

## V.—A LIST OF THE ABBOTS OF NEWMINSTER.

By A. M. OLIVER.

[Read on the 29th July, 1914.]

At the end of the edition of bishop Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, which was published in 1744 by his brother John Tanner, there is an addendum, not paged, containing a series of lists of principals of religious houses prepared by Browne Willis, among which is a list of abbots of Newminster. The names of twenty abbots are given, and to each a date is assigned, though except in one instance there is no indication to show whether the date refers to election, death, or resignation, or merely to a date in which the abbot has been found to occur. Unfortunately, no authorities are cited.<sup>1</sup> In Nasmith's edition of the *Notitia*, published in 1787, the list is reprinted at the beginning of the work (p. xlv.) without alteration. Although it appeared in two editions of the *Notitia Monastica*, this list has not been used by, and was apparently unknown to, subsequent compilers.

In the fifth volume of the two last editions of Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, the editors say 'But few names of the abbats of Newminster have occurred,' and they proceed to name five only.<sup>2</sup> Hodgson, in his *History of Northumberland* (1825) names twelve abbots, giving full references to his authorities.<sup>3</sup> In the introduction to the *Newminster Chartulary*, published in 1878, the editor revised Hodgson's list, and, by duplicating two of the names, and adding five others appearing in the chartulary, made a list of eighteen names.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. H. H. E. Craster informs me that the manuscript of this list is in the Bodleian library (*Willis MS.* 48, fo. 83) and is exactly as printed in the *Notitia*, with the sole addition of the name of 'John de Thornton,' without date, interlined between John of Whelpington and Walter of Hink.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale, *Monasticon* (Caley's editions 1825 and 1849) vol. v, p. 398.

<sup>3</sup> Part II, vol. ii, p. 416. <sup>4</sup> 66 Surt. Soc. publ., Introduction, p. xii.

In the following list, those already published have been collated, and several names have been added.

	Name of Abbot.	Date.	Date given in Browne Willis's list.
I.	Saint Robert ...	1138 to 1159 ... ..	1159
II.	Walter ... ..	1159 to —	
III.	William ... ..	— to 1180	
IV.	Geoffrey ... ..	abbot by 1185. Resigned between 1189 and 1195	about 1180
V.	William ... ..	abbot by 1195. Occurs 1197.	
VI.	William of Burton ...		el. 1208
VII.	Walter ... ..	— to 1217 ... ..	1217
VIII.	Henry ... ..	elected 1217. Occurs 1218 ...	1219
IX.	Robert ... ..	occurs 1221.	
X.	Stephen of Eston ...	elected between 1233 and 1236. Occurs 1241, 1245, 1247	1240
XI.	Simon?		
XII.	Adam of Pennington	abbot by 1255. Occurs 1269, 1272, 1274	1275
XIII.	William of Edmunds- bury		1276
XIV.	Roger of Akeden ...	occurs 1279 ... ..	1288
XV.	John of York ... ..	abbot by 1289. Occurs 1291 and 1295 and probably 1296 and 1297	
XVI.	John of Whelpington	occurs between 1303 and 1315? ...	1318
XVII.	John of Thornton ...		
XVIII.	Roger?		
XIX.	Walter ... ..	occurs 1328	
XX.	William ... ..	„ 1334	
XXI.	Walter of Hink' ...	„ 1337 and 1358 ... ..	1368
XXII.	Robert of Horsley ...	„ 1393, 1394 ... ..	1389
XXIII.	John of Morpeth ...		1415
XXIV.	William of Hebescot	elected 1416 ... ..	1450
XXV.	John of Birtlee ...	occurs 1467 ... ..	1478
XXVI.	David Marshall ...	„ 1479 ... ..	1482
XXVII.	Robert Charleton ...	abbot by 1484. Occurs several times between that date and 1494	1500
XXVIII.	John Langton ...	occurs 1507 and 1514 ... ..	1516
XXIX.	Roger Morpeth ...		1516
XXX.	Gerard Duxfeld ...	1517? to 1527 ... ..	1537
XXXI.	Edward Tyrry ...	1527 to dissolution of the monastery in 1537.	

## I. SAINT ROBERT (vir Dei Robertus).

(Robert, first abbat 1159. *Willis.*)

Two fourteenth century lives of Saint Robert are extant, both of which (apart from some added 'Narraciones') are evidently independent versions of an older document which is now lost. One is contained in a volume of lives of saints formerly belonging to Romsey abbey.<sup>5</sup> The other, of which there are two MSS.,<sup>6</sup> is John of Tynemouth's *Sanctilogium Anglie*. The *Sanctilogium* arranged by Capgrave, was printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1516, under the title of *Nova Legenda Anglie*, and has recently been re-edited by Dr. Horstman (Clarendon Press, 1901). A portion of the life of Saint Robert in the *Nova Legenda* is also printed in the *Acta Sanctorum* of the Bollandists.<sup>7</sup>

In the Romsey life of Saint Robert it is said that in the fifth year of the foundation of the abbey of Fountains (*i.e.*, between 27th December, 1136, and 27th December, 1137) Robert was sent with twelve monks to found the house of Newminster.<sup>8</sup> The corresponding passage in John of Tynemouth's version of the life reads: 'When five years had elapsed, that is to say, in the year 1137 . . . the venerable Robert was chosen as abbot, and taking with him eleven

<sup>5</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436. This life has not been printed.

<sup>6</sup> *MS. Bodley*, 240; Brit. Mus., *Cotton MS.*, Tib. E. i.

<sup>7</sup> *Acta Sanctorum*, Junii tom. II, p. 47. 'Vita a Joanne Capgravo edita.' The same portion (with many textual alterations) is given by Surius, *De Probatis Sanctorum vitis* (1618), June, p. 131. 'Vita Roberti Abbatis Cisterciensis Ordinis in Anglia, Bona fide, ut apparet, licet incerto auctore, conscripta. Stylum passim nonnihil correxit Fr. Laurentius Surius.' See also Henriquez, *Fasciculus Sanctorum Ordinis Cisterciensis* (1631), vol. I, p. 251, who uses the text of Surius.

