

The Early Archdeacons of Derby.

REV. A. L. BROWNE.

INTRODUCTION.

A MEDIEVAL archdeacon was not necessarily a clerk in Holy Orders, or to use a modern colloquialism, a clergyman. True, conferment of the *benedicta corona*, did admit to the clerical class, which as Professor Tout¹ insists was elastic and large, in fact it comprehended all educated men, all lawyers, physicians, university graduates and students and most boys in a grammar school. A boy of 14 by canon law might be a canon of a cathedral. The tonsured clerk might, if he wished, afterwards proceed to Orders, minor or holy; but in numerous cases he did not even take minor Orders, and it was quite common for him not to take holy Orders, that is he never became a sub-deacon, deacon, or priest. For the majority there was little need to assume more clerical responsibility than was absolutely necessary. Disabilities as well as advantages attended his profession. There was, of course, a legal distinction between the *clericus* who had only been tonsured and the *clericus* in minor orders.²

An archdeacon was and is the bishop's eye looking into every corner of the area within his jurisdiction. It was an archidiaconal function to induct newly-instituted clergy to the temporalities of their benefice; to present pluralists

¹ Rylands Bulletin, III, 193-4.

² A letter printed, p. 56, in the register of John Trillek of Hereford, *ed.* C. & Y. will illuminate the point.

and criminous clerks to the bishop; to clip clerks who allowed their hair to grow and conceal the tonsure; to examine parish priests and ascertain their ability to pronounce rightly the words of the *canon*, and know the Decalogue; to inspect the fabric of church, parsonage and chancel; the supervision of what was necessary for the due celebration of the services and for the vesting of the ministers. To discharge these obligations, an archdeacon "visited" the clergy at least once a year with a retinue not exceeding five or seven persons, all of whom were entitled to bed and board by a parish priest. Indeed this claim to hospitality by an archdeacon and his company was regarded as so formidable a burden that Godstow at its foundation (866-7) bargained for exemption from it.

The archdeacons of Derby, like their fellows in the diocese of Lichfield, unless collated to a canonry had neither a residence in the Cathedral city, nor place in the procession, nor seat in the choir "*excepto archidiacono Cestriae, qui suum posuit residentiam archidiaconatus annexae*" (*Constitutions of Nonant. Mon. VI, 1,257*).

Internal evidence suggests that the earlier archdeacons of Derby delegated their duties to a personage entitled the Official,¹ and even at a later period when the Lichfield registers become available, writs for induction are directed not to the archdeacon but to his Official. Normally this officer presided at sittings of the consistory court of an archdeaconry exercising jurisdiction covering causes matrimonial and testamentary, recovery of tithe or other dues, and empowered to inflict penances for moral turpitude, fines, imprisonment and other fairly adequate penalties, subject, however, to appeal to the consistory court of the diocese and finally to that of the Province. Every will made in medieval England had

¹ There are courts of a Province, of a diocese, of an archdeaconry, each presided over by its proper Official acting for and on behalf of the dignitary by whom he is appointed.

to be "proved, insinuated and approved" before the Official and those who hindered the effects of testaments were deemed "violators and disturbers of ecclesiastical liberties," and were visited according to the Constitutions of Archbishops Boniface and Stratford with the greater excommunication (*Lyndwood* IV, 176, ed. 1679). Executors usually exhibited the original document to the court, whereupon the Official made one copy and forwarded a second copy to the bishop's registrar.

As one of the greater diocesan officers, an archdeacon was entitled by canon law to mount his name and any other cognizance he chose as the legend of his seal¹ together with the titular nature of his office, a privilege denied to officials of lesser degree.

From the facts presented in the narrative, it will be seen that the careers of successive occupants of the dignity resembled that of the ordinary prosperous secular clerk of their period, a university man with a legal training, rising to positions of trust under bishop or crown, and in three instances to close friendship with the reigning monarch; also that in their conception of their spiritual office they accepted the conventions of their age. On the other hand it is important to understand the characteristic views and the honest opinions of an age, before we condemn its peculiar and prevailing immoralities.

These introductory sentences may appropriately close with a quotation from Charles Dickens—"The reader must take some things for granted in a work of this brevity."

ROGER. The name occurs among the signatories to Roger Clinton's (alleged) foundation charter of the Benedictine house at Buildwas, "*T. Ego Rogerius Dei*

¹ For the law governing archidiaconal seals in England, consult the Constitutions of Otho in *Lyndwood* "*De Sigillis Authenticis*", pp. 67-70.

Gratia Derbiensis archidacono'' (Eyton, *Hist. of Salop* VI, 322). The charter is also printed in the *Monasticon* (ed. Cayley V, 356). The name of Roger, archdeacon, likewise appears among the witnesses to the foundation charter of the Benedictine Nunnery founded by the same bishop, at Fairwell, co. Stafford (*ibid.* VI, 111). Not very informative scraps, perhaps, but enough to validate his place on the roll of the archdeacons of Derby.

FROGERUS. Almoner of Henry II, Archdeacon of Derby, c. 1150. Bishop of Seez 1159. The Latinized name of this clerk of Norman origin, as it appears in medieval chronicle, was in his own tongue probably Frogère, and anglicised by Mr. J. H. Round in editing the *Calendar of French Documents*, as Froger.¹ It is not, however, as a Norman, but as an English ecclesiastic that Froger, politician and diplomatist enters the narrative.

To give a touch of local colour, we begin by quoting four instruments sealed or attested by him, during his tenure of the archdeaconry. But before proceeding to their recital, it will not be amiss to mention that the function of a seal² was to authenticate a document, while the function of a witness was to provide living testimony to its provisions. That a seal of some sort should be attached to everything of the nature of a charter, was essential and the loss or abstraction of a seal was deemed a serious offence (*Du Cange, ed.* 1740, VI, 665). The relevant charters then begin c. 1150 with a lease of a mill and meadow in Derby by Robert abbot of Burton to Albin³ abbot of Darley, *T. Frogero, archidiacono Derbiensis* (*Burton Charters* 13, *Staffs Hist. Colls.*, 1937); c. 1150-2, grant of lands by Walter (Durdent) bishop of Cov. to Ralf, lord of Harborne, to be held by service of 4s. p.a. for the lighting of the High Altar in the church of Lichfield, *T. ut supra*; May-July, 1155, at Bridgnorth,

writ of H. II, commanding W(alter) bishop of Chester and Froger the archdeacon of Derby to cause the king's church of Derby to have the tithes and customary dues of Winster as it had them in the time of H. I (*Linc. Reg. Ant.* ed. C. W. Foster, I, no. 187). In the same year he attested Robert de Stafford's charter confirming his father's benefactions to the Austin canons of Ardbury (*S.H.C.* II, 239); c. 1161-70, charter of Hugh,⁴ dean of Derby, appropriating the church of St. Peter's, Derby, to the canons of Darley; was sealed before Froger, the archdeacon (*Derby Arch. Journal* XVI, 16). From this time forward, however, his activities were centred in the court and household of that bull-necked man of volcanic force, Henry II, who gathered around him men of learning and erudition. In sober fact wherever the Angevin might be as he moved from castle to castle or town to town within a domain that extended from the Cheviots to the Pyrenees there also at his side would be found his Almoner, Counsellor and diplomatic agent, that is if the frequency of Froger's attestation to instruments of state afford a true criterion. Entanglement therefore in the bitter controversy between Henry and Becket could hardly have been avoided. By a Council held 1 June, 1166, at Chinon in Touraine and attended by Norman and French bishops, Froger now bishop of Seez and Arnulf,⁵ bishop of Lisieux, were despatched to the Cistercian abbey of Pontigny in Burgundy, where Becket lived in exile, to serve notice of an appeal to the Roman court against the measures threatened by the archbishop (*Materials for the Hist. of Becket*, R.S. V, 382). In January, 1168, we read of Froger's presence at a conference at Montmirail, near Chartres, between Henry of England and Louis VII of France to determine the conditions upon which the continental fees of the former were to be held (*Eyton, Itin. of H. II*, 119). Again in Lent, 1169, after Becket's excommunication of the king's

ecclesiastical and lay supporters, Henry sent his Almoner and Geoffrey Ridel, archdeacon of Canterbury,⁶ with a request to Louis for the expulsion of Becket from French territory, a request politely but firmly declined (*Becket Materials* VII, 27). Notwithstanding the rebuff Henry (accompanied by Froger) agreed to attend another conference convened to meet at Montmartre 16 November, 1169, when Louis of France, Rotron, archbishop of Rouen, and Vivian the papal nuncio were deputed to effect a reconciliation between two strong-willed men, neither of whom would yield an inch. The king could not drop the Constitutions of Clarendon without humiliation, and the archbishop would not accept them.

