

Original Documents.

BEING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF READING ABBEY.

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

IN volume xx. of this Journal, p. 281, we published a series of royal documents, formerly belonging to Reading Abbey, and now among the muniments at Eaton Hall, to which our attention had been called by the kindness of Mr. Beaumont. We again avail ourselves of the courteous permission of the Marquis of Westminster to make a further selection from those interesting evidences. The first five of the following documents complete the royal series.

HENRY III. A.D. 1216—1272.

XIX. Writ for protection of the Abbot and Convent, their tenants, lands, and possessions for one year. Dated at Northampton 28th May, 50 Henr. III. (A.D. 1266).

Henricus Dei gracia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie et Dux Aquitanie omnibus ballivis et fidelibus suis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod suscepimus in proteccionem et defensionem nostram dilectos nobis Abbatem et Conventum de Rading' homines terras res redditus et omnes possessiones suas. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod ipsos Abbatem et Conventum homines terras res redditus et omnes possessiones suas manuteneatis protegatis et defendatis, non inferentes eis vel inferri permittentes injuriam molestiam dampnum aut gravamen; et si quid eis forisfactum fuerit id eis sine dilacione faciatis emendari. In cuius rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes per unum annum duraturas. Teste me ipso apud North' xxvij. die Maii anno regni nostri lo.

A seal was probably appended by a slip partially cut from the bottom of the parchment.

It will be remembered that the writ of protection here printed was granted at a very critical period, when much disorder prevailed throughout the country; although the barons had received a fatal check at Evesham during the previous summer, their faction was not crushed. Simon de Montfort the son was received at Northampton by Henry III., who offered him a pension on certain conditions, including the surrender of Kenilworth.

Simon, however, hastily withdrew from the court in February, 1266, and repairing to Winchilsea made himself formidable by bold enterprises at sea and by collecting troops in France. His threatened invasion was denounced by the king in a proclamation, which was tested at Northampton on May 18, as was also on May 12 the grant of the goods and merchandise of the citizens of London to prince Edward, as a penalty for the part which they had taken in the rebellion. (Rymer, vol. i., p. 468.) The scattered partisans of the barons took refuge in places difficult of approach, and for two years spread terror far and wide in the realm.

RICHARD II. A.D. 1377—1399.

XX. Inspeximus of divers proceedings relating to the liberties of the Abbot and Convent. Dated at Westminster 1st March, 13 Ric. II. (A.D. 1390).

It is doubtful whether any seal was ever appended, though an incision was made for a label.

HENRY VI. A.D. 1422—1461.

XXI. Inspeximus of divers proceedings relating to the liberties of the Abbot and Convent. Dated at Westminster 16th February, 19 Henr. VI. (A.D. 1441).

There is appended by a parchment label an impression on white wax of one of the great seals of Henry VI., in imperfect condition, being that which was formerly used by Edward III., Richard II., Henry IV., and Henry V., the legend having been altered to adapt it to those several sovereigns. See Professor Willis' Memoir in the second volume of this Journal, pp. 27, 39. Three other seals appear to have been used by Henry VI., at different times.

XXII. General Pardon to the Abbot and Convent, with a proviso that it should not extend to any one of them concerned in the death of Adam Bishop of Chichester, or of William Bishop of Salisbury. Dated at Westminster 14th August, 30 Henr. VI. (A.D. 1452).

There is appended by a parchment label an imperfect impression on white wax of the same great seal which is appended to the inspeximus last mentioned.

XXIII. Precept to the Sheriff and Escheator of the county of Warwick for the observance of the liberties of the Abbot and Convent and their tenants of their vill of Rowington. Dated at Westminster 23rd April, 37 Henr. VI. (A.D. 1459).

A seal was probably appended by a slip partially cut from the bottom of the parchment.

XXIV. Confirmation, undated, by William Earl of Lincoln of the manor

and church of Easton, Herts, and of a hundred shillings per annum of land in Stanton, Oxfordshire, and the church of Stanton to the Abbey.

