

root of these proceedings was this, that the feudal system was now on the wane, and the greater towns were every where struggling to shake off the domination of their ancient lords.

From these notices of events, by which the years 1289 and 1290 were rendered memorable, we may proceed perhaps with more advantage to the particulars which the Diary sets before us.

DIARY AND ITINERARY.

John de Kemeseye observes the custom of ecclesiastical accountants, bursars of monasteries, and others, by beginning his roll at Michaelmas. It is kept in the usual well-known style, the form of which has been more than once alluded to and partly described.* But an example or two here introduced in translation, at the risk of appearing tedious, may be of service to our illustrations. The first thing that meets the eye in the margin on the left hand, kept as a receptacle for little notes and remarks, is the place at which the family are passing the day or have arrived to rest during the night. The Bishop had previously been some time at Ledbury, and in that neighbourhood, and is now residing

At SUGWAS, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 21, inclusive.

It is on a Friday: the contents of Fridays, Saturdays, and Wednesdays, shew them throughout to be days of abstinence; and the items of articles bought and consumed in their meals of breakfast, dinner, and supper, or of such as remained on hand, with miscellanies of the household and expenses of the stable, all collected from the reports of servants in each department, are arranged in the following order.

||Sugwas. ||On Friday aforesaid, at Sugwas, for the consumption of my lord's household. Bread, already accounted for. Item, two sextaries of wine. Beer, already accounted for. Item, 200 herrings, 1 stick † of fresh eels, 3 sticks of salted eels, half a salmon, 4 cod, already accounted for. ‡ In 300

* Pp. x. xl.

† The eels were stuck by the head upon a stick.

‡ "Laid out," is understood here.

herrings, 3*s.* 10*d.* In 300 lamperns, 2*s.* 6*d.* Item, 1 salmon, a present. Of these remain 200 and a half of herrings, half a salmon, 100 lamperns. In salt, 6*d.* Hay from the manor farm for 26 horses. In their feed, 7 quarters, 7 bushels of oats, already accounted for. 1 quarter of bran taken from the bakehouse and given to the horses. In working up 38 horse-shoes out of old iron, 16*d.* In 500 nails, 12*d.*

The sum, 9*s.* 2*d.**

By this it is shewn that on the day in question the only articles purchased were herrings and lamperns, all others having been previously accounted for. The bread or flour, wine, beer, and salt fish, were taken from stock in hand. The only actual disbursements, besides the fresh fish aforesaid, were for salt, the economical conversion of old iron into new horse-shoes, and for some nails. The hay, corn, and bran, were settled by tallies between the bailiff, the baker, and the house-steward; or, perhaps, in part by the head-steward at the usual times of reckoning. Three payments for hay are distinguishable in the course of October.†

Once more. The first flesh day falls on the ensuing Sunday, and exhibits a well stocked larder.

||At the same place. ||On the Lord's day next after the feast of St. Michael, at the same place. Bread. 3 sextaries of wine from the store. Beer, already accounted for. Item, 3 quarters of beef, half a porker, 1 sheep, already accounted for. In 2 carcasses of beef, 9*s.* 4*d.* In 10 carcasses of mutton, 10*s.* In 1 porker, 2*s.* In 25 geese, 5*s.* 2½*d.* In 40 fowls, 2*s.* 6*d.* In 24 pigeons, 8*d.* In larks, 1½*d.* Item, 4 geese, 8 fowls, presents. 9 partridges of our own taking. Out of these remain 2 carcasses of beef, 8 of mutton, 1 porker, 21 geese, 38 fowls, 12 pigeons. Hay from the manor farm for 29 horses. In their feed, 2 quarters of oats already accounted for.

The sum, 30*s.* 5¾*d.*‡

Thus the family dispatched this day at the board 3 quarters of beef, 3 sheep, half a pig, 8 geese, 10 fowls, 12 pigeons, and all the larks and partridges.

The above specimens sufficiently represent the method of this portion of the roll, occasionally diversified by details arising from circumstances, the seasons, and the varying incidents of life.

Sugwas, in the parish of Eaton (or Eton) Bishop, was one of the manors

* Roll, pp. 3, 4.

† Id. Oct. 9, 11, 20.

‡ Roll, pp. 6, 7.

attached of old to the see. Its annual value, jointly with that of Eaton, as returned to the Commissioners of Taxation, was £24. 11s. 10d.* This and Bishop's-Castle were the episcopal residences nearest to the great boundary dyke that Offa caused to be made to separate the Welsh territory from his Saxon dominions. The manor-house stood on the left bank of the Wye, overlooking that river, at a convenient distance of between four and five miles from Hereford. It is traditionary that this was a favourite residence of Cantilupe, and a chair that bore his arms and name was preserved in the chapel as long as it existed in the last century.† The usual manorial advantages and appendages were attached to this property. Here was a mill, a dovecote, a fishery, floodgate, and passage over the Wye. Customary tenants paid a rent in eels, and the river produced excellent salmon. A statute had been passed in 1285 prohibiting all persons from taking this fish in all waters throughout the kingdom, between the 8th of September and 11th of November; ‡ but, if in force, we detect it to have been twice transgressed, once certainly at the wear of Sugwas, in the intervening fence-month of October. § Here was a park with timber; || but no mention is now made of its being stocked with deer. The huntsman and falconer were out in pursuit of game; and it has been seen that partridges were brought to table; but as yet no venison. The Bishop seldom appeared in public during his short stay, if we may conclude from the few entries of almsgiving, the sure indication of his being seen abroad. Upon one of the days so designated he went to Hereford on public duty. In this slender attempt to collect a few materials towards the diocesan memoranda of a limited period, such notice will be taken of ecclesiastical intelligence as will shew his engagement in the affairs of the see. On Sunday the 9th of October he met the dean and chapter in the chapter-house assembled, where jointly with them he confirmed a former appropriation of the church of St. Michael of Chirbury, in Salop, to Adam the prior and the canons Augustinian of that place. On the 20th, the day before his departure from Sugwas, he conferred the arch-

* Tax. P. Nich. p. 168.

† MSS. Collections for Herefordshire. Blount. Hill.

‡ Macpherson, Annals of Commerce, i. p. 441.

§ Roll, Oct. 14, 28.

|| Reg. Cantil. f. 24 b. This continued till the reign of Elizabeth, when the premises were leased, and much of it seems to have been destroyed. But "sufficient fewel of the said grosse Tymbre" was reserved to be spent at the palace of Hereford during the time of the then Bishop's abode. Butterfield MS. f. 178 b.

deaconry of Salop, with a house in Hereford attached to it, void by the resignation of John de Benstan, or Bestan, on his own nephew, John de Swinfield,* who afterwards obtained a licence to study abroad. †

Having remained three weeks at this manor he removes to Bosbury. Preparations are set on foot. Whitewashing and some repairs are attended to. Rushes are cut for strewing the floors, and brushwood for culinary purposes, and wood for charcoal is felled and burnt in Stordige, a woodland attached to Bosbury manor. ‡ The baker, the usual harbinger, goes forward, § that the pantry may not be without bread on the arrival of my lord, and the household are established

At BOSBURY from October 21 to December 17 inclusive.

Seated in a deep but fertile country, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north-west of Ledbury, this manor seems, from the use that was made of it, to have had its attractions and peculiar advantages, and to have been much resorted to by the occupants of the see: || at least Swinfield frequently visited it; and there indeed he appears to have breathed his last. He may be presumed to have been personally attached to the place where his father's remains had been laid. Five hundred years had almost passed away when, in 1776, the memorial of this fact was found. A monumental stone, containing a name and date to that effect, was discovered in the church, inverted and half concealed behind a pillar in the wall of the southern aisle of the nave. The inscription was at that time legible, though now very imperfect, and ran thus:

†: RJC: FACCC: SCC
 PHAPIS: QUODAM: PA
 CER: ACERABILIS: PA
 CRIS: D'BI: RICARDI:
 DE: SUPRE: FORD: DEI:
 GRACIA: EPI: HERE
 FORDENSIS: A: D: MCCCLXXXII: ¶

* Reg. Swinf. ff. 63 a, b, 68 b.

† APP. VI.

‡ These statements are brought in at the end of the Bosbury account, Dec. 16.

§ Roll, Oct. 21.

|| Bosbury lays claim to high antiquity. Silas Taylor asserts that a market was formerly held there. MSS. Harl. 6726, f. 166 b. And the inhabitants quote with some exultation an old saying, that "Bosbury was a town ere Hereford was a city."

¶ These particulars and the inscription are given on the authority of a letter from Mr. Reece, the discoverer, to Mr. Clarke, the secretary of Lord James Beauclerk,

Vestiges upon the site of the manor-house, to the north of the church, indicate extensive and strong buildings. Tradition has assigned an episcopal prison to this spot; but it is more certain that there were cells of confinement for clerical offenders at Hereford and Ross. The gateway and dove-cote, the latter curious in structure, and similar in contrivance to that of the hospitallers at Garway, still remain.* The contents of this dove-cote were resorted to and paid for on several successive days.† Bosbury must have had good cellaring and a larder well suited to the preservation of stores; for there a great part of the wine was kept, and most of the provision of animal food now collected was salted and laid up for future consumption. The quantity was not small. This was the Martinmas season for slaughtering and curing: it began a little before their arrival, and was carried on with great industry. Cattle, sheep, and swine were sent in from various quarters; fifty-two beeves purchased for the occasion or drawn from the different farms, from Sugwas, Tupsley, Ledbury, Colwall, and so far as from Earley in Berkshire.‡ The sheep are in less proportion; but to twelve pigs from Prestbury, Robert Crul (Kyrle), a bailiff, who will hereafter claim our notice, added ten from Ross.§ The slaughtermen were paid two shillings and sixpence for their work, and the management of the tripes (*præparatio exituum*), or such other portions of the inwards or offal as were placed in pickle, cost a like sum.|| Salt was had at Worcester.¶ But this was not the whole. Many carcasses of deer were brought in from the chase, as well as from the parks of Colwall, Eastnor, and Dingwood; and that of

Bishop of Hereford, in which he requests permission to remove the stone to the chancel, where probably it had first been placed. MSS. Collect. for Herefordsh. The commendable care of the present incumbent, the Rev. J. H. Underwood, has done what could be done to protect and preserve it, by fixing it in the southern wall, near the Morton chapel: but it appears in the last stage of decay.

* Roll, p. 71 b.

† Id. Oct. 23, 24, 25.

‡ Oct. 23, Nov. 15, 17, Dec. 1.

§ Nov. 15.

|| Roll, Dec. 1. They used malt liquor in preserving these materials. When the Dowager Countess of Pembroke made up her larder at Goodrich castle against Christmas, on the Tuesday after the feast of Saint Hilary, 25 Ed. I. the *exitus* of thirty-three oxen and eighty pigs were put into 104 gallons of ale bought for the purpose. Roll, Chapter House, Westminster.

¶ Nov. 23.

Prestbury contributed a share.* The Roll, brief as are its statements, shews this to have been a busy and animating time, and all hands, while it lasted, appear to have found full employment. The picture in the original is vivid, though the outline is hard and the manner dry. Harpin is usually from home, and catches abundance of partridges. As he is a falconer, and is provided with additional twine for his nets,† he seems to have taken these coveys by the old mode of fluttering his hawk aloft, and causing them to lie close, while the net was drawn over them. Adam, the stud-groom, with the huntsmen, helpers and hounds, is often abroad in the chase and parks, and boys are hired to rouse or drive the deer by shouting.‡ Thanks to Bishop Cantilupe, they had a noble range of country to beat over.§ The

* Roll, Nov. 15.

† Nov. 1.

‡ Nov. 2, 13, 15, 16.

§ The boundaries of the chase, in its length and breadth, long since forgotten, though some of the names of places still survive, were thus determined by the jury in Cantilupe's time. *Memorandum quod die Martis post dominicam in passione domini anno gratie M^o. cc^o. lxxvij^o. transiebat ultima inquisitio de Chacea Malvernica apud Brisenyate pro domino Thoma Herefordensi Episcopo contra Gilbertum de Clare tunc comitem Gloucestric, coram Radulpho de Hengham, Waltero de Helyon et piciis (q. pacis vel pluribus?) justiciariis domini Regis. || Chacea domini Episcopi Herefordensis de Malvern extendit se in latitudine in parte superiori per comam montis ibidem a Prommeswalle usque ad le Dedeorle, et de le Dedeorle ad illum finem in latitudine directa usque ad Cheuernissh pole; et de Cheuernissh pole in inferiori parte jacet in longitudine de Estenore, et de Estenore usque Ruggewey, et de Ruggewey usque Ffroglone, et de Ffroglone usque ad Bertonesyate, et de Bertonesyate usque ad le Brodeleye tenendo semper allam viam regalem usque ad Prommeswell. Registr. Joan. Trefnant. Ep. Heref. ff. 131 b, 132 a.* Another later and more particular version of these limits is given by Swithin Butterfield, in his survey taken in 1577 and 1578. MS. f. 103 b. *Malverne Chace. Perambulatio Chacie Malvernica pertinentis ad Episcopatum Herefordensem: viz. Inprimis, incipiendum apud Primeswell, ascendendo ad comam montis, et sic usque Baldcyate, et de Baldeyate per fossatum usque Brustenyate, et de Brustenyate usque Swyncyate, et de Swyncyate usque Shakellyate, et de Shakellyate usque Dead orle, et de Dead orle usque Chaylemersh poole, et de Chaylemersh poole usque Clengfures myll, et deinde ad ecclesiam de Estnor, et de ecclesia de Estnor per Ruggewey usque Ffroglone, et de Ffroglone usque portam de Barton, usque Brodeley, et sic iterato usque Primeswell.* The claim of Gilbert de Clare stood thus: it has often been mentioned in general, but the limits of it are here defined: *Gilbertus de Clare comes Gloucestric usurpavit et attraxit sibi et foresta sua de Malvernica liberam chaciam domini Episcopi Herefordensis, viz. a summitate montis Malvernica usque ad*

does were now in *fermeson*, or season: most of them were consigned to the larder, but some were brought to the board; though they seem to have been consuming their old stock (*vetus instaurum*) to make way for the new. Where there was such abundance of beef and venison it was but gracious in the Bishop to think of those to whom he would shew a kindness; and, accordingly, Reginald de Bocland, Richard de la Batayl, and the nameless vicar of Bishop's Frome, receive presents from him. The destruction of so many head of animals produced a large proportion of hides and fat, and we are in part informed how these were disposed of in their domestic economy, in which nothing seems to have been neglected. Some of the hides were sold, and others converted into leather for home consumption; and the tallow was immediately converted into candles.*

The evenings and mornings were becoming darker as the winter advanced, and their household affairs required some of them at least to be up later and earlier than the sun went down and rose. † The quantity of candles bought

molendinum vocatum Glenchemille, et ex altera parte usque ad Bradley et Collewall; que quidem chacea pertinebat ad manerium de Ledebury. Reg. Trefnant, ut supra. One John Deynte, a descendant probably of that family to which Swinfield's squire belonged, made a fruitless attempt to establish a right of hunting in the chase in Bishop Trefnant's time. The Bishop proved that it was given to the see by Mereduth, one of the old princes of Wales. Ibid.

* Roll, Nov. 1, 17, 27. Dors. p. 181.

† The cook had a lantern in his kitchen window at Goodrich Castle. Pembroke Roll, ut supra, 25 Ed. I. That servants were allowed the use of candles might be admitted from the necessity of the case, but is established by the exception that the writer of Fleta makes as to those who drove and had the care of oxen. They were wisely forbidden to have them among the straw of their stalls. Apparently diverting himself with his own legal phraseology, then as now in use among the profession, he strongly reprobates the practice, which, "as the saying is, is not to be borne." Part of his summary of the requisites in this class of farm servants in that age is expressed with such a charming simplicity of feeling, and is altogether so graphic, that in the editor's humble estimation it merits to be recalled from its obscurity. p. 166. ||*De fugatoribus carucarum, c. 78. ||1. Fugatorum ars est, ut boves æque sciant conjunctos fugare, ipsos non percutiendo, pungendo, seu gravando. ||2. Non enim esse debent melancholici, vel tracundi, sed gavis, cantantes et latabundi, ut per melodias et cantica boves in suis laboribus quodammodo delectentur; ipsisque foragium et præbendam deferre, ipsosque debent amare, et noctanter cubitare cum eisdem, ipsosque prurire, striliare, torcare, bene in omnibus custodire, &c. . . . nec quod candelam habeant, prout dictum est, sustineatur. No*

on October 28 would not have carried them far through the gloomy days without a fresh supply. When the great slaughter was over, a chandler (*factor*) was sent for, who made eighty pounds (*de sebo hospitii*); his charge for this was 2s. 3d., and for his journey 2½d. The bringing of a drove of cattle from Sugwas to Bosbury cost 4d., equivalent to about five shillings of our modern money.*

In the midst of this abundance and good cheer, certain members of the family, doubtless those who were in higher orders, observed a stricter regimen, and are called by eminence "the fasters." For they kept the Ember days by adding Monday in many weeks to the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, thus passing more than half their time under this discipline during the months of November and December. The express provision of fish (*pro jejnantibus*) † marks the days. ‡

Wine, as an article of daily consumption, required a stated renewal; and it seems to have come round, as to foreign wine, once in about six months. The roll exhibits this in December and July. Two of the squires, Raulin, or Ralph de Marines, and John de Baseville, were entrusted with this commission. They went to Bristol, the most convenient mart, bought five tonells of red wine in the merchant's cellar, paid ready money for it, £10. 17s. 3d., shipped and paid freightage for it, saw it delivered into boats that plied upon the Severn from that city to Upton; and placed the casks under the care of servants, who were furnished with mats to keep off rain or frost, and who might have been as a watch against the roguery of boatmen on the passage. § A part of it was landed at the Haw, a wharf

one could have written this passage but he that knew the temper and management of the harnessed ox. Not the slightest intimation is given in the roll of the teams, for which Herefordshire has since been so famous.

* Roll, Nov. 17.

† A similar notice is found in the Countess of Pembroke's roll on Tuesday before the feast of St. Martin, 25 Ed. I.

‡ Nov. 14, 21, 28. Dec. 5, 13, 19.

§ Roll, Dec. 3. In the same way the Countess of Pembroke had a pipe of wine for her private use from Bristol up the Wye to Monmouth, and sent an attendant to take care of it. She also bought salted venison at Bristol, and had it by the same conveyance. Roll, ut supra. When Henry III. in 1223, was marching into Wales, he ordered 20 casks that his constable at Bristol had bought of Ernaldus de Mas, a merchant, to be forwarded after him to his army at Montgomery, about the feast of Saint Matthew

between Gloucester and Tewkesbury,* and was sent to Prestbury; the remainder seems to have been delivered at Upton, and conveyed to Bosbury by land carriage. Many allusions leave little doubt that the Bosbury vaults were at all times its main depository. From these Ledbury, Whitborne, and Sugwas received their needful supplies, and all the way through is to be traced the stock of Bosbury wine.† The squires took the opportunity of the fish-market at Bristol to lay in a quantity of conger eels, which were also sent by water carriage, and forwarded to Prestbury. Every thing upon the establishment was well cared and provided for at Bosbury. The horses fared well, being, besides their corn, provided with old hay made in the good season of 1288 from the Upper Rompeney meadow near Bromyard;‡ and the hounds had their repeated allowances of meal; but, though kept in constant exercise, were so blooded with the frequent chase that they appear to have grown mischievous; and a little anecdote of their wantonness incidentally comes out in their having attacked and killed a pig for J. Long, of Bosbury, for which the Bishop paid lawful damages. §

This manor, with its appurtenances, was valued in the Taxation at £25. 14s. 4d.; and the Bishop had the great tithes, amounting to £20 more, which he collected at the end of autumn either in this or the following year. || The vicarage was also in his gift. Four institutions to livings

the Apostle. These casks were brought to Monmouth, and thence sent on with all dispatch by land to Hereford, and deposited till further orders in some building fit for their reception in Hereford Castle; they were forwarded by the Sheriff of Hereford to Shrewsbury early in October; and must have been well shaken by the time they arrived at their journey's end. Rot. Litt. Claus. 7 Hen. III.

* It belonged to the priory of Deerhurst. Atkyns.

† Roll, Dec. 17, Feb. 23, *de instauro Bosebur'*, Apr. 1, et seq. June 2, July 11.

‡ Oct. 9. Side note, p. 7.

§ Dec. 16. Some of the king's hounds were guilty of the same kind of misdemeanour about this time, 18 Ed. I. Thomelin de Corbet, one of his falconers, went out with some companions towards Burford, and elsewhere, in the marches, to train a girfalcon to fly at cranes, taking with them sundry *leporarii* and *braconarii*. The *leporarii* contrived to kill three sheep by the road, and nine pence per head damages for them were charged to his majesty in his wardrobe accounts. *Pro restauro trium bidentium quos leporarii regis occiderunt in dicto itinere*, 2s. 3d. Rymer, Add. MSS. Brit. Mus. 4734, f. 253. And thus neither Bishop nor King were above the law.

|| Dors. || 46 a.

occurred while he was at this place. Oct. 24, William de Kingescote was instituted to the rectory of Westbury, presented to it by Sir Nicholas de Bathon' (Bath) knight.* Osbert, called Godman (Goodman?), a priest, was admitted, Oct. 25, to the vicarage of Eton in the vale of Longfield, on the presentation of the prior and convent of Wenlock; † and Sir Richard de Bury, an acolyte, to the church of Hope Bowdlers, Dec. 6, presented by Lady Millicent de Montalt, upon an injunction, as he was in minor orders, that, according to the constitution of the Council of Lyons in that case provided, he should offer himself for sub-deacon at the next (or immediately ensuing) ordination at Ledbury. ‡ This stipulation arose from an abuse that had crept in of introducing youths into benefices before they had gone through their course of studies, or were duly qualified to perform the services of the church. When that point had been gained many of them neglected to prepare themselves for ordination, though they received the profit of their benefices, which were served by substitutes. To the above must be added the admission of Sir John de Lych', or Lyth', a chaplain, § Dec. 14, to the rectory of the church de Lega (the Lea?), on the presentation of Sir Richard de Lega. || It is evident that, though many ceremonies were occasionally performed by proxy, such acts as these required a personal appearance before the ordinary; and, as he so frequently shifted from place to place, the parties were required to attend upon him wherever he was to be found.

Unsuccessful inquiries were made at Gloucester and Hereford for a horse for my lord; many of his horses were sick and attended by a farrier; ¶ he was soon to take a long journey. If our remark concerning almsgiving be correct, he kept close at home during his residence at Bosbury, as no entry of the kind is inserted while he remained there. One of his nephews, Walter de Scorene, visited and received a present from him in the month

* Reg. Swinf. f. 63 a. This Kingescote was he concerning whom the visitor and masters of Oxford university had disputed; and it is stated in the entry of his institution that he was at that time vice-chancellor; though another was afterwards appointed. See ante, p. lxix. and Dors. p. 150.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 63 a.

‡ Id. f. 63 b. See the citation to the Bishop's first ordination in APP. XXI.

§ *Capellanus*, a curate, according to Fleetwood. Chron. Prec. p. 132.

|| Reg. Swinf. ut supra.

¶ Dors. || 24.

of October.* He shewed himself kind and generous to all his connexions by marriage or blood.

Several of his confidential dependents were absent. Thomas de la Dane,† the rector of Hampton Bishop, in particular, who seems to have gone on a mission to Exeter,‡ was also after Michaelmas in London, whither he accompanied John de Swinfield, the archdeacon of Salop, who was sent to complete his education in France. De la Dane's incessant movements and cares for his master's business allowed him little rest. The Bishop had some land and farming concerns at Womenswold, in Kent, where wheat and barley were sown, an orchard was planted, a house was building or under repair, and a chapel was in progress, erected at his cost.§ De la Dane superintended and paid for these works, which went on through the winter and during great part of the year. By him certain Christmas or New Year's gifts of clothing were distributed among the females of the Sceluing family, probably relatives of the Swinfields, as well as among other persons in that county, in which the Bishop himself is reputed to have been born. Before and after the festival of All Saints he and divers messengers passing through Oxford visited and conveyed money to the young Kingessuods, whom Swinfield patronized, and had placed for their education at the schools of that university, where Gilbert de Swinfield, a third of his nephews, Chancellor of Hereford, was in residence. Oxford was just recovering from a state of confusion into which it had been thrown by a dispute between the masters and their visitor the Bishop of Lincoln, already mentioned.|| Their scholastic exercises were restored. On Dec. 1 Robert

* Dors. || 31.

† The Editor here avails himself of an opportunity to acknowledge the kindness of the Rev. Lambert B. Larking, who from his extensive and accurate information respecting the families of Kent has corrected the suggestions in p. 122 of the Endorsement respecting Dane, Dene, and Oxdene; and has shewn, by extracts from the pedigree of Oxenden of Dene in Wingham, that these were connected by marriage with the Denes of Dene, and that the latter also intermarried with the Shelvings of Shelving in Barham. The evidences of these facts are not of a nature to find a place in this note; but they in some measure account for the introduction of these names among those who received favours from the Bishop; and, could some additional and direct proof be obtained of his family having been linked with them, it would help us to understand his liberality towards them.

‡ Dors. || 22.

§ Id. || 10, 11.

|| P. lxix.

de Bromyard, a friar, proceeded for his degree, and Swinfield sent him by De la Dane twenty shillings towards his charges.* The wanderings, services, and expenses, of this indefatigable character occupy a conspicuous place in the Endorsement, to which we must refer the reader, reminding him that most of the occurrences above cited are referable to the winter of 1289.

The last day of their stay at Bosbury, besides the ordinary detail of provisions, shews a summing up of miscellanies, things done and paid for, and chiefly embodied in our narrative : the morrow presents a removal to

LEDBURY, from Dec. 17 to 20 inclusive.

Of the several towns with which the Bishop was connected by residences, that of Ledbury, if his resort thither be taken as a symptom of it, was the one he most affected. As a manor it was the best he had in hand. It was rated at £46. 7s. 4d.† It stood attached to a cluster of contiguous manors ; Eastnor, Colwall and Coddington, Bosbury, and Cradley, were all the property of the see. As a town its inhabitants were, perhaps, less intrusive on his rights : from Ross and Hereford he had met with annoyance.‡ But the dates of his roll and his register seem to mark his preference of a country life. Here in its spacious and venerable church he had held his first ordination.§ The rectory of Ledbury, in the deanery of Frome,¶ was of old divided

* Dors. || 31.

† Tax. P. Nichol. f. 168.

‡ Once only he appears for four days at Ross. This might be accidental ; but some of the townsmen were litigious with him. Men and horses are often sent from Bosbury to Hereford, but it seems as though the Bishop had no household or furnished stabling there, for the expenses both of man and horse are placed upon the accounts ; and when he went to Hereford himself, on Palm Sunday, he did not dine at the palace, and brought hay with him from Sugwas. Mar. 26.

§ It was the custom of the bishops to hold ordinations in the different large churches of the diocese at their discretion : that of Ledbury was well adapted to the purpose. The candidates were often very numerous. Cantilupe held a crowded ordination in the capacious old church of Leominster, on the Saturday next before the feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle, in the year 1277. There were present who received the order of subdeacon 35, of deacon 37, of priest 27, besides 12 rectors ordained on that day. A list is added of nearly 100 rectors besides ; who, as it seems, had been cited, but failed to make their appearance. Reg. Cantil. ff. 41 b, 42 a. This is a proof how many persons in those times had been admitted to hold benefices before they had attained the rank of priest. It was one point of abuse that Cantilupe laboured to reform.

¶ Tax. P. Nichol. f. 160 b.

into portions or prebends. The dean of Hereford and Master William de Montfort, dean of St. Paul's, London,* were the existing portionists; but the Bishop could claim the great tithes whenever a vacancy occurred. † On the day of his arrival he was met by Roger de Kingeslone, a deacon, whom he instituted to the vicarage of Presteign, on the presentation of the abbat and convent of Wigmore. ‡ Swinfield would often bestow gifts upon clerks and poor scholars, and did so to one of the latter class in Ledbury on the Thursday while he was there. § The present halt was but for three days and nights. Christmas was nigh at hand, and was to be kept at Prestbury, in Gloucestershire. From Bosbury two carts had been sent with a cask of wine and baggage (*hernesio*), and more wine had been brought from the Haw. Robert Calewe, a servant, had been ordered to Prestbury; and on Dec. 17 we read that he had been and returned. He was out nineteen days, and superintended the burning of charcoal, and a great brewing against the festive season. At Sugwas and Bosbury beer had been bought; at Prestbury they were to have some of their own making; it would be fit to drink by the time they arrived, for they did not allow it long to ripen. Calewe was assisted by hired female brewers. The malt was a mixture of wheat, barley, and oats, intended doubtless to be particularly good. These brewers received an allowance out of the grains besides their pay. They wrought by candle light. These and other preliminary proceedings were defrayed by the bailiff, || and were of course accounted for in his reckoning with the steward. After his culinary campaign at Bosbury, William the head cook and market man fell sick and was left behind at Ledbury many weeks, till my lord's return. The hounds were taken on to Prestbury, as their work was not yet done. Those who have seen in times past the country that was here to be crossed will have no difficulty in comprehending the attention that they paid to farriery. ¶ It seems plain from their practice that they were acquainted with the farrier's secret, that shoes made out of old iron are tougher than those made out of new.**

* Taxatio P. Nichol. p. 160 b.

† Tanner. Reg. Cantil. f. 20 b.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 63 b.

§ Roll, 31, 33, 35.

|| Observe the frequent *per præpositum*. Roll, Dec. 25, et seq.

¶ Dec. 19.

** Sept. 30, Dec. 3.

On Dec. 20 the Bishop and his attendants moved forward to NEWENT, a town within the border of Gloucestershire. It was in the diocese of Hereford and deanery of the forest of Dean; but the Bishop had no property here. Among the unrighteous acts of king John was the injurious afforesting of the manor, with many besides, and adding them to the forest of Dean.* It belonged to the prior and convent of this place, a Benedictine house and cell to the abbey of Cormeilles, in Normandy.† The prior, Simon de Goupillers, ‡ supplied the travellers gratuitously with hay, and litter, and brushwood, for the night, and his servants in return had a present of drink. It was remembered that, while they were at Bosbury, half a seam § of salt had been borrowed of their neighbour, the preceptor or manager of the Templars at Upleden, and it was bought to repay him. That military religious fraternity had a house and manor so called from its situation on the river Leden, in Bosbury parish. It was a manor therefore within a manor, and one of the several thousands that they were reported to possess in Christendom, soon to fall into the hands of others. The reputation of the wealth of the order was in part the cause of their ruin, as the possession of it had been of their decay. Little did the brethren in that retired spot

* Exempl. MS. Perambul. Forestæ de Dene, 28 Ed. I.

† Tanner.

‡ The name of this prior is very frequently repeated in the register of the house. Brit. Mus. Add. MSS. 15. 668. His style and title ran thus: *Frater Symon de Goupillariis, prior, custos seu ballivus de Newent, ac procurator Abbatis et conventus de Cormeliis, Lexoviensis diocesis, in Anglia generalis*. He had a dispute with John de Sceluing, rector of Ross, respecting some tithes in that parish about this time. But they came to an amicable agreement before the Bishop in his hall at Colwall. July 30, 1290. Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

§ The horse-load, seam, or sum of 100 pounds, by which so many saleable articles were measured or weighed, was a rude contrivance suited to miserable roads, over which no wheels could make a way, and has been always adopted in mountainous districts. Within fifty years, in the recollection of the editor, great part of the coal that came out of the forest of Dean to the town of Ross, was brought in this way down the rugged sides of that elevated land, on mules and asses, or small horses. But the wealth and traffic of this island have effected nowhere greater changes in its roads than in the British trackways of this intricate region. Sumpters have disappeared before increased facilities of conveyance, and are now chiefly employed in the counties of Hereford and Monmouth in bringing charcoal to the iron works from the woods of the interior of the country.

think of the cruel fate that awaited them. In 1308 every knight throughout the kingdom was arrested, on the morning of Jan. 10.* The brotherhood were subsequently dispersed and degraded, many of them persecuted to death, and all of them stripped of their lands and treasures.†

* Among those that were sent to the Tower of London were, *Frater Thomas de Tholouse, miles, preceptor apud Huppeleden*, and *Frater Thomas le Chamberleyn frater apud Huppeleden, per 5 annos*. Wilkins, *Concilia Magna*. Brit. II. 346.

