

VIII.—SOME FOURTEENTH CENTURY ILLUMINATED INITIALS.

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OF THE SOCIETY.

[Read on 27th October 1937.]

I. INTRODUCTION.

The armorials and devices here described and illustrated are painted within initial letters on folios 190 *verso* to 193 *verso* in a fourteenth-century manuscript, no. C.1.14, in the library of the cathedral church of Durham.¹ This manuscript consists of the sixth book of the decretals with three commentaries² upon it and also an exposition of the rules of canon law. The first part contains the commentary of Johannes Andreae,³ which ends on folio 72 *recto*. Part II contains the text of the sixth decretal, written in a large script in the centre of each folio and surrounded on all sides by closely written *marginalia*: the commentary or gloss of Johannes Monachus;⁴ both end on folio 198 *recto*.

¹ The writer is indebted to the dean and chapter of Durham and to their librarian and chapter clerk, Mr. C. F. Battiscombe, for the loan of the manuscript and for allowing the photographs, from which this paper is illustrated, to be made.

² For the notes upon the lives of these commentators the writer has to thank professor A. Hamilton Thompson.

³ Lived c. 1275-1348; lectured, for some forty-five years, in canon law at Bologna. His commentaries upon the decretals became accepted as almost equal in authority to that of the texts themselves. His epitaph called him, *Rabbi doctorum, Lux, Censor Normaque Morum*.

⁴ A Frenchman (Jean Lemoine) less well known than Andreae. He wrote a number of commentaries or glosses. Created cardinal-priest with the title of SS. Marcellino and Pietro; died in 1313. His cardinalate thus covered the publication of the *Liber Sextus Decretalium* by Boniface VIII.

The third part consists of the commentary of Guydo de Baysio,⁵ and like the first part is written in a small, close script. The final part is an exposition of the rules of canon law by Dignus Mùgellanus.⁶ The rules themselves are written in a large script with the exposition in a smaller hand following each; this ends on folio 323 *recto*. The last folio, 324, is much mutilated and repaired, probably when the volume was rebound. At the head of this page the donor of the volume records his name and gift, in a bold fourteenth-century hand: *Liber Santi Cuthberti assignatus Communi Armarielo Dunelmensis ecclesie ex procuracione fratris Roberti de la Lidene Monachi ejusdem ecclesie. Cujus anime propicietur deus Amen.* A mutilated sentence, in the same bold hand, is beneath this, recording the contents of the manuscript: [*Li*]ber sextus decretalium cum tribus glosis et digno de regulio juris.

The initial letters of the three commentaries and of the exposition are painted in gold upon a background of light purple and blue with fine white scroll-work upon it; some few of them are decorated with foliage and grotesques within the letters. The initials in the text of the decretal are larger than those in the commentaries and are illuminated in a more ornate style and are obviously the work of a master of his art. They are coloured light purple and blue traceried with delicate white scrolls and their centres filled with a variety of delightful fanciful, even fantastic devices: interlacing lines of different colours, foliage, miniature heads attached to grotesque bodies, finely drawn heads of kings, bishops and great ladies, animals, fish and intertwining lacertine monsters, all done with great precision and delicacy of touch in beautifully

⁵ Archdeacon of Bologna; died in 1313. His commentaries covered practically the whole of the canon law. He was known to subsequent writers simply as *Archidiaconus*.

⁶ The *regulae juris* are the rules or axioms of canon law contained in the Decretals of Gregory IX, lib. v, tit. xli, and in *Liber Sextus Decretalium*, lib. v, tit. xii (app.). Dignus Mùgellanus (Dino da Mugello) was a canonist of Bologna who died c. 1301. (A.H.T.)

transparent colours upon backgrounds and within borders of brightly burnished gold. (Plates IX-XI.)

