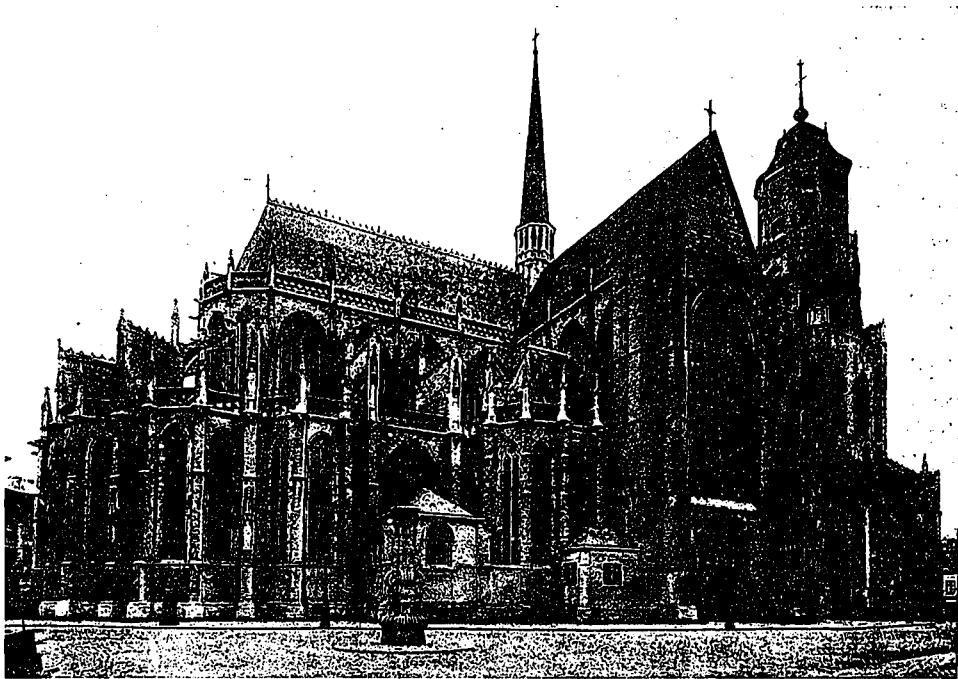


figures sculptured in the style of the thirteenth century.

Ypres, which contained a population of 100,000 during the fourteenth century and ranked first in the cloth making of Flanders, is now serenely content with 17,000 citizens. Of the former prosperous period two interesting buildings remain, the Clothmarket Hall and the Cathedral of St. Martin. The Hall, of the thirteenth century, is the earliest and most magnificent market house in Belgium, possessing a simple facade some four hundred and sixty feet in length with a double row of ogival windows, two small turrets at the ends and a belfry in the centre. Upon the interior is one vast room with long galleries and halls above. One French writer has said that the Hall by its dimensions equals the majesty of cathedrals, by its beauty of lines the Venetian palaces, and by its richness of ornamentation the construction of the Moors in Spain.



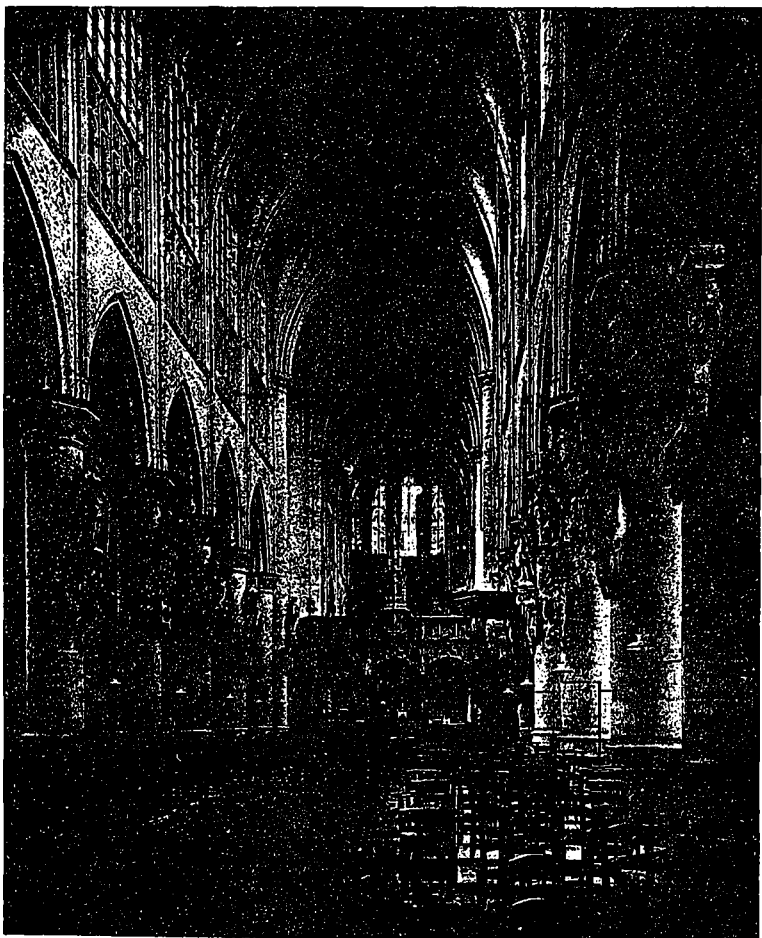
EXTERIOR OF SAINT GOMMAIRE AT LIERRE

The Church of Saint Martin, with its triple entrance, its arched buttresses of graceful reach, its elegant steeple, the remarkable choir of the thirteenth century, all tend to make it one of the best examples of this period. The difference of plans between the windows of the upper part and the columns of the pointed arches in front give it the aspect of an Italian loggia. Many other buildings commend themselves to the student of art such as the Hotel de Ville, with the different decorative cartouches at the windows and the consols of the cornice representing human heads; the Hotel Mergelynck, one of the finest examples of eighteenth century art; the Hospital of St. Godelieve with its rich Renaissance hall and elaborate ceiling.

At Oudenarde, the Hotel de Ville, resembling in certain features the one at Louvain, is probably the most ornate in Belgium. It was erected in 1525 under the reign of Charles V. The chief interest within is a fine oak chimney-piece in the council chamber. At the summit of the tower is an imperial crown and bronze figure, while on the chimney are emblazoned the arms of the town and of Austria.

The Cathedral of Tournay is one of the most interesting churches of the province. More than four hundred feet internal length and covering an area of sixty-two thousand five hundred feet, it is exemplary of the best architecture of the eleventh, twelfth and fourteenth centuries.

The following notes are taken from the article by John A. Randolph, who wrote



INTERIOR OF SAINT GOMMAIRE AT LIERRE.