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A new edition of 'Winkles's Cathedrals', revised and brought up to date. Published in 27 monthly parts, Nov. 1886 till Jan. 1889. This description of Rochester Cathedral (vol. 1, pp. 133–52) appeared in part 5 (Mar. 1887). The text was revised in a perfunctory manner, with some assistance from W. H. St. John Hope; corrections and additions are printed black below. The last four pages (pp. 149–52) are altogether new, and there are two new illustrations.

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## ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

The diocese of Rochester, **once** the smallest of any in England,<sup>/1</sup> formerly consisted of the western division of the county of Kent, being separated from that of Canterbury, chiefly by the Medway; but there are several parishes belonging to this see eastward of that river, its natural boundary being the Theyse or Teise, a small stream, which, after taking its course through the villages of Hunton and Gillingham, falls into the Medway at Yalding. A bishopric with a college of secular priests, was founded at Rochester in 604 by Ethelbert, king of Kent, soon after Augustine the monk had landed in the Isle of Thanet, and preached the gospel at Canterbury. The college was endowed with land, southward of the city, appropriately named Priestfield, but its revenue was small.

Priestfield still belongs to the church of Rochester. Ethelbert also erected the first church here, and dedicated it to the honour of God and the Apostle St. Andrew.<sup>/2</sup> Rochester was almost destroyed in the year 676 by Ethelbert, king of Mercia, and the city suffered greatly during the invasions of England by the Danes in the ninth century; but it appears to have recovered its importance in the reign of Athelstan, when there were three mint masters, two who superintended the king's coinage, and one who superintended that of the bishop.

<sup>/1</sup> In 1845 the greater part of Essex and the Archdeaconry of St Alban's were taken from London and added to Rochester. In 1875 another sweeping re-arrangement was made, Essex and St. Alban's being taken away to form a new diocese of St. Alban's, and all south London was transferred from Winchester and London to Rochester.

<sup>/2</sup> King Ethelbert's church was dedicated to St. Andrew, out of respect to the monastery of St. Andrew, at Rome, whence Augustine and the other monks were sent by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons. Bishop Paulinus, formerly bishop of York, was buried in it in 644; Bishop Ythamar was buried in it in 655; and Bishop Tobias was buried in 726, "in the apse (in porticu) of St. Paul, which within the church of St. Andrew he had made into a place of sepulture for himself." This may refer to the custom of building an apse at each end of the churches after the Roman manner. This church of Ethelbert seems to have occupied part of the site of the nave of the present building.

The Cathedral Church, which was one of the earliest built in England after the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons, had become dilapidated in the reign of William the Conqueror.

Gundulf, a monk of the royal abbey of Bec, near Rouen, in Normandy, was consecrated bishop of Rochester, by Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, on March 19, 1077. He was a prelate not so much distinguished for his eminence in learning as for his remarkable industry and unwearied zeal in promoting the interest of the church. Bishop Gundulf removed the secular canons from the church of St. Andrew, and replaced them with monks of the Benedictine order. He at the same time conveyed to them part of the estates belonging to the see. Out of these manors the bishop reserved to himself and his successors a right to certain articles of provision, to be delivered annually at the bishop's palace, on the festival of St. Andrew, under the name of xenium, or a token of hospitality.<sup>/3</sup> The claims of the bishops to the xenium were often contested by the monks, and afterwards the bishops consented to receive a composition in money instead of the provisions in kind, the corn being always estimated at the current price.

Bishop Gundulf, by the assistance of his patron, Archbishop Lanfranc, acquired money enough to begin to rebuild his Cathedral Church and enlarge the priory, and, although he did not live to complete the entire work he had undertaken, he laid the foundation of the future prosperity of his see.<sup>/4</sup>

"The plan of Gundulf's church," says Mr. W. H. St. John Hope,<sup>/5</sup> "was peculiar, and differed considerably from the typical Norman one. It consisted of a nave and aisles which, though unfinished, were intended to be at least nine bays long; an aisleless transept, 120ft. long, but only 14ft. wide; and an eastern arm with aisles six bays long – an unusual number for a Norman church – terminating in a square end, instead of an apse, with a

<sup>/3</sup> The record is printed in *Registrum Roffense*, a collection of ancient charters necessary for illustrating the ecclesiastical history and antiquities of the Diocese and Cathedral Church of Rochester, by John Thorpe, London, 1769, fol.

<sup>/4</sup> For the life of Gundulf, by Dean Hook, see the *Archæological Journal*, vol. 21, pp. 1-28; also a notice by the Rev. Thomas Hugo, "Journal of British Archæological Association," vol. ix., pp. 231-270.

