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PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.

The Classification of the Somerset Church Towers.

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FOR more than twenty years I have studied the Somerset Church Towers, photographing them systematically, in the hope of publishing a monograph of them at some future time. My friend Mr. Brereton has more recently made an independent study of them; and in conversation we found that some of our conclusions were similar. Therefore in order that neither of us might prejudice the work of the other, we agreed to lay our results simultaneously before the Annual Meeting last July, and the present paper is amplified from the material which I drew up for that occasion.

I feel it necessary however to explain that my work is not yet complete. There are many of the less conspicuous towers with which I am but slightly acquainted, the study of which may throw light on the subject.

The late Professor E. A. Freeman drew up a classification

of the Somerset towers, which is so faulty that I cannot account for it except by supposing that he trusted too much to memory, or used incorrect sketches, and thus never grasped the true resemblances and differences. I have now to propose a new classification, based on a careful comparison of detail, composition, and proportion, such as can only be made with the assistance of photography.

It is impossible to draw an absolute limit between the classes of towers: but we find a few central types from which various modifications were developed; and while some towers conform entirely with one type, other towers combine characters of two or more types. My aim has been to trace the evolution of the various designs and their combinations, and so to draw up a pedigree of the towers.

CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO ARRANGEMENT OF WINDOWS.

The first and most obvious demarcation of the classes depends on *the number of windows in the breadth* of the towers. There are three distinct classes, namely:—

1. The Triple-window class; towers having three windows abreast on each face.
2. The Double-window class; towers having two windows abreast.
3. The Single-window class.

The triple and double-window classes are each divisible into sub-classes depending on the *secondary* treatment of the windows. In the majority of towers the triple or double-windows are used in the top-stage only, the lower stages having single windows. But in a few instances the multiple windows occur in the *two* upper stages, and in one instance in *three* stages: these windows may therefore be described as *single*-, *double*-, and *triple-tier*, and the towers sub-classed accordingly.

A fourth sub-class consists of towers in which the lines of the windows in the top-stage are *continued* downwards to form

panels in the stage below, so that the two upper stages together bear the outward semblance of a single stage. These towers may be distinguished as *long-panelled*.

There are thus four sub-classes, namely :—

1. Single tier (multiple window).
2. Double tier (do. do.).
3. Triple tier (do. do.).
4. Long-panelled (do. do.).

There are a few double and triple-window towers which do not fall conveniently into either of the above-mentioned sub-classes, being either hybrid or *sui generis*.

The single-window towers are far more numerous, and at the same time less pronounced in their features, than the multiple-window ones, so that I need to study them yet for some years before I can venture to define their sub-classes. Many of these towers, however, are of so simple a character as not to call for classification. The present paper deals only with the multiple-window towers: but circumstances permitting, I may offer to this Society a paper on the single-window towers on a future occasion.

The classification according to the treatment of the windows is not a mere arbitrary arrangement. The members of each group are found to be correlated in other architectural features, and also in geographical distribution.

THE MULTIPLE-WINDOW TOWERS.

With one exception (Temple Church, Bristol,) all the triple and double-window towers are situated in the region extending from the Mendip Hills on the N.E. to the Quantock Hills on the S.W. The River Parret divides this region into a Mendip district and a Quantock district, each having a prevalent form of tower.

Triple-window towers belong chiefly to the Mendip Hills. A few occur on the moors; but none S.W. of the Parret, except at Ilminster, where the tower is of unique character.

Double-window towers occur over the whole region from Mendip to Quantock, but are more numerous in the Quantock district.

While the details of the actual Mendip towers are distinct from those of the actual Quantock ones, they are found mingled or assimilated in towers on the banks of the Parret, where the districts meet.

It is worthy of note that the influence between the Mendip and Quantock towers travelled only over the Hill-country on the east, and never crossed the Moors on the west. There is no apparent *direct* influence between the towers around Cheddar and those around Taunton. The connecting links are formed by the towers on the east.

The accompanying table (see page 5) of towers, arranged in classes and sub-classes, shows the chief relationships: it shows also the general correspondence between the classification and geographical distribution.

Towers of first-rate quality are marked with an asterisk, and the most notable of these with a double asterisk.

I shall be grateful to any correspondents who will kindly inform me of double or triple-window towers whose names are not mentioned in this list. Some towers are omitted because I have but slight acquaintance with them and therefore cannot venture to classify them. But there are doubtless others that have escaped my notice, and I should be glad to have my attention called to them, if only by means of a postcard.

FIRST APPEARANCE OF RESPECTIVE TYPES.

The long-panel type of tower, as will be later explained, came into use at the transition from the Decorated to the Perpendicular style, in the middle of the fourteenth century: but its most notable examples were built in the fifteenth century. The Triple-window (Mendip) type, if we may judge by the character of its details, originated nearly as early; and some of its best examples may date from the last quarter of the

	TRIPLE-WINDOW.	DOUBLE-WINDOW.
Single-tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Shepton Mallet (prototype) *Banwell **Winscombe *Cheddar Mark Axbridge Wedmore S. Brent Bleadon *Weare *Cranmore Langport Long Sutton **Bruton **Weston Zoyland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Middlezoy **Bishops Lydeard *Bristol, Temple Ch. (3 types) Lyng Chedzoy *Taunton, St. James *Ile Abbots *Staple Fitzpaine *Kingston **N. Petherton *Ruishton **Huish Episcopi *Kingsbury Episcopi Martock
D'ble-tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mells **Leigh-on-Mendip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Chewton
Triple-tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (None) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Taunton St. Mary [Magdalene]
Long-panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Wells Cathedral central) *Batcombe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Wells Cath. Harewell's " " Bubwith's **Wells, St. Cuthbert *Wrington **Evercreech
Hybrid or <i>Sui generis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ilminster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> **Glastonbury, St. John *Lymphsham Muchelney *Backwell

fourteenth century. The Double-window (both Quantock and Mendip) types are later in character, but may have come into existence before the middle of the fifteenth century.

