

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CLOSE.

By T. D. ATKINSON.

Present Lay-out.

THE Cathedral precincts of to-day are conterminous with those of the Middle Ages-containing the Priory of Saint Swithun, and are still surrounded by the great wall of the monastery. But while the church itself has been lucky in escaping most of the misfortunes which have overtaken so many cathedral and other churches, the monastic buildings have been among the most unfortunate. The greater number have been entirely destroyed. The present lay-out of the Close not only tells us nothing of the monastic plan, but so far as possible misleads us. The only building which informs us of anything that we could not have guessed for ourselves is the Deanery. That does tell us at least where the Prior lived. For the rest, the site of the very dorter, as the monks called their dormitory, is uncertain, while we are still more ignorant of the position of the infirmary, a great building probably measuring 200 feet by 50 feet.¹

There is little left either of material remains or of documentary evidence to give us a hint on these things, for the documents have perished and the general topography has been turned upside down and its character entirely transformed. Upside down because the main entrance to the precincts is now on the South, whereas it was formerly to the North, and transformed because the straight walks of the cloister and the square courts and gardens harmonizing with the architecture have given place to elegant serpentine carriage sweeps which branch into one another with easy curves, like a well-planned railway junction.

It may be worth while, therefore, to trace in broad outline the history of the Close from the period immediately following the suppression of the Priory. There is little hope of recovering any material part of the monastic plan; what little we can learn of the Close buildings in the middle of the seventeenth century may give us a hint here and there, for it may be assumed that most of the buildings then standing were monastic. All had no doubt been much altered internally to adapt them to family life, but there can have been little reason to do much new building. Any suggestions in the following pages as to the medieval plan are merely by the way.

Shortly after the Dissolution the Chapter and its staff consisted of a Dean and twelve Canons, six Minor Canons, ten Lay Clerks,

1. The 'farmery' at Ely and at Peterborough was that size, and at Canterbury much larger.

six Choristers, an Organist, a Chapter Clerk, two Porters, a Butler and a Manciple. Besides these the Steward lived in the Close, but he may also have been Chapter Clerk. Assuming that the Lay Clerks and the Choristers did not live in the Close, but allowing for wives and children and indoor servants of others, there would be required accommodation for well over one hundred persons. A like number had to be provided for on the re-establishment of the capitular body at the Restoration. The Surveyors of 1649 account for the house of only one Minor Canon. Perhaps the other five had cures in the city. In 1642 the custom of dining together had largely lapsed, but the officials (manciple, etc.) were still appointed.

Our chief sources of information are: (a) the few surviving Obedientary Rolls,² Rudborne's *Chronicle*,³ and other medieval writings, (b) the 'Survey' of 1649,⁴ the 'Narrative' of 1675⁵ and other documents of those times, (c) the Chapter Order Books, 'Wainscot Book,' and other miscellaneous papers, (d) old maps and the printed works of Milner, Woodward, Canon and Mrs. Goodman, and others, (e) the buildings themselves.

Needless to say, the evidence of any sort is always sketchy, often conflicting and, such as it is, most meagre in quantity. Few of the buildings which the Surveyors of 1649 describe are now standing, so that we have practically no standard by which to interpret their phraseology. Generally speaking, I assume that 'stone' means flint, not freestone like the Diocesan Offices; that leaded roofs are almost invariably flat; that they are generally medieval; that the Surveyors assumed an average weight of seven pounds per square foot; that a 'Hall' generally means what a house agent calls a 'good square lounge hall'; that a parlour and a dining room are moderate-sized rooms; that 'a grand chamber' is considerably larger, the same as the 'great chamber' the possession of which gave such satisfaction to Slender; that 'arched over' means vaulted.

A more difficult question is how much was done in the works of destruction and building of which we read. This will come up

2. Edited by Dean Kitchin

3. Edited by Canon Goodman.

4. The Report of the Surveyors of 1649 is vague and confused, but as it is the only account we have of the buildings it is of considerable value. The chief or only object was to obtain a valuation previous to lease or sale. Some buildings would, it was thought, be of no value except as material for building or for making bullets, and in these cases the principal materials were valued separately. Even when no other material is valued the lead is always estimated; this suggests that in cases where it was not proposed to pull down the house it was yet intended to take the lead. It was probably a general practice ever since the Dissolution to strip the lead from a flat roof and construct a high-pitched tiled roof, as at Ely. These valuations of materials go down to the last penny, nay, to the last ha'penny. But it was quite impossible to arrive at such close figures before the actual sale, and in regard to the lead, when the Surveyors had measured its area accurately they could still only guess at its thickness after allowing for wastage of time. They give the sizes of only two or three rooms, and then merely approximately; these few sizes will be quoted below. The acreage of gardens, etc., is given, probably estimated on very rough measurements only. Printed in *Documents*, II.

5. The 'Narrative' was drawn up by the Dean and Chapter in 1675, for the information of the Duke of Albemarle. After describing the havoc wrought in Commonwealth times, it records the work of rebuilding and repair recently done or about to be put in hand. It gives, incidentally, some particulars of a first-class row within the Chapter. *Documents*, II.

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PLATE I.



From *Official Guide*—by permission]

[Photos Fritchard

Top—Cheyney Court and Porter's Lodge.

Below—The Deanery.

for consideration in several cases in the following pages as at the Deanery, the Diocesan Offices and Dr. Bucknor's house.

By the three rough plans which accompany this paper it is hoped in Plate II to make clear the possible positions suggested in the text for some of the monastic buildings; Plate IV gives my attempt to plot the descriptions of the Surveyors of 1649; Plate VI gives the present lay-out to illustrate Plates I and II.

The Close Wall and Gates.

The Great Wall of the Close is an impressive work. Not quite so venerable as we used to be taught, for we must abandon the attractive idea of a defence against the Danes, it is still of respectable antiquity. It was no doubt put up chiefly as a defence against civil disturbance. The people of Bury had risen against the abbot and monks of St. Edmund in the 12th century, Saint Swithun's was attacked 1264, Norwich 1271, St. Albans and Abingdon in the 14th century, not to mention other instances in that troublous century. There was therefore the best of arguments for a strong wall. It may be of any time in the two centuries following the Conquest but is probably Walkelin's: 1070-96.

The line of the wall is worthy of study. The monastery shared with the city the defence afforded by Wolvesey, and had no wall of its own from the south-east corner to Kingsgate,⁶ but from Kingsgate westwards it had its own wall running parallel with the city wall and leaving only enough space for a roadway and for access to the city wall.

