The Prebend of Dinder.

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THE grey Perpendicular tower of Dinder church is familiar to us all. It stands in a vale of green meadow, wood, and stream, as sentinel at the gate of the hills which fold themselves behind it at the entrance of the deep combe which winds eastward through the steep and wooded banks of Croscombe and Bowlish to the topmost ridge of Doulting. It stands at the gate of the hills where the stream which has come down through the combe from the well of St. Aldhelm at Doulting, breaks out into the meadows of the valley.

'Denren,' Valley of the Stream,[1] is the earliest form of name of the hamlet which grew up at the outlet of the Doulting stream—'Den,' valley, and 'ren' or 'ryne' (common word in Somerset for water-course), became Dynr, Dyndra, Dynder, in the changes of pronunciation and writing.[2]

(1). Professor Earle writes to me, "Supposing Denren to be the oldest form, I see nothing better than your proposed etymology, viz., 'den,' valley, and 'ren,' stream. The commonest word for a water-course is 'Ryne' cursus; from the word 'run' currere; and this word is also written 'rene,' and as second part to a name, 'ren' is no more curtailed than might be expected. Then there is a satisfactory way of accounting for the loss of the 'n' in that habit of eliding final syllables that looked like old inflections, and 'en' was pre-eminently such a syllable. So you get from 1123 onward, Dynr, Dynre.

"The next step is to get in the 'd.' This is quite plain: it is excrescent—growing out of the contact of 'n' and 'd,' exactly as in Greek 'andros' for 'aneros,' and as 'thunder,' which in Anglo-Saxon is 'thunor,' and in German, 'donner.' So I think the whole form is reasonably accounted for, and I greatly prefer this to any of the British suggestions."

(2). The forms of the name at different periods have been thus written :—

Deuren	1064	...	Kemble, *C.D.*, 816.
Dynr	1123	...	R. i. f. 16.
Dynre	1174	...	R. i. f. 46-7; iii. 333.
Dynra	1223—1268	...	" " " "
Dindra	1494	...	R. iii. f. 403.
Dyndre	1536	...	*Valor Ecclesiasticus.*
Dynder	1591	...	Q. Elizabeth's Charter.

Small and of no reputation, except for picturesque site, as 'nest in a greenhold' between the craggy ridge of Dultingcot, and the wooded slopes of Lyatt, Dinder, from the beginning of its history to the present time, has always held a separate, and peculiar position among the vills and prebends belonging to Wells.

I. Dinder as a Knight's Fee, A.D. 1123—1268.

'Denren' first appears by name among the possessions of the church of Wells in Edward the Confessor's confirmation of lands to Bishop Gisa, in 1064.[1] It was the frontier station in the valley on the border of the Glastonbury manor of Doulting consisting of the 20 casates on either side of the river of Doulting ("ex utroque margine fluminis cujus vocabulum est Dultin"), which Ine had given to Abbot Berwald, in 705.[2] Included in the manor of Wells, it is not mentioned by name in the *Domesday* survey of 1084.[3]

When Bishop Robert (1136—1166) was making prebends out of the neighbouring lands of Dultincote and Chilcote, of Wormestor and Whitchurch in Binegar, Dinder was not as yet numbered among the prebends. Before Bishop Robert's time, it had been granted as a lay fief by Henry I to his predecessor Bishop Godfrey. For nearly 150 years, until 1268, 'Dynre' stands separate and isolated from its neighbours as a knight's fee, held by the Bishop under the crown. During all this

(1). Denren is enumerated among the 50 manors belonging to the home estate of the Bishop in a group of villages on the eastern side of Wells, still bearing the same names. "Horningedune et oder Horningedune (Horrington), Hiwite circe (Whitchurch), Begenhanger (Binegar), Denrenn (Dinder), Dulticotan (Dulcote), Welsleg (Wellesleigh), Celicotan (Chilcote), Wuormestor, Wandestreu (Wanstrow)," and others. R. iii. f. 241; Dugd. *Mon.*, ii. f. 286.

(2). Kemble, *C.D.*, 49—73; Birch, *Cart. Sax.*, 112, 113.
Mr. F. H. Dickinson has kindly allowed me to see his notes on the charter. The boundaries on the western side appear to have run from Whitelake to Churchill, over Dinder, across the stream and up the hill to Crapnell, and through Maesbury—nearly corresponding with the Dinder and Croscombe boundaries.

(3). Eyton, *Domesday Studies*, i. 144; ii. 22-3. "The *Domesday* manor of Wells involved the bulk of seven parishes; the three parishes of Wells Forum in Wells itself, and the other four - Binegar, Dinder, Wookey, Priddy; these have no nominal mention in Domesday."

time it appears connected with the distant manor of Dogmersfeld, in Hampshire.

The manor of Dogmersfeld and the feodum of Dynre were granted together, in the same document. The claim of the Bishops to both was afterwards disputed, and tried in the King's Court, and the two were at last secured and confirmed to the Bishop in the same document, by Henry II and Rich. I, and Pope Alexander III.

In 1123, Henry I, then at Winchester, made two grants to Godfrey, Bishop of Bath, of the manor of Dogmersfeld and of the feodum of Dynre.[1]

Bishop Godfrey, a foreigner from the Netherlands, was chaplain and chancellor to Adeliza, of Löwen, second Queen to Henry. The manor of Dogmersfeld was near the royal castle of Odiham, and it may have been a satisfaction to the Queen to have had her chaplain near her. The advowson of Dogmersfeld was given to the abbey of Bath.[2] The manor became a favourite residence of the Bishops. Bishops Reginald and John de Drokensford died there,[3] and it remained in the possession of the see until the 16th century,[4] when, in the days of surrender which preceded spoliation, Bishop Clerk surrendered it to Henry VIII, in exchange for the hospital of St. John at Wells.[5]

At the same time and in the same document the fee of Dynre was made over by the Crown to the Bishop as a layfief for the support of one knight, who should be the Bishop's

(1). R. i. f. 16 *in dors.*

(2). Dugd. *Mon.*, ii., xiv. App. Bath Abbey. Bishop John de Villula (charter to monks of Bath), acknowledges 'Docme maresfeld' as part of the Abbey endowments.

(3). R. i. 181.

(4). In the *Valors* of 1290 and 1536, the manor is rated at £20 and £25, as part of the Bishop's temporalities.

(5). Collinson, iii. 409. The site of the hospital, and lands at Pinkesmore, Wokey, East Wells, Southover, the rectory and advowson of Evercreech were (36th Henry VIII) granted to Bishop Clerk, in consideration of manor and park of Dogmersfeld.

man.[1] The fee of Dynre was now held directly, *in capite*, by the Bishop as a temporal tenant, and he thereby was entitled to the privileges and bound to perform the services of a tenant under the Crown, as far as Dynre was concerned.

But the Bishops were not left undisturbed in their possessions of either Dogmersfeld or Dynre. About forty years after, when Bishop Robert had succeeded, "William Fitz-John of Herpetre unjustly took from Bishop Robert the fee of Dynre."[2] The lord of Herpetre at the time was William Fitz-John, son of John, fourth son of Ascelin de Perceval, who in time of Henry I was lord of Cary, Herpetre, Easton and Weston in Gordano, Batcombe, Stawell.[3] 'Lupus' and 'Lupellus' had become the unenviable appellation of father and son, disguised afterwards in the family name of Lovel. John inherited Ferringdun and Herpetre, and during the anarchy of Stephen's reign the lord of Herpetre had joined the party of the Empress and built his castle at East Herpetre, where he was besieged and his castle burnt by Stephen. William Fitz-John, his son, had so far advanced his fortunes, that in the 12th year of Henry II (1166), he certified that "he was possessed of thirteen knights' fees, and one half, and the fourth part of one knight's fee,"[4] and among these it may be were included the Bishop's meadows in the vale of Dynre, which he claimed before 1166.

But the spoliation of the father was atoned for by the devotion of the son. A period of reaction followed the reign of lawlessness and rapine in Stephen's time. The episcopate of Bishop Reginald (1174—1194) is remarkable for the many and bountiful gifts of land to the church, from Somersetshire landlords.[5] In 1178, William de Herpetre, son of William

(1). R. i. f. 16. The value of a knight's fee was at the time about £20 annually. Stubbs's *Const. Hist.*, i. 262. Four hides=640 acres, constituted a knight's fee in land, according to the measure of Glastonbury. *Liber de Hen. de Soliaco*, 1189.

(2). R. iii. f. 333. (3). *Som. Arch. Proc.*, vii. 88--93.

(4). Collinson, i. p. 141; ii. p. 137.

(5). R. iii. f. 13, *in dors.* contains a list of grants in Bishop Reginald's time.

Fitz-John, made a solemn act of restitution of the fee of Dynre, with hand on the Holy Gospels, and with the pledge of offering a gold ring every year on the altar of Holy Cross, in the chapter house of Wells; and Godfrey de Dynre, who had held under the lord of Herpetre, did homage as tenant of Bishop Reginald.[1]

But another claimant soon after arose to dispute the right of resignation by William de Herpetre. Henry de Tille, of another branch of the Lovel family, lord of West Herpetre (afterwards Harptre Tilly, as East Herpetre became Harptre Gournay), claimed to be the tenant to hold Dynre under the Bishop, instead of Godfrey de Dynre. The terms of composition made in the King's Court show that he had some ground for his claim. Henry de Tille finally surrendered his claims both to Dogmersfeld and Dynre; they were confirmed to Bishop Reginald by the King, '*in liberam elemosinam*,' and Godfrey de Dynre was confirmed in his tenure under the Bishop, "*per servitium unius militis*;" but Bishop Reginald was called upon to pay over to Henry de Tille 100 marcs.[2]

Successive charters, by Henry II, by Richard I, and by Pope Alexander III, confirm both Dogmersfeld and Dynre to Bishop Reginald.[3]

Dogmersfeld and Dynre, still bound together in their history, became in turn prebends in the church of Wells.

In 1215, when Bishop Jocelin of Wells was completing Bishop Robert's work on fabric and constitution, the Prior and Convent of Bath ceded to the Bishop the advowson of

(1). R. i. f. 60; ccxxxiii. *Carta de feodo de Dinre*; R. iii. f. 333; R. iii. f. 391; charter of William de Herpetre.

(2). Henry de Tille of West Herpetre, in 6th Richard I, paid £14 15s. as scutage for the King's ransom. In 3rd John, Henry de Tille and William Fitz-John, his brother made a compromise, whereby Henry gave to William (*a*) all he had in the honour of Herpetre,—10 knight's fees,—and (*b*) what he held in the fee of Glastonbury, in Downhead, Stoke, and Baceangre (Binegar), and (*c*) of the Bishop of Bath, Wocha hol (Wookey Hole), and Meanlingsberge (Melsbury); half a knight's fee and one hide in Westbury. (Hardy's *Patent Rolls*, p. 8; Cf. Collinson, ii. 141.

(3). R. i. f. 16, f. 46; *Carta de Dogmersfeld*, R. ii. ccxxxii.; *Carta de feodo de Dinre*, R. iii. f. 266—333; *Confirmatio P. Alex.*, iii. 333.

