

VISITATIONS AND MEMORIALS
OF
SOUTHWELL MINSTER.



SEAL OF THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED MARY THE VIRGIN OF
SOUTHWELL,
IN THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM, COMMONLY CALLED SOUTHWELL MINSTER,

*From an Impression attached to the Deed of Surrender to Henry VIII.,
17th November, 1540.*

It seems to portray the Virgin seated with the Child on her lap, and the legend
"Sigillum Sancte Marie . . . wella."

The seal seems to be of a date not later than the first half of the 12th century—
perhaps of the time of Ealdred, Archbishop of York, 1061-1075, who gave the
Canons separate prebends. The seal was broken up by the Chapter in 1588, to
invalidate some deeds fraudulently sealed with it.

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OF

SOUTHWELL MINSTER.

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NOTE ON SEAL.

I have only been able to hear of two impressions of this seal now extant. One is in the British Museum (Harl. Ch. 83, D. 2) attached to a grant to Rufford Abbey, Notts, witnessed by the Chapter of Southwell, about 1220. This is No. 4058, vol. i., p. 750, of Mr. Birch's Catalogue of Seals in the MSS. Department at the British Museum. It is much damaged, only the lower part of the drapery of the Virgin being distinguishable. Enough remains, however, to identify it as from the same seal as the second impression, viz., that attached to the Surrender to Henry VIII., from a cast of which the engraving is taken. This impression is now in the Record Office (Augmentation Office, Surrenders, 218). It has been further damaged since the cast in the British Museum (lxx. 58, No. 4058 in Mr. Birch's catalogue) was taken by Mr. Ready, of the British Museum, some 40 or 50 years ago, when the Augmentation Office Records were still at Westminster.

Mr. W. H. St. John Hope is my authority for the date of the original seal.