which Earl of Warwick Dudeliy represented as Chamberlain of the Exchequer—nor how he represented him. It is worth noting that at this time Domesday Book, which is now in the British Museum, was kept in the Saccharium under three keys—one in the hands of the auditor of exchequer, one in the hands of chamberlain of exchequer, one in the hands of deputy chamberlain of exchequer, of whom Dudeliy was one. At least this is obvious—that John Dudeliy was a wealthy man. It was about his time that the Chancel screen was erected and the alterations connected with that were done. The screen was painted then, or if not then, soon after, and was surmounted by a rood, or as we should call it, a crucifix. The ornamental painting still remained on the screen in 1812 (see *Gentleman's Magazine* for that year), but the rood had been removed. “Instead of which is a painting by Hull over the screen—Aaron on one side, a warrior on the other, and Moses in the rear.” The description is somewhat vague, but it seems to imply that the central figure in the painting replaced the rood, and that the other figures were additional. That picture has gone. Where to? So have a lot of other things gone. For instance, Weever mentions “3 antient tombs, supposed to have been for lords of this manor, and probably more antient than the use of inscriptions in England.” Two of these tombs have gone.

**Others things gone a-missing.**

Salmon gives an inscription in the South aisle: “In this aisle is buried the body of Ann Poure, second daughter of Francis Poure, of Blechinton in the County of Oxon, Esq., and of Ann his second wife, the third daughter to Julius Ferrers, of Market, in the County of Hertford, Esq; who died 13 June, 1631.” This inscription is gone!

The *Gentleman's Magazine* says in 1812:—“Under the altar are 2 stones with inscriptions on them:—

“‘i. Mortale quiescat Dom. Mariæ Luke, quæ filia quinta Henrici Coningsby de Mymms Boreali. Eq. Aur, et Eliz. claræ familiæ Botelorum, de Woodhall, in com. Hertford.’

“‘ii. Conjux olim fuit Johannis Saunders de Puttenham, arm (et ibidem sepulti) in dict: com: tandem Joh. Luke de Flamsted, nupta et viduata. Ob 22 Aug, 1664.’”

This inscription on two stones is gone.

Also in 1812, near the screen on a small stone in the nave:—“Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Haley, who died the — day of October 1687.” This inscription is worn off.

To complete the reference to the *Gentleman's Magazine* let this quotation be added:—“One Anne Prior lived in this parish to the age of 120 years.”

**Sir W. Hatton.**

About *Sir William Hatton* (Heylin).—This gentleman lived at Cheverells Green about 1650. His daughter married Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, who died April 18, 1658.



THE CLEAN SPACES  
SHOW WHERE  
VIRGIN & CHILD  
& SCROLL  
HAVE BEEN  
REMOVED.



REDUCED FROM  
A  
RUBBING of JOHN  
OUDEBY'S BRASS IN  
THE CHANCEL FLOOR.

hic iacet magister Johannes Oudeby quondam Rector scholae Cantuarie  
Baronum humilis diaconus in ecclesia collegiata beati  
Wiberti de Cantuarie et vicarius parochialis in anno domini Regis Ricardi  
duodecimo die mensis martii anno domini millesimo CCCo



## CHAPTER X.—LIST OF PARISH PRIESTS AT FLAMSTEAD.

*From "Clutterbuck," who refers to Lincoln Diocesan Records:—*

<i>Bishops by whom Instituted.</i>	<i>Rector.</i>	<i>Time of Institution.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Wells ...	Thomas de Barsingham, cap, ...	A.D. 1223	Richard, Rector of this Church, with the consent of R. de Tony, patron
—	William	—	—
Gravesend ...	Nicholas de Langele ...	5 April, 1273, upon the death of William ...	William de London
Sutton ...	Andrew de Lincoln, dec. ...	11th January, 1296 ...	The King, as guardian of
Burgherst ...	Walter de Northfield, pbr.	Feb., 1332, upon death of Andrew de Lincoln	Ralph de Tony William la Zouch
"	William de Kynemton ..	January, 1332, upon death of W. de Northfield ...	" " "
"	John de Thorpe, acl. (?) ...	12th Sept., 1337, upon res. of Wm. de Kynemton	The King, as guardian of Wm. la Zouch
Beck ...	William de Hampton ...	13th Nov., 1342, upon res. of Wm. de Kynemton	—
Gynwell ...	John de Bulkington, acol.	14th June, 1349, upon death of William de Hampton	Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick
"	John de Clebury, clk. ...	May, 1350, upon the res. of John de Bulkington	—
"	Richard Nowell ..	2nd April, 1361	—
Buckingham	William de Borstal ..	3rd Dec., upon resignation of Richard Nowell ..	—
"	Walter Lye, cap, ..	20th Dec., 1373, upon res. of William Borstal ...	—
"	William Wenlock ..	—	—
"	John Capel ...	22nd May, 1376, upon the resign. of Wm. Wenlok	—
"	William Wenlok ...	5th May, 1391, upon res. of John Capel ..	—
"	Thomas de Aldebury ..	20th May, 1392, upon the death of Wm. Wenlok	—
Repingdon ...	John Oudeby (Dudely?) ...	20th March, 1497, upon res. of Thos. Aldbury	Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick
"	William Blakemore, cap. .	8th March, 1413 (1414 ?) upon the death of John Oudeby ..	" "
Flemyng ...	Richard Wellys ..	8th May, 1424, upon res. of Wm. Blakemore ..	" "
—	John Verney	—	—
Gray ...	John Arrandale ...	26 Jan., 1432, upon resign. of John Verney ..	John Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick and Albemarle
—	Thomas	—	—
Alnwick ...	Ralph Drebb ...	2nd July, 1447, upon the resign. of Thomas ..	Cicely, Duchess of Warwick
Chedworth ...	Thomas Wandynforth ..	25 June, 1546, upon the death of Ralph Drebb	Robert Ingilton, for this turn
Rotheram ...	Robert Tymworth ..	5th April, 1475, upon death of Thos. Wandynforth	George, Duke of Clarence
—	John Cromholme	—	—
Russell ..	Thomas Hunter, cap. ..	18th June, 1493, upon dth. of John Cromholme	—
Smith ..	Peter Caversham, abbot of the monastery of Nutley.	8th July, 1503	—
"	William Southworth, pbr.	17th May, 1504 ..	The King
"	John Davenport ..	16th March, 1512, upon res. of W. Southworth	" "
Longland ..	Maurice Brichnisha, clk. .	15th March, 1527, upon the res. of John Davenport	" "
"	Edward Layton, B.D. ..	18th April, 1538, upon res. of Maurice Brichnisha.	" "

## LIST OF PARISH PRIESTS—(Continued).

*From Register.*

<i>Priest serving Parish, if not Incumbent.</i>	<i>Date when Serving.</i>
Firmyne Adames.	... 1578.
Robert Gunsley, last Rector.	... 1618.
Christopher Comyn.	... 1647.
John Goodman (preacher).	... 1653.
Thomas Adames.	... 1708.
Edward Catlin.	... 1720.
Mr. Clark.	
Mr. Squire.	
Mr. Bradshaw.	... 1726.
Mr. Hathergil.	
" Mr. Cotherill came and took possession, and " red the articles and what he ought to do. " November 27th."	.. 1726.
Mr. Pryor.	... 1728.
Mr. Featherston.	... 1732.
Mr. Hathergal.	... 1732.
Mr. Harison.	... 1740.
Mr. Tarn.	... 1792.
Mr. Prentice.	... 1793.

*From "Cussans."*

<i>Incumbent.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Presented by</i>
William Menzies	... — ...	University College, Oxford
George Davies	... 1816 ...	" " "
Peregrine Bingham	... 1848 ...	" " "
John Larkins Garden	... 1852 ...	" " "
William Henry FitzSimon Hinde	... 1858 ...	" " "
Thomas Fawcett Burra	... 1875 ...	" " "
William Edward Torr	... 1878 ...	" " "

*From Register and personal knowledge—*

Edward Wells	... 1880 ...	" " "
W. A. Pope	... 1884 ...	" " "
Valentine J. A. Brown	... 1887 ...	" " "
John Vincent Bullard	... 1898 ...	" " "

## CHAPTER XI.

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 The Church Plate.
 

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THE CHURCH PLATE consists of

I. A large Pewter Flagon with lid bearing the inscription :

"Thomas Halsey and Philip Coot,  
Churchwardens of the Parish  
of Flamstead, 1675."

II.—A large silver Flagon with lid holding about two quarts, smaller than the Pewter vessel. It bears the date of 1690, but was presented to Flamstead in 1858 by Sarah Hinde.

<p>III. A Jacobean straight-sided Chalice in silver, date mark not legible.</p> <p>IV. A small Jacobean Paten in silver, presumably of the same date.</p>	}	<p>Given by Sir Edward Sebright, 3rd Baronet.</p>
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V. A second silver Chalice, being a modern replica of III., presented by Mrs. Hinde in 1860.

VI. A silver Bread Tray on pedestal with this inscription : " Ex dono ye Honble. Lady Seabright. Anno Dom. 1700."

VII. A modern silver Alms Dish, presented by Sarah Hinde in 1850.

VIII. A perforated silver Spoon with pointed handle.

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This Plate is in the custody of the Vicar, as there is no safe for the security either of Plate or Registers against fire.