Dogmersfeld, and the pension of 20 solidi, which they were wont to receive through the hands of the parson of Dogmersfeld. The Bishop therewith founded a prebend of Dogmersfeld, and appointed thereto Luca, one of his clerks.[1]

In 1223, the advowson of the church of Dynre was given to Bishop Jocelin by William Flandre de Dynre—possibly the builder of a church there, of which he became thereby the patron.[2] The document conveying the grant of the advowson is set out in full in the *Liber Albus*:—

"Carta Willelmi fflandre de ecclesia de Dinr feod Joscelino Epō.[3]

"Omnibus Xti fidelibus ad quos presens carta pervenerit, Willelmus Flandre de Dinr salutem in Domino, Sciatis me in intuitu Dei et pro salute animæ meæ et omnium antecessorum et parentum meorum dedisse, concessisse, et presente carta confirmasse venerabili patri Domino Joscelino Bathon Epō advocationem ecclesiæ de Dinr cum pertinentibus suis, volens et concedens pro me et heredibus meis quod predictus Dominus episcopus et omnes successores sui in perpetuum de dicta ecclesia de Dinr cum pertinentibus et ipsius advocatione pro voluntate sua ordinent et disponent absque reclamatione et contradictione aliqua mei vel heredum meorum.

"Hujus testibus Domino Roberto Abbe Glaston, Farannio de Bonon, Rogo Tyrel militibus, Thom. de Altavill, Waltō Camerario, Philippo de Wyke, Waltō de Reygm, Thom. de Palton, Gilib'to de Gymel; et aliis."

II. Dinder as Prebend, A.D. 1268.—Prebenda sine curâ.

Forty-five years later, in 1268, Bishop William de Bytton, second of the name, gave up the advowson and the fee, and made Dynre a prebend, like the neighbouring hamlets of Dultincote, Chilcote, and Wormestor. The prebend of Dogmersfeld now disappears, and Dynre takes its place. The circumstances connected with the creation of the prebend of

(1). R. i. f. 46, clxxx. R. iii. f. 353.

(2). R. iii. f. 403.

(3). R. iii. f. 403, *in dors.*

Dynre are recorded with much care in the *Chapter Registers.*

At the beginning of the episcopate of Bishop Bytton the 2nd (1267—1274), a controversy of long standing was going on between the Dean, Edward de la Cnoll, and Richard Bamfeld, one of the prebendaries of Wedmore, and now holding also the prebend of Dogmersfeld. Bishop Jocelin, in the last year of his life (1242), had attached the Dogmersfeld pension to the church of Mark, and united Mark to the church of Wedmore, which belonged to the Dean, to be held as one benefice.[1] But Richard Bamfeld claimed six marcs as due to him from the church of Mark, and as part of his prebend. Both parties referred the matter to the Bishop's arbitration, and submitted themselves to his award. The Bishop's award is given in the Act of 'imprebendation' of Dynre, which is set out in full in the *Liber Albus* (i. f. 85). He confirmed the Dean in possession of Mark, but created the prebend of Dynre to compensate Richard Bamfeld for his loss.

"Imprebendatio ecclesie de Dinre.[2]

"Universis Christi fidelibus presentes literas inspecturis vel audituris Willelmus miseratione divina Bathoniensis et Wellensis episcopus salutem in salutis auctore.

"Ad reformandum inter nobis subditos pacis bonum, et eos maxime qui tanquam filii peculiares nobis ut patri, et membra capiti, indissolubili coherent glutino, eo libencius laboramus quo relatione mutua in eorum tribulationibus atterimur et molestiis molestamur.

"Hinc est quod dudum inter dilectos filios E. Decanum Wellensem ex parte una, et Ricardum de Bamfeld canonicum Wellensem ex altera, super eo quod idem Decanus solutionem annuam sex marcarum quas idem Ricardus tanquam prebende sue in ecclesia Wellensi debitas, prout asserit, de ecclesia de Merke percipit, eidem Ricardo silencium perpetuum imponi, et se et successores suos Decanos Wellenses ac predictam ecclesiam de Merke a solutione hujusmodi tanquam indebita

(1). R. i. f. 51; R. ii. f. 44; R. iii. f. 449. (2). R. i. f. 85.

petebat absolvi, orta materia questionis, eedem tandem partes incommoda litium detestantes, ordinationi nostre super questione hujusmodi se totaliter submiserunt, excepto quod idem Ricardus in submissione pro parte sua facta prebendam suam in dicta ecclesia Wellensi expresse retinuit et jus etiam canonie.

"Nos autem pacem ut diximus inter partes ponere cupientes, considerata tenuitate et exilitate prebendarum Wellensis ecclesie memorate, ac incommoditate rectoris ecclesie de Dogmersfeld, que de nostro patronatu existit, super solutione pensionis annue viginti solidorum facienda prebende, quam habet idem Ricardus in ipsa Wellensi ecclesia, affectantesque nichelominus ecclesie predicte de Merke quam nuper dedicavimus, rectoribus que Decanis Wellensibus nomine dotis libertatem adquiri, de capitulorum nostrorum Bathoniensium et Wellensium consilio et assensu capellam de Dinre in qua jus advocationis habemus prefate ecclesie Wellensi imprebendamus.

"Volumus etiam et ordinamus quod quamprimum ipsam vacare contigerit, dictus Ricardus, cui ex tune loco prebende in dicta ecclesia Wellensi capellam ipsam assignamus, nostro aut successorum ipsorum seu cujuscunque alterius assensu minime requisito libere ingrediatur et suo perpetuo cum omnibus suis pertinentiis integriter teneat ut prebendam, salvo nobis et successoribus nostris post ipsius Ricardi obitum vel cessionem jure conferendi ipsam prebendam de Dinre cui voluerimus idoneo, sicut ceteras facimus in Wellensi ecclesia sepedicta.

"Ordinamus insuper quod prefato Ricardo vel alio per nos aut successores nostros predictam prebendam de Dinre pacifice assecuto, predicte pensiones sex marcarum de ecclesie de Dogmersfeld supradictis omnino cessent, quodque Decani Wellenses et rectores ipsius ecclesie de Dogmersfeld qui pro tempore fuerint a prestatione ipsarum pensionum perpetuo liberentur.

"Et quum corpora defunctorum parochianorum ipsius capelle de Dinre apud suam matricem ecclesiam Sancti Cuthberti Wellie tumulantur, iidemque parochiani prefate ecclesie subduntur ut juri, de ipsorum capitulorum nostrorum et Johannis

vicarii ipsius ecclesie Sancte Cuthberti expresso consensu, attendentes quod Canonici ecclesiarum Cathedralium in hujusmodi ecclesiis residere et deservire habeant ac per hoc a curis animarum in parochialibus ecclesiis que imprebendantur eximi debeant, ordinamus quod quam primum capellam predictam vacare contigerit parochianorum ipsius animarum cura apud vicarium remaneat memoratum, ita quod Canonicus ipsius prebende ad eam nulla tenus teneatur; ad quam regendam ut convenit sub dicto vicario, ad curam et sollicitudinem ejus relevandam prefatus Ricardus et successores sui Canonici Wellenses qui dictam prebendam de Dinre pro tempore habuerint, eidem vicario et successoribus suis capellanum idoneum presentabunt sumptibus ipsius canonici totaliter sustentandum qui in sua admissione ad regimen cure predicte eidem vicario sacramentum prestabit quod in hoc et aliis erga ipsum vicarium fideliter se habebit, volentes quod in relevatione oneris quod eidem vicario ex hoc incumbit idem vicarius et successores sui de fructibus et proventibus memorate capelle unum quarterium frumenti et octo bussellos bone avene percipiant annuatim in festo Nativitatis Domini per manus Canonici qui pro tempore prebendam habuerit antedictam, ad quorum solutionem si necesse fuerit per nos aut officialem nostrum Decanum seu subdecanum Wellensem qui pro tempore fuerint, de plano et sine strepitu judiciali compelli volumus canonicum sepe dictum, salvis etiam eidem Vicario nichilominus omnibus que ante hanc ordinationem de dicta capella percipere consuevit, ac etiam dictis decano et capitulo decimis et aliis juribus secundum quod percipere consueverunt in parochia capelle supradicte temporibus retro actis, salva insuper nostra et successorum nostrorum ac ecclesiarum nostrarum in omnibus dignitate.

"In cujus rei robur et testimonium presentibus literis nostrum fecimus apponi sigillum—datum in capitulo nostro Wellensi ij Non̄ April anno Domini MCCLX octavo, et pontificatus nostri primo."

"Whereas there has been for some time past a contention between our beloved sons E[dward] Dean of Wells on one part, and Richard Bamfeld, Canon of Wells, on the other, on this ground, that the Dean wished Richard to be silenced with respect to the annual payment of six marcs which he receives from the church of Merke, due as the said Richard asserts, to his prebend in the church of Wells, and that the Dean and his successors and the church of Merke should be absolved from this payment as not due. Now at length the parties, in detestation of the evils of litigation, have submitted themselves entirely to our ordering on this question, Richard only excepting from this his submission that he expressly retained his prebend in the church of Wells, and the rights also of a canon.

"But we, desirous, as we have said, of making peace between the parties, and taking into consideration the poverty and barrenness of the prebends of the church of Wells, and the disadvantage to the rector of the church of Dogmersfeld, which is under our patronage, by the payment of the annual pension of 20 solidi for making the prebend which Richard holds in the church of Wells, and no less wishing the church of Merke, which we have lately dedicated, and the rectors, the Deans of Wells, should be released from the claim of endowment, we, with the counsel and assent of our Chapters of Bath and Wells, make a prebend in the church of Wells of the chapel of Dinre, of which we have the advowson.

"We will also and ordain that as soon as it shall happen that this chapel is vacant, this same Richard, to whom thenceforward we assign the chapel as a prebend in the church of Wells shall enter into possession freely without requiring the assent of us or our successors, and hold it in perpetuity as his prebend, with all its appurtenances, saving our right of conferring that same prebend of Dinre on any fit person whom we will, as we do other prebends in the church of Wells, after the death or resignation of Richard himself.

"We ordain, moreover, that when the said Richard, or any other, has peaceably obtained the prebend of Dinre, through us or our successors, the aforesaid pensions of six marcs from the church of Dogmersfeld shall cease altogether, and the Deans of Wells and the rectors of that church of Dogmersfeld, from time to time, shall be freed in perpetuity from the payment of these pensions.

