

II. *Further Observations on the Ecclesiastical Architecture of France and England: in a Letter from THOMAS RICKMAN, Esq. to JOHN GAGE, Esq. F.R.S., Director.*

Read 9th January, 1834.

Birmingham, 12mo 17th, 1833.

I NOW resume my consideration of the Architecture of England and part of France, and I intend in the present Paper to notice such Buildings in both Countries as are either known to be of a date prior to the year 1000, or in their clear difference from anything of later date, may, from that clear difference, and their relation to works known to be before the year 1000, be well permitted to be considered of an earlier date, until proved to be of a later one.

In France there are the following Buildings:

The Walls of the city of Bayeux,

The Theatre at Lillebonne,

The Church of Saint Germain at Rouen,

The ancient portion of a Church at Beauvais, now called the Basse Œuvre;

All these present clear and definable Roman features.

At the *Theatre at Lillebonne* we have regular ashlar masonry with rubble backing: the front work very well done, with good clean joints. Also a wall with small stones about six inches long and about four inches high in the courses; these form a thin skin, and have rubble backing, but with horizontal courses of what are called Roman bricks, i. e. flat tiles about fourteen inches long, eleven inches broad, and not quite two inches thick.

These tiles act as binding courses to the small stone and rubble of which much Roman walling is constructed.

This horizontal bond of tiles accompanies nearly all the Roman walling which is built of small stones, both in England and that part of France included in my present Observations.

It is present in the *Walls of Bayeux*, where the courses of stone are irregular; some small, some large: in the *Church of St. Germain*, where the walling is of squared stone, rather larger than the small stones at Lillebone; and here there is also an outer tier of bricks around the arches, like a drip stone. It is also in the *Basse Œuvre at Beauvais*; here the walling is small stones with large joints, and the exterior arches, as well as the drip course round them, are partly formed of Roman bricks. The interior walling of this building is the white stone of that country, which, though so soft as to be easily worked, retains its edge and its form completely to the present time. This building (now a firewood warehouse) though sadly neglected, has much of its interior work, plain round arches and square piers, in very good condition.

These buildings are in France so well known to antiquaries, and their dates so constantly acknowledged as prior to the year 1000, that I trust I may be excused the task of attempting to prove that they are of that date, and thus save the valuable time of the Society.

In England we have, first, a variety of Roman walling acknowledged to be such.

These walls are in various counties, from Northumberland to Kent, and many of them (and I believe all in which the construction was necessary) have the bonding bricks more or less frequent.

There are a few Roman examples in which, from the mode of construction with large blocks of stone, it does not appear that the bonding bricks were used. Of these examples I may mention two which remain in a more perfect state than, considering their age, could well have been expected.

The first is the North Gate at Lincoln, which, as when first erected, is still used as the passage through the walls. This gate had originally an impost and architrave moulding; but they are now hardly visible.

The second is a portion of the Roman Wall near the military road from

Newcastle to Carlisle ; its walling is well done, and in a very perfect state ; and near it is a quarry of most excellent building stone, from whence that used in the wall appears to have been taken.

I do not intend to notice all the Roman works known to exist in England, but merely a few for the purpose of shewing the similarity of construction with those noticed in France ; and of referring to them as linking with those churches which I suppose to have been erected in England before the year 1000.

What is called the Jews' Wall at Leicester, is built with many of the flat tiles, or Roman bricks ; and the portions of Roman wall still remaining near St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire, and at Richborough Castle, in Kent, have these Roman bricks used as horizontal bond, in the same way as we have noticed in the French edifices.

I shall now, previous to enumerating the buildings which I have reason to believe were erected before the year 1000, state those particularities of their masonry, their forms and their details, which, by the difference from works of known Norman date, give reason to suppose them of this very early period.

First, As to the Masonry, there is a peculiar sort of quoining, which is used without plaster as well as with, consisting of a long stone set at the corner and a short one laying on it, and bonding one way or both into the wall ; when plaster is used, these quoins are raised to allow for the thickness of the plaster. Another peculiarity is the use occasionally of very large and heavy blocks of stone in particular parts of the work, while the rest is mostly of small stones ; the use of what is called Roman bricks ; and occasionally of an arch with straight sides to the upper part instead of curves. The want of buttresses may be here noticed as being general in these edifices, an occasional use of portions with mouldings much like Roman, and the use in windows of a sort of rude balustre. The occasional use of a rude round staircase, west of the tower, for the purpose of access to the upper floors ; and at times the use of rude carvings, much more rude than the generality of Norman work, and carvings which are clear imitations of Roman work.

All these marks do not in every case appear in each of the edifices ; but

they are all more or less united to one another, and thus form a very interesting series.

