



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, WORKINGTON.

Destroyed by fire January 17th, 1887.

TO FACE P. 135.

ART. IX.—*The Rectors of Workington.* By THOMAS IREDALE.

Read at Carlisle, July 8th, 1909.

BY faculty of the Consistory Court of Carlisle, dated November 13th, 1908, the rector and churchwardens of Workington were authorized to put up a list of the rectors of that parish in the parish church, so far as they could be ascertained at the present time. The collection of the names has been a source of great pleasure to me, and my thanks are due to several friends who kindly assisted me in the search. As the authority is given for each statement in the accompanying schedule, there is no need for a repetition here. The list is now published in the hope that more names may be discovered—specially in the difficult period before the foundation of the see of Chester—so that they may be added to the permanent record in the church, for which provision has been made. It may be mentioned that my chief aim has been to establish the identity of each rector, and to give some certain or approximate date so as to fix the period of his incumbency. No attempt has been made to write biographical notes on any of them.

WALTER, 1150.

Walter, priest (*presbiter*) of Wirkinton, and Osbert, his chaplain (*capellanus eius*), are witnesses to a grant of Gospatric, son of Orm, whereby he gave the land of Salter and the churches of Wirkynton and Haverinton with pasture in Arlokedene to the abbey of St. Mary, York. Other witnesses to the same deed are Alan, son of Waltef; Dolfin, priest (*presbiter*) of Camberton; Egelina, the grantor's wife; and Ebreia, his mother (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS., No. 34). His

name is found in the same collection of deeds elsewhere with many of the same persons. Alan, son of Waltef, one of the founders of the monastery of Holm Cultram, fixes the date of the incumbency about 1150.

THOMAS, 1184.

Thomas, parson (*persona*) of Wirkynton, is witness to a deed whereby Robert, prior of St. Bees, granted land in Kaldir to Godfrid de Kaldir, and as priest (*sacerdos*) of Wirkinton, with Richard the chaplain, to a grant of Abbot C[lement] of York to Alan, son of William de Stainburn (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS., Nos. 165, 349). Thomas, priest (*presbiter*) of Wirkinton, also witnessed a deed of Grace, wife of Thomas, son of Cospatric, to the monks of Holm Cultram (Harl. MS., 3891). The death of Abbot Clement on August 18th, 1184 (Dugdale, *Mon.*, iii., 538), fixes the incumbency of this parson about that date. The occurrence of his name elsewhere synchronises therewith.

WILLIAM, 1201-1227.

William, parson (*persona*) of Wirkinton, son of Thomas de Wirkinton, gave a bond to render to the abbey of York half part of the fish and four marks yearly and hospitality to the monks when visiting Wirkinton, to which bond Thomas, son of Gospatric, and Thomas, his heir, were witnesses (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS., No. 213). As Thomas, son of Gospatric, died in 1201 (*Rot. de Oblat.*, pp. 157, 194; Hinde, *Pipe Rolls of Westmorland*, p. 188), and as this deed of quit-claim implies institution, this parson's incumbency must have commenced before that date. As parson of Workington and dean of Coupland, William is often found a partaker in the local transactions of the subsequent period. In 1225 William,

rector of the church of Wirkinton, proved before Archbishop Walter Gray that he did not succeed his father in that church, because his father was only the "farmer" of the said church and not the rector (*Reg. of Abp. Walter Gray*, p. 3, Surtees Society), and in the octave of Easter, 1227, William, parson of Wirkinton, witnessed an agreement between Abbot Robert of York and Patric, son of Thomas de Wirkinton, touching pasture in Staynburn (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS., No. 338). The years, 1201-1227, must, therefore, be included in his incumbency.

ROGER DE SELEBY, 1247-1258.

Roger de Seleby, rector of the church of Wirkinton, gives a bond, dated April 23rd, 1247, to the monks of York, whereby he obliges himself to pay yearly four marks, as a pension from his church at Wirkinton, and to extend hospitality to the monks when staying at Wirkinton (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS., No. 214). This bond implies institution. Roger, rector of the church of Wirkinton, witnessed a deed, dated February 3rd, 1258, at St. Bees, whereby Adam de Clifton conveyed to the monks there two acres of meadow in the territory of Clifton (*Ibid.*, Nos. 356, 357). As rector and parson of Wirkinton, Roger's name is often found in this collection of deeds about these dates.

EUDRIC DE WYSPAYNS, 1303.

