

ANCIENT STAINED GLASS.—Some of the most ancient and most elegant specimens of stained glass to be found in this kingdom, remain in the chancel of **Chetwode** Church: from the style of the ornaments with which they are enriched, from the dresses of the figures, and the form of the letters, in an inscription under that of St. Nicholas* to whom the Church was dedicated, and also from the style of the royal arms, there remains little room for doubt of this glass being coeval with the first erection of the Church on the foundation of the priory, to which it belonged about the year 1244; and that it was one of the earliest works of that kind produced in England; since the windows, till after the introduction of the earliest Gothic architecture, were too small to have admitted of any diminution of light. The first and the fourth lights of this window, from the north-side of the chancel, are nearly entire; in the former are three figures, in oval compartments; two of them representing saints, and the third a king, probably intended for the reigning monarch, Henry III.; in the latter are figures of two Bishops, and St. Edmund with his symbols, a bow and quiver of arrows: the other parts of these lights are filled up with tracery of foliage, &c. on plain glass, in an infinitely more elegant style, if not so brilliant as that which came into use when the Church windows were enlarged in succeeding ages, and entirely filled with coloured glass. In the Church of

* This figure is in a south window of the chancel.

Chesham-Bois are some small windows, in the style of the 14th century, filled with stained glass, consisting of tracery of foliage and coats of arms. In **Hitcham** Church there are considerable remains of stained glass, chiefly in the windows of the chancel, in each of which is the figure of an angel, standing on a wheel: the upper compartments of the east window of the chancel, which is large and elegant, are nearly entire: from the style of the windows, with which the glass appears to be coeval, and the form of the letters in several inscriptions,* it seems probable that it was executed about the middle of the fourteenth century.—The east window of the north aisle of **Hillesden** Church is nearly filled with small compartments of stained glass, containing representations of different scenes, taken from the Legend of St. Nicholas, to whom the Church was dedicated, with inscriptions under each, pointing out the subject as "*Mortuus ad vitam redit precibus Nicholai, &c.*"—*Lysons'*.

MONASTIC REMAINS.—Very small remains are existing of Burnham Abbey; and of Medmenham, only the base of a pillar of the Church. In a green-house at Great Missenden, there are some groined arches, resting on pillars, with enriched capitals in the latest Saxon style, which seem to have been part of the cloisters of Great Missenden Abbey. There are considerable remains of Nutley Abbey now converted into a farm, they occupy three sides of a quadrangle, on the south side of which is the hall, sixty-eight feet in length, and twenty-three feet nine inches in width, now used as a barn: in the wall, at the east end, is a corbel-table, in the style of the early Gothic, richly ornamented with foliage: adjoining to the hall, at the east end, is a passage, with an arched ceiling ten feet wide, the entrance to which is on the south side of the quadrangle, and has a pointed door-way, the pillars of which have enriched capitals. On the west side are the buildings of the farm-house, in the style of the latest Gothic; some part was probably erected after the dissolution. There is a chamber, 18 feet by 87, round the cornice of which, the Stafford knot is frequently repeated, with this inscription in black letter, "*en lui plesac (plesance.)—Ibid.*"

* Under one of the figures of angels above mentioned is inscribed, "*Virtutes;*" under another, "*Dominaciones,*" in Lombardic capitals.