

ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

AYR AND WIGTON

VOL. I.



EDINBURGH

PRINTED FOR THE AYR AND WIGTON ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MDCCCLXXVIII

1878

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. NOTES ON THE ANCIENT STONE IMPLEMENTS OF WIGTONSHIRE. By the Rev. G. Wilson, C.M.S.A. Scot., F. C. Manse, Glenluce	1
II. NOTICES OF ANCIENT URNS FOUND IN THE CAIRNS AND BARROWS OF AYR- SHIRE. By James Macdonald, LL.D., M.A., F.S.A. Scot.	31
III. NOTE ON SOME EXPLORATIONS IN A TUMULUS CALLED THE "COURTHILL," IN THE PARISH OF DALRY AND COUNTY OF AYR. By R. W. Cochran-Patrick, LL.B. Cantab., B.A. Edin., F.S.A. Scot.	55
IV. ANTIQUITIES FOUND IN AYRSHIRE, AND PRESERVED AMONGST THE ARCHÆO- LOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF MISS BROWN OF WATERHAUGHS AND LANFINE. From Notes by the late Mr. Brown	61
V. NOTE ON A BRONZE BUCKLER FOUND IN THE PARISH OF BEITH AND COUNTY OF AYR. By John Evans, D.C.L. Oxon., F.R.S., F.S.A.	66
VI. NOTE ON THE CAPRINGTON HORN. By R. W. Cochran-Patrick, LL.B. Cantab., B.A. Edin., F.S.A. Scot.	74
VII. THE HUNTERSTON BROOCH. By Professor Dr. George Stephens, F.S.A. London and Edinburgh	76
VIII. NOTES ON SOME AYRSHIRE EXAMPLES OF POTTERY, SUPPOSED TO BE MEDÆVAL. By James Macdonald, LL.D., M.A., F.S.A. Scot.	80
IX. THE HERALDRY OF WIGTONSHIRE. By Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., of Mon- reith	85
X. REMARKS ON THE EXISTING BUILDINGS AT KILWINNING ABBEY. By William Galloway, Architect, C.M.S.A. Scot.	89
XI. COLLECTIONS TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE MONASTERY OF KILWINNING	115
XII. PROCEEDINGS OF THE GILD COURT OF AYR. From the Ayr Manuscript. By Thomas Dickson, Curator of the Historical Department of H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh	223

X.

REMARKS ON THE EXISTING BUILDINGS AT
KILWINNING ABBEY,

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE ACCOMPANYING PLATES.

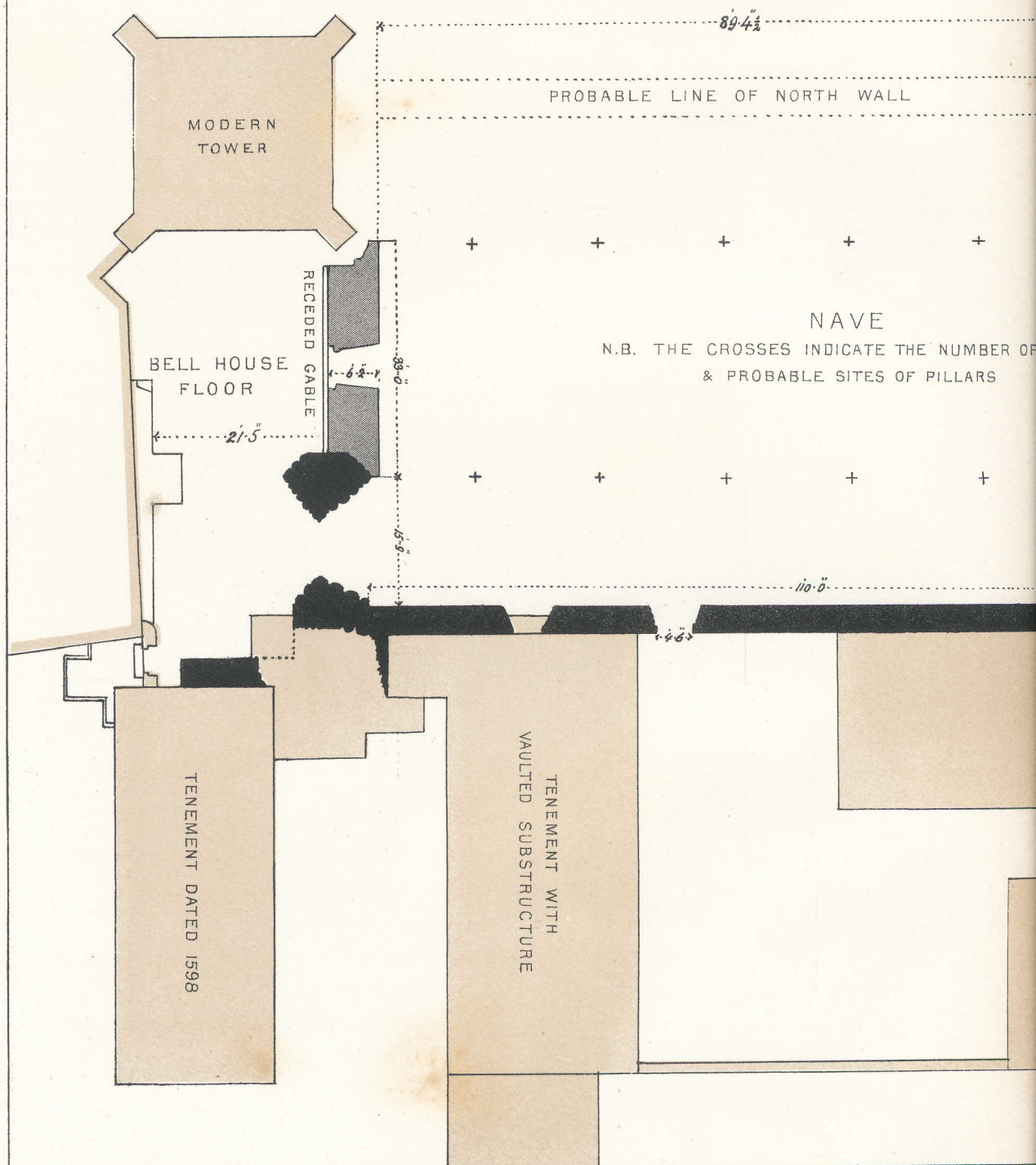
PLATE I.

BEFORE describing this Plate, it may not be inappropriate to make some brief allusions to the Abbey in general. The ruins of this ancient structure serve rather to illustrate the vicissitudes through which it must necessarily have passed, than to convey any just idea of its original extent. It will indeed be noticed from the ground-plan that, with the exception of the south transept gable, which is too massive to be easily demolished, the only parts of the building permitted to remain, are those serving the utilitarian purpose of boundary-walls to the comparatively modern churchyard. This is strictly the case with the western gable and its connected piers; until a recent period the Bell-house floor having been entirely open, and never at any time included within the limits of the burying-ground. So also with the southern wall of the nave, which forms the only line of demarcation between the churchyard and the private properties occupying the site of the cloisters. The same remark holds good of the walls to the east, indicating the site of the monastic buildings. It must also be remembered that, owing to the accumulation of soil and debris, the walls of the Chapter-house and slype, shown in the plan, have long been, and still to a great extent are, buried beneath the ground. With these exceptions, all the other parts of the Abbey Church and its connected buildings have been ruthlessly swept away. To reward the labour of excavation even, only a few lines of foundation remain, by which the original ground-plan may be traced.

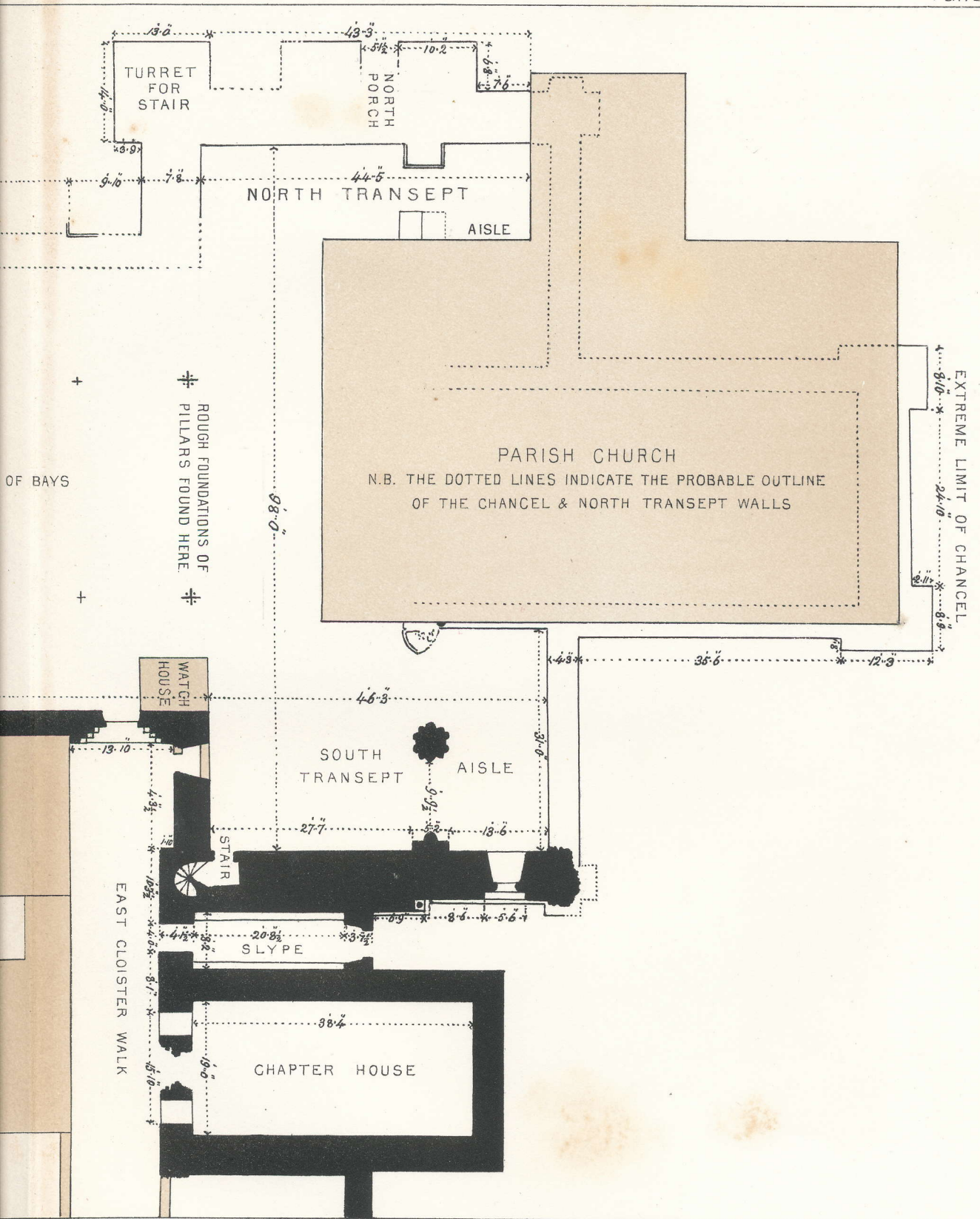
In its original state then, Kilwinning was a Cross church, about 225 feet in extreme length internally, 64 to 65 feet in breadth at the nave, and 98 feet at the transepts. The nave had north and south aisles throughout its entire length, the transepts had eastern aisles only, and there was a small chancel, about 30 feet in breadth, without aisles.

