

charge of these places) his mead of praise. He contributes a fine index and a sprightly and always interesting text. He tells of the new methods and of how all the scholars in the other sciences come together to date the various finds and to help to round out the picture. The book contains indeed an interesting history of archaeological excavations as well as descriptions of the archaeological material. — Congratulations, Dr. Harbison.

The Archaeology of Ireland is a companion volume of the Archaeology of ancient Egypt, ancient China, Minoan, Crete, etc. It is produced by the Bodley Head, 9 Bow Street, London W.C.2. 7 AL.

M.M.P.

RENOVATIONS TO THE BLACK ABBEY

In reply to the many people who have asked and to give some idea to those who are probably wondering, the following is an outline of the works of repair and restoration that we are doing in the Abbey. We are working at present on the tower (built in 1505 by the Shortalls of Ballylarkin) and when that is finished we hope to do works of alteration and repair to the interior of the church itself.

Firstly, the architect, on examining the tower found it in very poor condition. The weather had loosened all the stonework at the top of the tower — there was severe and extensive dampness in all the walls (the cause of the heavy growth of ivy and weeds) — the floors and their structural supports inside the tower had suffered from this dampness and obviously needed to be renewed or extensively repaired and all this work of repointing and recapping stonework etc. has occupied the contractor over the past weeks.

Inside the Church itself, we hope to restore the Abbey to its original simplicity by stripping the plaster from the stone walls and opening up the stone arches to form a new Sanctuary in the position of the present sacristy. The present Sacristy is in fact part of the original church and has a great East window which will dominate the interior of the Abbey when the new sanctuary is formed. We hope also to bring the Sanctuary into line with the needs of new liturgy. The major feature of this would be the altar changed so that Mass will be celebrated facing the people, and the sanctuary will have to be re-designed to fit in with this.

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