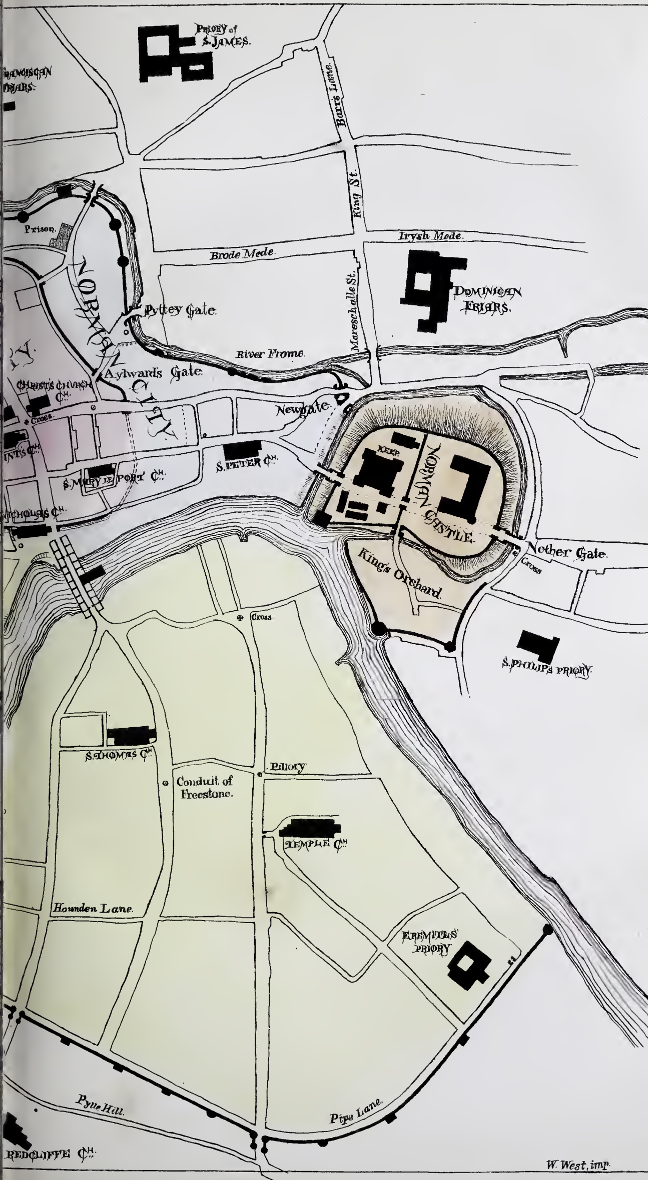
MAP of ANCIENT BRISTOL
SHEWING ITS GRADUAL EXTENSION
IN SAXON, NORMAN, AND MEDIÆVAL TIMES.
By E.W. Godwin, Esq., F.S.A.
S. Michaels Hill.
S. MARY MAGDALEN.
Priors La
S. MICHAEL Ch.
Fountain and Cross.
S. BARTHOLOMEW.
Stanley Way.
CARMELITES
S. LAWRENCE Ch.
S. GILES Guild.
Frog St.
S. MARY AND S. MARK.
SAX
S. WERBURGH Ch.
S. STEPHEN Ch.
S. LEONARD Ch.
KEY
S. AUGUSTINE Ch.
S. AUGUSTINE'S MONASTERY.
Marsh Gate.
River Frome
The Marsh.
HERMIT
S. JOHN'S HOSPITA
Wm Bidgood, lith.


Priory of S. James.
Barr's Lane.
King St.
Prison.
Irysh Mede.
Brode Mede.
Mareschalle St.
Dominican Friars.
Norman City.
Pyttey Gate.
River Frome.
Aylward's Gate.
Christ's Church Ch.
Cross.
Newgate.
Keep.
Norman Castle.
S. Peter Ch.
S. Marye le Port Ch.
Nether Gate.
Cross
King's Orchard.
Cross
S. Philip's Priory.
S. Thomas Ch.
Pillory
Conduit of Freestone.
Temple Ch.
Hounden Lane.
Eremites' Priory
Pyle Hill.
Pipe Lane.
Redcliffe Ch.
W. West, imp.

