

the form of caskets, arms, busts, and what not. On the high altar of York minster, in 1483, there were twelve statuettes of the Apostles, silver gilt, as well as many reliquaries. In the fifteenth century, says a Bavarian chronicler, "totum sanctuarium in altari stetit"; "the whole church-treasury of Fressing stood on the High altar" on festal days. Altars of this "buffet" or "sideboard" type had necessarily to be large.¹

On the other hand, minor altars were sometimes quite small; e.g., that in the chapel of St John the Baptist, Belper, below the



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east window, is but $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long. The example illustrated at Asthall, Oxon., is of quite small dimensions (8).

LATERAL ALTARS OF CHANCEL ARCH

Altars so small as these explain how it was possible to find room for three altars even in the earliest and humblest type of parish church, viz., that which was composed of merely an unaisled nave and a rectangular or apsidal chancel. It is a curious fact, which calls for explanation, that in these and other early types of English church it is very rare to find the chancel of the same width as the nave. It is just a little narrower. And when one remembers that till late in the twelfth century, when such spacious arches as those of the chancel of Steyning, Sussex, and Mickleham, Surrey, were erected, chancel arches

¹ Edward Bishop in *Dowside Review*, July 1905.