<sup>8</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 116b. 'Anno quinto fundacionis Abbathie de Fontibus petente nobili viro Ranulfo de Merly cum duodecim monachis ad domum Novi Monasterii construendam est missus.'

brethren, he founded Newminster.<sup>9</sup> In the chronicle of Hugh of Kirkstall it is said that a convent was sent from Fountains to Newminster with Abbot Robert on the nones of January in the sixth year of the foundation of Fountains (5th January, 1138).<sup>10</sup> The chronicle of John of Hexham records that Ranulph of Merlay received at Morpeth castle thirteen monks of Fountains on the nones of January, 1138 (5th January, 1138), who founded Newminster, and that about Epiphany (6th January) in the same year, Geoffrey, bishop of Durham, gave the benediction to Abbot Robert.<sup>11</sup>

The discrepancies in the above accounts may be reconciled if we assume that the convent was sent out from Fountains at about the time of the fifth anniversary (27th December, 1137)

<sup>9</sup> *Nova Legenda Angliæ*, Horstman's ed., vol. II, p. 340. 'Elapsis autem quinque annis anno scilicet millesimo centesimo tricesimo septimo . . . venerabilis Robertus in abbatem electus assumptis secum undecim fratribus nouum-monasterium construxit.' Other authorities for the year 1137 are Harl. MS., 247, fo. 102. 'Anno 1137 was the newe monasterye founded.' This occurs in a page of extracts 'oute of the booke of the newe monasterye.'—Henriquez, *Fasciculus Sanctorum Ordinis Cisterciensis* (1631), vol. II, p. 492, where Newminster is classed in the 'Generatio Claravallis terciæ filiæ Cistercii,' and is said to be in the diocese of Carlisle.—Henriquez, *Menologium Cisterciense* (1630), p. 187.—*Acta Sanctorum*, Maii tomus v, p. 79; Junii tomus II, p. 47.

<sup>10</sup> *Narracio de fundacione Fontanis Monasterii*, Gale MS., Trin. Coll., Cambridge, o.l. 79, printed in 42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 59. 'Anno sexto fundationis suæ, mense primo, quinto mensis, hoc est nonas Januarii emittitur conventus de domo Fontanensi ad Novum Monasterium, cum Abbate Roberto viro sancto et religioso.'—See also *Monasticon Anglicanum*, ed. Caley, vol. v, p. 299.—Some copies of the Chronicle read 'anno quinto' for 'anno sexto.'

<sup>11</sup> Twysden, *Decem Scriptores*, col. 265; 44 Sur. Soc. publ., p. 122. 'Eodem anno [i.e., 1138] quidam vir potens in Northymbria recepit in sua possessione apud castrum quod dicitur Morthpath monachos de Fontibus viii. [lege, xiii?] nonas Januarii qui construxerunt cœnobium scilicet Novum Monasterium vocatum. Quibus hoc ipso anno circa Epiphaniæ diem Galfridus episcopus Dunelmi benedixit Abbatem Robertum sanctum virum Quos libenter fovit prædictus vir scilicet Ranulphus de Merlai.'

of its foundation,<sup>12</sup> and arrived at Newminster on 5th January, 1138.

Janaushek, in his work on Cistercian origins, seeks to place the date as late as 1139, chiefly on the ground that in lists of abbeys Newminster is generally placed last among those founded in 1138.<sup>13</sup>

Saint Robert's death is generally said to have occurred in 1159. This is the date given in the Romsey manuscript,<sup>14</sup> in the Sanctilogium,<sup>15</sup> and in an extract from 'the booke of the newe monasterye,'<sup>16</sup> and is accepted by most of his more modern

<sup>12</sup> Compare the dispatch from Fountains, on 28th December, 1150, of a convent to found the abbey of Meaux (*Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, Rolls ser., vol. I, p. 82).

<sup>13</sup> Janaushek, *Liber originum Cistercensium* (1877), vol. I, p. 55. 'Hunc autem Epiphaniae diem ad annum proximum 1139 transferendum esse quum nostro computandi methodo tum loco suadetur quem Novum Monasterium in tabulis fere cunctis occupat, omnibus abbatiis a 1138 ortis postpositum.'

For the year 1138 this author cites twenty-six 'chronologia' and 'genealogia,' of which those in England are—

Brit. Mus., *Cotton MS.*, Faust, B VII, fo. 36. This is printed in *British Archaeological Journal*, vol. 26, p. 281. It is an early 13th century MS. in which Newminster stands first among the seventeen abbeys assigned to the year 1138.

*Phillipps, MS.*, 4639.

For 1139 he cites—

Bibl. Nat. Paris, *Codex Fond-Latin*, N. 13823.

Brit. Mus., *Cotton MS.*, Vesp. A VI, fo. 54b, a mid-13th MS. list of Cistercian houses printed in *British Archaeological Journal*, vol. 26, p. 357, in which the date 1139 is omitted altogether.

*Annales Parcoludæ*. This is a 15th century MS., which has since been printed by the Lincolnshire Record Society (1891), in which (p. 30) Newminster is placed under the year 1139 and is said to have been founded on the same day as Kirkstead Abbey.

<sup>14</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 119b. 'Transiit autem pater sanctus . . . de mundo ad patrem anno ab incarnatione domini millesimo centesimo quinquagesimo nono septimo idus Junii.'

<sup>15</sup> *Nova Legenda Anglie*, Horstman's ed., vol. II, p. 342. 'Obiit autem anno domini millesimo centesimo quinquagesimo nono septimo idus Junii.'

