

No. VIII.—*Notice relative to the Hospital of St. Leonard, in the Parish of Alnwick.—Communicated by WILLIAM DICKSON, Esq., of Alnwick.*

THERE is very little to be found in the local histories relative to this Hospital. It appears from the Chronicle of Alnwick Abbey (p. 35 ante.) that Eustace de Vescy, who succeeded his father, 31 Henry II. (A. D. 1185), acquired the land, upon which he founded this Chapel, for the soul of Malcolm, King of Scotland, by exchange with the Abbot and convent of Alnwick ; and it further appears (p. 36), that William the Lion, King of Scotland, gave to this Eustace, the barony of Sprouston, for the foundation of the Chapel of St. Leonard, which the said Eustace had founded for the soul of Malcolm, King of Scotland, *there* mortally wounded, near a certain spring, leaving his name to the same spring for ever, whence that spring is called, in the English tongue, Malcolm's Well.

This Hospital was founded between 1185 and 1216, by Eustace de Vescy, for the soul of his wife's grandfather, Malcolm, and his eldest son, Edward,—the former was killed upon that spot, on the 13th November, 1093, and the latter there received a mortal wound, of which he died three days afterwards.

This religious institution continued a separate foundation, until the 50th year of Edward III., when it was granted by Henry de Percy, the first Earl of Northumberland, to the abbot and convent of Alnwick, in pure alms (see note p. 42 ante).

A copy of the charter of annexation is appended to this account :—

[Rot. Pat. 50 Edw. III., p. i., m. 23.]

D' licentia ponendi ad manū mortuā p Henr̄ de Percy.

℞ om̄ibz ad quos t̄c̄: saltm. Licet de cōmuni concilio regni n̄ri Angt

statutū sit q̄d non liceat viris religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodū alicujus. Iṯa q̄d ad manū mortuam sine licentia n̄ra aut capitalis d̄ni de quo res illa immediate tenet̄ de gr̄a tamen n̄ra sp̄ali ṯ p̄ centū solidis quos d̄iteus ṯ fidelis n̄r Hen̄r de Percy nob̄ solvit concessimus ṯ licentiam dedimus p̄ nob̄ ṯ heredibz n̄ris quantū in nob̄ est eidem Hen̄r q̄d ip̄e Hospitale S̄ci Leonardi juxta Alnewyke quod est de fundac̄oe antecessoꝝ ip̄ius Hen̄r ṯ de patronatu suo ṯ quod de nob̄ non tenet̄ in capite sicut p̄ inquisitionē inde p̄ dilc̄m ṯ fidelem n̄rm Gilb̄m de Culwēn escaetorem n̄rm in comitatū Northumb̄r de mandato n̄ro captam ṯ in cancellaṯ n̄ra retornatam est comptū dare possit ṯ assignare d̄iteis nob̄ in xp̄o Abbati ṯ Conventui Abb̄ie de Alnwyk̄ que de patronatu ejusdem Hen̄r similiṯ existit H̄ind̄ ṯ tenued̄ sibi ṯ successoribz suis ṯ in puram ṯ p̄ petuam elemosinam' inppetm̄ ṯ eidem abbi ṯ conventui q̄d ipi hospitale p̄d̄c̄m cum p̄tinenciis a p̄fato Hen̄r recipe ṯ idem hospitale abb̄ie p̄d̄ce annecte ṯ unire ṯ illud sic annexū ṯ unitū in usus proprios tenere possint sibi ṯ successoribz suis ṯ in puram ṯ p̄petuam elemosinam.' Ita q̄d ipi elemosinas ōna cantarias hospitalites ṯ alia pietatis opa in eodem hospitali ab olim ordinata ṯ stabilita sustentent faciant ṯ supportent imp̄p̄m tenore p̄sentium similiṯ licentiam dedim' sp̄alem statuto p̄d̄co non obstante. Nolentes q̄d p̄d̄cus Hen̄r vel heredes sui aut p̄fati Abbas ṯ conventus seu successores sui rōne statuti p̄d̄ci p̄ nos vel heredes n̄ros seu ministros n̄ros quoscunq̄ inde ōcconet̄ molestant̄ in aliquo seu ḡavent̄. Salvis tamen capitalibz d̄nis feodi illius s̄vicis inde debitis ṯ consuetis. In cui' ṯc̄. T̄ R̄ apud Westm̄ decimo die maii.

