

Officiar,' cum salario cappellani, et in expens' senesc,' Rec' et Aud' allocat' in compoto Receptoris ibidem, hujus anno, ut patet ibidem, 46*l.* 4*s.* 7½*d.*

Et valet ultra onera anual' hoc anno, 785*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.* Inde Deduct' in annuitat' Johannis Constable, armigeri, 10*l.*, Roberti Danby 2*l.*, et Thome Berston 10 marc., eisdem per dominum concess,' ut patet per comp' Receptoris predictum, 15*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Et valet ultra hoc anno—769*l.* 19*s.* 3½*d.* Inde Deduct' in reparacion' ibidem hoc anno fact,' et in dicto compoto recept' allocat' (14*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*) et respectuat' (15*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*) cum expens' for' et necessariis (6*s.* 8*d.*) ut patet in eodem compoto. —32*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

Et valet ultra hoc anno clare—737*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* qui faciunt in marc' 1106 marc' —6½*d.*

ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS FOR THE BIOGRAPHY OF THREE OXFORDSHIRE WRITERS,

GEFFREY OF MONMOUTH, WALTER MAP, ARCHDEACON OF OXFORD,
AND ALEXANDER DE SWERFORD.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HISTORICAL SECTION, AT THE MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE AT OXFORD,

BY SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS, BART., F.R.S., F.S.A., &c.

MANY who, in past ages, made themselves conspicuous either by their actions or their writings, lay under great disadvantage, because their deeds before the invention of printing, were mentioned in few books, sometimes probably only in one, and therefore the knowledge of them was liable to be destroyed by a single accident.

Moreover, their exploits or works having been recorded in characters which have grown obsolete with the lapse of time, the knowledge of their reputation was confined to those only who were capable of reading those characters.

Therefore, all the events, which can throw additional light upon their history, should be collected together, and made accessible to the public by printing;—it becomes even a duty in those, who discover such facts, to make them known. With this persuasion, the following memorials of the lives of three celebrated writers connected with Oxfordshire, collected from the Godstow Cartulary, are presented to the Archaeological Institute.

Their names are, Geoffrey Artur, generally called Geoffrey of Monmouth, author of the "*Historia Britonum*:" Walter Map, author of "*Lampoons against the Cistercians*," a new monastic order which had sprung up a little before his time; and Alexander de Swerford, supposed to be the author of the work entitled "*De Scaccario*."

Geoffrey Artur stands first in priority of time; partly

cotemporary with him lived Walter Map ; and Alexander de Swerford follows in the reign of Henry III.

We meet with the mention of Geoffrey Artur in the Godstow Cartulary, in two charters granted to that monastery by Walter de Wallingford, Archdeacon of Oxford, from A.D. 1104 to 1151. They are given at pages 286, 287.

I will make observations upon two points in Geoffrey's History. He says Walter gave him a "*very old*" (*vetus-tissimum*) book. Having, as I trust, proved that the book was given to Geoffrey before the year 1152, it is not likely that Geoffrey would have called a book written since the Conquest by the Normans a *very old* book ; and yet in the latter part of the work he speaks of the entry of the Normans into England. This can only be accounted for by his additions to the original translation in a second edition. It would, therefore, be very desirable to have the text of his translation as it was *before* he made these interpolations.

Where Geoffrey de Monmouth was born is, I believe, not positively known. It is *said* at Monmouth, but I have met with no decisive evidence of that fact. My reason for making this query is, that a family surnamed, of Monmouth, existed for many generations at or near Long Marston, in Gloucestershire, and several of this family were named Galfridus, as appears by ancient charters. The inquiry might arise, therefore, did this family spring from the same origin as the celebrated historian, or may his descent be traced to the family in question ?

Mr. Wright, in the Preface to his edition of Walter Map's poems, has industriously collected together such particulars of the Archdeacon's history as were then known to him.

Mr. Wright observes that the greater portion of our information relating to Walter Map, or Mapes, is contained in the "*Speculum Ecclesiæ*," an inedited work of Giraldus Cambrensis, his intimate friend, who states that Walter was a favourite of Henry II., and was esteemed by that king for his extensive learning and his courtly manners. He obtained by the king's favour various ecclesiastical dignities, being Canon of Salisbury and St. Paul's, Precentor of Lincoln, incumbent of Westbury in Co. Gloucester ; and in 1197, he was made Archdeacon of Oxford.¹ He visited Rome between 1193 and 1205.

