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FIRST LEAF OF DORMONT BOOK, WITH ARMS OF CARLISLE.

ART. XXVIII.—*An account of the “Dormont Book” belonging to the Corporation of Carlisle.* By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A., Mayor of Carlisle.

Read at that place August 3rd, 1882.

THIS book consists of about 300 pages of thick hand laid paper, each exactly 15 inches high by $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad. The mark of a jug or pot tankard shows that the paper is Dutch, manufactured in the Low Countries, and no doubt the book came to Carlisle *via* Newcastle. The sheets are sewn on three bands of stout leather, each nearly an inch broad. The binding is calf, solid leather, without any stiffening of board, and has flaps to lap round the fore-edge. It has vellum end papers, pasted down on the leather, and also loose ones as well, lined with leaves from a beautiful Roman Catholic black letter service book* with illuminated initials and coloured capitals. These leaves contain the greater part of the Psalm “*Diligam te Domine*” (Psalm 18th). The binding is a fine specimen of, I think, English calf binding of the 16th century, hand and blind tooled, though some of the corner ornaments may once have been gilt. The tooling has been done with a stamp or tool on a wheel, differently to the tool work of earlier date, which was done by frequent repetitions of a flat stamp or tool. The book has been at some remote period hinged and strapped with three leather bands, like a modern ledger, sewn on one side of the book with flat silk cord, on the other with flat strips of vellum. The central band, now renovated, goes round the book, and clasps with a brass hook in an oval loop. The clasp has been cut from a piece

* These books (and other objects of “superstitious use”) were ordered at the Reformation to be got rid of. They were largely purchased by bookbinders, who cut them up for end papers.

of

of stamped brass, and clasp and catch and hinges and straps all give me the idea that they are the work of a saddler. This is most likely the case. "Richard Scott, a Presbyterian shopkeeper," was the local bookseller in the time of Charles II., but I expect there was no bookbinder nearer than Newcastle for a century and a half after that date. The initials W. T. occur thrice on the upper side of the book, once in an escutcheon, twice with a knot between them. They are probably the initials of the original binder; not of the Mayor of Carlisle, as in that case they would have been followed by M.C. On the top edge of the book an ornament, now almost obliterated, has been painted in black and red, and the marks made by the artist's compass legs are still to be seen. Issuing out of the back of the book are the remains of a green and white cord, to which the City Seal was once attached, for the authentication of the ancient ordinances or by-laws for the government of Carlisle contained in the volume. The book is in good condition for its age, but has been injured by damp and mice. It was repaired some twenty years ago, and wants a little attention now; one or two of the leaves should be backed, as has been done with the first leaves.*

On the first leaf of the book is a highly ornamented and floreated escutcheon of the city arms, a cross fleurie between four roses, all red,† the same with the arms on the Market Cross and the Town Hall. The second leaf is the title page, the centre of which is taken up by a gigantic T, six inches high, and five broad. The top forms a grassy plateau, where a huge raven sits on the top of a flower, while grotesque figures manœuvre around the sable bird. The drops of the T end in red roses. Of these two leaves we give reduced *fac similes*.

* Since done.

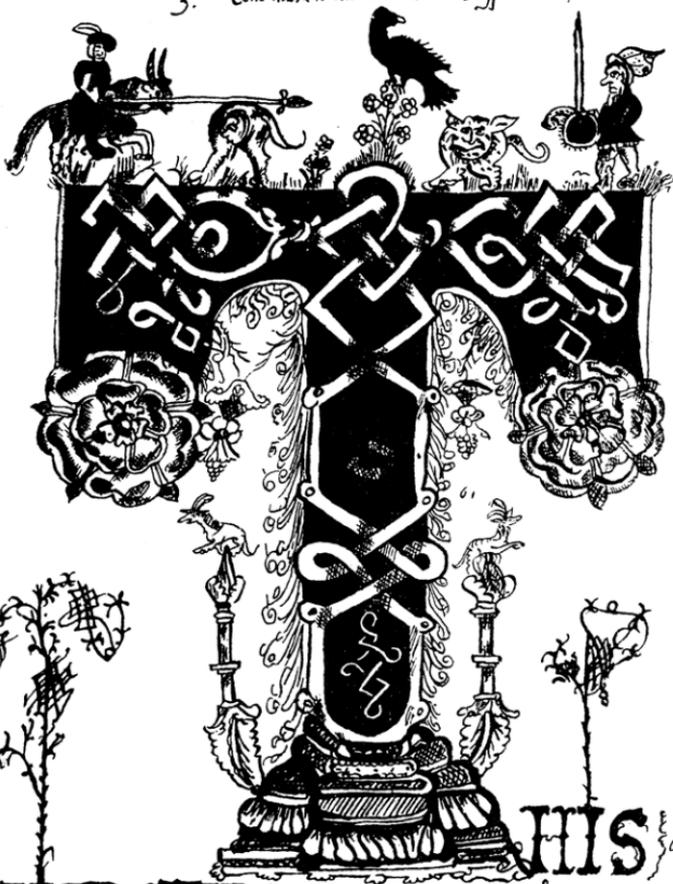
† The coat at present used as the arms of Carlisle is, in my belief, a time-honoured imposter, of no authority but the imagination of an ingenious map-maker. I have dealt with it elsewhere, *ante* p. 1.