Willy-nilly, the archdeacon of Derby, was destined to become still more involved in the giddy unreason of things, for when King Henry designed the consecration of his eldest son as joint sovereign in Westminster Abbey 14 June, 1170, only two continental ecclesiastics were cited to attend the service, and of these Froger, bishop and archdeacon, alone shared in the ceremony conducted by Roger,⁷ archbishop of York (*Eyton, Itin.*, 138). This provocative intrusion upon a prerogative inherent to the archbishops of Canterbury as Primates of *all* England aroused an indignant protest not only from Becket and Louis of France but also from Alexander III, at the time occupant of the papal throne. Indeed the latter went so far as to stigmatize Froger as intruded into his bishopric by King Henry rather than by canonical election (*Becket Materials* VII, 243). Further ecclesiastical censure was to follow. Upon receipt of evidence certifying the coronation ceremony by the northern Primate, the Pope instructed the archbishop of Rouen to punish his suffragans of Seez and Lisieux, if they had attended the function at Westminster. As to Froger, if it was true that he was acting the courtier and serving the king in savage capacities, the archbishop

was to compel him to resign such offices or his See. (Eyton, *Itin.*, 143). With what success the archbishop imposed discipline upon the Henrician minister we do not know, but we do know that he neither resigned the bishopric nor relinquished his service in the king's court because his name occurs among the signatories to the treaty of Ivry, whereby Henry the feudatory, and Louis of France, feudal overlord of the former agreed in 1177 to submit the points in dispute between them to arbitration, and also to go together for three years on a crusade to the Holy Land (*Gerald Camb. R.S.* VIII, 169). The English king, however, ultimately liquidated the liability by an offer to found three monasteries. A somewhat pedestrian story now draws to a close. In 1185 the Princes Henry and Geoffrey, the king's sons, having engineered a rebellion against their father, Froger, in company with the archbishops of Canterbury and York and many Norman abbots, assembled on 25 of May in the church of St. Stephen's, Caen, and there solemnly excommunicated the disturbers of the king's peace, other than the ringleaders (Walter of Coventry *R.S.* I, 324). By will dated 22 February, 1182, King Henry constituted his Almoner a trustee to administer a bequest of 100 *marcas aurei* to provide marriage portions for poor girls in England and Normandy (*ibid.*, 193). What happened to the bequest is unrelated, because Froger predeceased the testator by dying in 1184 or the following year. In reviewing the career of this Norman archdeacon of Derby, a chronicler of the period notes that "he left great riches in gold and silver which were not going to do him any good" (*Torigneio Chron. R.S.* IV, 311). On the other hand it may be claimed for him that he served his king with a loyalty *vraie et non faincte*.

He appears to have relinquished the archdeaconry c. 1177, and during his tenure of the dignity he transmitted to the abbey of Mortimer *en Lions* a copy of the

Old Testament in two volumes (*Eyton, Itin.*, 140). Earlier in the narrative mention was made of the frequency of his attestation to royal charters and other instruments, a recital of which would be wearisome. Let it then suffice to indicate where these are printed—*The Calendar of French Documents*, nos. 27, 265, 300, 303, 548, 550, 600, 642, 685, 692, 693, 785, 862, 1,216, 1,397 as bishop of Seez; nos. 1,049, 1,156 as archdeacon of Derby. *Calendar of Charter Rolls* II, pp. 30, 31, 317, III, 285, 385. *Lichfield White Book*, nos. 186, 301. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 4 May, 1315. *Stapleton, Norman Exchequer* II, clxxiii. *S.H.C.* II, 239, III, 183, no. 13, ed. 1937. *Derby Arch. Journal* XVI, 16.

¹ The name was not unknown in England. One so-called earned notoriety for arrogance while sheriff of co. Berks c. 1066 (*Abingdon Chronicle R.S.* I, 486).

² Vide R. L. Poole, *Studies in Chronology and History*. 90-110.

³ Albinus, abbot of Darley c. 1176.

⁴ Hugh, founder of Darley abbey between 1161-70, described in the charter as Dean of Derby, i.e. either a sub-dean of All Saints, or else dean of St. Alkmunds, the other collegiate church in Derby (*Cox and Hope, Chronicles of All Saints*, 3).

⁵ Ranulf succeeded his uncle John in 1141 in the bishopric of Lisieux, reputed to have been an accomplished diplomatist, an elegant, if at times, a scurrilous letter writer; and influential councillor of H. II, until supercession by Becket. After countenancing the rebellion of 'prince' Henry he renounced the bishopric (*Vide*. R. L. Poole, *Studies in Chron. and Hist.*, 298).

⁶ Geoffrey Ridel, clerk in the service of Becket when chancellor; in 1163 succeeded his master in the archdeaconry of Canterbury, an acrimonious and active opponent of Becket; Bishop of Ely 1 May, 1173 by election; in 1189 he held Pleas in Derbyshire (*Pipe Roll I.R.I.*) d. July 1189.

⁷ Roger of Pontigny, archbishop of York, suspended by Alexander III, 29 Dec. 1170 to 1171; both the archbishop and Arnulf of Lisieux were compelled to prove their innocence of complicity in the murder of Becket by submitting to 'purgation' before obtaining reinstatement in their Sees (*R. L. Poole, ut supra*. 298).

⁸ Robert of Torigny, abbot of Mont St. Michel, to 1186.

NICHOLAS, a king's chaplain.¹ Sheriff of Essex, 1164-69. Archdeacon of Derby, c. 1177. Treasurer of Lichfield Cathedral and an Itinerant Justice, 1179. Archdeacon of Coventry, 1180.

By collating material available in Dr. Savage's edition of the Lich. White Book with Prebendary Eyton's *Court and Household of Henry II*, we discern in the otherwise unidentified "N" of Le Neve (*ed. Hardy*), a clerk closely attendant upon the first two Angevin kings. But apart from the occurrence of his name among the witnesses to a charter² of Bishop Richard Peche confirming the appropriation of a prebend in Gnosall to the *communa* of the D. and C. of Lich., nothing further emerges to justify the inclusion of his name among the archdeacons of Derby.

¹ The king's chaplains denoted clerks who occupied their time between the services in writing out the king's letters, from which in time developed the Chancery Court.

² *Mag. Reg. Alb.* no. 174, dated after 1177.

GODFREY de LUCY, *Familia Regis*.¹ Justice Itinerant, 1179 onwards. Archdeacon of Derby (occurs) 1182. Bishop of Winchester, 1189.

Among the many able men gathered in the Court and Council of Henry II, Godfrey the son of Richard² de Lucy by Roesia his wife, was by no means the least distinguished. Apart, however, from the fact, his beginnings are irrelevant to the narrative prior to 1179 when he first touches Derbyshire history by his appointment as one of the six justices itinerant on a circuit which included the counties of Derby and Nottingham (*Pipe Roll*, 1179). And with different colleagues he travelled the same *eyre* in 1182, 1183, 1185-6, 1194 (*Pipe Rolls*). The assizes appear in the first instance to have been held at Nottingham until 1255 when the Burgesses of Derby obtained *pro pretio dato* a crown order from Henry III, whereby the justices were to hear and determine Derbyshire pleas and causes in the county town (*Dunstable Annals R.S.* III, 199). The king or his advisers, however, after accepting the gift, only partially redeemed their undertaking. It was to the village of Sawley and not to the

county town that the assizes were relegated, and there were continued until the Burgesses of Derby in 1380 petitioned Parliament "against holding the assizes at Sallow a poor and foreign township without house accommodation to the dis-ease of the county and praying for their removal to Derby, the best town in the county for the inhabitants to attend and for the profit of the said town held of the king by fee-farm" (*Palgrave, Rolls of Parl.* III, 95).

Reverting to the subject of our theme and his tenure of the archdeaconry, the authority for which, if slender, is sufficient. It depends, in fact, upon three contemporary documents dated *c.* 1182, *viz.*, a charter of Henry II, to the abbess and nuns of Fontevrault,³ T. Godfrey, archdeacon of Derby; notification by Ralf, bishop of Angers, of an agreement between the community and William de Montesorell. T. Godfrey, archdeacon of Derby (*Cal. of French Docs.*, nos. 1,078, 1,079); while the will of Henry II, signed at Bishops Waltham 22 February, 1182, provides the third document, T. Godfrey, archdeacon of Derby, *cum aliis* (Gerard Camb. R.S. VIII, 191).

During voidance of the diocese between the death of Richard Peeche and the election of Gerard la Pucelle, the bishopric being *in manu regis*, Thomas Noel, the king's receiver, accounted for *iiijli. xs.* from the archdeacon of Derby for profits and perquisites of the episcopal court (*Pipe Roll*, 1183-84). Finally in May,⁴ 1184, the Primacy becoming vacant by the death of Richard, the previous 16 February, the king despatched Godfrey to induce the monks to elect an archbishop who would not be hostile to the royal policy in matters ecclesiastical (*Chronicles of Gervase*, R.S. I, 309). Consecration to the See of Winchester by archbishop Baldwin at Westminster 22 October, 1189 (*Stubbs, Reg. Sacr. Angl.*) appears to have terminated his tenure of the arch-

deaconry, so he disappears from the picture. It may be added that these scraps of information must be taken as no more than supplementary to a fuller notice of his life available in *D.N.B.*, in which it is said that "his character for practical wisdom and honesty stood high with his sovereigns, is shown by the various delicate pacificatory missions with which he was trusted."

¹ The term *Familia Regis* usually denotes the king's suit or staff of household officers.

² Richard de Lucy, chief Justiciar of England died in July, 1179, at Lesnes abbey whither he had retired in the previous April.

³ A town in Anjou which received its name from the wealthy Benedictine abbey founded there in the eleventh century, the abbesses of which were generally members of the ruling family.

⁴ Eyton dates the mission 25 July.

IVO CORNUBIENSIS (c. 1188). For a notice of this clerk whose place-name betokens a Cornish origin, historical material is of the scantiest. It may be he owed the preferment to the goodwill of his predecessor at Derby, at any rate the link between the two, whatever it may have been, persisted after Godfrey's elevation to the episcopate. As to Ivo's activities within the archdeaconry, just one solitary incident has survived and occurs in Jeayes' *Derbyshire Charters* (no. 1,080); "Letter from Ivo Cornubiensis, archdeacon of Derby, to the clerks appointed by the chapter of Scaruesdale, instituting the Abbot and Canons of Wellebeck in the church of Duchemanetum in the presentation of Geoffrey *fil Petri*,¹ to which they had maintained a right in the *Curia Regis* before Ranulf Glanvill and six other justices (c. 1187-8)." With this we leave Derbyshire for Hants, c. 1190, where we find Ivo among the witnesses to Godfrey's settlement of a dispute between William Brewer² and Hugh Bovet on the one part and the D. and C. of Sarum on the other respecting the church of Sambourn in Hampshire (*Osmund reg. R.S. I, 221*). Again c. 1192 he is styled archdeacon of Derby in attesting a compromise effected by William, bishop of Ely, Apostolic legate in England

of a dispute between prebendary Richard Barre,³ archdeacon of Ely and Thomas de Husseburn⁴ touching the church of Hurstbourne, Hants (*ibid.* I, 263). Further at an *inspeximus* 12 November, 1320, of a charter (undated but before 1204) whereby Ruald de Calma and Beatrice his wife provided endowment for the Austin canons of Newark-by-Guildford in the county of Surrey and the dio. of Winchester, the name of Mag. Ivo,¹ archdeacon of Derby was found among the witnesses (*Cal. of Charter Rolls III*). And lastly, in view of the fact that a variation of surname especially if derived from a place-name was not uncommon in medieval England, it should not be unreasonable to identify this archdeacon with the Ivo de Derby who witnessed c. 1190, archbishop Hubert's confirmation of the appropriation of the church of Aylesford to the hospital of St. Mary, Stroud (*Eeg. Roff*, p. 153).

