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## Notices of Archaeological Publications

W. H. T.

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## Notices of Archaeological Publications.

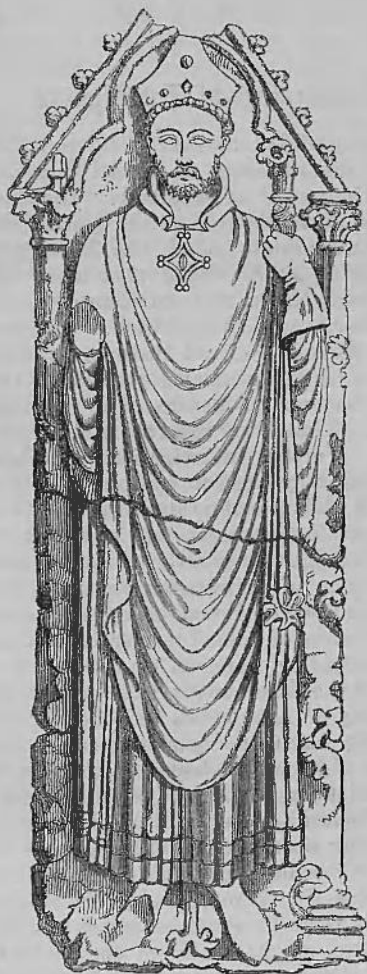
HANDBOOK OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL. By JOHN HEWITT. Lichfield, Lomax, 1875.

THERE are guide-books and guide-books ; very few indeed good, many indifferent, and still more downright bad. To the first class undoubtedly belong such as Walbran's "Ripon," Nicholson's "St. Alban's," and the unpretending looking little manual by Mr. Hewitt now before us. Indeed, its singularly unattractive cover will, we fear, prevent its meeting with the favourable reception which its excellence undoubtedly deserves ; and the local reviewers are probably right in recommending the preparation of an edition whose exterior as well as interior shall entitle it to a place on our library shelves. We would suggest, with this object, its being incorporated with the "Handbook to Lichfield," noticed in vol. xxxi. p. 204 of this "Journal."

Mr. Hewitt possesses many advantages for fulfilling the task he has undertaken. A native of the city to which he is warmly attached, a keen observer, and a versatile and accomplished antiquarian, it would have been impossible for the work to have devolved upon a more congenial workman. His minute acquaintance, for many long years, with the noble structure which he describes, of which the present number of the "Journal" presents another example, his familiarity with the literature bearing directly and indirectly on his subject, and his advantage in possessing personal friends connected with the restorations of the cathedral who were both able and willing to add to Mr. Hewitt's own stores of information, have all contributed to place him in a position of which he has taken full advantage. The numerous authorities, especially the late Professor Willis, are all clearly referred to, and Mr. Hewitt's own suggestions, frequent and shrewd, combine in making up an unusually good handbook. We could, however, have wished that he had offered at least some attempt at explaining, amongst other difficulties, about Lichfield Cathedral, the so-called "Monk's Larder," and the original uses of the present library and its adjacent apartment. In another edition, moreover, we would recommend that attention should be directed to the singular chronological parallelism in the gradual progress of Lichfield Cathedral with that of York, to which Professor Willis adverted at p. 20, vol. xviii. of this "Journal ;" and it would be also interesting if the remarkable polygonal apse at Lichfield, unique in England, were compared with continental examples of this form.

The variety as well as the details of the subjects on which our author touches are unusually profuse for a guide-book of no higher pretensions than this. The bells, the glass, the monuments (existing and destroyed), the library (including the far-famed "St. Chad's Gospel," of which we

have reason to know that we shall shortly hear more), the masons' marks, and the other relics, are all clearly arranged and fully described ; and of Bishop Hugh de Patteshull's effigy an engraving is given, here reproduced.



Bishop Patteshull's Effigy.

Some interesting remarks are also offered on the varied orientation of different parts of the structure, and this valuable little work closes with an account of the late restorations by Sir Gilbert Scott—an annotated list of the Bishops—and some curious observations on the Bishop's Prison. The points which are suggested above for reconsideration are noted with the conviction that these handbooks of Lichfield and its Cathedral are destined to assume a more permanent form.

W. H. T.