¹ Latin Poems attributed to Walter Mapes ; edit. Camd. Soc. 1841. Pref.

p. v. Le Neve, in his "*Fasti*," says, he became Archdeacon of Oxford in 1196.

Mr. Wright doubts his having written the poem, "*de Palpone*," because he does not find that Walter lived at or near Wimborne; but it is not unlikely, for, as Wimborne was in the Diocese of Sarum, he may have been a chaplain, or the incumbent there, prior to his becoming a Canon of Sarum.

With regard to the origin of Walter Map, I am inclined to believe Map is a Welsh name, and, if so, it is probable that Walter was a Welshman. Hence may have arisen the friendship between this triad of illustrious writers, namely, Walter, Giraldus Cambrensis, and Geffrey of Monmouth. Walter Map took the trouble to convert Giraldus's account of Wales into a poem in that doggerel species of Latin verse, peculiar to himself, thereby showing that he felt a strong interest in the history of that country.

Walter Map had a nephew living between 1183 and 1197, named Philip Map, and the name existed about 200 years since, in the person of Leonard Mapes, whose Will, dated 1620, is in the Prerogative Office, and the name may possibly exist still, under that mode of spelling it.

Leland, Bale, and Pits, are said to state that Walter Map was the Archdeacon, who gave the ancient Welsh MS. of the "*Historia Britonum*" to Geffrey of Monmouth. The statement, however, that he received it from Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, (cf. Pits, p. 217,) cannot relate to Walter Map, for by the following remarks it will be shown that it was not possible he should have been the donor.

Walter Map was made Archdeacon of Oxford in 1196 or 1197.

Geffrey says, "While I fell into a train of thought on the History of the King of Britain, (wondering that Gildas and Bede had said nothing of those kings which inhabited Britain before the birth of Christ, nothing even of Arthur, nor of many others since that time, although their actions are worthy of eternal praise, and were traditionally handed down among the people,) Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, offered me a very old book in the Welsh language, giving the history of Britain from the time of Brutus to the reign of Cadwallader ap Cadwallon." It would be clear from this, that the book was not translated by Geffrey until after 1197, if, as I said before, this Walter, Archdeacon, should be Walter Map.

Henry of Huntingdon dedicates his work to Alexander,

Bishop of Lincoln, who died, 1147. From this it is evident, that the additional Preface to Henry of Huntingdon (which is only found in some MSS.), where Henry speaks of Geffrey's work, must be either an interpolation, or Henry of Huntingdon must have lived fifty years after he had finished his own history, if Walter Map gave the MS. This reckoning by the common age of man, would produce this result, that Henry must have finished his history between the age of twenty and twenty-five, an age much too young to have executed such a work.

William of Newburgh, who was born in the first year of Stephen, A°. 1135, writes against Geffrey, and says his History is a fiction altogether. William of Newburgh ends his History in 1197, in the same year, or the year after that, in which Walter Map was made archdeacon. If we are to suppose that William of Newburgh uttered this invective in the year 1197, as soon as he had finished his own work, we must give Geffrey great credit for industry, in translating the work so expeditiously.

In one of the charters which are now brought forward, we find a Walter the Archdeacon called "*de Godestow*," but this seems to be another Walter, Archdeacon, not mentioned by Le Neve in his "*Fasti*," for he appears to have been archdeacon in the time of Henry II., which was not the case with Walter Map. It would appear probable, then, that this was Walter de Constantiis, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln. Ralph de Monemuta and Magister Galfridus Arturus were witnesses to his charter.

But to one of these charters, which Geffrey Artur witnessed, Robert, Bishop of Exeter, was a witness. Now the last bishop of that name, prior to Walter Map, was Robert Warlewast, who died 1159, before Walter de Constantiis was made archdeacon; therefore this Walter de Constantiis could not be Walter the Archdeacon, who gave the book to Geffrey. We must have recourse then to a third Walter: and we find another Walter in whom these several points unite. This was Walter de Wallingford, who, according to Le Neve, lived in 1151, within the episcopate of Robert Warlewast. In these charters we find as witnesses William, Abbot of Eynesham, who lived in 1138; Godfrey, Prior of Eynesham, probably the same who was afterwards Abbot in the time of Stephen; Robert, Prior of St. Frideswid, 1141; and Reginald, Abbot of Evesham, who died 1149.