ANALYSIS OF THE TRIPLE-WINDOW TOWERS.

The Triple-window towers are both earlier in character and more homogeneous in design than the double-window ones, and for these reasons they deserve to be treated first.

SUB-CLASS I.

TRIPLE-WINDOW, SINGLE-TIER.

SHEPTON MALLET.—(See accompanying Plate.) So far as I can judge by the details, this is the earliest of the triple-window towers; and from its design all the other triple-window towers were developed, and also some of the double-window ones: it is well therefore to note carefully its distinctive features.

The top-stage has three windows abreast on each face, the middle window of each triplet being pierced, the lateral ones blind. Observe that these windows have weather-mouldings, and are flanked by pilasters which are tipped with small pinnacles. The tracery and mouldings of the windows are very good, and only slightly removed from the Decorated style. The lower stages contain only single windows.

This tower was intended for a spire, and hence the buttresses were made of more than usual projection: they are of very complex and ingenious construction, changing their plan at each stage. Near the top they are reduced to a simple form, and terminate naturally in pinnacles. There are additional pinnacles at the penultimate stage of the buttresses, standing well off from the walls, and very effective in profile.

The parapet is straight, with excellent mouldings, and pierced with a beautiful quatrefoil pattern, eight quatrefoils abreast. Beneath the parapet, on each side, two fine gurgoyles project, one over each side-window.

The newel stair projects strongly the whole height of the



SHEPTON MALLET.
TRIPLE WINDOW, SINGLE TIER: MENDIP TYPE.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Aller

tower, at the east corner of the north side, and terminates in a prominent turret with a spirelet. In this particular tower the north wall, narrowed by the presence of the stair, is treated by contraction of the windows; and the effect is good. In most other towers the stair is allowed to eliminate one window, while the two remaining windows are made of full width.¹

The treatment of the lower part of the tower may be noted, not as being distinctive of this type, but as being the treatment followed with individual variations in the majority of the better towers in Somerset. The lowest stage contains the West door with a large West window above it, while the North and South walls are plain. The second stage contains niches with statues on the West side, and single windows on the other sides. The third stage, with a single window on each side, is omitted from some of the smaller towers.

This tower is so surrounded with buildings that the ordinary visitor cannot form a just estimate of its qualities: it can be properly seen only from the tops of houses and from distant points of vantage. It is excellent alike in detail and composition, and has an unusual depth of light and shade. The boldly projecting buttresses, the stair-turret, and the unfinished spire, give a quaint and pleasing outline from many points of view.

(Four Stages. Dimensions measured:—Height, 100ft.; total width of base, 34ft. 5in.; thickness of wall, 4ft. 9½in., not including plinth. F. J. A.)²

As the influence of the Shepton Mallet design extended, it produced diverging details in the different directions of the

1. The Shepton arrangement,—three windows compressed, occurs also at Cranmore and Bruton. At St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, a double-window tower, it is used *mutatis mutandis*, the two windows being compressed.

2. Some of the dimensions given in this paper were measured by myself; these are marked with my initials. Others are taken from trustworthy sources. In some instances where no measurements were available, I have given an approximate estimation of the height, which may be a help to the reader. It is worthy of note that popular ideas of heights of towers are generally exaggerated.

compass. The extension towards the N.W. was apparently the earlier: it gave rise to the towers of Banwell, Winscombe, Cheddar, and other principal Mendip towers as far as Bleadon, and a few towers on the Moors. The other extension was eastward and southward to Cranmore and Bruton; and from these two towers there arise four divergencies, one being represented by Batcombe, another by Mells and Leigh-on-Mendip, and two others by towers on the banks of the Parret as far as Weston Zoyland.

BANWELL, WINSCOMBE, AND CHEDDAR.—These three towers are much alike, more so than any other group of first-rate towers in the county. They are all modelled on the Shepton design, and have the same mouldings and window-tracery: but they all differ from the prototype in the treatment of the buttresses, pinnacles, and parapet. At Shepton, as previously mentioned, the buttresses are very complex and prominent; the pinnacles form their natural termination, and the parapet is let in between the pinnacles and supported by them: but in these three towers the buttresses are very simple and narrow, and cease at the top of the wall, where the pinnacles start afresh as a portion of the parapet: in fact the pinnacles and parapet are united to form a crown, marked off from the structures below. In these towers the stair causes elimination of one window on the turret side.

BANWELL.—Here the *details* are the nearest to those at Shepton. Points of difference are, that the stair-turret is on the S. side, (E. corner,) and that the parapet has triangular openings, (eight double trefoils abreast,) as at Wrington and the central tower at Wells Cathedral. Banwell tower is characterized by shortness of the top-stage and tallness of the next stage below. These features and the narrow buttresses give the tower something of the character of an Italian campanile, which is usually tall, narrow, and plain, with a group of windows at the top.

(Four Stages. Height estimated at about 100ft.)

WINSCOMBE.—Buttresses excepted, the *proportions* here are nearest those of Shepton, though on a smaller scale. The tracery and mouldings are those of both Shepton and Banwell ; but in the top-stage there are signs of later date. The treatment of the weather-moulding over the top windows is peculiar : instead of being carried down to a proper impost, it turns off and runs round the pilasters in an awkward manner. The crown is more florid than in its neighbours : it has ten or eleven quatrefoils abreast, the pinnacles have animals' heads for their lowest crockets, and on each side two extra pinnacles are inserted, arising uncomfortably from the tops of smaller pilaster-pinnacles below.

(Four Stages. Height estimated at about 90ft.)

