

to the person's house, where he showed me the coins, &c., which he found. There were about 250 pieces of silver, of the coin of Henry the Third, of the value of 3d. each; on the one side whereof was the King's head, with a hand holding the sceptre, circumscribed *Henricus Rex*; on the other side a cross molin between roundels, with this inscription, *Fulke on Luid*; and also one gold ring, with a fair ruby therein; another gold ring with an agate; another ring of silver, wherein was a certain flat ruddy stone, engraven with Arabick characters in the following manner:—

*Cef Hhany Cullo yed Halinah  
B'Mahamed thhaly b'fatimah*

Englised by Mr. Bedwell.  
*By Mahomet magnify him,  
Turn from him each hand that may hurt him;*

and also some large catch-hooks and keepers of silver and (as I remember) certain links of an oldfashioned gold chain, all of which he affirmed, were laid by the side of the stone, deep in the ground. He showed also two or three pieces of silver, of Trajan the Emperor's coin, which, he said, lay under the same stone; one of which had the Emperor's face with a laural wreath circumscribed: IMP. TRAJANO. AUG. GER. DAC. P.M. T. R. Cos. v. P. P. Upon the reverse, a woman standing, holding in her right hand a *caduceus*; in her left hand a cornucopia, with this inscription: S. P. G. N. OPTIMO PRINCIPI. To give my opinion thereof, I think this stone was the basis of an altar, dedicated to the honour of Trajan, as appears by the coins found under it; for it was the custom of the Romans, under the foundations of any building, monument, or eminent piece of work, to cast and lay some of their Emperor's coins, in whose time it was made, to signify to posterity, and to preserve (for many ages after) the memory and the fame thereof." Without following Burton into his conjectures concerning the original purpose of the "great square stone" found where the road to Coventry crosses the Watling-street, it may suffice to call attention to the fact that Roman coins, of exactly the same date as those found a week or so since, were discovered on nearly the same spot in the year 1607—pointing to the occupation of the site by a Roman proprietor at the date already suggested.

THE REV. MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT, B.D., F.S.A., Precentor and Prebendary of Chichester, contributed the following—

#### INVENTORY OF ST. MARY'S BENEDICTINE NUNNERY, AT LANGLEY, CO. LEICESTER, 1485.

[Before printing the document contributed by Mr. Precentor Walcott, it may be well to add a prefatory note upon the Priory itself. Although it has been asserted that the Nunnery of Langley was

founded as early as the time of King Canute, by William Pantulf, it is more probably true, that it was founded by his descendant of the same name in or about the year 1100. William Pantulf, Lord of Bredon, and Burgia his wife, about that date founded this Priory at Langley, for Benedictine Nuns. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and was founded for the health of the souls of the founders, and of their ancestors. It was at once endowed with the Church of Little Dalby, Leicestershire, with six oxgangs of land and the tofts and crofts thereto belonging. It was further endowed with the whole of Langley Wood, with four bovates of land in that lordship, and with the site of a water mill.

About the year 1180, William de Ferrariis, Earl of Nottingham and Derby, confirmed to the Nuns this site of the Nunnery, and all that was given them by William Pantulf.

In 1220 we find the Nuns possessed the Church of Diseworth.

In 1235, Robert Grossteste, Bishop of Lincoln, gave the Prioress a confirmation of their two Churches of Somerby and Little Dalby.

We find further addition to the Temporalities of the House, which in the year 1290 yielded in this county £17. 8s. 9d. annually.

In 1464 the Nuns were confirmed in their property by a decree of King Edward IV.

The Nuns appear to have had the privilege of electing their own Prioress, leave being first had from the Patron.

Dugdale gives the following as Prioresses:—

Burgia, occurs . . . . .	1229.
Roesia, Prioress in . . . . .	1230.
Isabella de Lent, elected . . . . .	1236.
She was living in 1260.	
Juliana de Ursula, elected . . . . .	1268.
Christiana . . . . .	1280.
Alicia Gifford . . . . .	1302.
Roesia II. . . . .	1333.
Margaret Salhowe, Prioress in . .	1429.

