

the Southern transept, began A. D. 1227 by Archbishop Grey, and next the Northern transept, completed A. D. 1260, in the reign of Henry III., by John, treasurer of the chapter, and afterwards Archbishop of York. Both of these are beautiful examples of early English, with its narrow, lancet windows, without mullions, and its beautiful decorations. In the Southern transept we note particularly the beautiful rose window in the gable; and in the Northern transept the slender clustered shafts with the polished capitals, and the profusion of dogtoothed ornaments in the mouldings of the arches—a special characteristic of this period and style, as the ball-flower is of the next period, the Decorated.

In this transept are fourteen Five Sister's windows.

It will be remembered that the three great periods of pointed architecture in England compared generally with the three successive centuries, the thirteenth, the fourteenth, and the fifteenth. About the end of the thirteenth, we find the earliest form of the Decorated, frequently called the Geometrical, because the upper part of the windows is filled with stone tracery made like trefoils, quatrefoils, and other geometrical forms. To this period belongs the beautiful chapter house. This edifice has been ascribed to Archbishop Grey, the builder of the Southern transept, but it certainly belongs to a somewhat later period, and was probably built in the reign of Edward I. It belongs decidedly to that we generally call the transition from the early English to the Decorated.

The nave was begun A. D. 1291 and finished in 1340, and is probably one of the most striking examples of the earlier decorated in England. Rickman's remarks on this type of architecture, and on the nave of York in particular, are so good that they may properly be here reproduced.

"The general appearance of decorated buildings is at once simple and magnificent; simple from the small number of parts, and magnificent from the size of the windows, and the easy flow of the lines of tracery. In the interior of large buildings we find great breadth, and an enlargement of the clearstory windows,

with a corresponding diminution of the triforium, which is now rather a part of the clearstory, opening thus a distinct member of the division. The roofing, from the increased richness of the graining, becomes an object of more attention. On the whole the nave of York, from the uncommon grandeur and simplicity of the design, is certainly the finest example; ornament is nowhere spared, yet there is a simplicity which is peculiarly pleasing."

The western front, a little later in time and in style, has been much admired. It is still Decorated, but shows the influence of the French Flamboyant style, which was contemporaneous with the later English Decorated and the Perpendicular. This front is "divided into three great parts by massive graduated buttresses enriched with tabernacle-work on every face. The elevated gable, concealing the roof of the church, is covered with ornamental tracery of the most florid character, having the ridge beautifully terminated with a perforated battlement, the successive gradations of which are created with a central pinnacle in exquisite taste." The great western window is divided by stone mullions with eight lights, over which there is very beautiful flamboyant tracery, seldom seen in England, but now and then here, and often in Scotland, under French influence. This beautiful façade has been compared to the peerless west front of Reims; but, in the judgment of many, must take an inferior place to those of Peterborough and Reims. The towers of the western front, at the north and south corners, rise to a height of 202 feet.

The latest part of the present building is the choir, erected by Archbishop John de Thuesby, principally in the perpendicular style, in the reign of Edward III. It is one of the earliest specimens of the third period of the pointed architecture. It is said that New College Chapel, in Oxford, is probably the first entirely perpendicular building, begun 1380, and dedicated 1386. The choir of York was earlier in its commencement, since it was begun 1361 and completed 1408. Its general character is perpendicular, but with a good deal of admixture of the ear-