TRANSLATION.

OF LICENCE FOR PUTTING TO MORTMAIN FOR HENRY DE PERCY.

The king to all to whom, &c., greeting. Although by the common counsel of our kingdom of England it be decreed that it is not lawful to religious men or others to enter the fee of any person, so that [it come] to mortmain, without our license, or of the capital lord of whom that thing is immediately holden, of our special grace, however, and for one hundred shillings, which our beloved and faithful Henry de Percy paid to us, we have granted and leave given for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, to the same Henry, that he may give and assign the Hospital of St. Leonard, near Alnwick, which is of the foundation of the ancestors of the same Henry and of his patronage, and which is not holden of us in capite, as by an inquisition thereupon taken by our beloved and faithful Gilbert de Culwen, our escheator, in the county of Northumberland, by our command, and returned in our chancery, is found, to our beloved in Christ, the Abbot and Convent of the Abbey of Alnwick, which is in like manner of the patronage of the same Henry, To have and to hold, to him and his successors, 'in pure and perpetual alms,' for ever, and to the same abbot and convent, that they, the hospital aforesaid, with its appurtenances, from the aforesaid

Henry, may receive, and annex, and unite the same hospital to the abbey aforesaid, and hold it so annexed and united to their proper uses, to them and their successors, 'in pure and perpetual alms,' so that they sustain, do, and support the alms, burdens, chantries, hospitalities, and other works of piety, in the same hospital of old. ordained and established for ever. By the tenor of the presents, in like manner we have given special license the statute aforesaid, notwithstanding. Being unwilling that the aforesaid Henry, or his heirs, or the aforesaid abbot and convent, or their successors, by reason of the statute aforesaid, by us, or our heirs, or our ministers whomsoever, should thereupon be troubled, molested, in anything, or aggrieved, Saving, however, to the chief lords of that fee, the services thereupon due and accustomed. In witness of which, &c. Witness the King at Westminster, on the tenth day of May.

The well above referred to does not now exist; but the spot where the Hospital stood is marked, by the erection of a cross, which bears the following inscriptions:—

[WEST SIDE.]	[EAST SIDE.]
MALCOLM III.	K. MALCOLM'S CROSS
KING OF SCOTLAND	DECAYED BY TYME
BESIEGING	WAS RESTORED BY
ALNWICK CASTLE	HIS DESCENDANT
WAS SLAIN HERE	ELIZ. DUTCHESS OF
NOV. XIII. AN. MXCIII.	NORTHUMBERLAND
	MDCCLXXIV.

The pedestal of the cross stands upon a platform, having an ascent of three steps—on the north side is the Crown and Thistle, and on the south a Lion Rampant.

The pedestal and capital of the old cross are still remaining among the adjoining trees.

The site belonging to the Hospital lies on the east side of the turnpike road, one mile to the north of Alnwick, and is in the township of Denwick, in the parish of Alnwick. It would appear to have been separately granted out by the crown, and formed part of the possessions of JAMES, EARL OF DERWENTWATER, upon whose attainder, in 1715, it passed to the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich. His Grace the first DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND received it from them, with other premises, in the parishes of Alnwick, Embleton, and Warkworth, in exchange for lands at and near Corbridge.* It is now the property of His Grace the present Duke, and is commonly called the Ratcliff Closes.

* An Act of Parliament was passed in 1778 (18 Geo. III., c. xxix) to empower the Greenwich Hospital to make this exchange.