The Buildings of this character as yet found, are :

1. The Church at Whittingham, in Northumberland.
2. The west end of the Church of Kirkdale, Yorkshire.
3. The Church of Laughton en le Morthen, Yorkshire.
4. The Tower of St. Peter at Barton on the Humber, Lincolnshire.
5. Part of the west end of Ropsley Church, Lincolnshire.
6. The east end of the Church of Repton, Derbyshire.
7. The Tower of the Church of Barnack, Northamptonshire.
8. The east end of Whittering Church, Northamptonshire.
9. The Church of Brigstock, Northamptonshire.
10. The Church of Brixworth, Northamptonshire.
11. The Tower of the Church of Earl's Barton, Northamptonshire.
12. The Tower of Clapham Church, Bedfordshire.
13. The Tower of the Church of St. Benet, Cambridge.
14. The Tower of the Church of St. Michael, Oxford.
15. A part of the Tower of Trinity Church, Colchester.
16. Some small portions of the Church of Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey.
17. The east end of the Church of North Burcombe, Wiltshire.
18. The doors (now stopt) of Britford Church, Wiltshire.
19. A small part of the Church of Worth, Sussex.
20. The Tower of the Church of Sompting, Sussex.

This list comprises twenty edifices in thirteen counties, and extending from Whittingham, in Northumberland, north, to Sompting on the coast of Sussex, south ; and from Barton on the Humber, on the coast of Lincolnshire, east, to North Burcombe on the west. This number of churches extending over so large a space of country, and bearing a clear relation of style to each other, forms a class much too important and extensive, to be referred to any anomaly or accidental deviation ; for the four extreme points all agree in the peculiar feature of long and short stones at the corners, and those stones of a varied character, and all easily accessible in their respective situations.

These English examples of towers and churches I may, I trust, be per-

mitted to describe with some minuteness, so that persons who visit them may know wherein consists their likeness to each other, and difference from other styles.

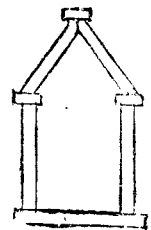
From what I have seen, I am inclined to believe that there are many more churches which contain remains of this character, but they are very difficult to be certain about, and also likely to be confounded with common quoins and common dressings, in counties where stone is not abundant, but where flint, rag, and rough rubble plastered over, form the great extent of walling.

In various churches it has happened that a very plain arch between nave and chancel has been left as the only Norman feature, while both nave and chancel have been rebuilt at different times, but each leaving the chancel arch standing. I am disposed to think that some of these plain chancel arches, will, on minute examination, turn out to be of this Saxon style. I am the more induced to think so from the Tower at Whittingham, in Northumberland, having close to it one such plain arch, and next to it another semicircular arch, which would be called, if not early, certainly not very late Norman, yet strikingly different.

As the portion of France I visited, though containing a great variety of large edifices, was not visited as to the small churches to an equal extent, owing to the difficulty of getting to places not on the high roads, I cannot say whether there is any thing like our combination of long and short stones; only one church I saw at a village near Beauvais had any such antiquity, by tradition, as before the year 1000, and there the only feature noticeable was a resemblance to the walling of the Basse Œuvre at Beauvais, both being formed of small stones with large joints.

I shall now proceed to state more clearly the distinctions of this early or Saxon style, and then to describe those edifices above enumerated.

ARCHES. Where of considerable size, they are semicircular, but there are smaller apertures of doors and windows with straight slopes to the aperture. In some doors, and in some larger arches, there is a regular impost at the spring, which has a rude resemblance to Roman mouldings.



In the small windows a sort of rude balustre, such as might be supposed to be copied by a very rough workman by remembrance of a Roman balustre.



MASONRY. First, A sort of quoins or framing of stone projecting from the face of the wall, the filling in often of small rough stone-work, and sometimes plastered. Second. The use of very large pieces of stone, much larger than usual in Norman, for parts, while the remainder is of small and very roughly hewn stone.

STAIRCASES. In two instances (more perhaps may hereafter be found) there are on the west side of the towers circular staircases, equally rude as the masonry of the church; but in one of these instances this staircase has been found to be an addition.

BRICKS. It is not easy to discover whether the Roman bricks (or rather flat tiles, as we should now term them) that we find in one at least of these edifices, have been laid before, and are the ruins of a former building, or were made for the purpose, and used new.

ORNAMENTS. In one, if not more of these buildings, there are some very rude carvings, more rude than most Norman work.

PLAN. All the corners square; and there seems no instance of a buttress to these buildings which is not evidently an addition.

As I cannot presume to settle which of these buildings is of the earliest date, it will, I think, be better to take them nearly geographically, and commencing at the most northerly.

1. WHITTINGHAM CHURCH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

This church has a tower, and the west end of the aisles and one arch on the north side, all appearing of the same early style. There are Norman portions, but they are clearly of a different and later date, and parts of the church are even later still, with some modern mutilations.

The corners of the tower and exterior angles of the walls of the aisles, are clearly of long and short stones of a very strong coarse gritstone, and the whole walling being of the same stone as the quoins, and no plaster required, the construction of the masonry is very conspicuous. The battlements, and a part of the upper story of the tower, appear to have been

altered; but the upper aperture has a rude balustre between the two windows; thus presenting two features, generally the most striking and constant in these early buildings. One arch of what appears to me to be the original nave, remains; it is very plain, has a large rude abacus or impost, and a plain square pier: it is now stopped, and forms part of the vestry. The next arch eastward on the same side is a common Norman one, with the usual round pier and a capital, with a sort of bell and a square abacus. The remainder of the church is later, and of little comparative interest. The apertures in the tower have been much mutilated, yet those above have the balustre sufficiently clear to mark the style.

