

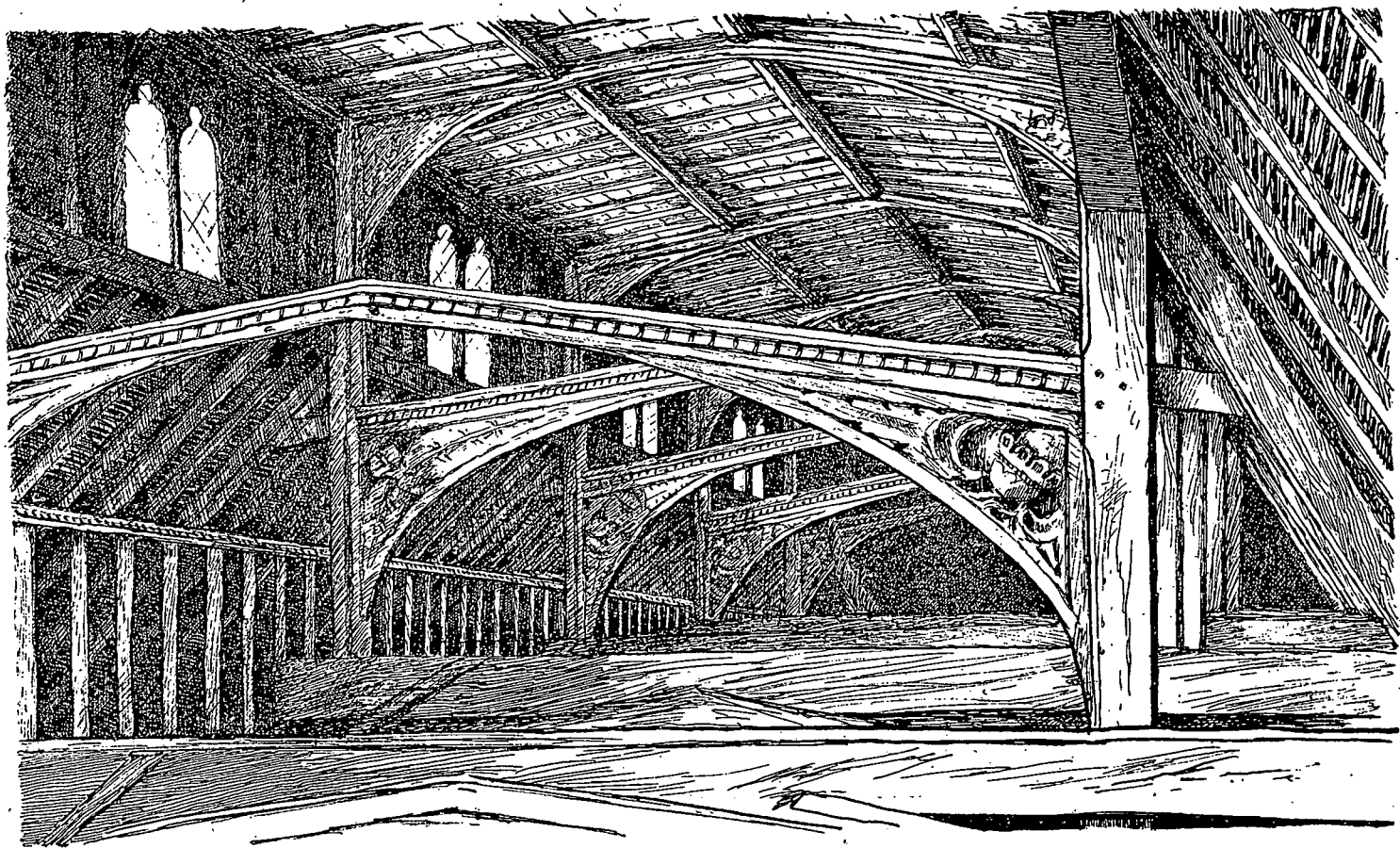
## NOTES ON NEEDHAM MARKET CHURCH.

BY MR. EDWARD T. LINGWOOD.

CONTRIBUTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE SUMMER

EXCURSION OF 1920.

