



THE CHURCH AND VICARAGE

The date over the vicarage porch, 1649, informs us that it has already braved the blasts of upwards of two hundred years; whilst the solidity of its masonry and its unshaken front seem to indicate that it would not have the slightest objection to withstand the tempests of a few more centuries. Considerable additions have recently been made, fronting towards the churchyard, where a large hall has been erected, used by the choristers for the purposes of tuition, and where concerts are given by the choral society.

The Old Church, a very handsome edifice and one of the largest in the country, was taken down in 1790, under the authority of an act of Parliament, and the present ungainly structure erected on its site. That part of the building used for the celebration of Divine service was opened in 1797, but the edifice was not completed until 1822. The tower is the only portion having the slightest pretensions to architectural taste, 133 feet in height, encircled at the base of the upper compartment with a stone gallery from which is obtained a commanding view of the surrounding country. This gallery is supported by eight Corinthian pillars which somewhat relieve the sober dullness of the pile. The church will accommodate a congregation of 2,300 persons, including 500 free sittings for the poor and 150 for the school children. In the chancel are