

THE

HOSPITAL OF SAINT MARY, IN CHICHESTER.

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The second volume of our Collections opened with an interesting paper on the subject of this Hospital, which had been read by the then Custos, the late Reverend Sir George Shiffner, at our Chichester meeting, in 1847. The writer gave an account of the supposed original foundation, and translations of three or four documents from the Rolls of Parliament, and elsewhere. I have obtained access to other papers relating to the Hospital, and hope that they may interest some of our antiquarians.

The Hospital is said to have been founded by William the Dean; but I regret that I have not been able to find any authentic account, either of its foundation or of its objects. Indeed, the earliest notice I have found of William the Dean having taken any interest in it, is an *Inspeximus* of the reign of Elizabeth, to which I must again refer, or (possibly, speaking more correctly), a record of the reign of Henry VI., which is quoted in that *Inspeximus*. This William the Dean is said to have lived in the reign of Henry the Second, and to have been Dean from 1158 to 1172. But, whether this was the date of the foundation or no, at all events there was a Hospital bearing the name, and capable of affording *spiritualia*, as well as *temporalia*, when Henry III., at the solicitation of Bishop Ralph Neville, assented to the demolition of the Church of S. Peter, in the Market Place, and directed that its two parishioners should become parishioners of the hospital, which was adjacent. One of the grants of

land, which I shall refer to below, speaks of a house in South Street as being near to S. Peter's, in the Market. If so, we are driven to believe that this S. Peter's must have been near to the site of the modern cross, the "S. Mary's in the Market" of later days, and that the Hospital was at this time near to the same site also. The date of Henry's permission to pull down S. Peter's is 1229.

We now come to some light as to the origin and endowments of the modern Hospital. During part of the time when Ralph Neville was Bishop, Thomas de Lichfield was Dean, and about the same time William de Keynsham was Canon. The latter was a great benefactor; the former may be called the true founder of the Institution. My proofs are drawn from a series of Manuscripts in the Library of University College, Oxford, of which a transcript was taken for the Dean and Chapter of Chichester, in the year 1725. And from this manuscript I cull the following items of information, which seem hitherto to have been left unheeded.

We have, from page 28 to page 114 of this transcript, about 80 "conveyances," bearing more or less on properties given to the Hospital. All of these documents, which have dates, belong to years between 1225 and 1250; and this, doubtless, is the period to which the other *dateless* documents belong. Claricia, daughter of Richard de Rolbur, gave half a tenement in South Street, near to S. Peter's in the Market. The next document gives property near to the Church of S. Peter, which was in the Market (*quæ fuit in foro*): a sufficient indication, if we needed any, that the order of Henry III. had been carried out.

But these documents are of further value; the complaint in Henry VIII.'s time (as we shall see just now) was that the original documents were all lost, and no one knew, accurately, what the object of the Institution was. But we learn here what was in the mind of these donors when they gave their portions of land. Their gifts were made to "Hugo, guardian or custos of S. Mary, in Chichester, and to the brothers and sisters serving God in it." (Hence it is difficult to suppose that even originally it had been a nunnery.) More specifically, grants were made "to the House of S. Mary, and to the brothers and sisters serving God there, for

the purpose of sustaining the poor and infirm people lying in the same house." The earliest document in point of order of these grants, is a gift "to God and to His blessed mother Mary, and to the Hospital founded in the city of Chichester to receive weak and infirm poor people, of a faggot of eight squares of sticks, from the donor's woods at Goodwood: the faggot to be delivered between Michaelmas and Christmas, so as to warm the poor people who have been received into the said House."

Thus we see now the object which drew out the sympathy of the Christian people of Chichester in this thirteenth century. The irrepressible feeling of benevolence, for which every Christian needs an outlet, was poured forth at that time in efforts to find some homelike comforts for the infirm poor. How great that benevolence was, the present extent of the property of the Hospital would seem to shew, for my impression certainly is that it did not receive many accessions in later years. I will describe a few of the properties as they are described in the documents. It would take too much space to go through all.

We have accounts then of the Croft of S. Mary, near the Broyle, given by Richard Husewife and Eadward Gundewine: two seldæ in South Street, given by Thomas Suite (Walter was then Custos): some land in Manewood, a field at Eston, lands at Grenefelde, all from Walter Busemar; five seldæ in the Market from Robert de la Sekele, at the instance of Thomas the Dean: and a piece of land out of the East gate, from the Widow Agnes, daughter and heiress of Matilda Bulkeham: an acre of land at Shepelesham, from Hugo de Wildebrigg: a piece of land out of Eastgate, from Humphrey, son of Ralph Sage: a shop in South Street, an acre of land at Shapwick, and a tenement *in vico bovum* (Cow Lane?), in Chichester, on the east side of S. Andrew's chapel, from Walfrid Godson (*filius et heres Gode*)—[this is dated 33rd of Henry, son of John, *i.e.*, 1248 or 1249, Geoffry being Dean]: an acre of land at Stockbridge, from Alicia, widow of Robert de Lavant: two acres of land at Portfield, from Hamo le Mok, son and heir of Robert de Leoventon; this again is dated 1248 or 1249; Walter was Custos: some parcels of ground (stated to be parts of the

gardens of the Hospital in the title to the document, which must, of course, designate the use to which the property was afterwards appropriated) from Simon Crull, in the year of our Lord, 1246. (Mention is here made of Thomas, the late Dean; if the year is correct, Dallaway's date of the accession of Geoffry must be altered.) More land at Eston, from John of Eston, in the 33rd year of Henry, and so on. There are notes of a compact made on the Purification of the Virgin, in the year 1241; and William de Keynsham, Canon of Chichester, gave ten acres of land at Greylingwell. Let these suffice.

