

of S. Peter. This led to the re-establishment of the then ancient Abbey of Westminster on a new and magnificent footing. The buildings were completed and solemnly dedicated to S. Peter on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, A.D. 1065, and considerable portions of them remain to this day. The king was unable through sickness to be present at the dedication, and only just lived to know that the work was accomplished, for he died Jan. 6, 1066, and was buried in the new Abbey Church before the High Altar, a great concourse of nobles and ecclesiastics attending. His tomb was adorned with silver and gold by William the Conqueror, and enclosed in a shrine. The body was removed by S. Thomas of Canterbury to a richer shrine, Oct. 13, 1163, and after the rebuilding of the Church by Henry III., that monarch had a most sumptuous shrine erected, the wreck of which still remains, with a superstructure of wood in the debased style of the 16th century. The former translation, which was probably connected with the canonization of the saint, is the one commemorated. The touching for the King's Evil dates from S. Edward; and was last performed by Queen Anne, in whose reign a special office was used. The same power was claimed by the king of France for many ages. A ring given by S. Edward, in his last illness, to the Abbot of Westminster, was long preserved as a relic, and applied to the cure of nervous diseases. Succeeding kings used to bless rings on Good Friday for the same purpose, and these were called "cramp rings." S. Edward the Confessor is distin-

guished as holding the ring (often disproportionately large) in his hand.

17. *S. Etheldreda, Virgin Queen*, was born in Suffolk, in the 7th century, and was the daughter of Anna, king of the East Angles, whose queen was the sister of S. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby. Having been religiously brought up she was married to the prince of the Girvii. Being left a widow, she retired to Ely, where she led a solitary and mortified life. In A.D. 660, she was married to Egfrid, a Northumbrian prince, with whom she lived as a sister rather than as a wife for twelve years. On his succeeding to the throne she retired to a monastery, from which the king attempted to withdraw her, whereupon she fled to the old retreat at Ely. Here she founded a convent, over which she presided as Abbess for some years, and at last died during a pestilence, June 23, 679. Her history is represented in sculptures under the lectern of Ely Cathedral, which arose out of the monastery founded by her. She is represented as Abbess with pastoral staff, a celestial crown on her head, and the insignia of earthly royalty lying behind.

The Burial of the Dead.

I.

Hark, the deep notes? the funeral chimes
are rolling

In solemn cadence thrilling on the ear,
A few days past the minute bell was tolling
To mourn with those who wept the mourner's tear;

But now, the Church with joy receives the
dead.

And offers it a consecrated bed--
An earthly type of that thrice-hallowed
sphere