

Worspring Priory.

BY THE REV. F. W. WEAVER, M.A., F.S.A.

THE Priory of Worspring was founded by William de Courteney; the exact date of the foundation is not known. The letter from the founder to Bishop Joscelyn is not dated, but in it the Bishop is called Bishop of Bath, which title seems to refer to the years between 1219 and 1242;¹ at any rate it was a going concern in 1243, for in that year Prior Reginald died and Prior Richard succeeded him. It was dedicated to the B.V.M. and St. Thomas of Canterbury, and was a house of Canons Regular of the Rule of St. Augustine and of the Order of St. Victor.

The letter of the founder to the Bishop points to the great monastery of the same order at Bristol as a kind of foster-mother to Worspring. Some of the Augustinian Monasteries were of the Rule of St. Victor: St. Augustine's Abbey at Bristol, Keynsham Abbey, Stavordale Priory and Worspring Priory in Somerset, and Wormesley Priory in Herefordshire were all of this Rule. The Rule was named after the famous Abbey of St. Victor in Paris, which was founded by Louis VI in 1129. Gregory Rivius, in his *Monastica Historia* (Lipsiæ, 1737, cap. 10, p. 26), gives a list of rules of the Canons Regular of St. Victor, and shews how their rule differed from that of St. Augustine.

We print below an Inspeximus taken from the Bath Cartulary (S.R.S., VII, ii, 58). In a note (260*n*) the Rev. W. Hunt,

1. The Inq. p.m. of the founder is not extant, but he died before 1242. Dodsworth MS. (Bodl. Libr.), No. 15, fol. 217. The date of the foundation was about 1214, see p. 22.

the Editor, says: "DODLINCH. The Canons Regular there were moved by Wm. de Courtenay to the Priory that he founded about 1210, at Worspring." No one has ever been able to discover where Dodlinch is. I think if ever found, it will be somewhere very near Worspring. It is most certainly not identical with Doultling (Som. Arch. Soc. *Proc.*, xxxi, i, 31), which belonged to Glastonbury.

"Inspeximus by Walter, Prior of Bath, of a charter of William, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated at Yatton 18 Kal. Jan. 1262, inspecting a charter of Jocelin, Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury, to the Canons of Dodlinch, dated at Banwell on 4 Kal. April, in the 24th year of his pontificate (1230), given by the hand of John de Temple by which he inspects a previous charter of his own dated at Chew on 5 Id. Nov., in the 11th year of his pontificate (1217), by which he confirms the gift to the Canons of Doddelinch by the lord Wm. de Courtenay of the Church of Worle and that by Master Geoffrey Gibwine of the Church of Lock'. The inspeximus by Bishop William refers to the Prior and Canons formerly at Doddelinch and now at Worspring."

Bath Cartulary, S.R.S., vii, ii, 58, 260n.

Although the Priory was founded early in the thirteenth century, yet the church was not consecrated in 1317, for Bishop Drokenesford's *Register* (p. 171) mentions the remission of a fine by the Bishop of twenty shillings for non-dedication of the Conventual Church of Worspring and of the high altar. Perhaps up to that time they had been using the chapel of St. Thomas, mentioned in the letter of the founder to the Bishop of Bath, *see* p. 26. At any rate, in 1291, extensive building was going on, for on October 27 of that year the king gives an order to John Buteturte, Keeper of the Forest of Dean, to cause the Prior of Worspring to have in that forest, where most convenient for him, and least damaging to the king, ten oaks fit for timber for the work of his Church of Worspring of the king's gift.¹

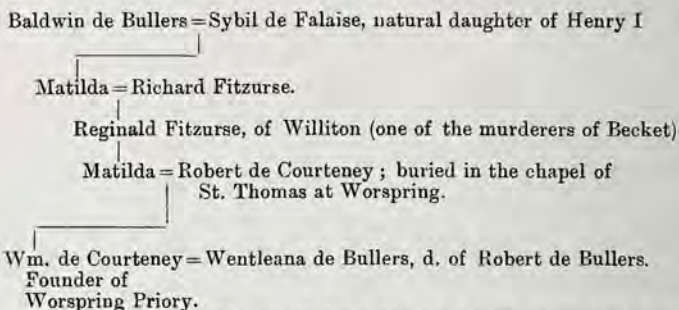
In the documents I have consulted in writing this paper I have found the following forms of the name: Waspring, Warspring, Wospring, Worspring, Worespring, Wrospryng, Wulspring, and Wurspring, and variants of these caused by chang-

1. *Close Rolls*, Edw. I, 1288-96, p. 183.

ing the *i* into *y*. The form *Wulspring* probably gives us the clue to the derivation, which is Worle-spring; the spring of water, still to be seen at the Priory, near Worle Hill, or in the Worle district. The earliest date for the form Wood-spring is, I believe, Collinson (1791), and he only gives it as an alternative spelling.

The following pedigree, due to the late Mr. John Batten, F.S.A. (*South Somerset*, p. 2, note), I have tabulated, as it shews at a glance the relationship between Reginald Fitzurse, one of the murderers of Becket, and William de Courtney, the founder of the Priory.

PEDIGREE OF COURTENEY.



NOTE.—The Dodsworth MS. (Bodl. Lib.), No. 15, fol. 7b, gives Ada¹ as wife of Wm. de Courteney; perhaps she was his second wife. He died childless before 1242, and his heirs were William de Cantelupe and Vitalis Engayne (*ibid.*, fol. 217).

