

THE MARKET CROSS OF BUCKINGHAM.

This Cross anciently stood in the Horse Fair, upon an open space of ground nearly opposite the Mansion built by William and Mary Lambert, in which King Charles the First was entertained in June, 1644, now the property and residence of T. Hearn, Esq. The steps and part of the shaft of the Cross are stated to have continued in their original position till the end of the last century, and to have been then removed into the garden of a public-house adjoining, called "The Dun Cow," and converted into a pedestal for a sun-dial. In 1844, the Cross was taken by the late Mr. Loveridge to Preston Bissett, four miles from Buckingham, and his son subsequently conveyed it to Lillingstone Lovell, near Whitebury. Upon leaving Lillingstone to reside in a distant part of the country Mr. Loveridge presented this Cross to the Reverend W. Perkins, of Twyford, by whose liberality this interesting fragment of antiquity has been restored to Buckingham. It was brought back in March, 1858, was then temporarily placed in the Vicarage garden, and has now, it is hoped, reached its final destination. As the piece of ground on which it was originally built has been long enclosed, and the exact site lost on which it stood, the Cross is now placed in a conspicuous position in the Churchyard, some years since closed to interments by Order in Council, and marks the spot which was once the Western entrance to the Church, demolished after the fall of the spire, in the year 1777.—The base of the Cross in its present condition, measures two feet seven inches square, by ten inches high, and the shaft is two feet six inches high, by ten inches in diameter. The corners are chamfered, and the mouldings ornamented with the four-leaved flower pattern indicate the fourteenth century, the period of Decorated Architecture, as the date of its construction.

H. R.