

The Abbots of the Monastery of S. Mary de Parco Stanley, or Dale, Derbyshire.

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THE ancient Register or Chartulary of the Abbey of Dale, now in the British Museum,* contains amongst other interesting items a biographical and chronological list of the Abbots.† This was evidently compiled at the commencement of the sixteenth century by some inmate of the monastery who had himself known probably the two last Abbots on his list, and heard from his seniors, or gathered from records now lost, the information about those preceding. The notice of the first three Abbots is obviously taken from the chronicle‡ of the monastery written by Thomas de Muskhams, Canon, in the thirteenth century, who was personally acquainted with at least one of them.

It is only in rare cases that we are able to make out complete lists of Abbots, and more rare still to discover anything beyond their names. No apology is therefore necessary for the appearance of the list of those who ruled over the Abbey of Dale. I have appended a literal translation with such additional particulars as I have met with.

The transcript was made direct from the original, and is here given in an extended form :—

Memorandum et posteris nostris perpetue memorie commen-

* MS. Cott. Vesp. E. 26.

† Commencing on f. 178.

‡ This is bound up with the chartulary.

dandum. quod iste est verus et perfectus numerus et ordo omnium abbatum istius loci ab initio fundacionis sibi invicem succedentium.

- i^{us} Pater Walterus de Senteney sancte recordacionis primus Abbas et vir summe religionis rexit xxx^{ta} uno annis et uno quart'
- ij^{us} Dompnus Willelmus vir totius prudencie rexit ij^{obus} annis et dimedio et postea factus est Abbas premonstratensis et capellanus romani pontificis.
- ijj^{us} Dompnus Johannes Grauncorth deo et hominibus amabilis qui in diebus suis splenduit in ordine nostro ut lucifer et esperus in celi cardine et rexit xix^{tem} annis et xxxix^{ta} septimanis.
- iiij^{us} Dompnus hugo de lincolne rexit xiiij annis et dimedio et uno quart'
- v^{us} Dompnus simon rexit quinque Annis et xj diebus.
- vj^{us} Dompnus laurencius rexit xvj annis et uno quart'
- vij^{us} Dompnus Ricardus de normanton qui fuit dilapidator in tempore suo et nimis onorosus* successoribus suis prima vice rexit viij annis x diebus tam exceptis.
- vij^{us} Dompnus Johannes de lincolnia rexit sex annis
- ix^{us} Dompnus Ricardus de normanton secunda vice rexit uno anno et xxx^{ta} viij^{to} septimanis
- x^{us} Dompnus Johannes horsley rexit xx^{ti} vj annis et xlv septimanis et certis diebus qui senio confectus sponte in manus conventus resignavit.
- xj^{us} Dompnus Johannes wodhouse rexit xv septimanis
- xij^{us} Dompnus Willelmus horsley in cuius diebus camera lapidia aput stanley grang' edificata est et multa alia firmissima edificia rexit xx^{ti} uno annis et xl una septimanis
- xiiij^{us} Dompnus Rogerus de Kyrketon rexit iij^{bus} annis et xx^{ti} septimanis.
- xiiij^{us} Dompnus Willelmus de boney honeste conversacionis prerogativa prefulgens admodum novus fundator multa tenementa ruinosam reedificavit et rexit xlij^{obus} annis et xiiij septimanis.

* sic.

- xv^{us} Dompnus henricus monyasche in universa morum honestate preclarus rexit xxx^{ta}ix annis et xj septimanis
- xvj^{us} Dompnus Johannes spondon recolende memorie rexit laudabiliter gregem sibi commissum xxxij^{bus} annis* Et edificavit tectum corporis Ecclesie et tectum capelle Beate marie ubi antiphona cantatur Et plurima bona fecit in vita sua et obdormivit in Domino cuius anime propicietur deus amen.
- xvij^{us} Dompnus Johannes stanley pater venerabilis prudencia sciencia qui claustum Domus nostre fieri fecit ac terras et tenementa antiquo tempore perdita sua prudencia et labore acquesivit et laudabiliter gregem sibi commissum rexit xx^{ti} duobus annis et postea migravit ad Dominum.
- xviii^{us} Dompnus Ricardus Notyngham pius pater diversis virtutum floribus ornatus Edificari fecit tectum summi chori et plura alia edificia et Beneficia fecit huic Monasterio et sicut Bonus pastor oves sibi commissas feliciter gubernavit xix^{ta} annis et tunc anima soluta a corpore vitam in pace fenivit.
(added in a later hand) ccc xliij years ix weakes & xxij dayes.

TRANSLATION AND NOTES.

Our successors must remember and commit to perpetual recollection that this is the true and perfect number and order of all the Abbots of this place from the beginning of the foundation, succeeding one after another :—

1st Father Walter de Senteney, of pious memory, the first Abbot, and a man of the highest religion, ruled thirty-one years and one quarter.†

The notice of this Abbot is clearly taken from the Chronicle, where he is mentioned as “vir summae religionis.” In the obituary of Beauchief Abbey‡ he is commemorated on January 3rd, and described as formerly a Canon of Newhouse.

