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J. E. FOSTER, M.A., made a communication on
THE CONNECTION OF THE CHURCH OF CHESTERTON
WITH THE ABBEY OF VERCELLI.

That for 200 years the rectors of Chesterton should have been the Abbot and Convent of Vercelli, a distant Italian monastery, is a fact so unusual that the investigation of it forms an interesting item of local history.

Vercelli, a town of some thirty thousand inhabitants, lies about 40 miles to the south-west of Milan on the border between Piedmont and Lombardy. The battle of the Raudine Fields was fought here in the year B.C. 101, when Marius drove back the Cimbri who had entered Italy in larger force than any northern invaders had done before.

But the connection with Chesterton is a story of mediæval times.

Guala Bicchieri, cardinal of St Martins and papal legate to England, is a prominent figure in the history of his time. He was a member of a patrician and wealthy family of Vercelli. His father was Consul of that town, and judge of the sacred palace under the Emperor Henry VI. His mother Alasia di Borromei was also a member of a local family of high standing, and an earlier Guala who was either his uncle or grandfather was a prominent leader in the Crusades, took part in the victorious entry into Jerusalem, and joined the brotherhood of the Templars. Born in the middle of the 12th century, the future cardinal showed his talents at an early age. While still a young man he was elected a colleague by the canons of Eusebiono Capitolo. Among his comrades were Guale di Bondini, afterwards Bishop of Vercelli, Jacopo Carisio, afterwards Bishop of Turin, and Raymond, later Abbot of Lucedio. He was raised to the Cardinalate in 1205 by Innocent III, who sent him to compose differences which had arisen between Siena and Florence, and afterwards despatched him as papal legate to France, then under an interdict owing to the

scandalous proceedings in connection with the divorce and remarriage of the King Philip Augustus. He came to England in 1216, clothed with the same authority, in order to settle the affairs of the kingdom, and prevent the invasion of Louis, son of the King of France, who had been invited over by the Barons. On the death of King John in the same year he received fresh credentials from the newly elected pope Honorius III. On October 28 he conducted Henry III to Gloucester, and administered the oaths at his coronation. Henry was only seven years old, and the legate gave him into the hands of William Count of Pembroke and Earl Marshall, who was appointed Regent of the Kingdom. Louis of France was driven from the country, and the invasion of the northern part of the realm by Alexander King of Scotland repulsed. Peace was re-established on the 11th September, 1217. Guala left England at the end of November, 1218, and returned to Italy. Here he devoted himself and his riches, which were very great, to the foundation in his native town of institutions of public utility. He built the great hospital for the use of the poor and strangers, and at the request of Pope Honorius III gave new statutes to the Scottish hospital for pilgrims of that nation, for whom he had a particular affection. That may have been due to the fact that the national saint was S. Andrew, and Guala appears to have specially favoured his cult. The hospital however appears to have been dedicated to S. Bridget.

But it is in the foundation of the Abbey and building of the Church of S. Andrew in the city that he gave the most conspicuous proof of his bounty, and the city its most celebrated ornament. The story can be read in all accounts of Vercelli. The tastes of the Cardinal appear to have been profoundly influenced by his travels in Transalpine countries. Professor Freeman refers to the Church as unique in Italy, the exterior being in the German style, the interior in the style prevalent over the south-west of England and the northern part of France. The architect's name was Brightins, and it has been suggested that he was an Englishman, but this is not supported by the most recent authorities.

The Cardinal died in June, 1227. By his will, made by virtue of a faculty from the Pope, he constituted the church which he had built the general heir of his estate, after giving many small legacies to the other churches and institutions in Vercelli. It is almost certain that the manuscript which makes the name of Vercelli familiar to English scholars came to the Abbey under this bequest. The Codex Vercellensis contains, besides some pieces in prose, six Anglo-Saxon poems of which the first and longest is concerned with the Life of S. Andrew. It is written in the Wessex dialect by one Cynewulf probably about the year 720, and this copy dates from A.D. 950. Some stanzas of an earlier version of the Dream of the Holy Rood, another of the poems in it, are inscribed in runes on the well-known Anglian Cross at Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire, probably dated about A.D. 680.

An inventory of the books which passed under the above bequest is preserved¹. Some of the service books in the Cardinal's private chapel were in the English language as two items in the list refer to them as "bibliotheca de littera anglicana qua D. Cardinalis utebatur in capella" and "Omeliarium de Capella D. Cardinalis de bona littera anglicana." That he had obtained some books during his stay in England is evident and therefore the book which is entered in the inventory as a Codex only without any further description may well have been of English derivation. As the official who drew up the list was unable to read the Anglo-Saxon characters, he could not give a description of it. The Cardinal's manuscripts were early absorbed in the library of the Cathedral at Vercelli. In a catalogue made in 1602 several of them are recognisable². That numbered 90 is described by the cataloguer as "Liber gothicus, sive longobardus (cum legere non valeo)." Probably this was the Codex in question. An account of it and others of the early manuscripts is contained in a correspondence between the learned Francis Bianchini of Verona and Cardinal Delle-Lancie³. He refers to the above manuscript by the

¹ Lampugnani, *Sulla Vita di Gualo Bicchieri*. Vercelli, 1842, pp. 125 et seq.

² De Gregory, *Istoria della Vercellese Letteratura ed Arte*. Torino, 1824, Part iv. p. 567.

³ *Ib.* pp. 554 et seq.

number 41, and states that it is in a language unknown to him but probably German. It was not till Dr Blume visited the library in 1822 and made a copy of the poems that its nature was definitely ascertained. A considerable literature has since grown up about it.

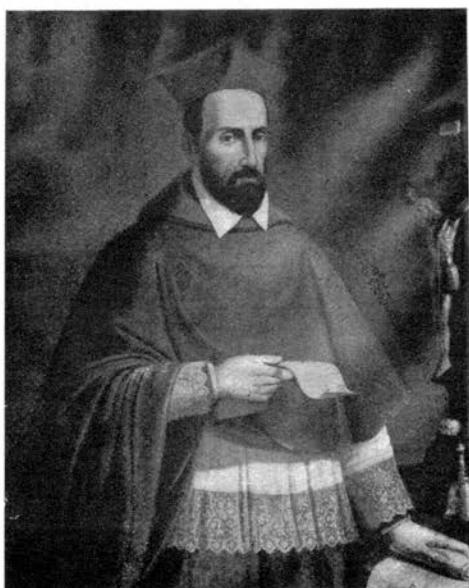
A portrait of the Cardinal is in the great hospital founded by him and a copy appears on the opposite page (Plate XVIII). For this I am indebted to Messrs Gallardi and Ugo, publishers at Vercelli.

The connection between Cardinal Guala and Chesterton begins with a document which appears on the Patent Rolls dated the 29th day of June, 1217¹, directing Falkes de Breauté, Sheriff of the County, to deliver seisin to Lawrence, rector of Chesterton and clerk of Cardinal Guala, of a rent of 14 pence payable by the tenants of Chesterton Church, to hold till the King attained the age of 14.

Of the grant of the Church to the Cardinal by the King I can find no trace among the official documents at the Record Office and I am informed by the authorities there that as the charter was granted during the King's minority it was never formally enrolled, and that no charter rolls, on which it would have been enrolled, are extant for the first eleven years of his reign. A copy of it however is printed at p. 100, note *r*, of the life of the Cardinal published at Milan in 1767 by Giuseppe Antonio Frova, Abbot from 1782 to 1788 of the Abbey founded by the Cardinal. He wrote under the pseudonym of Philadelfo Libico. The book is in the British Museum (1371. K. 9). The charter is in the following terms:—

Henricus gratia Dei Rex anglorum Dominus Hybernie Dux Normannie & Aquitanie Comes Andegavie. Universis Christi fidelibus presentes litteras vifuris, vel audituris salutem in Domino. Universitati vestre notum facimus quod nos intuitu Dei & pro salute nostra & pro animabus predecessorum nostrum. Ad preces etiam Venerabilis Patris & Amici nostri Karissimi Domini GUALE tituli S. Martini Presbiteri Cardinalis Apostolice sedis Legati de consilio fidelium nostrorum dedimus & concessimus Deo & Ecclesie B. Andree Vercellensis quam idem Dominus Guala in honore Dei & B. Andree construxit ibidem & Canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus Ecclesiam de cestretune in Episcopatu Elyensi que de

¹ *Pat. Rolls*, 1216-1225, p. 76.



