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TYPICAL CHURCH TOWERS OF ENGLISH COUNTIES.

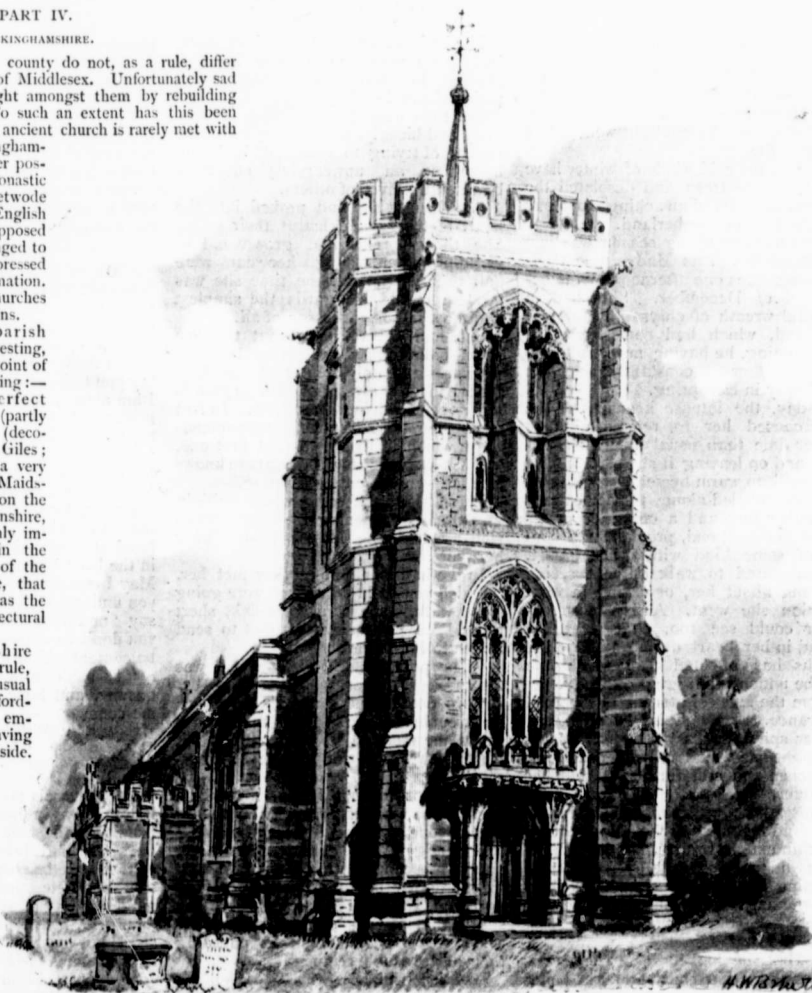
PART IV.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE churches of this county do not, as a rule, differ materially from those of Middlesex. Unfortunately sad havoc has been wrought amongst them by rebuilding and modernization. To such an extent has this been carried, that a genuine ancient church is rarely met with in some parts of Buckinghamshire. The county never possessed many large monastic churches; though at Chetwode is a beautiful Early English chancel, which is supposed originally to have belonged to a priory which was suppressed long before the Reformation. Of the other monastic churches scarcely anything remains.

Of the ancient parish churches the most interesting, from an architectural point of view, are the following:—Stewkley (a very perfect Norman example); Iver (partly Norman); Burnham (decorated); Chalfont St. Giles; Chesham; Hillesdon (a very fine late church); Maids-Moreton and Olney, on the borders of Northamptonshire, which possesses the only important stone spire in the county, but so purely of the Northamptonshire type, that it must be regarded as the production of the architectural school of that county.

The Buckinghamshire church towers, as a rule, follow more or less the usual Middlesex and Hertfordshire types in being embattled at the top and having a beacon turret at the side. Their detail is, however, superior, the battlements being treated in a more ornamental way, and the belfry windows being larger and more elegant. The humbler village churches had little wooden steeples placed astride the roof or supported upon rude towers of wood or rubble. These have, however, within



MAIDS-MORETON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

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