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P A P E R S, E T C.

Thomas Chard, D.D., the last Abbot of Ford.

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“*Gloria virtutis umbra.*”

IN “The Chorographical Description or Survey of the Co. of Devon, collected by the travel of Tristram Risdon of Winscot, gent., For the love of his country and countrymen in that province. London, printed at the Dial and Bible, against St. Dunstan’s Church in Fleet St., 1714,” the author (*floruit* 1580—1640), speaking of the parish of Awliscombe near Honiton (p. 30) says—

“This was the birthplace of Thomas Charde, the last Abbot of Forde Abbey, who founded the Hospital at Honyton (as fame hath) in the reign of Henry III” (*sic*).

All subsequent writers have been content to follow Risdon’s lead—Anthony Wood¹ (1632—1695), John Prince (1643—1723), Polwhele (1793), and later, Dr. Oliver and Dr. Pring,

¹ Wood [Fasti i, 22, ed. by Bliss] says that Chard was educated at St. Bernard’s College, Oxford. This was the Cistercian College; St. John’s now occupies its site.

who wrote a "Memoir of Thomas Chard." Yet this short sentence of Risdon's contains, I believe, three mis-statements.

1. Thomas Chard was not born at Awliscombe.
2. He was not the founder but the benefactor of the Hospital.
3. He flourished in the reign of Henry VIII, and not Henry III. Of course the last is probably merely a printer's error.

How did the error as to Chard's birthplace arise? I think in the following way.

In Risdon's days there was living at Tracy's Hayes, in the parish of Awliscombe, a family of Chard,² of whose existence there, the first documentary evidence that I have come upon, is this entry in the parish Register—"1589, Feb. 1st, William, son of Richard Chard, baptized"—but there is no mention of the family or their alliances in the 1564 Visitation of Devon, or in that of 1620, and there is not the slightest evidence to connect the Abbot with this family, except an account given by Prince, in which he describes the Abbot as the founder of the Leper Hospital of St. Margaret, situated near Honiton, and says that the Abbot "reserved out of the same a yearly head-rent to be paid to the heir male of this family of Chard living in Awlescombe aforesaid."

That the Abbot was not the founder of this Hospital is certain, for it is mentioned in the Registers of the Bishops of Exeter under the dates 1374 and 1452,³ and Prince is too unreliable an authority to make his testimony of any value.

It is more difficult to account for Risdon's and Wood's mistake as to the Abbot's birthplace. But there is evidence,

² The arms of Chard are, *Or and gu.* quarterly, over all a label of five points *az.* The Abbot never uses these: the stag's head cabossed, which appears on Ford Abbey is the badge of the Abbey, in allusion to Hertbath (*balneum cervorum*), the former name of the site. It was also the badge of the Abbeys of Buckfast and Hartland. (See *The Cistercian Houses of Devon*, by J. Brooking Rowe, F.S.A., p. 191.)

³ Oliver's *Monas. Dioc. Exon.*, pp. 340-1.

I think, that the Oxford antiquary got his information from Risdon, so that the two authorities are reduced to one; for Wood⁴ says, "Fuit ult. Abbas de Ford. Natus apud Aulescombe in com. Devon et hospitem apud Honyton in eodem Com. (ut dicitur) fundavit." This is evidently merely a Latin rendering of Risdon's statement given above.

This then makes the statement rest entirely on Risdon's authority.

The Abbot was much connected with the neighbourhood of Honiton; for he was Warden of the College of Ottery St. Mary, five miles from Honiton, from 1513 to 1518; and again 'Minister' of the same College from 1540 till his resignation in 1543; and Risdon, who was born nearly forty years after the Abbot's death, finding a family of Chard living at Awliscombe, jumped to the conclusion (no uncommon occurrence in those uncritical times) that the Abbot must necessarily have been connected with them.