<sup>/5</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xlix. (1886), p. 325.

small rectangular chapel projecting from the centre of the front. The four easternmost bays were raised upon an undercroft. There was no tower over the crossing, nor any towers flanking the west end, but a detached campanile stood in the angle between the

choir and north transept, and to balance it, as it were, another tower was erected in a corresponding position on the south side, but of smaller size, and an integral portion of the fabric."

"Before Gundulf began his new church, and probably just after this consecration, he erected to the east of the old minster a massive tower. This still remains on the north side of the church. It is, however, a mere shell, stripped of its ashlar lining, and reduced in height to about forty feet. It was originally nearly twice that height, for there are no windows in the triforium of the present north transept, opposite its western side, and it was lofty enough for a flying bridge to be thrown over to it from the top of the Early English turret at the north-west angle of the choir transept." At a very early period both Gundulf's towers were used as bell-towers; but the southern one disappeared at an uncertain date.

The cathedral originally served both for monks and citizens, the parishioners worshipping at a separate altar dedicated to St. Nicholas. It stood in the nave against the rood loft; but in 1423, owing to disputes, it was removed to a new church built by the parish, to the north of the cathedral, in the cemetery called "Grenechirchewale."

At the present time, according to Mr. St. John Hope (*Archæologia*, vol. 49), the following portions of the Norman church can be identified: (1) three bays of the north wall of the north nave-aisle, up to the first string-courses, with the bases of three buttresses (though one of these is no longer visible); (2) four and a half bays of the south wall of the south nave-aisle; (3) five bays of the south arcade of the nave, as high as the triforium passage; but with later Norman outer-face substituted on the nave side, and the piers have been re-cased; (4) the great north tower; (5) the western half of the undercroft.

From borings made by Mr. Ashpitel in 1851,<sup>/6</sup> and excavations

<sup>/6</sup> See his paper, "Journal of British Archæological Association," vol. ix.

by Mr. St. John Hope in 1881, it has been proved that Gundulf's church terminated in a square end; that the eastern limb had aisles equal in length to the presbytery, and that beyond the main east wall was a small rectangular chapel. The eastern part of the church was only about seventy-six feet by sixty broad, the aisles being, however, completely shut off by solid walls from the choir, as in the present building. The undercroft, of which the western half remains almost in its original state, consisted of a central portion and aisles, supported on rows of columns, two of which still exist. The arches are of the plainest imaginable description. The roof is a plain rubble vault without ribs of any kind, and retains its original plastering. The undercroft was originally entered from the upper church by a roundheaded doorway at the west end of the north aisle, now blocked. It is now entered from

the south aisle, the steps and doorway dating from 1205, when the eastern half of the undercroft was removed, and the fine Early English extension added.

Bishop Gundulf removed the remains of St. Paulinus, who had been buried in the old church, into some part of his new fabric, which he caused to be completed for that purpose, probably, as Mr. W. H. St. John Hope suggests, the small eastern chapel projecting from the front. He enclosed the remains in a shrine of silver, at the expense of Archbishop Lanfranc. St. Ythamar, the first English bishop of this see, died A.D. 655: his remains were afterwards enshrined in the new church by Bishop John, about the year 1130, and the priory contained a legend of his miracles.

Gundulf exchanged with Odo, bishop of Bayeux and earl of Kent, some church land for three acres without the southern wall of the city of Rochester. Earl Odo is also said to have granted to the monks ground for a vineyard, the same which is now called "The Vines." By several charters it appears that the monks had a vineyard thereabouts.<sup>/7</sup>

King William the Conqueror, at his death, is said to have

<sup>/7</sup> In some of the old leases there is mention of considerable quantities of black-berries delivered by the tenants of the bishop, which were used to colour the wine made from grapes growing in this vineyard. In parts of the weald of Kent the vine still grows wild in the hedges, and evidence of the vine having formerly

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given one hundred pounds and his royal robe to the Cathedral Church of Rochester, as a proof of his regard for Bishop Gundulf, who, being of great celebrity as an architect, had been employed by the king in directing the buildings in the tower of London.

When King William Rufus ascended the throne, Bishop Gundulf obtained several grants in favour of the church of Rochester, and from that king's successor, Henry I., he procured many privileges for the monks of St. Andrew's priory. In the grant of a fair to the city, held on the festival of St. Paulinus, the monks had permission to vend their merchandise after the king and his servants.

Amongst other munificent acts, Bishop Gundulf founded a hospital at Chatham, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, an endowment still existing under the patronage of the dean and chapter of the Cathedral. He also founded and endowed a nunnery at Malling, near Maidstone, the remains of which building attest its early Norman origin. The bishop also repaired the castle-walls of Rochester.

