

"north." His sketches of the effigies of the knight and lady and the first Sir Philip are rudely executed, but fairly illustrate the several figures.

In this same volume are notes of monuments, etc., chiefly heraldic, at the Churches of St. Helen's and St. Nicholas, Abingdon, St. Laurence's, St. Mary's and St. Giles', Reading, St. Mary's, St. Leonard's and St. Peter's, Wallingford, Streatley, Cholsey, and Wantage, with a sketch of the brass. Of Reading Abbey he writes: "Much of ye Abbey is still standing, ye old gatehouse at ye ruins on the east side."

William the Templar, Abbot of Reading.

By Jamieson B. Hurry, M.A., M.D.

ABBOT William the Templar was appointed sixth Abbot of Reading in 1164, the year of the hallowing of the Abbey Church by Archbishop Thomas à Becket, in the presence of King Henry II. The completion of this vast edifice, the construction of which had taken forty years, doubtless gave a dignity to the conventual observances at Reading such as had not been possible while building operations were in progress.

This Abbot is supposed to have been of French extraction like his predecessor Hugh de Boves. An old French writer states that he was lame, but that this defect was obscured by his virtues and his learning.*

It would be interesting to know the origin of the title "The Templar." Probably there had been some association with the Order of the Knights Templars which was founded early in the 12th century.

Abbot William held office at Reading until 1173, when he was consecrated 29th Archbishop of Bordeaux,† the ceremony taking

* *Histoire Littéraire de la France*, Vol. XIV., p. 610.

† Biographical notices of the Archbishops of Bordeaux will be found in Lope's, *L'Eglise Métropolitaine St. André de Bordeaux* (ed. by Callen), Vol. II.; *Gallia Christiana*, Vol. II.

place on Feb. 25th (*Invocavit me Sunday*) at Limoges in the presence of Henry II. Bordeaux at that period belonged to the King of England, who bore the title of Duke of Guienne, the Cathedral of St. André being the metropolitan Church.‡

In the early twelfth century many canons regular in the churches of Western Europe adopted the so-called Rule of St. Augustine. Without in any way becoming monks, they took religious vows and lived in communities. Otherwise they remained clerics and had the pastoral care of their respective churches. This new *régime*, at the desire of the Pope and of the King, was introduced in the Metropolitan Church of St. André by Archbishop Geoffrey III. about the year 1140. The change at first aroused violent opposition and led to the excommunication of some of the Canons.§ Eventually, however, peace was restored and the "Rule" adopted. Thus Archbishop William who while at Reading had ruled over a great Abbey in which the ordinances of Cluny were observed, became the head of a Chapter of Augustinian Canons.

In 1174 he consecrated the parochial Church of Saint Eulalie and conveyed the benefice to the Chapter of the Metropolitan Church, the sanction of Pope Alexander III. having been obtained. The deed of conveyance was signed by the dean, three arch-deacons, the sacristan, ten priests, two deacons and two sub-deacons, all of them canons of Bordeaux. This proves that the adoption of the "Rule" had in no way altered the status or dignities of the canons.

Archbishop William, together with two prelates, Arnulf of Lisieux and Hugh of Durham,|| became involved in the great baronial revolt of 1173-4 which was headed by the young King Henry assisted by Louis VII. The result was that within a year of his consecration the Archbishop was arrested by the rebellious King's sons.*

In 1177 Archbishop William was present when Henry II. purchased the County of La Marche.†

In 1179 he took part in the General Lateran Council which was held at Rome during mid-lent by Pope Alexander III., at which 300 Archbishops and Bishops were present. He also consecrated Henry

‡ The consecration of the new Archbishop took place during a Council at Limoges lasting from February 21-28, which was attended by the King, Queen, Prince Henry, Prince Richard, and many other magnates. Eyton, *Court and Itinerary of King Henry II.*, p. 170 f.

§ Lopès, *l.c.*, Vol. II., p. 202.

|| Norgate, *England under the Angevin Kings*, Vol. II., pp. 136, 140.

* Eyton, *l.c.*, p. 171; *Gallicarum Rerum Scriptores*, Vol. XII., p. 443.

† *Gesta Henrici II. et Ricardi I.* (*Benedictus-Rolls Series*), Vol. I., p. 197.

de Sulli, Archbishop of Bourges, to which Bordeaux was in some measure subject.

In the following year (1180) King Henry II. kept his Christmas at Le Mans (his birthplace), Archbishop William, many Bishops, Earls and Barons sharing in the festivities.†

‡ Eyton, l.c., p. 237.

Archbishop William was present at the death-bed of the young King Henry (Rex junior) on June 11, 1183.§ The young Henry, smitten with remorse at the thought of his rebellion, sent an urgent message to his father and begged him "as a last instance of paternal tenderness," to come to see his penitent and dying son. King Henry was deeply touched and anxious to comply, but was persuaded by his friends not to trust his person to the conspirators who were about the dying prince. He therefore took from his finger a ring well known to his son, and sent it to him by the Archbishop as a token of his forgiveness. On receiving the ring the young Henry kissed it and begged the Archbishop to return it to his father.|| Shortly after he was laid on a heap of ashes, received the sacraments and expired.

Little is known of the Archbishop's literary work, but there is extant a long Latin letter written in 1169 to Pope Alexander asking his support for the Bishop of London in the struggle between the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury.* Some ecclesiastical decisions have also been preserved.†

His death took place on February 25th, but whether the year was 1187 or later is uncertain.‡

§ *Chronicles of the Reigns of Stephen, Henry II., and Richard I.* (Rolls Series), Vol. I., p. 234.

|| Lyttleton, *History of King Henry II.* (1773), Vol. VI., p. 181.

* *Materials for the History of Thomas à Becket* (Rolls Series), Vol. VI., p. 628.

† *Gallia Christiana*, Vol. II., p. 819; *Archives Historiques du Département de la Gironde*, Vols. II., VIII., X., XXVII., XXX.

‡ Eyton (l.c.) gives Feb. 25th, 1182. Gams (*Series Episcoporum Ecclesiæ Catholicæ*, p. 52), Sept. 15th, 1187.

SHOTTESBROOKE BELLS.—The following inscriptions are on these bells:—
1: T. Mears of London Fecit 1811. 2: Campana Cantare Dno in eclesia, William Foster, 1634. 3: Campana Cantare Dno in eclesia, Humfrey Turnor, 1634. 4: Mears & Shinbank, London. Recast A.D. 1904. 5: Campana Cantare Dno in eclesia de Shottesbrooke, Henry Fowle, 1634.—H. F. ROE.