

We must also infer from the mention of the Chapel Eyot that the bridge had the usual appendage of a Chapel at its entrance; and there can be little doubt that it was identical with "the Mary of Grace," or "Mary Grace," so called to distinguish it (we may presume) from the two parish churches of St. Mary. Repairs were "done upon the causey under the Mary of Grace" in the 23rd year of Henry VIII.* Supposing therefore that this "causey," or causeway, was a raised path beside the roadway, it would seem that the chapel was built alongside of the bridge (though we cannot say on which side), on a small eyot formed by the westernmost channel of the river, and so raised that the causeway passed *under* it. Possibly the expression merely implies that the causeway was close beneath the chapel wall. More probably it means that it passed actually under a portion of the chapel. Certainly it does not imply that the chapel was built over the roadway of the bridge as well as over the causeway, though this may possibly have been the case. The Mary Grace, like the adjacent church of St. Peter, was destroyed by the guns of the parliamentary troops in the civil war.

* Hedges' History of Wallingford, II., 255.

Early Charters and Documents relating to the Church and Manor of Bisham, Berks.

By Mr. Nathaniel Hone.

(Continued from page 108, Vol. III.)



DURING the period that the estates of the Templars were in the hand of the King, it is satisfactory to find that (if we may so term them) vested interests were respected, and that the claims for pensions and corrodies¹ charged on the Manors

¹ A corrody was a fixed annual payment in money or kind due from a religious house to a benefactor or one who had given his service to the community.

of the suppressed Order, were, after investigation, duly recognised and met. Among a series of Inquisitions² returned into the Office of the Lord Treasurer Remembrancer are a few connected with the Church and Manor of Bisham. In the 1st year Edward II. the following appears among these documents :—

TRANSLATION.

Berks. For John de Upleden.

The King commanded his writ under the great seal, of which the date is the xii. day of March in his first year, moreover his writ of privy seal which is enrolled on the third Roll, for those who claim corrodiess on the houses of the Templars for their service discharged. And thereupon the said John produced his deed, in which is contained, that (Brother) William de la More Master, &c., with the assent of his chapter at Dynnisle, on the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle in the year of our Lord 1304, by inspiration of charity and for his service rendered for a long time to the house of the Temple, granted to John de Opleden his food for ever at the table of the esquires in their house of Bustleham, and one robe annually of the suit of the grooms of the Preceptor of the aforesaid place, and five shillings at two terms of the year from the same Preceptor, to wit, half at Michaelmas, and the other half at Easter. Given as above. Therefore it was commanded Robert de Halstede, keeper of the house aforesaid, and the sheriff of the county aforesaid, that inquiry should be made, &c., in the quindene of Easter, &c. Afterwards it was ordered for the morrow of Holy Trinity. And they commanded an Inquisition, in which is contained that the aforesaid deed was made and attested, and that the said John was seized of the premises before the time aforesaid (and this by inspiration of charity and for his service discharged to the said house). Therefore it was commanded the aforesaid Robt. de Halstede that of the issues of the aforesaid house, he cause the aforesaid John to have every day two pence for his food, and 5s. per annum for his robe, and 5s. for his necessaries at the terms aforesaid.

A similar Inquisition was taken on a claim made by Adam de Char on the same manor, the corrody in this case being granted in consideration of a payment by the said Adam of eighty marks, and, at his decease, by name of obit, twenty marks. The following entry on the Close Roll³ shews the result of this enquiry :—

² Transcripts of these in Record type are given in Cole's *Documents illustrative of English History*.

³ Close Roll, 5 Ed. II. m. 19.

TRANSLATION.

Berks. For Adam de Char.

The King to the Keeper of the manor of the Templars at Bustleham, being for certain reasons in our hands, greeting. Whereas it was lately found by certificate of the Treasurers and Barons of our exchequer made in our Chancery, that Adam de Char should take for his whole life, in the said manor, every day, three pence for his food, and ten shillings per annum for his robe, and should have in the said manor two horses at hay, forage, grass and provender as the palfrey of the Preceptor, and should have two grooms at the table of the esquires⁴ of the said manor, for which he shall take four pence for their food per diem when the table is wanting⁵ and for one of them should take a groom's robe, to wit, five shillings per annum for the whole life of the said Adam, we have frequently charged you that you cause the same Adam to have his wage, stipend, hay, forage, grass and provender aforesaid, of the issues of the manor aforesaid, or should signify to us the cause why you have not obeyed our mandate to you thereupon directed ; and you have returned to us that as to the keep of the horses of the said Adam, according to the form of our mandate aforesaid, you could not obey, because there is no Preceptor in the manor aforesaid. And whereas our will is that the said Adam should not be injured in this behalf with regard to the receiving of the keep of his horses aforesaid, by the occasion aforesaid, we charge you that you cause the said Adam for the keep of his horses aforesaid, to have four pence per diem of the issues of the manor aforesaid, together with the arrears, if there should be any, from the time you have had the custody of the said manor in form aforesaid. And we will cause you to have due allowance thereof in your account of the issues aforesaid. Witness the King at Westminster ix. day of December.

In a former paper the confirmation of a pension of five marks to the Vicar of Bisham by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, was given from the Episcopal Registers.

Among the documents now under consideration, the following mandate appears, addressed to the Bishop of the diocese :—

The King commanded his writ in these words Edward by the

⁴ A clause usually inserted in these deeds was to the effect that if the recipient of the corrody was unable, through infirmity or old age, to sit at the table of the esquires, his rations should be served to him in a decent room (*camera honesta*) within the cloister.

