

## Original Documents.

IN the extracts from the Bursars' accounts of Winchester College, which were given in Vol. VIII. of this Journal, it will be remembered that mention was made of Simon, Bishop of Achonry,<sup>1</sup> as having been deputed by William of Wykeham to consecrate the chapel and cloisters of the college. This bishop was much employed by William of Wykeham to assist in his episcopal functions. The following transcript of his will is extracted from Wykeham's register.

"Testamentum domini Simonis, Episcopi Accadensis.

"In dei nomine, Amen. XIII<sup>mo</sup> die mensis Februarii, A.D. MCCCXCVII., Ego, Simon, Accadensis Episcopus, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. In primis, lego animam meam deo, et corpus meum ad sepeliendum in Capella B. Mariæ infra Monasterium de Quarrera. Item, lego Abbati ejusdem Monasterii xl<sup>s</sup>. Item, lego Priori ejusdem Monasterii vi<sup>s</sup>. viii<sup>d</sup>. Item, lego Stephano Monacho dicti Monasterii vi<sup>s</sup>. viii<sup>d</sup>. Item, lego ad distribuendum inter Monachos ejusdem Monasterii, ad orandum pro animâ meâ, liii<sup>s</sup>. iiiii<sup>d</sup>. Item, lego Magistro Nicholao unam zonam de cerico stipatam cum argento deaurato. Item, lego domino Roberto rectori de Arreton xl<sup>s</sup>. Item, lego Michaeli famulo meo xl<sup>s</sup>. Item, lego Nicholao cognato meo xx<sup>s</sup>. Et quicquid residuum fuerit de bonis meis non legatis do etiam et lego executoribus meis, ut ipsi ordinent et disponent pro animâ meâ. Et ad istud testamentum meum expediendum, et in omnibus fideliter exequendum, meos ordino et constituo executores dominum Robertum Wantyngg, rectorem ecclesiæ de Arreton, et Magistrum Nicholaum Burgh, Rectorem Ecclesiæ de Nyton."

This will was proved on the 27th of March, A.D. 1398.

Archdeacon Cotton, in his valuable "Fasti," says of this prelate, that he was a monk, but that it is uncertain to what order he belonged.<sup>2</sup> From his connexion with the Abbey of Quarrer, or Quarr, which is shown by this will, we may infer that he was a Cistercian. The will itself contains little which might claim any detailed comment or observation, except, indeed, as serving to show the scantiness of the revenues which he received from the see of Achonry. In truth, many Irish prelates at that period would seem to have been little more than mere titular bishops, bearing the titles of Irish sees, but having no other duties to perform, and consecrated perhaps with no other object, than to assist the English bishops in the discharge of their functions. In looking through the work of Archdeacon Cotton, one cannot but be struck with the very numerous instances which occur of Irish bishops, of whom no other memorial exists than an entry in some Episcopal Register in England, recording their appointment to act as suffragans to English bishops.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. viii. p. 82, where he was erroneously called Bishop of Aghadoe. Simon Akadensis occurs in 1385, amongst the "Chorepiscopi Diocesum Incertarum,"

enumerated by Wharton. Biblioth. Topogr. Brit.

<sup>2</sup> Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ, by Henry Cotton, D.C.L., vol. iv., Connaught, p. 100.

The Bishops of Enachdune, in Galway, were very frequently employed by those of Winchester, in this capacity. In Bishop Woodlock's Register, fol. 336, *verso*, the following entry occurs: "*Ordines celebrati per fratrem Gilbertum, D.G. Enachdunensem Episcopum, vice et auctoritate venerabilis patris, domini Henrici, D.G. Wynton' Episcopi, in ecclesia conventus de Suthwerk, die Sabbati, qua cantatur 'sitientes.' Videlicet, Kal. Marcii, A.D. 1314.*"

The original matrix of the seal of Gilbert, Bishop of Enachdune, was in existence in 1797, in the possession of a person at Coventry, who, under the signature "Σ," communicated an impression to the "*Gentleman's Magazine*."<sup>3</sup> It is remarkable that several Irish episcopal seals are in existence, in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy and other collections, but no example appears to have been noticed of the original matrix of a seal of any English prelate, still preserved. The seal in question is of pointed-oval form, and presents a figure of the Virgin holding the infant Saviour, and standing within a purfled canopy or niche; beneath is the upper part of a mitred figure, with hands upraised. This matrix very probably still exists, although the fact has not been ascertained. Gilbert had been elected in 1306 by the Dean and Chapter, without royal license; and having paid 300*l.* for the king's pardon, he retained possession, notwithstanding the complaints of the Archbishop of Tuam to the Pope. He exercised episcopal functions in several parts of England, as a suffragan, having granted indulgences at the church of Kingsbury, Warwickshire, and Nether Cerne Abbey, Dorset, where he dedicated an altar. (Hutchins, vol. ii., p. 289.) Gilbert, Bishop of Enachdune, occurs in Wharton's list of "*Chorepiscopi diocesis Wigorniensis*," under the year 1313.

