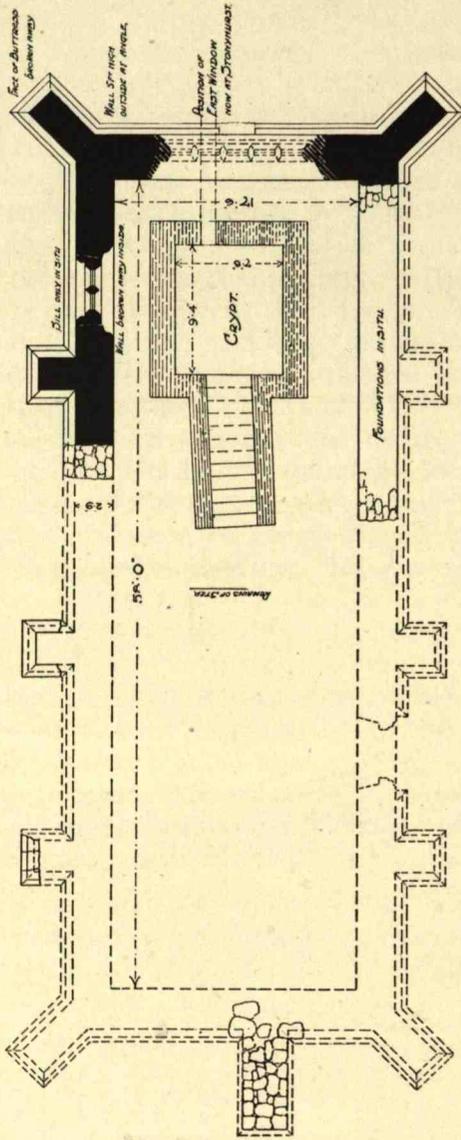


# BAILEY CHAPEL NEAR STONYHURST, LANCASHIRE.

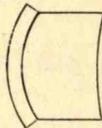


14<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ABOVE GROUND.

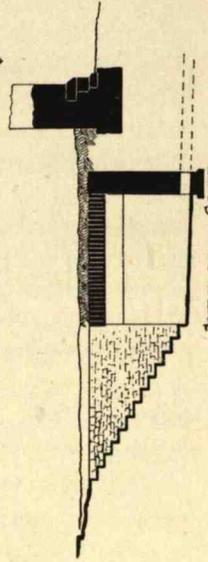
LATER, BELOW GROUND LEVEL.

FOUNDATIONS IN SITU.

CONJECTURAL.



TRANSVERSE SECTION THROUGH CRYPT.



SECTION THROUGH CRYPT.

(The explanation of shading, etc., refers only to the plan, not to the sections)

## VII. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*By F. H. Cheetham*

The ruins of the chapel stand on a fairly elevated site about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the north bank of the Ribble, between two "cloughs" or small ravines formed by the Bailey and Starling Brooks, immediately to the north of Bailey Hall, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles in a direct line south-west of Stonyhurst. Bailey Hall, now a farmhouse, is a plain rectangular building, probably of late sixteenth-century date, with a modern addition on the south side, but has been very much restored and is of little architectural interest. Many of its mullioned windows are now blocked, and internally nearly all its original features have been removed or obscured. The house is no doubt a rebuilding of the ancient manor-house of the Cliderows, but whether on the exact site of the older structure or on any portion of it cannot be stated definitely. It is surrounded on three sides (east, south, and west) by a moat which remains in an almost perfect condition on the east, though dry and overgrown, and less perfect on the south. On the west it becomes lost, and has been probably filled in, at its northern end. There is nothing to indicate that the moat ever was continued along the north side of the site, and most likely it was not.<sup>1</sup> The chapel stands 47 feet from the house within the line of the moat, from which its east end is distant only about 9 yards, the width of the moat at this point being about 30 feet at the top. The ground on which the chapel stands falls slightly from west to east, towards the Bailey Brook.