A less striking personality than his predecessors, possibly because we know so little about him, though as it happens his official seal alone of the archdeacons of Derby has survived.

Birch, *Catalogue of seals in the British Museum*, No. 1,674 (c. 1191). "Yellow: a fragment of the upper part. Lozenge shaped: the archdeacon holding a book. Sigill' M(ag) . . . Corn."

¹ The famous Geoffrey Fitz-Pier, Justiciar of Eng. in the reigns of Richard I, and John; a justice of the Forests; a justice in Eyre in several cos., king's farmer of many manors, cos., and Honours (*Madox. Formulæ Angl.* p. 54, note). Upon hearing of his death in 1214, Matthew Paris relates that John exclaimed "*Per pedes Domini, nunc primo sum et dominus Angliæ.*"

² William Brewer or Briwere, lord of Sumburn manor, near Southampton, frequently a justice itinerant in the later years of H. II; Exchequer Baron, 1221; trusted counsellor of R. I; Consc. bp. of Exeter 21 April, 1224; *d.* 1244.

³ Richard Barre, archd. of Ely, 1184, a diligent and zealous servant of H. II. frequently employed as an itinerant by R. I, and John (*vide Pipe Rolls*).

⁴ Thomas Husseburn, preb. of Twyford in St. Paul's, 1191; occurs among the justices sitting in the *Curia Regis* 33 H. II, justice itinerant *temp.* H. II, R. I, and John (*Foss. Judhes*, II, 84).

⁵ The title '*Magister*' originally limited in its application to archdeacons and other dignitaries, began to be adopted by clerical graduates generally in the reign of H. II.

VIVIAN de STAGNO or STANGO. Probably a younger brother of William de Stagno a Norman knight closely attendant upon Richard I, both on his crusade and during his captivity (*Matt. Paris Chron. Mag. R.S.* II, 394). Should this conjectural relationship be admitted, then the admission of this future archdeacon of Derby to a clerkship in the royal household can be attributed to the goodwill of an influential brother, and from the frequency of his witness to the king's charters granted in the post-captivity years of the reign V. de S. appears to have become a foremost clerk in the royal chancery. For example, by charter dated 8 December, 1189, the king had conveyed the manor of Bradford to Marie Furmange,² abbess of Shaftesbury, but being lost during the king's captivity, it was renewed 10 September, 1199, and its terms attested by Vivian de Stango, archdeacon of Derby, Prince John, the bishop of Ely "our Chancellor," etc. (*C.P.R.*, 21 April, 1190). Again, the king's licence for Hubert Walter, bishop of Sarum to impark a wood, issued 11 April, 1190, being likewise lost, a second reciting the provisions of the first document was drawn up and attested amongst others by "Vymano Derebi archidiacono" (*Sarum Charters*, R.S. LVI). Again, at an *inspeximus* (8 October, 1431) of a charter of Richard to the Cistercians of Furness, Vivian de Stango was found amongst the witnesses (*C.P.R.*).

In 1194, the king caused a new broad seal to be made, requiring all charters granted under his former seal to be confirmed under this "whereby he drew a masse of monie to his tresurie."³ It may be that the innovation accounts for the confirmation of the following instruments, each attested by the archdeacon of Derby, and now quoted from the *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, i.e. charter of Richard to the Nuns of Wherwell (II, p. 30); to the Benedictines of Peterborough (IV, p. 279); to the Cumberland Convent of Holme Cultram (III, p. 80).

The death of Richard I, in 1199, and the accession to the Angevin domain of John, cruel as a cat and mischievous as a monkey, a man who loved evil for its own sake, while it in no wise adversely affected the archidiaconal fortunes, yet it did deflect his energies from the routine duties of a clerk closely attendant upon his sovereign, into another channel. We read in the *Liberate Roll* of 1200 of two treasury warrants issued to V. de S., archdeacon of Derby, the one for the purchase of arms and horses, and the other to enable Simon de Houes⁴ to pay for the passage of troops between Shoreham and Dieppe. However, his consecration in 1202 to the bishopric of Coutances, a See within the archdiocese of Rouen, voided the archdeaconry and after a brief episcopate this son of a Norman Seigneur reached the end of his road 15 February, 1208 (*Eubel Hier Cath.* I, 212).

¹ The territorial name had other representatives in England, e.g. Henry and Gilbert de Stagno, lawyers mentioned in the *Curia Regis Roll* of 1200-01; also Thomas de Stagno, steward of Hugh, bishop of Ely, 1234 (*Carter Rolls* I, 142).

² In a confirmation charter of King John, the lady is called "Marie abbatissa karissima, amica mea" (*Mon.* II, 473).

³ *Speed*; quoted by J. H. Round in *Feudal England*, 541. See also the *Pipe Roll* of 1195, *Introduction* XXIX.

⁴ A leading defender of the fortress of Tournay in July, 1201 (*Pat. Roll.* 13b and Wendover I, 313 ed. R.S.).

Mag. WILLIAM de MUSCHAMP. Upon the voidance created by Vivian de Stango's elevation to the episcopate Geoffrey de Muschamp, consecrated bishop of Cov. and Lich., 21 June, 1198, in succession to Hugh de Nonant a man of large estates and influence, but of a thoroughly secular and turbulent disposition, promptly collated his nephew (or brother) to the archdeaconry of Derby. The earliest official act after installation of which we know appears in the record of a sale, c. 1202-03,¹ by Robert the Westerner to Maud, dau. of Geoffrey de Trowell² of land in Stanton-by-Dale, T. Willelmo de Muschamp arch(diacono) Derby (*Hist. MSS. Com. Middleton*

Papers, 45). His name and dignity also occurs in William de Senevill's³ grant *c.* 1203-8 to the D. and C. of Lich. and Geoffrey the bishop, of the island of Sandholm in the episcopal manor of Sallow, and parish of Lockington, co. Leic., at a rent of 3s. annually to the donor and his heirs. *T. ut supra* (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*). Moreover, when the diocese was without a bishop between 6 October, 1208, and 25 January, 1215, we find the spiritualities entrusted to the archdeacon of Derby, in which capacity he confirmed, *c.* 1208-15, a grant for life by Nicholas, parson of Ashbourne, to his clerk Nicholas of Breaston⁴ of the tithes and obventions of his chapel of Bradley, rendering half *a marc* to the mother church as well as the burial fees and the confessions of parishioners (*Linc. Reg. Ant.*, ed. C. W. Foster, III, 683). To the period of his custodianship may be assigned the grant (undated) by Simon son of Osbert of Whittington to the chapel there, of one toft on the east side of the cemetery. *T. W. de Muschamp, archidiano de Derebi, Roberto de Dereleia, decano, cum aliis* (*ibid.* 728). A papal mandate dated 1210 instructed the abbots of Rocester and Croxden with the Prior of Tutbury to investigate the complaint of the abbot of Darley that W. the clerk and others despoiled the house of profits derived from the chapel of Wistanton; the troublesome clerk, however, relieved the contention by surrendering all his claims to the canons. *T. ut supra* (*Belvoir Papers* IV, 47). By consecration of William of Cornhill 25 January, 1215, the diocese at long last obtained an episcopal head, and after the new bishop's payment of Homage the archdeacon of Derby obtained relief from his custodianship of the spiritualities of the See. It may not be amiss to mention here that the emoluments of an English bishopric in the 13th century were of two kinds, the temporalities, *i.e.* the rents and profits of the See, the spiritualities, *i.e.* the revenue derived from the performance of any episcopal

function. It was, therefore, to the interest of the crown to keep the See vacant as long as possible, and thereby receive the revenues of the temporalities. On the other hand the spiritualities went to the archbishop of the Province, who appointed a custodian to receive the revenues arising from ecclesiastical functions, and to account annually, after deducting disbursements, for the net profits.

In resuming the narrative proper, we find the archdeacon of Derby with the abbots of Burton and Darley empowered by a papal mandate of 1216 to compel the D. and C. of York to restore the prebend of Bramham, value 40*li*, to the Prior and Convent of St. Oswald's, Nostle (*C.P.Lrs.*, p. 45).

Litigation concerning the advowson of Willington rectory engaged the attention of the *Curia Regis* in 1219. "The assize came to recognize who had the advowson of Wileton at the presentation of the last parson who is now dead: It is now claimed by Nicholas de Wilton, miles dominus de Wilinton as well as the Prior of Repton: the latter denied voidance, he having already presented Ralf 'le Petit': it was generally admitted that the said Nicholas presented Hugo son of Philip Marc parson there when he died: subsequently Nicholas conveyed the advowson to the P. and C. of Reppingdon by a charter now produced in Court. And Nicholas came and repudiated both the charter and the seal, and asserted that he never made the charter. The Court then commissioned William Muschamp, archdeacon of Derby *cum aliis* to examine the charter and to report by Martinmas if it did or did not convey the advowson" (*Curia Regis Roll*). But what the upshot of the litigation may have been does not appear.

