

## The North Chapel of St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel.

---

BY THE REV. G. W. SAUNDERS, M.A.

With notes on the Heraldry of the Chancel, and the Will of John de Urtiaco, 1340.

BY THE REV. PREB. E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A.

---

THE Parish Church of St. Andrew, Curry Rivel, is built on a hill, and the tower is a conspicuous object to any one approaching the village from the Langport side. It is situated at the north end of the village green close to the site of the old manor-house which was some yards to the north-west of it. Reference is made to the endowment of the Church in Domesday. "In the Church of Curi is half a hide. There a priest has one plough. It is worth 12 shillings." Of this early Church nothing remains except perhaps a few carved fragments recently dug up in the vicarage garden.

The main part of the present Church belongs to the XV Century, and is a striking example of what has been called Somerset Perpendicular. It consists of a western tower, rebuilt in 1860-61, nave, north and south aisles, a fine south porch, and a chancel which has evidently at some time, probably in the XVIII Century, been considerably shortened. On either side of the chancel is a chapel. The south chapel is of the same date as the rest of the Church. The north chapel, which is the subject of this paper, is much earlier and of very great architectural interest. (The east end of the Church is seen in Plate III.)

Until recently it was in a very neglected state. It was

covered with a flat plaster ceiling which cut off the apex of the east window. The floor level had been raised by 10-12 inches and hid entirely the bases of some beautiful monuments. A 1593 monument stood in front of the tomb-arcade, hiding from view what might be behind. The modern plaster was stripping from the walls, while the organ trespassed upon a large part of the floor-space. A careful restoration has recently been carried out by Mr. Bligh Bond, and this seems to be the proper time for a description of the chapel in the *Proceedings* of our Society.

#### A.

The Chapel measures internally 30ft. 9ins. by 18ft. 8ins. It is built of the local blue lias stone with Ham stone facings. It is lighted on the north side by two windows of three lights each. These windows have Ham stone scoinson or rear arches consisting of five complete foliations. Each of the six cusps terminates in a well-shaped ball flower. These rear arches are supported by no shafts and the foliations are curiously irregular. On stripping the plaster from this wall the sill of a third and intermediate window was revealed. The actual lights are raised considerably above the internal sills. This was probably due to the apex of the larger tomb rising above the sill of the central window.

The east window is also of three lights but these are larger than those on the north side. The interior angles of the jambs are furnished with shafts having octagonal bases, and the caps are ornamented with a small nail-head decoration. These support a rear arch which is not foliated, but decorated with a series of twenty-six ball flowers. These, with the rather heavy mouldings suggest a later date than the supporting shafts, which appear to belong to an original XIII Century window, though probably rebuilt in the XIV Century, as may be inferred from the fact that the southern jamb of the splay rests upon part of an incised slab of that period, which appears similar in character to those still in the chapel.

All these windows are filled with a very early form of Perpendicular tracery to which reference will be made later.





Piscina and Credence in the North Chapel.



The North Chapel taken from the N.E.  
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, CURRY RIVEL.

*From Photographs by the Rev. G. W. Saunders.*



There are a few remains of early stained glass in the form of quarries with small painted foliations, and a few fragments of border work of double fleurs-de-lys. The rest is a patch-work and well illustrates the repeated and partial glazings so often referred to in the churchwardens' accounts.

The Chapel is divided from the chancel by an arcade of two arches of the same type of XV Century work as those of the nave. In one of these stands a handsome Jacobean tomb surrounded by iron railings, to which an antique iron bound casket is chained. The other is more than filled by the organ.

The stripping of the plaster, which was modern and bad, has revealed in the west wall the jambs of a window and a small door below it.

On each side of the altar was a bracket; that on the north side is perfect, but the other has been torn away. In the south wall is a very fine piscina and credence (Plate III). The crocketed canopy of this terminates in a carved finial. The lead drain of the piscina pierces the east wall and issues close beside the southern buttress.

The most remarkable feature of the Chapel is the tomb arcade which runs the whole length of the north side. The central tomb recess is much larger than the others, and is not only built into the wall but protrudes on the other side so as to form externally a kind of pent-house with a weathered stone roof (Plate IV). On each side of this tomb is a smaller one of similar design. Each of these recesses is surmounted by a well moulded trifoliated arch circular at head, supported by short shafts with deeply undercut caps, above which rises a crocketed canopy to form a gable. The face of this gable is decorated with a very beautiful floral design of the conventional XIII Century character in low relief. It still bears distinct traces of colour. These recesses are flanked by heavy square gabled pinnacles terminating in curious bud-shaped finials. These appear to be strangely out of keeping with the rest of the work, but doubtless belong to the original design, though inferior in style and finish.

To the west of these three central recesses another and much smaller recess has been cut, but it possesses no architectural

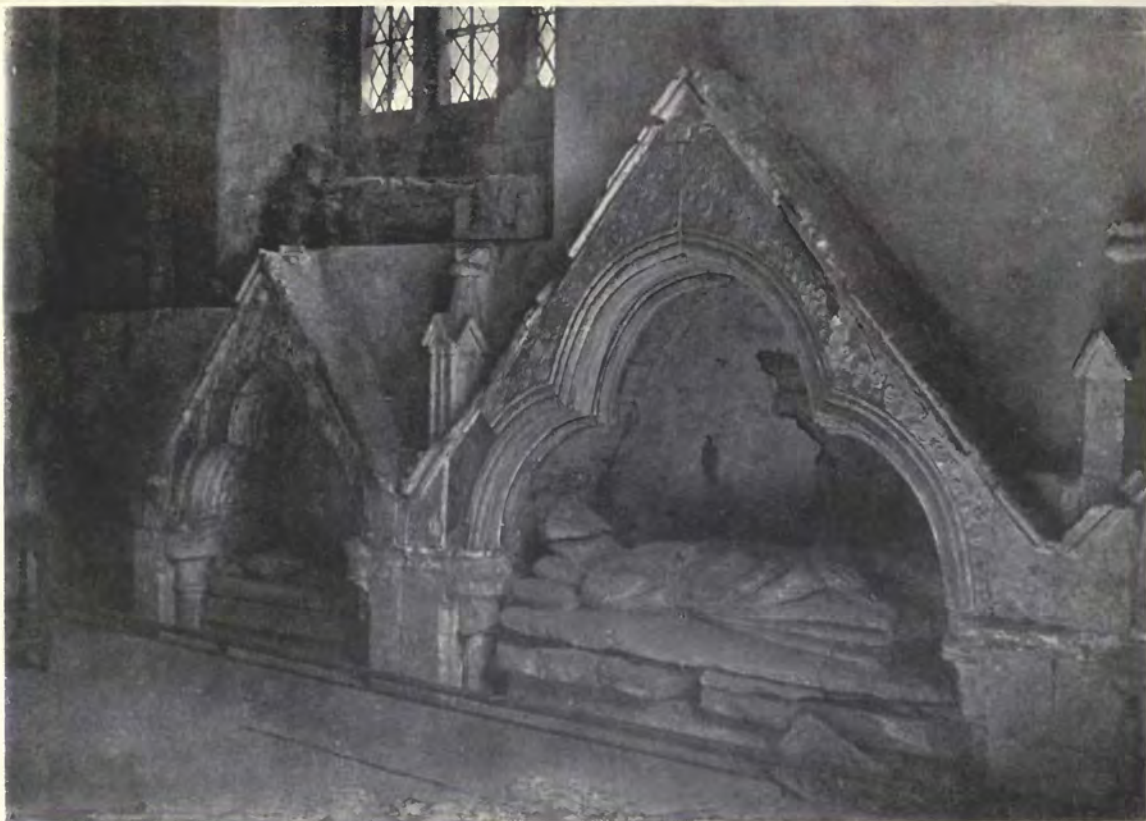


features and is much decayed. The remains of the circular-headed trefoil in the form of the arch proclaim it as co-eval, or nearly so, with the three principal recesses.