The remains of the chapel are very fragmentary,

<sup>1</sup> The moat is not indicated on the large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1912.

and include few architectural features. They consist of the lower portions of the east wall with its diagonal angle buttresses and a portion of the east end of the north wall, about 20 feet in length. The return of the south wall is just visible, but the foundation is *in situ* for a distance of about 24 feet. The recent excavations have also laid bare the foundation of a large buttress at the west end and the lower portions of two on the north side in addition to that in the existing wall. From these data the plan of the fourteenth-century chapel has been reconstructed and is here reproduced. The dotted lines, it should be remembered, however, indicate a conjectural restoration only, the position of the doorway and the remaining buttresses being assumed.

The chapel was a rectangular structure of local stone, measuring 58 feet by 17 feet 6 inches internally, with a pointed east window of five lights, and as we know from Mr. Harland's informant, quoted above, with a western bell-cote, three windows on the north side, and probably two and a doorway on the south. The existing remains answer in every way to a fourteenth-century fabric, though the east window (now at Stonyhurst) might appear to be rather earlier than 1329. The licence obtained in that year, however, shows the chapel to have been then in existence, and it may have been erected a little time before Robert de Cliderow was able to get his licence for service, as rectors did not readily consent to having new places of worship put up in their parishes without some compensation for the possible loss of oblations to the parish church. The absence of any ogee curves, as well as the acute form and low cusping of the lower lights of the Bailey window, point to a date in the first quarter of the fourteenth century, but the free treatment of the top where the mullions, instead of crossing right up to the apex, are broken by a large quatrefoil, places

it rather late than early in that period, and it can therefore safely be assigned on architectural evidence alone to about the year 1325, very near to the date of the licence. Harland's correspondent describes the north windows as having curvilinear tracery, which is what one would expect about 1329, chiefly occurring, as it does, between 1315 and 1360. The only architectural feature actually on the site, if we except the buttresses, the chamfered plinth, and a window-sill, is a single wave-moulded jamb-stone, probably belonging to the doorway, now lying loose on the turf, and suggesting a plain pointed doorway of a single continuous moulded order.

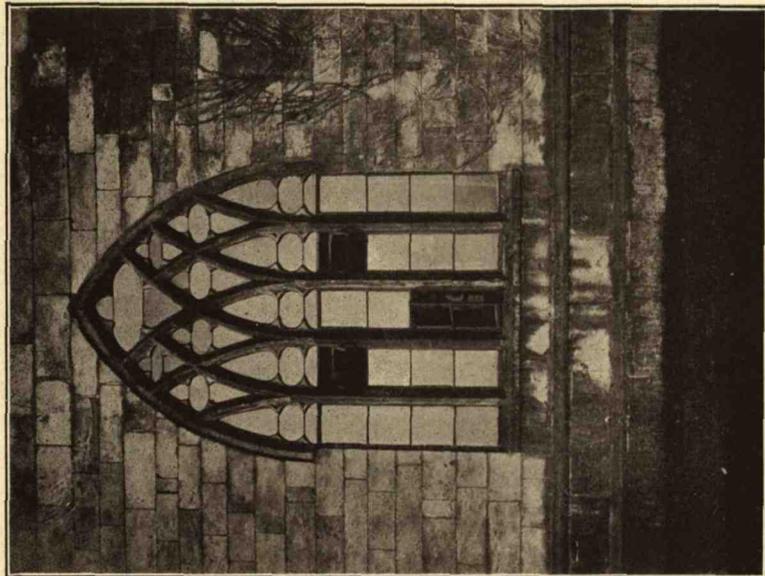
The existing walls are faced with sandstone rubble, but are largely composed of small boulders, or water-worn round stones, probably from the bed of the Ribble. The plinth is about 2 feet 6 inches high, and consists of a plain chamfer with a projection of 7 inches above a similar but smaller earth table, both continued round the buttresses. Above the plinth the side walls are 2 feet 9 inches thick, but the east wall is 3 feet 3 inches, and in the middle are the fragmentary remains of a dwarf buttress below the east window. In the north wall is the sill of a two-light window 6 feet above the ground outside, above which height all the masonry has been destroyed. This window was about 6 feet from the east end inside and had double chamfered jambs and a plain chamfered mullion. Its lights are 15 inches wide, but the internal jambs are broken away and the wall below is mutilated. Probably the other windows were similar in type to this, and had, as we know, curvilinear tracery in the head. The sill inside is 5 feet above the present surface of the ground, which is now covered with turf and may not accurately represent the original floor level.