The wall itself is not without variety, giving some evidence of its history. This variety is the result of repairs at different times. Where blocks of freestone are mixed with the flint-work it may be taken as clear evidence of refacing in post-Dissolution days when freestone could be obtained from the disused monastic buildings. Where the facing is of flints only it may be assumed that where these are laid in courses the work is original. It may be that some of the uncoursed work is original also, for the wall would take long to build and the workmanship may have varied in quality. The treatment of putlog holes in different parts of the all-flint work might tell us something.

The monastery Gateway must have been at the NW. corner of the Close facing us as we walk down Minster Street from the High Street. Not a mere arch in the wall like the present back door, as it may be called, in St. Swithun Street, it would be without doubt a large building with upper storeys in which, judging by other monasteries, they kept the accounts of the convent's estates and received the rents. It was probably connected with the claustral

⁶ When the city ditch was filled up most of it was acquired by the College, but a small part was obtained by the Chapter.

buildings by a range built against the north wall of the Close as far as the Carnery. This range most likely contained the Almonry.

The present Gateway seems to have been rebuilt in the 17th century. It is not clear whether it was this or the Great Gate that had been fired by the mob in 1264.

*portam prioratus et portam quae vocatur Kingate cum ecclesia Sancti Swythuni supra et vniversis Aedificiis et redditibus prioris et Conuentus prope murum combusserunt.*⁷

There was another gateway in St. Swithun Street, brought to light only a few years ago. It is rather a puzzle because it is in such a queer place. It seems clear that it was a proper gateway and not a mere barrow-hole cut in the wall, for there are bolt-holes some 6 feet deep in the two jambs.

The Postern led into the Paradise on the north side of the church and still stands. 'Paradise' gave its name to the part of the Lockbourn which runs (now underground) just outside. Either 'Postern' or 'Paradise' may be the origin of the apparently meaningless 'Paternoster Row.'

The Monastic Lay-out.

The general monastic lay-out seems to have been as follows:—

1. The Cloister.
2. A large court occupying the north-west corner of the present Close; here guests entering from Minster Street by the main gate would dismount.
3. A small court to the south of the cloister, between the Deanery and the Church House.
4. A court which we will call by one of its old names, 'the Green Court,' between the Deanery and Cheyney Court, Judges' Lodgings, and Pilgrims' School.
5. A roadway, much on the line of Dome Alley, leading from the Green Court to the west court.
6. Mirabel Close, now the Deanery kitchen garden and the garden of Pilgrims' School.
7. The monks' cemetery, the present burial ground, but larger.
8. Paradise, or Sacrist's Garden, to the north of the church.
9. The lay-folk's cemetery, the present churchyard.

Such were the main lines. There were several, probably many, smaller divisions such as gardens which had their proper uses and names. Probably not a few of these were identical with the gardens of 1649.

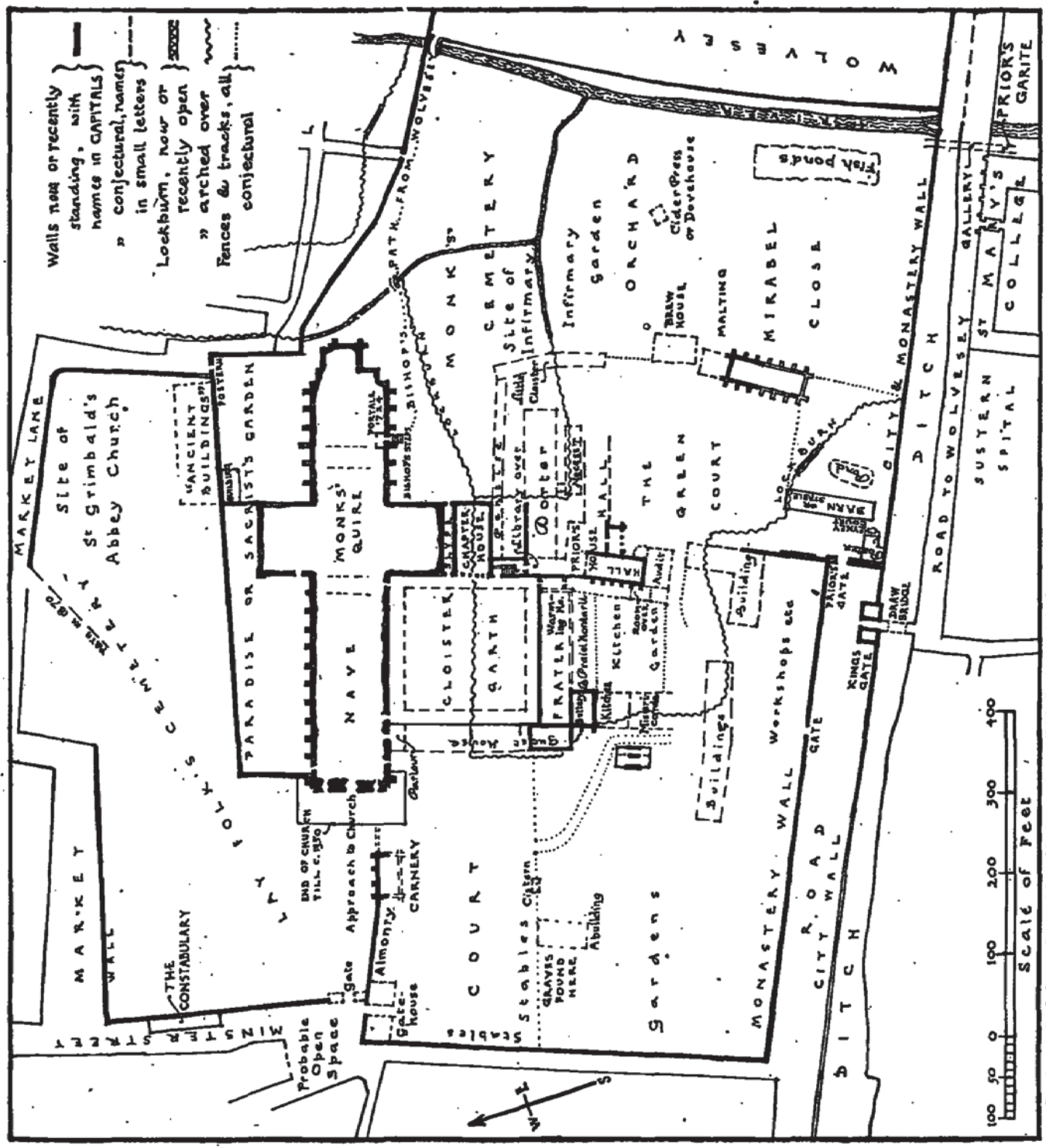
The Cloister.