Cardinal Guala.

nostra est donacione Cum omnibus ad illam pertinentibus in liberam & puram & perpetuam elemosinam in proprios usus omni tempore possidentem ad sustentacionem domus ejusdem consente Venerabili Patre Domino Roberto tunc Elyensi electo. Quare volumus & firmiter precipimus quod Canonici domus memorate habeant & teneant ecclesiam memoratam liberam & quietam ab omni servitio & exactione seculari sicut supra dictum est & in hujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras patentes dedimus eisdem sigillo Comitis Willelmi Marescalli rectoris nostri & regni nostri sigillatas teste eodem apud Westmonasterium octavo die Novemboris anno regni secundo.

Attached to it is a small seal of green wax with a device of a warrior on horseback waving a sword in his right hand, and with the inscription round it "Sigillum Marescalli."

Copies of the charters follow in note *s* whereby the Magnates of the realm and Robert de York the Bishop elect of Ely¹ confirmed the grant.

The former is not dated and is under the hands and seals of Walter [Gray] Archbishop of York, and the following bishops: William [de S. Mere l'Eglise] of London, Peter [des Roches] of Winchester, Richard [Marsh] of Durham, Richard [Le Poore] of Salisbury, Hugh [Wallis] of Lincoln, Joscelyn [Troteman] of Bath and Glastonbury, Simon [of Apulia] of Exeter and William [Cornhill] of Coventry, and of William Marshall Count of Pembroke, Hubert de Burgh Chief Justice of England, Saerius Count of Winchester, John Marshall, and Thomas de Erdington.

The latter is dated the Ides of November in the second year of the reign of the King (13th November, 1217).

On the 6th Nones or the 2nd May, 1224, Pope Honorius III also confirmed the grant thus made to Cardinal Guala in consideration of his labours in promoting the peace of the realm, as stated in the documents, as did Pope Urban IV by a charter dated at Viterbo on the 4th of the Calends of September, 1261 (29th August, 1261).

Copies of these are given in notes *t* and *u* on subsequent pages in the above book, and the originals were preserved in the charter room of the Abbey.

The property of the Abbey including that in England was taken under the protection of St Peter by bulls of Pope

¹ See addenda.

Gregory IX granted in 1227 and of Pope Boniface VIII in 1300.

The value of the rectory thus granted appears to have been considerable. Particulars of the property held of the Priors of Barnwell, Lords of the Manor of Chesterton are set out in the *Liber Memorandum Ecclesie de Bernewelle*. A copy taken from the edition of that manuscript published by Mr J. W. Clark is printed in Appendix I by his permission.

At p. 406 of the second volume of the printed copy of the *Hundred Rolls* is an account of the whole of the property of the Abbey in Chesterton including that held of the Priors of Barnwell. This is dated 7 Edward I (November 20, 1278—November 20, 1279) and is printed in Appendix II.

In the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV made in 1291 the advowson is valued at £53. 6s. 8d. which far exceeds the value of any other in the diocese as then existing except Bassingbourne, Haddenham, Leverington and Steeple Morden, which are valued at £60, £80, £85 and £66. 13s. 4d. respectively. The sum of £53. 6s. 8d. would be equivalent to £1000 at least in the present day.

The grant thus made by Henry III in his minority was confirmed on the 16th January, 123⁸, and the confirmatory charter appears on the Charter Rolls¹.

The grant was again confirmed on the 12th of July, 1406, by King Henry IV² and on the 20th of October, 1420, by Henry V by charter dated at Westminster.

The Abbey performed its spiritual duties to the parish by appointing a Vicar. A reference is made to him in the account of its possessions in the *Hundred Rolls*, and a transcript of a document is preserved amongst the Episcopal Records at Ely whereby the Abbey made a composition with Stephen Rampton, described as the first Vicar of Chesterton, providing for him and his successors a vicarage and certain property as an endowment. A copy is printed in Appendix III. It was enrolled in the episcopal register on the 8th of June, 1424, but the date of the original document is not given.

¹ *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, Vol. I. p. 234.

² *Pat. Rolls*, 1405–1408, p. 220.



View from N.W.



View from N.

Supposed residence of Rector from Vercelli.



View from S.W.

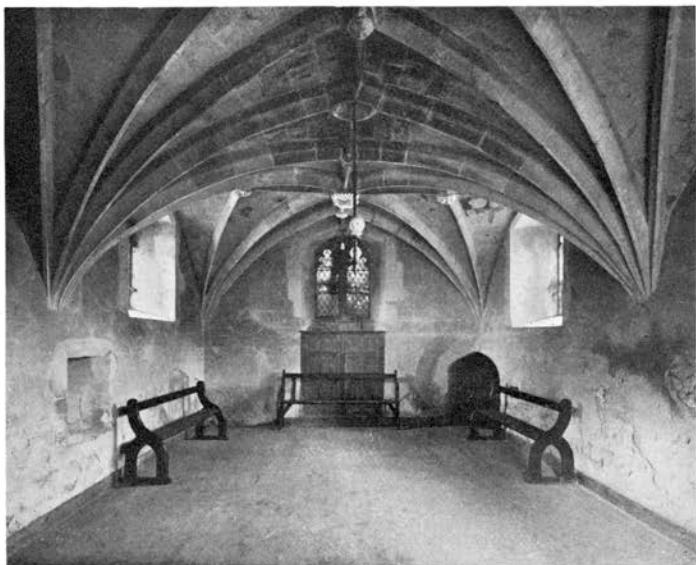


Photo. by Stearn, Cambridge.

Interior.

Supposed residence of Rector from Vercelli.

At p. 104 of the life by Frova is a copy of the institution of Adam de Wisebech to the Vicarage by the Cardinal on the 15th of the Calends of December (17th November) in the third year of the Pontificate of Honorius III (1218). It was signed at a place called Badingas or Badingum, and entered on the 55th membrane of the collection of charters at the Abbey relating to Chesterton.

The vicarage was then to have as its endowment "totum altaramgium integre tamen garbis exceptis et tertii partem Mansi* pertinentis ad Ecclesiam et duas ac̄s terræ arabilis quorum una proxima est bysuene¹ Wenelle & extenditur versus Becheweys & alia est in Ferfurlonge²; ubi Ecclesia habet quinque Rodas. Habebit etiam novem solidos annuos de redditu tenentium Ecclesiam, quos recipiet in quatuor terminis anni per manum Custodis Ecclesiae.

* Mansum³ Italis esse quantum agri singulis annis per Boum arare & colere potest, exploratum."

In the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV above mentioned the vicarage is stated to be of the value of £6.

The connection with the parent Abbey was kept up by the appointment as rector of a member of the house and probably the building whose scanty remains now stand in the rectory garden was his residence. Of this I am enabled to give excellent views (Plates XIX and XX). Those of the exterior are due to Dr Allen of St John's College who was good enough to take them at my request, the interior was taken by Messrs Stearn for the Rev. Henry Cowper Cradock who has been much interested in this paper as will be seen hereafter. The small size of the reproduction makes it impossible to shew details but the roof bosses are fine examples. A bearded face is on the centre one, and a head in half projection on the one to the right. This may be a portrait of the rector who

¹ No doubt the copyist misread this word. The boundary was the "Hyfton way."

² A misreading for "Fenfurlong."