<sup>16</sup> Brit. Mus., *Harleian MS.*, 247, fo. 102. 'Anno 1159 died, St. Robert, fyrst abbott of the new monasterye.'

biographers, such as Lenain, Alban Butler, Baring Gould and Newman.<sup>17</sup>

In the *Acta Sanctorum*, however, he is said to have died in the year 1139,<sup>18</sup> and the writer of his life in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, supporting this view, says: 'The year 1139 given by the Bollandists is more probable than 1159, the date usually assigned for Robert's death.' No authorities are adduced in support of this statement, which, on consideration of the following evidences, seems to be untenable.

- (i) In Hugh of Kirkstall's chronicle it is said that for many years Saint Robert ruled over the brethren of Newminster.<sup>19</sup>
- (ii) In 1147 Robert abbot of Newminster was one of the abbots who assisted the bishop of Durham to settle the contention between Roger the prior and Gwace the archdeacon of Durham as to the right to sit at the bishop's right hand.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> In Wilson's *English Martyrologe*, 2nd ed. (1640), p. 126, Robert is confused with Saint Robert of Knaresborough (as has often been his lot) and is said to have died on 7th June, 1150.

<sup>18</sup> Baertius in *Acta Sanctorum*, Junii tomus secundus (1867), p. 46. 'Inter illustres ordinis Cisterciensis hoc vii Junii ad Christum migravit anno m<sup>c</sup>xxxix Sanctus Robertus in ducatu Eboracensi ortus, studiis excultus ac Pastor seu Rector ecclesiæ factus; qui dein habitum Benedictinum in Whitbyensi monasterio in septemtrionali Ducatus parte sumpsit; inde ad Cistercienses transgressus ac primo in monasterio de Fontibus . . . Hinc anno m<sup>c</sup>xxxvii migravit ad plagam Northumbriæ et Novum Monasterium construxit, primus ejus abbas factus. Situs hujus loci ignoratur. Fuit certe in confinio Dunelmensis.' It is to be noted, however, that Henschenius in the same volume (p. 49) states that Saint Godric (who died in 1170) lived for about eleven years after the death of Saint Robert; and that the date 1159 is given as the year of Saint Robert's death in a previous volume of the same work. (Maii tomus v (1866), p. 79.)

<sup>19</sup> 42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 60. 'Multis annis et præfuit ipse et profuit fratribus pater pius et pastor egregius.'

<sup>20</sup> *Durham Treasury*, 1. 1 Archid. nos. 1 and 2, printed in 58 Surt. Soc. publ., pp. lx, lxii.

- (iii) Saint Robert is said to have founded the three abbeys which were known as the daughters of Newminster,<sup>21</sup> namely, Pipewell, founded in 1143, and Sawley and Roché, both founded in 1147.<sup>22</sup> In support of this statement may be cited a deed by which some land for the site of Sawley abbey was conveyed to Robert abbot of Newminster.<sup>23</sup>
- (iv) In or about the year 1155 Robert, abbot of Newminster, assisted in the settlement of a dispute between the abbeys of Savigny and Furness concerning the abbey of Byland, of which a report is contained in a letter from Ailred, abbot of Rievaulx to Lambert, abbot of Citeaux, preserved among the muniments of the Cistercian abbey of the Holy Trinity of Savigny.<sup>24</sup>
- (v) He is said to have visited Pope Eugenius III (1145-53), and to have been commended by him to William, bishop of Durham (William of St. Barbara, 1143-52), who, in consequence, gave Wolsingham to Robert and his successors.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>21</sup> 42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 61. 'Concepit et peperit de se tres filias faciens Pipewellam Salleiam et Rupem.'

<sup>22</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 116b. 'Postea vero tres filias domos scilicet de Pippewelle de Salley et de Rupe de novo construxit petentibus magnatibus et loca donantibus ob reverenciam et sanctitatem illius.'

<sup>23</sup> *Townley MSS.*, quoted by Whitaker, *History of Craven* (1812), p. 39. 'Sciant, etc., quod ego Swain filius Swain vendidi Roberto Abbati novi monasterii ij carucatas in Sallaia . . . ad construendum abbatiam ordinis Cisterciensis . . .'

<sup>24</sup> *Archives Nationales de France* L. 1146, 16, printed in *British Archaeological Journal* (1851), vol. vi, p. 423. There is an abstract in Round's *Calendar of Documents in France*, no. 819. What appears to be a copy of this document is printed in Beck's *History of the Abbey of Furness* (1844), appx., p. xlvi, but the names of most of the abbots mentioned in the letter are omitted. The source from which it is taken is not given.

<sup>25</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 119. For reference to the gift of Wolsingham by bishop William, see *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis* (58 Surt. Soc. publ.), pp. lxiii and lxiv; and *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 46.

- (vi) Hugh Pudsey, bishop of Durham (1153-95) gave the manor of Chopwell to Saint Robert in exchange for Wolsingham.<sup>26</sup>
- (vii) Robert is said to have died on the evening of Saturday before Trinity Sunday.<sup>27</sup> References have already been given to the statements in the Romsey biography and the Sanctilogium that he died on the seventh of the ides of June (7th June), but the Saturday before Trinity Sunday in 1159 fell on 6th June, so that there is here a discrepancy of one day. But in no other year between 1139 and 1159 did the eve of Trinity Sunday fall on 7th June, and the evidence may be taken as supporting the generally accepted date of 1159 as the year of Saint Robert's death.

## II. WALTER.

Elected, against the wish of Saint Robert, to succeed him.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 45; *Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*, vol. II, p. 1,283.