To be a Scottish building the formation of the western extremity was peculiar. The remaining indications are very slight and difficult to trace, but there can be no reasonable doubt that the building, as at first constructed, terminated in two western towers, having a slight projection beyond the line of the nave walls north and south. Western towers, whether in cathedral or monastery churches, are by no means unusual in Scotland. Of the first, the cathedral at Elgin, and St. Machar's at Aberdeen, may be instanced; the abbeys at Dunfermline, Arbroath, and Holyrood are examples of the second. Whether included within the body of the building, or projecting externally, the great majority of Scottish towers, however, rise from a massive substructure, pierced at the most by a doorway, and forming structurally independent parts of the building. Kilwinning was quite an exception to the national practice in this respect; and to this fact is due, to a great extent, the disappearance of the towers referred to, and the ruin of the western extremity of the building as it must have existed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In the interior of the building the towers were pierced by lofty arches opening on the central and side aisles of the nave. Those opening on the side aisles—of which the southmost only remains—were over twenty feet from the floor to the apex, and probably rose to the same height as the main arcade. If the arches opening on the centre of the nave were, as is extremely probable, of the same proportions as those at the side aisles, they must have risen to the height of forty-three feet from the floor to the apex, and included not only the main arcade but also the triforium. The result of this arrangement was, that a large additional space would be included within the area of the church, giving a narthex or galilee of from seventy to eighty feet in breadth at the western end. Although by no means uncommon in England, the arrangement referred to is, so far as I am aware, unique in Scotland. The nearest approximation to it is in the abbey at Arbroath, where there are the remains of western towers in the same position, pierced also by arches on both sides internally. These arches are, however, of equal size, and relatively small, so that, although access

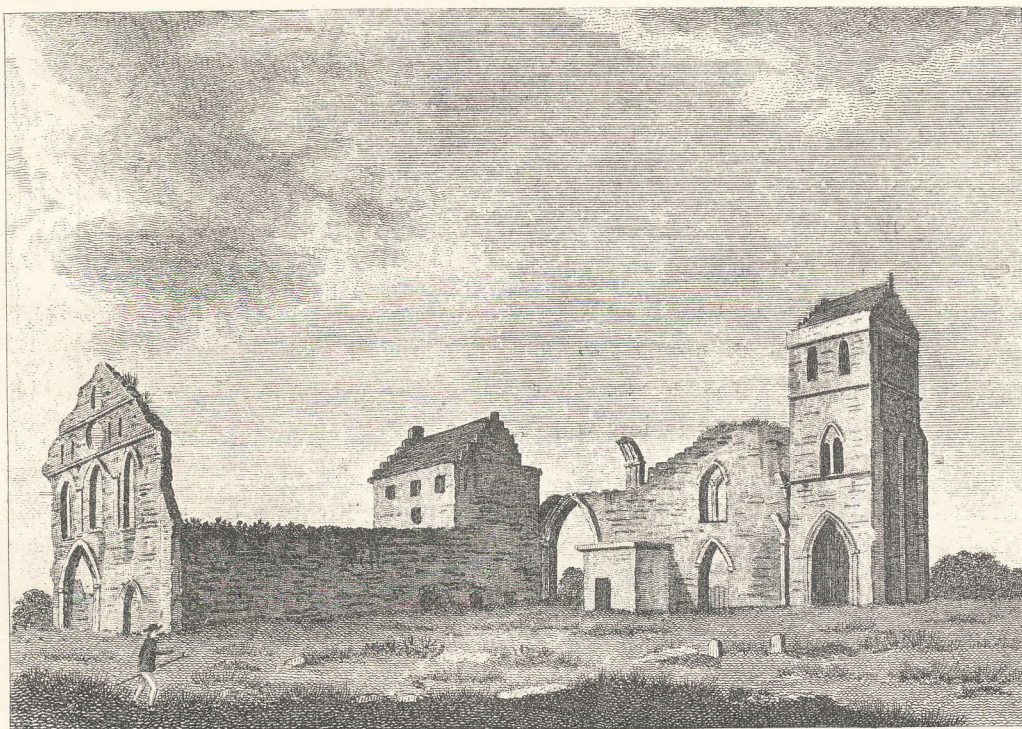
KILWINNING ABBEY, GROUND PLAN.



W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.



was thereby freely obtained to the space beneath the towers, it can scarcely have served the same purpose as at Kilwinning. Of the towers at the latter place, the lower part of the southmost only remains, including the tower-pier at the north-east angle, the aisle-arch, part of the south wall, and the foundations of the western wall and respond. The northmost tower was in existence so late as 1814; but of the two it has really been the more unfortunate. Struck by lightning on the 2d of August 1809, the greater part of it fell just five years after-



wards. What remained was blown up with gunpowder, and rooted out even to the foundations, so that not a single stone is now left to indicate either its position or character. Happily materials still exist, slight indeed, but sufficient to give an idea of its original appearance, and specially important as bearing independent testimony to the construction of the Abbey at its western extremity. In the accompanying views, photolithographed from old engravings, this north-west tower is shown in three successive stages.

There is first, the view taken by Captain Grose in 1789, illustrating his notice of Kilwinning Abbey.¹

This view is taken from the north-east, and in its ruined state shows the interior of the building, and particularly that of the west front and tower. The arch in the tower, which opened upon the north aisle, corresponding to that still existing on the south, is distinctly represented; also a portion of the north tower-pier, and the springing of the arch above it; also the shafting and springing of the triforium arch. A little to the south of the western entrance and window over it will be noticed a cluster of columns and a portion of an arch standing above the ragged outline of the building. This, in all probability, represents a portion of the clerestory, now entirely demolished, and which cannot have long existed in so precarious a position. It will be observed also that the mullion of the window is still complete. The tower itself is finished off with crow-stepped gables, and a saddle-back roof; a mode of terminating a tower common enough in Scotland, although comparatively rare in England.

Captain Grose mentions that in 1789 this tower was being repaired by the Earl of Eglinton, and it was probably at this period, or immediately after his drawing was made, that the spire, battlements, and pinnacles represented in the second view were added.

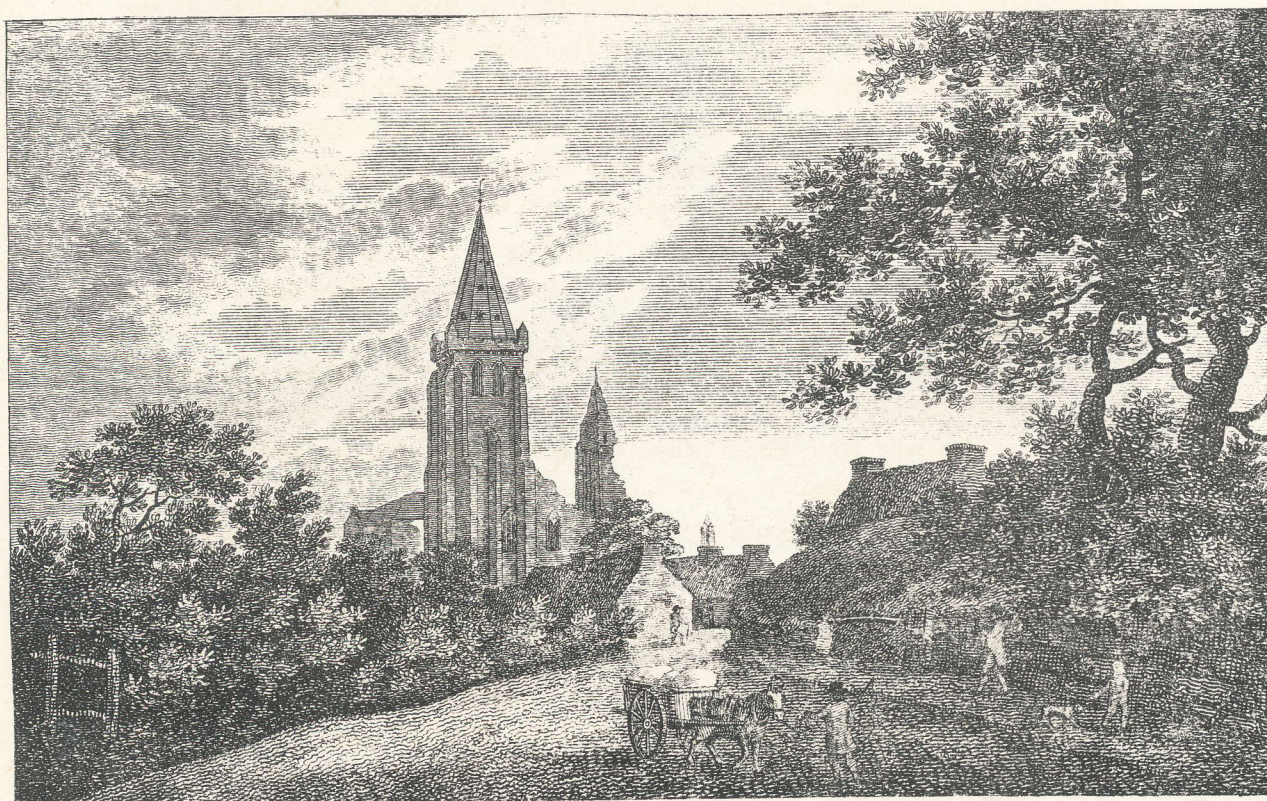
The next view appeared originally in the *Edinburgh Magazine* for April 1802, and is stated to have been engraved "from a drawing taken on the spot by Mr. Denholm of Glasgow."² The building is represented from an opposite point to the last, or the north-west, thus showing the exterior of the tower, and, in so far as visible, the west front. The tower is buttressed at the angles, and so exactly agreeing with the foundations laid bare in the Green.³ These buttresses rise the full height of the tower, and it will be noticed that smaller buttresses, rising up two-thirds of the height, are placed in the centre. The upper stage above these centre buttresses is pierced by two windows. This arrangement is quite in harmony with the view made by Captain Grose, as may be seen from the north or shaded side of the tower, as given by him. Owing to the demolition of

¹ *Antiq. of Scot.*, vol. ii. pp. 212-214. Captain Grose has taken an artist's liberty with the south transept gable, having twisted it round so as to bring the exterior into view, and inserted an arch, which certainly does not exist in the original.

