

ADDITIONS, ETC.,

TO THE REV. THOMAS HUGO'S HISTORY OF

Taunton Priory.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY.

THE inadvertent omission of these was not noticed until the sheets wherein they were intended to appear had been printed off. The reader, however, will find no difficulty in perusing them in connection with their context by attending to the reference prefixed to each.

Page 3, line 3, read the generality of students.

Page 6, line 2, read Aisse

Page 7, line 4, read Lydyard

Page 8, line 20, insert In or about the year 1180, the Priory of Buckland was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers of S. John of Jerusalem; and of the Canons of that House three were received on their own petition into the Hospital at Clerkenwell, two into the Priory of Taunton, one into the Priory of Berlitz, and one into the Priory of S. Bartholomew in Smithfield.*

* MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17. Dugd. vi., 837.

Page 11, for a second note of reference, add Plac. de Jur. et Ass. Somers. 8 Edw. I., m. 18.

Page 15, line 25, for 8s. read 100s.

Page 15, line 30, insert Wythele, £3 6s. 8d.

Page 16, line 1, add with its chapels,

Page 16, line 15, insert On the 22nd of March, in the 26th year of Edward I., 1297-8, in a Perambulation then taken of the Forest of Exmore, the Prior of Taunton is stated to hold the vill of Broggesnole and Levecote, and the hamlets of Telchete and La Merse, with their woods, heaths, and other appurtenances. (See page 77.)*

Page 17, line 1, after and place a comma.

Page 19, line 1, add by Thomas de Sutton, Canon,

Page 19, line 19, add Otterford, Withiel,

Page 19, line 24, read 22nd of May,

Page 40, line 26, read March ;

Page 40, line 28, read April,

Page 41, line 1, add Licence to elect had been granted at London on the 21st of March, the Convent's intimation of the election was dated in their Chapter House on the 30th of that month, and the Bishop of Winchester's assent to the same at Suthwerk on the 4th of April.† In the licence to elect, the Bishop, after wishing the Sub-prior and Convent "health in the embraces of the Saviour," and acknowledging the receipt of the intelligence of the vacancy, beseeches them "in the name of Jesus Christ to have before their eyes in the election God alone and the common advantage of their House; and, putting away from them the vice of singularity and all carnal affections, and uniting each several heart in the bond of peace and

* Ad. de Domerham, Hist. Glast. I., 193, 194.

† Reg. Edyndon, tom. I., ff. 8, 10b, 11.

concord, holding, according to the apostolic precept, the same sentiments, so that there be no schisms among them, to endeavour to choose for their prior and pastor a man pleasing to God, approved for the sincerity of his religion, peaceful and prudent, not a slave to unsuitable will, but more desirous of profiting his brethren than of preeminence over them, under whose vigilant care their monastery may be prosperously directed, and by the divine mercy be amply blessed."* To this the Convent replied as follows :—"To the venerable Father in Christ, lord William, by the grace of God Bishop elect of Winchester, and confirmed Patron of the Conventual Church of Taunton, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, his humble and devoted Chaplains and Canons Regular, Robert Sub-prior and the Convent of the said Church, in devoted humility of soul, with all the reverence and honor due to so great a father, intimate to your lordship, by the tenor of these presents, that, our Church aforesaid being vacant by the death of brother Robert de Messyngham, the last Prior of the same, and licence having been conceded to us by your lordship of electing a future Prior, all things having been observed which by the law and custom of the Church are so to be, we have elected for our Prior our beloved in Christ, Brother Thomas Cook by name, one of our brethren and a Canon of the aforesaid Church, a man provident and discreet, the bearer of these presents. Hence it is that we present the same to your lordship, supplicating with devout entreaty that, affording your gracious assent to our aforesaid election, you would be pleased by the consideration of charity to direct your letters to the venerable Father lord Ralph [Radulphus de Salopia] by the grace of God Bishop

* E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 8.

