

In tempore Willmi Regis Rogerus Comes & Adelardus Comitissa. Ecclesiam edificaverunt in Quatford in honore
 Dni nri Jhu xpi. Iste Mario Magus & Omnes Storum dei. Dederunt Arundonia excepta terra Walteri flabri
 Et illa terra quae jacet inter aquam & montem juxta pontem. Et ab ipsa terra ubi sedet Burgus Et omnes
haia & chaceas proprias quous ab omni re & serviro. Nolum sit omibz quibz Rogerus Comes dedit mutuo
 mil'morie pro millburg p calupina qui calupinabat in Arundonia Testes sunt Godboldus grbyr. Ricus de
Belmosio, horbertus Gramaticus Raynolds Sailial Rogerus filius forbo. Et adhuc dederunt Ecclesiam de
flavleia & terra quae oibi p'fuit cum omibz decis. Et Ecclesia de Alvoloia strata nra silz Norleia & Bobin
na & delaelonia totus decimas Et de mombrofold & foalintonia & holudonco & forpham & fulmitonia &
foratonia totas decimas Et decimas tholono hug Villo & marcat solomprilat quous. Et ad servion
 Ecclesiam stabiliunt sex Canonici. Et hoc omnia fecit Armo per concessione filiorum suorum viz hugonio
 & philippi qui ibi aderant in die Dedicatorio. Et in ipsa die dederunt Burepote in donis quous ab omni re.
cos sunt Wulstan Epus Wircostrensis Robertus forfordensis Epus Robertus forstrensis Epus qui ibi
 fuerunt ad dedicand Ecclesiam Et hamofridus archidiaconus & Willmus archidiaconus horbertus Gramaticus osbertus
archidiaconus Et fredonicus elinich archidiaconus Godboldus grbyr Ricus monachus de Wenoloch, Ray-
nolds filii petri glaucestre osbertus filius Rici Rogerus forbi Rogery
de faci & suo Viccomas helgot de stanlonia & horbertus filius suus Norman donator Rogerus frat
duo Arthorus Viccomas Noric de Wenloche Edward Alms frat quos Augustinus et ochi foram Wan-
lance filius Algar. Et omnes qui concesserunt & exaltaverunt hanc Elemosina benedicti sint a dno qui
 mundum fecit ex nichilo & a beata maria magi Et ab omibz filii Armon Et qui inuenerint ab ipso robur
 seu a libertate eorum maledicti sint a dno sicut delhan & delhan quos terra absorbit viroo. fiat fiat Amen.

The Building Endowment & Dedication of Quatford Ch.
 found among the Archives of the Royal Peculiar & exempt jurisdiction of
 Bridgnorth

THE COLLEGE OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, BRIDGNORTH,
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF ITS DEANS AND PREBENDARIES.

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PART I. THE COLLEGE.

BY PREBENDARY CLARK-MAXWELL.

The College of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, owes its origin, like the Castle with which it is intimately associated, to the foundation of Roger de Montgomeri, Earl of Shrewsbury, though both have been transferred from their original site at Quatford, to the more commanding position of Bridgnorth. The story of the establishment of the Chapel and College has often been told, and may be found in Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. i, p. 106, and elsewhere; so that there is no need for more than the bare recital of its leading features here.

In 1082 Earl Roger's first wife, Mabel de Belesme, was murdered in Normandy, and within two years he married as his second wife, Adeliza de Puiset. As this lady was crossing from Normandy to meet her future husband a terrible storm arose, which threatened to destroy the ship; a vision, however, was vouchsafed to her chaplain, assuring him of the safety of the party, and directing that a church should be built in honour of the blessed Mary Magdalene on the spot where she should meet her husband, the Earl. The meeting took place at Quatford, and there the church was built, and dedicated on July 22nd, 1086, in the presence of Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester, Robert [Losinga], Bishop of Hereford, and Robert [de Lindsey], Bishop of Chester. An interesting document, which has survived to us only in the form of an early eighteenth century copy of a memorandum 'found among the Archives of the Royal Peculiar and exempt jurisdiction of Bridgnorth,' has been pronounced by Eyton to be, despite its obvious errors of transcription, a genuine record. It sets forth that 'in the

time of William the king, Earl Roger and Countess Adelaya built a church in Quatford in honour of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessed Mary Magdalene, and all the saints of God, and gave to it Eardington, except the land of Walter the smith, and the land lying between the water and the hill, near the bridge, and except the land on which the borough [of Quatford] stands; and likewise all their hays and chases free from all manner of service. And be it known to all that Earl Roger gave to St. Milburg [Wenlock Priory] Millichope in exchange for the loss suffered in Eardington¹; and to this are witness: Godebald the priest, Richard de Belmeis, Herbert *grammaticus*, Raynald Balial, Roger son of Corbet. And further they gave the church of Claverley and the land which pertains to it, with all the tithes; and the church of Alveley [here follow some words unintelligible in the transcript], Norley and Bobbington, and of Laeton the whole tithes. And of Membrefeld [Morville] and Ceatintonia [Chetton] and Stottesdon and Corfham and Culmington and Ciratonia [Siefton] the third part of the tithes, and the tithe of the toll of this town and the markets quit [of all charges]. And to serve their church he established six Canons. And all this the Earl did by consent of his sons, to wit, Hugh and Philip, who were there present on the day of the dedication. And on that same day they gave Burcote in dower, quit of all things. To this are witness: Wulstan bishop of Worcester, Robert bishop of Hereford, and Robert bishop of Chester, who were there to dedicate the church; and Hamofrid² the archdeacon and William³ the archdeacon, Herbert Grammaticus,⁴ Osbert⁵ the archdeacon and Frederick,⁶ Elirich⁷ the archdeacon, Godobald⁸ the priest. Richard monk of Wenlock, Raynold⁹ [monk] of St. Peter's, Shrewsbury, Restold [monk] of St. Peter's, Gloucester, Osbert Fitz-Richard,¹⁰ Roger Corbet,¹¹ Roger de Laci,¹² Ursus the

¹ The Manor of Eardington is stated in Domesday to have belonged in the time of King Edward to St. Milburga of Wenlock: Millichope therefore represents the compensation given by the Earl for its non-restoration to the Priory.

² Archdeacon of Hereford in 1109.

³ Archdeacon of Salop (in Hereford) in 1108.

⁴ Archdeacon of Salop (in Chester) 1083-6.

⁵ ? Archdeacon of Stafford.

⁶ Another archdeacon, evidently.

⁷ ? = Agelric, archdeacon of Worcester, 1089 and 1092.

⁸ One of Earl Roger's three "wise clerks."

⁹ Sent from Seez in 1083 to superintend the building of Shrewsbury Abbey.

¹⁰ Of Burford and Richard's Castle.

¹¹ Of Caus.

¹² Baron of Ewyas.

Sheriff,¹ Helgot de Stanton¹ and Herbert his son, Norman Venator³ and Roger his brother, Arthur the Sheriff,⁴ Aldric of Wenlock,⁵ Siward and Aldred his brother,⁶ Augustine, Tochi, Coram, Warlance son of Algar. And let all who have given and increased this alms, be blessed of the Lord who made all things of nought, and of the blessed Mary Magdalene, and all saints. Amen. And those who shall minish ought from these things or from their full freedom, cursed be they of the Lord as Dathan and Abiram, whom the earth swallowed up alive. So be it. Amen.’⁷

The careful checking of the names appended as witnesses, which has been taken from Eyton, i, pp. 110-112, leaves no reasonable doubt of the authenticity of this document. It is not, however, to be described as a ‘charter,’ even of the ‘recitatory’ kind, but as a sort of *précis*, drawn up by the canons, or their registrar, setting forth what we might call to-day an abstract of title. In this case it looks as if three charters had been laid under contribution, or possibly four; (1) the endowment of the church of Quatford with land at Eardington, which may have run somewhat as follows: Omnibus, etc. Sciatis quod nos Rogerus comes et Aldelays comitissa dedimus . . . ecclesie quam edificari fecimus in Quatford in honorem . . . sanctorum dei, Ardintoniam . . . ubi sedet burgus et omnes haias et chaceas nostras proprias. Habend’ et tenend’ prediacte ecclesie quiet’ ab omni re, exaccione, demanda et servicio in perpetuum. Hiis testibus. . . . (2) The composition whereby Wenlock surrendered its claim to Eardington, in exchange for Millichope. It is quite probable that (1) and (2) were executed at the same time, and were attested by the same set of witnesses, whose names then follow. (3) An additional and larger grant, made on the day of the dedication, whereby are conveyed to the new foundation, the churches of Claverley with the land thereto belonging [now Ludstone Manor],

¹ Urso d’ Abitot, sheriff of Worcester-shire.

² Lord of Stanton in Corvedale, and builder of Castle Holgate.

³ Lord of Albrighton, etc.

⁴ Not identified; probably an error in copying.

⁵ Held Bourton under the Priory.

⁶ Probably=Siward Grossus.

⁷ A faesimile of this transcript, which seems now to be lost, is given in *Our Ancient Churches*, by G. L. Wasey (1859), whence it is reproduced here on pl. i.

of Alveley, Nordley (?) and Bobbington, with tithes in Leaton, Morville, Chetton, Stottesden, Corfham, Culmington and Siefton, and of the market dues of this town' (by which is probably meant Bridgnorth). The gift of Burcote by Hugh and Philip, sons of Earl Roger, on the day of the dedication, may have formed a separate charter or may have been the subject of a subsidiary clause in the charter last mentioned; the second list of witnesses then follows, and the denunciation of those who shall infringe the integrity of the grant.

The date of the abstract is not very easy to assign; such summaries were as a rule fairly late. The transference of the foundation to Bridgnorth is not mentioned, and so there is no certain proof of its being later than 1100 (unless we accept the suggestion that 'hujus ville' refers to Bridgnorth), but the probability is that it forms part of a condensed chronicle-chartulary, drawn up in the fourteenth or fifteenth century as a repertory of the essential contents of the title-deeds of the college of Bridgnorth, and possibly never finished.¹

But though the authenticity of this deed is not to be questioned, there is a wide discrepancy between the endowment of the church of Quatford, as therein set forth, and the property of Bridgnorth College as we find it later in the Middle Ages, and at the time of the Dissolution. We can identify the land at Eardington as that which was afterwards divided in order to furnish the income of the prebends of Eardington and of Alveley, which latter included also Alveley Church. The 'Dean's prebend' of the later valuations, consists of Ludstone Manor (probably 'the land belonging to Claverley Church'), the church of Claverley, and the tithes of the whole parish, with tithe in Stottesden parish, known later as 'Luddesdenthythe,' as well as the tithe of market tolls, etc., in Bridgnorth, and the tithes of the town itself, which were, of course, later than the original endowment, inasmuch as the town had not come into existence in 1086. But no trace is to be found of the tithes of the whole of 'Leaton,' or of the third part of Chetton, Corfham, Culmington, or Siefton in any later valuation, nor do the records of those places mention any interest of the College of Bridgnorth there.

¹ The whole of the analysis of this "charter" and the indication of its original elements, is due to Prof. A. Hamilton Thompson.—W. G. C. M.

On the other hand, our deed makes no mention of the lands at Underton, Bridgwalton and Morville, which furnished the endowment of the three prebends so named. As no one, so far as we know, was bold enough, by confiscating any part of the original endowment, to brave the final maledictions of our document, the conclusion seems to be almost inevitable, that the lands last mentioned, which lie together in close proximity to the town, were substituted for the founder's original gift of tithes in more distant places. It is further not an unreasonable suggestion that the three hides in Morville parish, which were held by Earl Roger's chaplains, at the time when he transferred the rest to Shrewsbury Abbey, may have formed the 'corpus' of these smaller prebends. There is no doubt that in that case, the Abbey, which had been promised the reversion of these hides, would have claimed, and received, compensation for the non-fulfilment of the promise; but the house's possessions were scattered so widely throughout the county that it is not possible to identify the compensation so given.

It is also incontestable that Burcote (in Worfield parish) which is stated to be a gift to the Church at Quatford on the day of its dedication by the Earl's sons, Hugh and Philip, seems never to have been reckoned amongst the possessions of the College. Possibly the compiler of our deed may have been tempted to include in his list, as was sometimes done, property which he thought ought to belong to the foundation, whether he could find the evidence for it or not; possibly the gift of Burcote may have been redeemed by some exchange which we are not now able to trace; but be that as it may, we need have no hesitation in admitting the authenticity of our deed, and in accepting the received date, July 22nd (St. Mary Magdalene's day), 1086, as that of the dedication of the Church of the blessed Mary Magdalene at Quatford, in the new 'borough' founded there with the Castle by Roger de Montgomery.

When Robert de Belesme, son of Earl Roger by his first wife, transferred in 1098 his father's castle and borough to Bridgnorth, the religious foundation was likewise removed to the chapel which was built within the new stronghold; only the church of Quatford, and some

entrenchments on the rock overhanging the river, remaining to mark the original site. When, after Robert's rebellion in 1102, the whole of his property was forfeited to the Crown, Henry I became the patron and hereditary 'founder' of the Chapel, and it is probable that to him we owe its reconstitution in regular collegiate form, with a Dean and five Prebendaries, in place of the six Canons mentioned in the 'foundation-charter.' At the same time also, or not much later, the lands of the College endowment were thus assigned :

1. The Dean's prebend, consisting of the Church of Claverley, with the manor of Ludstone, and various tithes in the parish of Claverley, and what was called 'Ludston tithe' in Stottesden parish. The two Bridgnorth churches, or chapels as they were then styled, and the chapels of Quatford and Bobbington, were also reckoned in this prebend, which was much the most valuable of all.

2. Alveley prebend, which consisted of the southern portion of the land of Eardington, with the church of Alveley.

3. Eardington prebend, which included the rest of Eardington, as well as the chapel of St. Lawrence there, which has now disappeared.

The three minor prebends were furnished, as suggested above, by the three hides in Morville parish, which had been given to Earl Roger's chaplains, viz. :

4. Underton, where was a chapel, long since destroyed :

5. Walton, also called Bridgwalton, and sometimes Canon Walton ; and

6. Morville, which must not be confused either with the parish church, or with the little Priory of that name, both of which were under the Abbey of Shrewsbury. In the absence of more definite indication, it may be provisionally located at Morvilleheath, two miles from Bridgnorth on the Morville road.

Of the constitution of the College, we know next to nothing. There is a passage in the fifteenth-century *Chronicle* of John Brompton, Abbot of Jervaulx (Twysden, *Decem Scriptores*, 1652, p. 989), which states that 'the deanery and prebends, the king confereth of his own right and custom, although in nearly all other Collegiate Chapels, the deans, being installed by the Sheriff at the

King's collation, and inducted into corporal possession of the deaneries, confer all prebends in the same Chapels and install, induct, and visit the prebendaries. But in the aforesaid Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, the dean confers no prebend, nor visits prebend nor prebendary; but each in the corps of his own prebend, hath and exerciseth plenary jurisdiction, as well in things spiritual as in things temporal.' 'Quem quidem decanatum et præbendas rex de jure suo et consuetudine confert; quamvis fere in omnibus aliis collegiatis regis capellis decani per vicecomitem ad collationem regis installati et in corporalem possessionem decanatum inducti, omnes præbendas in eisdem capellis conferunt, et præbendarios installant, inducunt, et visitant; sed in prædicta capella beatæ Mariæ Magdalænæ decanus nullam præbendam confert, nec præbendam nec præbendarios visitat, sed unusquisque in corpore præbendæ suæ plenam jurisdictionem tam in spiritualibus quam in temporalibus possidet et exercet.'

It is in consonance with this distinctive feature of independent spiritual jurisdiction by each prebendary that the records of the Peculiar Court of Bridgnorth, to be mentioned later, contain no reference in pre-Reformation times, to anything outside the area of the Dean's prebend, viz. Claverley, Ludstone, Bobbington, Quatford, and the town of Bridgnorth, although the Prebendaries were occasionally summoned to the *Visitatio generalis* of the dean or his commissary. After the Reformation, Alveley at any rate is included, and probably also the other prebends.

In 1255 (Rot. Hund. ii, 59) the jurors of the Manor of Brug return that the church of St. Mary Magdalene of Brug is a free chapel of our Lord the King, and in like manner the church of St. Leonard in that town. And that there belong to the said chapel six prebends, whereof Peter de Rivallis holds the church of Claverley with its members of Bobbington, Broughton, and Quatford, and that his portion is worth 40 marks; Henry de Wingham holds the church of Alveley with its member of Romsley, worth a like sum; Peter de Duram holds the prebend of Eardington worth 10 marks; Peter de Avelun the prebend of Walton, of like value; and Guy de Palude that of Underton worth 12 marks; and Henry de Langele that of Morville worth 100 shillings.

The Taxation of Nicholas IV, p. 243 b, gives among the spiritualities of Lichfield Diocese and Deanery of Lapley and Trysull the church of Bruges with its members as worth £54:13:4. This is presumably the dean's portion, as the other prebendaries are enumerated, at rather unusual length, in the Cottonian MS. of the *Taxatio* (p. 162). From this we learn that John Bruyn held the prebend of Underton, worth £2:5:4; Nicholas Bruyn that of Morville worth £1:8:3½; John de Lukes held one prebend of Eardington (*i.e.* that usually called Alveley) worth £5:6:8; while Hugo de Penna held the other worth £1:18:6, and Robert de Turberville was prebendary of Walton, of the annual value of £1:4:7. The two Eardington prebendaries have each a further sum of £1, their portion in the parish of Quatford (p. 166 b), and the dean has a portion of 6/8 in the church of Quatford (p. 166). It is quite evident that these figures cannot be reconciled with those of 1255, and the explanation of the discrepancy is not easy to find. Miss R. Graham suggests, with much probability, that the 1255 are based upon the 'Norwich Taxation' of the previous year (see her *English Ecclesiastical Studies* (pp. 271 ff.)); but it is difficult to understand how any valuation can have returned the Deanery, and the prebend of Alveley, as of equal value. On the other hand, it is equally difficult to see how the Deanery can have been worth, as in the 1291 Taxation, nearly four times as much as all the rest put together. It is indeed possible that 'Bruges cum membris' includes Alveley and Eardington, which lay in Lichfield diocese; but it is rendered less likely by the fact that both these prebends seem to be valued separately in the Cottonian MS of the *Taxatio*.

It is not to be supposed that any of the deans or prebendaries of Bridgnorth were normally resident: in most cases the preferment was only an inconsiderable part of the benefices that they held. It was the regular practice in the middle ages that the salaries of Crown officials, who were always in Orders, should be provided by their appointment to a greater or smaller number of benefices of this kind, the duties of which were invariably performed by deputy. Thus the place of the Dean of Bridgnorth, as President of the ecclesiastical court of the Peculiar jurisdiction, would be taken by his official; while the pre-

bendaries would be represented each by his vicar, both in the services of the Chapel, and in attendance at the Dean's Visitation. In the MS. Acta Book the attendance of these substitutes is recorded, under the title of 'Vicarii,' from 1472 to 1523. It is not necessary to maintain that every Prebendary was a Royal minister; only that this was the case so often, as to establish non-residence as the normal state of affairs. See, for a fuller treatment of the whole subject, the second part of this article on p. 27 f.

With so constant a tradition of non-residence on the part of the dean and prebendaries, it is not to be wondered at that the college as such has practically no history. Apart from the deeds or misdeeds of individual holders of the Deanery, or other of the prebends, which belong more properly to the general history of the nation, than to Bridgnorth in particular, there is nothing to record, beyond the proceedings of the dean's court of peculiar jurisdiction, at which he was always represented by his 'Official'; and the general history of the College, till the sixteenth century brought about its downfall, is a complete blank.

The approaching dissolution of this, as of practically all other similar foundations in England, was heralded by three valuations of their property; first in the great *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535, and later in the Chantry Surveys of 1546 and 1547. In the first-named (*Val. Eccl.* iii. p. 199) it is certified that the income of the college amounts to £81 : 6 : 8 and that Thomas Magnus, the dean, has an annual income of £40 : £4 from the annexed prebend of the manor of Ludstone, and £36 from the rectory of Claverley. The other prebends are: that of Alveley worth £5 : 6 : 8, to which £8 in other spiritualities is to be added, making £13 : 6 : 8 in all, held by John Belletour; that of Eardington worth £10 (£6 : 13 : 4 from the prebend and £3 : 6 : 8 from other sources), held by William Hoorde. The remaining prebends are returned under Stottesden Deanery in Hereford Diocese. (*Val. Eccl.* iii. p. 210) Mr. Barley, prebendary of Underton, Mr. Mubber, of Walton, and Mr. Fisher, of Morville, received £6 each.

Eleven years later we find much higher values assigned to the prebendal portions. The gross income of the college is put at £157 : 18 : 2½, and net at £111 : 10 : 2½, of which

the dean's portion comes to £55 : 12 : 3½, while the five prebendaries are lumped together at £55 : 17 : 11, no names being given. The stipend of a curate at Alveley comes to £6 and sermons there to 10/-, charged upon that prebend. The dean's portion has to find the stipend (£6 : 13 : 4) of a parish priest for Claverley, for Bobbington (£4 : 13 : 4), for Quatford (£5), for St. Leonard's (£5 : 6 : 8), for St. Mary Magdalene (£5 : 6 : 8), for the Deacon of Claverley (£1 : 6 : 8) Bobbington (presumably a deacon also : 5/-), and priests and clerks engaged for special festivals (8/-); but all this, amounting to £28 : 19 : 8, as well as small yearly charges of £4 : 11 : 8 (including 13/4 for quarterly sermons) is deducted before the dean's income is put at £55, as above.

In 1547 the gross income is put at a slightly less figure, viz. £131 : 14 : 2½ in gross, and £107 : 12 : 2½ net. The deductions comprise, 'wagis of conductis' xxxis. viijd. (the same as the stipend of the Deacons of Claverley and Bobbington, mentioned above), and stipends to divers curates £22 (which does not agree with the figures given above). In this valuation we have the names of the Dean and Prebendaries given us: Thomas Magnus, the Dean, has £51 : 18 : 2. John Synger, prebendary [of Walton], £6 : 13 : 4; John Fysshier, prebendary [of Morville], £6; John Leveson, prebendary [of Eardington], £10; Hugh Coren, prebendary [of Alveley], £20, and Hamelett Slynge, prebendary [of Underton], £6 : 6 : 0. In each case is added 'and other living,' showing that this was not the only preferment held.¹

Under the Act of 1547 all chantries, colleges, hospitals, etc., came into the king's hands: and St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, among the rest. The sites, buildings and possessions of these suppressed foundations were granted out piecemeal, or in great masses, to the king's ministers, gentlemen of the court, or speculators generally; but in nearly every case the grant was in the first instance *on lease*, usually for 21 years, not *in fee*, or absolute possession. And the terms on which the lease was granted were not, as has often been implied, so easy as to constitute, for all practical purposes, a gift; in the 'Particulars for Grant' many of which are still extant, and which preceded the

¹ A. Hamilton Thompson, 'Certificates of logical, etc. Transactions, 3rd Series x. the Shropshire Chantries,' *Shropshire Archaeo-* pp. 317, 360; 4th Series, i. p. 119 ff.

issue of the grant itself, every item in the property which it is proposed to deal with, is specified, as a rule with some minuteness; when it is let, or farmed out, the name of the tenant is given, and the rent paid; the gross income is added up, and any charges upon the property are noted; if, as was often the case, the Crown undertook such payments as the stipends of curates, or schoolmasters, or remitted the payment of Crown rents or tenths, such facts are recorded, and no allowance is made therefor; the net income being thus ascertained, the lease is made out on those terms, or, if it is to be a grant in fee, in 'free socage,' or by military service (various forms of ownership), the price is calculated at so many years' purchase, varying according to the nature of the property and the method of tenure. Certain royal favourites might get grants on specially favourable terms, but there seems to be no distinction traceable in this respect between 'Church property' and other lands or rents which the Crown might have at its disposal. This much is said in opposition to the general opinion that the monastic and chantry lands were granted away for little or nothing. It is not intended to defend the policy or the methods of the suppression; or to question the fact that within a very few years the vast mass of wealth which the Dissolution placed in the hands of the Crown had practically disappeared; but this was due rather to the extravagance of the court and government than to the low price at which the property was sold.

The Deanery of Bridgnorth, which carried with it the manor of Ludstone, the rectory of Claverley and the charge of the chapels of Bobbington, Quatford and St. Mary Magdalene and St. Leonard in the town, is valued at £81 : 5 : 2½, a sum much in excess of any of the previous valuations; and at this figure is let for 21 years to John Seymour, July 17, 1548 (Particulars for Grant, Brit. Mus. Harl. 605, art. 37, p. 41b).¹ The Crown undertakes to discharge the burdens, viz. the provision of the stipends of the curates serving the churches mentioned above, the reparation of their chancels, and various small sums, including ten shillings for four sermons in St. Mary Magdalene. The actual lease was in the form of Letters Patent, dated September 14, of the same year. There

¹ Summarized in the Appendix, p. 21.

was also included in the lease, but separately valued, the prebend of Morville in Bridgnorth College, held by John Fisher, prebendary, and let by him to Fulk Lee. The rent paid by the latter was £6, and at this figure it was let to John Seymour.

It is worth while, perhaps, to follow the descent of the deanery a little further, as it illustrates the usual practice of the Crown in dealing with property of this sort.

Some time before December 8, 1565, William Whitmore bought up Seymour's interest in the lease, and surrendered it to the Crown, receiving instead thereof, on the above date, a new lease of Letters Patent, granting him the deanery *only*, with the exception of the tithes in Bovyngton (*leg.* Broughton) and Whittimere, for 21 years, at a reduced rent of £49 : 2 : 8, and a 'fine' or lump sum on entry of £196 : 10 : 8, or 4 years' rental. It is difficult to say how far this was equivalent to the late rent, but we may be reasonably sure that the Crown did not intend to lose money by the fresh arrangement, and it is not probable that it did.¹

On 16 September, 1569, the Crown granted to Francis and Martin Barneham, of London, the reversion of the tithe of Pendlestone Mill, the profits of the 'Easter-book' and oblations in St. Leonard's parish, and the tithe of wool, lambs, pigs, ducks, etc., in the same; the probate of wills within the jurisdiction of the deanery, the fairs and markets in Bridgnorth (with the usual reservation of woods, underwoods, wardships, marriages, mines and quarries).² All these had formed part of the lease to Whitmore in 1565, and are all omitted from the grant to Sir Christopher Hatton in 1579, to be spoken of later.

We cannot say with any certainty that these properties were bought later on by the Whitmores from the Barnehams, but the probability is that this was the case, and it is, indeed, quite likely that the whole grant to the Barnehams, which includes a great deal of other property formerly belonging to dissolved religious houses and corporations, was obtained for speculative ends, in the hope that the lessee of the property in each case, would buy the fee simple from the grantees, as he had hoped to do from the Crown; and that there would be a good profit to the grantees on the transaction.

¹ Orig. 8 Eliz. p. 3, no. 433.

² Pat. 11 Eliz. p. 8, no. 34-38

The next stage is reached in 1579, when the Crown, *i.e.* Queen Elizabeth, granted to her favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton, the 'dancing Chancellor,' amongst much other property, 'our free chapel or college' of St. Mary Magdalene in the castle of Bridgnorth. That is to say, from the specification of the items, the Deanery as already leased to William Whitmore, with the exceptions noted above in the grant of 1569, the tenure being in free and common socage, and not in chief, or by military service: that in practical ownership, subject to a small Crown rent. This rent is set down as £19:9:4, and the payment is also directed of sundry sums for stipends, *viz.*, to the curate of Bobbington, £6:13:4; the curate of Claverley, £8; to the curate of St. Margaret Clee in Bridgnorth (?), £5; to preachers there £5, and to the schoolmaster £8; or £32:13:4 in all.¹ The last two items had constituted a charge on the Chantry funds of St. Leonard's and not on the income of the Dean: and I quite fail to understand the mention of Clee St. Margaret, which was a rectory in the Deanery of Ludlow, and entirely unconnected with Bridgnorth; I am inclined to suspect an error on the part of the clerk who made out the Letters Patent. The effect of this grant would be, of course, that William Whitmore would henceforward pay his rent of £49:2:8 to Sir Christopher Hatton instead of to the Crown. The lease to Whitmore was due to expire in December, 1586, and whether it was renewed to him, and if so, on what terms, we do not know. Hatton died in 1591, out of favour with the Queen, and a disappointed man; he was succeeded in his estates, first by his nephew, Sir William Newport, who took the name of Hatton, and next by his godson, Sir Christopher Hatton, the younger. This second Sir Christopher obtained an Act of Parliament in 1607-8 to enable him to dispose of certain lands, etc., notwithstanding a limitation or clause of perpetuity annexed to his estate; and since Sir William Whitmore is stated in some law proceedings in the Exchequer in 1724, to have bought in 1635 the right of presentation to St. Mary's and St. Leonard's, which were part of the deanery, it is not unreasonable to suppose that it was in this year that he acquired the ownership of the whole.