CHEDDAR.—Owing to its open situation this tower is seen to greater advantage than most of its relatives, and receives the most admiration. At the same time it is inferior in quality to those already mentioned. It is on the whole a copy of the Winscombe tower with all the features attenuated. The windows are tall and shallow : there is too much space between the top-windows and the parapet : the crown is very light, but more restrained than that at Winscombe. The aim of the builder of this tower seems to have been to attain lightness : he achieved his end, and that is perhaps the main thing : if he had failed, we might have stigmatized his methods as defects of composition.

(Four Stages. Height estimated at about 100ft.)

MARK.—The only N.W. Mendip tower in which the top-windows are without weather-mouldings. There is far too much space above these windows, even more than at Cheddar. The niches are on the N. and E. faces. The best features are the buttresses, of pleasing outline, and the prominent crown, both of which are akin to those at Weare. The point of discontinuity between buttress and pinnacle is here at the top of the parapet, not below it as in neighbouring towers.

(Three Stages.)

AXBRIDGE, WEDMORE, S. BRENT, BLEADON, AND WEARE.—These five towers differ from all the other triple-window towers, and from nearly all the double-window ones, in not possessing the pilasters with pinnacles beside and between the top-windows. Each tower has its own peculiarities, and they all depart widely from the prototype.

AXBRIDGE.—A *central* tower resembling in general effect the upper half of the Banwell tower, and apparently but little later in date. It differs however in the absence of window-pilasters, and in that the buttresses die into the walls considerably lower down. The crown is not exaggerated: the pinnacles are of moderate height, and the parapet is quatrefoiled (eleven abreast). The lower stages being absent, the niche with a statue is placed a stage higher than usual, and takes the place of a window.

(Two Stages above roof of church.)

WEDMORE.—A *central* tower apparently derived from the Axbridge design, but plainer. The walls have a notable "batter": pinnacles are absent, and the parapet is of Balustrade form. In its present state the tower looks stumpy and unfinished; but it would form a suitable base for a spire,—which may have been intended.

(Two Stages above roof of church.)

S. BRENT.—A very plain but not unpleasing tower, related to those of Axbridge and Wedmore, though later in window-tracery, and differing in being a *western* tower. The buttresses cease at the base of the top stage, and the top string-course is well below the window-sill. (Compare Bleadon.) There are no niches in the usual position above the great W. window; but a niche is placed on each side of the W. door, as in some of the churches by the Parret. This tower is perhaps the latest of the triple-window class.

(Three Stages.)

BLEADON.—This is, so far as I know, the only triple-window tower with diagonal buttresses, and the only one in

which the stair-turret is actually at a corner—it projects more, however, into the N. face. In other triple-window towers the turret is on the N. or S. face, *near* the corner but not touching it, not displacing buttress or pinnacle. The parapet is plainer than usual; but the pinnacles have animals' heads for their lower crockets, as at Winscombe. The top string-course is very far below the window-sill. (Compare S. Brent.)

(Three Stages.)

WEARE.—A very artistic tower, developed from the Winscombe and Axbridge designs. Its greatest peculiarity is the treatment of the newel stair, which projects very little from the surface, and sinks deeper into the wall as it rises, until at the top it shows only as a pilaster. The crown is excellent, as prominent as that of Winscombe, but more solid and reposeful. The niches are at the sides of the great window instead of above it.

(Three Stages.)

We will now consider the eastern and southern departures from the prototype. These towers have the following group-characters:—

(1.) In nearly every instance (exceptions Weston Zoyland and Batcombe) the buttresses are continued naturally into the pinnacles without interruption. In this they resemble the Shepton Mallet tower, but differ from all the N.W. Mendip towers.

(2.) The parapets are battlemented, (exception Batcombe) differing in this respect from the Shepton as well as from all the N.W. group.

CRANMORE.—In outline this comes nearer than any other tower to that of Shepton, owing to the boldly projecting buttresses, which are almost exactly of the Shepton pattern. The points of difference are, that the Cranmore tower is of smaller dimensions and has one stage less, that there is too much vacant space above the top windows, and that the parapet is not pierced but battlemented. If the space above the

windows had been less, and the parapet not so plain, this tower would have earned a place in the front rank of merit.

(Three Stages. Height estimated at about 70ft.)

LANGPORT AND LONG SUTTON.—These two southern triple-window towers depart widely from the prototype, but their descent seems to be traceable through the Cranmore line. They have all the essential features of the triple-window group, but their details are of inferior quality, owing to lateness of date, or to the influence of a less artistic local school of masons, perhaps the Muchelney Abbey staff. The top windows are without hood-mouldings, (in this respect resembling the Quantock towers,) and their tracery is simple. As at Cranmore, there is much space above the top-windows, and this is accentuated by the plain battlemented parapet. At Long Sutton the space between windows and parapet is more exaggerated than in any other tower in the county, and this tower has a peculiar treatment of the window-pilasters, which are carried up right through the parapet to form accessory pinnacles above it. The gurgoyles are placed, one in the middle each side, and one (a sham ?) on the buttress at each corner. These are the Quantock positions of gurgoyles; contrast the Mendip positions at Shepton Mallet, &c.

These two towers might be considered fine in another county, but they lack the grace of the Somerset family.

BRUTON.—This tower is a direct derivative of the Shepton type, having the same general arrangement of features. The tracery and mouldings are similar but rather flatter; the buttresses are similar, though much less prominent; and the treatment of the N. or stair side is the same, *i.e.*, the triple window is narrowed,—not reduced to a double one. The points of difference are, in order of importance: (1) the top windows are tall and *divided by a transom*; (2) the stair-turret is not carried above the parapet; (3) the parapet combines the battlement form with a pierced ornament.

Not only is this a very successful tower intrinsically, but its

situation gives it an advantage over every other tower in the county.

(Four Stages. Height estimated at over 90ft.)

[MIDDLEZOY.—This is a double-window tower of the Mendip type, and closely related to Cranmore and Bruton towers. Its analysis will be given later amongst those of the double-window class.]

