

ART. IX.—*Richard Esk's metrical account of Furness Abbey.* By S. B. GAYTHORPE, F.R.A.S.

THE sole example of the work of the Furness Abbey scriptorium, and apparently the only book from the library there that has come down to our own times, is the *Chartulary*, or Coucher Book, in two large folio volumes, the first of which is preserved in the Public Record Office (MS. D/L. 42/3), and the other in the British Museum (Addit. MS. 33244). An interesting feature of the work, and the only example, of any length, of verse written in the monastery, is a metrical introduction to each volume, composed by Richard Esk, and engrossed and illuminated by John Stell, two of the Furness monks, in 1412. In vol. I, this introduction runs to 72 lines, of which the first 36 are engrossed on folio 6, and the remaining 36 on the verso of the same leaf. The introduction to vol. II (f. 1 verso) is much shorter, and consists of 16 lines, of which the first 8 correspond, with but slight alterations in the first and eighth, to lines 47-54 of the introduction to vol. I; similarly, lines 9-14 of vol. II answer to lines 57-62 of vol. I; while the two remaining lines, 15 and 16, of vol. II are practically identical with lines 65 and 66 of vol. I. It will therefore be necessary to consider here only the 72 lines in vol. I, and note in passing the variants in vol. II as they occur.

The following extended text is the result of a personal study of the original MS., and of photostat copies of it. All letters not in the MS. are shown in square brackets. This is a point of some importance, as some contraction marks are placed in arbitrary and unusual positions, making it a matter for conjecture what the word should be when written at length. The MS. is written in what has been described as a large "square hand", which at first sight would seem easy to read. But there are minor difficulties. The minuscules, c and t, are so much alike



FIG. 1.—Historiated Initial of “Incipit”, from vol. I of the Furness Chartulary (P.R.O. — D.L. 42/3, f. 7), with supposed portrait of Richard Esk, by the scribe, John Stell.

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FIG. 2.—Historiated Initial of “Incipit” from vol. II of the Furness Chartulary (B.M. — Addit. MS. 33244, f. 2) with self-portrait of the scribe, John Stell.

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facing p. 99.

as to be easily confused, and as many of the *i*'s are not dotted, certain groups of letters such as *in*, *iu*, *ni*, *ui*, are scarcely distinguishable at times from *m*. Again, each line of verse begins with an illuminated capital of the Lombardic type, somewhat similar in form to the letters cast on church bells of the pre-Reformation period. Some of these characters are not very distinctive, so that in some cases *F* might easily be mistaken for *A*. The MS. is without punctuation, save for a comma after *H[a]ec* in line 8.

The verses are Leonine hexameters, with two pentameter lines, 48 and 64; and much ingenuity is shown in the various ways the rhymes are arranged so as to avoid, as far as possible, the usually monotonous effect of that type of verse. In the original the two pentameter lines are not indented, so that there may be no break in the column of illuminated initial capitals. There are a good many errors of scansion, mostly "shorts" where the metre demands a "long", e.g. 1.4—*fundatūr*; 21—*Stēphanus*; 25—*fuīt*; 33—*tenuīt*; 38—*Chrōnographi*; 39—*divinā, sīt*; 45—*pīa, titūlo* (but the line still does not scan); 63—*capitā*; 71—*capitē*. In one or two cases the error is of the reverse type, i.e., a "long" where the metre requires a "short", e.g., 1.12—*A Jūlii*; 14—*Ewanūs, Ābbas*. In other instances what might have been a passable hexameter is sacrificed for the sake of a rhyme, as in 1.46—*dos propriā sūā*, instead of *propria dos sua*; 1.52—*Fines et placitā*, where not only the prosody but the logical order is improved by reading *Et placita et fines*; and 1.53—*cu[nc]tā rep[er]ire*, where, at the cost of the rhyme, the meaning would be clearer and the metre improved by deleting *cu[nc]ta* and inserting *Omnia* at the beginning of the line. However, the prosody is probably no worse, even if it is no better, than in much of the verse of that time; and if the composer's attention had been drawn to the points mentioned, he might well have replied in the words of an anonymous versifier of the same period, or perhaps a little earlier—*Metro peccavi, sensum tamen insinuavi* (Rylands Latin MS. 394, f. 1, 14).

