

CHERTSEY ABBEY AFTER THE DISSOLUTION.

BY

HILARY JENKINSON, F.S.A., Hon. Sec.,

AND

F. PURYER WHITE, B.A.

INFORMATION touching the disposal of the fabric of the Religious houses immediately after they passed into lay hands is not commonly found. That used in the present Paper, which will be left for the most part to speak for itself, is scanty enough, but is all that has at present been traced, and has some slight interest as a sixteenth-century account; this is accentuated by the fact that the Surrey Record Society is at present dealing with the imposing "Leiger Book" of the Abbey, still preserved at the Public Record Office. It does not appear to have been noticed by previous writers.

It will be remembered that after the surrender of the Monastery in 1537 the Monks and their property were alike transferred to the King's newly-founded Abbey of Bisham. This, however, with its possessions, was in turn surrendered in 1538. The site of the Abbey does not seem to have been granted away from the Crown till the following reign.¹ It has been suggested that after the Dissolution the buildings of the Abbey remained standing and were more than once used for important religious and political purposes.² On the other hand, it is stated that materials taken from them were used in the works at Oatlands.³ The present document confirms this last

¹ To Sir William FitzWilliam in 1553.

² Miss Wheeler, *Chertsey Abbey*, quoting Cardinal Gasquet, etc.

³ Cp. *ibidem*, Preface, p. viii.

fact and would seem to suggest that demolition taken in hand immediately after the Dissolution was on a considerable scale: though of course many of the large number of workmen engaged may have been employed upon rebuilding, alterations or repairs, of which also we have evidence in our present document. It is notable that there is little mention of expenditure upon actual building material.

This fragmentary book is among the Records of the King's Remembrancer's department of the Exchequer.¹ It consists of no more than 25 leaves, of which a number are blank or badly damaged.

It opens—

LIBER PRIMUS.

Charsey Abbey. Costes and Expenses Don there from . . . of Marche in the xxix^{ti} yere of the . . . our Soueraynge Lord Kyng Henry vnto the xx^{ti} Daye of Aprill then Ensueuyng.

We go on next to a fragmentary account of "Bryklaers." On the next page occur the names² of fourteen workmen, indicating the days on which each worked and their wages (apparently at 7 d. per day). The days on which work was done are indicated by ○—filled in ● if the particular man did no work.

Next we have an account of four "Plumers at x d. the daye" for periods of sixteen days; then five "Plumers at viii d. the day"; and then—

Clarke of the Worke at vj d. the daye	Robert Wolphe at vj d. the day by the space of xxxv ^{ti} dayes	xvij s. [vj d.]
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This is followed by accounts of seventeen "Laborers att vd. the daye," and again, of ninety-six labourers at 4 d. and 5 d. a day. The names of all these are given. It is clear that there was considerable labour involved.

¹ Exch. Acts, 459|22: see also Letters and Papers, Henry VIII, Vol. XIII, i, p. 457.

² These and other names subsequently referred to are given in an Appendix to this Paper.

Then we come to something more directly bearing on the work of destruction. Again we get some idea of the amount to be done from the materials provided.

Empeion of strawe	{	Item paid to Sir Thomas Ponder vicar of Charsey for one lode of straw of hym bowght and delynered in to the abbey at xx d. the lode seruyng to east downe stonys for brekyng	}	ij s.
		Item payd to John Granet of Charsey for iiij lode of strawe of hym bowght and delynered in the abbey at xx d. the lode seruyng to east downe the stonys of the stepull upon for brekyng		
	{	Also payd to John Tyce of the same for iij lode of strawe of hym bowght and delynered in the abbey at lyke pryce afore sayd seruyng for the sayde stone	}	v s.

The next items seem to suggest a certain amount of building as well as demolition.

land carryage of lyme and chalke from the bryge in to the abbey	{	Also payde to Wyllyam Clerke of Chersey for land Caryage of x tubbys of lyme from the bryge vnto the abbey conteynung v lode at ij d. the lode	}	x d.
		Also to the same for land carryage of iiij lode of chalke from the bryge aforesaid in to the abbey at lyke pryce		
land carryage of gynnys, skalys and weyghttes from the watersyde	{	Also to the same for lande Caryage of gynnys skalys and wayghttes from the bryge aforesayd in to the abbey conteynung iij lode at ij d. the lode	}	vj d.