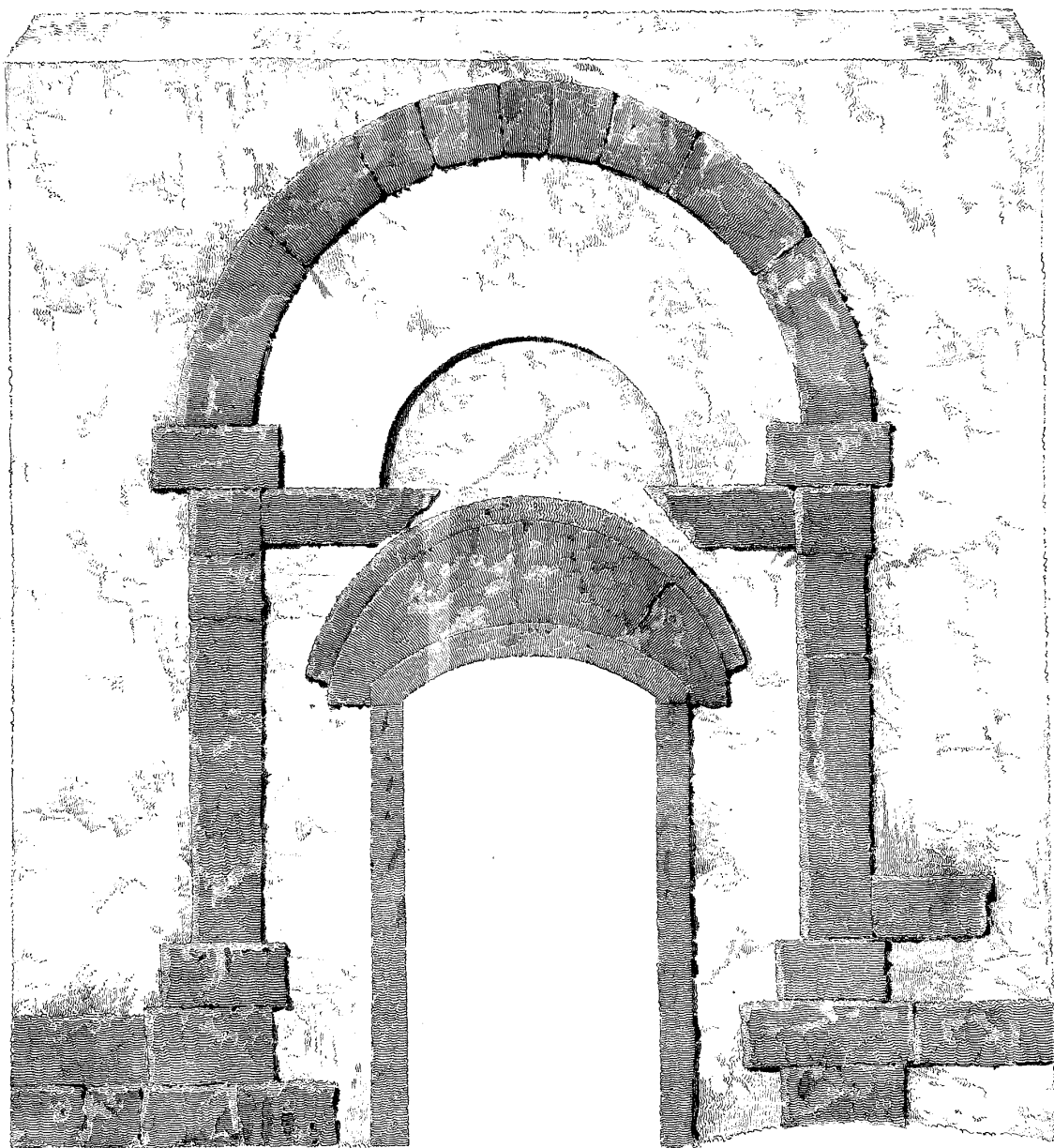
This church is situated about three hundred yards out of the great road, and presents nothing attractive to the eye at a distance, nor do I believe it has ever been described.

2. THE CHURCH OF KIRKDALE, YORKSHIRE.

This church is also out of the road, between Helmsley and Kirby Moorside, in a valley near the celebrated Bone Caves. It is a small edifice, mostly of much later date. It has a stone on the south side, with a Saxon inscription; but as this has been removed from its original place, it is now no evidence of itself, as to what part of the church is Saxon; but as the western door, now stopt, and the arch to the chancel, are both of them very rude, though in some degree resembling Norman, they may, I think, on a careful examination of them, be considered portions of the old building.