Eudric de Wyspayns, parson of the church of Wyrknyngton, received letters of protection, dated January 11th, 1303; until a year after Easter, as he was going beyond the seas (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1301-1307, p. 102), where he stopped a considerable time. On May 13th, 1308, he appointed attorneys for two years as he was again going beyond the seas (*Ibid.*, 1307-1313, p. 68). He was still abroad in 1312, though not styled rector

of Workington (*Ibid.*, p. 411). The name of this rector lends itself to a variety of spelling.

JOHN DE COKERMUTH, 1315.

John de Cokermuth, parson of the church of Wyrk-
yngton, received on July 9th, 1315, a simple pro-
tection for one year (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1313-1317, p. 333).
He had resigned the church of Horsington in the
diocese of Bath and Wells in 1313 (*Ibid.*, p. 42).

WILLIAM DE AYKHEVED, 1330-1341.

William de Aykheved, rector of the church of Wyrk-
yngton, is witness to a deed, dated December 10th,
1330, touching the advowson of the chantry in the
chapel of the Blessed Mary of Brigham, and as one
of the trustees quit-claimed at Easter, 1341, a fourth
part of the manors of Dystyngton and Braythwayt to
Hugh de Moriceby, chivaler, and Margaret, his wife
(two dated deeds in a private collection; also Feet of
Fines, Cumberland, 15 Edward iii., No. 30).

RICHARD DE ASKEBY, 1365.

Richard de Askeby, chaplain, entered into the custo-
mary bond on October 19th, 1365, to pay the monks
of York four marks yearly as a pension from the
parish church of Wirkington and two shillings from
the dependent chapel of Clifton as a preliminary to
his nomination and institution (Chartulary of St.
Bees, MS., No. 216).

JOHN BLAUNCHARD, 1375.

John Blanchard, priest of the diocese of York, sub-
scribed the bond aforesaid on January 4, 1375, when
instituted to the parish church of Wirkington in
Coupland, of the archdeaconry of Richemond and
said diocese of York (Chartulary of St. Bees, MS.,
No. 217).

WILLIAM DE TANFELD, 1379.

Master William de Tanfeld, rector of the church of Wirkinton, and John de Bridekirke and Roger Bisshop, chaplains, acted as trustees in mortmain for the conveyance of lands and tenements in Keldland to the monks of St. Bees; conveyance to them dated May 24th, 1379; conveyance by them to the monks dated June 30th, 1379 (Chartulary of St. Bees, Nos. 258-9).

WILLIAM DE EGREMUND, 1387-1401.

Presentation of William de Egremund, chaplain, to the church of Wyrkyngton in the diocese of York, in the King's gift by reason of the temporalities of St. Mary's Abbey, York, being lately in the King's hands, November 26th, 1387 (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1385-9, p. 369). William de Egremund, "persone de Wirkyngton," complained to the Lord Chancellor Stafford that Richard Orfeure, Richard de Lamplegh, William de Syngilton, and Nicol Harras came to Wirkyngton on July 21st, 1401, being the vigil of St. Mary Magdalen, into the liberty of his church, assaulted him and would have taken or killed him if he had not been at the same time vested to do divine service; they took his servants, however, and imprisoned them at Egremund for eight weeks. On the vigil of Palm Sunday next following they lay in wait for the rector on the high road to Egremund, assailed and chased him, and otherwise ill-treated and threatened him, so that he was afraid to repair to his own country or remain in his parsonage for fear of death by the said Richard Orfeure and his confederates. Petitioner sought redress and protection. The original text (Early Chancery Proceedings, File 3, No. 39; *Dep. Keep. Rep.*, xlix., 208) is as follows:—

A tresreverent pier en Dieu et tresgraciouse seigneur leuesqe dexcesere et Chaunceller Dengleterre.*

