

“The fate of the Dispossessed Monks and Nuns.”

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

[*Authorities.*—Letters and Papers, Henry VIII (12 vols.) ; *Dugdale's Monasticon* ; *Archer's Account of the Religious Houses in Diocese of Bath and Wells* ; *Gasquet's Henry VIII and the English Monasteries* ; *Archbold's Somerset Religious Houses* ; Acknowledgments of the Royal Supremacy (Deputy Keeper's Report vii, appendix ii) ; Deeds of Surrender (Deputy Keeper's Report, viii, appendix ii) ; Pension Lists in Rawlinson MS. B. 419 (Bodleian Library)].

THIS is not the first time that the above subject has been brought forward.

A Paper “On the last Survivors of the Religious Orders in Somersetshire” was read by the Rev. W. A. Jones, for the Rev. T. Hugo, before the Somersetshire Archæological Society, at Cranmore Hall, in 1865.¹

The paper was read but not printed, and it is not known whether it is in existence or not. I should have been glad to have had an opportunity of perusing it before writing this paper.

At the outset it is pleasant to be able to assert that the monasteries of Somerset were in every way well conducted.

Richard Layton, writing to Cromwell 24th August, 1535, is reluctantly obliged to give a good account of three of them.

“Wittham the Chartarhowse hath professide and done althynges accordyng as I shall declare you at large tomorowe erly. At Bruton and Glassenburie ther is nothyng notable

(1) Som. Arch. Soc. Proceedings, xiii, i, 26.

the brethrin be so strait keppide y^t they cannot offende but faine they wolde if they myght as they confesse and so the faute is not in them.”²

Thomas Arundell writing to Cromwell in 1537 speaks thus of Cleve Abbey:—

“Riding downward to Cornwall and passing the monastery of Clyffe, hearing such lamentation for the dissolution thereof and a bruit in the country that the king at your lordship’s suit had pardoned it, I sent to Mr. Chancellor of the Augmentations to know whether to dissolve it, as I had his letters for the dissolution of the residue of Somersetshire, and it seemed to be omitted by oversight, he being very busy. I beg in behalf of the honest gentlemen of that quarter that the house may stand. In it are seventeen priests of honest life who keep great hospitality.”³

Excluding Dunster,⁴ which was a cell to Bath Priory, and Stavordale,⁵ which sometime before the Dissolution became a cell to Taunton Priory, there were sixteen religious houses in our county.

Glastonbury, Bath, Athelney, and Muchelney belonged to the Benedictine Order; Bruton, Taunton, Keynsham, Worspring and Barlinch were houses of regular canons of the Order of St. Augustine; Hinton and Witham were Carthusian priories; Cleve was a Cistercian abbey; and Montacute a Cluniac priory.

Barrow and Cannington were houses of Benedictine Nuns, while Buckland was the only nunnery of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem existing in England.

Of these sixteen houses the only bad report comes from Bath Priory, from the before-mentioned Commissioner Richard

(2) Somerset Religious Houses, p. 39.

(3) Letters and Papers, Hen. VIII., vol. xii. part 1. no. 4.

(4) In 1411 there were at Dunster a prior and four monks.

(5) In Feb. 1536 there were only two canons at Stavordale (Somerset Religious Houses, p. 55).

Layton; but at the same time he describes the Prior "as a ryght vertuose man and I suppos no better of his cote a man simple and not of the gretesteste wite."⁶

An interesting question which meets us on the threshold of our enquiry, and one which (if it can be satisfactorily answered) will go far towards helping us to form a right conclusion to it, is this:

From what class or classes in society were the monks and nuns for the most part taken?

Dr. Jessopp, in a most interesting essay, entitled, "Daily Life in a Medieval Monastery," says—

"The impression that is left on my own mind is, that the thirteenth century monk, as a rule, was drawn from the gentry class, as distinguished from the aristocracy on the one hand, or the artisans on the other. In fact, *mutatis mutandis*, that the representatives of the monks of the thirteenth century were the Fellows of Colleges of the nineteenth, before the recent alteration of University and College Statutes came into force."⁷

That this was true of some of the monks who lived just before the dissolution of monasteries is seen from the following instances.

The Hadleys were landed proprietors at Withycombe, near Minehead, and, indeed, the manor is sometimes called from them, Withycombe-Hadley; they inherited it, according to Collinson, from the Durboroughs.⁸

In 1532, James Hadley, of Withycombe, mentions in his will,⁹ "my brother John at Bruton and my brother William at Barlinche."

