

SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE PAPAL ARCHIVES RELATING TO THE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER.

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It is only of recent years that the treasures of the Vatican Library have become available to the world at large through the researches and publications of various learned societies. Of special value to students of English ecclesiastical history are those portions of the Papal Registers, Letters, and Calendars which relate to our own country, and which throw a flood of light on the clerical life of England in the Middle Ages. Moreover, while their *raison d'être* is wholly matters ecclesiastical, such as appointments, grants, indulgences, and so on, they contain so much incidental information as to the men and manners of those days that the result is a vivid picture of the social life of mediæval England.

From very early times the See of Winchester has always been in the forefront of Church history, and it is not surprising to find that much of the above-mentioned information refers to that famous diocese. A few specimens will suffice to give an idea of the vast yet minute powers exercised by the Papal See over all ecclesiastical proceedings in the Middle Ages.

Among the many deeds and grants to the monks of Winchester the most interesting is a Confirmation by Pope Innocent III., bearing date 5 Non,¹ March, 1205. It gives a full list of all the possessions of the brethren at that time, namely "Chiltecumbe with all its tithe, Eston, Wordia (Worthy,) Wensieston (Wonston), Avinton, the lesser Meones, Drokenesford, Exton, Enton, Halwarestoke (Alverstoke), Haveunte, Crundele, Hodigaton, Wutton, Heuniton, Cilbodonton, Michelmareis, Whutsilinges (Nutshalling, now

¹ The Nones of March in the Roman calendar fell on the 7th, so that 'ante diem quintum Nonas Martias' was the 3rd.

Nursling) Melebroc, Heton, Stocton, Eneforde, Pateneia, Awelton, Fifhide, Ellendon, Hinneton, Wuluricheton, Westwode, Bludun, Hamm, Husseburn, Wircherche; rents in the city and suburb of Winchester, a fishery at Brenford, Cliva, Brandesbiria, the whole tithe of the demesnes of the same church; Portland lands, fiefs and knight services; customs, liberties in buying and selling granted by royal charters; a yearly pension of £20 from St. Giles' fair; a yearly pension of 10 marks from the hospital of St. Cross; the Churches of Drokenesford, Crundel, Haveunte, Wilehale, St. Faith, St. Giles, St. James, and all Pentecostal oblations for lighting the Church; the chapel of Chiltecumbe and churches of Compton and Whitchurch (*alba monasteria*) the land of Childecnod, and the churches of Ellendon and Littleton.

Monastic owners were always careful to have a valid title to their possessions, and, therefore, some forty years later, the Prior and brethren of Winchester presented to the Pope a petition in which they asked for licence to "administer the church of Winchester," and in the grant which they obtained full particulars of their property, rights and privileges are given. The places mentioned are the Manors of Berton, Littleton, Heton, Wordi Lamartre (Martyr Worthy), Crundel, Sutton, Michelmars, Hocton, Chilbolton, Husseburn, Witchirche, Wingoton, Porland, Wick, Waymud, Hewell, Stocton, Heneford, Awelton, Pattenei, Ffid, Worfton, Hueton, wood and pasture of Silkeley, Silkestead, Northberi, Avington, Henton, Exton, Drokenesford, Haweund, Nurseling, Millebroc, Westwod, Blendon, Wlrickeston, Wotton, Hanigton, Brandisbri, Alwarstock, Hodigton, Menes, Hamm, Cliver and Cnoel, with their rights, tithes and appurtenances, a moiety of the rents of the fishery of Brayneford; tithes of Chiltecumbe and Silkestede, the Churches of Crundel, Drokenesford, Haweund, Helendon, and Littleton; a yearly rent of £20 in the fair of St. Giles, of 10 marks from St. Cross; pensions of all the chapels in the city, Pentecostal oblations, rents of houses in the city and suburbs, and other possessions, with meadows, &c.

Many of the above-mentioned lands and churches had been left by pious benefactors for special purposes; thus the

Chapel of Chilcombe and the Churches of Compton and Whitchurch were assigned to "keeping up the anniversary of King Henry";¹ and the land of Childecnoel to that of Bishop Godfrey.² The lighting of Churches in those days was an expensive matter, and in order to defray the cost of maintaining the lights before the High Altar of Winchester, Bishop Henry³ made a gift of the Churches of Crondall, Droxford, and Havant; and all Pentecostal oblations were also devoted to lighting the Church. Perhaps the most interesting of these special grants was that of the "Church of Helendon," the gift of Bishop Henry, for "making books," and the same generous prelate gave the Church of Littleton for "receiving religious guests."