In the *Patent Rolls*, Hen. III, 1225-32, pp. 63, 84, there is, under the year 1226, an account of a dispute between the Prior of Worspring, plaintiff, and William de Cantelupe, defendant, about the advowson of the Church of Bulwick, co. Northants. The Prior evidently failed in his suit. Bridges, in his history of that county, gives the Cantelupes as patrons of the benefice, the Priory not being mentioned at all.

1. Vitalis Engayne debet x marcas pro habenda saisina de manerio de Upminster [Essex] in parte, salva Ade que fuit uxor Willielmi de Curtenei rationabili dote in eodem manerio (Pipe Roll, 2 Hen. III).

In the Inq. p.m. of Vitalis Engayne (33 Hen. III, No. 70) he held among other manors, Upminster (Essex) and Worth (Somerset).

We bring together here a few more references from the *Patent Rolls*.

Patent Rolls, Edw. II, 1307-1313, p. 265.

1310. July 15. Licence for the alienation in mortmain by John de Engayne to the prior and convent of Worspringges of a rent of 20s. payable by them to him for lands in Worspringges which they hold for him. By fine of 40s.

Patent Rolls, Edw. II, 1324-1327, pp. 86, 89, 295.

1325. Feb. 7. Confirmation to Henry, now Prior, and the canons of St. Mary and St. Thomas the Martyr, Wospryngg, of a number of grants to their house (not dated or set out in full). By fine of 100s. Somerset [*Monasticon*].

Page 89. 1325. Feb. 4. Protection with clause *nolumus* for one year for the prior of Worspring.

Page 295. And again 1326. July 15.

Patent Rolls, Edw. III, 1330-1334, pp. 70, 154.

1331. Feb. 3. Protection with clause *nolumus* for 1 year.

1331. July 13. Licence for the alienation in mortmain by Henry Cary, vicar of the church of Lockyng, and Robert Atte Nye, to the prior and convent of Worspyng of a messuage, 29 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 6 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, and rents of 7d., and 12 horse-nails in Sanford by Churchill, and of the reversion of the following in the same town after the demise of the present tenants, a messuage held by Hen. de Mountfort and Agnes, his daughter, a toft held by Walter Mountfort and Margery, his wife, an acre of land held by Philip Mountfort, the like held by John Noteson, and the like held by Agnes Mountfort. By fine of 60s. Somerset.

Patent Rolls, Rich. II, 1385-89, p. 224.

1386. Oct. 10. License of 20 marks paid to the king by Elias Spelly for the alienation in mortmain by the said Elias, Walter Derby, and Thomas Beaupyne, of Bristol, of a messuage, a dovecote and a carucate of land in Welle, Hantrych, Monketon and Northecory not held in chief, of the yearly value of £4 as found by inquisition returned into chancery to

the prior and convent of Worspring for finding a light to burn before the high altar in their priory church continually.¹

P. Feb. 2. 1390.

In the *Close Rolls* (Edw. I, 1272-9, p. 295), there is a writ, dated 1276, to the Sheriff of Somerset, escheator in the same county, to cause Eudo la Zusch and Milisent, his wife, to have seisin of a fee that the heirs of Thomas de Verdun hold in Worle, half a fee that the heirs of Philip Corbyn hold in Ternak, and of the advowson of the Priory of Worespring.

Ternak (not *Tervak*, as in the printed Roll), or Tarnac, was anciently in the tithing of Biddisham, but in the parish of Badgeworth.

According to Collinson (III, 80) the above Milisent was sister and coheirress of George de Cantelupe and daughter of William de Cantelupe by his wife, Eve de Braose.²

It has also been affirmed (Collinson, III, 543) that the Brett family helped to found the Priory. Collinson says that "Maud, daughter of Richard Brett (one of the murderers), formerly the wife of one Gerard, but then married to Robert de Ouvre, became a great benefactress to the priory, giving thereto with the consent of Gerard Fitz-Gerard and Robert de Ouvre, her sons, for their good and for her own in this world and the next, as also for the souls of her two husbands, Richard Brito, her father, Simon Brito, her grandfather, Erchenbald le Fleming, and others, all her lands in Chandfeld, and several parcels of land in Sandford, Bicknoller, and other places. This Maud had a daughter, Alice de Lysse, who, that the intercession of the most glorious martyr might never be wanting to her and her children, confirmed, in 1238, several of her mother's donations to the said monastery."

Collinson says in a note: "See the account of this Priory in the Hundred of Winterstoke." So we turn to page 594 of

1. Will of Elias Spelly, burgess of Bristol; dated Jan. 13, 1390; proved Feb. 2, 1390-1. Wadley, *Bristol Wills*, 26.

2. The Rev. E. H. Bates kindly gives me references on this point, to Batten's *South Somerset*, p. 6, and also to *Som. Arch. Soc. Proc.*, xx, ii, 119.

the same volume and find incorporated among the gifts in the Charter of 18 Edw. II these words: "Robert Ofre or de Ouvre gave 6 acres of arable land and one acre of meadow, and Maud, his wife, gave all her lands in Chandfeld and several parcels of land in Sandford, Bicknoller and other places. Alice, the daughter of the said Maud, and Robert de Ouvre confirmed her mother's gifts and gave 4 acres of land in Sulesworth."

