



SAINT MARY HOLME WITHIN THE WATER OF WYNANDERMER.

ART. XI.—*Some Pre-Reformation Clergy of Windermere.*

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THE following list of Pre-Reformation Clergy, far from complete, is somewhat complicated by the fact that in addition to the ancient Parish church of St. Martin there existed a Chantry dedicated to St. Mary on the small island now called Lady Holme. Although the chantry was apparently not under the jurisdiction of the church, yet the clergy seem to have sometimes intermingled, while both benefices were occasionally held by the same person; it is consequently sometimes difficult to determine to which place they were appointed.

The chantry on the island was founded in the thirteenth century by Walter de Lyndsay who held the western half of the divided barony of Kendal, and colonised by him with two Augustinian friars from Segden in Scotland: it flourished in different forms until the abolition of the chantries by Edward VI.* The foundation date of the original parish church is not known, but it is evidently of ancient, probably Norman times, as the Norman font suggests: the church was burnt down and rebuilt in the fifteenth century, on the old site. The facts relating to both establishments are very meagre, and no attempt has been made to draw deductions from them. However, it is hoped these notes may be of service as a contribution to the history of the Lake Country.

1256 (40 Henry III.); PATRICK DE MAN.—At the Westmorland Assizes held at Appleby in 1256 Peter de Brus of Kendal and Walter de Lyndsey, who owned the manor of Windermere and had a mansion on the large

* Further details of the chantry are given in the author's volume, *Sidelights on Mediaeval Windermere* (Kendal, T. Wilson).

island, ratified the gift which William de Lancaster their uncle made to Patrick de Man, clerk, of the annuity of 100 shillings for his life from the farm of the fulling mill in the vill of Kyrkeby Kendale until they provided him a richer benefice. This was part of the rent for long afterwards paid to the chaplains of Mary Holme.

1283; HENRY DE WHETELEY.—(Calendar Patent Rolls 11 Edward I.) Presentation of Henry de Wheteley to the chapel of Wynandermer, which was void and in the king's gift by reason of the lands, late of William de Lyndsey, tenant in chief, being in the king's hands. In 1286 Henry de Wheteley accompanied Edmund, brother of Edward I., with many north-country men, in the train of Henry de Newark, Archdeacon of Richmond and afterwards Archbishop of York, on an expedition to France for the conquest of Gascony. In 1287, he was presented as king's clerk to the prebend, lately held by Nicholas de Arras in the church of Hasting. In 1288, the church of Wynandermer was taxed for ecclesiastical purposes at £10, the pension of the Abbot of York in the church being £1 13s. 4d.

1334; (Cal. Pat. Rolls 7 Edward III.) Grant to WILLIAM DE BAUMBURGH, king's clerk, to the hospital of Seynt Marie holme in Wynandermer, which was in the king's gift and also a grant of the king's chapel in the same place: grant made on account of the forfeiture of the master and brethren of Seggeden in Scotland from whom according to the foundation of William de Lyndsey the chaplains of St. Mary Holme had been appointed; and also because the lands of Christiana de Gynes who held the manor of Windermere were in the king's hands through her death. July 1335 (9 Edward III.) William de Baumburgh was presented to the church of Little Gedding in the diocese of Lincoln.

July 6, 1344.—Order made to Mary Countess of Pem.

broke,* farmer of the lands which had belonged to William de Coucy, tenant in chief, to pay to the chaplains of the chantry of Marieholm in the island of Wynandermer a rent of ten marks yearly of tenements in the vill of Stirkland Ketell (which included Windermere) as their appointed alms, so long as the farm was in her hands. The chaplains petitioned that as the king had taken into his hands all the lands of William de Coucy, deceased, and had so taken the said tenements, the rent thereof ought to be paid to them, as it had been paid time out of mind, from a water mill at Applethwaite in the vill of Stirkeland Ketill, appointed for their maintenance by Walter de Lyndessy, formerly lord of a moiety of the lordship of Kendale. The king ordered an inquisition to be made, but the Countess of Pembroke did not appear or respond, whereupon the chaplains besought the king to order the rent to be paid to them.

Abp. Zouche's Register (quoted by Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson on the *Register of the Archdeaconry of Richmond in Yorks. Archaeol. Journal*, xxv., p. 163) mentions commissions Sept., 1348, and March, 1348-9, for dedication of graveyards at Windermere and Grasmere.