3. THE CHURCH OF LAUGHTON EN LE MORTHEN,

between Sheffield and Worksop, is in Yorkshire, away from any public road; it is a fine church with a lofty spire, visible at a great distance. The Saxon portion of the church consists only of a door on the north side, close to the western wall; it is evidently part of a more ancient structure carefully preserved, and surrounded with more modern masonry of very different stone, and is as clearly a long and short construction as Whittingham or Barton. The church, for a country place, is a large one, and has a nave, aisles, and large chancel. A portion is Norman; and this, as well as some more modern parts, is built of what appears to be a magnesian limestone—yellow at first,



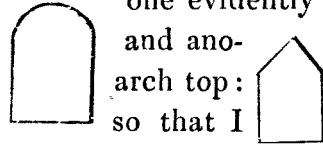
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*Church of Loughton en le Morthen, Yorkshire.
Door in the Western division of North Aisle.*

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but growing a fine grey; the ancient door is, however, of a very different stone, being a dark red sandstone of a strong grit; whence obtained I do not know; but in the Norman chancel, intermixed with the grey stone, are several portions of the red sand stone, built in irregularly, as if portions of an older building; and on the inside are two niches, one evidently a seat with a plain sink and a semicircular head, and another, which seems to be a cupboard, with a straight arch top: but both of these are plastered and whitewashed, so that I could not examine of what stone they were constructed.



The later portions of this church are curious; for the Norman piers on one side of the nave are capped by a sort of upper square capital of perpendicular work, which I have not seen elsewhere, and which is intended to raise those piers to the height of the piers on the other side of the nave, and from each spring arches of the same character corresponding with the later piers.

4. THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AT BARTON ON THE HUMBER, LINCOLNSHIRE.

This always goes by the name of the old church, and the other church, within a very short distance and called St. Mary's, the new church. Now no part of the new church is much later than A.D. 1300, and, *except the tower*, no part of the *old* church is so old as the year 1300; thus referring to the tower as the ancient part of the old church, and as the piers and arches of the nave of the new church are Norman, though rather late, it makes the old church of course as old as Norman, and from the circumstance of the belfry story above the ancient tower being Norman, and certainly not late Norman, it gives a sort of *prima facie* evidence of a greater antiquity to the tower, and this evidence, and the complete difference from Norman in this tower; first attracted my attention, and led me to look for similar ones in other parts of the kingdom.

This tower has the long and short quoin and rib stones, with the balustre window for what appears to be the original belfry story, before the addition of the Norman belfry. These rib and quoin stones project, are filled in with rough rubble walling, and plastered. There is one door with a round arch,

and one straight. The walls of the tower are thick, and there is no appearance of any staircase having ever existed. The church is mostly of decorated character. I consider this tower the most pure specimen of the long and short work, and particularly deserving of a visit from those who wish to see this style fully exemplified ; and the Norman belfry is valuable from at once limiting the date of the tower to an early period.

5. ROPSLEY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

The long and short remains in this church are confined to a portion of the west end near the tower, and here also it is mixed with Norman work ; a Norman north aisle appears to have been added.

6. THE EAST END OF THE CHURCH OF REPTON, IN DERBYSHIRE.

Here the long and short appearances are very small, only two ribs by the side of the chancel window, which is an insertion ; but there is a crypt which is more like Roman work in some parts than Norman ; and here are early Norman portions in the church, and all these portions are so blended with later work, that it is very difficult to say where one ends and the other begins ; but I have no doubt that some part of this church is of Saxon date.

7. THE TOWER OF THE CHURCH AT BARNACK IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

This tower has quoins and rib-stones like Barton on the Humber, but the stones are more carefully squared and laid, and there are certain ornamental portions built into the walls, which give it a very different air to that of Barton ; but it had no staircase, and to supply this want the lower story was groined, and in one corner a circular staircase of early English date carried up within the square of the old tower. The arch into the church is curious from its singularly rude imitations of Roman mouldings in the impost and architrave. On the tower is a later belfry, and a short spire.

This church is near Stamford, but not on any high road ; it is a handsome

structure, and deserving of attention, exclusive of the more ancient portion. It is built of Barnack-stone, which seems to have been very extensively employed at one time, though the quarries are not, I believe, now worked: it is an oolite, in which are embedded numerous small shells, from whence it weathers very rough and open.

8. THE EAST END OF WHITTERING CHURCH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

has some portions of long and short work, and the arch between the nave and chancel is built of large rude blocks of stone with very little attempt at ornament.

This church has a short tower and low spire, and has nothing attractive in the view from the great road, from which it is distant only a few hundred yards, being on the road from Stamford to London, and is nearly, if not actually, the next parish to Barnack. The church is well deserving of attention, more than it has received, and is a curiously connecting link between Barnack and Earls Barton.

9. BRIGSTOCK CHURCH,

is another curious specimen, but here the early work forms only a very small portion, though surrounded by ancient remains of such a character, as to confirm, as much as their antiquity can do, the earlier date of this portion. The tower is of very rough masonry, plastered, and has a roughly built round staircase on the west side, as at Brixworth; the tower opens into the north aisle by a semicircular-headed small plain door, with a small window over it. The arch into the nave has large plain blocks for imposts, and a projecting stone round the arch, like those at Barton on the Humber; the pier of this arch is on the north-east corner of the tower, abutted against by Norman piers and plain arches; the rest of the church has various interesting features of several styles, but nothing more appears now to remain of a character like the lower part of the tower, which has above it a belfry and spire of a date somewhat later than that at Brixworth. There are several

good doors and windows, a small water drain, a beautiful niche in the chancel, and the stairs to the rood-loft remain.