"And, whereas the bodies of parishioners of this chapel of Dinre are buried at the mother church of St. Cuthbert, Wells, and the same parishioners are lawfully subject to the said church, now we, with the express consent of our Chapters, and of John, Vicar of the church of St. Cuthbert, and mindful that Canons of Cathedral churches having to reside in these churches and serve there, ought thereby to be exempted from the cure of souls in the parochial churches which are their prebends, we ordain that as soon as it shall happen that this chapel is vacant the care of souls of the parishioners shall remain with the aforesaid Vicar, so that the Canon of this prebend shall in no wise be bound to it. And to the due governance thereof under the said Vicar, and to the lightening of his care and anxiety therein, the said Richard and his successors, Canons of Wells, who from time to time shall hold this prebend of Dinre, shall present to the Vicar and his successors a fit chaplain, who shall be wholly supported at the expense of the Canon, and who in his admission to the governance of this cure shall take an oath to the Vicar that he will hold himself faithful in this and other things towards the Vicar. And it is our will that in the lightening of the burden which herefrom lies upon the Vicar, he and his successor shall receive from the fruits and produce of the chapel, one quarter of wheat and eight bushels of good barley every year, on the Feast of the Nativity, through the hands of the Canon who from time to time shall hold this prebend; and if it should be necessary, we are willing that the Canon should be compelled to this payment through our intervention, or our

official, the Dean or Sub-Dean of Wells, from time to time.

"Not the less, we reserve also to the said Vicar all which he has been in the habit of receiving from this chapel previously to this ordinance, and also tenths and other rights to the Dean and Chapter, according as they have been accustomed to receive in the parish of the chapel in times past, and we reserve, moreover, our dignity and that of our successors and of our churches in all things.

"In support and testimony whereof we have affixed our seal to these letters, given in our Chapter of Wells, the second of the Nones of April, 1268, in the first year of our pontificate."[1]

This deed has an interest wider than the local questions connected with the Dinder prebend, as illustrating the Cathedral history of the time.

The act is done in the Chapter House at Wells, in council with the Chapters of the two churches, the Dean and Canons of Wells, the Prior and Convent of Bath, and it shows the harmonious working of the Bishop with his Chapters as his Council at this time—as "a father with his sons: as the head with the members of the body."

Bishop William de Bytton belonged to a family from the village of Bytton, on the north bank of the Avon valley, which about this time gave many of its members to the church of Wells, and seemed to have acquired an hereditary interest in its offices and dignities.[2] Three of the family held the Archdeaconry of Wells between 1243—1284; two of these, uncle and nephew, succeeded to the Bishopric; the other, Archdeacon in 1270, Dean in 1284,[3] became Bishop of Exeter

(1). We have an instance of the partial detachment of a chapelry in the neighbourhood from the mother church of St. Cuthbert's, a few years before. Jan. 12, 1260, Philip de Bytton obtained leave from the Dean and Chapter for celebration of Divine offices at his chapel of (Maulesberg) Melsbury. John, the Vicar, assenting, on condition that all offerings made at the four great feasts, and those which Philip was bound to pay as parishioner, should go to the mother church of St. Cuthbert, saving only one penny a day to the Dean and Chapter. For this he was to pay two shillings and sixpence. R. i. f. 106.

(2). Godwin de Præsulibus. (3). R. i. f. 31, *in dors.*

in 1291. Others of the family held offices at Wells about the same time, as Precentor, Provost, and Treasurer.

Bishop William the 2nd, elected 1267, bore the reputation of great sanctity. For this reason, at Archbishop Kilwarbey's consecration, in 1273, he was specially chosen by the Archbishop to be one of his consecrators ;[1] and the popular belief that miracles were worked at his tomb after death, attested his sanctity. An incised slab of black marble in the south aisle of the choir of Wells marks the place of his burial.

Edward de la Cnoll, 10th Dean, elected September 19, 1256, lived through three episcopates, to September 10, 1284. He was employed by Henry in negotiations with France in 1264, and he has left his mark at Wells, as counsellor with two Bishops, and author of two codes of statutes, in 1259 and 1273.

Richard Bamfeld, Canon of Wedmore and Dogmersfeld, and afterwards of Dynre, was a man of importance and substance among the Canons of his time. In 1262 he was one of the proctors of the Chapter deputed to treat with the monks of Bath on the election of a successor to Bishop William Bytton 1st. In his life-time he gave the Dean and Chapter lands and houses: 55 acres at Wokeyhole and Dultincot; houses in Wells,—among others, the site of the present vicarage house of St. Cuthbert's. By his will, proved in the year following the foundation of the Dynre stall, he left lands at the same places to the Dean and Chapter, on condition that masses should be said on the anniversary of his death, for his soul, and the soul of his father and mother, at the altar of St. Edmund, Archbishop and confessor, near the place in the Cathedral church which he had chosen for his burial.[2]

(1). *Matt. Paris*, 860. *Angl. S.*, i. 566.

(2). R. i. f. 87 ; R. iii. f. 239. "Cantaria Ricardi Bamfeld, Canonici Wellensis, viz., Canon. de Wedmore et Dogmersfeld postea de Dynre, 1269."

2 Priests to say masses at St. Edmund's altar on anniversary of his death;
50 shillings to each Priest ;
3 shillings 4 pence for 2 wax candles, to be burnt during mass ;
200 poor to receive one farthing each ;

The *Chapter Register*, which contains at full length the imprebendation of Dynre, contains also, in the will of the first Prebendary of Dynre, the fullest detail yet given there of an endowment of an obit or anniversary service for the soul of the departed. It is significant of the change that was taking place at this time in the religious feeling as to endowments. Through the last century and a half, benefactions to the church had taken the form of endowment of prebends and offices in the Cathedral church, which would tend to benefit posterity, by making the church the home of devotion and learning. Now in the prominence given to the doctrines of purgatory and indulgences, the church was preaching the duty of the living towards the dead—the power of prayer and alms-deeds for the departed. "The offerings of the dead became the trade of the living," and the foundation of chantries and obits was one of the most fashionable forms of religious endowment. Within the latter half of the 13th century, not fewer than twelve obits or chantries were founded at one or other of the many altars in the Cathedral church, and in 1401 a college was founded at la Mountery, in the North Liberty, by Bishop

20 pence to second poor—"languidioribus qui pro pudore mendicare erubescerent;"
12 pence to the Communar and the Priest who distribute the alms;
10 shillings to the Canons who take part;
6 shillings for a wax candle at the cross in nave;
4 shillings for another (mortarium), to be burnt nightly before altar of B.V.M.;
6 pence to Sacrist, 2 pence to Sub-Sacrist, for tolling.

If after his death the rents should be insufficient, the lights may be omitted; if still insufficient, the gifts to the poor: the masses are to be celebrated by all means. He concludes, "Decanum et capitulum adjuro ne aliquid per me superius collatum alicui dignitati nec prebende quibuscunque conditionibus annectatur."

St. Edmund of Canterbury had lately been canonized. Edmund Rich of Abingdon, teacher at Oxford (perhaps of Grosseteste, and of Roger Bacon), Prebendary and Treasurer of Salisbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1234—1240, was canonized in 1246, as St. Edmund of Pontigny, where he died in retirement. His altar was in the south side of the nave, at the entrance of the choir of that time. His day was kept on November 16, a few days before that of St. Edmund, King and martyr, November 20. Bishop Ralph de Erghum, a Salisbury man, founded his chantry at St. Edmund's altar, January 20, 1399. (R. iii. f. 92.) As late as 1544, John Lambert, Vicar Choral, was collated to the chantry "ad altare Sti Edmundi episcopi et confessoris in navi ecclesiæ pro anima Ricardi Bamfylde." Archer's *Long Book*, p. 135.

Erghum, for 14 chantry priests, whose sole function it was to say masses for the dead. There is a clause significant of this feeling at the end of Richard Bamfeld's will, in which he adjures the Dean and Chapter not to allow any of his endowments for masses to be appropriated under any conditions to any dignity or prebend in the Cathedral church. The same clause seems also to show that he was dissatisfied with the award of the Bishop, which had taken from him the six marcs which he claimed, and had given him instead, the contingent prospect of an ill endowed prebend, subject to peculiar restrictions. For indeed, as in its earlier history Dynre had been separate from its neighbours, as a knight's fee, among prebendal lands, so, as a prebend in the church, it was separated from the prebends of earlier creation in the conditions under which it was founded. It was the last made prebend—born, as it were, out of due time, when the period of prebendal foundations, the times of Bishop Robert and Bishop Jocelin, had closed; born out of litigation and arbitration, and at its birth bound and swathed with conditions which gave it a different character from the other and older prebends.

1. It was a chapelry subject to the vicar of St. Cuthbert's.

The effect of the Bishop's award had been to confirm the Dean in possession of Mark, and to relieve Dogmersfeld and Mark from annual pensions. In order to compensate the Prebendary of Wedmore for the loss of his six marcs, he had created for him an additional prebend out of the chapelry of Dynre. But the rights of the mother church of St. Cuthbert's, in Wells to burial and payment of dues were reserved. The Act recites that the cure of souls in Dynre shall remain with the Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, and that the Prebendary shall present to the Vicar a fit person as Chaplain, to be in the position of curate, in the modern sense, to the Vicar, and shall support him at his own charge, besides paying to the Vicar an annual pension, in addition to what he had been wont to receive from Dynre.

2. The chapel of Dynre was also under the special jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells. All the prebends were exempt from the jurisdiction of both Archdeacon and Bishop,[1] but Dinder, as a chapel in the suburb of Wells, was always a 'peculiar' of the Dean.[2]

This condition may not have been acceptable to Richard Bamfeld at this time, after his litigation. The after history of Dinder was probably much affected by its position, as belonging exclusively to the Dean's jurisdiction.

3. It was distinctively, by the terms of its foundation, a prebend without cure of souls.

The Act recites that, according to the Chapter regulations of the time, the cure of souls was incompatible with tenure of the prebend—"attendentes quod canonici ecclesiarum Cathedralium in hujusmodi ecclesiis residere et deservire habeant, ac per hoc a curis animarum in parochialibus ecclesiis que imprebendantur eximi debeant."

Two views about canonical residence were current in the 13th century. According to the stricter view which Bishop Grosseteste of Lincoln, writing in 1239, was attempting to enforce in his diocese, continuous residence at the Cathedral was required from all Prebendaries, unless they had a dispensation, and parochial cure was incompatible with residence.[3]

(1). Savaric, in 1203, had exempted all prebends from the Archdeacon's jurisdiction. R. ii. f. 42; R. iii. f. 12. The Chapter asserted and established exemption of prebends from the Bishop's jurisdiction in Bishop Drokensford's time, in 1319. (R. Drokensford, 183.) R. i. 151—163.

(2). R. i. ff. 156—188. "Jurisdictio mediata et immediata Decani in urbe Well; et ipsius suburbio, nec non in prebendis, ecclesiis, capellis aliis forinsecus ab urbe et ipsius suburbio, nominatim Dinre, Wormester, Dultingcot. Concordia inter Decanum et Sub-Decanum, 1310."

(3). Grosseteste, Ep. 74, 127, ed. *Luard.*, Rolls Series. The conflicting opinions of the day are contained in a letter to Cardinal Otto, in which he declines to confer a prebend at Lincoln on a nominee, who held a cure of souls.

"Licet enim plurium sit opinio quod absque dispensatione possint simul haberi licite præbenda cum cura animarum annexa, et parochialis ecclesia, nos tamen adhuc super hoc dubitamus quia quondam sic opinantium assertione inducti, tenuimus aliquamdiu simul hujusmodi præbendam et parochialem ecclesiam; remordente autem nos nostra conscientia consuluimus super hoc dominum Papam per quendam virum sapientem Deumque timentem, qui a domino Papa suscepit in responso, licet hoc non posset obtinere in literâ, quod nequaquam potuimus sine dispensatione præbendam hujusmodi parochiali ecclesia simul licite tenere."