of Bath and Wells, our diocesan, upon this, and that the said father would favourably condescend to perfect those things which in regard to the dispatch of the said election are incumbent on his office. May the Most High long preserve your lordship for the rule of His holy Church. Dated in our Chapter House at Taunton, on the last day but one of the month of March, in the year of our Lord MCCCXLVI.* The Bishop of Winchester in his letter to his brother at Wells complies with this prayer, and, after express mention of his licence having been obtained and his assent given, desires his favour in behalf of the elect, whom he praises as a man allowed by report to be "richly endued with perfection of manners, sincerity of religion, and other gifts of grace."†

*Page 41, note * add MS. Harl. 6965, p. 176.*

Page 45, line 28, read November, 1361,

Page 45, line 29, read January, 1361-2,

Page 45, line 30, add 'The licence to elect is dated at Suthwerk on the 23rd of November, 1361, and the assent at the same place on the 17th of January, 1361-2. The Bishop in both of these instruments uses very similar terms to those with which the reader has just been made acquainted, and in the former of them urgently presses upon the attention of the community the importance of the duty which had devolved upon it.‡

Page 46, line 11, insert In a Perambulation between the Counties of Somerset and Devon, ordered to be made on the 1st of July, in the 41st year of Edward III., 1367, the Prior of Taunton was affirmed to hold a certain croft at the

* E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 10b.

† E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 11.

‡ Reg. Edyndon, tom. I., ff. 112b, 113b.

line of division, between a spring called Owiline (see page 15) and Payneshurne. The Perambulation was confirmed by "inspeximus" by Richard II., on the 4th of February, 1385-6.*

Page 47, line 26, insert On the 1st of July, 1382, John de Kyngesbury, Prior, and his Convent, proved in the Court of Chancery their right to the lands and advowson of the Church of Wildelond, or Willelond, in the County of Devon, an early gift of William Fitz-Odo. (See page 7.) The record is dated on the octave of S. John the Baptist, 6th Richard II., which is coincident with the date above given. †

Page 48, line 5, after rebuilt place a comma.

Page 48, line 13, add or S. Giles,

Page 48, line 19, read permit willows

Page 51, line 8, insert On the 1st of April, 1403, a letter was addressed in the name of K. Henry IV. to various personages, requesting the loan of the sums specified against their names, to enable him to resist the Welch and Scotch. The amount thus solicited of "Le Priour de Taunton" was "v^c marcs." ‡

Page 52, note † add Reg. Well. Bowet, 48.

Page 53, line 14, insert At an Inquisition taken at Barnstaple, on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Lucia, Virgin, in the 4th of Henry VI., or the 19th of December, 1425, before Thomas Beaumont, the King's Eschaetor, the Prior was stated to hold land in Lucote (see page 29) at half a knight's fee, of the clear yearly value of two shillings beyond all reprises. ||

* Pat. 9 Ric. II., p. 2, mm. 32, 33.

† Inquis. p.m. 6 Ric. II., n. 174.

‡ MS. Cott. Cleop. F. vi., f. 284. Proceedings of Privy Council, i., 201.

|| Inquis. p.m. 4 Hen. VI., n. 32 (12).

Page 53, line 19, read Hullyng.

Page 53, line 21, insert to Richard Marchaunt of Taunton, and John Baker, John Tanner, John Okham, Roger Touker, William Goky, William Payn, Thomas Osebern, and John Mavyell, of the same place,

Page 57, line 3, read 1475-6,

Page 57, line 31, insert the 7th of March,

Page 64, line 25, insert On the 20th of May, 1524, Thomas Waren and John Mount conveyed to William Bury, Vicar of Taunton, John Swayne, clerk, Roger Hill, William Tedbury, John Soper, John Eston, Robert Horsey, and others, divers lands, tenements, and rents in Taunton, and elsewhere, bequeathed by John Bisshop in behalf of a chantry lately founded by him in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene.*

Page 71, line 13, after inserted place a comma.

Page 74, line 9, after 1378; *insert* occurs in 1382;

Page 75, line 15, add In 1391, John Russchton was Sub-prior.

Page 76, line 9, insert William Moyhun, 1347;

Page 77, line 4, read Levecote

Page 80, line 17, read was

*Page 85, note * add* Claus. 26 Hen. VIII. m. 15. Rymer Fœd. XIV. 504.

