

Original Documents.

THE curious little deed, which we here lay before the readers of the Journal, has been preserved in the collection of ancient documents, chiefly relating to the county of Surrey, formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Glover, of Reigate, well known by his intimate acquaintance with legal antiquities, and the stores of information frequently rendered available in the County History, produced by Manning and Bray. We are indebted to Thomas Hart, Esq., of Reigate, for the communication of this, with various evidences relating to the ancient possessions of the De Warennes, and other distinguished families in Surrey.

The following document relates to lands in, or adjacent to, the metropolis, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, is unpublished. It is interesting, not merely to the London antiquary, on account of the minuteness with which the place, or parcel of land is described, but also on account of certain details and phrases of uncommon occurrence, which seem to entitle it to a place in our miscellaneous collections of a documentary nature.

Of William de Heryghes, or Hereghes, the grantor, we have hitherto sought in vain for any mention in contemporary records, and the calling, apparently designated by the word "blaeter," if the supposition may be admitted that this term describes his occupation, is not easily to be explained. It has been suggested, however, that it may have been the same as the blade-smith, or sword-cutler.¹ In the surname may be noticed an example of the unsettled character of names in the thirteenth century, the grantor being described as "De Heryghes" in the deed, whilst on the seal appended to it, he is called, William, son of Richard de Wald'.² It was long after this period that surnames, in the middle and lower classes of society, became truly hereditary.

The grantee, Radulfus de Hoylond, is chiefly deserving of notice on account of his designation of moneyer, *monetarius*, and was possibly the same person given in the list of moneyers of Henry III., as Rauf, Raulf, Randulf, &c.³

From the term *legare*, occurring in this document, in relation to the land granted, it appears probable, as the custom of devising was almost limited to boroughs, that the site in question was within the city of London. It may therefore be supposed that St. Leonard's, named herein, was probably either the parish of that name in East Cheap, or that "juxta Sanctum

¹ This conjecture seems corroborated by the occurrence of an obsolete verb, to "*blade*," as in the Prompt. Parv.,—"Bladyn haftys (or heftys) *scindulo*."

² Query Walden? or of the Weald. Henr. de Walda is named in Pat. 10 Edw. II. Adam de Welde was Vicar of Terring, now Tarring,

Sussex, 1357.

³ Ruding, "*Annals of the Coinage*," vol. i., p. 190. Was *Cuner* an English name of identical import? Alanus Cuner occurs in the foundation charter of St. Mary's Hospital, without Bishopsgate. Mon. Angl., new edit., vol. vi., p. 625.

Martinum," namely, near Foster Lane, and not St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. We must leave it, however, to the archaeologists of the ancient liberties of the metropolis to define the precise position. Mention is made of the fee of the Canons of Newenham, doubtless of the Austin Priory of that name, near Bedford; and it thus appears, as likewise by the charter of Thomas, Lord Mowbray, in 15 Ric. II., that these canons had land in London. In the latter document, a piece of land is described as "*terram quam Jordanus Camerarius dedit eis in Londoniis, que vocatur Achesbiria.*"⁴ In the *Valor*, however, no property in London is given as belonging to the Canons of Newenham at the Dissolution, leading to the inference that it had been disposed of previously.

The document is not dated: the reference to the standard measure "*domini Henrici Regis*" would confirm the conclusion drawn from the writing, that it is of the time of Henry III., and the correctness of this notion is evinced by the names of the attesting witnesses. Laurence de Frowike, the second named, is doubtless the same who was sheriff in 30 and 35 Henry III. (1245 and 1250).⁵ Another witness, Richard Bonaventure, a name less euphonous in the more modern version of Goodluck, was probably the citizen named as one of the party captured with the Mayor of London, in 1264, by Henry III., and kept some time in Windsor Castle as security for the tranquillity of the city.⁶

The standard measure of iron (*ulna ferrea*) was kept, as it has been stated, in the Exchequer: the expression here occurs in regard to the measurement by the iron ell of King Henry, "*absque pollicibus mensuratis,*" which is not found, to our knowledge, in other documents. Does it imply gross measurement,—inches not to be accounted? or does it denote exact measurement,—without the intervention of the thumb, in setting off the respective ells? An instance may be noticed, in a previous reign, of the like iron standard ell. In Walter Brune's foundation charter of the Hospital of St. Mary, without Bishopsgate, the bounds of the lands granted are defined throughout by admeasurement made according to "*ulnas de ulnis ferreis regis Johannis Angliæ.*"⁷

The deed bears two endorsements, the first, in French,—"*de la meson deuant la Eglise sein leonard.*" And another in a different hand,—"*Cat (sic) Will'i Hereghes fact' Radulfo de Hoylond' de domo ex oposito ecclesie S'ci leonardi.*"