By the aid of the Document given below we can add to this imperfect list:—

Margaret Bellers, resigned . . . . .	1485.
Anne Shafton, elected . . . . .	1485.

According to the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.—Dulcissima Booth was Prioress in 1535.

In 1535, the Patronesses of Langley were, the wife of Sir F. Bigot, and her sisters, co-heiresses. The annual receipts derived from lands, rectories, &c., amounted to £34. 6s. 2d., the payments £4. 18s. 9d., the clear yearly value being £29. 7s. 5d. At that time there were eight religious in the Nunnery: so we see the intention of the founders had been carried out. The value of the demesne lands at the Dissolution (1535) was £7. 5s. 4½d., and they were then granted to Thomas Grey. Langley Priory, now called Langley Hall, continued in the possession of the Grey

family until the year 1686, when the property was sold to Richard Cheslyn, Esq., for £7769. 17s. 6d. From the descendants of that gentleman it passed into the possession, by purchase, of the late John Shakespeare, Esq., of Lount, in whose family it still remains.—THOMAS NORTH.]

The following document is, I believe, unique; at least, in the course of long research, I have never found a similar account of the entire furniture of a convent before the dissolution of monasteries. It furnishes two more names of Prioresses to the list given in the *Monasticon* and by Nichols. I have simply transcribed the MS. in full, and appended a few illustrative notes.

In festo Gervasi et Prothasi A° Domini Mccccxxxv.<sup>to</sup>

LANGLEY. The inventory of the gods that longe to y<sup>e</sup> place of Langeley at y<sup>e</sup> enter yng of dame Anne Shafton into y<sup>e</sup> offys and charge of y<sup>e</sup> priorschyppe after y<sup>e</sup> resignacion of dame Mergate Bellers.

For y<sup>e</sup> chyrch. Ffyrste for y<sup>e</sup> gods y<sup>e</sup> ij masse boks, ij chalys, v auter clothys whereof iiii ben of twyll and j of diapur and ij clothys of twyll callyd Letter Clothys.\*

For ye seint clothes. A schete for y<sup>e</sup> sepulchre and anoder for sent Katherine ande a large olde schete, ij towells of twlle for howslyng towells;† ij mondey towells‡ of twyll and j of pleyne cloth and iij towells for y<sup>e</sup> lavatorie§ and j of pleyne cloth, and for the same ij olde towells.

Viiij paynteyd|| clothys grete and smale for y<sup>e</sup> auter and ij for y<sup>e</sup> Sepulchre and ij for y<sup>e</sup> ends of ye same j of blake w[ith] veleur for y<sup>e</sup> rege and ij of rede silke for y<sup>e</sup> bowys.

A blew clothe of sylke for y<sup>e</sup> hee auter with iiii bolyons of silver and gylte and vj smale bolyons of y<sup>e</sup> same and pon y<sup>e</sup> same clothe, ij clothys for y<sup>e</sup> same auter namyd golde clothys, anoder clothe [for] y<sup>e</sup> same auter of sewed werke.

[ORN] AMENTS [FOR] Y<sup>e</sup> AUTER. A fronte¶ of peryls. A towel of [twy]lle. A front of chamlet brodyred with bulheds y<sup>e</sup> towell ys of pleyne . . . iiii fronteys of grene damaske poudered with swanys and egyls with iij towels wer of j ys twyll and ij playne cloth. iiii frontys of blake poudered with swanys and rosys, y<sup>e</sup> toweles of

\* Cloths with mottoes woven into them, allusive to the founders or donors. See in Dugdale's *Baronage* a list of those in the Beauchamp Chapel, Salisbury.

† *The Dominicum*.—*Sacr. Arch.*, 157, 490.

‡ The purificatory for cleansing the vessels, mundatorium.—*Sacr. Arch.*, 488.