Bishop Gundulf, after having held the see of Rochester thirty-two years, during the reigns of William I. and II. and Henry I., died on the 7th of March, 1107, and was buried before the altar of the crucifix in his own Cathedral.

Ralph, his successor, being appointed archbishop of Canterbury in 1114, Ernulf, abbot of Peterborough, was advanced to the see of Rochester. This bishop also was an architect, and had a large share in the re-building of Conrad's choir at Canterbury, of which monastery he was prior. He was a great benefactor to the priory of St. Andrew, and built the chapter-house, dorter, and frater of the convent. Bishop Ernulf is supposed to have been the author of "Textus Roffensis," a manuscript relating to the early history of his Cathedral. He died in the year 1124.

The Cathedral of Rochester was entirely completed during the

flourished in England is found in many names of places, as the Vineyard, near Gloucester, and the Vineyard, in Herefordshire, although it has been maintained that the vineyards of England were the apple orchards, and the wine, cider. The whole process of planting, pruning, stamping and pressing of vines, was represented in an ancient stained glass window, formerly in a house at Chilwell, near Nottingham.

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prelacy of his successor John, archdeacon of Canterbury, who was advanced to this see in 1125. The dedication of the church was celebrated on Ascension Day, the 7th of May, 1130, in the presence of King Henry I., many of the nobility and principal dignitaries of the church, including the archbishop of Canterbury, eleven English and two Norman bishops.<sup>/8</sup> A dreadful fire seriously damaged the new church in the year 1137, and again in 1179.

In the year 1185, the thirty-second of the reign of Henry III., Gilbert de Glanville, who had been archdeacon of Liseux, in Normandy, was appointed bishop of Rochester. He was a patron of architecture, and besides building the palace, he finished the cloisters of the monks with stone, and provided an organ for the church. The bishop, in 1197, exchanged Lambeth, in Surrey, then the property of this see, with Hubert Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, for the manor of Darenth, reserving out of the exchange a part of the land, on which he erected Rochester-place, a mansion fit for the reception of the bishops of Rochester whenever they came to attend parliament.<sup>/9</sup>

Bishop Glanville for many years was involved in a controversy with the prior and monks of the convent, and during this period, it is stated that the silver plates covering the shrine of St. Paulinus were converted by the monks into money; they were, however, at last compelled to submit to their diocesan. These disputes considerably retarded the progress of the reconstruction of those parts of the Cathedral Church which had been destroyed by the fire.

The choir, rebuilt under the direction of William de Hoo, the sacrist, was first used in 1227. All the eastern part of the church is recorded to have been rebuilt with the large gifts bestowed at

the shrine of St. William of Perth, an alleged martyr, whose

/8 Bishop John, who built the church of Frindsbury, about two miles northward from this city, granted it to the Cathedral, for the purpose of supplying the wax tapers, which burnt continually on the high altar.

/9 Stangate stairs, at Lambeth, were constructed by Bishop Shepey, in 1357, for the convenience of himself and retinue in crossing the Thames to Westminster. The last bishops of Rochester who resided at Lambeth were Bishops Fisher and Hilsley. The palace afterwards fell into the hands of King Henry VIII., who exchanged it with the bishop of Carlisle for certain houses in the Strand.

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canonisation was procured by Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin; a rich shrine **was** erected to his memory **in** the northern **choir-**transept. This device procured a fund of wealth to the church, which continued productive for almost three hundred years.

Hamo de Hythe, prior of the convent of St. Andrew, who had been chaplain to his predecessor, Bishop Woldam, was appointed bishop of Rochester in the year 1316, but he was obliged to wait two years and a-half before his consecration, which was not performed till 1319. This prelate was confessor to king Edward II., and a very great benefactor to the Cathedral. In the year 1343, in conjunction with Prior Shepey, who was afterwards bishop, he caused the massive central tower of the church to be raised higher and covered with lead. Four new bells were at the same time placed in the tower, which were named Dunstan, Paulinus, Ythamar, and Lanfranc. Bishop Hamo de Hythe also rebuilt the shrines of St. Paulinus and St. Ythamar, of marble and alabaster, to contain their sacred relics; and presented to the church a magnificent mitre, which had once belonged to Archbishop à Becket. He rebuilt the **frater** of the convent, and a mansion at Trottescliff, or Trosley, one of the bishop's palaces near Maidstone. The great hall of the episcopal palace at Halling was also erected by Bishop Hamo de Hythe./10

In the year 1326, as King Edward II. was returning from Leeds castle, then the seat of Lord Badlesmere, steward of the royal household, he was met by the bishop of Rochester, near Boxley, who, after attending the king to his palace at Rochester, conducted the sovereign part of the way towards Gravesend.

