The History of this Monastery has been so carefully written by the late Rev. Mr. Coates of Osmington, in his History and Antiquities of Reading, that few particulars of primary importance can, probably, be added to it. His Account has been necessarily made the ground-work of the present.

That there was some religious foundation at Reading, which had the name of an abbey, before the time of Henry the First, appears from the introductory words of that king’s charter; which mentions that the abbey of Reading, Cholsey, and Leominster, had all been destroyed for their sins, their possessions alienated, and their lands seized upon by laymen. The abbey of Reading and Cholsey were probably destroyed in 1006, when the Danes burnt Wallingford. As the Abbey or Nunnery at Cholsey was founded by Ethelred, about 986, in expiation of the murder of his brother Edward the Martyr; so the religious house at Reading was supposed to have been built by Elfride, as an atonement for the same crime. But though our old historians record the building of Wherwell and Ambresbury nunneries by Elfride, yet they never mention this of Reading; and therefore, as Tanner observes, the reviser of the second edition of Speed’s History of Great Britain, London, 1614, thought fit to leave out this foundress. The early foundation of Leominster will be written upon hereafter.

King Henry the First laid the foundation of the new monastery at Reading in 1121, and, by a charter dated in 1125, annexed to it the lands of Reading itself, Cholsey, and Leominster, with all their appendages, woods, arable and pasture lands, meadows, waters, mills, fisheries, churches, chapels, cemeteries, obligations, and tithes, with a mint and one moneyer at Reading. He gave, also, Thatcham and the church of Wargrave; with immunity to the monks from all customs, tolls, and contributions, throughout England and the sea-ports; the privileges of the hundred courts, and all manner of pleas, with soc and sac, toll and thaneum, in

a Tradition, says Mr. Coates, has placed this nunnery of Elfride where St. Mary's parish church now stands. But Leland asks whether the old nunnery stood not in the place the abbey of Reading stood? and whether St. Marie’s were not of a newer foundation? This made Tanner think it probable that there were two old Nunneries in Reading; one, where the abbey stood afterwards, but destroyed, and the lands alienated, long before the time of Henry I.; and the other, either where St. Mary’s church now is, or in some other part of the town. To this latter he refers an extract from the Close Rolls of the 7th of John, membr. 11. being a precept to the sheriff of Berkshire, commanding him to see restored to the Process and Nuns of Reading certain lands, valued at twelve shillings a year, of which they had been dispossessed.

b Leland, in his Itinerary, tom. ii, p. 44, edit. 1711, tells us that Henry’s first intentions were to have built a priory at Lampley, but that he afterwards changed its destination to Reading.

c Some of these claims, Mr. Coates observes, were superseded or resigned during the civil wars of Stephen and Henry II. but were restored by King John, and confirmed in the Exchequer in the 12th year of his reign. (See the Harl. Ms. 1700, fol. 2.) The Justices itinerant

f_engenthef, utfengenthef, and hamscone. These rights were granted in their fullest extent, both within and without the precincts of the town; with judicial power in all cases of forfeiture, assault, robbery, theft, murder, and breach of the peace, in as full extent as belonged to the royal authority. If the abbate and monks delayed doing justice, the king was to interpose; yet not so as to interfere with the liberties of the Abbey. On the death of an abbate, the possession of the monastery, with its rights and privileges, was to remain in the power and disposal of the Prior and the monks of the chapter. The abbate was not to possess any revenues of his own, but to enjoy them in common with his brethren; he was not to waste the alms of the monastery by mis-applying them to the relief of his lay-relations, but to distribute them in relieving the poor, and in entertaining strangers; he was not to alienate the lands of the monastery in fee; nor could he create knights "nisî in sacra veste Christi." The prohibition against granting a tenure of lands in fee is again repeated toward the conclusion of the charter; with a direction that they should be held by payment of an annual rent, or the performance of certain services. No office in the abbate was to be made hereditary, but to be filled at the discretion of the abbate and monks. Having recommended the observance of this charter to his successors, as they wished for the divine grace and favour, King Henry the First concluded it with the severest male-dictions upon any one who should infringe, diminish, or change the purpose of its donations.

This charter was followed by a second, dated at Westminster, with some additions; among which are exemptions of all the monastic property, whether lay or ecclesiastical, from danegeld and all other taxes or aids; from all county and hundred courts, pleas, and suits of law; from scutage, hideage, stallage, and toll for carriage on horseback; from finding carriages; from ship-money, the erecting of bridges, building of castles, conveyance of the public money, and all kinds of public labour; from tribute, and customs in fairs and markets; from tithing-penny and tin-penny; from all summons to courts of assize; from all amercements and forfeitures; and from all forfeitures for assarts and waste of woods. None of the officers of the King were allowed to exercise any right in the abbate’s woods, though within the limits of the royal forests: but the abbate, the monks, and

a The act of hunting in Windsor forest, was pursued to Reading, and imprisoned by the abbate, who refused to deliver him up to Gaflridus de Pickford, constable of Windsor castle; which refusal was sanctioned by Edward I. as appears from a precept, dated at Caenmarley 17th June, in the eleventh year of his reign. In a case of murder, Edward I. issued a precept to the abbate, to deliver up the criminals, taken at Reading, to the sheriff of the county; but with this express provision, that it should not be made a precedent in future. Hist. Read. pp. 297, 235.

b Here, says Mr. Coates, we find that although King Henry had abolished the power of Abbats to make Knights by a provincial council held at Westminster in the beginning of his reign, yet, by a particular clause, he gives the abbate of Reading authority to make knights, whether clerks or laymen: so that the solemnity should be performed by him in his clerical habit, not as a layman; and that he should be cautious in admitting any but such as were of mature age and discreet judgment.

c Compare the charter Num. 11.
their servants, were to have the same power and liberty in their goods as the king had in his own.\(^5\)

By a separate Charter the king granted to the Abbey the privilege of a fair on the day of the festival of St. Laurence, and the three following days, commanding that no one should be disturbed, in coming to or going from it, under the usual penalty.

The fair was held on St. Agave's Day in Berkshire, already mentioned as one of King Henry the First's donations, originally belonged, with part of the manor of Chelsey, to the abbey of St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall; for which the king gave in exchange lands, amounting to twelve pounds a year, in the manor of Buldeley in Devonshire. King Henry the First also granted to the church of St. Michael in Akeley, in Oxfordshire,° and confirmed to it the manor of Rokington, or Rowington, in Warwickshire, given by Adelicia de Ivery, with a hide and a half in Hocton, or Houghton, in Bedfordshire, the gift of Robert earl of Leicester; the church of Wychebury in Wiltshire, and some land there which belonged to Ingerimus the monk; the land of Robert the priest, at Hampton in Hampshire; and what Robert de Ferrars possessed in Reading. Finally, King Henry the First bestowed upon the abbey, as a relic, the land of St. James the Apostle, which had been brought to him from Germany by his daughter Matilda.°

The foundation charter of King Henry the First was confirmed by various kings his successors. The revenues were, of course, gradually augmented.

Adeliza, the queen of that monarch, who survived him, and married William de Alibini earl of Arundel, gave to the Abbey the manor of Eton, or Aston, in Hertfordshire, which had been settled upon her as part of her dower by a grant she made on the first anniversary of King Henry's death, offering a pall upon the altar in confirmation of it.\(^6\) She likewise gave to the monks the land of Reginald the forester in her manor of Stanton Harcourt in Oxfordshire, settled upon her by King Henry, to the yearly value of a hundred shillings; and, afterwards, the greater part of the revenues of the church, to supply the expense of a lamp which was to burn continually before the pix and the tomb of the founder.\(^4\)

After the death of William de Alibini (called also earl of Leicester, as he was sometimes of Chichester, from his residence in those places) Adeliza gave to the Abbey the church of Berkley-Harness in Gloucestershire, with all its rights and appendages, and its tenants in seisin tenure. She also gave to the abbey the manor of East Henred in Berks, the land of Herbert son of Fulchrius in Marlborough, the land which was Geoffrey Purreclis in Windsor and Cateshill, and the manor of Bromesfield, and confirmed to the abbey the churches of Berkley-Harness, Stanton, and Thatcham.\(^6\)

David king of Scotland gave to the abbey Rindalgros, which will hereafter be described as a cell to Reading.

King Stephen, at different times, confirmed to the abbey all former charters, liberties, and donations; among which are specified Thatcham and Wargrave in Berkshire; Rowington in Warwickshire; the church and manor of Hampshire in Oxfordshire, given by Simon earl of Northampton; the manor of Ingelamum in Wichbury; the manor of Wigstan in Leicestershire, given by Arnold de Bosco, and confirmed afterwards to the king; the three hides of land in Wigstan held by William the king's almoner, afterwards a monk of Reading; and some houses and lands in Cambridge and South-Hampton; reserving only to the crown out of East Henred an annual rent-charge of a hundred shillings. He likewise confirmed to the abbey the manor of Aston in Hertfordshire, the rent-charge of a hundred shillings in Stanton, given by Queen Adeliza; the land of Walter Purcele in Windsor, reserving twenty shillings yearly to his brother Ralph; the lands in Cateshill; another hide of land in Windsor; with the houses and lands in London given by Algarus the priest and Baldwin his brother.\(^6\)

Henry the Second confirmed all the charters and donations of Henry the First and the Empress Matilda; the grant of Carsewell or Kersewell in Burgifield by Almeric Fitz-Ralph; and the manor of Streatley by William de Mandeville. He also gave the abbey permission to enclose the park of Cumba, for the support of his men, who were to be supported at the cost of the lands of the abbey; he granted afterwards the right to the monks of the lands at Whitley by Peter de Cosham for four score pounds, and an annual payment of a bezant of gold.

By separate charters he allowed the abbot and monks the privilege of holding a fair annually at Reading, on St. James's day and the three following days;° and confirmed them in the right of holding a market on Sundays at Thatcham, commanding the inhabitants of the county to attend it; and forbidding the men of Newbury to do any injury to the persons who frequented it.

King Henry the Second likewise granted to the abbey an annual payment at the Exchequer of forty marks of silver, for finding a fair on the vigil of the festival of the Founder's anniversary.°

The Empress Matilda, daughter of King Henry the First, gave to the abbey, for the souls of Henry her father, Queen Matilda her mother, and all her predecessors, in perpetuity, the valuable manor of Blewbury in Berkshire, with all its appendages, and its tenants in seisin tenure. She also gave to the abbey the manor of East Henred in Berks, the land of Herbert son of Fulchrius in Marlborough, the land which was Geoffrey Purreclis in Windsor and Cateshill, and the manor of Bromesfield, and confirmed to the abbey the churches of Berkley-Harness, Stanton, and Thatcham.°

Mr. Coates says he also presented to the abbey the head of St. Philip the apostle, as appears by a marginal note of some monk in the Welleslax MS. fol. 18.

King Philip recited and confirmed the charter of his brother Richard; and likewise assigned to the abbey a mark of gold, to cover the hand of St. James, which had had its gold covering stripped from it by King Richard.° This mark of gold was given when he was earl of Moretaine, and was confirmed to the abbey after his accession to the crown.°

King Philip, after his return from the Crusade, in 1194, confirmed to the abbey the lands of Windlesham, of Philip and St. James, on the day of that festival, and the two following days; and confirmed his father's grant of forty

\(^5\) See the charter in the Appendix, Num. I. printed in the former edition of this work.

\(^6\) See the charter, Lutal Regis Henrici Secundi.

\(^\text{a}\) Mr. Coates says he also presented to the abbey the head of St. Philip the apostle, as appears by a marginal note of some monk in the Welleslax MS. fol. 18.

\(^\text{b}\) See the charter in the Appendix, Num. XIX. XX. XXI. King Henry II. afterwards confirmed King John's mark of gold for ten marks of silver. See Num. XXII. Higden, in his Polychronicon, p. 273, makes a mistake when he asserts that the hand of St. James was not placed in Reading abbey till the time of Henry II. The Chron. Wigmore, c. 1655, MS. A. x. fol. 92 b, says the presentation of this relic to Reading abby by k. Henry I. to the year 1133. Something is said of this relic in Lord Lyttleton's Hist. of Henry II. vol. v. p. 383. It is remarkable that Matthew Paris, under the year 1155, has this sentence: "Manus sancti Jacobi restituta est Redingo," edit. 1684, p. 79.
marks of silver out of the manor of Hoo; and a tenement at Dunwich purchased of Walter de Westestun.

King Henry the Third confirmed the charters of his predecessors, and was frequently at Reading, as appears by different patents, bearing testa there. He changed the Sunday fair at Leominster, Wallingford, and other places, to a different day; and confirmed the rights of the yearly sidings and shillings out of the land of Robert de Dudlesfield in Petteworth, with some land at Fernhurst, and a mill at Sutton, all in the county of Sussex. In the 11th year of this king the abbey paid a fine for the confirmation of certain charters, and that his tenants should be free from county and hundred courts, and confirmation of predecessor's passage money, and that their boats upon the Thames should be free from all customs demanded at Windsor. In his 37th year, the abbey being greatly in debt, he issued several precepts, addressed to the knights and freemen who held lands under the abbey of Reading, requesting them to give their assistance to liquidate the debts, of the monastery, a reasonable contribution. The king granted the abbey all monks a right of free-warren on all their own estates, with an exemption from hunting of all dogs belonging to them within the royal forests; and he exempted all their lands within certain bounds from being amenable to the forest laws.

Costs and observations. It is said by Grose that the abbey of Reading refused King Henry III. a sum of money in 1250; but there is in Harl. MS. 1708, fol. 356, an acknowledgment of his having received a hundred marks, dated April 25th, anno 36. "Teste meipso apud Rading." But the 26th of Henry III. was the year 1242.