† They had two preceptories in Herefordshire, Upleden and Garway. The preceptor who dwelt here with a brother or two, according to the size and revenues of the estate, was governor of the house and receiver of the rents. In this country place they lived formally by their rules; and, though their numbers must have been small, a table was kept for the squires, and they had a chapel and officiating priest of their own. Among the many corrodies and annuities bestowed on their dependants about this time, the following relate to this establishment. Guydo de Foresta, grand master, with the consent of his chapter at Dynnislew, Dec. 1292, granted to Richard de la Felde, chaplain, for his service, a perpetual maintenance at the table of the squires, in the house of the Temple at Upleden, for his life, on condition of his discharging the office of a priest as long as he was able, and an annual salary of twenty shillings from the preceptor for wages; and when incapacitated by age or weakness from officiating, he was to have the same advantages as any one of the brethren. *Documents Illustrative of English History in the 13th and 14th Cent.* London. 1844. p. 154. At a chapter held under the same grand master, at the same place, and on the same day, in 1294, a grant was made to Walter Childe of a yearly stipend of twenty shillings for his life, to be received from the said preceptor at Michaelmas and Easter, and a cast-off supertunic of the preceptor or a brother of the place at Christmas. *Id.* p. 75. William de la More, the last grand master in England, in the same manner, in 1300, granted to John, parson, of Garway, for his service during life, perpetual maintenance at Upleden, at the squire's table, a dress and five shillings annually as long as he should be able to serve; and after superannuation to have his victuals somewhere in the court (*in aliquo loco cur'*), and only five shillings per annum. *Id.* p. 155. But, while the knights themselves had an officiating chaplain, and enjoyed peculiar privilege as a society in exemption from episcopal visitations and censures, their tenants were not excused from parochial dues. An instance of this occurred at Upleden in 1303, which exemplifies somewhat minutely the nature of the claim called a mortuary. Joan wife of William de la M'se, their customary farmer, having deceased, William de Malvernia, vicar of Bosbury, previous to her interment, claimed as a mortuary the second best animal upon the farm, according to the custom of this parish and the whole diocese of Hereford. M'se at first resisted it, alleging that only the third best was due, as he had but six cattle in all; and that he would obey no order but that of the preceptor of the house. The Bishop (Swinfield) therefore wrote to the Grand Master and brethren assembled in provincial chapter, to

From Newent, on the 21st, they passed on to HIGHNAM, on the western side of the Severn, at no great distance from Gloucester. Though a Tuesday, for some inexplicable reason, it was a day of abstinence, and fish was procured from Gloucester market.

The abbat of Gloucester was lord of this manor.* John de Gamage, or Gamages, who had held that post ever since the year 1284, is a great favourite with the chronicler of that house. He was descended from an honourable family that came in with the Conqueror, and were established in Herefordshire, where in Mansel Gamage their name exists to the present hour. His government of the convent was distinguished by piety, charity and discretion in the management of their temporal affairs. He found them distressed and left them affluent. He liquidated their debt of a thousand marks, increased their revenues and the stock upon their estates, and raised

command their customary to desist from his wrongful opposition, and render to the church her due. Accordingly they appointed the brethren, William de la Forde, preceptor of Balsall, and John de Coningestone, preceptor of Guiting, with brother Hugh de Tailcaster, preceptor of Upleden, to treat and determine with the Bishop concerning it. These after diligent inquiry into all the circumstances came to Swinfield at Bosbury and affirmed that their order had nothing to do with the matter; but that it was the personal concern of William, a parishioner of the church of Bosbury; and therefore for themselves and the brethren they threw it entirely upon the conscience of the Bishop to decide, who, having called a number of discreet persons to his assistance, gave sentence in the parish church of Bosbury, according to law and custom, in the presence of Hugh the preceptor and many others, that on the death of a woman during the life of her husband, he ought to give the second best animal in his stock to God and Holy church. Pursuant to this decree William de la M'se aforesaid drew out the best of his oxen for his own use, and gave the second best to William the vicar, for his deceased wife; by reason that his only horse was hardly worth six shillings sterling; whereas the first ox was worth by common estimation eight, and the next seven shillings sterling. Reg. Swinf. f. 144 b. The many disputes that arose between the clergy and their parishioners on this point gave rise to that constitution of Archbishop Winchelsey, which settled it precisely in the above mode. He died in 1313. The title of it is, *Si decedens tria aut plura reliquerit animalia, et optimum alteri sit debitum; sit proximi valoris ipsius ecclesie.* Provinc. Gul. Lyndwood, p. 184 a. Both the Templars and their successors the Hospitallers had a sanctuary here as well as at their other houses, and instances might have been given of criminals having fled to them for refuge, in particular to Upleden. But this discursive note has already exceeded its limits.

* Atkyns, p. 176.

their sheep alone to a flock of ten thousand. In every way he seems to have discharged the duties of a faithful governor and steward, and to have exercised his authority with the feelings and conduct of a gentleman. His personal appearance was answerable to his birth and noble qualities, and procured him respect and honour. In 1291, at the funeral of the Queen-dowager at Amesbury, where a multitude of the dignitaries of the church were assembled, the meek expression of his ruddy countenance set off by his snowy hair attracted the notice of Edward I. and drew from him this commendation: "There is not a prelate in my kingdom that appears to me so venerable as the Abbat of Gloucester." *

As previous to his elevation he had been prior of St. Guthlac in Hereford, at the beginning of Swinfield's episcopate, they could not have been strangers to each other, and indeed appear to have been on the best terms. He presented the Bishop with two palfreys, the first of them being returned.† On the day of their sojourn at Highnam he gave him hay and oats for his forty horses. They trespassed on his hospitality no further. The farm servants had their customary reward of drink. The Severn is divided into two channels before it reaches Gloucester, and both must be traversed by the road on which they were travelling. It is beyond all question that then, as now, there must have been two bridges to cross before they could enter the Westgate of the city.‡ We read of no passage by ferry as in other cases. Through Gloucester was their only way to arrive, and settle themselves, as we observe they did, at

PRESTBURY, from Dec. 22 to 28 inclusive.

The name of this parish announces who were the chief owners of the lands when first it acquired that appellation,§ and the manor now belonged to

* Chron. of Glouc. Abbey under John de Gamages. *Cujus facies*, observes an annalist, even in death, *adeo læta apparebat et rubea, ac si eum nulla infirmitas tetigisset*. Ann. Wigorn. Angl. Sacra. i. 529.

† Roll, Dec. 9, Dors. || 31.

‡ In 1226 a bridge was built at Gloucester with timber from the forest of Dean. Rot. Litt. Claus. p. 100 b. 10 Hen. III.

§ Atkyns, p. 317, considers that it was called Prestbury "because it was a town belonging to priests."

the see of Hereford. Its value, taking in Sevenhampton, was £44. 2s. 6½*d.** The dean of Hereford claimed a portion of the vicarial tithes, and the abbey of Lanthony the second, nigh Gloucester, through the patronage of Betun and the indulgence of succeeding prelates of Hereford,† enjoyed profits and privileges in this quarter. The manor-house was strongly built of stone and moated round.‡ The adjoining park was stocked with deer. Christmas must be passed somewhere. The King had summoned his nobles and bishops to a parliament. The archbishop had called a congregation of suffragans, to which Swinfield was about to repair. Prestbury was on his way to London, and was an appropriate place to stop at. Care had been taken that nothing should be wanting for the due celebration of the season. The diligence of Gerard de Eugina, the bailiff, a favourite with his master, had attended, among other matters, to the important repairs of the kitchen and oven (the baker and his assistants were ready beforehand), and he had constructed a dresser and penthouse, or awning from the doors of the hall and larder leading towards the kitchen, apparently for the convenience of sheltering and setting down the dishes of viands preparatory to their being ushered into the hall. The reader who expects a record of more than common doings will not be disappointed. Christmas eve was a day of abstinence, a fit prelude for what was to follow. We find, however, a competent supply of herrings, codlings, and conger eels; and, by the way, that could not have been a salmon of mean proportions or rarity that cost the exorbitant sum of 5*s.* 8*d.* The whole disappeared. There is a memorandum of one dozen of cups, 300 dishes, 150 plates, and 200 saucers, or smaller plates(?), laid in for the occasion. The number of horses, suddenly increased this evening from forty-one to fifty-five, intimates the presence of guests; especially as this is reduced on two days after the entertainment.

The festival of the Nativity fell on a Sunday. In the service of the

* Tax. P. Nich. f. 177.

† The way in which they got footing there may be seen in the life of Betun, Angl. Sacra. II. 313. For a privilege of pasture see APP. p. 217. Tax. P. Nich. f. 232.

‡ So at least in Atkyns' time. There is still what is called the park.

Mass the Bishop, such was the custom, gave at the offertory for himself and family 4s. 1d.* as he did at the same time for the workmen in his employ at Womenswold, in Kent,† 1s. It cannot be unbecoming to remark, what in itself so well befitted the time, that the household, at least such as wore it, appeared in clean linen. The purveyance of this cheerful day is not so remarkable for variety as substantiality. But in this respect the main feast was sumptuous and superfluous. It was graced with the antique accompaniment of the boar: and some garnish or flavouring extraordinary might be produced from a purchase of lemons made by Deÿnt, one of the squires, at Ledbury, expressly entered as against Christmas day (*contra Natale*).‡ Amidst the general glee the cooks are real objects of compassion. They had lost the services of William, chief in command in the kitchen, who was an invalid left behind at Ledbury; but Adam, his lieutenant, little William, and their associates, played their part—and so, it must be allowed, did the consumers, to an extent that can be accounted for only in one way. At the three meals, the daily allowance of earlier times, it may be seen that there were served up two carcasses and three quarters of beef, two calves, four does, four pigs, about sixty fowls, and eight partridges, two geese, bread and cheese in proportion; and that the whole was lubricated by ten sextaries of red and one of white wine, and an unscored quantity of beer. Now, considering that something like an estimate can be formed of the members of the family, and the few visitors that might be present, unless these received a great accession of farm-servants and neighbours, who had no horses in the stable, looking at their numbers, and the food set before them, it seems impossible for any human powers in so short a time to have achieved an entire demolition of what we find was expended; unless also others, whom we know not of, had been called to their aid. We are therefore willingly led to believe that a liberal residue was distributed to the poor.§ A much larger quantity of meat appears in

* Dors. || 25.

† Id. || 11.

‡ Id. || 24.

§ The Editor is aware that, according to strict rule, an antiquary can have little to do with hypothetical beings or imaginary things; though the imagination be so auxiliary to the production of any impression from a meagre document like that in hand. Adhering to the text he has indulged sparingly in what *might* have been, and still more so in what *must* have been or occurred, leaving it to the judgment of the reader; and holds himself

the account; but the portion here proved to have been consumed is distinguished as expressly set apart from the rest. Nine does from the park were salted for store.

The festivals of St. Stephen and St. John being past they commenced in earnest their journey towards London, and set out with an increased strength of fifty-one horses. The necessity for this addition may be comprehended from the unceasing wet of an open winter; there had been no frost to bind the roads.* Harbingers preceded, and on Wednesday the 28th they reached COLN SAINT AYLWIN'S, OR ALDWIN'S, near Fairford, in the county of Gloucester, a manor belonging to the abbat of Gloucester, and they seem to have lodged in the manor-house. Sixty houses, and the church of that place, had been given to the abbey for the increase of hospitality. † In the exercise of it the servants furnished them with brushwood, oats, and litter, and received drink in return. Thence, on the morrow, they came to FARRINGTON, in Berkshire, their harbingers, it is hardly necessary to repeat, taking the lead at every stage. Their course was on the left bank of the Coln, and they crossed near its confluence with the Lech and Thames, at Lechlade ferry, for the charge of two pence. In this town they were obliged to pay for every necessary. They hired kitchen utensils and five men for fetching in brushwood and litter. The kitchen cart had left them to go forward; the horsemen do not seem to have travelled at the slow pace of the carriages, but to have followed them in the rear at their pleasure. They had only thirty-eight horses with them that night. Arrived at WANTAGE on the 30th the Prestbury carters that had thus far helped them were allowed to return. Beer was bought in Berkshire by the gallon instead of the sextary; sixty-four of them seems a large proportion for the consumption of this single day, besides refreshment to certain servants of J. of Wantage, clerk, who gave them some aid. In the course they were taking they had a tract of country before them in which they required a guide. As previous to his going to Gloucester the Bishop had despatched a messenger to announce his coming, so now before he proceeded to READING, whither he was bound, he had sent one from Prestbury and

open to deserved correction if he should have transgressed where he has desired to keep within bounds.

* Wikes, quoted in p. lxxxvii.

† Atkyns, p. 189.

received from the Abbat, Robert de Burghate, an invitation.* Accordingly, on Saturday, Dec. 31, he entered with his train through the noble gateway of that hospitable house, the frequent resort of kings.† On the mode of his reception the writer has dropped an impenetrable veil. But it is known that the head of this royal establishment, though now it was burdened with debt, ‡ lived in great state. One little trait of entertainment has been preserved, if it may be received as such, and assigned to this place. The sound of the harp was in those days the accompaniment of a great man's feast. Hugh, the lord abbat's domestic harper, received a present from Swinfield, surely for no assignable reason but that he played before him. §

Abbey of READING from Dec. 31 to Jan. 4, inclusive.

Two days and nights of monastic hospitality being fulfilled, the Bishop did not, however, immediately quit the town when his gratuitous diet was at an end, nor did he, perhaps, leave the walls of the abbey. On the two first evenings the keeper of his roll leaves blank entries: on the third it is discovered that he has laid out more than usual in provisions; and this gives rise to a suspicion that he invited his friends to partake of his fare in return. Venison they had brought with them; and three fat does were cooked from their store. Partridges too on the morrow they had of their own (*de perquisito*); they were not far from the manor of Earley, which the Bishop had in hand.¶ The servants of J. of Wantage, who had

* This is fairly inferable from two passages in Dors. ||24, 25. This Abbat, or his successor, William de Sutton, was entertained in return by my lord's order, during his absence, at the manor-house of Ledbury. Dors. ||39 c.

† The affection of William of Malmesbury breaks out in his description of this abbey and its inmates. He styles the house *pene omnium itinerantium ad populosiores urbes Angliæ diversorium*. The monks *præclarum sanctitatis exemplum, hospitalitatis indefessæ et dulcis indicium*; and of the resort to it, *videas ibi, quod, non alibi, et plus hospites totis horis venientes, quam inhabitantes, insumant*. Gul. Malmesb. Histor. a. 1119, l. 4.

‡ The abbey had been in debt from 37 Hen. III. and continued so till 8 Ed. II. Dugdale, Mon. last edit. IV. 30.

§ Dors. ||31.

¶ In p. 21 of the Roll, note d, it is stated that at Earley "the Bishops of Hereford had a manor." This should be corrected to "Cantilupe and Swinfield, Bishops of Hereford, sometime had a manor." The circumstances under which they held it, but not as appertaining to the see, will be seen in p. cxxx infra.

assisted with the teams, were dismissed with a gift (*curialitate*), and Jan. 3 is distinguished by a dole of bread to the poor. Jan. 4th they set forward on their way to the metropolis, crossed the ferry at Staines, and advanced into Middlesex, resting at

BEDFONT from Jan. 4th to Jan. 7th, inclusive.

The kitchen apparatus had gone on before them to be in use against their coming in. It bears at first sight the semblance of poverty or scarcity in this place,* that while they remained in it the porter should have been despatched to forage at Cookham; but the reason for this is presently apparent. On Friday a trifling symptom of their approach towards the London market shews itself in the addition of the sprat to their other dishes of fish; an incident that had not occurred before. At the next stage they reached the end of their journey :

LONDON from Jan. 7 to 13, inclusive.

The sumpters, whose drivers were allowed drink on the road, had carried forward the victuals that had been bought up in the country (*equi prævinentes cum victualibus*). The bakers were already at their post; beer and wine had been brought in; and so far matters were prepared when the family made their appearance. Whoever undertook the direction of these movements, careful and provident management may be observed in the arrangement of them. One little swerving from his wonted regularity escapes from John de Kemeseye, he omits on the Saturday of their arrival to sum up the weekly expenditure, a very allowable oversight, if such it were, in the bustle of the evening; but he corrects it at the fortnight's end.†

The house, or inn, as it was called, where the Bishop and his attendants lodged, stood on the west of Old Fish street, in the ward of Queenhithe. It had originally belonged to a Norfolk family, of the name of Montalt or Mounthault, and had been purchased by Bishop Maydenstane about the year 1234. He gave it to his successors in the see of Hereford, that they might have a residence in London whenever it might be necessary for them to

* They had no fish here, though it was a Wednesday. The stock that they brought out with them was exhausted on the previous Saturday. Sheep were eleven pence per carcass at Bedfont, or Cookham. Roll, Jan. 4.

† Roll, Jan. 7, 14.

attend there on any public affairs, as in episcopal congregations or parliaments.* The style and condition of these premises may in part be collected from hints supplied by repairs charged in the endorsement, || 17, 18, and a lease inserted in the APPENDIX, No. V. We are told on good authority that the house was built of stone and timber, and contained large rooms; † the hall is here mentioned; there were out-buildings with stabling, and it had cellaring, ‡ the whole taking up apparently a space of some extent. Repairs had been made in the roof and fastenings of the doors. The tenant, Richard de Chiggewell, received a compensation for my lord's temporary occupation. Thus he not only set in order but actually rented his own house. In the stables the carpenters put up four mangers, and in one that was used by Chiggewell a manger twenty-seven feet long. A pavement or pitching was laid down on the western side of the house. The whole had undergone a thorough cleansing; rushes were bought for the floors, and mats for the benches in the hall.§ Every one who entered there found a plenteous board; as to bed, some of the party about this time, and perhaps not unusually, were littered on straw.||

And again the bill of fare forces itself on our attention, increased by the diversified produce of the metropolitan market. The Roll is of necessity heavily burdened with meats and drinks; and the occasional display of them cannot be avoided, keep it back as much as we may,

“ tamen usque recurrit.”

* There was a chapel of St. Mary belonging to it, which was afterwards converted into a parish church by the title of St. Mary Montalt. The Bishop had the presentation. Swinfield instituted Richard de Leuesham, priest, to it in 1300. Reg. Swinf. f. 128 b. The church was burnt in the fire of London, 1666, and never rebuilt; and the parish was annexed to St. Mary Somerset. Maitland, Hist. of London, II. c. 1142.

† Stowe. In the time of Bishop Scory there were three messuages or tenements upon Lambert hill, within the parish of St. Mary Monthault, on the western side of the garden appertaining to the capital messuage. It was leased, 11 Eliz. to Edward Fines, lord Clinton and Say, earl of Lincoln. Butterfield MS. 213, 214.

‡ The lease particularly provides for stowage of wine. Hamon de Chiggewell, to whom it was granted in 1311, occupies an important place in the city annals. See the reference in APP. V. He was a *pepperer*, i. e. a grocer, and a moneyed man. Bishop Orleton borrowed of him, and gave him his bond. Reg. Orleton, f. 18 a.

§ Dors. ||17, 18.

|| Roll, Jan. 12, 13.

It returns incessantly, in the literal sense of the proverbial comparison, "as sure as the day."

As they were on the slope that descends to the Thames, near the fish-mongers' quarters, they had the advantage of introducing some variety into their list of fish; they had the gurnet, the oyster, and the sturgeon. In fowl they had mallards and one only brace of pheasants.* In flesh, hares and rabbits; venison more than once of their own, and once presented from another larder. Much of their solid meat they had brought with them. Pastry is more frequently made,† and firmity once as a delicacy. The town was full of visitors, brought together from all parts of England; and it may be questioned whether upon such an occasion, in these times, the supply was regulated by the demand.‡ Wheat had doubled its price. No lack of any thing is visible among them; on the contrary; but the visit was in all its circumstances a costly one. One of the most expensive items is that relating to the stable. It is not so regularly kept as other parts of the account, and is left to subsequent calculation. They had sometimes upwards of fifty horses to keep; the reckoning of hay and oats could hardly be made up with any certainty, and was therefore put off. *Fœnum conpu-*

* The peacock, according to a previous remark, p. 1, comes in no where; but it was kept for amusement. Not long after this one is found where it might least be expected, exhibiting its gay plumage in the woodland retirement of Acornbury priory. It was a present from the Countess of Pembroke to the prioress, Catherine de Gamages. Pembroke Roll, 25 Ed. I. ut supra.

† There was an oven at the inn, and the fuel for heating it during their short stay cost a considerable sum, 5s. 7d. Roll, Jan. 14.

‡ Salt herrings, the staple resource of the fasters, were not so high in price at London as they were in the country. Bristol, however, was the best market for them, as far as our present authority has yet shewn. They were both white and red. The latter brought most money. Roll, Dec. 3. Of fresh herrings no mention is now made; but it may be leaped from an anecdote related of Antony a Bek, of Durham, that they were once at least enormously dear at a meeting of Parliament; and that he bought forty at a shilling a-piece when no man of rank would venture to give such a price. *Nil ei carum erat, quod ejus gloriam magnificare posset. Pro XL. halecibus recentibus XL. solidos Londoniæ semel solvit; aliis magnatibus tunc in parlamento ibi consistentibus pro nimia caristia emere non curantibus.* And yet he did not launch into this extravagance for his own appetite, which he was far from indulging: *ad satietatem viæ comedit.* Greystanes, Hist. Dunelm. c. xiv. Angl. Sacra. I. 746.

tandum shews itself in several places. They bought a rick in London; it lasted them three days after they left the town, and they sent for it to Kensington. Thomas de la Dane undertook this department. The quantity consumed is only in part accounted for; that of the oats is equally obscure.* They were forced to inquire for them in the country.†

With little observable exception this was a strong and general muster of all the members of the household, clerks, squires, valets, and inferior servants. It was no time for rest or privacy, business of all sorts being the order of the day. De la Dane left the works and workmen at Womenswold, and had come up to set all things in order for them.‡ One object in particular he had before him, the purchase of furs and cloth for winter clothing for all of them, and the delivery of it to the tailors to be made up into suits. He had also to lay in a half year's stock of wax or tapers, sugar and spices;§ besides many other things, as by his bills then given in more fully appeared than has been particularised by Kemeseye.¶ The exchange and payment of difference between old brazen boilers and new is hardly worth citing, except as matter of domestic frugality. The mending of my lord's favourite drinking cup by some London artisan was entrusted to Stephen, his brother. ¶

Swinfield himself was fully occupied. Congregations of bishops were customarily held at the New Temple. Almost every summons, as is shewn by several replies preserved in his episcopal annals, called up the suffragans thither. Not a hint is visible in the present document as to the place where they were now sitting. But each visit that Swinfield makes to the court at Westminster is pointed out, and leaves an intervening day for some other avocation. The part that he took in matters ecclesiastical and civil now in agitation can only be surmised. Let us observe, however, what he is found to have done. His first discernible movement is on Sunday, when he repairs to Westminster, and taking with him one hundred pounds, makes his respectful present of £66. 13s. 4d. to the King, and £33. 6s. 8d. to the Queen.** One day then intervenes. On Tuesday he is again at Westminster, attended by his valets, whose breakfast cost 13d. The village

* Roll, Jan. 14, side note at Jan. 12.

† Id. Jan. 9.

‡ Dors. ¶ 23.

§ Id. ¶ 1 to 6.

¶ Id. ¶ 26.

¶ Id. ¶ 41, 26.

** Id. ¶ 39 a, b.

of Westminster was full of houses of entertainment and shops for the accommodation of those who attended on the court and parliaments. Thomas de la Dane bought the cloths and furs there, and had them sent home by water.* On Wednesday certain of the inferior servants have a spare breakfast allowed them somewhere from home, but we are not informed where they were refreshed at the moderate cost of five farthings. On Thursday he takes his clerks with him, or sends them, to Westminster; they go and return by what has been not inaptly termed the great thoroughfare of the metropolis, the river Thames. On a minute inquiry into their proceedings it comes out that Sunday, Jan. 8th, on which the Bishop made his bow at court, was in some respects a day of secular business. On that day the champion received his three half-years' salaries; and the Archdeacon of Hereford was sent to pay a sum of money to certain merchants of Sienna, resident in London, for a remittance to their correspondents at Rome, in favour of the manager of causes pending there.†

We cannot do much amiss in conceiving of the court that it was a scene of great show and splendour. Edward was a ruler well skilled in varying the gravest councils with the gayest festivities. Who can doubt that at the antique revelry of this New-year's tide there was store of nobles, knights, and ladies, splendidly apparelled and sumptuously feasted, and for their amusement minstrelsy and foolery in abundance? As to music, we are not left in uncertainty by the presents to harpers entered on the endorsement.‡ Though the Bishop entertained no harper, as some prelates and heads of great monastic houses did, yet, according to the remark of the poet,—

Clerkes and knytes welcometh kynges mynstrales

For love of here lordes: lithe hem § at festes. ||

One indication has been already gleaned, and more will ensue, of Swinfield having been far from turning a deaf ear to their strains. Edward encouraged many professors of the gentle art in England, though he had frowned upon them in Wales.

Of the proceedings, or even existence, of the congregation we have no memoranda to produce from any other authority. It is seen, however, to

* Dors. || 4.

† Id. || 32, 39 b.

‡ Id. || 14, 16.

§ Listen to them.

|| Piers Ploughman. Passus Septimus.

have been called together contemporaneously with the opening of parliament. The latter, at which many important measures were discussed, continued sitting from Monday, Jan. 2, till Feb. 19; but our quiet prelate, who so often begged to be excused from attendance upon public meetings,* retired from the concourse and parade on the Friday after his arrival, and, commencing his retreat into the country, took shelter at

KENSINGTON from Jan. 13 to 16, inclusive.

About the year 1100 Godfrey de Vere had granted a manor here to the abbat and convent of Abingdon, and both Cantilupe and Swinfield used to make the house † their resting-place when they were upon this road. Particulars observable under this head are, that an anchoritess dwelt here, to whom he gave an alms, and that before his departure he sent off John, his foreign courier, with despatches to his proctor, Richard de Pudlesdone, at the court of Rome.‡ On the following Monday they retrace their steps, halt, and continue at

BEDFONT from Jan. 16 to 18, inclusive.

Their method of travelling has been sufficiently explained in the advance: it continued the same in the return. At Bedfont they were indebted to the rector of Stanwell for hay two days and nights. Such hospitable and well-timed succours, where provender might not have been had for money, may be accounted for by the store of hay and corn that incumbents kept by them from the collection of tithes in kind; an observation that should be borne in mind through the visitations that are before us. Deviating from the former route, they avoided Reading, and turned aside to EARLEY, a manor in that vicinity. A family who derived their name from

* These excuses were mostly made upon his infirmity, as in APP. No. IX. yet he struggled hard against it. In July 1295 he was unable to be present at a Congregation held in the New Temple about the middle of the month, being at Bosbury, very ill. In the following month, however, he was at Hoxton, near London; but returned to his diocese, and was again summoned to a parliament in November. He went up from Bosbury through Prestbury, and when he had reached Wantage was taken so ill that he could proceed no further. Reg. Swinf. ff. 114 b, 115 a.

† On the site of this manor-house Holland House was afterwards built by Sir Walter Cope, father-in-law to Henry Rich, Earl of Holland. Lysons, *Environs of London*, III. 172, 175.

‡ Dors. ||33, 16.

this place had long been settled in it, and held their property of the crown by knight-service.* Henry de Earley, dying about the 4th year of Edw. I. 1276, left John, his son, a minor and ward of the king. In the following year Edward sold the profits of the estate, with the wardship and marriage † of this heir, to Thomas de Cantilupe, for the sum of two hundred pounds. ‡ Upon the decease of that prelate it was left to his executors, Swinfield and William de Montfort, dean of St. Paul's in London, to manage and pay the proceeds into the hands of Juliana, sister of Cantilupe, the cousin, as she is styled, of De Montfort, and widow of Sir Robert Tregoz, lord of Ewias. And this was the present state of affairs. John of Earley, just emerging from his minority, expected about this time to have entered into possession, but could not legally do so, because he had not as yet made pecuniary satisfaction for his marriage. § In the meantime Swinfield and his co-executor retained their hold upon it. A chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was attached to the manor-house, the officiating minister of which was called a rector. || Swinfield held ordinations in it, as he did also in the chapel of the Virgin, denominated the King's chapel, in the abbey of Reading, in 1287, during the illness of the Bishop of Salisbury, and vacancy of that see. ¶ It was usual that those who had wardships should covenant to deliver up the premises in repair, when the minor came to enter upon them.** Such, whenever that event took place, was the case in this

* Lib. Nig. Scacc. Hearne, p. 188. It was some time held of Robert fitz Peter, as mesne lord, afterwards evidently in capite.

† For the sale and purchase of the marriage alliances of royal wards, see Green's Lives of the Princesses, II. 248.

‡ A curious little memorandum, concerning the receipt for payment of part of this money, reveals the sort of hiding-places in which evidences were kept. It was in a chest at the back of the high altar in St. Paul's; at the reredos. *Memorandum, quod deposita fuerunt due tallia per dominum Willielmum de Ffaukeburn' et Johannem de Clare de solutione centum librarum pro Arleje, in ecclesia Sancti Pauli Londonia, videlicet, in quodam parvo forcerio de corio existente in quadam cista stante retro magnum altare ecclesie memorate. In qua alia res domini deponuntur; cujus cista clavis penes dominum W. de Ffaukeburn' tunc temporis residebat.* Reg. Cantil. f. 52 a.

§ Reg. Swinf. f. 54 b.

|| Roll, Jan. 22.

¶ Reg. Swinf. ff. 47 a, b. 76 b.

** In a contract for sale of the wardship and marriage of John and Margery de

instance. A dateless note is made of the rebuilding of the hall, and the restoration of my lord's chamber, and that of the clerks.* Earley being easily accessible from Oxford, and the Bishop remaining at it a few days, young Robert and Richard Kingessuod, for whose maintenance and education at the university remittances had lately been sent by different hands, rode hither to greet their patron and benefactor, who paid two shillings for their horse-hire, and gave sixpence to their attendant.† The eye of the reader will have become familiarised to the comparative smallness of sums that were not beneath the liberality of a Bishop. So many farthings recur among his way-side alms as to encourage a notion that such was ordinarily the individual gift bestowed upon those who sought for charity at his or his eleemosynary's hands.‡ The circulation of these little pieces was promoted by the coinage of 1278, which gave to the public a complete new series of round pennies, half pennies, and farthings.§ Though Earley was a temporary home to them, it was less so than some of their occasional homes. The market at Reading might be at a convenient distance; but they could not bake their bread without buying faggot-wood; or heat their oven without having it repaired. They must send the farrier to the town for horse-shoes before they could move forward. Upon the whole, they were rather on spare diet, and particularly on Saturday, Jan. 21. They made amends, however, on the 22d, when they had beef and pork in abundance, fowls, and venison, and partridges of their own. Leaving this place on Jan. 23, they once more rested at WANTAGE, and on the following day were at LECHLADE. The servants' drink, and the bread or mashes given to the horses by the way (*in pane ad equos per viam*), on which they were assisted by the loan of a team from the friendly Abbat of Reading, || create an impression of the halts and difficulties of the road; and in fact at BUSCOT, near Lechlade, the kitchen-cart, containing a quantity of luggage (*cum hernesio domini et familiae*), was accidentally

Mathefeld to Adam de Credela (Cradley), in 1302, it was stipulated that de Credela should repair the cow-house, and keep up the other buildings, and restore them when the parties came of lawful age to as competent a state as they came into his hands, paying due and customary service to the Bishop of Hereford. Reg. Swinf. f. 138 a.

* Reg. Swinf. f. 121 b.

† Dors. || 78.

‡ Roll, Jan. 16, 18, 23, 24, 25; Feb. 23.

§ Macpherson, Annals of Commerce, I. 432.

|| Dors. || 27.

upset, and some of its contents appear to have been damaged or destroyed. They were obliged to seek for help to get it up again, and the consequence was that Harpin stayed behind to take care of the property till the injury could be repaired, and 50 dishes, 2 dozen of cups, 100 plates, and 50 saucers were bought in upon the third day after they were settled once more for awhile* at

PRESTBURY, from Jan. 25 till Feb. 23.