The

Rubric

1. Domine, saluum nos populum tuum.
2. obsecramus oris, sibi impetremus hoc etc.
3. Cuius mala nonnulli remississimi est apponenda.

Lutras ad hunc
 Propriam comedat
 Invenit se confitetur.



HIS 1567
 CALLED THE REESTAR GO
 VERNOR OR DORMONT BOOK
 OF THE COMON WELTH OF THE
 NEARBYANCE S^{FR}EWIN THE CITE
 OF CAMBRIDGE REWRODE IN THE YER OF
 MCCCCLXVI 1567

The title is as follows :—

T HIS
 CALLED § THE § REGESTAR § GO
 VERNOR § OR § DORMONT § BOOK
 OF § THE § COMMONWELTH § OF § THI
 TH
 NHABITANCES § WIN § THE § CITIE
 OF § CARLELL § RENEWED § IN § THE § YEAR § OF
 OWR § LORD § GOD 1561.

At the top of the page are some Latin mottoes :—

1. Domine saluum fac populum tuum.
2. Vbi nullus ordo, ibi sempiternus horror.
3. Nouo malo, nouum remedium est apponendum.

The name “Dormont Book” is supposed to be a degraded form of *Liber Dominationis*—the Book containing the laws by which the City is ruled.

The first six pages of the book are occupied with the oaths of admittance to be taken by various officials, namely, the Mayor, Bailiffs, Chamberlain, Town Clerk, Sergeants, Attorneys, and Coroners, and also by a Freeman. These are in a cramped Elizabethan court hand of the date of the book, 1561. A large number of blank pages have been left, and then come the constitutions for the government of Carlisle.

At the top of the page is “Deo et virtuti summa debent.” Then “Prologue,” which is a moral essay on laws and concludes, “Amen. In witness whereof the Mayor and Counsaile with foure of every occupacion of the said citie for and in the name of the whole citizens and inhabitants thereof have subscribed this book with their own proper hands and also annexed hereto their common seal the vi. day of July ano R. Elizabethæ Dei gratia Angliæ Franciæ
 et

et Hiberniæ Reginæ fidei Defensoris &c tertio." 1561. This shows that I was right in conjecturing that the City Seal once hung to the back of the book. The constitutions are headed "Constitutions, orders, provisions, articles, and ruelles, to be observed in maintenance of the Commonwealth." They occupy some 24 pages in the same cramped hand, and an index in secretary hand has been prefixed to them in 1667, probably by Town Clerk Nicholson.

The constitutions are written with wide margins, on which are explanatory marginal notes, and also additions to the context written so as to be made part of the original. The additions are in the same style of writing, but in a different hand and ink. These additions make necessary the consent in many cases of "four of everie occupacon," and point to the old and long continued strife between the *gild-mercatory*, and the *craft gilds*: from them rose the legal difficulties, out of which sprang the "Mushroom Elections" of last century. Space forbids me from re-telling the story, or from going further into the constitutions, which I hope some day to see printed, as many are very curious.* They are signed by Thomas Pattenson, Mayor, and eleven others, one of whom is John Aglionby; also by four of each occupation or guild. In 1594 and 1609 some omissions in the By-laws are supplied. These relate to disputes as to the Town Clerkship. With these exceptions, no further entries are to be found until a much later date. After an interval of a blank page or two we find the whole Corporation on the 9th of October, 1662, from Henry Barnes, Mayor, and Sir Philip Musgrave, Alderman, down to William Knagg, George Body, and William Slagg, the Sergeants, making the following declaration:—

"I doe declare that there is no obligacon upon me or any other person from the Oath commonly called the Solemne League and

* I have transcribed them with that view: there have also been found among the Corporation papers two other copies of these "Constitutions," apparently original drafts.

Covenant,

Covenant, and that the same was in it selfe an unlawfull oath, and imposed upon the Subjects of this Realme, against the Known Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdomme.”

This declaration continued to be made by all taking civic office until 1689, and this part of the book contains some valuable autographs, *e.g.*, Thomas Denton the Recorder (appointed in 1663), John Aglionby the Royalist, Sir Philip and Sir Christopher Musgrave; the first Earl of Carlisle, Sir George Fletcher, all fine bold signatures. The appointment of James Nicholson as Town Clerk, in 1666, is also recorded, being under the 1st charter of Charles II., which required the Crown's consent to the appointment of the Recorder and the Town Clerk. These complete the entries in this part or the beginning of the book.

