

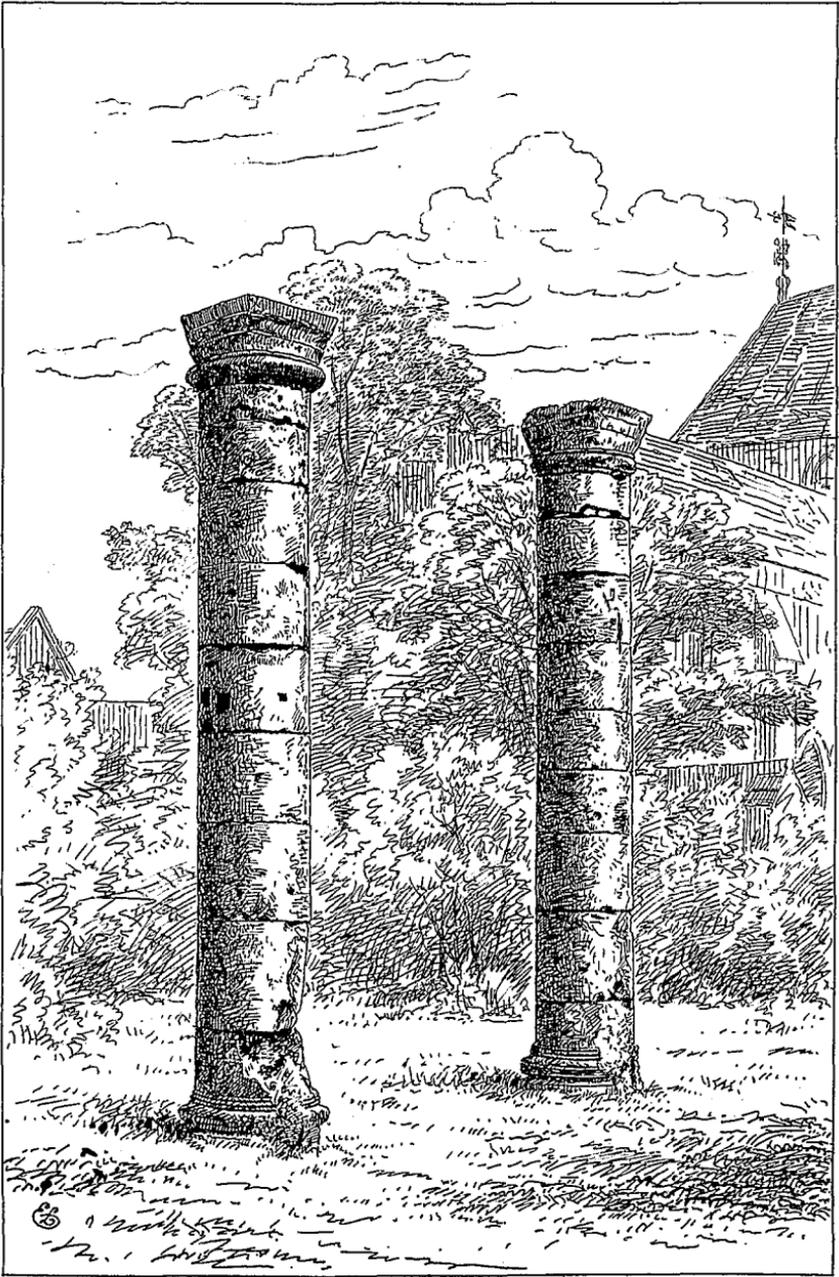
THE COLUMNS OF RECVLVER CHURCH.

MOST of the members of the Society are probably aware that a few years since, when Mr. Roach Smith published his 'Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver, and Lymne,' the ancient church of Reculver had been stripped of its roof, and its internal arrangements had been so utterly destroyed, or removed, that the outer walls only remained. Not very many years ago, however, it did contain masonry and columns, which, from a drawing made by Mr. Gandy, A.R.A., Mr. Roach Smith assigned, with some slight reservations only, to the Roman period, and Mr. Gandy's drawing was re-engraved in his volume, together with the representation of a column very similar to those formerly in the church, upon a Roman sarcophagus. It was impossible that the accuracy of Mr. Gandy's drawing could be tested, as the columns had long been removed, and it was concluded that they had been destroyed. In December last, however, Mr. J. B. Sheppard, of Canterbury, noticed in an orchard, which a friend of his had lately purchased near that city, some fragments of columns, to which he was attracted by their peculiar character. On closely examining them, he at once, from acquaintance with the work above mentioned, recognized them as the lost columns of old Reculver Church, and immediately announced his discovery to Mr. Roach Smith, who, without an hour's delay, wrote to the Honorary Secretary. On receiving this intimation, we felt that the Society would fail in its duty if it hesitated to exert itself in securing these in-

teresting relics; we, therefore, by the same night's post, communicated to Canon Robertson a suggestion made by Mr. Roach Smith, that the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury should be solicited to join in the purchase of the columns, and to give them a resting-place within the precincts of the cathedral. The Dean and resident Canons heartily and promptly responded. They at once agreed to provide a site, to undertake the removal and erection of these columns, and, from the stores of old stonework at their disposal, to make some compensation in kind to the proprietor, William J. Cooper, Esq., formerly Mayor of Canterbury, who liberally expressed his willingness to give up the Reculver relics for preservation in a place accessible to the public at all times.

We have now the pleasure of being able to report that these arrangements have been actually carried out, and that one of the capitals which was missing in the fragments found at Canterbury, has since been discovered by Mr. Sheppard, in a farmyard at Reculver, and is re-erected with the rest, near the Baptistery, at the north side of the Cathedral, as represented in the accompanying Plate. If any doubt could have been felt as to the identity of the columns at Canterbury with those which formerly stood in Reculver Church, this second discovery is decisive of the question.

There are some interesting details in the columns which are not in Mr. Gandy's drawing. We hope to furnish exact particulars of them in a future volume. Altogether, they seem to be of grander proportions, and even more fully to warrant their appropriation, if not actually to the Roman epoch, to a period bordering close upon it.



COLUMNS FROM THE ANCIENT CHURCH OF RECVLVER .