The east wall stands to a height of about 5 feet or 6 feet at either end, but is reduced to about 4 feet

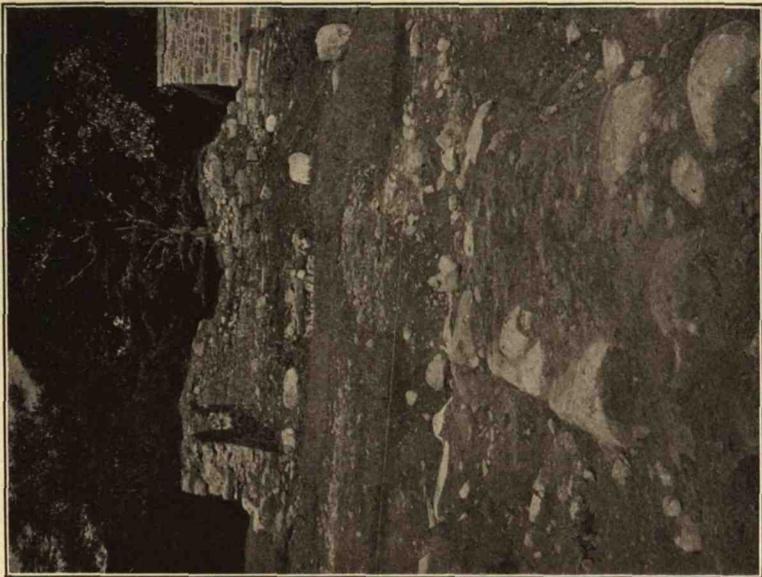
in the middle, where the window formerly was. At present the walling here is only 18 inches above the top of the plinth, but whether this was the original level of the sill cannot now be determined. As already mentioned, the actual date of the removal of the window to Stonyhurst has not been ascertained, but it was sometime during the eighteenth century, and probably late rather than early in that period. The window is of five foliated lancet lights, with the mullions crossing in the head where they form a series of quatre-foils, but in its present position is but a ghost of its former self, only the mullions and tracery having been preserved and set up almost flush with the face of the sixteenth-century ashlar wall. The loss of the double-chamfered jambs and head and deep sloping sill, with the consequent deprivation of light and shade, is much to be deplored.

The buttresses are much broken away on the face, and the walling generally has been used till quite recent times as a stone quarry when repairs to adjacent walls and buildings were in progress.

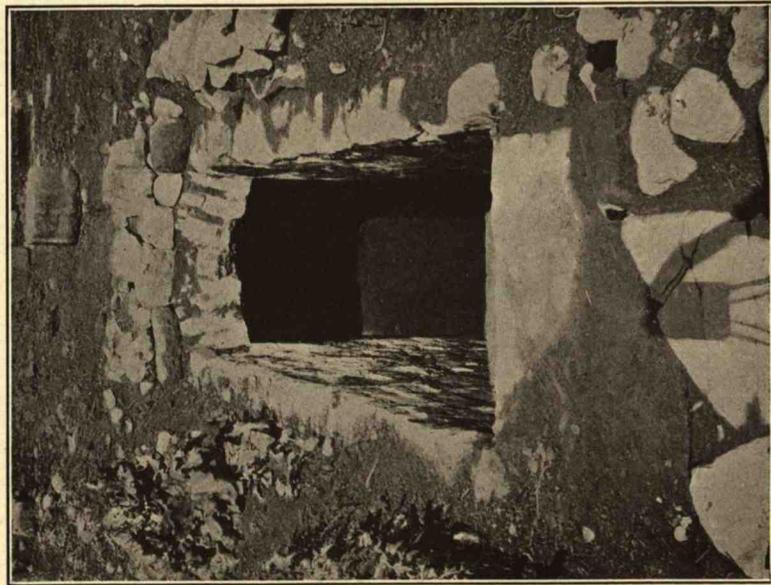
The large square buttress at the west end is shown standing its full height in Mr. John Weld's drawing of Bailey Hall (made *c.* 1840) here reproduced. It was of three stages with plain sloping offsets, and has the appearance of a later addition. When this drawing was made, a considerable portion of the west wall adjoining the buttress was still standing, with what appears to be the remains of a window opening immediately on its north side. The function of this buttress is something of a puzzle. If the plan of the chapel was as here shown with diagonal buttresses at its western angles, the need of this additional support can only be accounted for by assuming that the wall at some later time became insecure and needed strengthening. The foundations recently exposed fix the