But the University College MS. contains a further document of great moment, the existence of which must have been unknown to Dean Fleshmonger and the authorities of the time of Henry VIII. It exhibits the form of admission, as it was left by Thomas De Lichfield, and thus admits us to a view of the inner working of the Hospital. We have seen that there was a marked difference between "the brothers and sisters who served God in the Hospital," and "the poor and sick people who were lying there," and for whose sustentation these gifts were intended. We shall now see what the relations between these parties were. The document is interesting. I will translate it at length.

"If any one seeks the Hospital of St. Mary, at Chichester, let the Prior examine whether he is in sound or in infirm health. If he is in sound health, whether male or female, let the Prior consider whether he is a person of good conversation, of honest life and character, likely to be useful to the house, whether in serving or labouring for the poor. If he should be found such, the Prior should first point out to him the poverty of the house, the poorness of the food, the gravity of the obedience, and the heavy duties which may possibly deter him and induce him to recall his purpose. But if he persevere in knocking, then, with the counsel of the Lord Dean and the brethren of the House, he may be received in the name of the LORD, without the intervention of any money or any compact, unless he has any property of his own and is disposed to resign it into the hands of the Prior. But if the character of the man who seeks admission be insufficient he must be repelled entirely.

“ He, however, who is to be admitted, must first swear that he will in all things be faithful to the house, and that he will observe to the utmost of his power the rules established in it. Then he must promise three things in this fashion. I, N., promise to God, and to the Blessed Mary, that hereafter, with their assistance, I will observe towards myself chastity, towards my superiors obedience, and that I will hold no property of my own without the licence and consent of the Prior. This done, if he is a male, he will kiss the brethren; if a female, the sisters, in order. Then let the males be cropped below the ear; or the hair of the women be cut off back to the middle of the neck, and thenceforward they must be addressed by the name of brother and sister. If a brother, under the instigation of the devil, fall into immorality, out of which scandal arises, or if he be disobedient to the superior, or if he strike or wound the brethren or clients, or commit any other grievous irregularity, then, if he prove incorrigible, he must be punished severely, and removed from the society like a diseased sheep, lest he contaminate the rest. But let this be done not with cruelty and a tempest of words, but with gentleness and compassion. Still, should he promise amendment if he be allowed to return, and give security for it, let him be treated mercifully, as the judgment of the Prior, the Confessor, and the brethren of the House may decide, but so, that, without accepting of persons, the fair dealing of the House be maintained, and a worthy penance be enjoined. If the sin be concealed and without scandal, let the penance, though suited to the offence, be concealed too. But if the brother shall have a quarrel with a brother with noise and riot, then let him fast for seven days, on Wednesdays and Fridays on bread and water, and sit at the bottom of the table and without a napkin; and a sister likewise. If a brother or sister shall, against the wishes of the Prior, leave the House and stay either in the city or without it, then, if, changing his mind, he desire again to return, let him fast thirty days, on Wednesdays and Fridays, on bread and water, sitting as above. If a brother shall be found, whilst alive and in health, to have money or property which he had concealed from the Prior, let the money be hung round his neck, and let him be well flogged, and do penance for thirty days, as before. If he shall have acquired

the money out of the goods of the Hospital, care must be taken thenceforward that he has no administration in its household matters. If a brother shall die in the House, and then it shall be discovered that he had property which he had concealed, he must be buried beyond the walls of the cemetery, unless on his death bed he shall have revealed it to the priest. Trivial and daily excesses of the brethren and sisters must also be attended to, lest, whilst they are overlooked, small offences should become great.

“If, however, any one in infirm health and destitute of friends should seek admission into the house for a term, until he shall recover, then let him be received gladly and assigned a bed. Let everything that he requires be administered to him as the means at the disposal of the House may permit; and if he has anything of his own let the Prior take charge both of it and of his clothes, until he is restored to health; then let them be given back to him without diminution, and let him depart, unless, of his own accord, he offer the whole, or part, to the house. If he die in the House, let his goods be distributed as he has disposed of them. If he die intestate, let his property be kept for a year in the House, so that if any friend of the deceased shall come and prove that he has a claim upon it, justice may not be denied to him. If no one claims within the year, let it be merged into the property of the Hospital.

“In regard to the poor people who are received late at night, and go forth early in the morning, let the Prior take care that their feet are washed, and, as far as possible, their necessities attended to. Care must be taken that they do not annoy the sick, that they do not pilfer, that they behave respectfully in word and deed. The sexes must be separated.