## THE SEBRIGHT FAMILY AND FLAMSTEAD.

### CHAPTER XII.

#### THE SEBRIGHT FAMILY AND FLAMSTEAD.

In 1693 Thomas Saunders, the then owner of Beechwood, died and was buried at Flamstead. He was the grandson of Thomas Saunders, of Long Marston, who had purchased the Beechwood Estate in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He had married Ellen Sadleir, daughter and heiress of Robert Sadleir, of Sopwell, in Hertfordshire, and by her had several children, as recorded on the monument in the church. All of them, however, had died in childhood except his daughter Ann. She had married Sir Edward Sebright, 3rd Baronet, of Besford Court, in Worcestershire, and thus at her father's death the Sebright family became owners of the Beechwood Estate. It has always been a tradition in the Sebright family that they are descended from Seburt, King of Essex, whose tomb is the oldest in Westminster Abbey. This is, however, only a family tradition. What, however, is proved is that in the reign of Henry II., their ancestor, Walter Sebright, lived at Sebright Hall, in Great Badow, in Essex. He was descended from the ancient family of Bissett, and quartered their arms—"azure, 6 Besants or." He married the daughter and sole heiress of Sir Henry de Ashe, Knight, and his descendants quarter the Bissett and the de Ashe arms, as will be noticed on the hatchments in Flamstead Church, which thus came into their family about 750 years ago. It may be of interest here to mention that the oldest conveyance of land which the British Museum contains is a settlement of some land made by Peter Sebright, grandson of Walter Sebright above mentioned, on his son Mabella Sebright and his wife Katherine, executed in the 22nd year of King Edward the First. The marriage of this Mabella Sebright with the daughter and heiress of Ralph Cowper, of Blackshall, in Wolverley, Worcestershire, seems to have taken the family into that county, and there they lived till the inheritance of Beechwood brought them to Hertfordshire. The Worcestershire Estates continued in the possession of the family till the latter part of the nineteenth century, but after inheriting Beechwood the family seem never to have resided elsewhere. The body of Sir Edward Sebright was, however, taken to Besford to be buried with his ancestors, and there is a very quaint invitation to escort his remains out of the parish of Flamstead, which was issued at the time of his death, still extant, with a border on it of skulls and cross bones, which at that time seem to have been considered the fitting ornamentation for such purposes!

**Seburt,  
King of Essex.**

**Worcestershire**

**A School  
Founded.**

**Good  
Sir Edward.**

Sir Edward Sebright had an uncle—William Sebright—who was a wealthy man. By his will he founded the Sebright School at Wolverley, in Worcestershire, and, with the exception of this provision, made Sir Edward his heir. The school building exists, with the family coat of arms on it, and so much has the land near London with which it was endowed increased in value, that it is said that in a few years its revenue may amount to seventeen thousand pounds a year. Sir Edward Sebright died at the early age of 36. He seems to have been much loved by those among whom he had come to live, and for a long time after his death was spoken of as "*good Sir Edward*." He and his wife gave the pulpit in Flamstead Church, on which their initials will be noticed, and the oldest pieces of the beautiful silver Communion plate were also given by the same donors.

This Sir Edward, 3rd Baronet, who married Ann Saunders, must not be confounded with the 1st Baronet (1626), Sir Edward, who was a devoted Royalist, and who paid £1019 for his estate to the sequestrators. He was High Sheriff of Worcestershire in the reign of James the First. After the restoration of the Monarchy, Charles II. gave him a piece of the Boscobel oak mounted in silver, and this is still at Beechwood among the things most prized by those who bear his name.

There is a most singular fact in the Pedigree of the Sebright family, probably unique in the case of a family who have existed so very many centuries—and that is, that until the present generation only one younger son had married for nearly 300 years, and in that case his elder brother had remained a bachelor. The result of this has been that there is no record till the present generation of any persons bearing the name of Sebright being cousins to each other, nor, and this is most curious, are there any of the name of Sebright known to exist except the descendants of Sir Thomas Sebright who died in 1864.

Of Sir Edward Sebright's successors, Sir Thomas, the 4th Baronet, and Sir John Sebright, the 7th Baronet, were both Members of Parliament for Hertford. The last-named endowed the West Herts. Infirmary with the sum of eight thousand pounds, an institution which has been of great service to the community; and he also built and endowed the Widows' Almshouses in Flamstead, and endowed the Sebright School. He also introduced the celebrated Sebright Bantams. His son, Sir Thomas Sebright, built the School buildings now on Cheverells Green.

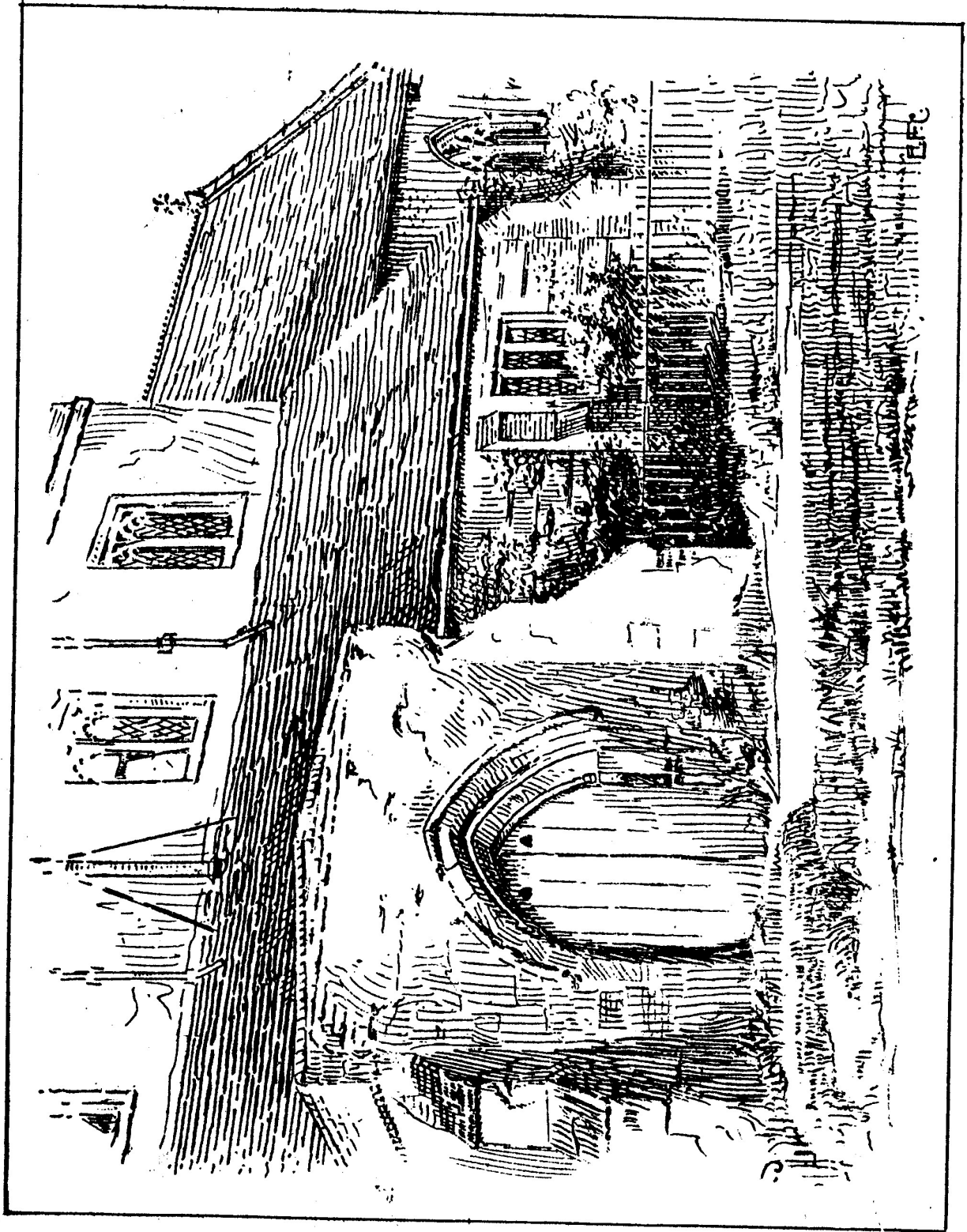
**Members of  
Parliament.**

**Charities.**

**A 2nd School.**

As regards Beechwood itself, the ancient Priory building has long ago given place to a more modern house. During the reign of Queen Anne the present house was shaped. One room still remains with a carved oak mantelpiece and wide fire place, dating from early in the 16th century if not earlier, and which no doubt formed part of the old house; and on the garden side of the present house some of the old house was discovered when work on that portion of the house was in progress, but was covered up when the work was completed. Till 1854 the great hall in the centre of the house was an open Court yard, a covered passage uniting the two sides of the house. Sir Thomas Sebright, the 8th Baronet, in that year turned the yard into a hall, and in many other respects made the house what it now is. Beechwood was one of the many places which King Edward the VIth. hoped to obtain health from living in, and a window with his Coat of Arms and Crown in colors may still be seen there. The old family bed with the arms of Sebright, together with those of Bissett and D'Ashe (mentioned earlier), and dated 1587, is still in the house, and is interesting as a link with the Elizabethan age. Till about the year 1860 the carriage drive through the Park went absolutely past the hall door. In that year it was put back many yards from it, and the present gravel sweep made. In doing this some stone coffins with bones were discovered. In 1898 Sir Edgar Sebright moved the road still further from the house, and more coffins with bones were found. It is a pity that up to the present time no plan of the ancient Priory building has been discovered. There is no doubt that the present house is on the site of the old one, but in the summer, during dry weather, the foundations of buildings can easily be seen on the grass in front of the house—proving that in former days the Priory buildings extended in that direction. Perhaps some day, among the piles of ancient documents of all kinds stored in the muniment room at Beechwood, some description may come to light giving those who live in the 20th century some insight into the life of those who, in this beautiful spot, spent their days on earth some 400 years ago, and of the house in which they dwelt.