<sup>27</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 119b. 'Sabbato post ascensionem domini egrotare cœpit. vespere sabbati que lucessit in dominicam Trinitatis carne solutus est.'—*Life of Saint Godric*, 20 Surt. Soc. publ., § 160, 'nam duabus hebdomadibus continuis infirmitate decoctus ingruente die Sabbati noctis crepusculo spiritus Abbatis illius carne solutus est . . . . Eratque dies ille Sabbati qui infra Pentecosten Jubilæus dicitur—*ibid.*, § 164, a suggestion that Saint Robert died on a Monday is corrected by Saint Godric as follows:— 'die præcedentis Sabbati hora jam secunda post nonam ipsius diei spiritus ejus mortis articulo ingruente urgeri cœpit.' To a parallel passage in the *Acta Sanctorum* (Maii tomus v, pp. 78, 79) a note is appended as follows: 'Sanctus Robertus Novum Monasterium in Northumbria Ordinis Cisterciensis construxit anno 1137, at mortuus est anno 1159 die 7 Junii quo inscriptus est Martyrologio Romano: in cujus vita latius explicantur. Congruit autem littera Dominicalis anni istius quæ fuit D, atque adeo dies Sabbathi mortis diem immediate præcessit.'

<sup>28</sup> Brit. Mus., *Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 119b, 'fratrem Walterum pertinaciter eligetis, domui vestre in ruinam et ordini in scandalum . . . . Omnia enim ut predixit eis sic evenerunt.'

## III. WILLIAM.

William received the habit of the Cistercian order from Saint Robert. After ruling at Newminster<sup>29</sup> for many years he was elected abbot of Fountains on the death of Robert of Pipewell in January, 1180. He died in 1190.<sup>30</sup>

## IV. GEOFFREY.

(Geffry, about 1180. *Willis.*)

Geoffrey was abbot by the year 1185, having made a grant to the hospital of the Virgin Mary during the shrievalty of Roger de Stutevill (1170-85).<sup>31</sup>

Matilda Percy, widow of William, earl of Warwick, made a grant to Sawley abbey in the reign of Henry II, to which Ernald, abbot of Rievaulx, and Geoffrey, abbot of Newminster, are two of the witnesses. The deed is dated Lady Day, but the year is not given. As, however, Ernald was elected abbot of Rievaulx on 2nd March, 1189,<sup>32</sup> and Henry II died in July of that year, it may be accurately dated 25th March, 1189.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Burton says 'Westminster,' *Monasticon Eboracense*, p. 210.

<sup>30</sup> *Chronicle of the Abbots of Fountains* (42 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 132. 'Anno domini 1179 quinto Idus Januarii obiit Robertus de Pipewella quintus Abbas de Fontibus . . . . Anno domini 1190 octavo Idus Octobris obiit Willielmus sextus abbas de Fontibus . . . . Hic enim Willielmus primo fuit canonicus apud Gisburniam, postea Abbas Novi Monasterii; novissime de gremio filiæ assumptus in patrem. Suscepit habitum a Sancto Roberto Abbate Novi Monasterii . . . .' For further details as to Abbot William, see Hugh of Kirkstall's *Chronicle* (42 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 115.

<sup>31</sup> *Liber cartarum* of the Newcastle Corporation, no. 58.

<sup>32</sup> *Chronica de Mailros* (Bannatyne Club), p. 97. 'Anno mclxxxix Ærnaldus abbas de Melros electus est ad curam animarum de Rievall vj nonas Martii . . .' The writer of the chronicle, at this period at least, begins the year on 25th December. For example, he dates the murder of Thomas à Becket 29th December, 1171 (p. 83). See also Dowden, *Bishops of Scotland* (1912), p. 232.

<sup>33</sup> *Sawley Chartulary, Harleian MS.*, 112, fo. 166. A copy of this deed is printed in Dodsworth and Dugdale's *Monasticon*, 1st ed. (1655), p. 843, but 'Bernardo' is printed instead of 'Ernaldo.' A translation, in which the error is perpetuated, is given in Harland, *Historical Account of Salley* (1853), p. 8. It was probably on the authority of Dodsworth and Dugdale that Tanner

This abbot was contemporary with Geoffrey, abbot of Sawley,<sup>34</sup> who is said to occur as abbot of that house in 1186.<sup>35</sup>

'G,' abbot of Newminster, was contemporary with Ernald, abbot of Melrose (1179-89),<sup>36</sup> and an abbot with the same initial handed to Germanus, prior of Durham (1163-89), the abbey charters relating to Wolsingham.<sup>37</sup> In each case the initial probably indicates Geoffrey, though it might possibly stand for William (Guillelmus) Geoffrey's predecessor.

Geoffrey did not retain the abbacy until his death.<sup>38</sup>

#### V. WILLIAM.

This abbot occurs as a witness to a deed of bishop Pudsey (*ob.* 1195) to which Ernald, abbot of Rievaulx (*el.* 1189), is also a party.<sup>39</sup> He was therefore abbot by 1195. 'W. de Novo Monasterio abbas' with G[ilbert], abbot of Alnwick, and

inserted the name of Bernard as an abbot of Rievaulx in his list which is printed by Browne Willis, *History of Abbies* (1719), vol. II, p. 282, where Bernard is placed after Sylvanus 'about the year 1180.' Burton, in his *Monasticon Eboracense* (1758), p. 365, places Bernard before Sylvanus, and makes the conjectural date into the positive '1180 Bernard occurs.' This is repeated in Gill's *Vallis Eboracensis* (1852), p. 313. The existence of Bernard as an abbot of Rievaulx is doubted by Atkinson in his introduction to the *Rievaulx Chartulary* (83 Surt. Soc. publ., pp. lxxxvii, xci), and his view is adopted in the *Victoria County History, York*, vol. III (1913), p. 152. See also Baildon, *Notes on Religious Houses of Yorkshire*, vol. I (1895), p. 177n. The references to the first edition of the *Monasticon* and to the *Sawley Chartulary* seem to set the matter at rest. The deed is the earliest charter evidence of Ernald's rule as abbot of Rievaulx, but owing to the error in the name as printed by Dodsworth and Dugdale this has hitherto been overlooked.

<sup>34</sup> *Guisboro' Chartulary* (89 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 285.

<sup>35</sup> Whitaker, *History of Craven* (1812), p. 56, who, however, confuses Geoffrey with Stephen de Eston his successor as abbot of Sawley (see 42 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 138n. Geoffrey (of Sawley) was apparently abbot by 1184 (*Harleian MS.* 112, fo. 156).