Notum sit presentibus et futuris omnibus ecclesiæ catholicæ filiis quod ego Willemus comes Lincolnæ concessi et per kartam meam confirmavi in perpetuam elemosinam Deo et ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ de Radingis et abbatii et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus manerium meum de Estonia in Hertforda schira cum terris et æcclesia et hominibus et omnibus rebus et consuetudinibus ad illud pertinentibus, quod regina Adelidis sponsa mea eis dedit pro anima nobilissimi regis Heinrici et pro salute et redemptione anime ipsius et meæ et omnium parentum nostrorum tam vivorum quam defunctorum ;¹ et preter hoc centum solidas (*sic*) terræ in Stantonæ in Oxeneforda schira ad procurationem conventus et religiosarum personarum illuc convenientium in termino anniversari domini mei nobilissimi regis Heinrici ;² et insuper æcclesiam ejusdem villæ cum omnibus rebus eidem æcclesiæ pertinentibus ad continua luminaria ante corpus domini nostri Jhesu Christi et ante corpus nobilissimi regis Heinrici. Et volo atque precipio ut libere et honorifice et quiete teneant cum omnibus liberalibus consuetudinibus cum quibus idem nobilissimus rex Heinricus ea in dominio tenuit et regine dedit. Testibus Hermanno capellano, et Radulfo capellano, et Rogerio capellano, et Magistro Serllone, et Heudone filio Alani, et Adelardo Flandr', et Gaufrido Tresgot, et Roberto de Calz, et Pag'n de Vilars, et Alano Pilot', et Willelmo de Cuini (*sic*), et Willelmo Revel, et Milone Basset, et Nicholao de Asinis, et Rotardo camerario, et Reginaldo de Wiudlesores, et Morello³ de Merlei.

The seal lost ; it was apparently appended by a label of parchment.

The Earl of Lincoln here mentioned must have been William de Albini, since he speaks of Queen Adeliza as his wife, and there is no reason to suppose that she married any one but William de Albini after the death of Henry I.⁴ It appears that the earldom of Lincoln had become divided into two parts probably by a descent to coheirs, and for a while there were two Earls of Lincoln at the same time : one of them, Gilbert de Gant, died without issue male in 1156, and the other, William de Roumare, died some time before 1168 leaving an infant grandson his heir, who does not appear to have succeeded to the earldom or even to his grandfather's part of it. It is possible that some time after 1156 William de Albini may have been created Earl of Lincoln by Henry II., or invested with so much of the estates of the former Earls as to have occasioned him to have styled himself Earl, and that the title was soon after relinquished.

¹ The grant by Queen Adeliza of the manor of Eston or Aston, Herts, which had been settled upon her as part of her dower, has been printed in Dugd. Mon. Ang. vol. iv. p. 41, Caley's edit. This grant, made by her on the first anniversary of King Henry's death, was confirmed in the instrument above given, of which a transcript is preserved in Hail. MS. 1708, f. 95 b.

² A grant by Adeliza of a hundred

shillings per annum of land, and also of the church of Stanton, is printed in vol. xx. of this Journal, p. 287, being No. III. of the series of documents relating to Reading Abbey, here continued.

³ *Mauritio* was written first, underlined, and *Morello* interlined.

⁴ The fact of William de Albini having been called Earl of Lincoln in this document has already been noticed, Monast. Angl., Caley's edit., vol. iv. p. 29, note.

XXV. Grant, undated, by William de Albini the younger, Earl of Arundel, of land at Quiddenham, Norfolk, to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus de Albeni Comes Susexie dedi Deo et ecclesie de Rading' unam marcatam redditus in Quiddenham, scilicet, terram quam Radulfus cognomento magnus tenet, in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam pro anima Regine Adelize matris mee et pro anima patris mei et Joc[elini] castellani avunculi mei et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum et mea, ut inde fiat refectio conventui in anniversario Joc[elini] avunculi mei. Hiis testibus, Reinerio fratre meo, Gileberto de Norfolke, Ricardo Aguillun, Willelmo de Altaripa, Willelmo de Elnestede.