Lysons, in his *History of Devonshire* (p. 20), does not repeat under Awliscombe the tale of Abbot Chard's birth there, and (p. 283) gives a very different account of his connection with St. Margaret's Hospital. He says that "it is said to have been founded in 1530, for leprous persons, by Thomas Chard, the last Abbot of Ford. It is probable that he endowed it with lands and was deemed the founder, but it is certain that the Hospital had existed as early as the year 1374. After the dissolution of Colleges and Hospitals, it appears that the representatives of Abbot Chard became possessed of this Hospital, as trustees for the poor lepers, of whom there were four, besides a governor." He adds that in 1642, John Chard, the then possessor, was found to have misapplied the trust, which was thereupon invested in the rector, churchwardens, and overseers of Honiton. At this time there was one leper in the Hospital.

⁴ Wood's MSS. (Bodl. Libr.) E. 9.

In the extant lists of the 'Religious' in days immediately preceding the dissolution of the Monasteries, it is found that many of the monks have two or more surnames given them. This is particularly noticeable in the "Pension Lists," while in earlier ones, the number of monks bearing place-names is very large. In illustration of this I have taken at random the names of twelve monks belonging to Somersetshire Monasteries, and have added in brackets the name of the Monastery to which they belonged:—

1. John Axbridge (Worspring).
2. Hugh Backwell (Bruton).
3. Thos. Bedford (Keynsham).
4. John Cheddar (Muchelney).
5. John Dunster (Bruton).
6. John Excetur (Glaston).
7. Nich. Lychefeld (Witham).
8. Thos. Taunton (Montacute).
9. John Taunton (Glaston).
10. Nich. Wedmore (Glaston).
11. Robert Wells (Bruton).
12. Rich. Wusceter (Glaston).

These are the names of monks taken from "Acknowledgments of the Royal Supremacy,"⁵ "Deeds of Surrenders,"⁶ and "Pension Lists,"⁷ and the list might be largely extended.

The fact admits of an easy explanation; for it was customary on entering a Monastery, or at ordination, for the monk or the candidate for Holy orders, to drop his father's name, and substitute for it the name of his birthplace, which in early days was preceded by a 'de'; thus, William de Wykham, whose father's name was Longe, and William de Waynffete (born Barlow or Patten), were the celebrated Bishops of Winchester,

⁵ See *Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, Appendix II.

⁶ See *Eighth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, Appendix II.

⁷ See Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

who were respectively the founders of New College and Magdalen College, Oxford; but at the time of which we are writing the 'de' had dropped out, and the monk was known by the name of his birthplace alone.⁸ As this might create confusion, the father's name was nearly always added in the Pension Lists, and is found there connected with the place-name by the word *alias*. Bearing this in mind, a study of the Ford Pension List becomes interesting and instructive.

The names of the monks of Ford who received pensions are given below :—⁹

1. Thomas Chard, *alias* Tybbes, Abbott.
2. Wm. Sherneborne, *alias* Rede, Prior.
3. Rich. Exmester, *alias* Were.
4. John Newman.
5. John Cosyns.
6. John Brydgewater, *alias* Stone.
7. Robert Ylmester, *alias* Roose.
8. John Fawell.
9. Thos. Stafford, *alias* Bate.
10. Ellys Olescum, *alias* Potter.
11. Will. Wynsor, *alias* Hyde.
12. Will. Grene.
13. Will. Dynnyngton, *alias* Wylshire.
14. Rich. Kyngesbury, *alias* Sherman.

Of these fourteen persons, ten have place-names, followed by patronymic-names, shewing that their birthplaces were respectively Chard, Sherborne, Exminster, Bridgewater, Ilminster, Stafford, Awliscombe, Windsor, Dinnington, and Kingsbury, while the remaining four have their father's name only.

Judging from this Pension List, we are justified in concluding that the Abbot's father's name was Tybbes, and that he was born at Chard, and this receives very remarkable confirmation

⁸ Gasquet's *Henry VIII and the English Monasteries*, vol. i, 353 (n).