* From here to the end is apparently a later addition by the same hand.

† The chronology of the Abbots will be discussed further on.

‡ Addy's *Beauchief Abbey*.

2nd Dan William, a man of all prudence, ruled two years and a half, and afterwards was made Abbot of Prémontre, and chaplain of the Roman Pontiff.

Of this Abbot's life, after his translation to the mother Abbey, we are able to glean some particulars.

According to Le Paige,* he was the second Abbot of Prémontre of the name, and by birth an Englishman. He was elected Father-Abbot, 6 Idus October, 1233.† Immediately upon his election he obtained from Pope Gregory IX. the office of Visitor of the Order, which was then held by certain Cistercian Abbots, and entered upon his new duties at once by visiting all the monasteries of the Order in the Italian Circary.

On his return to Prémontre he issued an injunction, which was confirmed by the Apostolic See and the General Chapter of the Order, that the *Fratres Conversi*, or lay-brethren, should in future wear grey, instead of white, copes. The lay-brethren, however, contumaciously resisting this order, sent letters of appeal to the Roman Court, following them up by a deputation, but being obliged to submit, returned in confusion.

Other troubles followed, and at length the Abbot resigned. Failing to obtain satisfaction at the hands of the Pope for the loss of his Abbacy, after sundry vicissitudes he returned to his native land and became an inmate of the Abbey of Bayham, in Sussex, where he died.

3rd Dan John Grauncorth, lovely to God and men, who in his days shone in our Order as Lucifer and Hesperus in the height of heaven, and ruled 19 years and 39 weeks.

The character of this Abbot is taken from the Chronicle of Thomas de Muskham, who states that he himself took the regular habit "ab abbate Johanne Grauncort patre venerabili, Deo et hominibus amabili, qui socius erat specialissimus beati Augustini

* Bibliotheca Præmonstratensis Ordinis (Paris, 1633 fol.) p. 927.

† (A.D. 1233). Eodem anno, deposito abbate Præmonstratensi substitutus est abbas Anglicus de Parco juxta Dereleyam; et in eodem capitulo ardua plurima sunt statuta.

Annales de Dunstaplia (Ed. Luard. Longmans, 1866), p. 135.

de lavenden. Hii duo in diebus suis splendorum in ordine ut lucifer et Hesperus in celi cardine."

Nothing further is known of him.

4th Dan Hugh de Lincoln ruled 14 years and a half and one quarter.

Hugh de Lincoln was Abbot in 1260, when he was party to an agreement that whereas Ralph de Halum was bound to the Abbey in xij. marks by which they had delivered him from the Jews, the said Abbot at his request, agreed that in case the said sum was paid by S. Martin's Day (the deed being dated on Vigil of SS. Peter and Paul) the lands in the Park of Kirk Hallam enfeoffed to the Abbey should revert to him without dispute.*

5th Dan Simon ruled five years and 11 days.

This man was Abbot in 1270, when he appears as party to a covenant made on the feast of S. Benedict.†

He is commemorated in the Beauchief Obituary, on September 27.

6th Dan Lawrence ruled 16 years and one quarter.

The Chartulary contains two deeds in which this Abbot is named, dated 1275 (the feast of St. George) and 1278 respectively.‡

There is extant a more valuable portion of his history in the form of a letter addressed to him by one brother Robert de Derby on behalf of an apostate member of the Order, from which we learn that he resigned the abbacy of his own free will. Unfortunately it is without date. It is here given from Peck's transcript from the Prémontre Registers, but the Latin of the copy is so corrupt it is useless attempting to give a translation :

Fratri Roberti de Derbi Fratri L. nuper Abbati de Dala, pro Reconsiliatione Edmundi Zouche Apostate Litera supplex.

1. Reverendo Patri suo in Christo ac ampliori Honore nunc quam prius excolendo, Fratri L. teneri quondam Presidenti de Dala, suus Filius, si placet, nunc ut prius per omnia et in omnibus, Frater Robertus de Derbi, quicquid Honoris et Reverentie optari poterit tanto Patri, cum Salute.

Reg.
Præmont.
fol. 30b.

* Chartulary, f. 55b. † *Ibid.*, f. 10b. ‡ *Ibid.*, ff. 87 and 140b.

2. Pater Reverende, in sacrarum scripturarum Cathalogo digestum est et exarratum, quod Judicium durissimum in hiis qui presunt fiet, maxime de hiis qui magis appetunt preesse quam prodesse. Et e contra scriptum est, quod qui bene presunt, duplici Honore digni sunt.

3. Propterea, si conscientia vestra suadente cessionem vestram gratis procurastis, et virgam humeri pastoralis et Sceptum Exactoris vite secularis superastis, vobis congaudens gaudeo, set et semper gaudebo in Domino; quod non hoc vestrum erat Consilium, set a Spiritu Sancto. Licet enim Martha Partem Sollicitudinis commendatam a Christo promeruit, tamen Maria optimam partem elegit.