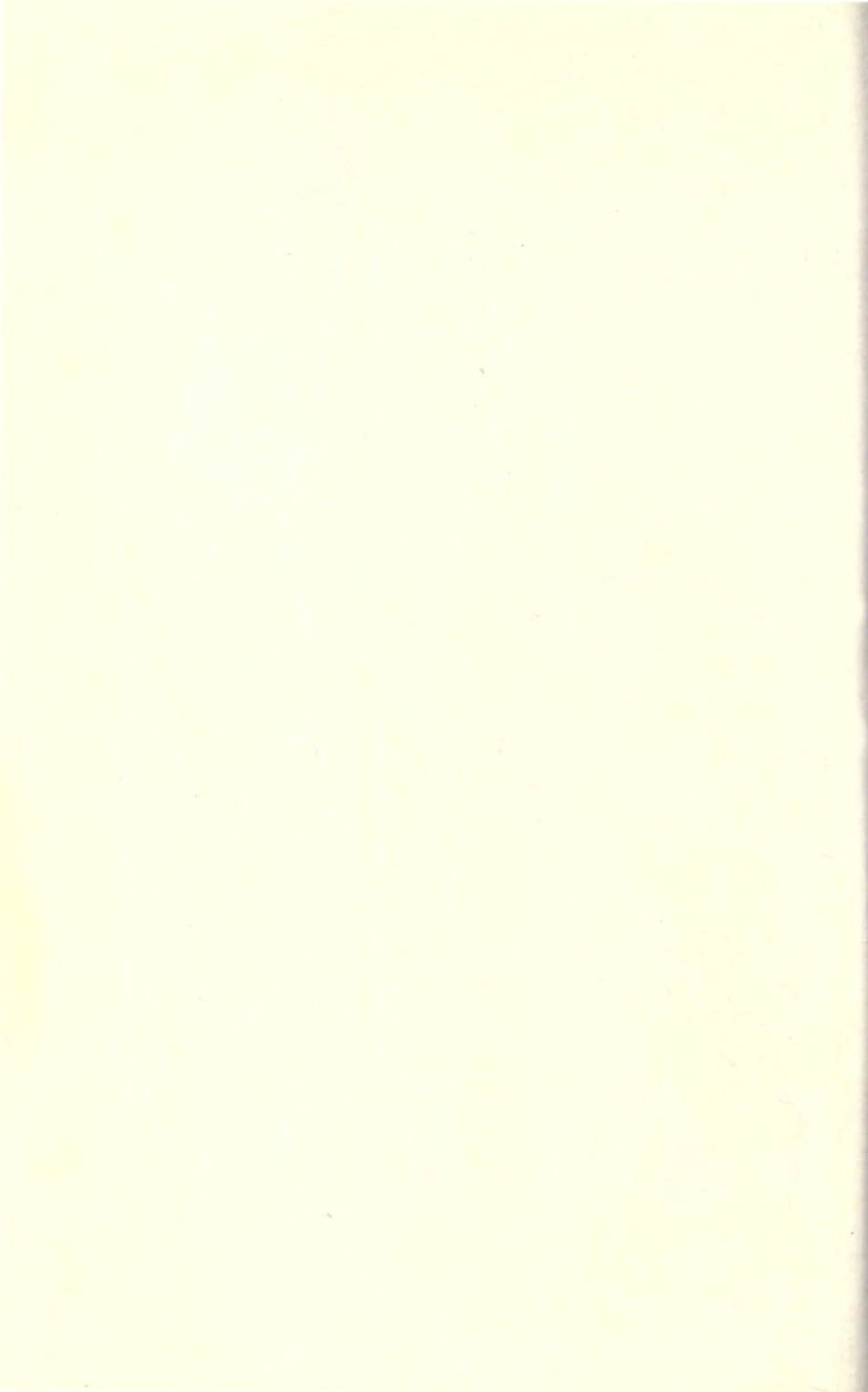
The two extra recesses, which have been added to the east (making a total of six), are again of great interest. They are clearly of the XIV Century and may be contemporary with the alteration of the windows. They are contained beneath a moulded string-course which is returned vertically downwards at the west and terminates in a well carved head. They rest upon a raised base which probably marks the original height of the step or steps which went across the east end of the Chapel. The larger of these two recesses is covered by a trifoliated pointed arch, each cusp of which terminates in a ball-flower. The arch of the smaller recess is also trifoliated, but the cusps have lost their terminations. It is difficult to say what these easternmost recesses were intended for, but they appear to be part of the altar furniture, and we might venture the suggestion that the larger one, which is the western was an Easter Sepulchre since it contains a plain slab; and the smaller one an aumbry. These recesses have only recently been exposed to view by the removal of the Jennings tomb which stood against them. This tomb has now been placed against the east wall of the Chapel.

Effigies, to be described later, rested in the other central recesses. When removed the large figure of a knight was found to have been resting upon an embossed cross which extended the whole length of the coffin-lid, and which had been much damaged in consequence. This coffin when examined was found to contain the remains of a female skeleton wrapped around with lead. Evidently the figure of the knight had no business there!

Similarly the small effigies were also found to be resting upon incised crosses, and as neither of them fitted the recess in which it had been placed we may safely conclude that they also were in their wrong positions. A fourth effigy of a female had for years found a resting-place on the sill of the westernmost window. The way in which one side of this figure has been cut straight seems to show that it was intended to rest upon the south side of the Chapel, and it seems possible that



Tomb Arcade in the North Chapel, St. Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel (*before Restoration*).  
*From a Photograph by the Rev. G. W. Saunders.*





before the organ was placed where it is, and the large Jacobean tomb filled the other arch, there was on this south side of the Chapel another range of tombs corresponding with those on the north side. There still remains at the east end of this side a small length of moulded stone which has been cut off to make room for the large tomb, which seems to be the base of a bench-table on which these effigies may have rested.