Police and notes. See Supplement to dictionary, vol. iii. p. 177, under the fourth year of Edward I., A.D. 1276, says, the king this year, by his sovereign ecclesiastical prerogative, to prevent the ruin of the abbey of Reading, issued patents of protection, and regulation of the expenses of it, and of the cell of Leominster belonging to it, founded by his ancestor; and commends its revenues to certain persons to defray the debts thereof.

In the 14th of Edward the First, he adds, ibid. p. 362, we find Ralph Brocton, or Breton, the king's clerk, appointed to supervise the state of all the debts, goods, issues, profits, and tenures of the manors and lands of the monastery, to satisfy all the debts of the abbey house out of them, and to convert them to no other use except the necessary sustenance and support of the abbey and its cell of Leominster, and the payment of the ams due out of them.

Among the creditors of the abbey at this period was the Society of the Cursini, who, with the Lombards, were then the common money-lenders of Europe. A letter of acquittance of all debts due from the abbey to this society, dated on the Thursday after the feast of St. Edward, A.D. 1296, occurs in the Harleian Chartulary, num. 1708, fol. 29.

King Edward the Second, in the eighth year of his reign, issued a precept de auxilio habendo, the abbey still continuing in debt; and, in his third year, granted to the abbey the right of a full form, a charter of liberties and privileges, of that coinage money only being excepted. In this charter those of King John, Henry II. and Henry III. are recited and confirmed. In his third year he confirmed the abbey's right to forty acres in the New Forest, at the annual rent of forty shillings, paid to Queen Eleanor, to whom the New Forest was granted; and the queen, by letters patent, ordered that all the cattle of the abbey of Reading should be free from pannage and herbage at all seasons of the year. This was entered in the rental of Lindhurst, among the rents of the bailiwick of Godshill. Edward III. in a charter dated the 12th of his reign, refers to one granted by his father, and confirms all the donations and concessions contained in it to John Appleford, abbot of Reading, and the monks of that place; and in a particular manner restores to the abbey the privilege of coining money. His charter likewise recites and confirms that of King John; and adds, that, on account of certain privileges relating to waifs, deodands, chattels of felons and fugitives, fines, and amercements, having been generally and not specifically expressed, the aforesaid abbot and monks had frequently been engaged in suits of law in the king's courts, the king grants for himself and his heirs that the abbey of Reading and his successors should have in perpetuity the return of all writs and summonses from the Exchequer, and all attachments, as well concerning pleas of the crown as other things whatsoever; so that no sheriff, bailiff, or servant of the king, should enter the liberty of Reading to execute any writ, summons, or attachment whatsoever; and that they should enjoy all privileges of waifs, deodands, chattels of felons and fugitives, in the fullest extent. King Edward the Third during his long reign made various grants to the abbey of Reading; but in this same twelfth year he borrowed jewels to the value of 222l. 9s. and in his twentieth year a hundred pounds.

King Richard the Second, in his fifth and sixth years, confirmed the former charters of the abbey; and, in his twenty-first year, all its former privileges and liberties, on condition that, within the space of a year, the abbey should properly repair the tomb and statue of King Henry the First, the founder; which reparation was afterwards notified by a precept directed to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, dated at Westminster, May 25th, in his twenty-first year.

Other charters of confirmation from King Henry the Fifth, King Henry the Sixth, King Edward the Fourth, and King Henry the Eighth will be hereafter specified from the records still remaining in the office of the Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer of the Exchequer.

Edward, son of Warwick, in the reign of Henry the Third, bestowed upon the abbey of Reading the manor of Suthwode, in the Isle of Ely.

Leland, in his Collectanea, vol. i. p. 69, has given the following list of benefactors to Reading abbey:

- Birrius
- Johannis Percy
- Ranulphus cancellar. regis, et filius ejusdem
- Robertus Archard et Agnes uxor ejus
- Ada Hertington
- Ela comitissa
- Guilelmus et Richardus filii Henrici, fundatores
- David rex Scotia
- Guilelmus comes de Penbrooke
- Nicol. de la Ruge
- Rogerus comes
- Ida comitissa
- Hugo Mortimer
- Gisinus de Quemhume
- Rogerus Lifford
- Rogerus decanus de Cheunesey
- Osbertus decanus de Leominstre
- Reginaldus dux Cornubiae
- Warius filius Geraldus.

In 1506 the church of Stanton Harcourt, in Oxfordshire, was appropriated to the abbey of Reading.

**Abbeys of Reading.**

Hugh, a native of France, and prior of St. Pancras, at Lewes, in Sussex, was made the first abbot of Reading, certainly as early as A.D. 1123. In 1130 he was preferred to the archbishopric of Rouen, where he died on the 4th of November, 1164. From William of Malmesbury we learn that he attended King Henry the First upon his death-bed.

Aucherius, or Ausgerus, succeeded Hugh in 1130. He also had been prior of Lewes. The most memorable act of his abbacy was the foundation of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen at Reading for lepers. He died on the 13th of June, A.D. 1148. A charter of Bishop Richard of Hereford in the Appendix to the succeeding Monastery of Leominster.

- See Gallia Sacra, tom. i. p. 340.
- Archiaepoc Hugh's letter to Pope Innocent, giving an account of King Henry's death is printed by Malmesbury in his Historiar Novelle, lib. i. edit. Savile, 1566, fol. 100 b.

- "The Incompts," or rather the details relating to the Hospital of Charter of Richard bishop of Hereford in the Appendix to the succeed-
It appears that, at a subsequent period, if not at the original institution of the hospital, there were brethren also belonging to it, who had an allowance, as they could agree with the almoner.

The formulary of admission in the Cottonian manuscript above quoted was short. It consisted of the following words: 'After the altar, the persons to be admitted kneeling thereon; who, after a prayer for the forgiveness of their sins, were sprinkled with holy water. The veil and mantle were then put on, and the almoner, a prayer was said, imploring a blessing on the habit which was about to be received. The kiss of peace was given by the rest of the fraternity; and after a discourse upon the advantages and regulations of the institution the ceremony concluded.'

In the Reading Chartulary Vesp. E. V. there are several entries of the names of persons who became sisters of this hospital, and the quantity of the bread they received weekly. Margaret Yorke had four of the founder's loaves, and three chopes or penny loaves. Matilda, a sister who entered the hospital on the day of St. Caixius, on the 27th of May, 1264, and stayed for 16 years, had the same allowance. Johanna Grome, admitted in the 49th of Edward III. 1375, had every day a leaf called 'pricked lof,' probably a better kind of bread, and a pottle or two of ale. At Easter and Christmas each sister had a basin full of meat for the days when it was permitted to be eaten; but on Easter-day, Pentecost, All Saints' day, the Nativity of our Lord, and Shrove Tuesday, only a pottle of meat from the abbey. At Easter and Christmas one halfpenny was paid to each sister, and to the prioress a penny. They received two small shillings and sixpence for clothing; and at the decease of any sister the almoner had the disposal of her effects, a halfpenny or farther being allowed to each of the survivors to offer for the soul of the deceased, and to the prioress a penny. Four pence were allowed yearly for the lamp in the great hall; and the remainder of the sisters received weekly seven loaves of the quality called mistrices. In the 9th of Edw. II. 1316, one of the brethren received weekly seven loaves, and three of black wheat, "blowheath," and had a mess of meat every day, an elf and a half of russet cloth for his cap, and a dozen of twelve pence for shoes, and the service which he performed in his turn at the almonry. A brother or sister convicted of iniquity was to be expelled from the hospital.

The chapel of this hospital was in the north chancel of St. Lawrence's church, and was called St. John's chapel.

In 1408 someone that this hospital to the prior widows was let out at an annual rent to those for whose reception it had been charitably founded. See also Cottonian Ms. Vesp. E. v. fol. 62.

In retrospect, what was the historical significance and impact of the Reading Abbey's monastery and its role in the community? The monastery and its affiliated hospital were integral parts of the local community, providing medical care, education, and support to the less fortunate. The abbey was known for its charitable works and was a significant institution in the region. The monastery's role in the community was multifaceted, serving both religious and secular functions. The records of the monastery and hospital provide insight into the social and economic conditions of the time, as well as the religious practices and rituals of the period. The monastery's impact on the community extended beyond its physical presence, influencing the lives of many through its charitable activities and spiritual guidance.
his election as abbess on July 15th, and had the temporalities restored to him July 20th, 1638. This abbess, without the consent of the major part of the convent, alienated to William Lambert, bishop of St. Andrews, the priory-ceil of May. The history of this transaction will be reserved for a future page. Robert de Burgate resigned in 1587. Although his steward the Abbey Abbot Lawrence was not put forward for three refections and obits, for his soul, and the souls of Nigellus his father, and of Felicia his mother.

William de Sutton received the royal assent to his election Nov. 27th, 16th Edw. I. He died in 1605.

Nicholas de Quappelode, precentor, was elected in his room, for having some defect in his health, resigned his rights to the bishop of Salisbury, Simon de Gandavo, and was re-elected the Wednesday after the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin, Sept. 8th, 1630. The temporalities were restored to him Sept. 12th.

From a fragment of abbatt Quappelode's Register, preserved among the Harleian manuscripts, num. 82, we learn, that very soon after his installation, he found the abbey to be in debt to the amount of 1227l. 7s. 8d.; which he paid off, by lessening the establishment of the servants of the abbey, and diminishing the annual expenditure. The particulars of the reparation are given by Mr. Coates, in his History. So considerable a debt in this abbatt's time is certainly remarkable, after the fall from the Cossam in 1686. Abbey Quappelode built the chapel of the virgin Mary within the abbey in 1314. He died in 1327.

John Stork de Appelford, called also John de Appelford and John de Appilton, received the temporalities of the monastery March 5th, 1388. In his time King Edward the Third renewed to the abbey the privilege of coinage money, which had been given to Edward II.

In this abbatt's time, also, upon the attainder of Roger Mortimer earl of March, some lands and tenements which he held of the abbey at Stratfield Mortimer were seized by Philip de La Beche, the lord-lieutenant of the county of Berks; and some other property of the abbay in Hoke and Lenominster was taken possession of by the lord-lieutenant of the county of Hereford, in the same manner. Upon the petition of the abbay and convent for redress, the same was referred to the Court of Chancery, and the abbay and monks were ordered to produce their charter for the inspection of the chancellor, the judges of the two courts, the other counsellors, and the king's serjeants; justice was to be done according to law, and the abbay be permitted, and what could not be so done was to be referred to the king.

Upon the death of abbay Stork de Appelford, Henry de Appelford succeeded; to whose election the royal assent was given Feb. 10th, and the temporalities restored March 31st, 1392. He died July 29th, 1390.

William de Domelton, or Dumelton, received the king's assent to his election Aug. 15th, and the temporalities Sept. 7th, 1360. Upon his death, John de Soton, or Sutton, succeeded; to whom the temporalities were restored Aug. 15th, 1368.

in 1378; in which year, on April 29th, the temporalities of the monastery were restored to Richard de Yateley.

Thomas Erles, or de Erle, received the royal assent to his election Aug. 6th, and the temporalities Aug. 24th, 1403. Upon his death, Thomas Henley became abbay. He received the royal assent to the election Aug. 15th, and the temporalities Aug. 24th, 1403. His encroachments upon the privileges of the Gild of Reading were the cause of continual litigations with that fraternity. King Henry the Sixth, by patent, in the 23d year of his reign, granted to this abbay permission to erect in the abbay a perpetual chantry of three chaplains, to pray for the soul of the king, and the suppression of the privilege of holding lands and tenements to the value of twenty pounds, on paying into the Chancery a fine of forty marks.

This abbay died Nov. 11th, 1445.

John Thorne was elected abbay Jan. 7th, 1446, and received the temporalities Jan. 15th. His suppression of the hospital or alms-house of St. John at Reading, for poor women, has been already mentioned in a Note.

Thomas Worcester was made abbay in 1512.

Hugh Cook, usually styled Hugh Farringdon, was chosen abbay in 1520. Hall, in his Chronicle, says, "This abbay was a stubborn monk, and absolutely without learning.

Dr. John London, one of the Visitors of Reading abbay, was cast into the Tower for his supposed conspiracy of the house, says, "I have requiev’d of my lord Abbatt the relics of hya howe, wic he schewed unto me w’ guid will. I have taken an inventory of thys; and have lokkyd them upp behynd ther hig awter, and have the key in my kepynge, and they be alway redy at yo’, lordeschips commandement. They have been vnder the Scryptry dayde redy in their chapter house, bothe in Inglesch and Laten, to the wiche is gudde ressort and the abbay ys at y tymyselven.”

In another letter Dr. London says, "My servaunt shall be with yow this weke to bringe uppe the fryers surrendre wyth the relicys of Caversham, and shall also bring yow a tokyn in parchement under the convent scale from the abbay and convent here. He desyreh oonly yofr fayour and no other thing; and I know so much that my lord shall find him as conformable a man as any in thys realm as more at hardy; I will tell you at the beginning of the term by the grace of God."

The compliance of the convent with the king’s wishes in regard to the surrender is indicated in a letter from another of the Visitors, given in the Note. Still, however, the abbay’s submission could not save him from an ignominious death. In the month of November, he was drawn, hanged, and quartered, together with two of his monks, at Reading. The reasons assigned for the king’s anger against the abbay, are given in the augmentation Office, Note, their estates did not amount to more than 120l. 9s. 10d.; but the site of the monastery and demesne lands were not valued, as being in hand that year.