Bishop Jocelyn, on the other hand, had ordained that Dignitaries, Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, Treasurer, Sub-Dean, and Succentor, should reside continuously, Prebendaries no more than twenty-six weeks in the course of the year to entitle them to share in the common fund. One audit in the year, in the octave of St. Calixtus, was fixed, at which there should be a dividend of the residuum of the common fund among those who had kept residence; but no direct obligation of continuous residence was imposed on any who did not hold dignities—"sufficit sive residerit per duas partes anni sive continue sive interpolatim, ita quod per istam ordinationem non arcetur aliquis simplex canonicus ad residendum nisi velit."[1] For the rest of the year the Canons might reside on the prebend of which they held the patronage, either serving the cure of souls in person, or appointing a Vicar at a fixed and proportionate payment, regulated by the Bishop.

But the Prebendary of Dynre now came into office under a stricter rule of residence than had hitherto been laid upon the Canons. In the statutes of 1259, on account of complaints of inexact computation and unequal distribution, the year was divided into four terms of thirteen weeks: from Michaelmas to the vigil of St. Sylvester; from St. Sylvester to the last day of March; from April 1 to the end of June; from July 1 to Michaelmas. Four audits were to be held at each of these four terms, and residence was strictly required within each, of six weeks and four days for simple Canons; of eight weeks for the *quinque personæ*, Dean, Precentor, Archdeacon of Wells, Chancellor, and Treasurer. Incomplete residence in one term might not be made up in another. A more equal partition of the common fund was ensured, and 50 marcs reserved from the revenues of North Curry were always to be in the hands of the Communar, for division among the residentiaries.[2]

(1). R. i. f. 51; R. ii. ff. 17, 41.

(2). The statutes of 1259 were signed by the Dean, E. de la Cnoll, Precentor, Chancellor, Sub-Dean, Succentor, and 12 Canons. R. i. f. 105; R. iii. f. 17; and Archer's *Chronicon*, p. 168.

4. The prebend of Dynre was ill endowed, and one of the least in value among the prebends. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas, 1291, the prebend of Dynre is returned at 6 marcs.[1] But in the valuation made by Dean Haselshaw's statute, in 1298, for a just apportionment of the *annus post mortem*, Dynre is estimated at 8 marcs[2] (£5 6s.) The prebends then highest in value were Yatton, Milverton, and St. Decuman's, each of the value of £50.

The prebend of Dinder thus founded, and with these peculiarities, henceforth takes its place among the prebendal stalls in the church of St. Andrew. Bishop Robert, in 1136, had established the rule, following the practice of Sarum and Lincoln, that the Psalter should be said daily by the whole Cathedral body, in portions assigned to each member, as an act of private devotion, and of intercommunion with their brethren and with the whole Catholic Church. In Dean Haselshaw's statutes, in 1298, this old rule was re-enforced, and a re-distribution of the Psalms among the increased number of prebends was made. The number now was 53. The Bishop took the first three Psalms, and the Abbots of Bec, Muchelney, and Athelney, holding severally the stalls of Cleeve, Ilminster, and Sutton, were included. The Psalms assigned to Dynre, last but one on the prebendal roll, were: Psalm 143—*Domine exandi;* Psalm 144—*Benedictus Dominus;* Psalm 145—*Exaltabo te, Deus.*[3]

The Prebendary of Dynre bore his share in the expenses incurred in the support and gradual growth of the stately fabric of the church, during the next 100 years. Great architectural works were going on in Bishop Robert Burnell's time, 1274—1292, both outside and inside the church. In 1285, the King had granted leave to the Bishop to enclose the cemetery of the church and the precincts of the Canons

(1). *Taxatio P. Nicholai*, p. 200. The entry is peculiar: "Dynr alib beneficiat. £4."

(2). R. i. f. 220.

(3). R. ii. 42-5. Reynolds, p. 71.

houses with an embattled wall, with gates and posterns, to be closed at night and opened at dawn,[1] and the 'goodlye hall of state' in the Bishop's Palace was being built at the time by Bishop Burnell.

In the Cathedral church money was wanted for repairs, and for the 'new structure' of the Chapter House—of which at this time the undercroft was finished, and the great staircase was rising.

In 1286 a Chapter was called together, to raise funds to meet the cost of the Cathedral works, and the Canons agreed that each should pay a tenth from his prebendal revenue for five years.[2] Again, in 1298, in consequence of dangerous defects in the roof of the church, a like self-taxation was voted.[3]

At a Chapter called May 8, 1318, the Dean and Canons had to consider how they shall proceed against those members of the body who have not paid their tenths, charged upon all, for the new bell-tower. Among the Prebendaries who did not answer to their names on the occasion, were eight who were in foreign parts, 'extra regnum,' and the Prebendary of Dynre was one of this number.[4]

In 1325, Dean Godelee, in Chapter, orders the stalls to be repaired for the new choir, now prolonged eastward, and each Canon is called upon to bear the cost of his own stall.[5] Then came the time of disaster, from a too vaulting ambition in raising the central tower. In 1339, under Dean London, in Bishop Ralph's episcopate, a convocation was summoned to meet the cost of necessary repairs for the church,—crushed and shattered by the sinking of the tower,—and it was determined that £300 must be raised for repairing losses.[6] The prebend of Dynre was then valued at 13 marcs (£8 13s. 4d.), and taxed for stall wages, or payments to the vicar-choral, at

(1). R. ii. 18. Anno 1285. Archer's *Chron.*, f. 191.
(2). R. i. 198. Anno 1286. (3). R. i. 220, *in dors.* Anno 1298.
(4). R. i. f. 143. May 8, 1318.
(5). R. i. ff. 173, 175. (6). R. i. ff. 198, 200, 201, 208.

20s. At the same time, the prebends of Yatton and St. Decuman's, the highest in value, were estimated at £50 each, and taxed severally at 40s. and 43s.

We thus obtain an estimate of the value of Dynre prebend, and of the charges made upon it within one hundred years of its foundation. It had risen from 6 marcs to 13—from £4 to £8 13s. 4d.; but there were stated charges upon it, and extraordinary calls for fabric expenses, and it was the lowest in the scale of value, except Holcombe.

It is an interesting question which no document has satisfactorily answered as yet, how long the peculiar and anomalous relation of the Prebendary of Dinder to the Vicar of St. Cuthbert's continued. There are evidences of a dependent connection of Dinder with St. Cuthbert's during the 14th and 15th centuries, and it is not until the 16th century that we have positive evidence that Dinder has become an independent parish. No collation to the prebend is found in the registers for more than one hundred years after the foundation of the stall. During that interval, and through the 15th century, we know something of the lords of Dinder, and the names at least, of the chaplain and the miller—but nothing of the Prebendary. A Flemish family appears to have settled on the fee of Dynre in the 13th century. William Flandre de Dynre cedes the advowson to the Bishop in 1223, and Walter le Fleming of Dynre makes grant of a fardel of land in the ville of Dynre, in a deed dated "the morrow of St. Edmund the Archbishop," 1298.

In the 14th century the Rodneys held under the Bishop. Richard de Rodeney died 1327, seised of the manor of Dynre, held under the Bishop, at a reserved rent of £13.[1] In 1333, Bishop Ralph granted to Walter de Rodeney, in perpetual lease, 12 acres, which had been held by John le Tucker of Croscombe dying a bastard, without heirs. Walter is to pay, *pro servitio*, one rose on the feast of St. John the Baptist.[2]

(1). Collinson, iii. f. 412. (2). R. i. f. 194.

Another of the same family, Richard de Rodeney, was Prebendary of Wormestor, and one of the Canons residentiary in 1331–4.[1]

Next in importance to the lord was the miller. A family had grown up during the 14th century, the Mullewards, who held the flour mill at Dynre from 1362.[2] They held lands also at Priestley, in Doulting. Several deeds relating to the Mulleward family are among the Chapter documents, dating from 1362 to 1461.[3] The name of the Chaplain of Dynre comes before us therein, and some notices appear of connection with St. Cuthbert's in the wills of two of the family. John Rooke, chaplain, and William Smith of Dynre, grant to William Mulleward of Dynre and Alice his wife, crofts and lands in Priestly, in 1384. William Mulleward of Dynre, in his will, dated 1394, bequeaths his soul to God, and his body to be buried in the cemetery of St. Cuthbert's, in Wells; and he also bequeaths to Sir John, the Chaplain, 12 pence, to celebrate for his soul, and for the souls of all the faithful departed.[4] In the will of John, son of William, 1403, there is the same direction that his body shall be laid in the cemetery of St. Cuthbert's, and two shillings and six pence are bequeathed to the parish priest of Dynre—"sacerdoti parochiali ecclesiæ de Dynre;" also 40 pence to the parish church of Wells. Both wills are proved before the official of the Dean of Wells, 'in the chapel of the B.V.M. near the cloisters.'[5]

It is not specified in these cases whether masses were to be celebrated by the Chaplain at Dinder, or by the parish priest of St. Cuthbert's, at Wells. But another evidence of connection between the chapel and the mother church is preserved

(1). R. i. f. 248.

(2). *Chapter Documents*, f. 262, 36th Edward III, 1362. John Boys of Croscombe, and Matilda, his wife, grant and confirm to William Mulleward of Dynre, the moiety of profits "de molendario nostro aquatico ad triticum in villa de Dynre."

(3). *Chapter Documents*, ff. 363, 422, 512, 614, 616, 617, 618, 660, 666, 721.

(4). *Chapter Documents*, f. 721. (5). *Chapter Documents*, f. 512.

in the report of the Chantries Commission of Edward VI, 1547, where, in a schedule 'of all chantries and obits belonging to the parish church of St. Cuthbert's,' "lights and obits founded within the parish church of Dynder," and supported by land in Dynder, are included among the endowments of St. Cuthbert's, together with "the chapell of Saincte Paule of Paulesham, and the chapell of Saincte Audrie, and the chapel of Southwaye, late of Thomas Beckyt, within the said parishe."[1] It would appear that when this obit was founded, Dynder formed part of the out-parish of St. Cuthbert's. It was supported by land in Dynder, viz., "one tenement called Langhowse, with two acres of arable land and one roode of medowe —the total value, 2s. 8d." 'Langhowse' or 'Langhays' is mentioned in a deed of conveyance made in 1491, by Johanne le reeve de Dynre, to Richard Atwye and others. By other grants, made in 1516, by Richard Atwye, 'Langhays' and 'Whitehays,' and other cottages and lands, became "the parish lands," the rents and use whereof were by later deeds, put in trust "for the use of the church of Dinder, and for the benefit of the parishioners of Dinder."[2]

Meantime, the names of the Prebendaries of Dinder are wanting—for more than 100 years. No notices of collations to Dynre are found in the register books at Wells, of Bishop Drokensford, 1309—1329, or of Bishop Ralph de Salopia, 1329—1363. The registers of Bishop Harewell, 1367— 1386, and Bishop Skirlawe, 1386—1388, do not exist at Wells.