- Anno milleno Centeno bis duodeno
 Fourneys fundatum p[ri]mo fuit et situatum
 Primus ei fundus Tulket fuit haud dubitatur
 Quo iam fundatur est Bekanesgillq[ue] secu[n]dus
 5 Annis na[m]q[ue] trib[us] transactis tot[que] diebus
 Tollitur a fundo primo struiturq[ue] secundo
 Angmundernesiam qua p[ri]mo floruit [a]edes
 H[a]ec, teneas pri[m]am qua Tulket erat sibi sedes
 Annos a fundo si vis num[er]are secundo
 10 Illius [a]etatis cape versibus hic subaratis
 Anno milleno Centeno terq[ue] noveno
 A Julii primo ffournes fundatur ab imo
 Sedit honorius hoc sub tempore papa s[e]c[un]dus
 Ewanus primus Abbas fuit hicq[ue] facundus
 15 In Tulket fuimus grisei monachi situati
 Hic sumus albatu[m] pr[ae]senti tegmine scimus

- 1.8 — pri[m]am — This is written priam, with a bar over the i, as if primam was the word intended. Probably the bar should have been placed over the p, and the word is to be read as patriam, as in Beck (*Annales Furnesienses*, 1844, p. 284) and Canon Atkinson's edition of the *Furness Coucher*, vol. I (Chetham Soc. N.S.9 (1886), p. 21). There are other instances in the MS. where the mark of abbreviation is placed over the wrong letter.
- 1.12 — A — The preposition, though in the original MS., is omitted both in the text printed by Beck (*loc. cit.*) and by the Chetham Soc. (*loc. cit.*).

In eleven hundred and twenty four
 Was Furness first founded and sited.
 Its first founding was doubtless at Tulket,
 And the second at Bekansgill, where now
 It is founded. Three years and three days had 5
 Elapsed, when 'twas taken away from the first
 Site, and built up again on the second.
 Amounderness you may take as the land
 Where this house did first of all flourish,
 And Tulket there was its seat. 10
 Wouldst thou number the years of its age
 From the second foundation? Then take it
 From the verses below that are written.
 In eleven twenty-seven, on July the first,
 From the base was Furness founded. 15
 Honorius the second then sat as Pope;
 The first abbot was Ewan, and he
 Was a man that was eloquent.
 In Tulket were we grey monks, but here
 We are white, as we know by this dress. 20

- 1.3 — Tulket — or in modern spelling, Tulketh — in the Hundred of Amounderness, is now a western suburb of Preston.
 1.5 — Three years and three days. — See note on ll.39-40.
 1.17 — Ewan, surnamed d'Avranches, from the town in Normandy that was probably his native place, is referred to elsewhere in the Coucher Book as "a man of great learning and no less sanctity" (*magnae scientiae et non minoris sanctitatis vir*).
 1.19 — grey monks — The first Furness monks were a filiation from the monastery of Savigny, near Avranches, founded in 1112 by Vitalis. The Savignians observed the rule of St. Benedict. Their dress was of grey cloth, until their matriculation with Citeaux in 1148, when they and all their filiations became Cistercians and changed their dress to white.

- Hanc hac valle domu[m] Stephanus Comes [a]edificavit
 Quem gens Anglo[rum] Regem sibi post titulavit
 Anno milleno Centeno ter quo[que] deno
 20 Necnon septeno Rex hic fit in ordine pleno
 Steph[anu]s iste stetit Comes ad tunc Boloniensis
 Et Moretonensis hanc [a]edem cu[m] fore fecit
 Henrici Regno primi currente sub anno
 Viceno sexto fundi iactamine texto
 25 Sicq[ue] decenne fuit hoc c[o]enobiu[m] statione
 Cu[m] primo micuit Comes iste decore Coron[a]e
 Hic sed sex menses sex atq[ue] dies remove
 De numero penses patet [a]etas postea vere
 Quo post Conquestu[m] domus Anno c[o]epit oriri
 30 In sexageno primo noscas reperiri
 Anno milleno sexageno quoq[ue] seno
 Will. Norma[n]ni. Ducem sibi p[rae]tulit Anglia Regem
 H[a]ec vallis tenuit olim sibi nome[n] ab herba