Thirty-six of these initials are illuminated with armorials; as said above, they begin on folio 190 *verso* and continue, interspersed with non-heraldic devices, to folio 193 *verso* (plates V-IX); they are not placed upon shields but fill the centre spaces of the letters. They are not drawn with that delicacy and precision of touch which so distinguishes the non-armorial designs. This may be partly due to the thicker medium used to illuminate them, but it seems more probable that they have been done, after the surrounding letter was coloured, by a different hand, one certainly expert in armorial art but perhaps not so skilled in that of illumination. (Plates V-IX.)

The armorials include those of eight kings, two English saints, one bishop, twelve earls, eight barons and two knights; two, namely numbers IX and XII, the present writer has not been able to identify.

They cannot have been drawn before A.D. 1340, in which year Edward III first quartered the golden lilies of France with the leopards of England (no. 1 *post*). This is certain, nevertheless most of the arms are those of persons who flourished and died before that year. It therefore seems probable that they are not here used for the greater glory of living persons but that they have been copied from some earlier emblazoned armorials and were therefore even then in a sense historical.

The following examples show this: the ancient arms of Norway and Denmark (VIII, x) are blazoned for these countries; bishop Bek's arms (XXVI), who died in 1311, are given instead of those of bishop Richard d'Aungerville of Bury (1333-1345), the contemporary bishop of Durham; John of Eltham (XIV) died in 1336; Thomas of Brotherton (XIX) died in 1338; Edmund of Woodstock (XXVII) died in 1330 and, not to extend the list unduly, Aymer of Valence (XXIII) died in 1324.

The present writer has not been able to find any

principle of selection; they seem to have been chosen quite arbitrarily except that, with the exception of the few foreign royal arms, they are all English.

Saints Edmund and Edward (III and II), two of the three great saints of mediæval England, are commemorated as well as many of the princes of the house of Plantagenêt.

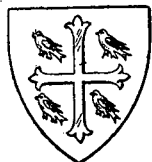
II. BLAZON OF THE ARMORIALS.

190v. I. *France (old) and England quarterly.* (Plate v.) te v.



EDWARD III after A.D. 1340, in which year he added the title king of France to that of England. He claimed the crown of France by right of inheritance from his mother, Isabel daughter of Philip IV of France, and proclaimed his right by quartering the golden fleurs-de-lis of France with the leopards of England.

II. *Azure a cross patty between five martlets gold.* (Plate v.)



EDWARD THE CONFESSOR. These arms were attributed to him about the middle of the thirteenth century. They are carved on a shield in the spandrel of the second bay of the nave arcade in the south aisle of Westminster Abbey.⁷ The

birds, as there carved, have legs and all face to the dexter; in this letter they are true martlets without legs and the upper two are placed back to back, whilst the lower two face each other—the one in base faces to the dexter. The shield as blazoned in Planché's roll of Henry III date for *Le Roie St. Edwarde* has only four martlets, one in each of the quarters,⁸ as shown in the margin.

⁷ Hist. Mon. Com., *Westminster Abbey*, plate 103.

⁸ *Genealogist*, N.S., III, 149.

III. *Azure three crowns gold.* (Plate v.)

ST. EDMUND, king and martyr. This shield is attributed to him in Planché's roll of Henry III date.⁹ In later times, probably from the time of Henry VI, each of the crowns was pierced by two arrows placed saltireways, the instruments of the saint's martyrdom. These were not used earlier, as on the reverse of the great seal known as the "golden seal," used both by Henry IV and Henry V, the shield for St. Edmund is shown as here.¹⁰ He was one of the three great saints of mediæval England. At the siege of Caerlaverock the king caused his own banner to be raised:

"Sa baniere e la Saint Eymont
La Saint George e la Saint Edward."¹¹

On the above mentioned great seal it appears with the shields of arms of St. George and St. Edward.

Fo. 191r. IV. *Gold a lion rampant within a double tressure gules.*
plate v. (Plate v.)

The royal shield of Scotland used here for king DAVID II (1329-1371). He was taken prisoner at the battle of Durham or Neville's Cross, 17 October 1346, by Sir John Coupland and not released until October 1357. These charges first appear on the reverse of the great seal of Alexander II (1214-1249).

v. *Gold an eagle displayed sable armed gules.* (Plate v.)