Moreover, Geffrey dedicates his work to Robert Fitz Roy, Earl of Gloucester, who died about 1146,—another proof that Walter Map could not be the donor of the MS.

From all these dates uniting in Walter de Wallingford, we are compelled to come to the conclusion that the Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, who gave Geffrey the celebrated Welsh History, was not Walter Map, but Walter de Wallingford.

If the Magister Galfridus Arturus, mentioned in the charter, was Geffrey of Monmouth, his being *Magister* and a witness would show him to be at least twenty-one. In both deeds he is coupled as a witness with Robert de Monemuta. The last date of Walter de Wallingford which Le Neve gives is 1151, which would make Geffrey a young man when he translated this work, supposing him to have lived also in 1197.

We must now put the query, who was the Walter whose malady is so feelingly deplored by Henry of Huntingdon in his Treatise *de Contemptu Mundi*, and of whom he gives this high praise :—

“Waltere, quondam decus juvenum ! quondam deliciæ rerum !”

This could not be Walter Map, for although this work was written in Henry's old age, yet, as Henry must have been born about 1090, to suppose him lamenting Walter Map, who lived in 1205, would be absurd. I conjecture, then, that the person in question was Walter de Wallingford.

That Henry must have been born about 1090 is proved by his own words, in which he states that he saw Robert Bloet, Bishop of Lincoln, when he (Henry) was a *little boy*, a *youth*, a *young man*. As Robert Bloet was made bishop in 1093, and died in 1123, his episcopate would comprise those three periods of Henry of Huntingdon's life, which he here indicates. Having thus established the probable age of Henry, I think it is clear, from this also, that the Walter, to whom he alludes in this eulogy, could not be Walter Map.

The necessity, which all should feel, of correcting erroneous impressions on points of history will, I trust, plead my excuse for entering so much at length into this discussion.

The proofs of the above argument are the following :—

CARTA DOMINI WALTERI, ARCHIDIACONI OXINFORDENSIS, FACTA CONVENTUI DE GODESTOW, IN DEDICATIONE ECCLESIE.²

GODSTOW CARTULARY, AMONGST THE RECORDS OF THE QUEEN'S REMEMBRANCER, (Carlton Ride Office,) fol. 5.

Walterus, Oxinefordensis Archidiaconus, omnibus fidelibus Sancte Ecclesie salutem. Notifico caritati vestre, quod concessi conventui de Godestowe, et monialibus ibidem Deo servantibus, omnem libertatem quam Archidiaconus concedere potest, scilicet, ut ab omni Archidiaconali exactione, sive aggravatione, ut in hospiciis exigendis, aut capellanis implacitandis, ceterisque ministris in causam ducendis, libera sit predicta Ecclesia et prorsus quieta. Oleum quoque crisma et sanctum et infirmorum sine exactione habeat. Abbatissa etiam capellanos suos ponat, et habeat, ita ut ipsa voluerit, ad sinodos sive ad capitula non eant, nec [Archidiacono nec]³ Decano aut eorundem ministris, nisi voluntarie, respondeant. Capellani quoque sui, si perverse egerint, convocet abbatissa ad ecclesiam suam, vicinos suos elegerit presbiteros, quorum iudicio aut corrigat eos, aut eiciat. Curam etiam monialium suarum, absque scitacione alicujus archidiaconi sive decani, habeat. Hujus libertatis si quis temerario ausu violator aut destructor extiterit, perpetui anathematis sentencie subjaceat, nisi resipuerit, et condignam satisfactionem egerit. Hujus rei existunt Testes, Rodbertus, Exoniensis Episcopus; ⁴ Ricardus, Abbas Elemosine; ⁵ Reginaldus, Abbas Eveshamie; ⁶ Walterus, Abbas Egenesham. Radulphus de Monem, Magister Gaufridus Arturus, Rodbertus, Prior Oxinefordensis, Rodbertus capellanus, Ansket' presbiter, Willelmus Capellanus, Reginaldus filius Comitis et filii sui, Willelmus de Keisur, Humfridus Clericus, Andreas Clericus, Hugo de Keisur, Willelmus filius Walteri, Simon de Gerard' Molend', Nichol' Basset, Nigell' del Broc, Radulphus de Broc, Willelmus filius Godefridi, Willelmus Luvell.