- 1.18 — Quem- This is written Quēn, with a bar over the e to show that a minim had been omitted.
- 1.24 — fundi iactamine texto — The word iactamen is not, I think, to be found in any dictionary of medieval Latin, not even in the new edition of Du Cange. For the purpose of translation I have adopted the suggestion of Beck (p. 386 n.) that the expression quoted has some reference to Du Cange's explanation of the word loramentum, viz: concatenatio lignorum quae solet fieri in fundamentis aedificiorum. Remains of lengths of timber, bonded together with chains or leather thongs, have, I believe, been found under the foundations of the Abbey.
- 11.27-32 — These six lines seem to have been engrossed by the scribe in the wrong order. The argument is clearer if they are read in the following order:— 11.31, 32, 29, 30, 27, 28.
- 1.32 — Norma[n]ni. — This word written at full length would be Normāniae; but by the scribe's placing a bar over the a, signifying that n has been omitted (thus doubling that letter), and by his substituting for the last syllable (ae) a full stop, and so allowing the word to end with i, the metre is, in a way, ingeniously preserved.
- 1.32 — p[rae]tulit. — Beck (p. 285) here reads pretulit, and the Chetham Soc. (vol. 9, N.S., p. 22) pertulit. But in the MS. the contraction sign differs from that used elsewhere by the scribe for per, and closely resembles the usual contraction for prae, which again occurs in 1.38 in a word about which there can be no doubt — p[rae]teritis.

In this vale Count Stephen did build this house
 The peer whom the people of England after
 Entitled their King.
 In eleven thirty-seven he was made
 Our King in due order. But this Stephen 25
 Was Count of Boulogne, and of Mortain,
 When he caused this house to be founded
 In the twenty-sixth year of the reign
 Of King Henry the first — when the piling
 Was bonded together. And so this house 30
 Was of ten years standing, when Count Stephen
 First shone with the glory of his crown.
 In ten hundred and sixty and six
 England chose William, Duke of Normandy,
 For herself as King. 35
 Wouldst learn in what year after the Conquest
 This house began to rise? Know then 'twas
 In the sixty and first; but here remember
 To take from the number six months
 And six days, and the age is then truly 40
 Made clear. This valley once took its name

- l.24 — Though there is some doubt about the precise day on which Stephen was crowned, one authority placing it as early as 22 Dec. 1135, and another, as late as 1 Jan. 1136, the date usually assigned, 26 Dec. 1135, can hardly be far wrong.
- l.28 — The foundation in Furness, 1 July 1127, was in the twenty-seventh, not the twenty-sixth, year of Henry I.
- l.31 — The coronation of Stephen in Dec. 1135 was in the ninth, not the tenth, year of the foundation in Furness, the interval between the two dates being almost exactly $8\frac{1}{2}$ years.
- ll.39-40 — As William I was crowned on 25 Dec. 1066 and Furness was founded on 1 July 1127, it is obvious that the interval between the two events is, not six months *and* six days, but six months *all but* six days, short of sixty-one years. Moreover, as the date of the foundation at Tulket, according to the earliest authority quoted in the Chartulary (f. 1), was on 4 July 1124, it is clear that from then until the foundation in Furness there is an interval, not of three years *and* three days, as stated in l.5 supra, but of three years *all but* three days. In both cases the monk who composed the verses apparently failed to notice that the words used did not accurately describe the arithmetical process involved. See CW2 xxix 214-222 — "On the date of the Foundation of Furness Abbey".

- Bekan qua viruit dulcis nu[n]c tu[n]c sed acerba
 35 Inde domus nome[n] Benkanesgill claruit ante
 Iam p[at]ri[a]e tant[a]e nome[n] sortitur et omen
 Pr[a]ed[i]c[t]i Comit[is] Regu[m]q[ue] rescripta docent h[a]ec
 Gestis p[rae]teritis qu[a]e C[h]ronographi reticent nec
 Gracia divina domui sit huic pia nutrix
 40 Auc[tr]ix et tutrix ut gaudeat absq[ue] ruina
 Eius cultores ditet deus arce polo[rum]
 Eius amatores ornet mercede bono[rum]
 Si quis eam turbet dampno l[a]edente ve lite
 Hunc deus emendet breviet vel tempora vit[a]e
 45 Mater virgo pia titulo domus ista maria
 Est tua dos propria sua sis rectrix ope dia
 Nomen des isti libro pars prima Registri
 Huius C[o]enobii no[m]i[n]e furnesii
 Cartas terra[rum] tenet in se q[uo]d varia[rum]
 50 Quas dederant proc[er]es co[n]firmavereq[ue] Reges
 Isti C[o]enobio pietatis mun[er]e firmo
 Fines et placita retinet quoq[ue] p[er] loca mixta