Before leaving the Chapel we should notice high up in the wall on the south side two plain Ham stone corbels, and a third which has been cut off flush with the wall. These corbels evidently supported the wall-shafts of the earlier roof.

When the external masonry of the Chapel was examined it was found that the old rough-cast still adhered to the wall in many places, and that the upper courses of stone were in a much better state of preservation than the courses below the sills of the windows. This masonry was in such a bad state of decay that it was found necessary to rough-cast the whole of the north side again. But the difference in masonry seemed to show that the walls of the Chapel had been raised. This accounts for the raising of the buttresses and the addition of a third one on the north side intermediate between the two corner ones.

The hood-moulds of the north windows terminate in ball-flowers, while that of the east window terminates in two small heads, one of which has been badly damaged.

The external roof is of a high pitch and the eastern gable is surmounted by a much weathered cross of XIV Century design.

The north wall is surmounted by a plain crenellated battlement enriched with gargoyles, which is returned westward and is continued round the walls of the rest of the Church.

## B.

The history of the Chapel seems to start with the large recessed tomb on the north side. This, as we have seen, is not only built into the wall, but protrudes on the other side. The large Ham stone coffin contains the remains of a female

skeleton. It is probable that these are the remains of Sabina Revel—the last of the great family after whom the village is named. She married Henry de Urtiaco (del Ortiay, de l'Orti, or Lorty) and died in 1254. She probably built the Chapel during her life-time and provided this handsome tomb-recess for herself on the north side of it. On each side of this tomb a smaller one was added of a very similar design, these perhaps formed part of the original design (Plate IV).

The Chapel, as originally built, was lighted on the north side by three lancet windows. All that now remains of these in their original position are the outer jambs of the two exterior lights with their sills, and the sill of the central one. In the east wall there was probably a combination of two lancets contained beneath an arch which was supported by shafts ornamented with a small nail-head decoration. These shafts remain in their original position.

In the west wall there was another lancet window. The Chapel was entered by a small door below the west window. The walls were lower than they are now and buttressed at each angle by two short massive buttresses of two stages each.

At a later period the Chapel underwent some great modifications of design. The two outer lancets were reconstructed as three-light windows and consequently much widened at the expense of the middle space which now presents a fair surface of plain walling in which no trace of the ancient masonry of the central lancet is visible above the sill, which however was left in the wall to tell its tale. The sills of the outer lancets were reused but lengthened. The inner jambs of the old windows were reused in their new positions and the new arches of Ham stone introduced above them. These make a very clumsy junction with the old work. Finally the walling between the reconstructed windows was rebuilt from the sill level upwards.

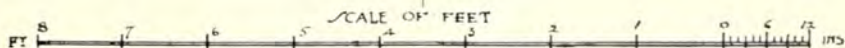
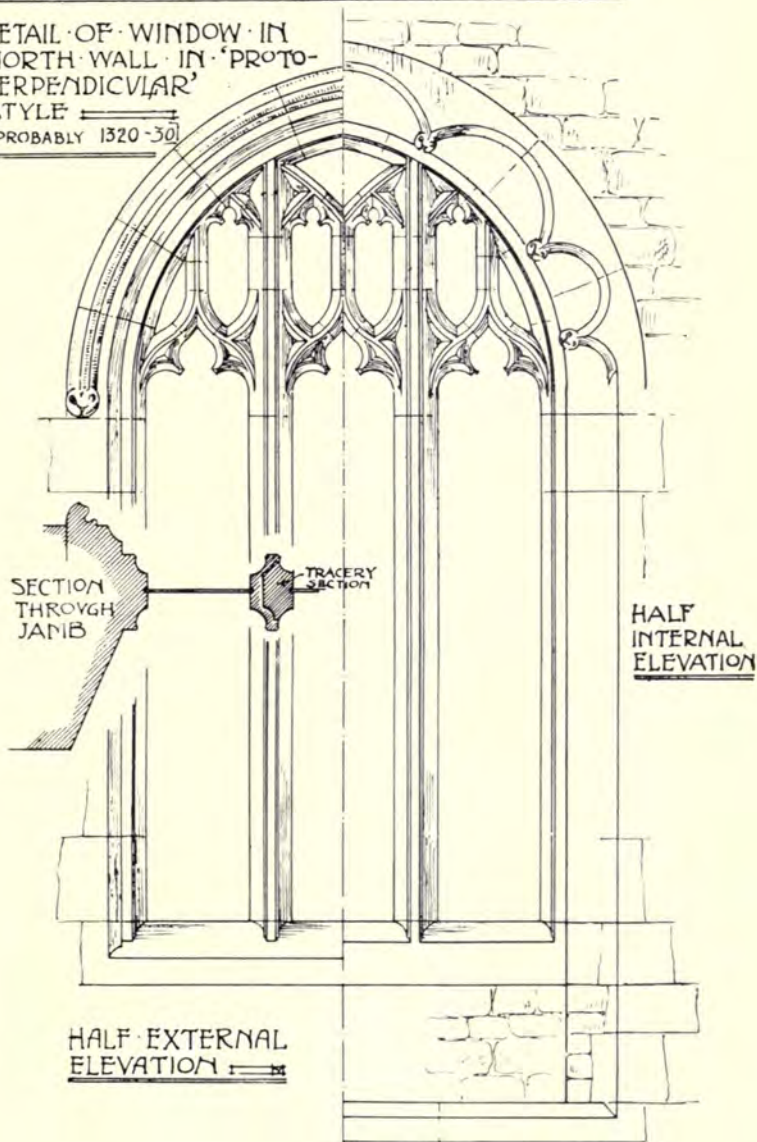
The tracery of these windows is remarkable (Plate V). At first sight it has the appearance of XV Century work and has been generally so regarded, but on examination it is found to present great peculiarities of detail both in regard to the mouldings and the formation of the cusps which are distinctly of the early XIV Century character being square-ended. Mr.



