

Original Documents.

BEING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF READING ABBEY.

From the Muniments of the most Noble the MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER, K.G.

AMONGST the monasteries of royal foundation in the times of the earlier sovereigns of the Norman race, scarcely any presents a subject of investigation more replete with interest in historical associations, and also in the details which throw light on the annals of conventual institutions in this country, than the great Benedictine Abbey of Reading. During four centuries the sunshine of royal favor seems constantly to have fallen on that house; unusual privileges were from time to time conceded; the mitred abbot, although the precise rule of precedence may not have been peremptorily prescribed, took place, it is said, among peers spiritual, next to the abbots of Glastonbury and St. Albans. Extensive as were the scattered possessions of the house in many counties, its rental must have proved insufficient to support the onerous distinction of frequent royal visits and the obligation of maintaining ample hospitalities, not so much towards the indigent as the guests of higher degree—prelates and nobles, with many who doubtless delighted to seek solace in the fragrant meads and shaded margins of the Thames and the Kennet. To such causes, more frequently perhaps than to imprudent administration, the embarrassments were due into which many well-endowed monasteries are found to have lapsed; it is no marvel that Reading, whilst enjoying the comparatively rare privilege of a mint, and in a position to requite the favor of the sovereign with substantial aid in a national emergency, was often burdened with debt, and numbered amongst its creditors the great European financiers of the period, the Lombards and the Caorsini.

Of the mass of valuable documentary evidence relating to the Abbey of Reading, comparatively little has hitherto been printed, although an ample summary of the history of the house and its possessions has been compiled by Mr. Coates, which has served as the groundwork of the account given in the new edition of Dugdale's *Monasticon*.¹ The numerous charters and evidences preserved in public and in private depositories remain for the most part unpublished, the instruments given by Dugdale in the original edition of his great work being almost limited to the foundation charter and its confirmation by Henry II., whilst the documents selected by the editors of the recent edition, if we except the *Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas, the

¹ History and Antiquities of Reading, by the Rev. C. Coates, and Supplement

1802-10: Monast. Angl., Caley's edit. vol. iv. p. 28.

Ministers' *Computus* at the Dissolution, and the curious Survey made by Commissioners of the Parliament in 1650, extend only to thirty-one. The transcripts preserved in the ancient Registers of the Monastery amount, in Cott. MS. Vesp. E. v. (formerly numbered A. 1) to upwards of fifty; whilst in a more complete register, Harl. MS. 1708, compiled about a century later than that first mentioned, a voluminous store of evidence is to be found, the charters and principal instruments therein contained extending to 213, according to an index given in the *Monasticon* (vol. iv., Caley's edit.). There are also other Registers, namely, Cott. MS. Vesp. E. xxv., formerly in the library of the historian of Berkshire, Elias Ashmole; whilst another, marked Domit. A. iii., appears to relate exclusively to the Priory of Leominster, which was a cell to Reading.

The collection of original charters and evidences from which, by the kind permission of their noble possessor, the following selection has been made, appears to have remained hitherto unnoticed. We have sought in vain to obtain any information to explain the occurrence of so curious an assemblage of Berkshire records in the muniment chamber at Eaton Hall. They attracted the attention of Mr. Beamont, one of the earliest friends and members of the Institute, who, at the request of the Marquis of Westminster, had been engaged in preparing a calendar of ancient Grosvenor charters preserved at Eaton.² They have not been described in Mr. Beamont's inventory, being apparently unconnected with the Grosvenor family: it is not known that the ancestors of the noble Marquis had at any period lands which had formed part of the ancient possessions of the Monastery of Reading. We have to acknowledge with gratification the courteous liberality of Lord Westminster, who, through Mr. Beamont's friendly mediation in our favor, has readily consented to entrust to us the documents in question, with permission to publish any portion in the *Archæological Journal*.

It has been found convenient to limit the following selection, as an instalment from the curious evidences thus kindly placed at our disposal, to the earlier royal charters, from the time of the founder to the reign of Richard I., inclusive. In this little series, however, will be found documents of no ordinary interest. Of these two are grants by Queen Aalidis, Ælidis or Adeliza of Louvaine, the second wife of Henry I.; to which are appended fair impressions of her seal, of which, so far as we are aware, only a defaced fragment, attached to a document in the Treasury at New College, Oxford, was previously known. There are not less than four charters of the Empress Matilda, and five of Stephen; with the latter have been preserved impressions in unusually perfect condition of two distinct great seals of that sovereign.

The Foundation Charter of Henry I., dated 1125, has been printed in the *Monasticon* from a transcript in the Reading Chartulary, Cott. MS. Vesp. E. v. Amongst the subjoined documents another charter is given,

² The Calendar of the Grosvenor Charters, with an Introduction, notices of Seals, and other particulars of interest, has been printed by desire of the Marquis of Westminster (not for publication). The collection consists of 645 documents, and includes a few which have no direct relation to the family; for instance, the

Patent to Wolsey of the office of Lord Chancellor for life. It is to be regretted that Mr. Beamont should not have appended to this curious Calendar an enumeration of the Reading Abbey documents with any other miscellaneous matters which may have been found preserved at Eaton.

granting numerous privileges and exemptions not specified in the earlier one, and described by an endorsement apparently contemporary as "*carta gestatoria de libertatibus*." This somewhat remarkable designation occurs likewise in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, in which we find a charter of Richard I. "*de libertatibus*," another of King John "*de omnibus possessionibus et libertatibus*," and the like of Henry III., in each instance with the distinctive term "*gestatoria*," which does not appear to have been noticed by the glossarists, and we have failed to find it in any other list of monastic evidences.³ The explanation which has been suggested that such charters may have been compendious abstracts, conveniently portable for ready reference, seems scarcely applicable, and we are desirous to invite the attention of our readers to this peculiar title in the hope that some satisfactory explanation may be found.

In No. IV., the second of the subjoined documents which concern land and the church at Stanton in Oxfordshire, Queen Adeliza seems to have expressed her determination to retain her seignory. Probably this resolution was due to the influence of her second husband, William de Albini Earl of Arundel, whom she espoused in 1139, as the document in question issued from Arundel. It bears an impression of her seal of which previously only a fragment was known, and it is remarkable that Adeliza appears to have used the identical matrix of the seal which had belonged to the first queen of Henry I., the name—AALIDIS—having been substituted for MATHILDIS.