(6) Letters and Papers, Hen. VIII., ix. p. 11. Somerset Religious Houses, p. 33.

(7) See "The Coming of the Friars and other Historical Essays," by A. Jessopp, D.D., p. 161.

(8) Collinson ii, 47.

(9) Somerset Wills, 1st series, 65.

John Hadley was one of the canons of Bruton, who, on August 10th, 1534, signed the "Acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy;"¹⁰ but he died before the dissolution of monasteries, as his name does not appear in the Bruton Pension List.

To take another instance from Bruton: Agnes Brymmore of Bruton, Somerset, widow, made her will 20th February, 1516,¹¹ and her social position is decided by her request to be buried "*in the Church of Bruton before the Awter of our Blessed Lady.*" In her will she mentions, without stating the relationship, "Sir William Brymmore, Chanon of Bruton."

"Willm^m Brymer" also signed "the Acknowledgment" on August 10th, 1534, but he too was taken away before the sad times which so soon befell Bruton Abbey.

But, granting that a certain proportion of the 16th century monks came from the higher and landed classes, it cannot be doubted, I think, that their ranks were largely recruited from the class of yeomen, merchants, and tradesmen.

The pension lists give as a rule the monk's paternal name, and not that which he assumed on entering a monastery, which was usually that of his birth-place.¹² Thus, to take as an example, the names of the seven canons of Taunton as they appear in Cardinal Pole's pension list, dated Feast of St. Michael 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1555). Nicholas Beram, William Baylie, John Warren, John Hayward, John Cokeram, William Parsons, William Brynesmede: these names are not to be found among the gentry of Somerset in the pedigrees of any of the Visitations.

(10) Deputy-Keeper's Report, No. 7, Appendix ii.

(11) Somerset Wills, 1st series, 8.

(12) Sometimes the clergy took the name of the place where they had been brought up:—Nicholas Bubwith, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in his will dated Oct. 5th, 1424, leaves 20 marcs between the poor of Menethorp and Hemyngburgh "*et precipue inter parochianos de Menethorp, ubi eram natus*" He also bequeaths 20 marcs among the poor of Bubbewith, "*ubi eram nutritus.*" (Reg. Chicheley, Lambeth, I. 378d.) These places are near Howden in Yorkshire.

In the previous examples we have been dealing both at Bruton and at Taunton with Austin *Canons*, who were not monks in the strict sense of the term; to turn to the monks proper we of course naturally select the great Benedictine House of Glastonbury.

Now there are only two Glaston lists, relating to this time, of which we have any knowledge. One, the list of signatures to the Acknowledgment, which is dated 19th September, 1534, and contains, including the Abbot, fifty-two names; and the other, that in Cardinal Pole's pension list (1555), containing twenty-five names. These are given at the end of this paper.

In the former the monks sign in their *religious* names, with a few exceptions; in the latter the father's name is given.

In the first list there are, however, three names which seem to be paternal names, John Verney, John Arthur, and Edmund Coker, and of these the two first belong to gentle Somerset families, the last to a similar family in Dorset. The second list contains only two such names, John Golde and Richard Aishley. The Goldes (now Gould) were of Seaborough, and their pedigree is to be found in the Visitations of Somerset: the Ashleys were a Wilts and Dorset county family.

Among the other names in this Glaston pension list, are Tanner, Towker, Shepherd, Webbe, which indicate the middle class; and in some instances we can prove that their possessors belonged to a yeoman family. Take for instance the case of John Chynnye, who is doubtless the same man as John Chynne, last Incumbent of the chantry of the B.M. at Aller. *Somerset Religious Houses—158.*

This rare name was borne by a family of small yeomen living at Othery, one of the Glaston manors.

Thomas Chynne of Othery made his will 24th November 1559, leaving "Elizabeth my daughter my best oxe, Thomas my sonne my seconde best oxe, William my sonne my best steare, Rychard my sonne my seconde steare"; he also left 6^d to the church of Othery, and the residue to Johan his wife.

The probability that John Chynnye belonged to this Othery family is greatly increased by the fact that Sir John Corry, vicar of Othery, in his will dated 1543 and proved 17th May in that year, bequeaths "to Sir John Chyne a shepe," and also "to John Chene my godson a colte." Chyne, Chene, Chyn, Chynnye, Chynne are all forms of the same name, and Othery and Aller are neighbouring parishes.

Thomas Dovell¹³ was another of the Glaston monks.