The seal is lost ; the parchment label by which it was appended remains, the impression appears to have been on green wax, and the seal was of large size, probably the same hereafter described.

Endorsed—Carta Willelmi de Aubeni de redditu unius marce in Qddenham (*sic*). Est alia melior de eodem.

It is worthy of remark that in the above document and in that which follows William de Albini is styled Earl of Sussex, though his usual title was Earl of Arundel. William de Albini, his father, is called in 1153 Earl of Chichester (Rymer, vol. i. p. 18), and is so styled by his wife Adeliza in her grant of the church of Berkeley to this Abbey (Monast. Angl., Caley's edit., vol. iv., p. 42).⁵

Blomefield (Hist. Norf., vol. i. p. 338, 8vo edit.) mentions a grant to Ralf surnamed Magnus as made by the monks of Reading “ conditionally, that he and his successors should for ever pay an annual rent of one mark for the health of his own, his ancestors, and successors souls, to make a good dinner or repast in that convent on his uncle Joceline's anniversary.”

This Joceline was Joceline of Louvaine, the younger brother of Queen Adeliza, the mother of William de Albini the younger. He obtained, according to Dugdale, a grant of the Honor of Petworth from William de Albini the elder and Adeliza his wife, and married Agnes youngest daughter of William de Percy. He was Castellan of Arundel, as we learn from the Pipe Roll 14 Hen. II. cited by Dugdale, and from the cartulary of Lewes Priory, in which is found “ Carta Joscelini castellani de Arundel reginae Adelizae fratris monasterio de S. Pancratio concessa de ecclesia de Budincatona.” (Cott. MS. Nero, C. iii. f. 181.)⁶

⁵ Compare also his grants to Boxgrove Priory, Monast. Angl., Caley's edit., vol. iv. p. 645, Nos. I and II. It may be well to notice that in the heading of the first of these documents he is called Earl of Sussex, though in the grant called Earl of Chichester. No. III. is a grant by William Earl of Sussex, and is there supposed to be by the same earl, but he was

in fact his grandson the third earl.

⁶ Dugdale, Bar., vol. i. p. 271; Collins' Peerage, by Bridges, vol. ii. p. 239. Budincatona should seem to have been the place, in the parish of Bignor, Sussex, now called Burton, where, as appears by the above-mentioned charter, there was then a church. See Bacon's Liber Regis, p. 153.

XXVI. Grant, undated, by the same of the same land at Quiddenham with common of pasture, &c. to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus de Albeni Comes Susexie dedi Deo et ecclesie de Rading' et monachis ibidem servientibus unam marcatam redditus in Quidenham, scilicet, totam terram quam Radulfus cognomento magnus tenet cum omnibus ad terram illam pertinentibus ; dedi etiam eis communionem pasture et exitus in mea que circumjacet terra, ut sit terra quam eis dedi in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam et homines in ea manentes pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum, ut inde fiat refectio conventui in anniversario Joc[elini] avunculi mei. Testibus Reinerio fratre meo, Gileberto de Norfolche, Willelmo de Alta ripa, Willelmo de Elnestede, Osberno Verrer, Roberto de Sacristia Rading', et multis aliis.

There is appended by a parchment label an imperfect impression on white wax of a circular seal, of which the diameter in its perfect state may have been about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; device, a figure of the earl of ungraceful design, long and attenuated, mounted on a heavy charger ; the head of the figure is broken away, in the right hand is a sword upraised ; a long shield protecting the body is charged with a lion rampant, the bearing of de Albini ; the shield has a conical pointed boss in the centre, and the guige by which it is suspended is seen passing over the right shoulder ; the skirt of the surcoat falls in long parallel folds ; there appears to be a long maunch of very exaggerated proportions hanging from the wrist of the right arm, although the arm itself seems to be represented as in armour, the surface being trellised according to one of the conventional modes of representing chain-mail ; before the figure there is an animal springing up towards the horse's head ; this portion of the seal is somewhat imperfect, the animal may be a dragon or wyvern. Of the legend a few letters only can be decyphered—IGILLVM.⁷ On the reverse is an imperfect impression of a small round *secretum* or privy seal ; diameter about eleven-twelfths of an inch ; device, a lion passant retroguardant ; legend, [SIGI]LLVM SECRETI.