**The House.**



SOUTH PORCH

Sketched by E. F. Cobb.

## ✻ PART II. ✻

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### FLAMSTEAD CHURCH.

There is no pleasanter or more fascinating method of gaining a knowledge of the history of an old building than that of making it tell its own story by a careful study of the marks left upon it by successive generations. Blurred and too often quite obscured as they are by the hand of time and of man, it is usually possible to read with far more certainty of accuracy than from a printed book, the general outlines and many interesting details of the changes that have taken place during the progress of the centuries. In the case of Flamstead Church we are compelled to resort to this method alone, in the entire absence of contemporary documents relating to the building, gladly as we should welcome any records that would aid us in the formation of correct conclusions on points hidden beneath a coating of stucco or lost through clumsy repairs, brick patchings and other alterations.

Flamstead Church is one of the innumerable buildings bearing witness to the marvellous energy of the Norman Conquerors; for there is ample proof that the church tower, and consequently a church, was built here some eight hundred years ago. St. Alban's Abbey had owned land in the place since the year 1006, so there may have been a Saxon church, if only a small wooden one, but of this there is no evidence. **The Norman Period.**

The Abbot Paul of Caen was engaged in building his great abbey church of St. Alban 1077-1093. His successor Richard de Albini found the abbey buildings sufficiently complete to permit of his turning his attention to the provision of churches for the parishes belonging to the Abbey. He built a church at Redbourn; may we not say that he built one at Flamstead also? We know that Flamstead was regarded as a chapel attached to Redbourn. Whatever alterations have been made during succeeding centuries at the one have been made at the other. What is more probable than that the original structures were alike and resulted from the efforts of the same men? The Abbot Richard died in 1119.

The distinctive features proving the Norman origin of the tower are: the arch, now partly blocked up, once opening into the nave and a piece of string course on the east side, and the remains of the tower lights, blocked up and badly mutilated. There can be little doubt but that the walls of the tower are original Norman work from the ground floor upwards to the floor of the belfry; with later openings, buttresses and a facing of rough cast.

There is nothing to show that this Norman church possessed any aisles—rather the contrary; for on the Vicar digging a trench across the new bay of north aisle in November 1901 for the purpose of trying to find the position of the Norman nave wall, if such existed, at the depth of 9 inches below the floor line, a wall of broken flints and mortar still solid was met with. The wall is four feet thick, and its centre is in a line with the north face of the shafts of the arcade. A similar piece of wall was found in a similar position beneath the south arcade at a depth of one foot below the present floor.

The aisles were added in the thirteenth century, when the Norman nave walls were replaced by arcades of six equilateral arches. The arches are in two orders, each relieved by a wide hollow, and have label moulds on the sides to the nave. The pillars consist of simple octagonal shafts built up in courses of Totternhoe stone, with moulded bases and carved capitals. Some of the foliage of the latter is very good, and belongs to the earliest period of the Early English style, at the end of the 12th century. The leaves are of the usual trefoiled type, curling out somewhat stiffly from stiff stems. Some, again, is very poor, particularly on the north side, where appearances seem to point to a later rebuilding and copying by an inferior craftsman of the better work on the other side. Only one respond, the south west, retains its slender circular shaft and moulded base, with the deep hollow—a peculiar characteristic of the Early English period. One respond has been cut away to make room for later fittings, now in their turn removed, while another has been rudely reproduced in plaster and fitted with a shaft of wood. **13th Century**

The North aisle is wider and loftier than the south. It may be that owing to the usual custom of burying on the south side of the church, the existence of some grave or graves prevented the south aisle being made wider, while on the north there was no such restriction.

The easternmost arch of the North arcade is of a wider span than the others ; it must have been taken down and reconstructed when the staircase to the rood-loft was built. The increased span was the result of reducing the projection of the respond in order to improve the approach to the door of the staircase.

It is worthy of remark that there are label moulds on the aisle as well as on the nave side of the two north eastern arches, very possibly added at a rebuilding, if they did not previously exist, to give greater richness to the surroundings of the altar at the end of the aisle. The Norman tower, though very massive, was badly built and soon began to give trouble. The disturbance involved in substituting the arcades for the nave walls may have been the immediate cause of the failure of the abutments and subsequent crippling of the wide arch in its west side. The weakness caused by the substitution of arches was in part remedied by building the west walls of the aisles—but in part only, as the staircase on the south side honeycombed, so to speak, and weakened the latter abutment in spite of anything that could be done. This may be the explanation of the fact of the west wall of the south aisle being a little eastwards of the corresponding wall of the north aisle instead of in a line with it. It is built to overlap and strengthen the staircase. Some extra thickening of the south wall of the staircase also seems to have been done at an early date, but of this it is impossible to speak with any certainty, all being hidden beneath a coat of rough cast. It is quite clear that the reduction in size of the opening between the nave and tower was made on account of the failure of the Norman arch. This method of shoring up adopted by the builders of the middle of the 13th century contrasts strikingly with the methods adopted by those of the 18th and 19th centuries in this building.

Further reference to the tower and its vicissitudes will be found below.

**General  
Appearance in  
13th Century.**

In the year 1223 Flamstead was constituted a separate parish by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln. What was the appearance of the church into which Thomas Barsingham entered as first incumbent 678 years ago ?

The tower was probably quite open to the nave, its floor space not reduced by any unseemly erections. Upwards it was probably open to the floor of what is now the clock chamber and was then the bell chamber.

The nave arcades were there white, clean and uninjured, with their carved capitals in all their fresh beauty, worthy adornments of the little daughter church of Hugh's great Minster at Lincoln and St. Albans. We have no record of the nave roof, but may safely picture it as being of steep pitch with open rafters, much like the chancel roof is now, but new and clean, and springing from the walls at a short distance above the tops of the arches. The aisle roofs would have been very similar, and may have been at a rather lower level than they now are.

The lighting was by narrow lancet windows in the aisles. Unless there was still some Norman work left in the chancel, the chief difference between its appearance then and now was due to the windows being only narrow lancets set in deep splays, a group of three of them occupying the East wall. As the chancel was so extensively altered in the 14th century it is quite likely until that time there was much Norman work left, such as a semicircular chancel arch and an apsidal East end.