A longer breathing-time than Kemeseye has hitherto recorded on his Roll. The greater part of the routine may be passed over as presenting no prominent feature. Intercourse with Gloucester was frequent; it was their principal market; the cook and butler went thither as purveyors; and thence they drew their supplies of fish. The number of horses varying on different nights implies a resort of visitors to the manor-house. Lent began on the 15th of February. Milk and cheese, figs, almonds and raisins, are prominent among the fare of Ash-Wednesday. During the quiet here enjoyed two improvements were made on the premises, in addition to those about the house at Christmas, a warren in the park, and a turning bridge or drawbridge over some trench or moat. But they must speedily shift their quarters. The waggon, a most necessary accompaniment of their wanderings, was sent to Ledbury to be fitted with a caretill (or tilt?), and on Thursday, the festival of St. Peter ad Vincula, the whole party directed their course towards Herefordshire; and were at the manor of

LEDBURY from Feb. 23 to March 3.

Within this time few occurrences worthy of note arrest the attention. The adjustment of a dispute between the Bishop and the prior and convent of Lantony nigh Gloucester was settled in a satisfactory manner; and an agreement between the parties, including the chapter of Hereford, was confirmed on March 1, by their mutual seals in the chapter-house.† In domestic concerns the produce of the Ledbury vineyard during the last season is here, March 2, brought to account. The plantation was of the white grape; but the wine made from it, like the foreign red, was chiefly transferred to Bosbury, where its consumption may be traced in a further

* Roll, Jan. 24, 27, 28. Dors. || 25.

† Dors. || 38. APP. XI. 2.

part of the Roll. It was not, however, appropriated to household use without being allowed for among the produce of the farm (*vinum album emptum et allocatum*). The seven pipes of wine, and nearly one of verjuice, obtained from the vintage of 1289, were valued at eight pounds; and this home-made article, compared with the Bristol purchases, admitting the capacity of the vessels, which are all termed *dolia*, to have been the same, may be estimated roughly at about half the value of that imported from abroad.*

The previous statement of their drawing wine from the wood is established by their now having recourse to a cask that had been tapped when they were at Ledbury before (*tonello prius inthamiato*). William, the head-cook, who was detained here by illness on board wages, while my lord was absent in London, had his expenses allowed; and, either on account of his indisposition, or the infirmity of the Bishop, Master John Gyreberd, a physician, was called in upon March 2d, as it were, preparatory to the journey of some importance that was to commence on the morrow. Episcopal visitations, that in former ages, according to the ancient law of England, had been annual, † and probably extended to every place in which there were resident clergy, were gradually protracted to a longer term after the establishment of parishes, when churches and pastors increased. The difficulty of discharging that office in large dioceses had led to the appointment of subordinate assistants, archdeacons, and rural deans, who relieved a part of the burden; as well as to an extension of the period allowed, and the discretionary adaptation of it to the convenience of the diocesan. ‡ These changes had been at work before the time of Swinfield; but bishops still made circuits in person throughout their dioceses. The Roll is confirmatory of the fact; but as to the custom of triennial visitation, subsequently established in the church,

* Roll, Dec. 3; July 11. The Bishop of Hereford was not the only cultivator of the vine at Ledbury. In after times the descendants of Bishop Skipp, at the Upper Hall in that parish, had a vineyard on their estate. Towards the end of the 17th century, George Skipp, Esq. made both white and red wine from his plantation. He died in 1690. The Editor has often seen the site on which the vines grew.

† Gibson, Codex, p. 958, note c, referring to the year 787.

‡ *Circumeant Dioceses suas temporibus opportunis, corrigendo et reformando ecclesias, et consecrando et verbum Dei seminando in agro dominico.* Constitut. Othon. Lyndwood, pp. 56 et seq.

neither this nor his other recorded proceedings give direct information. Be it as it may, we are now to note his progress of inspection and visitation through some of the southern parts of the territory subject to his ecclesiastical rule; whether undertaken in its customary routine, or prompted in any degree by the approaching valuation of church property, it were needless to inquire.

The expenses of such journeys, though they fell chiefly upon the traveller, are shewn to have been relieved at the places of halting, partly by gifts, but more materially by what in the language of ecclesiastical law are termed *procurations*, board and lodging for man and horse. Gifts (*de dono*) are the more frequent mode of contribution; and seem to have been by rule confined to the wants of the stable. Occasionally we meet with an offering to the larder (*exhennium*). Invitations (*ad rogatum*) are carefully noted as distinct from the demand of procurations, which were required *ratione visitationis*. These were due to the person visiting by common as well as by canon law; but it is not ascertained, so far as the researches of the editor extend, when or why, or by whom, they came to be imposed in this or any diocese upon the incumbents of certain churches to the omission of others, as it is found they were when Swinfield went round. In some cases, indeed, the incumbent disputed his liability to entertain the party; and when the claim was not fully established, it was met by an amicable adjustment or understanding that still left it open; but in the instance of one refractory person, the rector of Wistanstow, in 1288, the Bishop instituted proceedings, and enforced submission.* Many monasteries claimed exemption. Procurations had been attended with great abuses from those ecclesiastics who inconsiderately brought enormous retinues, and assumed the liberty of inviting idle or unofficial guests. It frequently threw an intolerable burden on an individual or a religious house, and plunged them into inextricable difficulties. The story of an archdeacon of Richmond, in Yorkshire, in the earlier part of the thirteenth century, has been frequently cited. On his visitation to the priory of Bridlington he took with him ninety-seven horses, twenty-one dogs, and three hawks; † and, what comes more immediately under our

* See this case in APP. No. XXII.

† See Dansey, *Horæ Decanicæ Rurales*, I. 204, and references.

period, in the year 1290, on the 13th of November, Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, in spite of canonical prohibition, being at variance with the prior and convent of Worcester, came to visit them with 140 horses and a great multitude of attendants ; and though he was only received on diet for one day, continued with them three days. But this was not done without an appeal on the part of the prior.*

We have the satisfaction of knowing that Bishop Swinfield confined himself to the number of men and horses allowed to his rank ; and, with these preliminary observations on the general nature of his undertaking, may be prepared to accompany him on his way.

On the third of March he set out towards MARCLE, between four and five miles distant from Ledbury ; and thus far, and no farther, he advanced on that day. Neither the incumbrances with which he travelled, the nature of his occupation, nor the ways through which he had to pass, required or admitted of speed. No horses but such as were accustomed to the country could even in later times ably fathom the clayey road between Ledbury and this place ; and once more it may be remarked, that in this, as in other parts of the Roll, horse-shoes and shoe-nails formed no unessential articles of expenditure.

* He turned the prior out of his chamber ; and it seems like an aggressive act, that need not have been committed, if then, as since, the Bishop had a palace hard by the cathedral. *Annal. Wigorn. Angl. Sacra*, I. 511. For remedy of such encroachments it had been provided by the Lateran council, under Pope Alexander III. a. 1167, that archbishops should travel, according to circumstances (*pro diversitate provinciarum et facultatibus ecclesiarum*), with forty or fifty horses ; bishops, with twenty or thirty ; cardinals, with never more than twenty ; archdeacons, with five or seven ; and rural deans were to be content with two. When procurations were afterwards commuted into a monetary charge, an archdeacon received seven shillings and sixpence for himself, and one shilling and sixpence for his horse ; and for any other horse and his rider twelve-pence. The number of servants to take care of the horses became a subject of nice calculation. Some thought one groom on foot to a horse and rider sufficient ; others, one to three horses ; a third allowance was only one to two horses and their riders. These are the minute observations of Lyndwood upon a constitution of Archbishop Stephen relating to archdeacons' visitations. He refers it, however, to the custom of the country. In England mounted servants usually were in attendance ; and he concludes upon the whole that two persons were enough for the care of seven horses. Such is the gravity with which minor points are discussed in the glosses upon ecclesiastical law. *Provinciale*, Lib. III. Tit. 22, f. 220 a.

The researches of modern writers have not satisfactorily determined the rate of travelling in these remoter times. It manifestly derived little convenience either from carriages or roads. The day's journey of a royal equipage is hardly a criterion for deducing an average of the usual speed; and such as depended upon waggons and sumpters could at best get on but slowly. But, whereas distances of between twenty and thirty miles accomplished in a day were sometimes pushed by horsemen to forty and upwards of sixty, it has been concluded that the popular notion of bad roads and tardy locomotion has been exaggerated.* Such, however, would more probably have been extraordinary measures of progress under emergencies, by long daylight, over green summer roads, or by nearer cuts across the country, where a king or a king's messenger might pass without rebuke. In any case, our travellers took their course by easier stages.

There was no resident rector at Marcle to receive them. The great tithes were appropriated to the abbey of Lyra in Normandy. That body having no monastery, but several churches in the diocese, employed a monk of their order as proctor, who was honoured with the title of *dominus*, and had another associated with him to collect the proceeds of their rectories.† This proctor gave them oats and hay. As to the Bishop's personal lodging while he was out on these occasions, it was settled by one of the legatine constitutions of Othobonus in 1261, that wherever appropriation of tithes existed, the owners were bound to find convenient houses for ecclesiastical visitors.‡ Once more to NEWENT, closely adjacent, and in the Forest Deanery. March 4 and 5. Instances are given in both kinds of the assistance received here on the first day by gifts from the prior and vicar. The prior, who had lately shown the same courtesy (p. cxvi), could afford to repeat it. The house was well appointed with spirituals, temporals,

* Hallam, *State of Europe*, III. 171. Cole, *Documents illustrat. of English History*, preface, xi.

† This has been ascertained since the note e, p. 59, of the Roll, was written.

‡ *Constitut. Othoboni*, Tit. 22. De appropriationibus Ecclesiarum, f. 121 b. Ed. Oxon. 1679. The words are *in quibus recipi possint honeste visitantes*. On the expression *honeste* John de Atho gives this curious gloss. *Cum privata Garderoba, et cum Chaiminice secundum usum Gallicorum*. This, if rightly interpreted, as signifying chimneys, appears to refer the invention of that convenience to the French? De Atho flourished about 1290.

and moveables, for its maintenance ; with appropriations, pensions, rents of assize, several mills, perquisites of a market and fair, neighbouring and distant lands, and customary tenants bound to labour annually in harvest. Their great tithes of Newent alone were worth £26. 13s. 4d., while the vicarage amounted to less than four pounds ; * yet out of the scanty income of the vicar, as well as out of the abundance of the prior, no small proportion of the contribution was drawn. But on the second day, when the church was formally visited, Symon, the prior, took the whole burden, and entertained the Bishop (*in victualibus*) and all that accompanied him, man and horse. The purchase of material for a mortar-light brings back the thought of that physician so lately sent for to Ledbury before my lord's departure. Lights were burnt in the chambers of the sick, the infirm, and females. Recourse had been had before to this luxury, when they were in London.† Another short stage, crossing the road between Gloucester and Ross, brought them to CHURCHAM, March 6. This had of old belonged to the monastery of Gloucester, and, together with the manor of Highnam, may be said to have been to that abbey as the price of blood. In a dark and lawless time, about the year 1048, Wolphine le Rue, a savage chieftain, had rashly slain seven of their monks on the road from this place to Gloucester, ‡ and the above surrender was the condition of his peace with the church, or a death-bed expiation for his departing soul. §

* *Taxat. P. Nich. ff. 171 b, 175 b.*

† When John, Abbat of Wigmore, resigned in 1296, on account of age and disability to rule the house, the kind consideration of the brethren provided, among other indulgences, that he should always have a cresset burning in his chamber at night. *Reg. Swinf. f. 116 b.* The dowager Countess of Pembroke and her daughter-in-law, Beatrice, were each of them in the habit of burning one in their chambers at Goodrich Castle ; it lasted a week. *Pembroke Roll, ut supra.*

‡ *Atkyns, 175 b.*

§ It is a fact worth rescuing from obscurity, with reference to this place, that Isabella, the unworthy consort of Edward II., after his death, designed to rebuild the church, if she did not actually accomplish it, as appears by the license granted for it by Bishop Chorleton, the successor of Orleton. || *Licentia concessa dominæ Isabellæ Regina Angliæ pro constructione cujusdam ecclesiæ.* || *Memorandum, quod 23 die Junii ibidem (sc. apud Prestbury), dominus concessit literatorie licentiam specialem excellentissimæ dominæ, dominæ Isabellæ, reginæ Angliæ, quod posset construere de novo in parochia de Churcheham infra fines et limites Herefordensis dioceseos quamdam*

The abbat and prior supplied brushwood, litter, and oats, on the first night. The cook went to the fish market in the city. In the list of his purchases are minnows and elvers, oysters, and a considerable quantity of grosser fresh and salt water fish. My lord's mazer cup was there repaired. A short turn brought them to FLAXLEY, March 8, where they lodged in the Cistercian abbey of that name, seated according to the fashion of that order in the bosom of a woody vale. It was subject to the Bishop; and in the superior of that house he met with one to whom he had given his pastoral benediction on election and confirmation a few months before. The form of this ceremony, on the part of the Abbat, here translated from the original, is preserved, as if by way of precedent, in the register of the see.

“ || The profession of brother Nicholas, abbat of Flaxley, which he made to lord Richard, by the grace of God, Bishop of Hereford, in his chapel of Bosbury, on the Lord's day next before the feast of Saint Margaret, virgin and martyr, to wit, the 15th of the kalends of August, in the year of our Lord 1288.

“ || I, brother Nicholas, Abbat of Flaxley, promise, saving our order, that I will constantly shew the subjection, reverence, and obedience, appointed by the holy fathers according to the rule of Saint Benedict,* to thee, lord father, Bishop Richard, and to thy successors canonically instituted, and to the see of Hereford.” †

No heads of religious houses in the diocese seem to have acquiesced more cordially in submission to episcopal authority than those of Flaxley and Dore.

March 9, continuing southward, from Flaxley towards AWRE, and still

ecclesiam, quantum in ipso erat, absque ipsius præjudicio vel alterius cujuscunque. Reg. Thomæ Chorleton, f. xxvii. a. in 1329. This, coming from one who was at the very time living in open concubinage with her paramour, will hardly gain credit for having arisen so much from the tenderness of remorse or the notion of expiation as from a politic desire of shewing outward marks of favour to the abbey in which the remains of her late husband were laid. Edward III. by granting to that house remission of certain dues, expressed his approbation of their conduct, and remunerated them for their great expense in receiving his father to an honourable sepulture, when others, St. Augustine's of Bristol, St. Mary's of Kingswood, and St. Aldhelm's of Malmesbury, were restrained from interfering through dread of the queen and Mortimer. Chron. Glouc. Abbey, under Abbat John de Thokey, who resigned in 1329.

* The Cistercians were a branch of the Benedictines. Nasmith's Tanner, preface, p. ix.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 53 b.

in the Forest deanery, my lord took NEWNHAM in his way, and tarried awhile to discharge one of the duties of a visitor by preaching. Hitherto, next to his having been a bishop and a native of Kent, almost the only particular handed down respecting him, and repeated from one writer to another, is that he was a celebrated preacher. As to the pulpit eloquence of this century little is known of its method of inculcating the doctrines and duties of Christianity, and that little is perhaps not much in its favour. The contemporary Bishop of Worcester frequently preached on visitations; and some of the texts of his discourses addressed to religious houses are extant in his register.* While Swinfield was preaching at Newnham the horses of himself and his party were baited for one penny. He was at AWRE that night, and the rector gave hay and corn for his stable. The living was some time in the gift of the Valences, Earls of Pembroke, its annual value £40, † and the manor was shared between them and Matilda de Mortimer.‡ He next appears at WOOLASTON, March 10, the southernmost nook in this part of the diocese, not far from the confluence of Severn and Wye. The great tithes of Woolaston, worth £20 per annum, had been bestowed upon the abbey of Tintern, in the county of Monmouth, by Walter de Clare, the noble founder of that stately house. He and his brother Roger, in 1131, had won Woolaston from the Welsh by arms. Stephen de Trillec, the vicar of the parish, had been admitted in June, 1288. His annual receipts were under £4,§ and he could not be expected to offer any contribution. The abbat's gifts of corn and hay are forthcoming both on the first and third night; but on the second day, when the visitation of the church was held, Swinfield,

* An instance of this is as follows. || *Procuraciones Episcopi.* || *Item, die Jovis in crastino beati Michaelis, dominus Episcopus visitavit apud Sanctum Augustinum Bristollicæ, et prædicavit ibi, præsentibus priore et monachis Sancti Jacobi de Bristollicæ, et magistro ac suis fratribus Sancti Martii de ordin', cujus thema fuit: "videam voluptatem Domini et visitem temptum ejus."*^a *Et procuratus fuit eodem die sumptibus domus.* Reg. Godfr. Giffard, f. 294 b. in 1288.

† Tax. P. Nichol. f. 161 b. Joan, widow of William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, recovered her right of presentation to it against William Paynel, Nov. 9, 30 Edw. I. Reg. Swinf. f. 133 b.

‡ Atkyns, 122.

§ Reg. Swinf. f. 48 b. Tax. P. Nichol. 161 b.

^a Ps. xxvi. 4, Vulg. Trans.

and all that came with him, from his senior chaplain to his lowest sumpter-page, with every animal in the train, shared in the abbat's procuration. The Bishop himself, according to the rule of recording adopted by Kemeseye in his roll, is represented as having crossed after the ceremony to the opposite bank of the river.* From the moment that he had passed the stream he had left his diocese, and entered that of LLANDAFF; and there he spent the remainder of that day and night. The following morning ushered in the sabbath and the feast of Saint Gregory. That fine conventual church whose ruins still raise their time-worn head above the valley, and astonish and delight the beholder by the majesty of their proportions and the beauty of their detail,—that church was then but newly completed by the now forgotten architect, and the choir had been last and lately opened for religious purposes in all its freshness and glory.† If Swinfield had not seen it before this visit, a view of it, and attendance upon the service within its walls, would have well repaid the pains of a purpose journey thither. The site and beauty of TINTERN, with its landscape accompaniments of meadow and wood, and rock and flowing water, have long since employed and exhausted the descriptive powers of language. The founder, or his advisers, independently of pious motives, must surely have cherished a natural and romantic taste for the picturesque in making choice of such a spot. Should such digressions be considered too remote from our subject, the existing condition of this monastic society may fairly claim a passing notice. Buried as they might seem to be in this splendid retirement, they lived, however, within reach of all the means of comfort known to those days. Their position was in a wild but not in a desert. They had been well endowed by successive founders. They had Bristol at hand for river-carriage of

* It is scarcely probable that he would have taken all his party to the abbey by the bridge over the estuary at Striguil (Chepstow), only to have brought them back on the following day. A ferry below the abbey, connecting it with Woolston, would have easily transported those who accompanied him, leaving the material lumber of his train behind. For the identity of Striguil and Chepstow see Mr. Ormerod's learned dissertation in *Archæologia*, XXIX.

† 1287. *Conventus ecclesie Beatæ Mariæ de Tynterna intravit dictam ecclesiam ad celebrandum in nova Ecclesia. Et quinto nonas Octobris in anno sequenti conventus intravit in choro; et prima Missa celebrata sunt (sic) ad magnum altare.* Will. de Worcester, ed. Nasmith, p. 132.

corn and wine, and foreign stores : wears and fisheries many on the Wye and Severn for the capture of salmon : through Woolaston and over Tidenham chase, and westward from Wye to Usk, their sheep and cattle strayed in wide pastures : their abbat was a great sheep-master ; his wool that he annually sold to Flemish merchants * was a little income to the house. Their endowments and rights, and they were not a few, are set forth in the charter of William Marshall, second Earl of Pembroke, confirming the gifts of his predecessors in an ample and liberal manner.† The rateable value of their temporals was given in under the Taxation of Pope Nicholas at £108. 9s. 8d. It cannot be too strictly recollected that in all these statements of income the comparative value, according to the scale by which it is now usually estimated, would be greatly multiplied ; and that the actual, if it could be ascertained, would doubtless present much more. Such, however, is a general view of their condition, as to means and advantages, at the hour when Bishop Swinfield sat in their refectory with the abbat and brethren of the Cistercian house of the blessed Mary of Tintern.

While he was at Woolaston it may be noted that he was overtaken by a king's messenger ; the probable object of whose mission may be pointed out by the fact that in three weeks from this time, on the Easter Monday ensuing, a parliament was summoned to assemble at Woodstock, in Oxfordshire.‡

Taking leave of his friends at Tintern he drew back to Woolaston, slept there once more, and on March 13 was at NEWLAND. The Bishop of Llandaff, by grant from the king, had about this period § obtained the appropriation of the great tithes to make up for his slender income. They were farmed by Ralph Hathewy. The Hathewys were a family of consequence in the forest of Dean ; they are met with among the royal bailiffs of that territory. The residence of such as held that office was in the castle of Saint Briavel's. They possessed lands in that parish, and gave name to a manor. || Swinfield found the house of reception cleansed for him ; and this farmer was ready with his offering of oats and hay.

* Rot. Hundred. I. p. 176 a.

† Dugdale, Monastic. in Tintern.

‡ Rot. Parl. 18 Edw. I. p. 15, *post Pascha*. This was the second parliament held within the twelvemonth famous for parliaments, though they are confusedly recorded. A third was *in crastino Trinitatis* ; a fourth *a die Sancti Michaelis*.

§ 14 Edw. I. Reg. Swinf. f. 48 b.

|| Atkyns, p. 153 b.

The course that they were pursuing, and afterwards resumed through the lower part of the diocese, was manifestly interrupted by a diversion northward, and a continuance at

Ross from March 14 to 18.

A rural deanery derived its title from this town, and comprehended fourteen churches. Here was both a rectory and a vicarage, in the gift of the occupant of the see, each of them of no inconsiderable value for the time, the former returned at £40, the latter at £13. 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.* The present rector, John de Scelving, had been instituted on Christmas-eve, 1288.† Of Nicholas, his vicar, described only by his christian name, it has been shewn that he had lately incurred ecclesiastical censure for joining certain of the inhabitants in disfiguring the churchyard by uncanonical destruction of trees therein. On the decease of Scelving, and afterwards of Nicholas, John de Kemeseye, the writer of the Roll, became rector, and held sometime both rectory and vicarage, which were united in his favour; though when he resigned them, in 1307, they appear to have been separated again.‡ If the site of the rectory has continued unchanged, the ecclesiastical buildings in Ross formed a triangle, having that and the church at its apex to the eastward, and the vicarage and manor-house at the southern and northern extremities of its base, ranging with the cliff which commands the valley of the Wye.§

The incidents that occurred here, as they shew themselves upon the Roll, are soon enumerated. Except from what is going on elsewhere during this tour, it could not with any certainty be inferred that their touching at Ross was for the purpose of visitation. No gift, no invitation, no procuration, is named. As the Bishop was, however, manorial as well as ecclesiastical lord, he might be holding his court as well as his visitation. From one or both of these causes Wednesday, March 15, is a most crowded day. The previous sending out of Foliot, the messenger; the great increase of horses, amounting to 70; whereas the Bishop entered the town with 34, and quitted it with 36; the quantity of fish, in part supplied by John of Longford and his partners, who dragged the great pool, that now exists only in

* Tax. P. Nichol. p. 161. † Reg. Swinf. f. 56 b. ‡ Id. ff. 113 b, 120 a, 160 b.

§ The vicarage-house remained till the latter end of the eighteenth century.

the Roll ; the sugar and oil bought in for the use of the kitchen ; all these particulars are expressive of some unusual concourse and sumptuous entertainment at the manor-house ; 13 sextaries of wine and more than 10 of beer were procured, and nearly 10 of the former were drank. May not these circumstances be characteristic of generous reception and honoured guests ? The scarcity of good water on that spot, a defect that obtains in many parts of the town, occasioned the employment of hands (*in aqua karianda*) to bring it from some spring at a distance, or from the river below.

On Ross we may, however, dwell a little longer : other circumstances attached to it at this remote period are so descriptive of the customs of the age that they should not be suffered to remain in oblivion.

It has been observed (p. xxvi.) that the feudal system with regard to knight-service was already upon the decline ; and it was the same as to villeinage, that abject condition in which a large class of human beings had existed from the earliest times. The lands occupied by *villani* or *bordarii*, according to Domesday book, had been very extensive ; but manumissions, gratuitous or by purchase, had long been adopted, and were not unfrequently occurring. Some writers, whose opinion is entitled to the highest respect, have represented that the church was tardy in setting her hereditary slaves at liberty.* That she had often had compassion upon them is evident even in the Anglo-Saxon æra ; † and that they were now permitted sometimes to obtain their freedom by purchase among the estates of the see of Hereford, or, in the expressive language of the age, “ to buy their own blood,” ‡ may be set beyond a doubt : the instance to be adduced is not the only one that might be found in which Bishop Swinfield appears as the benefactor to a servile race.

* Sir T. Smith, quoted by Sir F. M. Eden on the State of the Poor, 4to. 1797, vol. I. 10. Macaulay, Hist. of Engl. I. 24.

† See the Charters of Manumission in Madox, Formul. Anglic. and those in Archæologia, XXX.

‡ Blount, Tenures, p. 486, where a villein regardant, at Bosbury, is shewn to have had this right, and seems to have paid for it by instalments at certain periods. *W. M. tenet novem acras terræ customariæ in Bosbury in com. Heref. et quoddam molendinum aquaticum ad voluntatem domini ; et debet quasdam consuetudines, viz. tak et toll, et faldfeý, et sanguinem suum emere.*

There was now living at Hamme (Hom), in the parish of Ross, as bailiff at the head of the servants of the manor, one Robert, surnamed Crul or Kyrle, whose appellation stamps him as descended from one of those Anglo-Saxon ceopls that were brought into bondage by their Norman lords. His family appears to have consisted of his mother, wife, and children, attached to a portion of manor on which they resided, and laboured for their own advantage, being at the same time bound by certain services to their lord. Such tenants, though originally subjected to the hardest tasks, and having neither time, nor possessions, nor limb, nor life, that they could call their own, had gradually attained unto an ameliorated condition; were allowed to exercise their industry for their private benefit; and in some instances acquired sufficient property for the purchase of their freedom. Thus it was with Robert Kyrle. His condition in law was that of *villein regardant*. In twelve years from this time, on his payment of forty marks, the whole of this family, excepting the mother, were released from servitude for ever. The "Inspeximus" of the writing by which this was effected on the part of the Bishop, and its confirmation by the dean and chapter, without whose consent none of the temporal goods of the see could be alienated, exhibits the method of such a transaction. It may be premised, by way of explanation, that to make a deed of this kind more secure, it was usual to insert the name of a third person as paying the consideration-money for the enfranchisement. The intervention of that person brings forward once more none other than John de Kemeseye, the then incumbent of Ross.

* ||To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, John, dean of the church of Hereford and the chapter of the same place, health everlasting in the Lord. Know all of you that we have inspected the charter of our venerable father lord Richard, by the grace of God Bishop of Hereford, in these words :—To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present letters shall come, Richard, by divine mercy Bishop of Hereford, health everlasting in the Lord. Know all of you that we have granted, sold, given up, manumitted, and by the presents render free Robert Crul of Hamme, and Matilda his wife, with all his offspring begotten and to be begotten, together with all his goods holden and to be holden, to Sir John de Kemeseye, rector of the church of Ross, for 40 marks sterling, which the said Sir John hath paid to us beforehand, willing and granting, for us and our successors, that the said Robert and Matilda his wife, with

* Reg. Swinf. f. 135 b. ||Carta domini de manumissione Roberti de Hamme de Ros et confirmatio capituli.

the whole of their offspring aforesaid, shall be for ever free and quit from all yoke of servitude or bond of naiveté for the time to come, and the same do in form aforesaid to the aforesaid John, for us and our successors, by the presents quit claim for ever. So that neither we nor our successors, nor any other in our name, shall be able hereafter to exact, claim, or assert any right or claim of servitude or naiveté on the bodies of the aforesaid Robert and Matilda his wife, or on their issue aforesaid, or on the goods and chattels of the same acquired or to be acquired, but be shut out by the presents from every kind of action, plaint, and demand any longer, in any court whatsoever, finally and for ever: saving to us and our successors, Bishops of Hereford, the ancient state of the whole of the customary or native land which the said Robert or his mother, or any other person in his name, now hold of us. In testimony whereof, our seal hath been appended to these presents. Witnesses, Walter Motun, John lord of Walford, John de la Walle, Peter le Neive, Thomas Cook of Ross, John lord of Caleburgh (Caleb'gh'), John le Welse of Marcle, John of Caple, William Bretun de Calewe, Henry of Waleford, and others. Given at Bosbury, 18th of the kalends of July, in the year of our Lord 1302, and the twentieth of our ordination. Now we accounting the said donations, grant, sale, and manumission ratified, do confirm them, as much as to us appertaineth, in the Lord, with unanimous assent, by the present writing and the protection of our seal. Given in our chapter of Hereford, 13th of the kalends of July, in the year of our Lord 1302.

Such was the magic influence of this little enfranchising charter granted by Swinfield, that henceforth no male of this race could be termed villein (villain), no female, neive (knave).* But the more ancient appellation of ceopl was still retained. The honourable families of Walford and Marcle, with all their offsets, trace their pedigrees up to this individual, and the blood of Robert the ceopl of Hom was fairly ennobled four centuries after in his descendant, John Kyrle, *THE MAN OF ROSS*.†

It is an historical fact, almost forgotten in the lapse of time and change of institutions, that Bishops in England, during the plenitude of papal power, had places of close confinement for such of the clergy as had been irreclaimably guilty of criminal offences. ‡ The church asserted an independent right to try and chastise them; and their punishment, if not mortal,

* For the last traces of the system, and the injurious treatment of the sufferers under this feudal tyranny, so late as in the reign of Elizabeth, see *Gentleman's Magazine*, Oct. 1853, p. 371.

† Pedigree of the Kyrle family. Heath, *Excursion down the Wye*, p. 21. *Heraldry of Herefordshire*, G. Strong, Esq. M.D. p. 70.

‡ See p. cvii.

was sometimes pushed to the severest extremity. "We enact," such is the rendering of a constitution of Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, in this century, "that every Bishop have in his episcopate one or two prisons for the confinement of wicked clerks, taken in crime, or convicted according to ecclesiastical censure. And if any clerk shall have been so evil (*malitiosus*) and incorrigible, and accustomed to the commission of the worst offences,* for which even if he were a layman he ought, according to secular laws, to suffer extreme punishment, let such a clerk be sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. But towards those who neither voluntarily nor designedly, but accidentally, through anger, or perhaps a fit of passion, shall have offended, we decree the observance of ancient law."† One of these prisons existed under the manor-house at Ross. A gaoler was attached to it, who in the time of Cantilupe suffered his prisoners to escape; and the bond that he gave for better behaviour may be cited as the indisputable source from which this information is derived.

‡ "Be it known to all men, that I, John de Arderne, of the diocese of Hereford, have faithfully promised, and by the presents have bound myself to my lord, the lord Thomas, by the grace of God, Bishop of Hereford, that I will save him and his successors fully harmless in regard to the king of England, as respects the escape of the priests Ralph and Nicholas, whom I some time had in my charge as prisoners of the said my lord, in his manor and prison of Ross, who escaped from the said prison owing to my negligence and default. Which if I shall not perform, I will and grant that the said my lord, his successors, and any ecclesiastical judge or secular bailiff whosoever, whom he or they shall have chosen, may from day to day, without any cognizance of cause,§ on sight of the present letters, me, my executors and my heirs, coerce by sentence of excommunication, and distrain by all my goods moveable and immoveable for forty pounds sterling, on account of debt to be paid to them or any certain attorney of them whosoever. In witness whereof I have, of mine own free will, affixed my seal to the present letters. Witnesses, Sir Nicholas, the penitentiary, || Master John de Braden-

* *Flagitia*. J. Atho elsewhere, *Comm. in Constit. Legat.* f. 48 a, n, h, takes a distinction between *flagitium* and *facinus*: *flagitium, delictum flagellis dignum (quæ in Deum peccaverimus), facinus, quod in hominem.*

† Lyndwood, *Provinc. L. IV. Tit. 25*, p. 321. *De carceribus Episcoporum, et coercendis clericorum flagitiis. Bonifacius.*

‡ *Reg. Swinf.* f. 25 a. || *Pro evasione prisonum apud Ros.* § *Judicial inquiry?*

|| One who held a stall in the cathedral, called the Bishop's vicarage: he was the Bishop's confessor. Hugh de Breus, the penitentiary, died in the summer of 1293. *Reg. Swinf.* f. 84 b.

ham,* Sir John de Clare, Waryn le Grendene, Gyrard de Eugina, Richard de Clehangr', and others." †

A relaxation of ecclesiastical discipline, and the consequent disorderly state of the clergy, became once more so monstrous an evil, that under Archbishop Islip, in 1351, another constitution was issued to revive the severities of perpetual imprisonment in the Bishop's gaol. Such criminals were never to return to their former station and employment, but to be kept under a constant and rigorous penance. They were fed scantily upon the coarsest fare, and were denied all access or intercourse of charitable friends; while any hope of being permitted to make purgation was utterly cut off. ‡ Their secret subterraneous prison-house at Ross was brought to light when, in September, 1837, some workmen were excavating for the erection of a building on the site of the old episcopal manor-house. At the depth of about seven feet they met with a vaulted chamber strongly constructed in the rock. Its walls were five feet nine inches thick; its interior measurement was sixteen feet in length by twelve in width; its entrance was by an aperture in the roof. On each side was a stone bench the whole length of the room, and in a platform on the floor, against the western wall, measuring six feet eight by three feet ten inches, were inserted six huge rings, the purport of which could not be mistaken. § They were manifestly intended to receive the chain by which each several prisoner was attached to them. Had this prison existed in the thirteenth in the same state in which it was discovered in the nineteenth century, and had Ralph and Nicholas been so secured as these appliances would have secured them, nothing but the grossest negligence or connivance on the part of Arderne could have established the possibility of their escape.

