

There are a number of interesting old churches whose history runs back to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, and among them that of St. Werburgh, in which the Rev. John Wesley preached his first sermon in Bristol, 1777; St. Stephen and St. Augustine. The latter was founded by the Abbots of St. Augustine's monastery as a chapel for the use of the inhabitants who had erected houses and lived without the precincts of the convent. Of the older churches, however, that of St. Mary Redcliffe possesses the most interest. It was begun by Sir Simon de Barton in 1292 and finished by William Canynges the Elder, in 1377. Camden says the church is like a cathedral, and in all accounts the first parish church in England. In the south-west angle of the church are some remains of the lids or coverings to some very ancient stone coffins. They were recently discovered in lowering the walks round the church. Here may be seen also, against a pillar, the rib of the famous dun cow, slain by Guy, Earl of Warwick. This cow, according to the legend, at one time supplied all the city with milk. She must have been a good milker, and of goodly size, too, for the rib is about eight feet high. Attached to a column in the south transept is a flat slab to the memory of Sir William Penn, the father of the illustrious founder of Pennsylvania, and near to this on another column is suspended the armour of the gallant knight, tastefully displayed and ornamented by the flags taken in an engagement with the Dutch fleet about 1604. Time has, however, made sad havoc with these emblems, and ere long there will be nothing left of the banners. There are many other very old and interesting monuments and inscriptions scattered through the church, but we must leave them.

Over the north or grand porch is a room corresponding in size and form with the lower one, which, doubtless, was formerly the residence of priests, and from this room is a passage communicating with the tower. At one time it was known as the "Treasury House," but is now usually designated the "Muniment Room," in which are the remains of the chests in which Chatterton professed to have found the manuscripts attributed to Rowley. One of these chests was said to be called Mr. Canynges' coffer, and was secured by six keys, two of which were entrusted to the minister and procurator of the church, two to the mayor, and one to each of the churchwardens. In process