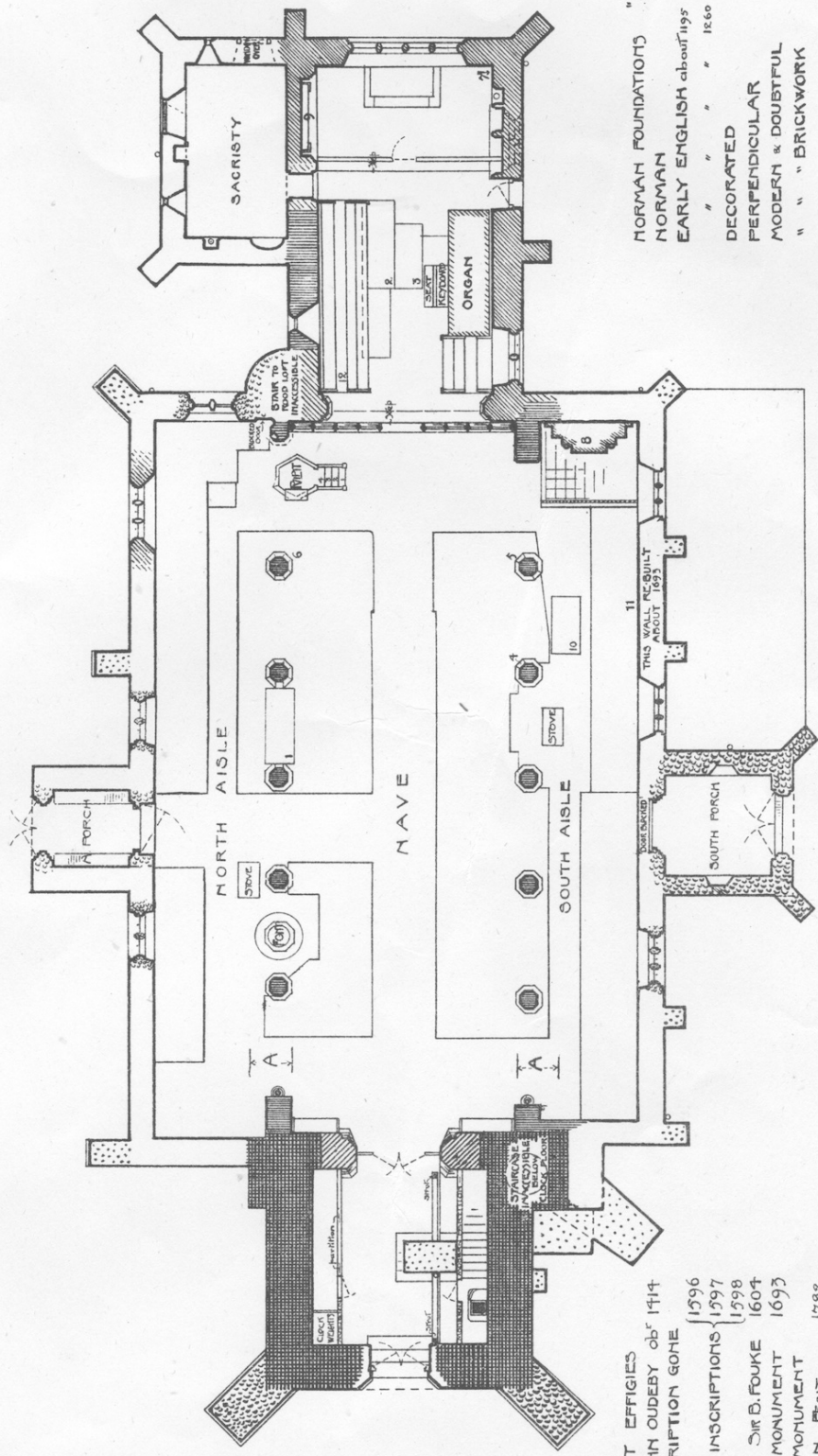
There were, of course, none of the tombs or monuments we see now ; but, on the other hand, there were probably some of the narrow windows filled with good glass, and on the walls curiously drawn and coloured representations of sacred and legendary history, while various hangings and lamps gave a richness to the gloom. Externally the great expanse of nave and aisle roofs unbroken by a clerestory, the newness of the aisle walls, the narrow lancet windows, the tower a stage lower and without the huge buttresses, gave the building an entirely different appearance to that which it now presents.

**14th Century  
Alterations.**

This 13th century church was very dimly lighted, and it is not surprising to find that the builders of the succeeding century inserted larger windows giving more light, and also affording better opportunities for the display of coloured glass. Owing to these and to later alterations, every one of the lancet windows of the aisles has disappeared. One only is left near the north-west angle of the chancel. Of the original Decorated windows there now remain only the three-light window with reticulated tracery inserted to light an altar at the end of the north aisle. The east and two south windows of the chancel are modern reproductions of windows of about the same period. From them and from the sedilia piscina and chancel arch it would seem that this part of the church was practically remodelled at the time. The roof is a simple high-pitched one, open to the apex, in three bays with purlins, collars and braces and wind braces. There are two heavy cambered tie beams. There is nothing from which a definite date can be assigned to it, but that it is of the 14th century seems extremely



# CHURCH OF S. LEONARD FLAMSTEAD HERTS.



- 1. RECUMBENT EFFIGIES
- 2. BRASS - JOHN OUBEY obi 1414
- 3. " INSCRIPTION GONE
- 4. RHYMING INSCRIPTIONS 1596
- 5. " " " " 1597
- 6. " " " " 1598
- 7. MONUMENT SIR B. FOUKE 1604
- 8. SAUNDERS MONUMENT 1693
- 9. SEBRIGHT MONUMENT " J. FLAXMAN FECIT 1782
- 10. SLAB THOS SAUNDERS 1690
- 11. MON' R. PEARCE
- 12. SLAB - BENEATH THE FLOOR

NORMAN FOUNDATIONS "A A"  
 NORMAN  
 EARLY ENGLISH about 1195  
 " " " 1266  
 DECORATED  
 PERPENDICULAR  
 MODERN & DOUBTFUL  
 " " BRICKWORK

E. F. Cobb *Arch. & Desig.*

SCALE 0 5 10 15 20 feet

likely. The very bad settlement of the respond of the south arcade may account for the chancel arch having been rebuilt.

Still impelled by a desire for more light or to impart a more lofty and imposing appearance to the nave, the fifteenth century builders removed the old roof,—by this time, too, most likely in great need of repair; raised the walls to form the clerestory; and put on a new lead-covered roof of flat pitch. These added walls are thinner than the earlier walls below. The windows are of two cinquefoil headed lights with segmental internal arches. As there are six bays in the nave arcade, and the roof, and but four clerestory windows, it looks at first as though two of the windows on each side have been blocked up. A reference to the section plan shows that this is not the case, but that they have been arranged to increase the light at the east end of the church by being put in the first, second, fourth and sixth bays counting from the east, or, in other words, alternately with an extra one thrown in. The advantage of this additional light, falling as it does upon a plain whitewashed wall, is not now so apparent as it was when it fell upon a large painting, at once decorative and didactic. **15th Century Alterations.**

Most of the original corbels, from which spring the curved braces of the roof, still remain. Some are carved with angels bearing shields, others with grotesques; all are extremely rude. Of the roof sufficient remains, particularly in the two end trusses, to show us what it was like until 1791, when it was extensively and clumsily repaired. The date is inscribed on a beam inside, and cast on lead letters outside together, with the names of the plumber, churchwarden, and others. It may be remarked that while the main roof trusses are properly arranged above the pillars of the arcades, those of the aisles are placed regardless of openings. The soffites of the latter are unfortunately plastered, hiding the timbers.

The tower was now dwarfed by the lofty nave, so a stage was added to it. The line of the commencement of this stage is marked by a wide offset, obtained by the walls being made about one foot thinner than those below. The windows on the four sides are alike and strongly resemble those of the clerestory. The original parapet, string courses and dressed stonework, have entirely disappeared; the first is now of brick with a tiled coping and the offsets are protected by strips of lead. The great buttresses at the two western angles have lost all architectural details from which their dates might be determined with any certainty, but they may well have been built at the same time as the extra storey. The same may be said of the spirelet and timbers of the roof—they have every appearance of belonging to the original structure. The weight of the new storey and the strain caused by the bells made the South wall begin or continue to show alarming symptoms, and at quite an early date the large timber post near the foot of the modern staircase to the ringing chamber was erected to relieve the walls of some of the weight of the floors. **The Tower.**

The similarity between this tower and that of Redbourn is very striking. Both were originally low square Norman towers, but have had the addition of a Perpendicular storey and two huge buttresses; both have the unusual finish of a slender octagonal spirelet, contrasting admirably with the massive tower from which it rises. Several new windows were inserted in the aisle walls at about the same time that these additions were made.

The oak rood screen, with a loft above it, was another Perpendicular addition, and for this the newell stairway on the North was constructed, to allow of the Gospeller ascending to the rood-loft to read, and the respond of the nave arch was reduced, as previously explained. The height of the base of the altered respond suggests that the platform of the altar, which surely stood in the aisle, ran across or up to the front of it, and formed a step or steps leading to the small staircase door. To the north-west face of the semi-octagonal respond is a small trefoil-headed recess, the remains of a stoup, of which the projecting portion has been cut off flush with the face of the respond. The stairway has been blocked up to strengthen the abutment for the two adjoining arches. The rood loft has been entirely done away with, and a modern beam and cornice make a poor substitute on the top of the screen for the rich double demi-vaulted canopy, once like that at Redbourn. The doors of the screen have also disappeared entirely. An examination of the base shows, as is known to have been the case, that the chancel floor once level with that of the nave has been raised one step. This was done during the incumbency of the Rev. W. H. Hinde.

The building of the two porches must also have formed a part of the extensive Perpendicular alteration. They have suffered most severely from settlements, decay and rough reparations. The door from the south porch to the aisle has been closed and plastered over on the inside. The windows have been blocked up, and it is now used as a tool shed. The North porch has departed still further from its original form and use, indeed it appears to have been partly rebuilt in the 18th Century and to have again fallen into a dilapidated condition. **The Porches.**

**The Sacristy.** North of the chancel, and approached from it by a small doorway, is the sacristy—a lofty apartment whose height is explained by the presence of corbels to carry an upper floor and of windows to light it, some blocked up, some widened. To what purpose the room was applied there is nothing to show; muniment room, or priests' lodging, possibly. It is but small, 16 feet 3 inches by 9 feet 4 inches; there is no trace of an upper fireplace or of a staircase, but as the whole structure seems to have been largely rebuilt with old materials in modern times, little can be said of it. There is a piscina curiously placed in the West wall. The hipped tiled roof is not ancient. An old view of date 1812 shows the walls finished with a parapet and no visible roof.

**Fittings.** The altar rail is a heavy oak one with turned and twisted balusters. It is of late 17th Century character, and is provided with a gate. The altar table is of somewhat earlier date.