The Dovells were a yeoman family living at Glastonbury ; and Thomas, after the dissolution of the abbey, served as *capellanus* of the Church of St. Benynge,¹⁴ in that town certainly during the years 1540-2, as is proved by his attesting wills of those dates, and probably till his death, which occurred in 1557.

His will is dated 17th March, 1556-7.

In it he leaves "the residue" of his whole property, which amounted to £8 15s. 11d., to William, Jone, and Isabell, the three children of his brother Lawrence : and, if they died, then to Richard Dovell and Thomas Alvord.

This Richard Dovell was a near relative, though the exact relationship is not stated ; and in his will, dated 12th November, 1557, there is a very interesting clause—"I commend my soul to the merciful hands of Almyghtie God, and my body to be buried in the monestorye howse."

Now Dr. Gasquet, in his famous work, "Henry VIII, and the English Monasteries,"¹⁵ tells us that during Mary's reign the restoration of the ruined buildings of Glastonbury Abbey was actually begun, but was put a stop to by the Queen's death.

I have been so fortunate as to find another allusion to this

(13) To the same family also probably belonged Wm. Dovell, the last Abbot of Cleve.

(14) *i.e.*, St. Benignus, now wrongly called St. *Benedict's* Church.

(15) II, 483.

restoration, which shows that by the middle of the year 1557 the work had been undertaken.

Sir Thomas Shackell, priest, formerly¹⁶ *capellanus* of the perpetual chantry of the B.M.V. of Ichestoke, was at the time of his death Rector of Hinton St. George. His will is dated 17th July, 1557, and contains this clause—"to the edefyenge of the Abbye of Glastonbury yf yt be [not]¹⁷ payed in my lyfe tyme 40s."

No writer has so far as I know ever attempted to reckon up the number of monks in the county of Somerset at the time of the Dissolution of the monasteries.

The following table is made up from pension lists. In the cases of Glastonbury and Muchelney no pension lists are extant, so the numbers given in the table are those who signed the Acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy in 1534.

No lists for Barlinch, Cleve, or Worspring have ever hitherto been printed. I am indebted to Dr. Gasquet for most kindly sending me these from his researches in the Public Record Office.

Barlinch :—John Dyer, clericus, canon ; Thomas Mathewe, William Coford, Thomas Wyther, William Hadley, William Spencer, John Barwyke, prior.

Cleve :—John Webbe, sub-prior ; John Gaye, John Greene, Richard Dogle, Hugh Clyve, John Benett, John Baber, John Elys, Thomas Webber, George Howe, John Hooper, David Dovell, Nicholas Rowe, John Gethen, William Dovell, abbot.

It will be noticed that this list contains fifteen names. I have given the list of monks as seventeen, in accordance with the letter of Thomas Arundell before quoted.

Worspring :—Nicholas Serche, clericus, canon ; Thomas

(16) *Somerset Incumbents*, 380.

(17) This word is left out by the copyist, but there is no doubt as to the meaning of the bequest.

Glossyngby, canon ; William Brente, John Patriche, Roger Tormynton, nuper prior.

Table shewing the number of monks, including Heads of Houses, in Somerset at the time of the Dissolution.

Athelney (B) ...	9	Keynsham (A) ...	12
Barlinch (A) ...	7	Montacute (Clun.)	17
Bath (B) ...	21	Muchelney (B) ...	11
Bruton (A) ...	16	Taunton (A) ...	12
Cleve (Cist.) ...	17	Witham (Carth.)...	15
Glastonbury (B)...	52	Worspring (A) ...	5
Hinton (Carth.) ...	22		—

216

Excluding the thirteen heads of houses, we get 203 as the number of monks and regular canons in the county at the time of the Dissolution, or approximately 200, as some of the monks may have been counted twice over. At the dissolution of the lesser monasteries, some canons from Barlinch and Worspring found a home at Keynsham and Taunton.

The number of professed nuns in the three Somerset nunneries at the time of the Dissolution was only twenty-eight; of whom fourteen were at Buckland, eight at Mynchyn Barrow, and six at Cannington. The Buckland lists will be found given in Mr. Archbold's book pp. 127, 142.¹⁸

For the following Barrow and Cannington lists I again thank Dr. Gasquet, who has been the first (I believe) to discover them at the Public Record Office. They had eluded the vigilance of Mr. Hugo.

BARROW (B).

