

PAPERS RELATING TO THE
Church of Martock and the Priory
of Bruton,
IN THE ARCHIVES OF ST. LO.

BY THE REV. CANON BERNARD.

THE Archives of St. Lo, in the arrondissement of La Manche, Normandy, afford many evidences of the close connexion for some time existing between the Dioceses of Bath and Wells and of Coutances—particularly in reference to the Church of Martock and the Priory of Bruton. In passing through St. Lo, I visited the Bureau des Archives, and found that the manner in which the documents are preserved and arranged is a lesson with regard to our own.

On my asking M. Dubos, the archeviste, for some further information after my return, he most courteously and kindly took the trouble to send me the following extracts, which, it is possible may throw some light on points of local history connected with this county. These extracts were submitted by F. H. Dickinson, Esq. at the last annual meeting of the Society, and a desire was expressed

that they should be printed in the volume of the Society's Proceedings.

IN THE ARCHIVES OF LA MANCHE.

I. MARTOCK.

1. Charter of Richard, Bishop of Winchester,* restoring to the Abbot of Mont St. Michel the Church of *Mertoc*, which he had for some time held of the Abbot aforesaid.

Seal of the Bishop—inscription effaced; counter-seal complete: † SVM CVSTOS ET TESTIS SIGILLI.

2. Charter of Reginald, Bishop of Bath, granting the monks of Mt. St. Michel v. marks as pension from the Church of *Mertoc*. Witnesses: Alexander, Dean of Wells; Walter, Prior of Bath. 1190?

3. Letter of Reginald (Rainalour), Bishop of Bath, to his friend Jourdain, Abbot of Mt. St. Michel, announcing that he has given the vicarage of *Mertoc* to William of Mertoc, Clerk, on the presentation of the Prior of Otritone† made in the name of the aforesaid Abbot.

4. Charter of Savaric, Bishop of Bath, for iv. marks of silver. *Mertoc*. Compare No. 2.

Seal: SAVARICVS DEI GRA. BATHONIENSIS EPISCOPVS.

5. Same character.

Seal somewhat injured: SAVARICVS DĪ GRA. BATHO . . . ON. EPS. (Bathon: et Glaston:?)

6. Same character.

Seal: SAVARICVS DĪ GRA. BATHON. ET GLASTON. EPS.

7. Charter of Joscelin, Bishop of Bath, announcing that the Abbot of Mt. St. Michel has given up to him the

* 1174-1188.

† Otritone (No. 3 and 11) is probably Otterington or Otterton, in Devon. *Dugdale Mon.* 7, 1033.

patronage of the Church of *Mertoc*; he recites the charter of the Abbot Raoul: the Bishop grants in exchange the priest's manor, half the church land, half the tithes &c. 21st year of the episcopate of Joscelin, viz., 1226.

8. Charter of Thomas, Prior, and of the Convent of Bath, reciting and approving the above. After 1228.

With seal of the Church of St. Peter. Counter-seal of the Prior Thomas.

9. Charter of Peter, the Dean, and of the Chapter of Wells, approving the same.

Seal injured.

10. Bull of Clement IV for the possessions and part of the tithes of the churches (ecclesiarum) of *Mertoc*. Third year of his pontificate, viz., 1267.

11. Letter to the Abbot of Mont St. Michel, from the Prior of Otritone, concerning the tithes of *Mertoc*. The rector of *Mertoc* is Clerk to the King, and Treasurer of Wells.

12. Charter noticing the consecration of the Church of St. Thomas at St. Lo, on August 5th, 1174, by Reginald, Bishop of Bath, at the request of Richard, Bishop of Coutances. A copy of 1564.

II. BRUTON.

1. Letter from William of Moion* to Hugh, Bishop of Coutances, announcing that he has given to his Canons of *Briveton* the Church of Moion and the Church of Taissy—"habendas post decessum fratris mei." Without date. Original.

* A Priory for Black Canons was founded at Bruton by Earl William of Mohun in the reign of King Stephen. It is said that this foundation took the place of a house of Benedictine monks. The foundation charter is directed to Robert, Bishop of Bath. In 1525, William, Bishop of Megara, suffragan of Bath and Wells and Prior of Bruton, caused this Priory to be changed into an Abbey.

2. Letter from Bishop Hugh and the Chapter of Coutances to the Prior and Convent of *Britonia*, confirming the above gift. Without date. Original.

3. Charter of Bishop Hugh and of the Chapter of Coutances, reciting a deed of William of Moion, in which he writes to his men, both of France and England, that he grants to the Canons of *Briwetone* all rights which he has in the churches and ecclesiastical fiefs of all his land, both in Normandy and England, viz., the Churches of Moion, Tessi, and Beaucondrai; in the revenue of Maisons; in the Church of Bruikelai, in the Church of Manehafd, in the Chapel of Toteberga. 1221. Original.

4. Charter of Hugh, Bishop of Coutances, instituting the Prior of *Briutonia* a Canon of Coutances, and assigning him as a prebend the Churches of Moion and Pierreville, 1222. Original.

5. Charter of Robert de la Haie, Knight, making over the third sheaf of the tithes of Moyon to the Prior and Convent of *Breuton*. 1237. Original.

Lucie, fille de Richard de Vernon, etait femme de Robert. D.

6. Charter of Robert de la Haye concerning same.

7. Confirmation of same by Hugh, Bishop of Coutances.

8. Charter of Hervé, Canon of Coutances, selling his Manor of Moyon to the Prior of *Bruicton*, 1254. Original.

9. Letter from same, putting Robert, Prior of Lyons, Proctor in Normandy of the Priory of Bruton, into possession of aforesaid Manor, 1254. Probably contemporary copy.

10. Letter from William de Grifell, Viscount of Falaise, selling to the Abbot of Troarn a Manor at Moyon, which belonged to Hervé the Breton, Canon of Coutances, 1262. Contemporary copy.

11. Charter of King Louis IX, reciting and confirming, in 1256, a charter of same date, by which Alain of Avangour, Lord of Moion, confirms to the canons of *Bryetonne* all the right which they affirmed that they had in the Church of Moyon. Original.

12. Charter of Jeanne de la Pommeraye, daughter of Henry of Moyon, confirming the gift made by William of Moyon to the Church of St. Mary of *Briwtona*, of the revenue of Maisons—that is to say, of the tithes of his demesne of Maisons, part of the fief of Moyon.

13. Letters of Louis of Estouteville, Lord of Moyon, agreeing that the monks of Trouarn* should enjoy the rights which they have in the land of Moion, in consideration of a conditional exchange (*permutacion japieca*†) made between them and the canons of Briewton, 1453. Original.

SIR,—Believing that the Priory of Bruton is situated in the county of Somerset, I send you an analysis of the different charters which concern this Priory.

The parishes of Moyan, of Tessy, and of Beaucondray are situated in the arrondissement of St. Lo; Pierreville belongs to the arrondissement of Cherbourg; Maisons to the department of Calvados.

I have the honour, &c.,

DUBOS.

* Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, gave to the Abbey of St. Martin, which he founded at Troarn, in Normandy, the Manor of Horsley, in Gloucestershire. The Prior and Convent of Bruton, before 29 Ed. I, gave some of their land in France, viz., the Church and Manor of Lion sur mer, to the Abbot and monks of Troarn in exchange for Horsley, which then became a cell of Bruton.—See Tanner. *Notitia*.

† hypothetica ?