<sup>36</sup> *Brinkburn Chartulary* (90 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 130.

<sup>37</sup> *Newminster Chartulary* (86 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 47, and see hereon 58 Surt. Soc. publ., p. lxxv.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 120.

<sup>39</sup> *Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis* (58 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. lxxxvi.

A[karias], prior of Tynemouth, were appointed on 10th May, 1197, by pope Celestine III to deal with disputes between the priories of Durham and Guisboro' concerning the chapels of Worsall and Dicton,<sup>40</sup> and on 2nd May, 1197, to deal with a dispute between the prior of Durham and Stephen, canon of Guisboro', as to land at Backestanford.<sup>41</sup> The deeds recording their decisions were probably executed shortly afterwards, Gasquet assigns to them the date ' ?1198.'<sup>42</sup>

VI. WILLIAM OF BURTON. (William de Burton, *cl.* 1208. *Willis*).  
Willis's list is the only authority for this abbot.

VII. WALTER. (Walter, 1217. *Willis*).

In 1217 'dompnus Walterus,' abbot of Newminster, died at Citeaux at the time of the holding of a general chapter there.<sup>43</sup>

VIII. HENRY. (Henry, 1219. *Willis*).

Abbot Walter was succeeded by 'dompnus Henricus,' prior of Roche.<sup>43</sup>

'H. Abbate de Novo Monasterio' witnessed a deed of Richard de Marisco, bishop of Durham, dated 1st June, 1218.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> *Durham Treasury*, 2, 1, Ebor., nos. 10 and 11 printed in *Guisboro' Chartulary*, vol. II (89 Surt. Soc. publ.), pp. 50, 52. The editor of the chartulary very strangely questions the correctness of the date of the papal mandates ('vi Idus Maii pontificatus nostri septimo') on the ground that 'Celestine III was elected pope March 30th, 1191, consecrated Easter Day, April 14th, in the same year, and died January 7th or 8th, 1198, so that he occupied the pontifical chair for less than seven years.' Many documents dated in the seventh year of the pontificate of Celestine are, however, in existence—see, for example, Jaffé's *Regesta Pontificum*, vol. II (1888), p. 629ff.

<sup>41</sup> *Durham Treasury*, 3, 6, spec. c. 2, printed in *The Priory of Finchale* (3 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 16.

<sup>42</sup> *Collectanea Anglo-Premonstratensia*, vol. II, p. 15.

<sup>43</sup> *Chronica de Mailros* (Bannatyne Club), p. 129. 'mccxvii . . . . obiit dompnus Walterus Abbas Novi Monasterii apud Cisterciensem tempore capituli generalis, loco cuius electus est in abbatem dompnus Henricus prior de Rupe.'

<sup>44</sup> *Rievaulx Chartulary* (83 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 222. The date is

## IX. ROBERT.

This abbot occurs in 1221, and in an undated deed of bishop Richard de Marisco of Durham (1217-26).<sup>45</sup>

X. STEPHEN OF ESTON. (Stephen de Eaton,<sup>46</sup> 1240. *Willis*).

Stephen of Eston was successively cellarer of Fountains, abbot of Sawley for ten years, abbot of Newminster and abbot of Fountains. He died on 6th September, 1252.<sup>47</sup> He occurs as abbot of Sawley in June, 1226,<sup>48</sup> and October, 1233,<sup>49</sup> and had been transferred from that abbey by about 1236, when his successor, Walter, occurs.<sup>50</sup> Having been elected abbot of

incorrectly given as 1217 by the editor of the chartulary. He also questions the correctness of the transcript of the deed in the chartulary, because Fowler's list does not mention an abbot 'H' of Newminster, and because 'S,' archdeacon of Durham, another witness to the deed, is not given in Le Neve's list. But 'S' archdeacon of Durham occurs in a deed dated 1218 printed in a previous volume of the Surtees Society (58 Surt. Soc. publ., p. lxxxviii).

<sup>45</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, pp. 180, 215.

<sup>46</sup> Willis also gives his name as 'Stephen de Eyton,' *History of Abbies*, vol. II, p. 271.

<sup>47</sup> *Chronicle of the Abbots of Fountains* (42 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 137. 'Anno domini 1252, viij Idus Septembris obiit Stephanus de Eston, xi<sup>us</sup> abbas de Fontibus . . . Iste Stephanus primo cellerarius de Fontibus factus; postea Abbas de Sallay x annos constitutus; inde de Salley ad Novum Monasterium translatus; novissime ad primam matrem reassumitur in patrem. Abbatizavit tempore Henrici tercii. Sepultus est coram sede Presidentis in Capitulo monasterii Vallis-dei, ubi miraculis choruscat'—Leland *Collectanea*, vol. IV, p. 109 (from a version of Hugh of Kirkstall's Chronicle now lost). 'Successit Joanni [de Cancia] Stephanus de Eston, abbas Novi monasterii.' See 42 Surt. Soc. publ., pp. xiii, 129.

<sup>48</sup> 56 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 328. Assuming the correctness of the statement that he was at Sawley ten years, this gives 1236 as the latest date assignable for Stephen's transfer to Newminster.

<sup>49</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 81. As abbot of Sawley he also witnessed a deed with Henry, prior of Sawley (Harl. MS. 112, fo. 153), who occurs as prior in 1223 (*Cott. MS. Tib. C. xii*, fo. 153).

<sup>50</sup> P.R.O. *Ancient Deeds*, A. 317; *Victoria County History*, York, vol. III, p. 158.