The earliest record of collation yet found occurs in the Chapter Acts, under date May 5, 1382:[3] "Magister Adam Dawnport admissus fuit in canonicatum Wellensem et pre-

(1). "Certificate of Commissioners of Colleges, Chantries, etc., appointed under Act of 1st Edward VI, so far as related to the city and Cathedral Church of Wells."

(2). Dinder parish papers. In a summary of parish lands, taken Oct. 29, 1695, Whitehays is described as adjoining the churchyard. 'Langhays' became the poor-house. Millard's mill is mentioned. Phelps, ii. 192.

(3). R. i. f. 282.

bendarium prebendæ de Dynre in eadem per presidentem capituli, et installatus in eadem de mandato Domini."

The first record in the register of the Bishop's acts is found in Bishop Bowett's register, February 21, 1406.[1] In that year Bishop Bowett, employed in conducting Philippa daughter of Henry IV to Norway, to be married to King Eric, seems to have put his patronage in commission, and Archbishop Arundel, the Bishops of Winchester (Beaufort) and of Durham, and two of the Canons of Wells are patrons, *pro hac vice*, in the collation of the Prebendary of Dynre.

Thenceforward the series of Prebendaries is nearly complete through the 15th century. The names are unknown to fame. Two Prebendaries, in 1406 and 1411, exchanged the prebend for chantries in London,

> "And ran unto London unto Saint Poule's,
> To seken them a chauntrey of soules."

Thomas Chandler, Fellow of Winchester, friend and biographer of Bishop Beckington, and afterwards Chancellor of the diocese, 1454, meditated an exchange of his living near Southampton with Dynder prebend, if it could be held together with his fellowship; but the exchange was not carried out.[2]

Three of the Prebendaries in close succession were Canons residentiary. John Moneyman, also Vicar of St. Cuthbert's in 1493; John Lugwarden, Bishop's Commissary, 1496; Wm. Gumby, 1510.

The following is a list of Prebendaries from the imprebendation in 1268 to 1510:—

1268.	Richard Bamfeld	R. i. f. 85.
1382.	Adam Daunport	R. i. f. 282.
1404.	John Hallswell, 'per resignationem Hugonis Haneworth... Exchanged for chapelry of St. Martin, in St. Paul's, London, with	Bishop Bowett, R. f. 47

(1). Bishop Bowett, R. f. 47. (2). *Beckynton Correspondence*, i. f. 191.

1411.	Thomas Ferreby, exchanged for Canonry of St. Radegund in St. Paul's, London ...	Bishop Bubwith, R. f. 51.
1429.	Nicolas Upton	Bishop Stafford, R. f. 17.
1453.	Thomas Swyft, Jan. 9	Bishop Beckington, R. f. 173.
	Thomas Morton, Dec. 3 ...	
1463.	Richard Welton	Ditto, f. 306.
1475.	William Dudley	Bishop Stillington, R. f. 99.
1476.	John Lichfield	Ditto.
1493.	John Moneyman, Vicar of St. Cuthbert's	Bishop King, R. f. 2.
	Canon Residentiary, 1495 ...	
1496.	John Lugwarden. Canon Resid. 1499	Ditto, f. 9.
	Official of the Dean, 1498 ...	Archer's *Long Book*, p. 97.
	Commissary of the Bishop ...	
1499.	William Dulton	Ditto.
1501.	John Steynham	*Chapter Acts.*
1509.	Robert Gumby, *alias* Austeyne	Ditto.
	Canon Residentiary, 1510 ...	*Chapter Doc.*, 748.

Table of Prebendaries, from 1509 to 1840.

1528.	Robert Coket.	1679.	Joshua Lasher.
1547.	Simon Seward.	1702.	Henry Mills.
1552.	John Snow.	1712.	Elias Rebotier.
1570.	John Lowth.	1718.	Robert Creyghton.
1589.	Robert Godwin.	1728.	Richard Healy.
1616.	William Rogers.	1736.	Edmund Lovell.
1623.	William Oldis.	1779.	John Jenkyns.
1641.	Samuel Lanfire.	1824.	Richard Jenkyns.
1664.	Samuel Lanfire, jun.	1845.	John Armstrong.
1671.	William Fane.		

All through this time, from 1268 to 1500, there is no direct

evidence that any change has taken place in the original relation of Dynder as a chapelry to the mother church of St. Cuthbert. As we follow the history in the 16th century, we find that a change has taken place, but we are left to conjecture how and when the change took place. At some date, —to which, perhaps, the architecture of the church may point as about the latter part of the 15th century,—there had been a reconstruction of the prebend.

By a move—it may be of the parishioners, or of the lord, seeking parochial independence; or by the action of the Dean, having sole jurisdiction in Dynder, and of the Dean and Chapter, having patronage in St. Cuthbert's, and with the Bishop's concurrent action—Dynder has become a separate parish, with glebe, parsonage, and burial ground.

Still the prebend holds a peculiar and unique position among the other prebends. There is no record in the registers of the Bishops of any institutions to the cure of souls in Dinder. It would appear that the Bishop never exercised his right of appointing a perpetual Vicar, and apportioning his share of payment, as in other prebends.[1] The Prebendary appears to have held habitually the cure of souls at Dinder by virtue of his collation to the prebend. He was allowed to discharge his spiritual duties at Dinder personally, or by deputy, without any obligation to residence; to enjoy the temporalities and spiritualities free from all dues to St. Cuthbert's, and to hold other benefices together with it.

The poverty of the stall, the nearness to Wells, the exemption of Dinder from the Bishop's jurisdiction, as a peculiar of the Dean's jurisdiction, must be taken into account, as helping us to understand the growth, in a lax time, of this anomalous position of the prebend, in which the pecuniary interests of the Prebendary, rather than the parish, were considered.

(1). Cf. Kennet's case of impropriation, p. 41; cases of Yatton prebend, R. iii. f. 151, 1327; Taunton prebend, in contrast *vid.* Phillimore, i. 267, 275.

III. Dinder Prebend; 16th and 17th centuries.

In the 16th century we enter upon troublous times, during which there are gaps in the records at Wells.

During the episcopate of Hadrian de Castello, 1504—1518, many of the muniments of the Cathedral and episcopal registers were lost.[1] From 1513 to 1571, and again from 1644 to 1664, no acts of Dean and Chapter are recorded.[2]

When the abbeys had fallen, the chief spoilers reserved the lands of Wells Palace and Deanery for a prey unto themselves, and Bishop, Dean, and Chapter were confederate with the spoilers.

Thomas Cromwell, the lay Vicar-General of "the Supreme Head," was Dean of Wells for the last three years of his evil life—1537–1540.

At the beginning of Edward the 6th reign, the naturalized Italian, Polydore Vergil,[3] 'Quæstor Pontificius,' or sub-collector of the Pope's pence, under his kinsman, Hadrian de Castello, Archdeacon of Wells from 1508, sold in perpetuity the house of the Archdeacon at Wells, and received license to return to his town of Urbino, in Italy, holding the rents and profits of the archdeaconry for his life.

In the first year of Edward VI, 1547, the Dean, Fitz-William, surrendered the Deanery and all its manors; and in the same year, Somerset, the Protector by grant from the Crown, entered into possession. Next year Bishop Barlow surrendered the Palace, and was allowed the Deanery in exchange, that Somerset might pass from Deanery to Palace.

After Somerset's execution, in 1552, a man of the Court, Sir John Gates, 'Captaene of his Grace's guard,' came into possession of the Palace, to root out, to pull down, and to

(1). "Excommunicatio in eos qui munimenta registri et alias scripturas ex Archivis domini episcopi furtim abstulerunt. Septr., A.D. 1515."

(2). On cover of *Chapter Acts*, No. 2, it is written, "*Liber Ruber* desinit anno 1513. Hic liber incipit anno Dni. 1591. Sic deficiunt acta capitularia per annos 78 plus minus." But *Chapter Acts* No. 1, 1571 to 1599, has lately been found.

(3). Polydore Vergil *Hist.*, *Camden Soc. Publ.*, Preface xix. xxxvii.

destroy; and Bishop Barlow and the Dean and Chapter made that wantonly sacrilegious grant of "that goodlye Ladye Chapelle in the cloisters on the south side of the Cathedral, to be cleared away and made plaine, in four years and a half."[1]

The notices of Dinder in the official documents of the 16th century show clearly separation from St. Cuthbert's and the parochial independence of Dinder, but there is nothing to explain the peculiar relation of prebend and rectory, or to show that they were legally united.

The first notice of Dynder, in the 16th century, occurs in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1537.

Under the Act of 26th Henry VIII, which gave to the King the Papal first fruits and tenths, a general survey of all benefices was appointed, of which we have the returns in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1536-7. The survey of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall was made in the 27th Henry VIII, 1537. Dyndre is there described, in common with sixteen other prebends of the Cathedral church, as prebend and rectory, but the Prebendary is not entitled Rector. The annual value is set out as £7 10s. 6d., with deductions therefrom to the vicar-choral and to the stall of £5, leaving a net income of £2 10s. 6d., of which the tenths were five shillings three farthings.[2] In a contemporaneous manuscript[3] among the

(1). *Chapter Documents*, No. 773.

(2). The entry is as follows:—*Valor Ecclesiasticus*, p. 135. Dyndre. Rob'tus Cocket preb: prebenda et rectoria ibidem valet per annum, vizt:—

	li.	*s.*	*d.*
In terris dominicis		xx	vi
Decimis prædialibus cum oblationibus et aliis decimis personalibus	vi	x	
	vii	x	vi
Ultra. Solut pro stallo chorali pro annuale pensione cuidam Vicario chorali	iv		
	ii	x	vi
Decima inde ...		v	ob 'q'

(3). There is a memorandum at the end of this manuscript of the "Imprebendateo prebendæ de Dynre per William Episcopum gerent dat. nonis Aprilis anno dni. millesimo ducentesimo sexagento octavo, ut scriptum in *Nigro Registro*, folio 85," apparently the *Nigrum Registrum* or *Liber Niger* was another name for *Liber Albus*, so called from its later bindings in white.

Cathedral documents,[1] containing also a return at Bishop Barlow's visitation in May 12th, 1551, Dyndre prebend is estimated at the yearly value of £8 13s. 4d., with a deduction of twenty shillings to the Vicar; but the tenths are the same—five shillings three farthings.

November 25th, 1591, is the date of the charter given by Queen Elizabeth to the Dean and Chapter, by which they were confirmed in their possessions after the confusions of the early part of the century. This charter, which is assumed to be the governing charter of the present and modern church of Wells, recites and confirms, with verbose exactness, all the dignities and estates which had belonged to the Cathedral church, and to each member thereof, within the last twenty years past, and re-invests all with legal authority. The charter confirms to the Prebendary of Dynder (Robert Goodwin, 1589 to 1613) "all the prebend of Dyndre, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, &c., as tithes, advowsons, rights of patronage—which the last Prebendary of Dyndre, as in right and force of the said prebend hath held—for the space of twenty years now last past."[2] The charter, which makes special mention of certain rectories as attached and united to certain prebends, such as those held by the Archdeacon, the Chancellor, Treasurer, and Sub-Dean, and two others—Haselbury, and Compton Dundon—makes no such mention of the rectory of Dinder as being attached to the prebend. We must trace the history under the names and dates of the successive Prebendaries to obtain any further information as to the relation of the prebend and rectory of Dinder.

