

Marton-cum-Grafton Church, Yorkshire.—By the Rev. J. R. LUNN, B.D., Vicar of Marton-cum-Grafton.

WHEN a Paper is read on a church before an Architectural Society, it is expected that the church is one remarkable for its architecture, or at least for some peculiarities in style, material, or treatment. Such is not the case with that I am to bring before you to-day, and this being so, I ought perhaps to make an apology for reading a Paper on what was about as poor, or even bad, certainly as uninteresting, a mediæval church as could easily be met with. I offer the following: that probably in the worst churches something at least can be found, if not of much architectural value, yet of historical value, and that as the history of the parish church is in most cases the history of the parish itself, anything that has any pretensions to antiquity should be dealt with tenderly, and in the most conservative spirit possible. Furthermore, that whereas the amount of destruction that has been committed under the name of



SOUTH VIEW, MARTON CHURCH, 1863.



SOUTH VIEW, MARTON CHURCH, 1400.

restoration is so great, as that the initiated are almost afraid to see a restored church, and a Society has been called into existence for the preservation of ancient buildings, &c., to save them from the hands of the "restorers," we may be able by the example of this church which I bring before you, to shew how it is possible to preserve anything of antiquity, and in some cases to bring to light meritorious points that were never before supposed to exist. And I would particularly remark that when a church is restored, it is very necessary to have read up previously the registers and all other documents that can throw light upon its history. I had better begin with quoting the description I drew up of it in 1867, and printed in the account of the churches of the Rural Deanery of Boroughbridge.

"This church was never one presenting many points of interest, and appears at some time to have fallen into ruins, and to have been patched up with the only available materials, which are inferior. Of the churches in the deanery it is certainly the rudest in material, being almost entirely built of "cobbles," with some rudely squared stones in the chancel. It consists of a nave and chancel only, with south porch; the total internal length being 91 feet, and breadth 15 feet 6 inches. Of this length the chancel at present occupies 20 feet, and 17 feet is screened off at the west end of the nave making a narthex. The nave has encroached on the chancel to the extent of about 7 feet, thus putting the eastern gable of the nave in the impossible position of being over the priest's door; it is unnecessary therefore to add that there is now no chancel arch. The whole work being so plain, the age of the building cannot be assigned with such exactness as usual, but it would appear to be late in the twelfth century. There are two plain semicircular-headed doorways, which I am more disposed to assign to that date than to the Norman period; three single lancets remain, and three cusped single lights apparently of Middle-pointed date, and several insertions of greater or less unsightliness. The eastern and western gables of the nave are of common brick, and in the narthex is built a small brick tower, 4 feet 9 inches by 3 feet 6 inches internally. I should attribute all this to the date of 1700 or 1722, about which time some repairs were done to this church, soon after the accession of a new Incumbent, (a sun-dial bears the date of 1700 with 'Floreat Ecclesia.') The only thing of real interest in the church is the bell, which tradition says to be the oldest but one in England, it is most probably coeval with the church; it is a small bell, remarkably tall and thick, and round the crown is the inscription in Lombardic capitals reversed '*Campana : sancti : Johannis : Evangeliste.*' Its sound is very dull, its condition however is good. The font is a good plain octagonal one, of the same date as the church, and is fitted with a cover of the latter part of the seventeenth century, the general feeling of which is not bad, but the workmanship is rude.

There are some old open seats left, the ends of which rise into a plain trefoil; on a pew is the inscription '1607 W.P.' and on another 'Mr. W.B., 1822,' (*i.e.*, Wm. Buck II, the Vicar). There are two collecting boxes, the form of which is a shallow circular basin with a handle, on their back is cut 'R.H. 1678,' (Richard Hanley was churchwarden in that year). The general condition of this church is very bad; there appears to be symptoms of the roof falling in at no distant date, and it is deservedly put in the 'black list' in the *Diocesan Calendar*. Its dedication is unknown, it has been stated to be St. Michael and All Angels, but I do not know whether that is trustworthy. The village feast is kept on Easter Monday and Tuesday." To this I ought to add that in the "General View" introductory to the several articles, I had spoken of the influence of Fountains Abbey as possibly producing an effect upon the church of Marton-cum-Grafton, amongst others, a statement which subjected me to several friendly criticisms as being rather too extravagant for any ordinary person to take in.

I confess that when I drew up this description, I did it with some misgivings, and before I finally adopted the view just given of its age, I called in the help of my old friend, Mr. Rowe, your Secretary, and we discussed the subject together on the spot; the hypothesis adopted presented as it seemed, fewer difficulties than any other.