10. BRIXWORTH CHURCH.

This curious church had not, to my knowledge, been noticed till visited by me in company with my friend G. Baker, the Historian of Northamptonshire, near the end of the year 1823, which visit led to a subsequent more minute examination of the building, and a search for traces of the parts which have been destroyed.

This church, in its original state, appears to have consisted of a spacious nave and narrow aisles, a large chancel and a western tower, with a clerestory to the nave, and the chancel divided from it by a large arch. The lower story of the tower had four doors, one on each side the north and south, small; the east and west large and lofty: in the upper part of the tower, and looking into the nave, is a window, with two of the rude balustres found in the windows of the tower of the old church at Barton on the Humber. In this state the church would be near 120 feet long, the nave thirty feet wide, and the aisles appear to have been from ten to twelve feet wide; but as the foundations, which were discovered by digging on the north side, were irregular, this width is in some degree conjectural, although it is not likely to be more than a foot or two wrong. If we suppose eleven feet as the medium for the breadth of the aisles, it will give the exterior breadth of the church, in its original state, sixty-six feet, as the walls are near three feet and a half thick.

The construction of this church comes now to be noticed, and this is particularly curious; the walls being mostly built with rough red-stone rag, in pieces not much larger than the common brick, and all the arches turned, and most of them covered, with courses of bricks or tiles, as they may be called, precisely similar in quality and size to those found in Roman works discovered in this county; and over the balustres of the window looking from the tower into the nave, these bricks are used as imposts.

The great arch, between the nave and chancel, has, at an early period,

been partly taken down and filled up with a good pointed arch; but this was not so completely done as to destroy the remains of the spring of the original arch, which, on stripping the plaster, was found to have the same tile impost and tile arch, and course of covering tiles, as are found in the other arches. At what date the church remained in its original state, I do not presume to determine; but from the nature of the alterations now extant, it must have been very early: and I now proceed to state these as they appear.

The north door of the tower is stopt up, and against the west side of the tower is erected a circular staircase, built of the rag stone in a very rough state; the stairs are partly remaining, and the under side of them has been formed upon rough plastered centering, in the mode usually adopted by the Normans. To afford access to this staircase, the original west door of the tower has been partially stopt, and the aperture is a small circular-headed door. There is no other access to these stairs, and they lead to the two stories of the tower, reaching rather higher than the present remains of the original steeple, upon which is now a belfry and lofty spire, of a style which may be considered of from 1300 to 1330.

Proceeding eastward, we find the original aisles destroyed, and the westernmost arch, on the south side, remaining to its original use, but now leading into a south aisle, nearly of the date of the belfry; and to give access to the eastern part of this aisle, the wall of the original chancel on the south side has been opened, and two arches inserted, which are dissimilar in their shape, range, and mouldings. In the arch next the tower on the south side is also inserted a door, and of such a character as to fix its date to about the year 1150; it is covered by a porch of a date somewhat later. We now come to the present chancel, which is an addition eastward of the original one. The east end had, originally, one large window and two small ones; the lower part of the large one has been opened to the ground, widened, and the upper part supported by a wood lintel resting on two wooden uprights, against which are some remains of a perpendicular wood screen. Eastward, the present chancel consists of portions of each of the four styles; on the north side, joining the old chancel, are parts of two Norman divisions

with small flat buttresses, and such a direction as to make it probable that this Norman chancel was multangular eastward. In these two divisions are inserted two windows, one a decorated two-light window, forming a north low-side window, the other a perpendicular two-light, which is so inserted as to preserve above it the Norman arch of the window originally lighting that division. The rest of the chancel below the string is early English, and has perpendicular windows above; on the south side is a perpendicular door and a low-side window of the same date. The nave is now lighted by six windows inserted in the old walls, all of different sizes, and, with the exception of two, which are alike, of different dates. A vestry has been formed in the nave, opposite the porch, and a wall built across the nave at that part, forming a screen; the vestry is lighted by a small window, differing from any of the others.

This church has been thus particularly described, on account of the extraordinary preservation of so much of the original structure, amidst alterations which appear to have been carried on from the time of the Normans to the Reformation, about every fifty years, for so diversified are the different additions and insertions as to character: it is also curious for the discovery of a relic in a small shrine, which appears of the age of the south aisle, and was inserted in the south wall near a window. Interfering with a seat, it was taken out of the wall, and behind it a cavity was found containing a small wooden box, in which was a small bone, which, with the shrine, is carefully preserved.