It has been shewn (p. lxxv.) how the woods that on the east form the background of the charming landscape in which Ross is placed, were subject to wholesale as well as petty depredators. Woodlands near towns are ever infested by indigent pilferers of fuel; but rights had been here asserted

* Seneschal to Cantilupe. Reg. Cant. f. 3.

† The article bears no date, and though it relates to Cantilupe's time is inserted in Swinfield's register, after one which is dated March 5, 1283.

‡ Collier, III. 112.

§ One of these rings, with the lead by which it was soldered into the stone, in the possession of the editor, weighs seventy-two pounds.

and exercised in time past which the present lord of the manor had not been disposed to concede. In 1288 we find him examining and setting aside a doubtful grant from Giles,* one of his predecessors, to a Walter de Gosebrok, sometime woodward, and his heirs, of a virgate of land, with windfall of timber, chips, bark and offal, during fallages. The writing produced as a warrant was considered to bear marks of forgery, and was rejected by the Bishop and his chapter.† Another claimant of the same kind, but of minor pretensions, was also set aside. He demanded pannage, and the annual felling and conversion of a tree into charcoal. His name was Walter de Motun, or Multon (Mutton), and the copyist of the quit-claim, admitting the abandonment of this right, has sarcastically marked his derision of this person by delineating on the edge of the folio in the register wherein it is entered, the head and fore-quarters of a sheep in a ridiculous attitude; an occasional mode of marginal reference, serious or jocose, that is well known to have been employed by the penmen of the time. ‡ These woods of Penyard and the Chase, with the parks of Penyard and Upton-bishop—the latter between Ross and Newent—though no hunting in any of them finds a place in the Roll, were nurseries of venison; and lying as they did on the verge of the royal forest of Dean, their limits were watched, like those of the Chase at Malvern, with equal jealousy on either side. The extent to which this was carried, and how tenacious the parties were as to the capture of game, may be understood from the minutes of an inquest held upon a stag that had been chased and killed under debateable circumstances not very long before.

§ “ ||Item, be it remembered that when the lord Bishop was at Ross, on the Monday next before the feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle, in the year of our Lord 1286, his huntsman with some of his men coursed there in his Chase in Penyard, and there caught a young stag. And whereas there had been a dispute between the said huntsmen and the foresters of the king about the stag himself, and the place in which he had been caught, an inquest was held thereupon, a copy of which is contained below.

“ An inquest held at Hownall, || on the Thursday next before the feast of Saint Mat-

* De Bruse or Braos. He died in 1215.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 64 a.

‡ Reg. Swinf. ff. 159 a, 164 b.

§ Inquisitio de cervo de Ros. Reg. Swinf. f. 37 a.

|| Hownall is between Ross and Michel Dean. These notes are loosely and imperfectly expressed in the original, and merely contain the substance of the inquiry.

thew, in the 14th year of the reign of King Edward. In primis, Walford, Coughton, Bicknor, Ruardean, Hope Mansell, Longhope, Eccleswall, Dean;* and out of them twelve lawful men being chosen and examined by Grimbold Pauncevot and the verderer, and other servants and jurors of the forest, whether that stag on which the inquest is held was caught within the forest or not, all the men sworn and examined declared upon oath that he was caught without the forest, where the Chase of the lord Bishop was always wont to be; and the country people and the twelve agreed in all things. Whereupon Grimbold asked who were at the hunting of that beast? and the country people said they knew not: but the foresters said, W. de Chevening, and the huntsman, N. the carter, and I. de Herley." (John de Earley.)

These traits connected with the Bishop and his manor are not without interest as to persons, time, and place, though they are but imperfect contributions towards a portraiture of Ross, its inhabitants and environs, in the reign of Edward the First.

On Thursday, March 17, the Bishop admitted Nicholas de Gloucesteria, priest, to the perpetual vicarage of the church of Tudeham [Tidenham], on the presentation of the abbat and convent of Lyra.† The churches visited since he left Ledbury were in the deaneries of the Forest and Ross.

Saturday was the day of departure from Ross, and arrival at MONMOUTH. No traces of reception or visitation, gifts or procuration, attend them in this town. Neither prior nor vicar find a place on the Roll. Richard de Stretton had been presented to the vicarage Oct. 22, 1288, by the prior and convent of Monmouth, who held the appropriation of it.‡ Straitened means, or some less worthy cause, made them unwilling to bear the dues of their appropriated churches elsewhere, throughout the neighbouring diocese of Llandaff, and their vicars were commanded so to do by the Bishop of that see. This had happened in the year 1254.§

Here commenced the visitation of IRCHINFIELD [*Yrchinefeud*],|| a district from which a rural deanery was named. It constituted only a fragment of that country which was called *Ergin* under the princes of old.

* The names of places to which summons were sent have been changed to the modern spelling, but stand thus in the MS. *Hulde Cnolle, Cocton, Heckenore, Ruaarden, Hope Maloyssel*. The whole are in the vicinity of Ross; and if the stag passed through them, in his flight, he must have run a long ring through the country.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 64 b.

‡ Id. f. 55 b.

§ Madox, Formul. Anglic. p. 7.

|| Roll, p. 67.

The deanery contained twenty-four churches,* but the visitor took only the lower part of it, on the edge of Monmouthshire, in his course this year. Irchinfield lies in the southern quarter of the county of Hereford; too little hitherto noticed by the antiquary and historian, but replete with interest to those who are acquainted with its notable claims to attention. It is a region small in extent, reduced from its former dimensions prior to the Norman conquest; but physically formed for independence and resistance, where even of late rock and river have opposed unusual obstacles to the engineer in the formation of his iron road. Covered originally with forests throughout its undulated surface, and penetrable only by British trackways, it lay long as an outpost between two adverse nations. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was inhabited by a population half Welsh, half Saxon, governed by laws and customs peculiarly their own. Thus the Norman conqueror found them, recorded them in his survey, and permitted them to remain, as a race whom it was more advisable to conciliate than provoke; for they claimed the privilege of forming the van of the royal army in its advance into Wales, and the rear when it retired. Among them murder was commuted by a fine, and the relatives of the deceased were allowed a time to avenge the outrage with fire and sword; and in their forays the king shared a third of the spoil. He maintained three resident priests there, who bore his messages, in peace and war, to the wild chieftains of the principality. In many of their usages they long continued closely allied to the Welsh; that language was spoken partially by the natives to a much later period, and parishes, and dwellings, and families, still retain their Cambrian names. Whenever they found a place in the English national records, for several centuries the entry was always *Irchinfield in Wallia*. In the reigns of Hen. III. and Edw. I. the whole community held *in capite*, by serjeantry of furnishing fifty men, on summons, for fifteen days, once in the year, when the king led his army into Wales.† But their private inheritances were regulated by the law of gavelkind, and this, though long since statutablely abolished, is maintained with a tenacity that has defied time and its changes, and prevails throughout the country in which the writer is recording it at the passing hour. It may be

* According to the Taxation. Garway is not styled a church in that Survey, though it is so called in the Roll.

† Testa de Nevill, pp. 66, 71.

thought that more than enough has been adduced respecting the civil character of Irchinfield, since our concern is rather with its ecclesiastical condition; but the subject is altogether too curious to be passed over unnoticed, demands a direct treatise rather than a transient allusion, and merits to be discussed in an ampler form than any in which it has yet appeared, and by a better instructed pen.

If any credit be due to the evidence of earliest accounts and local traditional vestiges, it need never be doubted that Irchinfield was converted to the Christian faith so far back as the time of St. Dubricius, whom the Welsh antiquaries place, as Archbishop of Caerlleon and Bishop of Llandaff, at the end of the fifth and beginning of the sixth centuries;* and though the irruption and fusion of Pagan Saxons† among them might subsequently, and for a season, have obscured the light of the gospel in these parts, it was probably rekindled by missionaries from Caerlleon, or St. David's, or Llandaff. Churches were founded or restored; a great portion of Irchinfield was subject to the latter see, and many of the princes assigned lands towards the maintenance of it; the names of saints to which some of these churches were dedicated, announce their Cambrian origin.‡ In the twelfth century—how it occurred has not been satisfactorily explained—the alienation and annexation of some of them to the see of Hereford, and of others to the see of St. David's, in the times of Popes Honorius II. and Innocent II. had occasioned an appeal to Rome, and the affair was to have been settled by judicial process, which, owing to the death of Bishop

* Liber Landav. p. 623.

† They are said to have destroyed the establishment of priests or scholars founded by St. Dubritius at the Weeg, on the Wye. (Iolo MSS. p. 526.) This seems to be the same with that which existed at Llanfrother, in the parish of Hentlan, where the memory of the house and its founder is preserved. A curious custom of the peasantry springs probably from this or some still remoter age. The twelve fires on the eve of Twelfth day, kindled with great rejoicing before a pole wrapped up in straw, called *the old woman*, in a field that has been sowed with grain, are supposed to be the remains of some heathen ceremony derived from the Romans or Saxons, allusive to Ceres and the months, but afterwards adapted to a holiday season of the Christian year. This practice, retained from time immemorial, and not totally discontinued, is, however, now in the wane.

* Great numbers of these churches were consecrated by Bishop Herwald, in the reigns of Edward the Confessor, Harold, and William I. Lib. Landav. p. 546, et seq.

Urban of Llandaff, the plaintiff in the cause, an. 1133, on his way to Rome, was set aside, and the whole ended in the permanent retention of the disputed portions by the prelates of Hereford and St. David's.* At the time of which we are treating the services of the secular priests in Irchinfield seem to have been but slenderly rewarded; and it is probable that the influence of the church was not very paramount among the people. Nearly half of the great tithes were appropriated to convents, while the service was performed by vicars; and several of the other incumbencies were so poor that the holders were excused from the approaching taxation.† The country, indeed, in some of the hilly parts, was waste and barren, and the climate cold;‡ as to the parish of Orcop, such was its spiritual destitution that, during Orleton's episcopate, a complaint preferred to him set forth, that the sick departed this life without the sacraments.§ In the same century in which they were claimed by the Bishop of Hereford it may be perceived that religion had not changed their hereditary border habits, nor implanted in them such a dread of the censure of the church as to restrain them from plunder, when an accessible booty was before them. Taking advantage of the disorder of the kingdom, or embracing a political side, some time between the years 1139 and 1148, they crossed the Wye near Ross and attacked and rifled a manor of the Abbat of Gloucester, who thus implores Robert de Betun, the Bishop of Hereford, to interfere in his behalf: "We intreat your holiness to shew us justice against the Welsh of Harchenefeld, Idel, and Kenedin, and their accomplices, for they avenge their injuries upon us, who have not deserved it;

* The Liber Landavensis terminates with several bulls of Urban II. relative to this controversy. The result is shown in the dimensions of the dioceses ever since: the cause is rather obscurely hinted at, in the phrase *per infirmitatem suam et discordiam*, alluding to Herwald, the predecessor of Urban, p. 266.

† The rector of Tretire was lowest upon the list: his annual income did not amount to three pounds. Tax. P. Nichol. p. 160 b.

‡ A survey in the reign of Edw. III. states that six carucates of land were lying uncultivated in Saint Weonard's on account of the poverty of the parishioners. Inquisit. Nonarum, p. 150.

§ The complaint was against the convent of Llantony the first, which held the appropriation, and neglected to put in *vicarium idoneum seu presbyterum sufficientem*. Reg. Orleton, f. 17 b.

and whereas we have never done them harm, they have inflicted upon us a damage of more than sixty marks; and at one swoop and inroad have carried off the whole of what we have long been employed in taking pains to do at Brampton.* We hope that you will consider our losses and inconvenience as your own; and that the aid which you refuse to none who justly ask it, you will not deny to the just intreaty of your sons."† The monks in the borders, here and elsewhere, at Kilpeck, Ewyas Harold, Lantony, and Clifford, complained of the rude and intrusive manners of the Welsh, how irksome and insecure it was to live among them; how difficult and dangerous it was to deny them any thing that they demanded; and how they interfered with their comfort and peace. It was this that broke up the establishment at Lantony, in the vale of Ewyas, and transferred greater part of the inmates to the second house of that name, near Gloucester. Upon a like plea, in part, those of the minor houses of Ewyas Harold, and Kilpeck, were ultimately discontinued; and with consent of the founders' families, and the diocesans of Saint David's and Hereford, and their respective chapters, the priors and their attendants were transferred to the abbey of Saint Peter at Gloucester, to which these priories were cells.‡ The Bishop of Hereford had no manorial residence to go to in Irchinfield, but received some rents that had formerly been paid to the crown. These he had in the reign of Edward I.; and from that of Edward III. to Elizabeth there

* Brampton Abbats, to the north of Ross, given to the abbey of Gloucester by William the Conqueror. In his charter to them it is called *Manerium meum de Brompton cum piscaria in Waya, cum terra usque ad ripam Wayæ*. MS. Registr. dom. Walteri Froucester, Abbat. Glouc. f. 18. MSS. Archdeacon Furney.

† Gilberti Foliot, Abbat. Glouc. Epistolæ, a Giles, I. 81. 8°. Oxon. 1845.

‡ The little establishment of Ewyas Harold was discontinued about 1359, *propter loci inquietudinem et populi circumvicini infestam inquietationem et inquietam infestationem*. Appropriatio et Incorporatio Ep. Menev. de Prior. de Ewyas in Exempl. Cartul. Prioratus, p. 190. That of Kilpeck in 1426, *propter loci ipsius inquietationem populique solitam infestationem*, as well as on account of *excessivus concursus populi ad eorum mensam*. Reg. Th. Spofford, Ep. Heref. f. 120 a. Clifford priory in 1331, petitioning for the appropriation of Dorston, among other motives, alleges its losses *propter hostiles incursus*, and that it is so situated *in inferioribus partibus Marchiæ Walliæ, ubi quotidie multitudo confluit Wallicorum, quibus hospitalitas nequit absque periculis gravibus denegari*. Reg. Chorleton, Ep. Heref. f. 3 a. The story of the removal of the monks from Lantony may be seen in Angl. Sacra, II. 312, and in Dugdale.

were eleven vills that owed him suit from month to month at the palace in Hereford, and these too lay within the lordship of Irchinfield. His itinerant bailiff, as he was termed, collected fines and payments of court in thirty suits here and in the marches of Wales.*

A short journey of about ten modern miles northward from Monmouth, through a difficult and hilly country, brought them to alight at MONKTON, March 20. This was, as its title imports, a house upon a conventual property belonging to the prior and brethren of Lantony the first, in the parish of LLANWARNE, of which church they were patrons. The case of this rectory is somewhat singular. In the registers both of Cantilupe and Swinfield the incumbent is described as a portionist, a word that obviously implies one who shares in office, or the profits of it, with others, and this expression may be readily understood where more than one were concerned; but here we have only an individual. Several associated portionists are mentioned in the diocese. At Ledbury there were two, at Bromyard three,† and more might be enumerated in Salop. These have been held to be the remnant of collegiate establishments,‡ parochial, or perhaps before the division of parishes, offsets from the principal episcopal station, where priests abode together as a fraternity, officiating in their several chapels, going forth to their departments of duty among a rural population, and sharing in the ecclesiastical emoluments of their district. Llanwarne seems to have been formerly a foundation of this kind, the number of priests being reduced by its patrons to a single rector. Once it had chapels attached to it, of which the memory is lost.§ It had great claim to antiquity. "Cadwyth, son of Coffro, sacrificed to God, and to Saint Dubricius, Saint Teilo, and Saint Oudoceus, and in the hand of Bishop Trychan and all the pastors of Llandaff without end, with the

* Butterfield MS. 212 b, 236 a. It was pleaded in 20 Edw. I. that the Bishops of Hereford had certain manorial rights in Monkton and Llanwarne from time immemorial, and that some addition had been made to them in the time of Bishop Peter (Aqualblanca?). Plac. de quo Warr. p. 270 b.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 160 a, b. ‡ Blakeway and Owen, Hist. Shrewsb. II. 9, 10.

§ Three rectors held successively the portion in this church with the chapels thereto pertaining, between the years 1275 and 1308. Master Hugh de Redclive, Master Richard de Folebrugge, and Richard de Bosebury, priest. Reg. Cantil. ff. 10 b, 11 a. Swinf. f. 163 a.

approbation and consent of King Ffernwael, in perpetual consecration of the cross of Christ, three modii of land, or the fourth part of an uncia (about 27 acres), being the church of Henlennic, on the banks of the Amyr (Gamber), that is Lann Guern, with its liberty, and with all commonage in field and in woods, in water and in pastures." Such is the simple language of its endowment, about the early part of the seventh century. It afterwards appears in the numerous list of those which were consecrated by Bishop Herwald under William the Conqueror, and the last of the Saxon kings.*

Swinfield lost no time in visiting this church, and was entertained at the prior's table at Monkton by special invitation. Kemeseye, careful in marking the difference between gratuitous and official reception, describes his having been asked to partake of this hospitality on the part of the patron, though he had visited the church (*fuit ad rogatum, licet dominus ipsa die visitavit ecclesiam*). The nice distinction seems to intimate a liability in the incumbent, which in this case was shifted to his patron. Sometimes the one and sometimes the other take charge of the visitor; but the difference between claim and courtesy is never lost sight of throughout the Roll. † During the few hours that the Bishop remained at Monkton the taste and custom of the country brought two minstrels into his presence, rural performers, no doubt, as they were rewarded each with only one penny. ‡ But it shews that their greeting was well received, and strengthens the belief in the continued existence and encouragement of this class of persons in the border-land, rather than in their supposed entire abolition in consequence of the ordinance of Edward I. which refers to the whole of Wales. § Bards, rhymers, and vagabond minstrels, were now less formidable in the south than they had been in the north of the principality, or indeed than they had been any where: the harp and its itinerant professors still survived; and it

* Lib. Landav. pp. 453, 547.

† But the fact of the actual liability, with its reason, is not distinctly or consistently shewn, and seems to have depended much on locally established custom, the origin of which cannot now be reached. Vicars seem in general to be exempt. In the number of religious houses upon which it was thrown may be seen the injurious extent of appropriations in abstracting the due maintenance of the secular working clergy.

‡ Dors. ‖33, p. 152.

§ Leges Wallicæ, App. V. VI. fol. Lond. 1730. See Blakeway and Owen, I. 145.

has disappeared only within the memory of man from the festivities of what was once called IRCHINFIELD IN WALLIA.

On the morrow they went to GARWAY, described as a church in the Roll, but not recognised as such in the Taxation; yet Swinfield visited it, and received procuration from some party whose name does not appear. King Henry II. granted his estate of Lange Carewey* to the Knights Templars: it was one of their preceptories, and they were lords of a considerable tract of land.† These privileged proprietors admitted no episcopal interference with their establishment, and were amenable to no rules or visitors but their own; and though, as a body—it has been shewn in the case at Upledén—they did not meddle with secular priests when their preceptories were in parishes that were under the superintendence of the diocesan,‡ they maintained by the constitutions of their order, and the bull “*Omne datum optimum*,” one of their brethren as resident priest at every such preceptory, to minister in sacraments and sacramentals to them and their dependents. He seems to have acted as parish priest at Garway. To have planted a house of these soldiers of the cross in such a remote and uncivilised spot, where some of their members were always bound to reside, was perhaps, politically, no unwise measure. If well conducted they might have proved some check upon the rude natives, and enforced order and obedience to law, with this supposable drawback, that their sanctuary, while it commanded respect, might afford some temptation to acts of violence. Upon the whole it may be inferred that, though the Bishop visited Garway as a church, and procuration was conceded to him, and those after him, while the dominion of the Templars lasted, which he lived to see at an end, it was in an ecclesiastical sense a “*peculiar*,” and the officiating clerk a chaplain of the order.

* i. e. Llan Garway. Dugd. Monastic. VI. p. ii. 838.

† Two folio volumes are extant in the Knights' library at Malta, relating to the estates of those of the English *langue*. The principal officers of each nation are said to have carried off all their respective muniments when Valetta fell into the hands of the French in 1797; but these remained, and contain a survey of Garway, Upledén, Harewood, and other estates, then in possession of the Hospitallers, taken by order of brother Philip de Thame in 1338. The editor derived this information from the British Magazine, vol. V. p. 20; and is glad now to be informed that this record will be printed for the Camden Society, under the editorship of the Rev. Lambert B. Larking.

‡ See ante, p. cxvii.

When the unfortunate brotherhood were suppressed, and were succeeded here by the Hospitallers, Garway was let, in lapse of time, to tenants, subject to the condition of their maintaining a chaplain: the diocesan continued to visit; and the church was one of those at which several smaller churches were summoned to attend; till on March 13, 1506, when Bishop Mayhew came in the course of his triennial visitation and demanded the procurations due to himself and his predecessors, he was refused by Robert Mynors and Richard Plomer, receivers, officers, and bailiffs of the Lord Prior of Saint John of Jerusalem, as they asserted, "by command and order of the said Lord Prior." That august personage was then at Rhodes; but a process was instituted in the court of the Archbishop against him, and the depositions of the witnesses are still in being.* The result may be gathered from a list of the churches that were chargeable with procurations in the reign of Elizabeth, in which that of Garway is not to be found.†

This prospective discussion must no further disturb the course of our itinerary: on March 22 they left Garway and came to KILPECK. About the latter end of the seventh or beginning of the eighth century, as is shewn by the attestation of Griecelis, Bishop of Llandaff, then living, Hanew son of Benjamin gave the church of Saint David of Kilpedec in Ergyng, with its land about it, to God, and to Saint Dubricius and Saint Teilo, in frankalmoign, for ever.‡ A long interval succeeds, in which the lamp of history gives little and uncertain light. Saxons became intermingled with the natives of Irchinfield; Danes invaded, § and Normans

* Reg. Ric. Mayhew, Ep. Heref. f. 7, et seq. In the third article of his charge against the prior, the Bishop thus lays down his right: *Jus visitandi de triennio in triennium singulis annis concurrentibus, et singula loca, monasteria, prioratus, ecclesias parochiales, appropriatas, et non appropriatas, ac earum vicarias perpetuas infra præinctum, finesque et limites diocesis Herefordensis, ac visitationis officium in eisdem debite et ecclesiastice exercendi, necnon crimina et defectus in hujusmodi visitatione detecta canonice corrigendi, puniendi et reformandi, ac spirituales jurisdictionem et ecclesiasticam in subditos diocesis Herefordensis prædictæ exercendi, necnon ab eisdem rectoribus, proprietariisque, et vicariis ac curatis earundem jura ecclesiastica ecclesie Herefordensis ratione visitationis hujusmodi solita et consueta petendi, recipiendi, obtinendi et habendi.*

† Butterfield MS. f. 235 a.

‡ Lib. Landav. pp. 416, 626. The best informed antiquaries have referred to the charters it contains as authentic, and they are accordingly cited without hesitation.

§ Little can be learned of the condition of Irchinfield when the Danes were masters of England. They ravaged it in 918, carrying off Cameleac, Bishop of Llandaff, whom

shared the land. Then, in 1134, Hugh, son of William, lord of Kilpeck, and forester of the King, gave the church of Kilpeck, with the chapel of Saint Mary of the castle, together with all churches and chapels, and the lands to them pertaining, to the abbey of Saint Peter in Gloucester.* This is the imperfect account derived from their own muniments of the foundation of the priory. It has hitherto eluded research whether to William or Hugh his son, or to which of its subsequent patrons in Gloucester, posterity has been indebted for that rare miniature specimen of Norman ecclesiastical architecture in the church, that has for centuries decorated this lonely place. Long almost unnoticed and unknown, since the revival of genuine feeling for mediæval art, it has won the admiration of all who are able to appreciate its merits, by the simplicity of its design, the richness of its rude decorations, and the solemnity of its interior effect.† It is no less difficult to determine whether by the church of St. David,‡ which Hugh gave to the monks of Gloucester, be signified the parochial or the conventual church belonging to the priory, and seated at a small distance from it; perhaps the building was employed for both purposes, and it is certain that, when the brethren were removed to Gloucester, the cure of the parish was committed to a secular chaplain in their stead. That must have been a stately castle beside the church, as its ample mound and foundations shew. Sir Alan de Plugenet, now the lord of this and of the manor, and of many other manors in the counties of Berks, Oxon, Somerset, Wilts, Surrey, and Dorset,§ was a knight of such reputation, so highly esteemed by his sovereign, that he appointed him assistant to the Prince Regent during his own absence from the kingdom.¶ Forty-one free tenants held under him, as he of the King, and did suit at the castle from quindene to quindene. At the head of these was Robert le Petýt, named in the margin of the Roll.¶¶

they found or pursued there. Angl. Sax. Chron. in a. 918. It suffered also severely in the reign of the Confessor from the incursion of the Welsh under Griffin and Blein. Domesday, f. 181.

* Chron. of Glouc. Abbey, in Walter de Lacy, Abbat.

† See Lewis, Illustrations of Kilpeck Church. London, 1842.

‡ In the register of Thomas Spofford, Bishop of Hereford, f. 122 a, it is styled *capella seu ecclesia*.

§ Cal. Inquis. post Mortem, p. 151.

¶ Dugdale, Baron. II. 3 b, 4 a.

¶¶ P. 66. A Robert of this family was one of those who went out upon knight-service under Cantilupe, when Edward I. held a muster in 1277 at Worcester to go against

When Swinfield passed this way his purveyor had brought him enough for his table ;* but the prior and Le Petýt provided for his stud. The former afforded him no more than brushwood and litter ; the other made up the deficiency of corn and hay. Though this place was in the heart of a remote country, King John in his wanderings had several times resorted to it.† Having finished his progress through this deanery, the Bishop crossed the flat valley of the Worm, and entering into the Golden Vale, arrived at

DORE, March 23.

On the bank of a little river from which it took its name stood Abbey Dore, a famous house of Cisterians, founded by Robert de Ewyas in the year 1147, and within the parish of Bacton, of which church they were the patrons, and held the appropriation. This abbey was subject to the diocesan jurisdiction of Hereford, though upon the verge of that of Saint David's ; and it was so near a point to which of the two it belonged, that, in 1284, the latter Bishop assumed authority over them. The attempt aroused them to a thorough exposition of the true state of the question, which they laid before a general chapter. Their appeal proved successful ; and they continued under the see of Hereford as they had hitherto ever been from their foundation.‡ The church of the monastery was built about the year 1260,§ and dedicated to the blessed Virgin ; and the site of the whole was in all respects truly Cisterian. A writer of the preceding century,

Llywelyn. Reg. Swinf. f. 22 b. There was also a Thomas le Petit, who held by knight-service. See APP. No. XV.

* The expression, Roll, p. 67, *in victualibus deducendis in Yrchinefeud*, seems to apply to this spot.

† In 1211—13—14. Itinerary in Descr. of Pat. Rolls. Hardy, 8vo. 1835.

‡ APP. No. XXIII. Among other curious matters contained in this instrument a fact is established that was unknown to the parties who were most concerned to know and record it, at the time when John, Lord Viscount Scudamore, of Hom-Lacy, munificently erected Dore into a parish, repaired the dilapidated church of the monastery, and endowed the living in 1634. Gibson, *View of the Ancient and Present State of Dore, &c.* London, small 4to. 1727, pp. 38, 197, et seq. Neither that nobleman, nor Sir John Hoskyns, of Morehampton, who was much interested in the inquiry, on account of a tithe cause, nor after them the historian of Dore, in short no investigators, from Leland down to the learned editors of Dugdale, have been aware that the abbey had been built in the parish of Bacton.

§ Under Bishop Aquablanca, who issued a hortatory letter for contributions to it. Gibson, p. 188.

who was no friend to the order, has noted certain particulars which influenced their choice of situations; his expressions may fairly be extracted without touching upon the sarcasms that accompany them: "locum ad habitandum habilem eligunt, fœcundum, responsalem frugibus, non inaptum seminibus, septum nemoribus, scaturientem fontibus, cornucopiam, locum extra mundum."* This description finds an exemplification in the account that Camden has given of the *Gilden Vale*. "Which name it may well be thought to deserve for its golden, rich, and pleasant fertility. For the hills that encompass it on both sides are clothed with woods; under the woods lie corn-fields on each hand; and under those fields lovely and fruitful meadows. In the middle, between them, glides a clear and crystal river, upon which Robert Earl of Ewias erected a beautiful monastery, wherein very many of the nobility and gentry of those parts were buried."† Within these walls the diocesan was habitually welcome, whether he came to visit their parish church or their house; their head invited him, as he was wont to do (*ut consuevit*), and in return, as we have seen of the abbat of Reading at Ledbury, p. cxxiii, he of Dore, when he went to Hereford in July ensuing, was duly attended to, though Swinfield was not there to receive him. ‡

With respect to the disposition entertained in monasteries towards their guests, whether friends or strangers, it is well known how ready they were, according to their power, and often beyond their power, to give them honourable and hospitable reception. It was their rule; and their delight was to observe it. Their chroniclers exult in referring to it. But it was not unfrequently attended with the disadvantage of leading them into heavier expenses than they could bear, when their houses stood in towns or places of great resort near public roads; and this exposed them to the temptation of seeking appropriations of their churches, and appointing ill-paid vicars to undertake such cures. As to the hospitality of Dore towards these travellers, unless indeed the fraternity were in debt, there could be no excuse for neglecting, nor any particular merit in fulfilling, a task which they were so competent to discharge. The causes that, without discredit, might have checked the little priory at Kilpeck, could find no

* Gualt. Mapes, De Nugis Curial. Camd. Soc. ed. p. 39.

† Camden, Brit. ed. Gibson, I. col. 686.

‡ Dors. ||39 c. 192 p.

place at Dore. Their bursar held in hand a rental in tithes, temporals, and moveables (animals), in this diocese, and those of Saint David's and Llandaff, ascending at the most moderate computation to an amount, enviable in those days, of £170 per annum. Their patrons had been munificent. King John, in the fourth year of his reign, by a few effective lines of one small charter, assigned to them five hundred acres of land in his neighbouring forest of Treville, to deal with at their pleasure; and in his eighteenth year he seems to have added to the grant.* In reply to the queries for the often-mentioned taxation, the abbat owned to the annual receipt of rent for forty-two carucates of land, rents of assize in Hereford city, of three mills, a tannery, and several estates described by the occupiers' names; that he had forty cows, and one thousand seven hundred and sixty sheep; and in the time of hay-making he could collect fifty-one waggon-loads for his winter store, forty of which were cut from the meadows of Morehampton, in his grassy vale. All this was drawn from the diocese of Hereford, but did not comprise the largest portion of his resources. It is, however, unnecessary to swell the list,† in proof of his power out of such superfluity to furnish a table and bed for those who were admissible to a traveller's share of refreshment and repose. It falls not within the province of Kemeseye to set before us the provision of any board save that of his master; yet the entertainment, though it was a Lenten, would not be a parsimonious one. The invitation of the superior of the house bespeaks him at home, and it may be apprehended that it was a mark of respect out of the common routine. In a large abbey, like that of Saint Edmundsbury, the duties of hospitality were defined with accuracy, and adjusted to a scale. Of these the abbat had his distinct share. He received all guests of whatever condition, except religious and priests of secular habit, and their attendants. In his absence the cellarer was to provide for them up to thirteen horses; and beyond that number, whether laity or clergy, they came under the care of the abbat's servants. All

* Cart. Antiq. in Turr. Lond. B.B. 14, P.P. 10, 18.