The circular-headed doorways were the inner one of the porch, and the priest's door in the chancel. The former of these was perfectly plain, and had its tympanum filled with cobbles, so that the door itself was a square one, and the semicircular arch was very faulty. This of course we should naturally assign to the Norman period. The other doorway was one of the ordinary type with a plain chamfer all round, clearly of Early First-pointed work. The three lancet windows were evidently of one date, one of them was the western window of the nave, the other two were on the south side of the chancel. This proves that the church had assumed its present dimensions at that period. But the nave windows, two on the south side and one on the north, being cusped single lights, and to them we might add another also on the south side, to which a nondescript head had been added at a much later period, were clearly Middle-pointed. Therefore, on the supposition of an original Norman church, we must have had a complete rebuilding of the whole church in the First-pointed period, and an all but complete rebuilding of the nave in the Middle-pointed period, *i.e.*, in little more than a century, and as the church was built of such poor materials throughout, this seemed extremely unlikely. To avoid this difficulty, we assigned as early a date as possible in the First-pointed period for the original building of the church, and as late a date as possible in the fourteenth century for the rebuilding of its nave.

My misgivings of the correctness of this view were however increased subsequently by the observation of a single stone which was built in the wall above the porch door and nearly concealed by the roof; it was worked with a cable moulding, and unquestionably Norman. When the roof was taken off the porch at the recent demolition of the old church, another stone came to light which was concealed by that roof, but still subject to the action of the weather, it was a voussoir of an arch carved with chevrons. This was nearly enough to upset our compromise hypothesis, and it received its *coup de grace* very soon after the work of demolition had been in process. It ought to be mentioned also that westward of the chancel door, there was a square window inserted to give light to the parson in the prayer-desk, and to delude him into the idea that he was lighted in the pulpit, a benefit which was effectually prevented by his own person, and this window contained a portion of another lancet. The encroachment therefore of the nave on the chancel had been understated at about 7 feet—14 or 15 would be nearer the mark. The east and north walls of the chancel had apparently been rebuilt; and the east window being simply a large round-headed hole with two wooden mullions, assigned the date to the end of the seventeenth century or beginning of the eighteenth. There were no windows whatever on the north side, excepting one Middle-pointed light near the eastern end of the nave, and a modern square small hole cut to light a western gallery. The brick tower was not very offensive in appearance, and this is the best that can be said of it; it was evidently imitated from some that had been built in London and elsewhere of the time of Queen Anne; it is not unlikely that St. Crux at York was its prototype.

We pulled the whole church down to build a new one on another site, using up the old materials.

In the process of demolition several interesting things came to light. First, a number of voussoirs carved with chevrons, and others with cable moulding, were found in the filling up of the west wall. This effectually proved the existence of the Norman church, and upset our compromise. Next, marks of fire were discovered, which accounted for the difficulty in the hypothesis we had rejected, for this might well be referred to the Scotch irruption in 1318; they penetrated nearly as far as Otley, and burnt the churches of Knaresborough, Aldborough, Kirby-on-the-Moor, and others. This necessitated the rebuilding of the nave of our church. And the three old Middle-pointed window heads remaining, had a simple cross incised on them, one indeed had two, one on each face, shewing that these were sepulchral slabs, the last mentioned I make no doubt being an upright church-yard stone. This shews what shifts the builders were then put to to restore the church, and make

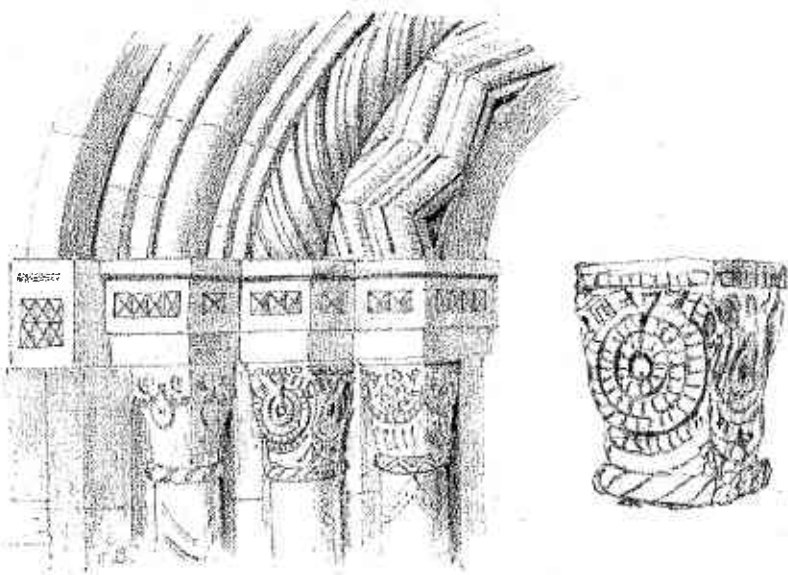
it usable. From Grange's *History of Harrogate* I obtained documentary evidence confirmatory of this fact, and also of a connection existing between Fountains Abbey and this parish.