Will it be believed that none of the words in italics appear in the Charter of 18 Edw. II, but such is the fact. The Charter, moreover, speaks of Alice as the daughter of Robert Ofre, and does not give her married name (de Lysse) at all. I spent the greater part of a day over the Charter at P.R.O., and then went with my difficulty to Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A. His suggestion was that the words in italics above were obtained by Collinson from some authority not given (possibly the Palmer MSS.), were written by him as a sidenote on his copy of the Charter, and then in the printing of his book got incorporated in the Charter itself. The incorporated words may be perfectly true, but at present we have no evidence for them. It is important because they seem to be the only proof that the Brett family were co-founders of Worspring, and they are quoted by Dean Stanley in his *Memorials of Canterbury* (p. 110), Collinson, III, 487, 543, being given as his sole authority.

The first important document relating to the land on which the Priory is situated is to be found in the 10th Report of the Hist. MSS. Com. (Appendix 6, p. 73). It is in a Report on the MSS. at Dunster Castle, and the document deals with the land of Swallowcliff, the cliff jutting out into the sea, which is so well seen in the drive from Weston to Worspring.

Charter of Robert de Curt' addressed to all his friends and men, French and English, clerks and laymen, future and present, confirming to Robert Fitz-Urse and his heirs the land of Sualeweclive wh. Reginald Fitz-Urse, his brother, gave to him, and the land of Williton wh. the s^d. Reginald apportioned (divisit) to him, acc. to the charters of the s^d. Reginald and of the king. He also ratifies an agreement made by himself on behalf of his wife Matilda, with the s^d. Robert, concerning an exchange of land at Lokinges, &c. Witnesses, Reginald de Curt',

Wm. de Curt', Geoffrey de Corneville, Thomas —, Richard Cotele, Geoffrey de Turberville, Ralph the clerk, Wm. son of Geoffrey, Luke, Roger de Mai—, Robert de Brianne, Clement, Robert Chanterel, Hugh, Geoffrey de Wireville, Osbert —, Wm. de Corneville, Hugh de Luffewic, Robert de Wittone, Wm. de Holt, Geoffrey —, who made the charter.

Note by the Editor, Sir H. C. Maxwell-Lyte.

(It is almost certain that the surname Curt', which occurs several times in this deed, should be extended Curtenay. The grantor was clearly a person of high position, having property on both sides of the English Channel, and it was at Swallowcliff that Wm. de Courtenay afterwards founded the Priory of Wor-spring. This deed then appears to be one of the earliest memorials of the English branch of the illustrious family of Courtenay).

The two principal documents (in fact we might almost say the only two) relating to the land given to the Priory are given in Dugdale's *Monasticon*, II, 271, Old Edition; VI, 415, New Edition. They are :

- (1) Charter of Edw. II, confirming the gifts of the founders.
- (2) Letter of the founder to Joscelyne, Bishop of Bath, asking for permission to found the Priory.

The Charter, as printed by Dugdale, is much more accurate in the old edition of that work than in the new, but I have been carefully through the original Charter at the P.R.O. and print it with my additions and corrections at the end of this paper.

The original benefactors of the Priory,¹ as given in what may be termed the Foundation Charter (*Pat. Roll*, 18 Edw. II), were William de Courteney, Geoffrey Gilbewyn, Hugh de Newton, Henry Engayne, John Engayne, Robert Offre, John de Eston, Alice Offre, Henry de Pendeney, Henry Limeshest, and Richard de Hordwell; but other benefactors are made known to us through the *Wells Cathedral MSS.*, of which a new Report is shortly to be issued by the Record Office. These are Bishop William de Button II, who left 210 marks to the Priory, wherewith they redeemed a yearly rental of £10 due to Sir John de Engayne and his heirs for the Manor of Worle, provided that the Prior pays ten mares to the Dean

1. A later benefactor was Robert Pobelowe, clerk, who, with others, gave 100 acres of land in Worle. (*Inq. a.q.d.*, Hen. IV, No. 36).

and Chapter of Wells towards the obit of the said Bishop. This John, Prior of Worspring, undertakes to do in a document dated iv Non. Julii, 1277.

Other benefactors mentioned in these Wells MSS. are: R. Lollinton,¹ who seems to have lived at Marksbury; William de Wethamstede, provost of Cumba, and Alexander de Bamfeld, canons of Wells, who left the Priory 100 marks wherewith they redeemed a yearly rent of £4 10s., which they were bound to pay to Sir Henry de Engayne and his heirs for the Manor of Worle. This document is dated xvii Kal. Sept., 1266.

The Priory may be said to have had no history. No prior was had up before the Bishop to answer for misdemeanours. In October, 1333, Bishop Ralph de Salopia visited Worspring (*Reg.* i, p. 153); but the house seems never to have "caught on," so to say, as it always remained poor, and the number of canons was never more than ten or thereabouts. The prior and seven canons signed the Acknowledgment of the King's Supremacy (21 Aug., 1534).²

Roger Tormynton, Prior,	Frater Thomas Glastunbery,
John Serche, Supprior,	Frater William Brynt,
Frater Robert Coke,	Frater Richard Adamson,
Frater John Axbrygge,	Frater Robert Evans.

In *Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, Vol. x, No. 1191, certain articles of instructions are set forth to the commissioners who were sent down to suppress the smaller monasteries. They were to give the name of the house and its value at the last valuation, the number of religious persons, with their lives and conversations, the number of servants, the value of bells, lead, etc., the value of the moveable goods, the woods belonging to the house, with the age of them, the debts owing to the house, and several other details.

