



Alard, "Rector Scholarum" of Oxford in 1211.

By the Rev. H. Salter, M.A.

NO one now believes that there were Chancellors of Oxford before 1214: but in the list in Anthony Wood's *Fast*, which is reproduced in Le Neve, there is an air of plausibility about the name of Alard, Rector Scholarum in 1211. The evidence that he existed is good, and the vagueness of his title is what we might expect before the Chancellorship was regularly established. But on the whole it appears that he had no connection with the University.

Wood says "I find mention of him in an ancient writing, *registrum Cœnobii Abendon, quod in particulas dividitur.*" In reality he obtained the reference from Brian Twyne MS. Vol. 22, page 186, who copied it from a register of Abingdon Monastery, which is now lost, and of which Mr. Andrew Clark in his edition of Wood's *Life and Times*, Vol. IV. p. 89, says "Wood never saw the MS. itself, nor ascertained what had become of it." Twyne abbreviates the document, and when we find that what Twyne omits, Wood omits, we conclude Wood copied from Twyne.

The evidence however is certainly good. It is the record that Pope Innocent III. had delegated the Prior of Oseney, the Dean of Oxford, and "Magister Alardus Rector Scholarum" to hear a case concerning tithe in Chesterton (not Chesterton in Oxfordshire, as Wood says, but Chesterton in Warwickshire: see Abingdon Cartulary, Vol. II. p. 329), and that the two first had heard and decided the case in the Church of S. Mary, Oxford, "Alardo se per litteras suas excusante," the date being the morrow of the Invention of the Holy Cross in the thirteenth year of Pope Innocent III. At first sight this seems convincing, but let us ask who Alard was?

We naturally identify him as also Wood does, with Alard, Sub-Dean of Wells, who quitclaimed a house in Oxford, soon after this time (see Cartulary of S. Frideswide Vol. I. p. 38); of whom Le

Neve tells us that he became Sub-Dean in 1213 and Chancellor of Wells in 1218. Now we know that at Wells at this time, one of the Canons had charge of the Chorister's School, and was called "Magister Scholarum"; (see *Early History of the Church of Wells*, by Canon Church, p. 349). It therefore seems the more natural suggestion that Alard was already a Canon of Wells, and that the title "Rector Scholarum" referred to his position at Wells not at Oxford.

It may be added that the evidence adduced by Wood to prove there was a Chancellor in 1150 is easily overthrown. He had seen a document which showed that there was a Chancellor in the time of Robert Foliot, Rector of Rowsham: and as a certain Robert Foliot gave property to Oseney Abbey in 1150, he argues there was a Chancellor at that date. But the Foliots were numerous, and many of them were called Robert; and the Robert Foliot who gave property to Oseney in 1150 or earlier was a Knight, and very different from Robert Foliot, Clerk, Rector of Rowsham about 1230 or later.

Oxfordshire Church Goods.

By Nathaniel Hone.

(Continued from Vol. 8, page 87.)

HUNDRED OF PLOUGHLEY,

COTTERS福德.

A chalice parcel guilt; ij paire of vestments whereof one blewe silke and thother rede fustian; ij copes one of white satten of bridges and thother dornex; one sensure of latten; a vaile of bokram painted; ij gret belles ij handbelles and a sacnqe belle.

WENDLEBURIE.

Two belles and i sanctus bell; one chalice of silver ij coopes whereof the blewe velvet and thother grene saie; one paire of vestments of grene saye.