² The dedication of the church of Godstow took place in the reign of Stephen, in the presence of the King and Queen, Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Sarum, Worcester, Exeter, Bath, and Constance, on the Vigil of Easter, A.D. 1138. (April 2.) See the dedication charter of Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, reciting the benefactions made on that occasion, amongst which it is recorded—"Galterus, Archidiaconus Oxinefordie, dedit decimam domini sui de Cudeslaua."—Mon. Angl., new edit., vol. iv., p. 362; ex Regist. in Scacc. ex parte Remem. Reg. An English version is also found in the English Register, among the MSS. Rawlinson, in Bodley.

³ These words, apparently requisite to complete the sense of this clause, had probably been omitted by the writer of the Cartulary. King Stephen, as appears by his Charter in the Register in the Remembrancer of the Exchequer's office, gave to the church of Godstow—"De meo proprio dominio c. solidatas in vico qui dicitur Waltona." In the ancient manor of

Walton, North of Oxford, a name now preserved in that of Walton Place, near Worcester College, the church of St. Giles was situated, erected by Alwiu, or "Elwinus, filius Godegosii," as Rous states, about the time of the Conquest. He appears, however, amongst the donors in the Dedication Charter of the church of Godstow, in 1138, and in that of King Richard I., he is specially named as the Founder of St. Giles's church. This charter of Archdeacon Walter may probably be assigned to that date, circa 1138. Edit.

⁴ Robert Chichester, Bishop of Exeter, 1128 or 1130. Ob. 1150.

⁵ Eleemosyna, le petit Citeaux, a Cistercian abbey founded in 1121, situate between Chartres and Blois. Richard occurs Abbot of this house in 1147, till about 1156. Gallia Christ., tom. viii. 1397. Waverley and Tintern were offsets from this abbey.

⁶ Reginald was Abbot of Evesham; ob. 1149.

CARTA WALTERI, ARCHIDIACONI OXONEFORDIE, Ibid., fol. 13.

Universis Sancte Matris Ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, Walterus de Godstowe, Oxoneford' Archidiaconus, Salutem in Christo. Notum esse volumus, nos ex officio Archidiaconatus nostri, ad presentationem et concessionem domini Regis Anglie, Henrici filii Matildis Imperatricis, donasse, et presenti carta mea confirmasse, sanctimonialibus de Godestow Ecclesiam de Bloxam, cum suis pertinentiis, salvo jure Lincolnien-sis Ecclesie et nostro. Instituumus autem prenomintas sanctimoniales in personatum prefate ecclesie, salvo jure Rogeri de Clifforde, qui nomine earum eandem Ecclesiam in vita sua est habiturus, pensione unius bizantii prescriptis monialibus annuatim reddendo ad pascham. Testibus hiis, Magistro Winemero, Johanne de Const', Magistro Radulpho de Const', Matheo et Rogero Cappellanis, Stephano, David, clericis.

CARTA WALTERI, OXINIENSIS ARCHIDIACONI, Ibid., fol. 96.

Walterus, Oxin' Archidiaconus, omnibus sancte Ecclesie fidelibus salutem. Notum vobis facio me dedisse in elemosinam Ecclesie Beati Johannis de Godestowe decimam terre mee in dominio meo de Cudeslawe,⁷ ipsamque posuisse super altare, in dedicacione ecclesie coram Alexandro Lincolnensi Episcopo⁸ et ceteris Episcopis qui dedicaverunt Ecclesiam. Valete.

ALIA CARTA WALTERI OXINFORDENSIS, Ibid.