KING OF THE ROMANS OR, as it is blazoned in Planché's roll mentioned above, for *Roie de Almayne*.¹² The eagle is blazoned with two heads in the same roll for *Emperour de Rome*.¹³ One head for king and two for emperor, both without crowns, is therefore the distinction in that roll. It is, however, carved with only one uncrowned head for the emperor Frederick II on a spandril of the wall arcade of the north aisle of the nave in Westminster Abbey.¹⁴

⁹ *Ibid.* It is there given for *St. Edwarde*, whose name and correct shield immediately follow it. It is obviously a mistake for *St. Edmund*.

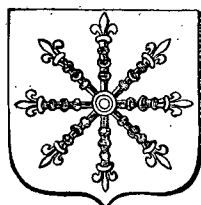
¹⁰ *Durham Seals*, no. 3037. *Arch. Ael.*³ XIII, p. 130.

¹¹ *Poem of Caerlaverock*, ed. Wright, p. 35.

¹² *Genealogist*, N.S., III, 149.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Hist. Mon. Com., Westminster Abbey*, plate 102.

VI. *Azure an escarbuncle gold.* (Plate v.)

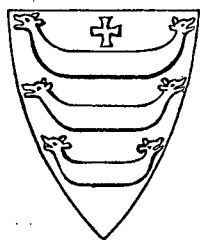
Probably for the KING OF NAVARRE, though the field should be gules. It is blazoned in Walford's roll *LE ROY DE NAVARRE gules un carbuncle d'or*.¹⁵ The later form of this shield was *gules a saltire and double orle of chains linked together or*. The shield, as drawn in the initial letter, is very like that drawn by Jerome de Bara in the margin.

191v. VII. *Quarterly I and IV gules a triple-towered castle gold—*
te VI. *Castile, II and III silver a lion rampant purple—Leon.* (Plate VI.)



KING OF SPAIN. Walford's roll of Henry III date so blazons this shield.¹⁶ Planché's roll of like date marshals it I and IV Leon, II and III Castile, and gives the field of Leon purple with the lion silver.¹⁷ *Le Roy d'Espagne* at this time was Alfonso XI (1312-1350).

VIII.—*Gules three ancient ships gold a silver crosslet at each mast head.* (Plate VI.)



KING OF NORWAY. Matthew Paris on the margin of the *Historia Minor*¹⁸ draws *gules three galleys gold a crosslet in the centre chief* as in the margin for the king of Norway who, with many other kings, five of whose shields he draws in the same margin, had taken the cross with Henry III of England. Though the arms drawn in this manuscript have masts and rigging they are probably intended for Norway, whose later shield, as blazoned in Planché's roll,¹⁹ was *gules a lion rampant gold holding a battle-axe silver*.

¹⁵ *Archæologia* XXXIX.

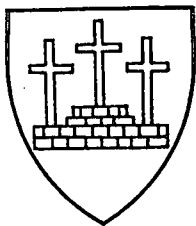
¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ *Genealogist*, N.S., III, 149.

¹⁸ Ed. Madden, vol. III, page 95.

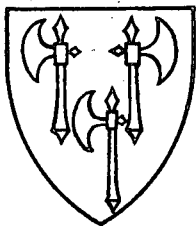
¹⁹ *Genealogist*, N.S., III, 150.

- IX. *Azure three Latin crosses upon masonry gold, the centre one higher than that on each side.* (Plate VI.)



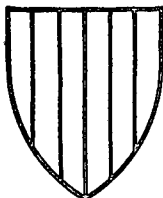
The editor has been unable to identify this shield.

- X. *Gules three battle-axes gold with blades silver.* (Plate VI.)



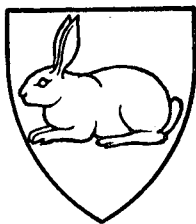
KING OF DENMARK. This shield is so blazoned for *Le Roy de Danemarke* in Planché's roll.²⁰ In Walford's roll his shield is given *d'or un beauff gulez*.²¹ The modern shield is *gold powdered with hearts gules three crowned leopards azure*.