- 1.34 — Bekan — In each of the three places (ll.4, 34, 35) where this word, or one of its compounds, occurs, the scansion shows that the first syllable is long. In any attempt to find the origin of the word, it might be well to keep this point in mind.
- 1.34 — tunc — The adverb, tunc, here refers to a time preceding that indicated by nunc, as in Cic:Pro Rab:Post: 12, 34 — quia nunc aiunt, quod tunc negabant. The taste of the plant referred to was, therefore, bitter at first, but afterwards sweet, a well-known characteristic of the Woody Nightshade (*Solanum dulcamara*), commemorated not only in the specific name of the plant, but also in the name by which the plant was known in the middle ages — *Amara dulcis*, and in the English translation of that name by William Turner (1568) — Bittersweet, which is still a popular name for the plant to-day.
- 1.34 — sed — The conjunction is in the MS. and in the text printed by Beck (p. 285), but is omitted from that issued by the Chetham Soc. (vol. 9, N.S., p. 22).
- 1.38 — reticent — Thus in MS., but in error for recitent, the c and t having been inadvertently transposed by the scribe. The error does not seem to have been noticed before, although the text as it stands does not make sense.
- 1.40 — absque ruina — Perhaps an oblique allusion to Prov. 16, 18, the latter part of which verse reads in the Vulgate: et ante ruinam exaltatur spiritus.
- 1.47 — The metrical introduction to vol. II of the Chartulary begins here, with the following variant:— *Nomine vult dici pars ista secunda Registri.*
- 1.49 — quod — The subject of tenet; the antecedent seems to be *Coenobii* (l.48), or perhaps *Registri* (l.47).
- 1.52 — retinet — The subject is apparently *pars* (l.47).

From the herb Began, which bloomed there, in taste
 Now sweet, but first bitter. Hence the name
 Of the house was one time famous as Bekansgill.
 It now receives a name and fortune 45
 Befitting so noble a dwelling.
 Decrees of Kings and the Count aforesaid
 Tell of things in events of the past
 Which chroniclers do not relate.
 May grace divine then be to this house 50
 A pious nurse, a leader and tutor;
 So that it may rejoice without downfall.
 May its worshippers be endowed by God
 With a place in heaven, and its lovers graced
 With a righteous reward. 55
 If any disturb this house by forceful
 Damage, or strife, may God correct him,
 Or shorten the term of his life.
 This house, Holy Mary, Virgin Mother,
 Is by its title thy property. 60
 By help divine mayst thou be its ruler;
 Mayst thou bestow thy name on this book.
 The first part of the Register Book of this Abbey
 Of the name of Furness contains the charters
 Of various lands which Nobles had granted 65
 And Kings have confirmed to this house by a lasting gift
 Of piety. It likewise records the final agreements
 And pleadings, in various places, interspersed.

ll.42-43 — The description of the plant points to the Woody Nightshade, or Bittersweet, so named because the taste of the root and stem, when chewed, is first bitter, and then sweet. But, except this verse, no evidence has so far been found that that, or any other plant, was ever known as Began. That word does, however, occur as a personal name in both the Old Norse and Irish languages. It is probable, therefore, that Bekansgill was called after a Norse-Irish settler named Began, just as the neighbouring Ormsgill was named after another of the settlers called Orm. On the other hand, it is not unprecedented for the site of an Abbey to be named from the plant most abundant there. The third filiation from Cîteaux, led by St. Bernard himself, settled in a desolate part of the diocese of Langres, in Champagne, called the Valley of Wormwood, from the abundance there of that plant (Beck pp. 30-31). In the same way, the site of Furness Abbey may have been called by the early monks the Vale of Nightshade, and afterwards that name may have been mistakenly equated with the place-name Bekansgill, so that in time Began might have come to be regarded as the name of the plant.

ll.44-46 — That the Abbey was originally known as St. Mary of Bechanesgile is shown by its being so named in a grant of Herbert of Ellale, dated approximately 1190-1220 (Chetham Soc. 74, N.S., p. 224). But by the time these verses were written in 1412, the Abbey had become known as St Mary of Furness. See l.48 of Latin text, and l.64 of the translation.

