

## CONTENTS OF THE MUNIMENT ROOM OF LINCOLN CATHEDRAL.<sup>1</sup>

By the Rev. PREBENDARY WICKENDEN.

The Dean and Chapter have desired me to give a short account of their muniments and of the room in which they are contained. This last is approached by a newel stair at the south-west corner of the great transept, and it covers the Galilee porch, which was built about the year 1230, against the transept completed some ten or fifteen years before. The room was probably built for the purpose of holding in it the Court-Christian of the Dean and Chapter which took the name of the Galilee Court<sup>2</sup> in consequence.

A window of the triforium and two of the abutments of the transept are included in the room, which expands to the west in the shape of the letter T. Its walls are covered with a lofty Early English arcading and perforated with 11 lancet windows of nearly 17 feet in height rising directly from the floor. The present roof was constructed in 1851, when the room was first appropriated as at present.<sup>3</sup>

The Chapter archives, before this, had been kept in "the common chamber,"<sup>4</sup> a room over the vestry, which is now used as a "song school," and before 1762, they were kept in an older common chamber, wherever that may have been.

Two excellent presses fitted with pigeon-holes were placed in the present room to prepare it for its new destination, and documents of title filled them; for antiquarian rubbish worm-eaten shelves were considered good enough, and two rotten boxes crammed with deeds were labelled "useless papers." Nevertheless, a good deal of labour was evidently expended upon some of the documents at this time. A large number of files of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, many of them with their ancient dockets, were sorted and labelled according to the parishes to which they referred. The transcripts of registers of the Lincoln Peculiars were arranged in the same manner, and other important sets of papers were put together ready for arrangement. But there were no lists of any of these to show where the series was complete and where defective, and no provision at all for easy reference.

<sup>1</sup> Read in the Historical Section at the Lincoln Meeting July 28th, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> "Curia in Galilee," 14 . .

"Visus francipl. tent' . . apud ostiu' de Galylee," 1503.

"Curia Galilee," 1705.

<sup>3</sup> Chapt. Acts, Sept., 1851. It had been used before as a casting shop by the plumbers of the Cathedral.

<sup>4</sup> Chapt. Acts, Aug. 7, 1762.

In 1873 the Dean and Chapter consulted the late Mr. Joseph Burt of the Record Office. The words of his report may be fitly quoted to describe the condition of the collection then.<sup>1</sup> He said "the entire absence of any calendar or inventory of them is a very remarkable evidence of the neglect to which they have been subjected. . . . the muniments of the Chapter of Lincoln appear to have suffered from almost every evil that could afflict them. They have been extensively subjected to the action of damp, which has caused those of parchment to adhere together where folded, to become darkly stained so as almost to obliterate the writing, and the material itself (by becoming brittle and crumpled) to be easily susceptible of damage; while many of those upon paper have been almost reduced to powder.<sup>2</sup> Simple neglect would have produced these results, but much additional damage has ensued from the utter recklessness with which a large number of the documents have been crushed up together and packed into their places of deposit as though they had been loose shavings, or the sweepings of a workshop."

In consequence of Mr. Burt's report, and the hope which he held out of interesting discoveries that might be made among their archives, the Dean and Chapter resolved to have them regularly sorted, cleaned, and calendared. The recent instruments of title had been all carried off by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, so that their pigeon-holes now stood empty; the old cases on the other hand, crammed as they were with documents, were all of them ill-fitting, dirty, and inconvenient, and some of them perfectly honeycombed by a small boring beetle. Four presses; a set of shelves, and six boxes of various size have been emptied during the past six years, and two new presses take their place. The serial works have been arranged in order, many loose fragments put together and bound. Portions of the collection have been catalogued and preparations have been made for a calendar of the whole.

It may be well to mention, first, the general character of the documents, and secondly, to specify any that are of peculiar interest.