On Ancient Bristol.

BY E. W. GODWIN, F.S.A.

TOWNS may be divided into four classes :—

1.—The Military.
2.—Baronial.
3.—Ecclesiastical.
4.—Commercial.

Roman towns belong to the first. They occupy important stations on the great highways, and are planned at right angles, having a gate in the centre of each face, and sometimes a tower at each angle. Chester and Lincoln are examples of military cities.

The Baronial towns or castles were the great nest of Feudalism. The houses and streets were formed under the protection of the castle, sometimes within the walls of the great court, but more often in England nestling under the shadow of the castle walls, as at Norwich, Richmond, in Yorkshire, &c.

The Ecclesiastical towns were to the bishops and the abbots just what the castle towns were to the barons. The powerful churchmen of the middle ages were often more

than a match for the temporal lords, and thus we find the traders and labourers clustering their little tenements at the base of the towering abbey, with as much confidence as those who dwelt under less spiritual protection. Examples of this may be seen at Bury St. Edmunds, Wells, and Glastonbury.

But the great towns of the middle ages belonged to what may be called the Commercial class. These were mostly seaport towns, self-dependant, self-contained, and self-governed. They exercised in the end the greatest influence, because they were the greatest workers in the state.

Though the Roman military cities have sank into quiet villages or small country towns, and baronial halls into cowsheds and blacksmiths' forges, and the great monasteries shared the same fate, the commercial cities have lived and flourished and extended their walls, and spread out far beyond their ancient limits. Thus Bristol has grown to ten times its original compass in Saxon times. Its original site was between St. Nicholas' Church, south ; St. John's, north; St. Peter's, east; and Stuckey's Bank, west.

These points give the extent of the first walled Saxon town. Bristol was therefore in Saxon times of no mean importance, but the remains of the Saxon city are all passed away except the direction of the streets, and perhaps a few portions of the walls. The aspect of it would then be a crenellated wall following an irregular curve, with towers north, south, east, and west, and three smaller ones on the north side. Entering the town we should find a street leading from each gate to the centre of the town. Wine Street, or Wynch Street, from the east, High Street from the south, Broad Street from the north, and Corn Street from the west. Inside the wall from gate to gate

was a lane or way, which communicated with one of the main streets, viz: Corn Street by Small Street, which is almost parallel to Broad Street, and at the end of which was a gate tower.

Four centuries later than Saxon times, great changes had taken place in the appearance of the town.

The Normans had reared a mighty fortress nearly as large in area as the old town, occupying the neck of ground between the river Frome and the river Avon, and extending the whole length of Castle Street, leaving a space the length of Peter Street between it and the town wall. The inmates of the two fortified areas did not live on amicable terms. The garrison at the castle seems to have unjustly interfered with the townsmen, levied tolls, and captured their goods, so that the burgesses were constantly applying for charters of protection. From the concluding words of a charter of King John, we may believe that the first extension of the town walls took place soon after A.D. 1188. The space between the old town wall and the river Frome, north, and the ground lying between the town and the castle, east, being taken in by the new wall. The town thus became possessed of a double line of fortification on its weakest side. The new gate towards the castle was erected close by the castle mill, and to this day two or three of the houses in Castle-mill Street are known by the expression of "under new gate." Then followed an extension southwards towards the "marsh," as Queen's Square and its neighbourhood were then called.

In 1247 Bristol Bridge was built, where before was only a passage ferry, and the first step was taken to incorporate the lordship of Redcliffe with Bristol, by a charter of this date, and a new wall and gates were built in the line of Port Wall Lane. In 1347 Edward III granted liberty to

erect a prison ; in 1373 came the important charter which made Bristol a county by itself, and granted two members to represent it in Parliament. In the same charter is contained the foundation of the municipal chamber "the forty better and more honest men of the town."