Several notices occur relating to the Premonstratensian Abbey of Titchfield. It was founded in 1222 by Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, and in 1233 he obtained licence from the Pope to make over a fiftieth part of his rents to the Abbot and Convent of the said house. In 1291 a relaxation of one year and forty days of enjoined penance was granted to those penitents who should visit the "Church of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Titchfield." And in 1414 an indult (special privilege) was given to the Abbot and Convent of Titchfield, and "other persons at present dwelling therein, that the confessor of their choice may grant them, being penitent and having confessed, plenary remission, once only, namely, in the hour of death."

A somewhat similar indult was granted in 1347 to William, Abbot of Beaulieu, by Pope Clement VI.; and the Abbess and Convent of Wherwell obtained in 1291 a relaxation of penance for all who visited that house on the four feasts of the Blessed Virgin, on that of Holy Cross, and their octaves.

A canonry and prebend, called the portion of St. Laurence, in the regular Church of the nuns of Romsey, formed the subject of a papal notice in 1343.

¹ King Henry VI., or "Saint Henry," as he was sometimes called, though never canonised. Some books of Howes contain prayers in his honour.

² Godfrey Lucy, Bp., 1189-1209.

³ Henry de Blois, Bp., 1129-1171.

That the monks often suffered severely from cold during the long hours they spent at their services, is shown by two faculties of the thirteenth century. The first of these, dated 1243, gave leave to the Prior and Convent of Winchester to wear caps (*pillei*) in choir, on account of the cold, provided that due reverence was shown at the Gospel and the Elevation. The second, given in 1288, allowed the Abbot and Convent of Hyde to wear caps of sheep-skin or lamb-skin in Divine offices and processions, "the cold in those parts having caused paralysis and other disorders to some of the monks."

Many among the more adventurous of the clergy undertook a journey to Rome in search of preferment, and obtained from the Pope promises of benefices on the next vacancy. This practice frequently led to quarrels with the patrons of the livings, who naturally preferred their own nominees. It was probably owing to some cause of this kind that a protracted dispute occurred in the thirteenth century, with regard to the Church of Alresford. The rival claimants were Antony, Canon of St. Antoninus, Piacenza, and Master G. de Toffetees (or Tossetes), clerk of the Bishop of Winchester. The cause was heard by the Cardinal of St. Nicholas in Carcere, but apparently no settlement was arrived at, for it was again tried before the Cardinal of St. Laurence's in Lucina, who gave the case in favour of Toffetees. On the third of the Ides of October, 1245, "Master G. de Tossetes" (or Toffetees), Rector of Alresford, received a papal dispensation to hold one benefice, with cure of souls, besides those he already had. The disappointed Antony appears to have laid his grievances before the Pope, with the result that the latter issued a mandate to the Bishops of Winchester and Norwich, bidding them make provision of a benefice in England to the said Antony because he had lost the Church of Alresford.

That ladies were not debarred from presenting petitions to the Pope, is shown by an indult to "Eleanor de Sancto Amando, damsel, noble woman," of the diocese of Winchester, in 1414. By it she and her household were empowered to receive all Sacraments from any Catholic priest of their choice, without seeking licence of the rector of the parish Church or of any other.

Another lady who presented a petition was no less a personage than Queen Eleanor, who requested that her nephew, Master James, called "de Yspania," might receive a dispensation to hold the Church of Ringwood and another benefice, he having already, previous to July, 1300, received a dispensation from Honorius IV.

The living of Havant also had a foreign incumbent, one Otto de Chauvent, Dean of Seliriac, in the diocese of Geneva. For many years he held these appointments simultaneously without having obtained the Pope's sanction, but in 1289 he petitioned for, and received, a papal indult for his illegal proceedings.

Another foreigner who held preferment in Hampshire was Bernard de Sistre, B.C.L., of Anduze, in the diocese of Nismes, France. He was, in 1342, incumbent of the parish Church of West Meon, and also held canonries and prebendaries of Mirepoix and St. Marcel, near Paris. These various appointments might surely have satisfied him; but he had the good fortune to be nephew to the Archdeacon of Canterbury and Papal Nuncio in England, another Bernard de Sistre, who on his relative's behalf begged of the Pope the reservation of a benefice in the gift of the Bishop of Uzes.