† The whole is given in Tax. P. Nichol. ff. 159 b, 172 a, b, 174, 274 b, 278, 283, 284, and the gross sum, according to their own shewing, should have amounted by fair reckoning to much more. Out of the carucates of land only one is accounted for, and it is the same with respect to the loads of hay. Other religious houses did the same.

religious persons, even bishops, if they were monks, were charged upon the cellarer, unless in the case of some individual whom the abbat was inclined especially to honour.* These particulars of ancient usage, preserved by their own chronicler, form an illustration of monastic observances; but how far they were continued to this time, or employed among this fraternity, cannot be shewn, since we have no transcript of the domestic regulations of Abbey Dore.

Their sojourn ended, on the following morning they put themselves in motion towards Sugwas. Westward of Irchinfield a causeway had been formed by the Romans to lead from Gobannium to Magna Castra: the former of these is the modern Abergavenny, the latter recognisable in certain fields at Kenchester,† near Sugwas, that indicate past all doubt the site of a Roman town by innumerable evidences, produced from time to time, of its occupation by that people. The line of communication between these stations, advancing northward, bore directly upon the right bank of the Wye, which could be passed at a ford near the Wear. But, probably for purposes of traffic and war, that the marching of their legions might not be interrupted by any swelling of the wintry waters, a bridge had been some time thrown over the river at that place. Whether the Bishop and his company travelled along this causeway, or otherwise, the "Stoney Street,"‡ as it was called, was their most immediate road from Dore, and the ford was to be crossed, if the bridge had already disappeared. At any rate our next entries place the family at

SUGWAS from March 24 to 30,

with exception of the ensuing Sunday. On his arrival Swinfield admitted Gilbert de Reygate, clerk, to the church of Dukeshill with the chapel of Mickleton, in the deanery of Stottesdon, at the presentation of the prior and convent of Wenlock.§ This return to Sugwas brings back domestic cares and doings. A brewing of wheat and oats, made into malt by the dairy servant, was ready. It had been managed, as that at Prestbury, by candlelight; the brewers and vessels were hired, and, as before, allowance was made for the grains.

* Chron. Jocel. de Brakelonda, pp. 28, 29. Camd. Ed.

† Duncumb, I. 23 et seq.

‡ See Ordnance Map of Herefordshire.

§ Reg. Swinf. f. 64 b.

On Palm Sunday, introductory to the "Great" or "Holy Week," the people were wont, in commemoration of our Saviour's entry into Jerusalem, to carry in procession branches of the palm or some other tree, and the ministers of the church, at the altar, pronounced a blessing over them. It cannot be supposed that the Bishop, twice resident as he has been some time at Sugwas, so short a distance, should not have been occasionally attendant on the services of his own cathedral; but no precise information offers itself of his being at Hereford for a whole day, unless it be on this Sunday, *Dominica in ramis palmarum*; when of course he was not absent from the solemnity. The form of the diary, that under the head of each place comprehends the day and night, brings him to lodge for once at the palace. His meals were, however, served at the house of the friars minors. The expression *fuit dominus in mensa * Herefordiæ cum fratribus minoribus*, as plainly shews that they were honoured by the presence of so distinguished a guest, as the items that follow it describe his having charitably entertained them. His partiality towards them has been noticed; † and the countenance received by them at this season was considerate and opportune, when their adversaries, the Dominicans, were tormenting them at Worcester. ‡ The entertainment was, therefore, a generous pittance, gracefully bestowed; though a short time after, at Easter, he remembered them kindly again by sending them another pittance for the feast. § Their house was near his palace, on the same bank of the river; but to the westward of and not far from the bridge, close by the city wall. Franciscans preferred to settle themselves in such a situation; and often on the outside of the wall, through which they had an entrance of their own into the city. || The quantity of ware provided is a feature in the expense of this Sunday; and it is greatly multiplied towards Easter. The Bishop leaves Hereford on Monday, ostensibly, according to the Roll, to return to it no more. The silence of the house-steward is not an absolute negation of his having halted at other times as he passed through; but he gives us no room to understand that Swinfield brake bread or drank wine in his own palace, as a

* For the words *in mensa cum*, signifying his being a guest, see May 3, 24, 27.

† See p. lxiii.

‡ Annal. Wigorn. in anno 1289.

§ Dors. p. 152.

|| Blakeway and Owen, I. 447.

householder, for many months to come. His hospitalities were reserved for his country residences.

Again at Sugwas on the 28th. The Lenten fast being near its close, their daily consumption of fish would cease; and they drew upon their stock in the pools and from the Wye. Some exertions are made to take salmon at the Wear, and to bring other sorts from a distance; the fishermen of Ross caught and sent pike and bream from their preserves.* On Maundy Thursday they went to LUGWARDINE, a short distance on the road to Ledbury, where Swinfield visited, and appears to have attended vespers in the church. After evening service, according to the ancient rite of the Maundy, bishops were accustomed to renew the memory of that which Christ had done to his disciples at his last supper, *in cæna domini*, by washing the feet of a certain number of poor persons and dismissing them with a gift. We see the gift, † but the action is not recorded. It was, however, most probably not omitted when he distributed thirteen pennies to as many poor. ‡

The first instance of disputed procuration on this visitation tour arises at Lugwardine. The rector objected to it; but actually complied, by shifting the demand to an invitation, and thus leaving the question open. This Kemeseye has candidly acknowledged. *Adhuc est inter dominum et rectorem, fuerit illa diæta pro procuratione Domini, vel ad rogatum.* The refusal of the incumbent might not be without just grounds; but we have no room for uncertain conjecture. § Lugwardine was in many ways remark-

* The author of Fleta shews, ||20, p. 164, that the Waltons of those days were well acquainted with the necessity of keeping these kinds apart.

† Dors. ||29 a.

‡ This was the usual sum. The king on this very day relieved by his almoner at Woodstock fifty paupers, to whom he gave a penny a piece. Household Book, 18 Edw. I. Tower.

§ It is laid down as a general axiom of the canon law, that they who could not refuse a visitor could not refuse procuration. Incumbents sometimes pleaded that they did not find that it had been paid to the visitor's predecessor. Yet this was not always available: and the direction as to cases in which it was alleged, *quod ipsi procurationem hactenus non solverunt*, was peremptorily this: *nisi aliud rationabile ostenderint, vos eos ad exhibendum eam, sicut jus dictaverit compellatis.* Gibson, Codex, f. 975.

ably circumstanced. To this church were attached a number of chapelries, on the other side of the Wye, each of them sufficient of itself to form, and since actually forming, a distinct parish, and extending deeply to the south, with some interceptions, across the deanery of Irchinfield to the very edge of Orcop and Garway. They comprised Little Dewchurch, Hentlan, Saint Weonard's, and Llangarren,* with other subordinate chapels, and embraced a large tract of country: an arrangement adopted at some far distant time, when parishes and dioceses were more extensive than individuals could rightly superintend. Its fate as to patrons, as well as that of the manor which it accompanied, was very mutable. Sometimes it had been in the crown, sometimes in the high nobles. Maud, the empress, granted the manor to the Earl of Hereford.† John, in the fifth year of his reign, gave the church, with its chapels, on the resignation of Master Stephen, his chaplain, to John de Wells. Other letters patent immediately followed, giving the perpetual vicarage of it to Master Alardus, on the condition of his annual payment of twenty shillings out of it.‡ But the history of this manor, involving the patronage of the church, with its many revolutions in times nearer to those of which we are treating, comes out in the verdict taken by oath and entered on the Hundred Rolls, 3 Edw. I. "The jury say, that the manor of Lugwardine was wont to be in the hands of King Henry III. and his ancestors of old.§ And the said king gave that manor to Simon de Montfort, to hold for a certain debt in which he was bound to him, who held it for five years and a half. And after the battle of Evesham lord Edward seized that manor into his hand, and held it for half a year; and afterwards surrendered it at Canterbury into the hand of King Henry his father; and the said Henry enfeoffed lord Edmund of it by his charter; and afterwards the said Edmund held it for five years, and then sold it to Robert Waleraund and Matilda his wife. Waleraund had

* Some of these are set down as churches in the Taxation, but the appellation of chapels is continued in records to a much later period.

† Rymer, I. 8.

‡ Rot. Litt. Pat. 38 b. This seems to have been a shuffle to provide for two parties at once out of the living, and saddle it with a pension.

§ The prior of Saint Guthlac, in the city of Hereford, once made an attempt to secure the advowson by instituting a suit against the crown in the court christian, for which he was prosecuted. Prynne, Pap. Usurp. I. 103.

deceased, and Alan de Plugenet, lord of Kilpeck, his nephew and heir, had succeeded him,* and now holds it." So little rest within a few years had the manor of Lugwardine, that the under-tenants must often have been puzzled to know who was likely to have been their lord for a single year.† Not only the rector, but his parishioners, asserted a privilege independent of the Bishop; they complained against his right of taking toll of them at the city gate during the great fair.‡ The rector's resistance to procuration was, however, at some future time overcome, as the living is found in the reign of Elizabeth among those that paid it to the see.§ It is set down in the Taxation || under the deanery of Weston; its annual value ten pounds.

The horses had been newly shod, and the harness and carts repaired, before they quitted Sugwas;¶ for they had to toil through a stiff country ere they could reach the next place of their destination. This, however, they accomplished on Friday, and sat down at

COLWALL from March 31 to April 10.

That Friday, not distinguished in the steward's calendar by the modern epithet "Good," they kept in obedience to rule immemorial as the strictest fast. It is significantly marked by the total omission of quantity against the articles of bread and wine, and by a few fish unconsumed. Much of it was necessarily passed by the household upon the road; on the part of the Bishop it was hallowed by his way-side alms; and surely we may believe that, if Kemeseye's plan of report had been less concise, it might have been added, by the service of the church and prayer.

Colwall was unprovisioned; but a great assemblage of friends and dependents was expected at Easter, and strenuous exertions were used to make ready.** The bailiffs of Sugwas and Bosbury had prepared a brewing in the customary way, with hired casks and helpers, working before break of dawn. Three quarters of wheat and four horseloads of oats were malted

* Dugdale, Baron. II. 2 b, 3 a.

† Its shiftings within a short time did not end here; but the advowson was finally fixed by Joanna de Bohun in the church of Hereford.

‡ Rot. Hundr. 3 Edw. I.

§ Butterfield MS. f. 233 a.

|| F. 150 b.

¶ Roll, March 28. Dors. ||29 a.

** The following particulars will be found scattered throughout the Roll from March 31 to April 9.

at Sugwas and brought to Bosbury, where they were ground, and toll was paid. The brewing too seems to have been managed there; for a cooper was sent over from Colwall to put the vessels in order, and was employed upon them for ten days at two pence per day. Hereford and Worcester contributed materials for the approaching feast; the baker and cook were busy; the latter made a journey to Worcester. Abundance of additional cups, dishes, and plates, had been provided. Bosbury, the great depository, was most liberal from its resources of wine and salted stores. Seventy horses in the stable on Easter eve announce the arrival of guests, and the same number continue on the Easter day. At the offertory the Bishop gave 4*s.* 1*d.* for himself and family.* The festive Paschal doings of the whole well-fasted party cannot be more emphatically described than by a translated copy of the simple list of solid and other viands that were delivered from the kitchen and vanished from the board. With clean linen, † and hungry stomachs, they sat down to it, and what they found and what they left at their three meals is as follows:

|| At the same place. † || On Easter day. Bread. Eleven sextaries of Bosbury wine. Beer, already accounted for. Item, two carcasses and a half of salt beef from the Bosbury larder. One bacon from the same. One boar from the household stock, though not sound, already accounted for. In one live ox from Ledbury, 16*s.* In one carcass of fresh beef, by Baseville, 10*s.* 10*d.* In three pigs, 5*s.* 3*d.* In six calves, 9*s.* 2*d.* In nine kids, by Baseville, 3*s.* 2½*d.* Item, in twelve kids, by the bailiff of Eastnor, 5*s.* In six capons, 12*d.* In eighty pigeons, by Baseville, 19*d.* In sixty-eight pigeons, from the Bosbury manor, 17*d.* Item, two pigs, one boar, six capons, six kids, presents. Out of these remain one carcass, one quarter of fresh beef, three pigs, one calf and a half, five kids, sixty pigeons. Item, three fat deer from the store. In four thousand eggs, 3*s.* 8*d.* In milk, by Baseville, 3*d.* In cheese, 12½*d.* In flour, 6*d.* In suet, 2*s.* 6*d.* In three bushels of salt, 16*d.* Hay from the manor for seventy horses. In their feed four quarters seven bushels of oats, already accounted for.

The sum 62*s.* 9*d.* §

So much for the first release from Lenten diet. Another opportunity of feasting came on in the ensuing week, and was followed up with equal ardour.

Had the manor-house || at Colwall belonged to a layman, it might have

* Dors. || 48.

† Id. || 29 a.

‡ *i. e.* Colwall.

§ Roll, p. 71.

|| The farm-house north of the church continues to be called the Palace, but presents

been appropriately termed his hunting-seat ; for it stood conveniently near the centre of the manors in this quarter that harboured my lord's "great game,"* and was surrounded by what is still denominated a park. The limits of that which may have been its inclosure are partly visible ; and in some fields on a rough level, not long ago, might be seen the ruins of one or two stag-headed oaks in the last stage of decay, the remnants of a greater store. The editor candidly avows, at the hazard of appearing imaginative, that, bearing in mind the contents of the Roll, the sight of these inanimate emblems of the "high-palmed heads," that once took shelter beneath their shade, described by the poet as

The best of chase, the tall and lusty red,
Fittest to hunt at force,†

recalled to his thoughts the days when Adam the marshal, and John the huntsman, made the park below and the banks of Malvern above echo to the shouts of their companions, ‡ the cry of their master's hounds, and the blast of their horns. It was not now the legitimate time for taking venison. The doe-season was past, and had been succeeded by the interval lasting from Candlemas to Midsummer, in which the forest laws forbade the slaughtering of deer. But chases not being subject to those laws, § the proprietors would probably assume the right of dealing with their own in their own way. Fresh venison, it seems, such as it was, might and must be had ; the huntsmen went out and brought back a brace of some sort on Thursday in this Easter week, April 4, which, lean as they proved, and might be expected to be from the chase, were incontinently cooked and devoured. (*ij. bestia macra de chacia expensæ.*)

nothing remarkable either in feature or material to justify the appellation. It is a timber-house, reared upon a stone base, probably part of a more ancient building. In the framework of the windows, both on the ground floor and first story, are at each side two small holes, through which it is traditionally said they shot the deer. This, if it were really the case, would have been after the invention of fire-arms.

* So called in a lease granted 4 Eliz. to John Knottsford, of Much Malvern, co. Worcester, Esq. "All and all manner his great game, deare and deares." Butterfield MS. f. 103 b.

† Drayton, Polyolbion, 13th Song. *At force* is a phrase used by our forefathers to express the hard running down of the deer, in opposition to any other mode of capturing them. Lord Surrey employs it in his Poem descriptive of Windsor.

‡ Roll, Nov. 2.

§ Manwood, p. 49.

April 5, the Bishop instituted Sir John de Vaucouleurs, priest, as rector in the church of Ludlow, having previously admitted him to the same by his proctor at Prestbury, on the 9th of the kalends of May, 1289, his patron being Sir Peter de Gyenvile, to whom the presentation for that turn belonged.*

The Roll is silent as to any act of visitation at Colwall. The living was in the rural deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the Bishop; its annual value was £10.† Existing incumbents are not always to be traced with certainty; but John de Clare, one highly esteemed by Cantilupe, employed by him in affairs of importance, and commended by him as “our beloved clerk, and familiar friend,” was instituted to it, April 19, 1280. ‡

In this pause between the temporary cessation and active re-commencement of diocesan business, the Endorsement contributes a few particulars of what was going on in various ways and quarters. The Bishop continues his kindness in Easter pittances to mendicant friars, the Minors of Bridgnorth and Augustinians of Ludlow; and he again notices a poor scholar while at Colwall, perhaps the same that he had once before patronised at Ledbury. § It will be remembered that of his servants all were not with him who were in his chief confidence. Of late the name of Thomas de la Dane has not appeared among them; but he was not the less diligent elsewhere in the service of his lord. John de Swinfield, Archdeacon of Salop, was now studying in France; and Thomas, about Easter, has been in London, paying into the hands of the merchant-bankers £13. 6s. 8d. to be remitted by them to Paris for the use of the archdeacon, and Ruwardyn, a messenger, is sent to Orleans with four shillings in his purse to bear the expenses of his passage and journey. De la Dane had been a long while attending to the improvement and cultivation of land at Womenswold, that the Bishop had bought of Stephen de la feld, and paid for while he was at

* Reg. Swinf. f. 63 b. The high families of de Verdun and de Genevile (or Joinville) shared between them the patronage of the church of Ludlow. Peter was nephew of Sir John, the author of the celebrated life of Saint Louis, whom he accompanied in his crusade. Geoffrey, father of Peter, and great-uncle of this rector, was called Joinville de Vaucouleurs to distinguish him from the crusader. Clive, Documents connected with the Hist. of Ludlow. 8vo. 1841, pp. 32, 34. In a charter granted to the monks of Dore he styles himself *Dominus de Vaucouleurs*. Lib. Niger de Wigmore, f. 282 a.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 160 b. ‡ Reg. Cantil. 65 b, 71 b. § Dors. ||31, 33.

Ledbury, on the second week in Lent.* He now goes on to Northleach, and once more returns into Kent. As spring advanced, the attention of bailiffs and overseers would be drawn to the condition of the stock upon the farms. Two persons, John of Wormesley and W. Kyde, were visitors and inspectors of sheep. At Montgomery and Bromfield (or Bromyard, † from the down there,) they bought a flock of 208 ewes and lambs: those that came from Wales were driven up by Adam Harpin and the shepherds, and were transferred to the sheep-walks at Ledbury and Eastnor, for change of pasture; it was a general practice to draw out all the ewes that were to be sold, and to shear them between Easter and Whitsuntide. ‡ Transition from affairs of a sheepcote to those of a throne is wide and extreme, but we have no intermediate stepping-stones. An event in which the Bishop was interested was the arrival of the King at Woodstock in the Easter week to hold another parliament. Since the first broke up in February he had been rambling about Berks, Wilts, and the counties of Gloucester and Worcester, inquiring into abuses and remedying them, settling disputes among churchmen, and punishing offenders against the forest-laws. In the beginning of March he sent a favourite falcon for cure to the tomb of Cantilupe in Hereford cathedral.§ At Feckenham, in Worcestershire, the foresters and other trespassers, while he was away in France, had offended so seriously that he held a court of inquiry, March 24, for their trial and conviction; and some he punished by imprisonment, and some he fined. On April 2, he admitted all the latter to bail to appear at Woodstock by the fifth of that month in Easter week, and there he fixed their fines. They were upwards of twenty in all; and it might be thought somewhat strange that among these delinquents should be discovered the Bishop and the prior of Worcester, transgressors and trespassers on vert and venison in the said forest, unless upon the principle, *qui facit per alium, facit per se*. The Bishop paid one hundred, the prior two hundred marks. || This was at the opening of the Woodstock parliament, to which Swinfield sent his seneschal, Sir William de Mortimer, on a message of excuse or for redress of grievance. But, beyond the bare assertion of the fact that he went, there is nothing

* Dors. §§9, 13, 21, 36.

† The abbreviated word is Brom'. Dors. §§60 a. b.

‡ Fleta, cap. 79, p. 167.

§ Ante, p. 50.

|| Annal. Wigorn. in aa. 1229, 1290. Rot. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

to help us to the motive for his journey. The Endorsement instructs us that on a later occasion, when Edward I. was at Rockingham, Mortimer went to obtain satisfaction for injury at the law court that attended the King.*

The last day of their continuance at Colwall, April 9, Low Sunday, is wound up with a liberal summary of articles from cellar, larder, and kitchen. It was not a day of self-denial; they were on the eve of a long expedition, and so far prepared to encounter it. Their life could not be said to have been monotonous as respected change of place; the days were becoming longer, and the roads drier:

“To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new.” †

CRADLEY, another episcopal manor, was on the north-east. They reached it April 10. The living, in the same deanery as Colwall, was valued at £23. 6s. 8d. ‡ The rector gave them hay. Their stud consisted of thirty-five horses, a number little exceeding the allowance, and seemingly not more than the work to be done required. The Bishop had groves in the parish that were resorted to by falcons, valuable in those days. The woodward was charged with watching the young, lest they should escape from their nests. He was successful in his endeavours to capture them, if it may be inferred from his not very extravagant reward, 6d. = 7s. 6d. of modern money. §

Still remaining, but not long to continue, in the county of Hereford, we accompany the Bishop to BROMYARD, April 11, in the deanery of Frome. The church, parochial like Ledbury, has been frequently termed collegiate, from the three canons, prebendaries, or portionists attached to it from remote times. || Their names at present were Pontius and Peter de Cors, ¶ nephews of John de Aquablanca, dean of Hereford, and Roger de Sevenak, one of the Kentish men who followed or were introduced by Swinfield out

* This has been already shewn, p. cii. Dors. || 29. Comm. where for 1289 read 1290; also Dors. || 58.

† Lycidas, Milton, last line. ‡ Taxatio P. Nichol. p. 160. § Dors. || 49.

|| Tanner. Coningsby MSS. Sometimes, as at Llanwarne, they were called rectors.

¶ In Tax. P. Nichol. p. 160, “De Salinis,” but often mentioned in Swinfield’s Register by the surname of “De Cors,” f. 47 a, 117 b.

of that county. Sevenak had been instituted to his portion about three years,* had been long in the diocese, was a canon of Hereford in 1279, and had occasionally been intrusted with important missions.† When Luke de Bray resigned the office of treasurer he succeeded to it.‡ As one of the clerks attendant upon the Bishop, he was distinguished by the superior style of his dress, resembling in certain particulars that of his master. The entertainment given by him as portionist at Bromyard was of that indefinite class described as procuracy by request or invitation. *Dominus fuit in victualibus procuratus ad rogatum.* The vicar received less than £4 per annum for his services; he is kept out of sight.§ Manorial rents of assize, and tolls arising from fairs and markets, as in this town, were usually lucrative sources of income to the lord. Great part of the wood called Brinkestye, and the Rompeney meadows, from which such a quantity of hay had been sent in the autumn to Sugwas, || were in this parish. Adam, the marshal, fell sick and was left behind, ¶ while the rest took their way over the boundary of the county to TENBURY in Worcestershire. Here the Bishop was in the archdeaconry of Salop and deanery of Burford. The Norman abbey of Lyra held the great tithes; ** the vicarial amounted to just one half of them, £6. 13s. 4d. †† The associate of the *dominus proctor*, ‡‡ who helped to manage the revenues of the convent, was ready with his procuracy for them. The adjoining parish of BURFORD came next on the list. It is in the county of Salop; the church gave name to a deanery, and, according to the taxation, had three portionists, Master Stephen de Saint

* Reg. Swinf. f. 47 a. † Ant. a Wood. Gutch, I. 326. Reg. Cantil. f. 61 a.

‡ He died in 1299. Reg. Swinf. f. 127 b. His town residence was in the cemetery of the church of Hereford.

§ Tax. P. Nichol. The preceding vicar had been William Osegod, who came to the Bishop at Bosbury, and resigned by his letters patent on the morrow after Michaelmas, 1287. Reg. Swinf. f. 44 b.

|| Roll, Oct. 9, et alibi.

¶ Id. June 4.

** These had been disputed, and occasioned the wager of battle quoted before, p. xxxv.

†† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 165 b.

‡‡ Hugo de Domuley, the proctor in Cantilupe's time, presented Roger de Tenbury to the vicarage in 1275. He was in some difficulty in 1287, and had a process issued out against him. Reg. Swinf. f. 41 b.

George, William de Mortimer, and Robert de Lacy.* We are already acquainted with Mortimer, the seneschal, who was victualler to my lord and his retinue on that day; but whether by procuration or by gift the writer has forborne to tell. He appears to have been one of the race of the noble Mortimers of the house of Wigmore. It has been related that he went on my lord's errand to Woodstock; and, as it seems, has returned: the King himself had left the parliament on the previous Monday, and was on his way to his invalid parent at Amesbury.† William was a pluralist; and independent of his seneschalship, which he had occupied certainly since 1283, ‡ if not before, held at times several pieces of preferment. An honourable family of Cornewalls in this place, lords of the manor, were for many generations, from the reign of Ed. I. the Barons of Burford, in title only, having the otherwise unprivileged *magni nominis umbra* alone attached to their surname. The manor was held in barony, and they were always so termed *ratione tenuræ*, though they never sat as such in parliament. They presented the portionists. § Robert de Lacy had been admitted in the room of Galfridus dictus le Jowene, deceased, who died *ex vulnere quod habuit in capite*, in 1284. || Mortimer had been made portionist in 1276 ¶

On Friday, April 14, by a direct easterly course, they came to LINDRIDGE, in the county of Worcester, and deanery the same as before. Swinfield visited the church, which, like Ross, had been both a rectory and vicarage; these, however, upon the recent death of the late vicar, Walter, in 1288, had been united under the present rector, John de Buterlee (Bitterley), and were valued jointly at £13. 6s. 8d. per ann.** The reason for this proceeding, illustrative of the state of affairs in the church, is expressly set forth in the instrument framed for that purpose; that, whereas it had been canonically provided that ecclesiastical benefices should not be divided; †† and that

* Reg. Swinf. f. 165 b. † Household Roll, Tower. ‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 5 a.

§ Lloyd, Antiq. of Shropsh. by Dukes. 4to. Shrewsbury, 1844. pp. 110 et seq.

|| Reg. Swinf. f. 27 a. ¶ Reg. Cantil. f. 36 a. ** Tax. P. Nichol. p. 165.

†† Several ecclesiastical constitutions had been directed against this practice. See Constit. Stephani Oxon. in Provinc. Lib. III. Tit. 4, p. 134. Dom. Othon. p. 33. *Cum sit ars, &c.* Dom. Othob. Tit. II. *Unitatem, &c.* p. 100, and the glosses of Lyndwood and Atho upon them; especially the last, here particularly pointed to in the case of Lindridge, *Ne una ecclesia in plures dividatur*. For the institution of parochial

such as for certain causes had been divided, upon cessation of such causes should on the first opportunity be restored to their integrity, so that it should be one church, one rector; and that no rector of a parish church should employ a vicar, but be bound to serve it himself as the cure thereof requires; unless a dignity or prebend be annexed to the said church, when the institution or creation of a vicar might be allowed. And whereas he (John de Bitterley) professed himself ready to reside personally on his church of Lindridge as the law required, there being no reasonable cause why there should be a vicar in the said church, the vicarage and rectory were perpetually united with all rights and appurtenances, emolument, burden, and cure.* The rector of Lindridge discharged his duty of procuration; and on the following day, April 15, they moved forward in the direction of Bewdley to АКА, or the Rock.† The parishes to which the visitor was directing his attention in this quarter lay within a small compass. Master William Brun was rector in 1276,‡ and no subsequent incumbent has been detected up to this year of visitation. The value of the benefice was the same as that of Lindridge.§ Procuration was furnished here; and this is the fifth day since any expense on the part of the Bishop was incurred.

Generally, but not invariably, their Sunday was a day of rest. This Sunday, April 16, was however one of the exceptions. Turning again

vicarages, and the establishment of vicars assistant and permanent, even where there were rectors, see Appendix to Pegge's *Life of Bishop Grosseteste*, No. VIII. The vicar mercenary, corresponding to the present curate, was employed by the rector, and might be dismissed by him; the vicar perpetual was an incumbent as at this day. Atho in *Constit. dom. Othon*. p. 24.

* *Reg. Swinf.* f. 48 b. It may, however, be added, that this integrity came again, within a few years, to be more permanently violated by the appropriation of the great tithes (35 Ed. I.) to the prior and convent of Saint Wolstan of Worcester (*Annal. Eccl. Wigorn.* in a. 1305. *Reg. Swinf.* f. 151 b.), by special grant of the King, with consent of the Bishop of Hereford. Edward wrote a letter to his chancellor in French, directing that it might be translated into Latin, and sent by a clerk of the chancery to the chapter of Hereford. Prynne, *Papall Usurp.* III. 1193. An additional instance of the employment of the French language in this reign. Ante, p. lxxi, note *.

† It was anciently called Alwinton. Nash, I. p. 10. ‡ *Reg. Cantil.* f. 31 b.

§ *Tax. P. Nichol.* p. 165. Out of many of these benefices payments were made in other quarters. As in this instance; the Prior of Ware was paid £2. 13s. 4d. and the Prior of Conches £2. Out of Lindridge the Prior of Worcester received £6. 13s. 4d.

into Salop, they came to KYNLETT, in the deanery of Stottesdon. Procurement was neither claimed nor found in this remote place; but the abbat of Wigmore, the rector,* as he is called from his possession of the great tithes, gave them materials for bread and fuel for baking it; besides hay and oats, and litter for horse and man. They had presents of capons, kids, and venison; but all other articles were purchased; and that the situation was remote from supplies is to be collected from the pains that were taken to secure them. Kidderminster, in Worcestershire, was the market to which they had recourse. Robert the carter was the purveyor; he had a guide to attend him probably through the intervening forest of Wyre, and paid for passing the river Severn on his way to and from the town. The bakers had taken possession of the lodgings three days before the rest; and nothing necessary to existing notions of comfort as to meat and drink seems to have been wanting. To the question, why no horse-shoes nor nails could be found nearer than at Hereford, that they should have sent thither for them? it may be replied, that the smiths of that city had ever been famous for their work from before the Norman conquest. On the 17th Sir William Sagon was instituted vicar to the church of Boriton, on the presentation of the abbat and convent of Wigmore.† During the two days spent in this retirement the mind of the Bishop was occupied by anxious thoughts, the object and end of which, as he himself has disclosed them, must now be shewn. There are seasons in human life, brief in themselves, yet often casting a tinge of disappointment over all succeeding years. Such was the day and hour to Swinfield in which he first addressed from Kynlett a letter to the Pope on the canonisation of his predecessor.

Bishop Cantilupe had now been dead more than seven years. At his departure he enjoyed a high reputation with the church, the court, and the people. His noble birth, the posts that he had occupied, his charities and austerities, contributed to his influence in life and after death. When Swinfield brought his bones from Italy, and deposited them in the cathedral of Hereford, that prelate became an essential benefactor to the church and city. Wealth and good report flowed in apace upon them. The popularity

* He presented to the vicarage William Philippe, 28 May, 1288. It was worth £4 per ann. Reg. Swinf. f. 48 a. Tax. P. Nichol. p. 175 a.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 64 b.

of Cantilupe soon attracted multitudes to his tomb, and at the beginning of 1287 it began to be reported that miracles were wrought there.* The burial-place of Simon de Montfort had once been a favourite resort of diseased pilgrims,† but this must have far surpassed it. Those who have lived in the nineteenth need not be surprised at the credulity of the thirteenth century. The public, eager after such novelties, embraced with their wonted ardour this notion of the intervention of a supernatural power. Swinfield and his church as readily believed and encouraged it. An obit had been recently established for Cantilupe; its first celebration had taken place on August 25, 1288.‡ Already he enjoyed the appellation of saint, and nothing appeared wanting to uphold and transmit his posthumous reputation to posterity but a regular canonisation. Miracles, as they were called, were necessarily requisite to the pretensions of those who were proposed as candidates for that honour; and this point in Swinfield's opinion being attained, he no longer delayed to make the attempt. He had for some time cherished it in his mind; but, while the affection and veneration that he entertained for

* The first demonstration is referred by the annalist of Worcester to March 23, 1287. Angl. Sac. I. p. 508. The memory of Cantilupe is not likely to perish. Whenever his history shall be written impartially, divested of the extravagant panegyric that his fond admirers have heaped on him upon the one hand, and the severity of censure that, as a just and natural consequence, was provoked by that extravagance on the other hand, it will be seen that he was a memorable man; far more so in reality than the fame of such miracles as have been attached to his name could ever have made him. Like many others he has suffered from his friends. These are not pages of religious controversy; and it must be left to the common sense of the reader whether he will accept for a truth those representations which the attendants of the cathedral entered on their registers concerning the numbers of the dead restored to life! SURIUS, who visited the shrine, affirms of the miracles: *in codicibus ejus loci, ubi sacra ejus ossa quiescunt, pene infinita reperi, in quibus fertur sexaginta mortuos excitasse*. De probatis sanctor. vitis. Col. Agripp. 1618. fol. p. 87.

† Chronic. Will. de Rishanger. Halliwell. Camd. Soc. Ed. 1840. Introd. xxvii et seq. 67 et seq.