I. There are ancient grants, royal and other, to the cathedral, with exemplifications,<sup>3</sup> and registers<sup>4</sup> containing transcripts of the same:

<sup>1</sup> Letter to Dean and Chapter, Dec. 3, 1873.

<sup>2</sup> The Chapter Acts for 1609 mention as one of the articles objected against Geo. Huddleston, a priest vicar, that he kept pigeons in the muniment room, a charge which is supported by the recent finding of feathers and droppings among the documents which were being cleaned. It would seem that losses of some kind both in the library and among the muniments occasioned the entries in the Chapter Acts of Sept. 8 and 21, 1731: "No person is to be permitted to go to the Library from henceforward, but in the presence of one of the residentiaries or the librarian." "Chapter Clerk's Office. No person whatever to take any book or books . . . unless they first give . . . sufficient security for the return thereof."

<sup>3</sup> Of Edw. III., Hen. IV., and Edw. IV.

<sup>4</sup> *Reg. Antiquissimum*, parchment, bound in rough calf, 13in. × 9½in., paged consecutively in a recent hand from 1 to 250.

"The *Registrum Antiquissimum* must have been compiled at end of K. John's reign, when Hugh de Welles was Bishop and Roger de Rolveston Dean.

"Two quires of register matter of the time of Hugh de Welles and Henry de Lexington respectively (but in one handwriting) are inserted in different parts of the volume.

"Again the whole book, including these two quires, has been gone over very carefully, divided into *tituli*, and furnished with rubrics where necessary, all apparently for the purpose of transcription, early in Edward the First's reign. Several quires of documents omitted in the original Register are supplied in a neat handwriting of this period under

ancient copies of the statutes : a series of Acts of Chapter in 35 vols., nearly complete, from the year 1305 to the present time : audit accounts in 54 vols. covering the same five centuries and a-half, together with accounts of bailiffs and collectors. Copies of leases and patents fill 46 volumes, but they extend only from 1559 to 1852 ; several hundred early grants and leases have been arranged.

Unhappily no ancient accounts of expenditure upon the Fabric of the Cathedral have been discovered, and many points of interest relating to the Church, which *they* might have cleared, remain in doubt. For instance, the precise date of different portions of the work and the designation of the various chapels and altars. There are materials for a history of the chantries<sup>2</sup> which might be fruitful of result. Few documents relating to the election of Bishops and Deans have been found of earlier date than 1660 : from that time they are continuous, as are the mandates for installing canons, and inducting to Chapter livings. The peculiar jurisdiction exercised in these last, is evidenced by probates of wills,<sup>3</sup> inventories (there are fourteen hundred of these, all of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) ; by transcripts of parish registers,<sup>4</sup> and by the records of various courts and visitations. Speaking roughly, the twelfth, fourteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries are best represented in the Muniment Room. The collection is invaluable for the county historian, but it contains less perhaps of general interest than might have been expected. The larger seals have all been torn off ; illuminated letters all cut out ; but there are a great number of private seals, some of them of early date and great beauty. There are title pages to different years of audit accounts, not coloured, but of excellent designs ;<sup>5</sup> and there are

the direction of the person who did this. This Director of the work put down what he himself witnessed of the enthronization of Bp. Oliver Sutton in 1280, and he afterwards adds an account of his funeral in 1299, also from eye witness.

"At the close of the volume are some later documents of the early part of Edward the Third's reign (about 1330) and a few still later entries ; but these form but an insignificant portion of the whole volume."—[Note by Mr. Bradshaw of Cambridge.]

A memorandum fastened into the book shews that it had been recovered by Abp. Wake (who calls it "Remigii Chronicon") and restored to the Church in 1712, after having by accident or fraud been taken away.

*Registrum*, parchment, bound in rough calf, 16½ in. × 10½ in. paged consecutively to 76. Second part begins p. 78. Charters belonging to Dean and Chapter in Lincoln and suburbs ; this again paged consecutively in Roman figures to 76. Third part, "Inquisitio de ten. et terris talliabilibus," paged from 1—113 and 113<sup>b</sup>—118. It is an enormous register of charters and privileges compiled and written uniformly about 1330.