§ The laver near the altar called in the Cistercian Use the piscina, "a laver of mastlin."—*MS. Inv., Radforde*. A basin and laver of brass.—*Ib.*, Stretton. ij towels for the lavatory. *Ib.*, Gillingham. Juxta lavatorium habetur manutergium.—*Lyndw.*, 235.

|| Cloth painted in oil in imitation of tapestry. "A painted cloth hanging before the altar."—*MS. Inv. Wattonbury*.

¶ Frontale, apparatus pendens in fronte altaris qui aliàs dicitur palla, *Lyndw.* 1, iii., t. 27, gl. "i."—*Sacr. Arch.*, 289.

y<sup>am</sup> iij of pleyne clothe and j of twyll. iij fronts of sewed werke with j towell of twyll and ij of pleyne cloth. A frunte of clothe of golde with a towell of twyll.

SURPLYS. ij surplys with slevys. v. corporasse casys.

VESTMENTS. A vestment of blew silke brodyrt complete with all y<sup>t</sup> longyth to hyt.\* A vestment of grene velwett complete with a crucifixe of silver and gylte a pon y<sup>e</sup> amys. A complete vestment of red velwet. A vestment of swede† werke complete. A vestment of blake damaske brodyrt with rosys and sterys.‡ A complete vestment of white brodyrte with rede trwlufys,§ A nolde vestment of blake silke and rede complete. A nolde vestment of yowlow silke complete. A nolde chesable of cloth of golde lyneyd with blewe silke.

COPE. a quere|| cope of red yowlow and white. A cope of blake wostyd. A cope of grene damaske.

TYNNAKYLS.¶ ij of blake wostyd with ij albys and ij payr for y<sup>e</sup> amys. A stole and a fanns.†† ij tynnakyls of burde alisondre.\*\* A stole and ij phanens.†† ij tynnakyls of yowlow silke. iiij pelows rede silke, [wer] of j of blake wolstyd for y<sup>e</sup> cross.

LENTYN CLOTHYS i complete vestiment of white sewde warke. j auter cloth ande vale of y<sup>e</sup> same; j white and ij blew clothys to kever†† and auter y<sup>e</sup> ymags in lenten seysyn.§§ ij curten for y<sup>e</sup> quere. xvij pesys of lynyne to kever y<sup>e</sup> ymags with in y<sup>e</sup> same sesyne.§§

BANERS. iii Clothys for a baner stayned, and j blew silke for y<sup>e</sup> Crosse. j Paxbredē with j towell of silke therto. iiij basyns of Copur and gylte for y<sup>e</sup> auter. iij Peyr of tabuls for y<sup>e</sup> auter and viij coverlets grete and smale for y<sup>e</sup> Kyrke. j gret cloth of rede pouderyd with herts heds and boturfleys.¶¶

JUELLYS AND RELYKYS j beryng Crosse of Copur and gylde to sett a pon a staff. THE RELYKES. A crosse of sylver plate and gylte set with perlys and preciosys stonys and with a pese of y<sup>e</sup> holy Crosse in y<sup>e</sup> myddyste. A dowbull\*\*\* crosse of silver and a lytyll crosse with ij rubes and iii safres.††† A fowr cornelde††† tabull with iij berells and a preciosys stone. A lyttyll boxe of silver y<sup>e</sup> myddyste of byrrall with a preciosys bone y<sup>e</sup> yne. A berall stone with [whole] of a myrakyle of our laydy of y<sup>e</sup> place of Rome. A

\* Nullus missam cantet sine amictu, sine albâ, stolâ, fanone et casula. Hom. de cur. past. ad presb. Conc. viii. c. 34. Vestimentum the chasuble cum appendiciis sc. amictibus, albis, cingulis, manipulis et stolis. *Lyndw.* l. iii. tit. xxii. p. 252.

† Sewed.

‡ Stars.

§ True-love knots.