Supplie vostre poure orateur, William de Egremond, persone de Wirkyngton, en le countee de Cumberland, qe come Richard Orfeure, Richard de Lamplegh, William de Syngilton, et Nicol Harras et plusours autres disconuz, par abbettement le dit Richard Orfeure, on le Veile de Seynt Marie Magdalene, lan nostre seigneur le Roi qorest † second, oue force et armes viendront a Wirkyngton suisdit, dedeinz la Franchise de sa esglise suisdit, on le dit suppliant horriblement de lour tort demefies ‡ assout firent, et le dit suppliant voudront auoir pris ou tuez, synon qil feust a mesme le temps reueste pour diuinez seruicez faire; et Richard de Wodhall, William Clerk, Richard de Bromfeld, Thomas Diconson, Richard Diconson et John Carpenter, seruantz al dit suppliant, illoeqes priseront et ouesqe eux amesneront tanqe a Egremond, et illoeqes lez emprisoneront et en prisone detiendront par viij semaines et plus, tanqile firent fyne aue lez dit Richard Orfeure et lez autres de x li. pur lour deliuerance auoir. Et nient estance qe diuerses bries depar nostre seigneur le Roy et honorable lettres depar monsieur le Prince feurent deliueres al dit Richard Orfeure come Bailiff le seigneur FitzWauter de Egremond pur certifier la cause del emprisonement suisdit, le dit Richard Orfeure, en grande dedignacion et despit lez ditz bries et lettre resceust et rein pour ceux ny voilloit my faire, eintz par cause dez bries et lettre suisditz feust plus heynouse et horrible qil ne feust unqes adeuant en disobeisance et contemp de voz mandementz, et la lettre suisditz et la malice le dit Richard Orfeure et les autres plus habundant de iour en autre issint qen la veile del Dismenge dez Palmes proschien ensuantz, lez ditz Richard Orfeure, Richard de Lamplegh, William, Nicol, et lez autres suisditz par procurement le dit Richard Orfeure ouesque arcs tenduz, espeeze tretez, et autres heynys en forme de guerre, giseront sur le haute chemyn en agaie pur le dit suppliant a Egremond, et illoeqes luy assailleront et enchaceront et luy voudron auoir tuez ou mahaymeez, synon qe la igneltoe § de pees sans chual luy diliuera hore de lour mayne et poair. Et unqore luy manacent de vie et de membre en lieu ou il poet estre trouee, paroiert il noese my sa dit pais

* Edmund de Stafford, bishop of Exeter, held the Great Seal at different periods, one of which agrees with the date of this petition. The seal was delivered to him on March 9th, 1401, and remained in his hands till the end of February, 1403 (Foss, *Biographia Juridica*, p. 627).

† July 21st, 2 Henry IV. (1401).

‡ *Demefies*, a form of expression still known in the dialect of Normandy: *de mefi*.

§ *Igneltoe*, a form of the Old French *isneltée*, *isneletie*: from *isnel*, swift.

reparer, nen sa dit personage demurer pur doute de mort et finall destruction par le dit Richard Orfeure et les autres suisditz. Qe plese a vostre tresgraciously seigneurie et tressage descrecion de considerer lez mattres suisditz et . . . granter al dit suppliant bries directz seueralement al dit Richard Orfeure et lez autres suisditz, eux chargeant chescun sur payne de cent liures de venir deuant vous en la Chauncellerie pur respondre a nostre seigneur le Roy dez contempz et disobeisantz suisditz et auxint de trouer seurte suffisant al dit suppliant de porter la pees issuant qil poet sauement sa dit pais reparer et en sa dit personage demurer pour diuinez seruicez faire. Et pur Dieu et en œuvre de charite.*

The following is a translation by the Rev. James Wilson, Litt.D. :—

To the very reverend father in God and very gracious Lord Bishop of Exeter and Chancellor of England.

Supplicates your poor orator, William of Egremont, parson of Wirkyngton, in the county of Cumberland, that whereas Richard Orfeure, Richard de Lamplegh, William de Syngilton, and Nicol Harras, and several others unknown, by the abetment of the said Richard Orfeure, on the eve of St. Mary Magdalen, the year of our lord the King who now is the second, did with force and arms come to Wirkyngton aforesaid within the franchise of his aforesaid church, and horribly, wrongfully, and contemptuously made assault on the said suppliant, and would have taken and killed the said suppliant had it not been that he was at that very time robed to do divine service, and Richard de Wodhall, William Clerk, Richard de Bromfeld, Thomas Diconson, Richard Diconson, and John Carpenter, servants of the said suppliant, they there seized and carried off with them as far as Egremont and there imprisoned and detained them in prison for eight weeks and more till they made fine with the said Richard Orfeure and the others of £10 to have their deliverance. And notwithstanding that divers writs on behalf of our lord the King and honourable letters on behalf of *monsieur le Prince* were delivered to the said Richard Orfeure as bailiff of the lord Fitzwalter of Egremont to certify the cause of the aforesaid imprisonment, the said Richard Orfeure in great disdain and despite the said writs and letters rejected and would do nothing at all for them, but by reason of the aforesaid writs and letters was more heinous and horrible than ever he was before in disobedience and contempt of your

* The grammar of this petition cannot be defendèd. The sense, however, seems clear enough.