A small nondescript window, when pulled to pieces, gave us the semi-circular head of a very small Norman window; another, the fellow to it, was found in the rubble, and two more somewhat larger.

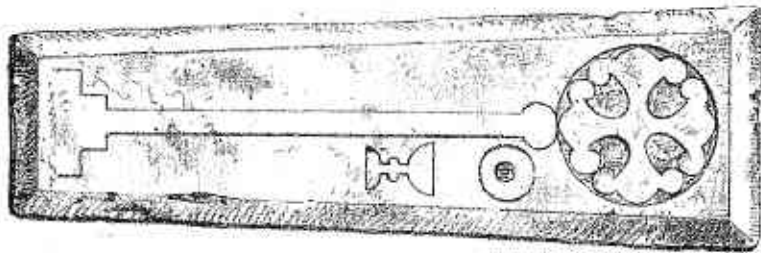
And besides the Norman arch-stones mentioned above, two old capitals, one of beautiful and peculiar design, and a fragment of another which would match it, a quantity of broken pieces of shafting, a single voussoir worked into a plain roll, and a few pieces of label, were found.

These were carefully measured, and their curvature determined by means of the method in Lemma xi. of *Newton's Principia* (perhaps the first time this has ever received such an application): the result shewed them all to belong to the same arch, making it recessed of three orders, and supported on detached shafts: the two carved capitals also fitted, and the shafting. This must evidently have been the Norman chancel arch, and was a very narrow one, being only 3 feet wide, but it took up about 8 feet of wall, and left but little of the 15 feet 6 inches internal width to be plain wall. Two other plain voussoirs were found which matched and completed the faulty arch of the inner porch doorway. All this Norman work was of grit-stone, such as that at Lingerfield quarry, near Knaresborough, and not improbably from that quarry. The First-pointed lancet windows were worked in limestone, very likely from Burton Leonard quarries, and the Middle-pointed ones from a limestone of inferior quality, probably from Knaresborough. We found a portion of a large cylindrical shaft of First-pointed work and a mutilated base that would suit it, and fragments of small octagonal shafts and capitals, of the same date; the former plainly belonged to the chancel arch, but none of the arch itself seems to have escaped destruction: probably it prevented the fire extending much into the chancel. Some fragments of the Middle-pointed arch, its successor, were also found, and part of a capital that supported it. This arch was of two orders, each treated with a simple large chamfer; the capital was of an ordinary type. In the coigning stones of the chancel were found built up a First-pointed piscina, with plain square basin, and a sun-dial of probably the same period. This would of course have been done when the chancel was repaired, or almost rebuilt, at a later date.

The following sepulchral remains were discovered: (1) Two fragments carved with an ornament like that from Herringfleet, in Suffolk, and called the star-ornament; and I am inclined to think these both formed parts of a church-yard cross: this is of course Norman work: there are some others in the neighbourhood, but of



OLD CHANCEL ARCH, MARTON.



In the vestry MARTON.(BOROUGHBRIDGE)YORKS.

1879

probably earlier date, as at Staveley, Cundall, and Kirkby-super-Moram. (2) A fine incised slab whose design is a cross, on the side of which is a chalice and paten bearing a "host" with the sacred monogram, to commemorate a priest, c. 1250: this seems to have been left in a somewhat uncompleted condition. (3) The base and part of the stem of a cross slab. (4) A portion of a stone, bearing on one face a maltese cross, and on the other a saltire, this must plainly have been a standing grave-stone. (5) Two other fragments, one rather rudely incised with the head of a cross on both faces; the other still more rudely incised with what is probably the stem of a cross on both faces; they do not belong to each other, and must have been standing grave-stones. (6) A small early cross, which we have now inserted among the cobbles in the tympanum of the inner porch doorway.

But some remains of later date came out from among the rubble, and elsewhere.

(1) A number of arch voussoirs, and jamb-stones, which had their edges simply rounded off, not chamfered, and two stones which turned this rounded edge at right angles; these might fairly be presumed to belong to a sepulchral recess, and have been rebuilt as such. (2) A small fragment of a gable cross, consisting, when complete, of four circles; from the nature of the limestone, I should assign these to the Middle-pointed period. (3) A much mutilated piscina, or more probably a stoup, of the same date. (4) A fine floriated cross slab, which has lost its base, of about the date 1450.