4. Set quia nunc scio vere quam potens poteritis, maxime in hiis que sunt ad reparationem lapsorum vestre Religionis, pro fugitivo Famulo vestro et Fratre converso, Fratre Edmundo Zouche (quem errantem inveni longe a Deo in Regione Dissimilitudinis, postposita Salute utriusque sui Hominis; quem Deus per me reduxit ad Agnitionem sui, ut apprehendat viam salutis) genibus vestre Paternitati provolutus vestram Paternitatem et summam caritatem dignam duxi devotius deprecandam, quatenus misericordia moti, in eum sicut fecit Pater in Filium prodigum suum, Reg . . . suum procuratis, statum suum scismaticum reformetis, et eo sollicitius (*sic*) si placet partes vestras interponatis, quo ipsum vestris Temporibus a vobis apostatasse cognoscitis; ut si quod in vobis (quod absit) superhabundavit erga Rigoris Delictum, superhabundet nunc et gratia. Judicium enim ei sine misericordia, qui non facit misericordiam.

5. Quod, si abbas et Conventus non decreverint ipsum ad pristinum statum suum, cum penitentia, secundum exigentiam culparum suarum restituere; hoc saltem ex superhabundantia rogo (quod secundum omnia jura sibi negare non poteritis) quod literas dimissorias ad transeundum, vel ad alium domum vestre professionis, vel ad Fruges vite arctioris, eidem ab eisdem, pro sua et omnium vestrum salute, procuretis.

6. Ceterum, inveni hominem in desertis locis secundum cor meum, [viz] Dominum Abbatem de Cokyrsond; qui mihi multos

exhibuit, et ob gratiam vestri, cujus me dicebam habere notitiam; habundantiores cui, si placet, pro me vestro per literas vestras assurgatis ad immensas gratiarum actiones.

7. De statu vestro prospero votis omnibus opto audire prospera; quod et fiet, ut spero, cum prescriptori dederitis mihi vestra gratiosa Responsa. De me, Filio et Fratre vestro, noveritis quod bene valeo, pro modulo meo. Melius tamen valerem si ad libitum vestra presentia et desiderato colloquio possem satiari. Valete.*

7th *Dan Richard de Normanton, who was a squanderer in his time and very burdensome to his successors, ruled the first time 8 years except 10 days.*

8th *Dan John de Lincoln ruled six years.*

This Abbot occurs in the Chartulary as party to a covenant dated anno 28 Edw. I (1299).†

9th *Dan Richard de Normanton the second time ruled one year and 38 weeks.*

It would be interesting to know why an Abbot who was apparently obliged to resign for squandering the goods of the monastery, should again be appointed its ruler.

10th *Dan John Horsley ruled 26 years and 45 weeks and certain days, who worn out with age voluntarily resigned into the hands of the convent.*

From the commemoration of this Abbot in the Beauchief Obituary we find he died on November 9th, 1333.

11th *Dan John Wodhouse ruled 15 weeks.*

For some unexplained reason this Abbot resigned his office. See the certificate of election of his successor given below.

12th *Dan William Horsley in whose days the stone chamber at Stanley Grange was built and many other very strong edifices, ruled 21 years and 41 weeks.*

The full account of the election of William de Horsley, Canon of Dale (in true English fashion, "by way of compromise") is here given from Peck's transcript from the Register of Prémontre.‡ Would that other similar records had been preserved:—

* Add. MS. Brit. Mus. 4935, f. 2.

† Chartulary, f. 46.

‡ Add. MS. Brit. Mus. 4935, fol. 3.

Aug. 14 Willielmi de Horslaye, Canonici de Dala, in ejusdem Ecclesie
¹³³²
 6 E. 3. Abbatem, per viam compromissi, electio.

1. Universis Sancte Matris Ecclesie Filiis presentes literas inspecturis, Frater Willielmus, humilis abbas ecclesie de L. vicesgerens Reverendi Patris, ac D. D. Johannis D. G. Premonstratensis Abbatis, et in hac parte ejus plenitudinem habens Potestatis, Salutem et Notitiam veritatis.

Regist.
 Prem.
 fol. 36, a.

2. Cum nuper vacante ecclesia de Dala, per cessionem voluntariam Fratris Johannis de Wodhous nuper dicte Ecclesie Abbatis ; ne ipsa Ecclesia viduitatis diutius pateretur Incommoda ; Nos (venerabilis Patris et Abbatis de Newhous, hujus Ecclesie Patris Abbatis, vices gerentes in hac parte) assignaverimus, Priori et Fratribus dicte Ecclesie sic vacantis, diem electionis novi abbatis faciende, viz. quartum decimum diem mensis Augusti, decernentes Fratres absentes (si qui essent et commode in negotio electionis supradicte interesse possent) ad dictos diem et locum sollicite esse vocandos.