At the dissolution of religious houses, the priory of St. Andrew, at Rochester, was surrendered in 1542 to the king; and by a new charter, granted in June, 1542, the church, with part of the estates of the dissolved priory and other possessions, was vested for ever in a new establishment, consisting of a dean, six prebendaries, six minor canons, a deacon, sub-deacon, six lay clerks, eight choristers, with a master and grammar master, twenty scholars, two sub-sacristis,

/10 No remains of the palace now exist, except a few fragments; it was situated on the banks of the Medway, about four miles from Rochester.

and six bedesmen. The last prior, Walter de Boxley, was appointed the first dean after the granting of the charter.

The precincts of the Cathedral appear to have formerly occupied nearly half the area within the walls of the city. There were three gates leading into this liberty: the cemetery gate, which opened from the Market Cross upon the western front of the church; St. William's gate led from the High-street to the porch on the northern front of the transept; and the prior's gate towards the vineyard, on the southern side of the church. **Of the monastic buildings, the walls of the chapter house and frater still exist, with portions of the dorter subvault.** The site of the bishop's palace, which had been rebuilt by Bishop Lowe, in the year 1459, **was south of the nave. The walls of the great hall still remain, though much obscured by modern dwellings.** The deanery is situated where the prior's lodging **was believed to have stood, with its gardens extending south-eastward.**

The Cathedral of Rochester, like every other in the kingdom, suffered much injury at the time of the Reformation, in consequence of the rage which then prevailed for destroying everything decorated with a cross. To such an extent was it carried that Queen Elizabeth, in the second year of her reign, found it necessary to issue a proclamation against persons guilty of the offence, and to give greater weight to her determination, signed each copy with her own autograph./11

The fury of the popular party during the civil war was extended to this Cathedral, although it certainly suffered less from their unreasonable bigotry than some other sacred edifices./12 The altar was then removed into a lower part of the church, and its enclosure broken down.

The choir was repaired in the year 1743, at which time the

/11 Fuller's Church History, book ix., p. 66.

/12 The Lords and Commons ordained that in all churches and chapels the altar tables of stone should, before the 1st of November, 1643, be utterly taken away and demolished, and that all rails which had been erected before any altar should be taken away. They also ordered that all tapers, candlesticks, and basins be removed, and all crucifixes, crosses, images, and pictures of any one or more persons of the sanctity or of the Virgin Mary, and all images or pictures of saints or superstitious inscriptions should be taken away and defaced. Visitors were at the same time appointed, under a warrant from the Earl of Manchester, for demolishing superstitious ornaments.

pavement was relaid with Bremen and Portland stone, alternately disposed. The stalls for the dean and prebendaries were reconstructed, and the bishop's throne was erected at the expense of Bishop Wilcocks, who had been one of the chaplains in ordinary of

King George I., and preceptor to the young princesses, daughters of the prince of Wales, afterwards King George II./<sup>13</sup> An extensive repair was commenced in the year 1825, and conducted under the direction of Mr. Cottingham, from funds supplied wholly by the dean and chapter, but his restorations cannot be entirely approved. His elevation of the central tower is particularly objected to, and in other particulars the restoration of Rochester would have gained by postponement.

The church stands at a short distance southward from the High-street of Rochester, and eastward from the ancient castle, the walls of the Cathedral precinct running parallel with the castle ditch. It is a building which exhibits specimens of architecture of four distinct eras: the nave and western front were chiefly the work of the Norman period, as well as the massive bell tower, which stands between the transepts on the northern side; the northern half of the western transept was built by the monks Richard de Eastgate and Thomas de Meopham, subsequent to the fire which happened in the year 1179; and the southern half by the monk Richard de Walden, about the year 1260; the choir and eastern transept were erected in the reign of Henry III. by William Hoo, sacrist of the church, with the produce of offerings made at the shrine of Saint William.

The western front of the Cathedral, a very interesting specimen of late Norman architecture, was constructed at a period when the art had arrived at a high point of perfection. The central doorway has a very beautifully recessed semicircular arch, composed of enriched mouldings, and supported by four pillars, the capitals of which consist of wreathed foliage, with birds and animals introduced. The pillars are annulated, or encircled by ornamental bands, and rise from a plain plinth, which has possibly been

<sup>/13</sup> He was also dean of Westminster, and in his time the western front of the abbey church of Westminster was restored and the towers completed, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren.

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constructed in the room of an enriched base which had become decayed. Two of the pillars take the form of caryatides, and present statues of King Henry II. and his Queen, without question two of the most ancient statues remaining in England. The figure of the king holds a sceptre in his right hand, and in his left a book. The queen is represented holding a scroll, typical of the grants made to the priory by those sovereigns. All the mouldings of the arch are highly enriched with sculpture, representing arabesques, medallions of heads and animals, with foliage intermixed. The lintel, across the imposts of the doorway, bears a representation of the twelve Apostles; and in the tympanum above is a fine bas relief, representing Christ in Majesty, with figures symbolic of the four Evangelists.



