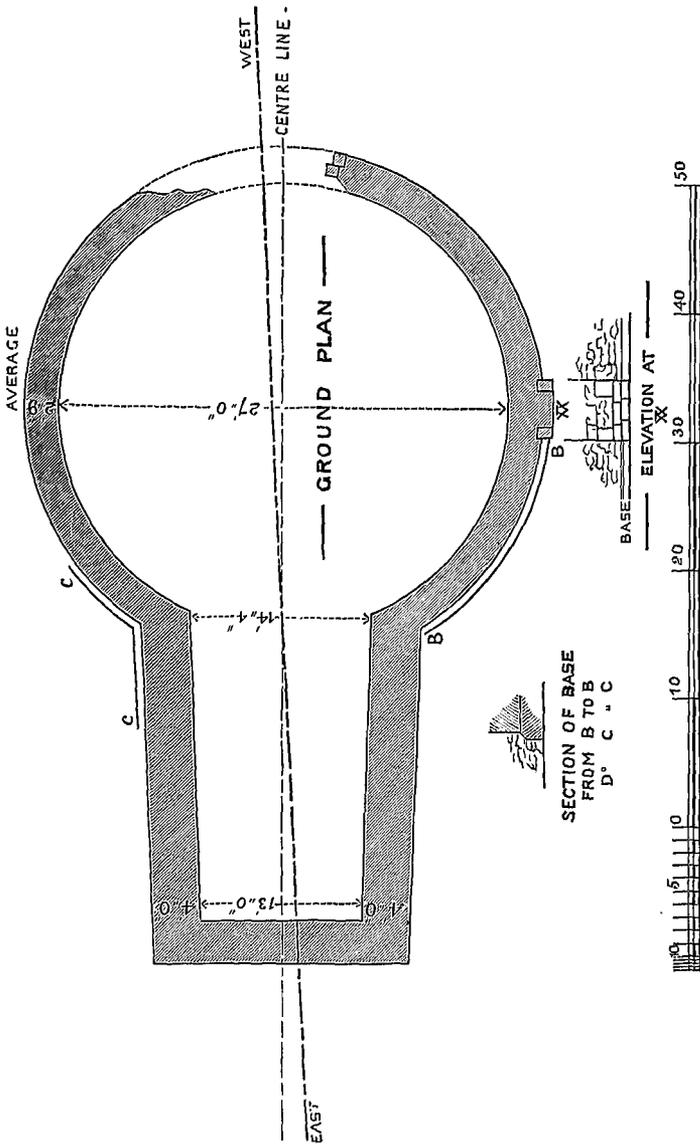


## RUINS OF A ROUND CHURCH, AT DOVER.

FROM a drawing kindly lent by Mr. Edward Knocker, F.S.A., we are enabled to engrave the plan of a Round Church, which formerly stood overlooking the sea, on the western heights, at Dover. Its foundations were discovered at the beginning of the present century. Having been completely excavated, they are now carefully preserved and guarded by a fence. By the popular error which ascribes all such round churches to the Knights Templars, this ruined church has been called "The church of the Templars in which King John surrendered his crown to the Pope's Legate."\*

The fact is that such round churches were built in imitation of the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, before the Order of Knights Templars was

\* Roger of Wendover says, "Convenerunt apud Doveram decimo tertio die Maii [1213] . . . rex et Pandulphus cum comitibus. . . ." (iii. 248). On that day, May 13th, the king signed a charter of submission "Teste meipso *apud Doveram*." The king's surrender of his crown is thus narrated by Roger de Wendover (iii. 252), "Rebus, ut jam dictum est, expeditis convenerunt iterum, rex Anglorum et Pandulphus cum proceribus regni, *apud domum militum Templi juxta Doveram*, decimo quinto die Maii in vigilia scilicet Ascensionis ubi rex, juxta quod Romæ fuerat sententiatum, resignavit coronam suam, cum regnis Angliæ et Hiberniæ, in manus domini papæ cujus tunc vices gerebat Pandulphus memoratus." The records of the Templars shew that their house near Dover was at Ewell. The king's surrender of his crown is thus dated "Teste meipso apud domum militum Templi *juxta Doveram* . . . xv die Maii anno regni nostri decimo quarto" (Roger of Wendover, iii, 254).



PLAN OF THE RUINS OF A ROUND CHURCH ON THE WESTERN HEIGHTS AT DOVER (CALLED THE TEMPLARS' CHURCH).

founded. Of the four round Churches now existing in England, only one (the Temple Church in London) was built by the Templars. At Cambridge, the round church of the Holy Sepulchre was consecrated in the year 1101. At Northampton, the round church of the Holy Sepulchre was built about A.D. 1120. The Order of Knights Templars obtained no possessions in England until the year 1134, although that Order was founded abroad in 1118. The round church at Little Maplestead, in Essex, is dedicated to St. John of Jerusalem, and was erected about 1186 for the Knights of the Hospital of St. John. There is a round chapel in Ludlow Castle, and there was a round church on the western heights at Dover.

The dimensions of the round church at Dover were in some respects identical with those of St. John's, Little Maplestead, in others the Dover church was slightly the smallest of the two. It consisted of a circular nave, with a chancel which was oblong but not rectangular. The exterior diameter of the nave was thirty-five feet; the interior diameter being twenty-seven feet, and its walls four feet thick. The interior of the oblong Chancel was twenty-five feet long; its width at the west end was fourteen feet four inches, and at the east end thirteen feet. The only distinctive architectural feature now remaining is the Norman plinth, of Caen stone, several feet of which are found at the north-east portion of the nave, and also, on the south-east, at the junction of the nave and the Chancel. The orientation of the building is not perfect, as the central line inclines slightly towards the south.