² I am indebted for this identification to David Laing, Esq., LL.D., of the Signet Library, Edinburgh.

³ *Vide* p. 100 *infra*.

the main walls abutting upon them, on its eastern and southern sides the tower would of course be deprived of the natural buttressing which these walls provided. If to this we add that on these two sides the lower part of the tower was hung entirely on large piers and arches, it will easily be understood how at the last it should have collapsed so suddenly, and fallen chiefly across the Bell-house floor, demolishing a house situated towards the south.



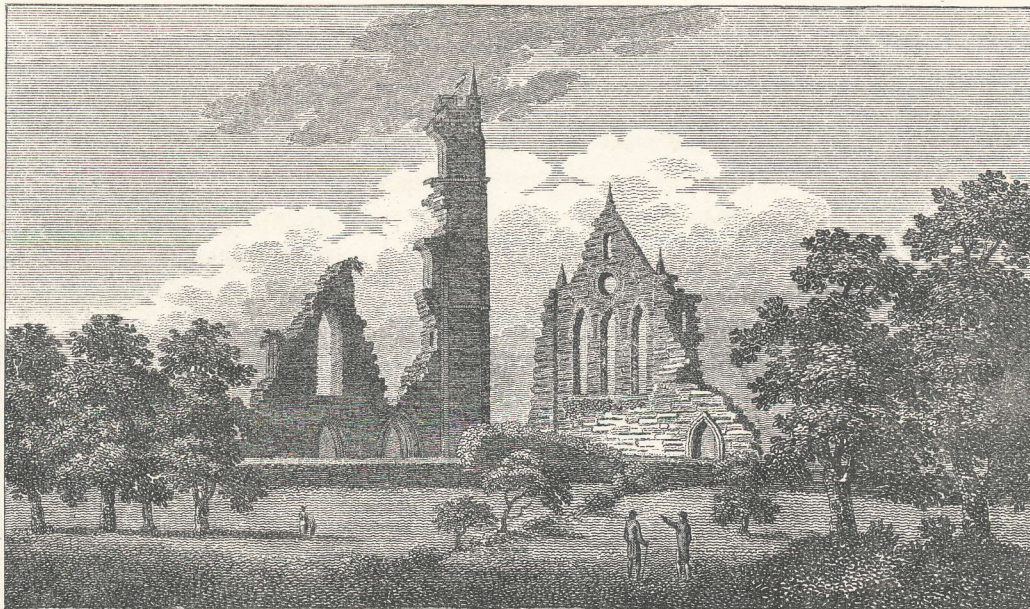
Drawn by J. Denbigh.

Printed by W. B. Smith.

In the view a small part of the present parish church is seen towards the left. To the right of the tower rises the south transept gable, and a little beyond it a small pinnacle, marking the position of the parish school, erected in 1800, and now used as a mission hall.

The third view represents the tower in its final stage, before the north-east corner was blown up with gunpowder. This view is photo-lithographed from the engraving which appeared originally in the *Scots Magazine* for October 1814, as an illustration to a "Description of Kil-

winning Steeple, with an account of its recent fall." At the close of the notice it is stated that "The view here given is taken from the S. by E., and includes in it the remains of part of an antient place of worship connected with the Abbacy, esteemed a beautiful specimen of church architecture, and still retains marks of strength and durability."¹



This reference is of course to the south transept gable, which appears in the foreground, although in relatively very much reduced dimensions. By a close inspection of the remaining battlements of the tower, it will be noticed, that even in its state of final ruin, the Papingo is represented as projecting from its summit.

I cannot close my remarks on this north-west tower, which stood so long, and yet has so completely disappeared, without expressing my extreme regret that the under portion, or, indeed, all of it that would have stood securely, should not have been permitted to remain, even in a state of ruin. Without the slightest hesitation or dubiety, points could then have been determined, or information gathered, only now to be obtained partially, and with great trouble, by tracing the long buried foundations of the companion tower beneath the walls, the floors, and the passages of adjoining properties.

¹ *Vide Scots Magazine*, vol. lxxvi. pp. 723, 724.

From this digression on a now obliterated portion of the structure, returning to remains still in existence, there can be no doubt the south-west tower must have been demolished at a comparatively early period. It is indeed evident that, owing to some important events of which there is no trace in history, the original fabric of the Abbey was subjected to some very serious injury. It may be inferred, not unreasonably, that this destruction took place during the Wars of Independence, when, in common with the south and west of Scotland, Ayrshire was overrun by the English armies. Whatever was the cause, it involved the demolition of the original west front and south tower. When the Abbey was reconstructed, probably owing to diminished resources, instead of rebuilding the original façade, or even turning its foundations to account, it was found to be the simplest plan to insert a massive gable, over six feet in thickness, between the two eastern tower-piers, so receding the west front nearly thirty feet, and leaving the north tower with its great open nave-arch projecting externally, a state of things which actually continued down to the beginning of the present century. Except on a supposition like that just mentioned, the existence of an open arch of such dimensions would be an utter anomaly; and the inserted gable itself bears evidence that the formation on the north side must have been exactly similar to that on the south. At the north end, where it was built up against the tower-pier, the outline of every shaft and moulding, with that of the base, all in reverse of course, is still remaining, showing that, in 1814, a pier corresponding exactly to that on the south must have been demolished. In addition to this evidence, the foundations of the southern half of the west front have been recently laid bare, including a small portion of the ingoing of the central doorway, and so completely establishing the view just stated.

In its reduced form the church was about 195 feet in length, of which the nave occupied 110 feet. From the corbels still remaining in the south wall, the nave appears to have been divided into seven bays; but whether these correspond with the original division, owing to the impossibility of making excavations within its area, it is of course at present impossible to tell. In the south wall of the nave are two doorways, about 4 feet 6 inches in width and 14 feet apart. The westmost of these is blocked up, and has evidently been so, since the erection of the vaulted tenement abutting upon this part of the wall. From certain indications, the probability is that the cloisters originally extended right up to the south-west tower, thus includ-

ing the entire length of the nave. The erection of the tenement referred to must have considerably reduced their area, and, if it did not previously exist, necessitated the opening up of a new doorway entering upon what would then be the west cloister walk. Close to the south transept there is a highly ornamental doorway, which would form the principal means of communication between the cloisters and the church. This doorway will be found fully illustrated in Plates V. and VI. Close to it, but in the south transept wall, there has been another plain arched opening or doorway, now blocked up and turned to account as a coal cellar. On clearing the soil down to the original floor-level, another doorway was found in the south-west angle of the transept. This doorway gave access to the circular staircase which ran right up to the roof, and communicated with the various galleries at the triforium and clerestory levels. There is, however, only a small portion of the stair remaining. The foundations of the eastern wall of this transept were also laid bare, and the piers of the aisle-arches cleared to the floor. It is only with reluctance that we are compelled to postpone any illustrations of these beautiful arches, and the finely proportioned south transept gable. To the ruins as they exist this gable holds the place of Hamlet in the play of Hamlet, and without it an architectural description of Kilwinning Abbey is necessarily incomplete. Soaring to the height of ninety feet, and presenting no ostensible means of access, it was felt that to do justice to it, and make for the first time an accurate and reliable survey, appliances were requisite which could not be available in the time at disposal. For the present, then, we can only recall to the recollection of the reader the admirable engraving of this gable given by Billings in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland*.

From the plan it will be seen that the south transept, including the aisle, has been 46 feet 3 inches in width. Of its eastern wall, and indeed of all the walls traceable from this point to the east and north, only a few courses of the basement remain. From the line of masonry being continued along the north end of the aisle it would appear that it was not open to the chancel, which would thus be continued right onward to the great south-east pier, as shown in the plan by the dotted lines. On the foundations of this pier, and upon those of the wall closing the end of the aisle, and the south and east walls of the chancel, the present parish church is in so far built. It thus marks the extreme limit of the Abbey to the east; but owing to its greater extension towards the north, the north wall of the chancel and the east wall of the

north transept fall entirely within its area. It has already been mentioned that the chancel was comparatively narrow. The angles had terminated in massive buttresses, but even over their extreme basement lines the breadth was only 42 feet 6 inches, while internally it cannot have been more than 30 feet.

One of the most interesting discoveries recently made was the foundations of the north transept gable. All knowledge of its exact position seems to have been lost; but, on the assumption that it would occupy a corresponding position to that upon the south, the ground was opened up with the most satisfactory results. True, only two or three of the lowermost basement courses remain, and many points upon which we would desire information must thus be left entirely indeterminate, but we are thereby enabled to fix the leading features of the gable unmistakably. In general dimensions it agreed of course with that upon the south. It had a turret staircase at the north-west angle, and also an eastern aisle. The leading point of difference was a large porch projecting externally from the centre of the gable, and measuring over the basement about 25 feet 6 inches. The doorway must have entered close upon the respond of the aisle arch, of which a course or two still remains. Extensive excavations were also made in front of the present church, in the hope of getting traces of the piers at the central crossing. The hewn work was found, however, to have been entirely removed; but foundations, of the broadest and most massive character, still exist, leaving, I think, little doubt that in addition to the western towers there must also have been a central tower, for the piers of which this broad plateau of masonry was laid.

It is extremely to be regretted that no examination could be made in the direction of the nave. It must be remembered that not only the precincts of the building, but also its entire area, have for the last two hundred years been made use of as a burial-ground, and this not in open soil, but simply in the accumulated rubbish and debris of the fallen buildings, which lies seven or eight feet deep above the old floor. The result, it may safely be said, is, that this entire mass of stones, lime, and human remains might be cleared away, and it would be found that not a single interment had taken place below the original floor-level.