Coming to the time of Wyrcestre, A.D. 1450, we find that in the past four hundred years the town had more than quadrupled itself, and the extension of the town was southward so as to secure all the advantages of the two rivers, and enable the ships to ride up to the doors of the warehouses, and under the windows of the merchants' homes.

Before Edward I had ascended the throne, a continuous chain of religious houses stretched from beyond new gate, or the east gate of the town, all along the north and west banks of the Frome, to the west of the marshes at the confluence of the two rivers. Nor did they end here, for behind and above these, to the north, rose the nunnery of St. Mary Magdalene, and the tower of St. Michael, whilst to the west stood the chapel-crowned hill of St. Brendan. In the middle of the 15th century, when Wyrcestre wrote, there were in the city two powers which were in their full blossom, viz :—money, and a mania for building. To these are owing such works as the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, and the Towers of St. Werburgh and St. Stephen, and to these we are indebted for destroying the less showy, but more lovely works of the purest period of European art, nevertheless there is happily enough left to enable us to judge of every style and period.

To return now to the growth and extension of the city. In the Saxon city there were seven TOWERS over the gates of the inner wall, two, if not three, church towers in the centre, and four others, making fourteen within the inner

wall. In the outer town or Norman city were three church towers, the Bridge tower, 108 ft. high, the Custom House tower, Canynge's tower, one Convent tower, and nine over the gates, besides these were twenty-three upon the walls, some square, some round, some used as dwelling-houses by the merchants or "good men" of the town, all of which measured between 20 and 30 ft. in diameter. Outside the town the spire of Redcliffe was balanced by the spire of the Carmelites, each 200 ft. high, the seven towers of the Castle bounded the view eastward, as the four towers of the Abbey bounded it westward, and between these the campanili and gate-towers of seven conventual houses, rose like a phalanx under the leadership of the tower of St. Michael the Archangel. Seventy-nine or eighty towers is no slight thing for a city to boast of, without counting the innumerable turrets which filled up the spare corners.

Next to the towers as important features in the general view, were the lines of crenellated WALL, one above the other, and over both the frowning merlons of the castle. One of the city walls contained in its thickness five fair sized parish churches.

There was no less than nineteen parish CHURCHES two of which were attached to convents, all the four orders of friars, five priories, a nunnery, and a mitred abbey.

There were two HOSPITALS for lepers, and another hospital in the suburbs, besides seven almshouses, &c., four guild chapels, besides the chapel of St. Mary, on the bridge, and the mariner's chapel of St. John, on the Back.

It is almost impossible to enumerate the examples of DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE which the town possessed in the middle of the 15th century. Every house was a study. Among the more important may be mentioned the Guild-hall, in Broad Street; the Merchants' Hall, or Spicer's

Hall, at the back of the Custom House; Shipward's House, near St. Stephen's Church; Norton's House, now St. Peter's Hospital; Richard Newton's House; Canynge's House, in Redcliffe Street; the great houses in the shambles, besides one hundred and sixty or one hundred and seventy street houses which must have played important parts in the street architecture of the old town.

The Crosses and the Fountains.—The principal crosses were the High Cross in the centre of the town; St. Nicholas' Cross in Baldwyne Street; St. John's Cross, in Christmas Street; St. Peter's Cross; Stallage Cross, at the junction of Touker Street and Temple Street; one in the old market by the castle wall, and one at the top of Steep Street. Close by the last-named cross was a fountain or well, and there were also others at the Pittey Gate, the old Custom House, near Christmas Street, and at the corner of St. Peter Street.

The Conduits of the town which seem to have attracted so much attention from Wyrcestre because they were all of freestone, roof and walls, inside and out, were situated at St. John's Church, All Saints' Church, St. Nicholas' Church, St. James's Churchyard Gate, Pyttey Gate, and Thomas Street.