¹ Pat. 21 Eliz. 11 Roll 1185.

He would still, however, have to pay the Crown-rent of £19:9:4, specified in the grant to Hatton in 1579, and this arrangement lasted till 1665, when the rent was granted, with many other sums, to the brothers Penderel.¹ Beyond this point I have not attempted to trace it; by whom or to whom it is paid, or whether it is paid at all, I am quite unable to say.

It is worth remarking, that none of the salaries mentioned in the grant of 1579, seem to have been paid by Hatton or his successors; but the £5 to the preacher, and the £8 to the schoolmaster, at any rate, remained as a charge on the Exchequer. The £8 still forms part of the salary of the headmaster of Bridgnorth Grammar School, and is paid to the Borough Authorities for that purpose; the £5 formed the subject of litigation between the incumbents of the two parishes of the town in 1724, as stated above; and the Court decided that in future it should be equally divided between them.² It was, however, reduced to £4:9:1 presumably owing to the costs of the action; and in that diminished form, is still paid by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and divided as directed by the Court.

One of the appurtenances of the deanery was the spiritual jurisdiction over the parishes of Claverley, Quatford, Bobbington, and St. Leonard's and St. Mary's, Bridgnorth, and the holding of a Peculiar Court for these (and in post-Reformation times for Alveley as well). A book of the 'Acta' of this Court, and of the visitations of the Dean, as Ordinary, from 1472 to 1523, is preserved in the Reference Department of Shrewsbury Free Library (MS. no. 112). This gives us, incidentally, most valuable information about the ecclesiastical state of the town just prior to the Reformation; but the bulk of it is occupied with matters testamentary and matrimonial, and the punishment of such offences as came within the cognizance of ecclesiastical courts; adultery, fornication, perjury, defamation, detention of church goods, and the like. After the Reformation the range of matters which were dealt with by such courts was greatly restricted, and the latest records, before the court came to an end in 1856, deal almost entirely with the

¹ See *Transactions Shropshire Archaeological Society*, 4th Series, vol. vii. p. 29.

² Exch. B. & A. 10 Geo. I, Salop 49.

probate of wills. The Seal of the Court, which appears not to be older than the eighteenth century,¹ bears the arms and crest of Whitmore as 'patron' and the legend 'ROYAL PECULIAR OF BRIDGNORTH' (see illustration in Dukes' *Shropshire*, p. 49). The matrix of this seal is in the possession of St. Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth, together with records of the Court, 1629-1641, and 1727-1856, some books of Formulæ and Precedents, and 'Articles to be enquired of, 1663.'

Having now traced, so far as we are able, the descent of the deanery, we will now follow that of the other prebends of Bridgnorth; and taking first those which lay within the diocese of Lichfield in 1535, Alveley and Eardington, we find that, as stated above, John Belletour, prebendary of the first named, was returned as holding the prebend itself, worth £5:6:8, and £8 in other spiritualities. No separate valuation is given in 1546, but in the year following, Hugh Coren holds the prebend, worth £20 in all. Details of his career and preferments are given in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, vol. xiii, p. 350, and we need only here say that a consideration of the dates on which he received his various appointments will strongly confirm the character which Fuller gives to him, of 'a great complier in all reigns.' The prebend of Alveley was only an inconsiderable portion of his many 'spiritual promotions,' but he received a pension of £10 a year for the loss of it, which was still being paid him in 1553, and probably continued till his elevation to the Archbishopric of Dublin. Previous to the Dissolution, he had farmed out his prebend of Alveley, on January 4, 1545, to Thomas Coren, of Hereford, doubtless a relation, for 21 years at a rent of £20, reserving the ecclesiastical and spiritual jurisdiction, and the appointment of vicars and vicars-choral. The terms of the lease, which are summarised in the Letters Patent to William Gatacre, referred to below, are not quite clear; but it seems probable that the 'vicar' would be Coren's deputy in the cure of souls in Alveley parish, and the 'vicar choral' his deputy in the choir-services of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth.

¹ In Blakeway's '*Collections for a history of Bridgnorth*,' in the Bodleian Library (Blakeway MS.18) there is noted as appended to the probate of the will of Robert Pichford,

1349, a seal with the legend 'S. OFFICIALI-TATIS . DECANAT . ECLES . DE . BR .' but no drawing of the seal itself is given.

In Harl. MS. 605, referred to above, it is mentioned that the prebend of Alveley, particulars of which are not yet to hand, is worth £21 : 6 : 8 ; and it is at this price that it is let on July 3, 1561, to William Gatacre, who had acquired Thomas Coren's interest in the earlier lease, and surrendered it to the Crown. But Gatacre had in addition to pay a fine of £85 : 6 : 8, or four years' rental, and to undertake the obligation to provide at his own cost a priest to celebrate divine service in the chapel and church aforesaid, and to maintain the chancel of the chapel.¹

On 16th September, 1569, Queen Elizabeth grants to Francis and Martin Barneham, of London, by the Letters Patent above quoted, the reversion of the prebend of Alveley, amongst the many properties thereby conveyed. This means that we lose sight of its further descent so far as the Patent and Originalia Rolls are concerned ; for any future transactions would be private bargains between Gatacre and the Barnehams. There is, however, one item of further interest in the Barnehams' Letters Patent ; the prebend of Alveley is therein charged with an annual payment of £10 to the curate of St. Leonards, and a like sum to the curate of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth ; and as these sums are now paid by the owners of Coton estate, in the parish of Alveley, the presumption is that that estate represents the endowment of the former prebend.

The prebend of *Eardington*, which comprised such portions of Earl Roger's original endowment at that place, as were not attached to the prebend of Alveley, had been let with the dwelling house and all belongings, spiritual and temporal, by John Leveson, the prebendary, to a namesake, probably a relation, John Leveson of Wolverhampton, for a term of 21 years, at a rent of £10. The date of the lease was 20 Nov. 37 Henry VIII (1545), and the extreme nearness to the date of the passing of the Act of dissolution seems to have roused the suspicion of the Commissioners as to the *bona fides* of the transaction ; they were, however, eventually satisfied on this point, as we may judge from the following note :

"Item the hole profyttes and Revenues belongynge to the said prebende of Erdyngton do consyste in the mannor of Erdyngton and in londes and tenements therunto belongynge and in certeyn

¹ Orig. 3 Eliz. 3 p. rot. 108.

Tenthes of the yerely value of xxs. And be dymysed in forme afore seide by indentur of the date above mencyned and bycause the said indentur beyng dated so nere unto the Relacon of the statute maide for the avoydyng[e] [*i.e.* annulling] of certeyn leasses seemed doutfull unto the commissyones uppon thaxaminacon of witnesses in that poynte yt ys deposed by one [blank] Clarke that the same leasse was sealed and delyvered by the prebendary beyng within age the morowe after the date therof beyng ii dayes before the Relacon of the said estatute."

The property of the prebend, valued at the above rent of £10, was sold at 22 years' purchase to John Seymour, on June 16, 1548. At least, that seems to be the effect of the various entries in the Augmentation Office Miscellanea Book, lxviii, p. 384 bis., from which my information is taken.

The prebend of *Walton*, called also Bridgwalton, or Canon Walton, had been let by the prebendary, John Synger, to Thomas Fermour, 20th August, 1545, on a five years' lease, and so on from five years, at an annual rent of £6:13:4. This also was disposed of at 22 years' purchase to John Seymour (see above), who paid for the two prebends the sum of £366:13:4.

The prebend of *Underton* was sold on 19th July, 1548, to Sir John Perrent, at 22 years' purchase of the rent of £6:6:0, at which it had been let on 22nd March, 1542, to Thomas Hatley, by Hamlet Slenge or Slynge, the last prebendary thereof (Augm. Off. Misc. Book, lxvii, p. 583), and on 24th January, 1550, Sir John Peryent and Thomas Reve, gent., have licence to dispose of the same to Roger Smythe and Frances his wife. (Extract from Patent Roll, in possession of Dr. R. R. James.)

The prebend of *Morville*, let to John Seymour with the deanery, in 1548, had by the 23rd June, 1554, been acquired by Thomas Reve and George Cotton, who on that date had licence from Queen Mary to alienate the same to William Acton, of Aldenham (Orig. I Mary, p. 5, no. 378).

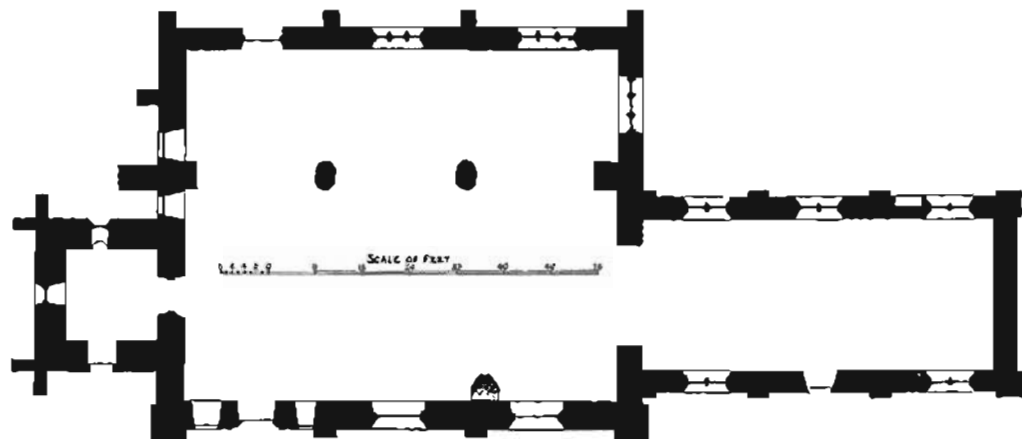
Of the buildings connected with St. Mary's College, nothing now remains. The Collegiate Church never developed into anything of architectural importance, and, in the later Middle Ages, shared in the general decay of the Castle. Leland describes it as in his day 'a rude thyng.' It was eventually taken down in 1792 and the present classical structure erected in its place, the architect being Thomas Telford, the eminent road-engineer, at that time

county surveyor of Salop. Fortunately he had the discernment to make a careful plan of the building he was demolishing, and to have a drawing made of the view of the church from the North, which together with the sketch of the south side in Parkes' MS. (B.M. Add. 21,181, fol. 21) enable us to form a fairly accurate idea of its appearance (plates ii and iii).

It seems to have consisted of a nave and chancel of thirteenth-century date, to which a north aisle was afterwards added, no doubt to accommodate the chantry founded in the church by Richard Dammas in 1294 (Eyton, i, p. 114; *Salop Archæological, etc., Transactions*, ix, Series I, p. 123). The long chancel would be required to accommodate the stalls of the prebendaries and their vicars, and the apparent absence of an east window is explained by the fact that it was blocked by the 'altar piece of exquisite workmanship,' described in the Rev. H. Stackhouse's notes (1741) to Cornes' 'Topographical Description of Bridgnorth' (printed in *Salop Archæol. Transactions*, ix, p. 202). The old church was normally orientated, but the building of 1792 has its axis N. and S. with chancel to the S. and the façade of entrance at the northern end, surmounted by a cupola, and evidently designed to be an appropriate finish to the *vista* along East Castle Street.

No record exists of any houses of residence for dean, prebendaries, or vicars, within the Castle, and we are in no better case with regard to the estates of the five prebendaries; but we have a document which not only proves the existence of a manor-house on the dean's prebend of Ludstone, but enables us to form some sort of mental picture of its appearance. In July 1410, the king issued a commission to survey the dilapidations alleged against the dean, Columba de Dunbarre (see the biographical section of this article for a fuller account of him). As Columba's presentation to the Deanery of Bridgnorth, in 1403, was doubtless in recompense of the help given by his father, the Earl of Dunbar, in the campaign of Homildon Hill, so the 'treason' alleged against him probably meant no more than that the Earl had composed his quarrel with his sovereign, and returned to his allegiance, recalling his son from England with what money he could lay his hands on. After describing and assessing the dilapidations of the

ST. MARY MACDALENE, BRIDGNORTH



GROUND PLAN OF CHURCH DESTROYED IN 1792

(Designed at Apley Park)

ST. MARY MAGDALENE, BRIDGNORTH



S.E. VIEW, BY D. PARKES, 1791



N.W. VIEW, BY JOHN TELFORD, 1792

[Original at Apley Park

chapels of Quatford, Bobbington, and Claverley, which all belonged to the Dean's portion, the record goes on to say that at the manor of Ludstone the hall had been pulled down and timber and lead sold to the value of 100 marks; the lead had been removed from the 'capital chamber' next the hall, and timber, valued at 60 marks, had rotted; a chamber called 'le ffrerechaumbre' had been pulled down, and lead and timber sold (70 marks); the kitchen, valued at 30 marks, and the bakery (20 marks) had been uncovered and left to fall down; a stable had been pulled down, and lead and timber sold (40 marks); the gatehouse (le zatehouse) containing four bays, had been uncovered and left unrepaired, and its stone base (40 marks) had been allowed to decay, so that it rotted or fell to the ground; a cow-shed had been pulled down, and lead and timber sold (60 marks); and a grange and its porch had been pulled down, and lead and timber sold (30 marks). The late Dean, Thomas Tutbury, had got together, for the building of a stone house on the manor, free stone newly worked and ready for raising, 11,000 new shingles and 17,000 burnt tiles for the roofs and repairs of the hall and other houses in the manor, and 300 great boards, fourteen feet long and newly sawn, for the repair of faults in the chambers of the manor house. These the Dean had sold. The dilapidations and wastes were assessed at 900 marks, and the cost of repairs at £1,000. The Dean had embezzled £100, left for dilapidations by Thomas Tutbury's will, and had departed to Scotland as a traitor.¹

We may assume that the commissioners mentioned all the buildings of the manor-house, since the object was to make the report as serious as possible; and from a study of their findings, we gather that there was (1) the great hall, built of timber and covered with lead, (2) the great chamber at the upper end of the hall, of similar construction, and (3) the 'ffrerechaumbre' (whatever that may mean) adjoining it. At the other end of the hall was (4) the kitchen and bakery, which we may take to include the buttery and other service buildings; the stable (5), cow-shed (6), and barn with porch (7), were probably detached buildings, and entrance to the whole was through the

¹ *Patent Roll Calendar* 1408-1413, pp. 435, 436. See also *Salop Archaeol. etc. Transactions*, 4th Series i, p. 121).

gatehouse (8), which was of considerable size (four bays) and the only building in which stone seems to have been used, and that only in the lower part. We may therefore conclude that the other buildings were of timber only. The general impression is that of a small manor-house of rather antiquated type, which had probably only been occupied by the bailiff, and had long been falling into decay. Dean Thomas Tutbury had made preparations for its rebuilding in stone, after the fashion of the day, but had not begun the work, and Columba de Dunbarre had converted whatever he could into ready money and gone off with it to Scotland,—where they made him a bishop.¹

So far as we know, nothing in the way of repair was done at Ludstone manor house, and an entirely new house was built on the site, after the Dissolution, by the Whitmores, about 1607. This, with considerable modifications and alterations, is the manor house of to-day.

We have, in the foregoing pages, attempted to trace the story of the foundation, growth and decay of the College of the Blessed Mary Magdalene within the King's Castle at Bridgnorth. We have seen that from being a private foundation it rose to acquire, through the treason of a great Marcher Lord, the status of a Royal Free Chapel; we have noted how it exercised a 'peculiar' jurisdiction, independent of any bishop, within its own area, and how with the general advance of civilisation, its endowments are rated at an ever increasing figure, till the great confiscation of the sixteenth century. The College is now extinguished; the castles of Quatford and of Bridgnorth, with which it was associated, have alike disappeared, except one battered fragment; the 'peculiar' jurisdiction is abolished, the endowments have passed into lay hands; and there remain only the churches (or their modern representatives) in which the poorly paid *capellani* ministered, in Bridgnorth, Claverley, Bobbington, Alveley, and Quatford.

¹ Of Moray in 1422. See his biography below, 81, 82.

APPENDIX

"PARTICULARS FOR GRANT" OF THE DEANERY OF BRIDGNORTH TO
JOHN SEYMOUR, 1548.

Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 605. fol. 41b.

Com' Libera Capella Regia sive collegium beate Marie Magdalene in
SALOP'. ecclesia parochiali beate Marie Magdalene infra castrum de
Bridgenorthe fundata.

(N.B.—The first item is given in full : the rest in a summarised translation.)

De firma Rectorie sive scitus manerii de Ludston infra parochiam de
Claverley in comitatu predicto cum omnibus glebis terris sive
dominical' terris pratis pascuis et pasturis cum omnibus suis
pertinentibus
et decimis feni et herbagii parochie de Bubington decimis feni et
fructuum de Hethton
cum decimis garbarum de Shepley Hopston et Draicote decimis
porcorum porcellorum pullorum aucarum et aliorum consimilium
renovantibus infra dictam parochiam de Claverley sic ad firmam
dimissis Willelmo Billingesley per Decanum et capitulum libere
Capelle regie predicte per indenturam sigillo communi eorum
sigillatam gerentem datam xxij^d. Junii anno xxxiiij^{mo}. Regni
Regis Henrici octavi pro termino xxj annorum extunc proxime
sequencium Reddendo inde annuatim ad festum sancti Martini
in hyeme et sancti Marci [?] per annum equaliter ixli. ijs. vjd.

Rent and farm of divers customary tenants of the aforesaid manor of
Ludston in divers holdings lvs. vjd. ob.

Farm of tithes of hay and sheaves in parish of S. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, as
let to Richard Horde for 21 years xiijs. iiijd.

Farm of parish church of Quatford, co. Salop, with all tithes, as let to
John Preen, clerk, for 21 years. 'et predictus Johannes ministrabit
in ecclesia predicta et exonerabit predictum decanum et successores
suos cure parochianorum ibidem et reddet annuatim predicto Decano
et successoribus suis vjs. viijd.'

Farm of tithes of grain in Bovington, co. Stafford, as let to Richard
Billingesley, at annual rent of vjli.

Farm of tithes of sheaves in Gateager, Whitleygrene, and all tithes
accruing from lands in tenure of William Gattager, with the half of
the tithes of Whittimer as let to the said William 'pro termino
annorum ut dicitur' at a rent of iiij li. ix.

Farm of the other half of the tithes of Whittimer as let to Richard
Whittimer at a rent of xls.

Tithes of the township of Sutton in tenure of William Billingesley xxiijs.
iiijd. of the township of Claverley in tenure of Arthur Gattager and
Francis Pirry lxs. of the township of Broughton in tenure of Richard

Croke *xxxs.* of Frencote [Farmcote] in tenure of Richard Pirry and Stephen Smyth *liijs. iiijd.* of Woudewalle in tenure of Robert Stokes *lxs.* of Beanbridge [Beobridge] in tenure of Humfrey Proctor and Roger Pytte *liiij. iiijd.* of Ludstone in tenure of John Poulteney and John Pote *xls.* of Aston in tenure of Hugh Preen and John Billingsley *xls.* as let to them from year to year *xviijli.*

Tithe of hay in township of Claverley *iij. iiijd.* Broughton *iij. iiijd.* Fernecote *xijd.* Hopston *ijs.* Ludston *xijd.* Shipley *ijs.* Sutton *xd.* Beobruge *iiij.* and Aston *ijs. vjd.* as let to divers persons from year to year at a total rent of *xxs.*

Tithe of fruit, flax, pigs, geese and the like of the township of Whittymere *xijd.* Claverley *xijd.* Broughton *vjd.* Farmcote, Hopston, Dodycote and Woudewalle *xijd.* as let to divers persons from year to year *iij. vjd.*

Tithe of wool accruing yearly in par. of Claverley, co. Salop, and Bovington, co. Stafford, collected by the said dean for his own use, estimated to be worth if let in common years *xijli. vjs. viijd.*

Tithes of lambs and calves in the said parishes gathered in like manner estimated as worth in common years *vjli.*

Tithes of the mills pertaining to the said deanery *xs. viijd.*

Profits of the Easter-book and oblations of the said parishes, worth in common years *iiijli.*

Portion of tithe in Studdesdon called 'Luddesdon-tithe' in tenure of Thomas Amyas, gen. at will *vis. viijd.*

Tithe of the mills of Penston [Pendlestone] in the said county worth in common years *xxs.*

Profits of the Easter-book of the parish of S. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, and of the oblations there in common years *lxs.*

Tithe of wool, lambs, pigs, ducks, and the like there, worth in common years *xij. iiijd.*

Tithe of fruit, flax, pigs and ducks and the like in the said parish let to divers persons at will *xs.*

Probate of wills, and mortuaries, and other spirituals *xxs.*

Profits of fairs and markets there worth in common years *xxvjs. viijd.*

REPRIS' IN	{	Tithes to the king by year <i>iiijli.</i> here not charged. Annual	} Rex exonerabit.
		alms to the poor at his king's command <i>xxs.</i> Bread and	
		wine for the Communion by the year <i>vs.</i> For wax and	
		altar-lights in common years <i>xs.</i> For four sermons	
		annually in the parish of St. Mary Magdalene <i>xiijs.</i>	
		<i>iiijd.</i> <i>xlvijs. iiijd.</i>	
	{	The stipend of one Conduct or Sexton of Claverley parish	} <i>viii. vijs. iiijd.</i>
		<i>xxvjs. viijd.</i> Of Bovington <i>vs.</i>	
		The Bishop's officers by year <i>viiijd.</i>	
		The fee of the Seneschal of the manor of Ludston by year	
	{	<i>xiijs. iiijd.</i> Fee of William Billingsley receiver of the	} <i>xlvijs. viijd.</i>
		aforesaid possessions <i>xxs.</i> and the Commissioner's fee	
		there <i>xiijs. iiijd.</i>	

Remanet clare per annum

^{xx}iiij *ijli. vs. ij*d.* ob.*

The premisses are all the lands, etc, belonging to the said Deanery.

Rex exonerabit. { 'Memorand.' that vij*li.* is profit of the Easter-book and oblations, which be casual.

'Memorand.' that the Dean is charged with the serving of the cures of St. Mary Magd. and St. Leonards, and cure of Claverley, co. Salop, and cure of Bobbington, co. Stafford, in which parishes it is necessary to have Vicars endowed with convenient living mete to find lerned men to preach Goddes holy word to the edifieng of the parochiens.

Item the Deane is charged with the cure of the parish of Quatford which his fermor there is bound to discharge during his terme.

The said dean is also charged with the Reparacion of the Chauncells of S. Mary Magd., S. Leonard, Claverly and Bovington.

PREBENDA { As let by John Fisher prebendary to Fulk Lee
DE MOREVELDE { 4. Mar. 23. Hen VIII. for 7 years at rent of vi*li.*

Sum total of deanery and prebend ^{xx}iiij viii*li. vs. ij*d.* ob.*

(Note, that the prebend of Eardington is worth 10*li.*, Walton, 6*li.* and Underton 6*li.* 6*s.* of which particulars have been sent to John Seymour, and Alveley is worth 21*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, of which no particulars have yet been furnished.)

Direction, that a lease of the above for 21 years at rent of £87 : 5 : 2½*d.* be granted to John Seymour.

PART II

THE DEANS AND CANONS OF BRIDGNORTH

BY A. HAMILTON THOMPSON

The collegiate church of St. Mary Magdalene at Bridgnorth is a peculiarly interesting example of a type of foundation which, though designed for pious purposes and, so far as we know, maintaining throughout its history the duty of divine service which was the ostensible reason of its existence, was nevertheless employed to meet requirements of an entirely different kind. Originally founded and endowed by a great feudal magnate, and, within a few years of its foundation, established permanently in the precinct of his castle, its object may be regarded as twofold. Its revenues, divided into prebends, supplied the incomes of the clerical staff to which the administration of his household was necessarily entrusted; while its services, performed by the household clerks in person or by deputy, assured to him, in life and after death, the benefit of that perpetual intercession at the altar and in the choir offices which was profitable to his salvation. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the future of such institutions, staffed by secular clerks, was uncertain. Experiments in the organisation of communities of clergy upon the basis of a common life and equal shares in a common fund had little chance of lasting success. Though in a few instances they left traces upon the constitution of cathedral and collegiate chapters, the system of assigning separate prebends of varying value to the members of such bodies weakened the common bond and gave a merely nominal significance to the ideal of corporate life. Under the influence of the growth of communities of canons regular, bound to the religious life, a number of collegiate establishments throughout the twelfth century were converted into houses of Augustinian canons. Where the secular organisation, such as it was, continued to exist, the result, conspicuous in cathedral churches, was the division of the chapter into a close

corporation of residents, to whom the profits of the common estates of the church were reserved, and the large non-resident body whose responsibilities were discharged by vicars choral.¹

In ordinary circumstances, it is probable that the small college of six canons at Bridgnorth would have preserved its identity, like a few similar foundations, of which the collegiate church of St. Mary in Leicester castle is an example,² in a somewhat formal and inanimate fashion. In point of fact, whatever its earliest activities may have been, its contribution to ecclesiastical history is as insignificant as theirs. Its deanery and prebends were not merely legally, but actually sinecures, held habitually by non-residents whose active duties lay elsewhere. No collection of statutes has survived to show in what way its internal affairs were regulated and its services supplied. If the chapter ever met, it must have been at rare intervals. The fabric of the church from time to time suffered neglect, and at no time, so far as we know, did it undergo any conspicuous enlargement or reconstruction. Its influence on local history is confined to what we know of the administration of prebendal estates which lay in the neighbourhood of Bridgnorth and of the dealings of the dean's court with the subjects of his peculiar jurisdiction; and such evidence belongs to a late and limited period. Its interest to the historian lies mainly in the personalities of its deans and canons.³ In other small collegiate establishments, where we are able to obtain anything like consecutive lists of their members, we find that prebends fell as a rule to persons of small distinction whose connexions were mainly local, and who were seldom of more importance than the priests admitted to fellowships in the chantry colleges of the later middle ages. At Bridgnorth, on the other hand, under royal patronage, the deanery and prebends were constantly

¹ See *Notes on Colleges of Secular Canons in England*, contributed by the present writer to *Archaeol. Journ.* LXXIV, 139-199.

² After the foundation of the abbey of St. Mary of the Meadows at Leicester in 1143, the church of St. Mary was appropriated to it. The college survived, but the deans and canons were appointed and

instituted by the abbot and convent, as ordinaries of the church.

³ Canons, it is perhaps needless to say, is the correct term which expresses the relation of these clerks to the church as distinct from their relation to their prebends. The distinction between canons and prebendaries in the first of these relations received no general official sanction until the sixteenth century at earliest.

filled by clerks who held high offices of state, and the study of their names and appointments reflects the vicissitudes of political history as clearly as, and with even more clearness than, a study of the *personnel* of the great cathedral churches, whose best preferments became perquisites of government officials.