In this general sketch it is unnecessary to make any allusion to the individual parts of the building illustrated in the succeeding plates. It will

easily be seen that all we can know of Kilwinning Abbey must ever be, in the strictest sense, fragmentary. Enough, however, remains to show that, unlike many other ecclesiastical structures, which were the slow growth of successive ages, it was characterised by complete unity of design, and that its first condition was undoubtedly its best. Subject to slight but necessary variations, the plan in all its leading outlines is quite symmetrical, and, buried though it must have been for many ages, wherever the basement has been uncovered the same arrangement of massive splays and base-courses presents itself from one extremity of the building to the other. The inserted west front, which may be a work probably of the fourteenth century, proves unmistakably at how early a period the Abbey must have been extensively ruined, and that from the injuries then inflicted it never really recovered. As due to the munificent patronage of the De Morvilles, Lords of Cuninghame, and Great Constables of Scotland, as a historic monument of this distinguished family, one thing is clear, that in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Kilwinning must have been one of the noblest structures in the west of Scotland, second only to, if in its first erection it did not even surpass, the Abbey founded by the Stuarts at Paisley, or the Cathedral at Glasgow. As they now exist, both of these structures have the advantage of it in length—Glasgow Cathedral, including the Lady Chapel, being about sixty feet longer internally, Paisley half that amount; but in the breadth, both at nave and transepts, Kilwinning exceeded both of them. Even the Cathedral at St. Andrews, 358 feet in interior length, and the largest of all our ecclesiastical buildings, also fell short of it in breadth; while at Dryburgh the dimensions are considerably less every way.

It may also be mentioned that it was exactly one-half the interior length of Salisbury Cathedral. The western extremity of the nave at Westminster Abbey terminates in precisely the same manner as at Kilwinning, the towers being carried internally on piers and lofty arches. Although the two buildings are not to be compared either in length or general dimensions, in the breadth at the nave the advantage of Westminster is very slight indeed, while in the Scottish example the piers which carried the western towers were much more massive and imposing; more massive even than those supporting the central tower in England's famous shrine.

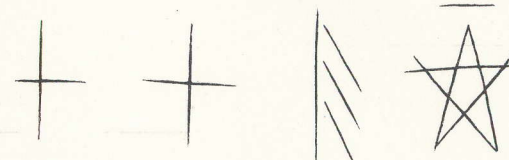
WILLIAM GALLOWAY.

EDINBURGH, *May* 1878.

PLATE II.

ON this Plate are shown the plans of the great western tower-pier and respond, with the cap and base-moulds, and mason-marks. This part of the structure is of interest not only for what it is in itself, but also for what it proves must of necessity have been the construction of the west end of the Abbey. This tower-pier, so massive in its proportions, and measuring 11 feet by 9, was only one of two which stood on either side of the nave, and, with the arches which sprang from them, the corresponding responds, side and front walls, formed the substructure of towers which must have been the leading features in the great western façade. With this general fact, however, we must remain content; all other details have perished. Excavations made in the Bell-house floor, and also in the Green, show that the western side of these towers was in a line with the centre of the façade, and that, in keeping with the rest of the building, massive buttresses rose at the several angles. On lifting the pavement in front of the present doorway from the Green, the foundations of the buttresses at the extreme south-west angle were found in perfect preservation. The gable of the tenement, marked on the plan as being dated 1598, is built partly on these buttresses and partly on the southern wall of the tower, while the gable of the tenement running westwards finds an equally secure footing on the main west wall of the church. This close proximity of the adjoining dwellings, and the manner in which the old walls have been turned to every available account, the most interesting parts lying buried under foundations or beneath floors, renders the work of exploration, where not impossible, extremely difficult. At the south-west angle internally, there is a small recess with the spring of a vault still remaining. This was evidently the entrance to a staircase, by which access would be gained to the tower, and I believe that the staircase in the north tower occupied a corresponding position. The plan of the western extremity of the building would thus be characterised by complete symmetry, although it by no means follows that the towers themselves would be carried to their full height. They very seldom were so; and it is extremely probable that, in the north tower at least, the upper part, and certainly the spire, were the additions of a later age.

PLAN OF GREAT WESTERN TOWER-PIER AND RESPOND
WITH THE SOUTHERN EXTREMITY OF THE INSERTED GABLE.



MASON MARKS ON GREAT PIER

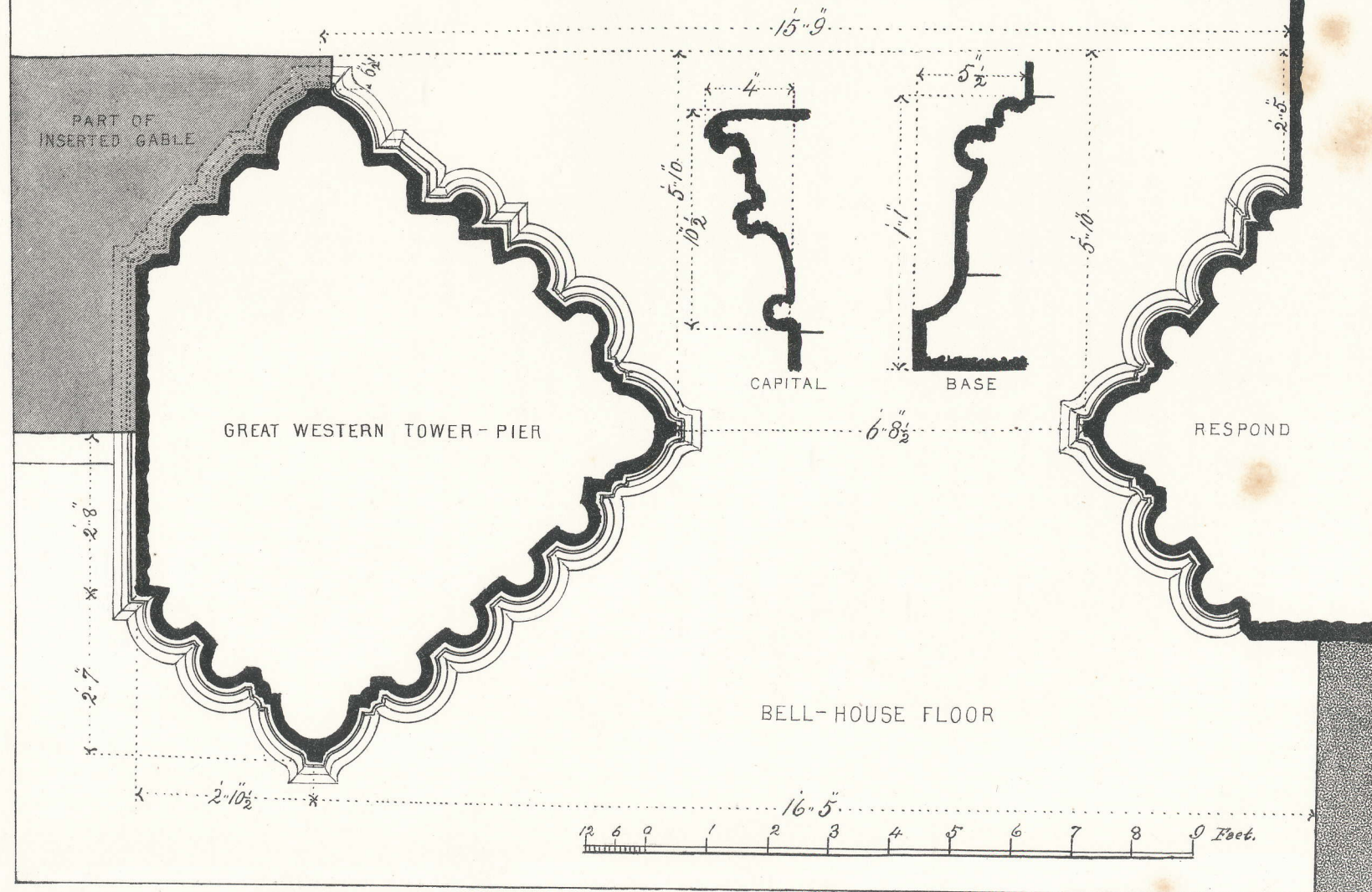


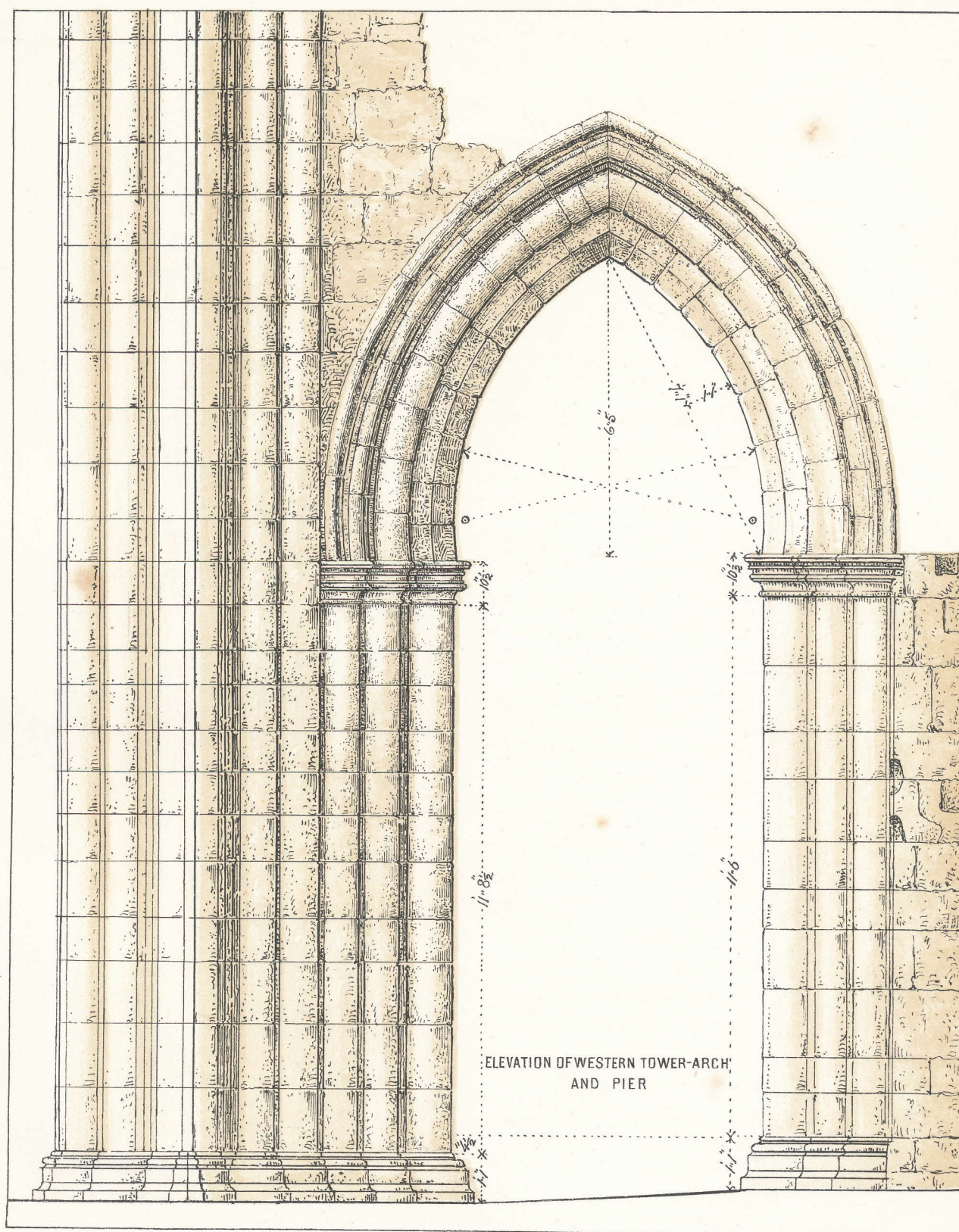
PLATE III.