- XI. *Paly gold and gules.* (Plate VI.)



KING OF ARAGON, so blazoned for him in both Walford's and Planché's rolls. Probably for Peter IV, 1336-1387.

- XII. *Azure a rabbit gold.* (Plate VI.)

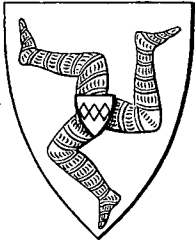


The editor has not been able to identify this shield.

²⁰ *Genealogist*, N.S., III, 150.

²¹ *Archæologia* xxxix.

- XIII. *Silver three men's legs conjoined at the thighs in armour—Man, at the centre an escutcheon silver a fess indented of three fusils gules—Montagu. (Plate VI.)*



WILLIAM MONTAGU, earl of Salisbury (1337) and lord of Man (1333), died 1344. The shield of his son is blazoned, in Willement's roll of Richard II, quarterly I and IV Montagu, II and III Man.

- XIV. *England and a border of France. (Plate VI.)*



JOHN OF ELTHAM, earl of Cornwall, second son of Edward II, warden of the marches in Northumberland 1335, commander of the army in Scotland 1336, died at Perth in 1336, buried in St. Edmund's chapel, Westminster Abbey, where his alabaster tomb and effigy, with this shield on his left arm, yet remain.²²

- 192r. XV. *England and a label of five points azure. (Plate VI.)*
ce VI.

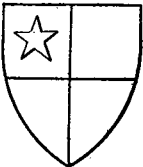


EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES. This shield was borne by Edward II from 1301 to 1307. The Caerlaverock poem²³ says:

"E portait o un bleu label
Les armes le bon roi son pere."

It was also borne by Edward of Windsor until his accession as Edward II in 1327, and by his son Edward the Black Prince until 1340.

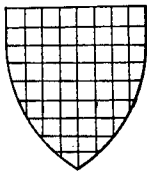
- XVI. *Quarterly gules and gold a molet of six points silver in the quarter. (Plate VI.)*



JOHN DE VERE, seventh earl of Oxford and Great Chamberlain of England (1331-1360), captain in the army against Scotland 1333, joint commander of the first division both at Creçy and at Poitiers.

²² Hist. Mon. Com., *Westminster Abbey*, plate 188, and page 42b.

²³ Ed. Wright, page 18.

XVII. *Checky gold and azure.* (Plate VI.)

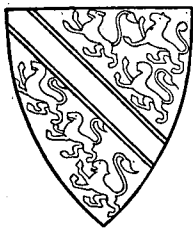
JOHN OF WARRENNE, earl of Surrey and Warenne (1305), earl of Strathearn in Scotland (1334), councillor of regency (1345), died 1347.

Fo. 192v. XVIII. *England and a label of five points of France.* plate VII. (Plate VII.)

HENRY OF GROSOMONT, earl of Lancaster (1345), created duke (1352), died 1361.

XIX. *England and a label of five points silver.* (Plate VII.)

THOMAS OF BROTHERTON, fifth son of Edward I and first by his second wife Margaret of France, created earl of Norfolk 13 December 1312, marshal of England 10 February 1316, styled earl marshal 1333, died 1338. His seal has a label of three points only, and his shield blazoned in *Jenyn's Ordinary* for *Le Conte Mareschall* has the same.

XX. *Azure a bend gold cotised silver between six lions rampant silver.* (Plate VII.)

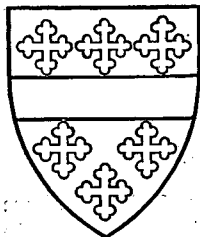
HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, earl of Hereford and Essex 1298, hereditary constable of England 1298, lord of Annandale 1306, warden of the marches towards Scotland 1309, at the siege of Caerlaverock 1300, where he had:

Baniere ot de Inde cendal fort,
O une blanche bende lee
De deus costices entre alec,
De or fin dont au dehors assis
Ot en rampant lyoncaus sis.²⁴

²⁴ Ed. Wright, page 4.

