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# Priory of Aldeby,

IN

NORFOLK.

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EW particulars are discoverable of this small and obscure priory. It was one of those cells which were founded by Herbertus de Losinga bishop of Norwich, and is of coeval date with Lynn, and other cells of Norwich priory. Agnes de Belfo, wife of Hubert de Rye, castellan of Norwich castle, at the request of Bishop Herbert, according to Blomefield (or rather Parkin, his continuator), granted

great part of the lordship of Aldeby to the priory of Norwich, together with the patronage of the church, and the bishop appropriated it thereto; and a small priory was erected here, dedicated to St. Mary, consisting of a prior, and three black monks.

Henry de Rye granted (or rather confirmed) two parts of the title of all the lands which his father or he himself ever held in demesne, to the priory of Norwich (for the health of his own, his father's and mother's soul), as his father and mother had granted, when they laid the second stone on the foundation of the priory church in Aldeby.<sup>a</sup>

It therefore seems that Bishop Herbert was not the sole founder of Aldeby priory, but that he was assisted therein by Agnes de Belfo and Hubert de Rye.

In the Inquisitions called Hundred Rolls, 3 Edw. I. remaining in the Chapter-House Westminster, it is returned, under the head of the Hundred of Knavering, that the prior of Aldeby hath assize of bread and beer, and holds view of frankpledge; but the jurors say they know not by what warrant.<sup>b</sup>

In 1376, Sir Thomas Savage, knight, was buried by the south porch in the church-yard of the priory church.

Taylor speaks of Richard Bond as a benefactor in 1389.<sup>c</sup>

The temporalities of the priory were valued in 1428 at 7*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* In 6 Edw. IV. the Lady Isabel Morley died patroness, as heir to the founders Hubert and Agnes de Rye; and in the 21st Edw. IV. Edmund Salle, Roger Framingham, and William Spink, were monks in this cell.<sup>d</sup>

## PRIORS of ALDEBY.

The first prior of this cell whose name occurs, is JOHN DE BEDINGFELD,<sup>e</sup> appointed 27th May, 1355, by Laurence prior of Norwich, vicar-general to Thomas bishop of Norwich, to take the confessions, absolve, and enjoin the penances of the prioress and nuns of Bungeye.

RICHARD DE EYE was prior 1 Hen. VI.<sup>f</sup>

THOMAS HETHYLL, 2 Edw. IV.<sup>g</sup>

WILLIAM BEXWELL, 1505.<sup>h</sup> This prior had the

lete. EDMUND DRAKE, alias NORWICH, a monk there, was prior;<sup>i</sup> and in 1538 made prebend of the fourth stall in the church of Norwich.

At the Dissolution, Blomefield says, all the monks were desirous of being discharged, except two.

No mention is made of this priory in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas the Fourth.

In the Ecclesiastical Survey 26 Hen. VIII. the spiritualities were returned at 11*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* and the temporalities at 14*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.* These appear under Norwich priory; and nothing is there stated as to this cell, except a payment of 6*s.* 8*d.* to the steward of the lands appertaining to the cell of Aldeby.

This priory, and the impropriate rectory thereunto belonging, were made part of the endowment of the dean

<sup>a</sup> Blomef. fol. ed. vol. iv. p. 230.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. Hundr. vol. i. p. 540.

<sup>c</sup> Index Monasticus, p. 1.

<sup>d</sup> Blomef. ut supr.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid.

and prebendaries of Norwich by Henry the Eighth in 1538, confirmed by King Edward VI. The priory manor was about that time leased to the family of Baspole. The dean and chapter of Norwich continue to be the present possessors.<sup>a</sup>

The Cell was dedicated to St. Mary, and so was the church; but there was therein a chapel dedicated to St. Furceus, and offerings were made to this saint, and certain tithes belonged to it.<sup>b</sup>

Tanner refers to certain Rolls of Accompts of the priors or wardens of this cell, among the Archives of the cathedral church of Norwich.

The church is now a perpetual curacy, of the yearly value of 43*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

Taylor says, "the monks evidently officiated in the parochial church of St. Mary, for we meet with no account of a conventual church."<sup>c</sup>

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