In regard to some of the lesser monasteries the same volume

1. Not *Lofuntun*. "Wells Cathedral MSS.," 72.

2. See Seventh Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records, App. II, No. 9.

contains the answers to the queries of the commissioners. Thus at Ulverscroft, a priory of Austin Canons in Leicestershire, the commissioners say that there are eight canons besides the prior (a wise, discreet man), of these six are priests, good, virtuous, religious, and of good qualities as writers, embroiderers, and painters (Vol. x, p. 496).

This house was about the same size as Worspring, and it shews us that the canons spent a good deal of their time in embroidering vestments and painting missals and other books. It is interesting in this connection to find in the Yatton (Somerset) Churchwardens' Accounts: "1515. Payd to ye chanon for mending ye vestments xij^d." (S.R.S., iv, 135). To this, Bishop Hobhouse, the learned Editor of the volume, appends this note: "Probably an Augustinian Canon of the neighbouring House of Worspring."

Too much prominence perhaps has been given to the unsuccessful petition, dated April 2, 1536, *i.e.* two months after the Act for the Dissolution of the lesser monasteries was passed, of Humphrey Stafford to Cromwell for a grant of Worspring. The letter has been printed at least four times—first by Wright in his *Suppression of the Monasteries*, p. 121; then by the Som. Arch. Soc., xxxi, i, 35; next in *Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, Vol. x, No. 643; and lastly by Archbold, p. 56. We do not propose to print it a fifth time, but would rather call attention to an earlier letter concerning Worspring, which we believe has never been printed, except in *Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, Vol. vi; it is dated at Bruton in 1533, and written by Richard Byschoppe, canon and sub-prior of Bruton, to Lady Lisle, asking her to help him to become Prior of Worspring. This petition was also unsuccessful.

1533. Ric. Byschoppe to Lady Lisle.

Thanks for their goodness to him. Wm. Lawse, one of the keepers of Claringdon, promises that her letter shall speed of the best. Lady Anne's servants had a buck and another small deer. The wives of Bruton have no venison as yet, but John Baker asked him to say that they shall have some. The buck Lady Lisle struck in Canford Park was never recovered, and the keepers said

that they wd not kill another for 20 nobles. His master sends thanks for venison. Mr. Gylberd, who is now at Bruton, desires to be recommended. He is not yet admitted to his affidavit "to his amountyd in the Kinges books to foure markes or 5 markes."

Hears from one of their tenants that the prior of Wulspring will shortly be deposed. Encloses a letter abt it. Asks lord or lady Lisle to write for him to Dr. Creting or my lord of Bath. Bruton.

(*Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, Vol. VI, No. 126).

The Priory was suppressed Sept. 27, 1536; and it appears from the following extract from *Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, XIII, i, p. 484, that Edward Fetyplace, of Donyngton, Berks, *in less than a month* obtained a 21 years' lease of the house and site of the Priory, which afterwards came into the possession of Sir John St. Lo. It passed from the St. Los, through the Carres and Yonges, to the present owners.

1538. Grants in June, 1538.

3. Sir John Seyntloo. Grant in tail male of the reversions and rents reserved on the foll. leases.

(1) To Edw. Fetyplace, of Donyngton, Berks, 4 Oct., 28 H. 8, of the house and site of the dissolved priory of Worspyng, Som., with lands thereto belonging and meadows called Elmam Mede and Worle Mede in Worle, Som., wh. belonged to the sd late Priory with reservations; for 21 years: at rents of £11 7s. 10d. for the sd site and 31s. 8d. for the meadows.

(2) To Thos. Horner, 20 Feb., 29 H. 8, of the manor of Lokkyng, Som., parcel of the sd late Priory with reservations; for 21 years: at £24 18s. 11d. rent.

To hold the house, &c., in as full manner as Rog. Turmenton, the late Prior, held them in right of his Priory by the annual rent of 26s. as tenth. Del. Westminster, 1 June, 30 H. 8. *Letters and Papers*, H. VIII, XIII, i, p. 484.

BEQUESTS TO THE PRIORY.

Wadley's *Bristol Wills*:

1382. Nov. 21. Wm. Cheddre the elder, of Bristol (p. 9).

A legacy to Prior and Convent of Worspyng.

1471. May 11. John Gaywode, burgess (p. 145).

To the prior, subprior, canons and priests of the priory house of Wursprynge, co. Somerset.

— also 8d. among them for a flagon of wine.

Sir Wm. Palmer, canon of Wursprynge.

Somerset Record Society, XVI, 99, 213, 245:

1417. Wm. Highworth, R. of Blagdon.

To the Canons of Wrospryng, 6s. 8d.

1467. Andrew Holes, Chancellor of Sarum.
in usus monasterii Wospring.

1483. Dame Margt. Chocke, of Long Ashton.

I will the place of Worspringe house xli to the bylding of
their place.

Vol. XIX, 258 :

1526. Eliz. Caylewaye, of Hutton.

To the house of Worspyng 5 marcs.

LIST OF PRIORS.

1243. Reginald died.

1243. Richard, Canon of Keynsham and
formerly parson of Stoke, was } *Wells Cathedral*
elected. } *MSS., p. 49.*

1266, 1276 (S.R.S., vi, 240), and 1277 (Dr. Archer), John.