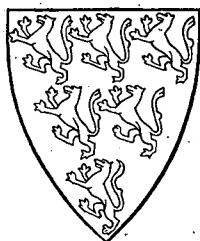
His wife was Elizabeth daughter of Edward I and widow of John count of Holland. He was killed at Boroughbridge 16 March 1322. His will was dated at Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, 11 August 1319.

XXI. *Gules a fess between six crosses crosslet gold.* (Plate VII.)



THOMAS BEAUCHAMP, earl of Warwick 1315, knighted by Edward III 1 January 1330, a founder of the Garter, marshal of England 1344, commanded first division at Poitiers 1356, died 13 November 1369.

XXII. *Azure six lions rampant gold.* (Plate VII.)



WILLIAM LONGESPEE, natural son of Henry II, earl of Salisbury 1198, died 1226, or for his son William who was killed in Egypt 1250. Both seem too early for the arms in this text, but they were borne by no one later so far as the present writer can discover. The lions; because of the space to be used, are here drawn three and three instead of the usual three, two and one, as in the margin.

XXIII. *Barry of nineteen silver and azure an orle of martlets gules.* (Plate VII.)



AYMER DE VALENCE, earl of Pembroke; his father William was half-brother of Henry III; lord of Montignac 1301, earl of Pembroke 1307, warden of the east marches towards Scotland 1306, guardian of Scotland 1307, a lord ordainer 1310, guardian of England 1320. He was present at the battle of Falkirk 1298 and at Caerlaverock in 1300, and his arms are blazoned in the rolls named after that battle and siege. He died 23rd June 1324; his alabaster effigy and tomb is on the north side of the presbytery in Westminster Abbey.²⁵

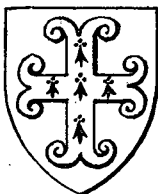
²⁵ Hist. Mon. Com., *Westminster Abbey*, plate 34.

XXIV. *Gules a lion rampant silver.* (Plate VII.)

JOHN THIRD LORD MOWBRAY, son of John second lord Mowbray, born 1310, died 1361, distinguished himself in the French and Scottish wars, and was summoned to parliament 1327-1360. His first wife was Joan daughter of Henry earl of Lancaster, his second Elizabeth daughter of John de Vere earl of Oxford.

XXV. *Gold a lion rampant azure.* (Plate VII.)

HENRY, THE SECOND LORD PERCY of Alnwick, born 1299, succeeded 1315, granted Warkworth castle 1328, commanded at Neville's Cross 1346, summoned to parliament 1322-52, died at Warkworth 27 February 1351/52. This shield was first used by his father, who discarded the old arms of an indented fess. He probably adopted it, differenced in colour, from the shield of the Fitz Alans, earls of Arundel, when he married Eleanor daughter of John Fitz Alan, earl of Arundel. This shield is blazoned in the Falkirk roll²⁶ (1298), in the poem of Caerlaverock²⁷ (1300) and in later rolls of arms.

Fo. 193r. XXVI. *Gules a mill-rind cross ermine.* (Plate VIII.)
plate VIII.

ANTONY BEK, bishop of Durham 1283-1311. The cross is differenced from that of the main branch of the family by changing its silver to ermine; the bishop was the only one who so bore it. He was at the battle of Falkirk (1298), where he commanded the second division. The poem of Caerlaverock gives a whole stanza in his praise; he could not be there himself, but he sent a hundred and sixty men at arms with his banner *vermeille o un fer de molyn de ermine*.^{27a} His seal shows the same cross embroidered upon his chasuble.²⁸

²⁶ *The Reliquary*, xvi, no. 98.

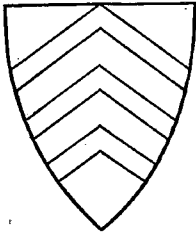
²⁷ Ed. Wright, p. 6.