Newminster between 1233 and 1236, he held that office until 1247.<sup>51</sup>

He occurs as abbot of Newminster in 1241,<sup>52</sup> 1245,<sup>53</sup> and 1247.<sup>54</sup> He also witnessed, as abbot of Newminster, an undated grant by William de Percy to Sawley abbey,<sup>55</sup> which was confirmed in January, 1242.<sup>56</sup> A seal, probably of this abbot, is attached to a deed dated 1247 in the Durham Treasury.<sup>56a</sup> He was deputed by the Cistercian general chapter in 1245, to inform the abbot of Melrose of their decision to excuse him from attendance at meetings of the chapter.<sup>56b</sup>

#### XI. SIMON.

Simon is said by Fowler to occur in 1243, which is incorrect.<sup>57</sup> The only known occurrence of his name is in a deed of Bernard, prior of Hexham (who had ceased to be prior by 1251) relating to tithes in Chollerton acquired in 1243.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>51</sup> The evidence is somewhat inconsistent. John 'de Cancia,' Stephen's immediate predecessor as abbot of Fountains, is said to have died on 25th November, 1247 (42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 134), and Stephen is said to have died on 6th September, 1252, after having been abbot there for 5 years 10 months and 5 days (*ibid.*, pp. 137, 154). Stephen's occurrence as abbot of Newminster in 1247, hereafter mentioned shows that the error lies in the statement either of the date of his death or of the period of his rule at Fountains.

<sup>52</sup> P.R.O. *Feet of Fines*, 180/4, nos. 98 and 99, enrolled in the *Newminster Chartulary*, pp. 67, 201. The first of these is erroneously dated 1240 by the editor of the chartulary.

<sup>53</sup> *Calendar of Papal Letters*, vol. I, p. 278. 'S' abbot of Newminster.

<sup>54</sup> Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II, vol. ii, p. 336, quoting *Chartæ Ridleanæ*, 53. The date is incorrectly given as 1267 on p. 416 of the same volume.

<sup>55</sup> *Percy Chartulary* (117 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 145.

<sup>56</sup> *Cal. Charter Rolls*, vol. I, p. 265, and see *Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium*, vol. I, p. 3.

<sup>56a</sup> Durham Treasury, *Locelli* III, no. 22.

<sup>56b</sup> Martene and Durand, *Thesaurus Novus Anecdotorum* vol. IV, col. 1385.

<sup>57</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. xiii.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 68. The original chartulary has not been consulted.

XII. ADAM OF PENNINGTON. (Adam de Pennington, 1275. *Willis*.)

Adam, abbot of Newminster, was a party to an agreement with Walter, archbishop of York, and had therefore been elected by the year 1255.<sup>59</sup> He witnessed grants of Roger of Merlay III (*ob.* 1265), the date of one of which lies between 1246 and 1257,<sup>60</sup> and a deed of the abbot of Sawley between 1258 and 1265.<sup>61</sup> He also occurs in 1269,<sup>62</sup> 1272,<sup>63</sup> and 1274,<sup>64</sup> and as witness to an undated deed in the Coldstream Chartulary.<sup>65</sup> Hodgson says: 'Adam witnesses many deeds in my collections belonging to the reigns of Henry III and Edward I, for instance two or more . . . during the sheriffalty of William Heron between the years 1246 and 1256 (*lege*, 1258).'<sup>66</sup> Hodgson also, by a very curious misreading, makes Adam occur as late as 1292.<sup>67</sup>

In an undated letter addressed by Abbot Adam to King Edward I, reference is made to the sale to Florentine merchants of the wool of the abbey for the year 1274, and the two succeeding years, and for the year 1277 and the three succeeding years.<sup>68</sup>

## XIII. WILLIAM OF EDMUNDSBURY.

(William de Edmundsbury, 1276. *Willis*.)

Willis's list is the only authority for this abbot.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 65, and 56 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 290.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 278, 281. <sup>61</sup> *Sawley Chartulary, Harl. MS.*, 112, fo. 154b.

<sup>62</sup> *Northumberland Assize Rolls* (88 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 154, and see p. 199 of the chartulary.

<sup>63</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 141.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 238, 'dompnus Adam pater vester proprius.'

<sup>65</sup> Grampian Club; 1879, p. 40. <sup>66</sup> *Northumberland*, part II, vol. ii, p. 416.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, quoting *Lansdown MS.*, 326, fo. 113b. The deed referred to is on folio 113b (old pagination) of the MS., and is a grant of land in Newcastle (dated 18th March, 1293) by 'Adam parvus de Novo Castro,' which has apparently been read as 'Adam abbas de Novo Monasterio.'

<sup>68</sup> P.R.O., *Ancient Correspondence*, XIX, 153. There is here an obvious breach of the Statute made at the Cistercian general chapter in 1191: *Lanam unius anni licet prevendere si necesse fuerit: ultra annum non fiat.* (Martene and Durand *Thesaurus Novus Anecdotorum* (1717), vol. IV, col. 1253).

XIV. ROGER OF AKEDEN. (Roger de Aketon, 1288. *Willis.*)

Before his election as abbot, Roger was apparently a monk at Newminster. He acted as the attorney of Abbot Adam, when the latter was attending the general Cistercian chapter in 1271.<sup>69</sup> In 1279 there was a plea between Robert fitz Robert of Lynemouth and Roger, abbot of Newminster, as to a messuage in 'Erdesden'<sup>70</sup> which was charged with a rent-charge for Saint Robert's light.<sup>71</sup> In a deed dated 1st November, 1302, Roger of Akden is mentioned as a predecessor of John, then abbot.<sup>72</sup>

## XV. JOHN OF YORK.

John witnessed a deed of Thomas, abbot of Sawley, to which H[enry], abbot of Fountains (1284-89) and J[ohn], abbot of Pipewell (1280-94), were also witnesses.<sup>73</sup> He was therefore abbot by 1289. In 1291 he was plaintiff in a suit against Thomas of Errington, vicar of 'Herteburn,' relating to land in 'Neuton juxta Fatheleye,'<sup>74</sup> and in 1295 he was a defendant in an action by James of Spain, parson of Rothbury, and is there referred to as 'frater Johannes de Eboraco abbas de Novo Monasterio.'<sup>75</sup>

Abbot John, who occurs in 1296<sup>76</sup> and 1297,<sup>77</sup> was probably John of York.