- Per tabulam cu[nc]ta rep[er]ire potes sive cuncta
 Ordine scripto[rum] possesso[rum] folio[rum]
 55 Fineq[ue] nectuntur qu[a]e p[er] papas tribuuntur
 Ordinis indulta co[m]munia n[ost]raq[ue] multa
 W[i]ll[el]m[u]s Dalton[n] Abbas hu[n]c condere librum
 Fecit eo cribrum sathan[a]e t[er]at et petat altum
 Sicq[ue] liber plenu[m] fine[m] sortitur am[o]enu[m]
 60 Anno milleno Centu[m] quat[er] ac duodeno
 Quem John Stell digitis monachus scripsit sine penna
 Cuiusqua[m] volucris careat sine fine gehenna
 Isto[rum] capita dant arbor genteq[ue] tumba
 Quo scripsit calamu[m] p[er] paradigma suum
 65 Quisquis amore libros preciosos nescit h[ab]ere
 Illius a manibus hunc librum chr[ist]e tuere
 Est dives durus cape denam pro decanona
 H[a]ec metra dictantis sic nome[n] h[ab]es vice prona
 Is studioq[ue] sui tabulam dedit esse seque[n]tem
 70 Cui pietate tui vitam des chr[ist]e mane[n]tem
 Ut pat[et] in capite quo scripto quo folioq[ue]
 Post rep[er]ire potes qu[od] in illis noscere qu[a]eres.

- 1.54 — For possessorum the introduction to vol. II of the Chartulary substitutes neonon numero, and omits the next two lines, 55-56.
 1.57 — In the MS. the scansion of Dalton is indicated by placing a bar over the n, thus doubling that consonant and making the o long by position.
 11.57-58 — condere . . . Fecit — This construction, imitated from the Greek, is rarely found in prose, and only occasionally in the poets. In contrast to the usual construction with a gerundive, or an ut-clause, it places a slight emphasis on the work done, rather than on the instructions to do it or the person that gave them.
 1.58 — cribrum — The allusion is to Luke, 22, 31, which in the Vulgate reads:— . . . Satanas expetivit vos ut cribraret sicut triticum.
 1.60 — For ac, the introduction to vol. II of the Chartulary substitutes et, and in 1.61 reads Hunc instead of Quem.
 11.63-64 — These two lines are omitted in vol. II of the Chartulary, the introduction to which ends with the next two lines, 65 and 66.
 11.66-70 — chr[ist]e — In the MS. this is written xpe, the first two letters of the Greek word being imitated in Latin minuscules without a capital.
 1.67 — The answer to the riddle is given by the words "Riche", "hard", and the letters "k", "t", written over the words dives, durus, denam, decanona, respectively; and by the addition, at the end of the line, of the phrase "in est & fit Esk". These additions to the MS. are in very small characters, similar to the hand in which the prose account of the foundation of the Abbey, etc., is written on the first of the parchment folios of vol. I of the Chartulary. They are possibly by the same scribe, or one nearly contemporary.
 1.69 — tabulam — This refers to the table of contents, which in the MS. begins at the top of f. 7, opposite to and immediately following these verses.

By means of the table you can find everything,
 Whether all is arranged in the order of writings, 7c
 Or owners, or pages. At the end are the grants
 By the Popes of privileges common to th'Order,
 As also our obligations.
 The Abbot, William Dalton, caused this book
 To be written. May he therefore outwear the sieve 75
 Of Satan, and steer a course to Heaven!
 And so comes to a full and pleasant end this book,
 Which the monk, John Stell, with his fingers wrote, without
 The quill of any bird, in fourteen twelve.
 May he ne'er suffer the pains of Hell! 80
 The heads of "arbor, genteque tumba" — to take
 His own exemplar — give the kind of pen
 With which he wrote.
 Who treats not books with loving care,
 Lord, from his hands, this book, O spare. 85
 "Est dives durus", — take the tenth, instead
 Of the nineteenth letter, and by a ready change
 You have the name of him dictating these lines.
 He made the following table his study. Grant him,
 O Lord, from his love of Thee, eternal life. 90
 From the heading 'tis plain in what writing and leaf
 You later can find what you seek to learn in them.

1.69 — table — i.e., the table of contents.

1.74 — William Dalton, the twenty-eighth Abbot, was elected in 1405, and is believed to have ruled until 1417, thus surviving the completion of the Chartulary by about five years.