^{27a} *Ibid.*, p. 22.

²⁸ *Arch. Ael.*³ xiv, 240, no. 3125.

XXVII. *England and a border silver.* (Plate VIII.)

EDMUND OF WOODSTOCK, youngest son of Edward I, earl of Kent 1321, lieutenant in the marches towards Scotland 1323, chief commissioner of array in the north 1323, captain of the army in the north marches 1327, beheaded 19 March 1330. Married Margaret, sister of Thomas lord Wake of Liddel (see shield *post* no. XXXII). This shield is blazoned for him in Jenyn's Ordinary.²⁹

XXVIII. *Gold three chevrons gules.* (Plate VIII.)

GILBERT OF CLARE, seventh earl of Gloucester and Hertford, knighted 22 May 1306, succeeded as earl 1307, chief guardian of Scotland 1309, with the king at Norham castle in August 1310, keeper of the realm 4 March 1311, killed at the battle of Bannockburn 24 June 1314 and buried in Tewkesbury Abbey. The shield is blazoned as here in many rolls of arms.

XXIX. *Gules three bougets silver.* (Plate VIII.)

WILLIAM LORD ROS OF HELMSLEY. Probably for the second baron, the competitor for the throne of Scotland, warden of the west marches towards Scotland and actively employed in Edward's Scottish wars, had a grant of the castle of Wark upon Tweed, summoned to parliament 1295-1315, died 1317. He was present at Caerlaverock, where his banner was *rouge o trois bouz blans*.³⁰

XXX. *Gold a maunch gules.* (Plate VIII.)

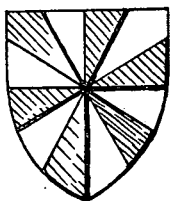
SIR JOHN HASTINGS, lord Hastings of Abergavenny, paid homage for his lands 25th March 1313, fought at Bannockburn 1314, summoned to parliament 1313 to 1324, died 20 January 1324/25. These arms are blazoned for his father in the Caerlaverock poem³¹ and for himself in the *Parliamentary roll*³² under the arms of the bannerets of England.

²⁹ Walford's *Antiquarian*, no. 803.

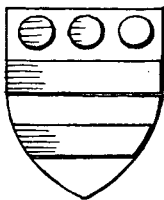
³⁰ Ed. Wright, p. 8.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

³² *Genealogist*, N.S., XI, 109, no. 21.

xxxI. *Gyronny of fourteen gold and azure.* (Plate VIII.)

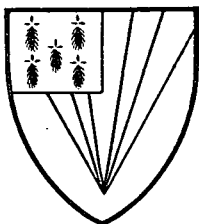
SIR WARIN BASSINGBURN. He was the son and heir of Sir Edmund Bassingburn; these arms are blazoned for him in the *Parliamentary roll*³³ under Lincolnshire, in which county he held a knight's fee at Bliburgh. He was knighted with Edward prince of Wales, 22 May 1306; died *circa* A.D. 1317.

xxxII. *Gold two bars gules and in chief three torteaux.* (Plate VIII.)

THOMAS LORD WAKE OF LIDDEL. He was son and heir of John first lord Wake and was summoned to parliament 1317 to 1348, served in the Scottish war of 1336, died 31 May 1349. His wife was Blanche daughter of Henry earl of Lancaster, his sister Margaret was the wife of Edmund of Woodstock earl of Kent (above no. xxvii). His niece and heiress Joan, known as the Fair Maid of Kent, married Edward the Black Prince in 1361. This shield is carved upon the battlements of Bothal castle, Northumberland.

xxxIII. *Gules a cross patty gold.* (Plate VIII.)

WILLIAM LE LATIMER, second lord Latimer of Danby, summoned to parliament 1299 to 1326, fought in the Scottish wars, taken prisoner at Bannockburn 1314, was on the side of the king at Boroughbridge 16 March 1321/22, one of commissioners to make peace with Robert Bruce, died 27 February 1326/27.

xxxIV. *Gules three piles meeting in base gold and a canton ermine.* (Plate VIII.)