From the time of the forfeiture of the estates of Robert of Belesme, the church of St. Mary Magdalene was reckoned as a royal free chapel, exempt from the ordinary jurisdiction of the diocesan and his archdeacon, and at the entire disposal of the Crown. A well-known mandate, issued by Edward II to the papal collector in 1317-18,¹ declares the immunity from ecclesiastical taxation of certain churches as royal free chapels. These, nine in number, were St. Martin's-le-Grand in London, St. Peter's at Wolverhampton, St. Mary's at Stafford, Wimborne Minster, Bridgnorth, St. Mary's at Shrewsbury, Tettenhall, Penkridge, and St. Oswald's at Gloucester.² In two of the nine, the immediate control of the chapels had passed into other hands. St. Oswald's at Gloucester, before the end of the eleventh century, had been given to the archbishop of York, and had been converted, at the end of the reign of Stephen, into a priory of Austin canons.³ From the reign of John, the deanery of Penkridge had belonged *ex officio* to the archbishops of Dublin, with ordinary jurisdiction.⁴ In six instances, the deaneries were in the gift of the Crown, but the prebends, varying in number from thirteen at Stafford to three at Tettenhall, though frequently in the king's hands, appear usually to have lain at the disposition of the several deans. At Bridgnorth, on the other hand, appointments to all the prebends, as well as the deanery, regularly belonged to the Crown, whose letters

¹ Printed in *Monasticon*, vi (3), 1467; see *Cal. Close Rolls* 1313-1318, p. 596.

² A few other chapels, chiefly in castles, as at Shrewsbury and Wallingford, might have been added to the list. The term, 'free chapel,' often considered as implying originally a direct dependence on the Crown, was actually employed of many manorial chapels which by custom were exempt from subjection to the church of the parish in which they stood. Such free chapels often became regarded as independent parish churches: they were common in the

dioceses of Hereford and Lichfield: cf. e.g. the chapels of Brosley and Willey, both locally in the parish of Wenlock. An interesting example of a free chapel, founded at a comparatively late date, which eventually superseded the local parish church is that of Noseley, Leices., for which see *Trans. Leices. Archaeol. Soc.* xii, 233-264.

³ See the article by the present writer on *The Jurisdiction of the Abps. of York in Gloucestershire, etc.* (*Trans. Bristol and Glouces. Archaeol. Soc.* xliii, 85-180.

⁴ See *Pat. Rolls*, 1225-1232, p. 97.

patent were equivalent to letters of institution. Induction to the deanery was committed to a lay official, usually the constable of the castle or the sheriff of Shropshire. In the case of a prebend, delivery of seisin was sometimes entrusted to the same authority, but the mandate for installation was directed to the dean. Thus, with the help of the Patent Rolls, it is possible to give approximately complete lists, though not without gaps here and there, of deans and canons, which contrast favourably with the broken lists in other places, even in a church so subject to royal influence as St. Martin's-le-Grand. Only in the two royal chapels which were added to the number by Edward III, St. George's at Windsor and St. Stephen's at Westminster, can we obtain equally satisfactory results.¹

In the lists which follow, the dates are those of the mandates which authorise possession. Usually, the documents take the form of grants. Occasionally they are calendared as presentations, and sometimes only the mandate for induction is recorded. It would be unnecessary to distinguish these, as the necessary date is that of the emanation of royal letters patent, in whatever form. The not infrequent duplication of a grant was generally due to some formal error or omission in the original patent: where it arises from other reasons, they are generally clear from the context.

As soon as the names of clerks preferred to prebends in the college begin to be recorded, it is obvious that the chapel was already regarded, at the opening of the thirteenth century, as a source of rewards for clerks in the king's service or under his protection. A mere glance at the lists will show that in after times persons appointed to prebends are almost habitually described as king's clerks, though this qualification, if the printed *Calendars of Patent Rolls* are to be trusted, is sometimes omitted where it might reasonably be expected to follow the name.² Strictly speaking this title implies that the person so described belonged to a definite group of clerks employed in the royal service, whether in the household or in one of the departments of state; and naturally, in presenting a clerk to a vacant

¹ For lists of the clergy of St. Martin's-le-Grand and St. Stephen's see Hennessy, *Nov. Rep.* pp. 288-291, 451-456. The lists for

Windsor are in Le Neve, *Fasti*, iii, 379-414.

² As in the grant of the deanery to Thomas of Brantingham in 1369.

benefice which provided its holder with a reasonable income, the king and his advisers found the most eligible candidates among the clerks of his court. As will be seen, a large proportion of the Bridgnorth clergy deserved this formal distinction. On the other hand, although it was undoubtedly regarded as a privilege to be able to assume the style *clericus domini regis*, the term was certainly applied widely; and the king, in granting a benefice *dilecto clerico suo*, did not necessarily imply a special relation between himself and the grantee, any more than the statement, familiar to students of plea rolls, that a series of patrons of a living, one after another, have presented their clerks to benefices, implies that such clerks were chosen from their immediate dependents. For the purposes of a presentation, in fact, the presentee is regarded in a general sense as the patron's clerk; and this holds good of royal presentations, and explains why, from time to time, persons who were never directly engaged, so far as we know, in the king's service, receive the honorary style of king's clerk.

With this qualification, however, to which must be added the rider that presentation to a prebend in a royal free chapel may be fairly taken as equivalent to admission to the circle of genuine king's clerks, the fact remains that, from the thirteenth century onwards, the prebends of Bridgnorth were given with great regularity to eminent servants of state. This is true of royal free chapels in general. Professor Tout, in several passages of his *Chapters in Mediaeval Administrative History*, has remarked the close, though not altogether exclusive, connexion of the deanery and canonries of St. Martin's-le-Grand with the officers of the wardrobe¹; and this is an unusual example of the practical appropriation of an ecclesiastical foundation to a single department. The deaneries of Stafford, Tettenhall and Wolverhampton were treated as perquisites of servants of the Crown; and, when these deaneries and that of Penkridge were vacant, and appointments to prebends lay with the king, his clerks reaped the profit. When, in the course of the fourteenth century, the patronage of the deanery and prebends of Tamworth reverted to the Crown, and the church became virtually a royal chapel, the same thing happened. The custom was even more conspicuous

¹ Tout, *op. cit.* i, 196.

in the royal chapel in Hastings castle, which, although it was subject to episcopal jurisdiction, was filled with the king's nominees as regularly as any of his free chapels; and here, as at Bridgnorth, the individual prebends were in his gift.¹ It may be remarked that in all these instances the deaneries, unlike those of cathedral churches before the reign of Henry VIII, involved no cure of souls and were consequently compatible with any number of similar benefices; so that there was no obstacle to their tenure by a clerk whose stipend was met by the accumulation of sinecures.²

The attempt at a series of biographies of the deans of Bridgnorth appended to the lists of deans and canons will illustrate these general remarks, and the present writer hopes to add to this, in process of time, similar notes upon the careers of the various prebendaries, for which he has made large collections. These, however, may be anticipated by a summary conspectus of the constitution of the chapter through the various stages of its history. When we are able for the first time to judge of that constitution, in the reign of John, the members of the chapter are composed of two elements, royal officials and foreign dependents of the king, the dean being among the latter. Master Matthew was the king's physician; master John Witeing was one of his justices.³ The archdeacon of Stafford, who was presented to his prebend and the church of Worfield on the same day,⁴ had local interests; but he held important offices under the Crown as an itinerant justice and as an envoy to foreign powers, was dean of St. Mary's, Stafford,

¹ There are lists of the deans and canons of Hastings in C. Dawson, *Hastings Castle*, 1909, vol. ii.

² The thirty-four persons who are known to have received grants of the deanery of Bridgnorth include two deans and two canons of St. Martin's-le-Grand, two deans and two canons of St. Stephen's Westminster, two deans and two canons of Windsor, four canons of Hastings, two canons of Tamworth, three deans of Tettenhall, and one of Wolverhampton. Of 158 presentees to prebends in Bridgnorth, apart from canons who succeeded to the dean, four were deans of St. Martin's, one of St. Stephen's, one of Hastings, one of Stafford, one of Tamworth, two of Tettenhall, one of Wimborne Minster, and one of Wolverhampton. Of

the remainder, five were canons of St. Martin's, twelve of St. Stephen's, eleven of Windsor, twenty of Hastings, two of Penkridge, ten of Tamworth and one of Tettenhall. Of these 95 appointments in other churches, however, several persons held more than one each. Thus, Nicholas Slake was dean of St. Stephen's, Windsor and Tettenhall, and canon of Hastings and Tamworth; while William Packington was dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand and Stafford, and canon of Windsor, Hastings and Tamworth. The total result is that, of 192 deans and canons of Bridgnorth, 64 (i.e. 33 per cent.) were beneficed in the other royal chapels above mentioned.

³ *Rot. Litt. Pat.* (Record Comm.) p. 72.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 48.

canon of Lincoln and Exeter, and held benefices in other dioceses.¹ There is no indication that any of the canons, English or foreign, were able to reside at the chapel, and the probabilities are much against it. Although, as time went on, the foreign element disappeared, and the chapel, owing to its connexion with the king, was untouched by papal provisions, its non-resident constitution remained unchanged.

At the same time, it need hardly be said that the foreign clerks who were prominent among the courtiers of Henry III were well represented among the canons of Bridgnorth. Peter of Rivaux, the nephew or son of Peter des Roches, bishop of Winchester, held the deanery for thirty-eight years (1224-1262) without disturbance during the interval in which his power in the exchequer and the wardrobe suffered eclipse.² It is not easy at this date to connect all the canons with their actual prebends, and the arrangement adopted in our lists, though probable, is not absolutely certain. Walton prebend, however, was held by a succession of aliens, an Italian who appeared first in England during the days of Pandulf's mission to John, and two Frenchmen, or probably in one of these cases a Savoyard. Guy of La Palud, keeper of the wardrobe of Eleanor of Provence, was prebendary of Underton in 1255³: his successor in that office, Hugh of La Penne,⁴ became prebendary of Alveley, or at any rate of one of the two original portions of Eardington, a little later. The king's wardrobe was certainly well represented about 1240. Peter of Rivaux, it is true, was no longer engaged in its work; and, while William of Haverhill's period of office in the wardrobe was the period of control by English clerks after the fall of Rivaux in 1234, that of William de Burgh belongs to the return of foreign influence after 1240.⁵ Yet, while the three represented different administrative *régimes* which had supplanted each other in succession, they all owed their preferments to the same reason, and Bridgnorth, for the time being, might compare with St. Martin's-le-Grand as a nest of wardrobe clerks.

¹ *Ibid.* pp. 11, 70, 75, 78, etc.

² See article in *D.N.B.* on Rivaux or Rivalis, Peter de. The material for this and other articles of the same kind, referred to in this article, has been largely augmented in recent years.

³ *Rot. Hund.* (Rec. Comm.), ii, 59.

⁴ He was no doubt a foreigner, and is not to be connected with Penn in Staffordshire, between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton, which is frequently called La Penne.

⁵ See Tout, *op. cit.* i, 244, 260.

Of the other canons during this period we have less information. At its end two famous names occur, both connected with the royal chancery, Henry of Wingham¹ (Alveley, 1253) and John Maunsel, provost of Beverley, whose death in 1264 left Underton vacant. Wingham's numerous preferments included the deaneries of St. Martin's-le-Grand and Tettenhall, and the prebend of Peasemarsch in Hastings. Maunsel's pluralism has passed into a legend and was much exaggerated by his contemporaries²; although the number of benefices which he held was considerable, his only other recorded preferment in a royal chapel was the deanery of Wimborne Minster. As Matthew the physician appears in our lists at an early date, so Alexander the leech preceded Wingham in Alveley, and shortly afterwards (1263) we find William of Fécamp, the king's physician, in Eardington.

After the death of Peter of Rivaux, appointments to the deanery for some time were made under the influence of prince Edward. Michael Fienles³ was chancellor of his household, on whose nomination to the see of Têrouanne, Stephen of London, one of the prince's chaplains, succeeded. This took place during the period between Lewes and Evesham, when Henry III was in the power of Simon de Montfort; and it was doubtless owing to this that Stephen was superseded in March 1264-5 by the great earl's brother William de Montfort, already appointed to Maunsel's prebend, who, thirty years later, as dean of St. Paul's, was to die of fear in convocation before the wrath of Edward I. Although the ousted Stephen was restored to the deanery in 1266-7, neither he nor Montfort seem actually to have obtained possession. Bonet of St. Quintin (1268-1290) certainly owed his preferment to prince Edward, in whose service he long remained; and Edward I had no more faithful servant than the great minister Walter Langton, who succeeded to the deanery in 1290, while keeper of the wardrobe, and apparently retained it for a time after his accession to the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield in

¹ There is an article on Wingham in *D.N.B.*, by W. E. Rhodes.

² The legend that he held three hundred benefices occurs, e.g. in the article in *D.N.B.* (Mansel or Maunsel, John, by the

late C. L. Kingsford). See the notes on his career by the present writer, *Assoc. Archæol. Soc. R. & P.* xxxiii, 50-52.

³ This seems to be the natural form of the name; but the forms are many.

1296. In 1290 he had been dean of Tetterhall for fifteen years, but resigned this preferment shortly after.

From 1265 to Langton's retirement from the deanery in 1298, very few appointments to prebends are recorded, and it is possible that changes were actually few. The only name of importance is that of John de Luco, or de Luca, appointed to one of the Eardington prebends in 1275,¹ and still there in 1291 and probably till much later. John of Lucca, however, was not connected with any department of government, but was a papal collector resident in England, whose name as canon of St. Paul's is familiar to students of ecclesiastical records. Of the other prebendaries, including the three persons of the name of Bruyn or la Brun (Brown) who make their appearance between 1289 and 1295, and of whom William le Brun (1295) survived till about 1334, there are next to no details.² Robert Turberville (Walton, c. 1291-1295) was rector of Wheathill, between Bridgnorth and Ludlow,³ and his successor in Walton, Raymond de Ferrières (1295-1298), canon of Salisbury and Beverley and dean of St. Séverin at Bordeaux, was probably of more importance in Guienne than in England.

The ten years, 1298-1308, during which the deanery was occupied by three members of the house of Savoy, the last of whom, Peter, was also dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand, contain only two appointments to prebends. Thomas of Loughor (Walton, 1298), canon of Hastings in 1304, is known chiefly as a canon of Wells; but Walter of Bedwin (Morville, 1306-1317), was cofferer of the wardrobe from 1303 to 1307, and later was a remembrancer of the exchequer. Among his other preferments he held the deanery of Tamworth and a prebend in Hastings, and in 1306 he was also presented to the treasurer'ship of York, his contest for the possession of which against a papal provisor lasted with many vicissitudes till his death in 1327.

Ingelard of Warley, dean 1308-1318, canon of

¹ *Tax. Ecd.* (Rec. Comm.), p. 162, indicates that this was the prebend generally known as Alveley; but see the lists which follow.

² It is possible that Nicholas le Brun and John Bruyn may have belonged to the neighbourhood, as the name occurs not infrequently in local records about this

time (cf. Eyton I. 312), but the name is too common to allow of any certainty on the point.

³ Instituted 9th Nov. 1288 (*Hereford Reg. Scinfeld*, p. 527). The next institution was on 27th Nov. 1296, when no cause of vacancy is given (*ibid.* p. 530).

St. Martin's-le-Grand and (1314-1318) dean of Tettenhall, has considerable importance as keeper of the wardrobe. Before the accession of Edward II, he was keeper of the prince's wardrobe, and his fortunes were closely linked with those of his master during the earlier part of the reign.¹ Thomas Charlton, controller of the wardrobe 1316-1318, and subsequently keeper of the privy seal and treasurer of the exchequer,² was a canon of Bridgnorth in 1309; but his prebend is uncertain, though Eardington seems most likely. There is no record of his appointment upon the Patent Rolls, nor is there any grant of this prebend between 1275 and 1336. Charlton, who was consecrated bishop of Hereford in 1327, must have resigned it before the second of these dates. Of the remaining prebendaries of the reign of Edward II, Henry of Ludgershall (Morville, 1317-1328) had been clerk of the prince's buttery from 1301 to 1307.³ William of Shenton or Shevington (Walton, 1317) succeeded Ingelard of Warley as dean of Tettenhall in 1318⁴ and appears to have died about 1340⁵; but there is no further mention of his prebend in Bridgnorth till 1367, and his name does not occur as connected with any public appointment.

The history of the prebend of Underton after 1321 affords some interest. Theobald of Troyes, who vacated it in that year, was a clerk in the household of queen Isabel.⁶ He exchanged the prebend for one in York with another Frenchman, Maurice of Poissy, who may fairly be conjectured to have been a clerk in the same service. In June 1326 Maurice's prebend was granted, on the ground that he was dead, to Ralph Blount, a clerk who was beneficed in Ireland.⁷ The date corresponds to the absence of the queen and Mortimer in France before the revolution which swept Edward II from the throne. On 2nd March following, when Edward III was on the throne and Isabel and Mortimer in power, the grant to Blount was cancelled. Nevertheless, on 6th December 1330, he had letters of protection as prebendary of Underton, that is to say, some

¹ See Tout, *op. cit.* ii, 226 sqq.

² *Ibid.* ii, 239. The article on Charlton in *D.N.B.* is by Prof. Tout.

³ Tout, *op. cit.* ii, 171.

⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1317-1321, p. 126.

⁵ He was at any rate the late dean of

Tettenhall on 8th March, 1340-1 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1340-1343, p. 147).

⁶ *Cal. Papal Letters* ii, 85. His patronymic was Rotarii, i.e. Rouer (*ibid.* ii, 291).

⁷ In 1311 he was rector of Painstown and Kilskeer, co. and dio. Meath (*ibid.* ii, 89).

seven weeks after the arrest of Mortimer at Nottingham ; and it was not until eight to nine months later, when the queen mother's relations with her son had improved, that Maurice of Poissy was restored to his prebend, which he exchanged shortly afterwards for a prebend in St. Wulfran's at Abbeville with Walter of London. The dates answer so closely to those of the political changes of the time that the reasons of these successive grants and revocations of a single benefice may be assumed with little margin for doubt.

Some reason of a similar kind may underlie the grant of the deanery to Henry of Harley in July 1327, on the alleged death of Thomas of Eyton ; but it is not so easy to trace, and the error, if it was actually one, was rectified a few weeks later. Neither Eyton (1318-1334) nor his successor Thomas Talbot (1334-1353) were king's clerks in any but a nominal sense. Eyton, otherwise known as Knockyn, a name which sufficiently indicates that he was of Shropshire origin, seems to have owed preferment to his position in the household of archbishop Reynolds ; while Thomas Talbot, apparently a younger son of the lord of Goodrich, who had obtained the prebend of Morville in 1328, spent most of his clerical life in the service of the bishops of Hereford. With Thomas Keynes (1353-1362), almoner to Edward III, we return to the ordinary type of king's clerk, for whom benefices were forthcoming in royal chapels. Keynes, who obtained a good deal of ecclesiastical preferment without any notable prize, held prebends in Hastings, St. Stephen's, and Tamworth, and was warden of the free chapel in Shrewsbury castle. His successor, Robert Yves (1362-1369), was another clerk whose chief business lay in the diocese of Hereford. The short tenure of the deanery by Thomas of Brantingham (1369-1370) was closed by his promotion to the see of Exeter. In Brantingham, keeper of the wardrobe 1368-1369, and treasurer of the exchequer for the first time in 1369, we have, after a long interval, a highly distinguished official whose political career continued until 1390, when for a short time after Richard II's recovery of power he acted as treasurer. On Brantingham's retirement from the deanery, it was given to Henry of Wakefield, afterwards bishop of Worcester, his successor as keeper of the wardrobe. For some reason, however, the grant was revoked, and the

last dean during the reign of Edward III, Roger of Ottery (1370-1387), was a typical ecclesiastical official of the period, who had no connexion with affairs of state and was largely occupied with the business of the dioceses of Worcester and Hereford.

During this reign, the successions in the various prebends can be traced readily, the only important gap being that in the prebend of Walton to which allusion has been made. At the beginning of the reign, the tenure of Alveley prebend by William le Brun, who had obtained it more than thirty years before, was disturbed by erroneous presentations. Here, again, no sufficient reason can be found; but his restoration coincides with the end of that period of unrest which followed the death of Edward II, and the prevalence of mistaken reports during such a period can be well understood. After him, Walter of London (1334-1337) and Geoffrey of Chelsea (1337-1349) came to Alveley from the prebend of Underton.¹ John de Grey (1349-1350) was also the holder of prebends in Hastings and Tamworth. A clerk of more importance was Thomas of Bramber (1350-1361), receiver of the chamber and keeper of the privy seal,² dean of Wimborne Minster³ and master of St. Leonard's hospital at York,⁴ a valuable piece of royal preferment, which in time past had been held by Walter Langton together with his bishopric. John of Buckingham, who followed Bramber in 1361, was keeper of the wardrobe 1353-1357, and subsequently of the privy seal.⁵ Curiously enough, the grant of the prebend to the famous William of Wykeham, which is certain from another source and must have followed Buckingham's promotion to the bishopric of Lincoln in 1363, is not entered upon the Patent Rolls.⁶ Buckingham also succeeded Bramber as master of St. Leonard's at York⁷ and had a prebend in St. Stephen's. Wykeham, at the time of his accession to Alveley, was keeper of the privy seal in succession

¹ Both had prebends in St. Martin's-le-Grand, while Walter of London was also a canon of Hastings.

² See Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 258, 259, for the dates of Bramber's tenure of these offices.

³ 5th Aug. 1350 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1348-1350, p. 555).

⁴ 20th Aug. 1349 (*ibid.* p. 417).

⁵ Keeper of the great wardrobe 1350,

controller of the wardrobe of the household 1352, keeper of the wardrobe 1353, baron of the exchequer 1357, keeper of the privy seal 1360-1363 (Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 218; iv, 133, 405.)

⁶ For Wykeham's offices of state see Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 235-239.

⁷ *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1361-1364, p. 101 26th Oct. 1361).

to Buckingham and dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand.¹ On his appointment to the see of Winchester, when his numerous benefices fell vacant, the prebend was given to his kinsman Richard of Wykeham: the date of the grant is almost exactly concurrent with that of the election of William by the chapter of Winchester.² Richard resigned Alveley in 1375, probably by exchange of Peasemarsch prebend in Hastings with John Beneyt, but returned to Alveley for a brief period after Beneyt's resignation in 1377.

Thus, from 1350 to 1366, this prebend was continually in the hands of ministers of the Crown. The appropriation of the other prebends to members of the administration is almost equally conspicuous. In the case of Eardington, the names of Nicholas of Acton (1336-1339) and Thomas Strete (1369)³ are inconspicuous: William of Kirkby, who appears in 1343, was rector of Worfield and a canon of Lincoln and York.⁴ But Philip of Weston (1339), also canon of Lincoln and York among other churches, and nominated dean of York in 1347, was a prominent official of the king's chamber as chief steward and auditor.⁵ When he held these offices, his connexion with Bridgnorth had probably ceased, but he became dean of Wolverhampton in 1339⁶ and received a prebend in Hastings in 1342, and held another in Tamworth. Thomas of Brantingham (1368), already mentioned, quitted Eardington for the deanery in 1369. The appointment of Thomas Strete to the vacant prebend was succeeded after a fortnight by that of Thomas Swaby, clerk of the wardrobe.⁷ When, in 1375, Swaby exchanged Eardington for a parish church, it was with Thomas More, who may be identified with the clerk who, in the next reign, was general receiver to Anne of Bohemia and cofferer of the wardrobe.⁸

From 1328 to 1334, when he became dean, the prebend

¹ Appointed 5th May, 1360 (*ibid.* 1358-61, p. 353).

² *Conge d'élire* 13th Oct.; signification of royal assent 24th Oct. 1366 (*ibid.* 1364-1367, pp. 311, 324.)

³ Thomas Street of Kneesworth had a prebend in St. Martin's-le-Grand in 1369.

⁴ See *Cal. Papal Letters* ii, 134, 342, 371.

⁵ See Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 268. Before his appointment as auditor of the chamber in

1342, he was king's confessor and almoner. He failed to obtain the deanery of York, but it may be noted that archbishop Zouche issued a mandate for his installation to the chapter, 22nd Aug. 1347 (York Reg. Zouche, fo. 225 d.)

⁶ 14th Nov. 1339 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1338-1340, p. 397.)

⁷ Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 160.

⁸ *Ibid.* iv, 200, 201.

of Morville was occupied by Thomas Talbot. His successor, called in the printed *Calendar of Patent Rolls* for 1334-1338 Robert of Tanton (1334-1335), should probably be Robert of Tauton (i.e. Tawton), keeper of the wardrobe 1331-1334 and keeper of the privy seal.¹ William of Dalton (1335) was cofferer 1338 and controller of the wardrobe 1344-1350.² Of Richard of Colecote (1358-1361) and William of Wenlock (1361-1373), as king's clerks, there is no clear record. Wenlock in 1364 was secretary of the earl marshal, Thomas Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who obtained for him the provision of the archdeaconry of Rochester, a type of preferment to which canons of Bridgnorth seldom aspired at this date³: he also received a prebend in St. Stephen's about the same time. The identity of William Borstall (1373-1377), with whom Wenlock made an exchange, is somewhat doubtful, owing to the fact that there were two or three contemporary clerks with this name. It is tempting to connect him with William Burstall, who was keeper of the rolls of chancery from 1371 to 1381. It is, however, perfectly clear that the prebendary of Morville was the William Borstall who was archdeacon of Salop 1366-1367, and who cannot be identified with the chancery clerk.⁴ Of Robert of Crull (i.e. Crowle), however, there can be no manner of doubt: as a king's clerk and canon of Hastings and other churches his name occurs constantly upon the Patent Rolls.⁵ It is probable that he held Morville only for a few days in 1377. The custom of acquiring benefices only to exchange them, of which the inner history has yet to be written, was at its height in the last quarter of the fourteenth century; and Thomas Orgrave, who apparently came in by exchange, went out in the same way three months after the accession of Richard II. Orgrave was a clerk in the exchequer, who became chamberlain in 1385,⁶ and held two successive prebends in St. Stephen's.

¹ *Ibid.* iv, 77, 78.

² *Ibid.* iv, 104, 110, 130, 131. Dalton held the subordinate office of keeper of the great wardrobe 1353-1359.

³ *Cal. Papal Letters (Petitions)* i, 503. In 1360 William of Wenlock is referred to as clerk of Roger Mortimer, earl of March (*ibid.* i, 351.)

⁴ See account of William Burstalle, the chancery clerk, in *Assoc. Archib. Soc. R. & P.* xxxiv, 24-26.

⁵ See indices to *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1367-1370, etc. He was a chamberlain of the exchequer under Edward iii (see Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 451), clerk of the king's works to Richard ii, and subsequently treasurer of Ireland.

⁶ Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 451.

Walter of London,¹ who came into the prebend of Underton in 1331, by exchange of a prebend in Abbeville with Maurice of Poissy, may, from the fact that he held this benefice in Ponthieu, have been, as his predecessor probably was, a clerk of queen Isabel. He held prebends in St. Martin's-le-Grand and Hastings, and, although he left Underton for Alveley in 1335, he returned to it twice by exchanges, and apparently held it at his death in 1348 or 1349. His incumbencies of the prebend were varied by those of two clerks, probably his kinsmen, Nicholas and John of London (1332-1335 and 1343-1348), and Geoffrey of Chelsea (1335-1337), with whom he exchanged Alveley in the latter year. Of his three successors, William of Lambeth (1349-1361) became receiver of the chamber in 1359² and was a canon of St. Stephen's, as were Robert of Elmham (1361-1365) and John of Corby (1365-1390).

As already noted, the list for Walton prebend is imperfect after the time of William of Shenton, and Richard of Beverley (1367-1382) was the only prebendary of whose appointment by Edward III there is record. He was cofferer 1369, and keeper of the wardrobe 1376-1377,³ and in 1387 exchanged the deanery of Wimborne Minster for the treasurer'ship of Lichfield.