It will be noticed that in one of the subjoined documents the Empress Matilda is styled "*Mathildis imperatrix Henrici Regis filia et Anglorum Regina*," in another "*Anglorum Domina*," as she is styled in her charter creating Milo of Gloucester Earl of Hereford, and in other instruments.⁴ In William of Malmesbury's relation of the memorable conference at Winchester after the capture of Stephen, when the Empress with her adherents was received by the Legate, Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, we find the terms on which that prelate consented to recognise her as *Domina*—a solemn oath having been taken by Matilda, in which the Earl of Gloucester, her half-brother, with other nobles present, participated—"Nec dubitavit Episcopus Imperatricem in *Dominam Anglie* recipere."⁵ This occurred on Sunday, March 2nd, 1141; on the following day she was honorably received into Winchester and brought into the cathedral by the Legate, attended by the Bishop of St. David's and other prelates, of whom several, it may be observed, occur as witnesses to the charter here printed. The crown of the realm of England was delivered to her, and, as we read in a

³ *Gestatorius*, that serves for carrying. Suetonius writes of a "*sella gestatoria*," in mediæval Latin *Gestatorium* signified a portable feretory for relics, a bier, &c.

⁴ Rymer, new edit. vol. i. p. 14. Compare also the charters of the Empress to St. Frideswide's, Oxford, Mon. Ang., Caley's edit., vol. ii. pp. 145, 146; the Foundation Charter of Bordesley Abbey, *ibid.* vol. v. p. 407; her charter to Stoneleigh, *ib.* p. 446, and several other grants in which she is invariably styled *Domina*. The fact that Matilda was never crowned queen of England may suffice to account for her being thus styled. Mr. William

Hardy has shown that Richard I. in like manner styled himself "*Dominus Anglie*," as appears by a charter in the archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, granted nearly a month after the death of Henry II., and previously to the coronation of his successor. *Archæologia*, vol. xxvii. p. 110.

⁵ Hist. Nov. ap. Rerum Angl. Script., p. 188. In his address to the Synod of Winchester, shortly after these events, Henry de Blois declared of his treaty with Matilda—"filiam pacifici regis—in Angliæ Normanniæque Dominam eligimus." *Ibid.* p. 189.

contemporary chronicle—"In publica se civitatis et fori audientia Dominam et Reginam acclamare præcepit." (*Gesta Steph.*, Duchesne, *Hist. Norm. Script.*, p. 954). The accomplished biographer of the Princesses of England, to whom we are indebted for a life of Matilda, observes that "the only instances in which we have documentary evidence that she styled herself Queen of England occur in two charters of this period," the first being at the request of the Bishop of Winchester, confirming to the monastery of Glastonbury, of which he was the abbot, all privileges and possessions which it enjoyed on the day when he came to meet Matilda at Wherwell, on the Sunday when, as before mentioned, the interview took place in which her claims were recognised. This document has been printed by Hearne, and in *Monast. Angl.*, Caley's edit., vol. i. p. 44. The second document to which Mrs. Everett Green refers is that of which the original has been preserved amongst the Marquis of Westminster's documents now under consideration.⁶ The charter to the church of Glastonbury may doubtless be assigned to the period of Matilda's brief residence in the ancient palace of Winchester, the favorite resort of the earlier English sovereigns, and where, as we learn from the poet Wace, she was born. Thence she proceeded to Wilton where she received the homage of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, and of a great multitude of other persons; after Easter, which occurred in 1141 on March 30th, she resorted early in May to Reading, where, amongst the numerous nobles who hastened to give their adhesion to her cause, came the powerful Robert d'Oily, on whose proposition to render up to her the castle of Oxford, Matilda went thither, and there kept the Whitsuntide festival (May 18th). During her brief stay at Reading she had doubtless been entertained with all becoming state within the monastery which her father had founded, and where his remains had been deposited. To the period of that visit her grants in favor of the abbey may be probably assigned.

The documents relating to the grant of lands in Surrey and Berkshire by Geoffrey Purcell, described as the king's usher (*hostiarius*), are not without interest. It should seem from these evidences that certain lands at Catshill in the former county, and at Windsor, were given by him to the Abbey of Reading on his becoming a monk there, and his gift was confirmed by the Empress Matilda; but on a further confirmation by Stephen it was arranged that Ralph Purcell should hold of the abbey land to the value of twenty shillings *per ann.* in Windsor, probably part of the land there before mentioned. It appears in the History of Surrey by Manning and Bray, that land at Catshill in the parish of Godalming was held by the Purcell family at a later period.⁸

It has been thought desirable to give the grants by Matilda at length, although before partly printed from transcripts in the Reading Chartulary, on account of the omission hitherto of the names of the witnesses, who are persons of historical importance as having taken active part in the memorable struggle for the crown between the Empress and King Stephen. An additional reason is that they serve to indicate the respective times at

⁶ Printed by Mrs. Everett Green, *Lives of the Princesses of England*, vol. i. App. p. 408, from a transcript in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, the names of the witnesses being omitted.

⁷ "Ad Radingum infra Rogationes

veniens suscipitur cum honoribus." *Contin. Flor. Wigorn.*, p. 676.

⁸ *Hist. of Surrey*, vol. i. p. 615. See also the pedigree of descendants of Dynus Porcellus, *ib.* p. 85.

which those grants were made, within a very few years. Besides Robert Earl of Gloucester and Reginald Earl of Cornwall, her half-brothers, so well known in the history of the period, we find another half-brother Robert, less known, Milo of Gloucester the Constable, and afterwards Earl of Hereford, Humphrey de Bohun, John Marshal, and Brien "*Filius Comitis*," an active and faithful adherent of the empress, whose origin and history are involved in much obscurity, as is shewn in Bishop Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities*. It is remarkable that so acute a writer should have overlooked that the earlier Brien or Brientius "*filius comitis*" was dead in 1140, as is evident from a grant by Alan Earl of Brittany and Richmond his nephew to the monastery⁹ of St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall, given in the *Monasticon*. It should rather seem that he was the later Brien mentioned by Dugdale in his *Baronage*, vol. i. p. 48, who appears as a witness to a grant by his brother, Conan Duke of Britanny and Earl of Richmond, to the nunnery of Denney in Cambridgeshire.¹ It may be thought probable from the peculiarity of his designation, that he was a natural son of Alan their father Earl of Richmond. His importance in this country was due to the great favor of King Henry I., and to his having married Matilda daughter and heiress of Robert d'Oily, and so having become possessor of Wallingford Castle. He is called by Malmesbury "*Brientius filius comitis Marchio de Walingford*," the castle of which place was rendered so well known through his prolonged defence of it against King Stephen. His name occurs among the witnesses to the foundation charter of Reading Abbey.