1317. Reginald. Abbrev. Rot. Orig. Ed. II, Ro. 3, & *Collinson.*

1325. Henry. *Pat. Roll*, Edw. II, 1324-7, p. 86.

1383. Thomas. *Wells Cath. MSS., p. 183.*

1414. Thomas de Banwell died. *Collinson.*

1414. Peter Lovaire elected Nov. 18. *Bubw. Reg., 93.*

1457. William Lustre died.

1458. John Gurman elected Apr. 6. *Bek. Reg.*

1486. Richard Spryng. *Inq. P.M., Hen. VII, p. 88.*

He resigned Aug. 30, 1525 (*Collinson*).

1525. Roger Tormenton (Turmynton). He received a pension of £12 at the suppression of the Priory, which took place 27 Sept., 1536 (*Letters and Papers*, Hen. VIII, Vol. XIII, pt. i, p. 575).

SEAL OF WORSRING PRIORY.

The photograph of the Priory Seal,¹ which is here reproduced, was taken by Mr. Reginald Weaver at the Record Office, from the document there preserved, relating to the Acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy.

1. The photograph is enlarged: the full length of the original is 1½ in.



SEAL OF WORSRING PRIORY,
on the document relating to the
Acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy,
in the Public Record Office.

From a Photograph by J. Reginald H. Weaver.

The Rev. C. H. Bickerton Hudson, M.A., who has made a long study of matters relating to Worspring, has most kindly written the following description of this interesting seal:—

“The convent seal, as I read it, represents a section of the Cathedral Church of Canterbury, at the crossing. In the background is the round-headed tower arch, leading into the North transept, crowned by the central tower (the predecessor of the ‘Angel Steeple’), East and West of which run the tiled (?) roofs of the nave and choir. These appear to carry a kind of pinnacle, springing from the ridge on either side of the tower. The tower itself carries a lead-covered pyramidal roof or spire, terminating in a finial, and is pierced with two round-headed windows. Beneath, in the North transept, is shown the martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury. The head and shoulders of the Archbishop, wearing the mitre, occupy the centre. On the left of the head, which is in profile ‘to right,’ is the altar of St. Benedict, with a chalice upon it. (The chalice, of course, is merely descriptive, to indicate that the square block is an altar). From the right issues an arm and hand grasping a sword, with which the unseen assailant is cleaving the mitred head of the Archbishop.

“The legend round the seal is imperfect but quite legible:—

(S)IGILL ✚ SANCTI ✚ THOME ✚ D(E) (✚) (WOR)SP(R)YNG.

The engraving of the seal is very rude and hardly worthy of the fine work of this kind for which the XIII Century is remarkable.”¹

Cartae ad Prioratum de Worspring, in agro Somersetensi spectantes.

NUM. I.

Carta Regis Edwardi Secundi, Donatorum Concessionones recitans et confirmandas.

1. This description of the seal is almost identical with that in *Catalogue of Seals* (British Museum), Vol. I, p. 816 (see p. 30), but it was written before Mr. Hudson had read that description, and so is quite an independent reading.

(*Pat.* 18 Edw. II, p. 2, m. 33). 1324-5.

Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Donationem, &c. quas Will. de Courteneye fecit per scriptum suum Deo et beatæ Mariæ et beato Thomæ martiri et capellæ de Wospryngg², et viris honestis ibidem Deo servientibus, et eorum successoribus, de tota terra de Wospryng², præter terram Roberti de Newton, in homagiis, serviciis, redditibus; in bosco et plano, et in omnibus locis, et omnibus aliis rebus, et de uno ferdello terræ in Northamēs, sine ullo retenemento; et de decimis dominici ipsius Willielmi de N[]ton, et de decem solidis de redditu suo de Blauford; et de quatuor solidis de redditu suo de Chilton. Donationem, &c. quas Galfridus Gilbewyn fecit per cartam suam Deo et beatæ Mariæ et beato Thomæ martyri et canonicis regularibus de ordine Sancti Victoris in Dodelyng² Deo servientibus, et eorum succesoribus, de toto manerio suo de Lokkyng²,¹ cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, exceptis quatuor liberis hominibus cum tenementis suis, quos prædictus Wiffs de Courteneye sibi retinuit. Donationem, &c. quas Hugo de Nyweton fecit per cartam suam Deo et canonicis dicti loci de Worspryng², de duobis mesuagiis, quater viginti et novem acris terræ, et novem acris prati cum pertinentiis in Norton,² et de tota communia sua de Worspring, in omnibus locis, inter terras et tenementa sua, sine ullo retenemento, et de licencia habendi liberum et largum iter in longitudine terrarum ipsius Hugonis versùs Wampulless³, et alibi ubique ultra terras et prata ipsius Hugonis pedes et eques, cum plaustris, caretis, et animalibus suis in æstate, autumpno, et hieme, et omni tempore cum voluerint, et necesse habuerint, nullâ ab ipso Hugone seu à suis licentiâ requisitâ, nec requirendâ imperpetuum.

1. The date of G. Gilbewyn's gift was 1214. Rawlinson MS. (Bodl. Libr.), B. 413, f. 181. Inq. p.m., 32 Ed. III, 88 (in which Gilbewyn's charter is cited and its date given). The manor is called Lockingheved *alias* Locking.

2. Norton Beauchamp in Kewstoke.

3. "Weston-super-Mare," by the Rev. W. Jackson, F.S.A., p. 119n.