Prebendaries of Dinder, from the 16th Century.

Some names emerge during this time of imperfect records:

1528. Robert Coket ... ... *Valor Eccl.* i. 175.

(1). "MS. return of tenths granted of all rents to the King by Act of Parliament, in 26th year of his reign." Simon Seward, Preb. de Dyndre—taxatur tempore visitationis Dyndre xiii marcæ; stipendium vicarii per ann xx sol.

(2). Charter of Queen Elizabeth to the Dean and Chapter of Wells.

1547. Simon Seward, Prebendary at Bishop Barlow's visitation, 1550 } MS. return in Chapter Library.

In 1547, the year in which Dean Fitzwilliam surrendered his Deanery, the Prebendary of Dinder leased the prebend for 12s. annually to John Jeffries } *Chapter Acts.*

1552. John Snow ... ... Le Neve's *Fasti.*

1570. John Lowth[1] ... ... Ditto.

1589. Robert Godwin ... ... { *Chap. Acts*, ii. 59, 60 Bishop Godwin, R.

"Feb. 27. Admissus fuit ad prebendam de Dinder per mortem Johannis Snowe et installatus prout moris est, cum salmo quotidie dicendo."[2]

"March 12. Admissus fuit ad rectoriam Kingston Seymour."

Robert Godwin was Prebendary at the time when the charter of Elizabeth was given: son, probably, of Bishop Godwin (1584—1590), and brother of Francis, (author of the *De Præsulibus Angliæ Commentarius)*, who was Canon Residentiary, 1587—1617; Bishop of Llandaff, 1601; Bishop of Hereford, 1617. Robert held Dinder, and the more valuable benefice of Kingston Seymour, from 1589 to his death, in 1613. At his death Francis, while still Canon Residentiary and Bishop of Llandaff, succeeded to the rectory of Kingston Seymour.[3] Robert Godwin has left his signature in the parish books of Dinder as serving the cure of souls there, either personally or by deputy. Under date 1600, in the earliest parish register

(1). Le Neve interposes this name between Snow and Godwyn, but the entry in the *Chapter Acts*, under 1589, shows some error.

(2). The injunction as to the daily recitation, probably of the Psalms assigned to Dyndre in Dean Haselshaw's statutes, is a form in Chapter books, common at the time in installation acts, but dropped after the restoration.

(3). Another of the family, Paul Godwin, succeeded to the vacant canonry, which Bishop Francis resigned in 1617, on being appointed to the see of Hereford.

of burials, dating from 1578 to 1636, occurs the following entry:—

"Accordinge to y^e^ Canone in token y^t^ we have compared this booke and y^e^ oulde together we have underset our hands.

"P^r^ me, Robertum Godwin, Prebendarium curæ inservientem.

"Thomas Wilmot, } Wardens,
"Harry Hodges, } 1600."

The next entry, in another hand, is—

"1601, August y^e^ 7^th^ was buried Joan, ij daughter of Jhon. Snow, minister, prebend of this place."[1]

In 1611 Godwin was one of the several Prebendaries cited by Dean Meredith to answer in Chapter for not paying stall wages; and not appearing, sentence of 'excommunication' was passed in Chapter.[2]

1616. William Rogers ... ... Bishop Lake, R.
Chancellor, 1596 ... ... *Chapter Acts.*

The handsome stone pulpit in Dinder church, bearing date 1621, belongs to his time.

From 1620 to 1626 the registers of Bishop Piers are wanting. A list of 117 institutions is preserved in a separate book, belonging to this time, in the Registry Office.

1623. Willelmus Oldis, 'clericus per mortem Will. Rogers' ... } *Chapter Acts.*

After the customary form of installation, the words follow, "tum decanus assignavit Dño Oldis psalmos sequentes, Benedictus Dominus Deus, cum duobus sequentibus per eum in choro legendis."[3]

1641. Samuel Lanfire, 'per resignationem Mri. Oldis' ... ... } Bishop Piers, R. f. 66.

The notices in official documents and the blanks in the registers witness that times of trouble and confusion had again

(1). Dinder parish register. (2). *Chapter Acts*, 1611, p. 69.

(3). Psalms 144, 145, 146, were the Dynre Psalms, p. 34, appointed to be said by the Prebendary daily, in Dean Haselshaw's statutes, 1291

fallen upon the officials of the church of Wells. "From 1645 to 1660, during the time of the wars, no persons were admitted or instituted to any ecclesiastical benefice throughout the diocese of Bath and Wells." Such is the entry in Bishop Piers's register. "Ab anno 1644 usque ad 1664 acta capitularia deficiunt," is the entry in the book of *Chapter Acts*.

Some glimpses into the state of Dinder during these times are to be obtained from other sources. The terriers of Dinder,[1] taken in 1613, and in 1634, give a general description of the value of the parsonage. The terrier of 1613 (stitched to the later one of 1634), contains parcels, small and scattered, of glebe land and buildings, of which the total rent was sixty-two shillings. No mention is made of Prebendary or prebendal rights of any kind. The terrier is signed by the churchwardens only. The terrier of 1634 is entitled "a true note or terrier of all the portions of tithes belonging to the parish church or parson of Dinder, taken by churchwardens and parishioners, and also by the farmer of the parsonage." It contains an account of *(a)* customary tithes, *(b)* tithes in kind, and *(c)* glebe land; specifying a parsonage house, with barn and stables, garden, and barton thereunto belonging, and it is signed by Anthony Nowrie, Minister;[2] the two wardens, two sidesmen, and nine parishioners. There is no mention of Prebendary or prebendal rights. We have in this terrier the rectorial as distinct from the prebendal estate. The prebendal estate appears from later returns to have consisted of about 27 acres within the parish. The two estates were held together by the Prebendary, Mr. Lanfire, in 1650, when the Parliamentary survey of church lands in Somerset was made. At that time the question was raised and determined, whether there was any legal union between the prebend and the rectory, and whether the two estates, which by usage the Prebendary of

(1). In Bishop's Registry.

(2). No such name is found among the Prebendaries of Dinder.

Dinder had been allowed to enjoy, were distinct and separable.[1]

The survey of church lands in Somersetshire supplies an important evidence in the history of Dinder prebend. In 1643 the bill passed the House of Parliament, that "all Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, Prebendaries, Chanters, Canons, and Petty Canons, and their officers, shall be utterly abolished and taken away." A survey of all church lands was made under authority of that Act in 1650. Two returns were made of Dinder: one by surveyors of the lands of the Dean and Chapter, of "the prebend or parsonage of Dyndre," in August, 1650; the other by the jury of the Hundred, of the parochial benefice, November 30th, 1650. Dyndre is shortly described by the jury of the Hundred as "a parsonage with cure of souls, with about twenty pounds a year, where Mr. Samuel Lanfire, an able and diligent preaching minister for parson."[2]

In the return of the Chapter lands,[3] Dyndre is described more at length as prebend and parsonage, and as "consisting of about one-and-fifty families, compact together there, with a parsonage with cure of souls;" the value whereof, viz., "All those tenths, tythes of corn and grain, hay, wool, lambs, pigs, geese, and other tythable things yearly coming, growing, arising, or renewing within the aforesaid parish of Dyndre, with all oblations, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever of the said parsonage and prebend belonging, was estimated, *communibus annis*, at £30."

A memorandum was attached to the return, "That the aforesaid prebend is a prebend with cure: the Prebendary thereof did either by himself, or a Curate maintained by him, from time to time serve the cure of the said parish of Dynder,

(1). No portion of this evidence was put before Lord Coleridge in July, 1883. I had not seen the survey when this paper was read before the Society.

(2). *Survey of Church Lands*, county of Somerset, vol. xv. p. 348; in Lambeth Palace Library.

(3). Vol. i. p. 144-7. The copy which belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Wells was sent up to the office of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, at the time of the commutation of the estates, in 1866.

and the minister thereof enjoyeth at present all the profits of the said prebend toward his maintenance, except the rent reserved by the aforesaid leases."

At first the Commissioners, acting according to this return, proceeded to sweep the whole proceeds of prebend and parsonage into their common fund, and ordered the sale of the parsonage. But they were met by a protest from the parish, with affidavit from the principal landowner, Mr. Richard Hicks, which satisfied them that there was no legal union between prebend and parsonage, and that the estates were distinct and separable. Accordingly, they stayed proceedings as to sale of the parsonage, and left Mr. Samuel Lanfire, "able and diligent preaching minister," undisturbed in the parsonage. They took possession of the alienated prebendal estate, but they left him the parsonage, and made successive grants to him as parson, in the following years, in augmentation of the living. They have left on record their judgment and action in the following memorandum, made two years afterwards:—

"2nd December, 1652.

"By the Commissioners for removing obstructions in the sale of the Dean and Chapter lands.

"Whereas Richard Hicks, gentleman, in his petition on behalf of the minister and inhabitants of the parish of Dinder, read the 24th of June, 1651, did set forth that the prebend of Dinder in the county of Somerset is returned to have belonging unto it the parsonage of Dinder aforesaid, whereas the said parsonage is distinct from the said prebend, and hath cure of souls, and the incumbent there for the time being is instituted and inducted thereto. That by reason of the said parsonage being returned parcel of the said prebend, the parsonage house, barne, stable, and garden thereunto are exposed to sale, the late Committee for removing obstructions in the sale of the said lands, did the 24th June aforesaid, order the surveyors (whose survey of the said prebend should certify

unto them forthwith the true state of their business) that stay should be made in the meantime of all further proceedings touching the sale and passing conveyance of the premises. And it appearing unto us by the certificate of the said surveyors—that all prebends within the Deanery of Wells were either in lease or leasable; the said parsonage of Dinder not. That no prebends there had the cure of souls; the said parsonage of Dinder had. That all Prebendaries there were only installed into their prebends: the said Prebendary and parson of Dinder was not only installed, but also presented, instituted, and inducted. As also that since the return of their survey of the premises they have seen a copy of a record, whereby one William Flandre of Dinder did grant unto Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, the advowson of the church of Dinder, with the appurtenances.

"It also appearing unto us by the testimony of the said Richard Hicks, upon oath made before us, that he was born in Dinder, and hath lived there and within two miles thereof ever since, and that during the whole time of his knowledge the parsonage of Dinder hath been a cure of souls, and never in lease, and that the parsonage house, barn, stable, garden, and tythes, have been during that time enjoyed by the minister there; and that he hath often heard the now minister, Mr. Lanfire, and the last incumbent, Mr. Oldis, say that they were instituted and inducted unto the said parsonage; and that the said Mr. Oldis was informed by the last Archbishop to procure a dispensation to enable him to hold Atherbury and Dinder, they both being cures of souls, or else he could not have held both. *And we being satisfied that the said parsonage of Dinder, whereof the said parsonage house, etc., are parcel, is no part of the said prebend of Dinder, but distinct from the same, as being a parsonage presentative,* ordered therefore that the trustees and contractors for the sale of the said lands be hereby desired to forbear all further proceedings touching the sale and passing conveyance of the said parsonage of Dinder, or any

part thereof, and that the surveyors-general for the sale of the said lands do enter and record this order upon the said survey accordingly.