<sup>1</sup> "The original Black Book compiled

about 1330 from an older Register now lost ; the books of John de Schalby (now known by the name of Martilogium) and Anthony de Beek (given to the Dean and Chapter in 1754), both of the same date as the Black Book, or possibly a few years earlier ; contemporary copies of Bishop Joh. de Dalderby's *Laudum* of 1314, of Bishop Henry Beaufort's of 1404, of Bishop Fleming's of 1421, of Bishop Gray's of 1434, and of Bishop Alnwick's of 1439 ; the third, the most famous of all, being in the handwriting of the Bishop's own Notary ; besides a great many Transcripts of such documents made during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries."—[Note by Mr. Bradshaw.]

<sup>2</sup> *Liber de Ordinationibus Cantuariarum*, parchment, bound in rough calf, 13 in. × 8½ in., compiled about 1330. *Deeds relating to Welburn Chantry*, 1382, parchment, bound in same.

<sup>3</sup> Chapter Order for Visitation of Peculiars, Feb. 1732, directs that all original *wills, inventories, administration bonds*, &c., be given to the registrar of Dean and Chapter.

<sup>4</sup> Fifty parishes, 1575—1825.

<sup>5</sup> *E.g.* Meelye, p. 1 ; Tailboys, 10, 11 ; Lilylow, 3, 4, 7, 8 ; Bevercot, 5, 6, 7, &c.

multitudes of notarial documents with their "ne varietur" marks, which give a number of ingenious adaptations of the cross.

So much for the general character of the contents of the Muniment Room.

II. To specify some documents of peculiar interest. Chief among the curiosities of the collection must be mentioned the charter of William the Conqueror for transferring the see from Dorchester to Lincoln,<sup>1</sup> and the original copy of Magna Charta, both of which are now shown in the Chapter Library. They were originally kept among the muniments, as their endorsements prove. For, in common with many of the early charters, they are marked with Roman numerals upon the back, an indication (as Mr. Burt observed) that a list of them had once been made. The charters of each king were in ancient times numbered consecutively and kept in separate boxes, as appears from a memorandum referring to the "cophinus cartarum Regum Edwardi et Edwardi," which is found on a deed of the fourteenth century.<sup>2</sup> So also in one of the old Registers we read "originalia sunt in uno cofino sub prædicto signo." But besides these numerals there is sometimes a note that the deed has been inspected at some early period. Thus the charter of William I just mentioned has an endorsement, "decima septima carta visa." One of Edward I, giving leave to build walls to the close, and to shut the gates of the same at night, the endorsement, "decima sexta visa," while Magna Charta has its original address to "Lincoln," its description as an "agreement between King John and the barons conceding the liberties of the church and realm of England," together with its number as the first of the King John series, and the "thirty-fifth inspected."<sup>3</sup>

Many of the early grants and leases are filed on a whisp of parchment and covered at the back with endorsements as to their contents and the properties to which they refer. One such file being marked "iste carte superflue sunt."

There are Leigers of the estates of the Dean and of the Knyveton family.<sup>4</sup> A very fine copy of Pope Nicholas the Fourth's taxation (1293), which was used in the reprint of the Master of the Rolls; and another taxation of 1526, giving the value of every dignity, living, and religious house in the Diocese at the beginning of Henry VIII's reign.

Perhaps the most curious of all the books is one concerning the biennial "Opening of the Head of S. Hugh," which consists of 133 folios, and gives the receipts and expenditure at the opening of the Shrine (at Pentecost and the Feast of S. Denis in each year) from 1334—1494. A paper MS. gives the receipts for seven years further. The Head of S. Chad at Lichfield was used in the same way to stimulate the offerings of the faithful. It seems here to have been a regular source of income

<sup>1</sup> This seems rather to be an early copy than an original.