Feyshy youre lordship be adverstis’d that att my convoy to Readys in yonge and despate Mr. Wrightby servant wyth every thynge according to youre commandement wyche amostlythe to the somme of 33. 6s. 8d. as appezryche by the particularis herein inclyed; and parte of it be reserved for the kynges maiesties wyth wyth the house and churche vndervorthy. And I and my fellows haue lefte hyt byntenced in the custodie of Mr. Penysom, and as for the plate, vestemen, and al my other hadde in custodie wyth the use of the kynges maistye we haue lefte hyt in the custodie of Mr. Venysom, by hyntence, wyche shalle convey to Londoun as mynnyng thyther. And thayngs be to God every thynge wyth wyll vndervorthy, and every where it may be seene, and gyven in custodie than to the kyngs grace. I wyre my felloys intend on Tueday next, God wylling, to take our journey from Readys, as knowyng God, who ever preservynge your good lordship. Frome Readys the xv. daye of September."

Yo’, owne assyrd to command. Rychard Pollarde.

Ms. Cotton, supr. fol. 224 b.

Henry of Huntington and Ordinaces Vitalia say the abbay of Reading was originally endowd for two hundred monks. Tanner says

Pat. 83 Hen. III. m. 9.
Coates, p. 265., from MS. Harl. 1708, fol. 149.
Coates, at supr. Reg. de Gandavo, liv. f. fol. 42.
Pat. 19 Edw. I. See MS. Harl. 1708, fol. 149.
Pat. 2 Edw. II. fol. 1. p. 7.
Copied in Coates’s Appendix. num. viii. See also Ldl. Collect. tom. 1. p. 625.

The life of the “Came de Comes,” 12 Edw. III. In the Appendix of Instrum. Num. XXII.
Coates, p. 268, from Riley’s Place. Parliamentarias, p. 640.
Pat. 15 Hen. IV. p. 5.
Pat. 1 Bros. Hen. IV. p. 7.
Pat. 1 Hen. VI. p. 7.

In the earlier pages of his History Mr. Coates has given the particulars of frequent struggles for power between the abbey of the monastery and the members of the gild of Reading, chiefly in the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries.

Coates, p. 291.

See the Appendix of Instruments, Num. XXXII.
In the month of February following the surrender, the king granted to Thomas Vachell, the son and heir of Richard Vachell, the privilege of entertaining him while he stayed at Reading, the office of supervisor of all and singular the honors, castles, demesnes, manors, lands, tenements, and other possessions whatsoever, which belonged to the monastery of Reading, and the late priory of Leicester, to have and to hold the said office for the term of his natural life, and to receive, out of the issues and profits of the same, twenty marks annually, by equal portions, at Easter and Michaelmas. The king keeping the abbey in his own hands.

We afterwards find John Vachell supervisor or inspector of the possessions of the late dissolved abbey. He resigned his office in 1556. In 1557, John Vachell, the son and heir of Richard Vachell, who was the rector of the abbey, was granted the site of the abbey to the Duke of Somerset; who being attainted of high treason, and beheaded, in 1553, his property reverted to the crown.

Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, appointed Sir Francis Englefield keeper of the abbey, park, manor, &c. and the same year granted the site of the abbey to Sir Henry Sidney, lord of the manor of Orton, viz.

Queen Elizabeth kept the abbey in her own hands, and visited the place several times during the course of her progresses. King James the First settled it upon his queen. It was at this time that Camden, speaking of Reading, says, "This monastery is now turned into a fine palace, with a fine range of stable, adjoined, furnished with excellent horses for the king's use."

After the death of Anne of Denmark, the abbey was settled upon Charles I. then prince of Wales.

In the 13th Charles II. the site of the abbey, the forbes, the plummereys, the king's mead, and various other parcels of the possessions of the monastery, were granted, at 10,000l. to be settled upon the queen. East Greenwich in socage, under the yearly rent of 40s. Sir Thomas Clarges sold it to John Dalby, and Anthony Blagare, Esquires. Mr. Dalby's share was purchased by the late Henry Vansittart, Esq. It is now the property of his grandson. The other share is still in the Blagrave family.

The Abbot of Reading was a mitred abbot, and a peer of parliament. He took place, it is said, next to the abbots of Glastonbury and St. Albans. In the account of Henry the Seventh's funeral, in Leland's Collectanea, vol. iii. at the 30 Solenne Dirige, my lord of London was executor of that place for whom he was mistaken. 'Well fare thy heart,' (quoth the abbot) 'and here in a cup of sack I remember the health of His Grace your Master. I would give an hundred pounds on the condition I could so heartily on bee as you doo. Alas! my weak and squeze stomack will not digest the wing of a small rabbit or chicken.' The King pleasantly pleaded him, and heartily thanking him for his good cheer, after dinner departed, as undiscovered as he came thither. Some weeks after, the Abbot was sent for by a pursuivant, brought up to the bench in London in Tawney, and asked if he had time on bread and water. Yet not so empty his body of food, as his mind was filled with feares, creating many suspicions to himself, when, and how he had incurred the King's displeasure. At last a sirloyn of beef was set before him, on which the abbot fell as the farmer of his graving, and verified the proverb that two hungry men make the third a glutton. And so, so good a man, so learned a scholar, so learned a physician to cure you of your squeze stomack, and here, I desire, I demand my fee for the same. The Abbot down with his dust, and glad he has escaped so, returned to Reading; as somewhat lighter in body, yet some more merrier in heart than when he came thence."

Boke vi. p. 299.

"See Index, of Instruments, Num. VI. Ruding, in his Annals of the Coinage of Britain, 16th edit. vol. iv. p. 213, ascribes this charter, but mistakenly, to the reign of Henry III. In that reign there was no abbot of Reading of the name of Hugh; to one of whose name the charter was granted. R. bishop of Salisbury, by whom it was given, K.
Reading Abbey

the alteration in King Stephen's charter of confirmation, which says, Deo vitam et idem regum Henrici, avunque meus et donantes, praefatu monasterio Radigund usum monetarium cum moneta apud London. Ibdem quoque donos et terras et earum redditus cum ea libertate eidem tenendam concedimus quibus tempore praefati regis eas tenuisse nostros curtum.

Henry the Second's third charter "de libertatis" grants, Moneta cum uno monetario apud London cel apud Radigund, which was confirmed, money a transaction of the names only, in the confirmation by King Richard the Third.

King John's charter fixes the mint and money in Reading: "cum moneta et uno monetario apud Radigund."

King Henry the Third confirmed the charter of Reading abbey in his eleventh year, but without noticing either the mint or the money.

In the eighth year of Edward the Second the privilege of coined was entirely withdrawn from the abbey. That march, in his charter of Inspecciones reciting the preceding charters of King Henry II, King John, and King Henry III, says, "Nos autem donationes, concessiones, et confirmationes predictas, diction clausula de Moneta et uno Monetario excepta, ratas habentes et graatas eas pro nobis et heredibus nostris quin in nobis est, &c. concedimus," to King Edward the Third, however, restored the privilege of the abbey for his twelfth year, adding also a precursory license to strike the smaller coins. This grant is referred to in a writ directed to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, which bears date on the 8th of November, 1338. In it the king declares that he had, by his charter, granted to the abbat and monks of Reading that they and their successors should for ever have one money and one die for the making as well Halfpennies and Farthings as sterlings, which they had been accustomed to make, without hindrance from the king, his heirs, &c.; and commands the said treasurer and barons to deliver to the said abbat and monks, or their attorney, without delay, one die for sterlings, another for halfpennies, and a third for farthings, provided the aforesaid die for sterlings should not be sufficient for making the halfpennies and farthings also.

Another writ, dated on the 17th of the same month, was directed to John de Flete, warden of the king's mint in London. It likewise referred to the above-mentioned grant, and commanded Flete to make, without delay, at the expense of the abbat, three dies, of hard and sufficient metal, one for halfpennies, another for Halfpennies, and the third for Farthings, for the making of money in a certain place in Reading, with such impression and circumscription as the abbat should appoint; and to send the same, as soon as possible, to the king's exchequer at Westminster, that they might be delivered to the said abbat within fifteen days from the feast of St. Martin ensuing at the farthings.

Ruding says, that notwithstanding the numerous grants above referred to, no coins have yet been discovered of the Reading mint, of an earlier date than the reign of Edward I.; and it should seem that but few of them were struck, as they are extremely rare. They are pennies only, and read on the obverse EDWARD which fixes them to Edward I. and on the reverse VILLA RADIGNY with an escallop shell in the second quarter of the cross, such being the mint-mark of the abbey, whose Arms were, Azur, three Escallops Shells Or.

That coins were struck, by virtue of King Edward the Third's grant, at Reading, is very clear, for some of the halfpence have their stamped date shown. They read EDWARDVS on the obverse, and on the reverse VILLA RADIGNY with the escallop, as before, in one quarter of the cross. None of the farthings have yet been discovered.

The first REGISTR of Reading abbey to be noticed, is that which was referred to in the former edition of the Monasticion as Vesp. A. 1. Subsequent to Dugdale's time it has been named Vesp. E. v. The more important articles contained in it will be found specified below.

8. Carta excerpta a carta generali Confirmacionibus Huberti W. episcopi Sar. ibid.
10. Carta recensa de cadem, fol. 20 b.
11. Carta Gilberthi de Bham, rectori ecclesiae de Tacham, de cadem, fol. 21.
12. Carta de Assistoria suae ecclesiae de Neubur, ibid.
13. Carta Will. de Mandevilla de terra apud Stradeg, fol. 21 a.
14. Confirmatio regis Henrici de cadem terra, fol. 22.
15. Carta Williami Bardati de prato, ibid.
16. Carta regis Henrici de terra de Rame, ibid. ex denar. ibid.
17. Carta de terris et redditus in villa de Radugone, fol. 22 b, 23.
19. Carta de terris in Wigan, ibid. ex den. ibid.
21. Carta de Berkamstede, fol. 31 b, 32 b, 33.
22. Carta de redditu apud Leccebroch, fol. 32 b.
23. Carta adquisita per Stephanum de Leonist, fol. 23 b.
24. In quibus tenenur domini regis Angliae constitutis ex contractis specialibus societatis, fol. 37.
25. In quibus tenenur leoepis ad sustentationem cuorvum, fol. 37 b.
27. De ordine leprosorum, ibid. 39.
32. Finalis concordiae de x.x. marc.solvend. de ecclesia de Thacham, A. D. 1265, fol. 49.
33. Carta mellimongrum in Radigund, fol. 50 b.
34. Carta de Bur, fol. 50 b.
35. Redittuale infra burgum Radigund, fol. 53 b.
36. Reditus de Burghefeld, fol. 55, 60.
37. Reditibus medium incolendis Burgofardo, fol. 55 b.
38. Mensurae partiles terrarum de Burgofardo, fol. 56 b.
39. Breve Henrici II. regis de ecclesia de Thacham, fol. 57.
40. Carta de Burgfeld, fol. 58, 59, 60 b, 73 b, 77.
41. Carta de terra de Mora, fol. 58 b, 70.
42. Evidentiae de redd. Elenomias. fol. 61, 62, 62 b, 63 b, 64, 64 b, 65, 66 b, 71 b, 72, 72 b, 73 b, 73 b, 74, 75, 77.
eighty-one leaves; the writing in different hands, but chiefly of the fourteenth century.

The most beautiful, however, and probably the most complete Register of Reading abbey now remaining is that preserved in the Harleian library of manuscripts, No. 1708. It is a small folio volume, consisting of a hundred and twenty-three leaves of vellum; the greater proportion in a hand of the early part of the fifteenth century.*

49. Carta ejusdem de compositione facta super ecclesiam de Berke-
laya, ibid.

50. Carta ejusdem de confirmatione manerii et ecclesiae de Estona, et de libertate omnium hominum ejus villae, ibid.


52. Carta ejusdem de protectione hominum de Rotkint, ibid.

53. Item Alia de eadem re, ibid.

54. Carta ejusdem de communia postste in Rotkint, ibid.

55. Carta ejusdem de communia postste in Rotkint, ibid, fol. 24 b.

56. Carta ejusdem de revocandis nativas et fugitivas, ibid.

58. Carta ejusdem de construenda hominibus, ibid.

59. Carta ejusdem de generalibus de protectione, ibid.

63. Carta ejusdem de feudis factis et Magna R. Macri de tribus viris et uno assarto in Rotkintoe, ibid.

64. Carta ejusdem de recto babendo de Helia de Lichington, fol. 25.

65. Carta ejusdem de terra Alamriici in Kersewella et Burghfield, ibid.

66. Carta ejusdem ad ministros de poribus maris de quietantia excucionum, ibid.

67. Carta ejusdem ad forestarios pro mererio conduendo, ibid.

68. Carta ejusdem de eadem term in Marlebridge, ibid.

69. Carta ejusdem quod dictur " Liberate," de sl. marci de redu-

dite de Horcib, ibid.

70. Carta ejusdem de libris consuetudinibus omnium hominum Abbatii Rading, ibid.

71. Carta ejusdem quod nullus eodem vel hereditatis tenetur vel ereditatis possidens Rading, ibid.

72. Carta ejusdem de donacione quam Hugo de Mortuo Mari facit Huso filio in Wedin et Estratona, ibid.

73. Carta ejusdem de terra in Strelte quam Willelmus de Mandel-
vill dedit elemensarum, ibid.


75. Carta ejusdem de confirmatione terrarum nostrarum facta post

Concordiam inter ipsum et H. ducem, fol. 26 b.