The reign of Richard II brings us into contact with a group of king's clerks whose origin is obscure, and who for the most part came into prominence for a few years at the end of the reign, when, in his attempt to maintain his absolutism, Richard surrounded himself with agents, few of whom can have been greatly troubled by scruple. Nicholas Slake, dean of the chapel royal, came into notice early in the reign. By the time of his appointment to the deanery of Bridgnorth in 1387, he was canon of Windsor and Hastings, dean of Tettenhall, and master of St. Leonard's, York. The date of his grant of the deanery is actually the day before the appellants, fresh from their easy rout of the royalist forces at Radcot Bridge, came to London to impose their will on the king. As Slake was one of the king's clerks who was most obnoxious to them, this addition to his preferments

¹ See p. 34 above, and p. 35, note i. His numerous ecclesiastical preferments are somewhat difficult to follow consecutively.

² Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 331.

³ *Ibid.* iv, 156, 192, 193.

at this critical period is characteristic of Richard's staunch attachment to his chosen friends and servants, a devotion which more than once brought them into notice when they would have profited by obscurity. Slake was arrested by the appellants: he was brought to trial in the parliament of 1388, and was one of the clerks specially exempted from the general pardon issued to the members of the king's household.¹ After Richard's return to power, he came again into notice; but meantime he was not deprived of his benefices. His retirement from the deanery appears to have taken place in settlement of a dispute with Thomas of Tutbury over the archdeaconry of Wells. Tutbury, appointed dean in 1391, was evidently, to judge by his name, a dependent of John of Gaunt: in spite of another appointment to the deanery in 1392, he held it until 1401 or 1402. Meanwhile, Slake succeeded in 1394 to the prebend of Eardington, and, after resigning it, returned to it from 1396 to 1399. It appears that he continued in the service of Richard up to the end as one of his chaplains, although no longer as dean of his chapel. Among the benefices of his later life were the deaneries of St. Buryan in Cornwall and St. Stephen's, and a prebend in Tamworth; and towards the end of the reign he became dean of Wells. As will be seen from the notes on his biography, the chronology of his preferments in Wells is somewhat complicated. Here it need only be said that, although he survived his master's fall, and even obtained a fresh grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth from Henry IV, at the time when he was being ousted from the deanery of Wells in favour of Tutbury, records of his career are entirely wanting after 1401.

Before 1390 the most distinguished of the canons was William Packington, who succeeded Richard Wykeham in Alveley prebend in 1378. A member of the Black Prince's household, of which he was treasurer, he was appointed keeper of the wardrobe in 1377, and became chancellor of the exchequer in 1381. He obtained high preferment as archdeacon of Canterbury and dean of Lichfield: he was also dean of the royal chapels of Stafford and St. Martin's-le-Grand, and acquired prebends in St. George's at

¹ See Walsingham, *Hist. Angl.* (Rolls Ser.) ii, 173; *Anon. Westm.* (Malverne) apud Higden, *Polycbr.* (Rolls Ser.) ix, 152; *Rot. Parl.* iii, 249.

Windsor, Hastings and Tamworth.¹ Of John Brigstock and Robert Asshenden, who may be assigned to Eardington, there is nothing to be said.² John of Hatfield, who exchanged the Guildhall chantry for Morville with Orgrave in 1377, was keeper of the privy wardrobe 1378-1381,³ and dean of Tettenhall.⁴ These were the only two important officials who entered the chapter between 1377 and 1390: of the others, with the exception of Thomas of Broomfleet (Walton, 1383-1386), a customs officer at Hull, there are only scanty records.

In 1390 and 1391 three of the prebends changed hands. Packington's death in 1390 left Alveley vacant, and John of Corby, who died in the same year, was succeeded by Richard Missenden (1390-1395). The new prebendary of Alveley (1390-1401) was the king's almoner, Richard Field, who found his best preferments, as time went on, in rich livings, and prebends at Lincoln and Salisbury. In addition to these he obtained prebends in Windsor and Tamworth, and the deaneries or wardenships of the free chapels in Wallingford and Tickhill castles, and in 1396, when the see of Canterbury was vacant, he was preferred by the king to the deanery of the archbishop's chapel of South Malling.⁵ His estate in his numerous benefices was ratified by Henry IV,⁶ but he died about the beginning of 1401.

Early in 1391 the ecclesiastical lawyer, John Barnet, official principal of the court of Canterbury and dean of Arches under archbishops Courtenay and Arundel, who had been a candidate for the see of Rochester in 1389,⁷ succeeded to Eardington, but was soon superseded by William Spigurnell, canon of Windsor, whose name indicates the office of sealer of writs in chancery. Spigurnell, long afterwards archdeacon of Colchester, lived until 1425; but his connexion with Bridgnorth ceased when he exchanged his prebend for one in Hastings with Nicholas Slake. Within a few days of the grant of Eardington to Spigurnell,

¹ Article on Pakington, William, in *D.N.B.* by Dr. William Hunt. See also Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 394, 395, where references for his more important benefices are given.

² Asshenden was a canon of Hastings at his death in 1384.

³ Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 459.

⁴ 26th Jan. 1373-4 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1371-

1374, p. 402). He resigned in 1383 (*ibid.* 1381-1385, p. 327.)

⁵ His appointment to the deanery of Wallingford bears date 18th Nov. 1387 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1385-1389, p. 368) and to South Malling, 22 Oct. 1396 (*ibid.* 1396-1399, p. 43.)

⁶ *Ibid.* 1399-1401, p. 55.

⁷ *Ibid.* 1388-1392, p. 40.

another grant was made in error to John Prophete, canon of Hereford and Chichester, and afterwards dean successively of Hereford and York, who became keeper of the privy seal under Henry IV, and died in 1416.¹ This, however, came to nothing, and the grant was speedily surrendered.

We have already spoken of Slake's two tenures of Eardington. Between them, the prebend was occupied for three months (1395-1396) by Guy Mone, or Moon, receiver of the chamber 1391-1398 and keeper of the privy seal.² Mone was well provided with prebends in cathedral churches, and in 1396 became dean of Wells: in the royal chapels his only other prebend was in Tamworth. A year after his preferment at Wells, he was appointed bishop of St. David's. He was consecrated on 11th Nov. 1397, but by whom is unknown: the archbishopric of Canterbury was then vacant owing to the banishment of Arundel, and, although, after the revolution of 1399, Mone steered clear of trouble and kept his see till his death in 1407, it was not until 1401 that he received his confirmation from the restored Arundel. His short appearance at Bridgnorth also needs some explanation, as at its beginning and end he made no exchange with Slake. About this time, however, Slake was in disgrace at court, probably owing to infringement of the statute of provisors, which may account for the break in his tenure of the prebend. He did not finally resign it until shortly after the accession of Henry IV.

The resignation of Morville prebend by Ralph Ulf in 1398 was followed by two appointments, neither of which seems to have taken effect. The first of these grants was made to the unfortunate clerk Richard Maudeleyn, who in this year resigned several prebends, including one in St. Stephen's, but continued to receive presentations to livings, and was ratified in his estate as archdeacon of Lincoln, though apparently never admitted to that dignity, shortly before Richard II's departure for Ireland in 1399.³ The story of his personal likeness to Richard and of the attempt, after the accession of Henry IV, to use it as a means of popular persuasion to revolt and the restoration

¹ For biographical notes on Prophete, see *Testamenta Ebor.* (Surtees Soc.), iii, 53, 54. See also Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 466, 467.

² See Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 8, 336.

³ 22nd April, 1399 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1396-1399, p. 535-)

of the imprisoned king, may not be authentic; but Maudeleyn at any rate was implicated in the abortive rebellion of 1399-1400, and was one of the two clerks who were executed in the sequel.¹ The second grant was made to Thomas Butiller, archdeacon of Northampton and dean of Windsor, whose preferments covered most of the reign: his last, a prebend in Hastings, was given him by Henry IV, and he survived till 1412. Eventually, in Dec. 1398, the prebend was given to John Outeby, or Oadby, another long-lived clerk, who was chamberlain of the exchequer under both Richard II and Henry IV, and for forty years, from 1377 to his death in 1417-18, maintained a close connexion with the church of Lichfield as canon, archdeacon of Stafford, treasurer, and archdeacon of Derby.

One other clerk of the later years of Richard II remains to be mentioned, for John Somerton (Walton, 1386-1419) seems to have no history.² This is John Boor, who succeeded Slake as dean of the chapel royal, and was prebendary of Underton from 1395 to 1402. His benefices included the wealthy prebends of Masham in York and Charminster and Bere in Salisbury, as well as prebends in Chichester and the conventual churches of Shaftesbury and Wherwell. He was also canon of Windsor and dean of St. Buryan.³ Like several other servants of Richard II, to whom allusion has been made, he was left unmolested after the fall of the king, and received full ratification of his estate in his principal benefices soon after the accession of Henry IV.⁴ He died, however, before April 1402. It is noteworthy that, although he and most of the other favourite clerks who surrounded Richard in the last years of his reign accepted the change of government and were leniently treated by the new king, their influence in the state, with very few exceptions, ceased, nor were they given further ecclesiastical preferments of importance. Few of them

¹ The story of the impersonation is told in Creton's metrical *Histoire du Roy Dangleterre Richard* (*Archæol.* xx, 405): et pour le faire a croire mieulx, | avoient pris un chappellain, | qui ressembloit si de certain | Au bon roy richart de visage, | De corps, de fait et de langage, | Qu'il nest homme qui le vist, | Qui ne certifiast et dist | Qui ce fust le roy ancien; | Apelle estoit madelein, etc. The author of *Lystoire de la Traison et Mort du Roy Richart* merely remarks on the close

likeness of Maudeleyn to the king (pp. 77, 101). The English chroniclers make no mention of the story.

² He had a grant of Flixton prebend in Lichfield, 26th Sept. 1386 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1385-1389, p. 226).

³ The date of this last preferment was 1st Jan. 1394-5 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1391-1396, p. 349.)

⁴ 25th Oct. 1399 (*ibid.* 1399-1401, p. 25.)

seem to have been persons of much capacity: they appear as *novi homines* at an unfortunate period, when Richard's most intimate lay advisers were for the most part upstarts without official training. It will also be noticed, at any rate so far as Bridgnorth is concerned, that preferment was given to royal chaplains at this time rather than to clerks in the administrative departments of state. Guy Mone is the most prominent exception, and his rise to the headship of the wardrobe was sudden and intrusive. So far as it reflects the character of public officials, the chapter of Bridgnorth at this period indicates a decline from the highly trained efficiency of the previous generation.

At the opening of the fifteenth century the ministerial element was again strong in the chapter. Thomas Tutbury, the dean, was treasurer of the household in 1400 and second baron of the exchequer 1401-1402.¹ In 1401 Thomas Langley, keeper of the privy seal from 1402, succeeded Richard Field in Alveley prebend, which he probably retained after his accession to the deanery of York shortly afterwards, and until his promotion to the see of Durham in 1406. At the latter date he was chancellor of England.² In 1402 William Pilton, keeper of the king's jewels,³ became prebendary of Underton. In the same year, the death of Tutbury left the deanery vacant, and Henry IV bestowed it upon Columb, a son of the Scottish earl of March and Dunbar, who had taken the part of the English in the victorious campaign of Humbleton Hill. Deans of Bridgnorth had probably attended little to the needs of the chapel, and it, as well as other royal free chapels, had in previous years been injured by neglect and dilapidation. Columb of Dunbar's non-residence and neglect, however, were evidently aggravated by disloyalty. He seems to have been dislodged with difficulty. Although the deanery was given to John Marshall in May 1410, the grant to Dunbar was not finally revoked until more than two years later; and meanwhile, as the result of a commission which revealed the destitute condition of the chapel, the goods of the deanery were sequestrated.

Marshall, who held the deanery for thirty-two years,

¹ *Ibid.* 1399-1401, pp. 245, 501.

² See *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1405-1408, p. 66.

³ Article on Langley in *D.N.B.* by Dr. William Hunt.

was a prominent member of the chapter of Lincoln, where he resided, and he appears to have held no office of state. His successor was Henry Sever, almoner to Henry VI and canon of St. Stephen's, who was dean for about twenty-six years, and from 1455 to his death in 1471 was warden of Merton college, Oxford. At Bridgnorth, he was followed by a clerk of noble birth, William Dudley (1471-1476), dean of the chapel royal to Edward IV and already dean of Wolverhampton, who in 1473 became also dean of Windsor, and from 1472 to 1476 was dean of the Newarke college at Leicester. On his departure from this collection of profitable sinecures for the bishopric of Durham, his place at Bridgnorth was taken by Richard Martyn (1476-1482), chancellor of the earldom of March and canon of St. Stephen's. Martyn apparently belonged to the diocese of Hereford: his education was that of an ecclesiastical lawyer, and between 1469 and his promotion to the see of St. David's in 1482 he held three archdeaconries, of which he continued to hold that of London throughout the whole period. This, however, did not hinder him from occupying civil offices, and in 1478 he was appointed chancellor of Ireland. His successor at Bridgnorth was William Chantry (1482-1485), also dean of the Newarke college, where he had succeeded Dudley. It is probable that, upon Chantry's death in the latter part of 1485, he was immediately followed by John Argentyne, who was provost of King's college, Cambridge, from 1501 to his death in 1507-8.

Appointments to the prebends through this long period preserve their continuity, but towards its end these preferences had begun to fall to clerks and chaplains of whose careers traces are at best fragmentary. It is possible that some of these canons were local men, and that they may have preferred residence at the chapel to active duties outside. On the other hand, it is much more likely that they were employed in confidential positions in the households of ministers or of the important noblemen whose influence did so much to sway the course of events in the struggle between the houses of Lancaster and York. The hold which such individuals obtained upon Crown patronage, as well as upon the patronage exercised by religious houses, was strengthened by the system of conferring next presentations to benefices upon them or feoffees in their

interest; and this custom affected appointments to prebends at Bridgnorth.

Among the prebendaries of Alveley in the fifteenth century, Henry Sever (1435) appears at least ten years before he obtained the deanery. John Kette (1450-1455) was sub-almoner to Henry VI and held prebends in St. Stephen's and Windsor. John Arundell, who succeeded him (1455-1459) was a clerk of some note, principal physician to the king, canon of St. Stephen's and Tamworth and dean of Windsor, and obtained the great preferment of the archdeaconry of Richmond in 1457, two years before his appointment to the see of Chichester.¹ Thomas Malet (1445-1450), John Freman (1459-1472), and John Haddon (1472-1504) are merely names.

Of the prebendaries of Eardington under Henry IV, William Repyngton (1399-1406) was also a canon of Hastings, and may have been related to the well-known abbot of Leicester, Philip Repyngdon (i.e. Repton), who became bishop of Lincoln in 1405. He exchanged a prebend in the collegiate church of the Newarke at Leicester, the favourite foundation of the house of Lancaster, in 1406 with John Newton (1406-1408),² who received the treasurership of York from Henry IV, after the rebellion and death of archbishop Scrope had placed many of the benefices in that church at the disposal of the Crown. William Brenkelowe (1408-1432 ?) was a Warwickshire clerk, rector of Mancetter and canon of Lichfield. Walter Sheryngton (1432 ?-1449), canon of Tamworth and Hastings, was chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster.³ Of his successors, there is nothing to record, save that George Pilkington (1462-1469) is definitely described as a chaplain of Edward IV.

The same description is given to Alexander Lye or Legh, prebendary of Morville 1472-1486 and canon of Windsor and St. Stephen's 1476-1492.⁴ The history of this prebend, however, before 1472, is not without interest. John Oadby, who obtained it in 1398, came from the neighbourhood of Leicester, and was succeeded in 1405 by

¹ There is a short article in *D.N.B.* by W. P. Courtney on this clerk. See note in *Visitations of Religious Houses dio. Lincoln* (Lincoln Record and Cant. and York Societies), iii, 257, which corrects *D.N.B.*

² *Assoc. Archit. Soc. R. & P.* xxxiii, 469.

³ Biographical notes on Sheryngton (Walter Shiryngton) in *Vis. Rel. Houses dio. Linc.* u.s. I, 195, 196, with additions *ibid.* iii, 422.

⁴ Article (Legh, Alexander) in *D.N.B.*, by W. A. J. Archbold.

Thomas Haliwell, whom we find three years later in possession of a stall in the Newarke college. For the most part, the canons of this Lancastrian foundation were local men, who, although often beneficed in parish churches at some distance, habitually lived in Leicester, where the constitution of the college laid down definite obligations of residence.¹ Haliwell, who held several other preferments, including the wardenship of the free chapel of St. Peter in the Tower of London, was, however, no exception to the rule, and it is significant that in 1423 he exchanged his cure of souls at Stow-cum-Quy in Cambridgeshire for the church of Sileby, a few miles from Leicester, which could be served by casual help at much less expense. His long tenure of Morville prebend ended in 1450. It was then given to another canon of the Newarke, William Bedale, who, on his death in 1472, was succeeded here and at Leicester by Richard Gillott, a member of a prosperous Leicester family. Gillott's death, almost directly afterwards, broke this special connexion between the two colleges, although the deaneries of both were held simultaneously by William Dudley and William Chantry. Between Lye's death in 1486 and the end of the century the prebend changed hands four times. Thomas Burwell (1487-1490) was one of the Lady Margaret's chaplains, and Roger Norton (1499-1523) was given a prebend in St. Paul's by Henry VIII in 1516, and was rector of the church of Oye in the march of Calais.

The prebend of Underton, which William Pilton, already mentioned, must have resigned in 1408, was given to William Ardern (1408-1422), probably in consequence of an arrangement by which Ardern resigned his presentation to the church of Phillack in Cornwall to Pilton, whose estate in Phillack was ratified shortly afterwards.² In 1422 Ardern was succeeded by Robert Dyke, chancellor of the green wax of the exchequer in Ireland, and at a later date keeper of the rolls of chancery there.³ He resigned

¹ See the present writer's *Hist. of the Hospital and New College of the Annunciation of our Lady in the Newarke, Leicester*, in *Assoc. Soc. R. & P.* xxxii, xxxiii. Full lists of the deans and canons, from which the details given above are taken, will be found *ibid.* xxxiii, 451-471.

² See *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1405-1408, pp. 248, 368, 396: cf *Exeter Reg. Stafford*, p. 194.

³ Dyke went to Ireland in 1414 with the lieutenant, John Talbot, lord Furnival (*Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1413-1416, p. 189), and was appointed chancellor of the green wax, 13th March 1415-16 (*ibid.* 1422-1429, p. 57), and keeper of the rolls of chancery, 13th July, 1437 (*ibid.* 1436-1441, p. 70.)

Underton in 1440 to Thomas Chace, then chancellor of Ireland,¹ who had been chancellor of the university of Oxford between 1426 and 1430. Chace's successor, Thomas Lyseux (1449-1459), dean of St. Paul's, was keeper of the privy seal from 1452-3.² Thomas Downe (1459-1471), dean of the chapel royal and canon of Windsor, and Edward Underwood (1471-1504), were both clerks of some distinction, who held preferments in more than one cathedral church.³ In this instance, therefore, the connexion between the college and the court was well maintained.

Persons of distinction are similarly found in Walton prebend. Richard Caudrey (1419-1429) was dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand at a later date, and received much ecclesiastical preferment, including the rich archdeaconry of Lincoln. He also became warden of King's Hall at Cambridge in 1431, and was chancellor of the university from 1433 to 1435.⁴ William Ayscough (1429-1436), also canon of St. Stephen's, became bishop of Salisbury in 1438, and was murdered at Edington in Wiltshire in 1450.⁵ His successor, Fulk Bermyngham (1436-1443) collected a large number of prebends in cathedral and collegiate churches, and was archdeacon of Oxford c. 1444-1467. He has been identified with the disreputable and foolish archdeacon to whom Gascoigne makes repeated references in the *Liber Veritatum*, and it must be owned that his accumulation of pluralities gives the charge against him some colour.⁶ Of Walter Peytwyn (1443-1470) nothing appears except that he was a canon of Hereford. Benedict Burgh (1470-1476) was one of Edward IV's chaplains, dean or warden of Hastings, canon of St. Stephen's and Tamworth, and archdeacon of Colchester⁷; and Nicholas Rawdon (1476-1479) was also a canon of Tamworth and held a prebend in York Minster from 1461 to 1479. Of the remainder, Lawrence Squier has been noted already as a canon of the Newarke at Leicester. After the death of Rawdon, however, they

¹ See *ibid.* 1430-1436, p. 49 (26th Feb. 1429-30); 1436-1441, p. 28.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1452-1461, p. 65.

³ Underwood was dean of St. Stephen's 1499-1504.

⁴ Biographical notes on Caudrey in *Vis.*

Rel. Houses dio. Linc., u.s., i, 176-178, with additions, *ibid.* iii, 421.

⁵ Article in *D.N.B.* by the late James Gairdner.

⁶ See introd. to *Loci e Libro Veritatum*, ed. Thorold Rogers, pp. lxx, lxxi.

⁷ Article in *D.N.B.* by Dr. William Hunt.

seem to have been chosen without much regard to their position at court or elsewhere. John Hill (1479), who quickly followed Rawdon's immediate successor, Thomas Gossip, was a vicar choral of St. George's; and Richard Crowe, king's serjeant (1493-1494), was possibly a clerk of the chapel royal, an office from which, after Thomas Symon (1494-1518), an university graduate, the last two prebendaries of Walton, William Moulder and John Synger, were drawn.

The later history of the chapel need not occupy us long. Of the last three deans, Thomas Larke (1508-1515), archdeacon of Sudbury and Norwich after his resignation, was an influential servant of Wolsey. Of William Couper (1515-1517) practically nothing seems to be known. In Thomas Magnus (1517-1548), however, an able and busy member of the privy council and a man of much motion and promotion, as Fuller said of a later clerical statesman, the deanery well maintained its ancient level. Magnus, though he obtained no higher dignity than a comfortable archdeaconry, was a pluralist whose achievements almost rivalled those of the ministers of Henry III and Edward I; and his tenure of five cures of souls at one and the same time, in addition to a number of sinecures, was unique even at a period when the influence of canon law was weakened by the breach with its ultimate source. Meanwhile, presentations to prebends were being leased by the Crown to private individuals, who in two instances seem to have made use of their privilege in the interest of members of their own families. Two exceptions to the general insignificance may be noted. Thomas Legh (Underton, 1513-1521) acquired an unenviable reputation by his activity in the suppression of the monasteries¹; and Dr. Hugh Coren, or Curwen, the last prebendary of Alveley, became archbishop of Dublin and chancellor of Ireland. Among the past members of the chapter, only one, Peter of Savoy, had risen to an archbishopric. Curwen kept his see after the accession of Elizabeth, but resigned it in 1567 for the bishopric of Oxford, and died in 1568.²

The writer is well aware that these notes, a collection of names, facts and dates, can claim no pretence to thrilling

¹ Article in *D.N.B.* by W. A. J. Archbold.

² Article in *D.N.B.* by the late Thompson Cooper.

interest. It would be possible, as may be seen from the biographical notices of the deans, to amplify them to a large extent. The compiler of biographies of medieval clerks soon finds his task almost endless, and no work of the kind can be considered complete, as regards an age in which benefices were widely scattered, until every contemporary episcopal register, in addition to the more easily available printed sources, has been properly examined for the details of a single biography. In supplying a conspectus of the composition of the chapter through some three centuries, special emphasis has been laid upon the connexion of its members with other royal free chapels, and their abundant promotions in other collegiate bodies have been noted only where some mention of them seemed desirable. As an example of a royal free chapel, whose benefices were generally reserved to members of one or other of the departments of administration of the King's household, Bridgnorth, as has been said, has its special value. Its record in this respect has long seemed to the present writer remarkable; and, by the appearance of Professor Tout's masterly studies of the history of the wardrobe and the chamber, the material for estimating it properly has been greatly increased. While the similarity between the constitution of the chapel of Bridgnorth and that of St. Martin's-le-Grand is obvious, it is possible to compile lists for Bridgnorth which are more complete than the somewhat fragmentary lists for the prebends of St. Martin's. Incidentally also, an attempt has been made in the foregoing pages to draw attention to the likeness between Bridgnorth and other royal free chapels of the western midlands, whose history remains to be written.

LISTS OF THE DEANS AND CANONS OF BRIDGNORTH.

[N.B.—The names of persons who appear to have been presented to the deanery and prebends in error or without effect are printed in italic capitals.]

I. DEANS.

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|------------------------------|--|--|
| c. 1161-1182. | ALEXANDER. | Eyton I, 328. |
| c. 1196. | SYMON. | <i>Ibid.</i> |
| 1214, 13 April. | HUGH DE TANNAC' OF TAUNAY, brother of Geoffrey de Tannac'. Also 28 May. | |
| | | <i>Rot. Litt. Pat.</i> (Rec. Comm.), pp. 113, 116. |
| 1224, 8 May. | PETER OF RIVAUX (<i>de Rivallis, Oriwallis</i>). | |
| | | <i>Pat. Rolls</i> 1216-1225, pp. 372-3. |
| 1262, 2 Nov. | MICHAEL DE FENLES, king's clerk, on death of Peter de Ryvallis. | <i>Cal. P.R.</i> 1266-1272, p. 739. |
| 1264-5, 18 Feb. | STEPHEN OF LONDON, chaplain, on promotion of Michael de Fenles to the bishopric of Terouanne. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1258-1266, p. 407. |
| 1264-5, 2 Mar. | WILLIAM DE MONTFORT, clerk, on revocation of the grant made to Stephen of London. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> p. 410. |
| 1266-7, 21 Feb. | STEPHEN OF LONDON, chaplain, on promotion of Michael de Fenes (<i>sic</i>), bishop of Terouanne. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1266-1272, p. 40. |
| 1268, 27 Sept. | Master BONET OF ST. QUINTIN, on death of Michael de Fednes (<i>sic</i>). | <i>Ibid.</i> 1266-1272, p. 261. |
| 1290, 20 Dec. | WALTER OF LANGTON, on death of master Bonet of St. Quintin. | <i>Ibid.</i> 1281-1292, p. 410. |
| 1298, 8 April. | AMADEUS OF SAVOY, the king's kinsman [on cession of Walter, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield]. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1292-1301, p. 339. |
| 1300, 20 June. | WILLIAM OF SAVOY, the king's kinsman [on death of Amadeus of Savoy]. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1292-1301, p. 526. |
| 1301, 28 May. | PETER OF SAVOY, the king's kinsman, on resignation of William of Savoy. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1292-1301, p. 595. |
| 1308, 30 Aug.
and 25 Oct. | INGELARD OF WARLEY, king's clerk [on cession of Peter, archbishop-elect of Lyons]. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1307-1313, pp. 93, 141. |
| 1317-18, 19 Feb. | Master THOMAS OF EYTON, alias KNOCKYN, king's clerk, [on resignation of Ingelard of Warley]. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1317-1321, p. 106. |
| 1327, 1 July. | HENRY OF HARLEY, on the reported death of Thomas of Eytton. Grant revoked 11 August. | |
| | | <i>Ibid.</i> 1327-1330, pp. 134, 144. |

- 1327-8, 6 Feb. Master THOMAS OF EYTON, estate ratified.
Ibid. 1327-1330, p. 228.
- 1334, 10 June. THOMAS TALBOT, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1330-1334, p. 548.
- 1353, 17 June. THOMAS KEYNES, king's clerk [on resignation of Thomas Talbot]. *Ibid.* 1351-1354, p. 468.
- 1362, 6 June. ROBERT YVES, YVE, or IVE, king's clerk [on resignation of Thomas Keynes].
Ibid. 1361-1364, p. 221.
- 1369, 12 July. THOMAS OF BRANTYNGHAM [king's clerk, on death of Robert Yves]. *Ibid.* 1367-1370, p. 285.
- 1370, 25 April. HENRY OF WAKEFIELD, king's clerk [on cession of Thomas, bishop-elect of Exeter]. Grant revoked 11 May. *Ibid.* 1367-1370, p. 401.
- 1370, 30 May. ROGER OF OTERY [on consecration of Thomas, bishop of Exeter]. *Ibid.* 1367-1370, p. 416.
- 1387, 26 Sept. NICHOLAS SLAKE [on death of Roger of Otery].
Ibid. 1385-1389, p. 347.
- 1391, 11 Oct. THOMAS OF TUTBURY [on resignation of Nicholas Slake].
Ibid. 1388-1392, p. 486.
- 1392, 15 Sept. THOMAS SPARKEFORD.
Ibid. 1391-1396, p. 159.
- 1401, 6 Aug. NICHOLAS SLAKE.
Ibid. 1399-1401, p. 448.
- 1402-3, 26 Feb. COLUMB OF DUNBAR, son of George, earl of March [on death of Thomas of Tutbury]. Grant revoked 19 Oct. 1412. *Ibid.* 1401-1405, p. 195; 1408-1413, pp. 228, 435-6.
- 1412, 24 Oct. Master JOHN MARSHALL, or MARESCHAL, king's clerk, on revocation of grant to Columb of Dunbar. A previous grant 9 May 1410, probably owing to defection of Columb of Dunbar to the king's enemies.
Ibid. 1408-1413, pp. 192, 436.
1445. Master HENRY SEVER, king's clerk. No record of appointment, but probably on death of John Marshall. In possession by 27 July 1450. See also list of prebendaries of Alveley.
- 1471, 10 July. Master WILLIAM DUDLEY, dean of the chapel royal, by grant for life on death of Henry Sever.
Ibid. 1467-1477, p. 276.
- 1476, 16 Oct. Master RICHARD MARTYN, king's clerk and councillor [on promotion of William Dudley to the bishopric of Durham]. *Ibid.* 1467-1477, p. 600.
- 1481-2, 2 Feb. WILLIAM CHANTRY, king's clerk, on resignation of master Richard Martyn [bishop of St. David's].
Ibid. 1476-1485, p. 255.
- 1485 or 1486. JOHN ARGENTYNE [on death of William Chantry]. Occurs as dean in 1487 (Act-book).
- 1507-8, 26 Feb. THOMAS LARKE, on death of John Argentyne. Act-book: cf. *L. & P. H. VIII*, II, no. 397.