Walterus, Oxinefordensis Archidiaconus, omnibus fidelibus sancte ecclesie Salutem. Notum vobis facio quod rustici mei de Waltona, in dedicacione ecclesie sancti Egidii, que est extra portam de Northe Oxineford, dederunt decimas suas eidem ecclesie, assensu et voluntate mea, quod concedo et volo, et ex parte Dei sic esse precipio. Teste Willelmo, Abbate de Egnesham,⁹ Rodberto, Priore S. Frethesuide,¹ Godefrido, Priore de Egnesham,² Magistro Galfrido Arteour, Radulpho de Monumuta, Willelmo Capellano, Nigello Presbitero, Jocelino Clerico, Petro del Bar, Jord' Radulpho de Melverna, cum multis aliis. Valete.

The third author to whose history I wish to call attention is Alexander de Swerford, Treasurer of St. Paul's, who, there can be little doubt, was either born at Swerford, in the County of Oxford, or was a descendant of the family who were lords of that manor, and took their name from it.

Of this Alexander we have four charters in the Godstow Cartulary, while he was treasurer, to which office he was appointed in 1231, and died 1246. They are the following :—

⁷ Cutslow, about three miles north of Oxford.

⁸ Alexander, Archdeacon of Sarum, nominated Bishop of Lincoln, 15th of April, 1123; Lord Chancellor, *ob.* 1147. The Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, who granted these tithes, must therefore have been Walter de Wallingford, Archdeacon, 1104—1151.

⁹ William, Abbot of Eynsham, A.D. 1138.

¹ Robert de Cricklade, or Canutus, Prior of Oxford, *circa* 1130, or 1141 to 1157. Mon. Aug., new edit., vol. ii., p. 135.

² Possibly the same Godfrey, who occurs as Abbot of Eynsham, *t.* Stephen. Mon. Aug., new edit., vol. iii., p. 2.

CARTA ALEXANDRI DE SWEREFORDE, FACTA JOHANNI DE WOTTONE, ET JULIANE UXORI EJUS.

CARTUL. GODSTOW, fol. 80.

Omnibus presens scriptum visuris vel audituris Alexander de Suereford, thesaurarius Sancti Pauli Lond' salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra me dedisse, concessisse, et hac presenti carta confirmasse Johanni de Wottone filio et heredi Radulfi de Wottone, consanguineo meo, et Juliane filie Willelmi de S. Audoeno uxori prefati Johannis, totam terram meam de Kersintone, cum omnibus pertinenciis suis, quam ibidem habui et tenui de dono et concessione predicti Radulfi; et similiter omnes terras et omnia teumenta que habui et tenui in eadem villa, de perquisito meo, sicut in cartis illorum de quibus terras et tenementa illa habui, quas predictis Johanni et Juliane liberavi, plenius continetur; habenda et tenenda eisdem Johanni et Juliane et heredibus eorum, de me et heredibus meis sive assignatis quibuscumque, libere, quiete, integre et plenarie imperpetuum; reddendo inde singulis annis michi et heredibus meis sive assignatis meis quibuscumque apud London' in domo mea unum spervarium sorum, ad festum beati Petri ad Vincula, pro omni servicio et exaccione, et faciendo inde servicia domiuis feodorum et tenementorum ipsorum que terre ille facere debent, et consueverunt, pro me et heredibus meis sive assignatis meis imperpetuum. Et ego et heredes mei sive assignati mei warrantizabimus eisdem Johanni et Juliane, et heredibus eorum, omnes predictas terras et tenementa cum omnibus pertinenciis suis, per predictum servitium unius spervarii sori per annum, sicut predictum est, contra omnes gentes imperpetuum. Et ut hec mea donacio, concessio, hujus carte confirmacio, et warrantizacio perpetue firmitatis robur optineant, presens scriptum sigilli mei munimine duxi roborandum. Hiis testibus, domino Willelmo de Haverhulle, canonico S. Pauli Lond', Ricardo persona de Haneberewe,³ Johanne de Aula, Andrea Caperun, Roberto Turnur, Willelmo filio Petri, Johanne filio Amisii de Kersintone, Radulfo filio clerici, Hugone Brune de Haneberewe, Rogero de Haverhulle, Petro de Haverhulle, Willelmo persona de Wickwane, Ricardo de Hereforde, clerico, Willelmo de Alneto, Willelmo de Pres, Waltero Marescallo, et aliis.