## XVI. JOHN OF WHELPINGTON.

(John de Whelpington, 1318. *Willis.*)

This abbot is mentioned without date, in the Romsey life of Saint Robert.<sup>78</sup> Possibly he was the Abbot John whose name as

<sup>69</sup> *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 55 Hen. III, p. 567.

<sup>70</sup> *Northumberland Assize Rolls* (88 Surt. Soc. publ.), p. 241.

<sup>71</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 231.

<sup>72</sup> Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II, vol. II, pp. 344, 417.

<sup>73</sup> *Brit. Mus., Harleian MS.*, 112, fo. 154.

<sup>74</sup> *De Banco Roll*, Mich., 19-20 Ed. I, m. 216.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, 23-24 Ed. I, m. 280d.

<sup>76</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 143.

<sup>77</sup> *De Banco Roll*, Trin., 25 Ed. I, m. 71.

<sup>78</sup> *Brit. Mus., Lansdown MS.*, 436, fo. 120b.

collector of tenths occurs in several receipts among the Miscellaneous Charters in the Durham Treasury between the years 1303 and 1312, and who occurs twice in bishop Kellaw's register in the year 1315,<sup>79</sup> and as a grantee of rights in Chopwell, in the abbey chartulary, in 1313.<sup>80</sup>

## XVII. JOHN OF THORNTON.

The only authority for the inclusion of John de Thornton in a list of the abbots of Newminster is Willis's manuscript list, in which the name is interlined, without date, between John of Whelpington and Walter of Hink.<sup>81</sup> John of Thornton occurs as a monk of Newminster in 1295,<sup>82</sup> and as cellarer of the abbey in 1296.<sup>83</sup>

It is impossible, with the evidences at present available to determine with any degree of certainty the exact positions which the last two-named abbots should occupy in the list.

## XVIII. ROGER?

This name is inserted in Fowler's list after John, probably on the insufficient evidence of an undated deed at page 14 of the chartulary.

## XIX. WALTER.

In the year 1328 William de Sharplawe brought an action against Walter, abbot of Newminster, for trespass at 'Hertwayton.'<sup>84</sup>

## XX. WILLIAM.

Occurs in 1334.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>79</sup> *Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense*, vol. II, pp. 731 and 1286. The latter deed is also printed in *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 48.

<sup>80</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 51.

<sup>81</sup> Bodleian Library, *Willis MS.*, 48, fo. 83.

<sup>82</sup> *De Banco Roll*, 23-24 Ed. I, m. 280d.

<sup>83</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 144.

<sup>84</sup> *De Banco Roll*, Mich., 2 Ed. III, m. 334d.

<sup>85</sup> *Cal. Close Rolls*, 8 Ed. III, p. 300.

XXI. WALTER OF HINK. (Walter de Hink, 1368. *Willis.*)

Walter, abbot of Newminster, occurs in 1337<sup>86</sup> and 1358.<sup>87</sup>

XXII. ROBERT OF HORSLEY. (Robert de Horsley, 1389. *Willis.*)

Robert, abbot of Newminster, was a party to a deed relating to mills at Shotton, dated 4th October, 1393.<sup>88</sup> Robert of Horsley, abbot of Newminster, quitclaimed lands in Titlington by deed, dated 11th June, 1394.<sup>89</sup>

XXIII. JOHN OF MORPETH. (John de Morpeth, 1415. *Willis.*)

Willis's list is the only authority for this abbot.

XXIV. WILLIAM OF HEBESCOT. (William Heppescot, 1450. *Willis.*)

William of Hebescot received the benediction as abbot of Newminster on 3rd April, 1416, from Oswald, the expelled bishop of Whithern, then suffragan bishop of Durham.<sup>90</sup>

XXV. JOHN. (John Butley, 1478. *Willis.*)

This abbot occurs in 1467 as visitor of the abbey of Sawley, and late abbot of Sawley.<sup>91</sup> His name is given variously as John Butler,<sup>92</sup> Robert Butler,<sup>93</sup> and John Birtlee.<sup>94</sup> He was the builder of Rothley tower.<sup>94</sup>

XXVI. DAVID MARSHALL. (David Marshall, 1482. *Willis.*)

David, abbot of Newminster, was in 1479 visitor of the abbey of Roche.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, 11 Ed. III, p. 138.

<sup>87</sup> Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II, vol. ii, p. 417, quoting *Lansdown MS.*, 326, fo. 43b.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, quoting *Cartæ Ridleanæ*, 133.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, part II, vol. i, p. 389, quoting *Lansdown MS.*, 326, Ogle deeds, no. 119.

<sup>90</sup> Surtees, *Durham*, vol. I, p. lvii.

<sup>91</sup> Brit. Mus., *Harleian MS.*, 6972, p. 34 (extracts from Archiepiscopal Registers of York). This appears to add a name to the list of abbots of Sawley.

<sup>92</sup> Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II, vol. i, p. 304.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, part II, vol. ii, p. 417.

<sup>94</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, p. 262.

<sup>95</sup> Brit. Mus., *Harleian MS.*, 6972, p. 36.

XXVII. ROBERT CHARLETON. (Roger Charlton, 1500. *Willis*.)

This abbot was a party to a deed dated 28th August, 1484.<sup>96</sup> He occurs in the chartulary several times between 1485 and 1494.<sup>97</sup> In a letter of Marmaduke, abbot of Fountains, relating to the election of a prioress of the nunnery of Saint Bartholomew in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 'one Charleton, then the abbot of Newmynster,' is mentioned as holding office during the episcopate of bishop Sherwood of Durham.<sup>98</sup>

XXVIII. JOHN LANGTON. (John Langton, 1516. *Willis*.)

John occurs as abbot in deeds dated 10th October, 1507,<sup>99</sup> and 29th March, 1514.<sup>100</sup>

XXIX. ROGER MORPETH. (Roger Morpeth, 1516. *Willis*.)

XXX. GERARD DUXFELD. (Gerard Duxfield, 1537. *Willis*.)

Willis's date is obviously incorrect. Gerard had resigned by 3rd August, 1527, when a pension was granted to him by the abbot and convent, together with lodging in the abbey.<sup>101</sup> He had probably then ruled for at least ten years.<sup>102</sup> He occurs in a deed dated 14 January, 1523.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>96</sup> Hodgson, *Northumberland*, part II, vol. ii, p. 417.

