

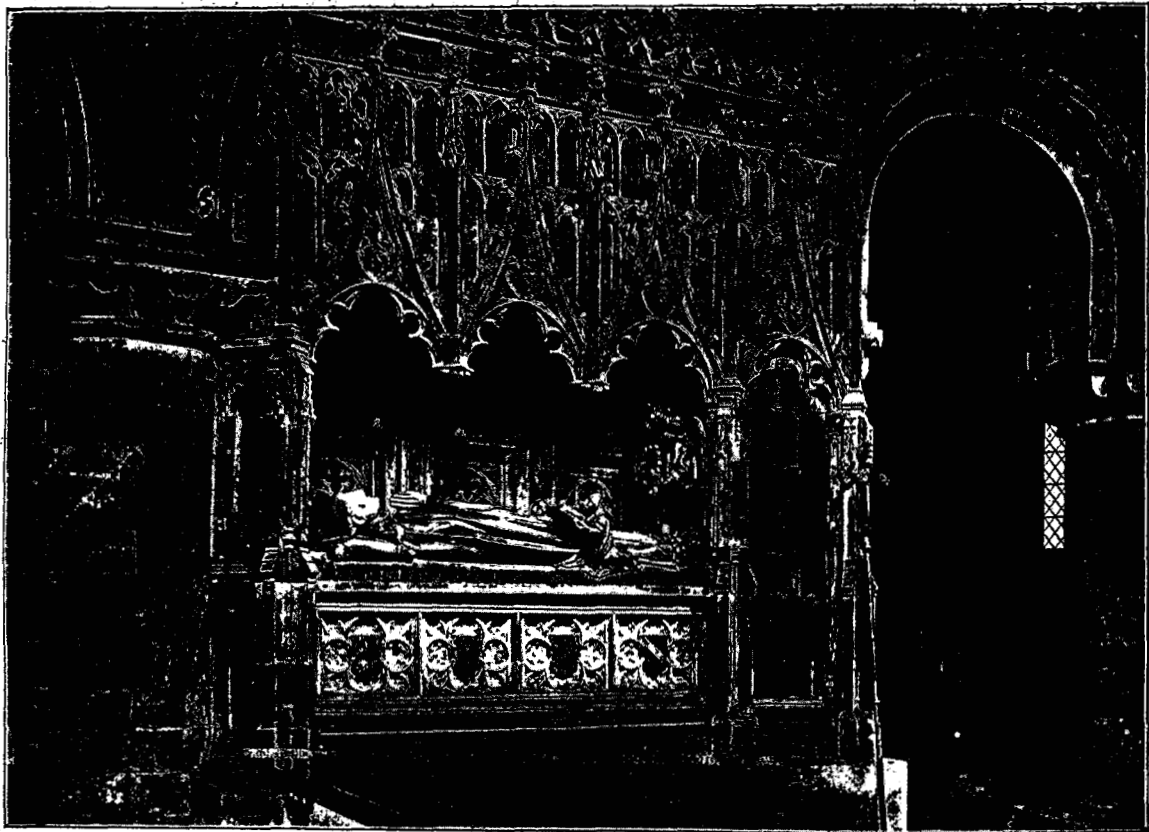
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, A.D. 1123—A.D. 1546, quoted from old chronicles by the late Mr. W. Marrant Baker, in his instructive history of the hospital, will sympathise with the writer of this letter, and those who have looked on the tomb of Rahere in the chancel of the Priory Church of St. Bartholomew's the Great in Smithfield, which he founded after spiritual promptings and saintly visions, have little doubt that the sanguine spirit of the man has never ceased its devotion to the work which during mortal life it inspired.

History testifies to the ribald youth of Rahere,

the world's reputation, our Lord chooseth to confound the mighty of the world."

RAHERE'S VISION OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

Rahere, repenting of his follies and sins, determined to go to the Court of Rome, "Coveting in so great a labour to do the worthy fruits of penance," "Where at the shrines of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, he weeping his deeds prayed the Lord for remission of them." "And while he tarried there, in that meanwhile he began to be vexed with grievous sickness; and his dolours little and little taking their increase, he drew to the extreme of



THE TOMB OF RAHERE, FOUNDER OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

where in Kings' palaces "in spectacles, in feasts, in plays, and other courtly mockeries and trifles intending, he led forth the business of all the day."

To continue the words of the old MS., "This manner of living he chose in the beginning, and in this excused his youth. But the inward Seer and Merciful God of all, He which out of Mary Magdalen cast seven fiends, He which to the Fisher gave the keys of Heaven, mercifully converted this man from the error of his way, and added to him so many gifts of virtue.

"For why? They that are foolish and feeble in

life; the while dreading within himself that he had not still for his sins satisfied to God, therefore he supposed that God took vengeance of him for his sins, amongst outlandish people, and deemed the last hour of his death drew him nigh.

"This remembering inwardly, he shed out as water his heart in the sight of God, and all brake out in tears; that he avowed, that if health God would him grant, that he might return to his country he would make an Hospital in recreation of poor men, and to them so there gathered, necessities minister after his power.

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