¶ Choir. Cappa in choro. Sacerdos extra tempus Missæ, dum exercet divina officia, præsertim dum ministrat incensum ad altare, vel dicit collectas, utitur capâ. *Lyndw.* u. s.

¶¶ Vestis subdiaconalis, quâ utitur in officiendo sacerdoti ad missam. *Ibid.*

\*\* Brodura Alexandrie—an embroidered stuff from Alexandria. *Sacr. Arch.* ii.

†† Manipule. *Sacr. Archæol.*, 273. ††† Cover. §§ Season. ¶¶¶ Butterflies.

\*\*\* Double.

††† Sapphires.

††† Cornered.

harte of sylver gylte and a namelyd\* and a dragon a pon with a nemeraude\* and a ruby. A comb of yvery. iiij bursys† with reliques and a bagge and white purse with reliques. A payr of ivery tabulst‡ of y<sup>e</sup> assumpeion of our laydy. i peyr of sensures§ a schyppe|| and crismatory. A schandeler with a nymage for y<sup>e</sup> hee auter. A shandeler with a pryket for a serge. iij chandelers for y<sup>e</sup> quere. A amese and relyke cover of red velvett with a scheld of golde. A white clothe of sypurs¶ for y<sup>e</sup> pixe.

THE JUELS OF Y<sup>e</sup> PLACE. j standyng cope keveryd of sylver & gylte. A [piece] with a kever gylte both with in & with owt. iij pleyne pesys of sylver ij salts keveryd of silver. V masers and xj silver sponys of j sorte and xj silver sponys of a noder sorte and iij olde sponys.

THE STUFFE Y<sup>r</sup> WES LEFTE IN Y<sup>e</sup> OLDE PRIORYS CHAMBUR. A fydur bed & a matres ij blankets iiij schets ij belews iiij coverlets iii curtens j tester, j seller bordet\*\* ande bolstur to y<sup>t</sup> longing to hur owne bed. y<sup>e</sup> secunde bed in hur chambur, a matres a blanket ii coverlets ij schets j bolstur. vi qwechyns iiij covrys i nalmare†† ij bordys ij trestures a scherer, a schover to hete water, a trape‡‡ to chauffe mete. A primer of salysbere use, a quere of comendacyons. The bedyng of y<sup>e</sup> place. ii feder bedds j with a teke y<sup>e</sup> toder with a case of herdon§§ cloth v febull matres & v bostyrs to y<sup>em</sup>. ij sympul qwylys, vj old torne & owtterley||| worne blanketts. Coverlets. a large coverlet of red & blew with rosys and crossys. A tapett of y<sup>e</sup> same, j large coverlett of rede and yowlowe with flowrs deluce.¶¶ A tapett of y<sup>e</sup> same. A large coverlett of blew & better blew with swanys and coks.\*\*\* A tapett of y<sup>e</sup> same. A coverlett of grene & yowlowe with borys††† and draguyns. A tapett of y<sup>e</sup> same. A coverlett of red & blew. A coverlet of ostrych fydyrs‡‡‡ & crownyd Emmys§§§ A coverlet of grene & yowlowe with vynys & rosys. A coverlet of grene & yowlowe with lyls & swannys. A coverlet of blewe & white whyl knotts|||| and rosys. A coverlet of red & white with traylest¶¶¶ and bryds. A coverlet of red and blew with sterry§\*\*\*\* & white rosys in mydyste. A coverlet of yowlowe & grene with egyles and emmys, y<sup>t</sup> hys to sey xiiij coverlets in y<sup>e</sup> howse & v tappetts & vj smale olde coverlets for y<sup>e</sup> labuers.†††† v. coveryngs of bedds yat hys to sey A coveryng of red saye a coveryng of panes‡‡‡ of red & grene & white saye. A coveryng of grene saye

\* Enameled. † Pocket or purse.—*Sacr. Arch.*, 575.

‡ Carved tablets. § Censers.

|| A ship or boat for incense. *Sacr. Arch.*, 538 ¶ Fine gauze or lawn.

