

Observe, before leaving the churchyard, the view of the Old Rectory, on the north.

Turning down past the White Horse—a fine old inn, as white as its sign—cross the Mimram, and bearing (right) round past the grass-plot (an entrance to Panshanger is here), follow along the main road to a path on the left, by a bit of white fencing. Curving round beside a copse, the path then keeps forward, and gives a view of Hertford down in the valley. Crossing the railway, the course is between hedges into Sele Road. This descends to North Road, where a right turn brings you by way of St Andrew Street, and over the Lea and past Hertford Castle again, to Fore Street and the Bus Station.

Chapter V: St Albans

The City, the Ruins, and a Ramble

And Offa built a goodly minster and caused monks to serve God therein. And he called it after the name of Alban, who was the first martyr of Christ in the isle of Britain, in the old times when the Romans dwelt therein. And he built it hard by the town of Verulam, where Alban had died. *Old English Chronicle.*

Offa, who ruled over the Midlands in the time of the Heptarchy, built his minster about the year 790, on the site of a church in which Alban is said to have been buried. Before Offa's time, Verulam or Verulamium had been settled by the Saxon sept of the Watlings. Hence it was once known as Watlingceaster, while the Roman road that led to it is called Watling Street to this day. Until the Dissolution, St Alban's Abbey was one of the chief English religious houses and was notable for monastic art and learning. Afterwards, like Verulamium before it, the abbey became a quarry, so that only the abbey church (a cathedral since 1877) and the Great Gatehouse remain. Much of the church dates from Norman times, when Offa's monastery was rebuilt with material from the Roman ruins.

The cathedral is of profound historical and architectural interest, the Roman ruins are the most extensive relics of the kind near London, while St Albans itself, in spite of changes in time and taste, still has a wealth of old buildings. The walks are arranged so as to give a tour of the city and the Roman ruins for ordinary visitors, with the addition of a ramble for those who desire it.

THE VERULAMIUM MUSEUM was erected by the Corporation of St Albans at a cost of over £8,000. It is a finely equipped modern museum, built of brick with flint panelling to harmonize with its surroundings. There are exhibited three of the finest mosaic pavements found during the excavations of 1930-4, burials, pottery, coins and other small objects illustrative of the culture of the prehistoric and Roman cities of Verulamium. The hours of opening

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