

the year 1680, and filled that station with great respectability, and with the most scrupulous regard to the just execution of its duties. The times, however, in which he lived, had been too boisterous to be assuaged in the short period which had intervened from the era of the Restoration, especially under a monarch so regardless of public opinion as Charles II.

Mr. Gore was censured by many of the county gentlemen for want of loyalty, because his conduct in office was directed by moderation towards those of the republican or Whig faction. This reproach induced him to vindicate his principles and character in a work entitled "Loyalty Displayed, and Falshood Unmasked," published at London in 1681. After that he scarcely survived three years, having departed this life at Alderton, in March, 1684, where he was buried among his ancestors in the parish church. He left behind him a variety of MS. compositions relative to heraldry, and considerable collections on the antiquities of Wilts."

This brings me to speak of the church itself, which is dedicated to St. Giles, of whom, according to MSS. in the British Museum, it is said that St. Giles was an abbot of the 8th century, and mentioned in the Anglican Calendar, as by birth an Atheian of noble extraction, called in Latin Egidius, who visited France in 713, where he remained two years with Casarius, Bishop of Arles; that he lived in retirement as a hermit, and is said to have been nourished with the milk of a hind in the forest, and that the King of France discovered him in hunting by pursuing the chase of that hind to his hermitage, where it had sought for shelter at his feet.

The king afterwards built a monastery on the site of his hermitage, and made him an abbot. He died in his eightieth year, and was buried in his own abbey.

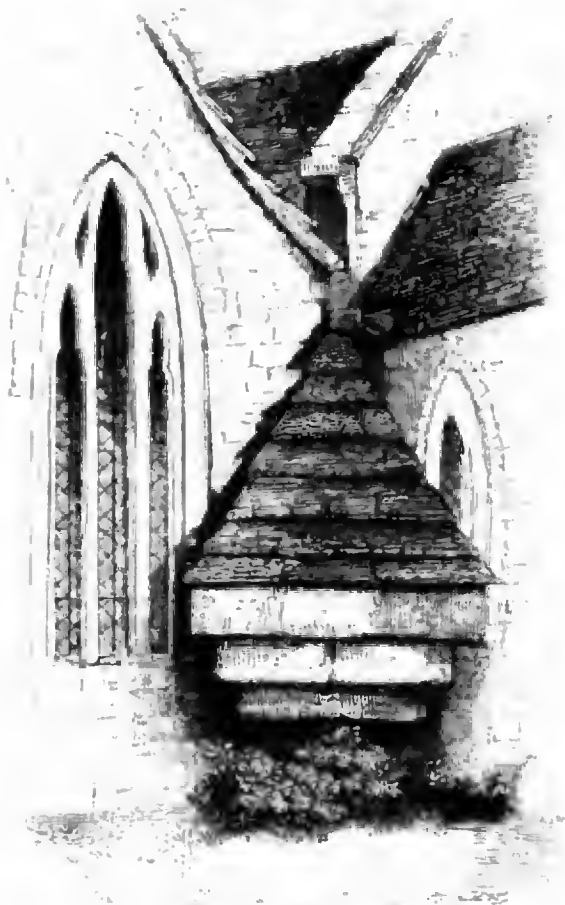
In the Golden Legends, his emblems are a hind, with its head or its fore feet on his lap, and a branch of a tree sprouting before him, the thorny bush not to be penetrated. And in Collet's Images the hind is by his side, and an arrow has pierced the hermit in his thigh.

Now, there seems much probability that this church (and doubtless several others) was founded soon after the canonization of St. Giles, say about the 9th or 10th century, when the history and merits of the saint were yet fresh in the minds of those whose occupation it was to do honour to his name. I am led to this conclusion by several authorities. We have seen that the saint was a resident of Arles, in France, between which place and England there had been frequent intercourse from even a much earlier period than I have mentioned.