1349-55; VACANCY OF THE CHANTRY.—The survivor of the two chaplains died in 1349, the year of the Black Death, the great plague which caused much mortality among the chantry priests throughout England. Consequently an Inquisition was held at Kendal in 1354-5, when it was shown that two chaplains of the house of St. Augustin of Segden, near Berwick, used to have and

* Mary de St. Pol, born 1304, married Aymer de Valence Earl of Pembroke (ob. 1324) son of William de Valence or Valentia (ob. 1276) half-brother of Henry III. She was sister-in-law to William de Coucy, he having married her sister Isabel. She founded Pembroke College, Cambridge, called Hall of Valence Marie. She died 1377. (Calendar to Fines Rolls, 18 Edward III. 1344) Lease of the moiety of Kendal Barony to Mary Countess of Pembroke (Mary de Sancto Paulo) of the lands late of William de Coucy to hold for 3 years, paying yearly at the Tower of London £174 6s. 11d. and £66 13s. 4d. increment beyond, saving to the King knight's fees, advowsons of churches, &c.

hold the chantry in the island of St. Mary Holme, in the water of Wynandermer, to whom the island was appropriated for their dwelling and chapel: there were also appropriated to the chantry a close of land called Frere-field of 9 acres, and also another close of land called Mountbergh of 15 acres (both situated at Calgarth): the chaplains also had right of getting timber for building and fuel in the king's wood of Westwood with a boat for fetching it, and a boat for fishing: also pasture for their cattle in the wood and pasture of Applethwaite: they received in right of their chantry 10 marks a year from a moiety of the mill of Kirkeby, but because the mill had gone into decay and was not yet rebuilt it had been customary in the time of Ingelram de Gynes and Christiana his wife, and their son William de Coucy, to pay the ten marks out of their coffers from "pure conscience and their mere goodwill." As the chantry had been vacant since the death of the last chaplain on the Feast of All Saints in 1349, the jurors of the inquisition said that the king (Edward III.) was bound to confer the chantry on one fit chaplain or two chaplains if the possession of the chantry would suffice for the support of the same: they also said that the property of the chantry appertained to the king at every vacancy of the chantry.

Before and to 1377 (Patent Rolls).—THOMAS PLUKETT chaplain of Wynandermer.

1377 (1 Richard II.).—Request by the king to the Abbot of St. Mary, York, and the Archdeacon of Richmond to present JOHN DE NEUTHORP, alias John Stedeman of Pontefract, to the chapel of Wynandermere vacant by the resignation of Thomas Plukett, and in the king's gift by reason of the lands of Ingelram de Coucy, Earl of Bedford, being in the king's hands.*

* Newthorp was nominated by the Crown 30 Oct., 1377 (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*) and instituted 26 Nov., 1377 (*Reg. Archidiaconry of Richmond*, as above, p. 181).

1388, 15 Feb. (11 Richard II.).—(Patent Rolls) Nomination by the king to the Abbot and Convent of St. Mary, York, of JOHN DE EBCHESTRE, chaplain, for presentation to the church of Wynandermer, diocese York, void by the resignation of John de Neuthorp and in the king's nomination by reason of the lands of Robert de Veer, Duke of Ireland,* being in the king's hands.

1388, 22 Feb.—RICHARD PITTES was presented in an identical grant to the church of Windermere: apparently by mistake, as he was shortly afterwards presented to other livings and emoluments.

"JOHN BOUN (i.e. Bohun) must have succeeded very shortly after" (Mr. Hamilton Thompson, as above, p. 190).

18 Sep., 1391.—JOHN BURBRYG (also written Burghbrig, i.e. Boroughbridge) chaplain, presented by St. Mary's York, to the chapel of "Wymandismere" through the resignation of John Boun (*Reg. Archd. Richmond*, as above, p. 190).

6 Dec., 1396.—JOHN BOUNE, chaplain, presented by St. Mary's, York, to the chapel of "Wynandismere." John Burghbrig, chaplain, to the vicarage of Bredechal [Broadchalke, Wilts.] in the diocese of Salisbury, by exchange (*Reg. Archd. Richmond*, as above, p. 195). In 1399 (Patent Rolls) John Boune exchanged livings with John Barwell, viz., Presentation to the Bishop of Salisbury of John Boune rector of the chapel of Wynandermer, diocese York, on an exchange with John Barwell of the church of Stourton, diocese Salisbury.