PLATE III.

ON this Plate an elevation is given of the great western tower-pier, with its attached aisle-arch. That the tower itself must have been demolished at a very early period, and so this pier and arch fully exposed to the action of the external atmosphere, is evident, from the extremely weather-worn character of the masonry in general. Every joint is gaping and open. All the mouldings, of whatever kind,—capitals, bases, hood-mouldings, and even the shafting of the pier,—being so much wasted that their original outlines are entirely lost, and have become literally unintelligible. In marked contrast to this state of things may be compared the portions of the pier and respond recently uncovered, whether by removal of the debris and soil, or the masonry of the inserted gable. At these parts the original surfaces are as fresh,—the most delicate lines of the mouldings, the various arrises, mason-marks, and draught lines, are as sharp, as when first executed, showing that never since the building was first erected have they been exposed to the corroding action of the weather. This fact is the more remarkable, when it is remembered that the stone, especially in a damp state, is very soft, tender, and easily chipped, so that distinction must be made between injuries due to weather and those due to violence or accidental fracture.

A striking peculiarity in this arch is the height at which the centres from which it is struck are placed above the springing. As usual in the First Pointed style, in the doorway between the church and cloisters (Plate V.), the proportion is very nearly an equilateral triangle, with the centres on the springing line. In the present case they are nine or ten inches above it. The result is, that had the arc-lines on either side been dropped vertically, the arch would have been of the form known as “stilted.” Instead of this, each curve is continued until it terminates on the capital, exactly as in the form when struck from one centre called the “horse-shoe arch,” as in the chancel arch of St. Regulus at St. Andrews.

Another peculiar feature is the variation in the levels of the bases, the base of the tower-pier being $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches below that of the respond, while the shaft of the column on the north side is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer than that upon the south. This fact is no doubt due to the subsidence of the pier, and it is possible that it may have taken place partially during its erection, which would account for the apparently designed elongation of the shaft.

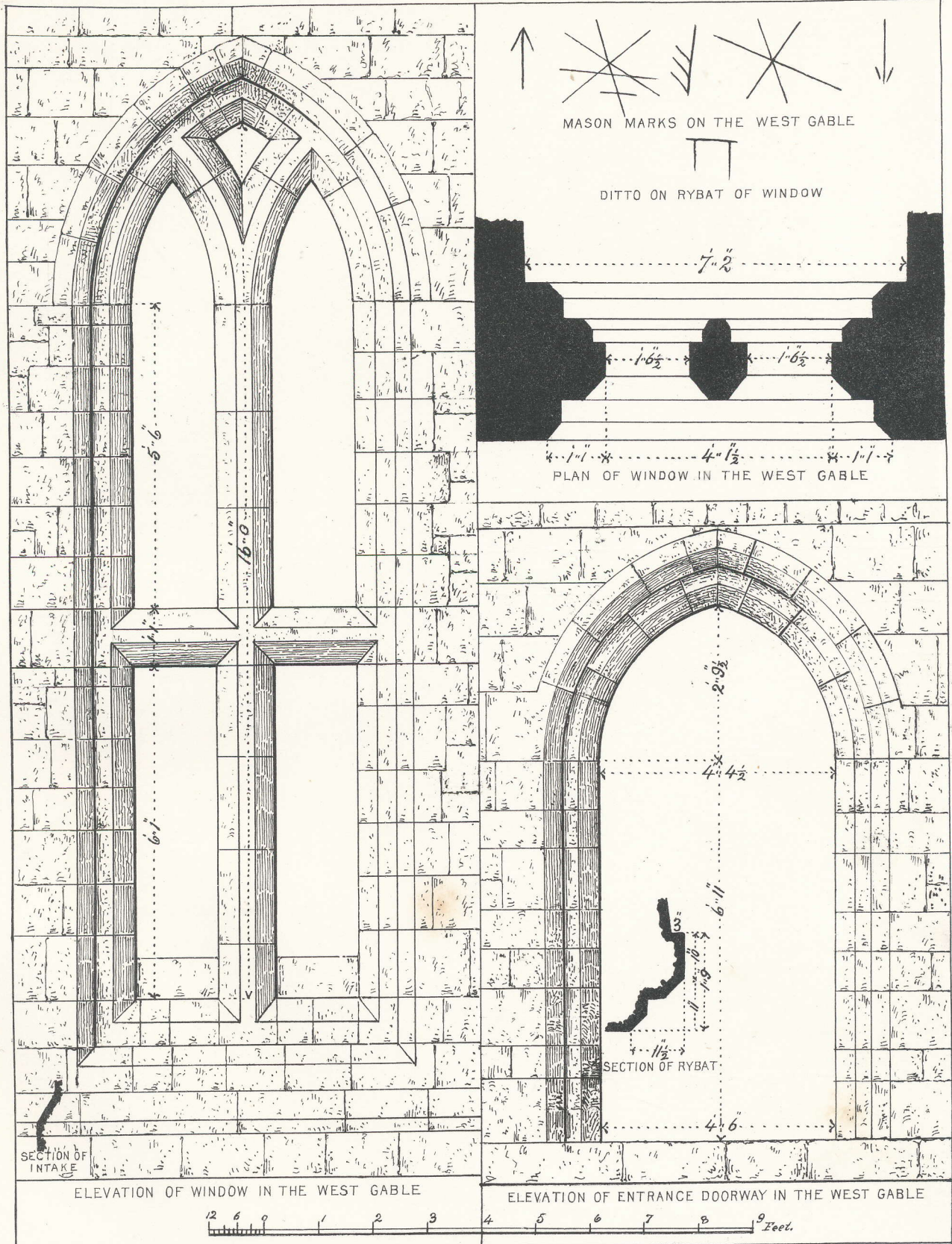


W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.

PLATE IV.

PLATE IV.

THIS Plate illustrates the leading features of the later west front or inserted gable. It will be at once seen that there is a marked contrast in point of style between this gable and the rest of the Abbey. Although very indeterminate in its character, the style is quite consistent with the erection of the gable in the fourteenth century, say at the close of the Wars of Succession. To be part of an ecclesiastical structure, indeed, it carries upon it the impress of an unsettled era as much as does the fortalice of the baron. When we look at it we cannot help feeling that its builders were still inspired by the dread of external violence, and that their prime necessity was defence. The gable itself is over six feet thick, a solid mass of masonry, characterised by the most severe simplicity. There is no ornament, no decoration, not a moulding even, the doorway and the window being surrounded by plain chamfers only. To be the main entrance to a great building the doorway is of the narrowest proportions, only 4 feet 6 inches at the base, and 4 feet 4½ inches at the spring, while the entire height is under 8 feet. The window above is quite in keeping with this doorway. It is raised a considerable height above the ground, and consists of but two lights about 1 foot 6 inches in width, separated by a massive mullion, and still further subdivided by a transom. There are no hood mouldings; nothing that could possibly be spared either externally or internally. It will also be noticed that the recessing, both at the door and window, is towards the interior of the building, instead of the deeply splayed ingoing, common in church architecture. All these circumstances point inevitably to the conclusion that the destruction of the original western façade and south tower at Kilwinning was due not to a casualty but to extreme violence, and that the character of the new gable, simple as it is almost to baldness, was the result not only of diminished resources but of an imminent feeling of insecurity and sense of danger. We know that in the sixteenth century the west end of Melrose Abbey was entirely demolished by the English army then devastating the south of Scotland, and that not a trace of it now remains; and the probability is that two or three hundred years previously a similar fate had overtaken the Abbey at Kilwinning.