This is what there was in 1450, since that period four churches have been destroyed, five rebuilt, fourteen out of fifteen gate-towers have been destroyed, all the gate-ways except two, and between twenty and thirty wall-towers. Sad havoc has been made of the domestic buildings, and nearly of all the Conventual Houses; all the purely Conventual Churches have been demolished, except the Priory Church of St. Mark, and a moiety of the Abbey Church, and every vestige of the bridge and its chapel and its tower, and the Guild-hall and its chapel of St. George,

the Tolsey, and a host of minor buildings. Yet enough remains to illustrate the history of our national art. Thus of Norman work we have in the inner town two bays of the parish Church of All Saints, and portions of a house now the Mirror Office in Small Street. In the outer town there is probably no Norman work, but beyond the walls there is the grand nave of the Church of St. James, the font in St. Philip's Church, and the rich remnants of Fitzhardinge's Abbey of St. Augustine. The only Early English work within the town is an arch of the old town-gate, called Blynd Gate, at the end of St. John Street. Outside the walls we have a splendid series of examples of 13th century work. The finest specimen is at Redcliffe Church; then follow the beautiful tower of St. Philip; part of the priory of Dominican Friars, Merchant Street; some remains of the castle in Tower Street; the unique gateway of St. Bartholomew's Priory near Christmas or Whitesmith Street; the remarkably elegant chapel of the priory of St. Mark, now the Mayor's chapel; and the well-preserved and valuable examples at the quondam abbey of St. Augustine.

The Decorated work within the inner wall is confined to the vaults and cellars of the merchants' houses in High Street, and Corn Street. In the outer town we have the north chapel of Temple Church, and some bits in St. Stephen's Church, and also some timber construction opposite St. Peter's Church. Outside the walls Decorated portions remain of the priory of Dominicans; of the priory of the Franciscans, in Lewin's Mead; of the priory church of St. Mark; of the great work of Abbot Knowles at the Abbey of St. Augustine; and last of all the unique hexagonal porch and other remains at St. Mary Redcliffe. Of genuine Perpendicular, up to the 16th century, examples

within the inner town are to be seen in the crypt of St. Nicholas, at St. John's, and at All Saint's. St. Werburgh and St. Mary-le-port, have been much pulled about, but they are also worth noticing.

The Mirror Office in Small Street, and portions of the old Swan Inn, commonly known as the "Guard House Passage," are noteworthy specimens of the Domestic architecture. In the outer town, Temple Street, and Redcliffe Street, possess many houses of this period. Canynge's House is a celebrated example, also Norton's House, and St. Peter's Church, close by; an alms house in the old market; an alms house chapel at the top of Steep Street; portions of the Churches of St. Philip and St. James; the lofty tower of St. Stephen, and great part of the church; the whole of St. Augustine's Church, and some part of the Abbey of St. Augustine, and Priory of St. Mark; the Church and Tower of the Holy Cross or Temple; and nearly the whole of St. Mary, at Redcliffe.

Aspect of the Inner Town at the time of Wyrcestre's Survey.

Wall.—This originally erected for defence, and strengthened at various times, had grown to little less than 30 ft. in thickness at the base. On the exterior some few feet were occupied by set-offs, and a general inclination to the crenellated summit; inside the battlements, which were about 2 ft. thick, was a promenade for the townfolks of about 6 ft., and crowded on the remaining thickness and round about its external base were tenements and vaults of various kinds.

This wall was pierced in nine different points:—

1. St. Nicholas Gate, by Bristol Bridge, at the bottom of High Street.

2. Going westward, a Way down thirty-two steps, at the Back.

3. Another Way of thirty-two steps to Baldwyn Street, opposite Bafft or Back Street.

4. St. Leonard's Gate, at the bottom of Corn Street.

5. St. Giles's Gate, at the bottom of Small Street.

6. St. John's Arch.

7. Blynd Gate, at the end of John Street.

8. Aylward's Gate at the top of the Pyttey, often confounded with the Pyttey Gate at the bottom of the Pyttey.

9. The Old Gate, at the end of Wine Street.

Apart from their different dates, these nine gates belonged to two different classes, and in St. John's and Blynd Gate we possess types of the others. For the sake of distinction they may be divided into Town gates and Way gates.