CARTA RICARDI LE BLUNT, ETC., Ibid.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego, Ricardus Blundus de Karsintone dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta confirmavi domino Alexandro Thesaurario Sancti Pauli Lond' iv. acras terre mee in Karsintou, quarum ij. acre jacent in insula que vocatur Sornheyte, in particulis per viij. virgas, quarum i. virga jacet in eadem insula inter terram Willelmi Sywarde, extendens se versus aquam de Bladene; et secunda, juxta terram Petri de Wyvelcote extendendo se in Tamisiam; tertia virga jacet ibidem inter terram Walteri Morel et Ricardi Hunche; et quarta virga jacet ibidem juxta terram Johannis Chyke, junioris: quinta, juxta hidam subtus Scotesslake: et sexta verga et septima jacent inter terram Theodulphi de Plummere et terram Walteri Sapiere: octava, inter terram Thome filii Hawyse et terram meam. Due autem acre jacent in campis ejusdem ville aquilonaribus, quarum dimidia acra jacet juxta terram Simonis filii Prepositi, et abuttat super campum qui vocatur Vithele et dimidia acra inter terram Walteri Morel et Walteri le Sapiere, in predicto campo de Vithele; et dimidia acra jacet in Wythibedde, inter terram ThomeCapellani et Willelmi Smewe; et

³ Handborough, a parish in Oxfordshire.

dimidia acra jacet in campo qui vocatur Harestane inter terram Walteri Sapiere et terram Roberti Dusepere. Dedi etc. eidem Alexandro dimidiam acram prati in eadem villa, que jacet in prato quod vocatur Barbecroft, habend' eidem Alexandro et heredibus suis, etc.' inperpetuum. Et ex convencionem inter me et dictum Alexandrum facta, dictas quatuor acras etc. per alias terras nostras inter Karsintone warantizabimus etc. Et pro hac donacione etc. dedit mihi predictus Alexander xx.s. sterlingorum premanibus in gersumam et de xxj. s. me versus vivos fil' Sapin, Judeum Oxon', in quibus ei tenebar, die quo confecta fuit hec carta, viz. die Lune proxima ante festum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli, anno M.CC.XLIV. planarie acquievit. Et, ut presens scriptum perpetue firmitatis robur obtineat, illud sigillo meo roboravi. Hiis Testibus, Nicholao le Fraunceys de Somerford, Wilhelmo de Parys, Simone Punchard', Roberto Punchard', Simone Anglico, Petro de Wyvelcote, Wilhelmo filio Petri, Ricardo de Botteley, Theodulpho le Plummere et multis aliis.

CARTA JOHANNIS FILII RADULPHI, ETC., Ibid., fol. 80, vo.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes, filius Radulphi de Wottone, dedi etc. Wilhelmo de Sancto Audeno totam terram et tenementum que habui de dono Alexandri de Swerford, quondam Thesaurarii Sancti Pauli London' viz. de terris que idem Alexander habuit tam de dono dicti Radulphi, patris mei, quam de perquisitis suis, in Karsintone, sine ullo retenemento mihi vel heredibus meis habend', etc. Reddendo inde annuatim capitali domino feodi, scilicet Wilhelmo filio Petri de Kersintone, vj. d. et j. par albarum cyrotecarum de precio j. ob. ad Pasca. Et Abbatisse de Godstowe v.s. ad duos anni terminos, etc. Et heredibus dicti Alexandri de Swerford j. spervarium sorum⁴ ad festum beati Petri ad Vincula. Et mihi et heredibus meis unum denarium ad Pentecost, etc. Pro hac autem donacione etc. dedit mihi Willemus x. marcas. Preterea idem Willemus et heredes sui in tota vita mea mihi dabuntannuatim j. calciamentum de precio ij. s. etc. Et ego, et heredes mei, etc. warrantizabimus, etc. Et ut hec mea donacio, etc. huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis Testibus Wilhelmo de Parys, Radulpho Iveans, (?) Philippo Pady, Johanne de Aula de Haneberge, Radulpho filio Clerici de Eynesham, Andrea Caperun, Roberto le Turnour, et Wilhelmo le Parker de Wodestok, Nicholao le Franceys de Somerforde, Symone Punchard', Symone Anglico, et aliis.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod Ego Willemus de Sancto Audeno dedi Wilhelmo filio meo et heredi, et Colette uxori sue totam terram meam de Kersintone, etc. quam ibidem habui, et tenui de dono Johannis filii Radulphi, inperpetuum, etc. quam quidem terram dictus Johannes filius Radulphi habuit de dono Alexandri de Swerford, quondam Thesaurarii Sancti Pauli London' [etc., ut in ultima carta.] Pro hac autem donacione etc. dederunt mihi Willemus filius meus et Coletta uxor ejus xx. marcas in gersummam, etc. Sciendum est etiam quod sic convenit inter Willemum de Sancto Audeno pro filio meo Wilhelmo, ex una parte, et Johannem de Merdene, pro Coletta sorore sua, ex altera, quod si dicta Coletta conceperit de dicto Wilhelmo filio Wilhelmi sponso suo, et prolem in lucem produxerit, ipsa proles totam predictam terram etc. possideat, in perpetuum, jure hereditario. Si vero dictus Willemus, etc. ante suscitatum prolem de dicta