"William Roberts, Henry Pitt, Jo. Parker, Jo. Berners.
"Entered Dec. 7, 1653.
"Will. Webb.

"Returned in to the Registration Office,
the 27th Sept., 1650, by
"James Hibbins.

"William Richardson,
"Alex. Lawson,
"Nicho. Combe,
} *Surveyors.*"

Such was the award, after appeal, of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners of 1652. It is evident that no documentary evidence existed at that time to give legal sanction to the view that prebend and rectory were united, though they had been habitually held together. On the other hand, local and contemporaneous testimony was brought forward, sufficient to satisfy the Commissioners that they had exceeded their powers in treating them as a united benefice. Evidence of institution to the cure of souls, in addition to collation to the prebend, was given in the testimony of two Rector Prebendaries, and the judgment and action of the Commissioners of 1652 determined finally that the prebendal and rectorial estates were distinct and separate.

When the restoration came, and the waters of the great deluge which had swept over church lands had subsided, the arrangement was again re-established, by which prebend and rectory were held together—convenient alike for the Prebendary, and for the endowment of Dinder church.

Samuel Lanfire, Prebendary from 1641, lived through the Commonwealth, and after the restoration, in 1661, he was presented by the Dean and Chapter to the vicarage of Cheddar.

1664.	Samuel Lanfire, jun., ordained Deacon and Priest, Feb. 8; collated to the prebend, March 4—vacant 'per resignationem Samuelis Lanfire,' his father ...	Bishop Piers, R. f. 151. *Chapter Acts.*
1671.	William Fane	Bishop Creyghton, R. f. 25.
	Canon Residentiary, 1665 ...	*Chapter Acts.*
	Rector of Huntspill	Archer's *Long Book*, p. 253.
1679.	Joshua Lasher	Bishop Mews, R.
	Priest-Vicar, 1673—1702 ...	*Chapter Acts.*
1702.	Henry Mills	Ditto.

"Magister scholæ grammaticalis Decani et capituli,"
1699. Exchanged to Combe XV, 1712.

A.D. 1712. The annals of the parish may be said to begin in this year, from the churchwardens' accounts, kept consecutively and carefully from this date; signed generally by the Prebendary or the 'minister,' at the annual Vestry, and confirmed by the 'Official of the Dean.'

The following extracts from the accounts of this and the next few years show how public events were affecting the parishioners and ratepayers of Dinder. The year 1702-3 was memorable in the public history for *(a)* the death of William III, March 8th, 1702-3; *(b)* the coronation of Queen Ann, April 23rd, 1703; *(c)* the declaration of war with France, May 4th; and the opening of Marlborough's campaigns; *(d)* 'the great storm' of Nov. 26th, 27th. Among the churchwardens' 'disbursements' occur the following items, relating to these events:

		£	s.	d.
1703.	"Gave ye ringers ye Queen's Crownation ...	00	01	06"
	"Pd ye Pareter for a booke to praye for ye Princess Sophia	00	01	00"
	"Pd for a booke for a fast 10th June, for prayer to be used in time of war ...	00	01	00"

"P^d^ y^e^ Pareter for a booke of thanksgivin and a proclamation and a prayer for a generalle thankgiven on this day, Dec. 3 ... ... 00 01 06"

"Gave y^e^ Ringers y^e^ thanksgivin day on y^e^ 3^rd^ of December ... ... 00 02 00"

This thanksgiving day, appointed for the first successes under Marlborough, was Nov. 12th, when the Queen went in state to St. Paul's; it was kept in Dinder on Dec. 3rd.[1]

The victory at Blenheim, August 13th, 1704, for which a public thanksgiving was appointed to be made on September 7th, appears to have been kept as a fast in Dinder, from the following entry:—

1704, Sept. 7.	£	s.	d.
"P^d^ for a proclamation and a booke of prayer for a fast on y^e^ 7^th^ of September, for y^e^ victory in Jarmany	00	01	00"
"Gave y^e^ Ringers y^e^ 7^th^ of September ...	00	01	00"
"For a booke for y^e^ minister	00	12	00"

Later on we find notices of another series of political events: the accession of George I, and the Highland uprising.

		£	s.	d.
1714.	"Order to pray for the election of Brunswick on y^e^ death of Princess Sophia...	00	01	06"
	"Gave y^e^ Ringers at the King's safe arrival, on y^e^ Coronation day ...	00	5	00"
1716.	"Thanksgiving for the suppression of rebellion—for y^e^ Ringers on day ...	00	1	0"
	"For King's successes over y^e^ rebels ...	0	02	0"

"The Great Storm" which ravaged the south and west of England, on the night of November 26th, 1703, blew down the chimnies of the Bishop's Palace at Wells, and caused the deaths of Bishop Kidder and his wife. It stripped Dinder church of the lead; and so much damage was done, that an additional rate was made that year "for the repairing of the

(1). Lord Stanhope's *Queen Anne*, i. 7.

roofe of the parish church, having been torne by the violent wind in 9ber last."

Lord Macaulay has noticed that no other tempest in this country has been the occasion of a Parliamentary address, and of a public fast.[1] The 19th of January following was ordered by proclamation to be observed as a day of general fast and humiliation throughout England "on account of a calamity so dreadful and astonishing that the like hath not been seen or felt in the memory of any person living in this our kingdom." The parish books of Dinder contain a double notice of this fast:

"P^{d} for prayer for a fast on y^{e} 12th January ... ... 00 00 06"

"P^{d} for proklamation and a book for a fast, being Wensdy y^{e} 19th Jan. ... 00 10 0"

IV. Dinder Prebenda cum curâ, 1709.

The second year of Queen Anne, 1704, was marked by the royal act of benevolence, known as "Queen Anne's Bounty," towards the poorer clergy, in the remission of first fruits and tenths to all livings under the value of £50, and by provision for their augmentation. Acts followed in 1706, 5th Anne, s. 24, under which Bishops and Ordinaries of 'peculiars,' and places of exempt jurisdiction were required to certify into the Court of Exchequer the clear yearly value of small livings with cure of souls. Dinder was brought under the act in the returns made. These returns show the doubt which existed as to the position of Dinder, in its peculiar position, as a prebend, yet a parochial living. It could only be entitled to the benefit of the act as a parochial living; yet it was held by the Prebendary at the time as his prebend.

In the return made and signed by the Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Hooper, 23rd March, 1707, Dinder is returned among the parochial livings in the rural Deanery of Cary, dicharged

(1). Lord Stanhope's *Queen Anne*, i. 120. Macaulay, on Addison, *Ed. Rev.*, July, 1843."

from payment of first fruits and tenths as under the value of £50. "Dinder [some words are here erased] £12 16s 9d."[1]

In the document next in time in the Record Office, Ecton's *Liber Decimarum*, a manuscript book of the date of 1709,[2] Dinder appears by name among the prebends of the Cathedral, but with no return of value appended. It is entered as from the Bishop's return among the livings 'discharged' in the Deanery of Cary, but now with additional words inserted for the first time—

"Dinder. *P. cum curâ animarum* ... £12 16s. 9d."
". . . . Tenths . . . . 5s. $0\frac{3}{4}$d."

This title, "Prebenda cum curâ," appears now for the first time in an official document. It had been inserted since the Bishop's official return was made to the First Fruits Office in 1707. Though not appearing in the Bishop's official return, it had been inserted in the official compilation from those returns. After this time it appears in the printed copy of Ecton's work, the Receiver-General at the time, and in all later editions.[3] We see in these descriptions of Dinder, at this time, evidence of the distinction then existing between the prebend and the parochial benefice. Do not we see, also, signs of the latent jealousy between the two jurisdictions of Bishop and Dean? Dinder, a 'peculiar' under the sole jurisdiction of the Dean, is returned by the Bishop, in 1707, as a parochial benefice. With no mention of its prebendal character,[4] may not the influence of the Dean's Official,[5] with the

(1). This return is in the Record Office. It is endorsed—"Libat. super sacramentum Edm. Egid. Hooper, gent. xxiii martii, 1707. Coram J. Smith."

(2). Ecton's *Liber Decimarum MS.*, 1709. John Ecton was Receiver-General.

(3). Ecton's *Liber Valorum et Decimarum*. Lond., 1711. Ecton's *Thesaurus rerum Ecclesiasticarum*. Ed. Brown Willis, 1754.

(4). There has been a careful erasure of some words descriptive of Dinder in the Bishop's return. As a simple prebend, Dinder would not have been entitled to a grant, and the Bishop might have objected to recognise it as a *prebenda cum curâ*, after the decision given less than 60 years before in 1652.

(5). Dr. Richard Healy, whose hand is in all *Chapter Acts*, and in the Chapter books, from 1679 to 1713, was Chapter Clerk, afterwards Commissioner, Steward, and Dean's Official. His son was afterwards Vicar of St. Cuthbert's and Prebendary of Dinder, and in his time the augmentation of Dinder, under Queen Anne's Act, was carried into effect.

First Fruits Office, have obtained the later entry of the prebendal title, in order to preserve the independent rights of the Dean, in his peculiar as a place of exempt jurisdiction? and at the same time to secure for the prebend the benefits of augmentation under the Act of Queen Anne's Bounty.

So the official description of Dinder as '*prebenda cum curâ*,' a title unique among the prebends of our Cathedral church, dates from the year 1709, and its invention may be due to the desire of obtaining for the Prebendary of an ill-endowed prebend the benefit of Queen Anne's Bounty, as holder of a parochial benefice conveniently contiguous.[1]

1712. Elias Rebotier ... ... { Bishop Hooper, R. p. 21.

"Per cessionem Henrici Mills," "a French refugee from the Cevennes in Lanquedock, who, in the great persecution of Protestants in France, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, fled to England, where he was taken into the Palace by Bishop Hooper, Bishop of Bath and Wells, as chaplain, and promoted to many favours in the in the church."[2]

So he passed from Dinder to Henstridge in 1718, to Wiveliscombe in 1720, and was Rector of Axbridge from 1720 to 1765. The *Marriage Register* of Dinder contains, in his own handwriting, a notice of his marriage in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace at Wells, by Bishop Hooper in 1713.

1718. Robert Creyghton ... ... { Bishop Hooper, R. p. 33.

"Per cessionem Eliæ Rebotier." *Chapter Acts.* 1712. Ludimagister scholæ grammaticalis per cessionem Henrici Mills."

In 1720, benefactions of £200 from Dr. Creyghton, Precentor, Canon Residentiary, 1679—1733, probably father of the

(1). The history of the title, '*prebenda cum curâ*,' has come before me since the paper was read.

(2). His epitaph on west wall of Axbridge Church.