Mr. Lingwood recalled that when as a boy he was taken to the church, the interior was all on one level, there being no distinction between the chancel and nave. A narrow part of the East end was railed off, and under the East window were boards on which were inscribed the Commandments and Lord's Prayer. A tall "three-decker" pulpit and reading desk—the pulpit reached by a winding stair—was placed immediately in front of the Communion rails. The church was divided into three blocks of pews, by two narrow passages. The walls were white washed, and over the whole was a continuous domed ceiling. At the West end was a gallery in which stood a barrel organ, which ground out a few familiar chants and hymns. This was replaced later by a small two-manual organ. The approach to the gallery was by a narrow staircase, between the west wall and a partition. At the top of this staircase a ladder gave access to the bell turret. By climbing through the upper part of the partition one emerged on to the top of the plaster ceiling (the relation of the plaster ceiling and old roof are shown in illustration No. 4, which was drawn during the restoration). Two of the original brackets and hammer beams were left on the West wall and one can be seen in the same illustration. All the others were cut off and their places taken by heavy deal ties from post to post, some of these being on the level of the plaster ceiling and some clear of it. There were

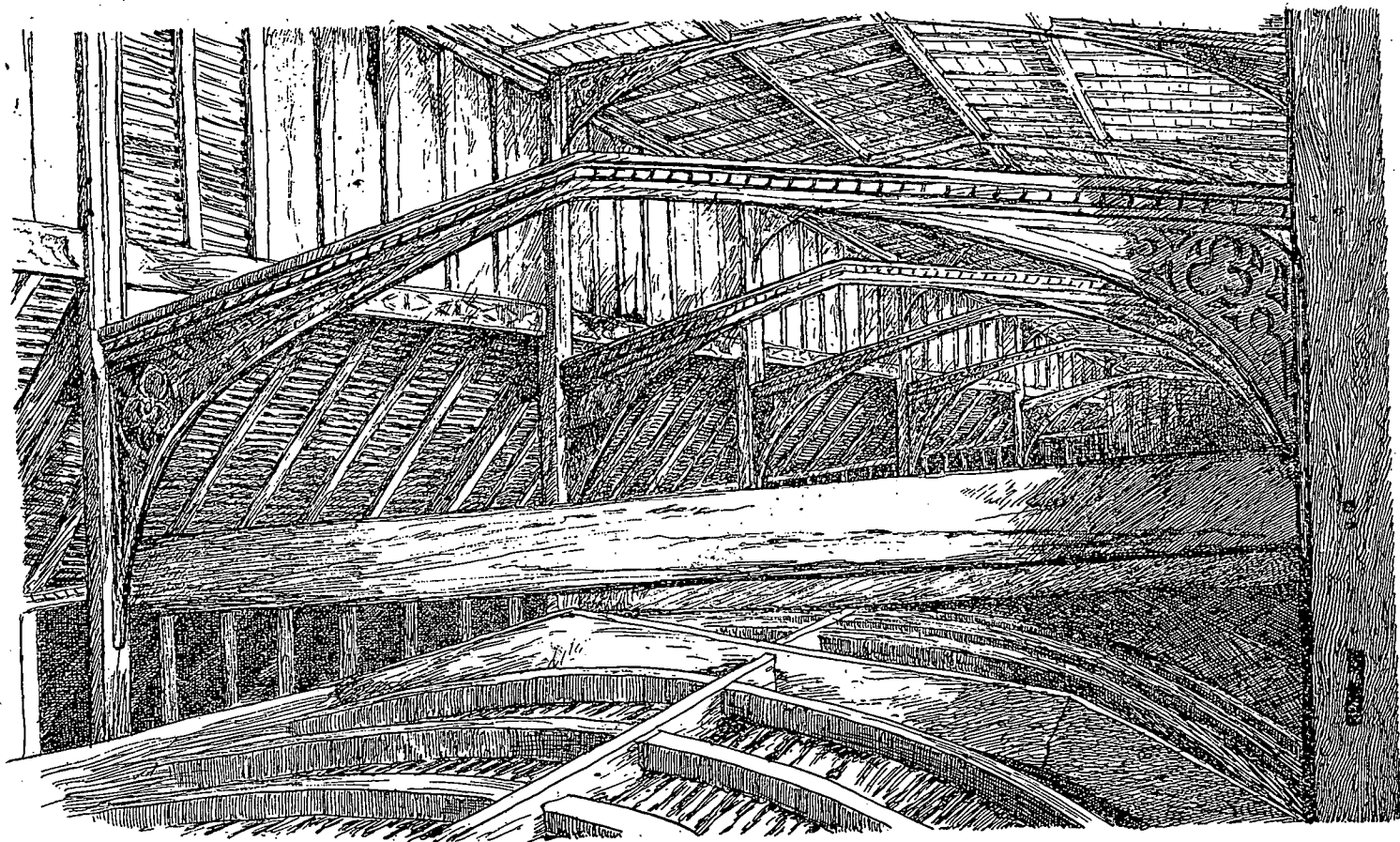


NO. 2. THE TIE BEAMS OF THE ORIGINAL ROOF ABOVE THE PLASTER CEILING LOOKING WEST.

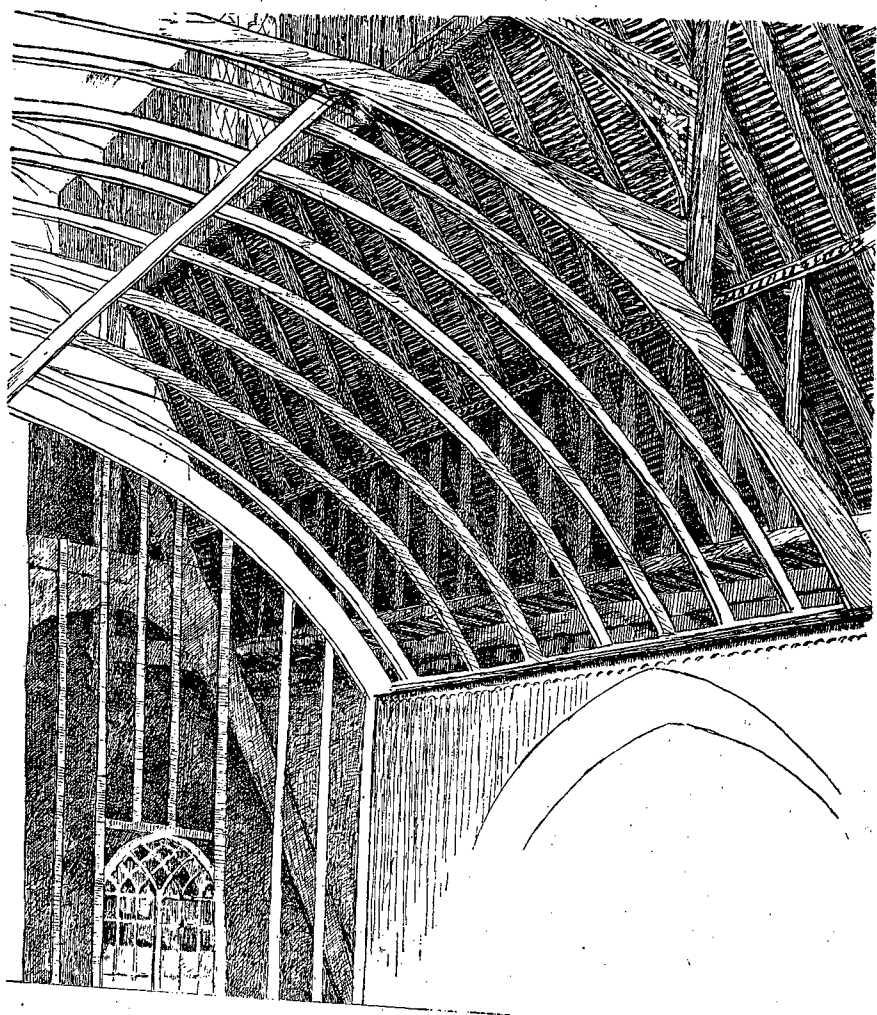
windows on the South side only No. 2, the North side was panelled in oak No. 3, and there was no casing between the rafters and the tiles. The height from the crown of the plaster ceiling to the old flat roof was about 16 feet.

Mr. Lingwood said he spent many days in the roof, and made drawings of all the carved work visible, as well as a measured drawing of the whole roof. The roof over the chancel was tied with crossed tie beams, which made it difficult to climb along and it was, of course, not lighted with windows.