Other remains of this very ancient front consist of arcades presenting peculiar enrichment in the instance of the semicircular heads of the arches, which are sculptured lozenge-wise, an ornament noticed by Chaucer, as "hacking in masonries;" the small pillars also exhibit a vast variety of design in the capitals.

Originally, there were four octagonal towers upon this front, which rose above the roof to the height of two stories, enriched with arcades in several courses, and terminated by pinnacles. These have been rebuilt, or partially removed, with the exception of one of the southern towers nearest the centre. On the front of the northern tower is a statue, said to be that of Gundulf, the founder, but somewhat mutilated.

A large window, occupying the whole space between the central turret, was inserted about the time of Henry VII., or perhaps a little later.

It consists of eight lights, having a main transom in the centre, and another at the springing of the arch. The heading of the window is distributed in minor lights or openings formed by sub-divisions. The insertion of this window, which was rebuilt by Mr. Cottingham, is greatly to be regretted, as destroying the beautiful character of the architecture on the western front; most of the windows of the nave are of the same date. Other parts of the church are so surrounded by buildings that little more than one

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portion can be seen at a time; they are extremely plain and almost destitute of ornament.

Besides the west window the Perpendicular period is responsible for the western extension of the Lady Chapel, which was in the south transept, some alterations at the east window, and the clerestory of the nave.

The whole length of the Cathedral from east to west is three hundred and six feet, the width of the western front is ninety-four feet, and the height of the tower one hundred and fifty-six feet.

The earth has accumulated at the base of the western front, so as to cause a necessity for a descent of several steps into the church at this entrance. The piers and arches of the nave are of Norman architecture, with the exception of those nearest the transept; the arches are enriched with chevron mouldings, but the capitals of the pillars are plain, and the disposition of the massive piers is dissimilar, not any two on the same side being exactly alike, although the opposite piers uniformly correspond in their arrangements.

The triforium presents a series of arches enriched with chevron and other mouldings of a similar description, and the face of the wall is not without ornament; above are the windows of the clerestory. A fine modern open timber roof is supported on corbels,

representing angels bearing shields of arms. The alteration of the Norman design by the introduction of the present western window is clearly to be distinguished by the abrupt termination of different arcades at the western end, some having been divided through the very centre of the arch.

The two easternmost arches of the nave are of early Decorated date, and the central tower, which rises from the intersection of the nave and transept, is sustained by obtusely pointed arches, rising from piers of solid masonry, environed by shafts of Petworth marble, connected by fillets of the same material. A spire, which had been rebuilt in 1749, has been removed.

The great transept is erected in the Pointed style of architecture. The windows of the clerestory have each a screen in front, divided into three arches of unequal height, supported by slender shafts of Petworth marble. The vaulting of the transept is of stone,

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and groined. Many of the smaller shafts and imposts of arches are supported by corbel heads, chiefly of ecclesiastics, not inelegantly sculptured. In the eastern wall of the north transept is a recess under a large pointed arch, within which formerly stood the Rood altar. The southern end of this transept exceeds in lightness of style and enrichment that on the north; and the roof is of framed timber, in imitation of vaulting. It formed the Lady chapel, to which a nave was added in the Perpendicular period, in which the consistory court is now held; and on the eastern side is a small vestry.

The whole length of the nave is one hundred and fifty feet, measuring from the western door to the steps of the choir, and in breadth, between the pillars thirty-three feet, and between the walls seventy-five feet./14

When the choir was rebuilt in 1227, it was extended to a greater length, by several feet, than the nave itself: the length of the choir is one hundred and fifty-six feet; the length of the western transept is one hundred and twenty-two feet, and that of the eastern ninety feet.

From the floor of the nave is an ascent of ten steps to the choir; the organ, which is placed over the screen, was built in 1792 by Green; its present case was designed by Sir G. G. Scott. From the screen to the eastern extremity of the choir, the architectural style is uniform, consisting of two stories of pointed arches, the lower rising from slender pillars of Petworth marble, with plain capitals, and attached to solid piers by fillets. Above the larger arches is a clerestory, or gallery, extending round the whole choir and its transepts. All the windows, excepting those immediately contiguous to the altar, which have decorated tracery inserted, consist of single lights of the lancet form. The choir transept has an eastern aisle; its extremities were formerly shut

out from the choir by screens, which were occasionally hung with

/14 The length of the nave of Hereford Cathedral, also of Norman architecture, is one hundred and forty-four feet; Gloucester is one hundred and seventy-four feet in length; while that of Durham, of magnificent proportion, and very bold in its detail, is two hundred and sixty feet; but the nave of Ely Cathedral, also completed in the Norman era, and of a very plain description, is no less than three hundred and twenty-seven feet long, excelling that of every other Cathedral in its extent.

