

length from east to west, 180 ft. 7 in.; width across the nave, 86 ft.; width across the transepts, 101 ft.; height to centre of the roof, 58 ft.

It is certainly a misfortune that it was found necessary to introduce galleries running nearly the whole length of the church and across the west end; but, granted the necessity—and by their help the church can accommodate over 2,500 persons—it must be admitted that those in Leeds are rendered as unobjectionable as possible. The front consists of rich tabernacle work, and the galleries themselves rest on small iron pillars placed behind the stone columns supporting the roof. This enables them to be well set back, so that the view of the columns and arches of the nave is unbroken.

The east end of the church is naturally, and rightly, the most striking part of it. The Holy Table is approached from the nave by nine steps, six of which reach across the whole width of the church; and above the top of these steps, and just outside the rails, is a broad, open space. And very striking is the scene at the celebration of the Holy Communion, when, at the words, "Draw near with faith," a pause is made, and the Communicants move forward from the body of the church, and reverently take their places at the rails and on this broad space behind them, where they kneel until the time for them to receive. These steps and the open space beyond them give great dignity to the sacrament, and the impressive effect is greatly increased by the rich mosaics of the reredos.

Within the rails on the north side is a fine altar tomb, with upon it the recumbent figure of the greatest Vicar of Leeds, whose name will be always associated with the church, Walter Farquhar Hook; and immediately outside the rails on the south stands by far the most interesting and most ancient treasure that the church possesses—a Saxon shaft or pillar of sculptured stones, over eight feet in height, surmounted by a wheel cross of somewhat later date. The fragments of this were discovered in the walls of the old church, when it was pulled down in 1838, but, owing to some stupid blunder, they were carried off and lost to Leeds for more than forty years, until they were happily recovered by the present Bishop of Truro, in his Vicariate of Leeds, and restored to their proper place in the church. Very curious and interesting are the sculptures carved upon the shaft. Unfortunately they are sadly imperfect; but sufficient remains to make it clear that originally there must have been represented on either side the figures of our Lord and the four evangelists, these last being sculptured as *human* figures, with the claws or hoofs of their symbols (the eagle, lion, etc.), instead of human feet or hands. Beneath these, at the bottom of the shaft, are the remains of two panels, which the Bishop of Bristol has suggested may be intended to represent an ancient Saga; and by the help of these he has cleverly *dated* the cross, and identified it as a monument to Olaf

Godfreyson, a Danish king of Northumbria in the tenth century.

No account of Leeds Parish Church would be complete without a notice of its famous choir and choral services. Soon after the church was built the parishioners themselves petitioned the Vicar for a choral service, a form of worship at that time scarcely known except in cathedrals and collegiate churches. Dr. Hook characteristically replied that if they had a choral service at all it must be the very best of its kind; and accordingly no pains were spared in making the service worthy of the church; and Leeds Parish Church has for more than fifty years been famous throughout the country for its *daily* choral service. Yorkshire voices are proverbially good, and here you have the very best material, trained with loving care for the service of the sanctuary. Consequently there are few visitors to the city who leave it without finding their way to the church and joining in its grand and stately services.

E. C. S. GIBSON, D.D.

THE VICARAGE, LEEDS.

ABOUT BEAVERS.

BY THE REV. THEODORE WOOD, F.E.S.,
Author of "Our Bird Allies," "The Farmer's Friends and Foes," "Life of the Rev. J. G. Wood," etc., etc.



It is many a long year now since beavers were found in Great Britain. Once they were plentiful enough, like wolves and bears and various other creatures which have died out before the advance of civilization; and they were spread over a great part of Europe, Asia, and America as well.

Now, however, they are restricted entirely to the far north; even there they are becoming scarce.

Beavers are animals which bear much of their life history written on their outward form. One can see at a glance, for instance, that they are meant to spend a great part of their lives in the water. The close, thick fur, the webbed paws, the broad rudder-like tail, even the very shape of the body,—they all tell the same story to an experienced eye. But a beaver, nevertheless, is quite at its ease on dry land; and, strangely enough, it is compelled to work on the land in order to obtain a sufficient supply of water.

Beavers must have deep water in which to dispose themselves at all seasons of the year. The streams