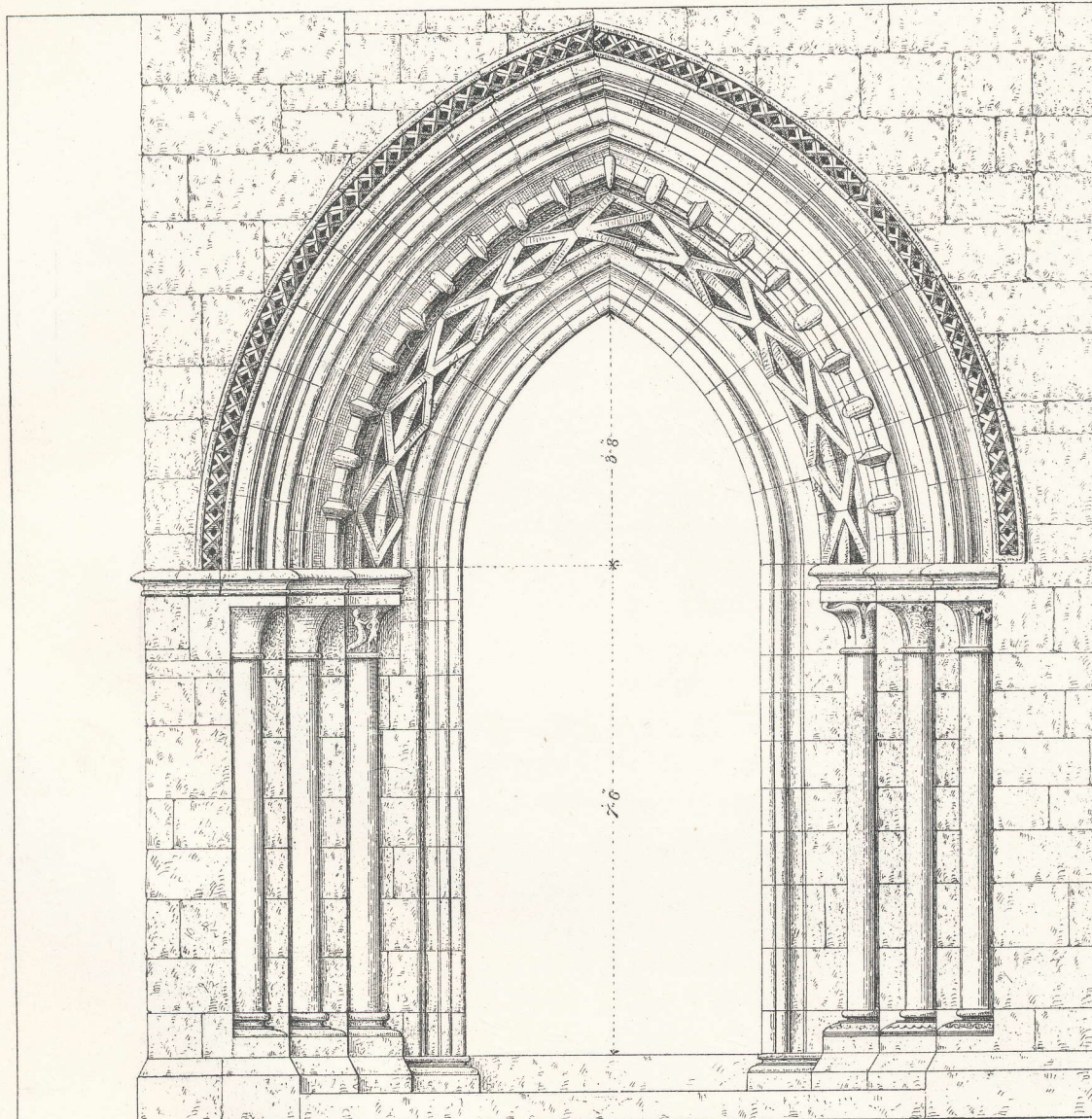


W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.

PLATE V.

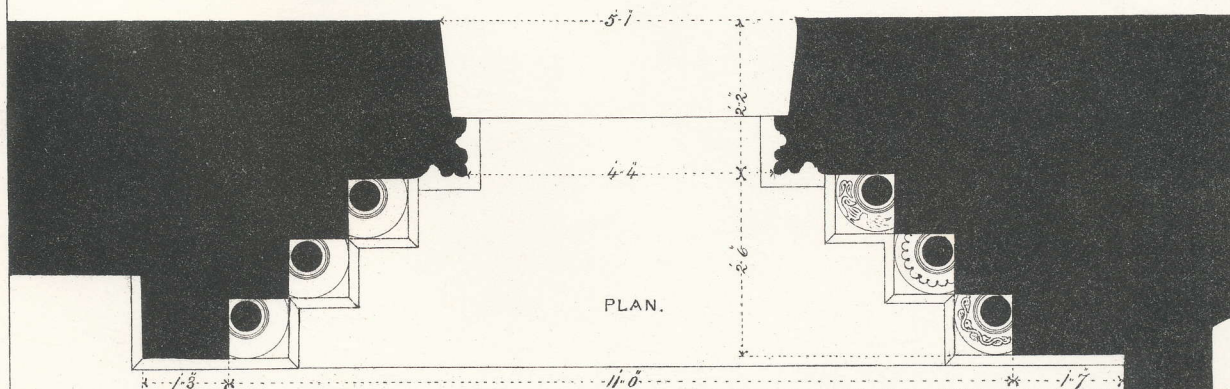
PLATE V.

ON this Plate is represented the doorway which formed the principal means of communication between the church and the cloisters. It is of special interest, as being the sole remaining example of the leading doorways in the Abbey, and from its ornate character an idea may be formed as to what the great west portal must have been. In order to give scope for the deeply recessed ingoing, the wall has been at this point considerably thickened. The arch is in four orders, the mouldings of the first being carried down continuously as jamb mouldings, and terminating upon a moulded base. The other three orders are carried upon columns, the shafts of which are unfortunately gone. The basis of the arch is an equilateral triangle, and the whole proportions of the doorway are exceedingly graceful. The same remark applies to the detail, and especially to the capitals and bases of the columns. The general design shows great care, but in several points the execution falls short of it. It will be noticed that the head of the doorway is twisted to one side, the points at which the hood-moulding and orders below it meet being by no means vertical. In many of the arches, including this one, there is a curious feature noticeable, viz., that a small stone, not exceeding three inches in breadth, is let in as a voussoir, as if the remaining arch stones had failed to occupy the requisite space, and it had been found necessary to supplement them by inserting a thin stone. The most curious instance of mis-arrangement occurs in the second order. In the drawing the peculiar enrichment which distinguishes this order is shown as restored. In the doorway itself only the roots of a succession of stone bars, square in section, are seen. From the angle at which they are set it is evident that these bars have formed a series of open conical or pyramidal figures, which will be better understood from the detail drawing in Plate VI. It will easily be seen that, by exercising a little forethought, these figures might have been so arranged as to be both equally spaced and quite symmetrical. But while the east side starts with a whole figure, and the west side with a half one, the worst confusion of all occurs in the centre, where there is half a space over, and to remedy the defect bars are run across from the apex of one ornament to the base of another in the most awkward fashion. To our modern ideas it is singular that a part of the building involving so much elaborate workmanship should also exhibit such striking incongruities.



DOORWAY BETWEEN CHURCH AND CLOISTERS.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Feet.



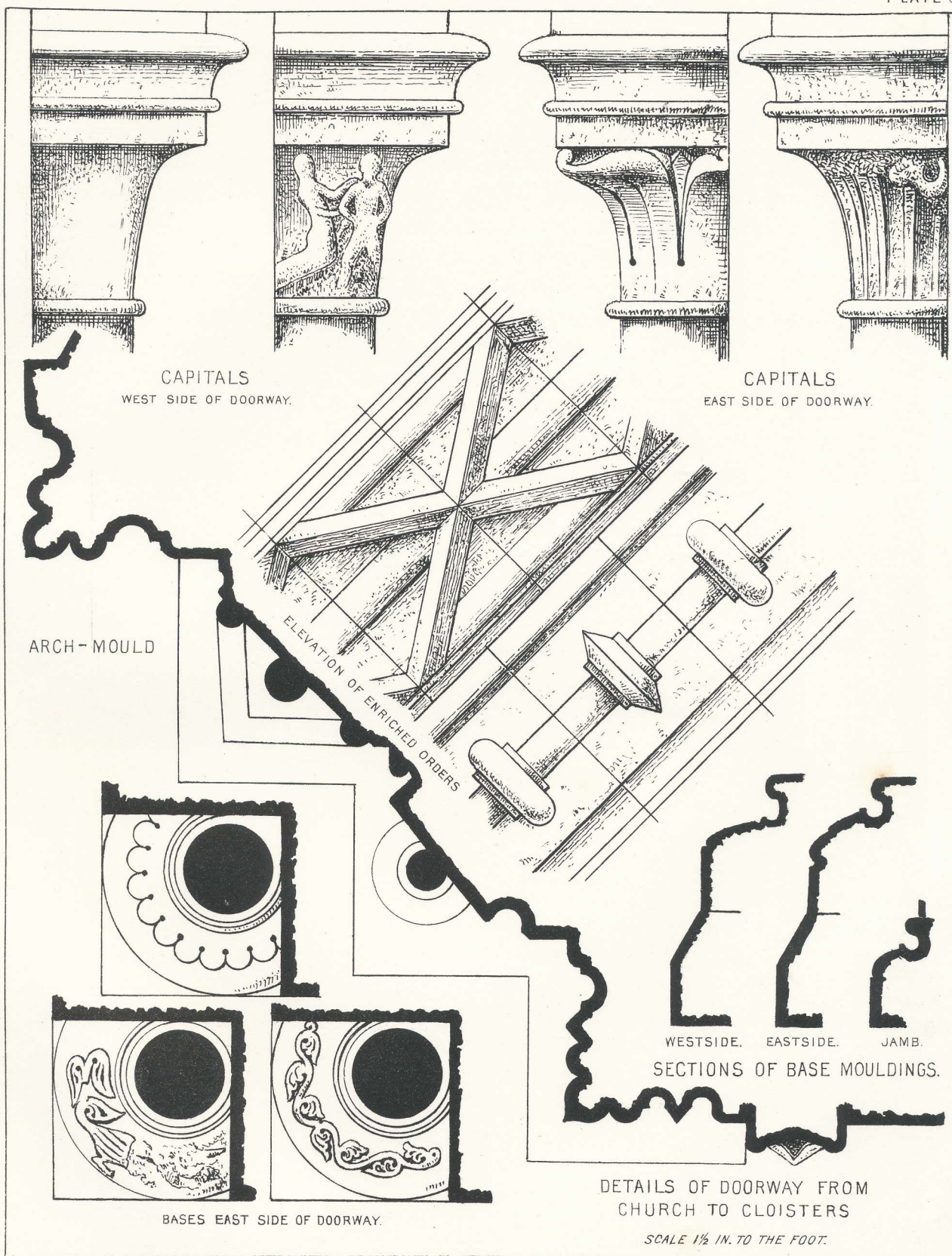
PLAN.

W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.

PLATE VI.

PLATE VI.