1399, Feb. 15 (22 Richard II.).—Ratification of JOHN BARWELL as parson of the chapel with the cure of Wynandermer (Patent Rolls). "10 April, 1399, John de Barwell instituted by St. Mary's York, to the chapel of

* The Duke of Ireland, who married Philippa de Coucy, was outlawed and banished from England.

Wynandermere on the nomination of Robert, bishop of London, then holding the Kendal estates of the Lord de Coucy"—which the bishop surrendered a month later (*Reg. Archd. Richmond*, as above, pp. 148, 198).

Before and after 1411.—(Patent Rolls) Inspeximus and confirmation in 1439 * (18 Henry VI.) to WILLIAM DE BIGGYNGES, clerk, of letters patent of the Duke of Bedford (third son of Henry IV.) dated from London, 1412, to the ministers of the lordship of Kendal, and of letters to the barons of the exchequer for payment to William de Bigginges, clerk, of ten marks of rent in arrear from the date of the Duke's death until the assignment of dower to Jaquetta his wife, and for payment of two-thirds of the same rent thenceforth, for which the king is liable as the Duke's heir. The Duke of Bedford (died 1435) granted to William de Biggynges the chantry or free chapel of Saint Marie holme with appurtenant lands, rents, fisheries, commons of pasture, and the other profits, and ten marks of rent from the lordship of Kendal yearly, provided that it had been so paid to William de Biggynges' predecessors in the chantry. This grant was in lieu of a grant in like terms by Philippa, † late Duchess of Ireland (died 1411).

1451 (29 Henry VI.)—(Patent Rolls) nomination by the king of THOMAS DE BIGGYNGES as parson of the

* From West's *Antiquities of Furness*.—It was not until the reign of Henry IV. in 1403 that a law was passed that the vicar should be a secular clerk, and not a member of any religious house; that he should be canonically instituted and endowed with a sufficient stipend for the express purpose of celebrating divine service, for instructing the people and keeping hospitality: moreover he was to be a perpetual vicar not removable at the pleasure of the appropriator.

† Philippa Duchess of Ireland was the last of the de Coucy family who owned the Windermere portion of the Kendal Barony. She was daughter of Ingelram de Coucy, Earl of Bedford and his wife Isabella, daughter of Edward III.

The date 1416 carved on an oak panel in the Rectory may mark the building of the Rectory by William de Biggynges, who was also rector of Windermere, as well as chaplain of the chantry. At this time the advowson of Windermere was worth £20 year.

church of Wynandermer, diocese York, vacant by the resignation of William Biggynges.*

1453 (31 Henry VI.).—Patent Rolls) Grant to JOHN BOWDON, clerk of the signet, of the chapel of Saint Marie Holme void by the death of William de Biggynges.

Thomas de Biggynges held the living of Windermere for many years. During his time the church was burnt to the ground, rebuilt and reconsecrated. He appears as arbitrator in local disputes, as in the award between John Fleming of Coniston and his step-mother Ann Fleming: and acted as steward or attorney to the lords of the Kendal Barony: possibly it was owing to his influence with the Parr family, who at that time were seated at Kendal Castle and fostered the cloth trade, then very flourishing in the district, that the church was so speedily rebuilt after the fire.

1480-3 †; CONSECRATION OF WINDERMERE CHURCH.—Commission to Masters Robert Roche, dean of York, and William Poteman, Archdeacon of Cleveland, for reconsecrating the church of Wynandermer, dated at Westminster Sept., 18, 1480:—

To the venerable father and lord in Christ William by Grace of God Bishop of Dromore greeting, grace and benediction. Because as we understand the parish church of Wynandermer, York diocese, which was lately destroyed by fire (*per incendii voragine combusta*) and burnt almost to the foundation (*fere*

* The de Biggynges were of a Westmorland family who held land near Windermere. Reynold de Biggynges "farmed" land in Westmorland in the 15th century. Thomas de Biggynges received pardon for a debt of £20, perhaps in connexion with the rebuilding of the church.

† The arms of Edward V. as Prince of Wales, in the east window, confirm these dates. The tower, though largely restored and added to, is probably in part the tower of the original church before the fire: it is out of plumb with the rest of the church. Moreover the Early English moulding of the small west door is blackened with fire, and apparently led into a church with a much lower floor than the present floor and which was said to be five feet lower than the one now existing.