‡ Reg. Swin. f. 45 b. Swinfield paid down one hundred marks, residue of the goods of Cantilupe, in the chapter house of Hereford, for the purchase of a yearly rent or payment to be divided among the canons, priests, and clerks officiating at the cathedral; and it was expressed in the grant that, if by the grace and mercy of God the canonization of Bishop Thomas should hereafter be obtained, the money should go to them for a pittance, and be applied from year to year for festive purposes on that day for ever.

his master would urge him on, he was not without some misgivings as to the success of the undertaking, and he proceeded in a cautious way. About the year 1289, among secret instructions addressed to his proctor going to Rome is the following remarkable article. ||“ Item. Let diligent inquiry be made whether God be working miracles at the tomb of the burial-place of Thomas, Bishop of Hereford, at Santo Severo, nigh unto Orvieto, and let inquiry be made by the dean,* and other discreet persons, what our Lord the Pope thinks of him, and the miracles wrought for him, and let word be written of all these things; and, if it should be expedient to sue for canonisation, how and in what sort of manner.”

No answer to this has been found; most probably, had any thing extraordinary occurred at Santo Severo, it would not have remained unknown; but, as the cautious nature of the inquiry may excite surprise, it will be but fair to show briefly the causes from which it probably arose.

It was diligently circulated that Cantilupe had been a great sufferer in defending the rights of his own and other churches in the province of Canterbury. He certainly had endured much from the rough and impetuous conduct of Archbishop Peckham, in a dispute between them respecting what was considered to be an infringement upon the authority of the suffragans, which Cantilupe alone, it was said, had the courage to defend. Peckham, though an honest, was a passionate haughty man; and in self-command the Bishop of Hereford had greatly the advantage over him. There might be faults on both sides; but the tranquil demeanour of the latter irritated his adversary the more, and he proceeded to the utmost extremity against him. Having in the heat of the quarrel represented Cantilupe as crafty, malicious, and disobedient, guilty of blasphemy and falsehood, and as the holder of forged papal bulls, a crime of the deepest malignity in the eye of the canon law, he finished by publishing sentence of greater excommunication against him, his official, and all his attendants; and he pronounced his chapel under an interdict, with every place to which he might resort. Under these trying circumstances Cantilupe appealed to the Pope, and instantly repaired in person to Rome. † It might, perhaps, be ques-

* John de Aquabianca, then at Rome.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 21 a.

‡ The origin and progress of this dispute, with many curious particulars throwing

tioned, whether as excommunicated, and while he continued so, this could aught avail him. However, he had recourse at once to the fountain-head, and to the astonishment of the Archbishop suddenly migrated, and left him and his own diocese behind him.* This quarrel has been very tenderly handled by ecclesiastical writers; they hint that the Bishop of Hereford fully attained the object of his wishes before he set out on his return; † but there is room for believing that this was far from being the case, that as an excommunicated person his appeal could not be received, that in this condition he was overtaken by his mortal seizure, and only received absolution at the hour of death. ‡

But this is not all. Supposing Cantilupe to have been successful in his application for relief, or in expediting his cause against Peckham, he certainly did not get rid of other difficulties. This was not the only legal matter in which he was entangled at the Roman court. One there was besides, which threatened his reputation as well as his estate. No vestiges

light upon the characters of Cantilupe and Peckham, may be found, not very impartially related, in the letters of the Archbishop. Wilkins, *Concilia*, II. 79 et seq.

* In 1282, either when Cantilupe was abroad, or after his decease, Peckham visited the diocese of Hereford by his metropolitan authority, and was at Dore and Sugwas. Reg. Swin. f. 18 b. APP. No. XXIII. Wilkins, ut supra, pp. 87, 88.

† The expression of Surius is, *rebus et negotiis, quorum causa eo venerat pro voto expeditis*. Id. ut supra. In the *Life and Gestis* it is stated, that "to obtain a quick dispatch and removal of delays was all the favour that was or could be shewed him." pp. 184, 185.

‡ This conclusion rests upon an entry in the register of Humphries, Bishop of Hereford, which shews that, early in the last century, a document to this effect, with others relating to the death and canonisation of Cantilupe, was preserved among the muniments of the dean and chapter. The "Index Archivorum," among references to articles respecting Thomas de Cantilupe, has the following: 12. *Absolutio ejus in articulo mortis*. Whether this be still in existence the editor is unable to state. The scandalous manner in which excommunications were resorted to by the higher clergy on light occasions gave great public offence in this age, and weakened the estimation of the order. In an altercation between the Bishop of Durham and the Archbishop of York, Bek, who feared the face of no man, whether armed to the teeth in steel or with the weapon of a maledictory tongue, arrested and sent to prison two apparitors of his superior sent to serve him with warnings; and immediately incurred sentence of the greater excommunication. 6 Id. April, 1282. Wilkins, ut supra, p. 184.

of this transaction are revealed in the published accounts of him ; but, though the details are curious, they can only be offered in outline. At a time to which the registers of the see extend not, Bishop Aquablanca presented one Peter de Langona, or Langon, his own countryman, a Burgundian, to the prebend of Preston, in the cathedral of Hereford, and to the living of Little Wenlock, in that diocese ; these he continued to hold till Bishop Breton, who came next to Aquablanca, forcibly ejected him from both of them, and presented the prebend to Cantilupe.* Upon this Langon appealed to Rome, whither the parties were cited to make their appearance, and on their contumacy a suit was commenced for damages and reinstatement. In the mean time Breton died, and was succeeded by Cantilupe, who, instead of restoring Langon, as at that juncture he had the power of doing, presented the prebend, on his own resignation, to another, and continued to defend the cause ; but it became to him a source of heavy charge and increasing anxiety. His correspondence with agents manifests his doubts and painful apprehensions as to the issue. Langon was not to be diverted from his object ; he had taken up his position, was resident, and gave his personal attention to the suit. Like the man in the Arabian fable, who fixed himself adhesively to the seaman's shoulders, the tormentor clung, and was not to be shaken off.† This too is a fair specimen of the manner in which proceedings were spun out at the Court of Rome. It lingered on through more than sixteen tedious years, and passed through many hands. Auditors and proctors and popes disappeared ; but still the cause of "Langon versus Cantilupe and others," survived. Innocent V. John XXI. Nicholas III.

* The holding of a prebend in a cathedral seems at this period to have been a stepping-stone to the see. It was so at least in the cases of Cantilupe, Swinfield and Orleton.

† Cantilupe, finding probably that the cause was going against him, tried to get rid of his adversary by coming to terms with him through the mediation of friends. In a confidential letter to Matthew Rufus (Rous), Cardinal deacon of St. Mary in Porticu, whom he styles his friend and only refuge, he intreats him, as of his own proper motion, to persuade the dean of Hereford to interfere between them ; but not to let Langon perceive it. *Vos autem in conspectu dicti Petri istud dissimuletis, prout videbitis expedire, semper eidem viriliter resistentes.* Schedule inserted in Cantil. Reg. at f. 63. Swinfield after him was no less anxious to dispatch the business with all speed. He proposes to his agents, *quod aliqua curialitas fiat advocato, ita quod ipsum statim liberet a Petro Langona.* Reg. Swinf. f. 20 a.

Martin IV. were no more. Then came Honorius IV.* in whose time Cantilupe himself went to his rest. At length, when Nicholas IV. filled the papal chair, the commission for the trial being renewed by him, the prosecution came forth with redoubled vigour, and took a fresh turn; and, forasmuch as, in the language of the lawyers, "no process could or ought to be taken against the dead," it was directed against the executors of Cantilupe's will, Richard de Swinfield † and William de Montfort, ‡ and involved the dean and archdeacon of Hereford, along with the executors of such deceased parties as had been in any way concerned in it; and especially the occupiers of the prebend and living. All these were required by mandate to appear in court, and hear the sentence. It was in substance to this effect: Robert de Ffylebi, holder of the prebend of Preston, to restore it, and pay sixty pounds sterling for every single year of occupation, and the expenses of Langon; Robert de Wých, incumbent of Little Wenlock, to restore it, and pay twelve pounds sterling for every single year of occupation, with expenses; Richard, Bishop of Hereford, and Master William de Montfort, executors of Thomas de Cantilupe, to repay sixty pounds for every single year in which he had detained the prebend of Preston, according to the quantity and value of money or effects, moveable or immoveable, of the

* Honorius IV. died April 3, 1287.

† Swinfield, or some one for him, in certain memoranda, freely expresses his sense of the privation of Langon, and the wrong that would be done to himself were he made responsible for that act; "*in causa Petri de Langon, quæ nullatenus videtur dominum Herefordensem contingere; pro eo maxime, quod ipse non spoliavit, nec successit spolianti, nec ipsam (sc. præbendam) contulit quoque modo, nec alius quisquam nomine suo.*" Reg. Swinf. f. 30 a.

‡ The association of one of the De Montforts with Swinfield in this executorship was natural. The Cantilupes had been attached to that party, and Thomas at an early period had been indebted to them for advancement. This William de Montfort, Dean of Saint Paul's, died suddenly of apoplexy, brought on apparently by agitation at having to make a speech before the King, as prolocutor, in defence of the clergy. Matth. Westm. in a. 1294. In his will he did not omit to leave a legacy, and express a hope for the canonisation of Cantilupe. || *Item, memorandum quod sic continetur in testamento bonæ memoriæ magistri Willielmi de Montforti quondam decani Londoniensis ecclesiæ.* || *Item .C. marcas pro procuranda canonizatione domini Thomæ bonæ memoriæ quondam Herefordensis episcopi, cum Domino placuerit quod dicta canonizatio poterit prosperari.* From an almost obliterated and unnumbered folio at the beginning of Swinfield's register.

said Thomas remaining in their hands, and to pay expenses. The sentence of deprivation pronounced against Langon, with all other acts against him, to be null and void; and he to be restored to the possession of the aforesaid church and canonry, and to the state in which he was at the time of his appeal.*

This sentence was pronounced by Bertuldus de Labro, the auditor, in the court of the papal palace at Orvieto,† on July 26, 1290, just three days beyond the closing date of our Roll. A protest was immediately entered against it by the proctor of the executors, on the score of its injustice; and this was met by a counter-appeal on the part of the plaintiff; and again replied to on that of the defendants, who by petition to another auditor moved for setting aside and quashing the whole. How Ffylebi and Wych extricated themselves from their fines is not made known; but the former ultimately resigned. The executors shewed that they had no assets of Cantilupe's estate remaining, but had laid out the residue in founding his obit, and had formally been released from their liabilities by letters of the Court of Canterbury.‡ Here for awhile the matter ostensibly slumbers,§ till at length Langon re-appears in the diocese of Hereford; gives up his suit and claim to the pecuniary damages awarded to him, and addresses a mandate to that effect to his proctors at Rome, dated from Bosbury, on the Feast of St. Laurence, Aug. 12, 1292. || Thus finally victorious in this protracted struggle, and restored to his prebend of Preston, he ended his days in the enjoyment of its emolument with his seat in the chapter and stall in the choir, about November, 1299.¶

An extract of this process, from the archives of the court, is entered upon Swinfield's register; ** and at the end of it an attempt is made to counteract any injurious effect that it might have a tendency to produce, by

* Reg. Swinf. ff. 71 b, 72 a.

† *Per dominum Bertuldum auditorem pro tribunali sedentem apud Urbem veterem in palatio domini papae, ubi jus redditur.* Id. ut supra. The *Urbs Vetus*, in the vicinity of Monte Fiascone, where Cantilupe died, though frequently and strictly rendered by *Civita Vecchia*, as ante p. lxxv. is here unquestionably Orvieto.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 63 a.

§ Directions were subsequently given to Richard de Pudlesdone, the Bishop's proctor, *ad componendum et transigendum*, to make up the matter. See APP. NO. IV. pp. 203 et seq. for particulars respecting the last stage of the affair.

|| Reg. Swinf. f. 77 a.

¶ Id. f. 127 a.

** Id. ff. 70 et seq.

pointing out certain falsehoods contained in the charges as to the precise occurrence of events, the value of the prebend and living, and the names of those who successively held them; but these negations leave totally untouched the great question of the original and continued deprivation of Langon,* upon which the justice or injustice of Breton or Cantilupe depend. While that point remains utterly obscure, the impression which it is calculated to convey to the unprejudiced mind will probably be, that both of them were justly censurable, and that if the latter possessed the virtues of a saint, he was not altogether divested of the moral infirmities of a man.

Under the circumstances that have been related, and while such a cause was pending, it is intelligible enough why Swinfield, having in view this canonisation, should have desired to know at an early stage of his project, what sentiments the Pope, on whom it would depend, entertained of his predecessor or the miracles. But, whatever might be the opinion of the then reigning pontiff,† another sat at present in the papal chair, who, if not the personal friend of Cantilupe, had been so far prejudiced in his favour as at his funeral to have pronounced an eulogy over him. Accordingly the Bishop, being now acquainted with the regular mode of proceeding in such a case, took his first step; though he ventured,

* The reason of Langon being ejected in the first instance is no where shewn by way of defence, either on the part of Breton or Cantilupe. No more is alleged than that it was done *juris exigentia, et ordine asservato*, as right required, and in observance of order. Reg. Swinf. f. 73 a. Langon in one place affirms that Breton did it *pro sua voluntatis arbitrio, auctoritate ordinaria*. In another, *quod, cum ipse pacifice possedisset prebendam in ecclesia Herefordensi, et ecclesiam de parva Wenlok, Herefordensis diocesis, sibi collatas per Episcopum Herefordensem, qui erat Burgundus, quo Episcopo defuncto, successit ei in Episcopatu Johannes dictus Brito, qui erat Anglicus, et invidens Burgundis, pro sua libito voluntatis spoliavit dictum Petrum, et plures alios, predictis prebenda et ecclesia et domibus suis*. Id. f. 71 b. And in this, no doubt, was the germ of the whole affair, issuing primarily from the unfortunate attachment of Hen. III. to foreign ecclesiastics, and the jealousy and confusion that it created in the resistance that the English offered to them. Cantilupe writes to Edmund Warefield, his proctor at Rome, in 1275, always to keep a good look out over the Burgundians: *advertatis semper de Burgundis*. Reg. Cantil. f. 5 b.

† It is not certain whether the proctor's instructions to inquire were issued under the pontificate of Honorius IV. or at the beginning of that of Nicholas IV. On the death of Honorius the see was vacant eleven months. Modern Univ. Hist. XXII. 302.

it may be thought rather hazardously, on the experiment, in defiance of whatever sentence might be forthcoming from the court of him to whom he addressed his petition.

The letter of Swinfield to the Pope, as it stands in the original, must speak for itself: * a compressed recital of its contents may be sufficient here. It differs somewhat in tone and expression from the official or familiar epistles already quoted. No doubt it was well considered, and worded in the most approved respectful phraseology of the age; but it is laboriously involved, circumlocutory, and seemingly less at ease than other specimens of his correspondence. After the usual adulatory salutation of kissing the pontiff's feet, it opens with citing the scriptural proverb that "a wise son maketh a glad father," † introducing to the pope his son in question, Thomas, sometime Bishop of Hereford, the joy of the whole Anglican Church, commended of God and his holiness. The writer then descants upon his noble extraction and exemplary manners, and reminds him how truly and clearly these were set forth by him in an eloquent discourse delivered to the clergy and laity at his funeral. He lays great stress upon the divine confirmation of these excellent qualities by continued miracles renowned throughout England and many other parts of the world; not to be wondered at, he observes, considering his worth with reference to the Church at large, and sufferings in the cause of his own church to the end of his days. Swinfield next casts his personal experience into the scale. "I write these things to you, most holy father, with a safer conscience, inasmuch as I formed a part of the family of this servant of God for about eighteen years, and was very frequently an eye-witness of his behaviour." Then winding up with a detail of his virtues, modestly kept secret by him, as far as was reasonably in his power, he urges that such a burning and shining light should not be hidden under a bushel, but set on a candlestick; and upon all these grounds, as a matter of the highest consequence and advantage to the church of Hereford, solicits his admission in the customary manner into the catalogue of saints. ‡

* APP. No. XXIV.

† Proverbs, x. 1.

‡ The sequel may be summarily given. There is no intimation of any answer having been received from Nicholas IV. He died in 1292, and after a vacancy of two years Celestine V. was elected. This event offering an opportunity for a fresh application, the Bishops of Durham and Ely sent a joint petition, which was immediately

This task accomplished, dating his letter from Kynlett* (now Kinlet), before he left the place, on April 18, he advanced a short day's journey to DUDDLEWICK, a township in the adjoining parish of Stottesden. The manor belonged to the abbey of Salop, and had a house capacious enough for the Bishop's reception. We find that it had been previously cleansed, a duty which was undertaken by William the porter, † acting as harbinger. Swinfield is diligently following up his circuit, and continues every day for a fortnight upon the road, halting at the undermentioned places, visiting at some, and receiving gratuitous assistance at others; but only thrice relieved by general entertainment of man and horse, which will always be found expressed by the steward as *summa nichil*. April 19, at CHETTON, near Bridgenorth. Roger de Lectone (Letton?), chaplain, had been presented to this rectory

backed by one from the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Reg. Swinf. ff. 77 a. 128 b. But Celestine abdicated in the following month, and even if the letters had reached him, or been proceeded upon, Boniface VIII. annulled all the official acts of both his predecessors. Swinfield waited patiently till 1299, when he resumed his suit, and wrote what is denominated his "last letter." Id. f. 124 b. No notice, however, appears to have been taken of it, either in this or the ensuing pontificate of Benedict XI. Edward I. took up the cause in that of Clement V. a. 1305, communicated with Swinfield upon it, and set himself in earnest to secure the object. The King wrote himself; and several letters in due form were sent from bishops and nobles to the Pope and cardinals, pressing its speedy advancement in this and the following year. Id. ff. 150 b. 151 a. 154 a. 155 a. Measures were adopted for setting on foot a commission of inquiry: but still it lingered till the Pope and King and Swinfield were dead. In the meantime it had not only exhausted and disappointed the Bishop's expectation, but was attended with such serious expense that it kept his purse distressingly low. Id. ff. 170, 175 b. Another Pope, John XXII., assumed the tiara, when Edward II. having succeeded his father and become a party to the petition, such efforts were made that the inquiry was revived, and so effectually that a bull was issued in May, 1320, in the time of Bishop Orleton, by which, to the great joy of the Anglican Church, and that of Hereford in particular, the canonisation of Thomas de Cantilupe was declared. Reg. Orleton, ff. 21 a, 38 a. Bullarium Roman. I. 223. Wilkins, Concil. II. 283. Rymer, I. pp. 2, 985; II. pp. 20, 21, 43, 179, 355, 385.

* Among the marvels of Shropshire in this century was the appearance of two mock suns, observed at this place on the ides of March 1282, by the prior of the Augustinians of Ludlow, Sir Brian de Brampton, and many others. This phenomenon produced sufficient impression to secure it a place in the Annals of Worcester. Angl. Sacra, Annal. Wigorn. in anno.

† Dors. ‖45 g.

by Sir Hugh Burnel, knight, in 1285,* in the room of Nicholas de Hereford, canon of the church of Hereford. The church was visited, and the rector gave procuration. The next stage, April 20, was only to MORVILLE, the adjoining parish. A collegiate establishment of eight canons, set up in this place before the Norman conquest, with a church dedicated to Saint Gregory, had passed into the hands of the abbat and convent of Salop; † they had reduced the rectory to a vicarage, and had planted a Benedictine cell there. It stood on the left hand, beyond the village, on the way towards Wenlock. The prior supplied their thirty-five horses that night with oats and hay. The two last mentioned churches were in the deanery of Stottesden. April 21 they rode into WENLOCK. That town gave its name to a deanery. Its priory, at that time consisting of Cluniac monks, and its church, dedicated to Saint Milburga, had been set apart for prayer and praise, almost as early as the foundation of the see of Hereford, and had so continued at intervals for at least six hundred years. Founded by Saxons, destroyed by Danes, restored by Saxons and again deserted, it was once more re-established by Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, in its existing state. This was a regular visitation, ‡ and the prior, Henry de Bonvillars, alias Bonville, or his representative, entertained them by procuration in his venerable and splendid abode. For it must be remembered that this was indeed a wealthy house. § Its temporals in the diocese, exceeded only by those of Wigmore, were estimated at £124. 10s. 4d. per annum; among which was a flock of 976 sheep. But it reflected no great credit upon Tubbe, the former prior, when the survey was taken, that he had sold his wool for several years by a bargain beforehand, and received the whole of the money, so that his successor was deprived of this source of income till the term was expired. ||

* Reg. Swinf. f. 20 b.

† Tanner, in Morville. Antiq. of Shropshire, Rev. R. W. Eyton, I. p. 32 et seq.

‡ John de Lodelawe, chaplain, was instituted to it on their presentation, at Bosbury, March 28, 1291. Reg. Swinf. f. 73 b. A priest named Corne had been instituted in 1279. Reg. Cantil. f. 62 a.

§ The prior was lord of the manor. Plac. de quo Warr. 20 Edw. I. p. 684 a. John Tubbe is named as prior about this period in note h, p. 76 of the Roll, on the authority of Willis. But the list of priors in Dukes' Antiq. of Shropsh. App. p. xlv. seems more entitled to credit. De Bonvillars succeeded Tubbe, and had the temporalities restored to him in 1284, and continued prior till 1319.

|| Tax. P. Nichol. p. 164 b. Another trick of Tubbe is given in Dukes, ut supra, p. 70.

Neither did it redound to the honour of the society, or the fame of his good government, that, about seven years before, William, one of the monks, had put himself at the head of a gang of robbers, and was taken and executed.* April 22, at OXENBOLD, a manor of the said prior, where the Bishop rested, by invitation, † on his way. The spacious manor-house, standing solitary in the parish of Stanton-long in Corve-dale, according to tradition, was once surrounded by a park. ‡ Its walls, upwards of 8 feet in thickness, still defy the hand of time. South-westward to MUNSLOW, on St. George's Day. It will be observed that no mention is made of visitation in the greater number of places at which the Bishop stops to rest; and whether this be an omission or otherwise on the part of the keeper of the Roll cannot be determined by one who comes to the inquiry more than five centuries after him. The incumbent of Munslow left it to the rector of Stanton-long to make a present of provender, though Munslow was a rectory worth £11. 6s. 8d. but he was probably non-resident, as he had an assistant vicar at less than £4. Proceeding thence in the direction of Ludlow, and entering into that deanery, they arrived, April 24, at STANTON LACY, belonging to Lantonia prima. Their great tithes here were the highest in all the deanery, except those of Diddlebury, and amounted to £36. 13s. 4d.§ Their vicar had a salary of £11. The Geneviles were lords of the manor.|| The time of year and character of the country are marked by kids as a frequent article of provision. Though goats had been found prejudicial to inclosures they were encouraged in wild and open tracts. In the town or vicinity of Ludlow mead was procured; and they bought canvas for pack-

* Ann. Wigorn. in a. 1283.

† The expression *fuit dominus cum domino priore* would seem to lead to the conclusion that Bonvillars actually accompanied the Bishop to this manor. It may, however, be remarked that the prior of Wenlock had obtained in the preceding January a royal licence for one year to go abroad. *Literas de attornato habet prior de Wenlok, qui de licentia regis profecturus est ad partes transmarinas, sub nominibus fratris Jacobi de Cosseneje et Thomæ Lenfaunt per unum annum araturus. . . . Teste rege apud Westmonast. 20 die Jan.* Rot. Pat. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

‡ This is said to have formerly contained deer. Qu. whether the hint about fresh venison in April 24 may not have been connected with the fact?

§ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 166 b.

|| Dukes, p. 224.

ing their plate.* The prior's agent, and Master Richard de Heytone (Eyton), portionist of Bold and Castle Holgate, made up a joint contribution of corn, hay, and straw. Some of the horses had fallen sick. April 25, they were at BITTERLEY, and still in the deanery of Ludlow, but to have arrived at it must have passed through Ludlow town, and in doing this the Bishop would have an opportunity, which about this time he seems to have taken, of bestowing his bounty on the Augustinians there.† The church of Bitterley was worth £2. 6s. 8d. per annum. The rector did not refuse his procuration, but proceeding with the same caution as the incumbent of Lugwardine, preferred to retain his own sense of non-liability, by receiving his ordinary as an invited guest. The lord of Bitterley manor was the patron.‡ April 26, they lodged at BROMFIELD. The pleasant site of this priory was admirably suited to the taste of those who sought religious retirement. It stood near the confluence of the Oney and the Teme. Not far from this spot gigantic oaks, the growth of centuries, yet grace the banks of these winding waters, fit scenes for monastic meditation. From the earliest and, as we may be apt to think, most unobservant times, the lovers of sacred solitude had discriminating eyes, and chose their homesteads well. Here too were originally prebendaries after the ancient fashion, supplanted by a Benedictine cell of monks, merged in the great abbey of Gloucester about the year 1155.§ The prior catered for their horses, but left the travellers to provide for themselves. Indeed the presence of the Bishop at this place did not imply a visitation, neither was it admitted as such. The monks of Bromfield, whose first foundation was of Saxon origin, were tenacious of the original liberties attached to it. They

* It is a less familiar fact that even as early as this time cotton was used for packing and preserving jewels. In the Household Roll of lord Edward, son of the King, 19 Edw. I. in the Tower, is an entry: *Pro Coton' empt' ibid'* (sc. Londoniæ) *ad salvationem jocalium*.

† Dors. || 33, ante, pp. lxiv. clxix. He might have communicated in this way with the Minorites of Bridgnorth, in passing from Chetton to Morville. Both remittances were made in April.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 61 a.

§ Tanner. MSS. Cotton. Domit. A. viii. f. 146 a. *Hic Bromfelda datur, et canonicus monachatur.*

maintained that they held under frankalmoign, and immediate regal protection, independent of episcopal jurisdiction; and produced charters, if they were really authentic, in proof of their claim. Such documents, it is well known, have often fallen under the suspicion of forgeries; yet, whatever may have been the true character of the originals that were held by the fraternity of Bromfield, a transcript of them has been admitted into the register of the see, a proof in their favour that they were at that time received as evidence worthy of preservation.* The divisions of travel as to distance at this part of the route are short, and were leisurely taken. April 27, they came to STOKESAY, where the abbat and convent of Haghmon, or Haughmond, † near Shrewsbury, were patrons of the vicarage, worth £4. 6s. 8d. per annum. These had received the advowson, in 1156, from the family of Say, from whom Stoke has ever since borne its distinctive appellation; but the Lacys had been more permanently its lords. However, as there is a Stoke in Herefordshire to which the gentilitial name of Lacy had been given, it was well contrived, to avoid confusion, that this Stoke in Shropshire should hold its adjunct of Say. But neither the Says nor Lacys were now the masters here. The estate had passed into the hands of the Ludlows; and the mansion they inhabited stands a curious and genuine memorial, as to most of its parts and proportions, of the domestic architecture of the age.

* Reg. Swinf. f. 153 a, b. The first of these instruments, professing to be a charter granted by Edward (the Confessor?), is so imperfectly copied by the transcriber as to afford little chance of determining upon its pretensions. The others, of Henry II. and Bishop Gilbert Foliot, are more satisfactory. The last declares, *quod memorata ecclesia propria dominica domini regis est. Vult dominus rex, et præcipit, ut ipsa sua plena gaudeat libertate, sicut ceteræ consimiles capellæ quæ sunt in Anglia. Nec permittit dominus rex me posse habere aliquam jurisdictionem in sæpofatum priorem, vel in aliquem ipsius successorum; sed nec procuracionem, nisi tantum de gratia prioris, si casu me contingat per illum locum transire.* At the assizes, 20 Edw. I. the prior of Bromfield claimed free warren in the manor of Bromfield, by the charter of Henry II. which was allowed. The said charter comprised a grant of *infangtheof*, and the jury found that by virtue of that power one Henry de la Chapele had been hanged in Bromfield for theft, being tried and condemned by the prior. Antiq. of Shropsh. Lloyd Dukes, p. 116.

† In the different spellings of proper names, which have never been determined, the editor hopes for the indulgence of the reader when he has sometimes varied them by an interchange between the ancient and modern orthography.

In 19 Edw. I. Laurence de Ludlo, who held of John de Grey, as he also of the King in capite, obtained a license to strengthen it with a wall of stone and lime; and, in the vanity of man's excusable desire of perpetuating possession, and making all secure for those who come after him, to place battlements upon it for him and his heirs for ever.* This Ludlow had, however, no communication with the Bishop sufficient to bring his name upon the Roll; but Master Richard de Heyton,† who had already lent his assistance at Stanton Lacy, reappears upon it, and joins with the abbat-rector‡ in providing for the stable. April 28 was passed at WISTANSTOW, where again the Ludlows were also manorial lords. Swinfield had cause to notice this place; he could not have forgotten the conduct of the rector, nor the measure which the irregularity of that individual had lately compelled him to adopt. Sir Roger Sprengnose was descended of a family that stood high in Salop. They were for a long time lords of the manor of Longnor, within the manor of Condovery; and many of them had been sheriffs of the county.§ Presuming perhaps upon his connexion, he had in more than one instance tried the forbearance of his diocesan. By a canon of the council of Lyons, then in force, every junior incumbent was compellable to take priest's orders within one year after his admission to a living.|| At what age Sprengnose succeeded to Wistanstow is not clear; according to the above cited canon he should not, as a rector, have been younger than twenty-five; yet he was but a subdeacon when he was instituted in the latter part of Cantilupe's time.¶ It seems hardly credible that he should have been permitted to set the rule at defiance, as he did, for six or seven years, and when his church was twice visited to have refused procuration; so that

* See Mrs. Stackhouse Acton's interesting memoir and plea for the restoration of that valuable relic of mediæval structures in *Archæol. Cambrensis*, New Series, IV. p. 39.

† The name of Eyton will be entitled to the gratitude of all future antiquaries and patrons of local history, when the accurate labours of the existing author of "The Antiquities of Shropshire" shall have been given to the literary world.

‡ Gilbert de Caumpden, who succeeded Henry de Asteley, 12 Edw. I. and retired 33 Edw. I. Dugdale, VI. p. 197.

§ Blakeway and Owen, I. p. 131.

|| Acta Concil. Lugdun. in Hardoin. Sacrosancta Concil. xi. p. 983. Const. Othon. Lyndwood, pp. 24 et seq.

¶ In October 1281. The living was given to him by Sir Robert de Morpelton. Reg. Cantil. f. 70 a.

his living became voidable, had the Bishop proceeded strictly against him.* He was, however, brought to see and acknowledge his offence, and came to Bosbury in 1288 to make his personal submission, when on compliance with the constitution, and payment of his dues, he was allowed to continue rector of Wistanstow.† The annual value of this rectory was £13; that of the vicarage £5.‡ It is not improbable that the procuration submitted to was still paid in money, for hay and oats are recorded as a gift. Some of the horses continued ailing, and it would be a reasonable cause for the continuance of their short stages. April 29 they turned aside to the right, through the valley to ETON, where the prior and convent of Wenlock placed a vicar with an income of £4. 6s. 8d. They had the manor with the old accompaniments of mills and customary tenants. The manor-house was set in order for the reception of its guests, and the stable supplied by the lord prior; but the place was remote, and it was necessary to look out for victuals. They had brought cod and plaice with them, and with the necessaries that they procured, and the help of a present of two salmon, they managed to prevent a day of abstinence, this Saturday, from being converted into an actual fast. Sunday, April 30, they passed at CHURCH STRETTON, in its beautiful dale. The Master of the Temple was lord of the manor.§ This and the two preceding churches were in the deanery of Wenlock. To those who were acquainted with what was then going on at the royal court the day was one of unusual interest, remarkable for the nuptials|| of the Princess Joan of Acre with Gilbert de Clare, sometime the contentious neighbour of the see. The patron of Stretton in 20 Edw. I.

* If Cantilupe had not been cut off, Sprengnose would in all probability not have continued uncorrected so long. During the attempts of that prelate to reform his diocese he expressed himself very strongly on the subject of those who ventured to transgress. A passage in a letter to his official proves his resolute impartiality. *In citatione ad ordines faciendā nulli pareatis, nulli parcatis, quantacunque præfulgeat dignitate.* Reg. Cantil. f. 10 a.

† APP. No. XXII.

‡ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 166 b.