The series of royal grants here given closes with one of Richard I. to the abbot and monks of Reading, that their lands be held in their own demesne in accordance with the foundation charter by Richard's great grandfather Henry I., in which the following stringent conditions occur:— "*Terras censuales non ad feudum donet (abbas), nec faciat milites nisi in sacra veste Christi.*"—" *Nemo de possessione Radingensis monasterii aliquid teneat feodaliter absolutum.*"² The little grant by Cœur de Lion is not the least interesting in the collection of unpublished documents which have been preserved at Eaton. It was issued on Sept. 12, "*apud Gaitintone*," namely Geddington in Northamptonshire, the year not being stated. The only witness, however, was William de Mandeville Earl of Essex and Albemarle, who died in 1190, and we are thus enabled to assign this instrument to 1189, the year of Richard's accession. On his arrival in England the barons and prelates assembled at Winchester to receive their new sovereign, Sept. 3 being fixed for his coronation. The young king had taken the cross during his father's lifetime; he now devoted his energies to preparations for a crusade, and summoned a council to assemble at the Cistercian convent of Pipewell in Northamptonshire, on Sept. 15, in order to appoint a regency, to fill up vacant benefices, and take measures for the security of the realm during his absence. In the neighbourhood of Pipewell was the royal mansion at Geddington, where Henry II. held a Parliament in 1188.³ William de Mandeville, who had

⁹ Vol. i. p. 48; the grant is given, *Monast. Angl.*, vol. vi. p. 990.

¹ *Monast. Angl.*, vol. vi. p. 1551, Caley's edition.

² *Monast. Angl.*, vol. iv. p. 41, Caley's edit.

³ The royal residence at Geddington appears to have been a favorite resort during several reigns. The locality is now chiefly known to the antiquary as having been one of the places where the corpse of Queen Eleanor rested, and

been high in the favor of Henry II., and who bore the great jeweled crown at the recent coronation, taking place in the procession immediately before Richard, appears to have been his companion at this critical moment, and to have witnessed his grant at Geddington to the monks of Reading three days previous to the Council, at which, it will be remembered, the king conferred upon him the important office of Justice of England, conjointly with Hugh de Pudsey, Bishop of Durham.

HENRY I. A.D. 1100—1135.

I. A charter, undated, endorsed—*Carta Regis Henrici primi Gestatoria de libertatibus*.⁴

Henricus Dei gratia Rex Anglorum et Dux Normannorum Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibusque suis et omnibus christianis tam presentibus quam futuris salutem perpetuam. Sciatis me pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum novam apud Radingiam abbatiam construxisse, eidemque abbacie omnem immunitatem et potestatem quietantiam et libertatem dedisse quam regia potestas alicui abbacie conferre potest. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod Abbas et monachi de Radingia omnia tenementa sua tam laica quam ecclesiastica quecumque in presenti habent vel in posterum donatione fidelium habituri sunt bene et in pace libere et quiete plenarie et honorifice teneant in omnibus locis et in omnibus rebus ubicumque fuerint quieti de Denegeldis et omnibus geldis et auxiliis et sciris et hundredis et omnibus placitis et querelis de scutagiis et hidagiis et stallagiis de summagiis et careagiis de navigiis et clausuris de pontium et castrorum edificatione de conductu thesauri et omni operatione de tributis et lestagiis de thedinpeni et tinpeni de summonicionibus de assisis et superassisis (*sic*) de merciis quacumque occasione exigendis et de omnibus forisfactoris undecumque fuerint de essartis et nemorum wastis. Nullus vero de forestariis regis quicquam se intromittat de boscis Abbatis et monachorum qui sunt intra forestam, sed omnem potestatem et libertatem quam habet rex in boscis suis habeant Abbas et monachi et ministri eorum in omnibus boscis qui ad abbatiam pertinent ubicumque fuerint. Sintque Abbas et monachi Radingie et omnes homines eorum et res ipsorum quieti de hedagiis et theloneis et omnibus exactionibus et consuetudinibus in nundinis et foris quorumcumque sunt in terris et aquis in viis et transitibus pontium et portibus maris per totam Angliam et Normanniam; habeatque Abbas et monachi omnem justiciam de assaltu et murdris et sanguinis effusione et pacis infractione et thesauri inventionem quicquid ad regiam pertinet potestatem; mercie nulle de Abbate Radingie vel monachis nec de tenementis vel boscis eorum exigantur nec exacte solvantur, sed sint omnes homines eorum et eorum dominia ita quieti et libera sicut mea propria, et soli Abbati et monachis de omnibus respondentia. Et habeant Abbas et monachi de hominibus suis et de tota possessione sua et de alienis in ea forisfacientibus vel ibi cum

where a cross erected to her memory still exists. A writ of King John regarding the King of Connaught is tested "Apud Geydington." Rymer, vol. i. p. 91. The abbot and convent of the adjacent monastery of Pipewell, whose pos-

sessions were in great part in the fee of "Geytington," obtained the church of that place by exchange from Edward III.

⁴ Printed from the Wollaseot MS. in Coates' Hist. of Reading, App. No. i.

forisfacto interceptis hundreda et placita omnia, cum saccha et socca et toll et theam et infangenetheof et hutfangentheof in omnibus locis cum omnibus que sunt vel esse possunt. Hanc monasterio Radingie quantamcumque rex donare potest dono et confirmo libertatem et immunitatem, quam regibus post me in Anglia regnaturis pro Deo servandam commendo. Quam qui infringere vel minuere presumpserit contrahat eum dominus et conterat de terra viventium cum omni posteritate sua. Hujus nostre donationis hos testes adhibemus, Willelmum Archiepiscopum Cantuariensem, Thurstinum et Galfridum Eboracensem et Rothomagensensem Archiepiscopos, Willelmum et Seffridum Wintoniensem et Cicestrensem Episcopos, Robertum et Willelmum Comites Glocestrie et Surreie. Apud Westmonasterium.