orders and the letter aforesaid. And the malice of the said Richard Orfeure and the others growing from day to day, so that on the eve of Palm Sunday last ensuing the said Richard Orfeure, Richard de Lamplegh, William, Nicol, and the others aforesaid, by the procurement of the said Richard Orfeure, with bows bent, swords drawn, and other harness in form of war, lay on the highway in wait for the said suppliant at Egremond, and there attacked him and pursued him and would have killed or maimed him had not his speed of foot without horse delivered him out of their hand and power. And still they threaten him of life and limb wherever he can be found, so that he dare not return to his said district nor dwell in his said parsonage for fear of death and final destruction by the said Richard Orfeure and the others aforesaid. May it please your very gracious lordship and very wise judgment to consider the matters aforesaid and to grant to the said suppliant letters directed severally to the said Richard Orfeure and the others aforesaid charging each of them on pain of £100 to come before you in Chancery to answer to our lord the King for the contempts and disobediences aforesaid, and also to find sufficient surety to the said suppliant to keep the peace so that he can safely repair to his said district and dwell in his said parsonage to do the divine services. And (this he supplicates) for God and as a work of charity.

ALAN HUMBRESTON, 1429.

Ratification of the estate of Alan Humbreston as parson of Wyrkyngton, in the diocese of York, in the immediate jurisdiction of the archdeacon of Richmond, March 30th, 1429 (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1422-9, p. 523).

ROBERT STIEL, 1430.

Presentation of Robert Stiel, parson of Wyrkyngton, in the diocese of Carlisle (*sic*), to the church of Kyrkevythore or Kyrkebythore, in the same diocese, on an exchange of benefices with Roger Crakenthorpe, July 20th, 1430 (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1429-36, p. 33).

ROGER CRAKENTHORP, 1430.

See previous entry.

LAURENCE ROCHE, 1463.

Laurence Roche exchanged the rectory of Workington

with William Eure for the rectory of Wem in Shropshire in 1463 (*Test. Ebor.*, iii., 224, Surtees Society, from Reg. Archid. Richmond. f. 42^a).

WILLIAM EURE, 1463.

William Eure was instituted to the rectory of Workington on March 9th, 1463, on exchange with Laurence Roche of the rectory of Wem in Shropshire (Reg. Archid. Richmond. MS., f. 42^a, quoted by Raine in *Test. Ebor.*, iii., 224). He is said to have given up Workington before his collation to the archdeaconry of Salisbury on November 22nd, 1471 (Le Neve, *Fasti*, ii., 625). As a younger son of Sir William Eure, knight, he was one of the executors of his mother's will in 1467 (*Test. Ebor.*, ii., 284-6).

JOHN LANCASTRE, 1473.

Presentation of John Lancastre, parson of the church of Werkyngton, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, to the parish church of Sutton on Derwent, in the diocese of York, on an exchange of benefices with Thomas Markham, November 29th, 1473 (*Cal. of Pat.*, 1467-77. p. 417).

THOMAS MARKHAM, 1473.

See the foregoing entry. Thomas Markham, clerk, was living on May 20th, 1476, but dead before April 26th, 1490 (*Cal. of Inquisitions*, Henry VII., vol. i., 202).

JOHN CURWEN, 1525.

Thomas Dalby, archdeacon of Richmond, returned John Curwen as rector of Workington, Robert Richardson as curate, and William Lampluth as chaplain, assessed to the subsidy for the year ending in February, 1524-5 (Excheq. T.R., Misc. Book, lxi., f. 9; *L. and P., Henry VIII.*, vol. iv., 1025 (ii)).

EDMUND WHALLEY, 1534.

The name of this rector appears in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (vol. v., 265) of Henry VIII. From the *Notitia* of Bishop Gaſtrel, it is learned that a rector had been presented in the previous year by the abbot and convent of St. Mary, York.

CHRISTOPHER SHARE, 1557.

No record of presentation or institution in the diocesan registry of Chester, but the name of this rector is preserved in the record of the next institution.

EDWARD HEIDE, 1557-1564.

Instituted in 1557 after the death of Christopher Share, the last incumbent (Diocese of Chester records).

JOHN HARISON, 1564.

On November 6th, 1564, John Harison, clerk, compounded for the first fruits of the rectory of Wyrkington in the archdeaconry of Richemonde, then "extended" at £23 4s. 11d. (Excheq. First Fruits, Composition Book, viii., f. 37).

GREGORY SCOTT, 1575.

