

ART. II.—*The Chantry of Bramwra.* By T. H. B. GRAHAM, M.A., F.S.A.

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KING HENRY III, in 1268, granted a lease to Thomas de Capella of 20 acres of land at Braumbay within Inglewood Forest, to hold at the king's will, for the annual rent of sixpence an acre; and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land at Birkmire within the same forest, for the annual rent of fourpence an acre, so that he might enclose the last-mentioned premises with a small ditch and low hedge, according to the assize of the forest and bring them into cultivation (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 229).

In December, 1271, an enquiry was held regarding trespasses alleged to have been committed by Roger de Lancaster, late seneschal of the forests, against the king of Scotland and his men of Penrith; and the Scottish deputies insisted that Roger had enclosed Birkmire, which was within the common pasture of Penrith, and had let it to Thomas de Capella, thereby ousting the king of Scotland; but the jury found that Thomas had seisin of Birkmire by mandate of the king of England, and had been put in possession thereof by the sheriff (these *Transactions*, N.S. vi, p. 166).

At an inquisition on the state of the forest in 1285, Thomas de Capella, of Bramwra, claimed to be free of pannage (these *Transactions*, N.S. ix, p. 32).

Birkmire, and probably Bramwra as well, lay on the boundary separating the vill of Hutton-in-the-Forest from the common pasture of Penrith.

Again, Thomas de Capella, of Newton Regny, was required in November, 1292, to prove his title to two

messuages, 40 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow at Newton Regny (*Placita de quo waranto*, p. 130) and at an assize holden in Trinity term 1293 it was found that Thomas de la Chapele had, without the king's licence, purchased from an idiot named William de Newton Regny the same two messuages, 40 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow (*Abbrev. Placit.*, p. 232).

However, in December, 1293, the said Thomas "de la Chapele," on payment of a fine, obtained restitution of the premises, to be held to him and his heirs of the king *in capite* (see these *Transactions*, N.S. xxvii, p. 16).

Thomas de Capella, who appears first as tenant at will of closes of land at Bramwra and Birkmire, and later as tenant in fee simple of other lands at Newton Regny, belonged to a collateral branch of the family, which, about the year 1227, began to supplant the old de Hotons in the manor of Hutton-in-the-Forest and eventually adopted their territorial surname, de Hoton (see these *Transactions*, N.S. xxv, p. 303).

That he was a cleric is faintly suggested by a passage in the pipe roll of 4 Edward I (1275-6) cited by our late member, Mr. Francis Parker, where he is styled *magister* Thomas de Capella (these *Transactions*, N.S. xi, p. 22) and that description, helps to identify him with *dominus* Thomas, vicar of Kirkby Stephen and founder of the chantry.

In consideration of a fine, made before the treasurer and barons of the exchequer, Thomas de Capella, vicar of Kirkby Stephen, obtained licence on July 16, 1300, to alienate in mortmain 3 messuages and 72½ acres of land at Newbiggin, Raughton and Bramwra to a chaplain, to celebrate divine service in a chapel about to be built at Bramwra (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 527).

Inquisition *ad quod damnum* was made in October, 1302, to ascertain whether Thomas de Capella, vicar of Kirkby Stephen, should be allowed to give his land at

Newton Regny to the bishop of Carlisle and his successors (*Halton Register*, edit. Thompson, i. p. 175).

In January, 1302-3, dominus Thomas, perpetual vicar, was ordered by the bishop to reside more constantly at Kirkby Stephen (*Halton Register*, i, 197), and in June, 1304, dominus Thomas, priest, exchanged the living for that of Arthuret (*Halton Register*, i, 217).

At last, after extraordinary delay, Thomas de Capella obtained royal licence on May 1, 1311, to alienate his four messuages and 40 acres at Newton Regny, held in chief, to a chaplain, to celebrate divine service daily in the chapel of Bramwra, for the souls of the grantor and his parents (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 338) and, on August 13 following, to alienate the advowson of the same chapel to the bishop of Carlisle (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 380).