XXVII. Quitclaim, undated, by Hugh de Chilpeet (probably for Kilpec) of the vill of Bradford, Herefordshire, to Roger Earl of Hereford, that the Earl might give the same to the Abbey.

Sciant omnes fideles sanctæ ecclesiæ quod ego Hugo de Chilpeet clamavi quietam de me et de omnibus heredibus meis in perpetuum villulam de Bradeford cum omnibus appendiciis suis Rogero comiti de Hereford ut det eam in perpetuam elemosinam ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ de Radingis et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus. Pro hac terra accepi escambium ab eodem comite secundum voluntatem meam, id est, Kingestun, quam predictus comes adquietavit de Roberto Britone et eam mihi libere et quite dedit propter terram predictam. Et ideo nichil juris clamabimus in ea nec ego nec heredes mei post me usque in sempiternum. Hujus rei testes sunt G[ilbertus] episcopus Ilerefordensis, Radulfus decanus, Petrus

⁷ Compare this curious seal with that of Gilbert de Gant, Earl of Lincoln, 1141-1156, figured in the Transactions of the Institute, Lincoln Meeting, p. 264. The general resemblance of design is remarkable.

archidiaconus, Walterus archidiaconus, et Gillebertus cantor, cum toto capitulo Herefordie, Baderun de Munemue, Walterus de Clifford, Rodbertus de Candos, Henricus frater comitis, Herebertus de Castello Helgot, Ricardus de Cormeiles, Mauricius vicecomes, et de civibus Herefordie Herebertus filius Fucaldi, Rodbertus filius Walteri, Radulfus filius Iwein, et multi alii.

The seal lost ; it was appended by a parchment label. Across the label, immediately above the part where the seal had been affixed, is written an R with a line crossing the foot as is usual in the contraction for Regis ; it may, however, stand for Reading.

There is an endorsement as follows,—“ Hugo de Clippeet de Brad,” and another, probably by a later hand, which extended reads, “ Manerium ac villula de Bradeforde Leominster in comitatu Hereford.” The date of this document, as inferable from the names of the witnesses, is about 1149.

XXVIII. Grant, undated, by Hugh de Mortimer of land in Stratfield, Berks, with his *viscera*, to the Abbey.

Sciant omnes tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Hugo de Mortuo mari pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et Sancto Jacobo de Rading’ et Abbatii et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus in puram et perpetuam elemosinam totam terram cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in Strefelde quam recuperavi versus Simonem quondam Abbatam de Rading’ per nomen concordie, videlicet, dimidiad virgatam terre quam Editha de la Thorne tenuit, et unam virgatam terre quam Bondi tenuit, et unam virgatam terre quam Adam de la Schete tenuit, et dimidiad virgatam terre quam Hugo Alfricus tenuit, et totum pratum quod vocatur La Redmede cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, cum parte corporis mei, videlicet, corde et visceribus meis ibidem sepeliendis. Et ego Hugo et heredes mei totam predictam terram cum pertinentiis suis predicto Abbatii et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus warantizabimus. Et ut hec mea donatio concessio et confirmatio rata et firma permaneat presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Nichol’ Capellano de Stratfelde, Philippo de Mortuo mari, Rogero de Burewardeleg’, Willelmo de Neumeinille, Ada Costarde, et multis aliis.

The seal is lost ; it was appended by a small label.

There is an endorsement possibly contemporaneous with the grant, as follows,—“ C. Hugonis junioris de Mortuomari.” This was probably Hugh de Mortimer, who died in November, 1227, and Philip de Mortimer, the witness, his half brother. The Abbot Simon mentioned in the grant as “quondam abbatem” died on Feb. 11, 1226. The grant was therefore in all probability made in 1226 or 1227.