11. EARLS BARTON, IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

This tower, which, as well as that of Barton on the Humber, has been engraved in Britton's Architectural Antiquities, is apparently of the same character, but more ornamented, and with rather more finish of workmanship; it is, however, still rude, compared with most Norman work, and its west door has a curious approximation to Roman work, in an impost with flutes, and a rude moulding over it, similar to a Roman architrave. The balustrade is used to the windows; the number of stone ribs is greater than at Barton on the Humber; and the upper stories of the tower diminish in size a few

inches each way, less than the story below. This tower so clearly resembles Brixworth in the balustre, Brigstock in the work about the door, and Barton on the Humber in general character, that there can be little hesitation in considering them of the same class, and the tower of Barnack before described, assimilates also in several points to Brigstock and Earls Barton. The church of Earls Barton is highly interesting, exclusive of its curious tower. The chancel below the window, the south door of the church, and some other portions, are Norman, good and much enriched; other portions, both of church and chancel, are early English, and the north door and some of the windows are decorated; while some inserted windows and the clerestory, are perpendicular. There are two early English water-drains and three Norman stalls. There have been low-side windows to the chancel, but they are now stopt. The arch from the tower into the nave is evidently an insertion of later date than the rest of the tower: it is partly Norman to the spring of the arch, and early English above.

12. THE TOWER OF CLAPHAM CHURCH, BEDFORDSHIRE.

This tower is wholly plastered and rough cast outside, and therefore does not show the long and short work; but a very attentive examination of the interior of the tower, the construction of the windows, the absence of a staircase, the great thickness of the walls, the material used (small rag stone) and the general appearance, induce me to include it in this list of early churches. This church is very near the great road about two miles north of Bedford.

13. THE TOWER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. BENET, IN CAMBRIDGE.

The long and short portions have been here obscured by plaster and rough cast; but during the sitting of the British Association at Cambridge in the year 1833, I had permission of Dr. Lamb, Master of Corpus Christi College, to remove so much plaster as should settle the construction of the tower, which was done, and the long and short masonry clearly developed. The arch from the tower into the church (a large semicircular one) resembles the arch at the west end of Kirkdale church in a degree of approach to Norman.

and the impost and arch mouldings assimilate it to Barnack and Earls Barton; while certain rude animals, in the place of a drip supporter, add another curious feature. This tower is not sufficiently known, being a good specimen and in excellent preservation; it has the balustre belfry window, and no staircase. The west door and window over it are insertions.

14. THE TOWER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, IN OXFORD.

This tower, like Clapham, in Bedfordshire, was, till very lately, covered with rough cast, and its curious features only to be guessed at from a balustre belfry window, and the small rude rag-stone walling of the interior, with the absence of a staircase: but on recent'y passing through Oxford, I was glad to find the rough cast stript off from the outside, and its long and short features clearly displayed. It now stands out a decided and good specimen of the long and short work.

15. TRINITY CHURCH, COLCHESTER.

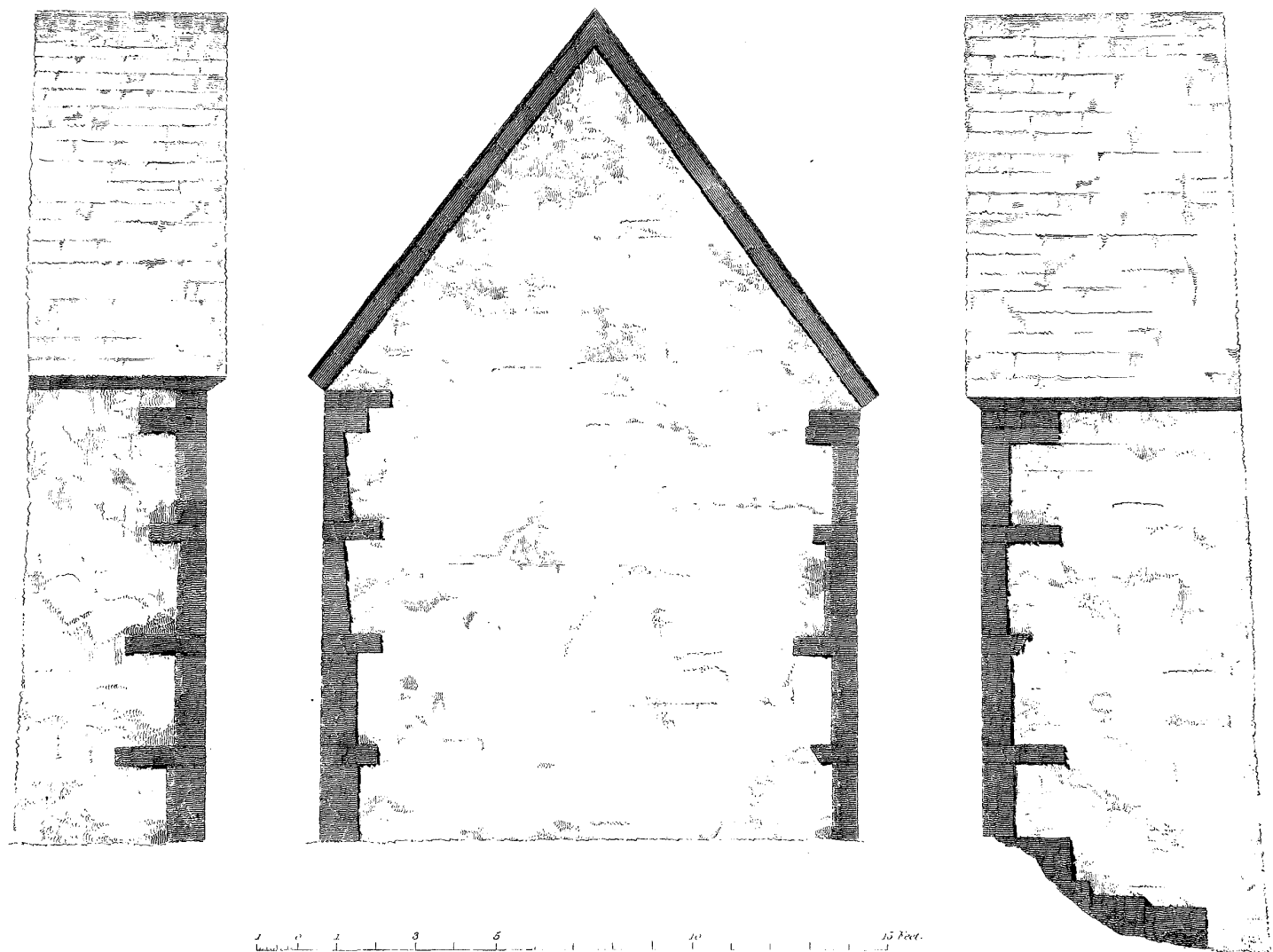
Of this church only a part of the tower, the west door, and a small portion about it, are of early date, but this small part is curious from its near approximation to Roman work, being plastered over bricks, and also from its having a straight lined arch. The arch into the church is semicircular, and of small ragstones or brick, *i. e.* flat tiles.