³ Ducange gives another explanation of the word "Mansum" as follows, "ea agri portio, quæ ipsi Ecclesiæ in dotem assignari solebat, vel Presbytero Ecclesiæ deservienti; cum aliquot mancipiis, quæ immunis erat ab omnibus oneribus."

represented the Abbey when the roof was built. The upper part of the building is in the style of the latter part of the 14th century. Some writers consider the lower story to be a century earlier. No account of it or its cost appear in any of the printed histories of the parent abbey but may be preserved at Vercelli.

The Rev. Henry Cowper Cradock informs me that the late Professor Middleton thoroughly examined the church at Chesterton with him in 1887 and they came to the following conclusions.

The present structure contained indications of an Early English cruciform church of the date of about 1260 as there are remains of a window and jambs in the north transept and of jambs in the south transept of that date. At the time of examination some traces of a wall painting of the seven works of mercy were apparent in the north transept, but these have since disappeared.

About 1330 the south wall of the south transept was prolonged to the west end of the church, making a south aisle. A window of this date still remains in the transept and the south door may be put down as of corresponding age.

Probably the north transept was treated in the same way though altered at a subsequent period. The arches are of the 14th century as are also the tower and spire.

The wall painting over the chancel arch is of the 15th century but was completed before the insertion of the clerestory windows.

The chancel and existing windows are of 15th century date.

From this it would seem that much alteration was made in the church during the occupancy of the Abbey. I am unable however to trace any mention of these or of their cost in any account of the Abbey which has been published.

The Chapter records originally at Vercelli, which I have not seen, do not appear to contain very full accounts of their proceedings with regard to this portion of their property. Mandelli in his history of Vercelli, Volume III. p. 154, gives the following entries.

1239, September 8. Capitular Act of the Canons of Vercelli

approving a transaction of Abbot Thomas whereby he put an end to a lease from the Convent of Barnwell to the Abbey.

1255, June 5. The Archbishop of Milan writes to the King of England asking him to make provision for the restoration by the Convent of Barnwell of the priory of Chesterton to the Abbot of Vercelli, when restored to the Abbacy, of which he had been deprived for attaching himself to the party of the emperor Frederick II, grandson of Barbarossa. Frederick was the most remarkable figure of the middle ages. Born in 1194 and educated by Michael Scotus "the wizard" he had a most adventurous career, twice suffered papal excommunication, and drove the Pope from Rome. He died in 1250. The Abbot of Vercelli was evidently one of his adherents and suffered accordingly, but made his peace after the emperor's death.

1363, October 19. Capitular Act notifying that Brother Andreas de Alice was at the church of St Andrew in Chesterton (as rector?).

1416, January 10¹. Procuration from the said Chapter empowering Giovanni de Griscellis brother of the Abbot to recover from the Convent of St Giles at Barnwell the rent of property and of canonries belonging to the Parochial Church of St Andrew in Chesterton, saving the vicar's portion and the right of presentation to the vicarage as often as it falls vacant, and to take into his custody all chattels, whether belonging to the church or to the Venerable brother Andreas de Alice Canon Regular of the said Monastery of St Andrew Vercelli, rector minister and governor of the said Monastery for the said Church of Chesterton, which said brother is said to be paralysed and at the point of death, confined to his bed and taken in by prior John of Barnwell.

1432. Charge made by the Canons of St Andreas in a suit with Abbot Guglielmo de Griscellis that from the commencement of his administration for XVI years he paid over specially from Chesterton 240 scuta of gold whilst during the time of the preceding abbot, De Verme, 1200 scuta of gold were received from the property.

¹ This date is January 20 according to Pastè: *L'abbazia di S. Andrea di Vercelli*, Vercelli, 1907, p. 127.

1436, March 5. Concession for 7 years by the Abbot of St Andreas of the rent of Chesterton to Lodovico of Arborio and Agostino Corrado de Lignano canons there at the annual rent of 100 gold ducats and on the 14th of the same month a sub-lease was granted to Arcangelo de Pectis of Vercelli at the annual rent of 50 livres of sterling money¹.

Twenty years had elapsed since the last confirmation of the possession of the Abbey and then Henry VI by the aid of Pope Eugenius IV seized the advowson and gave it to King's Hall, Cambridge.

The first document in connection with this are letters patent of King Henry VI dated from Kennington the 2nd of May, 1440, granting the advowson of the church to the College. This document states that the advowson was in the patronage of the King, and gives no explanation as to the manner in which the Abbey had been deprived of it².

On the 8th of May, 1441, further letters patent were issued³. In these it is stated that Pope Eugenius IV had lately excommunicated, among other sons of perdition, Guillelmus late Bishop of Vercelli, because he and others against the papal prohibition remained at Basle and committed many scandalous acts in contempt of the apostolic see and supported the pretended election of Amedeus late Duke of Savoy as Felix V, and therefore the Augustinian monastery of St Andrew Vercelli, whereof Guillelmus was late Bishop and to which the parish church of Chesterton in the diocese of Ely was united, was declared void. And after referring to the foundation of King's Hall and its insufficient endowments and that the King had petitioned the Pope to separate the said church from the monastery and appropriate it to the College, and that the bulls had granted to the College the fruits and produce thereof so long as the convent and late

¹ Among the documents at Trinity College referred to on p. 200 are two which put a somewhat different complexion on this transaction. According to them Arcangelo de Pectis was appointed proctor in place of the two canons, and on June 24, 1437, he granted a lease of the rectory to William Egmanton, priest, and William Blyton of London at a rent of £30 for a term of 10 years.

² *Pat. Rolls*, 1436-1441, p. 427.

³ *Pat. Rolls*, 1436-1441, p. 532.

beneficiary should suffer the papal censure, the King licensed the College to accept the bulls and to hold the church in frank almoign.

The Bull referred to was issued at Florence and is dated the 18th of December, 1440. It is not printed in the collection of bulls known as the Bullarium, which was issued at Rome in 1727, but a copy of it appears on p. 349 of the second volume of the Correspondence of Archbishop Bekynton printed in the Rolls Series under the editorship of the late Rev. George Williams, Fellow of King's College. At page 79 of the introduction to the first volume he tells the story of the connection between the church and the monastery and of the transference of the former to the College so far as the information then obtainable allowed, and refers the reader for the full account to the roll still there, 67 feet long, which embodies all the acts and instruments relating to the transfer to which any readers who desire further information on the subject may be referred.

The appropriation of the Church to the College by Bishop Bourchier of Ely on the 24th of May, 1450, is entered at folio 27 of his register, which is among the episcopal archives. It reserves an annual fee of 6s. 8d. payable by the College to the Bishopric and a like fee to the Archdeaconry.

Efforts were made by the Abbey to obtain restitution of the church in subsequent reigns. The Capitular documents before referred to recorded that in the year 1480 a recommendation was made by the Pope to the King of England that the priory should be restored to the Abbey and they also contained a letter of procuration dated the 7th of September, 1557, whereby Don Agostino of Biella, one of the canons, was authorised by the Abbot to go to England to beg the King and Queen to restore the priory, which was said to have been lost to the Abbey through its distance from the parent house and practically through intentional neglect.

A letter is preserved among the foreign correspondence at the Record Office confirming this. By it Emanuel Philibert, Duke of Savoy, introduces to Queen Mary two delegates from Vercelli who were coming to England to press the claim.