ON this Plate are given the details of the preceding doorway, at a scale of $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the full size. It has already been noticed that there is a considerable amount of variety in the detail; and, curiously enough, the west side is much less ornate than the east. The two outermost capitals on the west side are quite plain, the only carving on the third being two human figures, now very much effaced. On the east side all the capitals are enriched, each one differing from the other. The bases are treated in the same manner. Those on the west side are quite plain, and wrought to a much flatter moulding than those on the east side. The latter are all enriched, and that in a very beautiful and by no means common manner, a variety of devices being carved on the principal roll of the base-mould. On one base the pattern is a scollop, on another it is a running scroll ornament, on the third, although very much chipped, an animal is still traceable, with its tail terminating in a knot of foliage. As previously mentioned, the arch is in four orders, the several mouldings of these being given on this Plate. Two of them are enriched. In one of these, *i.e.* the outermost, the enrichment is in perfect preservation; on the other it is very much defaced. This arises from the fact that it has been all under-cut work, only the roots of the decoration being now left. This has consisted of a series of stone bars, square in section, meeting together in a raised centre. These bars spring from a roll on either side, and there is a larger roll in the centre, above which, however, the bars stood quite free, the whole forming a very curious example of under-cut ornament, which, unfortunately, afforded only too ready a temptation to the idle or the mischievous, to be permitted to remain intact. The curious manner in which this ornament has been bungled in the centre of the arch has already been mentioned. In the outermost of the two enriched orders the leading feature is also a roll, which is crossed by bands, alternately round and sharp-edged. An ornament of exactly the same character appears on the western doorways at Arbroath and Jedburgh Abbeys. The hood moulding is enriched with the dog-tooth, so characteristic of the Early English style. This doorway is still in good preservation; the bases have sustained some injury, the shafts are gone, and the ornament in the second order is defaced, but, owing to its sheltered position, it is otherwise in good repair. Where it was possible to do so in the drawings the defective features have been restored.



W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.

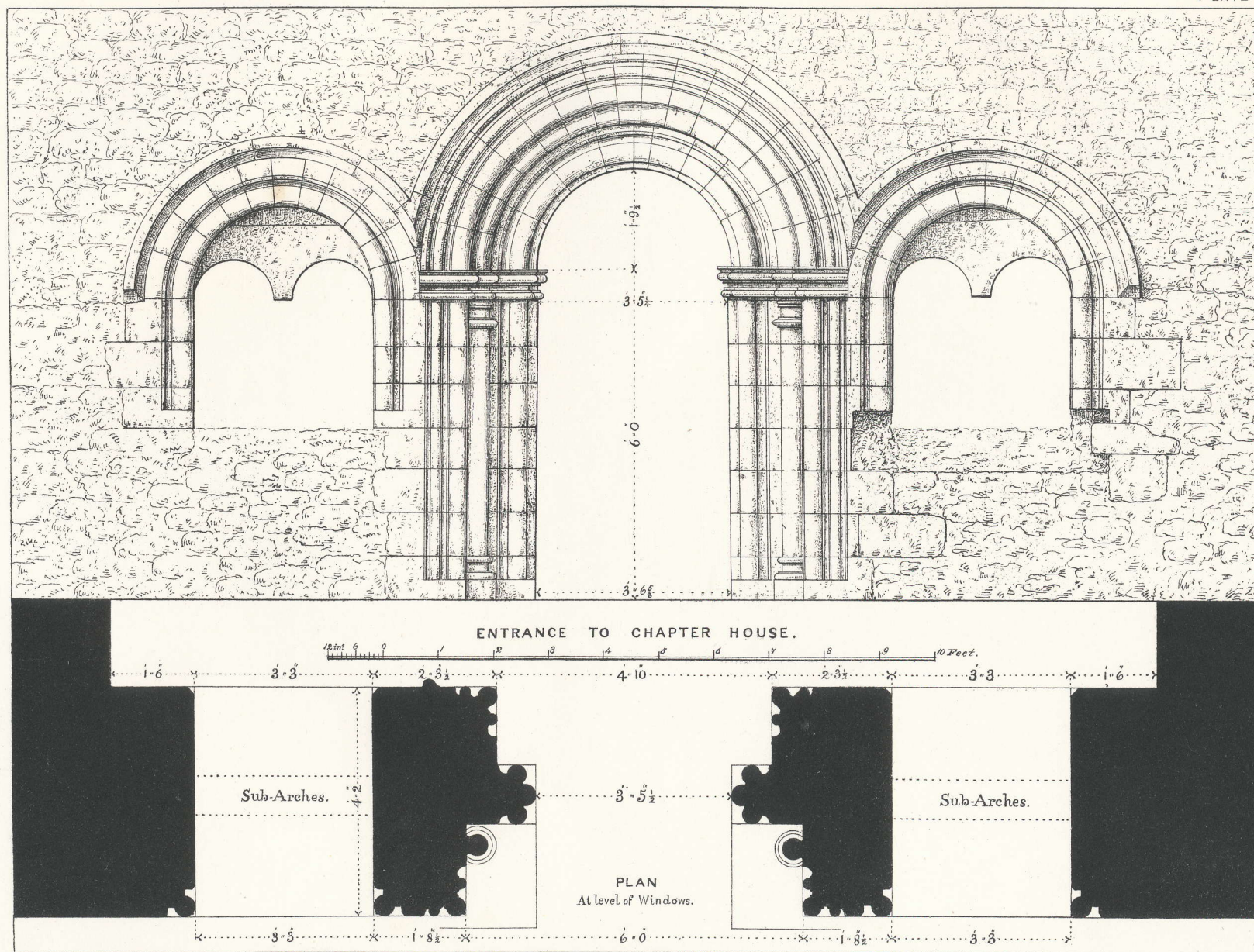
PLATE VII.

PLATE VII.

UNTIL the present Spring¹ the site of the Chapter-house had not been identified, the entrance openings were blocked with masonry, and the interior buried to the crown of the arch. The masonry having been removed, the ground reduced, and necessary excavations made, it was found that the Chapter-house at Kilwinning has been a quadrangular apartment, 19 feet in breadth from north to south, and 38 feet 4 inches in length from east to west, extending about 18 feet beyond the ordinary range of the monastic buildings. The vaulting is entirely gone. With exception of the west end, which internally is all dressed work, the walls are built throughout in a rough coursed rubble, conglomerate being chiefly used. There is an entire absence of that frequent feature in a Chapter-house, the stone bench. There would probably be oak stalls and also lining, as it is difficult to conceive that the walls would be exposed in their present state, especially as the hewn work at the western extremity has been carefully painted. A curious feature in the entrance is the convergence of the jambs, there being nearly an inch and a half of difference between the dimensions at the base and impost. The sills of the side openings, and the supports of the sub-arches, are gone; so also is the paving of the floor. The Chapter-house would be lighted chiefly from its eastern extremity. Of the windows only the fragment of a sill remains on the south side, partially built into the wall, marking the ordinary line of the monastic buildings. It is interesting as showing the window-level.

Between the Chapter-house and the south transept gable lies the slype, which formed the principal means of communication between the cloisters and the eastern precincts of the monastery. The vaulting is here also entirely gone, only the spring remaining, where it had been built up against the south transept gable. Curiously enough, although there has been no stone benching in the Chapter-house the slype has been benched on either side. The side wall next the gable has been carefully faced with hewn masonry, as also are the two extremities. On the side next the Chapter-house, however, the wall separating this apartment from the slype is built of the same rough rubble work as the Chapter-house, largely interspersed with conglomerate. If the slype was ever paved it also is entirely gone; and, indeed, it is evident that, previous even to the demolition of the vaulting, the buildings must have been stripped of everything that could possibly be removed.

¹ 1878.



W. Galloway, Mens. et Del.

PLATE VIII.

PLATE VIII.

ON this Plate the mouldings of the doorway and side openings in the Chapter-house are given at a scale of $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the full size. Although the connection is broken by the impost mouldings, the arch-mould is precisely similar to that of the jambs. The leading mason-marks of the Chapter-house and slype are also given. The plan and elevation of the entrance to the slype from the cloisters will illustrate the style of this part of the building. There has apparently been no provision for a door at this point. Of the doorway proper, at the eastern extremity of the slype, there are only partial remains. The slype has had a stone bench running along on either side, but only a small portion of the seating now exists.

A curious circumstance may be mentioned, which cannot be referred back to a later period than that in which the monastic buildings were still intact, and probably in actual use : The accumulated debris and soil having been removed, and the original floor-level laid bare, Mr. Smith, the manager at the Kilwinning Ironworks, was anxious to ascertain the nature of the subsoil and possible depth of the marine beds. An excavation was accordingly made in the centre of the slype, with a curious and unexpected result. At the depth of a foot or less from the surface, an adult skeleton was found, lying in position, with the head to the west. Along with it, to the depth of another foot, and occupying the full width of the passage-way, was a mass of adult bones, evidently the remains of large-sized powerful men. They lay in no order, but with the various parts of the skeleton mixed indiscriminately together. Although still for the most part complete, even to the skulls, these bones were in a very soft, spongy, and decayed condition. Where teeth were found, one peculiarity of the molars was that the crowns were invariably ground quite flat. Under whatever circumstances these bones may have been deposited in so unusual a locality, it must have taken place previous to the existence of the modern burying-ground.