The Cloister preserved its form and something of its character till the latter part of the 18th century. The entrance at the north-west corner was made in 1632 in order, as everybody knows, that the church should no longer be used as a short cut from the town on the north to the town on the south. The cloister was to continue to be a short cut even for the most scrupulous, much to the detriment of its quiet; but this had been a source of trouble even

⁷ *Annals*, sub date 1264. Kindly supplied by Canon Goodman.

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PLATE II.



Walls now or recently standing, with names in CAPITALS }
 " conjectural, names in small letters }
 Lockburn, now or recently open }
 " arched over }
 Fences & tracks, all conjectural }

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of H.M. Stationery Office.

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT SWITHUN, WINCHESTER.
 Conjectural Plan.

in monastic times.⁸ Two paths were made across 'the Mount,' as the garth was called,⁹ and these were 'pitched,' that is paved with flints in 1695; but as these are uncomfortable to walk on, especially for gouty feet, they were covered with gravel in 1772. It must be remembered that the cloister still had only footpaths, not a carriage-way. The houses on the west side were reached from the back and there was no carriage-way through the Dark Arch, No. 1 being reached by the lane from the Green Court. The east end of the Dark Arch was narrow and pointed till after 1818; the south door of the nave was still in its old place in the corner bay next to the transept. It was in 1797 that the last remaining wall of the Frater on the south side of the cloister was destroyed, and it was presumably immediately after that that the cloister was given its present unhappy, shapeless form. If the reformers of those days had foreseen motors they would doubtless have been careful to preserve all the sharp corners of the Close, as we do with our roads, in order to limit speed.

The Mount is a surprising name to find applied to the level green sward immediately south of the nave. I can find no old meaning of the word mount which helps. There was possibly something of a mound in the middle which has been spread over the whole. In the Middle Ages the cloister pavement was 2 or 3 feet below the present turf, for there is a piece of pavement at that level just outside the Deanery; and so a slight rise in the middle might well make a low mound. There is reference in the Rolls to 'fenestris apud la mote.'¹⁰

The Green Court.

Otherwise Trinity Court. It has been encroached upon by the Stables, built probably in the 15th or 16th century. Perhaps the Prior's stables were built against the south wall of the Close. The east side was closed by a long building very much the size and shape of the School; part of it still stands as 'Pilgrims' Hall' and part has been absorbed into the later building. Probably the range was continued northwards (after an interval?) by other buildings in the Middle Ages as it certainly was in the 17th century. The west side of this court was enclosed by what is now Judges' Lodgings, which perhaps extended further north and by the Prior's Hall which certainly had buildings to the south of it, leaving only a narrow interval between. On the north side was the porch of the Prior's House, and a few feet back his Great Hall stretching out eastwards in front of the present Gallery; and east of this again a building which was perhaps a part of the Prior's house and attached to his great hall, but was in the 17th century a canon's

8. J. S. Furley, *City Government of Winchester*, p. 92.

9. In later times. 10. *Obedientary Rolls*, p. 246.

house occupied by Dr. Alexander. This carries us to the lane which led to the Cathedral from the north-east corner of the Green Court where there is now a gateway to the Deanery garden. On the south side was the court-house of the Bishop's Official, known as Cheyney Court. This large yard was a busy place; when the prior set out on a journey his party would probably number at least thirty, all on horseback, and often many more. It would not be a good place for planting plum trees.¹¹

Mirabel Close and the Bridge over College Street.

Mirabel Close I take to be the land between the Pilgrims' School and the river. This seems to be indicated by the history of the land opposite to it, on the further side of 'the road leading to Wolvesey.' The east part of this ground, the part now occupied by the old College buildings, belonged to the Prior and Convent, with houses fronting the street. West of this was the hostel of a sisterhood called Sustren Spital, afterwards corrupted into Cistern House, on the site of the present Headmaster's house. West of this there were presumably more houses. Behind was land called Dummer's Mead stretching from the river to Kingsgate Street. The porch of the Headmaster's house is opposite to the division between Green Court and Mirabel Close.

Now on 20th February, 1335-6, the Convent obtained leave to build an arch or gallery from their close called Mirabel over the city wall and over the road to their gardens and walks on the further side of the road in order that they might enjoy much-needed recreation without passing along the highway.¹² The gardens and walks were presumably in Dummer's Mead behind houses already built. When about fifty years later the Prior and Convent sold the houses with their gardens to William of Wykeham for his College, they were careful to reserve a strip along the river bank which would afford them a footpath to their farm at Priors Barton and what was left of their gardens and walks. It seems inevitable to place the arch, gallery or bridge opposite to this path at a spot on the south side called Prior's Garite.¹³ The word 'garite' suggests a guard house¹⁴ which would be quite necessary at such a point. The monks kept possession of this path till the suppression of the monastery. It is probable that it was this garden land on which the Convent set such store, and not, as has been suggested, the Paradise, that they called it 'Le Joy.' To the monk's accountant 'paradise' probably meant simply a garden rather than a delectable place: quite correctly.

11. The court has been recently named 'Mirabel Close.' It may have been called the Prior's Court in the Middle Ages as the gateway was called Prior's Gate.

