

NORTH MARSTON CHURCH.

During the recent restoration of this Church a fresco was discovered immediately above the pointed tower arch. This consists of a crowned fleur de lys, the emblem of the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated. The fleur is executed boldly and with admirable proportion, as it is quite four feet wide, and more than that in height. The tower was built in the fifteenth century, and it is probable that the fresco was executed at the close of that century. Mr. Webb, the architect responsible for the restoration, is of opinion that "the whole nave is so decorated under many coats of whitewash. If funds allowed these could easily be uncovered."

It is a coincidence that in 1855 the "Records" (Vol. 1, p. 146) commented upon the east window to the memory of Camden Nield erected by Queen Victoria, together with coloured decorations in the chancel; in the last-named case it is asked: "Whether there is any other church in this county in which polychrome has been used in modern times?" There is no suggestion that the writer was aware of the fact that the church already contained "polychrome decorations" of a date which carries no early-Victorian associations.

The uncovering of this interesting fragment adds one more to the many points of interest in a church which certainly has a place among the four most interesting village churches in the county.