
Priory of Cardiff,

IN

GLAMORGANSHIRE.



ANNER tells us, a goodly priory is said to have been founded here by Robert first earl of Gloucester, who died A. D. 1147:^a a Priory of Black Monks, or Benedictines, at Kaerdiff, also occurs in Henry Sulgrave's Catalogue of Religious Houses.^b

It seems to have been a Cell to Tewkesbury, which had the same founder: for, in the Register of that Abbey in the Cottonian manuscript Cleop. A. vii. fol. 60b,

we read, A. D. M.CC.lxii. "Eodem anno v. kal. Jul. WILL. DE DERHERST factus est Prior de Kardiff."

In the second Charter of Henry the First, A. D. 1106, printed in the present Work, in the Appendix to Tewkesbury abbey,^c we find among the donations of Robert Fitz Haimon, the first earl of Gloucester, to that monastery, "in Walis, ecclesiam parochialem sanctæ Mariæ de burgo de Cardi, cum una carucata terræ; capellam de castello de Cardi, cum una carucata terræ; decimas omnium dominicorum reddituum de Cardi;" and "decimas totius domini quod R. filius Hamonis habuit in Walis;" which certainly corroborates the supposition.^d In Num. X.

of the Appendix to Tewkesbury, also,^e we have *Litera domini E. Landavensis episcopi* "Priori de Kairdif et ejusdem loci *canonicis scriptæ*:" this must have been Elias de Radnor, who was elected to the see of Llandaff in 1230, and died in 1240.

Among the temporalities in the diocese of Llandaff noticed in Pope Nicholas's Taxation, A. D. 1291, we read

	£.	s.	d.
"Prior de Kardif habet de una gurgite de redd. assis.	0	2	0
Et de uno messuag. in Kardif de redd. assis.	0	7	0
Et de uno curtilag. ibidem	0	1	0" ^f

Leland, speaking of Cairtaphe, or Cardiff, in his Itinerary, says, "The biggest suburb of the town is caullid Crokerton, and ther was a house of Gray Freres. There is another suburbe but lesse without Portlongy. The Black Freres house was without Meskin Gate: and by side this is litle building there."^g

The whole of the town of Cardiff, in fact, except the streets which contained the Houses of the friars, was burnt, and the priory with it, by Owen Glyndwr, early in the reign of Henry the Fourth. The priory, or cell, was never renewed; but the possessions at Cardiff continued with Tewkesbury abbey till the time of the Dissolution.^h

^a From Mills, p. 358.

^b Notitia Monast. Glamorg. II.

^c See vol. ii. of this Work, p. 66.

^d Append. to Tewkesb. Num. III.

^e See vol. ii. p. 68.

^f Taxat. P. Nichoiaii IV. p. 283.

^g Lel. Itin. vol. iv. p. 88.

^h Compare vol. ii. p. 87.