<sup>2</sup> Deeds of "Eastbight, in the Bail."

<sup>3</sup> The Chapter Muniments at Norwich are many of them in these original 'coffins.'

<sup>4</sup> An act of chapter, dated December, 1364, gives order for a scrutiny of all the books kept in "the old Treasury," to be made between Michaelmas and All Saints in each year and for indentures of their titles of which one was to be kept in the

locker (armariolo) with the books, &c. One such indenture has been found in the Muniment Room; it contains a list of some 110 books.

<sup>5</sup> *Charta Decani* parchment, 15in. x 9½, paged, subsequent to present binding, as appears from misplacement of original numeration, pp. 67, 75. Note of exhibition in Exchequer, 1758.

*Knyveton Leiger* parchment, 12in. x 8 paged consecutively in Arabic, 1-112.

and was treated in a very business-like manner; the amounts vary greatly in different years, and a foot-note generally says whether the money is paid into the treasury of S. Hugh, or for the new "banners" of the church, or the repairs of vestments, or replaced in the "little red chest" at S. Hugh's head, which in modern language, I suppose, would be, "Balance carried to next half year."

Then a large collection of documents relates to the rights of the Dean and Chapter in the Close,<sup>1</sup> early litigation with the mayor and corporation on the subject, and the award given in 1390 by John of Gaunt, to whom by common consent the difference was referred. No doubt a great deal of interesting matter might be extracted if this vein were properly worked. The vigorous action of Dean Mackworth on June 28, 1435, led the mayor to claim jurisdiction,<sup>2</sup> but whether he was allowed to exercise it does not appear, the point contested being, whether the Cathedral Close was in the *county* or the *county of the city* of Lincoln. The Dean, with ten armed servants, attacked Peter Patrick the Chancellor, during vespers, in the choir. To the great terror of all present, they violently dragged the Chancellor from his stall into the middle of the choir, rent and tore up his garments, and treated him in a manner that endangered his life. Whatever the result as regards "the civil incorporation of this ancient city," we may conjecture that this summary process of the Dean helped to the ecclesiastical result of the issue of a new *Laudum* or award, by Bishop Alnwick in 1439. This again was followed by a proposal on the Bishop's part for a completely new *Registrum* of Statutes for the Cathedral body.<sup>3</sup>

There are documents again relating to the claim of Archbishop Boniface to administer the See during a vacancy, which was an infringement of the rights of the Chapter; an agreement was made in the reign of Henry III, which is still in force and is still quoted, when such a vacancy occurs. So, previous to the election of Bishop Kaye for example, we find the Archbishop (Sumner) nominating as "official" one of two persons selected by the Chapter "pursuant and agreeable to the composition long since made between Bishop Boniface of pious memory, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury our predecessor of the one part, and the then Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln of the other part."

There are other deeds again relating to the intrusion of foreigners, at one time coveting the honour of belonging to so glorious a company even by the slenderest title<sup>4</sup> of unendowed canon—at another claiming the emoluments of the higher offices, though non-resident, in virtue of a papal or a royal grant. For instances: Gilbert de Middleton writes to the Bishop (who was the saintly John de Dalderby) that he had received "very distressing news"<sup>5</sup> about the prebend of Croperdy, which the bishop had given to him. Some one else claimed it. He speaks of being

<sup>1</sup> Cf. both *Registers*.

<sup>2</sup> *Vide* "Civitas Lincolnia," p. 48.

<sup>3</sup> "The proposal was accepted in June 1440, and a carefully prepared, though incomplete draft was submitted later on in the same year. This was discussed apparently during the next two years, but without leading to any result: and the only early copies which have come

down to us abound with incomplete sentences and bear no evidence of having been ratified, while they preserve to us some of the amendments brought forward during the discussion."—[Note by Mr. Bradshaw.]

<sup>4</sup> Vit. Hug., quoted by the Bishop of Truro, "Cathedral," p. 13.