Prebendary, and of £200 from Edward Colston, Esq., the Bristol merchant, were made to the Office of Queen Anne's Bounty, in augmentation of the living of Dinder, and met by grant of £200 from the Office.[1]

In 1723 there was a large expenditure on the church of Dinder, of £107 4s. 6d, and the following item occurs in the churchwarden's accounts :—

"Mr. Parfitt, by agreement, for mending y^e^
Ruff of y^e^ church ... ... £60 0 0"
"For making new lead work ... ... 23 9 6"

1728. Richard Healy ... ... *Chapter Acts.*
"Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, 1719.[2] Prebendary, "per cessionem Roberti Creyghton."

In 1732 another grant of £100 was made from Queen Anne's Bounty,[3] and in 1735, lands purchased at Castle Cary, were made over and conveyed "to Richard Healy, Prebendary of Dinder, and his successors in the prebend, for the augmentation of the prebend of Dinder.[4] The value of the lands was estimated, in later returns, as £40 per ann.[5]

1736. Edmund Lovell ... ... { Bishop Wynne, R. p. 26.
"Per mortem R. Healy."

The parish books show that Edmund Lovell had served the cure of souls in Dinder since 1727 as Curate.

The record in Bishop Wynne's register of his admission to the prebend, contains the designation of the prebend, for the first and only time in the registers of collations to Dinder as "the prebend or canonry of Dinder with cure of souls." Edmund Lovell was Canon Residentiary 1755, to his death,

(1). Ecton's *Thesaurus*, 1754, Appendix. Cf. Phelps, History ii. Like benefactions to poor livings in the Diocese were made about the same time by Mr. Colston to Axbridge, Pilton, Huish, Bishops Lydeard, Rowberrow, and Kingston.

(2). His epitaph in the cloisters, east wall.

(3). Ecton's *Thesaurus*, 1754, Appendix.

(4). Deed among Dinder parish papers—two documents—dated 22nd October, 1735.

(5). Valuation of lands in 1779, and again in 1810, in Dinder parish papers.

1779. *Chapter Acts.*

1779. John Jenkyns ... ... Bishop Moss's Reg.
1780, Vicar of Evercreech.

The lax usage by which the Prebendary of Dinder was allowed to hold the rectory and the cure of souls, together with other benefices, and without any obligation to residence at Dinder, seems to have resulted, about this time, in the dilapidation of the parsonage house, and the non-residence even of Curates in charge.

In 1809 a "benefaction by lot," of "£200 was expended in the building of the parsonage house.[1]" Notwithstanding this grant, the licenses to curates of Dinder, from 1814 to 1825, describe "the house of residence belonging thereto as being unfit," and give permission to successive curates to reside in Wells.[2]

1824. Richard Jenkyns, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, Dean of Wells, 1845.

The care and liberality of this last Prebendary-Rector, before the Cathedral Act of 1840 came into operation, effected much for the improvement of the parish. In 1827 the parsonage was rebuilt by mortgage, under Queen Anne's Bounty, and afterwards enlarged, in 1845, by the next incumbent, under another mortgage. In 1846, prebendal lands, purchased by Dr. Jenkyns from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, under the act of 1840, and some private freehold lands, were made over by him to the rectory, with the expressed desire of augmenting the living, and obtaining for the parish a resident Rector.

The confusion existing at the time of the passing of the Act of 1840 as to this relation of prebend and rectory is shown in the last public returns made in this century. In 1810 Dinder is entitled "a rectory with curacy in the jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells." In 1835 "a rectory with prebend annexed."[3]

(1). Phelps' History, 2, p. 192.

(2). The *Register of Licenses* to Curates, which begins in 1814.

(3). Report on Eccles. Revenues, 1836, pp. 72-136.

But the distinction between the prebendal and rectorial estates is maintained to the last in the 'Agreement for Commutation of Tithes' in 1838, when the Prebendary Rector, Dr. Jenkyns, made return of the lands belonging to him in the parish of Dinder under the three heads of 'prebendal,' 'rectorial,' and 'private' estate.[1]

We must draw out shortly the sequel to this history in the present time.

V. The Prebend under the Cathedral Act of 1840.

In 1840 the Cathedral Act (3, 4 Vic. 113) was passed, by which it was enacted that all estates of non-residentiary prebends after next vacancy should be severed from the prebend and vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the purposes of the Act.[2]

Dr. Jenkyns, sagacious and shrewd as a man of business, and deeply interested in Dinder, was prebendary at the time of the passing of the Act; he and his father held the prebend of Dinder for more than 60 years. The leading lawyer on the Commission was the Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, of Hadspen, closely connected with the Jenkyns family.

In 1845, by the appointment of Dr. Jenkyns to the Deanery of Wells, Dinder was brought under the operation of the Act. With the history of Dinder before the Commission,[3] and with this personal interest in Dinder on the part of a leading member, the prebend of Dinder was treated as affected by the Act equally with the other non-residentiary prebends. The Commissioners assumed that there were distinct prebendal and rectorial estates, and that they were entitled to take

(1). *Tithe Commutation Return* with Map, 1838.

(2). Sect. 22. Non-residentiary prebend and offices not to give right to any endowment—'After the passing of this Act no presentation or collation to any prebend not residentiary shall convey any right or title whatsoever to any lands, tithes, or other hereditaments, or any other endowment or emolument whatsoever now belonging to such dignity or prebend, or enjoyed by the holder thereof in right of such dignity or prebend.

(3). The survey of church lands in 1650 is referred to by the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in correspondence in 1846, as "an important document" bearing on the subject of Dinder.

possession of the prebendal estates for the purposes of the Act. It has been considered by all the official authorities who, since the passing of the Act, have dealt with the prebend of Dinder, viz., the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the Crown, the Bishop, the Dean and Chapter, that the prebend and rectory of Dinder were separate and distinct, and that the Bishop of Bath and Wells was thereby patron of two distinct benefices, the prebend and the rectory. In the appointments made on each occasion since that time there have been two separate deeds of presentation.

In 1846, when, *sede vacante*, the patronage lapsed to the Crown, the rectory apart from the prebend was first offered by Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, *jure episcopatus*, to one who is now living. Not being accepted by him, it was then offered to the same person who had accepted the prebend. Again, when a vacancy occurred in 1862, there were two separate deeds of presentation by the Bishop—one to the prebend and one to the rectory. So with regard to the prebendal estate the Commissioners claimed the right of dealing with the estates belonging to the prebend as distinct and separate from the rectorial estates. Under authority of orders in Council, dated November 14th, 1846, and again January 8th, 1854, they sold portions of these estates. Some of these lands so bought by Dr. Jenkyns were generously made over by him to augment the living. Other prebendal lands sold by them have remained ever since alienated from the living. There is thus a complete contemporaneous exposition of the meaning of the Act, and in favour of the distinction of the prebendal and rectorial estates of Dinder and of the patronage of both being vested in the Bishop.

On the occasion of the last vacancy, in 1883, the Bishop thought fit to exercise his patronage by the presentation of two separate persons to rectory and prebend. His right to do this has now been disputed. The questions raised and determined in 1650-52 by the action of the Parliamentary Com-

mission of that time have been raised again in 1883. But the position of parties has been curiously inverted. The Commissioners of 1650, at the first, assumed prebend and rectory to be legally united, and they took steps to alienate both prebendal and rectorial estates—but their action was challenged on the part of the parish, and it was established to their satisfaction that the two estates were distinct and separate. Accordingly they stayed their proceedings; they took the prebendal lands, but left the rectory untouched.

In 1845 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with this historical evidence before them, treated prebend and rectory as distinct; they sold prebendal lands, but did not interfere with the rectory. But their action has now in turn been challenged—a claim of legal and indissoluble union between prebend and rectory from time immemorial, has been asserted, in order to stay the Bishop from separate presentation to rectory and prebend on the last occasion of vacancy. But by the denial of the Bishop's right of separate presentation the further and the more important question has also been raised whether the Commissioners in 1845 were justified in alienating prebendal lands which on this assumption of legal union would have formed part of the endowment of the active cure of souls. If the Commissioners were right in treating prebend and rectory as distinct and in alienating the prebendal lands, the Bishop was justified in making separate appointments as to distinct benefices. If they were wrong, and the parish has been injured by the Bishop's separate presentation in 1883, the parish must have been suffering much more by the alienation of the lands which belonged to the living. Accordingly the action of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in bringing Dinder stall under the operation of the Act 1840 has been virtually called in question, and it has been assumed that the whole official action with reference to Dinder since 1845 has been misled by a mistaken interpretation of that Act.

With a view to a settlement of the points in dispute, the

following questions were submitted to the arbitration of the Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, in July, 1883 :—

1. "Had the Bishop power to collate two separate persons; one to the rectory, the other to the prebend?"

2. "Had the Ecclesiastical Commissioners power to sell or deal with the prebendal lands of Dinder separate and apart from the benefice itself?"

Lord Coleridge has delivered his award:—

1. "That the Bishop had not power to collate two separate persons; one to the rectory, the other to the prebend."

2. "That the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had not power to sell or deal with the prebendal lands separate and apart from the benefice itself."

The parties who submitted their case to arbitration, bound themselves "to abide by the award, whatever it might be, and to do all necessary acts for giving effect to that award. So that in the event of the first question being decided in the negative, a single clerk shall forthwith, if necessary, be collated to the prebend and rectory. And in the event of the second question being decided in the negative, the prebendal lands which it is alleged were purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners shall be forthwith given up to the prebend or rectory."

So the matter stands. Whether this private arrangement to which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were not parties, and the award given on an incomplete statement of the history of the case, will determine questions which may be raised hereafter, may be left to the future. In the meantime, under the present award:—*(a)* The Prebendary of Dinder is entitled to claim the prebendal lands alienated from the living by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. *(b)* The Bishop is limited in the exercise of his patronage by the obligation to appoint the same person as Rector and Prebendary. *(c)* The prebend must lapse on the voidance of the living.

But it will be a satisfaction to the sentiment of antiquarian

conservatism, that Dinder will retain its antique title, though not older than the days of Queen Ann, of *prebenda cum curâ*, and will continue to enjoy a position among the prebends of Wells, separate, peculiar, and ambiguous.

Servetur ad imum
Qualis ab incepto processerit et
Sibi constet.

APPENDIX.

ORIGINAL AUTHORITIES QUOTED:

1. 'R. i.' *Liber Albus*, i. Copies of Crown grants and statutes; entries of various proceedings, from 1270 to 1391.
2. 'R. ii.' *Liber Ruber*. Entries of various grants, etc., and Chapter Acts, to 1498.
3. 'R. iii.' *Liber Albus*, ii.
4. *Chapter Documents*, Series 1, in 36 cases: 835 deeds, originals of entries in R. i., ii., and iii., and others; from 658 to 1716. *Chapter Documents*, Series 2, in 7 cases; 86 deeds, down to 1812.
5. Archdeacon Archer's *Chronicon Wellense; Annales Ecclesie Wellensis;* from Chapter books, to 1328.
6. *Chapter Acts*, in continuation from *Liber Ruber*.