Donationem, &c. quas Henr. Engayne advocatus prioratus prædicti fecit per cartam suam Johanni priori et canonicis loci prædicti, et eorum successoribus, de toto dimidio manerio dominio dominico, terris, pratis, pascuis, pasturis, villanis et villenagiis, cum tota sequela sua, et omnibus catallis suis, cum omnibus libertatibus, liberis consuetudinibus, et omnibus aliis rebus ad capitalem curiam suam de Worle pertinentibus; et de regali servicio dictorum prioris et canonicorum, et omnium successorum suorum, de medietate manerii de Lockyng²; et de homagiis, et serviciis cum pertinentiis Willi de Chandefeld, et hæredum suorum, de feodo unius militis cum pertinentiis apud Chandefeld, in com. Wiltes, et Willielmi Beyvyn et hæredum suorum de feodo dimidii militis cum pertinentiis apud Candel-Beyvyn, in com. Dors. et de toto jure et clamio quæ idem Henr. vel hæredes sui habuerunt, vel habere potuerunt de Adam Michel et Ricardo de Hales, et hæredibus eorum, nomine seu ratione tenementorum suorum de Clopecote, et Suynleg, cum pertinentiis, et de homagiis et serviciis cum pertinentiis omnium liberè tenentium, et hæredum suorum vel assignatorum de Worle, Worspyng, Kywestok, Milton, Ebedon, et Lockyng², et omnium eorum, qui in dicto, vel de dicto dimidio manerio de Worle quæcumque feoda, terras, vel tenementa, vel quæcumque alia tempore confectionis ejusdem cartæ tenuerunt, vel tenere debuerunt: viz. in comitatibus Somers. Dors. et Wyltes, cum omnibus seisinis, homagiis, fidelitatibus, redditibus, maritagiiis, releviis, escaetis, wardis, auxiliis, sectis, serviciis, querelis, amerciamentis, tallagiis, et omnibus aliis demandis, et rebus, quæ de omnibus prænotatis dominis capitalibus dicti dimidii manerii de Worle quocumque modo et quocumque jure descendere vel accidere potuerunt imperpetuum.

Concessionem eciam, &c. quas præfatus Henr. fecit per scriptum suum prædictis priori et canonicis et eorum successoribus, de novem libris argenti, de viginti libris annuis, in quibus eidem Henr. et hæredibus suis tenebantur pro dicto dimidio manerio de Worle. Concessionem, &c. quas Johannes Engayne fecit,

&c. de decem libris argenti, de undecim libris annuis, in quibus eidem Johanni tenebantur pro dicto dimidio manerio de Worle. Concessionem, &c. quas præfatus Johannes Engayne fecit per aliud scriptum suum Reginaldo priori et canonicis dicti loci et eorum successoribus de viginti solidis argenti annui redditus, in quibus eidem Johanni tenebantur pro dimidio manerii de Worle. Et de relevio centum solidorum eidem Johanni et hæredibus suis, cum prioratus de Worspring² morte priorum naturali vacaverit debito; et de omnibus aliis serviciis etiam regalibus antea a dictis priore et canonicis debitis et factis; et quæ eidem Johanni et hæredibus suis de dicto prioratu accidere possent vel deberent. Salvis tamen eidem Johanni et hæredibus suis, advocacione dicti prioratus, uno pari calcarium deauratorum annuatim solvendorum eidem Johanni et hæredibus suis, vel suo certo attornato in prioratu prædicto in festo sancti Michaelis; et homagio dictorum priorum in qualibet mutatione eidem Johanni et hæredibus suis infra dictum comitatum Somerset faciendo. Ita quod prior, qui pro tempore fuerit per quindecim dies apud Worspring præmuniatur, ubi infra dictum comitatum Somerset homagium suum facere debeat; et quod dicti canonici suum priorem eidem Johanni vel hæredibus post eorum electionem, et ante installationem nullatenus præsentare; nec dictus prior, qui pro tempore fuerit, post suam electionem, pro suo homagio faciendo dictum comitatum Somerset exire teneantur.

Donationem etiam, &c. quas Robertus Offre fecit, &c. de sex acris terræ, et una acra prati de terra ipsius Roberti de marisco. Donationem, &c. quas Johannes de Eston fil. Roberti de Eston fecit, &c. Johanni priori et canonicis dicti loci et eorum successoribus, de homagio et toto servicio Martini de la Cume de Milton, et hæredum suorum, quod eidem Johanni debuit, de tertia parte feodi unius militis, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in Milton. Donationem, &c. quas Alicia Ofre¹

