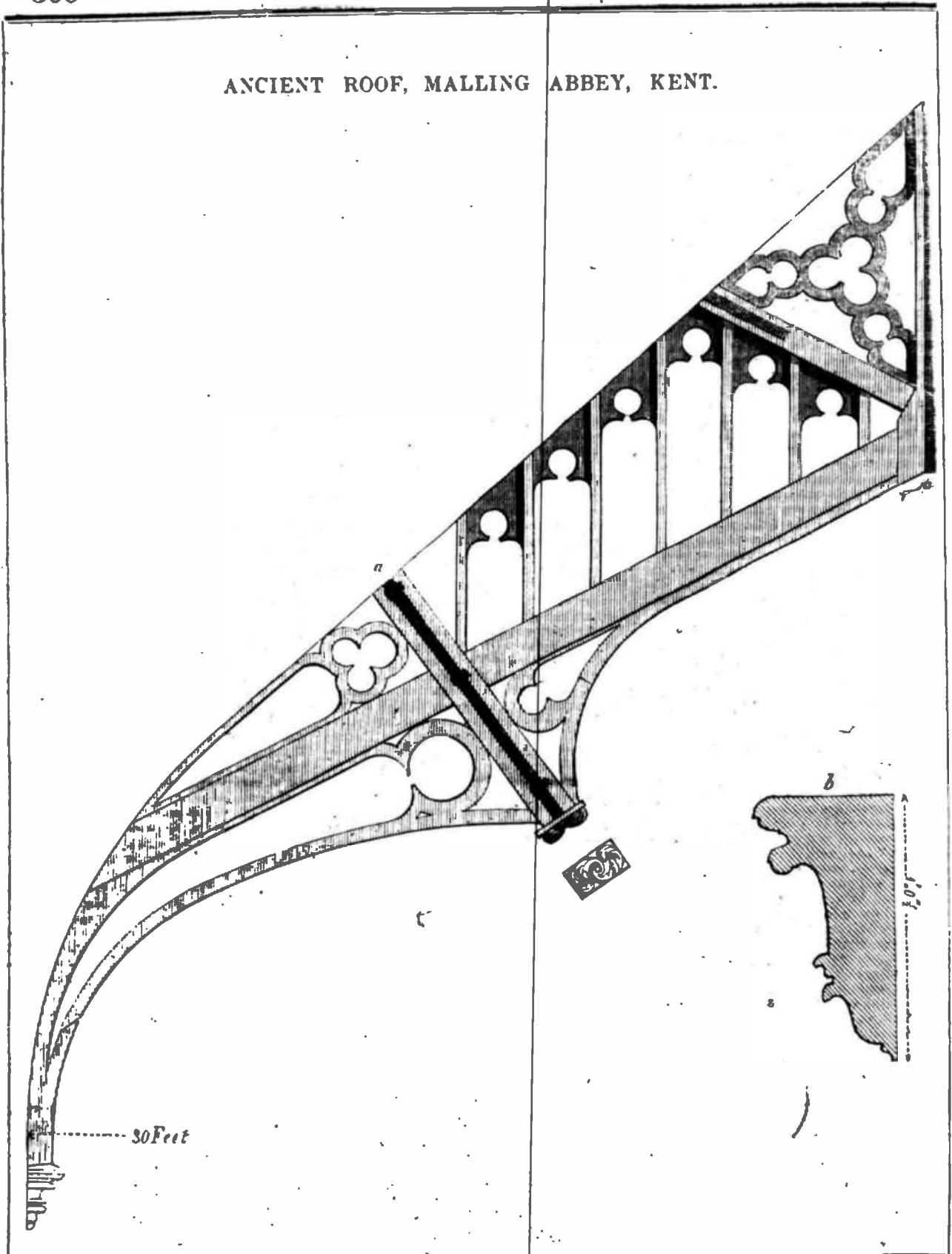


ANCIENT ROOF, MALLING ABBEY, KENT.



PORTION OF THE ROOF OF THE ANCIENT HALL AT MALLING ABBEY, KENT.

MALLING ABBEY is situated about six miles from Maidstone; it was lately the residence of Mr. Losack, but has for some time remained unoccupied. Access to the building can now easily be procured. Very few ancient structures possess more interesting remains than this building, or would better repay the architect for an attentive examination of them. The print represents half of one of the three trusses in the ancient hall; the room is small, about 30 feet by 20; it contains its ancient windows of very early decorated character, and, with the exception of modern additions, remains quite perfect.

Some doubts may be expressed as to this very singular roof being of the same date as the building to which it belongs. It may be remarked, that very little is known of the character of these early wooden roofs, from the great scarcity of examples remaining, and that no specimen of so early a date, or one at all similar to this roof at Malling, has yet been published.

The stone corbels, from which the roof springs, are circular, and there is a great deal of early English character about the form of their mouldings; the date of the wooden roof cannot be later than the year 1340.

Of the merit of the composition, the print affords the best means of forming an opinion; the effect of the three trusses in the room itself

is singularly fine. The building being unoccupied, afforded no accommodation for taking measurements of the upper part of the roof; this, therefore, is sketched only. The size of the lower beam is 3½ in. by 8 in. The narrow band attached to it is 3½ in. by 2½ in.; only one joint could be perceived in each of its compartments.

This ornamental work, together with that in the upper part of the roof, has the appearance of merely being cut out of 2½ in. plank. Neither the principal rafter nor purlins are seen: these, with the common rafters, are probably framed together.

Tredgold, in his "Elementary Principles of Carpentry," makes some strong objections to this form of roof; his observations respecting