Elizabeth Gregory, Elizabeth Dunne, Margaret Tunnell,¹⁹ Anne Hoper, Johanna Bowey, Agnes Latymer, Katherine

(18) At p. 127 for *Evene* read *Grene* (Rawlinson MS. B. 419, Bodl. Libr.) and at p. 142 for *Creue* read *Grene*.

(19) "Margt Tennell mynchyn of Barrow my coffer & a payre of bedes of whytte evory." *Wells Wills*, p. 10.

Bowle (or Bulle) priorissa, Elizabeth Cogan,²⁰ quondam priorissa.

CANNINGTON (B).

Julian Burges, Radigunde Tilney,²¹ Johanna Towse, Alice Bissey, Mathea Pollard, novice, Cecilia Verney, priorissa.

Katherine Bulle received a pension of £5, Cecilia Verney one of £6 13s. 4d., and Katherine Bowcher (or Bowghshere), Prioress of Buckland, one of £50.

Mr. Archbold says (p. 103) "the nuns were as a rule of good social position, so that they wanted help less than the monks," and would be received back again into their families, without incurring the hardships which the latter undoubtedly suffered. This statement is borne out by the names of the Buckland sisters, among which may be noticed those of Sydenham, Hill, Popham, Maunsel, Dodyngton and Hymerford, all of which families had their pedigrees entered at the 1573 Visitation of Somerset;²² and also from the pension list of Canonleigh in which nearly every name is that of a well-known Devon family.²³

Elizabeth Fowell, abbess	40£	Elizabeth Chudeley	4£
Thomasine Sutton, prioress	5£	Agnes Bratton	... 4£
Sabyne Cobilstone	... 4£	Johane Abree	... 4£
Alice Bonde	... 4£	Elizabeth Carewe	... 5£
Philuppe Fortescue	... 4£	Margaret Pollerd	... 5£
Helen Aysshesford	... 4£	Christian Holbene	... 4£
Agnes Pery	... £4	Agnes Dulond	... 4£
Johane Bowyer	... 4£	Mary Pomeroy	... 4£
Margaret Sydenham	... 4£	Sibill Fowell	... 2£

The late Mr. Thorold Rogers, in his great work, "Six Cen-

(20) "Dame Elizabeth Cogen sumtyme prioress of Barrow iij^s iij^d" *Wells Wills*, p. 11.

(21) Or Tylleye as she is called in Augmentation Office, book 233, fol. 293.

(22) 1573 Visitation of Somerset, pp. 21, 33, 49, 62, 73, 76, 114.

(23) 1564 Visitation of Devon (*passim*).

turies of Work and Wages,"²⁴ writes, "I am convinced that schools were attached to every monastery." So that many of the schools said to be founded by Edward VI. were in reality only *refounded* by him. The importance, too, of nunneries as schools can hardly be over-estimated. Let us take as an example Godstow Abbey, near Oxford, where Fair Rosamond passed her last years. The royal visitors gave an excellent report of this convent, and described it as a place "where there was great strictness of life, and to which were most of the young gentlewomen of the country sent to be bred; so that the gentry of the country desired the King would spare the house."²⁵

The general Visitation of monasteries began in the autumn of 1535. Stowe says, "that the visitors put forth all religious persons that would go, and all that were under the age of twenty-four years, and after closed up the residue that would remain, so that they should not come out of their places. . . . all religious men that departed the abbot or prior to give them for their habite a priest's gown and 40s.; the nuns to have such apparell as secular women have and to go where they would."

The Act of Parliament dissolving the lesser monasteries gave the monks two alternatives—(1), to have their 'capacities,' *i.e.*, permission to act as one of the secular clergy, to live honestly and virtuously abroad (*i.e.* in the world), and to have some convenient charity disposed to them; (2), to be committed to a larger monastery of the same Order.

As examples of the latter case we find that Thomas Mathew of Barlinch was transferred to Taunton, and on the dissolution of that priory received a pension of £5 6s. 8d.

There is a strong probability too, that William Dunne *alias* Brynt of Keynsham, who received a pension of £4, and John Partridge (pension £5),²⁶ of the same abbey are identical with

(24) I, 165.

(25) *Gasquet* II, 230.

(26) Rawlinson MS. B 419, fo. 586 (Bodl. Libr.)

William Brente and John Patriche canons of Worspring. All these were houses of Augustinian canons.