- 1515, 30 April. WILLIAM COUPER, M.A., on surrender of patent by Thomas Larke.
L. & P. H. VIII, ut sup.
 1517, 14 Aug. THOMAS MAGNUS, clerk, on death of William Couper.
Ibid. II, no. 3579. Cf. Act-book and Chantry Cert.

2. PREBENDARIES OF ALVELEY.

- WILLIAM LE ESTRANGE resigned in 1228, retaining his stipend and paying a pension of two bezants yearly to his successor.
Pat. Rolls 1225-1232, p. 198.
 1228, 29 July. JOHN GERNUN, nephew of the above.
Ibid.
 WILLIAM OF HAVERHULL, appointed after 1235, probably died in 1252. Cf. *Cal. Papal Letters* I, 149, where Gernun is mentioned as prebendary, 8 Dec. 1235.
 1252, 26 Aug. Master ALEXANDER LE LECHE, king's clerk, succeeded to the prebend late of William of Haverhull.
Cal. Pat. Rolls 1247-1258, p. 149.
 1253, 9 Sept. HENRY OF WENGHAM, king's clerk, succeeded to the prebend late of master Alexander le Leche.
Ibid. p. 222.
 HUGH DE LA PENNE, clerk of Eleanor, mother of king Edward I. Possibly succeeded in 1259-60, on the promotion of Henry of Wengham to the bishopric of London. Said to be dead in 1275, apparently in error, as he was evidently alive later, and did not vacate the prebend till 1295. His name is returned in *Tax. Eccl.*, 1291 (*Rec. Comm.*, p. 162): see list of prebendaries of Eardington.
 1276, 22 May. BERARD OF NAPLES, succeeded to the prebend of Hugh de la Penne, apparently in error: see above. Mentioned elsewhere as king's clerk and papal notary.
Cal. Pat. Rolls 1272-1281, p. 143.
 1295, 2 April. WILLIAM LE BRUN, son of William, king's clerk, on death of Hugh de la Penne.
Ibid. 1292-1301, p. 133.
 1327-8, 24 Feb. THOMAS TALEBOT, king's clerk. Grant probably made in error and did not take effect. See lists of prebendaries of Morville and of deans.
Ibid. 1327-1330, p. 237.
 1330-1, 10 Feb. RICHARD OWEYN, king's clerk. Grant made in error, and revoked 22 April, 1331.
Ibid. 1330-1334, pp. 73, 108-9.
 1330-1, 23 Mar. WILLIAM LE BRUN, grant exemplified. Restored 22 April, 1331, as above.
Ibid. pp. 97, 108-9.

- 1334, 28 May. WALTER OF LONDON, king's clerk. See list of prebendaries of Underton.
Ibid. 1330-1334, p. 544.
- 1337, 14 Oct. GEOFFREY OF CHELSEA (*Chelchebeth*), on exchange of the prebend of Underton with Walter of London.
Ibid. 1334-1338, p. 534.
- 1348-9, 9 Mar. JOHN DE GREY, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1348-1350, p. 268.
- 1349-50, 16 Jan. THOMAS OF BREMBRE, king's clerk. He exchanged this with Philip of Weston for the prebend of Middleton in Wherwell, but the arrangement was not completed, and Brembre had licence to return to Alveley prebend, 16 May, 1361.
Ibid. 1348-1350, p. 448; 1361-1364, p. 30.
- 1361, 28 Oct. JOHN OF BUKYNGHAM, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1361-1364, p. 101.
- 1363 ? WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM, king's clerk [on the promotion of John of Bukyngham to the bishopric of Lincoln].
Canterbury Reg. Langham, fo. 12.
- 1366, 18 Oct. RICHARD OF WYKHAM, king's clerk [on the promotion of William of Wykeham to the bishopric of Winchester].
Cal. Pat. Rolls 1364-1367, p. 318.
- 1375, n.d. JOHN BENEYT. *Ibid.* 1374-1377, p. 170.
- 1377, 11 Nov. RICHARD OF WYKEHAM, on resignation of John Beneyt.
Ibid. 1377-1381, p. 58.
- 1378, 23 Aug. WILLIAM PAKYNGTON.
Ibid. 1377-1381, p. 270.
- 1390, 26 July. RICHARD DE LA FELDE, king's clerk [on death of William Pakyngton]. *Ibid.* 1388-1392, p. 295.
- 1401, 11 April. THOMAS LONGLEY, or LANGLEY, king's clerk, on death of Richard Feld. A second grant on 5 May.
Ibid. 1399-1401, pp. 470, 474, 485.
- JOHN WISBECH. Possibly appointed on the promotion of Thomas Longley to the bishopric of Durham in 1406.
- 1435, 12 May. HENRY SEVER, king's clerk, in succession to John Wisbeche.
Ibid. 1429-1436, p. 455.
- 1445 ? THOMAS MALET. Probably appointed on the appointment of Henry Sever to the deanery.
- 1450, 27 July. JOHN KET, king's clerk, on death of Thomas Malet.
Ibid. 1446-1452, p. 332.
- 1455, 10 July. JOHN ARUNDELL, chaplain, on death of John Kette.
Ibid. 1452-1461, p. 241.
- 1459, 18 May. JOHN FREMAN [on cession of John Arundell, bishop-elect of Chichester].
Ibid. 1452-1461, p. 499.
- 1472, 5 Aug. Master JOHN HADDON, chaplain, on resignation of John Freman. *Ibid.* 1467-1477, p. 342.
- 1504, 6 Dec. WILLIAM HOONE, on death of John Haddon.
Act-book.

- 1522, 16 April. THOMAS SEYNTLEGER, on death of William Hoone.
L. & P. H. VIII, iii, no. 2214.
- 1534, 12 Dec. JOHN BELLITOUR, clerk, on resignation of Thomas Seyntleger.
Ibid. vii, no. 1601 (14).
- 1536, 2 April. GILBERT WYKE, clerk, on death of last incumbent (Act-book says John Belletour).
(delivered 4 April). *Ibid.* x, no. 775 (11).
- 1542, 7 April. HUGH COREN, D.C.L., king's chaplain, on death of
(delivered 8 April). Gilbert Wyke.
Ibid. xvii, no. 283 (30).

3. PREBENDARIES OF EARDINGTON.

- WLGER the canon.
- 1206-7, 2 Feb. Master JOHN WTHENG (Witeing), in succession to Wlger.
Rot. Litt. Pat. (Rec. Comm.), p. 59.
- 1226, 6 June. HENRY OF CORNHILL, in succession to master Wyteng.
Pat. Rolls, 1225-1232, p. 39.
- 1234-5, 26 Feb. PETER OF DURHAM (*de Dunbolmia, Dureme*), on resignation
of master Henry of Cornhill.
Ibid. 1232-1247, p. 95.
- 1275, 14 April. JOHN OF LUCCA (*de Luka*), on death of Peter of Durham.
The entry in *Tax. Eccl.* appears to indicate that in 1291 his prebend was Alveley, but it is impossible to reconcile this with the list of prebendaries, and it is probable that his name was transposed by error with that of Hugh de la Penne, whose death in 1295 he appears to have survived.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1272-1281, p. 84.
- THOMAS CHARLTON occurs in Sept. 1309. His prebend is not named, but he may be placed here tentatively. If he remained a canon of Bridgnorth until his promotion to the bishopric of Hereford in 1327, it is highly probable that his prebend was Eardington.
Cal. Papal Letters, ii, 90.
- 1336, 8 Oct. NICHOLAS OF ACTON, king's clerk. The name of his predecessor is not given.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1334-1338, p. 324.
- 1338-9, 8 Jan. PHILIP OF WESTON, king's clerk. A second grant on 12 March. *Ibid.* 1338-1340, pp. 196, 212.
- WILLIAM OF KIRKBY occurs in Sept. 1343.
Cal. Papal Letters ii, 134.
- 1368, 21 April. THOMAS OF BRANTYNGHAM, king's clerk.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1367-1370, p. 100.
- 1369, 3 Aug. THOMAS STRETE, on resignation of Thomas of Brantyngham, appointed dean.
Ibid. 1367-1370, p. 294.
- 1369, 18 Aug. THOMAS SWABY, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1367-1370, p. 296.

- 1375, 31 Oct. THOMAS MORE, on exchange of the church of Yardley Hastings, Northants, with Thomas Swaby.
Ibid. 1374-1377, p. 186.
- JOHN BRIGGESTOK.
- 1383, 2 Dec. ROBERT ASSHENDEN, on death of John Briggestok. The identity of the prebend held by Briggestok and Asshenden is uncertain, but Eardington appears probable.
Ibid. 1381-1385, p. 342.
- 1390-1, 1 Mar. Master JOHN BARNET.
Ibid. 1388-1392, p. 382.
- 1391, 20 June. WILLIAM SPIGURNELL, on resignation of John Barnet.
Ibid. 1388-1392, p. 433.
- 1391, 26 June. JOHN PROPHETE, king's clerk. This grant was vacated and surrendered, doubtless owing to the previous grant, and the estate of William Spigurnell was ratified, 3 and 21 July.
Ibid. 1388-1392, pp. 446, 447, 465.
- 1394, 9 Aug. NICHOLAS SLAKE, king's clerk, on exchange of the prebend of Brightling in the chapel of Hastings and a prebend in St. George's, Windsor, with William Spigurnell.
Ibid. 1391-1396, p. 485.
- 1395, 2 Nov. GUY MONE, king's clerk, on resignation of Nicholas Slake.
Ibid. 1391-1396, p. 634.
- 1395-6, 10 Feb. NICHOLAS SLAKE, king's clerk, on resignation of Guy Mone.
Ibid. 1391-1396, p. 663.
- 1399, 1 Dec. WILLIAM REPYNGTON, on resignation of Nicholas Slake.
Ibid. 1399-1401, p. 127.
- 1406, 11 May. JOHN NEUTON, on exchange of the thirteenth prebend in the collegiate church of the Newarke, Leicester, with William of Repyngdon.
Ibid. 1405-1408, p. 175.
- 1407-8, 8 Feb. WILLIAM BRENKELOWE, on exchange of a prebend or portion in the church of Darlington with John Neuton. Probably died in 1432.
Ibid. 1405-1408, p. 389: see Le Neve, *Fasti*, i, 593.
- 1432 ? WALTER SHERYNGTON.
- 1448-9, 1 Feb. RICHARD DONYNGTON, chaplain, on death of Walter Sheryngton. *Cal. Pat. Rolls* 1446-1452, p. 223.
- 1459, 26 Sept. JOHN HATTON, chaplain, on death of Richard Donyngton.
Ibid. 1452-1461, p. 529.
- 1462, 10 May. GEORGE PILKYNGTON, king's chaplain.
Ibid. 1461-1467, p. 184.
- 1468-9, 20 Feb. JOHN BREKYN, clerk, on resignation of George Pylkyngton.
Ibid. 1467-1477, p. 184.
- Master WILLIAM SHURLEY occurs in 1490.
Act-book.
- 1504, 6 Dec. JOHN ESTERFELD, chaplain, on death of William Shurley.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1494-1509, p. 399.

1513, 13 July. Master EDMUND HORDE, inceptor in canon law, on death of master Esterfeld. Delivered 20 July.

L. & P. H. VIII, i, no. 2137.

1518-19, 20 Mar. WILLIAM HORD, on resignation of Edmund Hord, Dec. Doc. Still prebendary in 1534-5.

(Delivered
23 Mar.).

Ibid. iii, no. 154; Val. Eccl. iii, 199.

JOHN LEVESON, prebendary in 1547-8. He appears to have been presented by lessees of the Crown, as, on 16 July, 1529, Richard Wolman, LL.D., John Oliver, LL.D., John Savage and James Clif, clerks, had a grant of the next presentation to 'Yerton' prebend, which was apparently superseded on 29 August by a similar grant, relating to 'Erthunton' prebend, to Wolman, Oliver, John Bell, Roland Lee, William Claiburgh and Thomas Bagard, Doctors of Decrees and Laws, and John Savage and George Waynewright, clerks.

Chantry Cert., and see *L. & P. H. VIII*,
iv, nos. 5815 and 5906.

4. PREBENDARIES OF MORVILLE.

THE PRIOR OF MONS WALTERI IN CAMPANIA, (apparently a place called Montgautier in Champagne). It is by no means certain that he held this prebend, and his name and those of his immediate successors are placed here with all due reserve.

1203-4, 23 Jan. Master JOHN OF LEICESTER, king's clerk, in succession to the prior of Mons Walteri.

Rot. Litt. Pat. (Rec. Comm.), p. 38.

1205, 30 Nov. H., archdeacon of Stafford, in succession to master John of Leicester. *Ibid. p. 48.*

1207-8, 23 Mar. WALTER DE CASTELL, on resignation of H., archdeacon of Stafford. *Ibid. p. 80.*

Master ROGER OF LACOCK. No prebend is named, and this and the next are merely tentative ascriptions.

1233, 11 July. BERNARD OF GRIMSBY, in succession to master Roger of Lacock. *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1232-1247, p. 21.*

OSBERT OF MAIDSTONE, king's chaplain.

1246, 22 April. HENRY OF LANGELEY, in succession to Osbert of Maidstone. No prebend is named, but he is shown by the entry in *Rot. Hund. ii, 59*, to have held that of Morville.

Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1247-1258, p. 478.

1263, 22 Aug. Master WILLIAM OF FECAMP (*de Fiscampo*), the king's physician, in succession to master Henry of Langley.

Ibid. 1258-1266, p. 276.

1289, 21 Aug. NICHOLAS LE BRUN.

Ibid. 1281-1292, p. 319.

1306, 29 Nov. WALTER OF BEDEWYND, king's clerk, on death of Nicholas le Brun. *Ibid. 1301-1307, p. 484.*

- 1317, 12 Dec. HENRY OF LUDGERSHALL (de Lutgarshale), on resignation of Walter of Bedewynd.
Ibid. 1317-1321, p. 66.
- 1328, 3 Aug. THOMAS TALEBOT, king's clerk, in succession to Henry of Ludgershall. *Ibid.* 1327-1330, p. 237.
- 1334, 20 Sept. ROBERT OF TANTON (*sic*), in succession to Thomas Talebot [appointed to the deanery].
Ibid. 1334-1338, p. 7.
- 1334-5, 20 Feb. WILLIAM OF DALTON, king's clerk, on death of Robert of Tanton (*sic*). *Ibid.* 1334-1338, p. 79.
- 1358, 22 July. RICHARD OF COLECOTE, chaplain, on resignation of William of Dalton. *Ibid.* 1358-1361, p. 83.
- 1361, 20 Oct. WILLIAM OF WENLOK, king's clerk, also called William Wynnell (? Wyvell) of Wenlok.
Ibid. 1361-1364, p. 90 : cf. *Cal. Papal Letters*, iii, 457.
- 1373, 7 Dec. WILLIAM BORSTALL, king's clerk, on exchange of the church of Flamstead, Herts., with William of Wenlok.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1370-1374, p. 379.
- 1377, 2 May. ROBERT OF CRULL, king's clerk, on resignation of William Burstall. *Ibid.* 1374-1377, p. 458.
1377. THOMAS ORGRAVE, king's clerk. No record of appointment, but probably in May, when Robert Crull succeeded him in Fridaythorpe prebend in York Minster (see Le Neve, *Fasti*, iii, 187).
- 1377, 13 Oct. JOHN OF HAYTFELD, on exchange of the wardenship of the chantry in the Guildhall chapel, London, with Thomas Orgrave.
Ibid. 1377-1381, p. 33.
- 1383, 15 Nov. RALPH ULF, king's clerk, on resignation of John of Haytfeld. *Ibid.* 1381-1385, p. 327.
- 1398, 21 Sept. RICHARD MAUDELEYN, king's clerk. Neither this nor the next grant appear to have taken effect.
Ibid. 1396-1399, p. 412.
- 1398, 7 Oct. THOMAS BUTILLER, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1396-1399, p. 416.
- 1398, 11 Dec. JOHN OUTEBY, on resignation of Ralph Ulf.
Ibid. 1396-1399, pp. 457, 459.
- 1404-5, 21 Mar. THOMAS HALIWELL, chaplain, on resignation of John Outeby. *Ibid.* 1405-1408, p. 3.
- 1450, 17 July. WILLIAM BEDALE, on death of master Thomas Haliwell.
Ibid. 1446-1452, p. 332.
- 1471-2, 8 Mar. RICHARD GILLOTT, chaplain, on resignation of master William Bedale.
Ibid. 1467-1477, p. 332.
1472. 20 Dec. ALEXANDER LYE, king's chaplain, on death of Richard Gillot. *Ibid.* 1467-1477, p. 338.
- 1485-6, 10 Mar. WILLIAM CALTON, chaplain, on resignation of Alexander Lye. *Ibid.* 1485-1494, p. 85.

- 1487, 9 Nov. Master THOMAS BURWELL, chaplain to the king's mother, on death of William Calton.
Ibid. 1485-1494, p. 195.
- 1490, 25 Nov. Master RICHARD BRAKYNBURGH, on cession of master Thomas Burwell
Ibid. 1485-1494, p. 332.
- 1499, 11 Dec. ROGER NORTON, on death of Richard Brakynborowe.
Ibid. 1494-1509, p. 189.
- 1523, 14 May. RICHARD HEWSTER, clerk, on resignation of Roger Norton.
L. & P. H. VIII, iii, no. 3062.
- 1534, 18 Oct. WILLIAM ABBOT, clerk, on death of Richard Howster, or Hewster. *Ibid.* vii, no. 1498 (24).
JOHN FISHER, prebendary in 1534-5 and 1547-8. No record of appointment, but it probably was upon the presentation of lessees, and may be connected with the grant of the next presentation to a vacant prebend, made to George Rowlton, Henry Edgare, Roger Fisser and Henry Rowce, 5 Oct. 1528, and repeated to Robert Courson, Henry Rouce, and Roger Fisser, yeomen, 28 Jan. 1529-30.
Val. Eccl. iii, 210; Chantry Cert. and see *L. & P. H. VIII*, iv, nos. 4896 and 6187.

5. PREBENDARIES OF UNDERTON.

- Master MATTHEW, the physician (*medicus*). This and the next are purely tentative ascriptions, as no prebend is named.
- 1208-9, 13 Feb. WILLIAM OF ST.-MAIXENCE (*de Sancto Maxentio*), king's clerk, in succession to master Matthew the physician.
Rot. Litt. Pat. (Record Comm.), p. 89.
JOSCEUS, chaplain of Ranulf, earl of Chester and Lincoln.
- 1223, 12 Dec. Master ROBERT OF ALRECUMB, in succession to Josceus.
Pat. Rolls, 1216-1225, p. 359.
Master ROBERT OF ST. ALBAN resigned a prebend, probably Underton, on becoming a Dominican friar in 1237-8.
- 1237-8, 27 Feb. WILLIAM DE BURGH, on resignation of master Robert of St. Alban. *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1232-1247, p. 211.
GUY DE LA PALUD (*de Palude*) may have obtained this prebend on the promotion of William de Burgh to the bishopric of Llandaff in 1244.
Mentioned in *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59.
- 1255-6, 21 Mar. RAYMOND MASSUN, brother of master Rostand, papal subdeacon and chaplain, on death of Guy de la Palud.
Ibid. 1247-1258, p. 466.
JOHN MAUNSEL. The identity of the prebend is not stated, but it was probably Underton.

- 1264-5, 7 Feb. WILLIAM DE MONTFORT, in succession to John Maunsel. As his appointment to the deanery shortly after seems to have taken no effect, he may have continued to hold this prebend till much later.
Ibid. 1258-1266, p. 410.
- JOHN LE BRUN was prebendary in 1291.
Tax. Eccl. p. 162.
- Master THEOBALD OF TROYES (*de Trecoys*).
- 1321, 10 May. MAURICE OF POISSY (*de Pissiac*), on exchange of the prebend of Ampleforth in York Minster with master Theobald of Troyes.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1317-1321, p. 580.
- 1326, 3 June. RALPH LE BLOUNT, king's clerk, on (supposed) death of Maurice of Poissy. Grant revoked on 2 March, 1326-7. In spite of this, he had letters of protection as prebendary, 6 Dec. 1330.
Ibid. 1324-1327, p. 273; 1327-1330, p. 26; 1330-1334, p. 24.
- 1331, 20 Aug. MAURICE OF POISSY, restored.
Ibid. 1330-1334, p. 162.
- 1331, 7 Oct. WALTER OF LONDON, king's clerk, on exchange of a prebend in the church of Abbeville with Maurice of Poissy.
Ibid. 1330-1334, p. 172.
- 1332, 10 Sept. NICHOLAS OF LONDON, king's clerk, on resignation of Walter of London.
Ibid. 1330-1334, p. 327.
- 1335, 4 June. GEOFFREY OF CHELSEA (*Chilchebethe*), king's clerk.
Ibid. 1334-1338, p. 113.
- 1337, 16 Oct. WALTER OF LONDON, king's clerk, on exchange of Alveley prebend with Geoffrey of Chelsea.
Ibid. 1334-1338, p. 542.
- 1343, 13 April. JOHN OF LONDON, king's clerk, on resignation of Walter of London. *Ibid.* 1343-1345, p. 17.
- 1347-8, 28 Jan. WALTER OF LONDON, on exchange of the prebend of Welton Brinkhall in the church of Lincoln with John of London. Grant surrendered and vacated.
Ibid. 1348-1350, p. 2.
- 1348-9, 27 Jan. WILLIAM OF LAMBETH (*Lambhith*), king's clerk.
Ibid. 1348-1350, p. 251.
- 1361, 9 Nov. ROBERT OF ELMHAM, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1361-1364, p. 107.
- 1364-5, 9 Mar. JOHN OF CORBY, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1364-1367, p. 97.
- 1390, 10 May. RICHARD MISSUNDENE, king's clerk, on death of John of Corby. *Ibid.* 1388-1392, p. 248.
- 1395, 10 Sept. JOHN BOOR, dean of the chapel in the king's household, in succession to master Richard Mussenden.
Ibid. 1391-1396, p. 620.
- 1402, 25 April. WILLIAM PILTON, king's clerk, in succession to John Boor.
Ibid. 1401-1405, p. 87.

- 1408, 11 July. WILLIAM ARDERN, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1405-1408, p. 460.
- 1422, 21 Dec. ROBERT DYKE, king's clerk, on death of William Ardern.
Ibid. 1422-1429, p. 16.
- 1439-40, 11 Mar. Master THOMAS CHACE, king's clerk, on resignation of Robert Dyke.
Ibid. 1436-1441, p. 437.
- 1449, 1 May. Master THOMAS LYSEUX, king's clerk, in succession to master Thomas Chace.
Ibid. 1446-1452, p. 243.
- 1459, 26 Sept. THOMAS DOWNE, king's serjeant, chaplain of the chapel within the household, on death of master Thomas Lyseux. *Ibid.* 1452-1461, p. 326.
- 1470-1, 11 Jan. Master EDWARD UNDERWODE, scholar in theology, on resignation of sir Thomas Downe. The grant, made during the brief restoration of Henry VI, does not include the cause of vacancy, which is supplied by a second grant, made by Edward IV, on 29 July 1471.
Ibid. 1467-1477, pp. 234, 265.
- 1504, 28 Nov. HENRY NERBONE, scholar, on death of Dr. Underwode.
Ibid. 1494-1509, p. 189.
- 1513, 12 Oct.
(delivered
24 Oct.). Master THOMAS LEGH, M.A., king's chaplain, on death of Henry Narbon.
L. & P. H. VIII, i, no. 2422.
- 1521, 4 May.
(delivered
11 May). ROBERT PUNSUNBY, alias LIGH, clerk, on resignation of Thomas Leigh, M.A.
Ibid. iii, no. 1324.
- 1528-9, 20 Mar.
(delivered
5 April) WILLIAM BARLES [BARLEY], Dec. Bac., *vice* Robert Pumsunbe. Second grant 1530, 5 April, to William Barlee, Dec. Bac. *vice* Robert Paunsunte (*sic*), resigned. Still prebendary (Barley) in 1534-5.
Ibid. iv, nos. 5510, 6363; *Val. Eccl.* iii, 210.
- HAMELETT SLYNGE, prebendary in 1547-8. There can be no doubt that he obtained the prebend as the result of a grant of next presentation to a vacancy made 13 Jan. 1538-9 to Edward Slyn, Robert Slyn, Thomas Buntynge and Oliver More.
Chantry Cert., and see *L. & P. H. VIII*, xiv, no. 191 (16).

6. PREBENDARIES OF WALTON.

- WILLIAM PIERREPONT OCCURS C. 1173.
- 1214-5, 7 Jan. JOHN, son of Peter Sarracenus, citizen of Rome, in succession to William de Perpunt.
Rot. Litt. Pat. (Rec. Comm.), p. 126.

- 1236, 15 Aug. JOHN OF ST.-AMAND, in succession to John Sarracenus.
Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1232-1247, p. 230.
PETER OF ABBEZOUN, mentioned in *Rot. Hund.* ii, 59, as Peter of Avelun.
- 1275, 3 Sept. JOHN OF HOWDEN (*de Houeden*), on death of Peter of Abbezoun. *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1272-1281, p. 103.
ROBERT TURBERVILLE occurs in 1291.
Tax. Eccl. p. 162.
- 1295, 13 Dec. RAYMOND DE FERRIERES (*de Ferariis*), on death of Robert Turberville. *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1292-1301, p. 169.
- 1298, 5 Nov. Master THOMAS OF LOUGHOR (*de Lugore*), king's clerk, in succession to Robert Turberville [i.e. to the prebend known as that of Robert Turberville, from its holder at the time of the Taxation of 1291].
Ibid. 1292-1301, p. 371.
- 1317, 2 Nov. WILLIAM OF SHENTON (*Sheynton*).
Ibid. 1317-1321, p. 41.
- 1366-7, 1 Jan. RICHARD OF BEVERLEY, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1364-1367, p. 346.
- 1382, 25 Sept. WILLIAM OF WESTON, in succession to Richard of Beverley.
Ibid. 1381-1385, p. 165.
- 1382-3, 24 Feb. THOMAS OF BROMFLET, king's clerk, also in succession to Richard of Beverley.
Ibid. 1381-1385, p. 229.
- 1386, 1 Aug. JOHN SOMERTON, on resignation of Thomas Brounflete.
A second grant on 10 April, 1407.
Ibid. 1385-1389, p. 199; 1405-1408, p. 313, 341.
- 1419, 20 May. RICHARD CAUDREY, king's clerk.
Ibid. 1416-1422, p. 235.
- 1428-9, 3 Feb. WILLIAM ASCUGH, S.T.B., in succession to Richard Caudray. *Ibid.* 1422-1429, p. 527.
- 1436, 8 Nov. FULK BURMYNGHAM, king's clerk, on resignation of master William Ascu.
Ibid. 1436-1441, p. 26.
- 1442-3, 9 Jan. WALTER PEYTWYN, clerk, on resignation of master Fulk Bermyngham.
Ibid. 1441-1446, p. 139.
- 1470, 11 April. Master BENEDICT BURGH, king's chaplain, on death of master Walter Peytewyn.
Ibid. 1467-1477, p. 210.
- 1476, 8 June. NICHOLAS RAWDON, chaplain, on resignation of master Benedict Burgh.
Ibid. 1467-1477, p. 590.
- 1479, 17 May. THOMAS GOSSHIP, chaplain, on death of Nicholas Rowdon.
Ibid. 1476-1485, p. 153.