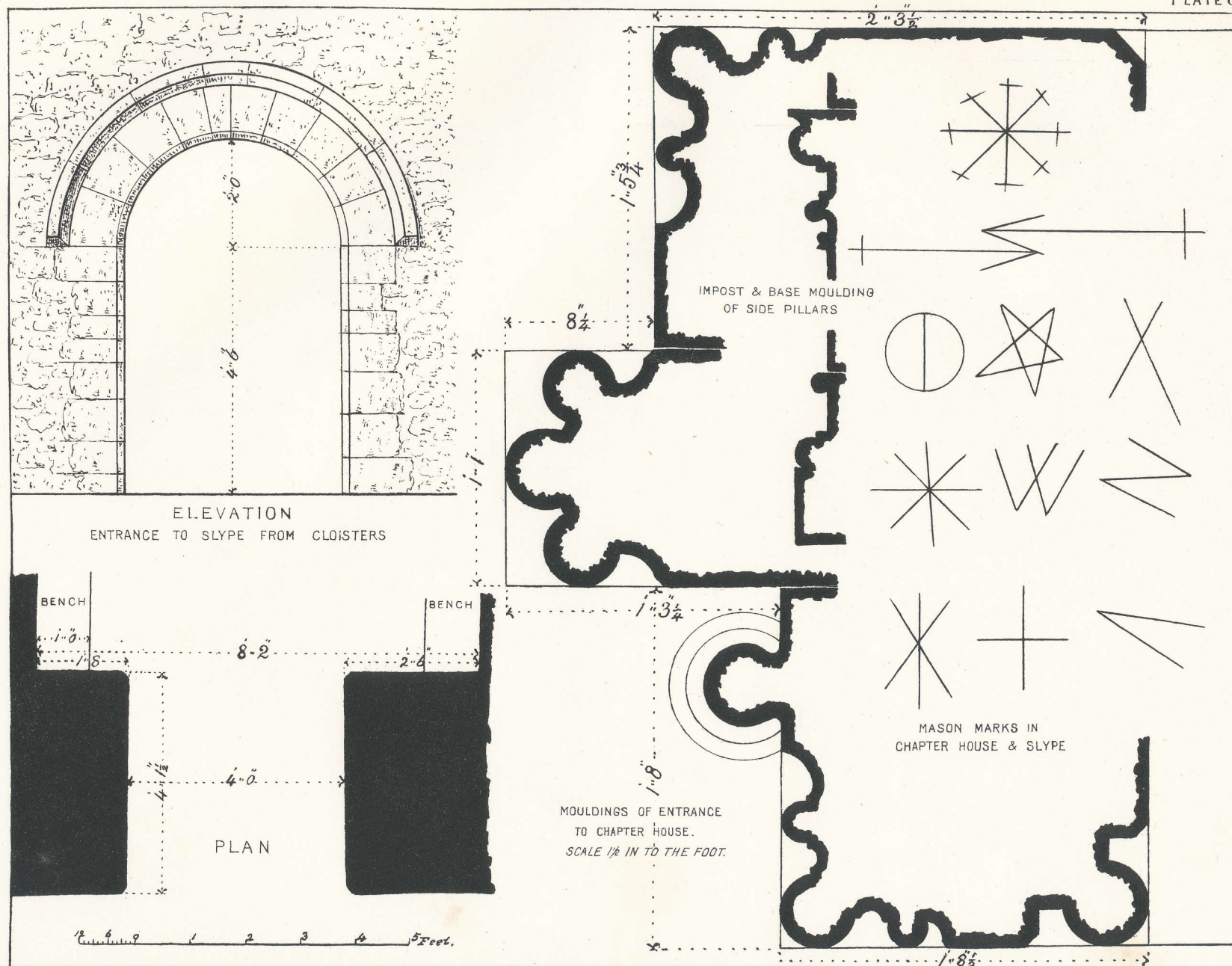


PLATE IX.

PLATE IX.

EXCEPT Fig. 10, all the stones illustrated on this Plate were found recently, either in trenching the churchyard or embedded in masonry. So complete has been the ruin at Kilwinning Abbey that many interesting features, the previous existence of which may safely be inferred, are now represented, if at all, only by individual fragments. Take, for instance, sepulchral memorials. In addition to interments within the church there must have been a burying-ground in its immediate precincts. Yet, if we except Pont's statement as to the reputed tomb of De Morville, there has been hitherto no trace at Kilwinning of such relics of the past. This fact must greatly enhance the value of the fragments, Figs. 1 to 4. They are parts of recumbent gravestones, and, excepting Fig. 2, are all incised.

Fig. 1 was found buried about two feet. The upper part is gone, but the stone originally must have been about six feet in length. There still remain the shaft, and three steps of a plain calvaried cross. On the left side there is a massive sword, with curved guard, part of the hilt being broken.

Fig. 2 is of very small size, carved in relief, with a floriated cross, and is interesting as carrying the well-known symbol of the shears.

Figs. 3 and 4 are the lower parts of small tombstones, graven with cross and sword. Fig. 3 has the blade represented bare. In both stones the original draught-lines are still visible.

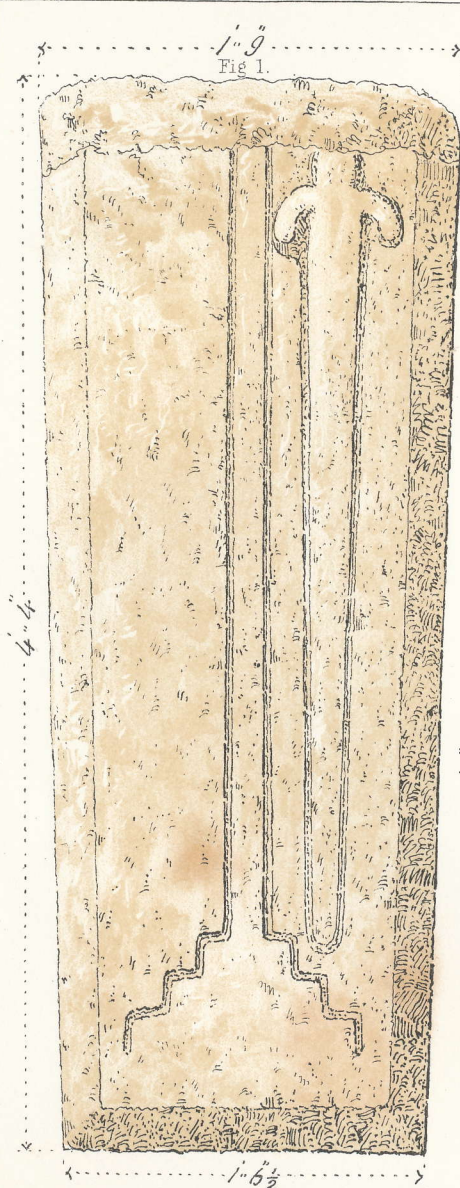
Figs. 5 and 6 are portions of Gothic inscriptions, probably from tombs within the church. Fig. 6 begins the formula "Hic Jacet," etc.

Fig. 7 was found in the rubble blocking the Chapter-house. It has been the keystone of an arch, with floriated crockets of late date, and may have been part of a fireplace or other arched opening in the monastic buildings.

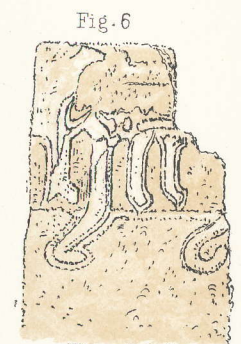
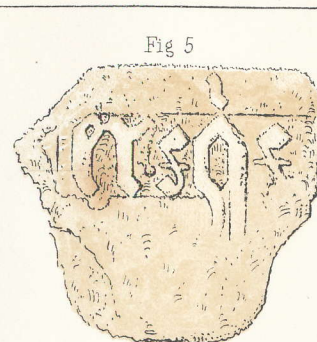
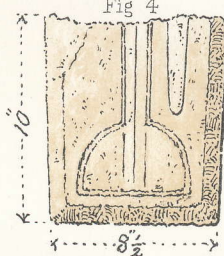
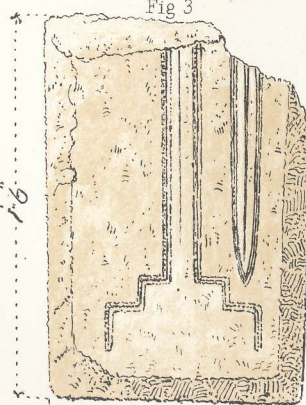
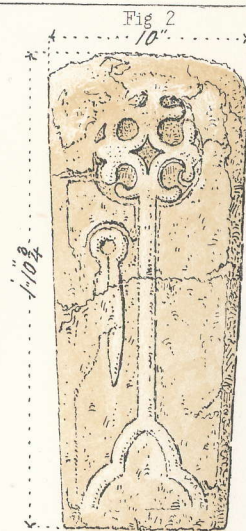
Fig. 8. This head, representing a bishop, terminated the hood-moulding of the westmost triforium arch on the south side of the nave.

Fig. 9. This is the only fragment of tabernacle work found. It has been carefully and delicately carved, and bears traces of having been painted.

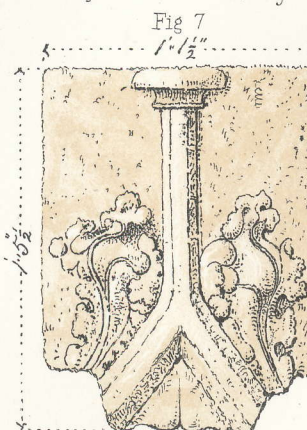
Fig. 10. This stone is built into the wall of the present church. It bears the initials of Robert, Master of Eglinton, and Janet Campbell his wife, daughter of Campbell of Loudon. In the parish church at Beith there is a similar cognisance carved in wood.



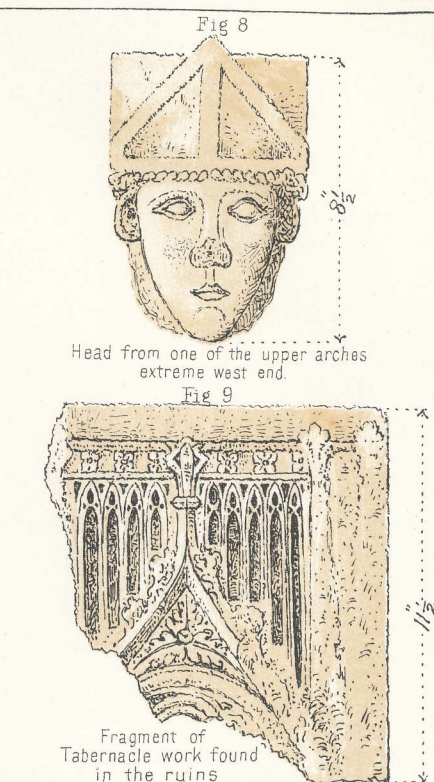
Figs 1, 2, 3 & 4. Portions of Sepulchral slabs found near the Abbey.



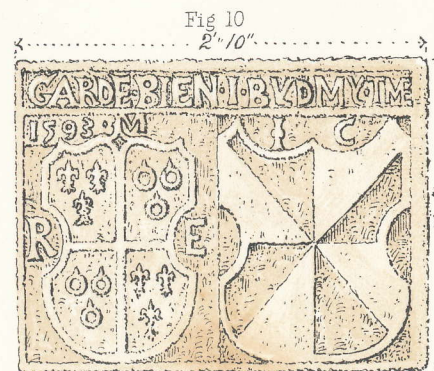
Figs 5 & 6. Fragments with lettering.



Keystone of an Arch decorated with Crockets.



Head from one of the upper arches extreme west end.



Stone built into the Wall of the Parish Church exhibiting the Eglington & Campbell of Loudon Arms.