Of the 376 lesser monasteries which came under the Act of Suppression, 123 were for a time respited; of these 52 were re-founded, and a list of them will be found in *Gasquet*, vol. ii. app. 1: they paid heavy fines for the short-lived favour; Canonleigh Abbey paid £200: the date of grant is 30th January, 1537.

The will of "Sir John Sturton, priste, Abbas de Keynsham," was proved in 1543, and is preserved at Wells District Probate Registry, and that of "Robert Gybbes, quondam Prior Montis Acuti," proved in 1560 is at Somerset House [46 Mellersh]. These will be found at the end of this paper.

Besides these, I have found at Wells the wills of Sir John Webbe, formerly sub-prior of Cleve, dated 6th April, 1560: he was instituted to the vicarage of Old Cleve 27th October, 1557.

Also the wills of six Glastonbury priests, who had all of them, I believe, once been monks there.

Robert Pawlett, proved 7 May 1543.

William Goodson, proved 9 Dec. 1546.

Robert Clerke *alias* Fox, proved 30 June 1550.

Thomas ffletcher *alias* Welsworth, proved 22 April 1551.

Thomas Dovell, proved 30 June 1557.

John Crandon, proved 15 March 1566-7.

It will be seen that only the two last were living in 1555, the date of Cardinal Pole's pension list; and the name of Thomas Dovell occurs in this list.²⁷ John Crandon must appear under an *alias*. There are (as stated above) only two Glastonbury lists extant, the one mentioned above, and another, containing fifty-two names, dated 19th September, 1534²⁸ being the acknowledgment of the Royal Supremacy. The name of

(27) Somerset Religious Houses p. 151.

(28) Deputy Keeper's Report vii. App. ii.

Robert Clerk appears in this list.

There is only one monk who bears the same name in both lists, namely Nicholas Andrew, but we are able to identify Simon Edgar *alias* Enterdon, and Aristotle Alvyryne *alias* Webbe, by their *christian* names, and these are the only two identifications possible.

I append some notes on names found in one or other of these two lists. The *Wills* mentioned are to be found in the District Probate Registry at Wells, and the extracts from them are from the writer's MS. collections.

John Thorn } were the monks executed at the same time as
Roger James } the Abbot.²⁹

John Phagan } The four Glaston monks who being resident at
John Neott } Westminster Monastery circa 1557, petitioned
W^m Adelwold } Queen Mary for a restoration of Glastonbury
W^m Kentwyn } Abbey.³⁰

Tho. Dovell, Capellanus of St. Benyng's church, 1540-2.

John Crandon attests West Pennard wills, November and December, 1545.

John Bennett, chantry priest at Langport (pensioned).

Tho. Appollynar mentioned in a Glaston will, 1553.

John Verney, curate of Baltonsborough, 1543.

Tho. Nicholas attests a Keinton will 29 May 1541.

Martin Noble attests a will 1540 (no parish mentioned).

Wm. Grice, "our lady prist" of Weston in Zoyland, 1544-6.

Wm. Bishoppe attests a Doultling will, 1541, and another in 1546.

John Donne³¹ } attests Mere wills, 1540, 1541.
(living 1567) } attests Chedsey wills as curate 1545-6 (January and March.)

(29) Gasquet II. 355.

(30) English Benedictine Congregn. (*Weldon*), p. xix. Phagan is wrongly called *Plagan* in List I. He is evidently named after St. Phaganus, while Derynyan may be named after St. Diruvianus (*See Collinson ii., 264*).

(31) Mentioned in the will of John Crandon.

Wm. Huchins attests Street wills as curate 1543, 1545.

John Chynnye, chantry priest of Aller (pensioned).

John Weye, parson of Seaborough (living 1567).³¹

Mr. Haïne, parson of Wayford (living 1567)³¹.

John Tanner attests an Upton Noble will, dated 1546 as curate, afterwards chantry priest at St. Cuthbert, Wells.

John Shepherd, priest of a Wells Cathedral chantry.

Of these parishes, St. Benyng, West Pennard, Baltonsborough, Weston in Zoyland, Doulting, Mere, and Street, all formerly belonged to the Abbey.

In the wills referred to above, the Glastonbury monks had little to leave, the only exception being William Goodson, the *summa inventarii* of whose will is given at the large sum of £82 8s. 0d.

The sums for the others were—

Robert Pawlett £7 5s. 0d.

Robert Clerke (*none given*).

Thomas ffletcher £11 15s. 0d.

Thomas Dovell £8 15s. 11d.

John Crandon £4 18s. 0d.