The seal is lost, but there remains a stout label of white deer-skin passed through a fold at the bottom of the deed.⁵

II. Writ, undated, discharging the tenants of Geoffrey Purcell at Cats-hill and Chiddingfold, Surrey, from toll and custom.

Henricus Rex Anglie Ricardo Basset et Alberico de Ver et Vicecomiti et omibus Burgensibus suis de Geldefort salutem. Precipio quod homines Gaufridi Purcelli hostiarii mei de Chatishille et de Chedelingfolt⁶ sint ita bene et juste in pace de theloneo et omni consuetudin' sicut fuerunt tempore patris sui. Teste Milone Glocestrensi. Apud Winton'.⁷

A fragment of an impression of the great seal, on white wax, remains, on a parchment label cut lengthways.

ADELIZA, QUEEN OF HENRY I. A.D. 1121, SHE DIED c. 1151.

III. Grant, undated, to the Abbey of one hundred shillings' worth of land in her manor of Stanton, Oxfordshire, and also of the church of Stanton.⁸

Notum sit presentibus et futuris omnibus ecclesiæ catholicæ filiis quod ego Aelidis regina uxor nobilissimi regis Henrici concessi et dedi Deo et ecclesiæ sanctæ Mariæ de Radingis et fratribus ibidem Deo servantibus centum solidatas terræ in manerio meo de Stanton in Oxeneforda schira,

⁵ We have been unable to ascertain with precision the date of this important instrument. On comparison with the foundation charter of Henry I., bearing date 1125, the occurrence of so many of the same witnesses in both documents may supply presumptive evidence that they are contemporary. The foundation charter, preserved amongst the Public Records at the Rolls, bears, however, the "*signum Adeleidis reginæ*," and that of the Legate of the Apostolic see, with some others not found in the *carta gestatoria*.

⁶ Chiddingfold, parcel of the manor of

Godalming, Surrey. Manning and Bray's Hist., vol. i. p. 650.

⁷ Milo of Gloucester, one of the chief attendants of Henry I., who gave to him in marriage Sibyll, daughter of Bernard of Newmarch, Lord of Brecknock, and the office of Constable of his Court.

⁸ This and the following document have been printed by Bishop Kennett in his *Parochial Antiquities*, vol. i. pp. 153, 154, from transcripts in the Reading Chartulary, but the witnesses are omitted. He has printed also two other grants by Queen Adeliza relating to Stanton.

ad procuracionem conventus et religiosarum personarum illuc convenientium in termino anniversarii domini mei nobilissimi Regis Henrici, et preter illas centum solidatas terræ concessi eis et dedi æcclesiam ejusdem manerii Stantonæ cum omnibus rebus eidem ecclesiæ pertinentibus, et volo atque precipio ut in pace et libere et quiete teneant cum omnibus liberalibus consuetudinibus cum quibus dominus meus nobilissimus Rex Henricus ea in dominio suo tenuit et mihi dedit. Notumque sit quod eandem æcclesiam concessi ad continua luminaria ante corpus domini nostri Jhesu Christi et ante corpus domini mei nobilissimi Regis Henrici. Testibus Hermagno capellano, et Alluredo capellano, et Francone capellano, et Magistro Serlone, et Eudone filio Alani, et Aalardo Flandr', et Gaufrido de Tresgoz, et Raginaldo de Wind'r, et Roberto de Chalz, et Roberto de Alta Ripa, et Rotardo camerario, et Warino camerario, et Godeschalco conestabulario, et Waltero Crabbe.

There is appended by a label of deer's skin passed through the fold at the bottom of the parchment, a pointed oval seal of white wax, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, and $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. wide : device, a female figure standing, holding in her right hand a short sceptre ensigned with a dove, the handle terminating in a trefoiled ring resembling that of a key of the period, and in her left an orb ensigned with a cross ; she is habited in a long tunic falling in very full folds about the feet, with wide open sleeves, and a strip of fur from the waist downwards. Over this garment there is a mantle with an ornamented collar fastened at the neck by a quatrefoiled brooch, and gathered up over each arm in full folds somewhat after the manner of wearing a chasuble. On the head appears a crown, from beneath which falls a coverchief that disappears at the neck under the mantle. The legend is + SIGILLVM · AALIDIS · SECVND(AE · DE)I · GRACIA · REGINAE · ANGLE. The mode in which this seal is attached deserves notice ; it is placed sideways, the head of the figure to the spectator's left. The seal attached to the next document is also thus placed sideways on the label.

The singular circumstance has been already noticed that the seal of which these are impressions had been used by the first queen of Henry I., designated in its legend *secundæ*, probably to distinguish her from Matilda wife of the Conqueror. The matrix having, however, been rendered available for the use of Adeliza by the substitution of her name, the word *secundæ*, which could not conveniently be removed whilst no additional title or the like occurred to fill up the space, must, it is imagined, have been taken as appropriate to the *second* consort of Henry I.

IV. A mandate, undated, by Queen Adeliza, that the church of Stanton or other of her gifts should not be put out of her power.

A. Dei gracia Regina Edwardo Abbati et toto Conventui de Rading' salutem. Audivi a quibusdam quod vultis ecclesiam de Stanton extra dominium nostrum et manum ponere. Quare mando vobis quod nolo ut illam vel aliquid aliud de Elemosina mea extra manum nostram ponatis. Teste Reinaldo de Wind'r. Apud Arondelle.⁹

⁹ Edward was elected Abbot of Reading in 1135, and died in 1154. This document, issued from Arundel, must

obviously be assigned to a period subsequent to Adeliza's second marriage in 1138.

There is appended, by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment, a seal of white wax, apparently from the same matrix as that of the seal to the preceding document. The figure from the neck upwards is wanting. Endorsed in a contemporary hand,—Adeleidis regine ne ecclesia de Stanton mittatur extra dominium nostrum.