76. Carta ejusdem de terris Gaufr. Purcell de Windles, et de Cates-
bell, ibid.

77. Item ejusdem de eadem ad W. Mart. et ministros suos, ibid. 27.

78. Carta ejusdem de terra Algari presbyter et B. fratris ejus in

Lond., fol. 27.

79. Carta ejusdem de Rotkint, ibid.

80. Item alia ejusdem de eodem et de protectione, ibid.

81. Carta ejusdem de libertate hominum de Rotkint, ibid.

82. Item alia ejusdem de eodem, ibid.

83. Carta ejusdem de eodem ibidem, ibid.

84. Carta ejusdem de libertate hominum de Wobur, fol. 27 b.

85. Carta ejusdem de terra in Etocos, ibid.

86. Carta ejusdem de prato quo Turistinus cannabat, ibid.

87. Item alia ejusdem generalis, ut quieti sinus de omnibus consuetu-
donibus, ibid.

88. Item alia ejusdem de quietantia consuetudinibus, ibid.

89. Carta ejusdem de Eston et de Stanton, ibid.

90. Item alia ejusdem de Stanton, fol. 29 b.

91. Carta ejusdem de Wigestane, ibid.

92. Breve ejusdem de eodem ad vic. Leycro, ibid.

93. Carta ejusdem de ecclesie de Berkleyheurn, ibid.

94. Carta ejusdem de Ewbril, ibid.

95. Hac duplex, ibid.

96. Carta regis Ricardi confirmatoria de possessionibus et liber-
tatibus ecclesiae Rading, fol. 29.

97. Carta ejusdem gestatoria de libertatis, fol. 30.

98. Item alia ejusdem de libertatis, ibid. 30 b.

99. Carta ejusdem de quietantia per totum Avgli, de shires et hun-
dreis, &c. ibid.

100. Carta ejusdem quod dictur " Liberate," de sl. marcia annuis de Hov, ibid.

101. Carta ejusdem de omnibus possessionibus et ecclesi-

ae Rading, fol. 31 b.

102. Carta Johannis regis de hundrino forinisco, fol. 32 b.

103. Item alia ejusdem quando fuit Comes de donatione unius marce

auri de scaccario suo, ibid.

104. Carta ejusdem de assignatione ejusdem marce recipiendi

in Teckesleib, fol. 33.

105. Item alia de eodem recipiendi apud Ferendon, ibid.

106. Confirmationis ejusdem marce quando fuit rex, ibid.

107. Carta ejusdem comitum de quodam buggaggio in Dunewico, ibid.

108. Carta ejusdem comitibus de libertatis, ibid.

109. Carta ejusdem quando fuit Rex de manerio de Hov, ibid.

110. Carta Johannis regis de una feria in fest. apostolorum Philippii et Jacobi per iiij. dies, ibid.
The Cottonian Manuscript Vesp. E. xxv. of the quarto size, is written upon two hundred and thirty leaves of

Kaversham, fol. 83, 85 b, 86, 86 b. Whiteles, fol. 87.

141. Carta de Bukiugamurzy.
Lithingeberg, fol. 88 b, 89, 89 b, 90. Castrecham, fol. 80 b, 91. Grenol, fol. 91 b. Certeleia, fol. 92.

142. Carta de Essex.
Schriftscherwebre, foll. 93 b, 94, 94 b.

143. Carta de Herffysry.
Estona, fol. 85 b, 96, 96 b, 97.

144. Carta de Northils.
Duneric, fol. 97 b. Quidenham, fol. 98.

145. Carta de Bedesfyr.
Hovton, fol. 98 b. Selton, fol. 9 b b, 99.

146. Carta de Cantia.
Hor, fol. 99 b, 100, 101 b, 102, 102 b, 103 b, 104, 104 b, 105, 105 b * 106, 106 b, 105.

147. Carta de Suzexia.

148. Carta de Middelberia.
Londonis, fol. 109 b, 110, 110 b, 111, 111 b.

149. Carta de Honsteyr.
Wintone, foll. 112 b, 113. Cerdford, fol. 113 b.

150. Carta de Wiltesyer.

151. Carta de Glomecstyr.
Bodintons, fol. 117 b.

152. Carta de Herefysry.

153. Carta de Legcestyr.
Wiggstane, foll. 119 b, 120.

154. Carta de Warwiiksyr.
Warwic, foll. 120 b, 121. Rokintons, foll. 121 b, 122 b, 123.

155. Carta de Herefysry.

156. De titule justic. in com. Kanc. 7 Edw. II. fol. 134.

158. Inter rot. regis ro.xiiii. de termini Hilarius anno sexto, fol. 137 b.
159. Assis. novse dissizane &c. 42 Edw. III. fol. 199.

160. Carta Elemenkamyr.
Berheyr.
Rading, fol. 140, 140 b, 141. Estianereth, fol. 141 b.

Stratle, fol. 143.
Burgaff, fol. 144, 144 b, 146 b, 147 b, 147 b, 148 b, 149 b, 149 b, 150 b, 150 b, 151 b, 152 b, 153.

Saffield, fol. 145 b, 145. Silhamstes, fol. 145 b.

Orexenfyr.
Lebebrok, foll. 155 b, 156. Dulebud, fol. 156, 156 b, 157.
Reading Abbey.

Professor Ward of Gresham college. They consist of Indentures, Bills of complaint, and other Instruments, partly on paper and partly on parchment, chiefly relating to disputes between the Abbay and Convent, and the Warden and Brotherhood.


Several Manuscripts, once belonging to the LIBRARY of this Monastery, have been consigned to the Disposition into that of King Henry the Eighth, and are yet remaining in the British Museum. 5 Coates, p. 361, says, there is a catalogue of this library in the Wollasoc MS. as it stood in the time of Henry III. It has been since printed in the "Supp. to the Hist. and Antiq. of Reading," 4to. Read. 1810. The only MS. of importance in it is entitled "Gesta Regis Henr. Ystoria Radig. in unio volumine." Three classical manuscripts occur in this list; the Bucolics and Georgics of Virgil, the works of Horace, and a Juvenal; all given by Ralph, prior of Wichitir.

The ARMS borne by the abbey, Az, three escallops Or, have been already noticed in the miming at Reading, and are represented in the initial letter of the present Account. Leeland gives them in the same form, from an ancient window, in his Collectanea; and Mr. Coates says they are still to be seen in stone on the west end of St. Lawrence's church, though very much defaced. They also occur in the Procession Roll to Parliament in 1513, described in Mr. Cole's MS. collections, vol. xxx. p. 8.

Bishop Tanner, in the Notitia Monastica, says, that in MS. Le Neve, besides three escallops in base, there are, in chief, two mitres.

The COMMON SEAL of the abbey is engraved in Coates's History, p. 247. Another impression from the same matrix, in dark wax, is in the possession of Dr. Prat- tinton of Bewolley in Worcestershire. It is not perfect, but has some parts of the initial waxing in the seal engraved, and by which nearly the whole of the legend may be made out. This on one side may now be read thus: s. co. ECL. .... vETVAL. RAYING. FRATE: I. HONORE. S.C. MARIE. ET. APOSTLON. JOHNS. ET. JACORI. AND in the inner part, ANNO. MILLENO.

TRICETENO. FABRICAT.

The legend on the other side, as given by Mr. Coates, is: REX. HENRICVS. AVMME. DEITATIS. AMIICVS.

A word here seems to be wanting at the beginning, perhaps Dominus. The following words, in addition, are discoverable in Dr. Prat-tinton's seal: .... REGIT. ENIM. DOM. IST.

The remainder of the legend is wanting, except two or three letters at the end.

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masses of the walls were removed some years ago by the late Marshal Conway, who used them in building a bridge over the road leading from Henley to Wargrave.

The Abbey-mills are still remaining, and nearly entire. Several arches occur in different parts of the buildings, evidently coeval with the foundation of the monastery; and one of the main doors is a large Norman arch, ornamented with a zig-zag moulding.

Among Hearne's Manuscript Diaries in the Bodleian library at Oxford, vol. xix. p. 24, are some Observations made upon a visit to Reading Abbey, in a copy of a letter addressed by him to Mr. Browne Willis Jan. 3d, 1713. First two copies of the letters that these contain, though but of small extent, but enters very trillingly into particulars.

In the Archaeologia, vol. vi. p. 61, are some Observations on the remains of the abbey, by Sir Henry Englefield, Bart. written in 1779, accompanied by a general plan of the ruins as they then stood.2 The dimensions of the abbey-church, as deduced from the remains by Sir Henry, appear to have been as follows:

Eastern chapel, 102 feet in length by 52 feet broad, within the walls.
Choir, 98 feet in length by 34 feet.
Breadth of side aisles, 19 feet.
Transpet, 186 feet in length by 56 feet.
Nave, presumed to have been 215 feet in length.
The extreme length of the Church, about 420 feet. Its breadth, exclusive of the transept, 92 feet.

Among the illustrious persons interred within the walls of the abbey was its founder, King Henry I. He died at St. Denys, in the forest of Lyons, December 1st, 1156, in the 63d year of his age. His bowels, eyes, and brain were taken out, and buried in the church of St. Mary de Prato at Rouen. Malmesbury says, his body was kept at Caen till the season, which was then very boisterous, became more tranquil: but, on the prevalence of gentle gales, it was put on ship-board, brought to England, and buried at Reading, and hence the name of the Place. The minute particulars of the interment will be found in the Note below. The king's effigy was placed upon his tomb; but the statue and monument were so decayed in the time of King Richard the Second, that that monarch issued a precept for its repairation within a year; and afterwards another precept, directed to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, notifying that he allowed a patent of liberties granted to the abbey and convent, as they had then repaired the tomb and statue of their founder, according to his direction.

In 1785, the workmen employed in digging the foundation of the new church of St. John, near the site of the abbey church, discovered a leaden coffin, containing a perfect skeleton. This was supposed to be the royal founder's; but without even a shadow of probability. Exclusive of the skeleton being perfect, the skull was that of a young person under thirty years of age; and the place in which it was discovered could not have been the situation of the high altar.

Sandford expressly says, that at the Reformation the tomb of King Henry was destroyed, and his bones thrown out, to make room for a stable of horses. In the month of November, 1815, in digging for some dry earth or gravel to assist in forming the cellar of the National Schools, upon a spot which must have been near the centre of the choir

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1 See the Appendix. Num. XXXIV.
2 Another Plan of the ruins of the abbey will be found in Mr. Cottyn's "Description of the Abbey of Reading." 1695.
4 Script. post Bedam, fol. 100 b, 101.
5 Gervase of Canterbury gives the particulars of the rude mode of Henry's embalming. "Cujus corpus Rotomamagum altissum ist, ibique usualg, eum erat, cerebrom et viscera extructa et consentpsa sunt. He-
in the abbey church, a fragment of a stone sarcophagus was found, broken into two pieces, conjectured, with greater probability, to have been a part of the coffin of Henry the First. This fragment exhibited the bases and the bottoms of the shafts of a complete row of small columns, or rather half columns, which had evidently surrounded the whole coffin, the forms of which were fancifully varied, being alternately semi-circular and semi-kononal, and evidently in the Norman style.

Other persons of consequence interred within this abbey were, Reginald earl of Cornwall, natural son of Henry I. A.D. 1175; William, eldest son of King Henry II. A.D. 1156; Adeliza, queen of Henry II.; John and Isabella, children of Richard Plantagenet, second son of King John; and Constanza, daughter of Edmund of Langley duke of York. The heart and bowels of Hugh Mortimer were also buried at Reading.

Two Ecclesiastical Councils are stated by Coates to have been held at Reading, probably in the Chapter-house of the abbey: one in the 15th year of King John, A.D. 1215, respecting restitution to the clergy for their losses during the Interdict; the king having retained them in his own hands. The second in 1275.

Several parliaments were also held at Reading, in the Refectory or some other apartment of the abbey. Richard the First in the 9d, and John in the 14th year of his reign held parliaments at Reading. In 1384 and 1389, during the reign of Richard II., there were meetings of the nobles at Reading. In 1439, 17 Hen. VI., the parliament assembled at Westminster was adjourned to Reading. In 1451 and 1452 the parliament was again assembled there. In this latter year it is said expressly to have been held in the refectory of the abbey. In 1467, 7th Edw. IV., the parliament assembled at Westminster was again adjourned to Reading.

The CELLS to Reading abbey were LEOMINSTER in Herefordshire, and RINDELSCHIO in May in Scotland.

**Cartae ad Readingense Cenobium in agro Berrecensi spectantes.**

**NUM. I.**

[Will. Malmesb. de gest. Pontif. fol. 144.]

**Ranius** fuit quondam cenobium sanctimonialium, seu jam multis annis abolitum. Illud rex Henricus pro indicii sibi pennentului restaurare intendens, duo olim diruta monasteria Leminstr et Celsi adjunxit, constitutique illud inter duo fluminum, Kenetam et Tamense, in honorum matris Domini et Joannis Evangelistae loco, ubi ad populos usres Anglie omnis pene itinerarium possit esse diversorumum.

[Will. Malmesb. de Hen. I. Ib. fol. 91.]

Hoc ille cenobium inter duo fluminum, Kenetam et Tamensem, constituit, loco ubi pene omnium itinerarium ad populis usres Anglie latine habebant et esse diversorum, possente que ibi monachos Cluniacenses, qui sunt hodie preclarum sanctitatis exemplum, hospitalitatis indeaesce et dulcis indicium. Videas ibi, quod non alibi, ut plus hospites totis horis venientes, quam inhabitantes, insunt.

[Hord. fol. 274.]