XXIX. Grant, undated, by Richard Morin of certain lands and hereditaments, probably in Oxfordshire, with his body, to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Ricardus Morin dedi et testamento legavi Deo et Beate Marie et Beatis Apostolis Johanni et Jachobo (*sic*) et Ecclesie Rading’ corpus meum ibidem sepeliendum. Dedi etiam cum corpore meo Abbatii Rading’ et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus ex

consensu heredis mei pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum totam terram quam Ricardus Bertram tenuit de me et totam terram que fuit Rogeri Prudhume quam Willelmus Wuluriche tenuit de me, cum redditu et servizio illorum que mihi facere solebant et debuerunt cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Dedi etiam cum eodem corpore meo sexaginta aeras terre arabilis que fuerunt de dominico meo, videlicet, triginta sex aeras que jacent juxta Grimesdich quarum capita adjunguntur vie que vocatur Tuddingweie et extenduntur ab ipsa via versus occidentem ; et sexdecim aeras ex altera parte ejusdem vie versus orientem que extenduntur juxta eandem viam ab austro versus aquilonem ; et octo aeras propinquiores terre illi subtus versus hospitale que extenduntur a predicta via versus orientem. Dedi etiam eisdem simili modo duas aeras prati in prato meo de Niweham in capite versus boream juxta Waldich bene mensuratas per legalem perticam. Insuper dedi eis et concessi duo mesuagia que Radulfus de Ottiveile et Robertus Portarius tenuerunt de me cum duabus acris ad predicta mesuagia pertinentibus que extenduntur a predictis mesuagiis versus pratum. Dedi etiam eisdem et concessi quod habeant unam carucatam boum in pastura ejusdem prati quandocumque pratum illud expositum fuerit bobus domini ejusdem ville ad pascendum, et in alia pastura pertinente ad eandem villam cum bobus et averiis domini ejusdem ville ; et concessi quod quando araverint vel warettaverint (*sic*) vel rebinaverint predictas terras suas possint ducere et vertere carucas suas super terram prope jacentem absque impedimento gravamine vel molestia que eis ab aliquo fieri possit. Concessi etiam quod habeant liberum exitum eundi et redeundi super dominicum meum ad terram suam et ad pratum quocienscumque opus habuerint sine aliquo impedimento vel vexatione. Preterea recognovi et reddidi et quietum clamavi dictis Abbatii et monachis de Rading' omne jus quod dicebant se habere in aqua de Tamisia, videlicet, medietatem aque quantum terra mea durat versus Munge Welle et versus pontem de Walengeforde, unde aliquando contentio fuit inter me et illos. Et insuper dedi eisdem et concessi aliam medietatem aque que jus meum erat et antecessorum meorum, ut totam illam aquam habeant liberam et quietam ab omni exactione et vexatione que eis inde fieri possit ab heredibus vel successoribus meis ; et quocienscumque piscautores dictorum Abbatis et monachorum piscari voluerint in dicta aqua concessi quod possint trahere retia sua et ire et redire super pratum meum et heredum meorum libere et quiete absque aliqua calumpnia vel impedimento. Omnia autem predicta dedi et concessi cum corpore meo sicut predictum est et presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et Ecclesie Rading' et Abbatii et Conventu ejusdem loci in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, habenda et tenenda dictis Abbatii et monachis libere et quiete integre et plenarie et honorifice in perpetuum. Ego autem et heredes mei warantizabimus predictis monachis omnia predicta sicut liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam et adquietabimus eos de omnibus contra omnes homines et contra omnes feminas. Ut autem hec legatio et donacio mea firma sit stabilis et perpetua eam presenti cartha (*sic*) et sigilli mei appositione roboravi. Hiis testibus, Domino Ricardo Sarum Episcopo, Domino Johanne de Munemuthe, Ricardo filio Domini Regis Johannis, Henrico de Scacario (*sic*), Waltero Foliot, Henrico Foliot, Roberto de Braci, Hugone de Colverdune, Johanne de Wikenthalte, Gaufrido Marmiun, Hugone de Bixe, Nicholao de Chauseia, Hugone Morin, Ricardo Bertram, Willelmo de Huntescumbe, Hugone Vinitario, Roberto filio Willelmi, et multis aliis.