The pulpit, of about the same date as the altar railing, formerly stood against the second pier from the east on the North side of the nave, and was moved to its present position a few years ago. The pillar and spandril wall were very roughly treated for the sake of the pulpit and sounding board—the latter now missing. Very similar ill-treatment has been meted to the pier on the opposite side of the nave, and, in addition, housings have been cut into the shaft for the treads and risers of a wooden staircase—indicating that a pulpit or some other erection once stood against it. The monogram of E.S. on the pulpit, which letters are repeated back to back, is said to point to the fact that the pulpit was presented by Edward Sebright and Elizabeth Saunders on the occasion of their wedding.

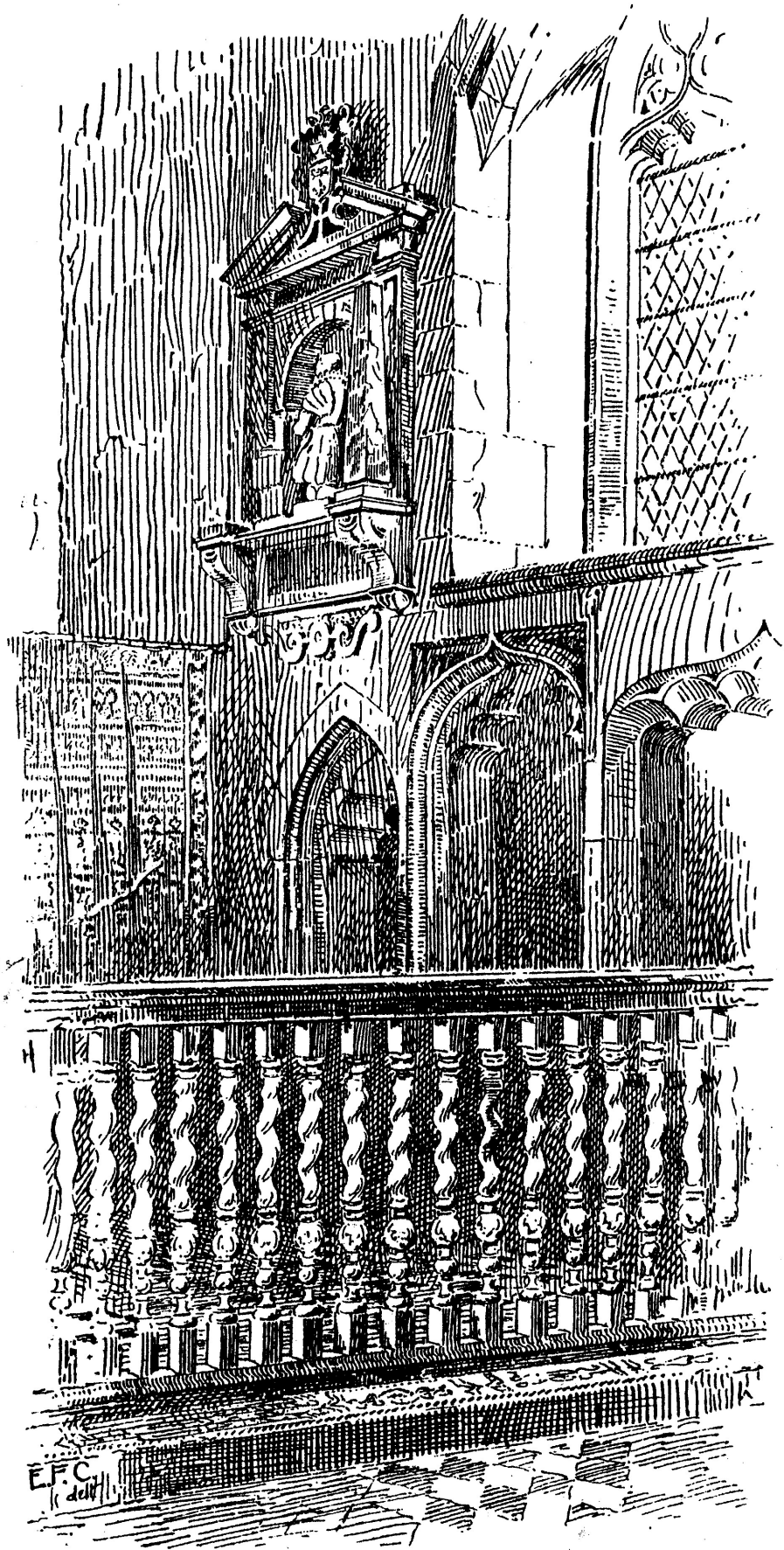
Of the rood screen mention has been made above. Until quite recently a large pew with a canopy stood against it and the respond of the South arcade, and is accountable for the wanton destruction of the Early English carved capital when it was removed. Most of the pews were reduced by 18 inches in height at the same time. Individually without interest, they impart collectively a certain quaint and old-world air to the church, owing mainly to the surface of the wood having been left in its natural state, and to their irregularity. There are a few benches at the back of the church dating from the 15th or 16th Century.

An entry in the Register states that the font was restored in March, 1852. It has the appearance of being a new one of that date, and is of no interest. There was once a narrow musicians' gallery at the West end of the nave, removed about 1880. It has left but little mark beyond the doorway cut through the North wall high up. Boards bearing the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, and the Creed, are fixed at the West end of the nave. The Royal Arms, once ordered to be fixed in churches, have been relegated to a corner in the South aisle. Whatever colour decoration there may have been is now obscured by whitewash. Traces of colour are discernible in the North aisle.

**The Bells.** There are six bells. Five bear the inscription, "Chandler made me, 1664"; the sixth, "John Waylett, London, fecit 1729." According to Mr. S. Flint Clarkson, in a paper read before the St. Albans Architectural and Archæological Society in 1887, "Chandler made me" was the favourite inscription of these founders. Their foundry was at Drayton Parslow, Bucks., about midway between Leighton Buzzard and Winslow, and from it were supplied a good many bells for this neighbourhood when the rush of business came at the Restoration. The earliest bell from the foundry now in Herts. is dated 1651; this would be by Anthony, the second of the Chandlers, born in 1622. The competition of the great London foundries led to the foundry at Drayton Parslow being given up in 1723. When Edward Hall, who thus gave up the struggle, died in 1735, he was described in the parish registers as "a poor bell founder." Mr. North, in his "Church Bells of Hertfordshire," suggests that the "four bells and a Sance Bell in the Steeple in 1552, were probably recast by Chandler in 1664 into the five bells now existing." The bells were rehung in a new frame about 40 years ago. Ringing them is attended with an unusual difficulty owing to the presence of a huge brick buttress in the ringing chamber. Only with the aid of mirrors are all the ringers able to watch one another.

The positions of the principal monuments, brasses, and other memorials of the dead are indicated on the ground plan at the end of this book, and the figures here given in the margin will be found to correspond with the figures on that plan.

The oldest monument in the church is under the third arch from the east on the north side of the nave, whither it has apparently been moved from some other part of the building, and its lower part, and any inscription it may have borne, destroyed. The figures of a man and woman clad in loose robes lie side by side (the right hand of the man, now broken off, once clasping the hand of the woman), beneath, so to speak, a cusped crocketed canopy with simple tracery in spandrels and a battlemented cornice. A narrow pinnacled buttress runs down each side. The heads rest on cushions, the feet are supported by dogs, and a scroll runs from dog



SIR BARTHOLOMEW FOUKE'S  
MONUMENT. S.E. CORNER OF CHANCEL.

to dog. The design, of late 14th century character, lacks the usual crispness and delicacy of the work of that period. Whether or no the monument is in any way connected with the Beauchamps, who were the lords of the manor at the time of its making, it is impossible to say. It has suffered severely from rough usage. **Monuments.**

II.—The brass in the chancel floor of John Oudeby, or Dudeliy, is in a fair state of preservation except for the removal of the little figure from the niche and of the scrolls—doubtless by some conscientious objector to images of saints and to the invitation to pray for the soul of the deceased. The arms on the five shields surrounding the figures are not shown on the plate—facing page 14.

III.—Two small brasses of about the middle of the 15th Century represent a man in civil attire, his wife and children. The inscription and four shields have disappeared.

IV.—Rhyming inscription, 1596. (See chapter on the Register, page 12).

V.—" " 1597. (See ditto).

VI.—" " 1598. (See ditto).

A small board with a moulded frame bearing a coat of arms and inscription printed in colours upon it, hangs in the North aisle.

"At the upper end of this middle Ile lyeth interred the Body of George Cordell, Esquire, who served Queene Elizabeth. And was Sergeant of the Ewry to King James and the late King Charles, in all sixty yeares. Who married Dorothy, the only daughter and heyre of Francis Prior of this parish, with whom he lived 57 years and deceased the 25th March, he being aged 84 years." [No year given!]

VII.—The monument to Sir Bartholomew Fouke. A small figure of the knight kneels at a desk beneath an arched recess. The monument is in alabaster with an obelisk of red marble behind the figure; the one from before it is missing.

"Here lyeth the body of Sr Bartholomew Fouke Knight who served Kinge Edward, Queene Marye, and was Mr of the houshold to Queene Elizabeth for many years and to King James that now is, in memory of whose virtuous life (worthy eternall remembrance) Edward Fouke, gent, his brother, hath erected this monument.

"Obiit xix<sup>o</sup> Julii 1604. Aetatis suæ 69."