“The brothers and sisters must pray continually, or be engaged in work, that the devil may not find them with nothing to do. If they earn anything, let them not conceal or appropriate it, but let it be expended for the common good.

“When the seven canonical hours are being daily said in the Church of God, let the brothers and sisters who are ignorant of them say, every ordinary week day, at each hour, the Lord's Prayer seven times, with the Gloria Patri, except at matins, when, instead, they must repeat fifty Paternosters.

On feast days they must say fifteen Paternosters at each hour ; at matins, a hundred. Let the brothers and sisters say every day a hundred and fifty Ave Marias. For a brother or sister who has died, let them say a hundred and fifty Paternosters. Let whoso knows it say the Psalter ; and let one half keep watch before matins, and the other half after ; but no one must, because of these prayers, omit the other things which may be enjoined him by way of penance.

“ When the brethren meet for food, if a presbyter is present, let him publickly say the Benediction, and each brother say the Lord’s Prayer in private. If no presbyter is present, let each make the sign of the cross over the bread, and say *In Nomine Patris*. After the meal let each lift up his hands and return thanks to God, and say Paternoster. Let them eat in silence, and without murmuring, whatever is placed before them, providing that what is prepared shall be sufficient for nature, and not addressed to the taste.

“ Every evening, when the poor have been received and refreshed, let prayers be said for the Pope, for the Archbishop, and Bishop of the place, the Dean and Chapter of the Church of Chichester, and for all the Prelates of the Church ; for the King and Queen, and for the peace of the realm ; for Master Thomas, the Dean, Master ——— de Keynsham, Master G. of Gloucester, &c., and for all the Canons ; for Dominus Martin, and for all the citizens of this city, for all the benefactors of the House, living and dead (their names being mentioned), who founded the House, who constructed it, or gave to it fixed rents. If a priest be in the Hospital, let him say the prayers with the Psalms accustomed to be said in the Church on the Lord’s Day ; but if no priest be there let one of the brethren say them ; and at each prayer let each brother and sister say one Paternoster and one Ave Maria.”

We have now the secret of the endowments : we have the reason why the flood of benevolence flowed so largely towards this house of S. Mary and the poor people residing in it. The Hospital was intended to be a temporary home for the sick and infirm ; the brethren and sisters who dwelt within its walls were intended to act as nurses. It was also intended to act as a refuge for a night to the wandering poor—the *casuals* of the modern day.

Before I pass on, it may be worthy of the attention of my readers to add a few additional points that we know of these benefactors. Thomas, the Dean, was the founder of "a chantry at the altar of the Holy Cross, otherwise called the altar of S. Augustine, under the cross of the Cathedral Church," of which, we fear, the solitary vestige has disappeared; Ralph, the Bishop, founded a chantry at the altar of S. Pantaleon. There seems to have been another chantry at the altar of S. Mary "for the soul of Thomas Lichfield, who was Dean in the time of Bishop Ralph" (this altar, I presume, was the *earlier* altar in the Lady Chapel, before it was lengthened by Bishop Gilbert de Leofardo); and we meet with other chantries for the soul of Dean Thomas—one called Neville, at the altar of Saints Thomas and Edmund, and another at the altar of Saint Mary Magdalene. We shall see that the Hospital paid for an obit to the Cathedral Church for the soul of Martin, the citizen of Chichester, and for Walfrid, the Dean.

I suppose that anxiety, such as was shewn in the reign of Henry III., to endow with large lands and rents institutions like this Hospital, may, in its degree, have given rise to the famous statute of mortmain of Edward I. We are, however, introduced to Edward in another capacity. The account of Sir George Shiffner (S. A. C., ii., p. 3) contains a translation of a license, by which the Prior and brethren of the Hospital of S. Mary, Chichester, were permitted to retain for themselves and their successors for ever "that place where the Friars Minors of Chichester were accustomed to dwell;" and a few years later the King allowed the master of the Hospital of S. Mary, Chichester, to block up, and keep blocked up, a certain pathway which extended from the chapel of S. Martin, on the west side, towards the east side of the town. Judging by the present maps, this path may have run from the extremity of the "Crooked S" towards what is called Little London.

To us, enquirers, the first grant is of service in another way. I have given my reasons for believing that in the time of Thomas, the Dean, the Hospital was situated near to the Cross—they seem to me to be convincing;—and, besides, this situation suggests adequate motive why Dean Thomas should have pressed his friends to give to the Hospital (for the pur-

pose of enlarging it) one shed or tenement after another in South Street. But now there is room for further expansion:—the Friars Minors had left their home; the *castrum* had recently been dismantled and its site given to them; and it seems clear that they had moved bodily into those more commodious quarters in the corner of what is now called the Priory Park, where they remained until their dissolution. [“Dugdale’s Monasticon,” vi.-vii., p. 1533, *note*, erroneously suggests that they were founded in Chichester in the year 1253: the fact is, that they were moved in this year to the old *castellarium*.] The Friars Minors had left their quarters, and the Prior and brethren of the Hospital of S. Mary moved into them. One relic of their dwelling near the cross they left behind them; the ruined Church of S. Peter in the Market lost its title in the mouths of the inhabitants, and became “the Church of S. Mary in the Market,” the title by which (as we shall see) the ruins were designated in the time of Elizabeth.