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tapestry. The northern side of this transept is called the chapel of St. William, from the shrine of the saint, which **stood here**. The vaulting, both of the choir and its transept, is of stone, the ribs springing from capitals of tall shafts of Petworth marble.

The altar was originally placed at a distance from the eastern wall, and its position is ascertained by **the sedilia** in the southern wall under the third window. These stalls placed on the southern side of altars, were intended for a priest, deacon, and sub-deacon, to sit in during the celebration of high mass./15 On the front of this triple seat are the arms of the see of Rochester, of the priory of Christchurch, Canterbury, and of the priory of St. Andrew, at Rochester. Beneath these shields were formerly representations of three episcopal figures, and this inscription:

**O altitudo divinaq sapiencie et sciencie  
Dei quam incomprehensibilia sunt  
Iudicia ejus et investigales vie ejus.**

The crypt of this church is very spacious, extending **from under the middle** of the choir eastward, and is much admired. There are remains of **wall painting** in many places, especially on the vault beneath the north transept aisle.

The entrance of the present chapter-house is near the southern end of the eastern transept; its pointed arched doorway presents **a fine** specimen of canopied niches, with effigies. The sculpture is very rich, and is continued from the base in detached recesses rising above each other, and contains figures, of which the lowermost represent **the Christian and Mosaic dispensations**. Above on each side are **two men writing**, perhaps intended for the **four Doctors**./16 The hollow moulding surrounding these figures is perforated and entwined with foliage. Branches of foliage forming

/15 By one of the constitutions of Archbishop Langton, made in 1222, every large parish church is enjoined to have two or three priests, according to the extent of the parish and state of the church, and three stalls on the southern side of the altar are not uncommon in ancient churches. One of the most elegant of these triple stone seats, formerly in the chancel of Chatham church, is engraved in the third volume of the "Vetusta Monumenta;" and there are four stalls in the Church at Maidstone, and in that of Cotterstock, in Northamptonshire.

/16 *Custumale Roffense*, p. 176. There is also an engraving of this doorway in

“Carter’s Specimens of Ancient Sculpture and Painting.”

Sculptors from Italy are supposed to have traversed Europe at an early period

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the outer mouldings appear to spring from piers ornamented with graduated buttresses on the sides of the doorway.

The library is contained in cases on the **sides** of the chapter room. Amongst the manuscripts are “Textus Roffensis,” and the “Custumale Roffense,” the last written chiefly by Prior John Westerham, who died in the year 1320. It contains many particulars relative to the ancient tenures, services, etc., of the manors, within the diocese of Rochester, which belonged to the priory of St. Andrew, together with the valuation of the Peterpence payable from Cathedral Churches in England to the popes.

The monuments of the bishops of Rochester now remaining in this Cathedral are interesting from their antiquity as well as from the style of execution. A very plain stone chest, on the southern side of the choir, **behind** the altar, is supposed to be the tomb of Bishop Gundulf, who died in 1107.

Westward from this is the monument of Bishop Inglethorp, who died in 1291. The recumbent figure of the bishop and **the** canopy under which it reposes are both cut out of a single block of Petworth marble, highly polished; the canopy is enriched with crockets, finials, and other architectural details peculiar to the reign of Edward I.

In the northern aisle of the choir is **the** monument attributed to Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin, who died in 1274. Both the figure of the bishop and the canopy are more highly ornamented than the last mentioned.

Westward of this monument, in the same aisle, is a tomb of Petworth marble, supposed to have been erected in memory of Bishop Glanville, who died in the year 1214; it is ridged en dos d’âne and is sculptured with heads of ecclesiastics in quatrefoil panels, having in front below the ridge an arcade with enrichments of foliage.

Against the southern wall of the eastern transept is the monu-

in the exercise of their art, and have brought it to this country, since an advance of excellence in sculptured designs of this period is very perceptible; and in the attitude of some of the monumental effigies of the thirteenth century, which are conceived to have been designed by or after these foreign artists, a graceful simplicity is preserved, and in the drapery a freedom of arrangement not always found in the more elaborate and finished productions of a succeeding age – Bloxam on the Monumental Architecture and Sculpture of Great Britain, p. 129.