Secular courts were sometimes held in the church: in 1443 "Court of Wynandermer held in the church." In 1534 "Our Lady Altar in Wynandermer church" is mentioned as a suitable place on which to lay money in discharge of a debt.

funditus) has been rebuilt and constructed anew : and now lacks the necessary reconsecration according to the canonical decrees, We, by the tenour of these presents concede you full faculty in the Lord for reconsecrating the said church and for doing all other and singular things which are wont to be done at a solemnity of this kind. Given at York xiii day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and eighty three (Register of Archbishop Rotherham).

Before and to 1549.—WILLIAM MOUNTFORD or Mount-forthe, incumbent of the free chapel of the holme within the parish of Wynandermere, of the age of 60, hath the same granted for the term of his life by letters patent of King Henry VIII. : the lands belonging to the same are of the yearly value of £7. There are 1,300 houseling people (Commission, in 1549, to inquire into all the chantries, free chapels, &c. in England).

The following extracts are from *Calendar of Letters and Papers of the reign of Henry VIII.*

1510, 2nd March (2 Henry VIII.) ; grant to JAMES WORSLEY and his assigns of the next presentation of the rectory of Wynandermere.

1532, 3rd June ; Presentation of Simon Symonds to the parish church of Upplowmouth, diocese Exeter, vice Thomas Worsley deceased.

1532, 19 June ; WILLIAM CLEYTON, LL.D., the king's chaplain. Presentation to the parish church of Wynandermere, in the Archdeaconry of Richmond, York diocese, vice Thomas Worsley deceased ; addressed to the Abbot of St. Mary, York, whom the king (Henry VIII.) desires to present him to the Ordinary. (Eltham, 17 June ; delivered Westminster, 19th June, 24 Henry VIII.)

1532, 3rd Feb. Appointment by Dean and Chapter of York, William Clayton, doctor of decrees, to be a prebendary of York. (Convocation of York, Chapter house, 5th Feb.)

1532, 14 October. Letter of Thomas Bedyll to Cromwell :—" Nothing has occurred since his departure except what the king is informed by letters of the Council : Dr. Clayton* died this night following St. Edmund's Day." He had a benefice of the king's patronage called Ribchester or Ribton, a prebend in Lichfield and the vicarage of Doncaster of the patronage of the abbot and convent of St. Mary Hill in York. "He (Bedyll), now a man in the king's service, does not look for any of those promotions but writes only that Cromwell may be the first to inform the king of these vacancies."

1532, Oct. 15. Letter from J. Williamson to Cromwell "Dr. Clayton at Powles is dead."

1527. Henry VIII. to the abbot or prior of (blank) desires him to present ADAM CAYRUS to the parish church of Wynandermer on the nomination of Sir William Parr, who holds the lordship during the nonage of William, son of the late Thomas Parr, to whom it was let by letters patent of 1 March, 4 Hen. VIII. (1512). He granted the reversion to Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset.

1532. ADAM CARUS, clerk ; Presentation to the parish church of Wynandermer, York diocese, vice Master William Clayton, doctor of decrees, deceased. (Greenwich, 6 Dec., 24 Hen. VIII. Delivered Westminster, 7 Dec. P.S. Pat., p. 1, m. 31.) †

1510, 20 August. For WILLIAM MOUNTFORTH, grant of the free chapel of St. Mary in Wynandermer, barony Kendal, diocese Carlisle (!), 14 Aug. 2 Hen. VIII.

1511, 8 March. Grant of the free chapel of St. Mary Holm, York diocese, in the king's gift by the death of Margaret, Countess of Richmond to WILLIAM MOUNTFORT.

* He was prebendary of Stotfold in Lichfield Diocese ; admitted 8 Oct. 1529.

† I am indebted to Chancellor Prescott for this reference.

1511, 24 March. For William Mountforthe, grant of the free chapel of St. Mary Holme in Wynandermere with two tenements and 10 marks a year for a chaplain's stipend out of the issues of the Barony of Kendal or lordship of Wynandermere, on surrender of patent of 8th March (above) ; Greenwich, 21 March, 2 Hen. VIII.

1532 to 1586. Adam Carus was rector of Windermere for 54 years. His successor, John Lindow, was appointed on his death in April 28, 1586. See " Notices of Rectors since the Reformation," in these *Transactions*; N.S. ix., p. 41.