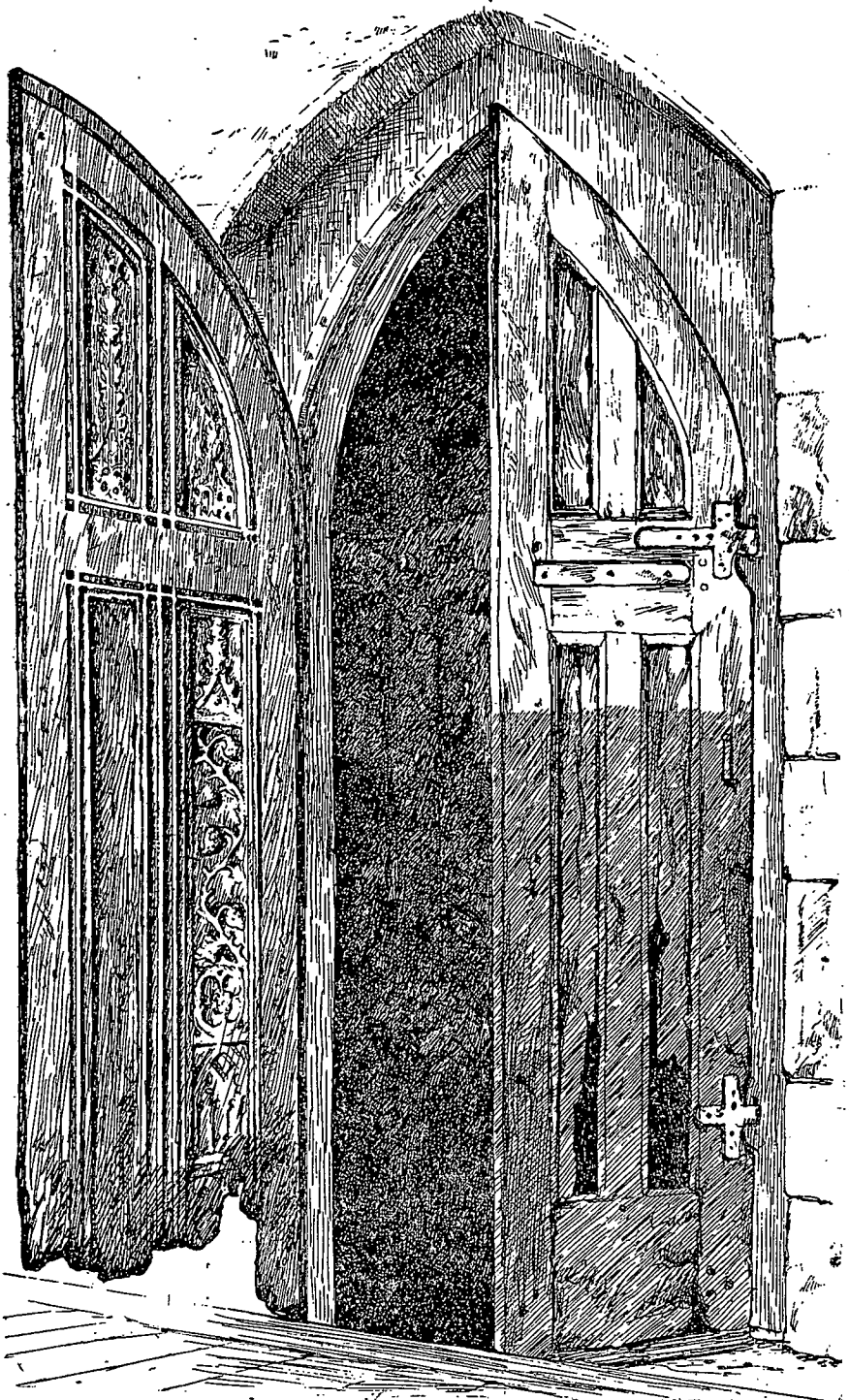
At the restoration of the church the whole roof was practically rebuilt, much of the timber being of a smaller scantling than the old, and all that below the line of the plaster ceiling is new. The windows on the North side were at that time added. During the restoration the foundations of an earlier building were exposed, and one or two dog-tooth mouldings were taken out of the jambs of the windows, the early English moulding having been built into the wall and the perpendicular moulding cut on the other side. The oak door in the North wall No. 5—opposite the South porch door—was found, having been plastered over inside and built up outside. For some time after the restoration these doors were preserved in the church. A fine brick porch was pulled down at the restoration, which, when the plaster on it was removed, showed moulded brickwork No. 6. The bell turret was also removed. When these were taken away, the late Sam Reed (a native of Needham) said the whole character of the town was changed.