<sup>97</sup> *Newminster Chartulary*, pp. 189, 196, 250, 252, 254, 255, 259.

<sup>98</sup> Brit. Mus., *Additional MS.*, 24965, fo. 37, printed in Hearne, *Duo rerum Anglicarum scriptores veteres* (1732), vol. II, p. 576, and in 42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 439, and calendared in *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, vol. III, no. 3189.

<sup>99</sup> P.R.O., *Land Revenue Enrolment Book*, no. 173, fo. 63. Abstracts of this deed, and of others enrolled in the same volume which are mentioned hereafter, are given in an appendix to this paper.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 70b.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 62; and see P.R.O., *Ministers' Accounts*, 29-30 Hen. VIII, no. 204, m. 1d.

<sup>102</sup> Abbas qui bene reperit per decennium habeat competentem pensionem. *Mem. of Fountains*, 42 Surt. Soc. publ., p. 283.

<sup>103</sup> P.R.O., *Land Revenue Enrolment Book*, no. 173, fo. 71, also in an undated deed enrolled on fo. 73.

## XXXI. EDWARD TYRREY.

Was abbot from 1527 to the date of the dissolution of the monastery<sup>104</sup> in 1537. Lord Dacre referred to him as his monk, Dan Edward Tirrey, in a letter, which was written in 1523, to the abbot of Fountains.<sup>105</sup> He occurs in deeds dated in the years 1527, 1528, and 1534<sup>106</sup>; also in the year 1529.<sup>107</sup> A pension was granted to him in 1538.<sup>108</sup>

## APPENDIX.

The following are short abstracts of Newminster deeds, referred to above, in volume 173 of the Land Revenue Enrolment books of the Augmentation Office.

10th October, 1507. Robert Ramys of Shortflatt, gentleman in the county of Northumberland, to John, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place. Lease of all his land, tenements and pastures in the town of Greneleighton with all profits and commodities thereunto belonging, that is to say, as well in Harwodde as Rowgley or any other pastures. Term, 40 years. Rent, 10s. On expiration of term, the ferm to be increased or decreased if it fortune to be war or troublous words after the discretion of sir Robert Watson, vicar of Whelpington, and John of Killingworth, if they fortune to live at that time, etc. Witnesses: Dan William Belle, prior of Newminster, sir Robert Watson, vicar of Whelpington, John of Killingworth, Edward Ward (fo. 63).

29 March, 1514. John, abbot, and the convent of Newminster to Edmond Duke and Isabella his wife. Lease of 'farmold' in Meresfen for their lives. Rent, 26s. 8d (fo. 70b).

14 January, 1523. Gerard, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place, to Roger Pye. Lease of their mill within the abbey with garths annexed, with three 'kye Gyrse.' Term, 40 years. Rent, 66s. 8d. Also a garth called Our Lady Garth. Rent, 3s. 4d. (fo. 71).

<sup>104</sup> P.R.O., *Land Revenue Enrolment Book*, no. 173, fo. 76, 'tempore dissolucionis illius et diu antea Abbas inde fuit.'

<sup>105</sup> Brit. Mus., *Additional MS.*, 24, 965, fo. 36b.

<sup>106</sup> P.R.O., *Land Revenue Enrolment Book*, no. 173, fos. 62, 65, 63b. The last mentioned of these deeds is printed in the *Northumberland County History*, vol. ix, p. 350.

<sup>107</sup> *Reg. Test. Ebor.*, ix, 453.

<sup>108</sup> Gasquet, *Henry VIII and the English Monasteries*, vol. II (1893), p. 166.

(No date.) Gerard, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same, to Edward Swynborne of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchant. Lease of a tenement in Middle street, Newcastle. Bounds: tenement of Ralph Carr on south, a common way from Middle street to 'vicus pannal' on north, Middle street on the west, and 'dictum pannalem' on the east. Term, 61 years. Rent, 6s. 8d. (fo. 73).

3 August, 1527. Edward Tyrry, abbot of the monastery of St. Mary of Newminster and the convent of the same place, to Girrard Duxfeld, late abbot. Grant of a pension of 10*l.* a year for life, with the use of the castell chamber 'desuper claustrum abbatis,' etc. (fo. 62).

14 February, 1528. Edward, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same, to Thomas Patynson of Hulkam Grange, the younger. Lease of the grange for life, Thomas to receive certain wages, cattle, etc., for keeping the pastures and tilling the husbandry in due ferme (fo. 65).

7 April, 1528. Edward, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place to John Swynburne of Chopwell, the elder, esquire, Ann, his wife, and John Swynburne, the younger, and his sons. Lease of the manor of Chopwell. Term, 51 years. Rent, 26*l.* 13s. 4d. (fo. 74).

12 March, 1533. Edward, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place, to Thomas Ray, Marion, his wife, and their children lawfully begotten. Lease of the water mill of Stannington. Term, 30 years. Rent, 4*l.* (fo. 66).

3 May, 1534. Edward, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place, to Thomas Abbney. Lease of both the closes called the Horses Closes at the townhead. Term, 60 years. Rent, 16s. (fo. 67).

24 January, 1535. Edward, abbot of Newminster and the convent of the same place to sir Philip Dacres, kt., and Roger Pye, yeoman. Lease of their seven salt pans at Blythesnoke with also the Wyder Granary there for keeping of the salt with also their two Coibbekks, etc. Term, 7 years. Rent, 24*l.* (fo. 63b).