**ANNO M. CXXXV. REX VERO Anglorum Henricus pro glando manus beati Jacobi apostoli, fundavit nobilium abbatiam de Reddinges, et cum bonis multis ditavit, et in eum manus beati Jacobi apostoli posuit.**


**NUM. II.**

**Carta Foundationis.**

[Ex Registro Cartarum Abbatis de Reading in biblibeca Cottoniana, sub eligue Vespasiani E. vol. 17. Vide etiam Cart. antiqu. X. n. 99.]

**HENRICUS DEI gratia rex Anglorum et dux Normannorum archiepiscopus, episcopus, abbatus, comitis, baro-**

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9 Coates, p. 251.

10 Ibid. p. 252.

11 Quotquot hic W. Malmesb. monachus Cluniacenses, primo positos fines assert; inter Benedictinos, nihilo consensum in eorum dem taxationibus, tum in capitulis, hoc cenobium alienos, continuo
NUM. IV.

Carta ejusdem de Feria habenda in festo Sancti Laurentii cum tribus diebus sequentibus.

[Hic.]

H. rex Angl. archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitis, et omnibus habitibus et viarum civitatis totius Angliae salutem.

Scatias me concessas ecclesiae sancte Marie de Rading et abbatii et monachi ibidem servientibus Deus quod habeant feriam unam Rading et ad festum sancti Laurentii, sicutec, die festa et per tres subsequentes dies; et prohibe ne eum super habeatur aliqui ille eum vestrum habere et feriam illam ut quiquid in omnibus habeant sita ecclesiae et religiis ecclesiae possessiones eis sit concessi et per certam mensem confirmavi. T. &c.

NUM. V.

Carta ejusdem de Donazione Ecclesiae de Haneberg.

[Hic.]

H. rex Angl. episcopo Linc. et vicecomitiis et omnibus baronisibus et fidelibus suis de Oxoniet sarya salutem.

Scatias me dedisse et concessisse deo et ecclesiae Deo et ecclesiae Rading ecclesiam manum de Hanebergum, cum terris, et dominibus, et decadis, et omnibus rectitudinis illius ecclesiae. Et volo et precario quod bene et in pace et quiescet teneat sita tenet alia eisdem messas. T. &c.

NUM. VI.

Carta R. Episcopi Sar. de uno Monetario in London.

[Hic. fol. 111.]

R. SAR. episcopus et regni Angliae procurator sub domino nostro regno Henrico A. vicomiti et omnibus ministris regis tam presentibus quam futuris de London, et de tota Anglia salutem.

Scatias quod ex precepto domini nostri regis Henrici donaviimus Hugoni ababiti et monachii Rading unum Monetarium in London, ubi et monetam faciat et cambium teneat, et omnium sita exerit monetari regis, Edgardum sicutec, qui concedente rei ita libere et quiete et absolutus cum domo et familia sua ab omni placito et omnibus causis et consentudines manente in manu abbatii et monachorum Radingum ac si maneret Radingis. Quicumque etiam post Edgardum, vel loco ejus, in moneta positus apud Londonum per munem abbatii et monachorum Rading fuerit, eodem modo liber, et quietus, et absolutus cum domo et familia sua apud Lond. manebit in manu abbatii et monachorum Radingum, ac si maneret Rading. Ipsa vero Edgardus et quicumque post eum monetarium fuerit, solvit pro moneta abbatii et monachii Rading omnes illas causas et consentudines quas cesserit monetarii Lond. solvunt domino regi, et cambiat in terra abbatis Rading, sitc et abbas concesserit, tam Edgardum quam ille qui post eum vel pro eo abbas seu monachi Rading, fecerint monetarium, quod eis concessum est facere in perpetuum.

NUM. VII.

Carta Adeleae Reginae de Estona.

[Hic. fol. 48.]

Notum sit omnibus fidelibus sanctae ecclesiae totius Angliae atque Normanniae quod ego Adelid regina uxor nobilitissimi regis Henrici et illius Godfredi duici Locharingiae concessi et perpetuaret de Deo et ecclesiae sanctae Mariae de Rading. pro salute et redemptione animi dominii nobilitissimi regis Henrici et mea, et pro salute etiam domini nostri Stephani Dei gratia regis Anglorum et uxoria ejus Matildis reginae et totius progeniei nobilitissimi regis Henrici et patris et matris meae, et parentum meorum tam vivorum quam defunctorum, omniumque fidelium Christianorum, vivorum et defunctorum, Eastonam manerium meum quod dedit mili dominus meus nobilitissimus rex Henricius, ut reginae et sponsae suae, in Berckysa, eis omnibus ci pertinentibus ita libere et quiuenme sineut M.
ego ipsa unquam melius in domino meo duxo domini mei nobilissimi regis Henrici tenebam, seclivet cum soca et saca, et toll, et theam, et infangentheof, cum ecclesia et dominio, cum hominibus liberis et villanis, cum bosco et plano, cum pratis et pastus, cum aquis et molendinis, cum vis et seminis, cum omnibus consuetudinibus et libertatibus cum quibus dominus meus illud tenet in dominio suo et nihil dedit.

Hanc autem donacionem feci in primo anniversario domini mei nobilissimi regis Henrici in eadem ecclesia per quoddam pallium quod super altae posti. T. &c.

**NOM. VIII.**

*Carta ejusdem de centum solidis de heda, London.*


*Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Adel. De gratia Anglorum regina dedit ecclesia Readiung unuoqne anno in Natali Domini centum solid. de heda mea Londinie, ad faciendum anniversarium domini mei regis Henrici. Et volo et firmet preciop quod ipsi sint primiti c. solidi qui singularis annus exercit et haber poterint de predicta heda mea London. T. &c.*

**NOM. IX.**

*Carta ejusdem de donazione Ecclesiarum de Berkelheim.*

*Ibid. fol. 18 b.*

A. Dei gratia regina Symoni eadem gratia Wigorn. episcopo, et omnibus fidelibus suis ministris, et omnibus clericiis et laiciis, tam Anglis quam Francis, de Berkelayern salutem. Sciatia me concessissi et dedisse ecclesie de Reading et monachi ibidem Deo servientibus in eleemosina in perpetuum pro anima domini mei regis Henrici, et pro anima Goderifci dicus patris mei et, matris meae, et omnium parentum meorum, et pro salute domini mei Willilhemis con. nobis Cicestrae, et pro sanctuario meum, et sillorum monorum, omniumque fidelium, vivorum et defunctorum, ecclesias de Berkelheim; scilicet ecclesias de Berkel, cum prebendis eidem ecclesie pertinentibus et prebendis duarum monialium; et ecclesiam de Chamma, et ecclesiam de Er. lingheam; et ecclesiam de Wocton; et ecclesiam de Bever- stan; et ecclesiam de Almodeshir; cum capellis et terris et decimis tam de dominio quam de cujuscumque tenementis et cum omnibus rebus et consuetudinibus et libertatibus eisdem ecclesie pertinentibus. Quare volo et firmet preciop ut cae bene et in pace et honorifice et libere teneant. T. &c.

**NOM. X.**

*Carta Regis Henrici II. de Fera S. Jacobi.*

*Ibid. fol. 21 b.*


**NOM. XI.**

*Carta Regis Ricardi I.*

*[Cart. antip. X. num. 12.]*


**NOM. XII.**

*Carta ejusdem de claudendo Parco de Cumba.*

*[E Registro de Reading, MS. Harel. 1708, fol. 22.]*


**NOM. XIII.**

*Carta Hugonis Abbatis et Conventus de Capella Sancti Laurentii, et de Constructione Hospitalis.*

*[Ex praefatio Registro de Reading in Bibl. Cottoniana Vesp. E. v. fol. 19 b.]*

Universis Christi fidelibus de ad quos praecons scriptum pervenerit, frater H. Radingensis ecclesie minister humilis,
et ejusdem loci convenit unusannis in Domino salutem. 
Ad universitas vestrae noticiam volumus pervenire, excellentissimam quondam regem Anglorum Henricum primum, dominum Regininge fundasse ad sustentationem monachorum ibidem Deo devotum ac religiosse servitutem, et ad suscep- tionem hospitalis transuenientem, precipue tamam pauperam Christi ac peregrinorum, sicut ex ipsius carta, penes nos habita, satis dulcide perpendi potest. Verum divitibus ut ipse eorum timor exigit splendidia ac honorificet us more re- ceptus, pauperes et peregrini minus reverenter quam deceit, et longe alterum quam regina devoto dispositum, in retroactis tenoribus suscipient; unde cum ipsius eleemosine non solum participes, verum sine quem procul esse, etiam pauperibus, voluimus esse communiem. Cujus rei causa, ad revelandam inopiam pauperum, et subsidium peregrinorum, hospitale quodam extra portam construxiimus, ut qui admissi non fuerit in hospicio superiore, ibi saltem, quam reverenter poterit, suscipiatur; unde assensu et consensu duc. episcopi domini H. Walteri, ut carta ipsius super eodem negotio apud nos habita testatur, eccele- sanam beati Laurentii prefato hospitali in perpetuum elemo- snow concessissimam, ad sustentationem xiiij. pauperum in vico et vestitu et in aliis, a bis sancto, pauperibus fretibus consiliiima alimenta ex cotidiana et consuetua elemo- snow nostra subministrante. Ad usum vero peregrino- rum transuenientem concessissimam omnes exitus molendini Fulere di Leonum. Et ne nesciat nostrae laus temporis apud posteros in dubium veniat, aut alicuis nasci temeraro infrigeri, et irritari attemptatur, cum sigillorum nostrorum appositione comminatis et dignum duximus. Om- nes autem quiunque praedictae donationis fautores, et de- fensores exitterit, concedimus participes esse omnimon po- norum que funta in domo nostra, et in prefato hospitali. Si autem quis in contrarium venire presumpserit, conterat eum Dominus in aeternum.

NUM. XIV.

De Hospitale Sancte Maria Magdalenæ. [Ibid. fol. 38.]


Carcetari eorum habent ad granetario singulis diebus unum panem, de ferte aveleno vero. Habent xxxij. denarii, per annum ad annum duos terminos. Mulier ibidem serv- viens panem habet sicut carcetarius ab eleemosynario iphi per annum.

NUM. XV.

In quibus tenetur Leprosis ad Sustentationem coramand. [Ibid.]

FRATRES leprosis de hospitale sancte Marie Magdalenæ, dantur singulis diebus singuli cantelli plenim diem- dium panem habentes, et in quadragesima semper in una ebdomada duo barilli cervisia, et in aliis tres, alternant. Praeterea singulis mensibus cultibus eorum dantur ad elemo- snino quinque denarii ad commangium emendum, et ad opus servientium ipsum viij. denarii. Ad vestiendum


NUM. XVI.

Quid et quantum et quibus Obedientiares accipere debeant converti. [Ibid. fol. 38. b.]

DE fratribus conversis in monasterio servientibus, stat- tum est, ut ab eleemosynario singulis annis singulas tunicas novas, et scapular novum accipiant. Super tunicas autem staminias de sargio, et femoralia linea accipiant vel ab eodem quotiens opus habuerint. A sartririano autem habebunt pellicias vetustas ad festum sancti Michaelis et lectisternia quotiens necesse fuerit. Calculaturn vero et capam ad carectari accipiant vel ab ilia que solisatet ministre consueverint servientibus ilius quotiens vices suppliant dicti fratri- tres in ministeris suis. De omnibus autem predictis, ac- cipientes nova reddunt vetera in praesenti. Et ab subprioris pertinent officium, si necesse fuerit de his curam agere ut secundum formam pretuxatam omnia debito compleantur.

NUM. XVII.

De Ordine Leprosum. [Ibid.]

AUDIRE frates karissimi, quomodo et qualiter ordo et regula domus sancte Marie Magdalenæ, nostri conventus, sunt tenenda atque observanda, et que sunt pecata pro quibus quisque frater, si forisfacerit, pati debet justiam. Hoc est primum et maximum. Si aliquis fuerit adulterum, et probari possit, inde domum et prabendam omnino amitteret, et nullum modo potest reconciliari nisi per dominum abbatem vel per priorem consentiasque nostrae congregatiois. Secundum simile est

a legi hordeo.
luic. Si aliquis percutit fratem suum superbia, vel ira, vel odio, similiter domum suam amittet. Item debet pa- rare te ad surgendum ad primum cum omnium pulsum, ita ut sis paratus ad tertiun turbum pergedi in ecclesiis. Item si alis fit inter fratres, et alquis dementatur alium, ira, vel superbia, jejunum per unum diem in pane et aqua, et cantellus suus et cervia sua usque ad usend die debet poni super mensum magistratus, et sibi distribuatur pro amore Dei. Et jejunum debet sedere in aere ante mensum et commedere bismum panem suum super scannum sine panne. Et si habet indignationem indi, debet similiter facere, et jejunare in secunda die. Si habet indignationem in tertia die, deponatur a caritate per xl dies. Item si aliquis movet item, et magister datus praeceptum aliquem facere, ni taceat ad tertiun frater, jejunum per unum diem in pane et aqua ut supradictum est. Item si aliquis detegret consilium capitulii, et possit percepi vel prahari, deleatur foris a caritate per xl dies. Item non debet aliquis extra clausuram erit proprium si vult. Item si aliquis homos dat tibi aliquem per viam pro infirmitate tui, erit commune. Si aliquis homos dat aliquem pro parentela, vel pro noticia, proprium erit si vult. Item si aliquis in- nentur aliquem de rebus fratrum nostrorum et si ecet et possit perceper, deponatur foris de caritate per xl dies. Item si aliquis vult ire in negotio suo et moram facere per unum noctem, vel duas vel tres noctes, oportet habere licentiam totius conventus. Item si aliquis vult ire in negotio suo longo vel prope, non debet ire sine licentia mag- gistri, nec sine socio. Item non debet quis intrare in domum loritis sine socio. Item non debet quis mittere servientem domus longe sine licentia, nisi ad propinquus domus.