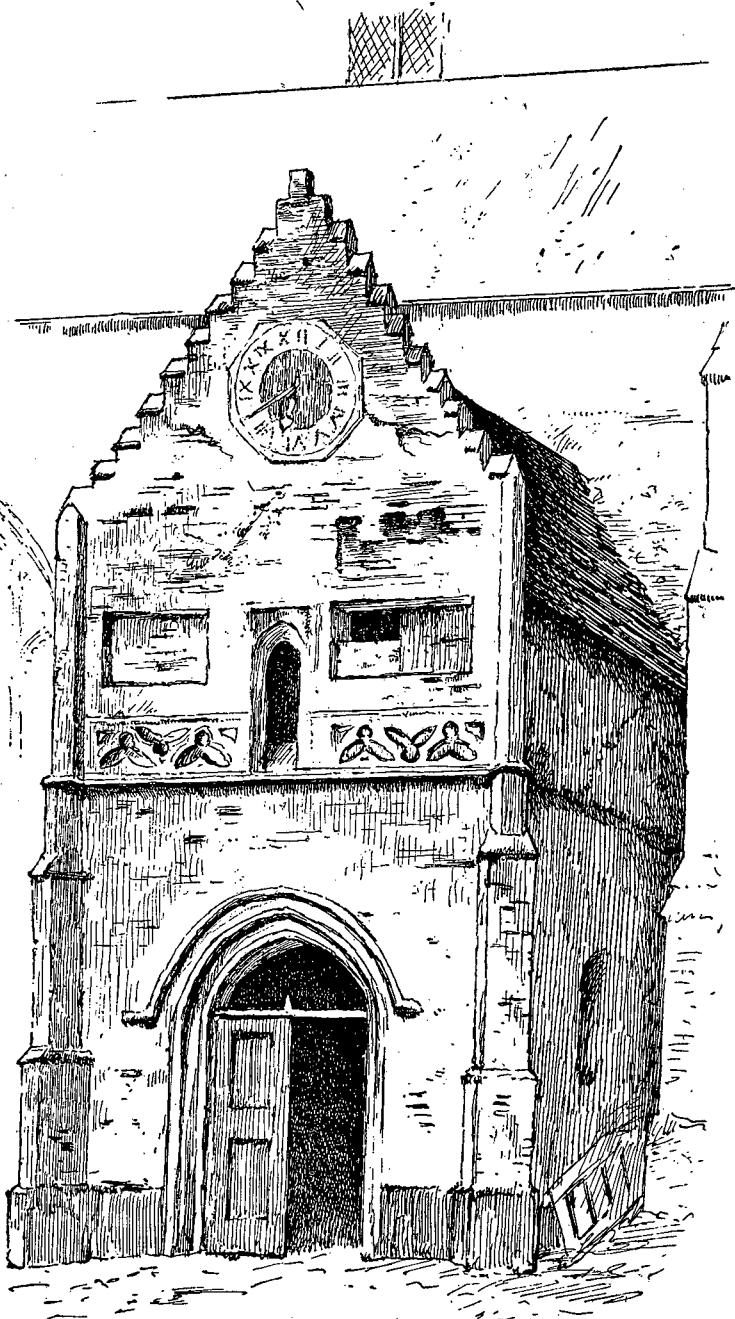
No. 3. THE TIE BEAMS OF THE ORIGINAL ROOF ABOVE THE PLASTER CEILING LOOKING EAST.



No. 4. THE ORIGINAL ROOF SEEN THROUGH THE RAFTERS OF THE PLASTER CEILING.



No. 5. THE NORTH DOOR.



No. 6. THE PORCH.