- 1479, 23 Oct. JOHN HILL, chaplain, one of the vicars of St. George's chapel, Windsor, on death of Thomas Gossep.
Ibid. 1476-1485, p. 165.
- LAWRENCE SQUIER.
- 1493, 5 June. RICHARD CROWE, king's serjeant, on death of Lawrence Squier. *Ibid.* 1485-1494, p. 424.
- 1494, 14 Dec. MASTER THOMAS SYMON, on resignation of Richard Crowe.
Ibid. 1494-1509, p. 9.
- 1518, 11 Aug. WILLIAM MOULDER, clerk, minister of the chapel royal, (delivered on death of last incumbent. Called Mubber in 1534-5.
13 August.). *L. & P. H. VIII*, ii, no. 3476.
- 1545, 4 May. JOHN SYNGER, clerk of the chapel royal, on death of William Moulder.
Ibid. xx, no. 846 (21).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE DEANS OF BRIDGNORTH.

The following notes are offered in full consciousness of their imperfect character and of their need of correction and amplification in detail from sources which the writer may have overlooked or has been unable to consult.¹

No material is forthcoming for the history of the first three deans. The identity of ALEXANDER and SIMON is doubtful, and all that can be said of HUGH DE TAUNAY (1214) is that he appears at a time when John was enriching his foreign supporters and was on the eve of his final struggle with his barons. With the reign of Henry III we enter on ground where the support of original documents becomes more secure and increases as time proceeds. These notes, therefore, start from a date at which it is possible to bring together material of various kinds, including the evidence of episcopal documents, far more plentiful than the material for an earlier period.

1224. PETER OF RIVAUX.

Peter de Rivallis or Orivallis was nephew, or probably son, of Peter des Roches, bishop of Winchester. There is a brief account of him in *D.N.B.* by Prof. A. F. Pollard, and his career is treated at length by Tout, *Chapters in Med. Admin. Hist.* i, 189 sqq., from his first official appearance as one of the king's chamberlains in 1218. In 1223 he was one of the two clerks of the wardrobe, but apparently retired from office about the end of that year, when the ascendancy of the Poitevin faction at court was lost for the time being. He returned from abroad in 1230, and between 1232 and 1234 exercised extraordinary power as keeper of the wardrobe and chamber and treasurer of the household, with which office from Jan. 1232-3 he combined that of treasurer of the exchequer. For a full account of his administration and fall in 1234 see Tout, *op. cit.* i, 214-232: see also the numerous entries relating to his various offices in *P.R.* 1225-1232. Banished temporarily in 1236, he seems to have returned to England before long and served in minor posts during the renewed foreign ascendancy after 1240, becoming a baron of the exchequer in 1253, and eventually returning to the keepership of the wardrobe for a brief period in 1257. He was removed from office in the summer of 1258, as a result of the constitutional changes of that year, and died in the course of 1262.

During the thirty-eight years in which he held the deanery of Bridgnorth, his connexion with the place was probably little more than nominal. There is a significant mandate to the canons, 26 Dec. 1246, bidding them render obedience to Peter as dean (*C.P.R.* 1232-1247, p. 495), which indicates that up to that date he was a stranger to them. Very little is known of his other ecclesiastical benefices in England. He was presented, 10 June, 1204, to certain unspecified churches in Lincolnshire which were then vacant by the death of Gilbert of Beseby (*R.L.P.* p. 43), and had a grant, 17 March, 1207-8,

¹ In the following notes the abbreviations *C.P.R.* and *C.P.L.* denote the *Calendars of Patent Rolls* and *Calendars of Papal Letters*

respectively. In references to episcopal registers, the titles of those as yet unprinted are not italicised.

of the first vacant prebend of the king's gift in the church of Lincoln (*ibid.* p. 80). He also had a prebend in St. Paul's, the houses belonging to which were granted by the king to Ralph Dunion, canon of St. Paul's, after the death of Peter, 10 Jan. 1262-3 (*C.P.R.* 1258-1266, p. 238). Hennessy assumes this prebend to have been Islington.

1262. MICHAEL DE FENLES.

The name is found in various forms, Fenes, Fienles, Fienes, etc. He was canon of Terouanne and chancellor of prince Edward in 1257, when there are two entries in *C.P.L.* (i, 347) relating to dispensations to hold additional benefices, including some office in the cathedral church of St.-Omer. Letters issued on his behalf before the death of Innocent IV, in 1254, had been of no effect, and a faculty for his dispensation, previously committed to the bishop of Paris, was committed by Alexander IV to the bishop of Rochester. The result does not appear. On 25 Feb. 1263-4, as canon of Terouanne, he had a papal mandate to protect the interests of archbishop Boniface of Savoy and his ministers, then absent from England owing to the disturbances in the realm (*C.P.L.* i, 410), with other mandates relating to the liberties of the Church, which indicate that he was then in England and in the service of prince Edward.

From the next entry relating to the deanery of Bridgnorth, it appears that in the course of 1264-5 he was elected or provided to the see of Terouanne, which was vacant somewhere between 1262 and 1264. There appears, however, to be no record of his consecration: his name is not upon the list of bishops, and there is no mention of an appointment to the see until 1270 or 1274. Fenles died about the beginning of 1267, and, in spite of his resignation of the deanery in 1264-5, seems to have been regarded as the canonical holder until his death, which makes it unlikely that he obtained possession of his bishopric.

1264-5. STEPHEN OF LONDON.

This grant was probably due to the influence of prince Edward, as Stephen is mentioned in Nov. 1265 as one of his chaplains (*C.P.R.* *u.s.*, p. 410). It nearly coincides with the domination of the baronial councils by Simon de Montfort, and it was obviously in consequence of this that it was revoked, on 2 March following, as not in accordance with the will of the magnates.

1264-5. WILLIAM DE MONTFORT.

William, son of Peter de Montfort, of the diocese of Worcester, clerk, had a papal indult, 19 Dec. 1258, to hold benefices to the value of 300 marks (*C.P.L.* i, 361). He thus comes into prominence with the rise to power of his kinsman Simon. In a document written about 1278 or 1279, he is said to have been then over forty years of age, and to have obtained the church of Flixborough, Lincs., eight years before, when in subdeacon's orders (*Linc. Rot. Gravesend*, p. 351). The events of 1265 were probably fatal to his speedy promotion, and it is not until after 1270 that we know much about his career. He became specially associated with the diocese of Hereford through his friendship with Thomas de Cantilupe. For his connexion with Hereford, which lasted till his death, see the references in the indexes to

Reg. Cantilupe and *Reg. Swinfield*. Cantilupe gave him the precentorship of Hereford, 19 Nov. 1276, repeating the collation on 7 Jan. following, and, 13 April 1277, the prebend of Inkberrow. In August 1280 the bishop made arrangements for transferring him to a better prebend, then vacant; but these appear to have fallen through, as he still held Inkberrow with the precentorship at the time of his death. He also held one of the prebendal portions in the church of Ledbury, as appears from an indult of 3 April 1291, which is borne out by the fact that one of these was also vacant in 1294. He acted as Cantilupe's vicar general in 1280 and subsequent years, and was one of his executors. Le Neve (i, 573), on the authority of Wharton, states that he was archdeacon of Salop in the church of Lichfield between 1283 and 1294. If this was ever the case, the archdeaconry is not included in the list of his benefices given in 1291. It is noteworthy, however, that in 1285-6 bishop Swinfield denied the report that he had vacated an archdeaconry in the church of Hereford, which he had never possessed. This may be due to confusion between the two archdeaconries of Salop, one in Hereford and the other in Lichfield, but may equally be the result of a mistake with regard to the nature of his preferments in the former church.

He obtained the deanery of St. Paul's on 31 Oct. 1285 (Hennessy, *Nov. Rep.*), having probably received the prebend of Islington somewhat earlier. On 15 March 1290-1, he had an indult to retain the deanery during non-residence while engaged in the king's service (*C.P.L.* i, 531). The indult of 3 April, already mentioned, permitted him to retain the benefices acquired by virtue of the indult of 1258, and to hold others to the total amount of £300. A list of his benefices is given in this document, which appears to supplement and explain letters of 1 March (*ibid.* i, 529), the purport of which is less definite. In addition to the preferments in St. Paul's, Hereford and Ledbury, and the church of Flixborough, he was said to hold a prebend in Lichfield, and the churches of Audley (Staffs.) and Dersete, i.e. Dasset Parva or Avon Dasset (Warwicks), dio. Cov. and Lich.; Ingram (Northumb.), dio. Durham; Colerne (Wilts), dio. Salisbury; East Woodhay (Hants), dio. Winton; and Avening (Glouces.), Stratford-on-Avon and Whitchurch (Warwicks), dio. Worcester. About none of these is there any definite information, but *Worc. Reg. Giffard* (Worc. Hist. Soc.) shows that the churches of Avening and Stratford were vacant in 1294, when institutions are recorded, while there was an institution to Whitchurch, in the patronage of John de Montfort, in 1295. It is possible that Montfort's prebend in Lichfield was Dasset Parva, the estates of which lay in the parish of the church of which he was rector.

The latest of this series of indults was one of 6 April 1291, by which he had provision of a canonry and prebend in Lincoln (*C.P.L.* i, 533). This expectation was fulfilled on 4 Dec. 1294 following, when he had collation of South Scarle prebend (Lincoln Reg. i, f. 145 d). The circumstances of his sudden death in Convocation, 6 July 1294, are well known: see, e.g. Stubbs, *Const. Hist.* ii, 131. He is usually referred to as master William, as he was doctor of canon law: he was chancellor of the university of Oxford in 1282 (Le Neve, iii, 464).

His connexion with Bridgnorth was clearly very short, and probably ceased after the battle of Evesham. It was entirely disregarded at the next grant of the deanery, and it would seem that, in spite of his resignation,

Michael de Fenles, who had apparently been disappointed of the see of Terouanne, was considered to be still in possession until he died shortly after.

1266-7. STEPHEN OF LONDON.

This second grant to Stephen seems to have had no effect. He was presented to the church of Lugwardine, Hereford, by prince Edward, before 11 Nov. 1265, when the presentation was ratified by the Crown; and in 1266 he had letters of protection for seven years as parson of Lugwardine (*C.P.R.* 1266-1272, pp. 501, 594). There is no mention of the date at which he quitted this living.

1268. Master BONET DE ST. QUINTIN.

Bonet of St. Quintin does not appear to have had any connexion with the well-known Yorkshire family of that name, but was probably a French clerk who owed his promotion to prince Edward, in whose service he remained after his accession to the throne. *C.P.R.* contain several references to his employment by the king on foreign embassies, and to his presence in Edward's company during his journeys abroad. The deanery of Bridgnorth seems to have been his earliest preferment. On 7 July 1270, he was instituted to the church of Scrivelsby, Lincs., at the presentation of Sir Philip Marmion (*Rot. Gravesend*, p. 43). He had letters of protection as dean of Bridgnorth, 6 Feb. 1277-8, and as parson of Scrivelsby, 16 Oct. 1280 (*C.P.R.* 1272-1281, pp. 256, 399). In 1278-9 he was presented by the Crown to the church of Aldington with the chapel of Smeeth, dio. Canterbury (*ibid.* p. 297).

His earliest prebend was Holcombe Burnell, in Wells, to the church of which he was instituted on 25 Oct. 1276 (*Exeter Reg. Bronescombe*, p. 144). In 1287 he was nominated by Edward I and provided by the pope to an expectative canonry in the church of Hereford. Bishop Swinfield's mandate for his admission bears date 6 May, and, as the prebend of Church Withington fell vacant about this time by the promotion of William of Conflans to the see of Geneva, he received collation on 18 May from the commissary of the executors appointed by the pope,¹ and on 26 May his proctor was instituted by Swinfield and sent to the chapter for induction (*Hereford Reg. Swinfield*, pp. 138-9, 141-2).

An earlier grant of the prebend of Rampton, in Southwell, 28 Feb. 1285-6 (*C.P.R.* 1281-1292, p. 225) was made in disregard of the pope's right to collate, owing to the promotion of its previous holder, Cinthio della Pigna, to a bishopric. There is no definite record of his admission, although no papal nominee appears to have contested his claim at the time. In 1288, however, pope Nicholas IV provided Orlando di Ferentino. The provision was opposed, and John de Luco, one of the executors, was imprisoned in the Tower for issuing sentences of excommunication and interdict upon the opponents. On 27 Aug. 1288, the pope requested Edward I to liberate the prisoner, and subsequently, 25 Feb. 1288-9, ordered Bonet to vacate the prebend (*C.P.L.* i, 493, 495, 496). The result was that,

¹ The executors were both king's clerks, William Riskeby, dean of Wimborne Minster, and William of Louth, dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand; and their commissary was the

well-known William of Hambleton, mentioned here as canon of Wells. For a further account of the circumstances of this proceeding, see notes on Peter of Savoy below.

18 June 1290, the king wrote to the archbishop of York on behalf of Orlando and revoked the grant to Bonet. Orlando was instituted by the archbishop on 18 Aug. and installed at Southwell on the following day. The documents in this case indicate that Bonet had not obtained canonical possession (*York Reg. Romeyn* i, 390). At this time Bonet was near the end of his life, as the next appointment to the deanery shows that he was dead before 20 Dec. 1290.

1290. WALTER OF LANGTON.

The public career of this famous minister of the Crown is outlined by Tout, *op. cit.* ii, 15, 16. See also article in *D.N.B.* by the same writer. His appointment to the deanery followed closely upon his appointment to the keepership of the wardrobe in 1290, after a period of service as clerk and controller, which began about 1281. On 28 Sept. 1295, he was appointed treasurer of the exchequer (*C.P.R.* 1292-1301, p. 149) and, until the end of the reign of Edward I, exercised the chief political influence among the king's ministers. On the accession of Edward II he fell into disgrace and was imprisoned, and his second appointment as treasurer in 1312, in face of the baronial opposition to Edward II, was brief and without effect.

His earliest benefice on record was the church of Askham Richard, Yorks. W.R., of which he was rector in Aug. 1286, and which he still farmed in Nov. 1289, paying £10 a year to his successor as his exhibition at a university (*York Reg. Romeyn* i, 58, 91). He had probably resigned this church in order to obtain St. Michael's-on-Wyre, Lancs. (dio. York). He was rector of St. Michael's by 30 Dec. 1289, when he received a papal dispensation to hold an additional benefice (*C.P.L.* i, 508). As a result of this, he obtained the church of Croston, Lancs. (dio. Cov. and Lich.): on 13 Feb. 1290-1 he had an indult to retain both churches for five years without residing or taking priest's orders (*ibid.* i, 525). Meanwhile, on 9 June 1290, he was presented to the prebend of West Thurrock in the chapel of Hastings castle by John of Brittany, and the dean and chapter had orders to install him, and, on 18 Sept. following, he had a grant of the treasurership of Llandaff (*C.P.R.* 1281-1292, pp. 362, 387). This last seems to have had no effect. About the same time, he accepted the church of Nether Wallop, Hants, to which he was instituted 4 April 1290 (*Winton Reg. Pontissara*, pp. 37-8). An indult with regard to his benefices, granted 10 Oct. 1290, states that he had obtained this church without a dispensation, and was prepared to resign it (*C.P.L.* i, 519).

No record remains of his appointment to the deanery of the royal free chapel of Tettenhall, which he resigned by 6 Jan. 1290-1 (*C.P.R.* 1281-1292, p. 416), possibly as a result of his accession to the deanery of Bridgnorth. On 8 March 1290-1, he had a papal reservation and provision of a canonry in York, with licence to keep St. Michael's, Croston, and his prebend in Hastings (*C.P.L.* i, 529). This expectation was fulfilled by collation of the prebend of Fridaythorpe, 25 Nov. 1291 (*York Reg. Romeyn* ii, 12). He certainly took advantage of his position as keeper of the wardrobe to amass benefices without applying previously for dispensations. On 16 April 1291, he had licence to let the church of Nether Wallop to farm for five years (*Reg. Pontissara*, p. 47), and during this period he obtained the churches of Kirkoswald, Cumberland (dio. Carlisle) and Boldon, co. Durham. These,

with Wallop, are covered by a dispensation of 12 Feb. 1291-2, which excluded four other churches, viz. Rampton and Wimpole, Cambs., West Wickham, Kent (dio. Rochester), and Roothing (probably High Roothing), Essex, and required him to apply the fruits of his deanery and York prebend to the subsidy for the Holy Land (*C.P.L.* i, 559).

Apparently Langton resigned the last four churches without demur, and there was another rector at West Wickham in 1293 (Fielding, *Records of Roch. Dio.*, p. 295). He proceeded also to resign and exchange his other churches freely. He had quitted Nether Wallop by 28 June 1292 (*Reg. Pontissara*, p. 55), and resigned Kirkoswald on 18 March 1292-3 (*Carlisle Reg. Halton* i, 3). He also resigned Boldon and St. Michael's-on-Wyre by 6 Oct. 1295, together with Elsdon, Northumberland, of which his earlier dispensations contain no mention (*C.P.L.* i, 559). Instead of these, however, he had acquired three Yorkshire churches, viz. Adlingfleet, to which he was instituted 8 Feb. 1291-2 (*Reg. Romeyn* i, 117), and of which the first-fruits were remitted to him 6 Dec. 1293 (*ibid.* i, 134), Bedale and Hemingbrough, to the last of which he probably succeeded on the death of Bogo de Clare in 1294, and the church of Manchester, Lancs. (dio. Cov. and Lich.). To these he added further canonries and prebends in the churches of London, Chichester, Lichfield, Salisbury, Wells, Dublin, Auckland, Howden and Lanchester, and the mastership of St. Leonard's hospital at York, all of which were included in a comprehensive dispensation, issued 6 Oct. 1295, permitting him to hold them for two years, with freedom to accept others after resigning any of them (*C.P.L.* i, 559). His prebends in Chichester, Salisbury, Wells and Dublin have not been identified. He is named among the canons of Auckland in bishop Bek's ordination of the collegiate church, 14 Jan. 1292-3, as holding the second priest-prebend (*Monasticon* vi (3), 1335), and was probably preferred to his stall in Lanchester about the same time. He was admitted to the prebend of Howden in the collegiate church of that name on 22 April 1293 (*Reg. Romeyn* ii, 40-1), and to the prebend of Holborn in St. Paul's on 4 Oct. 1295 (Hennessy, p. 29). Le Neve (i, 624) identifies his prebend in Lichfield with Sandiacre. Thus, in 1295 he was rector of five parish churches, whose total gross income was rather over £325, while his deanery and ten prebends probably brought in about the same amount. But his most valuable piece of preferment was the mastership of St. Leonard's hospital, of which he had a grant for life from the Crown, 19 May 1293 (*C.P.R.* 1292-1301, p. 15). Altogether, his annual income from his benefices cannot have been far short of £1,000 at the time when he became treasurer.

The see of Coventry and Lichfield fell vacant by the death of bishop Roger on 16 Dec. 1295. Early in the new year Langton was elected in his place. The election received the royal assent on 25 April 1296, and the temporalities were restored on 16 June (*C.P.R.* 1292-1301, pp. 188, 193). His consecration, however, was deferred until 23 Dec. in the same year, when he was consecrated at Cambrai by Berard de Got, cardinal bishop of Albano (Stubbs, *R.S.A.*, p. 68). Up to the date of this promotion he appears to have proceeded no further than deacon's orders. By consecration he vacated his benefices. He seems, however, to have retained the deanery of Bridgnorth for a time, and certainly did not resign St. Leonard's hospital. On 8 April 1298, he obtained a fresh grant of the mastership for life (*C.P.R.*

1292-1301, p. 340), and kept it with his bishopric until his death on 9 Nov. 1321. The story of his career as bishop is extremely chequered. The charges brought against his moral conduct by sir John Lovetot, the patron of his former church of Adlingfleet, led to his temporary suspension from his episcopal office in 1301-1303, and, as has been said, his fall from power in 1307 was a disaster which he failed to retrieve later. He left his mark upon his cathedral church by the erection of a wall round the close and by the construction of the beautiful Lady chapel, on the south side of which he was buried.

1298. AMADEUS OF SAVOY.

His parentage is nowhere stated, but he was probably a younger son of Amadeus V, count of Savoy, and therefore a brother of Aymon, who became archdeacon of York in 1300 and prebendary of Strensall in that church in 1301-2 (*York Reg. Corbridge* ii. 4, 13), but later resigned his orders and succeeded his brother Edward as count of Savoy, 1329-1343. Both were under age in 1298 (*C.P.L.* i, 578, 580).

Amadeus had provision of a canonry in Lincoln with reservation of a prebend as early as 1 Sept. 1295 (*C.P.L.* i, 560), which was fulfilled by his admission to Thorngate prebend, 26 March 1296 (Lincoln Reg. i, f. 151 and *d.*). On 30 June 1297, he had a grant of a prebend in Salisbury, which appears to have been the priest-prebend of Highworth (*C.P.R.* 1292-1301, p. 257). He had letters of protection as archdeacon of Oxford, 8 March 1297-8 (*ibid.* p. 334), but, although this office had been reserved to him by the pope, he was prevented from obtaining it by his nonage. On 26 Nov. 1298 he had a further reservation of a benefice and dignity in the church of Lincoln, with a dispensation to hold it with the deanery of Bridgnorth, and with canonries and prebends in Lincoln, Salisbury, York and Dublin (*C.P.L.* i, 580). As far as York and Dublin were concerned, his prebends were merely expectancies. He died before 15 July 1300, (Lincoln Reg. ii, f. 280), when he was probably still under age.

1300. WILLIAM OF SAVOY.

Possibly a brother of Aymon and Amadeus. He succeeded Amadeus here and in his prebend of Highworth, in Salisbury. He resigned the deanery within a year of his appointment and vacated Highworth before 20 Jan. 1305-6 (*C.P.L.* ii, 7).

1301. PETER OF SAVOY.

Son of Lewis of Savoy, count of Vaud and brother of Amadeus V, count of Savoy (see *York Reg. Romeyn* i, 389, etc.). On 18 Feb. 1286-7, Edward I presented him for admission to the prebend of Church Withington in Hereford. Bishop Swinfield, however, refused to admit him for the time being, as it was not canonically vacant until its previous holder, William of Conflans, had been consecrated to the see of Geneva. Meanwhile, Bonet of St. Quintin (see above), who had been nominated by Edward for provision to a canonry, obtained the prebend, owing to the pressure put upon the bishop by the papal executors. The king, who was in Gascony at the time, expostulated with the bishop for his delay in satisfying Peter of Savoy, but Swinfield explained how matters stood and showed that he was for the

present unable to accede to the demand. He had previously sent a letter to the same effect to Giles of Oudenarde, of the king's wardrobe, the meaning of which is misconstrued by the editor of *Reg. Swinfield* as a refusal of a request of Giles on his own behalf (*Hereford Reg. Swinfield*, pp. 135-6, 138-9, 141-2, 150-3). Eventually, after the death of Bonet of St. Quintin, Peter obtained the prebend, 23 Dec. 1290 (*ibid.* p. 528: see the error in *Le Neve* i, 504).

On 15 Feb. 1288-9, the king ordered the dean and chapter of Salisbury, *sede vacante*, to admit Peter to a prebend, which a later entry shows to have been that of Highworth (*C.P.R.* 1281-1292, p. 313, 340). He had a dispensation, 29 Dec. 1289, to hold a cure of souls with this prebend, being then under 25 years of age (*C.P.L.* i, 506). On 17 Aug. 1290, he had collation of the prebend of Wistow in York, which had been reserved by the pope on the death of the Italian Percival of Lavagna (*York Reg. Romeyn* i, 389: see also ii, 168, for the arrangements made for farming the prebend and cf. the error in *Le Neve* iii, 225). He had a further collation of South Newbald prebend in the same church, 6 Jan. 1290-1 (*Reg. Romeyn* i, 393), for which he must have resigned Wistow, although there is no note of his successor in the latter. He continued to hold South Newbald till 1308, and appears to have claimed to hold it later, although he had vacated it canonically (*York Reg. Greenfield* i, ff. 20 d., 28 d.). On 30 Dec. 1291 he obtained Marston St. Lawrence prebend in Lincoln, which he quitted, 23 Dec. 1292, for the prebend of Langford Manor (*Lincoln Reg.* i, ff. 146, 146 d.). The fact that he had been admitted to a prebend here seems to have been unknown at Rome on 4 March 1291-2, the date of a dispensation which empowered him to hold his prebends in York, Salisbury and Hereford, and the treasurer's office of Llandaff with a canonry of Lincoln, a prebend being reserved (*C.P.L.* i, 557). At this date he was still under age. He probably superseded Walter Langton (see above) in the dignity at Llandaff, but of this there is no further mention.

On 29 Nov. 1293, Peter received collation of the precentorship of Lincoln (*Lincoln Reg.* i, f. 147 d.), and on 27 June, 1294, had letters of protection as dean of St. Martin's-le-Grand (*C.P.L.* 1292-1301, p. 77). A dispensation of 29 Aug. 1295, authorised him to hold the various benefices which he had obtained (*C.P.L.* i, 560). In June 1297, during a vacancy in the see of Salisbury, he was preferred to the deanery (*C.P.R.* 1292-1301, p. 257). As there was a prebend annexed to the deanery, he now vacated the prebend of Highworth, in which he was succeeded by his kinsman Amadeus (see above). On 3 Jan. 1297-8, he had an indult to use a portable altar, and on 5 Jan. another allowing him to retain the fruits of the benefices which he had received while under age (*C.P.L.* i, 174).

The deanery of Bridgnorth appears to have been the last English benefice of any importance which he received. His pluralities, although by no means unique, involved a serious irregularity, as his dignities at Salisbury and Lincoln required residence. *Le Neve* (ii, 83) notes that he was not installed at Lincoln until 8 Sept. 1305. During the same year bishop Simon of Gaunt made an attempt to compel him to reside at Salisbury, threatening to sequester the deanery (*Reg. Sim. de Gandavo*, pp. 160-2, 163-4, 165-6). The dispute which arose included the question of the bishop's right to hold a visitation of the deanery and its peculiar (*C.P.L.* ii, 1).

His connexion with England ceased after his election to the archbishopric of Lyons in 1308. He does not seem to have been consecrated till the following year, and was still archbishop-elect on 9 March 1308-9, when the pope issued a mandate authorising his resignation of his deanery and prebend in Salisbury and their provision to his successor (*C.P.L.* ii, 29). He is still mentioned as prebendary of Langford Manor in Lincoln on 1 Dec. 1309 (*C.P.R.* 1330-1334, p. 227), and his successor in this and in the dignity of precentor did not receive collation until 4 Feb. 1309-10 (Lincoln Reg. ii, f. 292 and *d.*). He died in Nov. 1332 (Gams, p. 571).