NUM. XVIII.

Carta Johannis Regis de Hvedore foremce.

[ibid. fol. 39 b.]

JOHANNES Dei gratia, &c. Sciatis nos reddidisse, de- discessisse, et haec presenti carta nostra confirmasse Deo et Ecclesie beate Marie de Rading et abbati et mon- nachi ibidem Deo servientibus id quod eos defuit de hund- drodo re de Rading, seclit totum forisconsecum hundreum quod fuit in manu nostra sicut jus suum cum omnibus pertinentiis, sectis, consecutudinis, et libertatis, scilicet quod H. rex avus H. regis patris nostri eris detid et carta sua confirmavist habendum et tenendum in liberam, puram, et perpetuum elesmosinam in perpetuum. Quare volumus et firmiter praecipimus quod predicati Abbas et monachi ha- beant et teneant totum predicturn hundrimum libere, quiete, integre, plenariae, et honorifico cum omnibus pertinentiis, sectis, consecutudinis, et libertatis ad predicturn hundreum pertinentibus in perpetuum, sicut praedictum est. T. &c.

NUM. XIX.

Carta ejusdem quando fuit Comes, de donatione unius marce Aurei de Saccarrio suo.

[ibid.]

JOHANNES comes Moretoniae obumibus hominibus et amicis suis, &c. Sciatis me pro salute anime meae et pro anima regis Henrici regis nostri et pro animibus antecessor- rum et successorum meorum et intituli manus beati Jacobi apostoli que in conventuali ecclesia sancte Marie de Rading reposita est, dedisse et concessisse et habere ma carta con- firmasse Deo et eidem Ecclesia et monachi ibidem Deo servientibus unam marcam auri de redditu singulis annis recipiendi de morte de heredibus meos ad festum S. Michaeles, ad saccarrium meum in purum et perpetuum elesmosinam. Quare volo et firmiter praecipio quod pre- nominati monachi unam marcam auri habeant de me et de heredibus meis singulis annis sicut prescriptum est ab- que omni molestia et dificultate que eiusmodi fieri possit. T. &c.

NUM. XX.

Carta ejusdem de assignatione ejusdem marce recipienda apud Teokbir.

[ibid. fol. 58 b.]

JOHANNES comes Moret, seneschalli suo honoris Gloce. salutem. Precipio tibi quod facias habere monachia Rading, singulis annis de redditu meo Teokbir unam marcam auri quam eis dedi ad manum sancti Jacobi cooperiandum ad terminum in carta mea constitutum.

NUM. XXI.

Item alia de eadem marce recipienda apud Ferendon.

[ibid.]

JOHANNES comes Moretoniae dilectis et fidelibus suis Roberto de Fern et magistro Svanu salutem. Precipio vobis quod assignetis abhuti de Rading ad recipiendi. singulis annis in maneria de Ferendon unam marcam auri quum ecclesi s sancte Marie Rading. singulis annis debeo et comptabatur in T. &c.

NUM. XXII.

Conflatium ejusdem marce quando fuit Rex.

[ibid.]

JOHANNES Dei gratia rex Angliae, &c. Sciatis nos pro salute anime nostre, et pro anima regis Henrici patriis nostri, et pro animibus antecessoribus et successoribus nost- rorum et intituli manus beati Jacobi apostoli quam Ric- cardus rex frater noster in itinere peregrinationis sua dedi, quod in Conventuali ecclesia S. Marie de Rading posita est, dedisse et concessisse et per cartam confirmasse Deo et eidem ecclesia et monachi ibidem Deo servientibus unam marcam auri de redditu singulis annis recipiendi de nobis et heredibus nostris ad festum S. Michaelis ad saccar- ium de Westm. in puram et liberam et perpetuam ele- mosinam. Quare volumus et firmiter praecipimus quod praenominati monachi unam marcam auri habeant de nobis et heredibus nostris singulis annis sicut praedictum est absque omni molestia et dificultate que eiusmodi fieri possit. T. &c.

NUM. XXIII.

Carta Henrici III. Regis de concessione deyen marcarum de Saccario suo pro marce Auri.

[MS. Harl. 1700, fol. 54 b.]

H. Dei gratia rex Angliae, &c. Sciatis nos intuiri Dei et pro salute anime nostrae et animarum antecessorum et heredum nostrorum concessisse et presenti carta con- firmasse ecclesiam sancto Marie Rading et abhuti et mo- nachi ibidem Deo servientibus, pro nobis et heredibus nostri, quod singulis annis in perpetuam recipiendam ad saccar- ium nostrum ad festum S. Michaelis x marcas pro una marcia auri quam dominus J. rex, pater noster, eis detid per cartam suam de redditu singulis annis recipiendum ad saccarium Westm. ad festum S. Michaelis in puram et perpetuam elesmosinam, sicut Carta ipsius J. regis patriis nostri quum inde habent testatur. Quare volumus et firmiter praecipimus quod predicta ecclesia sancte Marie Rading et predicti abhuti et monachi, singulis annis, in perpetuam recipiendam ad Saccarium nostrum, ad festum S. Mi- chelis x marcas pro una marcia auri quam dominus J. rex pater noster eis detid per cartam suam sicut praedictum est. T. &c.

NUM. XXIV.

Pro Abbatie et Conventu de Radinges.

[Pat. 4 Edw. III. m. 34. Pryme, Papal Usurp. tom. iii. p. 177.]

Rex omnibus, &c. salutem. Quia piam intentionem queoprogenitos nostri reges Anglie in fundatione Domus
et monasteri De Radinges, que ab eisdem regibus imme-
date noscitur esse finitudo, diligenter in animo revolva-
umus, ejusdem domus inimicissen destructionis periculo tene-
ume collegi subvenire remedio, ne domitorum genitorum in
lac pace fraudetur intentio, et ut ipsum non solum pro
co quo idipsum Domus pro ipsa et nobis nostrisque successori-
bus fundata exitit, verum etiam tamquam nune fundationes
ur relevations Domus ipsius iucnetes atque participes fueri
debeamus. Cum itaque Domus ipsa sit in multa summis
peccia nominis creditoribus obligata, ad quas suspend.
abese distrectione rerum et honore suorum non sufficit,
nisi ipsius et membrorum suorum ad temporis expenses
superius resistent. Nos ejusdem Domus comitantes
statu, et in eadem et membri Deo servitutum constitutio
providere volentes, Domus suum Cellam de Leministre Here-
ford, diec. ad Monasterium predictum de Radinges pleno
jure spectantem, cepimus in manum nostram et in de
defensio
mem nonstram, velit ad patronum pertinet ejusdem, ab omi-
nium rerum et pertinentarum suarum custodiem in tempo-
ralibus dioce dictio nobis Rolando de Herleghi militi, committen-
tes, ab injunctiones eadem, quo quo fructus, reditibus, et pro-
ventus Domus predicta fideliter colligen et conservans,
decus et capellans in eadem Deo fumabilutibus necessaria
in vie et vestitu competenter inventae, ac pauperibus men-
dicantibus secundum quod Carte predictorum fundatorum
requirunt ibidem elemosynas erogat intituto caritatis. Volu-
mus autem quo secus superficiis suam in familiar quam in
expensis alis, et potissimae in superibus egisse iuxta statut
nostri tenorem, 9 residuum redititum et proventium pra-
fectum Domus per ipsum proviso abbatibus et priories de
Radinges, et aliorum quos ad hoc deputandos duximus, in
exonerationem Domus ipsius, et non in aios usus conver-
tur. In cujus, &c. Teste rege apud Gillingham xxvii,
de Decembris.

NUM. XXV.

De Cellae de Leministre capita in manu Regis,

[iluad.]

REX omnibus, &c. salutem. Licet de consensu dillec-
torum nos in Christo abbatis et conventus de Radinges, 
Domum suum Cellam de Leministre Hereford. diec. ad ipsum
abae et conventum pleno jure spectantem pro exoneraci-
tionem domus de Radinges quae multis est deibitis onerata in
manum nostram, et nos quoque sanctae volentes atque participes fere
dictio nobis Rolando de Herleghe militi, in temporalibus committens:
no nosleotes quo hujusmodi capio in manum nostram
possit dictis abatti et conventui vel eorum successoribus in
posteriore facere aliquod nocentum, vel nobis aut huer-
dibus nostris capiendi in manum nostrum vel huerredum nos-
torum inveniebatur vel aliquae statutorum dictio nobis
abatti et conventus jus aliquod tribuere; volumus et con-
cedimus, quod abbes de Radinges qui pro tempore fuerit
dicta Domo liberata vel non liberata, possit dictam custodem
amovere omninoque suo librito voluntatis, et de ipsa Domos
prost prius potest ordinare abesse nostri vel huerredum
nostrore reclaimatione aliqua ficienda. In cujus, &c.
Teste ut supra.

NUM. XXVI.

Carta Ela Comitissa de Warewicz de Manerio de Suthwode
in Insula de Elb.

[Ex autogra. Cart. antig. Harl. 54 D. 15.]

SCIANT presentes et futuri quod ego Ela comitissa
Warr. in liga postetate et vidutate mea dedi, concessi, et
hae presenti carta mea confirmavi, pro salute anime meae
et antecessorum meorum Deo et beate Marie abatti et
conventui de Radinges in perpetuam elemosinam omnes terras
et tenementa que habui vel habere potui in villa de Do-
dington: scilicet totum illud tenementum quod vocatur
Suthwoode similiter et viginti acras marisici quas habui
in marisco de Northwode, habend, et tenend. islebam et
convventui et eorum successoribus omnes predictas terras,
marisic, et tenementa, cum homagogi et serviciis liberorum
hominitum et villanorum, redditoribus, boscis, pratis, pascei,
pasturis, piscis, marisici, communis, eschaeis, et tenen-
menta pertinentium, et cum omnis que ad me vel ad
hersedes meus ratione dictarium terrarum aliquo jure acci-
dere poterunt omnino integro, sine aliquo retinimento,
libere, integro, et pacifice, ut perpetum elemosinam: factu-
cum, inde capitalibus dominis seu ordinationis servici,
detia debita et consecuta que sibi inde debentur pro omni
alio servicio, secta curiarum, exactione, et demanda ad me
vel ad hersedes meos pertinentius. Pro ha eodem autem
donatione, concessione, et presentis carte confirmatione et wa-
rento receperunt me dicti Abbas et Conventus in oracioni-
bus et benedictione suis que furit et fierit in perpetuum tam
in spiritualibus quam in temporalibus in domo sua de Rading
secundum quod continetur in quadam carta quam penes me
habeo de predictis abatte et conventui. Et ego predicta
Ela Langesaye comitissa Warr. et hersedes mei predictis
Abatti et Conventui ecclesie de Rading et eorum succes-
soribus predictas terras, marisicum, et tenementa, sicut pre-
dictum est, cum pertinentis et eschaeis sua contra omnes
honines et eschaeis warantializamubis, aquitabatibus, et de-
fendemus in perpetuum. Et ut hae mea donatione, con-
cessio, et presentis carte confirmatio firmitatis perpetue
robur optimet, huie meae carte presenti sigillum meum ap
posuit. Hii testibus, dominus Rogerio de Mortuomari, et
magistro Ricardo de Stanes, magistro Radulpho de Fre-
mingeham, domino Radulpho de Hengeham justiciario;
dominis Ad. Gurdun, Grimbaldus Pauncevet, Ricardo Stur-
my, Rolando de Erle, Johanne de Thedmers, Thoma
Duaus, Olivierio Parchardum, Bartholomaeo de Tatingedem,
militibus; Thoma Horscal, Nigello de Saundrevel, et
multis alia.

NUM. XXVII.

Carta Regis Henricii III. de Feria et Mercato de Ho.

[MS. Harl. 1708, fol. 106.]

HENRICUS Dei gratia rex Anglie, dominus Hiberniae, et
dux Aquitannie, archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus,
proribios, comitibus, baronibus, justiciaribus, vicecomitibus,
prapostis, ministris, et omnibus balavis et fidelibus suis
salutem. Scisistis nos concessione et haec carta nostra con-
firmarre abatti et conventui de Radinges quod ipsi et co-
ressores successorum imperpetuum habeant unam Mercatm
singules septimannis per diem Martis apud manerium suum
de Ho in comitatu Kancie, et unam Feriam ibidem singu-
lis annis per tres dies duraturam, videlicet in die et in
crastino Omnium Sanctorum nisi mercatum illud et feria
illa sit ad nocumentum vicinorum mercatorum et vice-
inarum feriarum. Quam inposuis et innumerius praepretium prono
et huerredibus nostri, quod predicti abatti et conventus
et eorum successores imperpetuum habebant predicta mercat-
tum et feriam apud manerium suum predictum cum omni-
bus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ad hujusmodi
mercatum et feriam pertinentis nisi mercatum illud et feria
sint ad nocumentum vicinorum mercatorum et vicinarum
feriarum sicut predictum est. Hii testibus, Elya de Rabayne, Stephano de Edeworth, Willielmo de Sancta Cremina, Gaufritdo de Percy, Willielmo Earnd, Petro, Evearder, Rogerio de Wanton, et alii. Data per
manum nostram apud Westmonasterium vicesimo die Aug-
anno regni nostri quinquagesimo quinto.

NUM. XXVIII.

Taxatio Ecclesiastica P. Nicholai IV. A. D. 1291.