MATILDA (EMPRESS), A.D. 1114—1167.

V. Grant, undated, of lands at Windsor and Catshill before mentioned to the Abbey.¹

Mathildis imperatrix Henrici regis filia et Anglorum regina archiepiscopis episcopis abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Vicecomitibus Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et Anglis totius Angliæ salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Deo et Sanctæ Mariæ de Radingis et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus, pro salute animæ meæ et pro anima Henrici regis patris mei, et pro incolumitate Gauffredi Andegavorum comitis et domini Henrici filii mei et aliorum filiorum meorum, et pro statu totius regni, terram de Windesoris et de Cateshella in perpetuam elemosinam quæ fuit Gauffredi Purcelle, quam monasterio Radingensi dedit quando ibi monachus devenit. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod bene et in pace et libere et quiete et honorifice et plenarie teneant in bosco et plano et pratis et pasturis, in aquis et stagnis et molendinis, in civitate et extra et in omnibus rebus et locis omnibus, et cum omnibus libertatibus et quietantiis ad terram illam pertinentibus. Testibus Henrico episcopo Wintoniensi, Alexandro Linchoniensi episcopo, Nigello episcopo Heliensi, Bernardo episcopo de Sancto David, Rodberto episcopo Herefordense (*sic*), et testibus Roberto comite de Glocestria, et Reginaldo comite filio regis, et Rodberto fratre ejus, et Brien' filio comitis, Milone constabulo, Johanne marescallo. Apud Rading'.²

The seal is lost. A seal of Matilda has been figured by Sandford, Book i., pl. B, p. 37. It is circular, representing a seated figure crowned and holding a sceptre; legend—+ MATHILDIS DEI GRATIA ROMANORVM REGINA. This is the only type known of a seal of Matilda, although Tyrrel states that the impression appended to a confirmation to the Priory of St. James, Exeter, bore the legend, “Maethildis Regina Romanorum et Domina Anglorum;” which document is preserved at St. John's College, Cambridge, and on examination the seal proves to be identical with that engraved by Sandford: two impressions exist in the archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, noticed, *Archæologia*, vol. xxvi. p. 459, and there is one at Durham. Another, amongst the charters of the Abbey of St. André-de-Gouffern, is figured by D'Anisy, *Sceaux Normands*, pl. ii.

¹ A transcript of this document may be found in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 170, and it has been partly printed by Mrs. Everett Green in the Appendix to the life of Matilda, in the *Lives of the Princesses of England*, by that accomplished authoress. See vol. i. p. 408.

² The date of this document may probably be referred to the period of Matilda's sojourn at Reading in May,

1141. Milo de Gloucester, lord constable, is here designated only as such; he was created Earl of Hereford, July 25, 1141. A transcript of this charter may be found in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 17 b, with transcripts of the two following documents, also of her grants regarding the churches of Tacheham and of Berkeley, and two other grants in favor of the abbey.

VI. Grant by way of confirmation of the church of Stanton before mentioned to the Abbey.

Mathildis imperatrix Henrici regis filia Alexandro episcopo Lincolnensi et omnibus baronibus de Oxeneforde scire salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse æcclesiam de Stantune cum omnibus rebus ei pertinentibus in decimis et terris et omnibus aliis rebus æcclesiæ sanctæ Marie de Rading' et monachis ibidem Deo servantibus in elemosinam, sicut eam A[deleidis] regina uxor patris mei et Willelmus vir ejus eis dederunt et per cartas suas confirmaverunt; et volo et precipio ut eam bene et in pace teneant sicut melius [al]ias suas res tenent. His testibus, Bernardo episcopo de Sancto David, et Roberto comite de Glocestria, et Hunfrido de Buun dapifero. Apud Rading'.³

The seal is lost.

VII. Grant, undated, of Blewbury, Berks, to the Abbey.⁴

Mathildis Imperatrix Henrici Regis filia et Anglorum domina Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus Prepositis Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et Anglis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me, pro anima Henrici Regis patris mei et Mathildis Regine matris mee et antecessorum meorum in perpetuum elemosinam et pro amore et legali servicio Brien'⁵ filii Comitis quod michi fecit, dedisse et concessisse Deo et Sancte Marie et monachis Rading' Bleberiam ita bene et in pace et libere et quiete et honorifice et plenarie tenendam cum soca et saca et toll et theam et infangenetheof et cum omnibus aliis consuetudinibus et libertatibus sicut Henricus Rex pater meus eam melius et liberius et quietius et plenarius habuit et tenuit. Testibus Roberto Comite Glocestrie, et Reginaldo Comite Cornubie, et Rogero Comite Herefordie, et Unfrido de Buhun dapifero, et Willelmo filio Alani, et Joscio de Dinan, et Walkelino Maminot, et Willelmo Paganello, et Willelmo⁶ Hamonis, Hugone filio Ricardi, et Riulfo de Sessun. Apud Divisas.

The seal is lost; it was appended by a plaited hempen cord of four strands curiously woven.

VIII. A duplicate of the preceding grant. Seal lost, which was appended by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment.

³ This document may possibly be referred to the same year as the preceding. It is, however, very probable that Matilda may have visited Reading at some other time during the eventful period of her sojourn in England between Sept. 31, 1139, when she landed on the southern coast, and her departure in 1147. A transcript of this charter may be found in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 17.

⁴ The precise date of this document

has not been ascertained. Robert Earl of Gloucester, the first witness, died 1147; Reginald was created Earl of Hereford in 1143, and died 1154. A transcript of this charter may be found in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 17 b.

⁵ In the duplicate next mentioned this name is written *Bri* without any mark of contraction.

⁶ In the duplicate the word *flio* occurs here.

STEPHEN. A.D. 1135—1154.