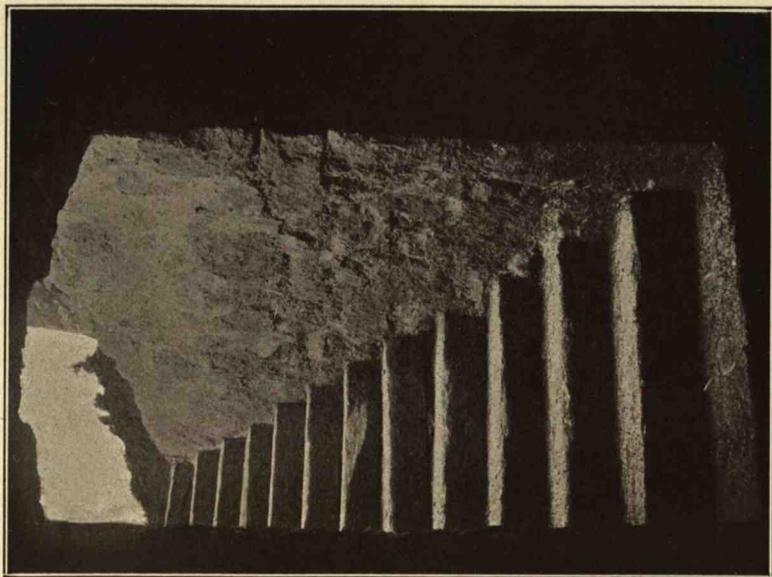
6. THE BAILEY WINDOW, STONYHURST COLLEGE



7. BAILEY CHAPEL: WEST BUTTRESS



8. BAILEY CHAPEL: ENTRANCE TO CRYPT



9. BAILEY CHAPEL: CRYPT STAIR FROM WITHIN

exact position of this buttress, and show it to have been rather more than 2 feet to the south of the centre line of the building.

The vault, or small crypt, is at the east end of the chapel below the sanctuary. Its position is accurately shown on the plan, and the sections there given, together with the accompanying photographs, will explain its construction better than a lengthy technical description. The crypt<sup>1</sup> measures 9 feet 4 inches by 7 feet 8 inches, the greater length being from west to east, and is approached from the west by a flight of thirteen stone steps with 10½-inch treads and 6-inch risers, between retaining walls of rubble. The walling of the crypt is likewise of rubble, but the roof consists of a segmental brick barrel vault one and a half bricks thick, 4 feet 6 inches high at the sides, and 6 feet 6 inches in the middle. The cobbled floor is slightly curved, and rests upon 6 inches or 8 inches of sand and loam above a clay foundation. Near the north end of the east wall at floor level is a drain connected with the moat. The position of the chamber and the nature of the site precludes any other means of lighting than from the entrance.

It will at once be seen from the plan that there is a decided skew in the line of the steps, and that the crypt itself is slightly to the north of the main axis of the building. This apparently careless set-out, together with the presence of a brick vault, would seem to suggest that this underground chamber is no part of the original structure but probably a burial-place, or bone-house, made after the chapel itself had become disused. Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson, M.A., F.S.A., who has seen the re-

<sup>1</sup> The term "crypt" is here used merely in its sense of "a vault beneath a building either entirely or partly underground" (Parker), and has no ecclesiological significance. It is employed in preference to "vault" so as to avoid confusion in the use of that word both for the chamber itself and the roof that covers it.

constituted plan and agrees with the particulars of its "restoration," also concurs in assigning a comparatively late date to the crypt. He writes :

The bricks used in the vault point to a date certainly later than the main building, though bricks of approximately the same size (9 inches  $\times$  4 inches  $\times$  2 inches) were in use in the late fifteenth century. . . . Apart, however, from this question, a crypt of this type would be most unusual in pre-Reformation times. I can think of no English crypt or bone-hole—certainly not one beneath a chancel—which was constructed on this small scale, or without some means of light from outside, the early Saxon ones at Ripon and Hexham and the possibly late Saxon one at Sidbury excepted ; and it is a most unlikely thing that a crypt of any kind should have been made in a small chantry, unless there was a steep slope at the east end. A late burial-vault is the most reasonable conclusion, I am sure.