1308. INGELARD OF WARLEY.

Clerk of the chamber to Edward II, 1307; keeper of the wardrobe 1309-1311 and 1311-12-1314; baron of the exchequer after 1314. See Tout, *op. cit.* ii, 226, 231-4, 237, 239, 316-9.

He had a dispensation, 11 May 1307, to retain the churches of Cropthorne, Worces. and Gunton, Norfolk, and accept an additional benefice (*C.P.L.* ii, 23). Under this, he obtained the church of Albrighton, Salop, and had a second dispensation, 11 March 1307-8, to accept two more benefices, so as to bring his total revenues up to £100 (*ibid.* ii, 39). The churches already obtained were returned as worth 50 marks: they were taxed, however, at much less than this. Soon after his preferment to the deanery of Bridgnorth, he received a grant of Compton Dundon prebend in Wells, 15 Dec. 1308. This appears to be cancelled by a grant of the same prebend to John of Sandal, then chancellor of the exchequer, 16 May 1309; but, on 11 Sept. 1310, Sandal had a grant of Wiveliscombe prebend and the provostship of Wells, and, on 5 Feb. 1311-12, letters were issued prohibiting the disturbance of Warley's possession of Compton Dundon (*C.P.R.* 1307-1313, pp. 98, 115, 277, 428-9). The printed edition of Reg. Drokensford throws no light on this.

On 10 Nov. 1309, he had a grant of the prebend of Laughton in York (*ibid.* p. 198). The prebend was claimed by a previous grantee, Punchard de Monte Martini, and on 23 Nov. the archbishop issued a commission of enquiry into the presentation (York Reg. Greenfield i, f. 30). There is no record of Warley's admission in Reg. Greenfield: Le Neve (iii, 200) gives the date 25 Jan. 1309-10, without specifying his authority. Warley was presented to the church of Sawbridgeworth, Herts. (dio. London), a valuable living recently vacated by the promotion of Walter Reynolds to the see of Worcester, on 24 Jan. 1309-10 (*C.P.R.* 1307-1313, p. 205). But he seems to have reached the limits allowed by his dispensation before he could be canonically admitted to Sawbridgeworth; for a dispensation granted in 1 May 1310, shows that, in addition to the three churches of Cropthorne, Gunton and Albrighton, he also held that of Muckleston, Staffs., and, beside his preferments in Wells and York and his deanery, had canonries and prebends in the churches of St. David's and St. Martin's-le-Grand (*C.P.L.* ii, 72). He was now empowered to accept Sawbridgeworth and another church, upon resigning two of the rectories already in his possession. It was probably within the terms of this dispensation that he should accept the church of Wraysbury, Bucks, to which he was presented 17 Jan. 1310-13 (*C.P.R.* 1307-1313, p. 520).

It should be noted that a period of three years elapsed between his presentation to Sawbridgeworth and that to Wraysbury, during which he received no Crown preferment. His absence from the keepership of the wardrobe, as one of the most obnoxious of Edward II's ministers to the lords ordainers, was brief; but, in face of baronial opposition, his tenure of his benefices was precarious, and no attempt was made to load him with rich preferments. The presentation to Wraysbury occurred during his second term of office in the wardrobe, and to the same epoch belong the grant to him of the deanery of Tettenhall, 13 May 1314 (*C.P.R.* 1313-1317, p. 114), and the collation of Normanton prebend in Southwell, 18 Aug. 1314 (*Reg. Greenfield* ii, f. 18 d.). He left the wardrobe in Dec. 1314. After this period he received a grant of the prebend of Kentish Town in St. Paul's, 21 April 1317 (*C.P.R.* 1313-1317, p. 639).

His prebend in Southwell was said to be vacant on 24 Oct. 1317 by his death, and was granted to another person; but four days later this grant was revoked, as it was found that he was still alive (*C.P.R.* 1317-1321, pp. 37, 41). The actual date of his death is by no means certain. He appears, however, to have made a general resignation of his benefices at the end of 1317 or the beginning of 1318. He resigned the deanery of Tettenhall before 30 March 1318 (*ibid.* p. 126), and, on 23 July following, a papal mandate was issued to the bishop of Worcester to the effect that the church of Crothorne was void by his cession as a pluralist who held no appropriate dispensation (*C.P.L.* ii, 180).

1317-18, 19 Feb. Master THOMAS OF EYTON, also called KNOCKYN, king's clerk, by grant (*C.P.R.* 1317-1321, p. 106).

Details relating to this clerk are scanty. He was presented by the Crown to the church of Dyrham, Glouces., 16 March 1315-16 (*C.P.R.* 1313-1317, p. 439). On 6 Aug. 1317, archbishop Reynolds, exercising his privilege of nominating one of his clerks for a benefice to a newly consecrated suffragan, recommended Eyton to bishop Orleton for preferment in the diocese of Hereford (*Hereford Reg. Orleton*, pp. 14-15). There is no evidence that this had any effect. Le Neve (i, 591) mentions Thomas Knockyn as prebendary of Colwich in Lichfield in 1327. In the same year there was a report of his death, and the deanery was granted, 1 July, to HENRY OF HARLEY, a clerk of whose career nothing appears to be known (*C.P.R.* 1327-1330, p. 134). This grant was revoked, however, 11 Aug. following, and the grant to Thomas of Eyton was ratified 6 Feb. 1327-8 (*ibid.* pp. 144, 228).

1334. THOMAS TALBOT.

From *C.P.L.* i, 206, we know that Thomas Talbot was the son of Richard Talbot, and was presented by his brother Gilbert Talbot to the church of Credenhill, Hereford. He was instituted 15 Oct. 1307, being then acolyte (*Hereford Reg. Swinfield*, p. 357), and six weeks later was presented to the church of Tanworth, Warwicks. (dio. Worcester), by his kinsman Guy, earl of Warwick. He resigned Credenhill by 18 Feb. 1312-13 (*Reg. Swinfield*, p. 542). As rector of Tanworth, he had successive licences of non-residence for purposes of study, 7 Nov. 1308, and 26 Dec. 1312, in which he is described as master, and in 1308 had letters dimissory to be ordained subdeacon (*Worcester Reg. Reynolds*, pp. 85, 91, 92). He had letters of protection as

rector of Tanworth 18 July 1318-19 (*C.P.R.* 1317-1321, p. 265). On 26 Jan. 1319-20 a papal mandate was issued to the abbot of Evesham and others to induct him into the reserved rectory of Laxfield, Suffolk (*C.P.R.* ii, 196). There is no mention of this church in a dispensation granted 1 Aug. 1320, which refers retrospectively to his simultaneous tenure of Credenhill and Tanworth. In this it is asserted that he held Credenhill for eleven years, whereas the actual time was only half that period (*ibid.* ii, 206).

On 17 Dec. 1320, he had collation of the prebend of Preston Wynne in Hereford (*Reg. Orleton*, p. 386). He long maintained a close connexion with Hereford, acting from time to time as a commissary of successive bishops. See, e.g. the commission of 12 Oct. 1346, authorising him and another canon to lay the foundation stone of the Augustinian priory of Flanesford, founded in the neighbourhood of Goodrich castle by sir Richard Talbot (*Reg. Trillek*, pp. 88-9). In Nov. 1353, during the vacancy of the deanery of Hereford, he occurs as a canon in residence, acting as dean during his week of office (*ibid.* p. 236).

His connexion with Bridgnorth began with a grant of Alveley prebend, 24 Feb. 1327-8 (*C.P.R.* 1327-1330, p. 237). On 3 Aug. following he received a grant of Morville prebend (*ibid.* p. 310), which he resigned on succeeding to the deanery. As dean, he and his chapter were charged with waste and dilapidation, and a commission to visit the chapel was issued to John of Thoresby and John Hubaud, 8 Oct. 1336 (*C.P.R.* 1334-1338, p. 365). It is probable that he continued to hold the deanery till 1353, when he must have resigned. On 22 Feb. 1348-9, as canon of Hereford, he had licence to choose a confessor (*C.P.L.* iii, 310). He was at this period rector of Ross, Hereford., and three times in 1349 presented a vicar (*Reg. Trillek*, pp. 374, 375, 380: John Talbot, on p. 380, is an obvious mistake for Thomas). He died before 23 May 1362, when his successor as rector of Ross was instituted (*Reg. L. Charlton*, p. 66).

1353. THOMAS KEYNES.

Thomas Caignes or Kaygnes—there are several forms of the name—became rector of North Tawton, Devon, about 1328, and between 23 May of that year and 30 April 1338, a number of licences for non-residence while engaged in study were granted to him (*Exeter Reg. Grandisson*, pp. 342, etc.). He had letters dimissory to be ordained subdeacon, 17 Oct. 1329 (*ibid.* p. 412), and was deacon in 1338, when he had obtained his master's degree (*ibid.* p. 872). He eventually received priest's orders and entered the royal service, becoming almoner to Edward III. On 20 Nov. 1348, he was presented to the church of Boxworth, Cambs.; in 1349 to Brington, Hunts., 6 June, and to Lydyate, dio. Bath and Wells, 20 Nov. (*C.P.R.* 1348-1350, pp. 207, 309, 352). These presentations, like many made during the year of the great pestilence, do not appear to have taken effect: the church of Lydyate also cannot be identified with any church in the diocese of Bath and Wells and, as the advowson belonged to the inheritance of the earl of Salisbury, was probably one of the Wiltshire Lydiards, dio. Sarum. Grants of a prebend in Exeter, 15 Jan., and of the treasurer'ship of Exeter, 28 Feb. 1349-50 (*ibid.* pp. 440, 472), appear to have had no result. Between these two dates, on 31 Jan., Keynes, named as priest of the diocese of Exeter, had licence from the pope to choose his own confessor (*C.P.L.* iii, 329).

He obtained a prebend, however, in the church of St. Crantock, of which he was in possession before 1 Feb. 1351-2 (*Reg. Grandisson*, p. 1500).

On 28 Aug. 1351 he was presented to the prebend of Crowhurst in Hastings castle chapel (*C.P.R.* 1350-1354, p. 129), and on 18 May 1352, to the wardenship of the free chapel in Shrewsbury castle (*ibid.* p. 263). To these preferments the deanery of Bridgnorth was added in the following year. A grant of the deanery and a prebend in St. Stephen's, Westminster, followed on 26 Nov. 1355 (*C.P.R.* 1354-1358, pp. 310, 321). He resigned his prebend in Hastings by 13 Aug. 1357, but was presented to West Thurrock prebend in the same church by William de Wauton, the royal mandate for his admission bearing date 30 Sept. following (*ibid.* pp. 595, 600, 601).

A grant of the prebend of Wigginton in the church of Tamworth, 22 March 1358-9, probably owing to an error in its terms, was renewed on 1 April following, and again on 23 June (*C.P.R.* 1358-1361, pp. 186, 192, 230). Keynes was instituted to this on 11 July (*Lichfield Reg. Stretton, Sed. Vac.* p. 10). Meanwhile, on 17 June 1359, he had collation of Westbrook prebend in the church of Bosham (*Reg. Grandisson*, p. 1452). On 1 July he had received from the king the office of keeper of the park of Folly John and forester of Ascot for life, with wages at the rate of twopence a day (*C.P.R.* 1358-1361, p. 235). On 8 May 1360, he had a presentation to the church of Martley, Worces. (*ibid.* p. 257). Up to this time he had obtained no preferment in a cathedral church. On 13 June 1361, however, he had a grant of Shipton prebend in Salisbury, with a nomination addressed to the bishop (*C.P.R.* 1361-1364, pp. 29, 32). On 14 Oct. following he was presented to the church of Rougham, Suffolk, and on 25 Oct. to the prebend of Twyford in St. Paul's (*ibid.* pp. 85, 91), to the second of which he was admitted on 27 Oct. (Hennessy, p. 52). He was presented to the church of East Dereham, Norfolk, 16 Nov. 1362 (*C.P.R.* 1361-1364, p. 264).

This was his last important piece of preferment. It is rather noteworthy that throughout his career he obtained no dispensation to hold two cures of souls, and it is probable that, allowing for certain presentations which did not take effect, he vacated one parish church upon his institution to another. There is no record of the date at which he quitted North Tawton. It is possible that he may be identified with the Thomas 'Canynge,' who was instituted to Whitstone, Cornwall, on 16 April 1359, at the presentation of sir Henry Pomeroy (*Reg. Grandisson*, p. 1451). The next institution to this church is wanting. He was instituted to Martley, 25 July 1360 Worcester Reg. Brian. i, f. 30 d.), but resigned the church by 5 Nov. 1361 (*ibid.* f. 39 d.). This implies that he vacated it for the more valuable benefice of Rougham, and he probably resigned this church for the excellent living of East Dereham, which was taxed at 110 marks.

Of his various sinecures, he resigned the deanery of Bridgnorth in 1362. On 7 Oct. 1366, he exchanged his prebend in St. Paul's for the chantry of Wykhambrok in St. Martin's-le-Grand (*London Reg. Sudbury*, p. 252) and his prebend in Bosham for the free chapel of Tothill, which was in the collation of the abbot of Westminster (*Reg. Grandisson*, p. 1500). His return of his pluralities, in pursuance of the constitution of Urban V, issued 3 May, 1366 (*Lambeth Reg. Langham*, f. 15 d.), was made ten days after these exchanges, and mentions that he had held the two prebends after receiving

his monition, but does not include the two new benefices. He returned the deanery of St. Stephen's (yearly value 100 marks) with a prebend in the same chapel (taxed at 40s.), and the church of East Dereham (taxed at 110 marks), adding a note that he possessed a papal dispensation to the effect that, owing to divers reasons specified in the bull, the dean might hold a church or dignity with his office. His other benefices were the free chapel in Shrewsbury castle (taxed at 27 marks), Eartham prebend in Chichester (taxed at 15 marks, but worth no more than 104s. yearly), and his prebends in Hastings (taxed at 40 marks, but worth only 30 marks), Salisbury (taxed at 44 marks), Tamworth (yearly value 30 marks), and St. Crantock (taxed at 4 marks). This seems to be the only notice of the prebend in Chichester: Hennessy has misread the statement that this prebend was charged with a pension of 20s. to the vicar of Eartham, and makes Keynes vicar as well as prebendary.

Keynes died within a few months of this return. His prebend in Tamworth, vacant by his death, was granted to his successor on 4 April 1367 (*C.P.R.* 1364-1367, p. 418). It may be noted that a complaint lodged by him concerning the detention of goods belonging to his chapel at Shrewsbury was the subject of a commission of oyer and terminer, issued 4 July 1364 (*C.P.R.* 1361-1364, p. 546).

1362. ROBERT YVES.

Robert Yves, Yve or Ive, who succeeded to the deanery upon Thomas Keynes' resignation, had little claim to the title of king's clerk, and its application to him is an example of that general use of the term to which reference has been made in the introduction to these notes. He belonged to the diocese of Hereford, and there he seems to have spent most of his life. He was ordained subdeacon at Hereford, 28 Feb. 1354-5, deacon on 21 March, and priest on 4 April following, on titles supplied by the favour of bishop Trillek (*Hereford Reg. Trillek*, pp. 613-15). There is no other mention of him in the registers of Trillek or his successor Lewis Charlton. He was instituted to the church of Kingham, Oxon, 8 Sept. 1361, at the presentation of the abbot and convent of Walden, when he is described as Robert Ive of Hatfeld, clerk (*Lincoln Reg.* ix, f. 276 d.). He is mentioned as rector of Kingham on 12 Nov. 1364 (*C.P.R.* 1364-1367, p. 31). He resigned this before his return of pluralities in 1366, which was made in the diocese of Hereford. He is here described as Robert Yve, priest, and, in addition to the deanery of Bridgnorth, held the penitentiary's prebend in the church of Hereford, the duties attached to which required residence. There is no record of this at Hereford, where records of collations of prebends were kept very irregularly. Le Neve, who states (i, 501) that Henry, vicar of Ledbury, was made penitentiary on 1 March 1366, i.e. 1366-7, is in error, as he depended upon a grant (*Reg. L. Charlton*, pp. 37-8) which has nothing to do with the prebend, but concerns the parish of Ledbury alone. Yve's two benefices in 1366 were estimated at the annual revenue of 80 marks (*Lambeth Reg. Langham* f. 25). He died in 1369, and evidently held the deanery and prebend at the time of his death. On 26 July in that year he is spoken of as last dean of Bridgnorth, and on 16 Aug. as late penitentiary of the church of Hereford (*C.P.R.* 1367-1370, pp. 295, 347).

1369. THOMAS OF BRANTYNGHAM.

The official career of this celebrated clerk, from his appearance as a clerk of the king's wardrobe in 1349 to his consecration as bishop of Exeter, 12 May 1370, is traced by Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 261-2. See also article in *D.N.B.*, Supp. i, by Prof. A. F. Pollard. A full account of his ecclesiastical preferments up to that date has been given by the present writer in a series of notes upon the returns of pluralists beneficed in the diocese of Lincoln in 1366 (*Assoc. Archib. Soc. Reports and Papers* xxxii, 18-20), and need not be repeated here. See also the introduction to Hingeston-Randolph's edition of his Exeter register.

His appointment to the deanery of Bridgnorth followed closely upon his appointment as treasurer of the exchequer on 7 June 1369 (*C.P.R.* 1367-1370, p. 280). He had previously held the prebend of Eardington, of which he had a grant on 21 April 1368 (*ibid.* p. 100), and during his tenure of which he was keeper of the wardrobe. At this date his benefices included the treasurer'ship of Wells with the prebend of Combe XI, and the prebends of Neasden in St. Paul's and Withington in Hereford. The death of John Grandisson, bishop of Exeter, took place on 16 July 1369, four days after the grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth to Brantyngham, who was clearly marked out as his successor. The grant of a prebend in Exeter to him on 24 July (*ibid.* p. 290), a week before the issue of the *conge d'elire* (*ibid.* p. 291), was obviously made in order to qualify him for election. He vacated the deanery and his other benefices upon his consecration.

As bishop, he retained the treasurer'ship until 27 March 1371. He returned to this office on 19 July 1377, and held it until Feb. 1380-1. He was appointed treasurer a third time on 4 May 1390, after Richard II's recovery of power, but resigned shortly after. He died 23 Dec. 1394.

1370. HENRY OF WAKEFIELD.

This clerk, who began his career in the service of the earl of Hereford, succeeded Brantyngham as keeper of the wardrobe, 27 June 1369, and held that office until 13 Oct. 1375 (Tout, *op. cit.* iv, 153). He was consecrated bishop of Worcester on 28 Oct. 1375. He became treasurer of the exchequer on 11 Jan. 1376-7 for a few months, but was succeeded by Brantyngham in July. A full account of his preferments has been given by the present writer in *Assoc. Archib. Soc. Reports and Papers* xxxvi, 15-16. At the time of his appointment to the deanery he was treasurer of St. Paul's, and apparently held Gorwall prebend in Hereford, Howth prebend in Dublin, and one of the Good Easter prebends in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

The grant of the deanery was revoked on 11 May 1370, the day before Brantyngham's consecration as bishop of Exeter (*C.P.R.* 367-1370, p. 401). It was therefore made before the deanery was actually void, and was not renewed later.

1370. ROGER OF OTERY.

The deanery now passed for seventeen years to a clerk whose interests were wholly ecclesiastical, and who had no connexion with any department of state. The extremely interesting and detailed return of his pluralities in 1366 (Lambeth Reg. Langham, f. 26), unique in the series of documents to

which it belongs, has been fully translated by the present writer in *Assoc. Archit. Soc. Reports and Papers* xxxv, 227-9, and his career is further discussed at length in *Trans. Bristol and Glouces. Archaeol. Soc.* xxxviii, 125-9. See a shorter account in *Archaeol. Journal* lxxii, 254-5. He held the deanery with the church of Bledlow, Bucks, until his death in 1387. This took place before 24 Sept. in that year, the date of the next institution to Bledlow (Lincoln Reg. xi, f. 387).

1387. NICHOLAS SLAKE.

Slake is one of the clerks who came into prominence during the reign of Richard II, but of whom very little is known apart from their preferments. The first mention of him, early in the reign, is his nomination to the first vacancy in the prebends of the church of Howden, 23 Feb. 1378-9 (*C.P.R.* 1377-1381, p. 330). It is probable that he had to wait some time to realise this expectation, and there is no note in the York registers of his accession to a prebend; but he certainly succeeded Henry Snaith, who died before 21 April 1382 (York Reg. A. Neville i, f. 12 d.), in Howden prebend. On 6 May 1382, he had a grant of a prebend in St. George's, Windsor, and another, on 8 May, of the chapel of Rouncival by Westminster (*C.P.R.* 1381-1385, pp. 117, 123). These were followed 2 May, 1384, by a presentation to a prebend in Hastings, which appears to have been one of the three portions of Wartling, Ninfield and Hoo (*ibid.* p. 397). On 7 Feb. 1384-5 he was presented to the church of Llaneugrad with Llanallgo, Anglesey, for which he exchanged the church of Llandowin in the same county (*ibid.* p. 520). He obtained a grant of the archdeaconry of Chester, 16 Oct. 1385 (*C.P.R.* 1385-1389, p. 23), to which, according to Le Neve (i, 566), he was admitted on 30 Nov.

His appointment to the profitable office of master or warden of St. Leonard's hospital, York, 5 June 1386 (*C.P.R.* 1385-1389, p. 158), was followed, on 10 June, by a grant of the deanery of Tettenhall, for which he exchanged his prebend in Howden (*ibid.* p. 154: cf. Reg. A. Neville, ff. 96 d., 97.). He had already resigned his prebend in Hastings, before 12 Jan. 1385-6 (*C.P.R.* 1385-1389, p. 77), and his tenure of the deanery of Tettenhall was extremely short, as he resigned it before 18 July 1386 (*ibid.* p. 195). In the following year he had another grant of a prebend in Windsor, 20 Nov. 1387 (*ibid.* p. 368).¹ This, together with the grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth, occurred during the critical period before the victory of the lords appellant over the favourites of the king. At this time Slake was dean of the chapel royal, and, although he escaped the penalties which were meted out freely by the Merciless parliament of 1388, he was among the clerks who were obnoxious to the triumphant party (see note on p. 39 above; see also the note in Tout, *op. cit.* iii, 434, and *ibid.* p. 435). He remained without further preferment until 1391. On 28 Aug. of that year he received a grant of the archdeaconry of Wells. But already, on 6 June, the same dignity had been granted to Thomas of Tutbury (*C.P.R.* 1388-1392, pp. 428, 478). It is therefore probable that the two grants were compromised by Slake's

¹ This is the construction which Le Neve places on the grant to Slake of the house of a deceased canon. Slake's previous dwelling

was granted on 21 Nov. to John Boulard (*ibid.*), but the grants imply an exchange of dwelling-houses rather than of prebends.

resignation of the deanery of Bridgnorth, which was granted to Tutbury on 11 Oct., while Slake had a second grant of the archdeaconry on 1 Nov. (*ibid.* pp. 486, 492). He was installed as archdeacon between this date and Michaelmas of the following year (*Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells*, ii, 24). In Jan. 1391-2 he is mentioned as rector of Lanteglos-by-Camelford, Cornwall (*C.P.R.* 1391-1396, p. 25). On 26 May 1392, he had a grant of the wardenship of the hospital of St. John Baptist, Bridgnorth (*ibid.* p. 52); but it is doubtful whether this grant, which was for life, took effect. At any rate, he must have resigned the hospital somewhere between 1392 and 1395 (see *ibid.* p. 570). He was presented to Brightling prebend in Hastings on 2 April 1393, which he exchanged, 9 Aug. 1394, for a prebend in Windsor—his third grant of this kind—and apparently also for Eardington prebend in Bridgnorth (*ibid.* pp. 260, 485). On 3 Sept. following, when he was about to go to Ireland with Richard II, he received letters of protection as archdeacon of Wells and late parson of Yeovil, Somerset (*ibid.* p. 483). He is again mentioned as late parson of Yeovil, 28 April 1396 (*ibid.* p. 703), but further evidence for his tenure of this church is wanting.

It is rather difficult to follow the course of his preferments during the later years of Richard II, as he held none for long together, and his possession of them seems to have been frequently disturbed. On 22 July 1394, he obtained Wenlocksborn prebend in St. Paul's, which he resigned by 30 Oct. 1395 (Hennessy, p. 53). During the first half of 1395 he had a grant of the deanery of St. Buryan, Cornwall (*C.P.R.* 1391-1396, p. 529). On 15 Aug. 1395, a grant is twice recorded of the prebend of Sirescote in the church of Tamworth, which was repeated on 10 Jan. 1395-6 (*ibid.* pp. 613, 621, 663), and on 22 Sept. 1395 he had a grant for life of the mastership of Sherburn hospital, co. Durham (*ibid.* p. 621). Le Neve (iii, 221) mentions him as prebendary of Warthill in York, 7 Feb. 1395-6 to about 28 Feb. 1396-7; but collations of prebends for this period are wanting in the registers at York. The grant of the deanery of St. Stephen's, Westminster, 17 April 1396 (*C.P.R.* 1391-1396, p. 684) appears to have been the last of the numerous grants which he received from Richard II.

On 13 Sept. 1395, at the petition of the king on his behalf as his com-mensal chaplain, the pope extended various dispensations which Slake had obtained on grounds of illegitimacy to a licence to hold four benefices, including dignities. He is here described as canon of Windsor, a previous description as archdeacon of Chester being cancelled (*C.P.L.* iv, 506). There is no indication that he had quitted the archdeaconry of Wells at this date. Le Neve (i, 151) says that he was dean of Wells in 1396; but this must be a mistake, and the reference given is vague and untrustworthy. It is clear that Thomas Sudbury, who was dean as late as 26 Oct. 1395 (see *Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells* i, 421-2), died in 1396. Guy Mone, who was elected to the deanery on 10 Aug. (Le Neve, u.s.) was appointed very shortly afterwards to the see of St. David's, and Henry Beaufort was provided to the deanery in his stead, receiving royal pardon for his provision on 20 Dec. (*C.P.R.* 1396-1399, p. 46). The actual day of Sudbury's death appears to be unknown, but it may have been early in 1396, in which case it is possible that Slake prematurely sued out a provision to the deanery on his own account, which could have been covered by the fact that Sudbury was an auditor of the papal palace and that his benefices lay at the pope's disposition.

This is the only reason which can be alleged for Slake's outlawry, mentioned in April 1396 (*C.P.L.* 1391-1396, p. 703), as such a provision would have incurred the penalties of the statute of provisors, while it was apparently not in keeping with the king's wishes at the time. Early in 1398, however, Beaufort was appointed to the see of Lincoln and vacated the deanery of Wells, to which Slake was provided. On 14 April 1398 his provision to the *archdeaconry* of Wells was sanctioned by the king (*C.P.R.* 1396-1399, p. 322). This must be an error, as the deanery is clearly meant, and Le Neve (i, 160), who says that he was archdeacon of Wells, 11 Sept. 1398, gives references of which one disproves the statement, as it is to the much earlier grant of 28 Aug. 1391 (see above). Slake was in possession of the deanery on 18 Feb. 1398-9 and 22 April 1400, the dates of two deeds drawn up at chapter meetings (*Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells* i, 356; ii, 651). On both these occasions he was abroad. He is mentioned as dean on 9 Oct. 1398, and again on 17 June 1399 (*C.P.R.* 1396-1399, p. 426; 1399-1401, p. 288).

Slake appears to have retained the archdeaconry of Wells until 4 May 1398, when he exchanged it with John Ikelington for the rectory of St. Mary Abchurch in the city of London. This, at any rate, seems to be the explanation of the contradictory statements in Newcourt i, 431, and Hennessy, p. 296: Ikelington died archdeacon of Wells in 1419 (*Wells Reg. Bubwith*, p. 355). Slake is said by Hennessy to have resigned St. Mary Abchurch by 29 July 1398. Within these dates we may probably place his admission to the deanery of Wells. His tenure of this dignity was undisturbed by the fall of Richard II and the accession of Henry IV. Early in the new reign, 16 Nov. 1399, he exchanged his prebend in Tamworth for the chantry of Wolseley in the church of Colwich, Staffs., and on 1 June 1400, he received fresh grants of the deaneries of St. Buryan and St. Stephen's, Westminster (*C.P.R.* 1399-1401, pp. 95, 278), and on 6 Aug. 1401 he had a grant for the second time of the deanery of Bridgnorth (*ibid.* p. 448). Also, 21 Sept. 1400, he was presented by the Crown to the church of Stanford, dio. Lincoln, which appears to be Stanford-on-Avon, Northants (*ibid.* p. 515).