Thomas de Capella was now an aged man, and had devoted all his property to pious uses. He probably died at Arthuret shortly afterwards, for in September, 1312, a new perpetual vicar of Arthuret was instituted (*Halton Register*, ii, 61).

In 1319, William de Redeman, priest, was collated by John, bishop of Carlisle, to the "chapel of Blessed Mary of Bramwra," with the provision that he should personally reside there (*Halton Register*, ii, 190).

Then occurs an interval of nearly 40 years, during which there is no mention of the chantry, and it sinks into oblivion.

But, in 1358, Thomas son of John de Hoton, as lord of the manor of Hutton-in-the-Forest, upon the supplication of Gilbert, bishop of Carlisle, obtained the king's licence to alienate in mortmain 2 messuages and 44 acres at Hutton, for the purpose of reviving the old chantry (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 91). It should be borne in mind that his ancestors living in the previous century were surnamed de Capella (see pedigree, these *Transactions*, N.S. xxv, p. 303).

In further pursuance of his scheme, Thomas de Hoton presented a petition to the bishop, in 1361, stating that the old chantry at Bramwra, erected for the good of Thomas de Capella's soul, was wholly lost, and the lands for its support were wasted and untilled,* and praying for confirmation of the scheme. So the bishop confirmed the erection by Thomas de Hoton of a *new chantry* within the parish church of St. James at Hutton, and the settlement thereon by Thomas of six messuages and 44 acres of land and meadow, and all the land that had formerly been given to the "*chantry of St. Mary at Bramwra,*" reserving to Thomas and his heirs the right of presentation to the said newly-erected "*chantry of the altar of St. Mary*" within the parish church of Hutton, and Richard de Brampton was thereupon presented as its first chaplain (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 392).

On October 23, 1402, John de Kirkandres, chaplain, was presented to the chantry founded in the church of Hutton (*Cal. Pat. Rolls*, p. 163).

Jefferson quotes (*Leath Ward*, p. 437) an unknown MS. of Dr. Todd:—

In 1416, William de Bolton, *perpetuus capellanus capellae* (as he styled himself) complained to the Council of Constance, the Romish See being then vacant, that certain unknown persons had sacrilegiously robbed his chantry of vestments, chalices and books, and that it had been defrauded of lands and tithes. Whereupon the Council directed a mandate to the bishop of Carlisle enjoining him to excommunicate all who were concerned in the sacrilege.

William de Hoton, lord of Hutton, died on January 25, 1422, seised of the advowson of the chantry, which was filled upon his presentation and worth 100s. a year (these *Transactions*, n.s. xi, p. 13).

It is recorded that Robert de Hoton, lord of Hutton, died on July 18, 1484, seised in fee of the donative and

* Canon Wilson was of opinion that the rents of the chantry became insufficient to maintain a chaplain, in consequence of the scarcity of tenants and labourers caused by the Black Death of 1349 (*Vict. Hist. Cumb.*, ii, 36).

advowson of the chantry within the church of St. James at Hutton (*Cal. inq. p. m.*, 3 Henry VII, p. 200) and at the death, in 1513, of his successor, Lancelot de Hoton, it was worth nothing except in special prayers (these *Transactions*, N.S. xi, p. 15).

In 1535, Bernard Haysty, then chaplain of the "chantry of Blessed Mary the Virgin in the church of Hutton" had a manse with 9 acres of arable land belonging to the same, which were worth 9s. a year, and other lands in Cumberland worth £6. 5s. 10d., subject to some small outgoings (*Valor Eccl.*, Record Commission, vol. v, p. 288).

By letters patent dated December 13, 1548, Edward VI granted to Thomas Brende, of London, scrivener, the said chantry with its lands in Hutton, Newton, Newbiggin and Gatescales, to hold to the said Thomas and his heirs of the king, as of his castle of Windsor, by fealty only, in free socage and not *in capite* (Nicolson and Burn, ii, 392).