3. Quo quidem die veniente, et Missa de Spiritu Sancto (prout moris est) celebrato ; nobisque una cum D. abbate de Hales in presenti negotio nobis assistente, ac omnibus fratribus dicte ecclesie, in domo capitulari ipsius, existentibus, monuimus, ut omnes et singuli excommunicati, suspensi vel interdicti (si qui essent) capitulum exirent et recederent, alios libere eligere permittentes, protestando expresse, quod non fuit Intentionis nostre, seu Fratrum Ecclesie supradicte, in presentia talium ad electionem novi abbatis procedere quoquomodo ; lectoque capitulo statutorum nostri ordinis de novo Abbate faciando ; invocato prius Sancti Spiritus gratia ; tandem placuit omnibus et singulis, eidem ecclesie de Pastore futuro, per viam compromissi, providere.

4. Omnes [igitur] unanimiter dederunt Waltero de Thikhill, Priori ; Thome de Tikhill, Suppriori ; Roberto de Barton, Symoni de Bredon, et Willielmo de Horslaye, dicte Ecclesie canonicis, plenam, generalem, et liberam Potestatem, ac Mandatum speciale, per certum tempus eis assignatum duraturum, eligendi novum abbatem, de se ipsis, aut aliis ipsius Ecclesie Fratribus, seu de gremio alterius ecclesie cujuscunque nostri ordinis, prout eis et

ecclesie sue magis expediens videretur, ac ipsi ecclesie de novo Pastore providendi; ita tamen, quod, postquam concordēs de persona essent eligenda, unus ipsorum, de mandato aliorum, vice sua et ipsorum ac totius capituli, personam illam eligeret in communi, et provideret dicte ecclesie de eadem; promiseruntque universi et singuli, quod ipsum recipiant in abbatem et pastorem, quem ipsi duxerint eligendum.

5. Dicti vero compromissarii potestatem eis traditam acceptantes, et in partem [ab aliis separatam] postmodum cedentes, post diversos Tractatus multiplicium personarum; remoto demum ab eorum tractatu dicto compromissario suo Fratre Willielmo de Horsleye; de persona sua diligenter tractantes: divina tandem favente Gratia, in ipsum Fratrem Willielmum (virum utique providum, in Spiritualibus et Temporalibus plurimum circumspectum) vota sua direxerunt.

6. Unde ipsis eodem die, ante horam sibi assignatam, consentientibus, Frater Thomas de Tikhill, unus compromissariorum collegarum suorum, de mandato ipsorum; vice etiam totius conventus ipsius ecclesie, presentibus omnibus in capitulo qui debuerunt interesse, predictum Fratrem Willielmum, in Patrem et Pastorem ecclesie supradicte elegit et providit de eodem: Nobis quoque (vicequa prius) humiliter supplicavit, ut dictam electionem, sic rite, legitime et canonicè factam, et electam, auctoritate paterna nobis in hac parte commissa, ratificare, approbare et confirmare dignaremur.

7. Nos vero, ipsius electi consensu petito et optento, dictam electionem et personam electam diligenter examinantes, nulloque vitio in eis invento, ipsum Fratrum Willielmum de Horsleye, in Patrem et Pastorem dicte ecclesie de Dala rite, ut premittitur, electum, ac electionem ejusdem canonicè factam, de consilio et assensu venerabilis fratris abbatis supradicti, secundum formam statutorum nostri ordinis et privilegiorum, laudavimus, approbavimus, et confirmavimus, ut decebat; peractisque omnibus que ad electionem et confirmationem pertinebant, Fratres ipsius Ecclesie ipsas electionem et confirmationem sic rite celebratus, gratas habentes et acceptas, suum electum ad

ecclesiam deducendo, Te Deum Laudamus solempniter decantant.

8. Quo quidem decantato, ipsum electum in possessionem dicte Ecclesie Regiminis, cordas campanarum eidem manibus tradendo, induximus corporalem; ipsum in stallo abbatis deputato, more nostri ordinis, installantes.

9. Quibus sic peractis, et nobis et dicte Ecclesie Fratribus ad capitulum iterato reversis, surrexerunt omnes et singuli dicte ecclesie professi, et suo electo sic per nos confirmato (sigilloque administrationis sui officii per nos sibi tradito) obedientiam fecerunt manualementem.

10. Que omnia et singula premissa, omnibus quorum interest vel interesse poterit, notificamus per presentes.

11. In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum, una cum sigillo venerabilis Fratris abbatis de Hales predicti, ac sigillo communi Ecclesie de Dala supradicte, presentibus est appensum.

12. Datas in Ecclesia de Dala supradicta, nono decimo Kalendas Septembris, Anno Domini M.CCC. xxxij.

13th Dan Roger de Kyrketon ruled 3 years and 20 weeks.