§ Plac. de quo Warranto, 20 Edw. I. p. 684 b.

|| They were married at the gate or church porch of Westminster Abbey. For this custom see Brand, edit. Ellis, II. pp. 133, 134. The King placed 40s. with the ring upon the missal with which the ceremony was performed. Lib. Hosp. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

was the King, the incumbent Philip de Valence.* The rick and garner of the rector were placed at the service of the travellers *de dono*. They made a long stride to get forward, on May 1, to PONTESBURY, over a country mountainous and intricate, and not to be traversed without a guide. In these parts many traces were left of the collegiate institutions of elder times, before the monks had interfered with the labours and revenues of the secular clergy. Pontesbury, that gave name to a small rural deanery, had then three portionists. The names of them were David, Nicholas, and Robert de Ratford.† The rector, one of them, sent his present of corn and hay. Though this might have been a fatiguing day compared with those that immediately preceded it, they took no additional rest, but on the morrow, hiring carters, and probably their conveyances, they arrived and stayed at

WESTBURY NEAR CAUS, May 2 and 3,

on the road between Shrewsbury and Montgomery, hard by the domain and castle of the celebrated Peter Corbet, and linked with Caus to distinguish it from other places of the name. Two portionists were attached to this church. One of them, John de Lutham, or Ludham, gave hay and corn and litter. The house of reception had been made ready by the baker; neither could the cooks have been idle, from the quantity and variety of provision that was laid in. Beef, mutton, veal, kid, roebuck, and poultry, bought and presented, are symptomatic of a feast on the first day of their abode. On the second, they accepted the invitation of Sir William de Hodnet, knight, who was patron of the church; and it is one among the few instances in which the Bishop was indebted to the assistance or hospitality of any saving the clergy on his round. This William held Hodnet of the King by serjeantry of the stewardship of the castle of Montgomery; and it was his duty to defend the outworks of that fortress with his retinue: his daughter and heir married Sir William, son of the Sir Lawrence de Ludlo ‡

* Dukes, p. 232.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 167.

‡ When the church of Westbury subsequently fell under the patronage of this family, we have the regular appointment and admittance of a priest as sacristan, or sexton, accompanied by a mandate from the Bishop to the parish priest to induct him. || *Sacristaria de Westbury*. || *Memorandum, quod sexto Id. Maii, anno domini M^o. CCC^o. decimo apud Bosebury admisit dominus Willielmum de Castro Hologod, presbyterum,*

who has been shewn to have held Stoke-Say. They were now approaching that disputed ground where so lately as in November, 1288, Swinfield had with imposing solemnity settled a part of the north-western limit of his diocese, and recovered and established the rights of certain churches, and the extent of their parishes on the border.* He halted at one of them,

ALBERBURY, May 4 and 5.

The great tithes, amounting to £25, belonged to a convent of Grandimontensians, established here in the reign of Henry I. It was a cell to the larger house of that order in Limosin.† The prior, called also *corrector*,‡ Peter de Corcellis, whose name indicates his alien extraction, has the credit of the procurations; but they were actually shared between him and the vicar, Gregory de Clun, if the parties stood to an award made between them by the Bishop,§ in May 1289. The vicar had served the church with its chapels, and that of Woolaston, four years, for an emolument of £6. 13s. 4d.; and during this time had been engaged in a dispute with his patrons, which Swinfield settled in the following manner: that the costs of visitations, repairs of chancels, books, vestments, and vessels, with other ornaments of the church, as well as all charges extraordinary imposed by authority apostolical, metropolitan, diocesan, royal, or any other whatsoever, should be borne in equal proportions between the incumbent and the

ad sacristariam de Westbury sub Castro de Caus, ad præsentationem domini Willielmi de Lodelowe militis, veri patroni ejusdem, et ipsum instituit in eadem dando eidem suas patentem literas in hujus consuetas. Et eadem die mandavit presbytero parochiali loci ejusdem per suas literas solitas, ut ipsum induceret in corporalem possessionem sacristariæ prædictæ. Reg. Swinf. f. 168 b.

* Ante, pp. lxxviii. lxxix.

† Tanner in Alberbury. They had but two other houses in England. Craswell, in Herefordshire, in the wild country at the base of the Black mountain; and Grosmont, in Eskdale, in Yorkshire.

‡ In the Taxation, p. 163, he is called *Custos*. The revenues of alien houses were managed by agents. The sheep of the proctor are reckoned among the moveables. *Ibid.*

§ In the following century the convent of Alberbury was independent of the Bishop. Hugo Pelegrim, treasurer of Lichfield and papal nuncio, wrote to John Trillec, Bishop of Hereford in 1357, to send him a note of all ecclesiastical places or benefices exempt from the jurisdiction of the ordinary by privilege or custom, and the Bishop, among other places, returns the priories of Alberbury and Clifford, and notwithstanding what has been related at p. clxx, and is shewn in APP. XXIII.—the abbey of Dore. Reg. Trillec, Ep. Heref. f. 128.

brethren of the house. Besides these he was to undertake the sole provision of due and suitable lights in the chancel, to collect Peter-pence from the parishioners and pay them to the archdeacon, with twelve pence for synodals, and half a mark yearly, on Michaelmas day, to the prior and brethren, in token of subjection, and for the boon of peace (*pro bono pacis.*)* To these articles certain penalties were annexed on failure of payment within a certain time; conditions that upon the whole appear sufficiently humiliating to such as are unacquainted with the nature of the dispute, or how far the vanquished vicar had offended to deserve so lasting a brand. There was no lack of a disposition towards altercation either among the clergy or laymen of the country. The Fitz-Warrens kept it alive at Alberbury, and Corbet at Caus, and gave employment to the courts of assise.† Borderers, who had lived so long in the presence of a common enemy, when that incentive was removed, retained their ancient habits by quarreling among themselves. At Alberbury, on Thursday, May 4, the Bishop dedicated, that is, consecrated the parish church.‡ Our document gives facts rather than motives; and it were useless to guess at the reason for this solemnity at this time; or to ask why, seeing that it was a parish church, and had been regularly served by a vicar, it had not been dedicated before? The ceremony was considered so essential in a building erected for public Christian worship that the canonists in alluding to it were almost at a loss how worthily enough to describe it.§ But, strange to

* Reg. Swinf. f. 60 b.

† Dukes, pp. 101, 107.

‡ The words *Consecratio* and *Dedicatio* are used convertibly in the Constitution of Othobonus, *de Consecrat. et Reformat. status Ecclesie*. Tit. 3, f. 83, Lyndwood. The historians of Shrewsbury point out that a distinction is made between them in the commission of a suffragan (Blakeway and Owen, I. p. 314, note l.); and their several application by the Romans is explained by Forcellinus, *Lexic. in v. consecro*.

§ It was styled *salubre mysterium, officium sublime*. Yet Otho, in his Constitutions of 1236, Lyndwood, pp. 6, 7, rebukes the disuse of it. *Multas invenimus ecclesias, et aliquas cathedrales, quæ licet fuerint ab antiquo constructæ, nondum tamen sunt sanctificationis oleo consecratæ*. Wherefore he directs all cathedral, conventual, and parochial churches to be consecrated within two years after they were built. *Omnes, quæ perfectis parietibus sunt constructæ, infra biennium per Diocesanos Episcopos, ad quos pertinent, vel eorum auctoritate per alios consecrentur*. Pegge, *Life of Grosseteste*, p. 63, suggests the enormous expenses of fees and entertainments as the cause of the

observe, the neglect of it had become so scandalous in England during the thirteenth century that it provoked the censure of a papal legate to correct it. The church of Alberbury was dedicated to St. Michael.

Having touched the extreme point of their progress in this direction, they took Friday for a day of repose, to prepare for moving southward, parallel to the border, to

CHIRBURY, May 6 and 7,

not far from Montgomery. The advowson was in the gift of the priory of Austin canons settled here. Its tithes, as well as those of Alberbury, had been claimed by Anianus in his suit. They were appropriated to the convent at £30 per annum;* those of John, the vicar, are not given in the Taxation. The Bishop began by visiting the church on Saturday, and on the Sunday the same rite of dedication was renewed as at Alberbury, and to the same saint. Swinfield was entertained by procuration at the cost of Adam,† the prior, both these days. The state of the convent and its acceptance with their ordinary may be presumed to have been now very different from what they were in 1286, when they provoked his animadversion. Within the last two years there had been a growing intercourse and cordiality between them. In December, 1288, this house had been selected by Swinfield, with the concurrence of Anianus and their respective chapters, as the most convenient place for conference on the disputed claim to Gordwr. And the language employed by the Bishop of Hereford, in giving his opinion of the society, when in October, 1289, he favoured them by confirming anew their grant of these great tithes, is striking as a contrast to that which he had used before. Instead of being "vain, litigious, gossiping, and vagabonds on the face of the earth,"‡ they are commended for their devotion toward God and charity to their neighbour, hospitality, and relief of the poor; § a satisfactory and happy reformation, if the expressions may be admitted in their real acceptance rather than as a mere

omission. Among the articles of inquiry in his visitation of 1236 is, 15, *An ecclesia sint dedicata?* Id. App. p. 313.

* Tax. P. Nichol. p. 166 b.

† He resigned in 1299. *Senio jam fractus, et adversa valetudine corporali miserabiliter molestatus.* Reg. Swinf. f. 126 b.

‡ Ante, p. lxxvi.

§ Reg. Swinf. ff. 30 b, 63 b.

official form. Besides this, however, prior Adam is personally grateful, and makes his visitor the friendly present of a colt,* so that it cannot be doubted that a good understanding existed between them.†

Having passed through the deanery of Pontesbury, in which the last three churches were situated, they entered that of Clun; and still continuing southward, and in a track nearly parallel to the frontier of Wales, they arrived and remained at

BISHOP'S CASTLE, from May 8 to 12 inclusive.

The Spaniards have a proverb, that "he who hath a castle on a frontier never wants a quarrel;" and it seems to have been verified at Bishop's Castle in unsettled times. This was, as its name implies, the stronghold of the occupier of the see, and was the only real fortress remaining to him, whither he could resort in time of danger. It was girt with strong walls and defended by embattled towers: the owner of the manor was invested with the powers of a feudal seignory: as a residence it had a dove-cote and a garden,‡ and here, or hereabouts at Ledbury (Lidbury) North, was a range of forest, woodland, park, or pasturage for deer. Two castles had formerly been attached to the bishopric, but they had been taken out of the hands of Robert de Betun in the middle of the last century; the nobles to whom they were given up by that timid prelate § were the Earl of Mellent

* Dors. ||33.

† Squire John de Baseville was not at this time personally attendant, for we find him at Bosbury, May 6, buying a horse by order of my lord to replace one lost in the service some time before. Dors. ||47 a.

‡ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 168 b.

§ He was probably in the same situation as Aquablanca afterwards with respect to the roving chieftains, and could not help himself. According to his biographer Betun took refuge in some religious houses, and in* the castles on the edge of his diocese, during the civil agitations of his times. Gilbert Foliot, who succeeded him, complains to Pope Eugenius, that having alienated four prebends from his church, and given them to his favourite priory of Lantony, *duo etiam castella ecclesie nostrae idem predecessor noster nobilissimis viris Comiti de Mellent et Hugoni de Mortuomari magno ecclesie ipsius incommodo et detrimento concessit*; and he requests the interference of that pontiff to get them restored.

* At or near, for the phrase is ambiguous, *ad cenobia religiosorum, ad castella parochialibus suis circumjecta terminis*. Vita Rob. Betun. Angl. Sacra, II. 314.

and Hugh de Mortimer. If, as is most probable, this castle was one of them, it must have been twice alienated and as often restored; for we have seen that Aquablanca lost it again* in the Barons' struggle against Henry III. Civil war and Cambrian invasion were, however, now for a while suspended in these parts, and it was again in possession of its rightful lord, who seems to have considered that one such edifice was quite enough to keep in repair.† In the adjacent borough he had a market; but it does not establish the impression of this being a well-provided place, that the baker should have brought yeast and salt with him, when he preceded the rest; and indeed their main supplies appear to have been drawn from Ludlow.‡

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, being Rogation days, were kept as fasts. These were preliminary to the celebration of the Thursday commemorative of the Ascension of Our Lord, the crown of the festivals of the year, for which abundant preparation was made. Foliot, the messenger, went upon many errands at this time.§ As it is the last entertainment of the kind that falls in our way, Kemeseye shall himself once more detail the particulars:

|| Thursday, on Ascension day, at the same place. Two quarters of flour baked from wheat bought from the manor for 6*s.* 8*d.* Wine already accounted for. In beer, 16*d.* Item, half a carcass of beef, 1 roe, 11 kids, presents already accounted for. In 1 carcass of beef, 6*s.* 4*d.* In 2 bacons from the manor, 3*s.* In 2 calves, 12*d.* In 19 geese, 4*s.* In 28 fowls, 12*d.* Item, 28 capons, 12 fowls, a present. Out of these remain, 1 bacon, 4 capons. Item, 1 side (or fitch), 1 hanch, 1 rump of Bosbury venison. Item, 2 sides 1 hanch of hart, 1 side of doe, 1 fresh deer, 1 roe, a present; and there remain 1 side of hart, 1 side of doe, 1 lean deer. In eggs, 10½*d.*, milk, 3½*d.*, bread (or flour), 3*d.*, charcoal, by the bailiff, 3*d.*, carriage of divers articles from Ludlow to the castle, by the bailiff, 7*d.*, wheat for the kitchen, by the bailiff, 1½*d.*, hay already reckoned for 34 horses; their feed, 2 quarters 3 bushels of oats, accounted

* Ante, p. xxii.

† Id. p. lxvii.

‡ Roll, May 10 and 11. The bailiff was obliged to buy hay. It was at the latter end of the season, when probably no dry horse-meat remained on hand at the castle. Id. May 8.

§ Dors. || 30.

for. In 2 bushels of bran, 2*d*. In the carriage of one horse-load of wheat from Ludlow, 3*d*. In horse-shoeing and other things, 3*d*.* The sum, 26*s*. 1*d*.†

The great feature of this display is the venison, salted and fresh. As to the old, it had been dragged about with them in the whole of their round from Colwall hither, and was reserved to be produced at this time. As to the new, it is impossible to distinguish whether all or only part of it was a present from others, or had been killed by the keepers specially for the occasion on the manors of the castle and Lidbury North; the same remark, however, that has been made under April (p. clxviii) may not be inapplicable here, that they were not overscrupulous in observing the true seasons for taking it, but, being within reach of their favourite viand, were tempted to indulge in it. A feast is their usual prelude to a removal. Accordingly, a few hours after this successful effort at replenishing they shifted their quarters; and the walls of the castle returned to their tranquillity as the train of horsemen, carriages, and sumpters passed from its gate and took their way, May 12, to CLUNBURY, where Kemesey cites the prior of the place as aiding them gratuitously with corn and hay. ‡

Having attended the Bishop and his suite thus far, until Ascension day is past, we are reminded by the Endorsement, that, while he is thus occupied in diocesan affairs, other members of this patriarchal family, and persons in his employ, are transacting his business at a distance, in many quarters; and one in particular, who has been often brought under our notice, Thomas de la Dane. The variety and extent of his services have shewn that his was not an ordinary trust; neither were the sums of money small that he was called upon to disburse. § Were payments to be made to bankers for remit-

* This last article shews their attention to what might have been still more needful had their journey been performed earlier in the year, or during the singularly rainy winter of 1289; for their line of road led them in part through a district watered by the river Clun, which lent its name to various places, whose miry character is sarcastically described in the rhyming proverb of these parts:

Clunbury, Clunton, Clungúnford, and Clun,
The dirtiest country under the sun.

† Roll, p. 83.

‡ He means the prior of Wenlock. Clunbury is unnoticed in the Taxation. It was some time a vicarage and belonged to Wenlock priory. Dugdale, Mon. V. pp. 74, 81.

§ They constitute no inconsiderable portion of the miscellaneous account. Some of them may be found from || 1 to 6, 8, 13, 19, 20, 21, 23, 31, 55, 56, 60 b, &c.

tances abroad, to proctors at Rome, to the Bishop's nephew in France; were the workmen at Womenswold to be superintended and receive their wages; were various materials to be brought together for the buildings there; was the land to be duly cropped, and every thing set in order against the approach of autumn,—to his head and hand, as we have seen, it was chiefly consigned.* Moreover, he discharged a duty towards the establishment, that devolved upon the *camerarius* in monastic societies, † the care of providing all their clothing. ‡ Not only did he buy the material, but he gave orders for the cutting-out and making-up of the different articles of wearing apparel, (*circa emptionem pannorum et preparationem robarum.*) § Thus he repeated in London, about Whitsuntide, for the warmer season, what he had done about the Epiphany for the winter half-year. A reference to particulars scattered through the sections shews that he came again in April, from Kent, to the vendors of cloths and furs for dresses and their trimmings, suitable for the summer wear of the household, and renewed his bargaining with the dealers in wax, almonds, and sugar. || He and Robert de Boclond, and John de Kingessuod, the head carter, who came up with the short cart, three men, and four horses, to convey these goods into the country, attended them to Sugwas about Whitsuntide; ¶ and within a few days returned through Oxford with John de Sceluing, the rector of Ross, of whom mention will be made hereafter. Thomas afterwards went into Kent, and divers messages pass between him and his master. When Kingessuod and he give in their accounts, the reckoning of the carter is punctilious to a farthing; and De la Dane, though a beneficed clerk, apparently not scholar enough to make out the statement for himself, having had the command of his employer's purse to a large amount, falls short in a balance of no more than $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, in trifling matters forgotten and unaccounted for (*in quibusdam minutis et oblitis*).** Such were some of those who were in the employ of Bishop Swinfield; to whom and his travelling party we return as they are proceeding from Clunbury, on the south of that part of Salop. At LEINTWARDINE they crossed the boundary

* Ante, p. cxiii.

† Ante, pp. cxxvii. cxxviii.

|| Id. || 6 b, 54 a, b.

‡ Nasmith's Tanner, pref. p. xviii.

§ Dors. || 13.

¶ Id. || 48, 56.

** Id. || 26.

that separates it from Herefordshire, where from before the Conqueror's time the old Watling-street led from the one, to the other county. The visitor inspected this church on his way, the last in that part of the deanery of Clun. It belonged to the abbey of Wigmore, to which, with several others, it had been given by their second founder, Sir Hugh de Mortimer; and the family cherished an affection for it in after times, and richly endowed the services that were celebrated there. In the following century nine chaplains chanted daily mass at its altars for the souls of Edward III., of Isabella his mother, and Philippa his queen, of Henry Bishop of Lincoln, the Earl of Lincoln, his countess Joan, and others, with all the faithful departed. The lands assigned for these comprehensive services were granted by Roger Earl of Mortimer, and were exempted by royal favour from the statute of mortmain.* The church contained a regularly appointed choir, with stalls yet remaining; thither the monks of Wigmore repaired in processions; and the abbat delivered an annual sermon on the festival of the Virgin, the patron saint.† It may be concluded that the reputation of this place was increased by the residence of an anchoritess, on whose self-denying poverty the Bishop, by an acceptable donation of twelve pence,‡ conferred a more substantial token of approval than by what still might not have been withholden from her, his merely verbal blessing.

His next sojourn is at

WIGMORE, from May 14 to 17.

And here he touched upon the deanery of Leominster. On three of the above days he is the guest of the abbat by procuration. Sunday, the 15th, was employed in visiting the parish church; Monday was devoted to the abbey itself. He visited the canons (*visitavit canonicos loci*), and very needful it might have been that he should do so. Existing documents tend to shew that some time ago there had been a necessity for this, and as the present was a triennial visitation, a question would na-

* Lib. Nig. de Wigmore, f. 49 b.

† Blakeway and Owen, II. p. 275. Wright, Hist. of Ludlow, p. 357.

‡ Dors. || 34.

turally arise, how far sundry admonitions conveyed to them about three years before had taken permanent effect. In 1286 their affairs had been found in disorder, and the Bishop, in the performance of his duty as visitor, thought fit to point out to their superior certain irregularities that required amendment both in himself and those under his immediate care. A precept addressed to him, entitled, "Corrections of Wigmore," comprises these charges. Beginning with the lord abbat himself, "We find," he observes, "that, contrary to statute, he allows some of the brethren to engage in secular trading, forbidden to ecclesiastics, and especially to those among them who are professed; that every office of the house is burdened with useless numbers of attendants, some maintaining and causing to be maintained, out of the goods of the house, two brothers, some their cousins and nephews, some their own carnal sons, others very many strangers, who receive food and clothing, yet in no wise serve the house or church; and, if any one of this sort be removed, he is presently after brought back again; which things by connivance or consent the said lord abbat doth allow; also, whereas all, who are to be received as brethren, ought to be received as worthy and honest by common consent specially asked, simple folk and even idiots are admitted as brethren: also, that the sickly and infirm are not sufficiently supplied with what is necessary for them: also, that one Jenkin Liztfof (Lightfoot) by name, the usher, an invalid, reveals secret conversations of the brethren that he hears, not merely to the superiors and elders of the house, but even to secular persons, disturbing the peace among the brethren, and often stirring up strife among them: also, that the seats in the cloister, provided for the brethren who resort thither, are neither sufficient nor of the proper kind, but owing to their awkwardness the brethren on that account become sooner weary, give up looking into their books, and are driven to stroll about and walk off: also, that brother Richard, sub-prior of the house, with certain accomplices, has endeavoured to disturb the bond of charity among the brethren." These and other matters the Bishop strictly commands to be corrected in house, church, and chapter, ordaining that neither they nor any like them be in any wise for the future allowed. He then directs the abbat for the time being to govern the affairs of the house by advice of the more sensible persons in the convent, with all moderation, according to the form of his rule; gives some

instructions on the management of the sick, and exhorts one and all to obey those who are over them, intrusting to the abbat the carrying out of these corrections, and requiring a report from him, whenever called upon to give an account of what he had done in the premises.* This return, if ever called for, has not been recorded; but the present was of course an opportunity for further inquiry.

Now, as abbat Adam was advanced in years, and probably even at this time not altogether equal to hold the reins of government, it would not be strange if in such a case the head of an unruly community should in many respects have become too passive for his office, and, degenerating into an "abbat of misrule," have suffered such abuses to take root among them, as he had neither the energy to resist or reform. However this may have been, the time was not far off when, by his own admission, he was no longer able to stay at the helm. About three years after, in July 1293, when another visitation came round, he complained of being so worn out with age and infirmity that he could neither take care of his own person nor the bodily and spiritual infirmities of others; and therefore intreated that he might be released from his charge. The Bishop, commending his good qualities and deserving conduct up to that time, professed a general disapproval of resignation, yet that his inability might be no longer injurious to those who were under him, issued a commission to Master William de Kingescote, his ordinary, to inquire and report upon the case, and, if true, upon his resignation to cause an apartment, with a sufficient maintenance out of the abbey, to be secured to him and his attendants. Adam accordingly withdrew, and John de Erleslon' (Eardisland?) was chosen in his room,† but before another cycle of three years was completed John in his turn earnestly and repeatedly petitioned to be released. His plea rested upon insufficiency to support the burden of his dignity, and a desire in future for a contemplative life. About the beginning of 1296 he too retired, and great attention was paid to his comfortable provision within the convent.‡ They had now two pen-

* Reg. Swinf. f. 38 b.

† Reg. Swinf. ff. 84 b, 116 a, b.

‡ His popularity among them, or their anxiety to secure his abdication, is indirectly expressed in the minute attention to his wants, and even comforts, set forth in the order for his maintenance. It was voted unanimously that he should have the chamber next

sonary abbats upon their roll, when John de Wytton, or Wylton, undertook the office. He too appears to have been an incompetent ruler. For in three years after his election a dispute had broken out between him and the brethren, when the house was once more visited and corrected; and a council of six elders of the fraternity was appointed to assist him.* These seem to have turned against him whom they were called in to support; and in 1300 the Bishop interposed to establish the abbat's claim to rents of which they attempted to deprive him.† About this time Wytton left them, and Walter de Ludlow, chosen from among them, came into office, only soon to throw it up again.‡ Then Philip de Waleys, or Galeys, in 1302, undertook this difficult government, and for a while appears to have been more successful in it than those who for the last ten years or more preceded him. He remained with them during the rest of Swinfield's episcopacy; but the leaven of mismanagement, or insubordination, was still at work, and in 1318 they were in sad confusion. Not all the religious privi-

to the chapel of the blessed Mary, with another chamber thereunto adjoining, and the little plot of ground called the "Herbary." And for his help and comfort he was to have one of the canons, a non-obedientary^a in the house, of his own choosing, removable at his pleasure to choose another. They were to have in daily food and clothing as much as two other canons received by the year; to be under no obligation to attend in choir or convent against their inclination, nor hindered from so doing when it was their desire; to have one servant to wait upon them, whose food and clothing, provided by the monastery, should be the same as that of the abbat's groom. Should brother Adam, his predecessor, depart this life, the said John was thenceforth to receive from the abbey his yearly salary of forty shillings, by half-yearly payments at Michaelmas and Lady Day, over and above one mark, which he was to receive annually to purchase necessaries at the festival of Christmas. And for his need (as afore-stated in p. cxxxvii) he was to have a mortar or cresset burning by night in the aforesaid chamber, with firing and candles, and his expenses for repair of the walls and roof of his dwelling, and all other little necessaries, such as utensils, table-cloths and towels, and such things as are wanted for the support of human life,—the canons reserving to themselves the power of adding to or diminishing, correcting and interpreting, this ordinance, as they should hereafter think fit for the honour of God, and the advantage of the abbey, and of John their brother. The instrument is dated at Bosbury, April 16, 1296. Reg. Swinf. f. 116 a.

* Reg. Swinf. f. 126 b.

† Id. f. 129 b.

‡ Id. f. 135 a. He had been some time precentor, and one of the council above mentioned. Wright, Hist. of Ludlow, p. 195.

^a *i. e.* holding no office in the house.

leges that they enjoyed, nor the wealth of the estates that fed them,* nor the generous protection and encouragement of the princely race by which they had been founded and endowed, could turn them aside from that desperate course of anarchy and disobedience that had so frequently disgraced them. They wanted a severer castigator than Swinfield had ever been to them, and in Orleton they ultimately found one. His letter sent to them in 1318 indignantly seizes the point of ingratitude for benefits received, and administers a sharp rebuke for the utter disorder into which that house had fallen through neglect of the rules of discipline, and the malice or perverseness (*malitia*) of those that dwelt therein. "On the morrow after St. Nicholas' day," he tells them, "I will visit in head and members that monastery of yours, which the Lord hath blessed of old in the dew of heaven and the fatness of the earth." He was true to his word. Philip de Galeys abdicated.† The Bishop took the next appointment of the abbat into his own hands, and nominated John de Clehonger, prior of Wormesley, in his place; two of the rebellious canons were banished for a season to other monasteries, to undergo a course of salutary penance, and a thorough reform ensued.‡

The strange conduct of this disorderly house has tempted us far out of our course, and it is time to recede from an advance of nearly thirty years. In his personal inquiries into the state of monastic establishments, a visitor would sometimes employ his attendants to relieve him by taking part in

* Sir Roger de Mortimer is said to have given them some of the richest of his land, called "The treasure of Mortimer." There was nothing near them, land, meadow, pasture, nor moor, that had not been given to the abbey by that family. *Hist. of the Foundation of Wigmore Abbey*. Wright, ut supra, pp. 131, 132.

† Provision was made for him, as usual, in his retirement. Among other things, he is to have his choice of the painted or the dark-coloured chamber for his lodging. *Pro habitatione sua assignamus cameram depictam in Abbacia quam frater Johannes de Erieslon' quondam abbas inhabitavit dum vixit, aut nigram cameram quam frater Johannes de Weston quondam occupavit dum vixit*. Reg. Orleton, 27 b, 28 a.

‡ Reg. Orl. ff. 23 b, 25 a, 27 b, 28 a. Other religious establishments became disordered from wilful extravagance, or were distressed by inevitable failure of their means: it does not appear that this abbey was labouring under pecuniary embarrassment; their income was £107. 19s. 9½d. The probability is that they suffered from the wantonness of prosperity.

the examinations ;* and, besides this, they formed useful or important witnesses of any transaction that required such confirmation. In his present company he had to assist him Masters John de Cantuaria and Adam de Wakehurst, Sirs John de Kemeseye and William de Morton, chaplains, and Robert de Selling, clerk. On the 14th of May, in this abbey of Wigmore, and before these persons specially assembled for the purpose, the Bishop went through the ceremony of collating an absentee to a prebend in the church of Hereford, by instituting his proxy to it with the episcopal ring, one of those symbolical deliveries of possession called in law "livery of seisin," leaving nothing to complete the investiture but corporeal possession. The prebend—it was that of Hinton—had become void by the death of Hugh de Muster' either late on the preceding night or early in the morning, and immediate intelligence seems to have been forwarded to Wigmore, that no time might be lost in securing it, as far as possible, for Sir John de Sceluing, the rector of Ross, who was then at Oxford. The haste with which this affair was conducted arose unquestionably from a desire to obviate any intrusion from another quarter by papal provision. †

Letters of provision, to which we have before adverted, ‡ had long been a source of great dissatisfaction. Grosseteste had long ago protested against such reversionary grants, and extorted from the then pontiff an apology and promise that the evil should be redressed ;§ but those who came after him continued the practice, and it had grown more offensive than ever. The vexation may be said to have been now at its height, and it was kept up by foreign ecclesiastics and others who had facilities of access to Rome.

* Swinfield did so in his visitation of Leominster in 1283. Reg. Swinf. f. 5 a. Bishop Grosseteste gives an interesting account of his method of visiting, and the employment of his auxiliaries, in a speech before the pope and cardinals in 1250. *Anglia Sacra*, II. pp. 347, 348.

† Those who held papal letters were in a hurry to get beforehand. A clerk thus armed once met Bishop Orleton on his way, in a meadow between Godstow and Oxford, and exhibited his credentials on the spot. *Memorandum quod 14^a die mensis Maii, anno domini M^o.CCC^o.xviiij. Magister Johannes Lugwardyn, comparens coram domino Adamo Episcopo Herefordensi in prato inter Godestow et Oxoniam, exhibuit eidem literas apostolicas super gratia sibi facta de beneficio ecclesiastico spectante ad collationem Episcopi Herefordensis.* Reg. Orleton, f. 21 a.

‡ P. lxx.

§ Life, Pegge, pp. 198, 199.

Among the persons of that class who had gained footing in the diocese of Hereford were two brothers, already mentioned,* Peter and Pontius de Cors, † nephews of dean Aquablanca, and portionists of Bromyard from the time of Cantilupe. He had cited them, with others, for non-residence; and called them up for contumacy in his days of diocesan reform. ‡ Pontius had applied for papal letters, § presenting the prebend of Hinton to him on the demise of the existing possessor; and whenever that should occur, he was ready to act upon them. Accordingly, on the morning of the 18th of May, before Sceluing had arrived to be installed, he repaired by stealth to the cathedral, and without any intimation to the canons, excepting one who was in league with him, caused himself to be installed, in the presence of witnesses, by that canon, John de Pouns, || in the place that had been occupied by the late Hugh de Muster'. Some members of the chapter who found him there protested against the illegality of what he had done, and warned him to retire; but he persisted in keeping possession, and called others of his party, who came armed to his aid: and these continued to secure it for him till the morrow, no one seemingly daring to interfere. ¶ On the next day, with the same effrontery, he entered the chapter-house, and took his place there with the customary ceremonies of investiture, a book presented to him as the type of spirituals, a loaf or piece of bread as that of temporal occupation; and he made oath that he would faithfully keep the customs and statutes of the church of Hereford. Issuing thence he went to the houses

* Ante, p. clxxi.

† He is also styled, perhaps sarcastically, *Pontius de Burgundia*, in the Register, f. 65 b. The Burgundians were no favourites in Hereford. See ante, p. clxxxii, note *.

‡ In 1277. Reg. Cantil. f. 37 a.

§ They were called *Gratiæ expectatiuæ*, or *mandata de providendo*. Pegge, ut supra. And were of two kinds, provisory and executory, the one nominating an incumbent, the other enforcing the appointment.

|| A bold disorderly freak of this foreign canon, Pouns, is subsequently placed upon record. He resisted the Bishop's official in holding a court in the church of Wellington, and was brought to make his submission at Bosbury, April 22, 1296, and fined twenty pounds. Reg. Swinf. f. 116 b. He held the prebend of Wellington. Willis, p. 603.

