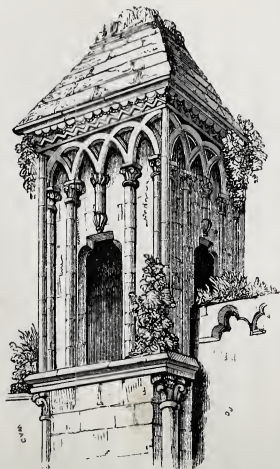


The Rev. F. WARRE gave a lecture on the ruins of the Abbey, very much to the same purport as the paper which he published in the *Proceedings* of this Society for 1851. He mentioned the tradition respecting Joseph of Arimathea, but did not attach much importance to it, as he thought there was a want of sufficient evidence of its truth. Another tradition, that St. Paul himself had preached on this spot, he thought more probable, as there is strong reason to believe that he came to Britain, the extreme west of the Roman empire; and there is good reason to believe that at Glastonbury was one of the earliest Christian settlements in England. St. Patrick is said to have retired here with a party of monks about A.D. 533. The popular belief that King Arthur was buried here, whether well founded or not, shews that this was considered the most fitting place. Paulinus, Archbishop of York, is said to have rebuilt the church of timber, covered with lead, in A.D. 630, and King Ina to have again rebuilt it in the most sumptuous manner in 708. This church was destroyed by the northern pirates, and another church and monastery built by St. Dunstan, in A.D. 942—944. By this time, from successive grants, the Abbey had attained great wealth and importance, and was considered the richest foundation in England. St. Dunstan's Church is distinctly recorded to have been of wood plated with gold, which probably means ornamented with gilding, and it is mentioned as of wood in a charter of the time of Edward the Confessor. During the reigns of the first two Norman kings the Abbey was a scene of perpetual strife and slaughter, and no new building seems to have been erected.

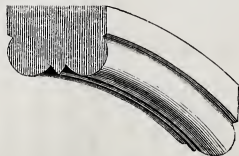
ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL, GLASTONBURY.



Turret.



Ornamental Moulding.



Rib of Crypt.

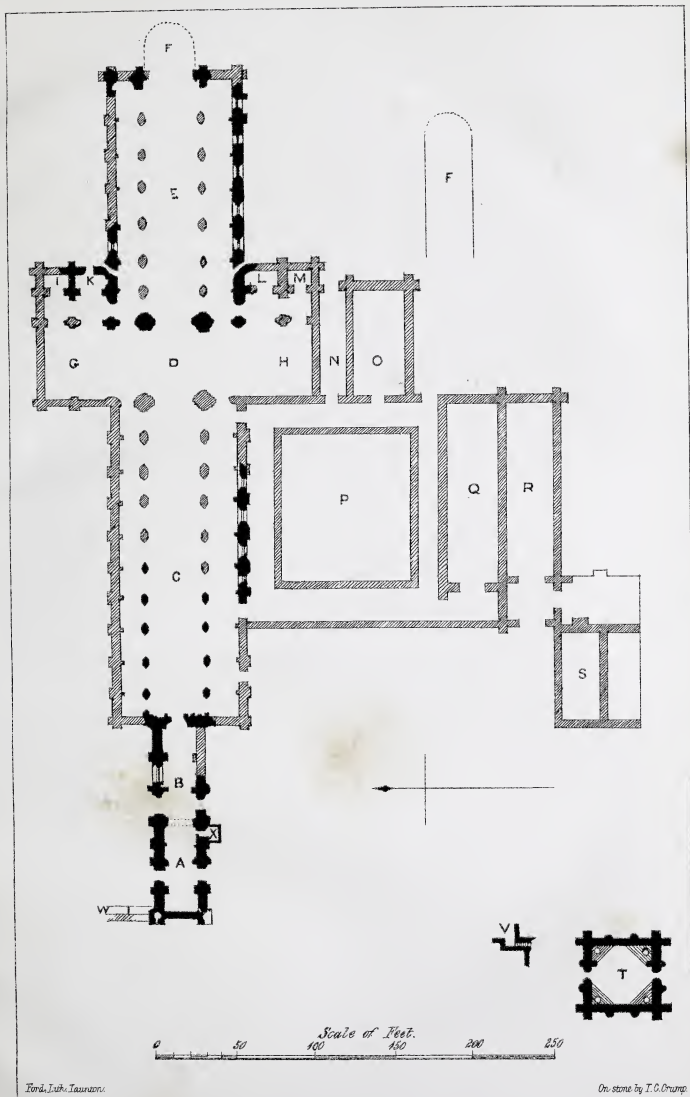
Herlewin, the second Norman abbot, is said by William of Malmesbury to have built a new church, on which he expended the sum of four hundred and eighty pounds, a very large sum in those days ; he was abbot from 1102 to 1120. Henry de Blois, who had been abbot only three years when he was promoted to the see of Winchester, but was allowed to hold both, is said to have built a castle, a chapter-house, the cloister, the refectory, the dormitory, the infirmary with its chapel, *the outer gate of hewn stone*, the great brewhouse, and several stables. He held the charge of this Abbey forty-five years, and died in 1171. Mr. Warre was inclined to consider the existing ruins as part of his work, and compared them with St. Cross and other buildings erected by him.