14th Dan William de Boney, shining forth by the token of honest conversation quite a new founder, re-edified many ruinous tenements and ruled 42 years and 14 weeks.

15th Dan Henry Monyash, excellent in all honesty of manners, ruled 39 years and 11 weeks.

16th Dan John Spondon, of memory to be cherished, ruled laudably the flock committed to him 33 years. And he built the roof of the body of the church, and the roof of the chapel of the Blessed Mary, where the Antiphon is sung. And very many good deeds did he, and slept in the Lord. On whose soul may God have mercy. Amen.

In the view of the Abbey published by the brothers Buck in 1727, are shown the more or less perfect remains of three clerestory windows to the nave, of Perpendicular date. These are probably Abbot Spondon's work, for the nearly flat roofs of the period would necessitate the raising of the side walls to meet them.

17th Dan John Stanley, a venerable father in prudence (and) knowledge, who caused to be made the cloister of our House, and

by his prudence and labour got possession of certain lands and tenements lost of old time, and laudably ruled the flock committed to him 22 years, and afterwards he passed to the Lord.

From the Visitations of Richard Redman, Bishop of St. Asaph, and Visitor-General of the Order at the close of the fifteenth century, we learn many particulars of Abbot John and his successor.

In 1478, the Bishop, in noticing favourably the provisions for the internal welfare of the Monastery, and the condition of the buildings, mentions those of the "newly-begun cloister" (*claustrum noviter inceptum*), which, in a later visitation—that of 1482—are noted as almost finished.

I am of opinion that the Late Perpendicular windows, with the remains of the old glazing, which were removed from Dale to Morley Church, where they now form the whole of one side of the north aisle, and which are said to have formed part of the frater of the Abbey, are not the windows of the frater at all, but a portion of Abbot John de Stanley's cloister. Methinks that if the frater had been so adorned at such a late period it would have been duly chronicled. I am unable to find any confirmation of the received notion respecting the original position of the Morley windows.

The earlier Visitations are unanimous in commending the laudable circumspection and prudence of Abbot John. In 1491, however, a change is apparent, which foreshadows the close of his rule. The Visitor then noticed "that on account of the imbecility and impatience of the Abbot, the rules for the observance of our religion are disappearing, wherefore we strictly enjoined on the Lord Abbot, by commands in virtue of salutary obedience, to the end that silence be observed in the four accustomed places, under pain of statute, without any remission, and divine service sung more devoutly, with the rest of the regular observances of our Order professedly due and accustomed."*

* "Quod propter imbecillitatem et impatientiam Abbatis regulares observantia evanescent nostre religionis quare domino Abbati in mandatis districte in virtute salutaris obedientie dedimus quatenus silenium iij^{or} locis debitis sub pena statuti sine remissione remittend³ observetur et divinum servicium devocius cantetur cum ceteris regularibus observantiis ordinis nostri profess³ debitis et consuetis."

Shortly after this the Abbot resigned office, and spent the rest of his days in comfort and peace. A copious account of the provision made for him is given below.

18th *Dan Richard Nottingham, a pious father, adorned with sundry flowers of the virtues, caused to be built the roof of the uppermost choir, and many other edifices and benefices did he to this Monastery; and, like a good shepherd, he happily governed the sheep committed to him 19 years, and then his soul having been loosed from his body, he ended his life in peace.*

The earliest mention of this person is in Bishop Redman's Visitations for 1478, when he held the office of Circator.* Two years later he became Sub-Prior, and in 1485 was presented to the Vicarage of Heanor by the Abbot and Convent. He held this living until 1491, when on the resignation of Abbot John Stanley, he succeeded to the chief rule of the Monastery.†

The character given of Richard de Nottingham by his biographer would seem to have been really deserved, for in all the Visitations he is well spoken of. For example, in 1494 Bishop Redman writes that he found nothing that called for restriction, and all things, both within and without the Monastery, were most honourably preserved by the circumspection of the Abbot. Moreover, the house was free from the burden of debt. The last Visitation was on May 15, 1500, when the Visitor states he did not leave any precepts, because of the fewness of the brethren, on account of the plague which the Lord had lately permitted amongst them, but he doubted not but that the said Abbot would fill up the accustomed number as the means of the Church permitted.‡

One of the first acts of Abbot Richard after his election was to provide for his predecessor. The arrangements for his comfort

* It was the duty of the Circator to go round (*circuire*) all the offices of the Monastery at appointed hours, to prevent negligences of the brethren and violations of the Rule.

† This Richard de Nottingham must not be confounded with another Canon of Dale of the same name, who held the Vicarage of Kirk Hallam from 1442 to 1458, and that of Ilkeston from 1458 to 1497.