In 1361 Adam Houghton, a Welshman, and Bishop-elect of St. David's, who later on attained the dignity of Lord Chancellor, presented a petition relating to the Church of Bedington, in the diocese of Winchester. Adam held a portion in the said church, in the gift of a lay patron, and had been put to so much expense in restoring the lodgings (*hospitia*) and house there, that for five years he had taken nothing from the said portion. He therefore prayed for licence to enjoy its fruits for two years after his promotion to St. David's, and the Pope granted his request.

Many of the clergy seem to have had powerful friends to plead their cause, and such was the case with Walter Almaly, who had been presented to the living of Newchurch, in the diocese of Winchester. He had been chaplain to a foreign nobleman, the Lord of Coussac, who in 1366 obtained from Pope Urban V., a canonry for his protégé in the latter's native county of Hereford.

Of other incumbents in the diocese we learn that in 1342 Walter de Burley, professor of theology, held the Church of "Aschtede" (Ashstead, near Epsom), the value of which did not exceed twenty marks; that one Master John de Gorkelegh, Master of Arts, in 1343 held the Chapel of "Wytfield" (Winchfield), and that the Church of Alton in the thirteenth century was given to Gilbert de Vere, a son of Robert, Earl of Oxford, and on Gilbert's death his brother Philip became the incumbent.

The office of Warden of the Hospital of St. Cross, the value of which did not then exceed forty marks, was, in 1415, held by John Forest, who was evidently a favourite in high quarters, as he became Archdeacon of Surrey, Bishop of St. David's, and then Bishop of Lichfield.

Of special interest is a notice relating to St. Birinus, the Apostle of Wessex. It has always been known that he baptized King Cynegils, but the place where the ceremony took place was not definitely fixed, and it has been generally supposed that the monastery of Dorchester was founded at a date subsequent to the baptism of the King. Here, however, it is plainly stated that Cynegils was baptized in Dorchester Abbey. The document runs as follows:—"7 Id.¹ March, 1224, Mandate to the Archbishop of Canterbury (and others) to give license to the Abbot and Convent of Dorchester to translate to a more worthy place the body of St. Birinus, who, having been sent by Pope Honorius into England, baptized in their monastery the King, converted with his people from idolatry to Christ."

Time and space will not admit of a detailed account of all the references to Hampshire; but those already quoted will give an idea of the scope and value of the information contained in the Papal Archives. ...

¹ The Ides of March fell on Pc. 15th, so that 'ante diem septimum' was the 9th.

PLACE NAMES.

Most of the places mentioned above may be identified, although in some cases the copyist has evidently been at fault. Much help has been found in the notes to the "Obedientiary Rolls of St. Swithin's" and the "Episcopal Registers," published by the Hants Record Society :

ALWARSTOCK	...	...	Alverstoke.
ASHCHSTEDE	...	...	Ashstead (Surrey), <i>vide</i> Bp. Sandale's Register.
AVINTON	...	...	Avington, in Domesday, held by the Bp. of Winchester, having always belonged to the Church. Given by Edgar to the Church about one hundred and twenty years before.
AWELTON	...	...	Alton Parva, in Wilts.
BEDINGTON	...	...	Beddington (Surrey), Bp. Sandale's Register.
BERTON	...	...	The Manor of Barton, near Winchester, was given to the Cathedral by Kynigils, first King of the West Saxons.
BLEUDON	...	...	see Bludon.
BLUDUN	...	...	Bleadon, a manor in Somerset belonging to St. Swithun's Priory.
BRANDESBERIA, BRANDISBRI			Bransbury, a Tithing of Barton Stacy.
BRAYNEFORD FISHERY (Brenford), see Winchester.	...	...	Kay Juxta, Braynford, near Winchester, valuable for the fishery in the pool or "gurgles" there.
CHILDECNOEL	...	...	} see Cnoel. Knoll.
CHILDECNOD	...	...	
CHILTECUMBE	...	...	Chilcomb.
CNOEL (KNOWL)	...	...	"Cnoel, a manor granted to Winchester Cathedral by Bishop Richard, still held by the Dean and Chapter.
CHILTERCOMB	...	...	Chilcomb.
CILBOLDENTON	...	...	Chilbolton on the Test. The Dean and Chapter own the large manor farm there.
CLIVA (CLIVER)	...	...	Probably an error for Clera. "The abbey of St. Peter's, Winchester, holds in King's Clere a church and 4 hides 1 yardland."— <i>Domesday</i> .
COMPTON	...	...	Compton, near Winchester.
CRUNDELE	...	...	Crondall, a large manor on the north-east extremity of Hants, formerly belonging to the Priory, and then to the Dean and Chapter, when the Monastery had estates.