It ought also to be remarked that the early slab of a priest was cut in two, and put in as window jambs; now this may possibly have been done in the Middle-pointed period, *i.e.*, after the Scotch irruption of 1318, inasmuch as the nave window heads were made out of sepulchral slabs; but I think this is not probable, for the floriated cross just mentioned had received the same treatment, and one of the nave windows (Middle-pointed) in which these slabs were used, had had its head made up with wood in the interior. Another window also had lost its head altogether, which had been replaced by one that could only be called "arched" by a figure of speech, and must plainly have been late in the sixteenth century at least. I therefore attributed to the church a second ruin, at which time these slabs were abstracted from their original purpose, and the chancel arch, and the sepulchral recess just mentioned were destroyed. There is only one time at which this could well have happened, *viz.*, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, so that the immediate visible effect of the Reformation on my parish, was to destroy the Chapel of Grafton entirely (no trace whatever of it has been left), and to leave the Parish Church itself in little better condition. This was confirmed by the woodwork of the roof. One single oak beam remained, whose edges were worked into a roll

moulding, which may be assigned to the Middle-pointed period; all the rest were of the end of the sixteenth century or the beginning of the seventeenth, and I conclude that somewhere about the year 1600 the church was repaired and "done up" as best they could, and they seem to have used materials in the wall-plates, &c., that had been used before, perhaps in the hall that stood near. I do not see how the chancel arch could have disappeared, unless it was from becoming unsafe through neglect and exposure to the weather. The phenomena of the church can be satisfactorily explained by the supposition of its being partially ruined at 1540, and remaining so till the end of the century, but (as it seems to me) on no other hypothesis. The chancel arch then would have been taken down, if it had not fallen, and a new east end built up some 14 feet eastward of it, thus converting the building into a simple room, and leaving the rest of the chancel to its fate. The north and east walls of this seem to have been partially taken down at some time, indeed the north wall was rebuilt somewhat within the old foundations.

The date of 1607 cut on the pew, as mentioned above, of course tallies very well with the date I have assigned to the post-Reformation repair of the church; and somewhere about this time texts must have been painted on the walls in black letter; some remains of these were discovered, but too far gone to be copied. It should be noticed that some simple ornamentation had been painted round the windows in mediæval times.

When the boards containing the Creed, and the Paternoster, fixed on each side of the east window were taken down, they exposed to view two rude paintings on the plaster of Moses and Aaron, in which Moses was drawn with two right hands, and Aaron with two left hands; the feet of these figures had been destroyed by the whitewash, being below the bottom of the boards. This would point to the chancel being rebuilt early in the eighteenth century, and thrown into the church again, a large beam being placed across to hold the eastern gable of the nave, and this brought into use again the chancel door.

When the north wall of the chancel was rebuilt, it was placed somewhat within the old foundations, so that externally the chancel stood about one foot behind the nave, but there was no visible distinction internally, the wall being thinner.

In pulling down the western gallery the eastern arch of the tower was exposed to view (it stood on four arches), and on the plaster was painted the following:

Gloria.

This Steeple Webster Churchwardens.



The rest had been obliterated by whitewash, &c.

On referring to the list of Churchwardens, I fortunately found only one entry of a Webster during the last century: it was William Webster, Churchwarden in 1726; this therefore fixed the date of the erection of the tower.

To recapitulate the above, we have first a small Norman church; this was enlarged in the First-pointed period, about 1180 or 1190; owing to the Hall being near it on the west, it could not be enlarged in that direction, therefore it was enlarged eastwards, and this necessitated the destruction of the Norman chancel arch; it may be observed that such arches as this have often been preserved, when other Norman work was destroyed; on pulling down the church, a corner was discovered 48 feet 9 inches from the north-west angle of the nave, thus defining the external length of the Norman church. The First-pointed church was extended to an internal length of 91 feet; the original breadth, 15 feet 6 inches internally, being retained.

The angles at the north-west and south-west of the nave, being of grit-stone, would appear to be the original Norman work, and probably it was thought that the walls were too good to justify a demolition then, considering the poverty of the place as indicated by the rudeness of the materials, therefore the church was not widened but only lengthened.

Just lately in digging for a grave, a foundation was cut through, going north and south, 39 feet from the east end: this therefore defines the position of the chancel arch, giving a chancel of 39 feet and nave 57 feet externally. Then comes the Scotch irruption of 1318, when the nave was burnt, and rebuilt immediately afterwards. Then the ruin of the Reformation period, when the church was apparently unused for three-quarters of a century. Then the encroachment of the nave on the chancel, to the extent of 15 feet, changing the church into a nave only of 73 feet external length. Then the resumption of the chancel about 1700, and the addition of the tower in 1726.