The seal is lost ; it appears to have been appended by a cord passed through three perforations at the bottom of the parchment. The date inferable from the witnesses' names should seem to be between 1217, when Richard Poore became Bishop of Salisbury, and 1226, when Richard, son of King John, was created Earl of Cornwall. We would call attention to the mention of the Grimes Dike, "Tuddingweie," and "Waldich."

There is an endorsement, possibly contemporary, as follows :—"C. legacionis Ricardi Morin de Nivenham." In all probability, all the lands comprised in the grant lay in Newnham Murren, adjoining Wallingford, and that the Hospital towards which a part abutted was the Hospital of St. John the Baptist near that town. See *Monast. Angl.*, Caley's edit., vol. vi. p. 754.

XXX. Grant, undated, by William Marshal Earl of Pembroke of land in Caversham, Oxfordshire, to the Abbey, in compensation of damage during the war, probably that of the Barons.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus Marescallus Comes Pem-
brok' dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et ecclesie
Sancte Marie de Rading' et Abbatii et Conventui ejusdem loci pro decem
marcatis terre in quibus eis tenebar pro dampnis et desperditis que habuerunt
per me et meos in gwerra sexaginta et duodecim aeras terre in bosco meo
de Cavereham (*sic*),⁸ scilicet, totam terram illam cum vestitura bosci que
per circuitum infra has metas subscriptas continetur, videlicet, ab Haselmere
per circuitum de Haselmeredene versus aquilonem et de Haselmeredene
usque ad croftam Willelmi fabri versus orientem et a crofta ejusdem
Willelmi usque ad croftam Jordani filii Irenei et a crofta ipsius Jordani
per Grimeshole versus Oselakemere et deinde per boscum meum iterum
usque ad Haselmere, sicut terra illa mensurata et assignata fuit eidem
Abbatii et Monachis per Alanum de Hyda tunc Senescallum meum et per
probos homines de visneto illo, et sicut per metas et bundas includitur ;
habendam et tenendam eidem Abbatii et Monachis et eorum successoribus et
ecclesie predicte de Rading' de me et heredibus meis in puram et perpetuam
elemosinam liberam et quietam ab omni seculari servicio et exaccione. Et
ego et heredes mei totam terram predictam ipsi Abbatii et Monachis et
eorum successoribus contra omnes gentes warantizabimus et defendemus in
perpetuum sicut liberam et puram elemosinam nostram. Et ut hec mea
donatio concessio et warantizatio in perpetuum firma et stabilis permaneat
presentem cartam sigilli mei appositione munivi. Hiis testibus, Johanne
Marescallo, Willelmo Crasso primogenito, Hamone Crasso, Henrico de
Braibone, Waltero Foliot, Henrico de Scaccario, Alano de Engleff[eld],
Roberto de Bergef[eld], Alano de Hyda, Magistro Deodato, Magistro
Roberto de Chinun, Magistro Jacobo de Cicestr', Nicholao de Chaus',
Nicholao Pincerna, Waltero de Bathamtone, Rogero de Cundicot', Jobaune
Bulluc, et multis aliis.

The seal lost ; it was appended by a plaited cord of crimson and white (or yellow ?) silk.

The above-mentioned William Marshall was probably the younger, who died in 1231, having succeeded his father of the same name in the earldom

⁸ *Sic.* Doubtless Caversham.

of Pembroke in 1219. In the collection of muniments from which these documents have been selected is a letter from the Archbishops of Tuam and Dublin to William Marshall the younger, requiring him to restore the possessions of the bishopric of Ferns in Ireland, under threat of excommunication, in pursuance of a brief of Pope Innocent III. dated in the 19th year of his pontificate (A.D. 1216). That letter has been published in the Proceedings of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, vol. iv. N.S., p. 137.