I know only of one point which needs to be mentioned here. The form of admission which I have translated accepts it as a possibility that there may be a presbyter among the brethren. Martin, son of Ralph of Chichester (the Dominus Martin of whom we have heard already), and Juliana, his wife, were anxious to give land in North Street to maintain a chaplain. (“University Coll. MSS.,” pp. 67, 72). The Hospital was to receive five marks, in return for which it was to maintain the chaplain in clothes, shoes, victuals, and everything necessary. He was to be seated at the table next to the Prior, and considered to be next to him in every respect (*et lecto et habitu*). Each day, except Saturday, at nine o’clock, *after* the morning mass had been celebrated in the other parish Churches, he was to celebrate a mass for the dead,—for the souls of the said Martin and Juliana; on the Saturday he was to celebrate a mass *de beata virgine*. He was to be present at all the canonical hours. The appointment was to be in the hands of Martin and Juliana and their heirs; and in acknowledgment of their kindness and beneficence, the house was to receive the two, as brother and sister of the Hospital, during the rest of their lives.

Years rolled along, and I am afraid the next account we

have of the Institution cannot be deemed satisfactory : it is the form of collation by which John Goxwell, or Boxwell, was appointed Custos on the resignation of John Crucher, late Custos. The document is dated October 20th, 1447—the twenty-fifth year of Henry VI. There had been in the twelfth year of Henry an enquiry, and the return was that John Crowcher, the Custos, declared that the Hospital was of his patronage as Dean of the Cathedral Church, that it had been founded by one William, who was Dean in the time of Henry the Second ; and, during the whole intervening time, the patronage had been in the hands of the successive Deans of the Cathedral as such. But in this collation the President and Chapter claim to exercise the patronage. They confer it on John Goxwell, who is apparently the chaplain ; they bind him not to alienate the property of the Institution ; they compel him to send in yearly an account of his administration. He takes the oath of canonical obedience to the Dean and Chapter ; he promises not to admit either brother or sister into the House without the consent of the Dean and Chapter. Thus the Dean and Chapter take the place which twelve years previously Dean Crowcher had claimed as his own—an indication possibly that the latter had not administered the affairs satisfactorily ; a further sense of dissatisfaction is raised by observing the entire silence of the document as to the admission of any poor.

A few years pass along, and again the veil is lifted up. We know what the condition of the Cathedral was when Robert Sherburne became Bishop : it is not improbable that the same dreadful slovenliness extended to other institutions in the city. Dean Fleshmonger seems to have been a man of energy, and he has left his mark, which, in point of fact, remains until to-day. On the last day of July, in the year of our Lord 1528, “ William Fleshmonger, Doctor of Laws, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Chichester, claimed, as true patron and founder of the Hospital of S. Mary, to put forth an ordination or foundation of the Hospital, or at least a new reformation and re-edification of the primeval ordination and foundation.” In his statutes, which received the sanction and confirmation, under seal, of Bishop Robert on August 20th, and of the Dean and Chapter on August 22nd, he made

mention of the object of the Hospital—that it was intended to receive certain poor people worn down with old age and infirmity, and one presbyter to be its guardian, to watch over its poor and attend to its interests. All knowledge of brethren and sisters, whose duty it was to wait upon the poor, had disappeared ; in point of fact, they were merged together. Commencing from this foundation, Fleshmonger was anxious to renovate the Hospital, the calculations being based on the estimate that the annual value of the property was £40 6s.

The Custos hereafter was to be a presbyter of good character and honest life, to be appointed by the Dean and Chapter, and inducted by the Dean. He was to visit the Hospital, himself or by a competent deputy, once a month, and enquire into the mode of life of the occupants, correct what was wrong, and if necessary, appeal to the Dean and Chapter. He must note whether the mass was celebrated in the Chapel once a week, by the Chaplain of the Chantry called Talk's Chantry ; he was to look after the repairs, to collect the rents, to pay the necessary expenses ; within two months after his admission to make a proper inventory, and to submit his accounts yearly, to be audited by the Dean and Chapter ; the balance to be placed, with the seals, in a chest with three keys, of which the two senior brethren should each hold one. He was to receive £8 sterling per annum for himself, and pay thirteen shillings and fourpence to the steward. The office was tenable with any ecclesiastical benefice, but he must reside within the Diocese of Chichester. He could be removed for certain offences by the Dean and Chapter. The number of poor persons was limited to five ; they were to be appointed alternately by the Dean and the Custos. If they could not on their admission say perfectly the Lord's Prayer, the Angelic Salutation, and the Apostles' Creed, they were to learn them with all diligence. They were to be aged, sick, or infirm, such as could not maintain themselves by their own labour. Every male or female was to have a private room within the Hospital, at the discretion of the Custos, which room was to be kept in repair at the expense of the Hospital ; a little garden adjacent to this room ; and 8d. a week, without deduction. All must lead chaste and sober lives, and anyone was to be expelled if guilty of incontinence, disobedience, theft,

perjury, or quarrelsomeness, or of sleeping out of the Hospital without permission. One of the number was to be appointed by the Custos, brethren and sisters, jointly with the Prior, to be responsible for the good conduct of the house, and lastly, for—

“ Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do,”

each of them was to be diligent in prayer, and every Hour offer supplications for the good estate of the Universal Church, of the Pope, the Archbishop, the Bishop of the place, the Dean and Chapter of the Church, and all the Canons of the Church, for the Presbyter and Custos of the Hospital, the King and Queen, for the peace of the realm of England, for all the citizens of Chichester, for all the benefactors of the house who were alive, for the souls of Master Thomas, once Dean, Master Keynsham, G. of Gloucester, John Eston, Martin, Juliana, all the benefactors of the House who were dead, and for all other faithful departed,—a hundred Pater-nosters, a hundred Ave Marias, fifteen Credos.

The accounts of the Hospital were included in the returns made in the reign of Henry VIII., an abstract of which may be seen in “Dallaway,” p. 200. The whole income was then put down at £35 6s. 3d. Amongst the outgoings the following are interesting in an antiquarian point of view. They are not given at length in “Dallaway:”—“For an annual rent paid to the Prebend Bursalis, for a Chantry called Talk’s Chantry, £3 6s. 8d. ; for annual rent paid out of the farm of Jury to the Chantry priest of Halfnaked, for the Chantry called the Chantry of Mindham, £2 4s. ; an annual rent paid to the Cathedral Church, called St. Anne’s Chantry [in memory of Walter the Dean], £1 ; a perpetual charge paid to the Sub-deacon for singing the Epistle in the Lady Chapel, 8s. ; for obits of Martin, citizen of Chichester, Simon Clemping, Geoffrey the Dean, £3 6s. 8d.,” leaving a balance of £3 11s. 6d. There seems to have been a visitation in the 35th year of Henry VIII., 1543, but the Hospital escaped plunder, and it continued to be governed by Fleshmonger’s Statutes, until it received the present constitution in the reign of Elizabeth.

But I have before me the original accounts of Thomas Mattyn, receiver of the Hospital, for the whole year ending

at Michaelmas, 1550, the 3rd year of Edward VI. The sum total of the receipts amount here to £44 17s. 7d. Some rents appear to have been raised since the rental was fixed in the 37th year of Henry VIII.; the payments of the Custos and of the poor remaining the same. The King received £3 4s. 0d. for the Chantries of St. Anne and Mundham; the Dean and Chapter, £3 6s. 8d., for Talk's Chantry united with the Bursal Prebend. Amongst the payments, we have to the Mayor and his brethren, one pottle of wine, at the Burgh feast, 8d. The payment for the obits was increased to £3 15s. 0d. A deduction is asked because the parson of "Little Petter" has not paid 3d. Among the desultory charges is one for "bred and alle," amongst the 4 people of the said Hospital, on Monday in the Rogation Week; for the subsidy of the said Hospital to the King's Majesty, 6s. 6d.; for the receiver of the Chantry rents for the King's Majesty, 6d.; for two skins of parchment for the engrossing of this account, 10d. The last item is this—"Item for dyverse Reparacions don thys yere upon the said Hospitall and the tenements appertaynyng unto the same, with dyvers emptions of tymber, tylle, bricke, lyme, sand, and other necessares appertaynyng thereunto, as more at large doythe apeyre by the pticliars of the same. Summa, x^{li}. x^s. vi^d. ob."

The accountant was left in "superplusage," xvi^s. j^d.

Thus the Hospital was managed for a few years longer; but I suppose it was considered that the tenure was not very secure. There seems to have been some enquiry in the 18th year of Elizabeth; and on the 3rd of December, in the 24th year of the same Queen, the old charter (by which I presume was meant the document sealed by Dean Fleshmonger, the Bishop, and the Dean and Chapter) was surrendered into the hands of the Queen. She returned the property, and gave new letters patent, those by which the present body is incorporated, the 12th day of February, in the 24th year of her reign.

These letters recite that Master Culpepper, Dean of Chichester, and the Chapter of the same, and Richard Kitson, Custos of the Hospital, had stated to her that for a time beyond which the memory of man goeth not, there had existed in Chichester, a House or Hospital, consisting of one Master