⁴ A hawk of the first year, ("a soar hawk," Cotgrave,) having its first plumage of the light brown colour called in French,

soy—"de couleur jaune, blond—rousâtre." See Ducange, v. Saurus.

Coletta uxore sua, obierit, habebit dictam terram etc. dicta Coletta ad totam vitam suam ; et si dicta Coletta ante Willelmum filium Willelmi maritum suum, in fata sine liberis decesserit post ejus vitam predictus Johannes, frater Colette, vel sui assignati predictam terram etc. habebunt pro x. annis, ad denarios dicto Willelmo de Sancto Audoenno pacatos plene plene levandos absque disturbacione dicti Willelmi vel alicujus nomine suo ; et post x. annos completos redibit dicta terra etc. ad dictum Willelmum vel heredes suos etc. Si vero contingat quod ego Willelmus de Sancto Audoenno dictis Willelmo filio meo et Colette warantizare non potero, faciam eis sufficiens excambium de aliis terris meis cum manso competenti in Villa de Haneborowe, secundum visum legalium hominum. In cujus rei testimonium, etc. Sigillum meum apposui. Hiis Testibus, Dominis Nicholao de Henrede, tunc Vice comite Oxon.' Bardulpho de Cestertone, militibus ; Johanne de Dunhall, Petro de Lega, Rogero de Hastall, Henrico Parker, Willelmo filio Petri de Kersintone, persona de Drifeld.

By these charters we discover some of his kindred, and that he had property at Carsington, in the County of Oxford. For by them he grants to his cousin John, son and heir of Ralph de Wotton, and to Juliana his wife, daughter of William de St. Ouen, all his land in Carsington, which he had by the gift of the said Ralph, and all the lands which he, (Alexander himself,) had purchased in Carsington ; to be held by the said John and Juliana, on the yearly payment of a sparrow-hawk, at his, (Alexander's), house in London.

As Madox, in his "History of the Exchequer," has fully treated of all the claims of Alexander de Swerford to the authorship of the work *de Scaccario*, I will content myself with bringing forward the facts in his life which are contained in these charters. As these were drawn from the Cartulary of Godstow, I cannot conclude my observations without begging to press earnestly upon the attention of the Institute the very great importance of printing the Cartularies of this kingdom, a noble example being set us by Scotland, and followed by Lancashire and France. For these documents contain innumerable anecdotes relative to the biography of the inhabitants of this country in former times, all of whom were either our direct ancestors, or of their kindred ; and I beg leave to propose a commencement with this county, and to suggest a subscription of a moderate sum, annually, for the purpose of bringing out the Cartularies of Oxfordshire.⁵

⁵ The valuable Cartulary, from which the documents here given have been extracted, is preserved amongst the Records of the Queen's Remembrancer, now in the custody of the Master of the Rolls. It appears to have been written about

1420. A note is inscribed at the commencement, as follows,—*"Monasterium de Godstowe. Liberatur in Cur' Scaccarii undecimo die Februarii, anno xxvij. per manus Ricardi Browne, generosi, pro commodo Regine."*