The question then arises as to when this burial-vault was constructed. The chapel seems to have been abandoned about the middle of the sixteenth century. The crypt, or burial-vault, may therefore have been constructed some time during the latter half of the century after Bailey came into the possession of Sir Richard Shireburn. The Cliderows, as already pointed out, do not seem ever to have lived at the Hall, but after about 1556 it seems to have been regularly occupied by one or other of the Shireburn family. The house was probably rebuilt in its present form at this time or later, and the bricks used in the interior partition walls, though uneven both in size and shape, are approximately of the same dimensions and quality as those in the roof of the crypt. Failing other evidence of date, it would seem reasonable, therefore, to assign an Elizabethan origin to the burial-vault. From the fact that Bailey Hall Shireburns are entered in the Mitton registers as buried at Mitton in 1659, 1682, and 1688, it would appear improbable that a burial-place should be constructed at Bailey as late

as the seventeenth century, and a later date does not seem likely. It is of course possible that the burial-place was used for others than members of the family,<sup>1</sup> or that it was a bone-house pure and simple, but the latter hypothesis, considering the distance from Mitton and the lack of evidence of there having been earlier burials at Bailey, is unlikely.

A comparison of the Bailey "crypt" with the burial-vault of the Shireburns in Mitton Church may not be out of place. The Shireburn chapel is on the north side of the chancel, and was built about 1594, but the vault is apparently a good deal later, and is possibly the work of Sir Nicholas Shireburn about 1700. As I have been unable to inspect the Mitton vault I asked Fr. Newdigate to add a brief description of it, and he has kindly sent me the following note :

The Shireburn vault in Mitton Church which, by favour of the vicar, Rev. G. Ackerley, I was able to examine recently, lies under the eastern half of the Shireburn chapel, being entered by a stair similar to that at Bailey, but steeper and of fewer steps, about eight. The chamber is rectangular, 14 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 9 inches, the longer axis in this case (which is also that of the barrel roof) being north and south. The east and west walls are 4 feet 9 inches high to the spring of the vaulting, which rises to 6 feet 9 inches. The whole construction is vastly superior to that of the Bailey vault. Walls and roof are faced with ashlar, the walls being whitewashed and divided into large panels by upright bands of black. The floor is level, paved, I think, with flagstones. There is no opening for light.

On the floor lie five large coffins, all facing eastwards. Counting from the south, these belong to: (1) Unknown: the plate illegible, outer case very much decayed. It is of full length, but much narrower than the others. (2) Sir

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<sup>1</sup> This is the conclusion come to by Fr. Newdigate (*supra*, p. 157). I had not seen his paper when the above lines were written. If this theory be adopted a seventeenth-century origin for the crypt is most likely.

Nicholas presumably (the metal plate was illegible by the light of my acetylene lamp). He d. 1717. (3) Lady Catherine, his wife (d. 1728). A large metal crucifix surmounts her name-plate. (4) Duchess of Norfolk (d. 1754). Lozenge-shaped escutcheon surmounted by a coronet. (5) Hon. Peregrine Widdrington, her second husband, who d. 1749.

There is also in the S.E. corner, at the feet of No. 1, a leaden casket, about 15 inches cube. Its outer case, if it had one, has completely perished.

The vault seems to have been constructed in the early years of the eighteenth century. Sir Nicholas's brother Richard (d. 1690) and his mother Isabel (d. 1693) lie beneath their respective monuments, which were erected in 1699. His only son, Richard Francis, who d. 1702, also has a separate tomb.

C. A. N., S.J.