The whole monastery, including the church, was destroyed by a great fire in 1185, which seems to have created a great sensation. King Henry II. immediately sent his chamberlain, Ralph Fitz-Stephen, to examine the ruins, and to take the necessary steps for rebuilding the church and monastery ; and so expeditiously was this done, that the new church of St. Mary was dedicated by Reginald, Bishop of Bath, in the following year, on the feast of St. Barnabas, 1186. After this the work was stopped for want of funds, and was not completed until 1193.

The reduced copy of a drawing made by Stukeley, shewing the Abbot's Lodging and the state of the ruins in his time, as given in the present volume, will still further illustrate and explain what remains of the ruins. A ground-plan of the Abbey is likewise given, from Warner ; the details of which are as follows :—The dark portions of this plan designate the existing remains ; the lighter ones represent such as were visible in Stukeley's time. The letters of reference may be explained as follows : A, St.

Joseph's Chapel ; B, the additional building of Henry de Blois ; C, the nave of the great church ; D, the central point under the tower ; E, the choir ; F, the site of the retro, or lady's chapel ; second F, the same according to its original proportions ; G, the north transept ; H, the south ditto ; I, K, L, M, chapels in the two transepts, their names too uncertain to be correctly given ; N, a cloister ; O, the chapter-house ; P, the area, with cloisters round it ; Q, the refectory ; R, the guest-hall ; S, part of the lord abbot's dwelling ; T, the abbot's kitchen ; V, part of the almonry ; W, a covered passage into the crypt ; X, St. Joseph's Well.

Mr. Parker observed that it is very singular that no traces or fragments of the *early* Norman church can be found, nor is there any record of any such having been found. The earliest parts of the buildings that we have remaining are of the very latest Norman and transitional character, such as we might expect to have been built after the great fire, or between 1185 and 1193. He remarked that there is no mention of *a church* having been built by Henry de Blois, while nearly all the other buildings of the Abbey are enumerated, and the gatehouse is particularly specified to have been of hewn stone, which seems to imply that the other buildings were not. He was inclined to think that all these other buildings, therefore, were of wood, and that the church of Herlewin was of the same material. This would account for the entire destruction of the whole by the great fire. The chapel now called St. Joseph's Chapel, he was inclined to identify with the church of St. Mary, dedicated in 1186. There is no trace of any other lady-chapel, and the lady-chapel of the early church at Canterbury was at the west end. It is possible to suppose that by great exertions, under the royal autho-



Ford, Litho. Lancaster.

On stone by J. C. Ormerod.

GROUND PLAN of GLASTONY ABBEY.
 Taken from Warners' "History of the Abbey of Glaston."

rity, this chapel may have been built in a year ; it is impossible to suppose that the larger church could have been. St. Joseph's Chapel is remarkably complete in itself, all of a piece, built at one time, and a little earlier than the large church, though not much. The crypt is naturally the most ancient part, but it differs from the superstructure only so much as the subterranean part of a building usually does from the upper part, and it has no appearance of having belonged to an earlier building which had been destroyed by fire. Such a destruction usually does leave considerable traces, as at Canterbury. It is just such a church or chapel as would be necessary for carrying on divine service, and would allow time for going on with the large church. The latest portion of the building is the sort of porch which connects the west end of the large church with the east end of St. Joseph's Chapel. This portion is decidedly of Early English character, and according to Mr. Parker's hypothesis, this is just the portion which would naturally be built last. After the chapel had answered its separate purpose, and the whole work had been completed, the east wall of the chapel may have been removed and the whole thrown into one. The accompanying woodcuts illustrate the characteristic features of the architecture of St. Joseph's Chapel.

The chancel-arch of the great church which remains is just sufficient to show what the original design has been, and a beautiful drawing of it, made out from the remains by Mr. Scott, was afterwards exhibited to the meeting. The two eastern bays of the choir are of later character than the rest ; the shafts and mouldings of the interior of this part belong to the fourteenth century. A discussion ensued between Mr. Parker, Mr. Freeman, and others, as to whether these two bays had been added, or only altered

in the interior, Mr. Parker maintaining the former opinion, and Mr. Freeman the latter. The windows are exactly the same as those of the older part ; Mr. Parker thought that they may have been used again, or copied exactly at a later time. Mr. Freeman thought this out of the question, that it could not have been. At the point of junction between these two bays and the choir, on the exterior of the south side, the buttress is carried on an arch over a sepulchral recess, in a very remarkable manner, as if the person who built this part wished to be buried there.

The party then proceeded to visit the celebrated kitchen, built by Abbot Breynton, in the time of Richard II., where Mr. Parker pointed out that the four tall corner chimneys have been destroyed ; the louvre in the centre was for the escape of the steam and effluvia, not of the smoke. They then proceeded to the great barn, of the same period, where the emblems of the four Evangelists in the gable ends were noticed, and the construction of the roof was examined.