ABBATIA DE RADING.

Kane' Temporal abbes de Rading in
Maner de Windheli in Hoo,
cum pertinen ... 16 17 0
Lond' Bona abbes de Redyng in parochii
Sci Martini Candelwyk ... 0 0 6
Sci Benedicti Grauchere ... 0 0 9 0

Lond. Sir Laurentii Cardewyk 0 4 0
Sir Leonardi Eschep 0 3 2
Sir Petry de Bradestry 0 6 0
Sir Benedicti Scorbor 1 3 4
Scie Marie de Wolcherhawe 0 1 4
Sir Martini Otteswych 0 2 0
Omnium Sanctorum ad fenum 1 6 4
Sir Michis Cardewyk 0 1 0
Sir Stephani Walthor 0 1 0
Hert. Sir Bona abbads de Rading in Sabricworth de reddi' 0 1 0
Oxon. Stauntun. Pensio in eadem 13 6 8
Hert. Aston. Pensio in eadem 1 0 0
Oxon. In Adewell in reddi 1 6 8
Parva Trywe in pratis 1 0 0
Sewel. Abbis Rading habet in manero suio ibidem tradit' ad firmam 6 13 4
Abbis de Rading habet in Caverham et Rutherfield Murdak in terris et reddi' 3 1 8
Ibidem habet in Buxton in reed 1 7 1
Buck. Habet in Grendon de reddi' 0 5 0
Hert. Alb. in Lethineberi in terr', reddi', et eur 2 17 0
Bed. Habet in Houtton manerium et valet 12 0 0
Hert. Habet in Aston manerium et valet 30 0 0
Loe. Temporalia in archidia. Leie. 6 4 0
In decamatia de Godsalakston 6 4 0
Sussex. Apud Dupleuydd de reddi' assis' 5 0 0
Hert. Apud Loueconsi et manerium prior' de Leucnhe et manerium per annum' 24 0 0
Abbis habet in civitate Heres' de reddi' 0 6 0
Berk. Pensio in ecclesia de Thacham 13 6 8
Pensio in Compton 0 8 5 ob'
Ecclesi de Buchlebury. Abb de Rading rector 8 0 0
Pensio in vicaria. Abb de Rading rector 1 0 0
Ecclesi de Chaste. Abb de Rading rector 13 6 8
Pensio in vicaria 2 13 4
Pensio in ecclesia de Englefield 0 1 3
Pensio in ecclesia de Sulcham 0 4 0
Pensio in ecclesia de Pangeburn 1 1 3
Pensio in ecclesia de Purlie 0 2 0
Ecclesi de Lychgode. Abbis Rading rector 10 0 0
Ecclesi de Marie Rading. Abbis de Rading rector 8 0 0
Pensio abbis Rading in Silham stele Abbis 2 0 0
Temporal in Esterneth 12 0 0
Temporal in Blebury 25 0 0
Temporal in Streth 0 2 0
Temporal in Chuse 0 2 0
Temporal in Walingford S. Mich. 0 0 0
Temporal in Walingford S. Leonardi et Martin 0 0 0
Temporal in Bischelberry et Thacham 40 1 0
Temporal in Wyndesore Nova 5 6 8
Temporal in Beerweled. Eleemosnar Radinge 4 0 0
Temporal in Beerweled. Abbis de Rading 3 7 8
Temporari in Rading eum ham. letinis 80 0 0
Temporal in Schofield 3 1 7
Wilt's Temporal in Marleberg 0 2 0
South. Abbis Rading habet manerium de Wycheley taxat ad 10 0 0
Warw. Portio abattis Rading in ecclesia de Haton in decius 0 0 0
Glouc. Portio abattis de Rading in ecclesia de Berkele 13 6 8
Portio abattis Rading et priores de Stanley in ecclesia de Camme in diversis perpetua 5 6 8
Wigorn. Abbis Rading habet apud Rokin- ton tres caruc. terr. et val. car. per annum 0 0 0
Et habet ibidem duo molendina, unum aquentiam, et alud ad Swindon et val. par. in Wallche 0 0 0
Et habet ibidem de reddi' assis' 11 0 0
Et habet ibidem de exit' stauri per annum 0 1 3 4
Et de placitis et perquisitis ibidem per annum 0 1 0 0
Camb. Bona abbatis de Redlings in Du- dington 6 13 4

NUM. XXIX.

Carta de Cuncis, 12 Edw. III.

[MS. Harl. 1708, fol. 42 b, 44.]

Rex thos. et baronibus suis de scaccario salutem. Cum per cartam nostram concesserimus dilectis nobis in Christo abatti et monachis de Rading quod ipsi et corum successores imperpetuum habeant unum Monetarium et unum Cuneum apud dictum locum de Radynge ad monetam ibidem videfect tam ad oboles et ferlingos quam ad sterlingos prout mortis est fabricandum et faciendum prout in carta nostra predicta plenius continetur, volis mandamus quod eisdem abatti et monachis vel eorum in hac parte actorum unum cuneum pro sterlingis, et unum alium cuneum pro obolis, ac tertium cuneum pro sterlingis. Si dictus cuneus pro sterlings tam ad oboles et sterlings quam ad sterlings ut praeclerus est fabriicando. faciendo. non sufficit, sine dilatione fieri, fabricandi, et liberari faciatis habend, juxta tene- rem cartae nostrae supradictae. T. Edwardo duce Carnub. et comite Cestr. filio nostro carissimo custode Angl. apud Kenyngton viij' die Nov. anno regni nostri duodecimo.

Rex dilecto sibi Johanni de Flete custodi cartae nostri London. salutem. Cum per cartam nostram concesserimus dilectis nobis in Christo abatti et monachis de Rading quod ipsi et corum successores imperpetuum habeant unum monetarium et unum cuneum apud dictum locum de Radynge ad monetam ibidem, videfect tam ad oboles et ferlingos quam ad sterlingos prout mortis est fabricandum et faciendum prout in carta nostra predicta plenius continetur, volis mandamus quod tres cuneos de duro et competenti metallo, unum videfect pro sterlings sum pro obolis, et tertium pro ferlingis pro moneta apud dictum locum de Radynge facienda de impressione et circumscription quas dictus abiss vox declarabit, sumptibus ipsius abatti fieri et fabricari faciatis inditate, et eos ad scaccarium nostrum apud Westm. quasprimum poteritis mitti, ita quod sint ibiis a die sancti Marii prox. futuro in xiv. dies ad ultimum praefto abatti ex causa predicta liberand. Teste J. de Shoredich apud Westm. xvij. die Nov. anno regni nostri duodecimo.


NUM. XXX.

Carta Ricardi II. Regis.

[ibid. fol. 74 b.]

Rex thsaur. et baronibus suis de scaccario salutem. Cum nos nuper per literas nostrae patentes sub magni sigillo nostro ratificaverimus et confirmaverimus dilectis nobis in Chiro abatti et conventui abattis de Radynge, quae de fundatione progenitorum nostrorum quodam regnum Anglie et nostro patronatus exist diversae fraternitas, libertates, et quietandas sibi per progenitores nostros predictos cum clausula licet concessis sic quod ibidem abus et conventus et successores suos tamen et ymaginem Henrici quondam regis Anglie progenitoris nostri et fundatoris abattis predictis in eadem humata infra annum post confirma- tionem nostram predictam honeste facerant reparari prout in litteris nostris predictis plenius continctur. Jamque
idem abbas et conventus nobis supplianterunt ut eum vos pro eo quod de factura tumba et ymagnis praedictarum nobis notam feceris et testifieris. Extranea supplicationi praedictae antiquitates procederent infra annum praedictum bene et honeste facto modo quo inde contenti sumus testificati fuerimus, et hoc omnibus quoquorum interest immotisci fecerimus, prout in litteris nostri patentibus inde confectis plenius similitur constitutum, vos mandamus quod ipsos abbatem et conventum libertiatis, fratris, et quiet fascismis in carpitoren praecesserit nostrorum, et confirmatione praedicta contentissar coram vobis uti et gaudere, permettatis iuxta tenorem cartarum et confirmationes praedictarum ipsos contra tenorem earundem non molestantes in aliquo suo gravantes. Teste meipo apud Westm. xxxv, die Maii anno regni nostri vicesimo primo.

Nota. Irrotulatus inter brevicta directa baronibus de ternate Trinitatis anno xvi, regis Ricardii secundi, rotulat violdeict secundo.

NUM. XXXI.

Litterae Regis Ricardi Sexti directa Custodi Gibile de Reding.

[Ibid. fol. 102 b.]

Wellebede we grete you wel and how be hit that we calle to our remembrance how that at our last byng at the towe of Reding we licence you to bere oonly the mass by fore us so that it be not prejudicial unto orre Church and Monastery of Reding, yet natheless we use it other than was or is according to our entent; in so much that as we sitthen have cleyre perceyved by sheweng of evidences, and credible reports made unto us of the antique usage and custome had in the same Towne that it is contrarie to the franchise and libertees of orre said Church and Monastery by orre noble auncienestes granteet, and by us confirmed, you to be called or here other in name or in signe other than as keper of the Gibile of Reding admitted by the abbot of orre said monastery, and not by us, for to have any nase or any other signe of office or office to be born by you or any other man with in the said town and franchise of Reding, sayving onely two tipped staffs to be born by the baylf or laibbott of orre said monastery granteet and yeve to thabbot and convent of the same orre monastery at the first fundaco ther of oute of Court of Marchialise eldest of records with al maner courts, plees of dette, of trespace, and other, and also execucion of the same to be done by his baylf and by noon other as in theye charters of granteet and confirmacion more evidetly hit appereth. We therefore well and charge you straitly that ye use not nor any other mass as you do to be born by non other persone with in the said town and franchise ther of wherby the intete and right of orre said monastery might in any wise be interrupted or hurted wiche we ne wolde nor never intending, sayving onely the two tipped staffs in maner and forme as is above reheres as ye desire to please us and wol eschew the contrary. Yeven under oure signt at Etham the xxy. daye of Juill.

NUM. XXXII.

Memorial respecting certain Houses of Alms in the Parish of Reading Abbey.


Os a tyne as Kyng Edward the iijb, came thorowgh Reding toward Woodstock in the xixc, yere of his regne, complaynts were made unto hym by the towe and the country uppon thabbot and the covert of Reding, of certayne ways, brydlgs, chapells, and howses of alms not kepe nor maynteyned accordyng to ryght and conscience, and as they have been wente of old tyne, to the whyche as hyt ys seyd theye have bothe londs and lyvelods sufreffuent. As fyrt a parte of Caversham bryge w:v, a Chapell there vpon of the Holy Gost, also the hygh bridge and other bridges thorough the towe; also a chapell at the west end of the town of Seynt Edmunds the Kyngge and Martyr, wherein lyeth the bones of many Cristen people, and now yt ys made a barnye. Also ther was without thabbye gate a place called SEYNT JOINHS HOWSE wher in we were founde and kepte certeyn relygious women, wydowes in chast lyvynge in Goddes servyce prayed nyzt and day for the kynges estate, and for the sawles of ther founders and benefactors, wherin a feyr chapell of Seynt John Baptyst for the seyle, where I would say ther prayors in certain sens of the day of the night, and ther also massys were seyd many tynes in the yere, and other devyne servyce also: whyche women wont to have out of thabbye every weke certeyne of bred and ale and also money; and, as yt ys seyd, oms in the yere a certeyne clothong; and thys was ordenyed for such women as had beene certeyne wyvys that had borne office in the towe, to be fore, and in age were fell in povertie, or that purposed no more to marye. And now ther ys nother Gothers servyce nor prayour, nor creature a lywe to kepe hyt. But thabbot takethe the profyzt ther of and doth no suche almes nor good dede ther wyth. More over an other chapell ther was in the est syde of the towe calleid MARY MAGDELYN CHAPEL, and lyelled therfor to releeve thynse folks, as lazarens, and a howse for them to dwell in be syde wyf, feyr londs pertynyng therfor; wherof thabbot taketh the profytys, and hath taken downe the seyd chapell and all the howsya ther to apperteynyng. And so ther be no poore people revelyed therby as now &c. nother were not many days. Whyche complaynt made as ys a boone rebryeved, the seyd Kyng Edward the iijb, commanded my lord Rychard Bacheampe then byynge byshop of Salisbury in ryzt streyt wyse to see the reformacon of all the thys shortly to be had. And that every thyng were dysposset accordyng to the foundacon and fyrst ordnaunce &c. Nevertheles thus hyt happened after the kyngde had gwyth this commandynge, & therfor the seyd bysshoper retorne to the place in the seyd oulernayr Vysytacoon, and to thentem to haute take due exameacon and utter knowlege, and so due dreyection of thys maters, he contrynewyng hytys Vysytacoon tyll a certeyne day, departed from the place full ylle content not only for thys, but as yt ys seyd for many other thynge mysorderd wth, the place in like wyse by wyfulnes of the seyd abboto and hyss accessoris. And wth, in few days after he dysseyed by Goddis vysytacoon. And so all thys maters stondyth styll hyderto vreffourmed. Note:wstondyng my lord of Salisbury that last dysscyde seyd that who so ever ys byshopp of Salisbury ys one of the founders of the howse of Seynt Johnys, as he had edynclaye to shew, and entendyd yet God had lent hym lyfe yt shoulde nat be retorne a yem to the seyd blysye and the howse of old, accordyng to the fyrst fundaco. Whyche place as now thabbot hath transposed to the forme of a Fre Scole seying ynto hyys neghebors that he hath so pryvated that a seyle Master shuld haue of hym yerly x. marke, and an Vishar v. marke to teche ther grammar free &c. Seying more over that Master Robert Shorborne now Dene of Pollyys had gwyth hym to the same entyl. Nevertheles ther ys as yett nother scole, nor man, woman, ne chyld relevyrd ther. But the Place hath the prophyts therof wth xxyv. yere.