Emanuel Philibert is called the most able and honest prince

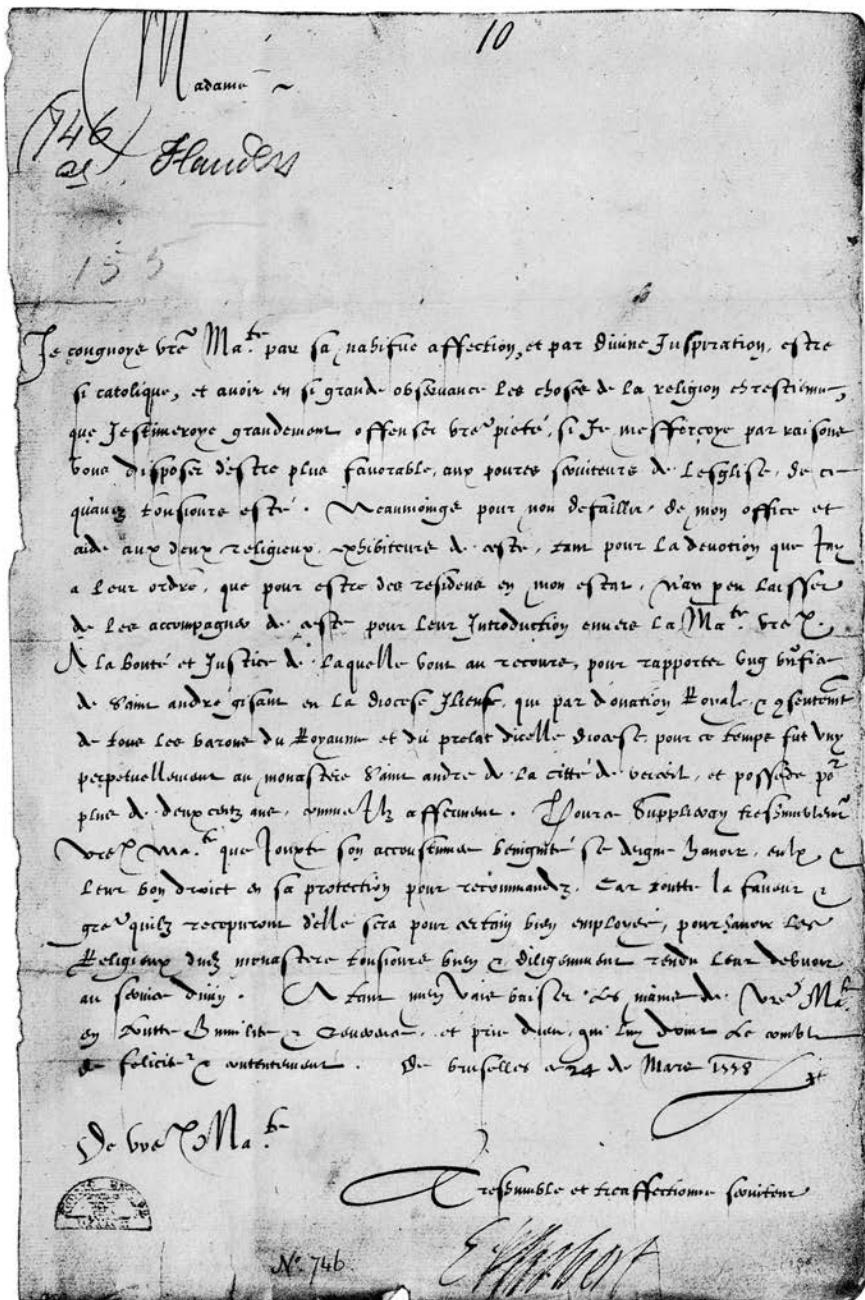
of the royal line of Savoy, by Sir William Stirling, in his work on the Cloister Life of Charles V. His father Duke Charles had been stripped of nearly the whole of his territory in the long wars between Charles V and Francis I. The son was appointed Governor of the Netherlands when Charles V retired from the world and in 1557 the victory of St Quentin proved him one of the most brilliant captains of the age. In 1559 the treaty of Cateau Cambrensis restored to him his estates.

The letter to Queen Mary is dated from Brussels the 24th May, 1558, and is in French. Though written by a secretary and only signed by the Prince its interest is deemed to be sufficient to allow the publication of a facsimile on a slightly reduced scale (Plate XXI). A translation into English appears at page 367 of the *Calendar of State Papers (Foreign Series) 1553-1558* published in 1861. It is in the following terms:—

“Knowing her by natural affection and divine inspiration to be so Catholic and to hold in so great observance what pertains to the Christian religion he feels he should greatly offend her piety if he were to endeavour by reasons to render her more favourable to the poor servants of the Church than she has ever been. Nevertheless he cannot avoid recommending to her the two religious persons who bear this letter for aid in regaining a benefice of St Andrew in the diocese of Ely which by Royal gift and consent of all the Barons of the realm and the Prelate of the diocese was perpetually united to the monastery of St Andrew in the city of Vercelli and possessed by it for more than 200 years. They beg her protection.”

Such an appeal from a Prince so highly esteemed and so closely connected by family ties (he was first cousin to the Queen's husband Philip II) would no doubt have met with full consideration had not the death of the Queen on the 17th of November, 1558, intervened. This put an end to the negotiations and with the change of policy in Elizabeth's reign they were never resumed.

The following notes and list of vicars have been kindly given to me by the Rev. Henry Cowper Cradock now vicar of Ossett, Yorkshire, sometime curate of Chesterton. While holding the curacy he made large collections for a history of



Facsimile letter from Duke of Savoy to Queen Mary.

the parish. The value and interest of the additions to this paper thus made are very great, and my best thanks are due to the donor, who has also added to my obligation by placing at my disposal the view of the interior of the building in the rectory garden reproduced on Plate XX.

On the 4th Ides or 10th of February, 1218, Lawrence de Sancto Nicolai was confirmed to the church of Tirindon, Norfolk, on the petition of Cardinal Guala, and instituted by him¹. This was no doubt Lawrence, the rector who was holding the living at the time when the advowson was presented to the Cardinal. The vacancy was filled by the appointment of Adam of Wisbeach as previously stated.

On many occasions letters of protection were obtained from the Crown for a money consideration in favour of the abbots as parsons of Chesterton, some in ordinary terms, some with the clause "nolumus," whereby the goods belonging to the abbots were exempted from liability to seizure by the King, even for the royal service. Such were granted to Abbot John on the 18th of August, 1254², and to his successors with the special clause *nolumus* inserted, on the 8th of April, 1297³, the 23rd of July, 1316⁴, and the 8th of November, 1325⁵. On the 19th of September, 1303, the Abbot Hugh had a special grant for three years, and Anthony de Sancta Agatha, his fellow canon and John de Canefeld, were nominated his representatives⁶. These privileges were renewed to him on the 8th of May, 1309, James de Theotomin being substituted for Anthony de Sancta Agatha. A similar grant was made to Abbot Nicholas on the 10th of April, 1317, and Giles de Castello, also a canon of the Abbey, was appointed his attorney⁷, and on the 20th day of April, 1331, the Abbot (Francesco de Castellanis) had permission to appoint Giles and Andrew de Vercelli his attorneys for three years in consequence of his absence beyond the seas⁸. A somewhat similar privilege was granted on the 12th October, 1295, when the Sheriff of Cambridge was directed

¹ *Record Publications, Papal Letters*, vol. I. p. 52.

² *Pat. Rolls*, 1247-1258, p. 319.

³ *Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, p. 281.

⁴ *Pat. Rolls*, 1313-1317, p. 519.

⁵ *Pat. Rolls*, 1324-1327, p. 187.

⁶ *Pat. Rolls*, 1301-1307, p. 156.

⁷ *Pat. Rolls*, 1313-1317, p. 634.

⁸ *Pat. Rolls*, 1330-1334, p. 102.

to allow William Junte, Keeper of the church, born in Lombardy, to dwell there, notwithstanding the King's order that all alien men of religion should be removed from near the sea coast¹. This order was the result of the relations of this country with France.

The year 1296 saw the commencement of negotiations for the sale by the Abbey of their interest in Chesterton, which continued intermittently till they finally lost the property; no doubt it was true, as stated in some of the documents to which reference is made, that owing to the distance from the parent Abbey, and the expense of administration by agents, the profits were wholly absorbed.