IX. Grant, undated, to the Abbey, of land in Windsor and Catshill.

Stephanus Rex Anglie Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Vicecomitibus Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et Anglis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Deo et Sancte Marie de Radingis et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus, pro salute anime mee et regis Henrici avunculi mei et pro incolumitate totius regni mei, totam terram de Windesoris et de Cateshala in perpetuam elemosinam que fuit Gaufridi Purcelle, tali tenore quod Radulfus Purcelle teneat de ipsis Monachis xx. solidatas de terra de Windesoris sicut inde finivit coram me cum ipsis monachis. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod bene et in pace et libere et quiete et honorifice et plenarie teneant in bosco et plano et pratis et pasturis in aquis et stagnis et molendinis in civitate et extra et in omnibus rebus et locis omnibus et cum omnibus libertatibus et quietanciis ad terram illam pertinentibus et cum quibus melius et liberius et quietius tenent alias terras suas. Testibus Gaufrido de Magnavilla, et Ricardo de Luci, et Turgisio de Abrincis, et Elya de Amundevilla, et Johanne Vicecomite, et Roberto Burnelle, et Radulfo Purcelle. Apud Norwicum.

Seal lost ; it was appended by a label of white deer's skin.

X. Precept, undated, in favor of the monks of Reading in regard to their land at Catshill.

Stephanus Rex Anglie Comiti de Warenna salutem. Precipio tibi quod permittas Monacos (*sic*) de Rading' tenere terram suam de Cateshulla quam Gaufridus Purcel meo concessu dedit eis bene et in pace et libere sicut carta mea testatur quam inde habent quod tenere debent, et quicquid inde cepisti totum eis juste reddas ; et si quicquam inde clamaveris venias in curiam meam et tenebo inde tibi plenum rectum sicut de re corone mee pertinente. Et scias quod multum miror quod ipsos monacos inde laboras. Teste Roberto cancellario.⁷ Apud Oxoniam.

There is appended by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment an imperfect impression on white wax of the seal hereafter described. See No. XI. *infra*.

XI. Grant, undated, to the Abbey of the manor of Blewbury, Berkshire.

Stephanus Rex Anglie Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus et Baronibus et Ministris, et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et Anglis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis quia, pro salute anime mee et Mathildis Regine uxoris mee et Eustachii filii mei et aliorum puerorum meorum et pro anima Regis Henrici avunculi mei, dedi et concessi Ecclesie Beate Marie Rading' et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus

⁷ Robert de Gant, a younger son of Gilbert de Gant who accompanied his uncle the Conqueror into England. The

period at which Robert was appointed chancellor has not been ascertained ; he died in 1153.

Manerium meum de Bleberia cum omnibus eidem pertinentibus, quare volo et firmiter precipio quod bene et in pace et libere et honorifice et quiete teneant et in perpetuum possideant in bosco et plano in pratis et pasturis in aquis et molendinis et cum omnibus aliis rebus cum Saca et Socna et Toll et Theam et Infangenetheof et cum omnibus aliis liberis consuetudinibus et quietationibus eidem Manerio pertinentibus, cum quibus Henricus Rex avunculus meus vel ego melius vel liberius tenuimus et sicut ipsi Monachi melius et liberius et quietius tenent alias terras suas. Testibus Mathildi Regina uxore mea, et Henrico Wintoniensi Episcopo fratre meo, et Rogero Episcopo Cestrensi, et H. Decano de Waltham, et Comite Eustachio filio meo, et Willelmo de Ipra, et W. Mart',^s et Ricardo de Luci. Apud Lond'.

There is appended by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment, an impression, on dingy white wax and in good preservation, of the larger seal of Stephen figured by Sandford, pl. B, p. 38; diameter nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Sandford observes that he had seen two impressions, one in the Registry of Westminster, the other in the chamber of the Duchy of Lancaster. The chief distinctive peculiarities are, on the obverse a star of seven points in the field on the right of the king's head, on the reverse a lance with a gonfanon carried by the mounted figure: the mail is represented by lines crossing each other diagonally, forming a trellis-work. The reverse is figured by Mr. Hewitt, Arms and Armour in Europe, p. 122; also in the series of Great Seals engraved by the process of Achille Collas, pl. II., fig. 3.⁹

XII. Precept, undated, in favor of the Abbot of Reading, in regard to the land and men of Rowington, Warwickshire.

Stephanus Rex Anglie Episcopo Wire(estrensi)¹ et Comiti de Warwic' et Justiciariis et Vicecomitibus et Baronibus et ministris de Warwicscira salutem. Precipio quod Abbas de Rading' teneat terram et homines suos de Rochintona ita bene et in pace et libere et quiete in pratis et pasturis et aquis et via (*sic*) et semitis et divisis cum omnibus quietationibus suis de placitis omnibus et querelis et sciris et hundredis et occasionibus sicut melius tenuerit tempore Regis Henrici et die qua fuit vivus et mortuus, quia ecclesia illa in manu et tutela meis est propria sicut erat in manu Regis Henrici. Teste R(oberto) de Ver.² Apud Westmonasterium.

⁸ Probably William Martel, who occurs amongst the witnesses to Stephen's charter regarding the succession, dated 1153. Rymer, new edit., vol. i. p. 18.

⁹ It deserves notice that in 1834 Mr. Doubleday exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries an impression of a seal of Stephen from the archives of the Duchy of Lancaster, described as a "new seal, —larger than the seal already known to our heralds and historians, and with the same inscription both on obverse and reverse." It appears, however, to be otherwise identical with that above described, with a star at the side of the

king's head on the obverse, and a lance in the hand of the mounted figure. It is appended to a confirmation to Geoffrey Earl of Essex of certain lands in that county. Archæologia, vol. xxvi. p. 459.

¹ John de Pagham, consecrated bishop of Worcester, 4th March, 1150-1151; he died 1157. Roger de Newburgh succeeded his father Henry Earl of Warwick, 1123; he died 1153.

² This may probably have been Robert, lord of Twiwell, Northamptonshire, brother of Aubrey de Vere Earl of Oxford, killed in a popular tumult.

There is appended, by a label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment, an impression on white wax of a seal of Stephen, of somewhat smaller dimensions than that noticed before (No. XI.); diameter about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. The distinctive peculiarities are that on the obverse there is no star in the field on the right side of the head of the king, and that on the reverse the mounted figure bears a sword instead of a lance with a gonfalon. The shield has a small projecting spike, which may be distinguished more plainly in another impression of which the reverse is figured in Mr. Hewitt's *Armour and Weapons in Europe*, vol. i. p. 144. Both the obverse and reverse are figured in *Speed's Chronicle*, p. 455, and in the series of Great Seals engraved by the process of Achille Collas, Pl. II. fig. 2. This seal is not figured by Sanford, who, however, describes it from an impression in his own custody, p. 38.

