

Communication concerning Vestry of Lady Chapel, Wells.

BY J. T. IRVINE.

SOME years ago I drew up notes on Wells Cathedral, which were printed in the Journal of the Somerset Archæological Society, together with a plan. When making the plan, I had no other means of inserting on it the outline of the destroyed Vestry of the Lady Chapel, (removed when Canon Frankland was Master of the Fabric,) than merely by the marks left on the wall of the Lady Chapel and South Aisle of Choir, where the ends of its front wall abutted, and thus I supposed its plan to be of one width from end to end.

During some researches at the British Museum, among Carter's drawings preserved there in the Manuscript department, I came across his rough plan of Wells, and found that this Vestry presented in plan a sort of half octagon placed between the end of the Aisle and south wall of Lady Chapel. I am sorry thus to have been the cause of the introduction of a blunder into the pages of your journal, and desire to have it corrected, and shall therefore be obliged if you would insert some note of this correction in the printed matter of the next journal. A tracing¹ taken from Carter's rough plan, with

(1). Instead of this tracing, is inserted the following description kindly supplied by Mr. Irvine :—

The Vestry stood in the space between east wall of South Choir Transept and south wall of Lady Chapel. According to Carter's dimensions it may be marked on any plan of the Cathedral by remembering that it presented three sides of an octagon, of which the centre face (containing a door of external entrance) faced south. Of the two side faces the eastern one had in it a window of two lights, divided from each other by a mullion.

The outer planes of its wall may be described by measuring	ft.	in.
back from the north face of east buttress of transept along east wall of same	8	0

From thence (south east) first face octagon	6	9
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Next south face containing entrance door—angle to angle	7	6
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The third octagonal face from thence ran back to buttress of Lady Chapel, covering entrance through it, this still exists.

Greatest clear width of Vestry in centre of interior, from south wall of Vestry to south wall of Lady Chapel	8	6
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The wall of Vestry appears to be marked by Carter as 3 feet thick, but the figure is somewhat obliterated, and this may admit of doubt.

these dimensions, together with a copy of Canon Frankland's notes relative to its removal, entered in the order book of the Master of the Fabric, preserved in the Canon's Vestry, is herewith sent. I would add that Carter's plan and smaller sketches give the sites of the incised slabs, and of those which contained brasses, &c., &c., in various parts of the floor of the Cathedral and in the eastern walls (only) of the Cloisters, also in floor of North Porch. On the north side of Nave floor towards west end, he shows circular objects, which I conjecture were a few of the circular stones in the pavement for the Prebendaries to range themselves on at processions.

Neither in the Choir, nor in his notes, could I discover any trace or drawing of the broken slab, said to cover the body of Bishop Josceline de Wells. The slab, with indent of brass, of Bishop Phreas is shown near east end of nave.

1822. WELLS CATHEDRAL.

Copy of Memorandum preserved in the order book in the Canon's Vestry relative to the fate of the vestry of Lady Chapel.

* * "June 1822, R. Frankland.

"Ordered that the small buildings under the south windows of the Lady Chapel be taken down and the materials stacked in the Cloister Yard. Ordered to take timber² in the central tower and saw into proper lengths for repair of roofs.

* * "If the Master of the Fabric had known that the little building in the garden on the south side of the Cathedral was coeval with the Lady Chapel and was built [as it proved to be] into the very walls of the main fabric he would not have consented to its removal. The destruction of it was very difficult in execution, and so expensive that it can hardly be repaid by the expected healthiness of the inner wall."

(2). The timber was the old belfry floor in central tower (?)