From a study of these wills and also of others, in which the names of former monks occur as witnesses, I have been able in many cases to partially trace the after-history of the expelled Religious.

It appears that many of those who were in priests' orders retired to parishes near the monastery of which they had formerly been members (benefices many of them in the gift of such monastery), and there served as *capellani*, *curati*, and *annuellarii*: the last named being priests, who obtained a precarious subsistence by performing anniversary services, obits or masses for the dead; of the Bruton canons we find two serving the cures of Brewham and Pitcombe, parishes near Bruton, while two others became incumbents of chantries in Wells Cathedral, and one became a vicar choral. In some

cases the monks obtained benefices, but of these they were frequently soon deprived. The chantries, too, were suppressed in 1548, nine years after the larger monasteries, so that they did not afford the monks a sure or long subsistence.

William Tybbott, sub-prior of Keynsham, became rector of Camley. He was deprived in 1554, but was afterwards restored, and held the benefice till his death in 1575.³²

Thomas Parker, a canon of Keynsham, became Rector of Saltford, but was deprived in 1554.³³

I suppose that they were suspected of Protestantism. Mary ascended the throne 6th August, 1553. In 1554, on the consecration of Gilbert Bourne to the See of Bath and Wells, eighty-two clergy were deprived for being married, and others resigned their livings.³⁴

I give what I have been able to glean about the last sub-prior of Cleve Abbey, and this may be taken as a fair example of the after-life of the more fortunate monks.

“John Webbe, some time Religeous there,” *i.e.*, at the late monastery of Clyve, obtained a pension of £8 per annum³⁵ (the ordinary pension varied from £4 to £6 13s. 4d.). In 1542, 1543, and 1545, we find him resident at Stoke Gomer, and attesting wills there as one of the parish clergy.

On 20th May, 1546, the will of Mr. John Strong, Rector of Monksilver, is attested by Sir John Webbe. He bequeaths “to Sir John Webbe, my gostly father, a girdell, with stodes of sylver, a purse, a payre of knyves, a typpytt of sasnett, and a boke at his pleasure.”

In 1553 and 1556 Sir John Webbe, *curate*, attests the wills of two inhabitants of Old Cleve, of which benefice he was instituted Vicar 27th October, 1557; he made his will in 1560.

(32) Somerset Incumbents, p. 44.

(33) Somerset Incumbents, p. 284.

(34) *Hunt's "Diocesan History,"* p. 179.

(35) Somerset Religious Houses, p. 136.

There is no date of proof, but the next vicar was instituted in 1565.³⁶

We can form then a clear idea of how Sir John Webbe, sub-prior, passed the remainder of his life, from the time when he had to leave Cleve Abbey, namely in serving successively as *curatus* of Stoke Gomer and Old Cleve, until he succeeded to the benefice of the latter place, which had formerly belonged to Cleve Abbey. The name of the patron who presented him was "Hug. Stevens de Stokegumber, clothman." His will is given below, from which it will be seen that he had not much to leave.

Old Clyve, Testamentum Johannis Webbe nuper Vicarii ibidem		Syr John Webbe clearke, of the paryshe of Olde Cleve,	6 April 1560.
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I bequethe my soul to Almyghty God & to all the blessed companye of heaven & my body to be buried in the church of Olde Cleve—to the power peoplew ithin the paryshe xx^s.

Elizabeth Porter viij or ix pewter dyshes and my bedd performed.

Joane Porter three platters.

Mawde Budde a coverleade & a pere of shetes & a coffer.

John Porter & W^m Budde all my parell savynge my beaſt gowne.

Res. Sir Thomas Roberts vicar of Carhampton
 & Richard Porter whom I make my exōrs.

Witn. Thomas Croker, Thomas Baker, John Robert.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE WILL OF THE LAST ABBOT OF
 KEYNSHAM.

SIR JOHN STURTON, priste,
 nuper abbas de Keynsham

Dated 20 June 1543. Proved 27 August 1543

to be buried in the church of K. Wells 12^d

(36) Somerset Incumbents, 336.

W^m Wyppye my exōr to fynde a Taper before the sacrament 5/-

the brotherhed [of K] my best masse bocke.

the bellys of K. 2/-

Charlyntons³⁷ church a print masse bocke, a peyre of whyte vestyments & a peyre of candelstycks.

the mendynge of a cawsey at the townes end 20/-

to Maude Ancrete to be disposyd of W^m Wippye after his mynd 20/- John Byse a flockebede. W^m a towe, a fetherbed. Tho. Lutman a flockebed.