The burden of taxation was so severely felt that on the 18th Kalends of May (12th April), 1304, the Pope Benedict XI issued a mandate to the Bishop of Durham to tax these profits at their true value, as the Abbey complained that they were taxed on an amount above their value².

Authority was granted by the King to the Abbey on the 17th of March, 1298, to carry out arrangements which had been made with the Abbess and Sisters of the order of St Clare in Waterbeach to grant the church and other property to that house³, and on the 16th of August, 1347, the Abbey was empowered to enfeoff Mary de Sancto Paulo, Countess of Pembroke, with it, with liberty to her to assign it to the Abbess and Minoresses of Denny⁴. From this it would seem that the grant to the Abbey at Waterbeach had not been carried out, but it was intended that the benefit should accrue to its successors, as the Countess had recently removed the house to Denny by papal authority.

This arrangement seems to have fallen through also, for on the 16th Kalends of June, that is the 17th of May, 1391, a papal mandate to one of the Cardinals directed him to separate the Church from the Abbey and Convent and to appropriate it to some other monastery, which was to pay to the Abbey a rent at least equal to the revenue received⁵. It is expressly stated

¹ *Close Rolls*, 1288-1296, p. 461. ² *Papal Letters*, vol. i. p. 613.

³ *Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, p. 199. ⁴ *Pat. Rolls*, 1345-1348, p. 369.

⁵ *Papal Letters*, vol. iv. p. 405.

that the reason for this was that on account of the distance from the Abbey, and the expense incurred, no financial benefit accrued.

In accordance with the mandate a license was obtained on the 28th February, 1392, empowering the Abbey to grant their property in Chesterton and the advowsons of the Church and vicarage there to the warden and scholars of St Marie College, Winchester, in Oxford¹, but though the conveyance duly executed is preserved at New College (the modern name of the original grantees) the purchase seems not to have been carried out, as on the 12th July, 1406, license was granted to Andrew de Alice, proctor of the Abbey, previously mentioned and residing in the rectory of Chesterton, to remain in England with all his goods during his life².

The privilege of treatment as denizen and consequent relief from the payments of tenths and other charges on aliens beneficed within the realm and non-resident was early conferred on the Abbey³ in consideration of their paying two-tenths above the amount granted at that time by Convocation, and this was renewed by King Edward III on the 28th of September, 1348⁴, and confirmed by King Henry IV on the 18th of May, 1405⁵. This privilege did not affect the actual status of the Abbey, for in the return of alien ecclesiastical bodies holding benefices in England made by the Bishop of Ely in 1377 the Abbot of Vercelli is returned as holder of Chesterton, by Andrew de Alice, proctor, who resided in the Church.

Of the abbots named in the extracts above, John to whom a grant of protection was made in 1254, was Giovanni Arborio, Abbot of St Genuario, and bishop-elect of Turin. He was temporary holder of the abbacy of which Anfosso di Montechiaro had been deprived because he adhered to the party of the Emperor Frederick II, who had driven the Pope out of Italy. In this very year, 1254, however, the deprivation was annulled, as the Emperor was dead and the Pope had returned to Rome, and Abbot Anfosso enjoyed uninterrupted and peaceful occupation of the office for 20 years⁶.

¹ *Pat. Rolls*, 1391-1396, p. 51.

² *Pat. Rolls*, 1405-1408, p. 220.

³ *Pat. Rolls*, 1348-1350, p. 182.

⁴ *Pat. Rolls*, 1405-1408, p. 22.

⁵ Pastè, *L'abbazia di S. Andrea di Vercelli*, Vercelli, 1907, pp. 69 *et seq.*

Abbot Hugh was his successor. His name was Ugocciano dei Bondonis. He was elected in 1283 and died in office on the 19th of November, 1313¹.

Nicholas degli Avogadri, who died on the 13th of April, 1325, succeeded him².

On the 30th January, 1404³, and on the 27th March, 1407⁴, King Henry IV sent to Bishop Fordham of Ely briefs directing him not to admit anybody to the church of Chesterton, to which the King claimed the right of presentation, until the legal rights had been settled. A copy of the first brief is printed in Appendix V as the recitals are interesting, and shew how strong English sentiment in favour of the law was, that even the King felt he must justify his claim by due process. For what purpose the brief was issued is not apparent, but it is plain that some dispute was proceeding about the patronage. The patron in previous admissions is the Abbey, but in 1408 the Prior of Barnwell is named, though there is no record of any lawsuit at this period⁵.

The ecclesiastical history of Chesterton is henceforth contained in the Archives of King's Hall and of Trinity College their successors on the new foundation by Henry VIII and in them is still vested the advowson.

A list of the Vicars, so far as known, appointed while the Abbey possessed the advowson is in Appendix VI.

I have to thank many friends for kind help in writing the story. Without the cooperation of the Rev. Henry Cowper Cradock the tale would have been only half told. How much the paper gains by the illustrations of Dr Allen can be seen at once, and their quality explains the wide reputation which his work on Church Towers in various parts of the country and specially in his native county of Somerset has obtained.

The Bishop of Ely was good enough to open the episcopal collection of MSS. to me, and to facilitate the use of it by placing some documents in the University Library for temporary use; and the Master of Peterhouse has taken much interest in the investigation.

¹ Pasté, *L'abbazia di S. Andrea di Vercelli*, Vercelli, 1907, pp. 83 et seq.

² *Ib.* pp. 92 et seq.

³ Bp Fordham's Register, fo. 143.

⁴ *Ib.* fo. 163, item 1.

⁵ See addenda.

Mr J. W. Clark also kindly permitted the extract from his edition of the *Liber Memorandorum Ecclesie de Bernewelle* to appear, a book which has become indispensable to all who write about Cambridge or even an unimportant detail of its history.

Professor Skeat, Mr H. M. Chadwick of Clare College, and Mr Binnie kindly assisted me in preparing the notes on the Vercelli MS. and the latter put his architectural knowledge at my disposal for the notes on the church of St Andrew at that place.

To Signor Poma, a native of Biella, close to Vercelli, and Italian Consul at Johannesburg, my best thanks are due for originating this enquiry and for much assistance in finding authorities.

As usual in any work relating to Cambridge, acknowledgement is due to Mr Alfred Rogers and Mr Dunn of the University Library for copies of documents made with their usual accuracy.

The ready help of Mr Bartholomew, custodian of the Acton Library, opened to me the treasures of that remarkable collection.

I.

Account of the property of the Abbey of Vercelli in Chesterton in the *Liber Memorandorum Ecclesie de Bernewelle*.

The entry is in a handwriting of the 15th century, but may be a copy of an original of earlier date.

Taken from p. 74 of the edition published by J. W. Clark, Esq. in 1907, with his permission.

Tenentes Prioris in Chesterton. Abbas de Versellis tenet iij. hydas et dimidiam, vnde soluit per annum xijs. Item soluit pro quadam placea ubi molendinum solebat esse ijd. Item inueniet vnam caretam¹ in autumpno pro se et pro hominibus suis ad cariandum bladum² domini Regis. Item inueniet vnam carucam in tempore yemali ad seminandum. Item in tempore quadragesimali³ inueniet carucam. Item in tempore inbinandi⁴ j carucam. Item Abbas percipiet pro

¹ Cart.

² Ripe corn.

³ Lent.

⁴ Binare=to plough a second time.

qualibet arrura¹ jd. Item omnes tenentes eiusdem Abbatis vnumquisque eorum inueniet vnum hominem ad primam precariam² in autumpno. Et quilibet eorum recipiet oblatum³ panem et companagium⁴, videlicet ij alleces uel precium tanti valoris. Item homines dicti Abbatis herciabunt⁵ bis per annum et recipient j quadratum⁶ panem et j allecem. Preterea habebunt iij poynes⁷ auenarum et in tempore quadragesime (*sic*). Item omnes tenentes terras vnumquisque eorum inueniet vnum hominem per j diem ad colligendum fenum domini Regis excepto Willelmo et Heredibus Egidij filij sui. Item predicti homines sarculabunt⁸ videlicet terras tenentes per j diem nec percipient pro huiusmodi operibus nisi vadimonia ad festum sancti Petri ad uincula⁹ et acquietabunt omnia dominia appreiciata per visum legalium hominum sine aliqua occasione. Item predictus Abbas debet inuenire cuilibet carectario in autumpno oblatum panem et ij alleces etc.