⁹ Dugdale, vol. v, 383, who wrongly gives *Dewyngton* for *Dynnyngton*.

when we find that at this very time there was a family named Tybbys living at Chard, the head of which, Robert Tybbys, a burgess of that ancient borough, was nearly related to the Abbot.¹⁰ The will of this Robert Tybbys is dated 2nd May, 1528. After leaving xij^d to the high altar of Chard, and iiij^d to Wells Cathedral, he bequeaths to his only son John £10, which is to remain in the hands of his wife Margaret till John comes to the age of twenty years, and if he die before that age, "my wife shall give the said sum to the Lord Abbot of Fforde, and to the monks serving God there, who, for the said sum, shall be bound to pray for the space of three years for the souls of myself, my wife, and my son."

This John Tybbes, son of the testator, married Agnes, daughter of John Chuddelegh of Strowde, co. Dorset;¹¹ and on June 9th, 1534,¹² Abbot Chard leased to John Chidley^{12a} of Thornecombe, gent., the tithe of sheaf in Burstock parish, Dorset, for the life of the said John, with remainder to John Tybbes, son of Robert Tybbes, and Jane Chidley, daughter of the said John Chidley, during their several lives, at a yearly rent of 40^s. John Tybbes also held a convent lease, dated 20th August, 1534,¹² of the Grange of Otehill, in the parish of Wayford, co. Somerset.

Thus the Abbot was not inattentive to the claims of his own family,¹³ as is remarked by Dr. Oliver; and he further (27th Sept., 1535) gave a convent lease of lands in Charmouth,

¹⁰ *Wells Wills*, p. 43. The testator was probably the Abbot's brother.

¹¹ Visitation of Dorset, 1565, *Genealogist*, New Series, vol. ii, no. 8, p. 296.

¹² These dates are not given by Dr. Oliver, they have been most kindly sent me by Dr. Gasquet, and are to be found in the P. R. O. [Exchequer Ministers' Accounts. 31-32 Henry VIII, 89 m, 73 d, 75.]

^{12a} The Abbot writes of "John Chudeley, my servant." See *Letters and Papers* (Hen. VIII) ix, 948.

The Abbot secured to John Tybbes, clerk, an annuity of £5 out of the revenues of Ford Abbey, which was confirmed by Royal grant, 29th Jan. 1539-40. [Exchequer Ministers' Accounts, 30-31 Henry VIII, 223 m, 23 d.] Dr. Oliver (p.341) tells us that this John Tybbes had entered among the Cistercians, at Dunkeswell, and worn the habit for a time. On quitting the Order, he was appointed to the Vicarage of Payhembury, which was in the gift of the Abbey of Ford, and held it till his death in 1556. For his degrees, see *Reg. Univ. Oxon.*, vol. i, p. 149.

Turneworth, Toller, and Cattyscliff,¹⁴ to Ralph Tybbes of Charmouth, and his son Thomas.

Tybbes was not an uncommon name in Somerset and Dorset at the time of which we are writing; for we find that Richard Tybbes, a yeoman, of Stowell, in the parish of Moorlinch, made his will July 11th, 1550, and Johane, his widow, made hers in 1563.¹⁵ Tibbs¹⁶ is not uncommon in Dorset at this day, Tebs¹⁶ is still to be found at Bath, and Tebbs¹⁶ at Crewkerne.

The date of Thomas Chard's election, as Abbot of Ford, is uncertain. The name of his predecessor was William Whyte,¹⁷ who was Abbot in 1490 and is said by Oliver¹⁸ to have given a lease of some Convent land on April 21st, 1521, in which year he asserts that he was succeeded by Chard. But there is proof that Dr. Chard was Abbot in 1517, for in the *Letters and Papers, Henry VIII*,¹⁹ there is a letter dated April 25th, 1517, in which Thomas, Abbot of Ford, and Thomas, Abbot of Tintern, complain of certain rioters, who, on that day, entered, armed, into the Abbey of Kingswood, in Wiltshire, and obstructed them in their duties as Reformators of the Order (Cistercian), and there is good ground for believing that Thomas Chard was Abbot of Ford as early as 1507, for on October 24th, of that year, he took his degree of D.D. at Oxford, and is thus described by Wood²⁰:—"1507, October 24th. Realiter inceptit in S.S. Theol. Venerabilis pater D. Tho. Charde mon. ordinis Cisterciensis Abbas monasterii de Forde vir magna doctrina et virtute clarus."