In spite of these apparent marks of royal favour, Slake disappears from view towards the end of 1401. During the long vacancy of the see of Bath and Wells between the death of bishop Erghum on 10 April 1400, and the consecration of bishop Bowet on 20 Nov. 1401, archbishop Arundel, for reasons unspecified, chose to regard the deanery as vacant and Slake as an intruder, and, declaring that the collation had devolved to himself by lapse, appointed Thomas Tutbury. Acting on his mandate, the archbishop's commissary, John Maydenhith, dean of Chichester, pronounced the removal of Slake and installed Tutbury in his place. Slake, however, seems to have had partisans who hindered the new dean from obtaining possession. On 14 Nov. 1401, Arundel sent a peremptory mandate to Bowet, ordering him to threaten these disturbers with excommunication and admit Tutbury, with which Bowet, having been consecrated in the meantime, complied on 26 Nov. (*Wells Reg. Bowet*, p. 21). It is possible that Slake was implicated in the rebellion of the Holands, though the grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth, at a time when he seems already to have been canonically deprived of the deanery of Wells, is against this. Arundel, however, clearly looked upon him as a suspect person, and, if this last grant took effect, it was only for a short period. There is no indication of the date of his death.

1391. THOMAS OF TUTBURY.

It has already been suggested that this grant was made as part of an arrangement by which Nicholas Slake acquired undisputed possession of the archdeaconry of Wells. Tutbury was presented to the church of Hanney, Berks., 9 March 1389-90, and had a grant of the archdeaconry of Wells on 6 June 1391 (*C.P.R.* 1388-1392, pp. 229, 428). On 7 Oct. 1392, he had a grant of the prebend of Stow Longa in Lincoln (*C.P.R.* 1391-1396, p. 196). This is overlooked by Le Neve, but it can hardly have had any effect, as the prebend was certainly not vacant at the time. There is no mention of Tutbury during the later years of Richard II; but he came into prominence under Henry IV as treasurer of the household and second baron of the exchequer. On 22 Sept. 1400, he was presented to the church of Aston Clinton, Bucks. (*C.P.R.* 1399-1401, p. 357). This, however, was revoked 12 April 1403, as the church was not in the gift of the Crown (*C.P.R.* 1401-1405, p. 217).

The circumstances of Tutbury's appointment to the deanery of Wells have been noticed already. Le Neve (i, 151) notes the date of the collation of this dignity to him by order of archbishop Arundel as 24 Feb. 1400-1; but, as we have seen, a second collation was made by bishop Bowet on 26 Nov. following. His tenure of the deanery, however, was short. Slake was regarded as an intruder, and the vacancy which Tutbury filled was therefore considered as due to the promotion of Henry Beaufort to the bishopric of Lincoln in 1398. It was no doubt on this account that Thomas Stanley, keeper of the rolls, obtained a provision to the deanery. The king at first upheld Tutbury's claim by a grant dated 19 June 1402, and on 24 Sept. issued letters to the chapter, prohibiting them from accepting Stanley's provision (*C.P.R.* 1401-1405, pp. 101, 136). But meanwhile Tutbury had received a grant of the archdeaconry of Buckingham, 10 March 1401-2 (*ibid.* p. 49), and Stanley was certainly in possession at Wells as early as 3 Aug. 1402 (*Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells* i, 469). Stanley, however, appears to have compensated Tutbury by resigning the deanery of St. Martin's-le-Grand, to which Tutbury was appointed 10 Dec. 1402-3, and a formal pardon was issued to Stanley, with licence to accept the provision and ratification of his estate, on 4 March following (*C.P.R.* 1401-1405, pp. 185, 209).

Tutbury was still dean of Bridgnorth in April 1401 (*C.P.R.* 1399-1401, p. 470), and, as the grant to Slake on 6 Aug. in that year appears to have been disregarded at a later period, it is probable that he continued to hold this deanery until his death. He appears to have accepted the archdeaconry of Buckingham before the grant of 10 March 1401-2, but resigned it and was readmitted 25 April 1402. It was vacant by his death before 26 Feb. 1402-3 (*Lincoln Reg.* xiii, ff. 221, 222).

On 15 Sept. 1392, there occurs a grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth to THOMAS SPARKEFORD. The reason of this is obscure. Possibly Tutbury may have consented to resign, and the grant of a prebend in Lincoln on 7 Oct. (see above) may have been made to him in compensation. At any rate, this latter grant was valueless in the circumstances, and it is unlikely that Sparkeford ousted Tutbury at Bridgnorth. Sparkeford, whose name implies a Somerset origin, received several preferments in the diocese of Bath and Wells by royal grant, which the loss of the diocesan registers for the period

covered by them makes it impossible to confirm. He had grants of the prebends of Dinder, 1 Oct. 1388, and of East Harptree, 3 July 1389 (*C.P.R.* 1385-1389, p. 509; 1388-1392, p. 75), and presentations to the churches of Butleigh, 29 June 1389, and Odcombe, 27 Nov. 1390 (*C.P.R.* 1388-1392, pp. 74, 330). On 31 Jan. 1391-2, he was presented to the church of North Stokes, dio. Sarum, a mistake which seems to be rectified by a presentation on 5 Feb. to North Stoke, dio. Lincoln, i.e. North Stoke, Oxon (*ibid.* pp. 371, 373). He had a grant, 6 April 1392, of a prebend in the free chapel of Holyhead and, 3 March 1392-3, of one in the church of Llandaff (*C.P.R.* 1391-1396, pp. 44, 241). He was presented to the church of Godshill, I.W., 12 Oct. 1393 (*ibid.* p. 321). On 7 June, 1395, he had a grant of the archdeaconry of Taunton (*ibid.* p. 573). On 26 Jan. 1395-6 he was provided to the see of Waterford and Lismore, then vacant by the translation of Robert Reade to Carlisle: in the bull of provision he is described as Thomas Spackford (*sic*), priest, of the diocese of Exeter, B.C.L. By his consecration he vacated the church of Saltwood, Kent, a valuable benefice which he had presumably received from archbishop Courtenay (*C.P.L.* iv, 531, 539). He died in 1397 (*Gams*, p. 228).

1401. NICHOLAS SLAKE.

It has already been suggested that this grant was intended to cover Slake's loss of the deanery of Wells, so that it may be taken as an exchange arranged between him and Thomas Tutbury. But in 1410 Tutbury is mentioned as the immediate predecessor of Columb of Dunbar, then dean (*C.P.R.* 1408-1413, p. 228), from which it would appear that Tutbury held the deanery of Bridgnorth until his death in 1402-3, and that the grant to Slake was without effect.

1402-3. COLUMB OF DUNBAR, son of George, earl of March.

This seems to have been the only English preferment held by this Scottish clerk. A commission was issued, 18 July 1410, to Thomas Gateacre of Claverley, Richard Colman and others to enquire into the waste and dilapidation of which the dean was accused. The two commissioners mentioned sat on 18 Sept. and reported the removal and sale of the leaden roofs of the chapels of Quatford, Bobbington and Claverley, with consequent decay of the roof timbers. The gutters had also been removed at Quatford, so that the walls of the chapel had fallen. The dilapidations committed at the manor of Ludstone are recorded in detail, including the ruin of the manor-house and its gatehouse, the alienation of stone, timber and roofing tiles and shingles which had been procured by Thomas of Tutbury for purposes of rebuilding and repair, felling of timber, sale of fish and destruction of the stock of the fisheries. The damages were assessed at 900 marks, but it was estimated that repairs would cost at least £1,000. Meanwhile, the dean, who had received the sum of £100 for repairs from the executors of Tutbury, had kept this for himself, and had taken his way as a traitor to Scotland. The goods of the deanery were sequestered to meet the damages, and Columb was summoned to appear before the king in chancery and answer for his misdeeds. Eventually, on 19 Oct. 1412, the letters patent by which Columb had been appointed to the deanery were revoked (*C.P.R.* 1408-1413, pp. 228, 435-6).

Columb was consecrated bishop of Moray in 1422, and died in 1435. For further details see Dowden, *Bishops of Scotland*, pp. 158-9.

1412. JOHN MARESCHAL.

Master John Marshall, Mareschal or Marchall, had a much earlier grant of the deanery, 9 May 1410, when it presumably was regarded as vacant owing to the defection of Dunbar to the king's enemies. This grant was first made in the form of a presentation, in which the free chapel is described as being in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield; but it was altered to the usual form of a grant, with a mandate for induction directed to the sheriff of Salop (*C.P.R.* 1408-1413, p. 192). This, however, was premature: it preceded the enquiry into the dilapidations committed by Dunbar, and the actual vacancy was the result of Dunbar's contumacy in failing to comply with the summons to appear before the king in chancery. Mareschal was therefore not in possession until the last quarter of 1412.

Mareschal is called king's clerk in Oct. 1408, when he had a grant of the prebend of Brampton in Lincoln (*C.P.R.* 1405-1408, p. 370); but this seems to have been merely a courtesy title. He was closely connected with the church of Lincoln, and his name occurs in the list of residentiary canons present in April and May 1421 at the negotiations between bishop Flemyng and the chapter with regard to the claims advanced by the dean, John Macworth (*C.P.R.* 1416-1422, pp. 404-6). His career has been traced in detail by the present writer in *Visitations of Religious Houses in dio. Lincoln*, i, 189-90, where, however, the second grant of the deanery of Bridgnorth is misdated in 1413 instead of 1412, and there is a slight error in the page reference to *C.P.R.*

Soon after his accession to the deanery, a commission was appointed in consequence of his complaint of the disturbance of the common and franchise of himself and his tenants of the manor of Claverley in the forest of Morfe, 17 Feb. 1412-13 (*C.P.R.* 1408-1413, p. 477). On 8 June following a second commission was issued to much the same effect, in which William Ferrers of Groby was associated with him in the complaint against the king's ministers of the forest (*C.P.R.* 1413-1416, p. 38: see also p. 148, a document of 18 Nov. 1413, referring to this business). Allusions to him as dean of Bridgnorth occur on 30 Oct. 1420, and 10 Feb. 1423-4 (*C.P.R.* 1416-1422, p. 288; 1422-1429, p. 149). There can be no doubt that he retained the deanery until his death, the date of which is given by Le Neve (ii, 180) as 12 June, 1445. He appears to have resided at Lincoln until the end of his life, and was buried in the cathedral. He must be distinguished from a younger man of the same name, who was a canon residentiary of York and prebendary of Wanstrow in Wells, and died about the end of 1461: see the account of him in *Surtees Soc.* vol. cxxvii, p. 296.

1445. HENRY SEVER.

There is no record of Sever's appointment to the deanery, but it may be placed with safety in 1445. Henry Sever, king's clerk, had a grant of the prebend of Alveley, 12 May 1435 (*C.P.R.* 1429-1436, p. 455), which he must have quitted on his accession to the deanery. The grant of this prebend to his successor, Thomas Malet, who quitted it in 1450, is un-

fortunately wanting. The first mention of Sever as dean of Bridgnorth is on 27 July 1450, in connexion with the induction of Malet's successor in Alveley (*C.P.R.* 1446-1452, p. 332).

On 15 June 1438, master Henry Sever, king's clerk, had a grant of a prebend in St. Stephen's, Westminster (*C.P.R.* 1436-1441, p. 171). His identity with the first provost of Eton, appointed 11 Oct. 1440 (*Le Neve* iii, 342), has been doubted, but without any very valid reason. This appointment did not last long: there are several references to him as provost in 1441-2 (*C.P.R.* 1441-1446, pp. 31, 32, 50, 54), but he was soon succeeded in the office by William Waynflete. On 15 Nov. 1438 he succeeded William Ayscough, bishop of Salisbury, as prebendary of West Wittering in Chichester, when he is described as S. T. P. In this capacity he made presentations to the vicarage of West Wittering, 2 March 1440-1, and 18 May 1444 (*Chich. Reg. Praty*, pp. 110, 120, 134). He is mentioned as canon of Chichester on 12 Sept. 1445 (*C.P.R.* 1441-1446, p. 374). During this period, in 1442, he was chancellor of the university of Oxford (*Le Neve* iii, 467). He had collation of the prebend of Harlesden in St. Paul's, 9 May 1445 (*Hennessy*, p. 28). Before 7 Jan. 1446-7, he resigned his prebend in St. Stephen's (*C.P.R.* 1446-1452, p. 116). In 1447-8 he occurs as almoner to Henry VI (*ibid.* p. 145). On 28 April 1449, he had collation of the chancellorship of St. Paul's (*Hennessy*, p. 13), which he retained to his death, together with his prebend in the same church. His estate in this dignity was ratified on 11 Sept. 1450 (*C.P.R.* 1446-1452, p. 401). On 19 Feb. 1454-5, he was elected warden of Merton college, Oxford (*Le Neve* iii, 543). His estate in the chancellorship of St. Paul's and the deanery of Bridgnorth were ratified by Edward IV, 5 Sept. 1461, and on 20 Aug. 1462, he is mentioned as warden of the chantry, i.e. the collegiate church of Stratford-on-Avon (*C.P.R.* 1461-1467, p. 235). He also held the rectory of Wimbledon, Surrey, mentioned in *Hennessy's* note *b* 92, which also gives the date of his will, 4 July 1471, proved 27 Sept. He was buried in Merton college chapel, where his brass remains. There is an article on Sever in *D.N.B.*, by Prof. A. F. Pollard.

1471. Master WILLIAM DUDLEY.

William Dudley, third son of John Dudley, or Sutton, lord Dudley, became rector of Hendon, Middlesex, 24 Nov. 1466 (*Hennessy*, p. 215), and on 28 Nov. had collation of the prebend of Apesthorpe in York (York Reg. G. Neville, f. 4 *d*). It is probable that he was the William Dudley who was instituted to the chapel of Shrawardine, Salop. 21 March 1464-5, at the presentation of the earl of Arundel (*Hereford Reg. Stanbury*, p. 180). He obtained the prebend of Caddington minor in St. Paul's on 24 Nov. 1468 (*Hennessy*, p. 19), and quitted Apesthorpe for Stillington prebend in York, 29 July 1470 (*Le Neve* iii, 213). Soon after his accession to the deanery of Bridgnorth, he had a grant of a canonry of Windsor, 30 July, and resigned Caddington minor prebend to accept that of Newington in St. Paul's, 15 Aug. 1471 (*C.P.R.* 1467-1477, p. 274; *Hennessy*, p. 40). He resigned his prebend in Windsor by 15 Nov. 1471 (*C.P.R.* 1467-1477, p. 303). On 28 April 1471, he had received collation of Yetminster secunda prebend in Salisbury (Jones, p. 436). On 20 Feb. 1471-2, he resigned the prebend of Newington for that of Brownswood in St. Paul's (*Hennessy*, p. 16), which he

exchanged with John Davison for the deanery of Windsor, granted to him on 29 Nov. 1473 (*C.P.R.* 1467-1477, p. 412).

On 2 June 1447, Henry VI had granted the next appointment to the deanery of the free chapel of Wolverhampton to John, lord Dudley (*C.P.R.* 1446-1452, p. 54). It is evident that Dudley took advantage of this grant to appoint his son. The date of this is not certain, but William was dean early in the reign of Edward IV, and received ratification of his estate on 28 Nov. 1461 (*C.P.R.* 1461-1467, p. 60). He continued to hold this with the deaneries of Windsor and Bridgnorth, and, although, upon his preferment to the see of Durham in 1476, the deanery of Wolverhampton was granted to Lionel Wydeville, 22 Jan. 1476-7 (*C.P.R.* 1476-1485, p. 17), Wydeville apparently resigned it after his appointment to the deanery of Exeter in 1478, and it was permanently united to the deanery of Windsor by a grant, 21 Feb. 1479-80, made to Richard Beauchamp, who held that deanery with the see of Salisbury (*ibid.* p. 175).

Although Dudley had no prebend in St. Paul's after 1473, he returned to the church as archdeacon of Middlesex, 16 Nov. 1475 (Hennessy, p. 9). On 13 Feb. 1475-6, he had collation of the prebend of Dinder in Wells (MS. Harl. 6966, p. 133). He also obtained the prebend of St. James' altar in Beverley minster at a date not recorded (York Reg. L. Bothe, f. 11). In the course of 1476 he resigned his three deaneries, his archdeaconry, his prebends in York, Salisbury, Wells and Beverley, and the rectory of Hendon, in consequence of his consecration to the see of Durham. There is no record of the date of this event, but his temporalities were restored on 14 Oct. (*C.P.R.* 1476-1485, p. 2).

Dudley was a master of arts of the university of Oxford at least as early as 1466, when he received his first prebend in York, and, while bishop of Durham, he was chancellor of the university in 1483 (Le Neve iii, 372). He died on 24 Nov. in that year. He was buried in Westminster abbey, where the canopied table-tomb of Purbeck marble, with the indent of the brass of a bishop, in the chapel of St. Nicholas, is said to be his. There is a brief article on Dudley in *D.N.B.* by the late Sir Sidney Lee.

1476. Master RICHARD MARTYN.

The earliest preferment of this clerk (see article in *D.N.B.* by Prof. A. F. Pollard), who was bachelor of canon law, seems to have been the church of Mitcheldean, Glouces. (dio. Hereford), to which he was instituted on 29 Dec. 1462, and which he exchanged for the church of Pembridge, Hereford, 26 Jan. 1463-4 (*Hereford Reg. Stanbury*, pp. 191, 193). The advowson of Pembridge belonged to the king as part of the possessions of the earldom of March, and it is probable that Martyn's relations with Edward IV began as a clerk engaged in the administration of this department of the Crown lands. About 1469 he acquired the archdeaconry of London (Hennessy, p. 7). On 12 June 1471, he was appointed chancellor of the earldom of March, and on 27 July had a grant of a prebend in St. Stephen's, Westminster (*C.P.R.* 1467-1477, pp. 262, 267). On 28 July he had collation of Ealdland prebend in St. Paul's, which he resigned for Hoxton prebend on 23 Feb. 1471-2 (Hennessy, pp. 25, 32). On 23 Nov. 1472, he was presented to the church of St. Peter, Guines, dio. Terouanne (*C.P.R.* 1467-1477, p. 358).

After his appointment as chancellor of the earldom of March, he began

to establish a close connexion with the church of Hereford. On 28 Nov. 1472, he received collation of the prebend of Pratum minus, which he quitted for that of Putson minor on 10 March 1473-4 (*Reg. Stanbury*, pp. 188, 189). On 26 Feb. 1477-8 he quitted this for the prebend of Huntington (Le Neve i, 510): in recording this, the printed edition of *Reg. Myllyng* (p. 188) omits the day of the month and substitutes Putson major for minor. It is probable that he had already obtained the archdeaconry of Hereford in succession to Richard Rudhall, who died in 1476 (Le Neve i, 481). It was as archdeacon that he exchanged Huntington for Moreton magna prebend with the dean, Richard Pede, 25 July 1478, agreeing to compensate the dean for the difference in value between the two prebends by paying him an annual pension of £10 (*Reg. Myllyng*, p. 202).

Meanwhile, he had obtained preferment in the church of Salisbury. He was admitted to the prebend of Rotefen on 2 Sept. 1473 (Jones, p. 413), which he left for that of Fordington with Writhlington, 29 Oct. 1476 (*ibid.* p. 382). On 30 Dec. 1478, he became archdeacon of Berkshire (*ibid.* p. 151). On 15 Feb. 1477-8, he was appointed chancellor of Ireland (C.P.R. 1476-1485, p. 65). He resigned the church of Pembridge by 14 Jan. 1478-9 (*Reg. Myllyng*, p. 189), and possibly his last change of prebends at Hereford may have been preparatory to his resignation of the archdeaconry, of which there is no record. He appears, however, to have retained the archdeaconry of London with that of Berkshire.

He probably resigned the deanery of Bridgnorth with his other preferments in 1482, when he obtained the bishopric of St. David's. The temporalities of the see were restored to him on 1 July (C.P.R. 1476-1485, p. 307), though he was not consecrated until 28 July. He died in the following year and was succeeded at St. David's by Thomas Langton, who had followed him as rector of Pembridge some four years before.

1481-2. WILLIAM CHANTRY.

Information with regard to master William Chantry or Chauntre is small. He was archdeacon of Derby in 1473 (Le Neve i, 476), but the date at which he obtained this dignity is unknown. One William 'Chanter,' who may possibly be identified with him, was prebendary of Warminster in Salisbury from 1472 to 1475 (Jones, *Fasti*, p. 428). On 12 Oct. 1476, he was admitted to the thirteenth prebend in the Newarke college at Leicester, evidently in order to qualify for admission to the deanery, which was vacant by William Dudley's promotion to Durham (*Assoc. Archit. Soc. R. & P.* xxxiii, 469), and to which he was instituted on 20 Oct. (*ibid.* xxxiii, 453). He appears now to have resigned the church of Bottesford, Leices., to which he had been instituted 5 Nov. 1475, at the presentation of William lord Hastings (*ibid.*) This presentation gives some ground for supposing that he owed preferment to his position in the household of Edward IV's favourite; and it is interesting to note that the letters of fraternity granted by him and the chapter of the Newarke to Hastings in 1478 are still extant among the documents of Wyggeston's hospital at Leicester. He kept the deanery of the Newarke with that of Bridgnorth, his grant of which was made on the same day as a grant of the prebend of Fordington and Writhlington, also vacated by Martyn. He held this prebend and his two deaneries at the time

of his death, which took place towards the end of 1485, shortly after the accession of Henry VII.

1485 or 1486. Master JOHN ARGENTYNE, M.D. and S.T.B.

No record of this appointment to the deanery remains, but the Act-book shows that Argentyne was dean in 1487, and he no doubt immediately succeeded Chantry. He was a member of the well-known Cambridgeshire family of Argenteyn, and is said to have been born at Bottisham in that county. The deanery of Bridgnorth was his earliest preferment of importance. On 22 July 1488, he was instituted to the church of St. Vedast in the city of London (Hennessy, p. 433), which he continued to hold with the deanery for the rest of his life. On 13 Dec. 1494, he was admitted to the prebend of Dernford in the church of Lichfield, which he quitted for Bubbenhall prebend on 11 April 1497 (*Le Neve* i, 597, 587). On 29 Aug. 1497, he had collation of the prebend of Holcombe Burnell in Wells, which he left for that of Combe secunda on 25 May 1500 (*MS. Harl.* 6966, pp. 152, 159). On 20 Dec. 1498 he received a grant for life of the hospital of St. John Baptist, Dorchester (*Cat. Pat. Rolls*, 1494-1509, p. 158). He became provost of King's college, Cambridge, on 4 May 1501 (*Le Neve* iii, 683), retaining all his benefices, but subsequently quitted Bubbenhall for Pipa Parva prebend in Lichfield, 10 March 1501-2 (*ibid.* i, 620). He died on 2 Feb. 1507-8: his will, made on 25 Jan., was proved on 2 March following (*P.C.C.* 36 Adeane). There is a brief article on Argentyne in *DN.B.* by the late Thompson Cooper.

1507-8, 26 Feb. THOMAS LARKE.

There are numerous references to Larke in *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, where he appears as Wolsey's secretary. At the time of his accession to the deanery, he was at the beginning of his career. Under Henry VIII, his earliest preferment was to a prebend in St. Stephen's, Westminster, as king's chaplain, 14 Nov. 1511 (*L. & P. H. VIII*, i, no. 969 (50.)). During Wolsey's brief tenure of the see of Lincoln, Larke obtained the prebend of Welton Rivall in that church, 30 Sept. 1514 (*Le Neve* ii, 234). On 5 Feb. 1516-17 he became archdeacon of Sudbury (*ibid.* ii, 492). He was admitted to Lyme and Halstock prebend in Salisbury, 21 May 1517 (*Jones, Fasti*, p. 399), which he resigned towards the end of 1518, having quitted his prebend in Lincoln about the end of the previous year. He left the archdeaconry of Sudbury for that of Norwich, 9 April 1522, and resigned the latter in 1528 (*Le Neve* ii, 481). He seems to have held no later preferment, at any rate in a cathedral or collegiate church. His 'omnipotent' influence with Wolsey is referred to in a letter from Ammonius to Erasmus, 26 June 1515 (*L. & P. H. VIII*, ii, no. 629), and Prof. Pollard, in his recent work on *Wolsey* (pp. 307, 308), gives reasons which explain his close association with the cardinal.

1515, 30 April. WILLIAM COUPER, M.A.

There are no certain details of the life of this clerk; but it may be noted that on 14 April 1516, William Coweper, clerk, jointly with John Heron, treasurer of the chamber, had a grant of the next presentation to the deanery of Windsor (*L. & P. H. VIII*, ii, no. 1769).

1517, 14 Aug. THOMAS MAGNUS.

There is an immense amount of material for the life of this busy man of affairs (see article in *D.N.B.* by W. A. J. Archbold), whose active career began in the reign of Henry VII, and extended over half a century. We can note here only his ecclesiastical preferments. He was a native of Newark-on-Trent, where the local grammar school keeps his name alive, and his first benefices were obtained in his native diocese of York. On 2 Oct. 1497 he was instituted to the church of Sessay in the North Riding (York Reg. Rotherham, i), and on 16 Nov. 1498, to that of South Collingham, near Newark (*ibid.* i, f. 184). Of these churches, in the gift respectively of the abbots and convents of St. Mary's, York, and Peterborough, he kept Sessay throughout his life, but resigned South Collingham within a few years. Archbishop Savage, who succeeded Rotherham at York in 1501, promoted Magnus to several important benefices. He became warden or master of the college of Sibthorpe, Notts., 13 Feb. 1502-3. On 28 Sept. 1503 he had collation of the prebend of St. Stephen's altar at Beverley, but resigned this on his appointment as archdeacon of the East Riding, 12 June 1504, in addition to which, on 17 Nov. 1504, he received the office of sacrist of the chapel of St. Mary and the Holy Angels at York (York Reg. Savage, ff. 71, etc.). On 17 April 1508, he was instituted to the church of Kirkby in Cleveland (York Reg. Bainbridge), and obtained the valuable living of Bedale before 12 June 1509 (*L. & P. H. VIII*, i, p. 438). During this period, he was much occupied with public business in the north, and served on commissions of the peace for the three Ridings, the liberties of Beverley and Ripon, and Northumberland (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1494-1509, pp. 653, etc.). With the reign of Henry VIII and the ministry of Wolsey, he was employed constantly, as a member of the privy council, on affairs of state. In 1520 he received a canonry of Windsor (*Le Neve* iii, 392), and obtained the prebend of North Kelsey in Lincoln, 7 May 1521, which he quitted on 25 March 1523, for that of Corringham in the same church (*ibid.* ii, 198, 135). Further, to the rich preferment of the mastership of St. Leonard's hospital at York he added the vicarage of Kendal, at that time one of the wealthiest benefices in England. In addition to his archdeaconry, three rectories and one vicarage, his canonries of Lincoln and Windsor, his deanery of Bridgnorth, his sacristship and hospital at York, and his college in Nottinghamshire, his formidable list of benefices in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1534-5 includes the small prebend of Llanbadarn Odwyn in the church of Llanddewi Brefi and the rectory of the free chapel of Whipstrod, Hants. With the gradual surrender and ultimate suppression of colleges and chantries, he lost several of these, and resigned his canonries in Lincoln and Windsor. He kept his archdeaconry and parish churches, however, till his death on 27 Aug. 1550 (see York Reg. Holgate, f. 40 d.). He was buried, after an incumbency of fifty-three years, in the church of Sessay, where his brass is preserved within the present modern building.