‡ "Nulla competit nobis relinquere precepta tum paucitatem fratrum ibidem comparimus ob plagam quam nuper dominus inter eos exercuerat consuetum vero numerum dictus Abbas adimplere secundum quod facultas ecclesie permiserit non dubitamus.

are most graphically described in an indenture drawn up at the time, and preserved for us in Bishop Redman's Register. This document affords us so curious a glimpse of the internal life of the Monastery, that we must give it in full with a translation :

Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc presens scriptum indentatum visuris vel auditoris Ricardus Abbas monasterii beate Marie de Dale et ejusdem loci Conventus Salutem in domino. Cum venerandus pater dompnus Johannes Stanley nuper Abbas monasterii predicti sciens se debilem et ne firmum ad regendum monasterium predictum volensque utilitati ejusdem monasterii providere sua sponte dignitatem suam abbacialem nuper resignaverit Sciatis nos prefatos Ricardum Abbatem modernum et Conventum nostro unanimi consensu pariter et assensu licencia prius a reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Ricardo dei gratia assaven' episcopo visitatore nostro petita et obtenta dedisse concessisse et hoc presenti scripto nostro indentato confirmasse predicto Venerando patri dompno Johanni Stanley unum annualem Redditum viginti Marcarum exeuntem de omnibus Grangiis terris et tenementis nostris infrascriptis videlicet de Stanley graunge quatuor marcas de omnibus terris et tenementis nostris in Hilton in Com. Derb. sex marcas et de Alwaston graunge decem Marcas Habendum et percipiendum dictum annualem redditum viginti marcarum de omnibus grangiis terris et tenementis predictis cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentiis predicto Johanni Stanley nuper Abbati ad terminum vite sue ad terminos solutionis ibidem consuetos et usuales per manus omnium et singulorum firmariorum predictorum Grangiarum terrarum et tenementorum quorumcunque pro tempore existencium et occupancium. Preterea sciatis nos dedisse concessisse et hoc presenti scripto nostro indentato confirmasse prefato Johanni nuper Abbati pro manso et mansione sua omnes illas Cameras tam altas quam bassas quas occupat et diu occupavit et inhabitavit ac modo occupat olim vocatas Chaddesden Chamber cum promptuario et le Wodehouse durante vite sua. Dedimus et concessimus insuper eidem Johanni Stanley ligna et carbones cum cariagio eorundem pro focalibus ad ignem suum

faciendum necessaria et sufficiencia candelasque sufficientes pro luminibus suis et quod habeat unum concanonicum nostrum Capellanum ad decendum secum servicium divinum cotidie sicut decet Dedimus insuper et concessimus damusque et per presentes concedimus eidem Johanni Stanley pro victu suo septimanatim durante vita sua panes sufficientes de optima pasta in Monasterio nostra factos et cibaria sibi salubria et pro victu suo sufficiencia de coquina nostra videlicet fercula carniū et pissium ac aliorum cibariū secundum quod dies expostulaverit et septimanatim octo lagenas optime servisie pro potu suo sumptibus nostris providend' et sibi deliberabat' ubicumque talis servisia adquiri poterit et provideri in villis et locis circumvicinis juxta Abbathiam nostram. Concessimus etiam eidem Johanni panem potum victualia cibaria et fercula tam carniū quam pissium et aliorum cibariū necessaria et sufficiencia pro duobus famulis predicti Johannis quos eligere voluerit ad voluntatem suam videlicet unum hominem et unum adolescentem sive puerum et quod habebit pasturam et fenum pro duobus equis suis custodiendis tam in estate quam in yeme et stabulum necessarium pro custodia ipsorum infra situua monasterii supradicti. Et quia Volumus quod idem Johannes honorifice pertractetur concessimus eidem Johanni ad usum suum duo salina argentea vocata saltsellers unde unum cum cooportorio unam crateram argenteam cum cooperculo duas Murras argento deaurato circumligatas sex coclearia argentea totum ornamentum Camere sue vocatum Koosters ac pannos tam laneos quam lineos ac alia necessaria tam pro lecto suo quam pro alio lecto pro predictis famulis suis occupand'. Ita quod idem Johannes predictos pannos pro lectis predictis sibi deliberatos reperet sumptibus suis postea sicut sibi visum fuerit complacere. habend' et congaudend' omnia et singula premissa prefato Johanni modo et forma supradictis ad terminum vite sue absque impedimento vel contradiccione nostri vel successorum nostrorum. Proviso semper quod non licebit prefato Johanni prefata salina crateram murras coclearia pannos nec aliquam parcellam eorundem aliqui dare vendere alienare vel impignorare sed quod in mediate post decessum suum nobis successoribus nostris et monasterio

nostro integre remaneant et revertantur In cujus rei testimonium uni parti hujus scripti indentati penes predictum Johannem remanenti Nos predicti Abbas et Conventus sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus alteri vero parti ejusdem scripti penes nos remanenti predictus Johannes sigillum suum apposuit. Dat' in domo nostra capitulari vicesimo octavo die Mensis Octobris anno domini Millesimo cccc nonagesimo primo.

TRANSLATION.

To all the faithful in Christ who shall behold or hear this present indenture Richard Abbot of the Monastery of the Blessed Mary of Dale and the Convent of the same place greeting in the Lord.