The demolition of the old church most thoroughly confirmed my judgment of it, that anything of interest could only be expected to be discovered by pulling it all to pieces. Its situation being quite away from the village, rendered the scheme of a "restoration" unadvisable: the new church which has taken its place is in the village, and I trust affords an example of as conservative a restoration as can well be met with. It consists of a nave 42 feet by 21 feet 6 inches internally, and chancel 22 feet by 18 feet, with south vestry and north porch. A double bell-cot is provided at the west end, and the old bell is hung in a supplemental cot on the side of the vestry chimney, which by the way is a great improvement to its appearance. The style adopted is Early Middle-pointed somewhat of a French type, the eastern window is of three-lights, and the nave windows of two-lights, with Geometrical plate-tracery

in their heads; the west window is a triplet of cusped lancets. Two of the three lancet windows existing in the old church are inserted on the north and south sides of the sacrum; and the other, the stone of which was thought too decayed to be so built up, has been shortened and forms a cupboard in the vestry. Two of the three Middle-pointed windows of the nave have been put together to form a double-light window for the vestry, and the third which was too decayed, forms the fire-place. The sepulchral slabs, fragment of Middle-pointed chancel arch, &c., have been inserted in the vestry. The old inner porch door, a plain Early Norman one, takes the corresponding position in the new church; the defects in its arch are supplied by the missing stones recovered, and Norman abaci and plinths found in the rubble put to it; one of the Early sepulchral crosses is inserted in the tympanum. The small Early shafting and capitals have been copied in the shafts of the western windows, and the porch gable cross reproduced from the fragment found. The old chancel doorway now occupies the analogous position as vestry door. The portions of the old Norman chancel arch have been put together and now form the vestry entrance from the chancel, and will very fairly compare now with such door-ways as those at S. Margaret's (York), Adel, Nun-Monkton, and Old Malton. Of course some considerable quantity had to be worked new, but it was almost all done out of old stone, taking the coigning stones of Norman wall, which were of grit.

Two capitals for this Norman arch we had already; two were copied from Canterbury, and two from a very little known church, Windrush in Gloucestershire, which also afforded us some carving for the shafts, which we put on the modern ones, leaving the old ones plain. A base could not be discovered, we therefore copied one from Burford in Oxfordshire, but not servilely, adding to it a leaf. The abaci were enriched with the star-ornament, for which we have preserved the authority in the vestry. Some First-pointed plinth stones of good white limestone I had built up as a super-altar ledge, and they have since been improved by a little carved foliage. The First-pointed piscina is placed in the chancel, and from part of the Middle-pointed chancel arch stones and capital is made a bracket-credence. As the plinth of the old font turned out to be little else than brick and cement, we had to make a new support for it, which is of eight clustered shafts; the old base being re-used for the bases

I take the opportunity to put on record that the actual amount of new stone procured for the restoration of this arch cost only 25 or 26 shillings, so little did I contrive to want. I know this, because I was obliged to take the restoration of this arch into my own hands, inasmuch as the builder had made himself very awkward, and had set both the architect and me at defiance, and evidently wanted to prevent its being restored. I may mention here that it is remarkable what antipathy builders and masons seem to have to any old work. They wanted to re-tool all the lancet windows, to make them look new (1/1); but I insisted that their antiquity was their only interest, and if they were re-tooled, they would not be worth inserting at all.

of them, and capitals worked from Knaresborough limestone which matched it best. And to relieve the plainness of the basin, I put round it the celebrated inscription for the font at Constantinople Cathedral of the fifth century—NIΨON ANOMHMA MH MONAN OΨIN, which reads the same also backwards. I wish I could have found an English inscription possessing the same property.

Fortunately I learnt that when the New Chapel at St. John's College, Cambridge, was built, there was a small quantity of old oak panels carved in linen-fold pattern, which could not be used there; these were given to me, and with the old oak benches have made up a pulpit and two chancel seats with their desks; the inscription stated above as W.P. 1607, being carefully preserved; they harmonize very well together. This inscription occurred twice, and in one of them, when the paint had been cleaned off, it turned out to be W.B. The other one still stands as W.P., but it looks as if it had been begun to be altered into B. Who this W.B. was I can but conjecture, and I should say it would be an ancestor of Richard Browne who left, some century afterwards, a charity to the poor of the parish. Also the collecting boxes of 1678 have been cleaned and oiled, and lined with velvet, and form very satisfactory articles of use. Some of the oak beams of the old church roof have been used in making up the altar, and one appears in the vestry roof.

The proverbial toad made its appearance when the old church was pulled down, but I did not see it. The account one of the workmen gave me, was that on November 22nd, 1873, he found a toad in the foundation of the south wall. It was covered with a kind of shell; it moved a little, and then he "strake it with his spade" over the churchyard wall into the adjoining field.