XIII. Precept, undated, exempting the land and men of Rowington from Danegelt and other exactions.

Stephanus Rex Anglie Rogero Comiti Warwie' et Ministris suis salutem. Mando vobis et precipio quod terra et homines Monacorum (*sic*) Rading' de Rochintona sint bene et in pace et quieti de Danegelde et de omnibus aliis exactionibus sicut fuerunt quieti tempore Regis Henrici et sicut carta Regis Henrici et mea eis testantur, et volo quod pacem habeant. Teste R(icardo) de Luci. Apud Rading'.

There is appended, by a parchment label partially cut from the bottom of the parchment, a fragment of an impression on friable white wax of the seal above described. See No. XI. *supra*.

HENRY II. A.D. 1154—1189.

XIV. Confirmation, undated, of the charters of Henry I., Matilda the Empress, and himself.

Henricus Rex Anglie et Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et Comes Andegavie omnibus Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Justiciariis Baronibus Vicecomitibus Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me in perpetuam elemosinam concessisse et presenti carta confirmasse Deo et sancte Marie et Monachis de Rading' omnes terras et tenuras quas Rex Henricus avus meus eis dedit et concessit, videlicet, totam villam de Radingia cum ecclesiis et terram quam Robertus de Ferrariis in eadem villa habuit, et Liministriam cum Ecclesiis et capellis et omnibus ad eam pertinentibus, et Tacheham et Chelseiam cum centum solidis quos Willemus filius Geroldi reddebat de firma predicto Regi Henrico avo meo, et Wicheberiam cum ecclesia ejusdem ville, et Rokintun' cum Ecclesia ejusdem ville, et Wigestanam que fuit terra Willelmi Elemosinarii, et terram Roberti sacerdotis de Ilamtona, et terram Albodi de Hoctona, et hidam terre de Undesoura. Preterea concedo eis et confirmo quicquid post mortem Regis Henrici avi mei eis dedit et concessit in elemosinam domina mea Imperatrix, scilicet, Bleberiam et Henredam, et terram Herberti filii Fulcherii de Merleberga, et Ecclesiam de Berchelaia cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, et Ecclesiam de Stantonam cum pertinentiis suis, et Ecclesiam de Tacheham cum omnibus pertinentiis suis;

et ex dono predicti Regis Henrici avi mei concedo eis et confirmo unam feriam ad festum sancti Laurentii, scilicet, ipsa die sancti Laurentii et per tres dies sequentes, et monetam cum uno Monetario apud London' vel apud Rading'. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod Monachi predicti habeant et teneant in perpetuam elemosinam hec omnia supradicta cum omnibus pertinentiis suis soluta et quieta de Thelon' et Passag' et Pontag' et omni Geldo et Danegeldo et omni alia exactione et consuetudine in bosco et plano in pratis et pascuis in aquis et molendinis in viis et semitis in vivariis et piscariis et marischis infra Burgum et extra et in omnibus locis et in omnibus rebus, et sint ipsi et terre sue et homines eorum soluti et quieti Thelon' de scir' et hundred' et placitis et omnibus querelis, sintque Abbatis et Monachorum ejus de hominibus suis et de tota possessione sua et de alienis in ea forisfacientibus vel ibi cum forisfacto interceptis hundreda et placita omnia cum socca et saca et toll et team et infangeneth' et utfangeneth' et hamsocna infra Burgum et extra Burgum in viis et semitis et in omnibus locis cum omnibus causis que sunt vel esse possunt. Habeantque Abbas et Monachi Rading' in tota possessione sua omnem Justiciam de assaltu et furtis et murdris et de sanguinis effusione et pacis infractione et de omnibus forisfactis, quantum ad regiam pertinet potestatem, et teneant ita bene et in pace et libere et quiete et honorifice sicut Rex Henricus avus meus unquam melius et liberius et quietius tenuit in suo proprio dominio, et sicut ejusdem Regis Henrici avi mei carta testatur, et sicut eis testatur carta Domine mee Imperatricis et mea. Testibus Domina Imperatrice, et Philippo Baiocensi Episcopo, et Comite Reginaldo, et Roberto de Novo Burgo, et Man(aser) Biset dapifero, et Stephano de Bello Campo. Apud Rothomagum

An imperfect impression of the great seal on green wax is appended by a plaited cord of three strands which appears to have been of crimson color, and the seal is enclosed in a bag of fine tissue.

Endorsed in a contemporary hand,—Carta Regis Henrici II. gestatoria de libertatibus.⁸

XV. Writ, undated, for protection of the lands and tenants of the Abbey of Reading.

Henricus Dei gratia Rex Anglie et Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et Comes Andegavie Justiciariis Vicecomitibus et omnibus Ballivis suis in quorum balliis Monachi de Rading' terras habent salutem. Precipio vobis quod custodiatis et manuteneatis et protegatis terras et homines et omnes res et possessiones Monachorum de Rading' sicut meas proprias, ita quod nullam molestiam vel injuriam aut gravamen eis faciatis nec fieri permittatis, quia omnia sua sunt in manu et custodia et protectione mea; et prohibeo ne de ullo tenemento quod in dominico suo teneant ponantur in placitum nisi coram me vel coram Capitali Justicia mea. Teste Galfrido Eliensi Episcopo.⁹ Apud Windesor'.

There is appended, by a parchment label cut lengthwise, a fragment of

⁸ In the Reading Chartulary, Harl. See ff. 20, 21

MS. 1708, three charters of Henry II.,
entitled "De libertatibus" are preserved,
with several others by the same king.

⁹ Geoffrey Ridel was consecrated
Bishop of Ely 1174, and died 1189.

a seal in white wax, the surface painted over or slightly faced with dull-colored red, as occasionally found on seals of the period.

XVI. Grant, undated, in confirmation of the adjustment of a controversy between the Abbey of Reading and the Abbey of Gloucester concerning the church of Cam, Gloucestershire.