Yet another stage in the perennial contention between the D. and C. of Lich., and the canons of Lenton was reached in 1221 by an agreement which appor-

tioned two-thirds of the tithes on land within the former demesne of William of Peveril to the Convent, and to the D. and C. one-third in right of their church of Baucwell, as well as one-third of the tithes of lead throughout the whole fee. T. W. de M., archd. of Derby *cum aliis* (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*). c. 1215-1223, William de Cornhill, bishop of Lich., deputed the archdeacons of Derby and Coventry (Robert de Bosco) with Mag. Zacharias of Chebsey (co. Staff.) to enquire at Derby regarding the ecclesiastical status of Measham chapel; in due course the commissioners reported that it belonged to the mother church of Repton, and that corpses were formerly brought from Measham to Repton for burial. Of this service we learn from Jeayes' invaluable edition of Derbyshire Charters (no. 1681), which also records Muschamp's attestation to instruments 44, 936, 1,169, 2,386, conveying lands usually to monastic corporations. His archidiaconal signature was also attached to Ashbourne charters nos. 63, 64, 65 (*vide D.A.J.* XIII, 57-59). Dying in 1231 (*Dunstable Annals R.S.* III, 126) he has left behind him the impression of a clerk who discharged official duties with a quiet competence.

The Willingtons of Willington were members of the lesser barons of the day, and deserve a short notice. In the *Curia Regis Roll* of 1198, we read of a day given to the Nicholas mentioned in the text, and Jordan de Toke for making a chirograph of the mill of Polac, and of Richard Bond's appearance before the Court questioning the right of N. de W. to demand from him servile service for a tenement he freely held in Findern. Nicholas then produced in Court two uncles of the plaintiff who came and acknowledged that the tenement was held by servile works and in villenage of Nicholas. Of his death in 1234 we learn from an entry in the *Close Roll*, which records that Nicholas, son and heir of the former, came before the king and shewed that his father was snatched

by death as he journeyed to recover his lands in Findern, which are now *in manu regis* by his default, and that his father died on the day of March nearest after the Ashes (Ash Wednesday), and his son now sought to have his heritage. In 1236, Clemence, 2nd wife and widow of Ranulf 4th E. of Chester, proceeded against N. (II) for two bovates of land in Willington (*Cal. Close Rolls*, p. 373). He is also mentioned in the *Pipe Roll* of 1241-2, acknowledging a debt to the crown of *xjli. xjs. viijd.* *In thes xs. et debet xjli. et xvd.; to pay xs. p.a.* His daughter and heiress married Hugh Findern (*Harl. MS.* 1093).

¹ In view of the date of Stango's elevation to the episcopate the compiler has ventured on a slight adjustment of the dates hitherto accepted.

² Geoffrey de Trowell *alias* Brunnesley held in 1198 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ carucate worth *xxs. p.a.* in Colwick and Trowell of the H. of Peverill (*Book of Fees*, I, p. 8). The sheriff of Notts and Derby in 1202 accounted for one marc of Geoffrey de Brinsley for his sergeancy of the H. of Tickhill (*Pipe Roll*). In 1212, he is said to hold in Trowell one car. of arable land and in Brunn. $\frac{1}{4}$ a car. by service of one *rouncey* (a riding horse) value 5s. and one woolpack of *iiijd.* of the H. of Peverill, when the king goes into Wales (*Book of Fees*, I, 149).

³ He occurs among the witnesses to a charter of Petronilla, heiress of the Norman Honour of Grandmesnil, widow of Robert, 3rd E. of Leic., granting her demesne in the vill of Annesley to the monks of St. Evroul (N.D. *Cal. of French Docs.*). On 25 Jan, 1215, Simon—presumably his heir—obtained a licence for alienation in mortmain to convey his manor of Lockington to the Conv. of Leic. (*Nichols, Leic.* III, pt. 2, 271).

⁴ Bertram, s. of William, s. of Ralf grants to Nicholas the clerk, s. of Geoffrey the clerk of Esseburn 8 bovates of land in Kalfdon and 3 tofts with 3 acres paying *10s. p.a.* for this the said Nicholas gave 2 silver *marcs* (*Bodleian Charters*, no. 12).

Mag. WILLIAM de LUCEBY, or Luteby. The place-name indicates Lincolnshire origin or extraction for the clerk collated by Stavenby to the archdeaconry of Derby in succession to William de Muschamp. Attestation to the Bishop's appropriation¹ of High Ercall church (Salop) to Shrewsbury abbey appears to have been the first official service of William de Luceby, but unless the Dunstable annalist was incorrect in dating the death of his predecessor, the attestation must be placed in 1231 rather than 1229. At any rate he styled himself

archdeacon of Derby in a notification to the Bishop of his induction of the A. and C. of Burton to the rectory of Burton on the feast of the Epiphany, 1231-2 (*Staff. Colls.*, 1937; *Burton Papers*, no. 90).

Again, when bishop Stavenby's projected appropriation (1231-4) of the rectory of Burton-in-Wyrall to the neighbouring hospital of Danewell by the sea-shore for poor and shipwrecked mariners, was submitted, as precedent required, for ratification by the D. and C. of Lich., the name of W. de L. canon and archdeacon, occurs among the members of the Chapter who approved (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, 718). The record is informative by its disclosure of his enjoyment of a canonry and prebend in the Cathedral, which from entries nos. 36 and 123 we learn was the prebend of Gaia Major,² worth 6*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.* at the Nicholas *Valor*. And similarly styled he witnessed in 1232 Stavenby's confirmation of the Peak Churches to "*communa ecclesie Lichfieldensis*"³ (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, no. 179).

Again, on 21 October, 1234, Gregory IX deputed the Priors of Tutbury and Gresley to hear and determine a dispute between the archdeacon and the abbot of Burton respecting the ecclesiastical liberties of the Convent: sentence pronounced in favour of the abbot (*Burton Cartulary*, f. 42). And in 1239 the archdeacon of Derby installed the canons of Dunstable into possession of Bradburn church, worth 60*m.* at the Nicholas *Valor*, "and then were constituted 3 canons, one of whom should respond to the bishop in spiritualities, and to the Prior of Dunstable in temporalities" (*Annals R.S.* III, 149). By a new charter dated 25 July, 1242, the archdeacon confirmed the community in their title (*ibid.* 161). *c.* 1246, according to a decision of the archdeacon of York "*judice a domino papa delegato*," W. de L. acknowledged the exemption of the Peak Churches, *i.e.* Bakewell, Hope, Tideswell, Chapel-en-le-Frith, from archidiaconal visitation (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, no. 189). But as

it would make tedious reading to continue a recital of the instruments printed in the *Mag. Reg. Alb.* and bearing his attestation, it will be sufficient to refer a reader to those numbered 98, 148, 152, 155, 158, 159, 161, 424, 440, 657, 659.⁴ Indeed, the very frequency of his witness to diocesan documents impels a conjecture that William de Luceby spent more time at Lichfield in attendance on his bishop than in residence at the official house in Derby.

A disjunctive and sketchy record of a clerk who enjoyed the fruits of the archdeaconry for some twenty years, may close with a quotation from the *Rutland Papers* (*H.M.C.* IV, 28), which runs "attached to an undated instrument touching the sale of a toft in Chesterfield, is a fragment of a charter, *T. Magistro W. de Lucebi arch. Derby vel eius officiali.*"

¹ *Eyton, Salop*, IX, 109.

² The prebend took a name from its *corpus* being in Gaia Lane, Lichfield; Gais being the medieval Latin for jay.

³ That is to say, the common fund of a cathedral church, as distinct from the separate income of a prebend, which each canon shared in proportion to his residence and due performance of certain duties.

⁴ See also *D.A.J.* XVI, 28.

Mag. DAVID de ST. FRIDESWIDE. Archdeacon of Derby and Canon of Lichfield. Prebendary of Lincoln and Official Principal.

How this lawyer of eminence in his day acquired a conventional place-name must be a matter of conjecture, and may be left at that. A beneficiary of the House possibly for his education, but benefactor he certainly was for the cartulary of the Convent records that Mag. David de St. Frideswide¹ bought a plot of land with a messuage thereon adjoining the churchyard, for which he paid Hugo the tailor xls. sterling and a quit-rent of *jd.* p.a., and then conveyed the property to the church and canons, c. 1240-50 (*Oxford Hist. Soc.* XXVIII, *Charters* 130, 131).

We now reach in the narrative, the episcopate of Roger of Wesenham, S.T.P. "a very commendable man," who in earlier days had been Lector of the Friars Minor in Oxford. It may be that his choice of David de St. F. for collation to a canonry at Lich. as well as the archdeaconry of Derby, points to a previous academical amity between the bishop and the clerk of Oxenford whose name occurs among the canons who witnessed the sentence of Walter, warden of the Friars Minor of Leicester, and Adam de Stafford, archdeacon of Chester, papal commissioners deputed to hear and determine the periodic dispute between the D. and C. of Lich., and the Cluniacs of Lenton, touching the greater and lesser tithes of the mill, lead, and hunting-stud within their respective parcels of the Honour of Peveril (*D.A.J.* VI, 161). The exceptional privilege of maintaining a hunting-stud was enjoyed under a charter of K. John, dated 2 December, 1212, granting the Priory game in cos. Notts and Derby, *viz.* stags and hinds, bucks and dogs, boars and swine (*Dugdale Mon.* V, 112). The name of David St. F. occurs again among the canons who witnessed Henry of Lexington's surrender in 1254 of his ferm of their churches of Bakewell and Hope with their appurtenances to the D. and C. of Lich. (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, 72). In 1255, the canons of St. Frideswide presented their namesake, at the time a sub-deacon in his Orders, to St. Michael's rectory at the Southgate,² Oxford, worth $2\frac{1}{2}$ *marcs* in 1291 (*Reg. Grosseteste, ed. C. & Y.*). In March, 1256, to the ratification by the P. and C. of Lewes of an allocation of 13 m.p.a. for the sustentation of the Vicars of Melton (Mowbray) church appropriated by Grosseteste to the Priory, T. David of St. Frideswide, Archd. of Derby (*Linc. Reg. Ant., ed. C. W. Foster*, II, 388).