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ment of Bishop Walter de Merton, who died in 1277. A costly altar tomb was originally erected over his remains, and the effigy of this eminent prelate, represented in his episcopal robes, was

executed in Limoges enamel. Round the verge of the tomb were Latin verses in praise of his good work in founding Merton college at Oxford. This interesting memorial was destroyed at the time of the Reformation, together with many similar works of art, which had for ages contributed to the beauty and dignity of ecclesiastical edifices. In the reign of Elizabeth the fellows of Merton college, Sir Henry Savile being then warden, **restored the monument, which is surmounted by the original canopy.** On the wall behind the recumbent figure of the bishop were placed his arms and a purse, his badge as lord chancellor. The monument was again restored in 1852, when the Elizabethan effigy and other interesting details were displaced in favour of the present poor substitutes.

In the same transept is an altar-tomb of gray marble in memory of Bishop Lowe, who died in 1407. The square compartments on the front of the tomb are charged with shields, inscribed with the following:

**ihc. est . amor . meus . Deo . gras.**

and at the south end is a shield of his own arms, marshalling those of the see of Rochester. On the verge of the slab are the words:

**Miserere . deus . anime . fs . Iohannis . Lowe . episcopi .  
Credo . videre . bona . domini . in . terra . vivencium . Sancti .  
Andrea . et . Augustne . Orate . pro . nobis.**

All the letters are in very high relief, and on labels round the base of the tomb is this sentence: —

**Quam . breve . spacium . hec . mundi . gloria . ut . Umbra .  
dominis . sunt . eius . gaudia.**

In the eastern aisle of this transept is a monument of Bishop Warner, who died at the palace of Bromley, October 14, 1666. He is the only prelate from Bishop Lowe to the present time who

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has been buried in this cathedral. Of the ninety-two prelates raised to this see, the names of no more than twenty-three are recorded whose remains have been deposited in this church. The **monument** of Bishop John Bradfield, who died in the year 1283, is on the northern side of the south choir aisle, near the entrance into the crypt.

A much smaller proportion in number have been buried here for the last three hundred years than in all the time which has elapsed since the foundation of the church. It appears that during

the more early period only four bishops of Rochester were translated to other sees; but from Bishop Lowe, in the reign of Edward IV., to Bishop Spratt, in the reign of James II., there were only six bishops who died possessed of this diocese. Seven Bishops of Rochester, Spratt, Atterbury, Bradford, Wilcocks, Pearce, Thomas, and Horsley, holding the deanery of Westminster, together with this see, were buried in Westminster Abbey Church, and no bishop since the Reformation has resided for any considerable time at the palaces of Rochester or Halling, but at Bromley. Brown Willis, the antiquary, in his "Survey of the Cathedrals of England," conjectures that the deans and other dignitaries of this Cathedral have been buried elsewhere, as he found so very few monuments erected to their memory in Rochester Cathedral.

Three archdeacons only appear to have been interred in this Cathedral: Dr. Tillesley, who died in 1624, Dr. Lee Warner, who died in 1679, and Dr. John Denne, who died in 1767, whose remains are deposited in the southern part of the western transept.

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ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL. – RESTORED CHOIR.

## MODERN HISTORY OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

The repairs and restorations of the choir, made by Cottingham in 1825-30, amounted almost to a remodelling. The greater part of the central tower in its present form is his work, but it is far from being an addition to the beauty of the cathedral. Among minor "restorations," Cottingham made an unfortunate mistake. In the chapter-house doorway, a headless figure on the immediate left

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of the door, bearing a model of a church, on its left hand, was supplied by him with a bishop's head; but the figure is certainly a female one, representing the Christian Church.

