

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE I. GENERAL GROUND-PLAN OF THE VICARS' CLOSE AND THE CHAIN-GATE.

THIS is a *Ground-plan* of the whole range of buildings, as completed by Bishop Beckington and his executors, forming the *Vicars' College*, or *Close*; and also of the *Chain-Gate*, by which it is connected, across the road, with the Cathedral at AA. B is a room under the *Common Hall*, used, probably, as a beer-cellar. C is a vaulted room under the *Kitchen*, communicating with other offices to the left, or west. D, vaulting under the *Great Staircase*, leading from the Close to the Hall, and which is entered at F by a richly groined *Porch** under the *Tower*.† E is the *Entrance-Gateway* leading from the road or street to the Close.‡ GG are two rows of houses forming the *Vicars' Dwellings*, each containing, on the ground-floor, one living-room, a staircase, and a privy, with a small garden in front, walled round, and entered by a porch, with a yard behind; on the first floor, one sleeping-room: each room has a fire-place, one window and a loop-hole in front, and one window in the rear.§ H is a beautiful little *Chapel* at the north end of the area, connected to the first house, on the left hand, by a small building, supposed to have formed part of the chaplain's dwelling, which is ornamented by four panels under the window, containing shields; the first to the left hand bears the arms of the see of Wells; the second, those of the united see of Bath and Wells; the third, those of Beckington; and the fourth, what are supposed to be those of Stillington; these last are delineated in Plate VI*. Over the Chapel is a *Library*, approached by a small circular staircase in the north-west corner.|| I is the situation, on the first floor, of the elegant little *Oriel Window* represented in Plates V. and VI. This house, we may safely presume, was the dwelling, originally, of one of the principals; it communicates with the entrance-gateway by a lobby and door. KK are two *Wells*, which have, to this day, a plentiful

* A plan of the groining is given in Plate XXV.

† See Plates XVII. and XVIII.

‡ This portion of the plan will be better understood by referring to Plates XII. and XIII., and the descriptions of the same.

§ These houses are more fully delineated in Plates II., III., IV., V., and VI.

|| See Plates VII., VIII., IX., X., and XI.