To the first class belong the five gates which stood at the ends of the principal streets. To the second belong the four which led from the narrow lane or way within the wall to the Avon River on the one side, and the Frome on the other. Four out of the nine gates were always mentioned by the names of saints, these were town gates; the fifth town gate which stood a little to the east of the pillory, in Wine Street, is described as the "old gate" in contradistinction to the "new gate" built much further eastward on the first enlargement of the town in the 12th century. As St. Peter's Church is outside the old gate, and just within the new gate, it is just possible that the eastern entrance to the town might have been called St. Peter's Gate; accepting this hypothesis, we have five town

gates bearing the names of as many churches, which we find were at some time attached to them.

The question is, What time? Some evidence may be brought to prove that it was in Saxon times.

1. There is no example or record of any Norman town wall or town gates having churches on them.

2. Wyrcestre describes the church over the gate at the end of Small Street, as "the old Church of St. Gylys." At another place he says, "it is situated in the high place at the end of Small Street, over the gate, but the parish was united to St. Laurence or St. Leonard about the time of Edward III," and then he goes on to describe how the Jews' temple, (Templum Judeorum) or synagogue, used to be in the old crypt under the church, and how this desecrated temple was in his time used as cellarage. Now as the Jews retired from England in the reign of John, St. Giles's Church, desecrated and disused as Wyrcestre saw it, must at any rate have dated from a period anterior to the 13th century, but during the preceding century and a half the Norman fashion prevailed, and we are thus driven to one of two conclusions, either that this church was built in opposition to the Norman military fashion of the day, or that it had been built before the Normans' arrival, while yet the Saxon customs prevailed.

3. In the Anglo Saxon paraphrase of the book of Genesis, a MS. of the 10th century, preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, one of the chief illuminations shows how the rebel archangel "began to be presumptuous." The archangel appears in the centre crowned, and bearing in his left hand a sceptre; this hand is extended towards two crowds of angels on his left, whose attention he seems desirous to draw to the great step he is about to take,

which is none other than to seat himself on the throne of Heaven. This throne of judgment is nothing more than a city gateway of two stories, the upper one with open arches forming a kind of canopy to the seat or throne. The roof is of a high pitch and covered with shingles, and on the ridge is seen a crowd of angels; at the angles are square towers or turrets of four stories, divided into two main stages which terminate just below the eaves of the roof, and between these turrets on the ground level is an arched gateway with two small windows over it, and a low turret on one side rising to the floor of the second story. This evidence taken altogether is favourable to the theory that the churches at the gates are of the same Saxon origin as the gates themselves.

Of the four remaining gates, the two for Nicholas Street are nameless, and it is not apparent that they were ever anything more than mere stair-ways, not so, however, the other pair on the opposite side of the town. The names Aylward's Gate, and Blynd Gate, at once remind us of Saxon times; and the meadow land over which they looked, and which stretched from Broad Meadow under the wall far up the banks of the Frome to the Eorl's Meadow, or from Broad Mead to Earl's Mead, explains the reason of the extra gate on this side of the town. All these gates with one exception had been rebuilt before Wyrcestre's time. Blynd gate was rebuilt in the 13th century, as appears from architectural evidence.

We will now proceed to survey the WAYS or STREETS.

With the exception of Bridge Street, the present streets or lanes are very much the same as they have always been. There have been no alterations in the various directions of the streets, and very few changes even in their border lines.

Entering the town by New Gate, we pass directly through Wine Street to our starting point the Old Gate, about one hundred feet to the east of the pillory or the present pump. This street is one of the four great streets of the town which meet at the centre where the High Cross stood.