WESTON ZOYLAND.—This, the most ornate of the triple-window towers, is derived in the main from the Bruton design : but it is an intermediate or Parret tower, and has an admixture of Quantock features. The windows, especially the top ones with transoms, are similar to those of Bruton ; the parapet is nearly related, also the buttresses. By way of difference, the parapet obtrusively interrupts the buttresses, and the pinnacles start from the top of the parapet as accessory and independent ornaments. The gurgoyles are in the Quantock positions. Most of the single windows are flanked with niches as at Huish Episcopi, and there are some other details in common between these two towers. The Weston Zoyland tower has lost all its pinnacles by accident and vandalism : there were formerly four corner ones, four side ones, and one on the penultimate stage of each buttress. When complete, with statues and pinnacles, the tower must have had a splendid effect. Nevertheless in outline it is less satisfactory than some of the plainer towers ; for it is very tall, its stages are but little recessed, and its buttresses are very flat, so that it has a gaunt and almost top-heavy appearance. Being built on marshy ground, it was in especial need of breadth in its foundation ; and this being deficient, it is not surprising that the tower leans considerably.

(Four Stages. Height estimated at about 100ft.)

SUB-CLASS II.

TRIPLE-WINDOW, DOUBLE-TIER.

MELLS AND LEIGH-ON-MENDIP.—These are the only towers of this sub-class. They have transomed triple-windows

of the Bruton type in the top stage, *all pierced* : but their distinctive feature is the repetition of these windows, blind or slightly pierced, in the next stage. The buttresses are bold and rich, terminating canonically in pinnacles, but having also at each corner a pair of extra pinnacles standing off from the parapet. The Mells parapet is like that of Cranmore, plain with battlements ; that of Leigh is ornate, of the Bruton pattern but with two extra pinnacles added on each face. The newel stair forms no projection of the wall ; and externally its presence is indicated only by its blocking the windows toward one corner. The windows are mostly without weather-mouldings, and in general the mouldings and tracery are inferior to those at Bruton,—a sign perhaps of late date : but poverty of detail is compensated by general richness of composition. The tower at Leigh-on-Mendip is acknowledged to be one of the finest in the county, in spite of its small dimensions ; and even finer might have been the more massive tower at Mells, if only its parapet had been worthy of the rest of the design.

(Each has three Stages. Heights estimated, Leigh about 75ft., Mells about 80ft.)

OTHER SUB-CLASSES OF THE TRIPLE-WINDOW TOWERS.

There is no instance of triple windows in triple tier. Batcombe is a long-panel triple-window tower with details related to those of Bruton and Shepton Mallet : it will be described later with the other long-panel towers. Ilminster tower will be described as *sui generis*.

I have traced the pedigree of all the triple-window designs (and several of the double-window ones) back to their probable ancestor at Shepton Mallet. But students of architecture know that an elaborate design such as that of Shepton does not spring suddenly into existence ; it is always evolved from a previous model or models. The model in the present instance was probably a tower of the Decorated period, having a spire, a pierced parapet, triple-windows in the top stage, and boldly

projecting buttresses. I have searched for this model in many parts of England but have not found it.¹

It ought, one would suppose, to have existed in Somerset ; but the only place where it is likely to have existed and been forgotten is Glastonbury. I therefore venture to propound the problem "Whether such a tower and spire formerly existed at Glastonbury Abbey."

ANALYSIS OF THE DOUBLE-WINDOW TOWERS.

The double-window towers are rather more numerous than the triple-window ones, their date is later on the average, and they are more various both in origin and in development.

SUB-CLASS I.

DOUBLE-WINDOW, SINGLE-TIER.

The towers of this sub-class are derived from three types, namely (1) the Mendip type, through the line of Middlezoy tower, (2) the Quantock type, of which Bishop's Lydeard tower seems to be the earliest example, and (3) the Bristol type, as seen at the Temple Church, Bristol. I judge those towers to be the earliest, in which the buttresses are continued canonically as pinnacles, and the parapets let in between the pinnacles without interrupting them. In such towers the other features are likewise natural and unpretentious. In the later towers the details are more showy, ornament is piled on, and the parapet and pinnacles are converted into an elaborate crown independent of the features below, somewhat as in the N.W. Mendip towers, only more exaggerated.

A. *The Three Typical Towers.*

MIDDLEZOY.—A purely Mendip tower, intermediate in

1. Towers with single and double-windows exist in many parts of England, and even quadruple windows are not unknown (*e.g.* Salisbury Cathedral, and St. Mary's, Nottingham,) but triple-window towers are rare outside Somerset. The two earliest towers of importance in the county, St. Mary Redcliffe and the Wells Cathedral central, are both triple-windowed.

character between the towers of Cranmore and Bruton, and differing from them chiefly in possessing double instead of triple windows. The stair however eliminates one of the N. windows (as at Cheddar, etc.) The windows, as at Cranmore, are without transoms; and another Cranmore feature is the continuation of the top string-course right round the buttresses. Otherwise the buttresses are of the Bruton form, and the same may be said of the pierced parapet. The stair-turret rises above the parapet as at Cranmore, but differs in having no spirelet. Though a small tower, having no brilliancy of outline or ornament, this is nevertheless one of the most harmonious and reposeful in the county.

(Three Stages. Height estimated at about 70ft.)