16. THE CHURCH OF STOKE D'ABERNON, SURREY.

This church has the chancel arch, and east wall, of long and short work.

17. THE CHURCH OF NORTH BURCOMBE, WILTS.

This is a small church close by the road side from Wilton to Hindon; it is only the east end of the chancel which appears to be part of the original building; though the rest of the church is principally of decorated date, and has proper quoins of the usual size, and alternate bonding into the wall; and

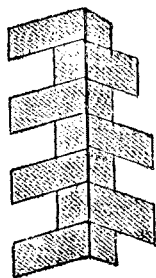
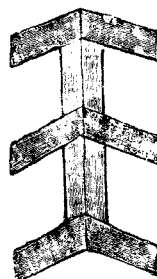


Church of North Burcombe, Wiltshire.

East End of the Chancel & returns.

Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, 25th April 1865.

thus this church offers a good specimen of both sorts of masonry, which are not commonly found together.

*Quoined work.**Long and short.*

Both the long and short pieces and the quoins are of the oolite, common in that part of Wiltshire, and are in very good condition, and the edges sharp, affording another proof of the value of that description of stone. The walls are flint and rag and some rubble, but the east end is plastered and rough cast, as well as part of the sides of the chancel, and therefore I cannot tell whether there is any east window, or ever has been, as the plaster both inside and out shews no trace of any that I could discover.

18. BRITFORD CHURCH NEAR SALISBURY.

In this parish was, I believe, a palace of Edward the Confessor. The church is a cross church, and seems to have been rebuilt and patched at various times; but there still remains a north and a south door, which are evidently Saxon; and there is another aperture rudely stopped, and a window (also stopped) with a buttress of much later date before it. This last mentioned aperture and window are not clear as to date; but the north and south doors are curious.

The former is of stone in small thin pieces, long-and-shortwise, with a plain impost to spring from; the latter is also composed of long and short pieces of stone, with a few of the flat tiles called Roman bricks, and the arch

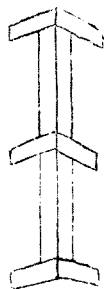
turned with these bricks, and large joints of a mortar evidently composed of lime, flint, and pounded bricks. These doors are now both stopt; the south door forms an important link with Brixworth church by the mixture of brick and stone.

19. THE CHURCH OF WORTH, IN SUSSEX,

appears to have some long and short work; but as I have not been yet able to visit it, or otherwise to ascertain exactly its arrangement and construction, I notice it only as a church deserving of more attention than it has hitherto received.

20. SOMPTING CHURCH, SUSSEX.

This most curious tower I have recently visited, and have found it clearly of long and short character, but presenting some singular differences from others: here, as in most, the corner stones are long and short; but the transverse or short pieces are no longer, or rather broader, than the long ones, and they are mostly of a different stone.



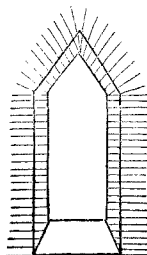
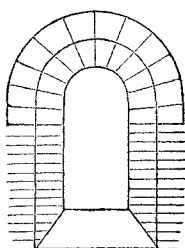
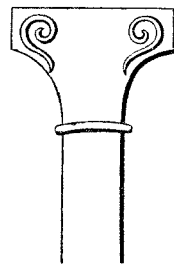
Ordinary long and short.



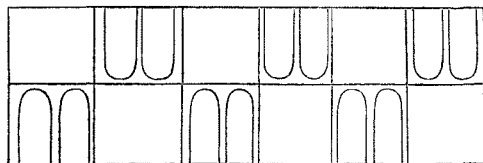
Long and short at Sompting.

