

The Vicarage
Old Malton
Yorkshire
August 13th 87

have already been made, & something will be done in a strictly Censorious spirit.

I know how many are the claims upon every one in these our immediate neighbourhood, & how hard the times are, but I venture to hope, that, considering this is the only Church left of the only English Monastic Order ever founded that you will give me a helping hand. Return me

Yours truly

Edward. A. B. Pitman

P.S. If every Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, will give a Subscription no matter how small, the greater part of the work can be done.

Dear Mr Pitt

I am writing to ask you, as one of the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries to allow me to use your name, & if you will also give me a subscription towards pressing the Priory of Old Malton?

This Priory has a peculiar claim on all Englishmen, as it is the only filbertine Church left in the country, & as you are probably aware, out of all the Monastic Orders located in England, the filbertine was the only one of English Origin. St. Filbert the Founder of this remarkable Order being born at Scampingham in Lincolnshire.

At one time there were 26 filbertine Houses in England, but all have disappeared with the exception of this Priory which was built in 1150 by Eustace Fitz-John for the filbertine Canons, two years after the foundation of the Order. From that date to

Thursday "The Great Church" has been used
as a Parish Church. St. Gilbert ~~thrice~~ did not
join his order, till several years after its
foundation & when he died he received "the
Habit of his order", from "his dear friend
Roger Prior of Old Malton, & when he died
at the age of 106 he bequeathed the care of all his
houses to this same Roger.

The Church is now a beautiful ruin of what was
once a magnificent Minster, & I enclose an
extract from a letter of the late Sir Gilbert
Scott, to myself, in which he says "It is a most
magnificent & valuable historical monument
the loss of which would be irreparable".

So ruinous has it become that steps have had
to be taken at once to preserve it. A sum
of £4,000 is required to thoroughly do this,
& repair the Church with a regard to
the dignity of its proportions & its unique
history. This I have collected at 1,000. Earl
St. William has given £750 & the Duke of
Devonshire & the Marquis of Ripon have

has assembly constituted, as have also the
members of the Yorks. & Lincoln Diocesan Association
who visited the Priory last year under the Presidency
of the Dean of York (when I read a Paper on the
Priory & the following Order which is being printed).

The Deans of York, Canterbury, Lincoln, Lichfield,
Newham, Rochester & Bangor & Norwich
in consideration of its history have also
subscribed.

With this sum, the work of Preservation
has been commenced. In this poor
Agricultural Parish & Parish household I could
not hope to raise the £2,000 still required,
but I feel that the Old Priory in the
history also the unique appeals to the
sympathy of all Antiquarians & Ecclesiologists
in all parts of the Country.

I may say that no Restoration whatever
is contemplated, & the plans which have been
drawn by Mr. Temple. L. Moore of 6
Downshire Hill Hampstead have met
with the full approval of the Society for
the Preservation of Ancient Buildings.
Several interesting discussions