BISHOPS LYDEARD.—(See illustration in the *Proceedings* for 1898.) This is the most western of the towers under consideration, and may be called the Quantock prototype inasmuch as it is apparently the earliest tower in which the Quantock characters are introduced. It may be of about the same date as the Middlezoy tower, and is similarly characterized by simplicity of form and detail: it earns a more distinguished place, however, by having an extra storey in height and being built of superbly coloured red sandstone. Although a Quantock tower, it was developed partly from the Mendip type, being intermediate in general composition between the four-stage towers of Shepton Mallet and Weston Zoyland, while some of the details are from Cranmore and Bruton. The Quantock features are (1) the absence of weather mouldings from the top windows, (2) the form of the tracery in the same, (3) the addition of little pilaster pinnacles on the lower stages of the buttresses, and (4) the position of the gurgoyles, one on each face and one at each corner. The niches are on the S. side, *not* on the W. In the later Quantock towers there are usually niches on other sides *in addition* to those on the W. (Compare the Mendip tower at Middlezoy and the intermediate one at Weston Zoyland.) At Bishops Lydeard and nearly all the

Quantock towers the top-string course is carried round the buttresses, as at Cranmore and Middlezoy.

(Four Stages. Height 107ft.)

BRISTOL, TEMPLE CHURCH.—The lower part of this tower is of early character, having windows resembling those at Shepton Mallet in tracery and mouldings. This part of the tower was built in the fourteenth century; and after a long interval the upper stage was added in 1460, with windows partly imitated from those below, but with other details of later character. The top windows are pairs but not doublets, being separated by a wall-space which bears a prominent pilaster running up through the parapet. Below the top windows is a horizontal band of trefoil ornament, and above them the wall is decorated with panel-work. The little that remains of the pinnacles and parapet indicates that they were of the "crown" form (independent of buttresses, etc.,) but their upper parts are wanting. The panelling above the top-windows is a Midland feature, for which see the cathedral towers of Gloucester, Worcester, and Lichfield.

(Height 114ft. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Foundation sunk $22\frac{1}{2}$ in. at S.W. corner. Inclination considerable, but partially rectified during the process of building.)

B. Towers deriving most of their features from the Mendip type as seen at Middlezoy.

LYNG.—A tower resembling that of Middlezoy in several respects, but of somewhat later character. The pinnacles and parapet are canonical, and the windows have weather-mouldings. The Quantock influence appears almost solely in the window-tracery. The stair is peculiarly treated: it is at the E. corner of the S. side, and dives into the interior about half-way up, displacing the window of the middle stage. The top stage accommodates the stair by having on the S. side a single central window, instead of the doublet contained by each of the other sides. Moreover the S. side differs from

the others in having only one gargoyle, and that placed medially.

(Three Stages.)

CHEDZOY.—A rather plain tower, with simplified buttresses ceasing at the middle of the top stage. The parapet is a complete crown, and the pinnacles are stuck upon it inconsequently. There is but one gargoyle, median, on each face, and the top windows are unduly small. This tower is in danger of disintegration by the great ivy which is creeping over it.

(Three Stages.)

C. *Towers deriving their features mainly from the Quantock type as seen at Bishop's Lydeard.*

TAUNTON, ST. JAMES.—(Rebuilt.) In its present state this has great resemblance to that of Bishops Lydeard. I hear that this is partly due to the use of the latter tower as a model in the reconstruction. St. James's, as I knew it in the sixties, was a dilapidated tower, deeply weather-worn as to its details, and without pinnacles or parapet.

(Four Stages. Height 120ft.)

ILE ABBOTS (Upper part rebuilt.)—Here the windows, buttresses, gargoyles, and niches are of the Quantock type as at Bishops Lydeard; but with later date the buttresses have ceased to form the pinnacles, for the parapet and pinnacles form an independent crown. The corner pinnacles are elegant spirelets growing out of the parapet, and their spirelet outline is produced by the addition of four off-standing shafts to each pinnacle. This tower is remarkable for the number of original statues preserved in the niches.

The compound corner pinnacles may have been imitated from the Bristol type: compare N. Petherton.

(Three Stages.)

STAPLE FITZPAINE.—A very artistic composition, presenting one of the finest outlines in the county. All the Quantock features are present. The buttresses are more prominent

than at Ile Abbots, and the crown is more fully developed, the corner pinnacles being very pronounced, while the stair turret is tall and enriched with a spirelet and eight pinnacles.

(Three Stages. Height 86ft.)

KINGSTON.—In many respects a replica of Staple Fitzpaine. I have not visited this tower; but I hear that it is built of red sandstone, whereas the Staple Fitzpaine tower is built of blue lias and Ham Hill oölite.

(Three Stages. Height 88ft.)

D. *Towers deriving some (but not all) of their features from the Bristol model as seen at the Temple Church.*

N. PETHERTON.—This is the tower which more than any other shows the Bristol influence. The Bristol features are, (1) the panelling above the top windows, (2) the horizontal bands of ornament,—quatrefoils here, trefoils at the Temple Church, (3) the large pilaster rising between the top windows, and passing right through the parapet, (4) the continuation of the *two* chief string-courses round the buttresses, (5) possibly the corner pinnacles, which may represent the form of those at the Temple Church which have fallen.

The window tracery is not taken from the Temple tower, but inclines to the Midland type, the mullions running straight to the arch: this is a defect of Perpendicular tracery which the Somerset builders generally avoided.

The windows have weather-mouldings, as in the Mendip towers. The buttresses are of the Quantock type: they project boldly, but virtually cease at the top stage. The stair is treated somewhat as in the neighbouring tower of Lyng, being on the S. side and diving into the interior half-way up. It slightly displaces the middle-stage window, but does not interfere with the top windows. The crown resembles that at Ile Abbots, but is a little more ornate: the gurgoyles are in the Quantock positions.

This is one of the largest and most elaborate of our towers:

its outline is excellent, but the preponderance of straight lines in its details gives it rather an air of severity.

(Three Stages ; lowest divided by a horizontal band of quatrefoils. Height estimated at about 110ft.)