\*\* Boarded selour or covering over the head of a bed. *Sacr. Arch.* 533.

++ An aumbry or cupboard. †† A flat dish. §§ Hempen. ||| Utterly.

¶¶ *De lys* or delices. \*\*\* Cocks. ††† Boars.

‡‡‡ Feathers. §§§ The Monogram of the Blessed Virgin.

|||| Wheel knots.

¶¶¶ Trellis. \*\*\*\* Stars. †††† Labourers. ‡‡‡ Stripes.

with small bryds\* of white a coveryng of red & blake saye a Coveryng of red and blew poudyrd with white Essest† and sterys. A blewe saye with a red dragne.

THE STUFFE OF SCHETS.‡ xj smale schets y<sup>t</sup> hys to sey v payrs & a halfe a payre of new schets of ij webbys & a halfe ix flaxon schets for holfade y<sup>t</sup> hys to sey iiij payr & a halfe & v herdon schets & a olde torne flaxon schete. V. payr of herdon schets occupied a pon servauntes bedds.

PELOWES ij pelowes of downe in fustion coveryd with holonde cloth & ij swan belows covereyd with fustion viij large pelows coveryd with cloth iiij belows of smaler quantitie & vj smale occupied in diverse places.

BORDE CLOTHES ij schorte borde clothys of twylle & j long of twyllie vij borde clothys of pleyne clothe v borde clothys of herdon cloth.

TOWELLES ij long towels of towylle§ & ij of plene§ cloth vij smale schorte towels.

BASYNs iiij basyns of maselyn pounesed iiij yewers & iiij plane pasyns.\*\* a brkyn|| yewer vij halowe basynnes grette & smale, vij schandelers a lytelon.†

ij grete brasse potts iiij potts of a myddyll sorte iiij smale potts a posnett†† a grete gratyr ij grete pannes ij smale pannys a caldryne a skelett‡‡ ij spyttys j olde spyt a lytell gaubarle§§ of herne a fryng panne a dresyng knyfe ij hackyng knyfis a flecheyng haxe iiij payr of potte hokes a flesche hoke a schomer||| a droppying panne iiij pott hoks. Pewtre. ij schargyres¶¶ xvj brode dyschys j & xx podegeres\*\*\* x sawsers. Brewhouse. a gret massyng††† lede of ij quarters a gret led for ye same vi wortte‡‡‡ leads in fourne a massyng fatte a yerling§§§ fatte a kymlin|||| to clenserne. A scaldyng led or a leven ledd. Viij halfe quarter sekks. iiij smale seks. Whete v quarters in rye vj stryks in malte xvj quartys in pese iiij quarters a bulchyn¶¶¶ viij kye iiij heyferys ij sterys viij twyntyures\*\*\*\* v cafys xiiij oxen iiij horsys a blynde olde horse & mare a stage†††† a foles. xl scheppe ij of wer of a rame v weddyres‡‡‡‡ xi hoggs & vxx ewys iiij borys§§§§ viij sowys & of storer war vj and xx a gese and a gander iiij doggs a drake coks and xvj hennys iiij caponys.

iii quesyns||||| of olde red saye ij smale quechyns enbrodred & ij qwechyns namyde Seynt Nicolas qwechyns.

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\* Birds. † Capital letters S.S. ‡ Sheets. § Twill. Plain. || Broken.  
 ¶ A little one. \*\* Chandelier or branch. †† A little pot. ‡‡ Pot with a long handle.  
 §§ A rack of iron in a chimney. ||| Skimmer. ¶¶ Charger.  
 \*\*\* Poring. ††† Mash vat.  
 ‡‡‡ For vegetables. Colewort is a name at Portsmouth for the site of a friary garden.  
 §§§ Brewing vat. |||| A tub—Kemelin in *Chaucer*. ¶¶¶ Bull Calf.  
 \*\*\*\* Two winters' old. ††† A gelded bull.  
 ‡‡‡ A sheep one year old. §§§ Boars. |||| Cushions.