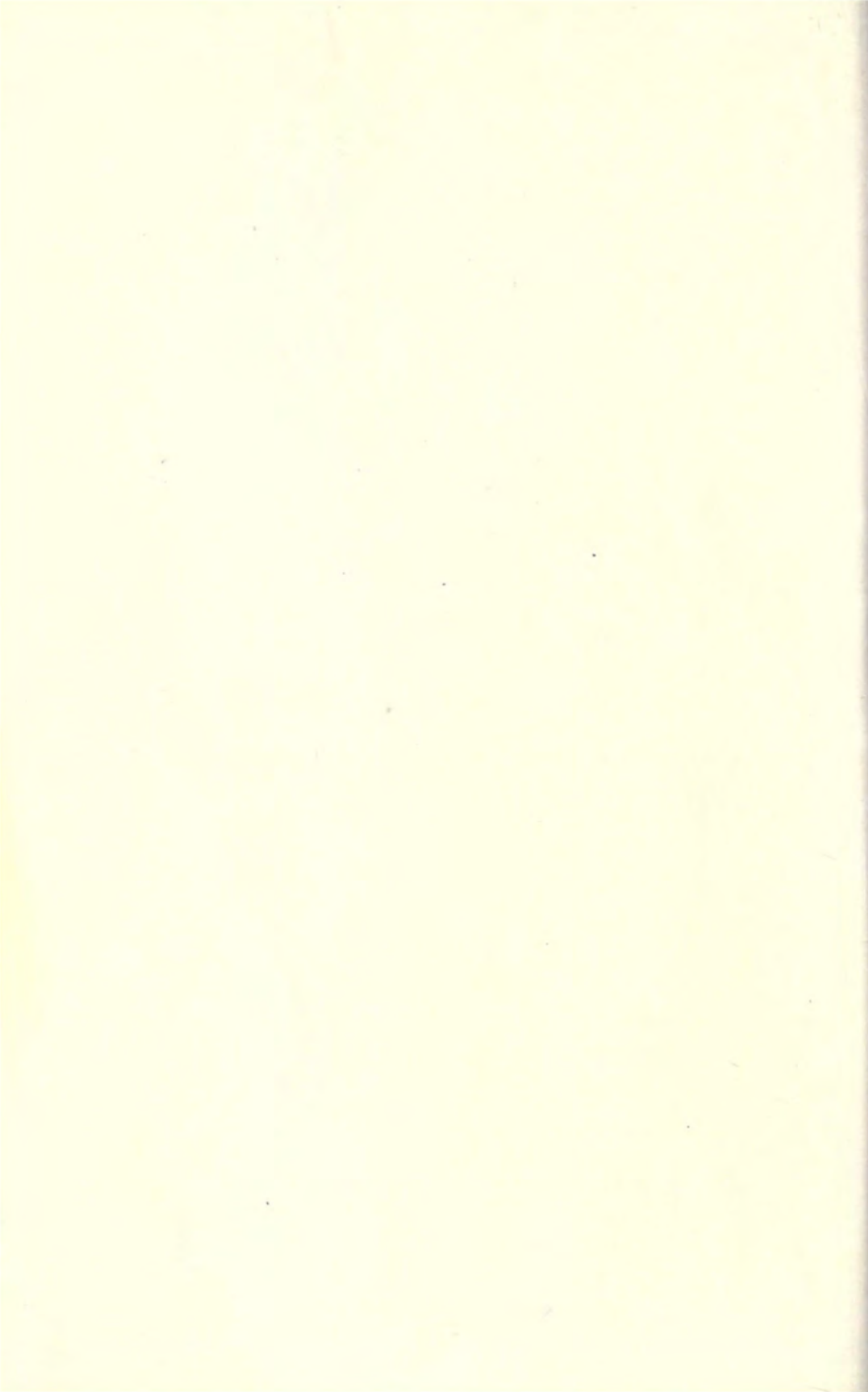
ST MARYS CHAPEL  
 CURRY RIVEL CHVRCH ⇒ SOMERSET

DETAIL OF WINDOW IN  
 NORTH WALL IN 'PROTO-  
 PERPENDICULAR'  
 STYLE

[PROBABLY 1320-30]







Bligh Bond is of opinion that a good deal of the Perpendicular work in Somerset as well as in the neighbouring counties of Wilts and Dorset is of a much earlier date than is commonly supposed and perhaps we have here one of the early essays of the style. The best known instance of early XIV Century Perpendicular is that at Edington Priory Church, Wilts, c. 1355, which is not far from the Somerset border. There is similar work at Bridport which is of still earlier date.<sup>1</sup> If it could be proved that the Curry Rivel windows pre-date these by twenty years or so the fact would be of very great importance in ecclesiology. There is an undeveloped character in the tracery which suggests the possibility, and the occurrence of the ball-flower must be taken into account.

The east window was also reconstructed. The early shafts were retained but a rear-arch decorated with twenty-six ball-flowers was added, and gives the appearance of being too heavy for the shafts. The lancets gave place to a window of three lights filled with tracery, somewhat different to that in the north windows. The cusps are pointed and the mouldings more refined, but the general appearance is still that of the XIV Century. Greater prominence was given to the altar which was now raised by one or two steps; brackets for images were built into the east wall, north and south of it; a handsome piscina and credence was added on the south side (Plate III), and the two eastern recesses were built on the north side. These probably caused the destruction of one of the original tomb-recesses, and part of the incised covering-stone has been built into the sill of the east window.

In the latter half of the XV Century the Church was practically rebuilt. A north aisle was added and the tall arch inserted between the Chapel and the new aisle. This arch contains a fan-vaulted oak screen described in "Roodcreens and Roodlofts" by F. Bligh Bond and Dom Bede Camm, but this belongs rather to the Church than the Chapel.<sup>2</sup>

The introduction of this arch and the addition of the aisle necessitated the destruction of the west window and door,

1. The Church of St. John's, Yeovil, was rebuilt in the period 1362-1382 (*Proc.* LVI, i, 28).

2. Account with illustration in *Proc.* LIV, ii, 145.

the northern jambs of which were left in the west wall. Close to these was built a staircase turret leading to the roodloft and the roofs.

At the same time the walls were raised and an arcade of two arches built between the new chancel and the Chapel. To give the extra support to the raised external walls the massive Early English buttresses were used as foundations for more slender additions which were built upon them in a style uniform with those of the rest of the Church. These new additions were so cleverly let into the older stonework that they appear to be solid masonry. An extra buttress was added to strengthen the wall between the two windows, and a battlemented parapet was added to the top of the wall on the north side.

The changes in the ownership of the manor in the XIV Century create great difficulties in coming to a clear decision on the date of these alterations. Baron Henry de Urtiaco died in 1321; his son and heir John in 1331 sold all his reversionary rights in the property to Sir William de Montacute. In his will (*see* appendix to this article) made and proved in 1340, John desired to be buried in the chapel, and left sixty pounds for his "sepultura." This date would be the very earliest at which Perpendicular tracery could be found; and the executors may have expended the balance of the funeral expenses (he seems to have died in London) in restoring the chapel, which however the testator could no longer describe as "mea." A junior branch of the family lived in Swell, an adjoining parish, but it is hardly likely that they would have interested themselves to preserve something to which they had no chance of succeeding. Neither the great family of Montacute nor that of Beaufort who succeeded would trouble themselves in the matter.

In 1593 Robert Jennings died and a tomb of classical design was raised to his memory. It is difficult to say where it originally stood. Since its removal from its original position it has had a roving but useful existence. For a time it stood in front of the piscina, and doubtless preserved it from damage, but at the same time the south bracket was removed from the wall to make room for it. Before the plaster was stripped



there was a clear cut marking the exact position of the tomb. It was expelled from this position to make room for the large railed tomb, and was then placed against the eastern recesses on the north side. Here again it doubtless preserved these recesses from much damage. It has now been placed below the East window, where it exactly fits and where it may have originally stood.

A larger and more elaborate tomb now stands in the eastern arch on the south side. This also does not stand in its original place. It may have stood in the centre of the Chapel.

