

VI.—TWO CHARTERS OF BISHOP HUGH DU PUISET  
OF DURHAM RELATING TO LANDIEU  
IN WEARDALE.

By G. V. SCAMMELL.

The two following charters are concerned with Landieu, which lies two miles west of Wolsingham. They are both drawn from the muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham, by whose permission they are printed.<sup>1</sup> They contain a number of points of interest, not least of which is the information in (i) that the name of Landieu was formerly *Ebberleia*—a noteworthy illustration of one of the ways in which an Anglo-Saxon place name might be lost.

In (i) Puiset grants Landieu to brother Rannulf and his brethren. From later evidence it appears that the gift consisted of about 80 acres of woodland.<sup>2</sup> The exact nature and purpose of the grant are uncertain. Little is known of Rannulf himself, though he was in all probability a Durham monk who may perhaps be identified with that brother Rannulf who witnessed the earliest of Puiset's surviving *acta* issued at Rome c. 23 December 1153-16 January 1154.<sup>3</sup> If this identification be correct it may be assumed that Rannulf had some place in the episcopal *familia*. From the terms of the present document, with its mention of Rannulf and his brethren, it would seem that Puiset was concerned with either the creation or maintenance of a cell at Landieu similar to that he later endowed at Yearhaugh.<sup>4</sup> If so, nothing came of his project. Rannulf granted part of his

<sup>1</sup> The original spelling and punctuation have been retained in transcription.

<sup>2</sup> *SS*, 58, pp. 242, 280.

<sup>3</sup> *DC* Durham, 4. 1. Pont., no. 10.

<sup>4</sup> *DC* Durham, Small Cart., fo. 122v. (new foliation).

holding to the hospital of Kepier before c. 1180,<sup>5</sup> and was dead by c. 1185 when Landieu passed to Laurence, the episcopal chamberlain (ii). The whole episode is, however, put in a different and more sinister light by a passage in the Durham chronicle. There the writer, after enlarging on the convent's initial hopes in Puiset, points out how the bishop, in the early years of his episcopate, opened up factions in the community, whereby certain monks of his nomination were placed in charge of cells, or given other offices "to the contempt of the prior and the order".<sup>6</sup> It may, therefore, not be entirely fanciful to regard Rannulf as one of these episcopal placemen. The points at issue in these disputes cannot be considered here, though it must be said that the bishop had more law on his side than the convent were prepared to admit.

The body of witnesses attesting the present document is of considerable importance, and is discussed at length elsewhere.<sup>7</sup> It is, however, noteworthy that this appears to be the only *actum* of Puiset which is witnessed by the unfortunate prior Thomas. The document may therefore be assigned to the date of Thomas' priorate, c. 1158-62.<sup>8</sup>

(ii) By this charter the same land is regranted to Laurence, the episcopal chamberlain. He was a particularly favoured sergeant of the bishop, from whom he received, at about this time (c. 1185-95), the vill of Crawcrook in addition to the present gift.<sup>9</sup> During the vacancy of the see after Puiset's death his fine as a sergeant was assessed by the royal custodians of the bishopric at the considerable sum of £100.<sup>10</sup> Little else is known of Laurence beyond his frequent attestations of Puiset's *acta*. His wife was Cecilia, daughter of Gilbert of Heworth,<sup>11</sup> a moderately important tenant of the bishop at Heworth and of the convent at Woodham.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Monasticon*, VII, p. 733, no. vii.

<sup>6</sup> SS, 9, p. 7.

<sup>7</sup> V. my *Hugh de Puiset*, cap. v.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. my note on the chronology of the priors of Durham.

<sup>9</sup> BM, Lansdowne MS. 902, fo. 78.

<sup>10</sup> *Chancellor's Roll 8 Richard I*, p. 259.

<sup>11</sup> SS, 58, p. 162n.

<sup>12</sup> SS, 25, p. 16; SS, 58, p. 162n.