VIII.—At the East end of the South aisle, within an enclosure of its own, is a large monument of black and white marble with six dramatic little figures of the children of Thomas Saunders, of Beechwood. The inscription is perfectly clear. (See chapter xii.)

IX.—In a recess on the North side of the sanctuary is a monument inscribed at the base, "1782, John Flaxman, fecit." It was erected during his seven years' absence in Italy, and when he was 27 years of age. Faith reclines on the East side of a large urn placed centrally at the top, and Hope with an anchor on the West side. The design is extremely simple, and lacks sufficient vigour to redeem it from a tameness unworthy of the great master. It is but fair to remember that he was in Italy, and it was carried out from the model sent to England.

X.—Slab on the floor to Thomas Saunders, 1690.

XI.—*Richard Pearce*.—Against the wall of the South aisle is a white marble mural monument which has this inscription :—

"To the memory of Richard Pearce, late of Milbank Street, Westminster, Brewer, and Lord of the Manor of Flamstead, who lieth buried in the family vault in this Churchyard. He died Jan. 16, 1800, aged 79 years; having the character which he well deserved of a tender husband, a good father, a true Christian, and a sincere friend."

XII.—Slab beneath present floor.

As may have been gathered from the foregoing description, men of one age built and men of another recklessly enlarged the church with so little regard for good construction that their successors have had a continual struggle to maintain it in a serviceable condition. There is as much need to continue the struggle to-day as there ever was. The North side of the nave is in a dangerous state. The weight of the clerestory added in the fifteenth Century has proved too great for the foundation of the arcade, which was never intended to carry so much. This is not surprising when it is remembered that the bad qualities of the clay soil, waterlogged after rain, fissured after drought, have been aggravated by the practice of making interments inside the building and close to the walls outside, and, moreover, that the builders of the arcade made the fatal mistake of placing their pillars on the inside edge instead of fairly in the middle of the **Present Needs.**

**Present Needs.** base of the Norman wall.\* The pillars were just strong enough to bear the load imposed on them when they were in a vertical position. Now, that on the North side they lean inwards two and a-half inches in five feet—the height of the shaft—stones have been split by the unequal pressure. The walls, hidden by plaster, prove, where examined, to be of flint rubble in a very loose and crumbling state. One day, unless repaired, the North arcade will collapse, and in its fall will bring down that of the South and the whole of the nave and aisle roof. One can only wonder that some such disaster has not occurred before.

Both aisles are greatly in need of repair to wall and roof. The roof of the North aisle, now slated, should be covered with tiles; the foundations of the wall should be examined and, if necessary, underpinned. The North porch should be rebuilt; the South carefully repaired, including the recasting of the lead covering. The nave roof needs considerable repair. The wooden floors beneath the pews are badly decayed, and both for sanitary reasons and the prevention of accidents, should be replaced by wood blocks laid on a bed of concrete. Any graves discovered should be filled in.

The soil has accumulated round the outside of the building to a considerable height above the floor line, thus causing a large amount of dampness and decay. It should be removed from contact with the walls to well below the floor line, as has been done round the chancel. Some dampness and injury to the walls is attributable to defective gutters, piping, &c.

The tower needs thoroughly repairing and underpinning to permit of the removal of the brick buttresses and timber shores, so detrimental alike to its utility and appearance. The ringing floor should be removed or raised above the apex of the arch opening to the nave, the wooden staircase removed, the spiral staircase repaired and an entrance made for the ringers from outside. Some of the Norman windows might well be opened up, and the parapet, string courses and other features suitably renewed with stone.

The chancel was extensively restored about forty years ago by University College, Oxford, the patrons of the living. The roof tiles need stripping off and relaying, otherwise it is in no need of more than minor repairs. The screen would repay a careful restoration, after the completion of the more urgent structural repairs. No scheme for the general reparation of the building would be complete if it did not include provision for warming, and for an organ chamber. For the want of the latter the organ is forced to stand in the chancel, where it is an obstruction. The disagreeable fact must be faced, that much as an organ chamber is needed, it must be looked on as a luxury scarcely to be thought of until the funds are available for ensuring the stability of the nave.

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\* NOTE.—Reference to the ground plan (page 22) will show that there was a good reason for this, viz, the obtaining of a good abutment for the arcade against the walls of the tower.

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### NOTES.

Paul of Caen, a relative of Archbishop Lanfranc, was appointed Abbot of St. Albans in 1077, and was naturally greatly influenced by St. Stephen's, Caen, in rebuilding his abbey church on an immense scale.

Names cast in lead lettering on the roof of the nave :—

On South slope.

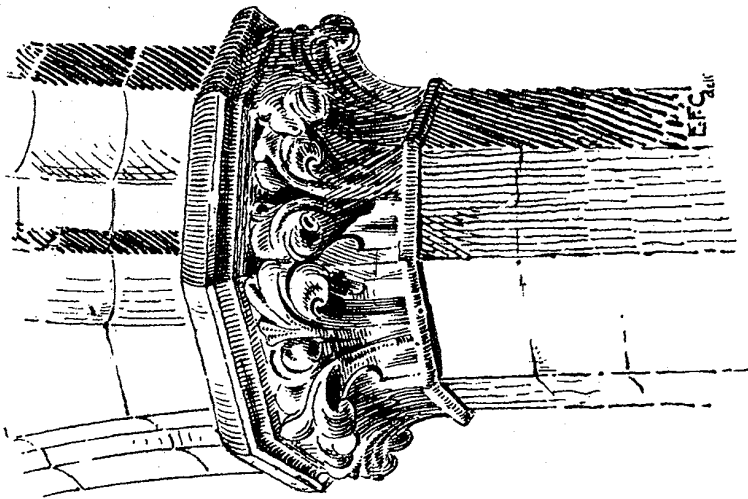
G—ANDREW  
CHURCH—WARDEN  
I—WILLOUGHBY  
PLUMBER  
+ 1791 +

On the North slope.

J—BURCHMORE  
E—BRIDEN  
OVERSEERS  
I—WILLOUGHBY  
PLUMBER  
T—KNIGHT

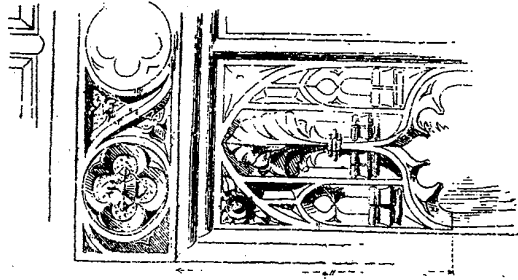
The plumber took care to put his name on both slopes of the roof. If any name or description followed that of "T—Knight," it has been cut away quite recently in making repairs.





CAPITAL FROM ARCADE

Sketched by E. F. Cobb.



DETAIL OF CARVING ON A PANEL  
OF THE SCREEN.

## APPENDICES.

"Calendar of Patent Rolls," vith. year Edward VI. Part 2, membrane 5:—

Appendix I.

May 23 { Licence, at the instance of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford  
at Dover { for the appropriation in mortmain by the prioress and nuns of S. Giles by  
by the King { Markyate of the Church of Daelyngton, which is of their advowson.

Abstract of Roll 29 Henry VIII. Augm. Office:—

Appendix II.,

*Priorat' Monialium Sancti Egidii in Bosco, Terr' Dominical'*

	£	s.	d.
Hertf.—Flampsted. Pasture and arable land of the manorial estate (in the occupation of the late Prior) ... ..	8	16	8
Bedf.—Studeham. Land in village and fields ... ..	0	6	8
Hertf.—Flampsted. Arable land situate in the Butts fields ... ..	0	7	6
Buck.—Edlesborough. One croft land called Nunecroft... ..	0	3	0
Hertf.—Gaddesden. Arable land ... ..	0	2	6
Buck.—Edlesborough. Certain land called Northall ... ..	2	0	0
Hertf.—Hempsted. The manor of Woodhall ... ..	3	6	8
Buck.—Edlesborough, Land in the close called Glenehullfield (in a culture called Church Hill) ... ..	0	3	4
Hertf.—Gaddesden Magna Land ... ..	0	0	9
Buck.—Edlesborough and Dagnall. Arable land ... ..	0	8	0
Hertf.—Gaddesden Magna. Arable land ... ..	0	5	1
Buck.—Edlesborough. Land and meadow ... ..	1	0	0
Hertf.—Flampsted. Land in Pepeshell Ende ... ..	1	6	8
Buck.—Wyngrave. Messuage and certain land ... ..	1	12	0
Edlesborough. Messuage and arable land ... ..	1	14	0
*Total ... ..	26	14	6
Edlesborough. Reddit' assis' etc. lib. ten. ... ..	3	0	4
Dagnall. Reddit' terrar' ... ..	0	2	0
Hertf.—Alban S. Reddit' in ten't ... ..	0	13	4
Bedf.—Hockeclyff. Reddit' terrar' ... ..	0	3	0
Hertf.—Flampsted, Hempsted et } Reddit' assis' lib' ten' ... ..	1	0	0
Bedf.—Studeham			
Total ... ..	4	18	8
Rector'			
Northampton.—Dalyngton. Rector' ... ..	7	0	0
Bedf.—Tyllesworth. Rector' ... ..	11	6	8
Total ... ..	18	6	8
Vendi'co bosc' nl			
Perquis cur' apud Flampsted sc' Egidii in Bosco ... ..	0	7	0
Grand Total ... ..	£50	7	2

NOTE.—\* This is copied from Dugdale, whose first total is wrong. It appears from "Ministers' Accounts, 28 and 29 Henry VIII., Herts. No. 85," that the first item should be £13 6s. 8d., and that Dugdale has omitted the 7th item altogether, which is

Hertf.—Magna Gaddesdon. Arable land ... is. 7½d.

which makes a total of £26 14s. 5½d.