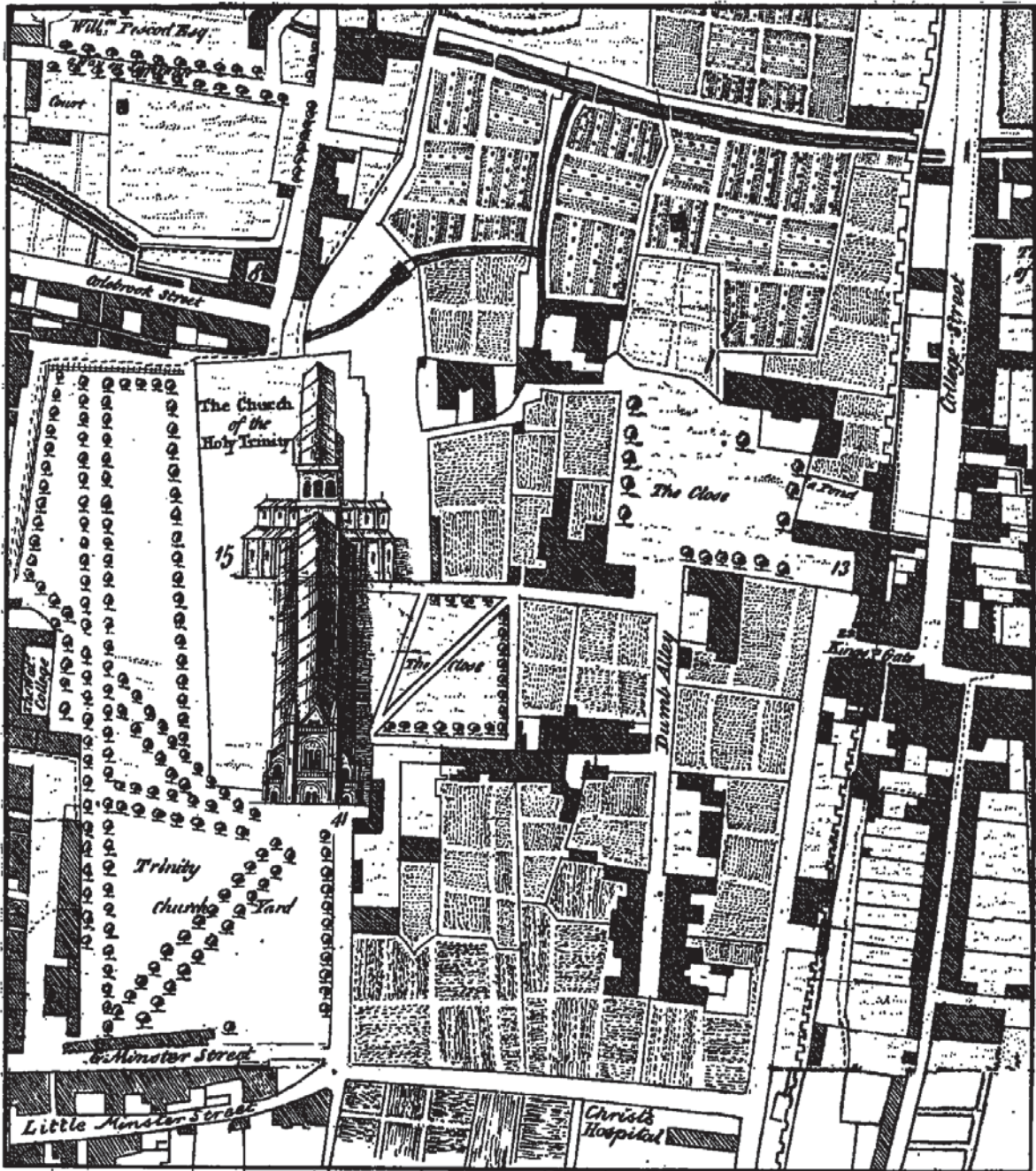
12. Goodman, *Charitulary*, No. 275 and quire xxxix.

13. *Ib.* quire xxxix, p. 272.

14. *Oxford Engl. Dict.*

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PLATE III.



FROM GODSON'S MAP OF 1750.

The Lane to the Church.

The lane which led by a crooked course from the north-east corner of the Green Court is curious. It headed to the 'Bishop's Door' in the south wall of the Presbytery. It is almost certainly post-suppression, for otherwise it would cut across the purlieu of the Infirmary, which there is reason to think stood hereabouts, or even right across the Infirmary itself.¹⁵

The lane was flanked by buildings which from their long and narrow plan in the 17th century appear to have been medieval. It was probably closed soon after 1855. Nothing is known of the Infirmary except the loss of a gold pyx worth twenty pounds of silver¹⁶ from its chapel by the theft of one of the monks. The Infirmary's garden was probably a little to the south.¹⁷

The Lockburn.

The Lockburn no doubt remained open for some part of its course till late times; the name 'Water Close' at the east end of the Cathedral points to that part being open till recently, and indeed a short length is still open in the Building Yard. Being a drain, its course indicates the positions of important buildings, but unfortunately its exact course in some parts is unknown, and although marked on maps is subject to correction. Moreover there were, I make no doubt, certain subsidiary culverts and by-passes of which we know little or nothing. After passing under the Chapter House and the east walk of the Cloister, where it is covered by a well-built round stone arch, there was, as it entered the Cloister Garth, a short length that was open. The reason for this is not clear, but at this point the water was still pure, and it may have been convenient to have a place where water could easily be obtained. In the cloisters of several other religious houses and cathedrals there was something of the sort. In the gardens west of the Cloister there was an 'upper' and a 'lower' watercourse in the 18th century.¹⁸

The Water Supply.

The water supply from the river a little above Abbott's Worthy to the Close houses as it existed in 1649 is fully described in the Commonwealth Survey of that year. The last part of the way was by a great pipe of lead to a cistern standing in the wall of a garden in the west part of the precinct. Thence it was carried in lead pipes to the several houses, the total length of pipe being estimated at 1100 yards and its value at £400. That the whole conduit from

15. Goodman in *Winchester Cathedral Record*, 1936.

16. Goodman, *Chartulary*, No. 197.

17. Goodman, *Winchester Cathedral Record*, 1936.

18. Chapter Order Book, 11th December, 1728.

Abbott's Worthy to the Close was medieval may be taken as almost certain for many religious houses had a similar source of supply from places about the same distance out. It is highly probable that the whole system within the Close was monastic also.

The Churchyard and the site of St. Grimbald's Church.

We now cross to the north side of the church. The whole of the ground from Minster Street to Paternoster Row, and from the Cathedral to Market Lane, formed the Precincts of the New Minster and part of that of the Old Minster. When the New Minster was moved in 1110 to Hyde its site fell into the lap of St. Swithun. A part was later alienated as a site for Morley College, and another part, the actual spot on which the church must have stood, has been leased to the city as a car park. The division between the grounds of the two minsters was probably marked by the wall which stood till 1771 and is shown in Godson's map of 1750. Westwards the precinct of the New Minster was probably marked by a line from the west end of the wall to Market Street.

The churchyard was for secular folk. It was no doubt entered in monastic days by a gateway opposite the west end of the Cathedral adjoining and at right angles to the Monastery Gateway.¹⁹ From this point there was a solid wall; iron railings would be much too expensive. It was called Constabulary Wall because it joined Constabulary Row: the old red-brick houses which were evidently built by the town as barracks in, actually *in*, Minster Street, thereby reducing it to its present narrow width.²⁰

Passing through the gateway we soon find ourselves opposite the 'Carnery.' This was a two-storeyed building of the 14th century about 50 feet long. Its object was to serve as a place in which to preserve any bones disturbed in digging graves in the cemetery, a matter on which they were always extremely careful in the Middle Ages. There is a considerable number of these medieval bone-houses still remaining.²¹ The more important had a chapel over them, and such was the case at Winchester.²² Only a fragment of the lower storey now remains.

Under the gravelled space at the west end of the Cathedral, but then within the church, there was buried some person presumably of importance, for his coffin is of stone: it still contains his skeleton.

19. In several notable Houses the church and monastery gates are near to and at right-angles to each other, but so placed that the monastery is entered through the outer court of the church; this arrangement is, or was, found at Westminster, Gloucester, Reading, Peterborough, Bardney. But there was no doubt, in these cases, a second entrance to the monastery.