There is no conclusive evidence for dating the charter, though the list of witnesses points to a period fairly late in the episcopate. Radulf of Chester succeeded his father, Waleran, after 1183. Of the other witnesses two come from Weardale, and may be identified in Boldon Book; so Ralph Callidus and James of Greenwell.<sup>13</sup>

Some time before his death Laurence granted his holding at Landieu to the sacrist of Durham, "for the salvation of the lord Hugh, onetime bishop of Durham, and for the salvation of his own soul and that of his wife, Cecilia". The sacrist, however, experienced much difficulty in gaining possession of the land in question.<sup>14</sup>

## (i)

Hugo dei gratia Dunelmensis Episcopus. Priori. et Conuentui dunelmensis Ecclesie. archidiaconis. et uniuerso clero Dunelmensis Episcopatus. salutem. Notificamus uobis nos dedisse concessisse ac presenti carta confirmasse fratri Rainulfo. et fratribus eius landam que dicebatur Ebberleia nunc uero landa dei nominatur per diuisas quas assignauimus in liberam quietam et puram Elemonisinam pro remissione peccatorum tam nostrorum quam successorum nostrorum Et uolumus quod hec nostra donatio caritatis intuitu facta firma et illibata maneat ne quis temerario ausu / paginam hanc attemptet infringere. His testibus. Thoma priore dunelmensi. Johanne archidiacono. Johanne Cumin. Waltero monacho. / Rodberto filio Vdardi monacho. magistro Rogero Tusarderato. Rodberto de fribois. Magistro Johanne de Rana. magistro thoma de sexdecim uallibus. helia clerico. Guillelmo Elemosinario. Tedbaldo de monasterio uillari / Ricardo de Wassand. Gilleberto halsard. Jurdano hairun. Gilleberto de leia. Simone uitulo. Johanne pincerna / Ricardo de parco. Thoma de insula et aliis multis.

*Original*: Dean and Chapter of Durham muniments, charter no. 2.3. Sac. no. 5.

*Endorsed*: 1. Cart' Hugonis epi' de Landa dei (13th c.) 2. facta fri' Rainulfo fri' et eius fratribus 2<sup>3</sup>c Sacriste. C.I. (14th c.)

*Size*: 7½" × 4", written in an irregular cursive hand on a sheet of rough and unruled parchment. A deep margin at the foot

<sup>13</sup> SS, 25, pp. 2, 28, 30.

<sup>14</sup> DC Durham, 2. 3. Sac., no. 4; SS, 58, p. 241.

of the text but none elsewhere. There is a good but clumsy seal in white wax (c. Greenwell and Blair, *Durham Seals*, II, 443, no. 3114a) hanging on a double tail.

*Date*: c. 1158-62.

## (ii)

Hugo dei gratia Dunelmensis Episcopus. Baronibus. Militibus. et Omnibus Sancte Matris ecclesie filiiis tam clericis quam laicis ad quos / litere presentes peruenerint, Salutem. Nouerit uniuersitas uestra nos dedisse. concessisse et presenti Carta confirmasse / Laurentio Camerario nostro et cui idem Laurentius assignare uoluerit totam terram de Landa dei in hominibus / quam in terris sicut frater Rannulfus eam unquam melius et honorabilius tenuit. habendam et tenendam Sibi / et cui assignare uoluerit. libere quiete et honorifice reddendo inde annuatim nobis et successoribus nostris unum / Bisantium ad festum Sancti Cuthberti in septembri pro omni alio seruitio et consuetudine. Quare uolumus / et precipimus quod predictus Laurentius et cui assignare uoluerit predictam terram habeant et teneant. libere / quiete et honorifice cum Omnibus rebus ad eam pertinentibus in Bosco et plano. in pratis et pascuis interris / cultis et incultis et in Omnibus locis et libertatibus ut predictum est per predictum seruitium. Predicti uero Laurentius / et cui assignare uoluerit et homines sui quieti erunt de Pasnagio. Testibus. Buchardo et Willelmo Archidiaconis Magistro Willelmo Blesensi. Magistro Ricardo de Coldigham. Henrico de Puteaco. Gilleberto Camerario. Petro de / Chauz. Radulfo de Cestria. Reginaldo de Camera. Radulfo callido et Hugone filio eius. Jacobo de / Grenewelle et Ricardo fratre eius. Willelmo Gilleberto. et Multis Aliis.

*Original*: Dean and Chapter of Durham muniments, charter no. 2.3. Sac. no. 3.

*Endorsed*: 1. Carta Hug' Epi' de Landa dei (contemporary) 2. data Laurencio Camerario (13th c.). 3. 2<sup>a</sup> 3<sup>e</sup> Sacristarie. D.I (14th c.).

*Size*: 8½" × 6", finely written in a severely regular and upright hand which recalls the style of the papal chancery. There is a large initial H for *Hugo*, some ¾" high, and looped ascenders and ligatures are employed. The parchment does not seem to have been ruled, but the writing is well and regularly spaced, and margins have been left on all sides of the text. There is a lengthy (10") and slender double tail, to which is attached a good seal in white wax.

*Date*: c. 1185-95.