While anxious to put as little mortar as possible between the bricks, a glance at the international conditions antecedent to his next appearance in the records

is necessary. At a Council held at Lyons under the presidency of Innocent IV in 1250, a levy of one-tenth upon the clergy of western Europe was decreed, in order to finance a crusade against the Moslems, with which Henry III agreed to co-operate. The king, however, avoided the obligation by undertaking to give military aid elsewhere. But despite the royal evasion, David of St. F. in common with other English archdeacons, received from Alexander IV, a mandate dated 23 August, 1256, requiring him to assess the benefices within his jurisdiction, and collect the tenth³ for the next two years, which when done, the proceeds were ultimately annexed by the crown.

Entitled archdeacon of Derby and prebendary of Lincoln, David in the same year obtained a papal indult to hold one benefice with cure of souls, besides his church of Parthen (Partney) in the diocese of Lincoln (*C.P.Lrs.* I, 327). But over and above the preferments already enjoyed, he occupied the lucrative position of Official-Principal in the great diocese of Lincoln, and is so designated in a papal commission of 1258 when:—"By authority of Honorius III, and of Henry Lexington, bishop of Lincoln, Richard Gravesend, dean of Lincoln, with Master David, the bishop's Official, came to Osney and in the Infirmary chapel examined the instruments, charters, etc., touching the rights of the Convent in the church of St. George in the castle at Oxford (*Osney Charters R.S.* IV, 120). But what the upshot of their enquiry may have been does not appear.

During a brief episcopate (17 May, 1254 to August 24, 1258) Henry of Lexington by claiming to exercise jurisdiction over students at Oxford, as inherent to the bishopric of Lincoln, managed to provoke serious irritation in the University which read in the claim an attempt to violate ancient academical liberties and customs. After much controversy, the bishop in 1257 despatched

his Official-Principal to protest *coram* the Chancellor that certain Statutes then under consideration were prejudicial to the jurisdiction of the bishop; to which the University⁴ answered by repudiating any intention of prejudicing the bishop or his successors (*Burton Annals R.S. I, 436*). And so the friction continued blazing up and dying down again until Henry of Lexington passed away, but if his death stilled one tempest it opened the way to a wrangle between Boniface, archbishop of Canterbury and the D. and C. of Lincoln touching their respective jurisdictions *sede vacante*. A composition, however, between the belligerents, relieved the tension, and among the signatories to an agreement dated 22 May, 1261, the name of David St. F. appears (*Lincoln Liber Niger*, ed. *Wordsworth*). Meanwhile he had been preferred by the Convent of Bardney to the Bucks rectory of Edlesborough in 1260, but after admission a certain Walter Rudham with many armed men came and seized the church by violence (*Dunstable Annals R.S. III, 216*). With this closes the fragments more or less woven together to present an outline of the career of a shrewd son of Oxford, by whose death in 1262, four rectories and other dignities were voided.

¹ We meet the name again in Richard de St. F. archd. of Bucks., 1290-98.

² Demolished by Cardinal Wolsey, the site incorporated with CH. CH.

³ The commission issued to the archdeacons of Lich. is printed in *Burton Annals*, 345-6.

⁴ For the University standpoint, see *Wood's Annals*, ed. 1729, I. 257.

JOHN of WESTON-under-LIZARD. On referring to our dovecote for the name of a successor to David of St. F. we are at once confronted with a divergence of opinion in our authorities. Le Neve has William of Weston, while Browne Willis gives John of Weston. The probabilities, however, on the whole disqualify the former and favour the nominee of Browne Willis, who wrote that his collection (of the archdeacons of Derby)

was "communicated to me by the very worthy Dr. William Walmisley,¹ a great promoter of the interest and dignity of his cathedral" (*Browne Willis MSS., f. XLVII. Bodleian Library*). On the other hand, I do not find either of the potential candidates at any time or anywhere definitely—that blessed word—designated archdeacon of Derby. Yet the evidence does point to John of Weston, in his day, a foremost clerk in the diocese.

Of his early history nothing of value emerges until as a lawyer of established repute he occurs in the Patent Rolls created a Justice for Keeping of the Jews, 22 August, 1262; and on 18 February, 1265, one of the four Coroners in co. Notts.; and commissioned 4 May, 1269, to scrutinize the chests containing chirographs of the Jews in the City and Tower of London. But leaving this record of employment incident to his profession, yet external to our theme, and coming to functions of local import, we find a contention respecting tithes between the abbot of Darley and the Austin prior of Shelford referred in 1262 for adjudication to Mag. J. of Weston² and William, r. of St. Michael's, Nottingham.

By sentence pronounced in All Saints, Derby, the arbitrators awarded the tithes to Shelford, less an annual payment of 12*d.* to Darley (*Cox, Derbyshire Churches IV, 137-8*). His name also occurs among the Cathedral dignitaries who witnessed a variety of instruments, such as charter no. 184, dated 1263 in Burton *Muniments* (*S.H.C. ed., 1937*); or Ralf de Chaddesden's notification that the convent of Burton bind themselves to pay the D. and C. of Lich., 100*s.* p.a. to sustain a chaplain in the chapel of the B.V.M. in the church of Sallowe to celebrate the divine service for the repose of the founder's soul, etc., *T. Mag. John of Weston cum aliis* (*ibid.* no. 201); or a composition concerning tithes between the V. of Wirksworth and the Convent of Darley in 1275. *T.*

ut supra (*Derby Charts.*, 2,642); or an agreement reached in 1278 between the Prior of Repton and the parishioners of Measham touching the execution of repairs to the chancel (*ibid.* 1,961). Moreover of his standing in the diocese an instrument dated 30 September, 1276 is informative, it reads:—“Mandate from John of Weston *Commissary-general* of Roger de Meuland, bishop of Lich., bidding Hugh, r. of Grendon pay the Convent of Burton 14s. which Hugh in a suit acknowledged was due (*Burton Muniments*, 237). As to the preferments he enjoyed the Lincoln register of bishop Gravesend calendars the admission of Mag. John of Weston, priest, in March, 1277-8 to the vicarage of Long Sutton, patron the Prior of Castleacre, and at an inquisition for proof of age of Andrew Saukevil in 1300, Adam Hyde of Ashbourne deposed his recollection of the birth of the petitioner 24 years ago next April, as at that time he was in the service of Master John Weston, then rector of Radbourne (*Cal. of I.P.M.* III, 627). Lastly, evidence of material prosperity is furnished by a grant *c.* 1270, of Roger de Bradel’ to the nuns of St. Mary of Kingsmead of all the lands in Langley and the mill there, he held of Mag. John Weston, his uncle (*Derby Charters*, no. 1520).

¹ Dean of Lichfield, 3 April, 1720; d. 18 Sept. 1730.

Mag. JORDAN of WYMBURNE. Archdeacon of Derby, 1278. Archdeacon of Chester, 1280. Canon of Sarum (occurs) 1281.¹

Patronymic and profession combine to favour kinship with Walter of Wymburne, Justice of the Bench 1276-88, and tentatively both of them sons of Thomas of Wymburne, Lord Mayor of London in 1255. The earliest exhibit connecting Jordan with the archdeaconry arose through a dispute between the D. and C. of Lich. and the Convent of Hales touching the patronage of Har-

borne and its chapelries, and the payment of a pension to the D. and C. of 6*m.* charged upon the fruits of their appropriated church of Walsall. The controversy was ultimately submitted to arbitrators, who on 25 April, 1278, awarded the patronage to the D. and C., but relieved the Convent of further payment of the pension. T. Jordan, archd. of Derby (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, no. 177). Capitular acquisition of the patronage did not, however, conduce to peace. Dissension ensued between the Chapter and a fellow-canon, one Henry de Gaino,² a Roman, instituted r. of Harborne under a papal provision. But to avoid expensive litigation both parties agreed to refer the dispute for adjudication by two members of the Chapter, *viz.* Jordan of Wymburn and Wakelin Houtton, who on 14 September awarded the rectory to the *communa* of Lich., and to the Rector "a great and noble man" they assigned a pension of 30*m.* p.a. from the capitular income (*Reg. Mag. Alb.*, nos. 47, 50). Somewhen about this time, the archdeacon of Derby in conjunction with his diocesan embarked on a rash adventure by unostentatiously seeking papal authority for an extension of their respective jurisdictions. But when news of the projected encroachment upon the prerogatives of the crown reached Edward I, he, under date 28 April, 1279, directed to the meddling dignitaries an injunction to this effect—"whereas the church of All Saints, Derby, is appurtenant to the deanery of Lincoln, the king prohibits the archdeacon of Derby from setting on foot outside the realm any plaint or appeal touching the liberties of the said church" (*C.P.R.*).

In 1279, the strife between the D. and C. of Lich., and the Cluniacs of Lenton once more flared up in flame. According to a complaint of the Prior, Simon of Balliden and William of Wymondham, two of the cathedral canons, had raised a band of armed men, with whose

aid Wymondham had seized the prior's stores at Bake-well; and Simon had raided the prioral house at Haddon; also that Wymondham and one of his clerical auxiliaries had been caught by the sheriff of Nottingham and consigned to gaol. Whereupon the king delegated the brothers Antony and Thomas Bek, archdeacons of Durham and Dorset, to investigate the complaint and devise a treaty of peace. The commissioners ultimately formulated a composition which the attorneys for the chapter, Mag. Adam de Walton, chancellor of the cathedral and Mag. Jordan, archd. of Derby, signed and sealed (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, 254). However, upon collation sometime before Christmas Day, 1280, to the archdeaconry of Chester, his subsequent activities concern us not.

¹ See Cal. of Close Rolls, Sept. 1281.