Later writers have assumed that it is not necessary to take the above in its literal sense, and have asserted that he did

¹⁴ Catsley, in the parish of Corscombe; see Eyton's *Domesday for Dorset*, p. 114.

¹⁵ From the writer's MS. collections.

¹⁶ Kelly's *Directories* for 1889; *Dorset Voters' Register*, 1885-6.

¹⁷ Wm. Whyte, sup. for B.A. June 1st, 1456, (*Reg. Univ. Oxon.*, vol. i, p. 28) this may be the same man.

¹⁸ *Monasticon Dioc. Exon.*, p. 340.

¹⁹ Vol. ii, part 2.

²⁰ Wood MSS. (Bodl. Libr.) E. 9.

not become Abbot of Ford till 1521; this date we have proved to be wrong, and we know that he was consecrated Bishop in 1508, with the title "Episcopus Solubriensis;" *i.e.*, Selymbria in Thrace, for he held his first ordination, as suffragan of the Bishop of Exeter, in the Chapel of the Palace of Exeter, on September 23rd, in that year;²¹ thus, if we are right in saying that he held the dignity of the Abbacy of Ford in 1507, it would be a good reason why he should be selected for suffragan by the Bishop of Exeter in the following year. Indeed, the publication of the "*Letters and Papers of Hen. VIII.*," of which twelve volumes have already been issued, under the editorship of the late Mr. Brewer and Mr. Gairdner, have not only thrown great light on the reign of that King, but have caused a general revision of dates. Thus all previous writers²² have said that Dr. Chard became Prior of Montacute in 1515, and resigned in 1525; but the *Letters and Papers* tell us that he was elected Prior on June 18th, 1514, and did not resign before the summer of 1532, for on the 11th July of that year a *Congé d' élire* was sent to the Sub-Prior and Convent to elect a Prior in his room; and on the 29th August of the same year, restitution of temporalities was granted on the election of his successor, Robert Shirburn.²³ This is the last Prior of Montacute, Robert Shirburn, *als.* Whitlock, *als.* Gybbes, who, with 13 monks, resigned the Priory on March 29th, 1539, and received a pension of £80 per annum, with a mansion in East Chinnock for his dwelling house.²⁴ He is mentioned in Bishop Chard's Will, as owing him £57 17s. 8d.

It appears that Robert Gybbes promised the King 100

²¹ At the end of Bishop Oldham's Register are given the dates of ordinations held by Bishop Chard as suffragan.

²² Oliver and Stubbs (*Reg. Sacr. Anglicanum*).

²³ See vol. i, 5240, and vol. v, 1207 (27), 1270 (18).

²⁴ Dugdale, vol. v, p. 164. It is unfortunate, because it creates confusion, that Collinson (vol. iii, p. 311) has omitted from his proper place, as 39th Prior of Montacute, Robert Cryche, and has interpolated him between Chard and Shirburne.

marks as the price of his election, but the sum remained for some time unpaid.²⁵

On Bishop Chard's resigning the Priory of Montacute, he was appointed Prior of Carswell, a small cell dependent upon Montacute, and situated in the parish of Broadhembury, Devon, which he held, it is stated, in lieu of a pension.²⁶ This may give us a clue to the above debt, which was owing to him when he made his will in 1541.

We hear of him twice in connection with this small Priory. On September 20th, 1532, he held his last ordination as suffragan of Exeter, "in ecclesia sive capella domus aut prioratus de Karswell;" and there is a letter dated Carswell, 18th May, 1533, from Thos. Solubriensis, Prior of Carswell, to Lady Lisle, in which he says that "Her servant Worth has been with him at a poor lodge, but would not tarry; was glad to hear that she was merry."²⁷