or Custos, and five poor people, founded, as was asserted, by one William, Dean of Chichester, in the reign of Henry II., to receive poor people who are weak, impotent, old, and broken down with infirmity, and that the Master and poor of the Hospital had yielded up to the Queen under their common seal all that they had. It is stated that the Queen reconstitutes the Hospital. It is to consist of a Custos, or Warden, who is to be a Presbyter, studious of theology, and five poor people. Richard Kitson was to be the first Custos; Thomas Brooke and John Coesten, brothers; Jane Strange, widow, Jane Delater, widow, and Jane Hole, sisters of the Hospital. They are to form a body corporate, with perpetual succession; to be capable of holding property, to have a common seal, to have power to sue and be sued; when the office of Custos shall fall vacant, it is to be filled up by a Presbyter, who shall be a Residentiary Canon or Prebendary of the Cathedral, appointed by the Dean and Chapter, under their Chapter seal. Vacancies among the poor people are to be filled up by the Dean and Custos alternately, and the person appointed must be declared by the Custos under the seal of the Hospital, and so admitted; the Custos is to receive £8 per annum, and each poor person eight pence a week; the Dean and Chapter are to have power to make all statutes and ordinances in writing, as well touching the government of the Hospital, as touching the stipends and salaries of every one connected with it, provided only that the poor are not to be more than five in number. The document then proceeds to describe the property with which the Hospital is to be re-endowed, of which it is needless here to give a summary, save that mention is made "of that ruinous house once called S. Mary in the Market, of the Patronage of the Custos and poor of the Hospital, and the site of the Rectory of the said Church." The Hospital is to pay to the Crown three pounds and four shillings yearly, in full acknowledgment of Talk's Chantry, and of all first fruits and tenths.

There is an ambiguity of expression, in one or two places of these letters patent, which admits of some hesitation as to the answer to the question whether it was intended that the Hospital should admit within its walls any besides the five poor who are of the Corporation and are entitled brothers

and sisters. My impression is that such might be admitted, but that the number was left indefinite.

In the last years of Elizabeth the first poor law was passed, and thus the "House or Hospital of S. Mary, in Chichester," was relieved of part of its charge. This appears to have been speedily followed by some change in the internal arrangement of the building. The four heavy brick double chimneys, which form a marked feature in the great hall, seem to have been contemporaneous erections; one of them only bears a date, and the date is 1628.

There is, however, a painful circumstance connected with the history of the Hospital during the reigns of Elizabeth and James, which a love for historic truth will not permit me to pass over in silence. The condition of the Dean and Chapter was, as the Computus book shows, very miserable; and, no doubt, being tempted to relieve their misery, they more than once leased out the advowson. They considered it needful to find an annuity of five pounds a year to Lord Burleigh; and they must raise the money in one way or another. The advowson was leased out not only before Queen Elizabeth's letters, but after them; given first in 1555 and 1574, the lease was renewed in 1585, 1606, 1610, 1620. We have an indignant note in an early 18th century handwriting, "*omnia tunc venalia.*"

With the Commonwealth the governing body of the Hospital was swept away for a time; but the feeling in regard to it was strong and good, and the Hospital itself was saved. I have been permitted to examine letters patent of the Protector, dated Westminster, Dec. 18, 1656, constituting the mayor and corporation governors of the institution. It describes the Hospital as of ancient foundation, and refers to its incorporation by Queen Elizabeth; to the appointment of the Custos by the Dean and Chapter, and of the poor by the Dean and Custos alternately; to the power assigned to the Dean and Chapter of making laws and ordinances for the government of the Hospital. The Parliamentary Survey recently carried out had returned the annual value of the houses, lands, and hereditaments belonging to the Hospital as worth £235 10s. per ann., besides £42 5s. 10d. for quit-rents; the latter being all the maintenance the poor have at

present, the remainder of the said revenue being let on lease by the late Dean and Chapter and the Custos. For want of a governor the revenue of the Hospital had not been so carefully managed and improved for the relief of the poor, as had been intended; therefore the Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens of the city of Chichester were to have the government and custody of the same, and be called, in this respect, the Wardens of the Hospital. They were to elect and place the Master or Custos and poor people there, as occasion should require, and have the like power and authority in every respect that the late Dean, or late Dean and Chapter, or Master, previously had. The revenues were to be disposed of by the Mayor, &c., to the furtherance of the charitable object of the Hospital, as the law required; but no fine was to be exacted or taken by the Mayor, &c., for grant of any lease. The yearly account of the management was to be rendered yearly to such person as the Protector should appoint, whilst according as any vacancy occurred, the Mayor, &c., in Common Council assembled, should elect and place in the Hospital such impotent and aged poor people, being not able to labour, as to them should seem fit, over and besides the original number of five, so that the total number should not exceed ten, for "wee are informed that the said Hospitall cannot well contain more." As the increase of revenues might permit it, the income of the original five might be increased; but so that the further allowance should not exceed £5 per annum to each, besides their house, room, and firewood, anciently allowed; the overplus was to be employed in setting the poor people of Chichester on work, at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Corporation were to have a common seal, and to grant leases by the name of Wardens of the Hospital, and as such to sue and be sued, &c. They were to have full power to remove from the Hospital any poor person who should be guilty of debauchery, drunkenness, or other profane and lewd behaviour, on conviction before the Mayor, &c. The persons appointed were to be of religious and honest conversation, and inhabiting in or near the City. The Mayor, &c., might make laws and statutes for the further governing of the Hospital in writing, provided such laws were not contrary to the laws of England, nor to this grant,

nor to the grant of Queen Elizabeth, which last this present document ratifies and confirms ; but, if questioned, such new ordinances passed by the Mayor, &c., must receive the sanction of the Protector by the advice of his Privy Council.