⁵ *Mensa deficiente.*

grace of God, &c. Geoffrey, Vicar of the church of Bistlesham, in the county aforesaid, and the diocese of Sarum, has shown to us that although at the first constitution of the aforesaid vicarage, on account of the poverty of the same, it was ordained by the diocesan that the Vicars who for the time should be there, should annually take of the issues of the church aforesaid, which the Master and Brethren of the Knighthood of the Temple in England held to their proper use, four marks sterling at two terms of the year, and the said Geoffrey and all his predecessors of the vicarage of the church aforesaid, every year from the time of the aforesaid ordinance, according to the form of such ordinance, have taken and had four marks from the issues mentioned, nevertheless the aforesaid four marks because the lands and tenements, goods and chattels which were of the aforesaid Master and brethren, for certain reasons, are in our hands, have now been withdrawn from the said Geoffrey, to the diminution of his living and his manifest loss ; our will being therefore to relieve the said Geoffrey on this behalf with justice, we charge you that, having heard his prayer upon this matter, you cause to be done therein what of right should be done. Witness me myself at Windsor, xiii. day of July in the second year of our reign.

Whereupon the Bishop issues his letters patent, stating that after inquisition taken by the oath of the neighbouring rectors, vicars and lay persons, it has been found that the Vicar has established his claim to the oblations, small tithes, and to a tithe in hay and in mortuaries⁶ of the parish church, also to an annual pension of four marks, which the jurors say the vicars of the parish have received from time immemorial. The record ends with a command to Robert de Hanstede to cause to be paid to the aforesaid Geoffrey of the issues of the church aforesaid, four marks per annum at the two terms of Michaelmas and Annunciation of Our Lady, with arrears if any be due, from the aforesaid 14th of July.

It has been before mentioned that, by an entry on the Great Cowcher of the Duchy of Lancaster, we find that the Manor, after the attainder and execution of Hugh le Dispenser, was granted for life to Eubulo L'Estrange and Alice his wife, widow of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster.

⁶ Mortuaries, fees paid at the open grave for repose of the soul of deceased, also applied to legacies left to a church for which the donors asked the prayers of the faithful, v. Rock's Church of our Fathers.

The following grant of the reversion of the Manor appears on the patent Rolls⁷ :—

TRANSLATION.

For William de Montacute.

The King to all to whom &c. greeting. Know ye that whereas our beloved and trusty Ebulo L'Estrange and Alice his wife hold the Manor of Bustlesham with the appurtenances, in the County of Berks, for the whole life of the said Ebulo and Alice, of our grant, which said manor after the death of the said Ebulo and Alice to us and our heirs will revert, we by pretence of the willing and praise-worthy service to us by our beloved and trusty William de Montacute often discharged, have granted to the said William the afore-said manor with the appurtenances, to have after the death of the said Ebulo and Alice, to the said William and his heirs, of us and our heirs, and other chief lords of that fee, by the service therefrom due and accustomed for ever. Witness the King at Nottingham, xx. day of April (1335). By writ of privy seal.

Eubulo L'Estrange died the following Michaelmas, while accompanying the King on an expedition into Scotland, and his Inquisition⁸ was taken at Hurley the 11th October, in which the jurors say upon their oath, that "Ebulo Lestrangle and Alice his wife held on the day the said Ebulo died, the Manor of Bustleham with the appurtenances, in the County of Berks, as of the freehold of the said Alice, of the gift of the Lord King. And they say that the said manor is worth per annum in all issues xxxiii^l vi^s ii^d."

Although Alice (Countess of Lincoln in her own right) lived till the 22nd year of Edward III., she does not appear to have retained her life interest in the Manor, for by a Charter dated 1335, William de Montacute grants this among other possessions to the Priory of Canons Regular of St. Austen which he had newly founded in the same Manor of Bisham.

It is not proposed to carry the history of this interesting old church and manor beyond this period; the entries on the records relating to the same from this date become frequent, many of which have been printed by Dugdale and others authorities.

NOTE.—Since the completion of the above paper, the following early notices of Bisham have come to hand. In the Issue Rolls of the Exchequer, Mich. 9 Ed. II. :—

⁷ Patent Roll 9, Ed. III., m. 9.

⁸ Inq. p. m. 9 Ed. III. 42.

"To Nicholas de Tykhill, late clerk of the works at the King's palace at Westminster, in advance, &c., to wit, for the carriage of timber and planks from the wood of Bustleham to Westminster for the King's palace against the coronation of the same lord the King, together with the wages of the carters and divers men, as well for the carriage aforesaid, as for carrying of divers cloths, purchased at Abingdon, to cover the said palace, as is contained in a certain indenture made between the aforesaid Nicholas and Thomas Danvers, late sheriff of Oxon and Berks, &c., 14¹ 4^s 2^d." (*Devon's Issues of the Exchequer*), and on the Originalia Rolls of Edward III. "The King to his beloved William de Langeford, keeper of the Manor of Bustleham in the County of Berks, greeting. Whereas we have been given to understand that our water mills in the manor aforesaid through a great flood of water have been for the most part laid waste and destroyed, we charge you that as may be necessary for the repair and re-building of the mills aforesaid, to the value of ten marks from the issues of the aforesaid manor by the view and testimony of good and lawful men of those parts, you cause to be repaired and rebuilt, and the costs which you are put to in the repairing and rebuilding aforesaid, to the sum aforesaid, we will cause to be allowed to you in your account at our Exchequer. Witness the King at Northampton, xvi. day of March." (Originalia 2, Ed. III., rot. 15.)

The word "ballinas" or "balliuas" left untranslated in the Inventory, is probably a corrupt plural of ballium = a lease.

Early Berkshire Wills, from the P.C.C., ante 1558.

(Continued from Vol. III., page 104.)

51.

The Will of HENRY BERNYS [BARNES].—3 March, 1492. To the altar of All Saints in Wokingh'm xx^s. The residue to wife Agnes, sole executrix. Ralph White and William Clerke to pray