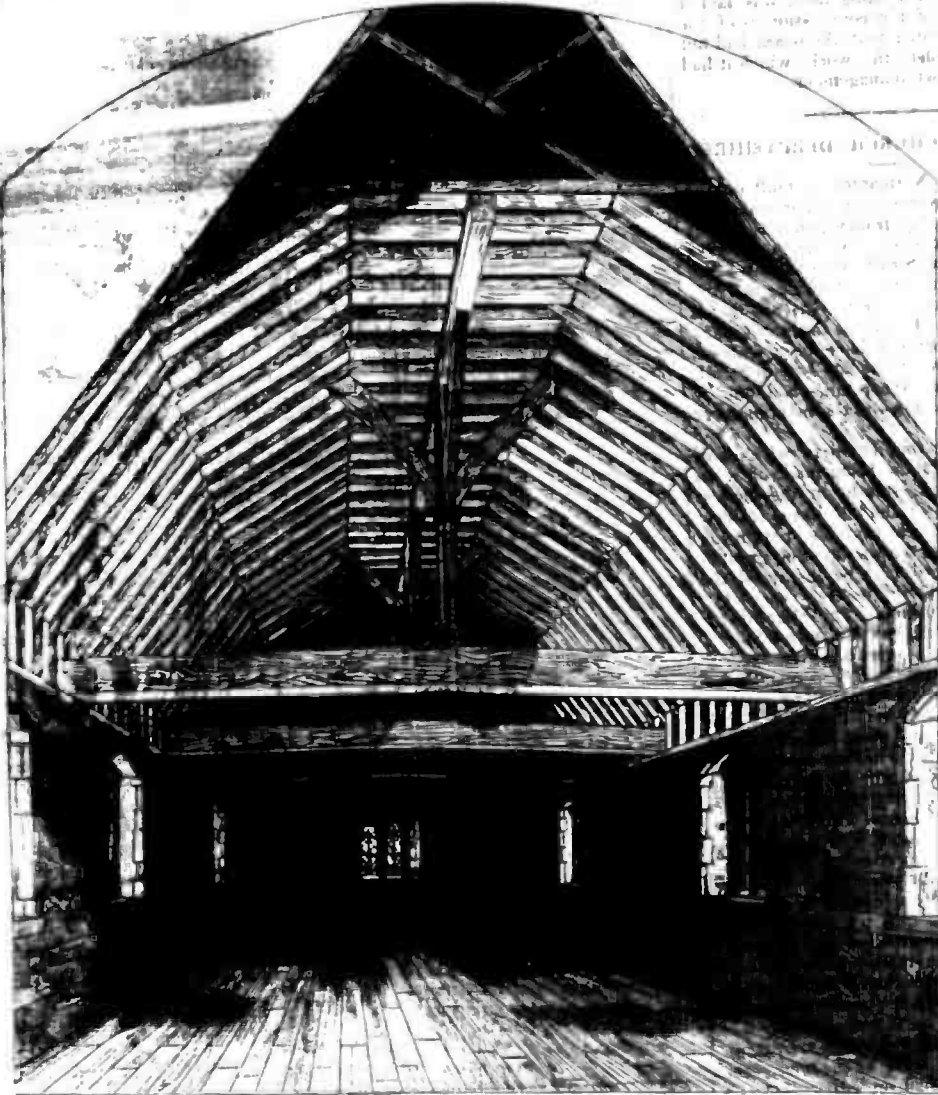


OPEN ROOF, WARE PRIORY.



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THE "Priory," at Ware, in Hertfordshire, the seat of M. H. Gosse, Esq., about to be restored under our direction, is an interesting structure of an early period, which has been much disfigured, from time to time, by the repairs and adornments of succeeding occupants. The original roof of one portion of the building, perhaps of all, for it is only in one part that it can be seen (a required increase in the number of rooms having led to its conversion into an additional story), is sufficiently curious to merit a record in our pages.

The length of the apartment is 49 ft. 6 in., the width 23 ft.; the height from the floor to the top of the rafters is 26 ft. (There is a story below.) The height from the floor to the centre of the tie-beam, which cambers 4 in., is 10 ft. 2 in. The tie-beams are 12 in. by 11½ in.; king posts, 5½ in. octagon shaft, and 5½ in. by 5½ in. above cap; struts, 6 in. by 3 in.; the rafters, collars, braces, and bearers at feet of rafters, 4 in. by 6 in.; the longitudinal bearer or purlin, below collar, is 5 in. by 5½ in. The roof is covered with tiles.

We may say something more about the house hereafter.

FARRINGTON-STREET. — Correspondents continue to draw our attention to the delay in completing the thoroughfare from Farringdon-street to Clerkenwell. "F. H. S." urges that the accumulations of animal and vegetable deposits here are very hurtful.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE parish church of Costock has been repaired and enlarged under Mr. Place's superintendence, and was lately reopened. It is fitted with open benches with oak ends to be carved. A new aisle has been added in the original decorated style of the chancel, and an open timber roof to correspond with the old one. Other restorations have been effected, and some are not yet completed. The builder employed was Mr. S. Hall, of Nottingham. — Clophill Church, Mr. T. Smith, of Hertford, architect, and Messrs. Smith and Appleford, of Pimlico, builders, was consecrated on Tuesday week. The sum at the disposal of the architect for this church was only about 2,300*l*. There is a nave with clerestory, small chancel, and south aisle with tower and porch: sittings 520. The nave is 62 feet by 26½; aisle same length by 12½ wide. — The price of gas at Saffron Walden is to be reduced from 12*s*. 6*d*. to 8*s*. 4*d*. per 1,000 cubic feet. — The "comfortable asylum for convicted thieves," at Portland, as the *Bristol Journal* very truly styles it, is steadily progressing. The skeleton stage, which is to extend the whole length of the proposed breakwater is in progress, and the inclined planes, screw breaks, drums, and wire ropes, are in active operation. The third hall of the prison is now tenanted by 150 convicts, and the fourth or 'D' division hall, will be shortly occupied. The chapel for 2,000 is in a forward state, and 40 cottages for warders, &c., are also in progress. The infirmary is

supplied with salt-water baths, and the "unfortunate" tenants of the asylum are already enjoying much better health than they did on arrival at their new watering place. A "very extensive and beautiful garden has been formed facing the prison," and the salubrity of this rather "fortunate" we think, than "unfortunate" island, is highly extolled by the authority above quoted, who adds, in the spirit of our own repeated observations, "what can honest paupers think of a system which provides abundance of food, sea-baths, and other luxuries, to convicted thieves, while they, in their honest poverty, are hardly able to get bread, or must take refuge in an union-house?" But we fear it is not paupers alone that have reason, or at least that may be unfortunately induced, to look Portland-wards with a sigh of envy, only half suppressed by an honest repugnance to the stigma of disgrace through which alone such sterling benefits can be won and won. Would that some way through the honest struggling pride of poverty into just such a Fortunate Island could be instituted as a support and reward to such a spirit of militant rectitude, when unavailing in its own honest efforts! — We are glad to learn from the *Sheffield Times* that there is a considerable improvement in the staple trades of that town, and of a nature which bids fair to be permanent. — There was made last year in Manchester 350,000,000 cubic feet of gas, and in the depth of winter it required 400 retorts in full work, and an annual consumption of cannel coal of 25,000 tons. The yearly increase in the consumption