Then we get a momentary glimpse at the architecture of the unfortunate building.

[Em]peion of [b]askettes	{	Item paid to Rye' langley of Chersey for ij grett baskettes seruyng for to lett downe the small stonys of the penakylles of the stepull pryce the pece ij d.	}	iiij d.
Summa precii		xiiij s. [altered from xiiij s. viij d.]		

The sum relates, of course, to all the preceding expenditure. Each of the amounts in the right hand margin has "soll'" against it, indicating that the whole account had been checked: the same applies to practically all the sums set out in this account. It may be noticed that the pinnacles are to be taken down with some care; there is no mention of their being broken. Next we have more material.

... earyage of ... barowys and ... r]oppys	Item paid to Thomas Butler of Egham for caryage of a dossen of whele Barowys and iiij bast roppys from Hampton Courte to Chersey bryge /	}	
Empeion of sand	{ Also payd to the same for xij lode of sand of hym bowght and delyuered in the abbey at iiij d. the lode	}	iiij s.
Land caryage of talwood ser- uynge for the plummers	{ Also payd to John Rogert of Cher- sey for Caryage of ij C of tawll woode from brytehett to the abbey contaynyng iiij lode at iiij d. the lode	}	xvj d.
	{ Also payd to Wylliam Clarke of the same for lyke Carryage of ij C of tawle woode at lyke pryce aforesaid	}	xvj d.

[Total 5 s. 8 d.]

It is not quite clear what the plumbers were doing; possibly stripping lead from the roofs. Talwood is presumably scaffolding.

Coming now to ironwork, we seem again to be turning to preservation. We soon return to demolition however, and still upon the luckless steeple.

Irne Worke.

Also payd to William Tucker of Chersey smyth for a new stocke locke seruynge for the glasyers price	}	viiij d.
Item to the same for new transposyng of viij olde loekes Wyth the keys seruynge for sundrey dorres in the abbey	}	ij s. viij d.

Item to the same for new transposyng of x mattookes with stelyng of the same pryce the peece x d.	} viij s. iiij d.
Item to the same for batteryng and sharpyng of iCxxv mattookes at sundry tymys seruyng for the brycke layers for euery mattocke j d. ob.	} xiiij s. iiij d. [vj d. <i>struck through</i>]
Item to the same for ij boltes ij for lockes a hocke ij haspys and ij stapulles seruyng for the grett gyn ponderyng xxviii. of the kynges Irne takyng for euery pownde so wrowght ob'	} xiiij d.

[Total 27 s. 1 d.]

Item to the same for a payre of looses seruyng for The bryckelayers for to lose and pull vp the stonys of the stepull	} xvj s.
Item to the same for new shuttyng poyntyng and stelyng of vj Crowys of Irne seruyng for the bryckelayers and Carpenters at vj d. the peece	} iiij s.
Item to the same for ij dryft pynnys seruyng for the Carpenters	} iiij d.
Item to the same for new workyng of xxiiij li. of Irne seruyng for the bybe at ob' the j li. the kyng fyndyng Irne	} xij d.
Item to the same for a houke seruyng for the plummers ponderyng xvj li. at ob' the j li. the kyng fyndyng Irne	} viij d.
Item to the same for tothyng of a Rake seruyng for the plummers	} iiij d.
Item to the same for makyng of Rynges and stapulles seruyng for weyghttes ponderyng xxiiij li. at ob. the j li. the kyng fyndyng Irne	} xij d.
Item to the same for new mendyng of hamars Chezelles bryckeaxes with bateryng of the same	} xij d.
Item to the same for makyng of a new Cheyne seruyng for the apontt ponderyng vi li. at ob. the j li. the kyng fyndyng Irne	} iiij d.
Item to the same for new makyng of iiij Chezelles and a Clausyng Irne seruyng for the bryckelayers	} viij d.
Item to the same for a Rape seruyng for the plummers	} xij d.

[Total 10 s. 7 d.]

What a "clausyng" iron was, and what a "rape" and a "bybe," is not quite clear. "Coppys" (in the next paragraph) also presents difficulties. A drift is the known name for a kind of boring tool, but this may be a "dryst" (? dressed) pin.