Since the venerable Father Dan John Stanley, lately Abbot of the monastery aforesaid, feeling himself weak and not strong enough to rule the monastery aforesaid, and wishing to provide for the usefulness of the same monastery, of his own will has lately resigned his Abbatial dignity: Know that we the said Richard now Abbot, and the Convent, by our unanimous consent and by the assent and licence previously asked and obtained from the reverend Father and Lord in Christ Dan Richard, by the grace of God Bishop of St. Asaph, our visitor, have given, conceded, and by this our present indenture confirmed to the said venerable Father Dan John Stanley, one annual rent of twenty marks proceeding from all our granges, lands and tenements below written, namely from Stanley Grange four marks, from all our lands and tenements in Hilton in the county of Derby six marks, and from Alvaston Grange ten marks.

To have and to hold the said annual rent of twenty marks from all the granges, lands, and tenements aforesaid, with all and singular their appurtenances to the aforesaid John Stanley, lately Abbot, for the term of his life, at the times of payment there accustomed and usual, by the hands of all and singular the farmers of the aforesaid granges, lands, and tenements whosoever for the time being and occupying.

Moreover know that we have given, conceded, and by this our

present indenture confirmed to the aforesaid John, lately Abbot, for his abode and lodging, all those chambers both upper and lower which he occupyes and for a long time has occupied and inhabited, and now occupyes, formerly called Chaddesden Chamber, with the storehouse and Le Wodehouse, during his life.

We have moreover given and conceded to the same John Stanley wood-billets and coal with the carriage of the same for fuel (what may be) necessary and sufficient for making his fire, and candles sufficient for his lights, and that he may have one of our Canons as chaplain for saying with him Divine Service daily, as is seemly.

Moreover we have given and conceded and by these presents give and concede to the same John Stanley, for his sustenance weekly during his life, sufficient loaves of the best paste made in our monastery, and victuals wholesome for him and sufficient for his sustenance from our kitchen, namely, dishes of meat and fish and other victuals according as the day shall require, and weekly, eight flagons of the best beer for his drinking to be provided at our expense and determined for him wherever such beer can be obtained and provided in the surrounding towns and places near our Abbey.

We have also conceded to the same John, bread, drink, victuals, provisions, and dishes of flesh and fish necessary and sufficient for two servants of the aforesaid John, whom he may wish to choose according to his pleasure, namely, one man and one youth or boy, and that he shall have pasture and hay for keeping his two horses in summer and winter, and the necessary stabling for the custody of the same within the site of the abovesaid monastery.

And because we will that the same John be honorably treated we have conceded to the same John for his use two silver salts (*salina*) called "salt sellers," one with a cover; one silver bowl with a cover; two mazers bound round with silver-gilt; six silver spoons; all the furniture of his chamber called "Koosters;" and cloths, woollen and linen; and other necessaries both for his own bed and for another bed to be occupied by the aforesaid servants. So that the same John shall repair the aforesaid cloths

assigned to him for the aforesaid beds at his own costs as may seem agreeable to himself.

To have and to enjoy all and singular the aforesaid things to the aforesaid John in the manner and form abovesaid for the term of his life without impediment or contradiction of us or of our successors. Provided always that it shall not be lawful for the aforesaid John to give to anyone, sell, alienate, or pawn the aforesaid salts, bowl, mazers, spoons, cloths, or any parcel of them but that immediately after his decease they shall wholly remain and revert to us, our successors, and our monastery.

In testimony whereof to the one part of this indenture remaining in the hands of the aforesaid John, we the Abbot and Convent aforesaid have affixed our common seal, but to the other part of the same writing remaining in our hands the aforesaid John has affixed his seal.

Given in our Chapter House the twenty-eighth day of the month of October in the year of our Lord 1491.

I have not been able to glean any additional particulars respecting Abbot Richard or his imbecile predecessor.

With regard to the recorded works of this Abbot, if we may take "tectum summi chori" to include the clerestory, there is good reason to suppose that the jamb of a clerestory window still visible on the south side of the east end of the Abbey (the only part standing) is the work of Richard de Nottingham. This addition cannot be said to have improved the look of the building, for it necessitated the destruction of the acutely pointed gable by the heightening of the wall at the sides to meet the nearly flat roof of the period. The traces of this alteration are clearly visible in the masonry.

The last Abbot of Dale was John Bebe. Like his predecessor he was a Canon of the Abbey, and is first mentioned in the list of inmates of the house for 1491 as *novicius*, when he must have been at least eighteen years old. Two years later he is given as *subsacrista* and *diaconus*. In the Visitation of 1494 the following serious charge is recorded against him:—

Comparimus insuper ibidem Johannes Bede de incontinentia et quod ex muliere vocata Margaret de Hall genuisset sobolem

which offence he confessed he had committed, although on a previous occasion when he had been accused of the same crime by the Abbot, he was not deserving of blame.