1. Alice de Lysse confirmed the grants of her mother, Maud (Collinson, III, 543).

filia Roberti Ofre fecit, &c. de quatuor acris terræ cum pertinentiis in Sulesworth, et una acra terræ cum pertinentiis quæ vocatur Sulfebrodacra, et tribus acris terræ, cum pertinentiis, in la Heye et dimidia acra prati in Estredolmore; et dimidia acra prati in Westredolmore cum pertinentiis; et de uno denario annui redditus percipiendo de Agnete filia ejusdem Aliciæ et hæredibus suis de sex acris terræ cum pertinentiis, quas prædicta Alicia dedit præfatæ Agneti. Et relaxationem, &c. quas præfata Alicia fecit, &c. de toto jure et clamio quæ præfata Alicia, vel hæredes sui habuerunt vel habere potuerunt, de toto tenemento quondam Roberti Ofre imperpetuum. Donationem, &c. quas Henr. de Pendeney filius Henrici de Pendeney fecit, &c. de omnibus mesuagiis et cartilagiis suis apud Pendeney, et una virgata terræ et prati in villa de Locking; et sex acris et dimidia prati jacentibus in Dockyngcroft, et de homagio et toto servicio Walteri filii Alicæ de quinque perticatis terræ et prati in Locking; et de tota terra ipsius Hen. in mora de Locking. Donationem, &c. quas Hen. Limeshest fil. Henr. Limeshest fecit, &c. de toto servicio Roberti Wrech et hæredum suorum de toto tenemento quod de eodem Henrico aliquando tenuit in villis de Sandford et de Wodebergh, simul cum viginti et quinque denariis de redditu assiso annuatim percipiendo de prædicto Roberto Wrech, et hæredibus suis imperpetuum. Donationem, &c. quas Ricūs de Hordwell fecit, &c. de duodecim acris et una perticata terræ, duabus acris et dimidia, et dimidia perticata prati in villa de Lockyng², ratas habentes et gratas eas pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, fratri Henrico nunc priori et canonicis loci prædicti et successoribus suis concedimus et confirmamus, prout cartæ et scripta prædicta rationabiliter testantur, &c. In cujus, &c. T. rex apud Westm. VII. die Febr. [1325].

Per finem centum solidorum Somerset.

NUM. II.

Literæ Will. de Curtenai I.¹ Bathon. Episcopo porrectæ, Propositum suum fundandi Domum Conventualem apud Worspring significantes.

(Ex ipso autogr. in Bibl. Cottonianâ).

Domino suo et patri in Christo spirituali I. Dei gratiâ Batoniensi episcopo, suus devotus in omnibus, Willielmus de Curtenai salutem, et tam promptum quâm devotum in omnibus obsequium. Cum filii verè timentis sit semper ad patrem confugere tamquam ad initium et fundamentum suæ originis, ad vos tamquam ad fundamentum totius mei propositi, et tamquam ad patrem spiritualem, qui filio suo in seculo fluctuanti subvenire tenetur, confugio paternitati vestræ attentius supplicans, quatinus propositum meum ad effectum, si placet, perducere dignemini, cum meum propositum, nisi de auxilio et consilio vestro interveniente, nullatenus possit consummari. Noverit itaque paternitas vestra, quod habui et habeo in proposito fundare apud Worspring, in dominico meo, in quo constructa est capella beati Thomæ martyris, quandam domum conventualem de ordine canonicorum S. Augustini de Bristolliâ, vel de ordine aliquorum aliorum, secundùm quod magis videritis expedire, viz. pro salute animæ Roberti de Curtenai patris mei, cujus corpus ibidem requiescit, et matris meæ, et meæ propriæ; et uxoris meæ, et antecessorum meorum, et successorum; cujus domus foundationi perficiendæ, dedi et concessi totam terram meam de Worspring, et viris religiosi ibidem Deo, et beatæ Mariæ, et beato Thomæ martyri pro tempore servientibus, et quosdam etiam redditus dictæ domui fundandæ dedi, sicut ex inspectione cartæ meæ, exinde factæ, plenius vobis innotescet. Et ecclesiam de Worle, quæ de meâ advocatione est vacans, etiam vobis supplico, quatinus ipsam conferre velitis viris religiosi, qui apud Worspreng per vos et per me fuerint constituti; ita quod fructus dictæ ecclesiæ de

1. Josceline, Bp. Bath and Glaston, 1206-1219; Bp. of Bath, 1219-1242.

Worle in usus proprios illorum, qui in prædicto loco de Worspreng, auctoritate vestrà, ut prædictum est, fuerint constituti, convertantur; et tam ex hiis fructibus quàm ex aliis rebus et redditibus, qui à me dicto loco fuerint collati valeant sustentari. Et noveritis in veritate, quæ Deus est, quod si propositum meum vobis placuerit adimplere, pleno conventui omnia necessaria temporalia sufficienter administrabo; ecclesias, quantum ad patronum pertinet, redditus et terras fertiles, prout videritis expedire conferendo. Noverit etiam paternitas vestra, quod fructus terræ de Worspring, quæ est de dominico meo, per me, et per latorem præsentium, Walterum presbyterum cultæ, pro animâ patris mei, et aliorum amicorum meorum, et omnium fidelium distribuentur, et distribuantur, donec super hiis quid utilius vobis visum fuerit agendum, et honestius mihi significaveritis. Et noveritis quod lator præsentium, Walterus presbyter, quem loco meo ad vos transmitto, vobis propositum meum, et petitionem, vivâ voce plenius expositurum, vir honestæ conversationis, et bonæ opinionis in partibus Sumersetiæ esse dinoscitur; cujus dictis quæ ex parte mea vobis proponet, fidem habere velitis. Diu in Domino valeat sanctitas vestra.

NUM. III.

Comput' Ministrorum Domini Regis, temp. Hen. VIII.
(Abstract of Roll, 28 Hen. VIII, Augmentation Office).

Worspring Prioratus.

Com' Somers'	£	s.	d.
Worle—Reddit' liber' ten' . . .	1	6	8
Ebdon—Reddit' assis', &c. . .	39	9	4
Lockyng—Reddit' assis', &c. . .	24	18	11
Sandford Mersh—Redd' assis', &c. . .	6	6	6
Butcombe—Firma maner', &c. . .	2	0	0
Worle—Scit' maner', &c. . .	12	19	6
Kewestoke—Decim' rector' . . .	4	13	4
Lockyng—Firma rector' . . .	Non respond' quia in man' nuper Prioris.		