Henricus Dei gracia Rex Anglie Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et Comes Andegavie Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis francis et Anglis totius Anglie salutem. Sciatis me concessisse et presenti carta mea confirmasse pacem et finem factum coram Bartholomeo et Johannem Exoniensem et Cicestresem Episcopos inter Monasterium et Monachos de Rading' et Monasterium et Monachos Gloecestrie de controversia et lite que assistentibus Canonicis sancti Augustini de Bristowa et aliis competitoribus Monachorum de Rading' vertebatur inter eadem Monasteria et eosdem Monachos de ecclesia de Camma et omnibus ejus pertinentiis, videlicet, quod assensu meo et predictorum Episcoporum qui ex mandato domini Pape Alexandri tercii in controversia illa fuerant judices delegati inter predicta Monasteria et Monachos in eis Deo servientes ita convenit, quod Monasterium Gloecestrie pro bono pacis et nomine transactionis pro memorata controversia et querela perpetuo terminanda solvet annuatim Monasterio de Rading' sex [marcas] argenti, tres ad Pascha et tres ad festum Sancti Michaelis, quarum medietatem percipient Ca[nonici] sancti Augustini de Bristowa per manus Monachorum de Rading'. Tenebit autem Monasterium Gloecestrie predictam ecclesiam de Camma cum omnibus pertinentiis suis de me in capite sicut propriam elemosinam meam, salva Monachis de Rading' predicta sex marcarum solutione a Monasterio Gloecestrie facienda, ita quod et Monachi de Rading' sex illas marcas tanquam propriam elemosinam meam perpetuo percipiant et possideant. Id etiam compositionis tenori adjectum est ut ad prenominatæ ecclesie de Camma pertinentias revocandas que ei subtracte sunt aut a quibuscunque detente Monachi de Rading' coadjuvantibus Canonicis Sancti Augustini consilium et auxilium Monachis Gloecestrie karitative et sociali[ter impen]dant. Debent etiam Monachi Gloecestrie predictorum Canonicorum Sancti Augustini de Bristowa super [memo]rata compositione quantum in eis est fideliter firmiterque servanda cartam confirmationis [habere]. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod hec pax et concordia et finis factus inter supradicta Mo[nasteria] et Monachos de prefata Ecclesia de Camma et omnibus pertinentiis suis stabilis sit et inconcu[ssus teneatur]. Testibus Comite Willelmo de Maundevilla, Roberto Comite Legr',¹ Fulcone Paienelle, Rogero de Stutevilla, Roberto de Stutevilla, Willelmo de Stutevilla, Gaufrido Pertico, Willelmo filio Aldel' Dapifero. Apud W

An imperfect impression of the great seal on pale red wax is appended by a plaited silken cord of two strands, green and crimson.²

XVII. Grant, undated, of the Manor of Aston, Herts, to the Abbey.³

¹ Robert Blanchmains, Earl of Leicester 1167, ob. 1190.

² A transcript of this document is preserved in the Reading Chartulary,

Harl. MS. 1708, f. 22 b., from which several words deficient in the original charter have been supplied in brackets.

³ A transcript of this grant, which

Henricus Rex Anglie Dux Normannie et Aquitanie et Comes Andegavie Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus et omnibus ministris et fidelibus suis francis et Anglis salutem. Sciatis me, pro animabus Henrici regis illustris avi mei ejusque uxoris Matildis regine avie mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum et men, in perpetuam elemosinam presenti carta confirmasse Deo et Sancte Marie et monachis meis de Rading' Eston' manerium meum in Herfordsir' cum omnibus appendiciis suis et cum ecclesia ejusdem ville, ita bene et in pace et libere et quiete et honorifice et plenarie tenendum in boscis et planis et pasturis in stagnis et aquis piscariis et molendinis et omnibus aliis rebus ad idem manerium pertinentibus sicut melius et liberius et quietius aliquid tenent ex dono Henrici regis avi mei et meo. Sint que homines ejusdem ville liberi et quieti de siris et hundredis et omnibus placitis et querelis, de auxiliis et careagiis et omnibus exactionibus, de theloneis et passagiis et omnibus aliis consuetudinibus, habeantque omnem libertatem quam habent vel habere debent homines de Rading' vel Cealseia ex concessione Henrici regis avi mei vel mea. Testibus Domina Imperatrice, Philippo Baiocensi Episcopo, Reginaldo Comite, Roberto de Novo Burgo, Manaser Biset Dapifero, Jocelino de Balliolo, Roberto de Curci, Thoma de Sancto Johanne, Driu de Munci, Willelmo de Crevecuer, Willelmo de Angervilla, et G. filio Pag'. Apud Rothomagum.

An imperfect impression of the great seal on white wax is appended by a plaited hempen cord of four strands curiously woven.

RICHARD I. 1189—1199.

Grant, undated, to the Abbot and monks that their lands be held in their own demesne, and none be given by way of fief.

Ricardus Dei gracia Rex Anglie Dux Normannie Aquitanie Comes Andegavie Abbati de Radinges et toti conventui Ecclesie Rading' salutem. Volumus et firmiter precipimus quod omnes terras et tenuras vestras teneatis in dominio vestro liberas et absolutas ita quod nemini inde detur in feudum, sicut Rex Henricus avus patris nostri precepit per cartam suam. Et si quid inde alicui datum est in feudum post mortem predicti Regis Henrici avi patris nostri totum resaisiatis sine dilacione in dominium vestrum et in pace teneatis, et si quis aliquid tenementum calumpniaverit de vobis in feudum et hereditatem non respondeatur ei contra cartam Regis Henrici avi patris nostri et suam et nostram, et si quis vobis inde vim et injuriam fecerit Justiciarii et Vicecomites et Ministri nostri vobis inde justiciam et pacem sine dilacione faciant. Teste Comite Willelmo de Mandevilla. Apud Gaitinton', xij. die Septembris.

A fragment of an impression of the king's earlier seal, on white wax, is appended by a parchment label.⁴

ALBERT WAY.

may probably be assigned to the year 1189, as before stated, is to be found in the Reading Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 23 b.

⁴ A transcript of this grant is preserved in the Chartulary, Harl. MS. 1708, f. 30 b.