RUISHTON.—This combines the characters of the three types pretty evenly. The windows are of Mendip form, deep-set, with Mendip mouldings including the weather moulding, but with Quantock tracery. The buttresses cease at the top stage as in the N. Petherton tower : they have the form of the Quantock buttresses, but not their customary pilaster pinnacles on the lower stages. Other Quantock features are the niches on the sides other than the W., and the positions of the gurgoyles. The Bristol features are the two horizontal bands of ornament, (one of which subdivides the lowest stage,) and the *two* string-courses carried round the buttresses. The crown was probably intended to be as at N. Petherton ; but it has fallen or was never built. In spite of the absence of the crown, this tower is one of the most beautiful, chiefly because of the depth of the window-mouldings and the prominence of the buttresses, both of which help to give great light and shade.

(Three Stages, lowest subdivided. Dimensions small.)

HUISH EPISCOPI (For illustration see the *Proceedings* for 1894.)—This, like the two previous towers, combines features from the three types. The top windows have the Mendip mouldings, (including weather-moulding,) and are tall and transomed as at Bruton and Weston Zoyland ; but their tracery is of the Quantock type. The horizontal bands of ornament are from the Bristol type, and the tracery of the middle-stage windows is of Midland character. The rest of the features are of the Quantock type. The stair-turret is carried to the level of the parapet ; the buttresses project boldly ; and the crown is exquisite in outline and in detail, more refined than that at Staple Fitzpaine, but lacking the tall stair-turret with spirelet.

On the whole this is the most striking tower in the county,



KINGSBURY EPISCOPI.
DOUBLE WINDOW, SINGLE TIER: QUANTOCT TYPE.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Allen.

beautiful in detail and in composition. Its ornament is abundant but not excessive ; while there is good light and shadow, enhanced by the contrasting colours of blue lias and brown oölite (Ham Hill stone.) These stones are used together in several neighbouring towers, (including Ruishton, Lyng, and Staple Fitzpaine,) but nowhere with such marked effect.

(Three Stages, lowest subdivided. Height estimated at nearly 100ft.)

KINGSBURY EPISCOPI (See accompanying Plate.)—A tower with a general resemblance to that of Huish, but differing in having a minimum of Mendip influence. The upper and middle-windows have poor tracery and hardly anything to be called mouldings. The great W. window is rather better, with the usual plain mouldings, including weather-moulding. The crown is plainer than at Huish. The stone is of one kind only, Ham Hill oölite. As at Ile Abbots, several of the ancient statues are extant. The buttresses virtually cease at the top string-course, which therefore cannot run round them as it does in the members of this sub-class hitherto described. Indeed the buttresses are neither high enough nor prominent enough to set off the great crown ; hence from some points of view the tower has a decidedly top-heavy appearance. Although inferior to that of Huish both in detail and in composition, this is nevertheless a very notable tower.

(Three Stages, lowest subdivided. Height estimated at nearly 95ft.)

MARTOCK.—A plain tower, widely divergent from the general character of its sub-class. The form of the top stage and crown is reminiscent of its neighbour at Kingsbury ; but Martock has the advantage of widely-spreading buttresses, which give it a superior and indeed a very distinctive outline. The windows have neither weather-mouldings nor the customary pilaster pinnacles : their tracery is of the Langport and Muchelney form.

(Three Stages. Massive, but not tall.)

SUB-CLASS II.

DOUBLE-WINDOW, DOUBLE-TIER.

CHEWTON.—The distinguishing feature of this tower is the repetition of the double windows of the top stage as panels in the stage below. In this respect it resembles the neighbouring towers of Mells and Leigh, which repeat their triple windows as panels below. The details however are widely different. Although in the heart of Mendip, Chewton tower is developed from the Quantock model. Its top windows are closely imitated from Bishop's Lydeard, so are its buttresses. The crown has the general outline of that at Huish Episcopi, but its details are different, the ornament being in upright balustrades and panels: this is possibly nearer to the original pattern of the Temple church crown. The gargoyles however are in the Mendip position; and the design of the saint surrounded by angels, above the great W. window, resembles that of the Mendip tower at Batcombe. The staircase is almost invisible externally, being allowed merely to eliminate a portion of one window. (Compare Leigh and Mells.)

The absence of almost all mouldings from the windows gives them a very shallow appearance; and moreover the details of the crown are of poor quality: but the excellence of composition and the large dimensions of the tower produce an impression of great dignity, and defects of detail seem to be unimportant.

(Three Stages. Height 112ft., measured, F. J. A.)

SUB-CLASS III.

DOUBLE-WINDOW, TRIPLE-TIER.

TAUNTON, ST. MARY MAGDALENE. (Rebuilt.)—This is one of the latest of our towers, and its features are gathered from several of its forerunners. The basis of its design is the Quantock model; but it imitates Chewton and Leigh-on-Mendip, or rather goes beyond them, in having double windows in

three stages, not merely in two. The panelling above the top windows, and the horizontal bands of ornament, (five in number,) are from the Bristol type through the medium of N. Petherton. The windows have Quantock tracery, but are fully moulded as in the Mendip towers. The stair-turret is level with the parapet, as at Huish. The windows on the turret side are compressed as at Shepton Mallet. The pinnacles and parapet are taken with exaggeration from Gloucester Cathedral.

St. Mary Magdalene's is thus an eclectic tower: it is also the tallest and most ornate in the county: and yet is not the most pleasing. In more than one sense it is a *tour de force*; and in poetry it does not compare with Huish, Evercreech, or Shepton Mallet.

(Four Stages, lowest sub-divided. Height 157ft.)

SUB-CLASS IV.

LONG-PANEL TOWERS, DOUBLE AND TRIPLE-WINDOW.

These towers are few in number, and are all situated in the Mendip district. Though united by the common feature—windows prolonged as panels—they are heterogeneous in other respects. The double-window ones are the more important; and indeed there is but one with triple windows.