² The names of Ganio and Houton do not appear in lists of Lichfield canons; presumably they lacked the dignity and emoluments of a prebend.

³ Official-Principal of Lich.

ELIAS of NAPTON. Archdeacon of Derby and Prebendary of Eccleshall, 1281. Prebendary of Holy Cross, Chester, and of All Saints, Derby.

Elias, or to use the old English equivalent, Elys, owed his collation to Roger de Molend¹ *alias* Longespee, fourth son of William Longespee a natural son of Henry II, and so cousin and not nephew of the third Henry as Matthew Paris has it (*Chron. Mag. R.S.* V, 613), was elected bishop of Lich., 31 January, 1256-7. Upon his linguistic limitations, Whitlock comments, "This man was born and brought up altogether beyond the seas, by reason whereof he was utterly ignorant of the English tongue." And it was on account of this and other deficiencies that Friar John Peckham, then archbishop of Canterbury, a vigorous disciplinarian, ordered his suffragan to reside in his diocese and provide a deputy able to transact business in the vulgar tongue. But when Molend failed to comply with the mandate, the Primate

on 14 July, 1281, appointed the newly-collated archdeacon of Derby to undertake duties, which, in fact, if not in name, pertained to the office of a Vicar-General, to which the Primate attached a pension of 100s., to be paid from the revenues of the See² (*Peckham Letters*, R.S. I, clxxi, clxxii). Of the extensive power conferred by the commission we learn from a primatial mandate of 16 June, 1281, bidding Elias proceed against certain clergy in Chester suspected of living an evil life (*ibid.* II, DLV.); and on 20 May, 1287, another mandate warned him not to allow a contingent of Carmelite Friars to settle at Coventry within 300 *cannae* (bowshots) of the Friars Manor (*ibid.* III, p. 946).

Pursuant to the death of Roger Molend 16 December, 1295, archbishop Winchelsey—described as a prelate of great piety and some learning—created William Staunden his Official-Principal during voidance of the bishopric, and at the same time directed William Stafford, the late Official, and Elias, archdeacon of Derby, to hand over to him their seals of office, with the rolls, registers, and other muniments (*Winchelsey reg.*). The Primate also seized the opportunity for obtaining the names of clerks in the diocese suspected of pluralism, with this result—“*Memo. for Mag. Elias, archdeacon of Derby, and for Mag. Robert de Radeswell archdeacon of Chester, charged with pluralism by W. de Staunden ‘clericus et familiaris’*,” lately our Official in the diocese of Lichfield, judgment is deferred until the return from abroad of Walter Langton (*ibid.*), when the matter vanished into thin air. In the Stafford Assize Roll of Easter, 1298, we have an instance of the embarrassments inflicted upon executors of a bishop with a low mental capacity:—Mag. John Lovel proceeded against Mags. Elias of Napton, archd. of Derby, Robert de Radeswell, archd. of Chester, Robert de Aston *directus valletus meus*,³ executors of Roger de Meuland, for 62*m.* owing to him being

arrears of an annual rent of 6*m.*, which the said bishop engaged to pay him so long as he acted as the bishop's Advocate in the Court of Canterbury by deed dated Easter, 1283 (*S.H.C. VII*, 47). Meanwhile, *i.e.* in 1296, after Convocation refused to grant Edward I a subsidy of a tenth for war with the Scotch, the king outlawed the clergy and seized their lay fees. Some of the clergy, however, effected a compromise by payment of a fifth; and among these the name of Elias, parson of Eccleshall, prebendary of All Saints, Derby, and of Holy Cross, Chester,⁴ occurs in February, 1297 (*Cal. of Chancery Rolls, Various*).

When Walter Langton, Treasurer of Edward I, and bishop of Lichfield was charged with flagitious conduct and suspended from office, Pope Boniface VIII, by a mandate dated 30 March, 1302, commissioned Masters Elias of Napton, Philip of Everdon⁵ and Thomas of Adberbury,⁵ canons of Lich., Vicars-General to administer the churches of Lich. and Coventry, in all matters spiritual and temporal. But lest the bishop should be reduced to beggary, to the discredit of the episcopal office, they are in the meantime to provide a moderate maintenance for him (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, 5). To cut a long story short—the Pope ultimately deputed the archbishop of the Province and the Prior of the Friars Preachers to hold an enquiry, at which Langton appeared while his accusers did not, whereupon to use a conventional phrase, the bishop left the court without a stain on his repute. Re-instatement followed 8 June, 1303 (*ibid.* no. 305).

Owing to an unusual wealth of material available for a notice of this archdeacon, the writer has been confronted with the problem common to all literature, *viz.*, what to put in and what to leave out, but enough has been told to picture a clerk, who, if not a saintly churchman, was surely a conscientious and capable man of affairs.

To the Cathedral he bequeathed "one gradual" (*Lich. Sacrist Roll*).

¹ The Naptons were particular favourites of Roger Molend, Roger of that ilk being his nephew (*S.A.C.* vol. 1914, 131).

² To this may be added an archepiscopal instruction forbidding a suffragan to collate to any benefice without the counsel and advice of Elias Napton.

³ The *valettus* of a baron was an esquire charged with the care of his master's personal armour; *pari-passu* a bishop's *valettus* may have been a clerk or layman responsible for the episcopal vestments and wardrobe.

⁴ Three stalls in the collegiate church of St. John, Chester, were called Holy Cross, the holders of the dignity being co-parceners in certain glebe lands.

⁵ Collated prebendary of Wellington, 15 Feb. 1298 (*Le Neve*).

⁶ Precentor of Lich. Sept. 1303; *d.* 1307.

GEOFFREY of BLASTON, *alias* BLABY. Official-Principal of Lich., 1300. Archdeacon of Derby, 1311. Vicar-General of Lich., 1321.

This erudite lawyer and publicist acquired an alternative place-name while parson of Blaby, to whom the king granted letters of protection, under circumstances undefined (*Cal. of Close Rolls Supp.* 1297). His appearance in the diocese was coterminous with that of Walter Langton, who created him Official-Principal in 1330; collated him R. of Doddersall in Quainton, Bucks in 1302; prebendary of Bishopshill in 1304; and in January, 1311, archdeacon of Derby void *p.m.* of Elias Napton. A letter of the first Edward dated 24 August, 1302, to Boniface VIII, is worth quotation by its relevance to the misfortunes of Langton already related, as well as for its implication of Geoffrey Blaston's repute for skill in difficult negotiation—"The king compassionates the suspension of his Treasurer, Walter bishop of Cov., more especially because John de Lovetot,¹ knt. (his accuser) is a traitor and has delayed exhibiting the apostolic letters concerning the bishop to the Primate² and his suffragans, that he might destroy an innocent man. The king therefore requests the Pope to provide mercifully for the bishop's estate and to comfort the king's mind in this matter by Mag. G. of Blaston, whom the king is sending specially for this matter" (*Cal. of C.R.*).

Langton, before going overseas on the king's business obtained, 16 October, 1305, letters of protection for himself, G. de Blaston and other companions (*C.P.R.*), presumably to represent England at the coronation in November, at Lyons, of Bertrand de Goth, a Gascon nobleman, archbishop of Bordeaux, who, on election to the Popedom, assumed the title, Clement V. Reverting to the home scene where owing to the expense of litigation and the difficulties in enforcing the decrees of ecclesiastical courts, even cathedral dignitaries were at times amoved, and with some justification, to take the law into their own hands. A case in point now arises. On 4 December, 1312, John Derby,³ dean of Lich., the archdeacon of Derby with others were charged with forcibly carrying away the goods of Robert Leggore, admitted parson of Southam in November, 1305, who persistently neglected to pay a pension due from the rectory to the monks of Coventry. To cut a long story short, Roger de Northburgh an industrious official, with an ambition greater than his ability, consecrated by papal provision bishop of Lich., 24 June, 1322, commissioned archdeacon Geoffrey to deprive a contumacious priest notoriously convicted of perjury in 1313, canonically unable to hold a benefice and excommunicated in the archepiscopal court of Canterbury for ignoring the power of keys. The archdeacon was also to induct Richard Irreys, preferred by the P. and C. of Cov. to the rectory voided by disqualification of the said Roger (*Mag. Reg. Alb., nos.* 484, 732-3). A comment passed by Dr. Savage on the episode reads—" Roger Luggore for 17 years and more held tenaciously to his benefice, in spite of every kind of ecclesiastical fulmination, even though the Church Courts were re-inforced by the arm of the secular law . . ." He must have had behind him strong support,⁴ or he could not have continued to receive the fruits of his benefice in face of public sentences of depriva-

tion and excommunication (*ibid.* 484, 486). Resuming strict chronological order, we meet a *Close Roll* mandate of 1 August, 1318, which forbade Mag. John of Everdon,⁵ dean of Wolverhampton from injuring G. of B. incumbent of the prebend of Wylaston in the free chapel there. On 16 December, 1318, bishop Langton deputed the archdeacon of Derby, William Bosco, Chancellor of the Cathedral, Philip Turvill,⁶ canons of Lich., to investigate and advise on a reconstitution of the collegiate church of St. Thomas the Martyr, at Holland in co. Lancs., but the archdeacon pleading ill-health was excused participation in the enquiry (*Mag. Reg. Alb.*, 329, 375). Pursuant to the death of John Derby 22 October, 1319, the Cathedral canons assembled in the Chapter House to choose a Dean. After completing the statutory preliminaries, it was agreed to proceed by way of scrutiny, and appointed G. archdeacon of Derby, Gilbert Bruer⁷ and Ralf Holbech scrutineers. On examination it appeared that Stephen Segrave⁸ and Philip Turvill were equal in the votes given. Whereupon both candidates withdrew their names. At this point the archdeacon, pleading indisposition was excused further attendance and granted permission to be represented by John Kynardessy, his proxy. Ultimately the chapter selected Mag. Stephen Segrave, "a prudent man, born in lawful wedlock, capable and fit in temporal and spiritual affairs (*ibid.* 571, 575, 577). During the same year he vacated the prebend of Bishopshill, worth *iiijm.* in 1291, upon collation to the prebend of Tervin (*Ormerod, Cheshire* II, 310). This, however, conflicts with a memorandum in *Lich. Cap. Muniments* which record a visitation he held in the prebendal church of Tervin in 1316-17. The Muniments also contain "the Bailiffs roll of the manor of Geoffrey, but there is nothing to indicate where his manor—apparently a private one, was situated" (*S.H.C.* VI, pt. 2, BB. 23, 24 and SS.