## Appendix III.

Record Office. Chuntries Roll 20. Entry 79. 14 Feb., 37 Henry VIII.

"Flamsted. A Chantry there founded. Toward the finding of a priest for ever. The foundation thereof cannot be shewed.

The said Chantry is founded within the parish Church of flamstead, in which parish ben above 300 housling people."

N.B.—This chauntry is bracketed with the chauntry at Aldbury and the free chapels at Watton at Stone and Wakley. Against the bracket is this remark:—

"There is neither jewels nor goods nor c'atelles belonging to the said Chantries or free chapels."

Probably these other 3 places are those which shared the endowment for lights in document printed below.

## Appendix IV.

British Museum. Harleian MS. 605. Fol. 29, 30.

"Chantry. fflamstede in comit. Hert."

The manor provides xxxs.

The farm de la Burne (= Burie) iiijli. xiijs. iiijd.

} total  
vi.li. iijs. iiijd.

"This chauntre hath no foundation to any man's knowledge but from the begynnyng by the "Lorde and the p'sonne that then was by a Composition made betwene them. The King's "Majestie is founder thereof and hath gyven the same by patent to Stephyn Garret clerke "nowe incumbent."

## Appendix V.

Record Office. Aug. Off. Chantries, Vol. 27, Entry 2. 2, Edward VI.

<p>"fflamsted. "A Chauntre founded "within the said par- "ish to have a con- "tinuance for ever</p>	}	<p>"valued in</p>	{	<p>"the farm of all the Tythes arising and growing of the Grange of the Burie and the domayne land of the Manor of Flamstead with xxxs going out of the yearly Rent of the said manor, and xxs. iiij.d. for the priest of the said Chantry letten to farm by Indenture for term of years yet to come to John Drabelle and payable yearly.</p>	}	<p>iiij.li. viij.s. iiij.d.</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	-----------------------	---	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

"Steven Garret a man of 60 years is Incumbent and hath no other living in certain but "the said Chauntree. And this Chauntree hath no corporation and had the beginning upon a "composition made between the lord and the pfn.

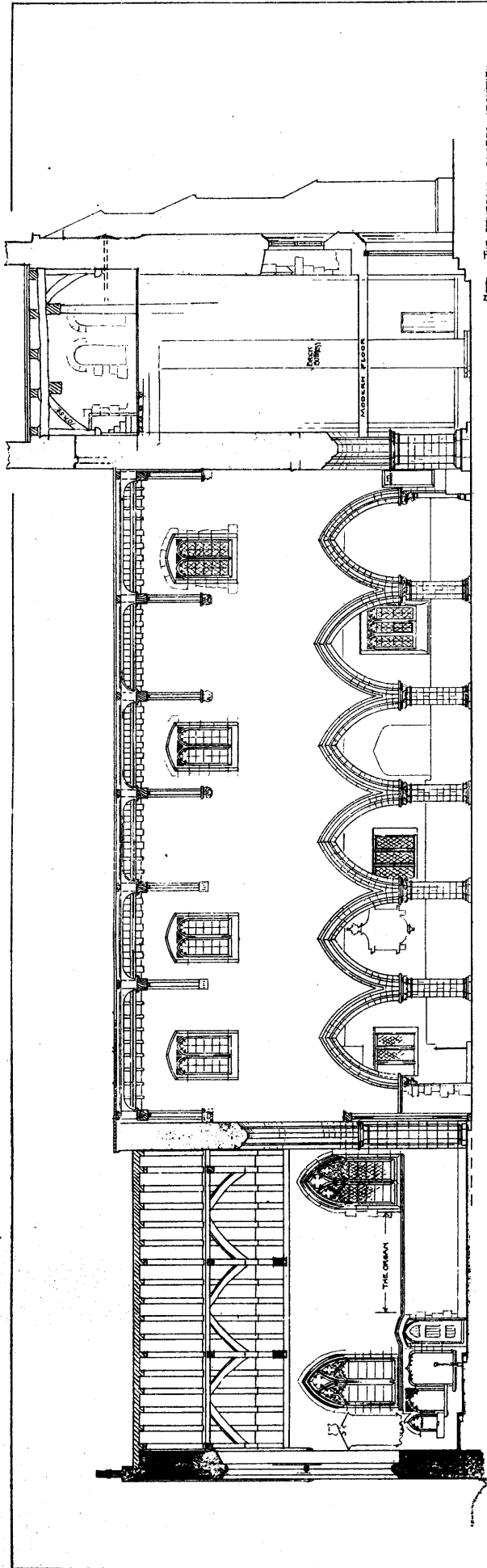
"Note.—The Manor of Flamstead is the King's majesties."

## Appendix VI.

Entry 58 in last cited document.

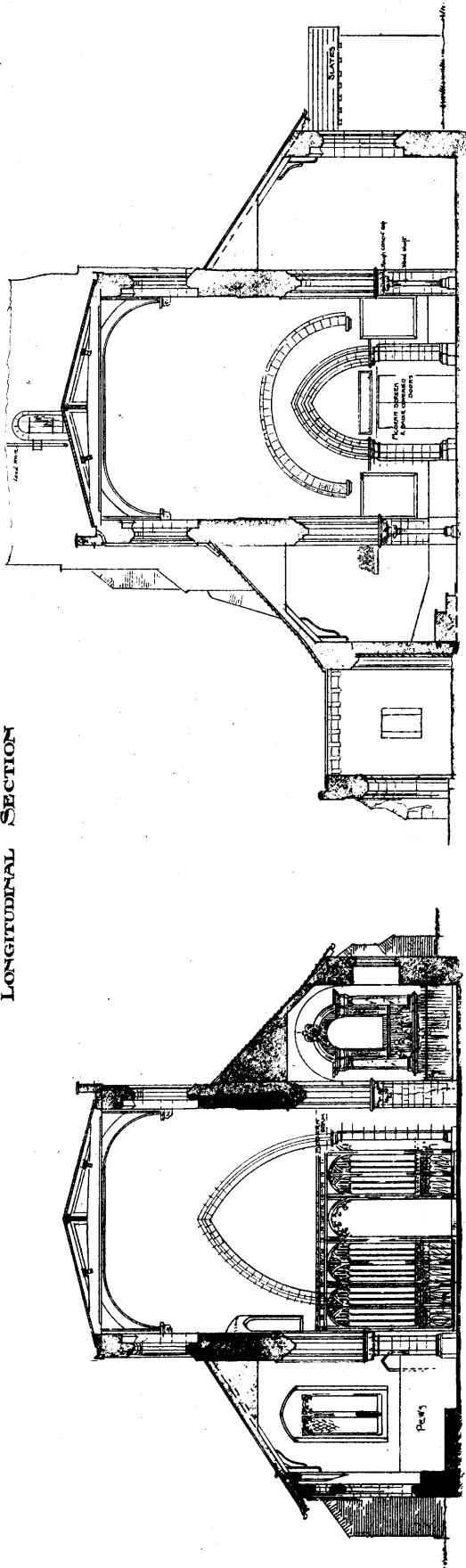
Flamstead

Copyhold	{	One cottage and 3 acres of land which were given to the finding of certain lights in the parishes of Flamstead and 3 others, in thand letten by the Churchwardens and payeth by the year.	} vij.s.	}	xv.s.
Copyhold	{	One acre given for the finding of a lampe, in the tenure of William Bygge, and payeth by the year.	} xij.d.		
Copyhold	{	A Rent going out of an acre of meade in the tenure of Thomas James, given to the finding of a lampe and payeth by the year.	} vj.s.		
Reprised	{	Rent Resolute to the King's Majesty, viz. for the land in the hand of the Churchwardens xvii.d. ob. for the acre, in thande of William Bigge, iij.d., and for the acre of meade in the hand of Thomas James vjd. In all	} ijs. ij.d. ob.	}	iiij.s. ijd. ob.
	{	Rent Resolute to the parsonage of Flamsted out of one of the said cotages yearly.	} xii.d.		
		And so Remaineth			xj.s. ix.d. ob.



NOTE. THE STAIRCASE, SHORES, FRONTIES  
 &c. ARE NOT SHOWN IN THE TOWER.

LONGITUDINAL SECTION



CROSS SECTION (looking East)

CROSS SECTION (looking West)

Scale of 1/4" = 1' 0"

C. F. Bell  
 Architect  
 Rochester

Record Office. Augm. Off. Bundle 75. No. 16.

Appendix VII.

Hertfordshire. "Pensions and Annuities." 22 June, 2 Edward VI.