The prototype of the long-panel device is seen in the central tower of Wells Cathedral. The Decorated portion of this tower, as first constructed, had each face divided into three tall compartments by pilasters which ran up through the parapet to end in pinnacles. Each compartment contained two simple windows above, whose lines were prolonged downwards to form panels. At a later date the windows were filled up with masonry, and accessory ornaments were added, the result being to mask the original design. Every long-panel tower subsequently built borrows details from this tower and adapts them to its own requirements.

WELLS CATHEDRAL, WESTERN TOWERS.—Harewell's, the southern tower, was built probably between A.D. 1367 and 1386, and is the first tower in which the above-mentioned device was imitated. It has only two compartments instead of three, and their two *pairs* of windows are condensed into two *compound* ones. The buttresses are very prominent, and adapted to the Early English work below. At the stage below the top each buttress is tipped with a group of finials, whose arrangement should be noticed, for modifications of the group were used to adorn the top pinnacles of later towers.

Bubwith's, the northern tower (A.D. 1407-24), is almost a replica of Harewell's tower, and therefore requires no special description.

WELLS, ST. CUTHBERT'S.—This is a development from the designs of Harewell's and the central tower of the Cathedral. The windows extending downwards as panels are imitated from the earlier towers; but there is a progressive alteration, for whereas the central tower windows were of one light, those of Harewell's have two lights, and those of St. Cuthbert's three. The ornaments in the panels of St. Cuthbert's are taken direct from the central tower, being less divergent therefrom than are the similar ornaments on Harewell's tower. The prominent pilaster, which the two earlier have between the windows, is here omitted; but the windows are flanked by the small pilaster pinnacles so frequent in this position on the Somerset towers. The weather-moulding, usually such a pleasing accessory to windows, is here omitted. The window-tracery is inferior to that of Harewell's tower: it foreshadows a coarse recticular tracery which became too common at a later date. The newel stair is in a prominent and unusual position, *i.e.* at the N. corner in front. It forms a pleasing feature so far as it goes; but it dives into the interior half-way up. The pinnacles in this and the next two towers are not the continuation of the buttresses, but are actual turrets carried up from the lower part of the tower. They

consist of spirelets resembling those of the central tower of the Cathedral, with the addition of ornaments imitated from the device to which I referred in describing Harewell's pinnacles. The carved ornament about the turrets and the upper part of the buttresses is too small to be effective, and in general the tower gives an impression of plainness. Its composition is injured by the plain slats in the windows; and as these seem to be late insertions, it might be worth while to remove them.

The impressive features of this tower are its large dimensions and its prominent buttresses. Its outline is fine as seen from a distance; but in a near view its plainness is too apparent. It suffers from its unusually prosaic environment, being in an ugly churchyard, and in proximity to mean buildings.

(Height estimated at about 130ft.)

WRINGTON (See illustration in the *Proceedings* for 1899.)
—This tower is not derived from St. Cuthbert's, but takes its details from the same sources, namely Harewell's and the central tower of the Cathedral. As in both these towers, there is a pilaster rising between the windows and continuing right through the parapet: this imitates the central tower in supporting a gargoyle. The parapet is modified from that of the central tower, and the corner pinnacles or turrets resemble those of St. Cuthbert's, being derived from the same source. The S.E. turret is larger than the rest, in order to accommodate the stair. The windows are fully and deeply moulded, and have good simple tracery: but the panels below them are plainer than those previously considered. The main W. window is coarse; and the niches, so usual above the W. window in other towers, are here omitted. The buttresses are fairly prominent in the lower part, but seem to be insufficient toward the top.

There is something about this tower,—it may be the prevalence of straight lines and right angles,—which makes it hard and unattractive to me, though it forms a striking feature in a beautiful landscape. I have photographed it repeatedly and

from various points, but have failed to make it look beautiful in a picture.

(Total width at base 33ft. Height estimated at about 110ft.)

EVERCREECH (See accompanying Plate.)—In composition this tower has a general resemblance to that of Wrington, but its details differ considerably. The windows are derived from the Bruton model. The ornaments in the panels below are closely copied from the Wells central tower, and a prominent pilaster rises between the windows as in that tower and Harewell's. The parapet resembles those of Bruton and Leigh, but is less ornate. The corner pinnacles or turrets differ from those at Wrington by the addition of small extra pinnacles carried up from the wall-pilasters below. The buttresses taper more gracefully than those at Wrington, giving a most pleasing outline.

Whether in outline or in detail, this is one of the very best of our towers: it has however the drawback that its gradations are so gentle that they can be appreciated only when illuminated by direct sunshine.

(Height 90ft., measured, F. J. A.)

BATCOMBE. (*Triple-window*.)—This is a hybrid tower, having most of the features of the triple-window Mendip towers, but with substitution of long-panel windows, and certain details in the buttresses. As at Evercreech, the top windows are nearly related to those at Bruton, and the ornaments in the panels below are closely copied from the central tower at Wells. The stair-turret eliminates one of the N. windows, and is carried a little above the parapet. The buttresses are intermediate in design between those of Bruton and Evercreech, but project more than either: possibly they were intended to bear the stress of a spire. They cease below the parapet, which forms a kind of horizontal band without pinnacles. The niche with the Saint above the great W. window has the representation of three angels on each side. (Compare Chewton.)



EVERCREECH.
DOUBLE WINDOW, LONG PANEL.

From a Photograph by Dr. F. J. Allen.

The details of this tower are beautiful. Though a spire might have been an improvement, the outline of the tower is agreeable even in its present form, the level parapet pierced with quatrefoils being no less appropriate than the more commonplace group of pinnacles with which its neighbours are finished.

(Height estimated at about 80ft.)

RESIDUAL SUB-CLASS. TOWERS OF PECULIAR DESIGN,
HYBRID OR SUI GENERIS.