We have seen that in 1517, Thomas, Abbot of Ford, was one of the Reformators of the Cistercian Order; on May 3rd, 1534,²⁸ he writes from Ford Abbey to Cromwell, and "begs his favour in the cause of which John Wadham, Cromwell's servant, will inform him." What this cause was may be inferred from "Cromwell's Remembrances" of the same year, in which we find the sentence, "Abbot of Forde to be Visitor,"²⁹ and in 1535 a Commission³⁰ is granted to Thomas, Abbot of Forde, to visit the Cistercian Monasteries of Forde, Buckefast, Buckland, Dunckeswell, Newham (Devon), Clyve (Somerset), Byndon and Tarraunte (Dorset), Bewley (Hants), Quarre (Isle of Wight), Letteley³¹ (Hants), Waverley (Surrey), Rewley (Oxon), Stanley (Wilts), Haylys (Gloucestershire), Bordesley (Worcestershire), Kyngeswoode (Wilts), Flaxley (Gloucestershire), Stratteforde (Essex), Boxley (Kent), Cro-

²⁵ *Letters and Papers*, vol. v, p. 1213; vol. vi, p. 1613.

²⁶ *Ib.*, vol. ix, p. 1126.

²⁷ *Ib.*, vol. vi, p. 504.

²⁸ *Ib.*, vol. vii, p. 605.

²⁹ *Ib.*, vol. vii, 923 (xxv).

³⁰ *Ib.*, vol. viii, 74 (2).

³¹ Netley.

kesdene (Staffordshire), Combremere (Cheshire), Cockeshall (Essex), Brewern (Oxon), Garydon (Leicestershire), Bedyllidon (Bucks), Combe, Stoneley and Merevalle (Warwickshire), and Thame (Oxon).

In the preceding remarks my object has been to give as far as possible new matter, and not to dwell upon those parts of the Abbot's life which have been prominently brought forward by previous writers, but in order that the reader may have at hand a *resumé* of what is known of him, I have given in Appendix II, some memorable dates connected with his life, and I have not admitted one for which there is not documentary evidence.

Having been so fortunate as to unearth in the District Probate Registry at Wells the Abbot's will, which had long been considered lost, and of which merely the record of proof now exists in the archives of Somerset House,³² this document, illustrated by notes, is given in Appendix I. It is the will of a charitable and good man, who never forgot the parishes with which he had been officially connected. He there says that much of his property had been given away by himself in his life-time, and we find him on two occasions giving benefactions to the parish of Tintinhull; once towards the vestments, and once to the bells.³³ There is no doubt, I think, that he was born at Chard, and that he died and was buried at Taunton, probably in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene there, and so we may justly claim him as 'A Worthy' of our own county of Somerset.

"Notas mihi fecisti vias vitæ,
Adimplebis me lætitia cum vultu tuo;
Delectationes in dextera tua usque in finem."

³² Reg. Pynning (P.C.C.), fo. 17. It was proved there Nov. 4th, 1544.

³³ See *Somerset Record Society*, vol. iv, pp. 173, 204; and *Somerset Incumbents*, p. 200.

APPENDIX I.

“ULTIMA VOLUNTAS REVERENDI PATRIS THOME
SOLUBREN. EPISCOPI .DE TAUNTON.³⁴”

“In the name of God Amen The ffirst day of Octobre in the year of oure Lord God mccccxli I Thomas Bushop of Solubrye³⁵ mayke my last wyll yn manner and forme folowinge first I bequethe my soule to Allmyghetie God, oure ladie and to all the saynts in heavyn my bodye to be buryed where ytt shall please God.³⁶”

“And all such temporall goodes that I have I geve and bequeth to the powre and nedye people to be bestowed unto theym by thadvyse of Roger Hyll,³⁷ Christopher Wylkyns and Isabell his wyffe, reservynge to theym vjⁱ xiiij^s iiiij^d for there labors and also reservyng all such thynges that I have gevyn and delyveryd with my hands as to my servant Sir William Wynter³⁸ a salte of sylver with a cover parcell gylte and a sylver cuppe with a cover and the bed that he lieth in with all the appurtenance.

“Item. I geve to Saynt Mary Otherey ys Colledge churche and [*sic*] cuppe of sylver and gilte and I do geve to the parish churche of Saynt Mary Magdaleyn in Taunton vj^s viij^d and also a damaske cope and to the ij servycys³⁹ in the same church ij^s.

