

WING CHURCH.

By F. H. TATHAM, M.A.

SOME interesting discoveries have been made lately in the course of repairing the exterior of the ancient parish church of Wing, under the superintendence of Mr. John Oldrid Scott. With its crypt, its polygonal apse, and its lofty and majestic triumphal arch, it is, perhaps, the best specimen still remaining in this country of the basilican type which was adopted in the first age of Saxon Christianity, but there was little, if any, distinctly Saxon detail to be seen in the church. The tower and the porches are of the 15th century, and the nave walls were raised, and the magnificent oak roof was added when the tower was built. The windows also are of various styles, but all much later than the fabric of the church itself. However, on removing the rough cast from the apse, first there was brought to light, in the southern bay, a low side or leper's window. It is narrow and pointed, and the stonework and the iron bars, which are set very deeply back, are perfect. The window will be glazed, but, being behind the tomb of Sir Robert Dormer, it cannot be opened into the church. The apse, instead of the plain barn-like structure which it appeared, proves to have been of a very ornamental character. Stone pilasters are at each angle. In each bay a shallow round-headed arch springs from the lower capital of these pilasters. Two upper windows have been found, and these are surmounted by curious triangular arches. But the most remarkable discovery remains to be described. Under the rough cast of the eastern wall of the nave a quantity of Roman bricks were observed. They form the arch of a double window. These windows apparently sprang from two central pillars, one in front of the other—the inner one remains quite perfect. There is no trace of the outer pillar, except a curiously carved flat stone—apparently part of a stone coffin—which has been utilized as the abacus of the capital, and the remainder of which would no doubt be found on the top of the existing pillar.