Item to the same Wylliam tucker aforesayd for a bolt the Coppys iij Rynges and iij pyckes for iij polles sernyng for to bere the beme and skalles for to way lede and yrne	}	xvj d.
Item to the same for new stelyng of xij mattookes sernyng for the brykelayers [at <i>interlincated</i> <i>with caret</i>] iij d. the pece		
Also payde to Myghell' oppem of Wyndsore Smyth for vj yrne Crowys sernyng for the brycklayers and Carpenters ponderyng lxxj li. at j d. ob. the li'.	}	viiij s. x d. ob.
hewyng and Also payde to Thomas burton of Oke- squaryng of kyngggham for hewyng and squaryng Tymber of xx loddes of [tym <i>struck through</i>] square tymber In the byrchett in the parysshé of Cherssey at xij d. the lode		

Here occur several blank folios and some fragmentary scraps of writing, the latter being as follows:—

Item dew vnto thomas burton' for howyng and squaryng of xx lod of tymber In the borchat In the parych of Charey at xijd. the lod — the hol — xx s.
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Again:—

Item delynuered to myghell vppem to ottelandes yrne ij C.

And again (with once more a direct though fragmentary reference to the Abbey):—

. . . in prest to stevyn Cryspian the vij th daye of apryll for tak[ynge] downe sondry lodgeynges flowres the abbey apon afore . . .	}	. . . li.
. . . Wylliam stand' [<i>interlincated in place of</i> Ric' West <i>struck through</i>] . . . Charsey for . . . yng of talwode sernyng . . . hyll in prest		

There follow the remains of a note relating to Exchequer procedure. Apposal (*apposite*) is part of the technical process of passing an account: the two names are perhaps those of assistants.

[*Hunc librum*] continentem xxxvj fol. liberavit hic Nicholans de Louthe Recep s suis Potum et Montistrolli x^o die Maij anno regni R . . . Anglie tricesimo sexto. Et dicit quod omnes recepte [ineo con]tente vere sunt [et legales *interlineated*] et debite modo apposite.

We now pass to the "second book."

Liber Secundus.

Cost and expenses Don there from the xxjth day of Charsey Aprell in the xxx yere of the Reyngne of our Soueraynge Abbey. Lord Kyngge Henry the eyght vnto the xxvth day of Maye then next Ensheuyngge.

There follows as before an account of the labourers; showing one mason at 10 d. the day, three at 3 s. 8 d. a week, three at 3 s. 4 d. a week, and one at 3 s. a week, for periods of a week to ten days. Further, there are four carpenters at 7 d. a day, for one to four weeks; two "tyllers" at 7 d. a day for a week; "Clarke of the Workes att vj d. the daye," and forty-two labourers at 4 d. a day. All these workmen again are named.

So we return to work done for the king, whether in the way of demolition or otherwise, at the Abbey. It is tempting to explain "boekes" as books: "jestes" are of course joists. The item concerning bricks taken down and cleaned is interesting:—

land Caryage of boekes from the abbey to the brygge	{	Item paid to Rycherd hyller of Chobham for a lode of boekes Caryed from the abbey to the brygge	}	ij d.
		Item paid to John Townes of Stanwell' for a lode of boeke Caryed from the abbey to the brygge		
for land Caryage of Iestes and planckes from [O]teland to Chersey abbey	{	Item paid to Wylliam Clerke of Chersey fro the Caryage of ij lode of planckes and Iestes for [M ^r Thomas Weldon <i>struck through</i>] to make a stabull in Chersey Abbey for M ^r Thomas Weldon Cheffe Clerke of the kynges most honerabull' howsse- holde	}	xij d.

[Item paid to the same Wylliam for a lode *struck through*.]

Irre Worke.

Item paid to Wylliam Tucker of Chersey for poyntyng of xiiij mattookes for massons and bryeklayers	} } iiij d. ob.
Item for stelynge of one mattoeke	iiij d.
Item for batterying of vj hammers and bryekaxis	ij d.
Item paid to the same Wylliam for ij dryft pynnys sernyng for the Carpenters	} } iiij d.
Item paid to Thomas Clement bryekelayre for takyng downe and makyng [of <i>struck through</i>] Clene of xxv m ^l brycke at xiij d. the m ^l	} } xxv s.

Here we have a third division in the manuscript.