11.81-83 — The first syllables of the three Latin words together make up the word *argentum*, i.e. silver. Other examples of nonsensical verses of Latin words, in which the first syllable of each word forms part of an English or French word are to be found in Rylands Latin MS. 394, f. 27, nos. 9 and 11. See W. A. Pantin's *Medieval Collection of Latin and English Proverbs and Riddles*, from the Rylands Latin MS. 394. Manchester, 1930, pp. 32-33.

Though the above may well be the first instance of the use of a silver pen in the Furness district, its use was already known in the East. Beck (p. 287 n.) quotes Fosbroke's *Encyclopaedia of Antiquities* as stating that "the Eastern Patriarchs from dignity used a silver pen in subscriptions". As further evidence, there is the epigram in Greek elegiacs, written by Crinagoras of Mytilene — who flourished in the Augustan age — to accompany his birthday gift of a silver pen to Proclus for his readiness in learning (*Anth: Pal: VI, 227*).

1.86 — Riddles depending on the substitution of one particular letter for another in a word, and verses of Latin words which, literally translated and joined together, make up English words or names, were popular in the middle ages. Here, in the word "Est", if we substitute the tenth letter of the Latin alphabet (k) for the nineteenth (t), we have Esk, as the surname of the monk who composed the verses. Then *dives* (rich) and *durus* (hard) together make up his Christian name Richard. For other examples of this word-play, see Rylands Latin MS. 394, f. 27, nos. 24 and 22 (in which the variant, *dis durus*, with the same meaning, occurs).

11.91-92 — These two lines serve as an introduction to the table of contents, which in the MS. begins on the recto of the next leaf (f. 7).

NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Of the many historiated initials in the Furness *Chartulary*, the two here reproduced—by kind permission of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records (fig. 1) and of the Trustees of the British Museum (fig. 2)—though not part of the Metrical Account, are so closely associated with it, by reason of their positions in the book, as to merit attention. Both miniatures illuminate the same letter, the capital ‘I’ of ‘Incipit’, the first word of the heading of the Table of Contents of each volume. In vol. I, this Table begins at the top of f. 7, and so faces the last 36 lines of Esk’s Metrical Account on the verso of f. 6. In vol. II, the Table of Contents begins at the top of f. 2, opposite the 16 lines of the shorter metrical account, on the verso of f. 1.

In the miniature from vol. II, the figure of the monk, at his desk, is evidently intended as a self-portrait of the scribe, John Stell. This is clearly shown by the label, inscribed with his favourite, punning and allusive verse—‘Stella, parens Solis, John Stell rege, munere prolis’. The attribution is further emphasized by the position of the miniature, which, as already stated, faces the verses on the opposite page, in which John Stell is named as the scribe.

The miniature from vol. I is less easy of interpretation, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that the kneeling monk, who is represented praying to the Virgin for her protection, as shown by the label bearing the Leonine pentameter—‘Protege me servum, Vergo Maria, Tuum’, was one of the monks chiefly concerned in the production of the *Chartulary*. Who then is the kneeling monk more likely to be than Richard Esk, author of the Metrical Account and compiler of the Table of Contents of each volume of the *Chartulary*, who in one of his verses (l. 46) petitions the, Virgin to bestow her name on the book? The humble prayer on the label seems also in keeping with the self-effacing character of one who was content for his name to be recorded only in the form of a riddle, though it is arguable that metrical difficulties might well have prevented his making a more direct reference to his full name, even if he had wished. Lastly, as with the miniature from vol. II, so also the position of this miniature, viz. at the beginning of the Table of Contents in vol. I, and opposite the verses, in one of which the riddle of the author’s name appears, is not without significance.

My thanks are due to Sir Edward Salisbury, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for an authoritative statement on the order of the two successive tastes of *Solanum dulcamara*.

This apparently minor point is not without difficulty, for modern text-books seem rarely to refer to the matter, and of the earlier writers who do, one at least (Culpepper, ed. 1815, p. 1) reverses the correct order of the two tastes. It is pleasant to find that Richard Esk's precise description of this peculiar feature of the plant is in exact agreement with the findings of botanical science today, and so makes it possible to identify the plant that was found by the early monks growing abundantly on the site of Furness Abbey, more than eight centuries ago.

I also wish to thank the Rev. Father R. J. G. Kershaw for his kindness in checking and verifying, from the resources of his private library, all the classical quotations and references; as well as Mr F. Barnes, B.A., F.L.A., for the interest he has taken in the paper, and the encouragement he has shown in its progress.