It may be as well to call attention to the illustration which is given of Marton Church, in the year 1400. The idea struck me that it would be a very easy matter to reproduce this from the existing church; accordingly before the demolition I made a sketch on the spot: the process simply consisted in wiping out the non-descript windows that had been inserted, restoring the westernmost window of the chancel, curtailing the nave to its old dimensions, pulling down the porch, and effacing the tower. The western gable however had to be restored, and the opening in it for the bell is of course conjectural. I thought a thatched roof most likely, as reeds, rushes, &c., would be procurable from the lake in the parish.

The dedication of the old church of Marton-cum-Grafton is unknown, but I strongly suspect it is All Saints. In the description I drew up before, I mentioned that it had been stated to be S. Michael and All Angels; I have never met with any thing to corroborate that opinion, and am now convinced that it is untenable. By a process of exhaustions we may arrive at something like a conclusion respecting the dedication.

The eleven Martons in Yorkshire are the following :—

- (1) Marton-cum-Grafton, *alias* Marton in Burghshire.
- (2) Marton-le-Moor, a village about equi-distant with the preceding from Boroughbridge, but on the other side of it.
- (3) Marton in Craven, *alias* East Marton, *alias* Church Marton.
- (4) West Marton.
- (5) Marton in Cleveland, near Redcar.
- (6) Marton in Galtres.
- (7) Marton-cum-Farlington and Moxby.
- (8) Marton Lordship.
- (9) Marton, near Flamborough Head.
- (10) Marton, near Aldborough, Hull.
- (11) Marton, near Normanby and Pickering.

Of these, West Marton has no church, being a hamlet to East Marton; and Marton near Flamborough, and that near Normanby, have no churches, or at least had none in the Middle Ages; Marton Lordship, and Marton-cum-Farlington and Moxby, are I believe, identical with Marton in Galtres; Marton in Craven is a rectory, and has its church dedicated to S. Peter; and Marton in Cleveland is a vicarage, its church dedicated to S. Cuthbert; and in a list of *Yorkshire Church Dedications*, lately published by Canon Raine, there is mentioned a Marton All Hallows, (*ubi?*). It would seem that this must be one of the following four: Marton-cum-Grafton, Marton-le-Moor, Marton in Galtres, and Marton near Hull.

Marton-le-Moor is considered now a Chapelry of Topcliffe, but was unquestionably a Chapelry of Kirkby-supra-Moram, and was "annexed" by Topcliffe about 1730; and as the dedication of the Church of Kirkby is All Saints, it would seem unlikely that this Marton can be the one mentioned as All Hallows. Marton in Galtres is a Chapelry also, and I believe it is positively asserted that its dedication is not All Saints. Marton, near Hull, is a Chapelry to Swine; and Marton-cum-Grafton is a Vicarage. Now All Hallows was a very common dedication in Saxon times, and of course this would extend over the earliest part of the purely Norman period also; therefore I think a fair probability is established of the dedication of my church being All Hallows. I am vexed that this was not known earlier, for it would have decided me to adopt All Saints for the dedication of the new church. I had indeed thought about that, but considered S. Cyprian preferable for certain reasons: ultimately in conferring with the Bishop, we adopted Christ Church for its dedication.

It would seem most probable that one of the Mauleverers, which family came in with the Conqueror and settled at Allerton Mauleverer, the adjoining parish, where they remained till they became extinct in the last century, built a house and the original

Norman church here. Their possessions extended as far as Boroughbridge, and the fact is perpetuated by the sign of the three Greyhounds Hotel, which is the Mauleverers' Arms, and was at one time a mansion of theirs.

Radulph Mauleverer gave one carucate of land in Grafton to the abbot and convent of Fountains.

There is an estate in Grafton mentioned in *Domesday Book* as the Archbishop's, appropriated to the maintenance of the Canons, which of course is the origin of one of the Stalls in York Cathedral: this stall has always been called Grindal, but I noticed particularly that in the enclosure award of Grafton in 1803, it was called Grafton and Grindall, and as it happened that the then Prebendary (Henry Goodricke, Vicar of Hunsingore) died during the proceedings, the name occurs several times. I cannot suppose that this was put in without good authority, and therefore I must plead for the restoration of the full title "Grafton and Grindall" on the label put up in the stalls on the north side of the choir of the Metropolitan Church.

Some lands in Marton belonged to the Priory of Nun Monkton, they were worth xls. at the Dissolution; and the Priory in Helauigh Park, and S. Leonard's, York, had also possessions here; and for some time there appears to have been a pension of 13s. 4d. paid to King's College, Cambridge. The rectory and advowson belonged to the Priory of Old Malton, granted to it by a charter of Hugh de Flamville, which unfortunately bears no date.