ILMINSTER (For illustration see the *Proceedings* for 1903.)—This is the only triple-window tower in the Quantock district. The basis of its design is the central tower at Wells Cathedral, which it resembles in the following particulars,—(1) its straight-sided profile, (2) the division of each face into three tall compartments, and (3) the arrangement of the pinnacles. The outline is modified however by the addition of a very prominent stair-turret with spirelet. The windows differ from those at the Cathedral in not being *prolonged* as panels: for the tall compartments are divided completely into an upper and a lower stage, and the windows are *repeated* in the lower stage, partly as panels, after the manner of Mells, Leigh, and Chewton. The window tracery was apparently suggested by that of Harewell's tower. As at Wells, prominent pilasters rise between the windows, support gurgoyles, and then run up through the parapet to end in pinnacles. The parapet has the form of Leigh, but the plainness of Cranmore and Mells.

It should be noted that this tower, although so rich in ornament, has much less design than the others we are considering. The typical Somerset towers have a physiognomy,—a kind of facial expression; whereas this one has instead an almost uniformly ornamented surface.

GLASTONBURY, ST. JOHN.—A late tower, its design developed chiefly from that of Chewton. The panels below the top stage are however not a mere repetition of the windows,

but are a distinct feature. The turret corners and the tall pilaster between the windows are adopted from Evercreech and Wrington. The buttresses project strongly, and the large string-courses are carried right round them. The pinnacles and parapet show the influence of Gloucester Cathedral. The buttresses with the crown of this tower give it a finer outline than is possessed by almost any other in the county ; and this compensates in a measure for the flatness of the windows and panels.

(Height estimated at about 130ft.)

LYMPHAM.—A tower related to that of Wrington, but without the long panels, the panel stage being occupied by single windows. The pilaster between the top windows is not carried through the parapet as at Wrington, but forms a wall-pinnacle as in the ordinary Mendip towers. The parapet is of balustrade pattern. The pinnacles, as at Wrington, are real turrets carried up from a lower stage. The N.E. turret, in order to accommodate the stair, is larger than the rest and compresses the windows on the N. and E. faces. The niches are present above the W. window ; and on the west face below the parapet are two escutcheons bearing the Saltier.

(Height estimated at about 80ft.)

MUCHELNEY.—The lower two stages are of a type intermediate between the Mendip and the Quantock, but unskillfully composed. The top stage shows a change of purpose, and does not fit properly on the substructure. This stage has on each face two windows, widely apart as at the Temple Church, also three large pilasters, (one median and two lateral) which run up through the parapet to form pinnacles, like the three similar pilasters at Evercreech, or the single one at Wrington, N. Petherton, and the Temple Church. The parapet is plain and battlemented, the gurgoyles unusually numerous. All the windows have good simple tracery and deep mouldings ; but they are not tall enough,—they leave too much bare wall.

This tower is a curious instance of good details oddly

combined. Though not really beautiful, it pleases by its quaintness.

(Three Stages.)

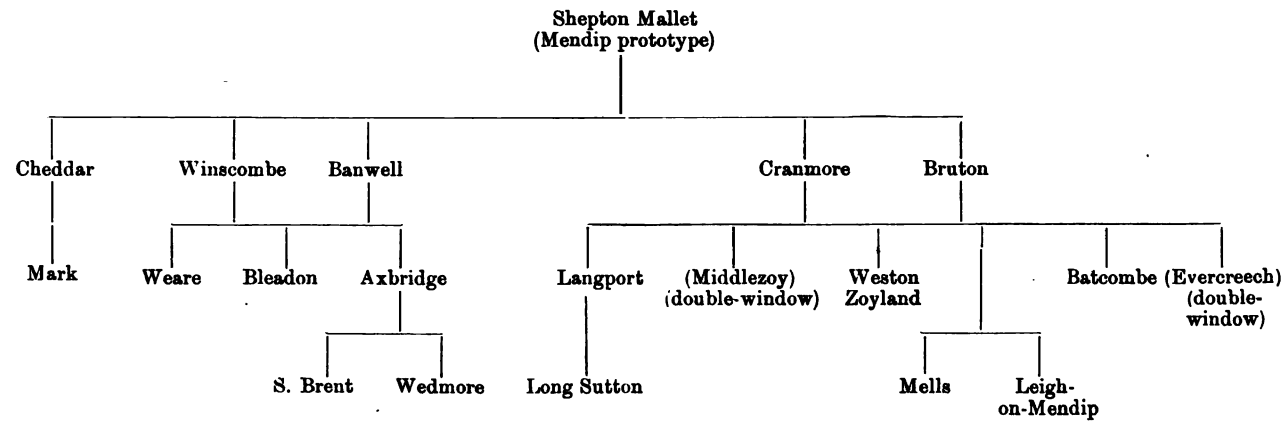
BACKWELL.—This is an intruder among the double-window towers. It was originally a single-window tower of the Portishead pattern : but after injury by a storm in the seventeenth century, the top stage and the S.W. pinnacle were reconstructed in pseudo-gothic style, and double windows were inserted. The ogee curve above the doublets is a good “conceit :” but the builder, not knowing how to manipulate it, allowed the parapet to cut across it. The idea is worth the consideration of future architects. A good ogee rising through a properly adapted parapet, and terminating in a suitable finial, would form a beautiful culmination for the face of a tower. In spite of unskilful treatment at Backwell, the effect is so good that we may feel thankful for the storm which brought about the change.

APPENDIX.

The following pedigrees represent the probable lines of development of the several designs. It will be seen that some of the designs are produced by the convergence of two or more types.

(I) TENTATIVE PEDIGREE OF THE TRIPLE-WINDOW TOWERS,

ALL ORIGINATING FROM THE MENDIP TYPE.



(II) TENTATIVE PEDIGREE OF THE DOUBLE-WINDOW TOWERS,
OF COMPOUND ORIGIN FROM QUANTOCK, MENDIP, AND BRISTOL TYPES.