In the year after the death of the before-mentioned Simon, Bishop of Achonry, William of Wykeham issued the following commission to Henry, Bishop of Enachdune: "*Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Henrico, Ennachdunensi Episcopo, Willelmus, permissione divinâ Wyntoniensis Episcopus, salutem et fraternam in domino caritatem. Ad dedicandum cancellum ecclesiæ parochialis de Farnham nostræ dioceseos, et magnum altare in eodem, de novo constructa, et cetera altaria in eadem ecclesiâ, si quâ dedicatione indigeant, paternitati vestræ liberam tenore presencium concedimus facultatem. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus his apponi. Datum in manerio nostro de Essher, xxiii<sup>to</sup> die mensis Junii, A.D. MCCCXCIX., et nostræ consecrationis xxx<sup>o</sup>.*"

On the 6th of September, in the following year, the same prelate was commissioned, in the same terms, to dedicate the chancel and altars of the chapel of Bentley, annexed to the mother church of Farnham. After his death, which must have taken place not long after, I find his successor, John, Bishop of Enachdune, employed by the same prelate to administer holy orders in the chapel of his manor of South Waltham, on the 23rd of December, 1402.

The date of the dedication of the chapel of Bentley enables us to correct an inaccuracy with regard to Bishop Henry, in Archdeacon Cotton's "*Fasti*," for it shows beyond doubt that he was still living in September, 1400: the Archdeacon makes the date of the appointment of his successor uncertain, leaving the unit in blank, thus, (139—). It certainly could not have taken

<sup>3</sup> *Gent. Mag.* vol. lxxviii., part i., p. 293. The inscription seems somewhat blundered or erroneously given by Mr. Urban's

engraver, but there can be little doubt that it may be assigned to the prelate above-named.

place until after the commencement of the following century. The dedication of the two altars, therefore, at Nether Cerne, attributed to Bishop John, 1396, according to Hutchins, must have been the act of his predecessor Henry. We may observe also that this John, who administered holy orders at Waltham, on Dec. 23rd, 1402, was, within a month of that date (as stated by Ware) succeeded by John Brit, on Jan. 24th. This seems an incredibly short space of time, after the death of one prelate, for the appointment, confirmation, and consecration of his successor: one would be inclined to suspect some error, and to think that John Twillow, and John Brit, may have been one and the same person.

After the lapse of some years, I find John Boner, Bishop of Enachdune, Provost of the College of St. Elizabeth, near Winchester, which stood in the meadow of St. Stephen, opposite the great gate of the Castle of Wolvesey. The following is the heading of a *computus* of that house, preserved among the archives of Winchester College:

“Collegium Sanctæ Elizabethæ prope Wynton: Visus status ejusdem Collegii, tempore Joannis Boner, Episcopi Enachdunensis, ac Præpositoris ibidem, ad festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli, A.R. Henrici VI<sup>to</sup>. vicesimo.” (A.D. 1441.)<sup>4</sup> The annual stipend of the provost, according to the same roll, was 4*l*.

The history and succession of suffragan bishops present a subject of research which deserves the notice of the antiquary. The lists compiled by Wharton, published in the “*Bibliotheca Topographica*,” with the dissertations by Lewis and Pegge on suffragan bishops in England, are doubtless capable of much enlargement and correction. Mr. T. Duffus Hardy proposes to give with his new edition of *Le Neve's Fasti*, a revised and amplified list, formed upon the groundwork laid by Wharton. Mr. Hardy would thankfully receive any additions noticed by those who may have access to episcopal registers or chapter monuments. His useful and arduous undertaking may well claim their friendly assistance.

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<sup>4</sup> Dr. Cotton, *Fasti*, vol. iv. p. 55, mentions this bishop as “John Connere (Connery or Bonnere !)” advanced to the see in 1421: he was rector of Cheddington,

Dorset, in 1422. In Wharton's lists he occurs in 1421 amongst the “*Chorepiscopi*” of Salisbury, and in 1438, amongst those of the see of Exeter.