During the time of the Commonwealth the book has been reversed, and it is titled at its other or latter end, “The Citty Book,” thus:—

1654
THE CITY OF
CARLILE }

A RECORD OF ALL DEEDS

of Sale of certain free Burgage houses within the said Citty ordered to be entred in this Booke by the Maior Aldermen and Comon Counsell of the Citty aforesaid in this present yeare 1654

Only about a dozen assurances are registered under this order. All but two of them are “inrolled in this Book of Record by me Jo. Pattinson Clk of ye Court of ye Citty of Carlile” between the 23rd and 26th of January, 1654. The other two are enrolled in 1659. Alexander Dalton seems to have been mayor in 1654. The first indenture enrolled is dated 5th March, 1652, and is between the Colonel Heveringham, who had purchased from Cromwell's Commissioners the estates of the Bishopric of Carlisle, and John Pattinson, yeoman, son of John Pattinson, late of Carlisle,

Carlisle, Notary Public, deceased. It recites Heveringham's conveyance from the Commissioners, and conveys to Pattinson, the yeoman, the reversion of a messuage in Castlegate Street and Finkle street (possibly Mr. Mounsey's house) of which the two Pattinsons had a lease for their lives from the late Bishop Senhouse, confirmed by the late Dean White and the Chapter.

The next indenture (dated 3rd June, 1653) is between John Sykes (son of Richard Sykes, who had bought the Dean and Chapter's manor of John de Chapple from Cromwell's Commissioners) and Cuthbert Studholme, a Captain and Parliamentary Justice of the Peace at Carlisle, who afterwards came nigh to be hanged, if he was not actually so dealt with. At any rate I last heard of him in Carlisle gaol on a charge of high treason, complicity in the Kaper Rigg Plot. He buys a burgage tenement in Castlegate Street, which belonged to the "late Dean and Chapter of the late Cathedrall Church of Carlisle," and which that body had leased unto John Orbell for 40 years. The next two deeds are between John Cape of Durham and Cuthbert Studholme, who buys property in Castlegate Street between that of the late Dean and Chapter and of Queen's College, Oxford, and also "Sadler," house and shopp," which seems to be between Castlegate Street and the Bull Ring, and the Market Place, and Glover's Row, and the "Lint Shop" in Baxter's Row. This property was probably opposite the Coffee House, and pulled down and thrown into the street long ago.

By the next deed, a deed poll, Sir Francis Howard of Corby and his son and heir Francis sell to William Craister a property in Fishergate Street between that street and the city walls. Then Christopher Bell and Mabel his wife, late Mabel Nanson, sell to Peter Norman a corner in Castlegate Street, called "Windsor."

By 1656 John Sykes had sold off all the Dean and Chapter property that his father had purchased, and he
and

and his wife enroll a "Præcipe" giving a complete list, as would seem, of the purchasers of the Dean and Chapter property. I hope some day to see it printed in *extenso*. I find from it that the Corporation purchased the Abbey Mill under the City Walls; Gavin Wheelwright buys a house and garden in the Abbey, and three gardens in the same place adjoining on St. Cuthbert's Church wall; William Langshaw buys another house in the Abbey called Colthird House; Isabell and Ellen Pearson buy a third; William Elmes buys the Abbey Barn. A large amount of other property is specified in Castlegate, Fishergate, St. Alban's Row, Abbey Row, St. Cuthbert's Vennell, Wery Holme, Lowther Close, Calcoatsbanks, Donkinbank, Dalton, &c. The enrolment of a fine apparently levied to secure these purchases concludes the deeds registered in this book.

In 1672 a new use for the book seems to have occurred to the then Town Clerk, James Nicholson, viz., as a register of the indentures of apprenticeship of the future freemen; and about 800 have been registered between that date and 1844. Of late the practice has been discontinued, it having now no object. These 800 indentures form a most important mass of genealogical matter relating to the freemen of Carlisle. They should be indexed and the register of them paged.

The history of this fine book is pretty clear. Purchased prior to 1561, it was the Register Governor or Dormont Book of the Commonwealth and of the inhabitants of Carlisle. For nigh a century it was used for no other purpose than to contain the form of the oaths to be taken by the city officials, and the by-laws of the city. But during the time of the Protector it was reversed, and used as a register of deeds of title to property which had been taken from the Bishop and from the Dean and Chapter. The Corporation, after the Restoration, found two other uses for it: a register of the declarations taken against the

Solemn

Solemn League and Covenant, and a register of indenture of apprenticeship. The book is now over 300 years old, and the various purposes for which it has been used are all now obsolete. It has large store of blank leaves yet, but its work is done : its value as a record increases year by year.