2). During voidance created by Walter Langton's death in London, 16 November, 1321, the Primate created the archdeacon of Derby Vicar-General of the diocese, and his register during the term of office is bound with that of bishop Norbury. Later on he was commissioned to inspect with "*fide digni clerici et laici*," dilapidations at Whittington and enjoin the last R. to repair defects in chancel and mansion house (*Norbury Reg.*).

Having outlined his career thus far, we may here interject a favourite and expressive phrase used by Dugdale "I shall not stand to particularise his other commissions." Let it then suffice to record, that afflicted with ill-health and the disabilities of old age he obtained a papal indult to visit his archdeaconry by deputy for two years and receive procurations (*Cal. of Papal Lrs.* I, 24), also that he reached the end of his pilgrimage in February, 1328. Of Geoffrey Blaston and Elias Napton, it may be said that in their personal character and in their multifarious activities, they reflected much that was best in their age. During Langton's mission overseas in 1305, his suffragan, Thomas, bishop of Candidae Casse, *i.e.* Withern in Galloway (1296-1311, *Eubel*) held on 5 April an ordination service in the Blackfriars church, Derby. Bishops of Withern, Scottish in position, English in association and feeling, were most unhappily situated. They were willing enough to do any episcopal work.

¹ John Lovetot, knt., s. of Oliver of Carcolston, Notts., Justice of the *C.P.* 1275; com., to the Tower in 1289 charged with extortion and other offences; paid 3000*m.* for his redemption; *d.* Nov. 1294 (*Foss. Judges*, III).

² The charges against Langton were attributed to the influence of Winchelsey, a personal enemy. See *Tout. Political History*, 219.

³ Installed, 1280; Seal in B.M. (*W. de G. Birch*) 1665, "Sulph. cast I *in*; The head of St. John Baptist on a charger; hand of blessing above. Field replenished with wavy foliage.

⁴ Pugnacity seems to have been a family failing. In 1212-3, Drokenstord, bp. of B. and Wells appointed a commission of canons to hear a cause moved *ex-officio, per viam notorii* against Thos. Luggor, so-called chancellor of the Cathedral. Same to his Official, 1315, to cite Thos. Legore to appear before us

and certify why he does not reside or serve the priests office in the Cathedral (*Drokensford reg.*). Thomas a Master in Chancery, *tempo* Ed. I and II.

⁵ John de Everdon, dean of Wolverhampton 8 July, 1302; of St. Paul's, 1318; an Exchequer Baron; a clerk of litigious disposition (*Selden Soc.* 52, 131).

⁶ A dignitary not very popular in Derbyshire, *e.g.* "The jurors of co. Derby present Philip Turvill, John Clarel, Wm. Leicester canons of Lich., as receivers of malefactors and outlaws into their house." (*H.M.C. Middleton Papers*, 27, 275).

⁷ Admitted preb. of Wolvey 27 Oct. 1314, to Ruiton 24 March, 1331-2 by exch. with Ralf Holbeach. Archdeacon of Ely occurs 1328; *d.* 3 Nov. 1353 (*Le Neve*).

⁸ Professor of Canon Law: relinquished the deanery of Lich., on preferment to the archbishopric of Armagh.

ANTONY, son of Paliologus *Cathari*. A clerk of alien origin collated archdeacon of Derby under a papal provision in 1328 (*Norbury Reg.*, 66*b*). In due course he was assigned a stall among the canons in the choir and given a place in the procession. Either by death or resignation Antony relinquished the dignity in 1338, and has left no other footprints on the sands of time.

JOHN of ASKEBY or ASLACKBY. He probably owed a start in life to an education at the convent school of Bardney, a Benedictine house situated near the Lincolnshire village from which in the middle years of the fourteenth century issued a company of clerks, who played a part in state affairs. Among these may be mentioned—Mag. Walter of Askeby created V.G. of Lich., 9 August, 1330, bishop Norbury being in remote parts (*C. of CL. R.*); Mag. Robert of Askeby, appointed Chancellor of Ireland, 15 April, 1331 (*ibid.*); Mag. William de Askeby, chancellor of St. Paul's, archdeacon of Northampton 12 June, 1363-76.

His earliest preferment of which we know supports a conjectural association with the Benedictines of Bardney, who presented John de Askeby (5 April, 1324) to the Bucks rectory of Edlesborough, value 30*li.* in 1291 (*Lipscombe III*, 348). In spite of possessing a valuable rectory, he appears like many another, to have

experienced a difficulty in adjusting income with expenditure. The *Close Roll* of 3 March, 1325, records his acknowledgment before the justices itinerant of a debt of 30*li.* due to Mag. Wm. Steping, parson of Cottenham, while the *Close Roll* of 8 July, 1328, has a similar record of a debt of 60*s.* to Wm. Harewood. In the earlier case should the default be continued, the justices authorised a levy upon his goods in co. Bucks, and in the later upon his goods in co. York. However, a generous bouquet of benefices as well as frequent engagements in the law courts was at hand to ease his impecuniosity. In 1327 he acquired by collation on 7 April, the Wardenship of Wappingham chantry (*Baker, Northants I, 728*). In the same year he received a papal provision for a canonry at Salisbury with reservation of a prebend, notwithstanding he is of R. of Grantesdon in Ely diocese (*C. of P.Lrs. II, 265*). Provision, however of a prebend and obtaining it, even after a considerable time were not the same thing, owing to the number of expectants, whom the pope provided. We have here a case in point.¹ Thrice over did he receive a papal provision which failed to mature, and when at last the benefice-hunter prospered in his quest, it was not by *p.p.* that he obtained additional preferment. The bishopric of Durham being voided by the death of Louis Beaumont 23 September, 1333, the king presented him to the rectory of Eaglescliff, worth 40*li.* in 1291, and also to the prebend of Tachbrook in Lichfield cathedral (*C.P.R.*); on 25 September, 1334, he received ratification in both benefices (*ibid.*). Meanwhile, styled an acolyte, the hungry clerk had been admitted in 1327 to the church of Eyam, patron Sir Thomas Furnival; mandate for induction directed to the dean (rural) of High Peak (*Norbury reg., f. 66b*), and on "2 February, 1338 Norbury collated John of Askeby archdeacon of Derby" (*ibid., f. 77*). A last preferment of which we know is reminiscent

of the early link with the canons regular of Bardney, who presented him to the Essex rectory of Berdon, worth 10*li.* in 1291 (*Newcourt Rep.* II, 55).

That Askeby enjoyed a reputation in legal circles can be inferred from his appointment in 1341 by the justices of the Bench an audition in an action brought by Edmund Bonnington against Robert del Grene concerning jewels, etc., entrusted to the latter *ad mercandizandum*. The plaintiff, however, did not appear when the case was called (*Year Book*, R.S. XV. Ed. III). Impelled by bodily infirmity the archdeacon² obtained an indult dated July, 1352, to choose his own confessor to give him plenary remission at the hour of death (*C.P. Lrs.* III, p. 464). The premonition proved correct, as a papal rescript of October, 1354, alludes to the archdeaconry of Derby void *p.m.* of John de Askeby (*ibid.*, p. 538), a clerk, who, clearly acquired church preferment as a comfortable source of income.

¹ Owing to the existence of a contemporary with an almost similar name it may be doubted if all the three applications for a provision emanated from the subject of this notice.

² The indult was directed to John Askeby, priest, of the dio. of Lincoln, but what the connection, other than natal, may have been does not appear.

HUGH MARREYS or MARISCO, B.C.L. The future archdeacon after graduating in Arts studied four more years to attain a legal degree. After acquiring a knowledge of civil law which in itself must have been a matter of some years, a candidate then began to study canon law as embodied in the *Decretum* of Gratian, who had drawn up his great text-book of authorities on questions with which ecclesiastical courts could be concerned, putting therein the decrees of the popes on the same level as the canons of General Councils. Under these circumstances Hugh Marisco would have reached mature years, when, by affinity with bishop Norbury—though in what degree, we know not—he acquired a sinecure prebend in the diocese of Lichfield. Moreover in 1348 the

episcopal relative on behalf of his clerk and kinsman, *Mag.* Hugh de Marreys, B.C.L. applied for the reversion of the church of Bruton, Sarum dio., by papal provision; notwithstanding he holds the prebend of St. Lawrence at Gnosale" (*Cal. of Papal Petitions*, p. 138. *Granted*).

In 1349 a shower of episcopal collations descended upon a favoured clerk, *viz.*, the archdeaconry of Coventry¹ in July; a canonry and prebend in St. Chad's collegiate church, Shrewsbury in October; the prebend of Pipa Parva value *xxs.* at Lichfield (*Norbury Reg.*); and in 1333 the archdeaconry of Derby. A curious sequel, however, attended the last of these preferments and was only settled by an appeal to the Roman court, at Avignon. Describing himself kinsman of the bishop-elect of London,² Hugh petitioned the Pope for confirmation of his collation to the archdeaconry by the Ordinary (*Cal. of Papal Petitions*, p. 263). For once in a way the clerks of the Curia bestirred themselves and in the same year (1354) pronounced the following sentence, "Validation by Innocent VI of the collation of Hugh to the archdeaconry of Derby made to him by Roger, bishop of Lich., on the death of John de Askeby; a doubt having arisen whether it was reserved to the pope; notwithstanding he holds a prebend at Gnosal, value *6li. os. 4d.*" (*C.P.Lrs.* III, p. 538).