With the Restoration, the control over the Hospital reverted to the Dean and Chapter, and Dean Ryves seems to have been admitted as Custos on August 20th, 1660, followed by Dr. Oliver Whitby on March 12th, 1666; in the meantime, the Dean and Chapter gave notice of a visitation, which they probably held. But on the death of Whitby, in 1679, an unprecedented difficulty arose ; his successor, Dr. Henry Edes, complained of the state in which the buildings were left—for which, he maintained, the estate of the Custos was liable—and a suit was commenced in the Court of Chancery to enforce his claim. The question was referred to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and I have before me a copy of Sancroft's award. The Archbishop mixes up in a curious way the statute of Dean Fleshmonger with the letters patent of Elizabeth, and holds that the former may be deemed to exhibit the custom of the place ; he objects to Dr. Edes suing the family in the Court of Chancery, holding that the Dean and Chapter ought to have heard and settled the difference. He objects, too, to the way in which Dr. Edes would have allowed two shillings a week to be paid to each of the poor (being three times the amount named in Elizabeth's Statute), but only eight pounds a year—the original sum—to the estate of the late Custos, without permitting the Custos to have any interest in the surplus. The Archbishop expresses his grief that the Visitors had so neglected their duty as never to care what became of the surpluse, so that for sixty years or more it had gone into the private pocket of the Custos *pro tempore*; and that they had never audited the accounts. He then proceeds to say that there is great and manifest reason why the "sallary" of the Custos should be duly augmented in the same proportion as the weekly payments to the poor, especially as the payment to the Receiver of the Rents had been raised from thirteen shillings and fourpence to forty shillings. To the justification of this proposed augmentation the rest of the paper is devoted; the Archbishop points out how the position of the Custos must be such as to enable him to fulfil the

responsible duties laid upon him, and that in Elizabeth's time he, and the eight poor together, received nearly equal amounts. Thus he must allow to the estate of Dr. Whitby after the rate of £24 per annum during his tenure of office. Mention is then made of details which appear now for the first time: new gowns for the five poor once in two years, and charges in law and physic as often as occasion requires, which will swallow up the available balance. It appeared that Dr. Whitby had received £186 0s. 8d. by way of fines on leases, out of which he had expended fourteen pounds, six shillings, on certain supernumerary poor whom he found in the Hospital. The upshot of all was that Sancroft found that a balance of £171 14s. 8d. was due by Whitby's estate to the Hospital, and his award was held good by the Court, and the amount directed to be paid on Monday, April 2nd, "in the Chappell of the Hospital," to Dr. Edes, to be applied by him to the use of the Hospital. The date of this transaction was 1682.

Henry Edes was succeeded by William Hayley, in whose time the next effort was made to give the Hospital a code of directions to work by. Although they were superseded by the present rules, issued in 1728, they are interesting in their way. They were passed by the Dean and Chapter, with the consent of the Dean. They directed that the salary of the Custos should be £26; that of each poor person 2s. a week. They were to have a new gown every two years; there was to be a minister who should say prayers every morning save Sundays and holidays, and receive £5 per annum. The leases were to be renewed from time to time, and the fines were to pay for the gowns and repairs, the balance was to be divided equally, half to the Custos, the other half, at the discretion of the Custos, with the consent of the Dean and Chapter, either to be laid up for the benefit of the poor or distributed.

In 1720 the order regarding the fines was modified; the amount was to be divided into three equal parts—one to the Custos, one to the poor, one for the fabric and extraordinary expenses. The salary of the Chaplain was raised from five pounds a year to ten. I hope they could not find one willing to take the duty at the lower sum.

Of the orders given in 1728 to conduct the Hospital, an

abstract is given by Lord Brougham's Charitable Commissioners; still, they must not be omitted here. Thomas Sherlock, Dean of the Cathedral, afterwards Bishop of Bangor, was then Custos, and he proved a thoughtful and prudent guardian.

The order and decrees were made by the Dean and Chapter on May 7th, 1728, and commence by reciting that the arrangements regarding fines, both of 1711, and 1720, had worked badly, because the constant yearly expenses were more than the certain yearly revenues would amount to, and the Hospital had consequently become indebted. The Dean and Chapter, as patrons and visitors of the Hospital, and being now actually in the visitation of the same, do by these presents order and decree as follows:—

1. That the salary of the Custos shall be equal to the salary of the five poor, according to the proportion settled and fixed in Queen Elizabeth's Charter for erecting and establishing the said Hospital.