No record of his institution at Chester, but his name appears at the next institution. On February 21st, 1574-5, Gregory Skot, clerk, compounded for the first fruits of the rectory at Wirklington, extended at £23 4s. 11d. (Excheq. First Fruits, Composition Book, ix., f. 37). This rector was a well-known man, a canon of Carlisle, a poet, and a member of the High Commission (*V.C.H., Cumb.*, ii., 71, 79). A volume of his poems was published in 1570.

LAURENCE SHUTTLEWORTH, 1577-1595.

Instituted in 1577 after death of Gregory Scott, the

last incumbent. The authorities for this and the following institutions, unless when otherwise stated, are the diocesan records of Chester.

GEORGE LAMPLUGHE, 1595-1634.

Instituted in 1595 on the cession of L. Shuttleworth. It would appear that a "presentation of Henry Curwen, M.A., to Wirklington parsonage, diocese of Chester, void by lapse," was made on January 31st, 1595 (*Cal. of State Papers, Domestic, 1595-7, p. 5*), but it came to nothing.

LANCELOT LOWTHER, B.D., 1634.

Instituted in 1634 on the death of George Lamplugh. He may be described as the unfortunate rector of Workington. Ejected from his benefice by the Roundheads in 1646; reduced to much poverty; died in 1661. In Darcy Curwen's journal, a manuscript at Workington Hall, occurs the following "memorandum that Mr. Lowther, once parson of Workington, died y^e 16th day of April *anno* 1661, as my uncle Peter Sanderson's letter, dated Decemb^r 17th, 1678, under his hand, sets forth." Sarah, widow of Lancelot Lowther, B.D., chaplain to the late earl of Cumberland, petitioned for a scholar's place in Sutton's hospital for her son Gerard. Her husband was sequestered from the livings of Kirkby Thure and Workington in 1646 for his loyalty, and died in 1661 without restoration or preferment. She had undertaken four journeys to London in hope of relief. Sir Philip Musgrave, on May 20th, 1661, certified to the facts of the petition, and Bishop Sheldon of London, on June 18th, 1661, endorsed her petition, adding that Lancelot was of good family, but reduced by calamity so as to leave very great want to his wife, who brought him £1,500 (*S.P., Domestic, Charles II., vol. cxlii., 151*).

L

CHRISTOPHER MATTESON, 1662.

No record of this institution could be found at Chester, but it is known that he was instituted on October 16th, 1662, at the presentation of Sir Patrick Curwen, Bart. The benefice was vacant by the resignation of the Parliamentary incumbent (Excheq. of Account, First Fruits, Bishops' Certificates, No. 19, Diocese of York).

JOHN BOLTON, 1679.

Instituted in 1679 after death of C. Matteson.

ROBERT LOXHAM, M.A., 1724.

Instituted in 1724 after death of J. Bolton.

JOHN STANLEY, M.A., 1726.

Instituted in 1726 on the resignation of R. Loxham. Son of John Stanley of Ponsonby; was drowned while crossing the river Derwent on horseback at the ford on the Cloffocks.

WILLIAM THOMAS ADDISON, 1753.

Instituted in 1753 after the death of J. Stanley.

EDWARD CHRISTIAN, B.D., 1792.

Instituted in 1792 after the death of W. T. Addison. This rector afterwards took the name of Hare, and appears as Edward Hare in later entries of the diocesan books of Chester. See J. Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*, ii., 607.

PETER HOWE, M.A., 1803.

Instituted in 1803 on resignation of E. Hare.

EDWARD STANLEY, M.A., 1831.

Instituted in 1831 after the death of P. Howe.

JOHN WORDSWORTH, M.A., 1834.

Instituted in 1834 after the death of E. Stanley. Eldest son of the poet; was vicar of Brigham, 1832-1875; also rector of Plumbland, 1840-1875; died July 25th, 1875.

HENRY CURWEN, B.A., 1837.

Instituted in 1837 on the resignation of J. Wordsworth. Son of Henry Curwen of Workington Hall; died at Workington, August 26th, 1894, aged 82 years, and was interred at Windermere.

HERBERT ERNEST CAMPBELL, M.A., 1895.

Instituted in 1895 after the death of H. Curwen (Carlisle Epis. Register, Bardsley, MS., f. 762). Now vicar of St. George's, Barrow, and archdeacon of Furness.

STANLEY PATRICIUS LAMPLUGH CURWEN, 1905.

Instituted in 1905 on the cession of H. E. Campbell (Subscription Book, 1899-1905, MS.).