The invasion of these tombs probably drove out the earlier effigies, which, as we have seen, may have rested on the south side. These were placed in the recesses on the north side.

Further interments resulted in the raising of the floor-level until it entirely hid the bases of the monuments on the north side.

On the outside a base-mould was added to the east wall but was not continued on the north side. It does not belong here, and it seems that when the chancel was shortened the extra moulding was utilized in this way.

In 1760 a plain king post roof and a flat plaster ceiling below was built by Mr. George Speke. There are no remains whatever of any earlier roof, but the line of the old stone drip of the XIV Century was exposed during the work of restoration, and the new roof roughly follows the same slope.

In 1915 a careful and conservative restoration was carried out. A cambered ceiling of oak ribs and panels has been substituted for the plaster ceiling and the floor lowered to its original level. Thus the Chapel is once more to be seen in its proper proportions. The slabs marking interments have been carefully replaced in the floor. The range of tombs on the north side has undergone slight necessary repairs and one or two missing stones have been inserted. The effigies have been placed again on the south side so that the embossed cross on the large tomb and the incised crosses on the smaller tombs are now visible. The organ has been pushed forward into the western arch so as to clear the floor space, and the small but interesting portion of the Ralph Trevillian tomb has been placed against it.

## C.

It has been asked what was the original purpose of this Chapel? Some have suggested that this was the chancel of an earlier Church. But the existing jambs of a west window and of a door below it prove conclusively that it must have been a separate chapel probably attached to the earlier Church.

The presence of the early tombs and its close proximity to the site of the old manor-house which was situated some yards to the north-west of it, lead us to think that this must have been built as a Manorial Chapel, and perhaps dedicated to Our Lady. Margaret Clavelshaye, in her will dated June 10th, 1545, desires to be buried "in the elde (or aisle) of our Ladie of Curry Rivell Church."

Some time before the Reformation it seems to have lost its exclusive character of a Manorial Chapel, from the fact that it was thrown into the Church on the south and the west, and the private door of access obliterated.

In later years it seems to have been appropriated by the Jennings family who exercised very strict control over the burial rights in it.

In the Parish Church registers there are the following entries :

"Elizabeth Pitt wife of Jonathan Pitt Esq was buried on the ninth day of May in the North Ile by the leave of Marmaduke Jennings Esq in the year 1656."

"Thomas Trevillian, Gent, was buried the eighteenth day of August in the year 1657 in the North Ile by the leave of Marmaduke Jennings Esq."

In the will of John Isham, dated December 20th, 1675, it is actually called "Mr. Jennings' Ile."

"My desire is to have my body buried in Mr. Jennings' Ile at Curry Rivell, if my master Thomas Jennings Esq and the rest of my friends there will give leave."

In 1818 it was proposed to use the Chapel for the purpose of a Sunday school and the following petition was sent to Mr. William Speke from the Committee :

"We, the undersigned, the Minister and parishioners of Curry Rivell being met at a Vestry held for the purpose



of giving greater effect to the Sunday School establishment of the Parish, being of opinion that a more commodious schoolroom is absolutely necessary and that such room may be easily provided by erecting a floor over the North Aisle of the Chancel without any injury to the monuments, to the building, or to the internal appearance of the Church, do hereby petition you, William Speke Esq, to give us permission to carry this same into effect.

(Signed). James Sidgewick (minister), Samuel Alford, Henry Alford, Samuel Slatter, Wm. Fry, Thos. Fredk. Webb, John Fry, Wm. White, Thos. Dinham, G. Gristock and Wm. Sharrock."

Fortunately the petition was not granted; a room was found elsewhere. But at this date it is evident that the aisle was considered to be a part of the chancel, and Mr. William Speke was petitioned as the lay-rector.

## II. TOMBS IN THE NORTH CHAPEL.

Along the north side of the Chapel is a tomb-arcade of, at present, four tomb-recesses; originally there were probably five. The easternmost recess seems to have been removed to make room for the later additions of the XIV Century. A portion of a covering-stone, decorated with an incised cross similar to those on the other covering-stones, has been built into the sill of the east window, which seems to confirm the view that at least one of the recesses has been destroyed. The large central recess contains a finely shaped stone coffin. When examined recently the coffin still contained the remains of a female. The other receptacles were apparently empty except for dust which might possibly have been the dust of human remains; but there were no signs of any lead or coffin.

The westernmost recess measures 3ft. 4½ins. in length. It is in a very bad state of decay and has lost all architectural features except the bases of the two shafts. The receptacle is quite plain and made of inferior stone to the others. It appears to be an afterthought.

The next recess measures 4ft. 4ins. in length. The covering-stone of the receptacle is 4ins. thick, and is decorated with an



incised foliated cross. The cross has been cut short at the foot to fit into the recess.

The central recess is 7ft. in length and contains a Ham stone coffin. This has the edges and top corners chamfered off and tapers towards the foot. The length of the coffin is 6ft. 7ins. and width at head 2ft. 2ins., at foot 1ft. 6½ins. A fine embossed cross runs the whole length of the lid. On each side was the matrix of a small shield. One of these has been destroyed. In the surviving matrix there is still to be seen a small hole indicating that a brass shield had been fastened to it. This coffin probably contains the remains of the founder of the Chapel, Sabina Revel, the wife of Henry de l'Orti.



Coffin Cover of Ham Stone,  
in the North Chapel, Curry  
Rivel Church (restored).

*From a Drawing by Mr. F.  
Bligh Bond.*

The recess eastward is 4ft. 3ins. in length and contains a receptacle ; on the covering-stone is an incised cross ; the ends of the arm and of the foot have been cut off to fit into the recess. The face of the receptacle is decorated with four foliated crosses, placed side by side.

In the Chapel are also the large effigy of a knight and other smaller effigies, two males and one female. I am grateful to Dr. A. C. Fryer for the following description of them :

The effigy of the knight is made of Ham Hill stone and may be dated 1270 to 1280.<sup>1</sup> It is a remarkably fine figure and

1. The period 1270-80 assigned to the figure of the knight makes it very difficult to decide for whom it is intended. The first Henry de Urtiaco died in 1254, and his son and heir Richard before 1254. His son, Henry Baron de Urtiaco was born c. 1252, and died in 1321. It seems rather improbable that when quite a young man he would have laid down an effigy of himself, and at the same time have omitted his wife, living or dead. As he came of age in 1273, and would recover his lands from his guardian, I am inclined to suggest that he may then have commemorated his father or grandfather, and some other deceased members of the family.—E.H.B.H.

may be compared with the knight at Brympton where indications may be seen of the influence of the Bristol school of effigy-makers.