Sir John Fowler³⁸ to pray for me my best shorte gowne.

Sir John Browne³⁹ overseer 20/-

Res. Willyam Whippye.

W. Sir John Hoskyns curat

Sir John Browne

John Horne.⁴⁰ [Summa £26/6/0]

I am very greatly indebted to my friend, the Rev. C. H. Mayo, M.A., R.D., for the following most interesting abstract of the will of the last prior of Montacute. It has never been printed before, but a few notes were made from it by the late Rev. F. Brown, F.S.A., and they are given in *Somerset Wills*, Second Series, p. 102.

Robert Sherborne, *alias* Whitlocke, *alias* Gybbes, the last prior, had a pension of £80, and for a dwelling house a mansion in East Chinnock, with a garden adjoining. It is evident, from his will, that his death took place at East Chinnock, to which Church he leaves 13s. 4d. He died between June 2nd and September 15th, 1560, thus having lived a little over twenty-one years from the time of the dissolution of his house.

(37) Queen Charlton.

(38) A canon of Keynsham who received a pension of £6 13s. 4d. (*Rawlinson MS.*, B. 419).

(39) Another canon of Keynsham, who received a pension of £5 6s. 8d. In 1541 he was curate of Wrington; he was still living in 1555.

(40) He is probably brother of the prior of Keynsham, William Hern or Horne.

“In the name of God, Amen. The seconde daye of June, in the yere of ower lorde God 1560.

I, Roberte Gybbes, clarke, *quondam prior Montis Acuti* hole of mynde and memorie, caulinge to remembraunce the words of Allmightie God *memento homo quod pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris, et iterum, Omnis caro fenum*, and that the lief of man ys like to a flower of the felde that groweth todaye and tomorrowe ys caste into the furnes to be burnte lett a very man consider what he was in his mother’s belly and how he hath ledd his lyef in this myserable worlde and that at his departinge oute of the same shall carrie nothings awaye butt only his good deeds and badd *et qui bona egerunt ibunt in vitam eternam qui vero mala in ignem eternum*. All these things remembred with perfect memorie I utterly forsake and renounce this wretched and miserable worlde and all things contained yn the same and ordaine and make this to be my laste will and testamente in this manner and forme followinge, that is to saye first I give and bequeath my sowle to Almightye God trustinge to be nombered with the hollye and ellecte Saints of God at the terrible daye of Judgmente, and my boddie I commend to holly buriall that is to saye to be buried in the Chancell of the parrishe Church of Saynte Katherin at Mountegue.”

To the Cathedral Church of Wells ijs. to the sd. parish church of St. Katherin xx^s and one great cofer, bounde with iron.

To the church of Est Chinnocke xiijs iiijd

Ch. of Westcocer ijs Ch. of Hardington ijs

Ch. of Tyntenhull ijs Ch. of Mudford ijs

Ch. of Clowseworth ijs Ch. of Chrych ijs

Ch. of Middle Chinnock ijs Ch. of Haselbare ijs

Ch. of Crukern one cope of crimsen velvet.

To Mr Thomas ffrecke vicar of Mountegue xx^s

Sir William Dyar⁴¹ parson of North Perrott xx^s

(41) Sir Wm. Dyer and Sir Wm. Cryssey were monks of Montacute. The latter attests two Dundry wills in 1542 and 1544: he is called “my gostly father” by the testators.

- Sir William Rogers⁴² vicar of Est Chinnoke xx^s
 my frende M^r Hawker xx^s
 my frende Thomas Norman⁴³ xx^s
 Sir William Cryssey⁴¹ vj^s. viij^d
 my brother Walter Gybbes vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d & my horse myll.
 Sir Robarte Gybbes the sonne of the s^d Walter one
 fetherbed with all thyngs belonginge to the same, all my
 gownes with certain books, one lymbeck, one stillatorie
 and xx dosens of glasse, part of every sorte.
 Thomas Gibbes the sone of the s^d Walter xx^s and one
 fetherbed.
 John Gibbes son of the s^d Walter xx^s & one fetherbedd.
 and to the wyef of the saide John one silver spoone.
 my frende Mr. Powle⁴⁴ a book named Cronica Cronicarum.
 To my lad James Kitto one fetherbed, one bowlster one
 pillow one paire of blanketts one payre of sheets one
 coverlett of dornix ij stillatories, one brasen potte to
 make *aqua vita* in, my little amblinge mare with bridle,
 gurses & sturopps with all suche books as I have of
 Phisicke and Surgery.
 To the poore man Thomas Butler my servante xx^s and
 beddinge at East Chinnock.
 To the poore woman Ely[n] Sudnaye my servante xx^s
 ij platters, ij pottingers, and one sawcer with one little
 skillet pot of brass.
 [other bequests to servants]
 To the littell mayde which I doe of charitie bringe upp
 named Besse abydinge at Castell Carye with my frende
 Norvall xx^s and a cowe.
 To my cosen Locke of Yevell vj^s viij^d