It appears to have gone by different names at different times, Tower Street, Castle Street, and finally Wynch Street, corrupted into Wine Street. Where the pump now stands stood the pillory, or as Wyrcestre calls it, "Domus justiciæ et Officii Collistrigii," and says "it was round and constructed of wrought stone with arched and iron-banded windows, and that above the house was an instrument of wood for stretching the necks of infamous men, cheating bakers," &c.

Close by the pillory to the north is the short street called Aylward's Street, leading to Aylward's Gate, at which point commences the way or lane that encircles the town, under the shelter of the wall. This way, at no point more than ten feet wide, and in some parts only six feet, was called by the names of the different buildings it passed by. From Wynch Street to the bottom of Broad Street it was, and is still called Tower Street, or Tower Lane, possibly from the four gate towers being so very near one another. In this Tower Lane we have Blynd Gate opposite St. John's Churchyard.

St. John's Church and Gate were rebuilt by one of the Walter Framptons. Here was what Wyrcestre calls the "Domus de frestone" on the south side of the church for conducting water through lead pipes, which was rebuilt at a later period, and taken down in recent times. St. John's Arch and Church remain in much the same general condition as in Wyrcestre's day. There is also the crypt

dedicated to the Holy Cross, six windows to the north, two on the south, "frette vowted." The tomb of the refounder is still (I believe) in the crypt, also the gateway and the tower, "cum duobus batillementis," which gate is "Scita contingue Ecclesiæ Laurencii," and this expression settles the position of the Church of St. Laurence, of which there are some slight remains.

Crossing Broad Street, we enter Laurence Lane, which was the most ecclesiastical street for its size, being only two hundred feet long, and having the Church of St. Laurence at one end, and the Church of St Giles at the other, (according to Barrett) and the Nunnery of St. Sepulchre between the two. The parish of St Laurence was incorporated with St. John in 1580, and the site of the church sold for building.

The Church and Gate of St. Giles stood at the bottom of Small Street. Wyrcestre says, "hereabout the wall was higher than anywhere else, and had great vowtes under it," "that the old Church of St. Gylys was byldyd ovyr the vowtes." It was, however, only the fabric of a church, as the parish had been united to St. Leonard's about the time of Edward III.

The original course of the Frome before 1247, wound round the town in the line of Baldwyn Street, and joined the Avon just below St. Nicholas' Church. Then the ships could only come to the back, where, although there was enough water at high tide, the bottom was "very stony" and rough; but the trench cut in 1247 for the new course of the Frome turned out soft and muddy, so that it became a port for the great ships; the logs, the smaller craft, the barges, the lighters, &c., going as of old, up the Avon. This is the key note to the character of this quarter of the town, hither came all the heaviest of the mediæval mer-

chantmen. Here too, were built those towering craft which made Bristol famous as a seaport town, and put Burton's ship, the "Nicholas of the Tower," at the head of the English fleet of 1442.

Here also was the Custom House. Crossing Small Street, you enter St. Leonard's Lane; on or against this portion of the wall some of the greatest merchants lived, at the other end of the lane was the Great West Gate of the town, with the Church and Tower of St. Leonard above it; this was a Compound Gate. "The Parish Church of St. Leonard," says Wyrcestre, "is situated supra portam, S. Leonardi cum turri desuper portam" for bells; but the little Church is situated between Baldwyn Street and the way going to the quay, (Pylle Street). This is explained by the dimensions of the Church; the length of the nave 36 feet, choir 21 feet, width 30 feet, so that the nave was altogether westward of the town wall and the gate, having its north and south walls over the side gates leading to Baldwyn Street and Pylle Street, and its west wall towards the back of the house in Marsh Street; the chancel was over the gate, forming a story of the tower, which is described as 65 feet high, with pinnacles and battlements. This church was taken down in 1771. The only way into the church was by a flight of thirteen steps on the north side of the chancel, beneath which was a small crypt.