The knight is represented in mail-coif, hauberk, surcoat reaching below knees, mail-hose and knee-caps, girdle, shield-strap over right shoulder, and shield [emblazoned azure cross or (De Urtiaco)—present length 1ft. 10ins.] on left arm, right leg crossed over left, broad sword-belt with long pendant, right hand placed on pommel and sheathing sword, while left holds scabbard; two cushions under the head; right arm and legs below knees destroyed. The mail is not carved and the stone has been surfaced with *gesso*, a gummy plaster on which the mail rings, armorial bearings on shield, diaper work on cushions, etc., were painted. Fragments of colouring are still visible.

The three small effigies of Ham Hill stone have been considered to represent children; but it is not improbable that they are merely small effigies of two men and one lady. They represent civilians and are of special interest as the number now existing of this particular date is not numerous. They were made a little later than the middle of the XIII Century (c. 1260—1270). The larger of the two male figures (3ft. 6ins.) has two rectangular bolsters under the head, while the smaller effigy (3ft. 2ins.) has only one. They are both dressed in long gowns with sleeves, but the lower part of the gown of the larger figure is now destroyed; the hair is worn in curly tufts on either side of the face and falls below the ears; the hands are raised in prayer on the breast; the faces are clean shaven; while the animals or crockets at the feet are now too seriously mutilated to make out what they were originally intended for. The effigy of the lady (3ft. 4½ins.) does not show the kirtle at the wrists, but is clad in a sleeved cotehardi falling to the feet. The hair is worn in large curls to the neck, which was a fashion for a short time among some of the ladies of the latter part of the XII Century. The bronze effigy of Queen Eleanor in Westminster Abbey (c. 1290) shows us this fashion. The usual covering for the head in this century was the kerchief, and the hair was usually in small tufts on either side of the forehead. The hands are raised in



prayer on the breast, and the head rests on one rectangular bolster.

These may represent the three children of Henry Baron de Urtiaco—John, Richard, and Elizabeth. If this is so we must suppose that Sibilla who was the wife of Henry, and the mother of his three children, had all four effigies made during their lifetime. Probably on the death of her husband in 1321 she carried out the elaborate alterations in the Chapel already noticed and placed the figures upon the south side of it. She afterwards married John de Mohun, Lord of Dunster.

At the East end of the Chapel is a large tomb of good classical design commemorating Robert Jennings, died Nov. 10th, 1593. The inscription runs :

Esto memor mortis, transcivit lubrica vita  
Vixit enim quondam quem tegit iste lapis.  
Here lyeth Robert Jennings, deceased,  
the tenth day of November, anno dom., 1593.

Then follow three verses of rhyme, which may be read in Collinson, I, 28.

This tomb has no back to it, which seems to show that it was intended to be placed against a wall.

In the eastern arch on the south side of the Chapel is the large railed-in tomb of Marmaduke and Robert Jennings. The effigies lie side by side in full armour upon a marble slab, beneath a semicircular arch. The underside of the arch is divided into small squares each containing a rose; in the centre at the top is a small angel bearing a scroll with the words "gloria deo" on it. Four recumbent cherubs support a coat of arms (argent, a chevron or, between three bezants, on a chief, ermine, three cinquefoils gules. Crest a redbreast sitting on a moulded morion) which surmounts the tomb. Round the base of the tomb are kneeling weepers each with a name written above. The weepers on the south side are Anna Jennings, Mary Jennings, Eliza Jennings, Marmaduke Jennings, William Jennings and Robert Jennings. On the north side are Mary Powell, Marmaduke Jennings, Francis Bishop, Elizabeth Townsend, and five chrisom babies. Round



the tomb are massive railings of ironwork and attached to one of these on the south side by a chain and curious padlock is a small chest heavily bonded with iron.

There are two good drawings of this tomb in the Braikenridge Collection, Vol. I, pt. 3, in the Library at Taunton Castle. At the heads of the effigies is the inscription :

Here lyeth the body of Marmaduke Jennings Esq who was buried the 25th of April 1625 aetat. 58 also Robert Jennings Esq who was buried the 7th of May 1630 aetat. 32.<sup>1</sup>

There are two portions of another tomb consisting of a base and a frieze. On the base are traces of a now illegible inscription. Round the outside of the frieze are the words "Remember young man in thy youth that thou must die, believe the truth." On the other side of the frieze are the words :

Here lyeth the body of Raphe the son of Raphe Trevillian who died the 15th day of April 1624 anno aetatis 27.

Mother of the said Raphe who died the . . . . . 1642.  
When thou kneelest down to pray to God  
Remember him in heart and word  
If at the Sacrament thou bee  
Believe in Christ that died for thee.

Below these lines are the senseless words, "Trevillian's wife duringe her life 56 years and die her husband's mother."

This tomb is apparently an older tomb reused to commemorate Raphe Trevillian. It is illustrated in the Braikenridge Collection of Drawings, Vol. I, pt. 3.

In the floor are the following sepulchral slabs :

(1). Here lyeth the | bodye of Marye | the wife of Samuel | Powell gent who | departed this life | the 20th day of June | ano domi 1628.

(2). Here | lyeth the | body of Fran | cis late wife | of John | Bishop who | died the 16 day | of March 1630 | she had issue 2 | children | Carnis resurrecti | onem credo et per | mortem Christi | resurgam.

1. The Latin and English inscriptions are given in Collinson, I, 27.

(3). Here lyeth the | body of Marmaduke | Jennings esquire  
 who | departed this life the 29th | day of January in the  
 year | of our Lord God 1657 | Here lyeth Dame Jennings  
 Lloyd | daughter of James Anderton | Esq & Elizabeth his wife  
 & | grand-daughter of Thomas | Jennings Esq of Burton | By  
 her first husband Sir Charles | Cornwallis Lloyd Bart She had  
 no issue | by her second husband George Speke Esq She had  
 four children | three sons & a daughter | Of the sons two are  
 likewise | here buried the one dead born | the other named  
 William an infant | She died June 29th 1754 | aged 54.

(4). Here lyeth the body of Thomas | Trevillian Gentle-  
 man | who departed this | life the 30th day of July | in  
 the year of our Lord | God 1657 | who was the Father of |  
 Elizabeth Jennings the wife | of Marmaduke Jennings | Esquire  
 & he also lyeth | hereby. |

Here lyeth Mary Anderton daughter of Elizabeth daugh | ter  
 of Thomas Jennings Esq | who died April 29, 1716.

(5). Here lyeth the body of | Marmaduke Jennings Esquire |  
 who departed this life the 7th day | of December in the yeare of  
 Our | Lord God 1660 Who was son | of Marmaduke Jennings  
 Esquire | Who also lyeth hereby. |

Rarely composed a body lyes enshrined  
 Twas but the emblem of the rarest mind  
 That part could                    but here we see  
 The brightest sun will set & so is he  
 Not lost but changed & in the change he's blessed  
 For here on earth heir of eternall rest.

(6). Here lyeth the body of Anne | Pitt wife of John Pitt  
 of | Merriott Esquire who died | the 16th day of July 1678 | who  
 was the daughter of Mar | maduke Jennings Esquire.

Arms : Dexter side blank ; Femme ; Jennings.