This tower is large, and the whole of the north side has been taken down and rebuilt to form a side of a chapel, part of which now remains, but this only applies to about fifteen feet of the lower part; all above is ancient. There is a window, now stopt, on the west side of this tower, which appears

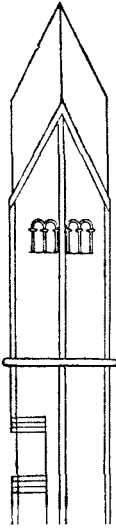
to be an original one, and which has the small thin long and short work, like the north door at Britford. The opening into the church from this tower is not in the middle, but on the south part of the west wall, and has on each side a column and two pilasters; the former with a rude capital not Norman, but having much of a Roman character, and like a Corinthian cap with the volutes and curls of the leaves broken off; the pilasters have a sort of impost with a boldly cut scroll, the relief and character of which are also much more Roman than Norman. This tower has no stairs, and in its upper windows has a plain round centre instead of the balustre, but having a top with a rude sort of volute, and in several parts of these windows I found Roman bricks, or flat tiles, and some of the windows had semicircular heads and some straight-lined heads.



This tower has a middle rib which becomes rounded above the first story, and is flat below; that first story has over it an ornamented string with a sort of cutting I have never seen elsewhere, and unlike any Norman ornament.



This string is about nine inches thick, and is so decayed that I could not satisfactorily ascertain its section, but I believe the above is near what it is.



This tower is lofty, full one hundred feet to the point of the slated sort of spire ; it has four gables very pointed, and thence arises the spire.

The church is a cross church with no aisles, except an east aisle to the transepts; the north has three round piers and two arches, and the south one arch only; the whole of this is mixed with very late Norman and early English, and appears all before 1200, except the woodwork of the porch, and perhaps its stone-work, and some perpendicular inserted windows. On the whole, this is a very curious church, and deserves to be studied with great attention.

Having now gone through the list of twenty churches which I have described with some minuteness, in order to excite an interest in this valuable study, and also to shew their connection, (and I have left much undescribed, that they may be visited and studied by others,) I proceed to make a few general remarks.

I beg first to say, that in this interesting investigation I owe much to the zeal and activity of my friend William Twopeny, Esq. of the Temple. For the knowledge of several of these churches I am indebted to him; he first discovered and examined the two extremes Whittingham and North Burcombe, each of which I have since visited, and found peculiarly valuable.

It is curious that of twenty churches, the names of seven, or more than one third, begin with the letter B.

It is also curious that no one of the towers appears to have had a stone stair. Those at Brixworth and Brigstock are evidently additions outside, and at Barnack obviously so inside. They have all ladders, and I find no vestige of any original stone stair: at Whittingham is a sort of vault and rude stair a little way up, but I do not think it original. The very extensive under-building which appears at Earls Barton to introduce the arch into the nave, and at Sompting to add the decorated side chapel, are very curious, and shew great boldness of practice. In the latter, short and thick buttresses have been added to the tower, evidently when this chapel was built;

and a west door and window inserted in the lower story of the tower at the same time.

The term Roman brick will, I hope, be easily understood. Though I by no means wish to assert that all these bricks were Roman, I think it not unlikely that the Saxons retained the art of making them. The brick I mean, differs in shape from modern brick, and more resembles our present large paving tile; they are of various dimensions, nearly, but I believe seldom quite, square, between fourteen inches and eleven inches on the sides, and rarely much more than one inch and a half thick.

As the terms *rag* and *rubble*, though very clear when known, are sometimes confusing to those not acquainted with various masonry, I may say, that by *rag*, I mean stuff of many qualities in different counties, but being flat bedded stuff, breaking up about the thickness of a common brick, sometimes thinner, and generally used in pieces not much larger than a brick, it is found laid in all directions, though generally horizontally. This stone is often very hard, and frequently plastered and rough cast; but in some counties neatly pointed with large joints, and looking very well. Rubble walling is generally of pieces more nearly approaching to a cube, with great irregularity of size and shape, as well as hardness; this also is often plastered, but sometimes well pointed with large joints, and left outside: it is, however, much more used as backing behind ashlar work, and often of very bad materials. I once took down a fine Norman tower, in parts seven feet thick, and the wall consisted of two skins about nine inches thick of sand-stone-ashlar, and the whole of the interval filled in with mere mud mixed with a little lime. In all these early churches the materials are generally hard and well consolidated.

I fear I have occupied too much of the valuable time of the Society; but I could not well compress what I had to say in less compass, and I was desirous of presenting at once to the view of the Members all that I at present know on the subject, that others may be induced to engage in this interesting pursuit, and thereby my list of twenty churches be increased; for there are several others that I hope will, on a careful examination, prove to be of this early date. I do not mention them, because I wish not to mislead by

noticing what *may* be curious ; but rather, that by closely studying these examples, the student may have his ideas of this style carefully fixed, and then explore for himself in the many parts of England where our churches have not, to any extent, been properly examined.

As I wish not to delay this Paper, I have not been able to prepare drawings for so many as I could desire, but this is the less important, as the examples not drawn are mostly engraved in various architectural publications.

I remain,

thine truly,

THOMAS RICKMAN.