20. In 1318 Roger of Inkpenne owned a tenement formerly of Walter le Byke in the Constabulary by St. Swithun's cemetery, between Roger Longe's on the south and John Vesey's on the north and Ministere strete on the west. (Goodman, *Chartulary*, No. 112.)

21. As Bury, Ely, Norwich, Worcester and a number of parish churches.

22. Milner, II, 88, quoting Leyland, III, 100.

At the north-west corner of the Cathedral there stood a building the foundations of which may be traced in the slightly sunk area. It has been called the Chapel of Saint Swithun.

In the Middle Ages probably the whole of the narrow strip on the north side of the church was the Paradise,²³ or Sacrist's Garden.²⁴ But in 1771 we read in the Chapter Order of 24th June: 'That Paradise Wall from the west end of the Church as far as the north-west corner of the transept be taken down, and that Mr. Buller be desired to agree with Mr. Kernott for the same, he undertaking to build a new freestone wall of the same height with the present outer wall instead of the brick wall which now separates the Dean's garden from Paradise.' From this it would appear that the name Paradise was applied to the garden opposite to the nave and not (at least in 1771) to the enclosure opposite the presbytery.

In their *Documents*,²⁵ Stephens and Madge give a plan of the Close and Churchyard in which they show to the north of the church 'Foundations of ancient buildings 155 x 50,' but they give no particulars. The line to the south wall coincides very nearly with the north wall of the Paradise, and the two were probably identical.

A few years ago the foundations of a single-chamber building were uncovered a little to the north of the north transept, but I am unable to lay my hands on my notes as to its exact position. Writing from memory, I should say it might have occupied the north-west corner of what had been Dr. Smith's north garden in 1649. This is probably the 'little house' in Paradise which Dean Young took down or proposed to take down in 1630.²⁶

We may now return to the Close to glance briefly at the individual buildings. But anything approaching full architectural histories must come from another hand.

The Deanery.

The Prior's House clearly consisted of the following parts. The large open porch of the 13th century; the abbot's house at Battle had a similar porch of the same period. It led directly into the Great Hall, now destroyed, of a somewhat earlier period, filling the space now occupied by the entrance hall stretching away eastwards perhaps 80 or a 100 feet, with possibly more rooms beyond. To the west of the Great Hall was the present cellarage, with a kitchen at the north end still in use. Over the cellarage there was another hall, the present dining room, drawing room and small sitting room, with butteries and a service staircase at the north end. This hall with its lower storey formed perhaps the original house built by Walkelin or his immediate successors.

23. Woodward, 148.

24. Chap. Ord. Book, 24 June, 1771.

25. *Documents*, II, xi

26. *Diary*, p. 89.

This old upper hall measured about 68 feet by 33 feet.²⁷ It has a fine roof of early 15th century character. It is dated by Dean Kitchin at 1398, in which year timber was brought from the convent estate of Manydown. The Account, however, only states that the wood was for 'the prior,' which really means no more than 'the priory.' In 1649 there was 'a very fair stone staircase.' At the south end of the hall there were other rooms, but although these stood till 1807, when they were known as 'Nell Gwynne,' there is no description of them; it is clear, however, that there was a room at the end of the hall which may have been the Prior's Study or Chapel, and the room below seems to have been a kitchen; there was a tower, which was probably a mere stair turret. The building was not a part of the Deanery in the 17th century. The upper storey was occupied as an office both before the Commonwealth and after the Restoration by Henry Foyle, Steward to the Dean and Chapter, while the lower was a wood-house for the use of Mr. Hinton. We learn something about the house, and at the same time something in the gentlest art of letter-writing, from a protest which Foyle addressed to the Dean and Chapter against their treatment of him in regard to his house, and from a more vigorous one from Mrs. Foyle, perhaps then a widow, to the Bishop in which she complains of the conduct of the Dean and asks his lordship to remind the Dean that the Tenth Commandment is not yet repealed. The first floor seems to have been the Audit Room in 1667.

The Deanery is described in the Narrative of 1675 as having been totally demolished during the Commonwealth. This may perhaps be explained by supposing that considerable parts on the north and east had been actually destroyed, all the lead removed from the roofs and that the rest of the house, empty and neglected for several years, had become extremely dilapidated.

The Library.

The long narrow range forming the north wing of the present Deanery was, I think, the Chapter Library in 1649; it was very likely built for that purpose in the 16th century when other cathedral churches were building libraries to replace the too hastily destroyed medieval libraries. Or it may have been, as I think possible, medieval.²⁸ The building is of appropriate size and shape, being 65 feet long by 12 feet wide, and it is suitably placed. After noting the fact that there were 'some bookes in itt,' the Surveyors describe the Library as 'lyeing betweene the Howse lately belonginge to the Deane and the Cloysters built with Stone the Roofe covered with

27. The 1649 *Survey* gives 'twentye yeards in length by Tenn in breadth.'

28. I am aware that here I differ from my kind old friend the late J. W. Clark in *The Care of Books*, p. 108.

Lead, with a very faire payre of Stone Stayres leadinge out of the said Cloysters up to the said Library, the Staircase covered with Tyle and Slate.⁷

The Deanery building answers to this description very well. At that time a two-storeyed building, it now has three floors. To the north is the staircase which the Surveyors justly describe as very faire, as high praise as they ever give, for it is approached by a handsome 14th century doorway of Petworth marble, now much decayed but doubtless in a very different condition three hundred years ago. This staircase, I must assume, also led up to the Dorter. There is a blocked 11th or 12th century doorway to the sub-vault of the Dorter. At the same time I am bound to admit that the weight of lead as estimated by the Surveyors (315 cwt.) is twice as much as would be required for the building even if the roof was very high pitched, allowing 7 lbs. per square foot.

The present Inner Library was, I think, the Sacrist's Chamber in monastic days. It is well known that there is a medieval drawing on the north wall (getting very faint when last I saw it and probably now invisible). The Outer Library was the Chapter Room in Dean Young's time (1616—1649); he always writes that 'we goe oup to the chaptour house.' He refers in 1637 to taking down the Chapter House, so the old building stood till then; and as Mrs. Goodman points out (*Diary of Dean Young*) the Accounts agree.

Houses West of the Cloister.

Most of the house we call No. 10 formed the southernmost part of the West Range and the western part of the Frater range. In the 18th century it was called 'the S.W. corner of the Mount. The present east wall was built as an internal wall, which accounts for its rough appearance. The house is full of interest, but its history cannot be dealt with without working it out in detail. An interesting feature is the heavy-framed timber construction over the small room at the north end. This no doubt broke into a long, vaulted undercroft or cellarage extending the whole length of the west range, the vaulted dining room of No. 10 being the sole surviving fragment. The upper storey of the whole range was probably a hall and lodging rooms for guests.

