

Hartton  
Cambridge  
8 Jan 1894

Dear Gray.

It is surprising how soon the memory of events a few decades past becomes obscured. I believe I know more about what was done to the chapel in the 140's than any one else not because my recollection is particularly good but because most of that generation are dead.

The men who guided the work were Gibson, Sutton, & myself. I was not regularly in residence but frequently came up for a week or so & sometimes for a longer time & kept up a correspondence with Gibson. I cannot recall how but I certainly myself

was in residence during a great part of the restoration - partly during interregnum in my two curacies & partly during an throat attack when I was incapacitated for nine months.

It can scarcely be said that Gibson reficendum curavit the organ chamber. Sutton had offered an organ & the College had decided to restore the chapel. Thereupon plans were obtained from Gibson and the north aisle was rebuilt from them; <sup>to receive the organ</sup> Gibson and the rest of us did not like these plans & they were carried no further & then Gibson Sutton & myself took the work into our own hands but Gibson was primus among scarcely paris. Sutton was much under Pugin's influence and he

used to get plans for portions from Pugin & say he would pay for their being carried out & so some things were done not quite as Gibson & I could have wished not that by any means we objected to all of them. Pugin's ~~the~~ designs were thus obtained for the roof, the floor, the rose window, and the screen and organ <sup>and lectern</sup> ~~aisle~~. Sutton paid for the screen & organ <sup>to</sup> & for the designs for roof & floor. Pugin also designed the altar table, but I forget who paid for it.

Gibson & myself, chiefly, with Rafter's help, designed the stallwork taking hints from a John's old stalls the two book board ends then in the lodge & the bookboard ends at Lardham and some panelling at Histon which we copied.

As regards the tower & north

transsept we had a partition at  
the end of the north transept and  
did all that was done <sup>east of it</sup> (as far as  
I can recollect) except the flooring.  
We repaired the piers & did a good  
deal to strengthen the N. & E. pier.  
We also cleaned all the stonework  
& repaired the mouldings.

In the north transept we discovered  
two roman windows & restored the  
north wall over a chimney <sup>flue</sup>, used  
to carry over the western window of  
the triplet.

This history of the butress &c is  
this - One Easter vacation I came  
up from my curacy and found the  
College absolutely empty & a note  
awaiting me from Dr French, who  
had gone down, saying the tower  
was in an unsafe condition &  
he begged me to attend to it.  
The great oak beams which used to

carry the floor under the tower  
triforium were lying in the chapel and  
I utilized some of these to shove up the  
tower and while I was in the  
chapel directing the workmen in  
came Sutton and Pugin who had  
just arrived. Sutton had brought  
Pugin down to take measurements  
for the organ case. Pugin seeing  
the predicament was well in with  
Sutton's advice considered plans for  
strengthening the tower and the  
result was the buttress - the  
two stone screens in the transept -  
and the wall behind the stalls.  
These plans were sent down in  
a few days and accepted at a  
College meeting & put in board. I  
am not sure that Gibson was  
up at the time. Certainly he had  
nothing to do with this part of the



work. I being engaged in strengthening  
the ~~fit~~ weak places had iron  
scaffolds made in the passage in  
the transept & encased the staircase  
with brick & cement & banded  
the tower together with iron ties.

One of the old oak beams already referred  
to is inside the benches now. The  
stone work was built round it by  
Pugin's advice. I doubt the wisdom  
of this.

I think Willis has the credit of having  
made out the arrangement of the  
eastern triplet. Gibson arranged the  
<sup>heads and</sup> height of height of the windows.

(Globe) Button gave the S. windows over the  
stalls and the blue window near  
the organ. I gave the window  
at the north end of the north aisle.  
of the Rate collected subscriptions  
for the S windows of the presbytery.  
I think Mansel left money

x or was it Chapman?

for the N. windows of the same  
& the East window was as you well  
know a memorial of Dr. Mansel.

If you wish to know any more  
particulars I will tell you if I can  
but this letter 'is long enough already  
for both you & me.

I am sorry that I cannot admit  
the relevancy of your quotation  
about Moses habet. "Moses" means  
not Moses but his books - just  
as we might say now Matthew  
or Paul "have" those that precede  
them being read in the Church  
every day.

I do not know exactly what has  
been done in the chapel since I  
ceased to be a fellow but if the  
N. transept and tower were not  
touched by Gibson and his generation  
what did what was done in them?  
I know Estlin did the flooring

removed the monument &c  
but did he do anything else  
overhead? I ask because I don't  
know.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Ormond Fisher



J. Fisher  
Sep. 8. 1846.  
O. Fisher