XXXI. Grant, undated, by William de Longespee of forty shillings yearly rent in "Hentone" and "Scheperege," probably in Berkshire,⁹ to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus Lunghespeie dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Deo et Ecclesie beate Marie de Rading' et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus quadraginta solidos annui redditus in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam in crastino Sancti Martini percipiendo apud Hentone et Scheperege, videlicet, de domino Thoma le Blond et heredibus suis unam marcam, de domino Henrico de Mara et heredibus suis unam marcam, de Ricardo del Hech et heredibus suis unam marcam habendos et tenendos dictis monachis et eorum successoribus libere integre quiete pacifice in perpetuum, retentis michi et heredibus meis homagiis et aliis, si que fuerint, servitiis dictorum Thome Henrici Ricardi et heredum ipsorum. Hanc autem donationem concessionem et carte confirmationem tenemur ego et heredes mei dictis monachis et eorum successoribus contra omnes gentes tam Judeos quam Christianos in perpetuum warantizare defendere et acquietare. Dedi etiam potestatem eisdem Abbatii et monachis quod licet eis sine omni contradictione distingere predictos Thomam Henricum Ricardum et heredes suos, si aliquo tempore cessaverint a solutione predicta termino statuto, et namia sua fugare usque Witele prout carte ipsum testantur. Teneor etiam ego Willelmus dictis monachis ad omnimodam securitatem de dictis quadraginta solidis quam Domini Regis Justiciarii vel alii viri discreti providerint faciendum. Et ut hec omnia firma et stabilia permaneant presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione feci communiri. Hiis testibus, Dominis Philippo Basset, Henrico de Mara, Willelmo de Englefeld, Everard' Le Tyeis, Rogero de la Hide, Roberto de Uffinton', militibus, Henrico del Estane, Ricardo del Hek', Johanne Pipard, et aliis.

An imperfect impression of the seal of William de Longespee, on dark green wax, is appended by a label passed through a fold at the bottom of the parchment; it is of circular form, diam. $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; the device is an escutcheon charged with six lioncels, 3, 2, 1; legend, + SIGILLVM: WILL(ELMI : DE : LV)NGESPEIE.¹ The reverse bears an impression of his secretum of circular form, diam. 1 inch; the device is a sword sheathed, with the belt and buckle attached to the scabbard; legend, + SECRETVM WILLELMI LVNGESPE.² This seal is enclosed, as if for careful preservation, in a small piece of dark purple velvet lined with thin silken tissue.

⁹ Monast. Angl., Caley's edit., vol. iv. p. 36.

Seals, pl. II, fig. 1, p. 148.

¹ Figured in Bowles' Lacock Abbey,

² Figured in Bowles' Lacock Abbey, Seals, pl. I, fig. 3, p. 147.

The above mentioned William Longespee was probably the younger of that name, who was slain at Massoura in 1250. Philip Basset, one of the witnesses, was most likely the second husband of his sister Ela. William Longespee the elder, Earl of Salisbury, died in 1226.

XXXII. Grant, undated, by Gilbert de Baseville of twenty-six pence yearly out of land in Lash Brook,³ Oxfordshire, to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Gilebertus de Baseville et heredes mei tenemur reddere Deo et ecclesie Sancte Marie de Rading' et Monachis ibidem Deo servientibus ad usus et sustentationes pauperum annuatim xxvj. denarios ad festum Sancti Michaelis pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum ; et ut dicti Monachi dictos xxvj. denarios annuos liberius et certius possint percipere ego Gilebertus atornavi pro me et heredibus meis Ricardum de fraxino et quicunque ei successerit (*sic*) de terra quam tenuit de nobis in Lechebroc ut ipse et ei succedentes in capite respondeant annuatim Elemosinario de Rading' qui pro tempore fuerit de predictis denariis ad terminum prenominatum. Et illi xxvj. denarii ipsi Ricardo et eidem succendentibus in redditu suo a nobis et heredibus nostris debite allocabuntur. Si vero dictus Ricardus et successores sui xxvj. denarios non solverint annuatim Elemosinario de Rading' concessi pro me et heredibus meis quod liecat Elemosinario de Rading' distingere dictum Ricardum et successores suos vel per catalla vel per tenementum ejus vel alio modo quo voluerit donee dicti xxvj. denarii plene solvantur. His testibus, Simone Vicario de Ssiplake, Joelo de Sancto Germano, Toma de Englefelf, Gileberto Warino, Hugone de Fuleford, Henrico clero, Roberto Wille, et multis aliis.