The south-east part of the present house is of the same period and character; it had a vaulted lower storey. It stood, I believe, between the Frater and Monastic Kitchen. The lower rooms were probably butteries. The upper storey may have been the Hordarians Checker which we know was next to the Frater.²⁹

The west range abutted on the church. The northern part was probably the Outer Parlour where the monks could see their friends

²⁹ *Obedientary Rolls*, p 281.

and, as the old monk of Durham has it, 'a place for merchants to utter their wares.' Milner says that this range as it stood at the end of the 18th century is proved by its remains to have been built a little before the Reformation. It was very likely one of the guest houses.

After the Suppression this range formed three houses. The northernmost was taken down and the materials used by Dr. Woodroffe for building his new house, the present No. 12, in 1727. The old house had been called 'the N.W. corner of the Mount.'

The next house south, 'the Middle house on the West side of the Mount,' was known in the early part of the 18th century as 'the Chantry,' and in the 19th as No. 11. 'Chantry' perhaps because it had had something to do with a chantry; perhaps a corruption of chaundry, chandelry, a place where they make candles, an important part of monastic economy. It would appear that part of the house was taken down soon after the measures recommended by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of 1836 began to take effect, and the remainder in 1845.

The Outer Ring of Buildings.

Having described the claustral buildings, we will turn to the more distant, also chiefly canons' houses, forming an outer ring.

The Choir School.

In monastic days the actual teaching was probably done in the cloister, as it was at the College in the summer months. The master had a private chamber, a great privilege; it was on the east side of the dormitory called the Second Dorter, wherever that may have been. The Survey of 1649 makes no reference to a school. About the middle of the 19th century the choristers' school room was the outer or westernmost part of the present Library. At that time the school was presumably for day-boys only. 'The school having been discontinued, the room was about 1859 added to the Library. As a matter of fact the boys were from about 1840 boarded, and occupied No. 4. In 1897, No. 4 was leased to the County as Lodgings for the Judges of Assize, and the School was moved to Colebrook House. It was brought back to the Close in 1926 and established in No. 9, now the Diocesan Offices. A few years ago it moved to No. 3, adjoining the fragment of monastic building called Pilgrims' Hall, and was named Pilgrims' School.

The oldest part of No. 3 had been formed by cutting off the south end of the medieval hall, probably directly after the Dissolution. Before 1645 it had been in the occupation of Henry Foyle, Steward to the Dean and Chapter, and a delinquent, the same who had his office at the south end of the Deanery. On his being ousted by the Commonwealth, the house was assigned by

a Committee of Parliament to John Woodman, solicitor for sequestrations within the city for laying up and preserving sequestered goods of papists and delinquents. In 1663 the Dean and Chapter purchased the remainder of the lease with a view to remodelling the house into one suitable for a prebendary. To it there was to be added 'the house thereto adjoining (except the great Brewhouse),' the lease of which had also been acquired by Woodman. The term 'adjoining' can scarcely be correct unless the Pilgrims' Hall was then considered as a part of Foyle's old house which had been assigned to Woodman.

The scheme proposed by the Chapter was duly carried out. Dr. John Nicholas, Warden of the College, became a prebendary in 1684 and carried out the improvements; the house was building in 1685³⁰ and the lead guttering is dated 1687.³¹ Maybe the late 14th century hall had stood till then with little alteration other than the insertion of a floor as in the Deanery stable, and new windows in walls and roof. But no doubt all recognizable medieval work now disappeared. The walls were raised to form two complete storeys. Further alterations and additions have since been made on several occasions.

The old building would be more appropriately dealt with in a detailed architectural history. It may here be briefly noted that the stonework may be early 14th century; the buttresses show perhaps some French influence. It seems impossible to date the roof earlier than the latter part of the century. It is of hammer-beam form and is in some respects remarkable: for instance, the termination of the principal rafter against the hammer-post at which point it ceases to be functional. The roof is extremely well put together, but the design is not logical in using cross-strutting in the upper part. It has many times been drawn. There is a very good pen and ink drawing of the outside of the building by N. C. H. Nisbett in Canon Vaughan's *Winchester Cathedral Close*.³²

Other Houses of the Outer Ring.

Three other houses, said to have survived intact the Commonwealth period, belong to this outer ring: (a) The house we now call No. 1. It had been built since the Dissolution, and there are some remains, apparently early Elizabethan, to be seen at the south end; it was remodelled, or rather perhaps practically rebuilt, in 1699, as we learn from the style and from an inscribed stone at the north end. (b) The house formerly occupied by Dr. Stanley, one of the prebendaries. It seems to have stood in the gardens of

30. Chapter Order Book.

31. Vaughan, *Winchester Cathedral Close*, London, 1914.

32. None of the historians give an instance of early use of the name Pilgrims' Hall, nor state their authority for considering the building a guest house of any other sort which might perhaps be preferred.

Nos. 7 and 8, and to have been a medieval house built of stone and covered part with lead and part with tile ; the lead would cover a roof about 60ft. by 30ft. It is not clear when it was taken down, or why. (c) A house standing in the present Deanery garden a little to the east of Dr. Alexander's and east of the lane to the Cathedral. It was built with stone and covered with tile. At the time of the Survey it was occupied by Dr. Smith, a prebendary. The Narrative is much occupied with the differences between the Dean and Chapter on the one hand and Dr. Gumble, Dr. Smith's successor, on the other, chiefly about Dr. Gumble's almost complete rebuilding of the house without authority. Gumble was succeeded by Ken. The house was taken down in 1855. There is a water-colour drawing of it by Baigent, reproduced by Canon Vaughan in his *Winchester Cathedral Close*. I have been told that a Jacobean mantelpiece at No. 7 and an 18th century staircase at Alton Vicarage are from this house.

It is particularly tantalizing that these three houses which would have told us so much about the early 17th century Close houses and what the Commonwealth Surveyors meant by their descriptions, should have been destroyed.

Dome Alley.

The destructions of the Commonwealth period were made good by the repairs and alterations to the old buildings sketched above and by building the four entirely new houses on a new site, forming Dome Alley. These two pair of semi-detached houses were on a fairly uniform plan. They were originally small, but most have been enlarged and all altered. They were one room deep ; a stone-paved hall in the centre with a dining parlour on one side and kitchen offices on the other ; a staircase in a projecting wing at the back ; a drawing room and bedroom occupied the first floor, with garrets above. In the southern houses all the windows were judiciously placed at the back to get all the sun, the north wall being almost blank ; in the north houses the windows looked into the Alley.