Cost and Expenses Don ther from the xx . . . of Maye
Charsey in the xxx^{ti} yere of the reynge of . . . soneraynge Lorde
Abbey Kyng Henry the eyght . . . to to xxiij^{ti} day of [May
struck through] June then nex[t] ensheynge.

Free Massons.

The names of the Free Masons have perished, but following them come seven Carpenters, thirty-seven bricklayers, a clerk of the works and a hundred and twenty-one labourers, all mentioned by name. Then—

Item paid to John Hayne and Robert Thomas free massons for workyng the howres of x dayes for expedysyon of ther worke enery day ij howers at jd. the howre	} } iiij s. iiij d.
Item paid to Wylliam Warn' and John brownyng laborers to the same free massons workyng lyke [dayes <i>struck through</i>] howers at ob' the howre	} } xx d.

[*The whole of this passage struck through.*]

Here we get an interesting pair of small entries touching the administration of all this work:—

Item paid to Thomas Holond' of Chersey for a howre glasse for the workemen to kepe ther howers by	} } iiij d.
Item paid to the same Thomas for d.m ^l of latyn naylles and red lether for the pay borde	} } v d.

We then go on to—

Irene Worke.

Item payde to Wylliam tucker smythe of Chersey for the batering of v Crowys and vj mattoekes and ij chezelles at iij endes a peny	} viiij d.
Item paid to the same Wylliam for makyng of ij che- zelles for the massons the kyng fyndyng yerne	} ij d.
Item paid to the same Wylliam for stelyng of the same chezelles	} iiij d.
Item paid to the same for makyng of iij dryft pymys for the Carpenters ponderyng xijli. at ob. the j li. the kyng fyndyng yerne	} vj d.
[Item for batterying of <i>struck through</i> .]	
Item paid to the same Wylliam for batterying of xxxvj bryckeaxys for the bryckelayers at iij endes a peny	} [xxij d. <i>struck through</i>]
Item paid to the same Wylliam for mendyng the henge of the grett gatte	} vj d.
Item paid to the same Wylliam for makyng of ij hewekes and ij stapulles and a key	} viij d.

With the next item demolition again seems to be going on, and upon a very interesting building.

Item paid to the same Wylliam for a days worke takyng downe the lede of the lyberary:

while the further fragmentary remains confirm a suggestion which seemed to be given by some previous allusions, that a considerable amount of material was being removed on the King's behalf to his Palace at "ottelandes."

free massons workyng howre tymys and drynky[ng] . . . for the hasty expedyseyon of certen wyndows and dor . . . to otlandes at jd. the howre.

Here follow the names of eight masons: and then two "laberers workyng theyr howers and drynkyng tymys at ob. the howre." And the last matter of importance is the mention of a

prest to Sir Jamys Kyrstyan the xxiiij day for j provysyen of stuffe for the pryvy garden	} xls.
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APPENDIX.

For convenience the names of persons employed upon the work at Chertsey have here been put together in alphabetical order under the occupations to which they are assigned. Many of them occur in more than one of the three "Books." It will be noticed that glasiars appear in the accounts, but we have not the names of any.

BRICKLAYERS.

Thomas Adams.
 John Campyon, Wylliam Chamberlayne, Thomas Clement, Gylbard
 Canes, John Canes, Ryched Canes, Robert Cowper.
 Raff Dear, John Decare, John Dennam.
 Christofer Evington.
 Roger Gathorne, Wylliam Gye.
 Ryched Hall.
 John Justys.
 Stevyn Kempe.
 Wylliam Machyn, Wylliam Marten, Nycolas More.
 John Noter.
 Cornelys Oryan.
 John Pyfford.
 Robert Scasy, Gylbard Standlyshe.
 Robert Topley.

CARPENTERS.

John Butler.
 John Fremley.
 John Lynton.
 Thomas Proper.
 Ryched Snell.
 Ryched Warner, Wylliam Warner.

MASONS.

Edward Falowfeld, John Forshall.
 Raff Hall, John Hayne, Wylliam Herryes, John Howell.
 Thomas Socheuer.
 Robert Thomas.

PLUMBERS.

Wylliam Argentynes.
 Christofer Belamy.
 John Danyell, Ryched Dode.
 John Frostowne.
 Aleyn Goldstone.
 Thomas Ratlyffe, George Rychedes.
 Robert Ossher.

TILERS.