NUM. XXXIII.

The Invertory of the Religions off the Hoose off Reding.

[MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv, fol. 234.]

In primis twoe pecces off the holye crosse.

In. Saynt James hande.

In. Saynt Marys hande.

In. A bone off Marye Magdelene with other moor.

In. Saynt Anastasia is hande with other moor.

In. A pce off Saynte Pancratius arme.

In. A bone off Saynt Quyntyns arme.

In. A bone off Saynt Davyde is arme.

In. A bone off Marye Saynt Arme.

In. A bone off Seynt Edward the Martyr is arme.

In. A bone off Seynt Hierome with other moor.
Nim. Bones off Saynt Stephyn wth other moo.
Nim. Bones off Saynte Blase wth other moo.
Nim. A bone of Saynt Ganonde wth other moo.
Nim. A piece off Saynt Ursula sole.
Nim. A chawbone of Saynt Ethelmol'.
Nim. Bones off Saynt Margarett.
Nim. Bones off Saynt Arual.
Nim. A bone off Saynt Ages wth other moo.
Nim. A bone off St. Andrew and 12 piece of his crosse.
Nim. A bone off S. Fredlysweye.
Nim. A bone off Saynt Anne.
Withe many other.
Ther be a multitude of small bonys &c. wiche wold occupie inj. schets of papyr to make particularly an inventorey of evry part thereof. They be all at yr. lordehsyps commundament.

NUM. XXXIV.
[Coates’s Hist. Reading, p. 267—271.]

A Survey of the Abbey or Monastery of Reading, with the Rights, Members, and Appurtenances thereof, lying and being in the County of Berks, late Parcel of the Possessions of Charles Stuart late King of England, made and taken by us whose Names are hereunto subscribed in the Month of May 1650, by virtue of a Commission granted upon the Act of the Common assembly in Parliament, for Sale of the Honors, Manors, and Lands heretofore belonging to the late King, Queen, and Prince, under the Hands and Seals of five or more of the Trustees, in the said Act made and appointed.

READING ABBEY. All that capital messuage, man-ion-house, or abbey house, with the appurtenances called Reading Abbey, consisting of two cellars, two butteries, a hall, a parlour, a dining room, tenne chambers, a garret, with a large gallery, and other small rooms, with two court yards, and a large gate house, with several rooms adjoining to the said house, and a small glarden, with an old small house built stone, thereto adjoining, and a stable with sellers over the same, and a small tenement in the south end of the stable, with a little gardene, and a dovehouse, which said Abbey, with the scete thereof, is in the occupation of Mr. Richard Knollys, and are bounded with the court called the Forbury, north and east, Pondsheys south, and the great gardene west, in all by measurement two acres, value per an. 15l.

There is on the east side of the said mansion-house a great old hall, with a very large celler under the said hall, arched, with some other decayed roome between the said hall and the mansion house, with the ruins of an old large chappell, a kitchen, and several other rooms, fit to be demolished; the materials valued at 200l.

The ground on which the ruins stand is by estimation eight acres and a half, valued at 8l. 2s.

Pondsheys, alias Westheys, a small tenement in occupation of Henry Aires, per an. 16s. Brown’s message 10l.

Ferramy Garden. A messuage, tenement, malthouse, garden and orchard so called: bounded with the river Ken-net, south, and butting upon the way leading from the Forbury to Orte bridge; one acre, 10 p. per ann. 14s.

A small tenement bounded with the great garden north, and butting upon the Dorehouse west, 20 perchers, per an. 50s.

A large barn, formerly a stable, in length 135 feet, in breadth 50 feet, with a great yard and small garden, bounded by the hollow brook south, and the said great garden north, and all that granary standing over the said hollow brook butting upon the said garden called Westheys, alias Pondsheys south, in occupation of Mr. Sharp, per an. 6l. 10s.

All that garden or orchard called by the name of the Great Gardine, one acre, in occupation of James Cameron, bounded by the said Forbury north, and said great yard south, one acre three rood, the said three rood lying now wast by reason of the fortification, per an. 3s.

There is also at the west side, entering into the said Forbury, consisting of a cellar, a hall, a buttery, three chambers, three garrets, a small yard and garden with an outhouse, in the occupation of William Newton, bounded with the Forbury, north, and butting upon a prison called the Comper, west, containing twenty percheys 3l. The said tenement is claimed by Richard Evans, alleged by will of Sir Francis Knollys, knight, deceased, but nothing produced to make it appear.

All that messuage or tenement, with a wooden-wharf thereto adjoining, called the Grange Wharfe, in the occupation of John Blake, situate and being by the Orte bridge; consisting of two cellars, a kitchen, a hall, a parlour and three chambers, with a stable and three lodging into the said Ken-net, south; and a close called the Grange Close, north; butting upon the way leading from the Orte-bridge to the Forbury, west, and upon a meadow called the Grange Mead, alias Shipton Mead, east, containing by estimation one acre and half, value per an. 16s.

All that piece or parcel of meadow ground in the occupation of one Cameron, bounded with the said Ken-net, north, the said Orte, south, and butting upon Orte lane, west, containing by estimation six acres, value per an. 15l.

All those two small tenements with three pieces or parcels of meadow ground now lying in one, in the occupation of John Terrill, bounded with the said Ken-net, north and east, Pondsheys, alias King’s mead, north and east, and butting upon the said Orte-lane, east, containing by estimation five acres two roods, value per an. 16s.

All that piece or parcel of ground called by the name of Shipton Mead, alias the Grange Mead, in the occupation of Matthew Turner, bounded with the said Ken-net, south, Pondsheys, alias King’s mead, north and east, and butting upon Grange close, and the said Grange Wharfe, containing by estimation eight acres, value per an. 18s.

All that piece or parcel of pasture ground called by the name of Grange-close, in the said Matthew Turner’s occupation; bounded with the little plummery, and the said East-meadow, north; the said Grange-wharfe, south, and butting upon the said Shipton-mead, east, and the way leading from the Orte-bridge to the Forbury, west, containing by estimation four acres and a half, value per an. 8s.

All that piece or parcel of meadow ground called the Little Plummery, in the said Thomas Turner’s occupation, bounded with the said East-meadow, north, and the said Grange-close, south; butting west upon the Great Plummery, and east upon the said meadow, containing by estimation, one acre and a half, value per an. 4s.

All that piece or parcel of meadow ground called the Great Plummery in the said James Cameron’s occupation, bounded with the said East-meadow north, and the said Forbury south, and butting upon the said Little Plummerly east, containing by estimation ten acres, value per an. 22s.

All that fishing and fishing-place in the river of Thames, called the Poole under the Locke, in Reading, all that fishing and fishing-place in the water of Thames aforesaid, and all that fishing place upon the water called Caverham Bridge, which said fishing-extents, from Buttsbridge on the west side of the said Caverham-bridge, to about three-score yards below the said Locke and are now in the occupation of John Salter, which we value per an. at 45s.

All that fishing and fishing-place of the water of Ken-net, extending itself from Giles miles in the burough of Reading to the river Thames, and all that fishing-place in the water called Graunnte’s Brooke, alias Grunter’s Brooke, per an. 45s.

Memorandum, all the aforesaid premises, except the said abbey, with the secte thereof, and the Grange, with the said severall houses and orchards, and gardenes, were by letters patent of the late Queene Elizabeth granted to Bar-threome Remy, and his successors, and as manyfeates, in the thirtieth day of August, in the four and thirtieth year of her regne, for the termne of fifty yeares, commencing from the feast of

* This latter part is in the hand-writing of Dr. London, one of the Visitors of the monastery. The Inventory was sent to Lord Cowswell.
St. Michael the Archangel, which should be in the yeare 1618, under the yearly rent of twelve pounds fourteen shillings, to be paid half yearly, as appears by an indenture of assignment made between the said Bartholomew Powke on the one parte, and Sir John Stanhope Knst. on the other parte, by vertue of which the said premises were invested in the said Sir John Stanhope, and were afterwards, viz. on the two and twentieth day of February, in the first year of the late King James, assigned and set over to Sir Francis Knollys Knst. by the said Sir John Stanhope. But the said premises are worth over and above the said rent per an. fourscore and eleven pounds and thirteen shillings.

There will be sixe teene yeares to come in the said grant on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, next ensuing.

MEMORANDUM.

There is belonging to the said abbey one court walled round, called by the name of the Forbury, bounded with the great plurny north, the grannge east, and the great gardne and siete south, and butting upon the town of Reading west, in which the towne clothe yearly keep faire faires, and doth now ly common, and through which there are severall waies, as passages, into and out of King’s Mead, into the great barne, stable, and lodgings there, and other waies, which said court contains by admeasurement seven acres and twenty perches, which we value for the reasons aforesaid to be worth per an. but twenty shillings.

All the said severall premises, and every part and parcel thereof, are tyth-free, as having never been charged therewith.

Comput Ministrorum Domini Regis Temp. Hen. VIII.

(Abtract of Roll, 30 Hen. VIII. Augmentation Office.)

Monasterium de Redyng.

Com’ Berk’s £  s. d.
Chelsey cum membres—Redd’ assis 7 19 0½
Chelsey cum membis—Redd’ custum. 49 15 0½
Chelsey cum membis—Trr’ dnic’ cum xvi. 100 0 0
Chelsey cum membis—Rektor’ 30 0 0
Neweham—Trr’ 3 6 8
Chakened—Redd’ 0 6 8
Walyngfore—Redd’ 0 5 0
Walyngfore—Vend’ bosc 7
Walyngfore—Fuis’ cur’ 9 2 9
Blewbury—Redd’ assis et custum. 48 6 8 ob’
Blewbury—Trr’ dnic’ 65 6 8
Blewbury—Firm’molend 5 0 0
Blewbury—Conseutud’ 0 6 0
Blewbury—Vend’ bosc 9 1 9
Blewbury—Fuis’ cur’ 9 1 9
Henred—Redd’ assis 11 9 4
Henred—Trr’ dnic’ 23 13 4
Henred—Vend’ bosc 9 1 9
Henred—Fuis’ cur’ 0 5 0
Burghbulbury—Redd’ assis 2 15 8
Burghbulbury—Redd’ custum 19 4 5 ob’
Burghbulbury—Conseutud’ 1 19 6
Burghbulbury—Maner’ cum terr’ dnic’ 14 15 2
Burghbulbury—Rektor’ 11 0 0
Burghbulbury—Fuis’ cur’ 0 5 11
Thacham cum membis—Redd’ assis 5 16 1 q’t
Thacham cum membis—Redd’ custum 4 1 0
Thacham cum membis—Ma’ner cum terr’ dnic’ 12 0 0
Thacham cum membis—Mo’ier Leda. 6 13 4
Thacham cum membis—Elit’ maner 0
Thacham cum membis—Elit’ mund’ et mercat 0
Thacham cum membis—Rc’or 10 0 0
Grenehum—Rektor’ 4 13 4
Crochok—Rektor’ 2 13 4
Mygeham—Rektor’ 5 6 8
Colthrop—Rektor’ 2 0 0
Thacham, &c.—Fuis’ cur’ 3 1 7

Com’ Berk’s £  s. d.
Pangborne—Redd’ assis’ 0 0 7
Pangborne—Redd’ custum’ 1 1
Pangborne—Trr’ dnic’ 2 6 8
Pangborne—Vend’ bosc’ 0
Pangborne—Fuis’ cur’ 0
Bastyleden—Redd’ assis’ 0 8 9
Bastyleden—Redd’ ad volunt. 0 10 0
Bastyleden—Firm’ malhii 5 6 8
Bastyleden—Vend’ bosc’ 0
Bastyleden—Fuis’ cur’ 0
Shyningfeld—Firm’ 9 6 0
Sonning—Firm’malhii de Bulmarsh 5 0 0
Sonning—Firm’ in Areygh 2 6 8
Wargrave—Rektor’ 20 0 0
Redyng Burg’—Redd’ assis’ 21 12 5
Redyng Burg’—Redd’ custum 92 18 4
Redyng Burg’—Sci’ mon’ et terr’ dnic’ null quia occup’ ad usum mon’

Redyng Burg’—Firm’ molend 40 0 0

Redyng Decanat’.

Tylehurst—Redd’ assis’ 10 19 2
Whyley—Redd’ assis’ 1 16 1
Colley—Redd’ assis’ 1 13 11 ob’
Greyshull—Redd’ assis’ 0 3 8
Stratfield Mortymer—Redd’ assis’ 0 5 2
Sulhampsted—Redd’ assis’ 3 18 4½
Byenham—Redd’ assis’ 2 9 10
Utford—Redd’ assis’ 1 8 5½
Tichurst—Redd’ custum 42 2 11 ob’
Whitley—Redd’ custum 34 9 0½
Colley—Redd’ custum 4 3 4
Greysull—Redd’ custum 9 12 2
Stratfield Mortymer—Redd’ custum 3 6 2
Sulhampsted—Redd’ custum 13 12 1
Purley—Redd’ custum 0 6 0
Buenham—Redd’ custum 10 17 10
Utford—Redd’ custum 5 18 11½
Batell—Redd’ custum 6 8 10
Wyndesore Underor—Firm’ man’ 6 19 10½
Whitley—Sci’ maner et xvi 26 18 4
Whitley—Catelsgrove iban 4 13 4
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Vol. IV.
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