"Rex etc. salutem cum terræ etc. ad victum et sustentationem *Stephen Garret* Incumbentis  
 "nuper cantarice in parochia de fflamsted in comit. hertf. extendent. ad quatuor librarum et  
 "quatuor solidorum p. annum ad manus majestatis sciatis quod nos etc dedimus etc prefato  
 "Stephano quendam annuitatem sive annalem pensionem quatuor librarum et quatuor solidorum  
 "legalis monetæ anglice habend. etc prefato Stephano a festo paschæ ultimo præterito ad  
 "terminum vitæ suæ per manus etc et cum proviso prædicto etc ut supra."

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Extract from Rot. Pat. 10<sup>o</sup> James I. Part II.

Rex etc ad quos hæc saltem.—Sciat quod nos ad humil peticon'em.—Antonii Cope Walteri **Appendix VIII.**  
 pr. de gratia nostra speciali dedimus et concessimus Franco' Morris et Franco Phillip  
 gen. hered. et assign. suis in p'petuum (inter alia) totam illam Rectoriam et ecclesiam nostram  
 de Flamstede in com. n'ro. Hertf. cum. om'bs. etc.—Quondam in tenura sive occupatione  
 Roberti Tirwhit militis, et nuper in separali tenura sive occupationibus Will'mi Skypwith  
 mil. et Christoperi Smyth ar. annuali reddit. sive valor triginta duarum librarum.—P'cer. terr.  
 et possessionum nuper Collegii de Thornton in com. Lincoln, modo dissoluta.

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Apud Westmon. Vicesimo quarto die Martii anno regni Regis Jacobi Aug. &c. decimo.  
 Per brev. de Privat. Sigillo.

Flamstead Church.

To the Vicar and Churchwardens.

GENTLEMEN,

The result of our examination of your very interesting old Church is that we found a very good deal of it in a very dilapidated condition.

The Chancel appears to be in a fairly substantial condition so far as the Fabric is concerned, but dry rot has attacked the Fittings and may spread to the Ancient Screen if not stopped. The Organ, which has recently stood in the Chancel next the South wall, must have been a great obstruction to the beauty of the Church and to the proper arrangement of the Choir. We recommend that an Organ Chamber be built for it on the south side of the Chancel; the only place available for it on the North side is very narrow and cramped, in addition to which—owing to the position of the Rood Loft Staircase—to form a large opening on that side would, to say the least, tend to weaken the stability of the structure.

Proceeding to the Nave Aisles, we find the early masonry of the Arcading has suffered much, and *we see no satisfactory alternative* for that on the North side *but to take it down and rebuild it entirely on a solid foundation.* That on the South side, with the wall above it can we think be strengthened and repaired without taking down. The Respond at the East end is very much crushed, and will require extreme care in dealing with it.

The outer wall of the North Aisle at the Eastern end is very much out of the perpendicular, and we think must be partly taken down and rebuilt, and the foundations either renewed or underpinned. The stonework of the windows is very much perished and dilapidated, and the cusped heads of two of the three-light windows in the South Aisle appear to have been entirely cut out and the space filled with rough brickwork.

The Buttresses of the Aisles have been mostly rebuilt with brickwork, and if there is a desire to keep down the cost as low as possible, we think they might be retained, although it would of course be much more satisfactory to replace them with stone and flint; that at the South-Eastern angle of the South Aisle requires to be to a great extent rebuilt and underpinned.

The Church is worthy of good Oak Roofs both for the Nave and the Aisles, the former being covered of course with lead, and the Aisles, we think, with good Broseley tiles.

The North Porch is in a most dilapidated condition and must be taken down and rebuilt, and there is scarcely any of it that can be reused or that is of any value. The South Porch, although very much dilapidated and patched with brickwork, etc., can be restored in its place, but a great deal is required to be done to it.

The Tower, which has been strengthened by the addition of massive brick supports, both inside and out, is in a far from satisfactory condition; the large Buttress at the South-West angle appears to have settled very considerably, and portions of the South wall are also in a very bad state, but with the stucco it is difficult to tell the extent of the damage.

We think it will be necessary to examine, and probably underpin some parts of the foundations, and to take out and rebuild loose parts of the walling especially with a view to getting rid of the ugly timber strutting. A good deal of bonding and grouting will be necessary in the angles and other parts of the walls.

We are, Gentlemen,

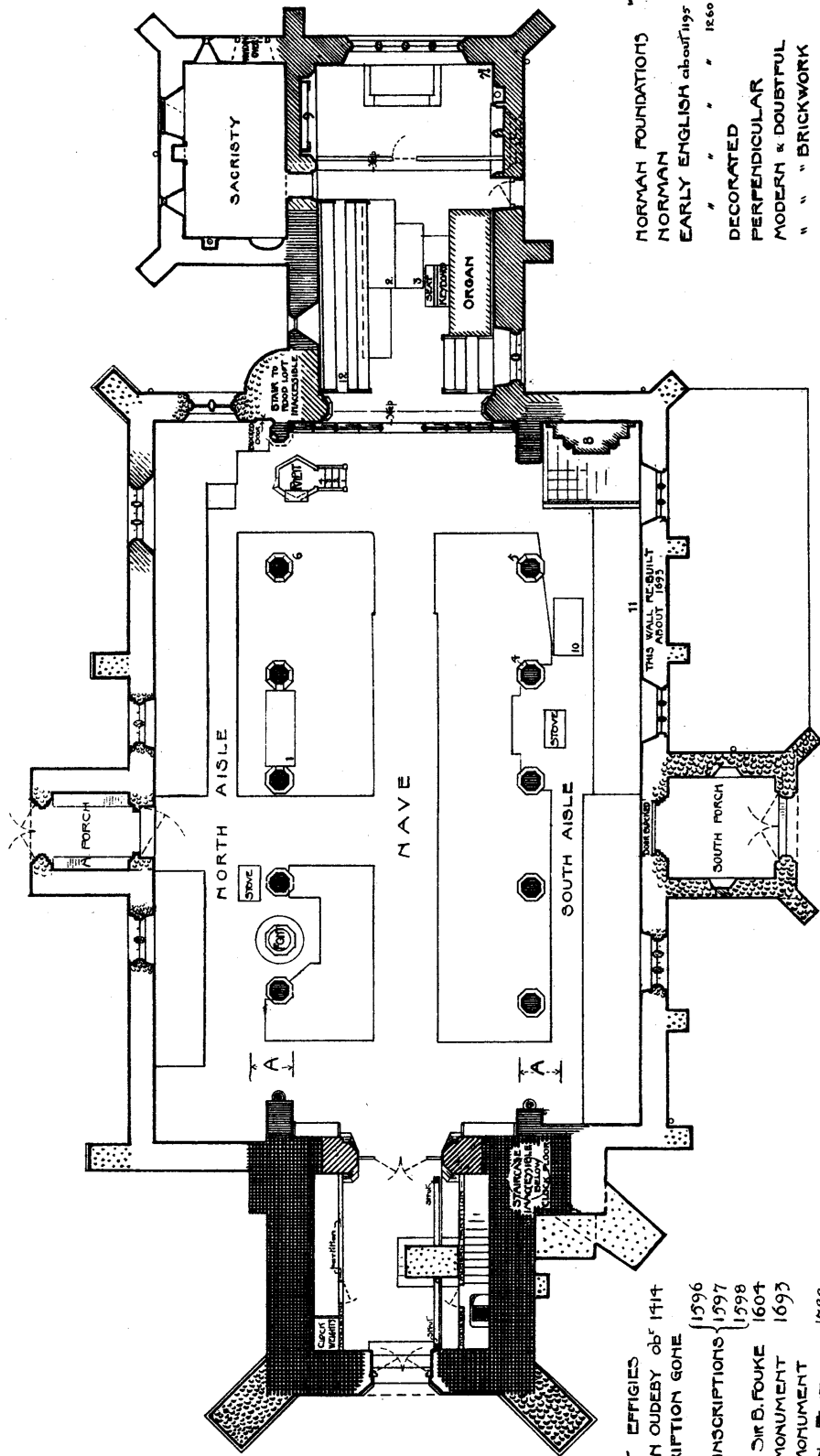
Yours faithfully,

JOHN THOMPSON & CO.

PETERBOROUGH,

OCTOBER 17, 1898.

# CHURCH OF S. LEONARD FLAMSTEAD HERTS.



- 1. RECLINANT EFFIGIES
- 2. BRASS - JOHN OUDEBY OF 1414
- 3. " INSCRIPTION GONE
- 4. " " " "
- 5. " " " "
- 6. " " " "
- 7. MONUMENT SIR B. FOULKE 1598
- 8. SAUNDERS MONUMENT 1604
- 9. SEBRIGHT MONUMENT 1693
- 10. SLAB THOS SAUNDERS 1782
- 11. MONT R. PEARCE 1690
- 12. SLAB - BENEATH THE FLOOR

- NORMAN FOUNDATIONS "A/A"
- NORMAN
  - EARLY ENGLISH about 1195
  - " " " " 1260
  - DECORATED
  - PERFENDICULAR
  - MODERN & DOUBTFUL
  - " " " BRICKWORK

SCALE OF FEET

J.F. Cobb. New & Dalt.