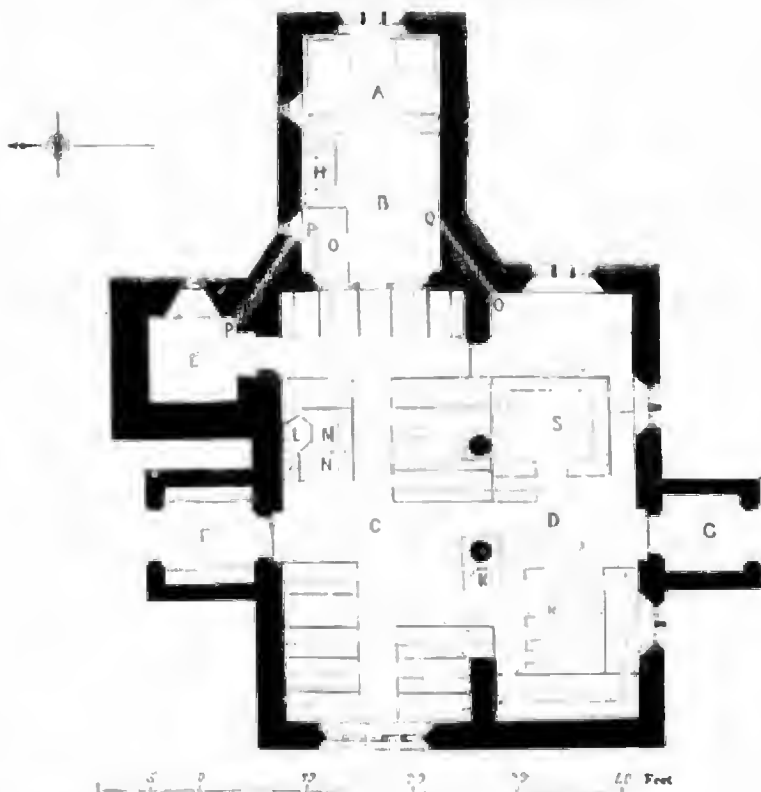
It is recorded in another work, also edited by Mr. Britton,† that so early as A.D. 314, at the synod of Arles, three British bishops attended, viz., Juvr, or Eberus of York, Restitutus of London, and Adelphius, or Courleou, and at a later period, but still earlier than the date I have referred to, viz., in the 7th century, it appears that the monasteries, both of Malmesbury and Gloucester,‡ existed. It is therefore not too much to imagine, from its local position being not more than 10 or 12 miles from Malmesbury, and the existence of its Norman porch, that this was an early outpost of those Christian missionaries.§

The porch consists of two slender columns, nearly but not quite disengaged from the jambs of the door; they have capitals formed as in imitation of the stems of trees, just at the point where the limbs branch off, terminating in a square and filleted abacus. These columns support a semi-circular arch having very beautiful moulded chevron or zig-zag ornaments interwoven at right angles with each other. This brings me to explain the general features and condition of the church as it appeared in the spring of 1813, and is shown by the annexed plan. It then consisted of a nave, about 40 feet by 17 feet internally, aisle about

EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE HAGIOSCOPE.



PLAN OF ALDERTON CHURCH, WILTS.



- A Communion-table.
- B Chancel.
- C Nave.
- D South Aisle.
- E Tower and Belfry.
- F North Porch.
- G South Porch.
- H Altar Tomb.
- K Font.
- L Pulpit
- M Reading Desk.
- N Clerk's Desk.
- O Clergyman's Pew.
- PP Hagioscope.
- QQ Hagioscope.
- R Children's Forms.
- S Churchwarden's Pew.

* St. Giles is esteemed the patron of cripples from his refusing to be cured of an accidental lameness, that he might be enabled to mortify himself more completely. September 1st is the day marked for the commemoration of this saint.

† "The Chronological History of Christian Architecture in England, London 1826," and quoted from "Stillingfleet's Origines Britannicæ," and "Fœules on the Origin and Purity of the Primitive Church of the British Isles."

‡ See Fox, vol. 1, p. 107. Monastery of Malmesbury, by one Methulpus, a Nest, about the year of our Lord, 649; Monastery of Gloucester, by Ulforus and Ethelred, brethren to Kineburga, an abbess, a. d. 679.

§ It still remains in the diocese of Gloucester.