2. That the salary of the Custos of St. Mary's Hospital shall be six and twenty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly, and the salaries of the poor shall be two shillings a week to each person, both of which shall be paid out of the rents belonging to the Hospital. It is needless to give these rules *verbatim*. The subsequent regulations directed that the poor should each have a new gown once in two years; that a minister of the Church of England should be provided by the Custos, who should read prayers in the chapel every morning except Sundays and holidays, and visit the poor people when they are sick, and that he should receive for his salary £10 per annum; that the leases should be renewed from time to time, as had been accustomed, restrictions being put upon the periods at which the leases should be renewed; that the fines received on the renewal of leases should remain in the hands of the Custos until after the audit of the accounts, which should be examined yearly by the Dean and Chapter. The fabric was to be viewed and certified by the Communar, and in case it was in proper repair and the woods not wasted, the surplus in the hands of the Custos was to be divided equally between him and the poor, five shillings in the pound of their moiety being reserved for a fund for the support and comfort of such poor

as shall at any time be visited by sickness, and for no other use or purpose whatsoever. The accounts, when audited, were to be in the custody of the Dean and Chapter, and great care was taken that each new Custos might be able to inform himself speedily as to the condition of the Hospital, its funds and its property. The thirteenth and following regulations are these:—

“The poor of the Hospital shall keep themselves and their several apartments in the said Hospital sweet and clean, and if they neglect to do so after being twice admonished by the Custos, they shall, upon complaint made to the Dean and Chapter, be by them (if there be just cause for such complaint) expelled and removed from the said Hospital.

“The poor, not being hindered by sickness or employed in honest labour, shall diligently attend prayers in the Hospital.

“If any of the poor give just cause of scandal, they shall be admonished by the Custos, and if they do not reform after two admonitions, they shall, upon complaint made to the Dean and Chapter, be by them (if there shall be just cause for such complaint) expelled and removed from the said Hospital.

“None of the poor shall lye out of the Hospital themselves, or receive any friends, relatives, or other persons to lodge in the Hospital, unless, upon some extraordinary occasion, leave be given so to do by the Custos for the time being.

“In case any of the poor shall be visited by sickness, those who are well and able shall, as they shall be appointed by the Custos, attend on the sick, and do such necessary affairs for them as they shall be appointed to, and if anyone so appointed shall refuse to attend and minister to the sick, such person be expelled upon proof made of such refusal to the Dean and Chapter.

“And we do hereby vacate and annul all former orders and decrees made by the Dean and Chapter.”

The sum of £104, received for the sale of some wood, was ordered to be reserved “pro stauro;” and the orders and decrees sealed by the Dean, by the Dean and Chapter, and by the Custos and Poor.

These (as I have said) are the directions under which the Hospital is still governed; and in justice to my predecessors,

I am glad to say that the Commissioners of 1834 spoke highly of the way in which the accounts had been kept, and the trust administered according to these directions.

A few lines more will carry us to the present date.

From the accounts it appears that the chapel was new ceiled in 1711, at a cost of £14; in 1730, new binding the Bible cost five shillings; 1733, "grafting" the surplice, four shillings and sixpence; 1743, repairing the "Ingene," fifteen shillings; 1751, wheels for the fire engine, forty shillings (how the connection originated between the Hospital and the fire engine, I cannot surmise). About this time the Custos began to invest some savings out of what was called Dean Sherlock's bounty, to which Mr. Clark (the Custos) made additions. From 1735 to 1744 I note that the average income of the Custos was £46 9s.; each of the brothers and sisters would, therefore, have received about £9 6s. per annum. About the year 1770 a Mr. Sedgwick left a legacy of £400 to the Dean and Chapter, to provide additional income for the chaplain, to make a small allowance to the poor women who have rooms there but do not belong to the Body Corporate, and a small remuneration to the man whose business it is to toll the bell, and something to the schools. The Dean and Chapter invested the amount: one fourth of the interest was to be divided equally between the two charity schools for poor boys and girls in the city; about £11 to the chaplain, and two pounds to the poor women as above; ten shillings to the bellringer. In 1789 the salary of the chaplain was further raised by a legacy from Mary Ann Pain-blanc.

The Charity Commissioners in 1836 state that from 1815 to 1835 the average income of the Custos had been £169 19s. 7d.; that of each brother and sister, £30 9s. 1d., besides coals, medicine, &c.

In 1840 Mr. Baker left £1000 stock to the Dean and Chapter, as masters or wardens of the Hospital; £20 a year were to be divided among the inmates of the Hospital who were not on the foundation; and £10 for a service on every Sabbath—if not held, the money to be given to the poor.

In consequence of the Charitable Trusts Acts, the brothers and sisters were reduced to great misery. The Custos declined

to receive anything, but even then there could not be raised more than four shillings a week for the poor —*i. e.*, they were suddenly reduced from about £30 per annum to £10, which would have been £5 if it had not been for the consideration of their Warden.

One point more seems worthy of mention: when Gibson was made Bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1717, the Crown claimed to present Dr. Grey not only to the precentorship and prebendal stall of Oving, held by Gibson, but also to the office of Canon Residentiary and Guardian of S. Mary's Hospital. The Dean and Chapter resisted the two latter nominations, and filled up each office by election as usual. Their claim to do so was not resisted by the Crown, and Mr. Wright was made Custos of S. Mary's on December 30th, and William Sherwin, Canon Residentiary, on the succeeding Chapter Day.