The houses are built entirely of dark red brick and had windows with latticed iron casements in heavy wood frames, now almost all replaced by sashes. The garret windows are now in straight-sided gables with aggressive white barge-boards which cut harshly across a rich cornice of moulded brick. The gables were without question originally of curved outline,³³ like the contemporary house in Hyde Street. The houses have interesting lead gutters and stack-pipes with ornaments of Tudor character. Woodward points out that the pomegranate and the P which enrich them are the badge of Catherine of Aragon and Mary. So they evidently belonged to one of the destroyed buildings and were re-used here.

33. A restoration was attempted in *Winchester Street Architecture*, and is here reproduced.

The Alley itself probably follows the line of a medieval roadway which the descriptions in the Survey suggest. In 1727 the Chapter voted money to repair the road and 'to amend the way by the Gallows.' Godson's map of 1750 prints the name Dumb Alley. The turn at the end was made in 1807.

The Houses destroyed in the Commonwealth.

After explaining that the object of the Commonwealth Survey had been 'a sale or alienation of all and the total destruction of many of ym,' the Restoration *Narrative* goes on to say that the effect was that the Deanery and seven more had been totally demolished. The statement that the Deanery was destroyed has been discussed above. The seven other houses were the following: (1) Dr. Alexander, a prebendary. It stood in the present Deanery garden near the east end of the Gallery. It had been ordered by the Chapter in 1672 that it should be repaired within the next three years; this was apparently done, and in 1675 the house was in the possession of Dr. Burby, a prebendary. It was taken down in 1855.³⁴ (2) Dr. Hinton, a prebendary. Adjoining Judges' Lodgings on the north. A small house built of stone and covered with blue slate. There was a wood-house belonging to it but attached to the Deanery, as noted above. The house was, I think, rebuilt but afterwards taken down with the exception of a fragment which was attached to Judges' Lodgings, described in the *Survey* of 1649 as Dr. Haswell's. (3) Dr. Bucknor, a prebendary. The house stood at the north end of the school playground where there are some foundations. The Surveyors of 1649 describe it as 'a very sweete handsome private dwellynge with a handsome staircase built of stone and brick part tiled and part leaded'; all of which strongly suggests a new house. Dr. Bucknor had done a good deal of building some ten years earlier.³⁵ The lead roof would be about 40 feet by 20 feet. But it is possible that this and the next house, Dr. Metkerke's, were the result of extensive alterations to a long medieval range. They may have been guest houses, or possibly workshops; it will be remembered that there was a postern gateway into St. Swithun Street conveniently opposite to it. (4) Dr. Metkerke, a prebendary. Also pronounced 'a very handsome dwellinge.' Built partly of stone and partly of timber. Timber was used a good deal even in monastic building. The roof was tiled. It would seem that these two houses (3) and (4) really were destroyed. (5) Mr. Crooke, a prebendary, and later in the possession of Mr. Cooke, a recusant.³⁶ There can be little doubt that this was the present Diocesan Offices. As these are late 16th century or early

34. Chapter Library: Leases, etc. 'Document No. 98, 2nd February, 1856.'

35. *Diary of Dean Young*, p. 144.

36. He had held this or another house in the Close in 1616. (*Diary of Dean Young*.)

17th, the phrase 'totally demolished' again needs explaining. Perhaps the two northernmost gables escaped, the roofs being smashed. The Surveyors describe it as being part stone and part timber and as having been lately enlarged by the addition of four rooms which had been a part of Dr. Lewis' house, the rest of which had fallen down. The building almost must occupy the site of the monks' kitchen. The south part, a portion of which had fallen, may have been the misericorde where it was allowable to eat meat. In many monasteries that hall had a cant name, and at Winchester it may have been 'mandatum,' a term we find here. (6) Dr. Goade, a prebendary. The north part of the west range of the claustral buildings referred to above. (7) Dr. Lewis, a prebendary. An old building was altered to make a new prebendal house, afterwards called No. 3 and now the Pilgrims' School.

The Houses that Escaped.

Two houses were only partly demolished: Judges' Lodgings, which is partly medieval, formerly occupied by Mr. Prebendary Haswell, and No. 10, formerly occupied by Dr. Harris, a prebendary.

Three houses were preserved intact: Our No. 1, Dr. Ken's and Dr. Stanley's. These have been noticed already.

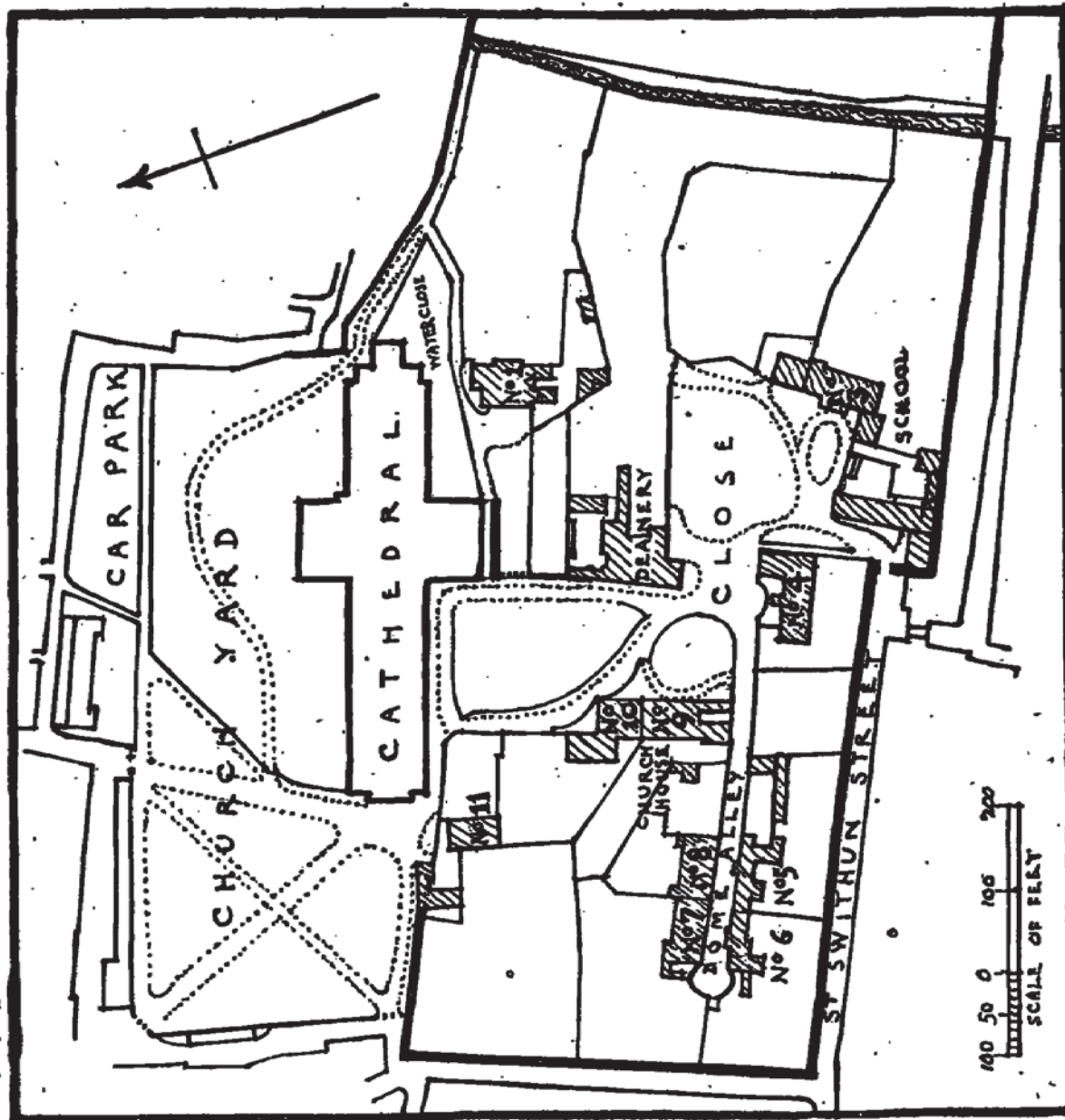
Organist's Lodging, Porter's Lodge and Cheyney Court.