There is appended by a parchment label an impression on white wax of a circular seal, diameter 1½ inch ; the device is an escutcheon of arms, barry of six a chevron ; of the legend, which is imperfect, there remains + SIGILL i DE BASEVILE. On the back there is an impression of a secretum, probably from a gem set in silver, of pointed oval form, rather more than an inch in length ; device an *agnus* ; legend + ECCE ANGNVS DEI (*sic*).

Judging from the handwriting, this document may be assigned to about the middle of the thirteenth century.⁴

XXXIII. Grant, undated, by Robert Pictor of twelve pence yearly rent to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus pictor de Rading' dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi ad altare ubi cotidie agitur servitium Sancte Marie de Rading' in puram et perpetuam elemosinam duodecim denarios annui redditus quos Walterus de la berne mili singulis annis reddere consuevit ad festum Sancti Michaelis ; habendos et tenendos

³ A hamlet in Oxfordshire, on the western bank of the Thames, adjacent to Shiplake, about a mile to the N.E. of Shiplake church.

⁴ A transcript of this document seems to be found in the Reading Chartulary, Cott. MS. Vesp. E. V. f. 33, b., "Carta de redditu apud Lecchebroch."

in perpetuum libere et quiete et in bona pace pro anima mea et Adelize uxoris mee et antecessorum meorum et successorum in perpetuum. Predictos vero duodecim denarios ego Robertus et assignati mei warantizabimus procuratori altaris beate Marie in perpetuum. Et ut hec mea donatio et concessio rata et stabilis in perpetuum perseveret presens scriptum sigilli mei appositione roboravi. Huius testibus, Hugone Bulatore, Giliberto Ruffo, Giliberto le Taillur, Alano portar', Roberto Wille, Nicholao de ponte, Thoma de Henleia, Daniele Wulvese, et multis aliis.

The seal is lost ; it was appended by a parchment label. Judging from the handwriting this document may be assigned to about the middle of the thirteenth century.

XXXIV. Release, undated, by Nicholas de Stalle of a shop in Wallingford, Berkshire, to the Abbey.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Nicholaus de Stalle de Walingeford remisi et quietum clamavi Abbatii et Conventui de Rading' totum jus meum et clamium quod habui vel habere potui in quadam selda, que fuit Ricardi capellani de La thele⁵ in parochia Sancto Marie in Walingeford, videlicet, que jacet inter mesuagium quod fuit Johannis le Ferun⁶ et mesuagium quod fuit Willelmi cepedeman,⁷ quam seldam habui de dono Matildis sororis dicti Ricardi capellani de La thele habendam et tenendam dictam seldam Abbatii et Conventui libere et quiete integre bene et in bona pace ita quod nec ego Nicholaus nec heredes mei in posterum nichil juris in dicta selda vendicare poterimus. Et ut hec remissio et quieta clamantia rata et stabilis in perpetuum perseveret presentem cartam sigilli mei apposizione roboravi. Huius testibus, Alexandro Dublet tunc majore de Walingeford, Symone Raven, Galfrido de La Wikes, Petro de Benham, Johanne le hine,⁸ Petro de La Wikes, Johanne de Walingeford clericu, et aliis.

There is appended by a parchment label an impression on dark green wax of a seal of oval form, length one inch ; probably a gem set in silver : device an *agnus* ; legend + s' NICHOLAI DE STALLIS.

Judging from the handwriting this document may be assigned to the same period as the last two.

A. W.

⁵ Theale is a chapelry in the parish of Tilehurst and Hundred of Theale, Berkshire.

⁶ *Ferren*, in old French, a blacksmith or worker in iron.

⁷ This name, it has been suggested, may have designated a dealer or chap-

man. In Octavian mention occurs of merchants coming to buy wares, "but ther ne chepede fre ne bonnde all her chafare ;" line 389.

⁸ A servant, Ang. Sax. *hina, domesticus* : *hine-man*, a farmer.