APPENDIX.

Mr. Ernest E. Baker, F.S.A., has kindly allowed me to print the following "Deed of Conveyance," which is in his possession, as an Appendix to my Paper :—

This Indenture made the xxth day of February in the xxvth yere of the reygne of oure soveryne lord King Henrie theyght betwene Roger Prior of the hows or priorie of Wolspryng in the Countie of Somerset and the Convent of the same of the one partie and Thomas Horner of Mells in the seid Countie Gentilman of the other partie **Witnessithe** that the seid prior and convent bi ther whole assents and concents hathe bargayned and sold and by these presents bargaynythe and sellithe to the seid Thomas Horner and to his heyres and assignes for ever **All** ther londes and tenements woddes lesoes pasturis medoes mores communes rentes reverciones and services withe all and singular ther appurtenances and commodities whatsoever they be sett lying or beyng in Sanford Wynscombe Congresbury Laurence Wycke Burton Puxston Banwelle Kewstoke and Churchehille withyn the countie of Somerset forseid withe all manner of evidences escripts charters and muniments concernyng the premises or any parcell therof All whiche evidences and other the premises the seid prior and convent covenautithe and grauntithe for them and theyr successours to and withe the seid Thomas Horner and his heyrs by these presents to delyver to the seid Thomas Horner or to his assignes withyn vi days next ensuyng after the date of these presents And also the seid Prior and Convent covenautithe and grauntithe bi these presents for them and ther successours to the seid Thomas Horner and his heyrs that he the said Prior and convent be very true owners and possessours of the seid londs and tenements and other the premises withe theyr appurtenances and that the seid Prior and convent hathe full power and lawfull actoritie to make a clere goode bargayne and sale thereof

and of every parcell thereof to the seid Thomas Horner and his heyres for ever And also that the seid londs and tenements and other the premises withē theyr appurtenances and commodities at the day of the makyng of these presents discharged of all former bargaynes sales titiles uses interests cleames and of all other charges and incumbrances whatsoever they be And that the seid londs and tenements and other the premises withē ther appurtenances be the day of the makyng of these presents of the clere yerly valure of vi^{li} viii^s fourther more the seid Prior and convent coveauntithe and grauntithe for them and theyr successors to and withē the said Thomas Horner and his heyrs that he the seid Prior and convent and ther successors and all and every other person or persons ther heyrs and successours havyng or pretendyng to have any thyng or titile in the premises shall at all tymes hereafter from tyme to tyme do suffer and cawse to be dwon suffred and knowleged all and every suche device thyng and thyngs act and acts as hereafter shalbe devised by the Counsell lerned of the seid Thomas Horner his heyrs executours or assignes for the perfite assurance and makyng sure of all the seid londs and tenements and other the premises with ther appourtenances to the said Thomas Horner his heyrs and assignes for ever And that the seid Thomas Horner his heyrs feoffees and assignes shall have hold occupie and enjoy the said londs and tenements and other the premises with ther appourtenances withowte lett or interupcion of the seid Prior and convent or ther successours or of any other person or persones by reason of any former titile use or cleame in the seid londs and tenements or any parcell and other the premises or any parcell therof in consideration of whiche bargayne and sale the seid Thomas Horner coveauntethe bi thes presents to the said Prior and Convent to content and pay or cawse to be payd to the seid Prior and Convent the day of the sealyng herof the summe of Fyfti pounds of the whiche summe of Fifty pounds the seid Prior and Convent knowlegithe themself well and truly contented and payd and

the said Thomas Horner his heys and executors therof to be acquitted and discharged bi thes presents **in witness** wherof to the one partie of these present Indentures with the seid Thomas Horner remaynyng the seid Prior and Convent hathe putte theyr Convent seale

per me Rogerum Tormyntun Priorem
 per me Ricardum Adamson
 per me Robertum Evans
 per me Johannem Sarche Suppriorem
 per me Johannem Axbrÿg
 per me Thomasum Glastonbery
 per me Willielmum Brynt

NOTE.—I have to thank Lt.-Colonel J. R. Bramble, F.S.A., President of the Society, for the following information concerning the Seal:—

“From comparison some years ago with a seal in possession of Mr. Ernest E. Baker, F.S.A., now unfortunately considerably defaced (in fact the seal of the document given in the Appendix), we are able to say that a dexter hand vested in the sleeve of an alb with its apparel comes from behind the reredos and grasps the chalice on the altar as if about to remove it. Also, on the sinister side, a hand and the lower part of an arm—in armour—grasps the hilt of a sword with recurved guard and broad blade with which it is striking the mitred head.”

The following description of the Priory Seal is taken from *Catalogue of Seals* in the Department of MSS., British Museum, edited by Dr. de Gray Birch, F.S.A., Vol. I, p. 816:—

Worspring. Regular Canons of St. Austin and the Order of St. Victor, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Thomas Becket, co. Somerset.

4371. [Early 13th century]. Sulph. cast from chipped impression, about $1\frac{5}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ when perfect [lxxi, 78].

Pointed oval, a campanile or bell-tower, with pent roof topped with a knob, and two round-headed windows. In base, under an arch, on the left, an altar with a chalice thereon; on the right the bust of St. Thomas Becket, with mitre, turned to the right, and a dexter hand issuing from the right and cleaving the saint's head with a short sword.

(S)GILL † SANCTI † TH † OME · DE . . . PRING