ELLENDON	...	...	Upper Eldon, or perhaps Eling, called Ellendune in 1301.
ENEDEFORDE	...	...	Enford, a village in the Vale of Avon, Wilts.
ENTON	...	...	Hinton Ampner, about eight miles from Winchester.
ESTON	...	...	Easton, four miles north of Winchester. The Dean and Chapter still own land there.
EXTON	...	...	Exton corn from the manor in 1335, valued at £6 19s.
FIFHIDE (FIFID)	...	...	Fyfield.
HALWARSTOCK	...	...	see Alwarstock.
HAMM	...	...	Ham, the manor given by Bishop Richard to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, and still held by them.
HANIGTON (HANYTON)	...	...	Hannington in the "Valor Ecclesiasticus," is spoken of as a manor in the parish of Wootton St. Lawrence.
Haweunde (HAVEUNTE)	...	...	Havant.
HELENDON.	see ELLENDON	...	see Ellendon.
HENEFORD.	see ENEDEFORDE	...	see Enedford.
HENTON	...	...	Little Henton, in N. Wilts, where was a manor belonging to St. Swithun's.
HETON	...	...	? Perhaps the same as Henton.
HEUNITON	...	...	see Hanigton.
HEWELL	...	...	Ewell.
HINNETON	...	...	see Hanigton (Hanninton).
HODIGDTON (HODIGTON)	...	...	Hoddington manor, in the parish of Upton Grey, near Basingstoke.
HOOTON	...	...	Houghton Drayton, near Stockbridge, the manor belonging to St. Swithun's Priory.
HUETON	...	...	see Hooton.
HURSEBURN	...	...	Hurstbourne Priors, not far from Whitchurch.
KINGWOOD	...	...	Kingwood.
LITTLETON	...	...	Littleton, about 2 miles from Winchester. The advowson of the parish belongs to the Dean and Chapter.
MELBROC (MILLEBROC)	...	...	Millbrook, in the manorial receipts of St. Swithun's Priory, 1409. The Sergeant of Millbrook pays £21 15s.
MENES (MEONES THE LESSER)	...	...	East and West Meon.
MICHELMAREIS (MICHELMARES)	...	...	Michelmars, on the Test, near Romsey.
NEWCHURA	...	...	Newchurch, in the Isle of Wight.

NORTHBERI	...	...	John Noghtbury was a monk of St. Swithun's, 1485.
NURSELING	...	...	Nursling on the Test, where St. Winfrith (Boniface) was brought up.
PATENEIA (PATTENEI)	...	...	Patney, a village in Wilts, near Devizes.
POZLAND (PORTLAND)	...	...	Portland.
SILKELEY	...	...	Probably equivalent to Silkstede.
SILKSTEDE	...	...	A hamlet partly in Hursley parish and partly in Compton, the birthplace of Thomas Silkstede, Prior, 1498-1524, who did much for the Cathedral at Winchester.
STOCTON (STOCKTON)	...	...	A village in Wiltshire, near Bath.
SUTTON	...	...	Long Sutton, near Odiham, where the Dean and Chapter of Winchester were lords of the manor.
WAYMUD	...	...	Weymouth....
WENSIESTON	...	...	Wonsyngeton, near Wonston. Here the Dean and Chapter have two farms.
WESTWODE (WESTWOD)	...	...	Westwood, in South Wilts, near Bradford-on-Avon.
WHUTSILINGES	...	...	see Nursling.
WICK	...	...	Wyke, near Winchester, included in the manor of Barton.
WILLHALE	...	...	Willhall, near Winchester.
WINCHESTER (Fishery at Brenford)	...	...	see Brayneford.
WINGOTON	...	...	Part of Portland Manor.
WITCHVICHE (WIRCHERCHE)	...	...	Whitchurch manor and burgh on the Test. The titular Mayor used to be chosen by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, who were lords of the manor.
WLRICKESTON	...	...	Wolrichstone, in Wiltshire.
WORDI LAMARTRE	...	...	Martyr Worthy.
WORDIA	...	...	Martyr Worthy.
WORFTON	...	...	Worston or Wroston, in Wilts, probably Worton, near Devizes.
WOTTON (WUTTON)	...	...	Wootton St. Lawrence, near Basingstoke.
WULWRICHESTON	...	...	see Wlrickeston.
WYTFIELD	...	...	Winchfield.

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