Crossing Corn Street, we enter St. Nicholas Street or Collas Street. There were twelve vaults or cellars in this street, but its great feature was the church from which it took its name. St. Nicholas' Church and Gate must have been by far the handsomest building on the wall. The church appears to have been rebuilt at least four times. We find a church here in the time of Robert Fitzhardinge, which must have been either a Norman rebuilding, or a

Saxon structure; if the latter, it must have been rebuilt before 1480, for the foundation, from Wyrcestre's description, would not apply to a Saxon building. He says, the parish Church of St. Nicholas is situated "supra portam pulchram," called St. Collas Gate, with a tower 15 feet square, supporting a large pinnacle or spire of wood covered with lead; and there were also most beautiful arches and windows, with a Chapel dedicated to the Holy Cross.

In 1503, or just before the Reformation, the church was again in part rebuilt, and finally, in 1762. The present crypt of two aisles is the crypt that delighted Wyrcestre with its beautiful stone arches and groins. The present church covers the whole of the crypt, as did also the church of 1503, but before that date the church only covered the north aisle of the crypt, and the tower was at the west end; the chancel, as at St. Leonard's, was over the gate, 15 feet being the width common to the three divisions of the building.

The width of High Street is much the same as in old time; under Mr. Leonard's shop are still to be seen one of these vaulted cellars which formed the only warehouses of mediæval Bristol. At the centre of the street meet two cross ways, one going east to Mary-le-port Church, and so on to St. Peter's Church, and the other west to All Saints' Lane.

The name of St. Mary of the Port almost explains itself. There, before the Frome haven was made in 1247, came all the ships trading to and from Bristol, and from the street the churchyard lane led to the shambles, and so down by a slip to the Avon. The church which occupies the site of a Twelfth Century or even earlier building, is a very poor example of late Perpendicular work. In Mary-

port Street were fifteen vaulted cellars and two passages into Wine Street, one called a "through house" passage, near Haddon's Tannery, and the other at the Swan Inn now Guard House Passage, so called perhaps because opposite the "Domus officii," or Pillory. Through the latter we pass to Wine Street. The rich Fifteenth Century gate-way of this passage is of the same pannelled character as the chancel aisle in St. Philip's Church.

Wyrcestre counted fifty-one cellars in Wine Street. St. Ewen's Church has been swept away to make room for the present Council House. The High Cross has been carried to Stourhead. Christ Church has been rebuilt in a bad Pagan style, from which All Saints' is not free. These three churches are all mentioned in deeds as early as the 12th century; but there is every reason to believe that Christ Church was of Saxon origin, and there is no reason to conclude that the other two were not of an equally old foundation. Wyrcestre's notices of St. Ewen are short, but satisfactory, it consisted of nave and chancel and a side aisle, which was dedicated to St. John Baptist, and belonged to a great guild or fraternity. This aisle was probably the entire length of the church, and was erected for the fraternity of Merchant Tailors by two burghers (John Thorp and John Sharp), 1398.

The Tolsey, or old Council House, appears to have stood considerably in advance of this chapel to the east and south. Wyrcestre's notices are very interesting. From them we learn that the space over the Tolsey (ubi major et conciliarii Villæ obviant de die in diem, quando videtur expediens), was covered with a flat roof of lead. The side opposite Christ Church measured fifteen feet, but the measurement of the other side, "coram High Strete," is not given. This was a covered court very like an open

porch. The Council House proper,—the "officium domus," was attached to the chapel, and near, if not adjoining, the west end of this porch or "Tolsey Court," as it was called. The Council Chamber was on the upper floor and covered by an arched or vaulted roof, and the flat lead roof of the porch or "Tolsylle Court," served as a balcony to the Council Room. Since Wyrcestre's day, two, if not three, great changes have taken place. Barrett says that in 1551 the chapel of the fraternity of Merchant Tailors was granted to the mayor and commonalty of the town. In 1704 the Council House was rebuilt. Towards the close of the 18th century the parish of St. Ewen was united to Christ Church, in 1827 the old church was taken down, and the late Professor Cockerell was employed to build the present structure—no vestige of the old work remains.

