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Notes on Tanner's Chapel in Dursley Church

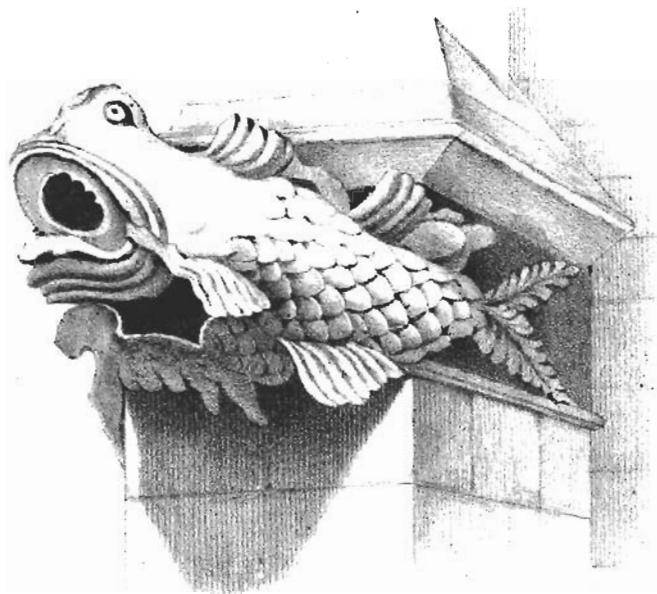
by J. Maclean
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NOTES ON TANNER'S CHAPEL IN DURSLEY CHURCH.

By SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A., &c.

BEING unable, through indisposition, to take part in the excursion on Wednesday, 4th August, we embraced the opportunity to make a careful examination of the chapel called "Tanner's Chapel." We say "called," because in the Chantry Certificates, 2nd Ed. VI. it is described as *Trynyte Service*, and stated to have been "Founded by dyuerce psons nott Knowen." This was not more than about sixty years after the chapel was built. From this it would seem that no tradition as to the founder existed in Feb. 1547-8. Nevertheless, the fact that on one of the merlons of the parapet, on a shield, within a quartrefoil, appears, a text T pierced by a cross-crosslet fitché, in the form of a merchant's mark, would seem to indicate that some person of whose surname this was the initial letter, was one of the chief founders; and it is very probable that it was Thomas Tanner. But then this difficulty arises. The tradition which assigns it to him states that he died in the reign of Henry VI., whilst the chapel was certainly not erected until after, and probably some years after, the accession of Henry VII., for on two of the merlons of the parapet the Tudor rose appears, and the details of the architecture are *late* third pointed, though good for the period. The gurgails are very fine (*See Plate XI.*). There is no evidence that the cadaverous effigy attributed to Thomas Tanner, now in the chapel, but not *in situ*, is correctly assigned to him, though, supposing him to have been one of the founders, it may represent him. Mr. Blunt states that this effigy formerly lay on a table tomb, surmounted by a canopy of four arches, which were used as memorials in the 15th and earlier half of the 16th century. It is now headless. It was probably removed from some other part of the church. There is a similar effigy at Westbury-on-Trym of John Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, who died in 1443.



Gargoyle. S. Aisle, Dursley Church.



Gargoyle. S. Aisle, Dursley Church.

The most curious part of this case, however, is that though the chapel was not built earlier than towards the end of the 15th century, the carved corbels which support the roof are of the first pointed period, and can scarcely be later than 1325, and may be attributed to the last quarter of the 13th century. There are some carved heads in some respects very closely resembling them on the north side of the chancel arch of the Church of Cogenhoe, county Northants, in work certainly of the 13th century, for the portion of the church where these heads exist was doubtless built by Sir Nicholas de Cogenhoe, who died in 1280 (*See Plate XII.*) The Dursley corbels therefore afford evidence that a much earlier church than the present building existed here, of which almost all traces have perished, though Mr. Pope detects indications of first pointed work in the piers. In the various alterations of the church which occurred in mediæval times, these corbels, which probably supported the roof of the chancel, were cast aside, perhaps when the second-pointed chancel was built, and the founders of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity utilised them in that structure. This chapel consists of two bays, and is 26 ft. long by 13 ft. wide.

The incumbent of Trynity Service, when the property of the chantries was seized, was one Sir John Coderyngton, of the age of 80 years, and having no other living than in the said service, which amounted to £6 13s. 4d. The altar plate, &c., seized weighed 17 ozs., and was valued at 70s. 10d. = 4s. 2d. per oz. On the roll is the following:—M^d that parcel of the possessions appertaining to the abovesaid Service of the Trynity, being of the yearly value of 40s. is claimed by one William Austen, alias Kerner, who brought before us a deed indented of bargain and sale, dated the last of Sept. in the 6th year of the reign of our late sovereign lord King Henry VIII., wherein it appeared that one William Austen, alias Kerner, father to the said William, bought the premises of one Morice Gilmyne, gent., and Henry, his son and heir apparent, for the sum of £60, by him to them paid, and the said deed by them both under their seals to him delivered, by virtue whereof the said Kerner now claimeth the same. The parishioners had no evidence to show, nor could declare unto us, how the same land came first to the use of the said Service.



At Dursley



At Dursley



At Dursley



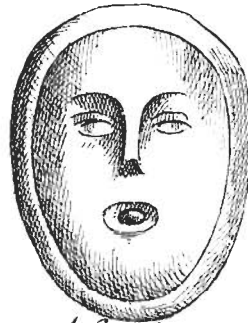
At Dursley



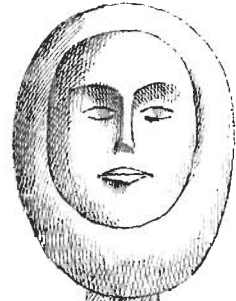
At Cogenhoe.



At Cogenhoe



At Cogenhoe



At Cogenhoe

CARVED CORBELLS.

LAVARE LITHO G. BROND 57 RUSTON

The incumbent of the Chantry of Our Lady was one Richard Berye, aged 58 years, having a yearly stipend of 58s., also in the free Chapel of Tokyngton, in the parish of Olveston, of which Sir William Berkeley, Kut., was patron. The stipend here was £6 13s. 4d.