(7). Jacet hic sepultum cor | pus viri vere dilectissimi |  
 patriæque amici | Thomæ Jennings armigeri | qui nuptias cum  
 domina Maria | Speke Filia Georgii Speke | armigeri ex antiqua  
 familia | de Whitlackington inivit die | 5 Septembris anno 1672 |  
 et relictis tribus libris | Thomæ, Maria, Elizabetha, | peractisque  
 annis 30 et de | cem mensibus obiit Decemb | die 27 annoque  
 dom̄ 1679.

Hic etiam | jacet corpus Ma | riæ Jennings | viduæ relictæ |  
 Thomæ Jennings | armigeri quæ | obiit ultimo die | Martis  
 Anno Dom̄i | 1715 | aetatis suæ 66.

Reader behold what works here Death hath done  
 Removed a husband, father, friend, and son,  
 But though his body underneath doth lye  
 His inward rare endowments ne'er can dye.



He needs no statue every heart appears  
 A monument to him—each eye with tears  
 Becomes a marble whilst each tongue descrys  
 His worth in these his funeral obsequies.  
 Alas a friend is gone the loss not small  
 He was lamented & beloved of all.

(8). Here lyeth the Body of Thomas | Jennings Esq (son of Thomas Jennings | late of Burton within the parish of | Curry Rivel in the County of Somerset Esq) | the last male issue of that fam | ily in the direct line who dyed | May 18th 1695 ætat. suæ. 12.

Arms : Jennings.

(9). Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth | the wife of John Trevillian of Mid | leney within the parish of Drayton | in the County of Somerset Esq sister to Thomas Jennings Esq the last | male issue in the direct line of | Burton family who dyed August | 23rd, 1727. ætat. suæ. 48.

Arms : Trevillian : Demi-horse issuing out of water in base ; imp. Jennings.

(10). Here lyeth the Body of | George Speke Esq | son of George Speke Esq | who died Nov. 18th 1758 | aged 25 years.

Arms : Barry of eight, over all an eagle displayed with two heads. Crest : Porcupine.

There are also preserved in the Chapel two portions of a sepulchral slab on which is roughly incised the head of a tonsured priest. This fragment was illustrated in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, XIV (1915), 268. A similar slab is preserved in Ilton Church and is illustrated in the Braikenridge Collection of Drawings, Vol. I, pt. 3, in Taunton Castle.

### III. THE CHANCEL OF CURRY RIVEL CHURCH.

The Chancel of Curry Rivel Church appears to have been considerably altered in the XVII or XVIII Century. A drawing of the Church made about 1698 shows the south transept and chancel as apparently roofless and the east wall of the nave built up. Probably it was in a very bad state of repair which necessitated an almost entire rebuilding of the east end. The wall of the chancel was lowered ; this is marked by the parapet of the chancel now being considerably lower than that of the south chapel and nave. The south wall

was rebuilt, the old stone being re-used and the window reset in it. In places the base-mould was repaired with new stone.

At the same time the Chancel was shortened by 9 or 12 feet, the east wall being set back to line with the east wall of the north chapel. This was built of entirely new stone and a new east window filled with very inferior tracery. The old buttresses were built up again, but the pinnacle-shafts above the gargoyles were renewed, as also were portions of the base-course. The moulded base-course which was not required was placed against the east wall of the north chapel. During these alterations the heraldic shields were probably badly damaged and carelessly re-inserted in the new window.

The Chancel as it is now lacks a piscina, and is altogether unworthy of the rest of the Church.

#### IV. NOTES ON HERALDRY IN THE CHANCEL OF CURRY RIVEL CHURCH.

---

BY THE REV. PREB. E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A.

---

In the east window of the chancel are four shields with armorial bearings, one perfect, and three imperfect, while a fifth shield bears the figure of a flaming heart. The perfect shield contains the arms of Beauchamp of Warwick: Gules, a fesse between six cross-crosslets or. The next shield still preserves: In chief arg. three bucks heads cabossed or, and the dexter part of a fesse azure, the remainder being filled with coloured pieces of glass, including a fragment of a pavement checquy sa. and arg. This is the coat of Thomas Beckington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 1443-1465; who bore: Argent, on a fesse azure a mitre with labels expanded or, betw. three bucks heads cabossed gu. in chief, and in base as many pheons sa. The complete coat may be seen in a window in the south choir aisle of Wells Cathedral (*Proc.* xxxiv, ii, 45, and illustration). The third shield is quarterly, of which the first and fourth quarters are now filled with quarrels, and the second and third bear the arms of Monta-



cute: Arg. three fusils in fesse gules. The fourth shield is also quarterly, but the only heraldic bearing now visible is a bend or. If this is anything more than a glazier's fancy the shield may have contained the arms of Le Despenser: Quarterly arg. and gules, in the second and third a fret or, over all a bend sa. The mother of Anne Beauchamp, wife of the king-maker, was Isabella daughter and heiress of Thomas le Despenser Earl of Gloucester. The difference in the colours both in this shield and in the arms of Beckington may be due to age.

Before considering what the missing quarters of the third shield may have contained, it is necessary to recall the history of the manor and advowson after John de Urtiaco had parted with them in 1331 to Sir William de Montacute the founder of Bustlesham (now Bisham) Priory in 1338. His son and successor, William second Earl of Salisbury, in 1386 paid £100 for licence to alienate the advowson of Curry Rivel to the Canons of Bisham, who were also enabled to appropriate the rectory to their own needs (*Pat. Rolls*, 9 Ric. II, p. 129). In 1395 the Earl sold the manors of Curry Rivel, Langport, and Martock, and the Hundred of Abdick and Bulstone to John de Beaufort Earl of Somerset; at his death in 1397 he left five hundred marks to complete the buildings of the Priory, the burial-place of his father and mother, his son and himself.

Curry Rivel Church dates from the reign of Henry VII or his successor, whose badges of the portcullis and Prince of Wales' feathers are carved on the porch. In the older building the Canons of Bisham may have desired to commemorate their founder and the fortunes of his family by placing armorial insignia in the chancel which was their possession.

The appearance of the shields of Beauchamp of Warwick and perhaps of le Despenser is due to the marriage of Anne Beauchamp, the greatest heiress of her time, with Richard Neville the King-Maker, eldest son of Richard Neville Earl of Salisbury, in right of his wife Alice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Montacute Earl of Salisbury. Although Richard was married about 1440 it is probable that the shields were placed in the church after he had succeeded his father in 1460,

and certainly before his own death at Barnet in 1471. The appearance of the Beckington coat would further limit the date before 1465. After regaining the upper hand the Earl of Warwick conveyed the bodies of his father and his brother Thomas, also slain at Wakefield, to Bisham early in 1463, and buried them with stately ceremony, in the presence of the Duke of Clarence and other great peers (*D.N.B.*, XL, 282). It may be surmised that the appearance of these arms was something in the nature at once of a funeral monument, and of a visible reminder of the all-powerful might of the head of the family, the "proud setter-up and puller-down" of kings.