II.

Rotuli Hundredorum, Vol. II, p. 406.

Advocacio ecclesie de Cestreton' pertinebat ad dominum Regem sed dominus Rex Henricus pater domini Regis Edwardi qui nunc est dictam ecclesiam de Cestreton dedit Abbatii et Conuentui Sancti Andree Versell' in puram et perpetuam elemosinam anno regni sui secundo integre cum omnibus libertatibus sicut rector ejusdem ecclesie quondam tenuit. Et tenent in dominico lv acras terre et habent tenentes suos et tenent curiam de tribus septimanis in iij septimanis de tenentibus suis secundum quod rectores dicte ecclesie ante fecerunt. Et habent piscariam in aqua domini Regis cum una wada¹⁰ sicut

¹ A day's work with the plough on the lord's demesne which was commuted into payment of 1d. for each arrura.

² Agricultural services due from tenants on a certain number of days when asked for by the lord.

³ A particular kind of bread given to those who performed their precaria.

⁴ A relish to be eaten with the bread.

⁵ Herciare=to harrow.

⁶ A squared loaf.

⁷ Poynē=a handful.

⁸ Sarculare=to hoe.

⁹ Festum Sancti Petri ad Vincula. Lammas day, August 1.

¹⁰ Wada. Referred by Ducange to vadum or the French wez which Godefroi refers to gué, a shallow ford or ditch. Prof. Skeat however refers it to the O.E. word waed, a ford or wading-place.

rector ante habuit et habent faldum taurum et verrem cum aliis libertatibus. Et faciet tres arruras pro tenentibus suis dicto Priori (de Barnewelle) et habebit pro qualibet arrura¹ jd. Et cariabit duas caretas bladi in augmentum ad cibum Prioris.

Isti sunt tenentes ejusdem rectoris scilicet Alexander filius Egidii tenet xxxvij acras terre per cartam et reddit per annum dicto rectori xij^s vjd. Item tenet vij acras terre per cartam et reddit per annum Roberto de Houton' vijd. Item tenet x acras per cartam de feodo Seinz et reddit Willelmo Lewyne vjd. Item tenet j acram et dimidiam terre per cartam et sustinet unum (*sic*) lampadem ante magnum altare.

Henricus de Westwode tenet j mesuagium et dimidiam acram per cartam et reddit per annum dicto rectori xijd. Item tenet tres acras et dimidiam et reddit dicto rectori xiiijd. Item tenet j acram de feodo Seinz et reddit Willelmo Lewyne jd. Item tenet j acram et tres rodas et dimidiam terre custumarie et reddit dicto Priori iijd. ob. quad².

Rogerus Bussel tenet j .messuagium et j rodam terre in crofta et reddit per annum persone vjd. Item tenet ij acras et dimidiam et dimidiam rodam et reddit Johanni de Borewell per annum ijd. et j par cyrothecarum. Item tenet tres acras et et dimidiam terre custumarie et reddit Priori vijd.

Willelmus Spir tenet j mesuagium et ij acras j rodam terre et reddit dicto rectori xiiijd. ob. Item tenet sex acras tres rodas et dimidiam terre custumarie et reddit Priori xijd. Item tenet j rodam per cartam et reddit heredibus Ade Beine quartam parte (*sic*) j piperis.

Willelmus ad Portam tenet j mesuagium et j rodam in crofta et reddit dicto rectori iijd. Item tenet iiiij acras et tres rodas terre custumarie et reddit dicto Priori xixd.

Willelmus filius Walteri Wrenne tenet j mesuagium et j acram et dimidiam terre et reddit dicto rectori vijd. Item tenet dimidiam acram terre custumarie et reddit Priori iijd.

Adam Wrenne tenet j mesuagium et j rodam in crofta et reddit per annum dicto rectori viijd. Item tenet j rodam terre custumarie et reddit Priori ob'.

¹ A day's work with the plough on the lord's demesne which was commuted into payment of 1d. for each arrura.

Walterus Sparegod tenet j mesuagium paruum et reddit dicto rectori ob' et ij capones prec' iijd.

Johannes de Beche tenet tres rodas terre et reddit rectori iijd.

Simon Wolwy tenet j mesuagium paruum et dimidiam acram terre et reddit dicto rectori iijd. et j caponem prec' jd. ob. Item tenet j mesuagium paruum de feodo rectoris per cartam et reddit Thome Gerard vijd. Item tenet tres acras et dimidiam terre custumarie et reddit Priori xd.

Alicia de Wysbeche tenet j mesuagium et sex acras terre et reddit dicto rectori ijs. vijd. et ij capones prec' iijd. Item tenet tres acras terre custumarie et reddit Priori vjd.

Willelmus Wrenne tenet j mesuagium et sex acras terre et reddit dicto rectori ijs. et ij capones prec' iijd.

Willelmus filius Egidii tenet j mesuagium et j acram et dimidiam terre et reddit dicto rectori vjd. et j caponem prec' jd. ob. Item tenet j paruum mesuagium ij acras j rodam et dimidiam terre custumarie et reddit Priori vijd. ob. quad'.

Willelmus Edward tenet j mesuagium et dimidiam acram terre et reddit dicto rectori vjd. et ob. et ij capones prec' iijd.

Agnes de Middelton tenet j mesuagium et dimidiam acram terre et reddit rectori xjd.

Robertus de Pappewrth tenet j mesuagium et j rodam terre et reddit per annum dicto rectori vjd. Item tenet sex acras j rodam terre custumarie et reddit Priori xjd. ob.

Willelmus Bracy tenet j mesuagium et xij acras terre et reddit dicto rectori iijs. et iij capones prec' iijd. ob. Item tenet j acram terre custumarie et reddit Priori ijd. Item tenet tres acras terre et reddit heredibus Ade Beine xjd.

Thomas Bercar' tenet j mesuagium j acram et tres rodas terre et reddit rectori xjd. et j caponem jd. ob. Item tenet dimidiam acram per cartam et reddit Reginaldo Fabro jd.

Matilda Derolf tenet j mesuagium et j rodam terre et reddit dicto rectori vjd. j caponem prec' jd. ob.

John Lewyne senior tenet j acram et dimidiam et reddit rectori vjd.

Thomas Gerard tenet j mesuagium paruum per cartam et reddit Johanni Portehors xjd. et Willelmo Lewyne jd. Item

tenet vij acras et tres rodas de feodo rectoris et reddit Alejandro filio Egidii iij.s.

Vicarius de Cestreton tenet xvij acras et reddit dicto rectori vjs.

This Inquisition was taken in the 7th year of King Edward I that is between the 20th November, 1278, and the corresponding date in 1279.

III.

*Extracted from a Volume of Transcripts in the Ely
Episcopal Records numbered A. 6, ff. 45, 46.*

CHESTERTON.

Compositio habita et facta inter Proprietar' et Vicarium
Ecclesie parochialis de Chesterton.