Sciant p'sntes & futuri Q'd ego Will's de Heryghes blaeter concessi dimisi & p'snti carta confirmaui Radulfo de Hoylond' monetario q'ndam placiam t're q'm habui iux^a p'uam uenellam s'ci Leonardi de feodo Canonico' de Newenham int' gardinum meum u'sus austrum. & dictam uenellam u'sus aquilonem. Et int' domum d'ci Rad' u'sus orientem. & t'ram Ade lescot^s q'am de me tenet u'sus occidentem. Et continet in latitudine iuxta domum d'ci Rad' int' p'd'cam uenellam & gardinum meum duodecim uln' de ulnis ferreis d'ni Henr' Reg' absq' pollicibz mensuratis. In longitudine extēdente se a p'd'ca domo Rad' usq' ad t'ram p'd'ci Ade

⁴ Mon. Angl., new edit., vol. vi., p. 375.

⁵ Liber de Antiquis Legibus. See also Grafton's Table of Mayors and Sheriffs.

⁶ Grafton's Chron., p. 151.

⁷ Mon. Angl., new edit., vol. vi., p. 624.

⁸ One of the attesting witnesses.

duodecim ulnas de eisdem ulnis. In latitudine iux^a gardinum meum extndente se a domo d'ci Rad' usq' ad t'ram noui Hospit'⁹ nouem uln & dimid' ulnam de p'd'cis ulnis. In latitudine extndente se a gardino meo iux^a t'ram p'd'ci Ade usq' ad uenellam nouem ulnas de eisdem ulnis. Scil' q'cq'd in d'ca placia t're habui cum medietate muri ex p'te gardini mei absq' aliqu^a diminutione. Habend' & tenend' d'co Rad' & cuicumq' u'l q' b'zcumq' & q'ndo uend'e dimitt'e legare u'l quocumq' alio modo assignare uolu'it & h'edibz eor' de me & h'edibz meis in feodo & h'editate lib'e quiete integre bñ & in pace inpp'etuum. Reddendo inde annuatim michi & h'edibz meis tres denar' ad festum sc'i Joh's Bapt' p' omnibus seruitiis exactionibz & demandis. & sine omni occasione. P' quibz uero tribz denar' annuis licet michi & heredibz meis namia cap'e in domo p'd'ci Rad' que fuit quondam Rad' de gardino. Et ego Will's p'd'cs & h'edes mei warrantizabimus p'd'cam placiam t're p'd'co Rad' & cuicumq' u'l quibzcumq' uend'e dimitt'e legare u'l quocumq' alio modo assignare uolu'it & h'edibz eor' con^a omnes homines & feminas. & u'sus omnes gentes p' p'd'em seruitium inpp'etuum defendemus & acquietabimus. P' hac autem mea concessione dimissione warrantisone defensione acquietatione & p'sntis carte confirmatione. dedit michi d'cs Rad' Q^{atuor} marcas argenti & dimid' in g'suma. Et ut p'd'ca robur inpp'etuum optineant. p'sns scriptum sigilli mei in'pssione roborauit. H'is testibz. Joh'e de Coudr' t'e ald'm' eiusd' warde. Laur' de frowik'. Ric' abel. Rob'to lebret. Joh'e bulloc. Humfr' Duket. Ric' bonauenture. Walt'o Greyn. Ada lescot. Walt'o le beau-mer.¹ Sym' uinitar'.² Alexandro de Smethfeld' cl'ico et aliis.

The seal appended is circular, of dark green wax, the device a falcon or eagle volant.—✠ S' WILL'I FIL' RIC'DI DE WALD'.

There are two somewhat uncommon law terms in this document, of which the general reader may require some explanation. One is *namia capere*, which signified to distrain, and the passage in which it occurs imported that the grantor or his heirs might distrain the goods in the house there specified in case the rent of threepence was in arrear. The other is *in Gersumam*, which here meant, for or as a premium or consideration; the tenor of the whole passage being that four marks and a half of silver had been paid to the grantor as the form or consideration for the grant, &c. made by him.³

⁹ The Priory of St. Mary the Virgin, without Bishopsgate, founded by Walter Brune and his wife, about 1197, and refounded by the name of the New Hospital of Our Lady, in 1235. Mon. Angl., new edit., vol. vi., p. 622.

¹ An armourer who fabricated helms, whence probably, and not from more remote Greek antiquity, the modern name Homer is derived.

² Vinitarius, *i. e.* a vintner.

³ Ang. Sax. *gersuma*, *proemium*.