I think it may with reason be supposed that the enlargement of the church in the First-pointed period was done by the monastery of Malton, and the length of the chancel especially favours this supposition.

The next matter of consequence is the Scotch invasion in 1318. They were led by Lord Randolph and Sir James Douglas, and devastated the whole of this part of the country. Ripon bought itself off by a large sum; Boroughbridge, Aldborough, Kirkby-supra-Moram, Knaresborough, Marton-cum-Grafton, and other places were burnt and pillaged. The people seem to have been left in a destitute condition, as in the following year writs were issued by the king discharging his tenants from the payment of rents; similar writs were issued to the Abbot of Fountains (I read in Grange's *History of Harrogate*), to discharge his tenants at Grafton for the same reason. This was the first evidence I met with for the truth of my suspicion that there might be a connection between Fountains Abbey and Marton, and that the church was burnt by the Scotch. The writ is extremely interesting, as it shews the extent to which the devastation was carried. The following places are mentioned in it as destroyed:—Spofforth, Wetherby, Lynton, Lethelay, Kerby, Kirkeby, Gisburn-in-Craven, Setil, Gikelswik, Ickelay, Westby, Staynford, Langclif, Routhwell, Topcliffe, Neuby, Carleton, Cristwayt,

Astenby, Kirkelevyngton, Difford (Dishforth) and Renyngton (Rainton), Eryum, Scurveton, South Kilvyngton, Southottrington, Kirkobywisk, Neusum, Melmorby, Aynderby, Rukeby, Pikal, Riggeton, Staynburgh, Rippelay, Sedbergh, Burton, Thornton, Twysilton, Ingelton, Glapham, Austewyk, Bentham, Maunby, Solbergh, Neuby-supra-Wisk, Kirtlington, Northalverton, Broumpton, Romundeby, Thornton-in-vinär, Nanyngton, Berghby, Sourby, Northkilvyngton, Thornton-in-the-Strede, Northottrington, Bretteby, Sigston, Thymelby Hoton, Parva Smytheton, Hornby, Grisby, Osmunderlaie, Northcontou, Sutton Hongave, Sandhoton, Skipton-supra-Swale, Nouton-supra-Swale, Thornton-supra-More, Grafton, and Kirkeby-supra-Moram.

I think it may be fairly assumed that the rebuilding of the nave after the ruin caused by the Scotch was mainly done by the monastery of Malton, the people contributing their labour. It has been already seen that it was done as much as possible from the materials on the spot, gravestones being worked into window-heads, &c. Probably little fresh stone was used except to construct a new chancel arch, and apparently this stone was brought from Knaresborough, which is much nearer than Burton Leonard, but the stone is of inferior quality. And to this date I assign also a stoup, which has been sadly mutilated, and which I have preserved in the vestry.

When the font was cleaned of the yellow wash which covered it, the stone of which its basin was made appeared to be also from Knaresborough; it would seem most probable then that the old one had been destroyed in the Scotch fire, and this was a new one made in 1319 or 1320.

It has been one of the charges brought against the monasteries that "they lavished decorations on their own chapels, to the comparative neglect of their country churches." I question this. I found a stone which had been curiously but roughly chipped away, and the only thing I can imagine it to be is the internal and concealed roof of a niche, to hold of course a statue of a saint or perhaps of the Blessed Virgin.

I have mentioned already my suspicion that the church lay in ruins during much of the sixteenth century. I think this is confirmed by the will of John Lockey; he was presented by Edward VI. to the vicarage in 1552, and his will (published by Canon Raine in *Richmondshire wills*) dated December 5th, 1572, directs that he should be buried "in the Chauncell of Marton Church, where my Predecessor dyd lye. Item, I bequethe to everye gorse house with Marton and Grafton iiij d. Item, I give and bequethe unto the reparacion of Marton Church afforesaid vj s. viij d. Inventory debts owing to y^e aforesaid John Lockey of y^e parishing of Marton. Item, for common booke ij s. vj d. Item, for calendar booke x d. Item, for Omylies of disobydience viij d. Item, to Thomas Burdsall and Peter Matterson for books ij s."

I suspect that the post-Reformation alterations were done during the incumbency of Nicholas Dixon, the next vicar after John Lockey whose name is preserved, but it seems to me most probable that there had been a long vacancy, as it is most likely that Lockey died soon after he executed his will in 1572, and Dixon was not presented till 1598. He was presented by the Bishop of Chester, it is thought in consequence of a lapse, and probably this may have had something to do with the alterations in the fabric.