In 1649 there was 'a house in the possession of one Mr. Silver, formerly Organist of the Cathedrall Church, and did hold the same in right of his place.' 'Under the said Howse is the porter's Lodge that keeps the Gates of the said Close.' In 1638, Dean Young records that he admitted Jo: Silver master of the Queresters and singing man and Ch: Gibbons Organist and singing man. Christopher Gibbons was the son of the famous Orlando Gibbons and the grandson of William, one of the town musicians, 'waits,' at Cambridge.

Cheyney Court is described in the Commonwealth Survey as 'One other roome wherein the Court called Cheney Court is kept which did belong to the Bishopp.' The room was probably on the upper storey. Soon after the Restoration the building was enlarged to provide a residence for a canon in lieu of Dr. Alexander's, which had been destroyed. But it does not seem to have been so used, for Godson in his map of 1750 marks it as 'Cheyney Court House,' while 'Cheyney Court Prison' is shown on the west side of St. John's Street near the stocks. So late as 1859 Woodward writes of Cheyney Court as a (law) court, and adds that 'little besides manorial business is done here now' (p. 93 n.).

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PLATE VI.



Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of H.M. Stationery Office.]

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CLOSE AND CHURCHYARD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

The Stables.

A two-storeyed building of very good timber framing filled in with brick-nogging. Apparently built about 1520. The Lockburn runs under its north end. The northern part of the upper storey is more carefully finished than the rest and is separated from it by a partition containing a doorway; a similar treatment is found in the Brewhouse of College. The building may have been designed as a stable or as a storehouse. Much of both classes of building would be required in this part of the monastery. Before 1649 it provided the stabling for six of the prebendal houses and a small stable had lately been built at the south end. To the east of them stands a coach house, apparently of the 19th century.

Mr. William Taylor's House.

Mr. Minor-Canon Taylor. On the east of the lane to the Cathedral and south of No. 1. Built of stone and timber; perhaps a stone ground storey with timber upper storey like the Porter's Lodge and Cheyney Court. Leased to W.T., 1626-7, on the death of his father, John T. The lease gives 13ft. by 54ft. as the size. Standing in 1649.

Buildings recorded and Miscellanea.

THE BATH HOUSE. (*Obedientary Rolls*, Chamberlain's Roll, 1417-83.)

THE CHAMBERLAIN'S CHECKER. (*Ib.*)

THE BREWHOUSE. On the east side of the Green Court. It had a cellar (*Survey*). In 1691 a house is to be converted into a brewhouse. (Chap. Order Book, 8th Dec.)

THE MALTING, 43ft. by 34ft., adjoining the Brewhouse on the south. Leased before 1626-7 to Matt. Lidford, Epistoler and singing-man, who added a room 14ft. by 17ft. on the east. House standing in 1649 (*Diary Dean Young*, p. 60, and *Survey*).

THE CIDER PRESS. In 'the garden.' (*Obedientary Rolls*, Almoner's Rolls, 1310-1515.)

THE MILL (medieval).

THE HOUSE FOR THE PRIOR'S DOGS (medieval).

THE DOVEHOUSE (medieval).

THE BOWES. Arches: in connexion with the Lockburn. (*Ibid*, Rolls of Receiver and Hordarian, 1327-1533.)

THE WALL BETWEEN THE GARDEN OF THE KITCHEN AND LE PRAIEL HORDARII. (*Ibid.*) Praiel is a little green close (Kitchin).

A BRIDGE OVER RIVER IN DR. KEN'S GARDEN (1681).

THE CHURCHYARD. Twenty lamps to be put up (Chapter Order, 1771). The lamps of primitive design still preserved in the Cathedral are perhaps some of these.

THE CLOSE HOUSES. First numbered in 1809. It was certainly convenient; hitherto a house had to be described as 'behind the Cloister' or 'next the Dean's Stable,' and so on.

BURIAL GROUND IN THE GARDEN OF NO. 7. One of the skeletons was that of a woman. Found about 1930 on repairing garden wall; at slight depth; feet approximately to east. Burials close together; probably extend into garden of No. 12.

Conclusion.

This completes my sketch so far as I have been able to make out and interpret the facts, bearing in mind that it is but a sketch. I have little hope of having put together such a jig-saw puzzle without many mistakes.³⁷ It may be complained that the essay stops short of the details of the several houses in which (and here I agree) the main interest generally lies. But it has been hinted above more than once that an account of these was not to be expected here. No doubt such a history could be made out by a closer examination of the authorities and buildings and by a little excavation. I hope that someone may yet be sufficiently interested to undertake it, notwithstanding that there is within the precincts the counter-attraction, well nigh irresistible to the antiquary of to-day, of a forgotten burial ground. Meanwhile we still await a continuation on an adequate scale of the pioneer work done by Professor Willis a century ago in his account of the Cathedral Church itself.

³⁷. In particular in what relates to the pre-Conquest church. But that subject is merely incidental to the present essay which is primarily concerned with recent times.