Uniuersis Christi fidelibus presentes literas inspecturis vel audituris Johannes permissione divina Episcopus Eliensis Salutem in domino sempiternam. Vniuersitati vestre notum facimus per presentes, quod nos (scrutatis Archivis nostris) quasdam literas compositionem inter Abbatem et Canonicos Conventuales Ecclesie Sancti Andree de Vercell' in Lombardia, et Primum vicarium ecclesie parochialis de Chesterton nostre dioc', de et super porcione vicarie predice continentis invenimus inter cetera, quarum quidem literarum tenor talis est. Hec finalis et realis Compositio inter Abbatem et Canonicos Conventuales Ecclesie Sancti Andree de Vercell' in Lombardia ex vna parte et nostrum primum vicarium ecclesie Sancti Andreæ de Chesterton prope Cantebrigiam Elien' dioc' ex altera parte testatur. In dei nomine Amen et ad perpetuam rei memoriam. In primis Nos dicti Abbas et fratres conventuales veri patroni et Rectores dicte Ecclesie Sancti Andreæ de Chesterton predict', concedimus dicto nostro vicario perpetuo liberè ac omnibus imposterum suis successoribus imperpetuum duratur' et sine annua pensione vnum nudum fundum pro sua vicaria suis propriis expensis edificanda et reparanda de fundo nostre Rectorie prope ecclesiam ex parte australi continen' in se in latitudine viam centum pedum et in longitudine centum et sexaginta pedum. Et nos defensabimus predictam vicariam nostris propriis expensis pro

pariete ex parte orientali à nostra Rectoria. Item concedimus dicto nostro vicario perpetuo pro se et suis successoribus libere et sine aliqua servitute de gleba nostre ecclesie xvij acras terre arabilis cum roda prout iacent per diversas parcellas in campo orientali medio et campo occidentali (que quidem xvij acre cum roda sunt quarta pars terre arabilis pertinentis tunc temporis ad nostram vicariam), ad eius et eorum p̄sonam et sustentationem omnibus temporibus ei et eiis duratur'. Item concedimus dicto nostro vicario quod non puniatur nec amercetur quamvis non veniat ad curiam nostram pro dictis terris seu vicaria die qua tenetur, sed serviat deo et ecclesiae et postea veniat ad prandium suum cum Clerico suo. Item concedimus dicto nostro vicario ac suis successoribus pro perpetuo totum nostrum Altaragium exceptis garbis autumnalibus, videlicet omnes proventus dicte ecclesie nostre, omnes oblationes per quatuor dies anni solennes, videlicet die Natalis domini; Purificationis beate mariae, cereos Pasche, festo Loci videlicet festo Sancti Andreæ Apostoli; Item de purificacione mulierum, de solemnizatione nuptiarum, de missis mortuiorum videlicet die sepulturæ septentrional' Trigintalium et de anniversariis mortuorum, vna cum mortuariis defunctorum vivis et mortuis videlicet pro patre familiari domus et principali persona animal principale et optimum sive sit equus vel equa cum foetu, sive bos, vel vacca cum foetu, sive ovis cum foetu, non porcus (nisi vicarius voluerit eligere) quia non est usus ecclesie, sed cetera bona iocalia sunt in electione et optione vicarii, sive sint vestimenta vtensilia sive murra olla patella sive sint cetera bona cuiuscunque generis, semper sunt in electione et petitione vicarii. Et si vxor seu secunda persona domus sit mortua, tunc secundum animal principale sive sit equus vel equa cum foetu, seu bos vel vacca cum foetu, debentur vicario: sin autem, tunc de ceteris bonis ut supra de marito. Item volumus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario ac suis successoribus quatuor cereos ardentes circa corpus mortuum die sepulture sine fraude et sine aliqua reclamacione populi, quia de hiis et in hiis omnibus ecclesia nostra est in possessione tempore Compositionis et à tempore cuius memoria hominis non existit, et antiquis temporibus predecessorum nostrorum ante appropriacionem. Item

ordinamus et concedimus dicto nostro perpetuo vicario et suis successoribus totum fenum decimabile manerii modo domini Regis, olim Comitis Glovernus: quia sicut nobis garbe autumnales debentur de dicto manerio, sic et nostro vicario totum fenum scilicet tres acre complete iacentes in marisco ex opposito novi Prioratus de Barnewell pro decima triginta acriarum. Item et decimam feni de ceteris locis non adiacentibus dictis triginta acriis, et tamen pertinentibus ad dictum manerium, neenon et ad dictam villam et parochiam nostram de Chesterton vilibet constitutis. Item etiam concedimus decimam de secunda falcatione feni de dicto manerio et per totam parochiam nostram que est circa festum Nativitatis beate Marie si factum fuerit. Item concedimus et ordinamus dicto nostro vicario ac suis imperpetuum successoribus decimam molendinorum tam per aquam quam per campum de dicto manerio domini Regis Henrici secundi, neenon arborum et salicium crescentium circa prata pascua et pasturas dicti manerii et ex omni parte ville et parochie nostre de Chesterton predicta. Item ordinamus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario ac suis successoribus decimam herbagiorum et lacticiniorum de vaccheria de manerio predicto, videlicet pro qualibet vacca cum vitulo iijd. cum ob. et si vituli vendantur, tunc decimus denarius detur vicario et suis successoribus. Et sic de tota parochia et villa predicta de Chesterton. Item ordinamus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario et suis successoribus decimas agnorum lanę porcellorum auarum anatum columbarum de pullis gallinarum de pullis equorum et de Curtilagiis gardinorum videlicet decima pars porrorum in capite ieiunii lini canabi ac omnium fructuum videlicet pomorum pirorum et ceterorum fructuum arborum cuiuscunque generis sint. Item ordinamus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario perpetuo et suis successoribus decimam de piscatione aquae de supradicto manerio de antiquo alveo aquae et de molendino in marisco mille anguillas annuatim et de aliis piscibus cuiuscunque generis sint. Item de firma aquae et pro foragio xijd. cum iiijd. annuatim nostro vicario et suis successoribus debentur. Item ordinamus quod decima ceræ et mellis debetur vicario et suis successoribus. Item ordinamus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario et eius successoribus quod quatuor panes cum obolo

argenti offerantur summo altari in die Omnium Sanctorum, et quarta pars panum distribuatur per manus vicarii (modo eleemosinæ) suis pauperibus parochianis, presentibus yconomis ecclesie, de quolibet aratro infra nostram parochiam de dicto manerio et de omnibus parochianis nostris de Chesterton. Item ordinamus quod panes trium obolorum in die dominica offerantur summo altari cum obolo argenti pro pane sancto et pro lumine altaris ad missam per ebdomadam celebrandam. Item volumus et ordinamus quod omnes sacerdotes et clerici celebrantes in dicta ecclesia, sint obedientes tam procuratori nostro quam vicario nostro qui habet regimen et gubernationem ecclesie propter linguam Anglicanam: et quod non faciant discordias inter ipsos et parochianos, nec faciant contra eorum voluntatem, sub pena iuris, et quod faciant eis reverentiam, principalem nostro procuratori vocat' Rectori, et secundariam nostro vicario, et faciant eis canonicam obedientiam. Item quod clericus parochialis sit semper paratus ad manus vicarii nocte dieque pro sacramentis ministrandis nostris parochianis et ad missam quotidianam celebrandam. Item ordinamus et volumus quod vicarius noster habeat decimam Rectorie quando est in manus firmariorum, non quando habemus in manibus nostris, non obstante privilegio. Item volumus et concedimus dicto nostro vicario et eius successoribus amputacionem arborum crescentium infra cemiterium dicte ecclesie, necnon florum graminis et herbarum. Item de operariis et artificiis (diductis eorum expensis) decima debetur vicario et eius successoribus. Item volumus quod noster vicarius nec eius successores tenentur ad procurationes persolvend' nec Episcopo nec Archidiacono virtute privilegii nostri et Bullæ quia vicarius noster gaudet eodem privilegio nostro nobiscum ratione loci et ecclesie. Item ordinamus quod vicarius noster et eius successores non tenentur ad aliquod opus servile cum domino manerii nec eius firmario cum aratro suo biga vel iumentis suis ruralibus, quia in his est semper liber sicut et nos quamvis adiuvat parochianos suos de eorum agricultura. Item die Pasche ante perceptionem sacramenti omnes parochiani qui habent vsum ignis in domo, tenentur solvere vnum denarium nostro vicario, de quo vnuus quadrans Collectori domini Papæ debetur, alius quadrans