Wylliam Drew, Rycherd Drew.

[WORKMEN : *title of occupation missing.*]

Thomas Adams.
 Rycherd Drew, Wylliam Drew.
 John de Karr, Stephen Kempe.
 Rycherd Lowe.
 Nycolas More.
 Robert Nevell.
 Rycherd Russell, Thomas Russell.
 Gylbard Standysshe.
 Robert Toppelay.
 Wylliam . . orway.

LABOURERS.

Christofer Andrew, John Anstey, Mathew Anstey, Thomas Apowell, John Apyrce, Thomas Arnolde, John Asshebery, John Athylde, John Avery.

John Baker, Ambrose Baldwyn, John Ball, Roger Banaster, Robert Barbar, Hew Barette, Wylliam Barres, — Bartellmew, Wylliam Baskafeld, Herry Becham, Wylliam Beteryge, Thomas Bora, Thomas Borde, Roger Boxworthe, John Brownyng, John Burger, senior and junior, Sawnder Burger, — Burgett, Raff Butler, John Bysshoppe.

John Chandler, Robert Church, Andrew Clerke, Jamys Clerke, Wylliam Clerke, Edmond Cobhame, Adam Colman, Thomas Come, Robert Cowper.

Wylliam Danyell, John Davy, Rycherd Davy, Lawrance Dede, Rycherd Dennam, Rycherd Dory, Thomas Dory, Hew Duffett, Wylliam Dutte, Wylliam Dyxson.

John Emstone, Christofer Evington.

Benet Federyche, Nycolas Fygge, John Fylpott.

John Gadbery, John Grene.

George Haekene, Wylliam Hall, John Hamonde, John Harvy, John Herne, Wylliam Heryson, Legys Honor, Robert Hopley, Rycherd Horne, John Hourley, senior and junior, John Howe, Edward Huxley, Wylliam Hyllar, Thomas Hyre.

Wylliam Ivert.

John Jaeson, Robert Jamys, Thomas Jenkyns, Robert Jenkynson, Nycolas Jobe, Elyzander Johns, Herry Johns, Edward Johnson.

John Kendall, Thomas Kyng, Wylliam Kyngman.

Herry Ladde, Wylliam Langden, Rycherd Langley, Thomas Langley, George Laton, John Lawnder.

John Machyn, John Marshall, Jeffery Marson, John Marten or Martyn, John Megyns, Edward Mercer, Elys Mercer, Wylliam Magonell, Jeffery More, John Morren or Moren, Robert Mylton, Robert Myntell.

Herry Newman, Rycherd Newman, Rycherd Nevell, Herry Nycolsun, John Nymys.

Stevyn Opham, John Otte.

Edward Palmer, Robert Panton, Wylliam Parker, Hew Payne, Robert Payne, John Pegett, Roger Phelyppys, Rycherd Pollen, Wattew Pottar, Wylliam Potter, Walter Potyer, Thomas Powell, John Prynee, Richerd Prynee.

John Redborne, Rycherd Redborne, Thomas Redborne, John Rede, John Redyng, Rycherd Redyng, John Rocke, Richerd Rowbotom, Wylliam Russell, Wylliam Rycherdes.

John Sallett, John Sawe, John Sawnders, Wylliam Sanbery, Christofer Shelton, John Shepard, Roger Sherett, Roger Sherell, John Shortt, Symond Skynnar, John Smythe, Valentyne Soller, Stevyn Sparow, John Stevyns, John Stevynson, John Story.

Mark Taylor, Thomas Taylor, John Tesson, John Thomas, senior and junior, John Turner, Edward Tyle, George Tymerdyn, John Tymor.

Evan Vppewell, Thomas Vppewell, Evan Vppou.

Edwarde Vyncent.

Antony Wachytt, John Wachytt *or* Vachyt, George Wall, Edward Warner, Thomas Warner, William Warner, Edward Waryern, John Waterer, John Welbelouyd, Powell Welles, Rycherde Welles, Rycherd Welshe, Thomas Westbrocke, John Wether, Wylliam Whytbe, Herry Whytakre, Wylliam Whytaker, Rycherd Whyte, Myghell Whytt, John Wodg, Wylliam Warnyngton, Herry Wren, John Wyllss, Wylliam Wyllss, John Wylls, John Wylshere.

Wylliam Younge.