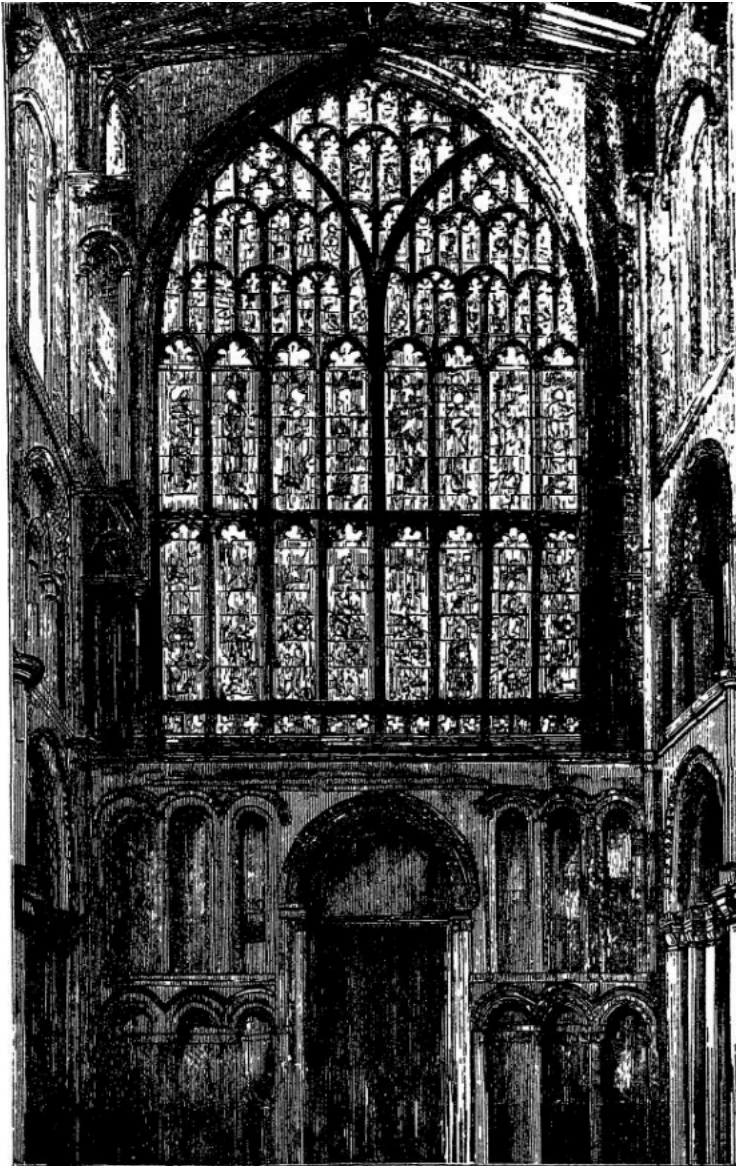
The north-western transept received in 1860 an enrichment, by the insertion in its lower lancets of a memorial window to Archdeacon Walker King, executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, the subjects being a central figure of the Saviour, with subjects from the lives of St. Philip and St. Stephen in the side lancets and below. The nave of the Lady Chapel, adjacent to the south transept, was restored in 1860.

The state of many parts of the Cathedral remained far from satisfactory; and in 1871 extensive repairs and restorations were undertaken under the direction of Sir G. G. Scott, the fittings of the choir (which was reopened in 1875) having been given by the Rev. Dr. Griffith (Canon) and Mrs. Griffith at a cost of £3000. Altogether, including gifts of memorial windows, etc., about £24,000 has been expended on the restoration of the fabric.

The organ, which formerly blocked the view through the cathedral so extensively, has been divided into two portions, placed right and left, opening up the view considerably. The case is entirely new, and is richly carved after the manner of ancient organ cases of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

A restoration was also effected by Sir G. G. Scott of the decoration of the wall at the back of the choir stalls, some portion of which remained. The decoration consists of fleur-de-lys and gilt lions in quatrefoils. Large portions of 16th-century panelling have been worked up into the new stalls. Minton's encaustic tiles have been introduced throughout the choir and eastern transept, the design being modelled after ancient tiling in the Cathedral. It has a very good effect, some of the tiles having bands of small grotesque animal figures.

The east end has been restored internally to its original design (a double series of broad lancet windows, with shafts of Purbeck marble between, and all the twenty-two windows of the chancel have been filled with stained glass by Messrs. Clayton and Bell. The altar and reredos are new, the latter being of white Caen stone, with a central canopy. The subject of the sculpture is



ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: WEST WINDOW OF NAVE.

the Last Supper. The upper altar step has tiles with figures of the cardinal virtues. In front of the altar, below the steps, are

tiles bearing the signs of the zodiac, copied from a pavement found in Jervaulx abbey church.

In the north-east transept, the tomb of Bishop Walter de Merton has been restored (in 1852) by Merton College, Oxford, which at the same time placed stained glass in the two small windows at the back of the monument. The modern slab and cross on the tomb were then added, the alabaster effigy of 1598, now in the next recess, being removed.



The north and south walls of the nave, as well as that of the south-west transept, were also underpinned, the foundation being filled in with concrete: and the triforium shafts of the nave, many of which were much out of the perpendicular, were repaired and made safe. During this work it was discovered that the three eastern bays of the wall differ markedly in their mode of construction from the western. Thus it has been shown that Gundulf completely rebuilt only the eastern part of the nave, the rest being later work; but he probably built the south wall of the cathedral for his cloister to abut against.

The six windows of the south-east transept have been filled with stained glass (executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell) in memory of distinguished officers of the corps of Royal Engineers.

The great west window, of which we give an illustration, has also been entirely filled with stained glass, in memory of officers and men of the Royal Engineers who died in the South African and Afghanistan campaigns of 1878-82. It was unveiled on Dec. 19, 1883, by Field-Marshal Lord Napier of Magdala.