Soon after the patronage and rectory had passed into the hands of St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1700, the newly-appointed vicar, William Buck, put up a sun-dial on the south side of the chancel. He had in 1698 put up one on the porch of Kirkby Malzeard church where he was curate, which I understand is a similar one to ours. The design is a good one, but the hour lines are not cut very accurately. They were painted red, and there appear traces of gilding on the floral ornamentation at the top. It bears the inscription "W.B. 1700, Floreat Ecclesia." Perhaps it may be taken as an omen of his expecting better times coming on the parish from the commencement of the new regime under a large and powerful ecclesiastical corporation.

When the old church was demolished, this dial accidentally fell down, and the iron style was broken off; but this was not much to be regretted, as it had been tampered with before. I have substituted a solid copper style, pierced with my own initials, and as it is considered proper to put something enigmatical on a sun-dial, I have also pierced this style with C. xiv., being the Sunday Letter and the Golden Number of the year of rebuilding, from which date posterity may determine the year.

William Buck II., son of the former, became Vicar in 1721, and the next year saw extensive works in the chancel done by St. John's College. The following notice in our Register is worthy of citation, from its perserving the expenses.

"Memorandum. In the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two, the Chancel of the Parish Church of Marton-cum-Grafton was repair'd and new Leaded by the order of the Rev. Dr. Lambert, then Bursar of St. John's College in Cambridge, the Plummers work cost fifteen pounds six shillings and sixpence, the Joyners seven pounds; also for Mason and Smith's work one pound five shillings and Eleven-pence. There was also then by the same Orders two Pews built in the Chancel, that on the North Side for the Use of the College, and Tenant; the other on the South Side for the Use of the Vicars of this Parish for Ever. Ita testor W. Bucke, Vic."

This Dr. Lambert was afterwards Master of the College.

The amount of leading is about 24 feet square, the roof being nearly flat. The "Mason's" account I should be inclined to take

as referring to the expense of the eastern window. I cannot very well refer the rebuilding (wholly or partly) of the north and east walls to any other period than this; but the item here given seems too small to cover that amount of work.

In 1726, as has been said before, the tower of the church was built, inside the western end of the nave and independently of it, standing on four piers, all of common brick, as if dropped through the roof, but touching the western wall. There is no record at St. John's College connected with this; I presume therefore that the parishioners did this work themselves. The western gable of the nave would seem to have been made up at this time also of brick, and pierced with a circular window.

When the tower was taken down, a mason's plummet was found imbedded in one of the piers.

About the end of the eighteenth century I should imagine that other alterations were made in the church. There were four pews in the chancel, the nave being supplied with plain open oak seats: one of these on the north side disappeared and was altered into a double seat adjoining the pews, which were of oak. A gallery of deal was erected at the west end, and the font and tower screened off, and two large pews built, one on each side close to it; these were soon succeeded by three others, leaving the open seats in the centre. This was the state of the church when I first knew it, except that the vicarage pew in the chancel had been taken down, being found an obstruction to turning coffins round in the funeral service. All this work was of deal, and of course was painted; the only good thing that can be said of it is that it unintentionally preserved a record which fixed the date of the tower.

It is unfortunate that the successors of the two Bucks did not follow their example of recording in the register books such items as those of the erection of the gallery and pews, and it is a matter of surprise that the younger Wm. Buck did not himself record the erection of the tower.

I shall conclude with a moral.

(1) Never despise any old church, however poor; it is almost certain that something of interest may come to light in it some time or other; perhaps you may have to pull it all to pieces to discover these things.

(2) Preserve everything that is old: and beware especially of the nefarious ideas of masons' and bricklayers' men, who either want to re-tool old things to make them new, and thus destroy whatever interest they have, or else out of sheer mischief or vexation at not having their own way, will hack about old work so as to try to make it impossible to be preserved. I can sympathise now with Pugin, and am beginning to be afraid to see a church that has been restored, knowing what an enormous amount of destruction gets inadvertently, and intentionally also, committed under the name of restoration.

(3) When you pull an old church to pieces, look at every stone as it comes out of the wall.

(4) Do not be afraid of making conjectures. The ecclesiologist's eye can roll in as fine a frenzy as the poet's can. If some of these conjectures are wrong (which is very likely to be the case), these mistakes will yet help you to come to a right conclusion.

I can only wish you will have the luck that I had one day. I began to make a rough sketch of the restoration of the Norman chancel arch when there were only two stones to work from. I modified this as more stones came out; and once when I was watching the demolition, a stone was on the point of being carted away as a "cobble," but it seemed to have been worked somehow, and I asked for it to be handed up to me. I recognised it as what I had drawn a week before, and shewed to my churchwarden who was then with me, and said, "This is the stone I have been looking for every day for the last fortnight." It was a plain Norman capital of the double-cushion type, and is now in its place in the restored arch.