“Item. I geve to the churches of Wellyngton, Holberton,⁴⁰

³⁴ Wells District Probate Registry, book v, fo. 27a.

³⁵ Selymbria in Thrace.

³⁶ This means ‘where he should happen to die.’

³⁷ See *Visitations of Somerset* (Weaver), p. 33.

³⁸ He was formerly a monk of Montacute, and received a pension of £5 6s. 8d. He was still living in 1553.

Another instance of the ‘Religious’ still living together is to be found in the will of John Sturton, the last Abbot of Keynsham, which is attested by two of the late Canons of that House. The will is dated 20th June, 1543.

³⁹ “The High Cross Service” and “The Sepulchre Service.” See *Wells Wills*, pp. xii, 157.

⁴⁰ This is Holbeton, ten miles east of Plymouth, of which testator had been rector.

Saynt Gorram⁴¹ and Saynt Gluas⁴² yn Cornwall and lytell Torryngton to eche of theym an angell noble.⁴³

“ My detts are thease—

“ ffirst M^r Robert Gybbes⁴⁴ oweth unto me lvij^{li} xvij^s viij^d as yt appereth in M^r doctor Petres⁴⁵ boke.

“ Item. worser⁴⁶ x^s

“ Item. Edmunde Abree xx^s

“ Item. Larcombe of Chardstocke xl^s

“ Item. W^m Grenham of Norton [Fitzwarren] x^s

“ Item. M^r Bell, register⁴⁷ of Wells iiiij^{li}

“ Item. Henry Symbarbe⁴⁸ oweth me ij^{li} which I geve to my kynseman John Williams towards his lernynge.

“ These beyng wytness : William Wynter, William Harvye⁴⁹, and John Edwards,⁵⁰ prists with other moo.⁵¹

“ Commissa fuit administracio bonorum supradicti defuncti juxta tenorem suprascripti testamenti Christophero Wylkyns de Taunton per M^r Walterum Cretynge⁵² commissarium xvj die mensis Octobris A^o Dⁿⁱ 1541⁵³ in domo solite residence sue Wellie.

“ Summa Inventarii, lxxv^{li} xiiij^s viij^d”

⁴¹ Near St. Austell.

⁴² Near Penryn.

⁴³ A gold coin, worth about 6s. 8d.

⁴⁴ Dr. Chard's successor at Montacute (see p. 8). His will, proved Sept. 15th, 1560, will be found in *Somerset Wills*, 2nd series, 102.

⁴⁵ William Petre, one of the Commissioners who received the surrenders of Monasteries. See Canon Dixon's *History*, vol. ii, p. 116 (*n*); and Gasquet's *Henry VIII and the Eng. Mon.*, vol. ii, p. 300.

⁴⁶ Maude Vorser is a witness to a South Petherton will, dated 1536.

⁴⁷ This old form of the word 'Registrar' is still in use in Scotland and America.

⁴⁸ Of Ashington, Somerset. See *Visitations of Somerset* (Weaver), p. 74; and *Somerset Wills*, vol. i, p. 40.

⁴⁹ In his will, proved 1546, he is styled 'capellanus' of the parish of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton (MS. Collections).

⁵⁰ John Edward appears in the list of Acknowledgments of the Royal supremacy (Aug. 18th, 1534) as a novice of Keynsham Abbey. There is no proof, however, that they are the same persons.

⁵¹ *i.e.*, more.

⁵² Archdeacon of Bath, 1536; afterwards, Archdeacon of Wells; died *circa* 1556-7 (Wells Cath. MSS., 311).

⁵³ This is a mistake for 1544; as Dr. Gasquet's researches at the P.R.O. prove that the Abbot died *circa* March 25th, 1544. [Exchequer Mins. Accts., 35-36th Henry VIII, 288, 10 *d.*]

APPENDIX II.

SOME MEMORABLE DATES IN DR. CHARD'S LIFE.

