

V.—*The Round Church of the Knights Templars at Temple Bruer, Lincolnshire.*
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ONE is sorely tempted in writing upon matters connected with the Knights Templars to say something about the monstrous persecution and terrible sufferings which the unhappy brethren of the Order endured, during the opening years of the fourteenth century, at the hands of an infamous King of France, a more wicked Pope, and even of a King of England, as an excuse for bringing about their suppression.

But the subject has already received the attention of abler hands than mine,^a and the purpose of this paper is not to lay before the Society any new facts about the Order, but some notes upon a curious church of the Knights Templars at Temple Bruer which I have lately had an opportunity of investigating.

When the Order first came to England is uncertain, but probably shortly after 1130, the first house being settled on the south side of Holborn on a site between the present Chancery Lane and Staple Inn.

Seeing that there were between thirty and forty preceptories (as they were called) of the Templars in this country at the time of the suppression of the Order in 1312, it is curious that so few of their buildings should be left, and that so little should be known about them. And it is not as if the suppression had been followed by the destruction of the preceptories; on the contrary, with but few exceptions, they were passed on intact with the grant of the landed possessions to the kindred Order of the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, which used and enjoyed them until it in turn was suppressed in the sixteenth century. A few churches have indeed survived, with here and there an odd

^a See Anthony O'Neal Haye, *The Persecution of the Knights Templars* (Edinburgh, 1865).