(42) Sir Wm. Rogers, another monk of Montacute, succeeded Sir John Webbe, a brother monk, who was instituted to this benefice, (formerly in the gift of the priory,) January 27th, 1541.

(43) He had an annuity of 53s. 4d. out of the revenues of Montacute.

(44) John Palle, monk of Montacute, received a pension of £5 6s. 8d.

To Agnes Piers of Est Chinnocke widdow xxvjs viij^d to
by her a cove withall.

to her ij daughters Alice & Florance xx^s each.

To Sir William Rogers, Vicar of Est Chinnocke, my
best bedstede, the cofer standinge in the highe cham-
ber, and also the foldinge boorde there standinge.

To my frende Thomas Norman my bason & ewer.

To John Gibbes, son of John Gybbes, vjs viij^d

John Gibbes the younger vjs viij^d

To the ij poore children, William Combbe and Robert
Comb, xx^d each.

Item. I will that all suche stuff as ys in my backehowse
and brewhouce be solde and the monney of the same to
be distributed amongst my poore kynn.

Residue. "To Sir William Dyar, parson of North Par-
rott, Sir William Rogers, vicar of East Chinnocke,
Mr. Thomas Hawker, of Vagge, gentleman, and Thomas
Norman, of Mountague, yoman, whome I make and
ordaine these men to be my very true executors that
they shall dispose all suche goods as I have left unto
them in a godly and charitable use to the honor of God
and salvacion of my sowle."

Supervisor. Mr. Thomas ffrekk, vicar of Mountague.

Witnesses. Mr. Thomas ffrecke.

Sir William Metforde⁴⁵ parson of Lufton.

John Morley,⁴⁶ of Mountague, mason, with
others.

Appended are the two lists of Glaston monks to which
reference has so often been made.

(45) Instituted 11th Aug., 1523, d. 1572, S.I., 131.

(46) John Morles [Moreleyes (Rawlinson, B. 419)] had an annuity of xx^s
from Montacute Priory.

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ROYAL SUPREMACY

19TH SEPT. 1534.

Ric., Abbas, Nich. London, Prior, Nich. Wedmor, Rob. Clerk, Joh. Tawnton, Tho. Dunstone, Tho. Clement, Joh. Selwod, Joh. Bennett, Joh. Bennyng, Ric. Bede, Joh. Ceolfryde, Tho. Appollynar, Henr. Yve, Ric. Besill, Rob. Gylde, Joh. Verney, Edm. Cokere, Nich. Androw, Joh. Arthur, Joh. Abaramathia, Will. Dunstane, Will. Kentwyne, Joh. Derynyan, Marvul Judratt, Laur. Maur, Galf. Bennyger, Walt. Herstane, Ric. Wusceter, Joh. Excetur, Will. Joseph, Joh. Baptista, Joh. Ambrose, Ric. Ulton, Will. Brytwold, Joh. Aydan, Rob. Yder, Joh. Oswolde, Joh. Pauly, Jac. Anselmus, Joh. Elphege, Will. Adelwoldus, Symon Edgar, Joh. Plagan, Joh. Pantales, John Allendo, Arystotle Alvyne, Ric. Rabone, Tho. Brentt, Henr. Mowntegeld, Joh. Aldelme, Rog. Wylfryd.

II. CARDINAL POLE'S PENSION LIST (1555).

Tho. Weye, Ric. Aisheley, Tho. Dovell, Joh. Tanner, Joh. Watsonne, Joh. Chynnye, Tho. Nycholas, Joh. Grundell, Martin Noble, Rob. Towker, Joh. Sheperde, Joh. Piddesley, Will. Gryce, Joh. Waye, Will. Bishoppe, Joh. Donne, Joh. Houseley, Simon Enterdon, Tho. Carye, Joh. Golde, Joh. Hayne, Tho. White, Will. Huchins, Aristotle Webbe, Nich. Andrew.