But in spite of papal confirmation, the element of doubt lingered, and we can only conclude that the collation was under suspicion of being either canonically or technically invalid. It may or may not have been pure accident that while he received ratification by the crown in his estate as archdeacon of Coventry, there is no mention in the records of a similar ratification on his collation to Derby. Moreover, his recourse to Michael of London instead of his own diocesan, for aid when confronted with an embarrassing situation, is perplex-

ing. At any rate on the death in 1359 of the prelate who appointed him, Hugh, in order to regularise his position, took the bull by its horns with this result—under date 28 September, 1360, “Grant to Hugh Marreys of the archdeaconry of Derby, void by resignation of the said Hugh, in the king’s gift, by reason of the late voidance in the diocese of Lichfield. Mandate to Roger (de Stretton) bishop-elect of Coventry to admit him” (*C.P.R.*). His course, however, was well nigh run. Death, that grim, though at times jocular figure of medieval fear and fancy, intervened. In 1361, the Black Death returned and though the mortality was not so great as before, the visitation worked havoc in the Midlands, and Hugh Marisco must be numbered among the victims.

¹ “7 March, 1352, ratification of Hugh Marreys of his estate in the archdeaconry of Coventry, notwithstanding any right of the king therein by voidance of the bishopric of Lich.” (*C.P.R.*).

² Michael Northburgh, “a worthy clerk and counsellor of Edward III, nephew or brother to Roger of Lich., consc. bishop of London, 12 July, 1355: *d.* of the plague 9 Sept., 1361.”

DOMINUS ROBERT STRETTON, D.C.L., *Papal chaplain*. Roger Stretton consecrated bishop of Lichfield 27 September, 1360, is dismissed by Wharton as “very unlearned and utterly unworthy so high a preferment in every respect.” But whatever his shortcomings as a bishop may have been he was not forgetful of his kindred. It will not then be unreasonable to assume that the University expenses attendant upon his nephew’s attainment of the high degree D.C.L.—a matter of many years were defrayed by an affluent uncle, who, on the death of Hugh Marreys (or Marisco) conferred the archdeaconry of Derby upon nephew Robert in November, 1361.

To have a standing proctor in the Curia as well as in the Arches Court was the costly necessity of every medieval bishop. It was then the aim of any

ambitious clerk to obtain a proctorship at the papal court as representative of an ecclesiastical dignitary or a monastic corporation, and in that *role* he watched over the interests, more or less, of his avuncular bishop. As to his archidiaconal functions in Derbyshire they were presumably entrusted to his Official or to a series of commissaries. Moreover while employed at Avignon—that home of disillusion—opportunities of enriching himself were not neglected. In 1361, a certain Thomas Bridkirk¹, prebendary of Auckland, died while on a visit to Avignon, a mischance that gave the Curia an opportunity to exercise the right of providing to all benefices or dignities voided by the resignation or death of a clerk at or within three days' journey of the papal court. Being at the centre of things and therefore cognizant of the circumstance, Robert promptly petitioned for the vacant prebend (*C. of P.P.*, p. 321). Of the issue to his quest a later entreaty is informative—"Petition of R. de S. Auditor² of the papal court and papal³ chaplain for provision to a canonry and prebend of Lincoln notwithstanding he has the church of Stretham in Ely dio., as well as a provision to a canonry and prebend of Auckland, which he has not yet obtained and has no hope of obtaining, being in fear and terror of W. de W.,⁴ who asserts that a provision thereto has been given to him" (*ibid.* 395). The sequel to the variance is learnt from the answer to a later supplication for a canonry and prebend of Wells void by consecration of Thos. Trilleck, bishop-elect of Rochester. Granted, but *conditional* to relinquishment of whatever claim he might have to a prebend at Auckland (*ibid.*, 470). In 1363 the bishop commissioned John Halome, r. of Westhalome, penitentiary⁵ for the archdeaconry of Derby, except in cases reserved to the diocesan, an appointment obviously due to archidiaconal disqualification. In sober fact Robert Stretton had not proceeded beyond the *benedicta corona*.

A tonsured clerk might, if he would, afterwards proceed to Orders, minor or holy; but for the majority there was little need to assume more clerical responsibility than was absolutely necessary. Disabilities as well as privileges attended his profession. It was not then until the Lent ordination in 1366 and the Advent ordination of 1367 that Robert Stretton sought and obtained the subdiaconate and the diaconate, first of the major Orders (*Stratton reg.*). However, this star of the third magnitude, passes out of the picture in 1369 by exchanging the archdeaconry of Derby with William of Salop for that of Coventry (*ibid.*).

¹ Chaplain to Talayrand, bp. of Autun; R. of Stanhope after litigation, 1348; occurs preb. of St. Andrew's collegiate ch. Bishop Auckland (*Fasti. Dur. ed. S.S.*).

² Described by Durandus in his *Speculum Juris* of 1287, as officials com. by the Pope to report on the details of legal questions brought to his notice; they formed a recognized tribunal, known as the *sacra rota*.

³ A purely honorary dignity, which carried certain privileges.

⁴ William of Westlee, chancellor to bp. Hatfield of Durham, 1349; Dean of Auckland, 1350-62; occurs archdeacon of Durham, 1362-69 (*Fasti ut supra*).

⁵ When every one was obliged to confess at least once a year, and as there were many cases with which a parish priest might not deal, a bishop usually appointed a Penitentiary-General, and one or more for each archdeaconry. See *Cox, Derbyshire Churches*, IV, note, p. 173.

WILLIAM LOMBE *dictus* SHREWSBURY, Chaplain to Edward III.

This prolonged series of only partially related fragments may begin to weary even readers of good-will, but the end draws nigh with a clerk whose career is typical of the methods by which a medieval monarch remunerated his servants without expense to the royal exchequer. In sober fact the Plantagenets had no scruple in using the revenues of the *ecclesia anglicana* for pensioning or paying their officials, and angrily warned off a bishop who was rash enough to summon a non-resident pluralist to his cure (*Peckham reg. R.S. I*, 50). Boldly and unashamed the *Close Roll* of 22 June, 1352, records, "grant to William de Salopia (Treasurer

of the Household)¹ of the manor of Kingsey, then *in manu regis*, until the king should provide him with a benefice." But like a river in spate preferment was already pursuing this minister of the crown—13 August, 1344, Wm. of Shrewsbury, king's clerk, presented to Norton Bavent rectory, Sarum dio., patron the king (*C.P.R.*); 12 February, 1345, to Stepney rectory, Middlesex, *in manu regis* (*ibid.*); revoked 19 May, Gaucelin Johannis, cardinal bishop of Albano, having a prior claim (*ibid.*); 30 April, 1345, grant of the prebend of Medmesley in the collegiate church of Langcestre (Lanchester) in the king's gift during voidance of the See of Durham (*ibid.*); 29 April, 1349, a prebend in St. Stephen's chapel, Westminster Palace (*ibid.*); in 1349-50, admitted R. of Morley, Derbyshire, worth 13*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1291, patron the A. and C. of Chester, exchanged in November for Fenny Compton, worth 7*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* patron the P. and C. of Kenilworth (*Norbury reg.*); 1 September, 1350 Maidstone rectory worth 106*li.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, in the king's gift during voidance (*C.P.R.*); 16 January, 1350, a prebend in the king's free chapel of Hastings (*ibid.*); 30 January, 1350, the prebend of Olney in Westbury collegiate church (*ibid.*); 27 October, 1351, the Lichfield prebend of Langdon, *in manu regis* by reason of the late voidance, but revoked 24 April, 1353, not being the king's turn (*ibid.*); 21 June, 1352, the Hastings stall exchanged for the prebend of Brondesbury, worth 2*li.*, in St. Paul's (*ibid.*); 21 August, 1360, grant to the king's clerk, Wm. of Shrewsbury, priest, the archdeaconry of Salop, during voidance of the See (*ibid.*).

By a bull dated 3 May, 1366, Urban V, required the bishops to summon a synod to meet in their respective cathedrals, that a return might be made of all benefices, even when held by *p.p.*, their qualities and taxation, so that a stop might be put to pluralities and other scandals.

Each bishop was to make a return to his metropolitan. The returns were despatched from Lambeth 12 June, 1367, but were probably pigeon-holed by the papal secretaries, at any rate no action was taken to remedy the wrong. The return relevant to the king's chaplain reads—"Wm. of Shrewsbury, priest, enjoys the prebend of Petworth, Chichester dio., taxed at lxxm.; the church of Brondesbury, taxed at 40s., in London dio., also a prebend in St. Stephen's chapel, Westminster, worth 40s.; and the prebend of Underdon in the Free Chapel of Bridgnorth, said to be worth xlvs. iiijd. (*Sudbury reg. ex Langham*). Stretton's register, adds, "W. de Salopia, the bishop's clerk and household servant, has the church of Fenny Stratford, taxed at xim." In December, 1369, Stretton collated his clerk to the archdeaconry of Coventry, which, however, he surrendered in January, 1370, for that of Derby by exchange with Robert Stretton, the bishop's nephew. To quote once again Dugdale's expressive phrase "I shall not stay to particularize his other commissions."

The most that can be said for this archdeacon, is, that he does reflect his period, when by ancient prescription, clerks in the king's service could not only hold a large number of benefices and other ecclesiastical preferments in plurality, but were exempt from the obligation of residing even upon those benefices to which the cure of souls was attached, being permitted to appoint Vicars to discharge the duties. Anomalistic to the modern mind, perhaps, but on the other hand one conspicuous feature of the middle ages was a liking for anomalies. After all, the same code of morality does not apply to all men at all times.

¹ *i.e.* the Keeper of the king's domestic treasury.