Christ Church most probably had a Saxon origin, and here lodged the society of Calendaries before their removal to All Saints' Church, a society which is spoken of in the very dawn of the 13th century as "antiquatem." Wyrcestre, whose uncle was a Calendar Brother, describes the order as founded about the year 700, and Leland says "the original was owt of moynde." Wyrcestre describes the church, which had a square bell tower and a lofty well-built spire of freestone. The length of the church was the same as that of St. Ewen, viz.:—66 feet, and the width between 50 and 60 feet. It was a cross church, the height of the tower about 70 feet, and to the top of the spire 140 feet.

The skeleton of All Saints' Church is still seen much as in Wyrcestre's days; but of the rich fittings, the paintings, the hangings, which crowded the church of the Kalendars

we know nothing beyond the mere record of them found in wills and inventories. The length which Wyrcestre gives, viz. 69 feet, is exactly the length from the east end to where the Norman work at the west joins the Perpendicular work. Here therefore it is possible that a screen existed cutting off the low Norman portion as a porch, or for the special use of the Calendar Brethren.

The Calendar House was partly over the two western bays on the Norman part of the north aisle, and partly projected into Corn Street. Over the eastern or Perpendicular portions of the north aisle was a public library attached to, and communicating with, the house of the Calendars. From indirect documentary evidence, as well as from the character of the building, the dates of the several parts may be stated as follows:—the two western bays of nave and aisle from A.D. 1143 to 1147; the north aisle, nave, chancel, and old tower, about 1350; the rebuilding of south aisle, 1422. There was, according to Wyrcestre, a "Domus conducti aquæ pulchra sub Domo Kalendarii." All Saints' Lane, in Wyrcestre's time was fifteen feet wide, and here were the chief wine shops of the town. There are no remains of the shops, but the trade which flourished here four centuries ago still flourishes.

There appear to have been thirty-eight vaults or cellars in Corn Street, none of these probably now exist. Small Street became a very great thoroughfare after 1247, or upon the completion of the new harbour. Before that time it must have been the fifth street of the town. At one end was the Gate and Church of St. Gyles, at the other end, in Corn Street, still stands the Church of St. Werburgh, (Wereburge — Werburga) which Wyrcestre thus notices: "The length of the Church of St. Wer-

burgh is 21 yards, the breadth 19 yards, the tower 5 yards square. There are six columns and arches, and six five-light windows on each side. There is one window at the east end and another at the west end." Some of the late Fourteenth Century church which Wyrcestre saw, is still visible; but the greater part was taken down and rebuilt in 1760-61, because it obstructed Small Street.

The great point of attraction in this street is the remarkable example of Domestic Architecture now used as the Mirror newspaper office.* This Wyrcestre has overlooked. Its position at the back of the old guild hall, and the size of the rooms and richness of its architecture shew that it must have been one of the most important buildings within the walls, and the remains of semi-Norman architecture are sufficient to show that it was a place of importance as early as the 12th century, if not earlier, and it may have been the residence of the mayor for the time being.

The Guild Hall.—According to Wyrcestre, the width of it was "cum capella St. Georgii, et cellariis," twenty-three yards. He also says that Richard Spicer (Mayor in 1371) founded this "capella ampla" in honour of St. George, about the time of Edward III, or Richard II. The style of the Perpendicular work in the house in Small Street, and the character of the guild hall as represented in an engraving in Seyer's History of Bristol, fully agree with the statement of Wyrcestre.

Broad Street completes this survey, and though in

* Since the above was written, the building occupied by the Mirror Office has been partly taken down, and the site is now a scene of confusion.

the 15th century it possessed a guild hall, a chapel, and thirty-five vaults or cellars, there is now nothing of interest there.

This terminates the rough sketch of Ancient Bristol, and it is much to be deplored that so many of its ancient features have been swept away. Streets may be too narrow for modern traffic, churches and civic buildings too small for present requirements, almshouses too confined for the health of their inmates, but to improve these in the spirit of wise conservation is one thing, to sweep them out of existence in the spirit of radical innovation is another, we should strive to preserve while we improve and extend.