

The outside of the Chancel is partly of cut flints, stones &c.

The walls of the Isles are cast over.

Mem^d. to search out the probability of a navigable river coming up hither. They tell you the ring on the Church door formerly belonged to an Anchor, and was dug up in a meadow in this parish. I don't think so.

GEDDING.

As the rector, the Rev. J. S. Boucher, was absent from home, the paper prepared by him upon his church was read by his neighbour, the Rev. R. C. Temple, who had met the party at the churchyard gate.

“The continuity of Christ's Church in this country, from the earliest times until now, is in no way more convincingly proved than by the continued existence of her ancient holy places, which appeal to the eye as well as the understanding, and form most indisputable links between the present and the past. In this aspect, the curious old fabric still standing at Gedding is peculiarly valuable and interesting. Its records carry back its history to the reign of Richard Cœur de Lion, when Sir John de Geddyng was lord of the manor, and dwelt in the double-moated castle or grange, whose entrance gatehouse, or Porter's Lodge, still forms a picturesque residence called Gedding Hall. During the process of stripping the walls of the plaster, with which the barbarous dark age of the 18th century had bedaubed them, two loopholes were discovered, which indicate the church's Norman origin, and point to the 12th century as the date of its construction. We may well conceive that Sir John built or rebuilt it on coming home from the Crusades, as a thankoffering to God for preservation of life in battle and safe return to England. In those troublous times, when war was the grand business of life to the Baron who dwelt securely in his moated castle, the only refuge for his poor labourers at any critical moment was the parish church, which was accordingly built with a view to such emergencies—the walls very thick and low, and windows mere narrow slits outside, but splayed widely on the inner face, for light and air, and elbow-room when archers stood at the aperture to shoot at the enemy without. Gedding church was of this character. It had its engirdling moat, still distinctly traceable, and was no doubt roughly handled in the internecine struggles of the period, for the window tracery shows that it was rebuilt about 1350, A.D. One striking feature is its triple chancel arch, constructed like old Temple Bar in London, after the fashion of the cities of the East, familiar to the Crusaders. In those cities may be seen the great central archway in the town wall for the main horse traffic, and a small passage pierced on either side, called the Needle's Eye, for travellers on foot, through which a camel might indeed pass, but only when divested of the load upon its back, and bending lowly on its knees. The Crusaders also brought home with them leprosy from Palestine, and for persons unhappily afflicted with this terrible disease, which debarred them from admission within the

church walls, provision was made by constructing a sort of window near the chancel door, through which the lepers might hear and see what was going on inside, and take part in Divine worship. The Lepers' Grating still exists in the south chancel wall, with the peculiarity that it slants to the *west*, instead of east as usual, giving the impression that originally, perhaps, the chancel was not oblong, but apsidal, and that the altar stood on the chord of the apse, near the chancel arch."

Some discussion was raised upon the origin and use of low side windows, the theory of their having been at one time used to administer the sacrament to lepers having been questioned by some of the company. A photograph of the church prior to its restoration, A.D. 1884, by the present rector, was exhibited by the Rev. W. H. Sewell. The Church was reopened Dec: 14, 1884.

NOTES BY DAVY. Transcribed by REV. F. HASLEWOOD, F.S.A., HON. SEC.
Church Notes taken July 31, 1840.

The Church which is a small and mean building, consists of a Nave and Chancel.

The Chancel is 21ft. 2in. long, by 16ft. 6in. wide, covered with thatch.

The Communion table is railed off, raised 1 step. The Lord's Prayer and Belief, on the N. side of the East Window; the Commandments on the S. side. There is a small piscina in the S. wall, within the rails, and near the floor. Between the Chancel and Nave, is an arch, with a smaller one on each side of it.

The Nave is 35ft. long, and 18ft. 5in. wide, covered with tiles. The Pulpit is square: there are a few pews at the East end, with oak seats at the bottom. The Font is of stone, Sgon, with a very short pedestal: on the faces are four shields: S.W. and N.E. a saltire engrailed. N.W. and S.E. a cross: the other faces, have double arches, like windows.

The whole ceiled. The Steeple is a square tower, the lower part of stone, the upper of red brick: dimensions within 12ft. East and West by 10ft. 8in. contains 2 bells and a small Gallery.

The Porch is of white brick, 8ft. 9 N. and S. by 6ft. 8.

Gedding.

William Penbregge of Gedding by his will dated A^o. Dni 1392, and proved the same year, directed his body to be buried in the church of S. Mary of Gedding.

Notes taken by T. Martin, July 5, A.D. 1741.

(Brit. Museum, Add. MSS. 109. fol. 107.)

A mean building (but old enough). The Steple has been built in the usual square form, but fallen down within a few yards of the ground, and now top'd up with brick, and covered with tile as is the Church and South Porch, the chancell thatched.