<sup>5</sup> "Nova satis desolatoria."

"vehemently disturbed," of having no hope except from the bishop, and swears that the trouble and perplexity which the said prebend was causing him had greatly shortened his days; that it was not for the value of the preferment "God knew" (though it certainly *was* "pinguis et bona," rich and good), but simply for the position, since in truth he had sooner *die* than forfeit the position he held in the church. The letter is dated the Wednesday in Passion Week, without the year. We may make ourselves easy however about the poor old gentleman, since in 1314 he exchanged the Prebend of Croperdy for that of Leighton Buzzard, and held that until he became Archdeacon of Northampton. Let us hope that his just appreciation of the dignity of belonging to the Cathedral body lost none of its disinterested relish for this little taste of the "pinguis et bona." Just at the same time Josceline de Kirmington, the dean, was arbitrarily superseded by the direct action of the Pope (Clement V), who invested a relative, Reymund de la Goth, with the deanery, by giving him a ring: making him a cardinal a very short time after. Josceline de Kirmington was informed of this by the Precentor of Avignon. He sent a proctor to represent his case to the Pope; his proctor was threatened with imprisonment; he was himself in fear of bodily torture,<sup>1</sup> and therefore made cession of the deanery under protest until opportunity of redress should arise. He made appeal to the Chapter and the Bishop for help in the expenses he had incurred in defending their liberties. A pension was assigned to him, but not very regularly paid, for some twelve years later he was presented to the living of Bottesford, (apparently given by the Bishop to the Chapter for the purpose,) was for a short time treasurer, and then executed an instrument, excusing the arrears of the pension which the Chapter had assigned to him. At this period many of the stalls in the cathedral were filled by foreigners, mostly Italian cardinals. There are documents illustrating the attempts made to procure the canonization of Grostete (additional to the one printed in Wharton), and again some twenty-five years later, that of Bishop John de Dalkerby. There are attestations of miracles wrought at Dalkerby's tomb; indulgences given by a Bishop of Glasgow to persons who should pray there; a transcript of the petitions to Pope and Cardinals in his favour, with their reply, and what seems to be a "Schema" of the Office prepared for use at his festival.<sup>2</sup>

There are scattered documents relating to the Crusades, and to the wars with France and Scotland, and considerable collections of the time of the Civil War and Restoration.

A copy of a convention for the surrender of Rennes the capital of Brittany in 1357, was found by Mr. Burt in one of the boxes (labelled "useless papers") and was printed in the *Archæological Journal* in 1874. Lists of relics and plate are interesting for comparison with Dugdale, and also because the costly furniture of the private chapel of John of Gaunt was bequeathed by him to the Cathedral; portions of this can be traced from century to century, until all were swept into the Royal coffers. The principal items were a golden "table" bought at

<sup>1</sup> Gravem cruciatum corporis mei.

<sup>2</sup> "The MS. is of great interest. It gives First Vespers, Compline, Matins (lessons wanting) Lauds, a Rubric as to the little

hours, Second Vespers and Compline. The entire "proper" for the Mass is wanting."—[Note by Mr. Everard Green, F.S.A.]

Amiens, meaning the retable of the Altar, set with precious stones and representing the last Judgment, and two large gold "chandelers," weighing 37lb. 10oz. These candlesticks are mentioned in an inventory of 1536 made by Master Henry Lytherland, the treasurer. In 1549 Lytherland had to see them carried off, and it is said that as he watched the last package depart he said "Ceasing the treasure, so ceaseth the office of the treasurer," and he flung down his keys on the choir floor and never sate in his stall again.<sup>1</sup>

I might speak of a pedigree of Henry VI carried back to Adam, and of other things; but this paper has already exceeded reasonable limits. "Enough is as good as a feast" we are told, and I would fain leave off before my hearers have lost all appetite.

<sup>1</sup> *B. Willis*, p. 95.