altari Sancti Petri in Ecclesia de Elye, alias quadrans cereo pro quo-
 Paschali in dicta Ecclesia de Chesterton, et quartus pro circulo libet focum
 cereo pendente super trabem in Cancello coram sacramento aleante de-
 altaris. Item volumus et concedimus et cum magna instantia betur qua-
 precum parochianorum nostrorum nostro primo vicario videlicet drans
 domino Stephano Rampton Capellano et filio nostri dilecti ecclesiæ
 parochiani scilicet Willelmi Rampton et eius successoribus, de Ely
 decimas garbarum in autumpno de illis parvis locis Curtilagiis
 et gardinis in quibus homines solebant inhabitare tempore
 Compositionis et de quibus vicarius habuit sua herbagia et
 lacticinia linum Canabum et similia si postea ad agriculturam
 redigantur, non de ceteris nostris Campis videlicet non de
 Eastfeild, non de Medylfeild nec de Westfeild, nec de magno
 Churcherco que dicit versus Cantabrigiam ab Ecclesia. Item
 vicarius tenetur ad vinum pro parochianis in die Pasche
 pro pane pro vino pro cera pro incenso ad summum altare et
 pro cancello tantum. In cuius quidem scrutinii et inventionis
 testimonium Sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Datum in
 manorio nostro de Downham octavo die mensis Junii. Anno
 domini millesimo Quadringentesimo vicesimo quarto. Et nostre
 Translationis anno tricesimo sexto.

IV.

From *Bp Fordham's Register*, fo. 143.
 1404-5. Jan. 30.

Henry IV to Bp Fordham.

Breve de non admittendo aliquem ad ecclesiam de Chesterton.
 Henricus dei gratia Rex Anglie & Francie & dominus
 Hibernie Venerabili in Christo patri & eadem gratia Episcopo
 Eliensi & ejus Commissario salutem.

Cum per statutum anno regni domini E[dwardi] nuper Regis
 Anglie avi nostri vicesimo quinto editum ordinatum fuisset
 quod, quandocumque idem avus noster faceret collationem sive
 presentacionem in jure alterius, titulus, super quo collatio sive
 presentacio illa fundaretur, bene examinaretur quod esset verus,

& quacumque hora ante judicium redditum titulus ille per bonam informacionem inveniretur non verus nec justus, collatio sive presentacio inde facta revocaretur. Ac in statuto in parlimiento domini Ricardi nuper Regis Anglie secundi post conquestum anno regni sui tertiodecimo tento edito pro eo quod quidam presentati regii, dicto statuto predicto anno vice-simo quinto edito non obstante, per favorem ordinariorum & aliquorum per inquisiciones minus veraces favorabiliter captas, in beneficiis ecclesiasticis, absque debito processu, partibus non premunitis nec vocatis, fuerint instituti & inducti & incumbentes eorundem beneficiorum taliter amoti, ordinatum existat quod dictum statutum predicto anno vicesimo quinto editum firmiter teneatur & observetur, quoque si idem nuper Rex Ricardus ad aliquod beneficium quod de aliquo incumbente foret plenum presentaret presentatus regius ad tale beneficium per ordinarium non admitteretur, quousque idem nuper Rex Ricardus in Curia sua per processum legis presentacionem suam recuperasset, prout in eodem statuto dicto anno tertiodecimo edito plenius continetur.

Nos volentes statutum predictum predicto anno tertiodecimo editum inviolabiliter observari vobis prohibemus ne aliquam personam ad ecclesiam de Chestreton per dilectum nobis in Christo Abbatem de Versellis plenam existentem, ut dicitur, ad presentacionem nostram contra formam dicti statuti dicto anno tertiodecimo editi aliqualiter admittatis.

Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium xxx^o die Januarii,
Anno regni nostri sexto. breve de statuto Billyngford.

V.

List of vicars (so far as known) while the patronage was in the hands of Cardinal Guala or of the Abbey.

1217. Lawrence (de Sancto Nicolao), *rector*, appointed by the King, on Guala's nomination. *Patent Rolls*, 29 June, 1217, and *Papal Letters*, Vol. I, p. 52.

1218, Nov. 16. Adam of Wissenbeach or Wisbech, priest

chaplain, appointed perpetual vicar by Guala. Frova (Philadelfo Libico), p. 104.

Stephen Rampton, "noster primarius" Vicarius, the first vicar appointed by the Abbey. Volume of transcripts at Ely numbered A 6, fo. 45, 46.

The following names are taken from entries in an ancient parchment book among the muniments of Trinity College containing an account of the courts held at Chesterton and rentals paid.

- 1258. 42 Henry III. Ricardus.
- 1290—7. 18—25 Edward I. Bartholomew.
- 1311—26. 4—19 Edward II. Henricus de Maddingle.
- 1333—50. 6—23 Edward III. Simon or Symon.
- 1350. 23 Edward III. Richard de Westelee otherwise Kertelyng—[per Petrum procuratorem Abb. et Com. Mon. Sti. Andreæ. Entered Gild of Corpus Christi Cambridge, 1351. Cole's MSS.]
- 1359—65. 32—38 Edward III. Galfridus Andrew.
- 1369—74. 42—47 Edward III. Wills. de Borwell.
- 1390. William Burewell resigned. Bishop Fordham's Register, fo. 22, item 1.
- 1390, April 30. John Granby, alias Loret, presented by Andrew de Alice, canon & proctor of Abbey. Bishop Fordham's Register, fo. 22, item 1.
- 1399, July 3. John Merchaunt, Rector of Swafeld, exchanges with John Granby. Bishop Fordham's Register, fo. 63, item 1.
- 1408, Mar. 29. Robert Wolston, Rector of Thurgarton, exchanges with John Merchaunt, the Prior of Barnwell being patron. Bishop Fordham's Register, fo. 103, item 4.

ADDENDA.

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On the death of Bishop Eustace in 1215 the monks of Ely elected Geoffrey de Burgh, Archdeacon of Norwich, to the vacancy, but afterwards revoked the appointment in favour of Robert de Eboraco or de York. This led to a lawsuit between the rival claimants (*Papal Letters*, Rec. Pub. Vol. i. pp. 49, 55 and 69); owing to the disturbed state of the kingdom, the cause could not be prosecuted with vigour. In 1219 Henry III. complained to the Pope that Robert was a supporter of the claims of Louis of France, and that he was living in that country (Rymer's *Foedera*, London, 1816, Vol. i. p. 155), and in the same year the Pope annulled the elections by the monks, and appointed John de Fontibus. Robert de York had meanwhile exercised the episcopal powers.

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The connection of King's Hall with the ecclesiastical patronage of Chesterton commenced shortly after this date, for among the muniments of Trinity College is one of the 13th year of Henry IV. appointing Simon Barrett their proxy to discuss the yearly payment to be made to the Abbey for their rectorial rights.

Another document there dated the 16th of October, 1425, states that Conradus de Muselis, Canon of Vercelli, and John de Grisellis, proctors of the Abbey, had delivered to Thomas Wandefford, citizen and mercer of London for safe custody three breviaries of the use of Vercelli, a small book called an ordinal, a book written on paper containing accounts of brother Andrew, two bulls of privileges of the said Church, a patent of Henry IV. under the green seal relating to the same privileges, two books of the property of the rectory there, thirty-five Court Rolls, nineteen rent-rolls, a linen bag sealed by Conrad and John containing various writings and evidences relating to the said church.

Many of these documents are probably in the muniment room now.

Thomas Wandefford was firmarius of Chesterton from 1 Hen. VI. to 8 Hen. VI. according to the heading of the Courts Rolls during that period.

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