For punishment the Visitor enjoined 40 days *gravioris culpæ*,* and as penance to be sent to the sister Abbey of Hales Owen† for seven years.

Apparently he was not absent from his own monastery for the whole term, as in 1500 he re-appears among the "*Nomina fratrum monasterij de Dalla*" as *Cantor*.

Abbot John Bebe comes before us next in the "Black Book,"‡ compiled by Drs. Legh and Layton, at the instance of Henry VIII., for the purpose of bringing forward a colourable excuse for the suppression of the monasteries. They report, concerning Dale Abbey :

Incontinentes. Johannes Staunton Abbas
cum una soluta et
altera conjugata
Willimus Brampton
cum quinque conjugatis
feminis.
Hic in veneracione habent
partem zone et Lactis
Sanctae Mariae et rotam
Catherinae in argento
Fundator, § Gervasius
Kyngeston, Armiger.
Redditus annuus cxi^{li}.

It is possible that the charge here made against the Abbot is the offence for which he was punished in 1494, and raked up again

* The chief points in the punishment *gravioris culpæ* were—

To sit by himself in the Fraternity on the ground at a bare table and feed on coarser bread and water.

While the Canons were entering or coming out of the church at the Hours, to lie prostrate *ante ostium chori*.

No one to speak to him.

Not to be communicated, nor receive the kiss of peace, nor kiss the Text, nor hold any office in the church.

† In Shropshire.

‡ Now in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire.

§ *Fundator* here is equivalent to Patron.

in accordance with the instructions of the "Visitors." It is a suspicious circumstance that both the persons charged with immorality should be given assumed names.

The last public act of Abbot John Bebe was in 1538, when he appended his name, as did also sixteen Canons, to the so-called Deed of Surrender. The original, which is dated Oct. 24, 30 Henry VIII., is now in the Public Record Office.

The last notice of this Abbot is in the Inventory of the Abbey, taken on the day of the Surrender.*

Rewardes gyven to the Abbot & Convent ther at their departure	{	ffyrst to John bede (<i>sic</i>) late Abbott. vj <i>li</i> xiijs iiijd
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and further on in the same document, among the

Pencions and Stypends appoynted and
allottyd to the late abbot & Convent
of the said late Monastery by the
foreseid Commissiono's
ffyrst to John Bebe late Abbott xxvj*li* xiijs iiijd

The chronology of the Dale Abbots is somewhat difficult to work out satisfactorily. To begin with, the date of the foundation is given by the Canons of the Abbey in their returns to Bishop Redman, as 1204, but the actual year seems to be 1199-1200. For the second Abbot was translated to Prémontre in Oct., 1233, and working back with the recorded lengths of rule, we get to January, 1199-1200, as the time when Walter de Senteney became Abbot.

Two dates of election have come down to us, of Abbots William Horsley and Richard Nottingham, but the intermediate years from 1332 to 1491 cannot be fixed with certainty; for, assuming that no greater interval than a few days intervened between the death of an Abbot and the election of his predecessor, the recorded lengths of rule exceed the actual time by two years.

The following is a full list of the Abbots of Dale, showing the dates when they ruled, as far as can be made out with any degree of certainty :—

* Public Record Office. Augmentation Office Misc. Book, 172.

[Approximate dates are given in brackets.]

1. Walter de Senteney Ruled	31 $\frac{1}{4}$ years[Jan., 1199-1200—April, 1231]
2. William*	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.....	...[April, 1231]—October, 1233
3. John Grauncorth ...	19 yrs. 39 wks ...	[October, 1233—August, 1253]
4. Hugh de Lincoln...	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ years[August, 1253—May, 1268]
5. Simon	5 yrs. 11 days ...	[May, 1268—June, 1273]
6. Laurence†.....	16 $\frac{1}{4}$ years[June, 1273—Sept., 1289]
7. Richard de Nor- manton†	8 years except 10 days	[Sept., 1289—Sept., 1297]
8. John de Lincoln ...	6 years	[Sept., 1297—Sept., 1303]
9. Richard de Nor- manton.....	1 year 38 weeks..	[Sept., 1303—June, 1305]
10. John Horsley†.....	26 years 45 weeks, and a few days.	[June, 1305—May, 1332]
11. John Woodhouse†..	15 weeks	[May, 1332—August, 1332]
12. William Horsley ...	21 yrs. 41 wks. ...	Aug. 14, 1332—[Mar., 1353-4]
13. Roger de Kyrketon	3 years 28 weeks.	
14. William de Boney..	42 yrs. 13 weeks.	
15. Henry Monyash ...	39 yrs. 11 weeks.	
16. John Sponson	33 years.....	
17. John Stanley†	22 years.....	
18. Richd. Nottingham	19 years.....	October, 1491—[1510]
19. John Bebe†	28 years.....	[1510]—October 24, 1538

* Translated to Prémontré.

† Resigned.

‡ Forced to resign.