AUTHORITIES:—Oliver's *Monasticon Dioc. Exon.* Wood's *Athenæ and Fasti.* Wolsey's *Register* (B. and W.) *Somerset Record Society* (vol. iv.) *Somerset Incumbents. Letters and Papers* (Henry VIII.) *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* (vol. i.)

1504. Sept. 8. Instituted to Vicarage of Montacute on presentation of the Priory. Resigned 1507.
- 1505-6. Jan. 18. Admitted B. Can. L. Oxon.
1507. May 2. Offers a sermon at Frideswide's Cross, or at St. Paul's Cross, London
1507. Oct. 24. Takes the degree of D.D., Oxon.
1508. Consecrated "Episcopus Solubriensis."
1508. Sept. 23. Holds his first Ordination in the Chapel of the Palace at Exeter.
1508. Sept. 26. Instituted to the Vicarage of Torrington Parva.
- 1508 (*circa*). Collated to the Rectory of St. Gluvias, Cornwall.
1509. Sept. 27. Holds an Ordination in the Church of the Dominican Convent at Exeter.
1512. June 8. Instituted to the Vicarage of Wellington, Somerset.
1513. July 22. Consecrates the Church of St. Petrock, Exeter.
1513. Oct. 9. Appointed Warden of the College of Ottery St. Mary.
1514. June 18. Elected Prior of Montacute.
1516. Sept 6. Holds an Ordination in the Chapel of St. Katherine's Almshouse, at Exeter.
1517. April 25. Writes letter as Thomas, Abbot of Forde.
1518. Instituted to the Vicarage of Holbeton, Devon. Resigned Oct. 24, 1520.
1519. Holds an Ordination in the Priory Church of Montacute.
1521. Holds an Ordination at Wells.
1521. Aug. 26. Instituted to the Rectory of Tyntenhull,
1523. Aug. 21. Receives commission for the benediction of Simon Rede, elected Abbot of Tor.

1523. Holds an Ordination in the Priory Church of Montacute.
1527. April 20. As Prior of Montacute, presents to Vicarage of East Chinnock.
1527. Dec. 2. Officiates at funeral of Lady Katherine Courtney, daughter of Edward IV.
1528. Builds the tower entrance of Ford Abbey.
1529. April 15. Instituted to Vicarage of Thorncombe, which he holds till his death.
1532. April 10. Instituted to the Rectory of Northyll, Cornwall.
1532. June (*circa*). Resigns Priory of Montacute.
1532. June (*circa*). Appointed Prior of Carswell.
1532. Sept. 20. Holds his last Ordination as suffragan of Exeter, in the chapel of the Priory of Carswell.
1533. May 18. Writes a letter from Carswell to Lady Lisle.
1534. May 3. Writes a letter from Ford Abbey to Thomas Cromwell.
1534. June 9. Grants John, son of Robert Tybbes, lease of tithes of Burstock.
1534. Aug. 20. Grants the same a lease of the Grange of Otehill.
1535. Appointed visitor of certain Cistercian Monasteries.
1535. Sept. 27. Grants Ralph Tybbes, and his son Thomas, lease of Convent lands in Dorset.
1535. Oct. 11. Writes to Cromwell for permission for himself and the monks of Ford to leave the precincts of their Monastery.
- 1538-9. Mar. 8. With thirteen monks, surrenders Ford Abbey before Wm. Petre.⁵⁴
- 1538-9. Gives 13^s 4^d towards vestments, at Tintinhull.
- 1540-1. Gives 6^s 8^d to the bells of Tintinhull.
1540. Mar. 22. Appointed 'Minister' of Ottery.
1541. Oct. 1. Makes his will; he is living at Taunton.
1543. Oct. 20. Resigns his post as 'Minister' of Ottery.
1544. Mar. 25 (*circa*). *Animam exhalat*.
1544. Oct. 16. His will proved at Wells.
1544. Nov. 4. His will proved in London.

⁵⁴ Dr. Chard received a pension of £80, "with fourtie wayne lodes of fyre wood" per annum. The revenue of the Abbey, at the Dissolution, was £374 10s. 6½d. (Dugdale).