SIR RALPH BASSET of Drayton, knight. A baron summoned from 1299 to 1342, steward of Aquitaine, seneschal of Gascony, constable of Dover and warden of the Cinque ports, died 25 February 1343. These arms are blazoned in the *Parliamentary roll*.³⁴

³³ *Genealogist*, N.S., XII, p. 135, no. 670.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, XI, p. III, no. 96.



Fo. 190 VERSO



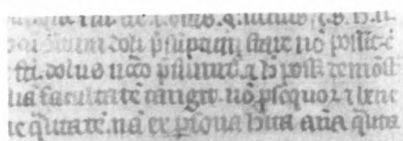
Fo. 191 RECTO



Fo. 191 VERSO



Fo. 192 RECTO

[illegible]

ff. si omnia. ca. tes. p. totum. ff. 5. Cito
p. totum. documentum. ti. et. multa. q. 5.

q opitendo pte bnfu in rebu actian
e nica. zenu si nō ftraudner ar. c. de
ostō nona. s. h. l. p. plen. si dicit r gene
re in diuina expuendo sō ca sōda
in nullis sūt gēuā dā dūis. z. effū

al' leus. ut dictis. l. dūm q. ne ut sū
am effū. s. h. l. p. plen. si dicit r gene
re in diuina expuendo sō ca sōda
in nullis sūt gēuā dā dūis. z. effū

omina que sequuntur et
illo. **I**dem.

Lurales
locutio?
duorum
numero est ostenta. **I**dem.

Nputari
non debet ei
p quem non
stat si nō fa
at qō p eum
fuerat facitroum. **I**dem.

Cessoruz
īm seqōz
it pnapali.

Vi ta **I**dem
cet ostenti
re vi. **I**dem.

S qui tacz nō
fateat. set nec
vitiqz negare
urdetur. **I**dem.
Ispiciam iob
scaris qō est
iusimili ut
qō vltimqz fieri osucur. **I**dem.

S qui nūm
succedit alit
mīs eo nūm
quo ille uti debebit. **I**dem.

Resumit ig
norācia v sūa
nō plat. **I**dem.

Dupletan
non debet a
laquis atz

it agutus tempibz pmonet p h i p
pat genali puilio xēdo epus sup tem
re dōz ordinum. ut s. h. l. p. plen. si dicit r gene
re in diuina expuendo sō ca sōda
in nullis sūt gēuā dā dūis. z. effū

C. de codicill. l. q. s. si. requirunt i plur
b est in iure ex pūū sic lō. dā. m. a.
len a omitt. si. l. optmam. e. n. a.
Nputari. p. a. ff. ta u
xō. inde. l. iure. dūh. a. ff. d.
e. si est. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ po





Fo. 193 VERSO

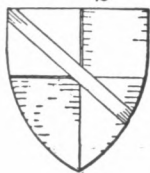




INITIALS WITH VARIOUS DEVICES.

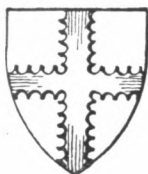


Fo. 193v. XXXV. *Quarterly gold and gules a bend sable.* (Plate IX.)
plate IX.



JOHN FITZ ROBERT, lord of Warkworth, Northumberland, and of Costessey, Norfolk, assumed the name of Claving from his manor of that name in Essex, summoned to parliament 1299 to 1331, served in the Scottish wars. He was with his father Robert fitz Roger at Caerlaverock,³⁵ whose shield he differenced by a green label. He died 18 January 1332.

XXXVI. *Azure a cross engrailed silver.* (Plate IX.)



The only bearer of this shield that the writer can trace was SIR THOMAS BROUGHTON. It is blazoned for him in Willement's roll of Richard II, which seems too late.

³⁵ Ed. Wright, p. 4.



Seal of the abbey of Bury
St. Edmunds A.D. 1423.
See no. III p. 208 above.