Page 100, line 23, insert On the 15th of January, 26 Hen. VIII., 1535, the Prior William Wyllyams and Convent granted a corrody to John Wadham. By this and the instances which follow, we gain a very curious insight into the internal arrangements and life of the House, as well as a specimen of the heavy charges to which many of the greater monasteries were obliged to submit. The cor-

* Ex Original. in Off. Aug. L. 49.

rody consisted of regular maintenance, day by day and year by year during life, in eatables and drinkables for himself at the table of the Prior, "ad mensam Prioris," and for two servants at the table of the servitors, "ad mensam valectorum," or an equivalent if absent of two shillings a week ; six acres of their meadow called Hole Mede, in their demesne lands, the produce of which to be cut and carried for the said John ; a sufficient stable called the West Stable next to that commonly called the Gesten Stable ; twelve bushels of beans and the same quantity of oats, or at his pleasure eight pence for each bushel of beans and six pence for each bushel of oats ; pasturage for four horses all the year in their pasture called Carterlease ; a sufficient chamber called the Toure Chamber in the chapel, with an inner chamber and all other appurtenances ; sixteen cartloads of firewood from their demesne woods called the Moure ; and four ells of cloth for his livery, "pro libario suo," of the value of six shillings an ell. In case of non-performance the Convent was to forfeit the sum of twenty shillings, for which the said John Wadham was empowered to distrain. The Court of Augmentation allowed the said John, in Michaelmas Term, on the 25th of October, 1539, instead of this corrody, the sum of seven pounds a year, with arrears from the dissolution of the House.*

On the 31st of December, 1537, the Prior and Convent granted by special favour an annual benevolence to William Grendon, vicar of Nynehed, and one of the Canons and brother of the House, consisting of a weekly delivery of eight conventual loaves and of eight flagons of conventual ale. In lieu of this the Augmentation Court allowed

* Enrolments of Orders and Decrees in the Exchequer, Off. Aug., vol. VI., f. clxxvii, clxxvii b.

him on the 6th of February, 1541, an annuity of fifty shillings and arrears.*

On the 10th of February, 1538, the Prior and Convent granted to John Bytford, Bachelor of Arts, an annuity of five marcs sterling, issuing from the lands and tenements of their manor of Myddyldon, with power to distrain; maintenance in eatables and drinkables at the table of the Prior, and for his serving boy with the boys of the chapel; a sufficient chamber which one Roger Worthe aforetime had; wood for his fire in the aforesaid chamber, to be delivered every day at the door thereof; a white loaf and a quart of conventual ale every night, and two candles to be supplied for the said chamber, or wheresoever else it might please the said John; and four ells of woollen cloth "pro libario suo," of the value of five shillings per ell. This was given "for good service and diligence in teaching and instructing our novices and the whole Convent in the rudiments of grammar and other kinds of literature." So much for monastic ignorance, on which it is too generally the fashion to dilate. Taunton Priory was in fact one of the schools in which knowledge exercised her sway, and John Bytford was her honoured teacher. The Court of Augmentation adjudged him, in lieu of this grant, an annuity of five pounds for life, with arrears, on the 17th of November, 1539.†

On the 25th of June, 1538, the Prior and Convent granted to John Cars the office of Bailiff of Dulverton, Buggethole, and Lewcote; a rent of three pounds sterling, issuing from their rents and tenements in Dulverton; ten cartloads of fuel, as much as four yoke of oxen could draw

* Enrolments, vol. VII., f. xxviii.

† Enrolments, vol. VI. ff. clxxxvii b, clxxxviii b.

or carry from any of their woods in Dulverton, except Mershe Wood; and a robe or tunic of the livery of the said Prior and Convent, as the servitors of the said Prior and Convent have. He obtained in lieu of this from the Court of Augmentation, on the 10th of February, 1540, an annuity of four pounds with arrears.*

Shortly afterwards the Prior and Convent made a grant to another of their instructors. On the 16th of September, 1538, they agreed to give to Thomas Foxe, their organist and chapel master, an annual stipend of five pounds sterling, payable quarterly; four cartloads of fuel from their own woods, to be carted to his house at their expense; a house of theirs without fine next their tenement in Canon Street, at a rent of six shillings and eight pence; a gown or robe "*ex libariis nostris optimis*;" and maintenance daily at the table of the cellarer or with the servants "*ad ultimam refectionem in aula*." In return for this he was to teach and instruct the boys in the musical part of Divine Service daily in their chapel, and if any of the Canons should be disposed to learn to play on the organ, the said Thomas was to instruct him to the best of his ability. The Augmentation Court ordered him in lieu thereof an annuity of five pounds for life, with arrears, on the 20th of June, 1539.†