According to the later laws of heraldry, the vacant quarters in the third shield should hold the arms of Neville. But in earlier days the rule was rather to place the more important coat in the first quarter. And it is at least as likely that they held the arms of Monthermer (or an eagle vert), which were borne by the descendants of Sir John de Montacute, who married Margaret grand-daughter and heir of Sir Ralph Monthermer by his wife Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward I. That coat, as showing descent from the blood royal might well be considered as the more important; but it implies a proud humility on the part of the king-maker, himself descended from John of Gaunt, to place his paternal arms after the quartered coat of Monthermer and Montacute. Yet such an arrangement appears in a shield in Ashton Church, Devonshire, described by Mr. F. M. Drake in an article in the *Transactions of the Exeter Dioc. Architectural Society*; he adds that the combined shield is common in the county, and appears in the chapter-house at Exeter. Richard Symonds<sup>1</sup> records that at Fladbury, near Worcester, he saw a shield of which the first quarter contained Beauchamp of Warwick, the second Montacute and Monthermer quarterly, the third Neville, and the fourth Le Despenser. In Salisbury Cathedral he records a shield bearing Montacute and Monthermer quarterly; and in Martock<sup>2</sup> Church a shield of which the first quarter was

1. "Diary of Marches of the Royal Army during the Great Civil War," Camden Society, 1859.

2. In his notes on this church Symonds records twenty-two shields, besides one hundred and twenty more in the clerestory windows. Not one of these is now in existence.



vacant, the second and third were Montacute, and the fourth Monthermer; this is the blazon of the Curry Rivel shield.<sup>1</sup>

The portrait of the King-Maker in Rous's "Roll of the Earls of Warwick" (reproduced in the illustrated edition of Green's "Short History," II, 556) shows his shield bearing Montacute and Monthermer quarterly.

The evidence is somewhat conflicting, but on the whole I am inclined to believe that the vacant quarters in the Curry Rivel shield bore Monthermer rather than Neville. But if this latter coat was borne in the first quarter of this and the Martock shield, their disappearance may have been due to the desire of a zealous Yorkist official to obliterate the remembrance of the Proud Setter-up and Puller-down of kings. On his return from exile Henry of Bolingbroke executed Bushy and Green on the ground (amongst others) that they "from mine own windows tore my household coat, raz'd out my impress, leaving me no sign—save men's opinions, and my living blood—to show the world I am a gentleman" (Richard II, Act III, scene i).

## V. WILL OF JOHN DE URTIACO, 1340.

BY THE REV. PREB. E. H. BATES HARBIN, M.A.

As my paper on the family of De Urtiaco (*Proc.* XLII, ii, 26) has been frequently referred to in these notes on Curry Rivel, it seemed a good opportunity to add to it by printing the will of John de Urtiaco. This was buried as effectually as the testator himself among the Harleian charters in the British Museum, but has been brought to light in the valuable Index recently printed in two volumes, a copy of which is in the Library at Taunton Castle.

Since the date of the paper (1896) more references have

1. The seal of the King-Maker engraved in Doyle's "Official Baronage" shows: Quarterly, first and fourth Montacute quartering Monthermer, second and third, Neville with a label compony arg. and az.

turned up, but at present it is only necessary to add that many deeds relating to the sale of Cucklington and Stoke Trister to John de Moleyns (p. 51) will be found in the Moleyns cartulary presented by the Right Honourable H. Hobhouse to the Society. Also that Sibilla wife of Baron Henry (p. 41) was not born de Beaumont. The official transcriber of the Patent Rolls read Vrtiaco for Vesiaco (the name of her first husband), and anybody conversant with records will see that the names in court-hand are as like as two peas.

*The Will. Harl. Charters, 57, D, 4.*

In Dei nomine Amen. Ego Johannes de Vrtiaco condo testamentum meum in hoc modo die Martis proximo post festum Pentecoste anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum quarto-decimo (6 June, 1340). Inprimis lego animam meam Deo et corpus meum ad sepeliendum in capella . . . .<sup>1</sup> juxta ecclesiam de Cory Rivel. Item lego fratribus Ivelchester xx sol. Item lego fratribus Brugewater xx sol. Item lego fratribus de Oth<sup>2</sup> unam marcam. Item lego x li. ad celebranda in dicta capella. Item lego Ricardo fratri meo manerium meum de Knoll ad terminum vite sue pro suo bono servicii, et post decessum ipsius Ricardi mihi et heredibus meis plenarie revertetur. Item lego dicte Ricardo ij meliores equos cum tota armura mea. Item lego Johanni de Mortim x li. Item lego Waltero de Thorhull unum equum qui vocatur Putteneye et xl sol. Item lego Stephano de Stapelton unum equum et xl sol. Item lego Johanni knapp unum pullum (foal) et xl sol. Item lego Waltero de Putteneye xl sol. Item lego Simoni de Putteneye xx sol. Item lego Waltero de Chaifecomb xx sol. Item lego quilibet de familia mea secundum ordinationem executorum meorum. Item lego ad sepulturam meam honeste factam lx li. Item lego omnia bona mea non legata ad ordinationem executorum meorum ut viderent anime mee melior expedire. Item ordino, facio, et constituo executores meos viz. dominum Radulfum de Middelyne, Ricardum de Vrtiaco, Johannem de Middelyne et Nicholaum Laddrede ut ordinent et diffonent omnia predicta et residua ad proficuum anime mee; in cujus rei testimonium



meum sigillum apposui. Datum Londinio die et anno supradicto.

Mr. E. A. Fry, who has kindly checked my transcript with the original, has also read the probates, 57, D, 5. Another one indorsed on the will has been cancelled out. The first recites that probate was granted in our office in London on 13 Kal. July (19th June) 1340, after a previous probate granted in the office of the Archdeacon of London had been cancelled because the deceased had goods in the ville of Braynstyd outside his jurisdiction. This place is not identified, so it throws no light on the superior authority. The second probate, indorsed on the first in respect of goods situated within the diocese of Salisbury is dated the Ides of July (15th July, 1340).

The testator does not mention any relation besides his brother, although his wife and married daughter were both alive. He seems to have been an extravagant and lawless individual, who very soon came to grief among the greater wrong-doers of that period.

#### NOTES ON WILL.

1. A very short word has been absolutely erased. I venture to read "mea."
2. Fratres de Oth. There is no record of a Friary at Oth, now Oathe, also Worthe, in the parish of Aller, but on the Curry Rivel side of the Parrett. It was formerly reckoned to belong to Swell, but has been transferred by order of the L.G.B. in 1886. There is no reference to it as forming part of the endowment of a chantry at Swell by Mabel de Rivel (*S.R.S.*, ix, 383). There was a chapel at Oathe in 1373, see *Papal Letters*, iv, 189; and it may be that the testator really intended to remember the "capellanus." If it was connected with the chantry at Swell there would possibly be two "capellani" for legatees, and the plural would make an error easier."