On the 10th of December, 1538, they granted to John Tregonwell, Doctor of Laws, out of the special regard which they entertained for him, an annuity of three pounds charged on their manor of Dulverton. It would appear that this regard was founded rather on the hopes of future aid than on gratitude for services already received. In the present as in other instances, however, wherein we find

* Enrolments, vol. iv. f. 117.

† Enrolments, vol. x. f. iii^cxxiii b.

this John Tregonwell mentioned in a similar manner, the hope was delusive, for he soon appears as one of the tyrant's agents in the suppression of the House. The annuity, therefore, was of course ordered by the Court of Augmentation to be paid, together with arrears, on the 10th of February, 1540.*

Five days subsequently, 15th of December, 1538, they granted to William Glastok, out of their special regard for him, an annuity, charged upon their manor of Wyllonde, of forty shillings, with power to distrain. The Court of Augmentation continued the annuity with the arrears, by an order dated the 12th of February, 1540.†

It will be perceived that these details are derived from the Enrolments of Orders and Decrees in the Exchequer, where the grounds of each petition are severally stated as above. It is only too certain, however, that these Orders were but little regarded. The government grew weary of the constantly recurring payments, and endeavoured to rid itself of a burden which it had soon no funds to liquidate.

I may here add, in completion of the subject, that the same Court of Augmentation ordered divers sums to be paid to the Dean and Chapter of Wells, the Chancellor of Wells, and the Archdeacons of Wells and Taunton, under the various heads of pensions, synodals, &c.;‡ and that on the 28th of May, 1543, it granted to Matthew Whytlyng, Chantry Priest of Donyatte, (see pp. 37, 45, and 90) a decree for the continuance of his annual pension of £3 6s. 8d.||

Page 102, line 24, add He consecrated the Church and

* Enrolments, vol. iv., f. 199b.

† Enrolments, vol. iv., f. 4b.

‡ Enrolments, vol. iv., f. 9b.; vol. v., f. clxxxiii b.; vol. x., f. cccliiii; vol. xiv., f. clviii b.

|| Enrolments, vol. xiv. f. xxxv b.

Cemetery of S. Saviour, at Puxton, on the Festival of the Conception, the 8th of December, 1539, and was presented to the prebend of Whitlakynton on the 4th of January, 1557-8.*

*Page 106, note *, add Reg. Well. Fuller, 344. Rymer, Fœd. XIV. 635.*

*Page 124, note *, add Particulars for Grants, in Off. Aug. Add. MS. Brit. Mus. 21,307. p. 75. Wood Sales, Rot. 36, Hen. VIII. fol. 41. Rot. 37. f. 43.*

Page 125, line 6, after Oxford place a comma.

Page 125, line 15, insert To Lawrence Hyde a tenement belonging to Swing's Chantry, a Chantry House and burgages belonging to S. Andrew's Chantry, a Chantry House and other tenements belonging to Swing's Chantry, all in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, and Nethweys Chapell belonging to S. Etheldrede's Chantry.† To John Dodington a house belonging to a Chantry, also in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene.‡ To Giles Kelway and William Leonard rents of the Guild of the Holy Sepulchre, and of Trinity Chantry in the same Church.|| And to William Twisden and John Browne a house and the rents of divers burgages belonging to Blessed Virgin Mary's or Bisshoppes Chantry in the same Church.§

THOMAS HUGO.

* MS. Harl. 6967, ff. 53b, 67b.

† Particulars of Sales, vol. I., pp. 11b, 71b; vol. II., p. 198b. Add. M.S. B.M. 21,314, pp. 172, 173, 175.

‡ Particulars of Sales, vol. I., p. 40b.

|| Id. vol. I., pp. 247b, 248.

§ Id. vol. II., pp. 280b, 281, 281b.