¶ Such forbearance had not been always shewn. The cathedral of Hereford had witnessed strange desecrating scenes. In April, 1272, Roger de Bosbury, the penitentiary, in full choir attacked Peter de Langona, and dragged him by main force from his stall. Reg. Swinf. f. 70 a.

and lands annexed to the stall, and received from the tenants their oaths of fealty and homage to him as prebendary of Hinton and their lord.*

The audacity of these proceedings sufficiently marks the confusion and contempt of episcopal jurisdiction that were the natural result of such intervention by a foreign potentate. It was a system of the court of Rome to depress the rights and authority of the prelates, and this was part of it. Hereford was not the only cathedral and diocese that suffered from it. York and Lincoln experienced similar attacks, rendered particularly oppressive through some severe executions of provisions under papal sanction by a cardinal who enforced them. The King of England, and several of the nobility, united in remonstrances to the see. The pope replied, disavowing any intention of disrespect towards his majesty, but asserting his right in what he had done. The plea on which the custom had been originally founded was the prevention of any mischief accruing to churches or other benefices from long vacancies. There was a shew of wisdom and consideration in disposing of them beforehand; but the preventing antidote became worse than the anticipated disease. For the right of every kind of patron, ecclesiastical or lay, the private person, the monastery, the bishop, the sovereign himself, was invaded. Benefices were filled with the young and the illiterate, with incumbents whose abode was in other countries, or who, if they came into residence in England, were useless as parish priests and pastors from ignorance of the language of the people. All this ultimately provoked the statute *de provisoribus*, † in which the encroachment is denounced in the severest terms, and the illegality of it proclaimed; and in the reign of Richard II. it was made high treason to obtain a provision without a license from the crown. ‡

The family of Aquablanca appear to have been alarmed at this trick of their relation. The dean of Hereford solicited and obtained letters of protection from the king for two years, longer continuance at Rome; and Peter, the portionist of Bromyard, procured a license of the same kind, for the same term, in foreign parts. §

* APP. No. XXV. † 25 Edw. III. ante, p. xvi. ‡ Collier, III. pp. 113, 203, 204.
§ Rot. Pat. 18 Edw. I. Swinfield granted him leave of absence, Oct. 12, 1290, to study for one year at Orleans, provided the duties of his benefice were discharged, and the cure not neglected. Reg. Swinf. f. 68 a.

Whether the bishop was really taken by surprise in this affair, or how soon he was informed of what had occurred, is not exactly discoverable. His own conduct at Wigmore looks as if he had some suspicion of being thwarted, though he might not have calculated upon the extent of the attempt. We are almost as much in the dark as to the measures that he adopted on the spur of the occasion. What in such a dilemma was a patron, especially an ecclesiastic of high rank, to do? He could not directly set up his own authority against his spiritual superior, whom he had pledged himself to obey. All had not the courage of Grosseteste; and no opposition might be of any real avail. If a moral objection, or charge of legal disability, could be established against the individual who had so offended, the provincial court of Canterbury was open to a suit. This had been the course taken by the abbat of Peterborough with one William Campyun, a provisor, who claimed in 1281 to be admitted to one of the livings in the gift of that house.* The conduct of Pontius had been reprehensible and offensive in the extreme. To have obtained his letters surreptitiously, though in this he stood not alone, was enough to incur Swinfield's just displeasure: to have acted upon them by force without presenting them to his ordinary, and in defiance of him and the chapter of Hereford, was to have increased the outrage tenfold. Swinfield too had this on his side, that his adversary had encroached upon his authority and violated the law of the church. He could refuse to admit him upon this score; with the concurrence of the chapter he could probably have stopped the rents of the prebend of Hinton. These might form the ground of his resistance. In any case, he by some means contrived for several months to baffle the scheme of the intruder; and, though not without misgiving, had a cordial will to have held on to the uttermost, if his own expressions may be taken as an index of his mind. Writing to his primate, who appears to have given him some encouragement, he opens his heart to him: "Would that our poor ability, which at this time † is scarcely

* The bishop of the diocese was, however, in favour of Campyun. The proceedings may be seen in Chron. Petroburg. Camd. Soc. edit. pp. 47—51, 79—95. Four or five clerks had already been presented to benefices of that abbey by letters provisory, and three or four others were waiting for vacancies when the abbat made a stand against this wholesale disposal by the pope of what he chose to claim as his own.

† His letter is dated Sept. 1, 1290. Reg. Swinf. f. 66 a.

sufficient to offer moderate resistance to the manifold assaults of provisors, that are plotting to rob our church of Hereford of its ancient rights, could by the help of God attain to such a pitch of strength that, according to your mandate, we could strive even to death for that justice of which we firmly believe you to be a friend." Pontius, who it seems on his part had commenced a suit, was backed by a higher power; but Swinfield abated not an inch of his authority, and so far gained his end.

This is proved by the event, of which we have a distinct relation. Like other controversies into which the bishop was forced, the dispute was closed by mutual arrangement: the offender humbled himself, and the prelate gave way. It stands upon record, in public acts drawn up on the spot by a notary, that on the 8th of January, 1290, Sir Pontius de Cors, professor of civil law, appeared personally before the venerable father, Richard, Lord Bishop of Hereford, sitting judicially in his hall at Sugwas, and then and there publicly and solemnly, before witnesses assembled on either side, for all the injuries committed by him and his against his lord, by reason of his intrusion into the prebend of Hinton, did absolutely, sincerely, and of his own free will, submit himself and utterly resign into the hands of his said lord all right that he had, or believed he had in the said prebend, with all letters and instruments provisory, processes, and all other taken or to be taken in that behalf; and did humbly and devotedly beseech him to accept his submission and resignation, and give order concerning all things according to his good pleasure; and his lord, at the urgent intreaty of Master Roger de Sevenak, canon of Hereford, and the Archdeacon of Hereford, allowed his submission and resignation, openly recited them, and directed, with the assent of Pontius, that the whole should be inserted in a public instrument. After which he collated him to the prebend out of charitable regard, and confirmed it by his letters patent. This is the substance of sundry documents given in the APPENDIX, No. XXV. containing all particulars of the ceremony, and the ratification of Pontius by the delivery of a glove and a solemn oath.

These were the crooked paths by which this unworthy, perhaps needy, adventurer won and secured his stall. He died possessed of it in 1298.*

* Reg. Swinf. f. 121 b.

As for Sceluing he was collated to the prebend of Pyon before the end of the month ; it came opportunely in point of time, but in value it was very inferior to that which had been wrested from him : the kind Bishop, however, paid the expenses of his journey from Oxford to take possession ;* and it was not long ere he exchanged that canony for a better.

As the papal court was always open to applications, and the Anglican and other clergy were constantly resorting to Rome, every stall in the gift of the Bishop was exposed to secret invasion ; and those whom he employed of necessity as resident proctors became dangerous auxiliaries, through the facility with which they could advance their own interests against him. Confidence was of course undermined by the uncertainty whether the delegate who was acting for him would prove himself superior to temptation. A clause expressive of the feeling thus generated was inserted in the oath of fidelity administered to every one who left England in this capacity, declaring that he would do nothing during his absence at Rome to prejudice the interest of his master. Richard de Pudlesdon, in 1290, took the oath, and fell into the snare, violated his engagement, and failed in his object as he deserved. When he sent over his proxies with the letters provisory that he had obtained, Swinfield admitted him on their application pro forma, not without some hesitation : afterwards, however, when he returned from Italy, the Bishop brought him to surrender in person ; and appears finally to have withheld from him what he had so surreptitiously obtained.† The perseverance of the popes in this annoyance, during the lifetime of Swinfield, may be traced in the provisionary disposal of several prebends belonging to the church of Hereford. The experiment, however, did not always succeed. William Carter, chaplain of Aka, was excommunicated in 1300 for some fraudulent attempt of this kind, and was only absolved and restored upon his submission and oath that he would abstain from molesting the Bishop in future.‡

We left the party at the abbey of Wigmore, where Swinfield had continued three days at the cost of the house ; on the fourth he was at his own. On May 17 he came to RICHARD'S CASTLE, south of Ludlow, and in that deanery. Hugh de Mortimer was lord of the manor and patron of the

* Dors. || 9.
CAMD. SOC.

† APP. IV. 3.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 131 b.
2 d

living; but he was a minor and orphan ward of the King, and with his brother had in October last been received at court, and entered upon the list of attendants at a regular allowance.* In 1285, during this wardship, his majesty had presented Ralph de Midlington to the rectory of Richard's Castle: it was rated at £23. 6s. 8d. The incumbent gave hay and corn. The next halt was in the deanery of Leominster, at

EYE, May 18 and 19.

Here he obtained unwelcome conviction of the attempt that Pontius de Cors had been making in the exhibition of his papal letters. The provision was dated at Santa Maria Maggiore so recently as the second of March preceding, and the letter of William bishop of Amiens, the executor of it, at the Lateran on the twenty-fifth of that month.† Thus far the authority under which Pontius had acted, though illegally exercised, was not to be questioned; but it could not affect the liberty that Swinfield had to dispose of the prebendal house that had been occupied by the late Hugh de Muster', as canon of Hinton. This, as it were to shew his displeasure, he instantly gave to his seneschal, Sir William de Mortimer, with instructions to his bailiff to induct him.‡ At Eye they were joined by William the under groom, who came up from Colwall, where he had been attending upon a sick palfrey. In October he had been left behind, on the same service, at Bosbury, where a farrier resided who undertook the cure of several of the household horses.§ It is probable that by this arrival the Bishop was remounted for the rest of his journey. Here, on the octave of the Ascension, a harper played before him and received a reward.|| Among the minor articles of expenditure is one which indicates that the smiths attached to the train hired tools and forges for their use upon the road. Trout may be observed among the fresh-water fish in their repasts on Friday the 19th;

* Their allowance, including that of a tutor, was 22½d. per day. Lib. Hospit. in Turr. Lond. 18 Edw. I.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 64 a. The concluding words of the form used in such cases have in this instance a pertinent signification. *Scriptis ipso die ballivo suo quod ipsum in corporalem possessionem induceret, et inductum defenderet.* The duty was customarily discharged by the bailiff of Barton manor.

§ Dors. || 24.

|| Dors. || 34, where for *Hōp'* read *Hāp'*.

at this time they would be in season, and abundant in the waters of this country. The church of Eye was in the deanery of Leominster, and belonged to the priory of that name; but the proceeds were paid to the abbey of Reading, for a reason that will presently appear; and the latter were now the patrons. These appropriators derived from it an income of £45. 6s. 8d. The acting vicar only £4. 6s. 8d. It often happened that appropriators, where they could, threw the burdens of visitations on their vicar. They did it here in part, for he supplied the horses with hay. Where their corn came from, the house-steward was unable or did not choose to tell; all the remark made upon it is that it was a present from some other quarter (*aliunde*), on both the days of their sojourning here. The priory or abbey should have furnished it; but both these houses were straitened in their resources. Adam de Wakehurst had the vicarage in 1282; and it will be remembered that he was one of those who were in the abbey of Wigmore, among the witnesses of the ineffective collation and investiture of John de Scelung. From the parish of Eye they proceeded to

LEOMINSTER, May 20 and 21.

The town was distinguished by its lofty church and Benedictine priory. In the former, on which Saxon and Norman and Earlier English art had spared no cost, the Christians of many centuries had found a resting-place; it was also remarkable for the number of its relics,* and had a noted sanctuary for offenders. The priory, as it now existed, was a royal foundation, attached as a cell to the great abbey of Reading. This annexation had

* Swinfield's own account of it is, *Locus ille ab antiquissimo tempore religionis est sacer, ubi etiam multa corpora et sanctorum reliquiæ requiescunt.* Reg. Swinf. f. 32 b. A list of the relics is extant in his register. Among the sepulchral remains, in their possession were those of two Saxon kings and martyrs; and in the catalogue of their relics, besides many more, were enumerated the following: a portion of the linen that was wrapped around the body of our Lord—of the sponge used at his crucifixion—of the rod of Moses—one of the stones with which St. Stephen was stoned—some of the frankincense and myrrh offered by the magi—of the soil of Bethlehem and Gethsemane. They had also in safe keeping, written, as it is described, in ancient characters, that section of the Book of Domesday which relates to Leominster and the surrounding parts, beginning with, *Rex tenet Leominstre, &c.* and ending with *ij dies in ebdomada operantur.* A transcript of this fragment, together with what relates to the relics, was thought of sufficient importance to be placed in Bishop Swinfield's Register, f. 36 bis a. The printed edition of the Norman Survey, f. 180 a, b, corresponds very closely with it.

been, however, of comparatively recent date. If any place appropriated to religious uses in these parts could pretend to high antiquity it was this foundation. Coeval with the introduction of the gospel among the Saxons of Mercia in the seventh century, it had passed through many phases of transmutation, and had undergone severe reverses since it was first as a monastery dedicated to Saint Peter. Wasted by the Danes, inhabited alternately by nuns and canons, seized into lay hands, and lastly restored by Henry I., it formed a substantial auxiliary to his favourite house of Reading. This alliance might appear to increase its consequence; but in another view was seriously to its disadvantage. No country could be more richly gifted than that in which it stood. Fertilising streams passed through the valley and town; one of them, the Pinsley, through the priory itself, in the same manner as a small arm of the Dore through the monastery of that name.* They had the profits of the manor and borough, rents of assize, pleas and perquisites, tolls and fairs, and services of villeins. In the return of their annual proceeds there is one item of a hundred waggon-loads of hay. The great manor comprised several valuable grazing farms, whose sheep produced those fleeces that seller and buyer honoured, if not now at least in after times, with the appellation of "Leominster ore." Not one of them but had upon the list of its domestics a shepherd (*bercarius*), a herdsman (*vaccarius*), and a dairy-maid (*daya, androchia*).† The bread from their wheat was long proverbial; and the generous quality of their land went far to realise the figurative expression of holy writ, as "flowing with milk and honey—the glory of all lands."‡ For every purpose of devotion and beneficence for which they had been established and endowed, though Reading engrossed the greater part of their income, they had more than enough to have set them forth as a bright example and

* Leland, Itin. IV. Pt. 2, pp. 48, '88.

† Leiger book of Leominster Priory, Coningsby MSS. f. 4.

‡ Ezek. xx. 6. In the cartulary of Reading Abbey, MSS. Cotton. Domit. A. III. f. 249 b, is a note respecting tenants of Leominster priory, who were to pay in honey. *De melle. Nomina eorum qui habent solvere mel ibidem. Dominus Edmundus de Cornwayle iij lagen'. Wallerus de Hayle iij lagen'. Tenens terræ Dodeman ij lagen' et dimid'. Tenens terræ Johannis atte Assch ij lagen' et dimid'. Tenens terræ fubri j lagen' di'. Tenens terræ Willielmi Hugges iij quartas. Tenens Symonis Hikemon j lagenam et dimid'. Tenens terram (sic) Johannis de Walleford iij lagen' et dimid' q'. Summa 19 lagen' et dimid'.*

public blessing. But they lost the high standing that they had or should have occupied; and it is to be feared that they had not recovered it. They had been dissolute and negligent, and were involved in debt. The latter fault might in a measure have arisen from the extravagance of the greater house to which they were linked, and with which they were compelled to sympathise; but they were answerable for serious debts and delinquencies of their own. In the fourth year of Edward I. (1276) Reading was so burdened that the King by his sovereign prerogative issued patents of protection to prevent their ruin, and ordered the revenues of the cell of Leominster to be annually applied to the liquidation of their debts, allowing the dean (or prior) and chaplains competent necessities as to food and clothing, and a sufficiency to bestow alms upon poor mendicants, according to the charters of their founders.* This application of the finances of the cell was still in operation. Out of a rental of £303. 3s. they were paying £240 to the creditors of the abbey, reserving £63. 3s. for their own yearly maintenance.† By royal mandate they had been directed to retrench all superfluities; but it is very questionable whether this had been or continued to be obeyed; though it is evident that, unless they had submitted to a lower scale of living than that to which they had formerly been accustomed, ‡ they must have become involved in difficulties. In one thing they had economised, but it was a step in the wrong direction, and laid them open to the censure of the canon law. § They had diminished the number of monks, and curtailed the services of the church; but this with them was not the only cause of popular discredit and episcopal animadversion. || In 1280, when Stephen was dean, Bishop Cantilupe, who had more than once

* Reg. Cantil. f. 8 a, b. It is doubtful to what extent their revenues were taken into the common stock of Reading previous to this order.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 173.

‡ A list of the servants of the house in the Leiger book (Coningsby MSS.) brings them up to thirty; and they were probably not always mindful of an important clause in the oath that was required of every one on his admission. *Ye shall behave your room or office with all true demeanyng, without wast or destruccion, as nere as ye can.* MSS. Cotton. Domit. A. III. f. 45 a.

§ By a constitution of Othobon no monastery was allowed to diminish the number of its monks. Lyndwood, p. 151, col. 1, 2.

|| In 1275 and 1276. Reg. Cantil. f. 17 a, b, 28 a, b.

reproved them, ordered the removal of the sub-dean for scandalous behaviour, and was opposed by the rest of the convent, who instigated their friends at Reading to shelter them by appealing to the protection of the King, their hereditary founder, a method too frequently adopted to avoid the lash of diocesan correction. The abbats of Reading insisted upon the exclusive right of placing or displacing the members of their cell independent of the controul of the Bishop. The question had been before the court of Rome,* and Swinfield at length admitted the validity of their pretensions, † though he continued to exercise the power of visitation. Soon after his appointment, in 1283, he inquired closely into their manner of life. John Geraud, the dean, was a person of a most abandoned character, who some time after was removed. But several charges of unamended offences were brought against them at the next visitation in 1286, for the existence of which the abbat and convent of Reading, assuming the right of correction, were to blame. "Weary of his life," as he says, "through the disgrace of these scandals in the diocese of Hereford," Swinfield wrote severally to that dignitary, and to his prior and the brethren, to interpose before he renewed any inquiry. For the number of monks had not been filled up according to law; the services were insufficiently performed; almsgiving was laid aside; the people of the town were excluded from their parish church; agreements and solemn contracts, by which they had pledged themselves under penalties, were disregarded. ‡ What followed upon these remonstrances, or whether any satisfaction had been given upon these matters, when they now appeared before him, is passed over in his register, and is foreign to the general tenor of the roll; but with the place and church, and days of visitation, no prior is brought in by Kemeseye as tendering gift or procuration. The omission may have been undesigned and unimportant; but, after what has been related, let it not be thought invidious to point out that it appears only casually in the Endorsement that there was such a personage as the lord prior of a house like that of Leominster, because he happened to have a carter who was lent to the Bishop for some

* Reg. Swinf. f. 3 a.

† He confirmed it in 1285, on an inseximus of a charter of Hugh, Bishop of Hereford, in which it is expressly laid down. Id. f. 30 a.

‡ Reg. Swinf. ff. 32 b, 33 a, 38 b.

days, and received sixpence for his attendance;* as though, if it had not been for the service of this menial, his master might not have been mentioned at all.

At the rectories of KINGSLAND, May 22, and PEMBRIDGE, May 23, 24, they were entertained by procuration. The value of the former was £20, of the latter £26. 13s. 4d.; † they were both in the deanery of Leominster. Kingsland seems to have been their nearest point of approach to the nunnery of Limebrook, in the parish of Lingen. And hence it probably was that the Bishop sent a pittance to the poor sisters about this Whitsuntide. ‡ Throughout his course he continues to scatter alms by the way-side as he moves along. § Wednesday, the 24th, was a day of rest at Pembridge, spent in a visit not of office but of courtesy. This place, it appears, was the residence of the noble lady Matilda de Mortimer, known among her contemporaries by the more familiar appellation of Maud of Radnor, where she had a castle upon the lands of her inheritance, which had been burnt in 1263 by Llywelyn and De Montfort in the barons' war. She was a female chieftain of great influence and authority in these parts, owner of many manors, the patroness of many churches, and, among the rest, this of Pembridge, which she had presented to her relative Hugh de Braose in 1287. ||

This lady is entitled to more than a nominal notice. By birth she was of no ordinary descent, being a Braose by her father's, and a Marshall by her mother's side; and her alliance with the family of Mortimer formed a triple link in her worldly consequence. She had acted a very conspicuous part with her late husband, Roger de Mortimer, in the civil struggles of the former reign; and it hardly admits of a doubt that to her, as an instrument among many, the present King was indebted for his throne. She is suspected to have been the lady from whom Edward, a captive in Hereford, received the present of that swift steed ¶ on which he outstripped his keepers

* Dors. || 34.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159.

‡ Dors. || 34.

§ Roll, April 16, May 2, 8, 10, 16, 18, 25, 31.

|| Reg. Swinf. f. 40 b.

¶ An historian, who seems to have had good information as to the events of the time, appears to intimate this:

*A swift stede þer was a lady bider sent,
Edward knowe his pas, þe last of alle him hent,
Asated him up and down, swiftest he was of alle.*

Langtoft, Chron. Hearne, I. p. 219.

in the race at Widemarsh, and came in safety to the castle of Wigmore, her abode. Neither can it be forgotten, that when the murderous fray at Evesham* was over, in which the Earl of Leicester was slain, his gory head was sent as a present to her in that castle.† If no one has ventured to assure us that, like Herodias, she coveted the ghastly and disgusting proof that her adversary was laid low, or that she contemplated that cruel and indecent exhibition with pleasure; it is almost impossible to escape from the conclusion that her friends, in the intoxication of success, must have thought such an accompaniment of the news of victory would not be unacceptable to her. And this, according to modern notions, has no tendency to impress us with an idea of the preponderance of delicacy in the composition of her character. But those days had long past away. We view her now in the decline of life, a widow, resident among her own people, the hospitable entertainer of her wayfaring diocesan, in whose retinue one of her relatives was engaged as seneschal. Her husband had been dead more than eight years. She is said to have survived him nineteen.‡ Her obit was kept on March 16, in the cathedral of Hereford, where she had given some of the finest vestments to the high altar.§

Her consequence in this border country is deducible from the fact, that during the insurrection of Rhys ap Meredydd she received a command, in July 1287, to continue resident on her demesnes till that rising should be suppressed;|| and was required to levy upon them, and send to the army

* Robert of Gloucester's indignant expression respecting this affair is well known:

“ *The morthre of Evesham, vor bataile non it vas.* ”

† Some say it was sent to her at Worcester. It is more likely, while the country was swarming with troops, that she was in her strong hold at Wigmore, and that the head was sent thither through Worcester. The researches of Messrs. Blaauw (*Hist. of the Barons' War.* 4to. Lond. 1844), and Halliwell (*Chron. of Will. de Rishanger.* Camd. Soc. Edit. 1840), by their valuable accumulation of particulars, form a most acceptable contribution to this portion of English history.

‡ Dugdale, *Baron.* I. pp. 142, 143. She was living in September 1309, when she presented John de Walwyn to the rectory of Old Radnor. *Reg. Swinf.* f. 166 b.

§ *Kalendar of Obits,* p. 8.

|| Rhys ap Meredydd returned from Ireland this year, 1290, where he had found refuge three years, renewed his attempt to excite his countrymen, was taken prisoner, and executed about the time when the king went to Scotland. *Warrington, Hist. of*

collecting under Gilbert de Clare to oppose the Welsh, a contingent of three hundred able-bodied footmen, *potentes ad arma*.*

A mere keeper of accounts like Kemeseye, useful as he may be to transmit certain kinds of information, is in his method of conveying it one of the most humble and meagre contributors to memoir or history. He rarely gives more than the noun or the numeral; and, if he advances to the verb, you get very little further with him. He is almost always in the pantry or cellar, among the dishes, or in the stable. It cannot however be helped. In this part of our narrative it would have been interesting to have been able to relate something of the manners of this noble lady, the ceremony with which she welcomed her honoured guest, the order of her household, and style of the entertainment that she set before him; but Kemeseye has limited us to the barren statement, that this day my lord was boarded by invitation with Lady Matilda de Mortimer. *Fuit dominus in mensa cum domina Matilda de Mortuomari ad rogatum*.

In the mean while it is but doing justice to observe their attention to the minor morals and decencies of life on an occasion like this. The laundress was had in requisition while they were here.†

Proceeding from Pembridge westward, and continuing in the same deanery, they approached the county of Radnor, and entered it, May 25, at PRESTEIGN, of which the abbey of Wigmore held the appropriation. The vicar newly presented ‡ was Roger de Kingslone (Kingsland): his income was £8; the great tithes were £17. 6s. 8d. § The abbat gave them hay and corn. Materials for horse-shoeing were obtained here, and food was bought for dogs; but it is not conceived that the pack formed part of the equipage on this expedition. When it is over, and the household settle for awhile, these will be brought into use again.

Wales, pp. 547, 548. It was part of the policy of Edward to transport into England and hold in fast keeping such of the Welsh nobility as it might be dangerous to have left at home. The Countess of Pembroke, in one of her journeys, met with the sister of Rhys, and kindly made her a present of three shillings. Pembroke Roll. Owen, son of Dafydd ap Gruffydd, was now lingering in confinement in Bristol Castle, where in 16 Edw. I. his brother died. Archæol. Journal, VII. p. 262.

* Rot. Walliæ, 15 Edw. I. m. g. in dorso. Palgrave, Parliam. Writs, I. pp. 252 et seq.

† Dors. || 48.

‡ He was instituted Dec. 17, 1289. Vide ante, p. cxv.

§ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

The baker and porter were despatched to secure accommodation at OLD RADNOR, whither they came May 26. There was no lack of fish, salted and fresh. Even the mackarel found its way thus far inland; with such tardy means of transportation it is hardly conceivable that this fish could come to the hands of the cook in an eatable condition, unless it had been partially cured. Yet they had it frequently at table during this and the following fortnight. At Old Radnor no incumbent, rector, or vicar, was at his post. Nicholas, a chaplain or curate, sent them a gift of hay and oats; it is, however, entered as an unusual circumstance, three days after, that they paid for putting up the horses (*pro stabulagio*).* The church, the last visited in the deanery of Leominster, a rectory, £26. 13s. 4d. per annum,† became ere long vacant, when Lady Matilda presented Hugh de Rysebury, a subdeacon, to it, who was instituted Sept. 23 of the present year. ‡ Saturday, May 27, was spent at KINGTON. The Bishop visited the church, which was in the deanery of Weobley; and they took up their quarters, by invitation, at HERGAST (Hargest), the residence of a Sir Philip ap Howel (Powell). Hargest Court stood and continues to stand in the parish, about a modern mile and a half from the town, on an elevated spot, on the northern bank of the river Arrow. The house was sometime surrounded by a moat, filled by a rivulet descending through a ravine from an eminence called Hargest Ridge. The earliest hitherto ascertained possessor of this mansion and manor is said to have been Philip de Clavinogh, in 1330; § but the Roll brings forward one of a still earlier date in this Sir Philip ap Howel. Rhys, one of the Ap Howels, was instituted to the church of Kington January 20, 1287, on the presentation of Geoffrey de Castriduno, proctor in England for the Benedictine abbat and convent de Tyron', in the diocese of Chartres. || Their right of presentation had been disputed about this time by Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, who very shortly after succeeded in establishing his claim to the advowson. ¶ It was estimated at £20 per annum.** Rhys ap Howel, the incumbent, was probably the son of the gentleman at whose house the travellers were received.

* Roll, May 29.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

‡ Reg. Swinf. f. 66 b.

§ Hist. of Kington. 8vo. 1845, p. 206.

|| Reg. Swinf. f. 47 a.

¶ Feb. 9, 21 Edw. I. Reg. Swinf. f. 83 a.

** Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

Two institutions occurred here on this Saturday, that of Sir Philip de Orreby to the rectory of Worthyn, on the presentation of Sir Peter de Corbet, and of Sir Owen de Montgomery to the rectory of Boreworton, presented to it by Sir Adam de Montgomery, knight.* The festival and Sunday of the Holy Trinity, May 28, found them at ALMELEY. Procuration was obtained from the rector for the visitation of his church, of which the family of Pichard were patrons. Sir Roger Pichard, of Stradewy, knight, gave it to Sir Roger de Weobley, in the year 1286.† Its annual value was £16. 13s. 4d.‡ Nothing since they left Pembridge detained them more than a single day at any station. Monday, May 29, they reached the ancient town of WEOBLEY, where the porter had prepared their lodgings; but, as at Radnor, they hired stabling, whither the prior of Lantonia prima, holding the great tithes, £12 per annum,§ sent a present of oats and hay. In 1287 the convent had placed John de Wonyton chaplain in the vicarage.|| When it again became vacant, twelve years after, they bestowed it, apparently with less discretion, upon one of the Baskervilles, a youth of sixteen, who, though destined for the church, having only undergone the first tonsure, was, as Swinfield rather severely expresses himself, “notoriously unfit and unworthy to hold it;” and whom, by a power vested in him by the general Lateran council,¶ he accordingly set aside for another of his own appointment.** The transaction is evidence of the way in which preferment was sometimes disposed of by these religious communities, and at what an immature age incumbents were attempted to

* Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

† Reg. Cantil. f. 65 b.

‡ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

§ Tax. P. Nichol. ibid.

|| Reg. Swinf. f. 43 b.

¶ Of 1179? The eleventh, relative to discipline. Nicolas, Chronol. of History, p. 238.

** The entry in his register, f. 182 a, is as follows: || Vicaria de Webbeleye. || Memorandum, quod v^o Idus Februarii, anno domini M^o.CCC^o.xij^o. .xvj. annorum tantum, dominus vicariam ecclesie de Webbeleje vacantem Willielmo dicto de la Wod, presbytero, et ad collationem suam hac vice spectantem pro eo quod prior et conventus Lantonia primae in Wallia Rogerum de Baskervyle clericum etatis .xvj. annorum tantum, habentem solummodo primam tonsuram, notorie inhabilem et indignum presentarunt, et ipsam auctoritate concilii generalis Lateranensis instituit in eadem, dando eidem super hujus institutionem suas patentes litteras consuetas. Et tunc mandavit . . . decano de Webbeleje per suas litteras inductorias consuetas, ut ipsum Willielmum induceret in corporalem possessionem vicarie predictae.

be made. The expenditure at Weobley, as to the quantity and quality of the articles, exhibits some tokens of a feast. May 30, the Bishop took the inspection of the church of Dilwyn on his way to the convent of WORMESLEY, the appropriators of it. This house, of comparatively recent origin, had been founded for Austin canons by Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, in the reign of King John.* Like some others, during the episcopate of Canti-

* Dugdale, Mon. VI. p. 398. At the suppression of the monasteries attempts were made to intercede for several of them that they might be spared from the general wreck. See Letters relating to the Suppression, &c. Camd. Soc. 1843. XIX. LI. LV. LVIII. LXXI. Collier, V. pp. 2, et seq. The case of Great Malvern, for which Bishop Latimer interceded, has been frequently quoted. That of Wormesley is perhaps unknown. The following letter describes it:

“ Welbeloved frende, As hertly as I can I recom'aund me unto you. And where I understande that for the especyall truste and confydence that the kyngs highnes hath yn you he hath appoynted you to be oon of his Surveyors of dyverse Abbeis within the Countye of Hereford and others appoynted to be suppressed. Trough it is yn the poore house of Wormsley, within the said countye of hereforde, which is of my foundac'on, many of myne auncestors do lye, and the moost parte of the furst of the poore name that I am comyn of; so that yf I myght, by any presente to be made unto the kyngs grace for the same, I wold be verey sorye it shuld be suppressed. And therefore I desyre and hertly pray you to beare your lawfull favor, and to be good therin At this my desyre, so that by your good helpe and meanes I may the soner atteyn that the same may stand and contynewe. And I shalbe glad to do unto you pleasure at all tymes. As knoweth our lord, who have you in his governance. wryten at hansworth the iiiijth day of may.

your ffellow,

G. SHREWSBURY.”

“ To my hertly beloved fellow
John Skydmore, one of the
gentylmen usshers of the
kyngs most honorable
Chamber.”

Scudamore MSS. Letters. The writer of this letter was George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, an eminent statesman and warrior in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. He died July 26, 33 Henry VIII. at his manor of Wingfield, co. Derby, and was buried in the parish church of Sheffield. He is styled by a contemporary, “vir nobilis, sapiens, ac in omnibus vitæ partibus moderatus.” Polydore Virgil, quoted in Dugdale, Baron. I. 332 b. The party to whom the application was addressed was John Scudamore, esquire, of Hom-Lacy, co. Hereford, a surveyor and receiver under the Suppression.

lupe, it had fallen under reproof in 1277,* for having incurred a heavy debt. The canons had obtained several appropriations within the last thirty years: first that of Lenhales (Lyons-hall) in 1262, and afterwards those of Dilwyn in 1285, and of Wormesley in 1287.† The united proceeds of these rectories were valued at £29. 6s. 8d.; the temporals of the priory, including a flock of sheep, at £27. 4s. 8d.‡ Two official acts describe the Bishop's presence at this house by their dates. On Tuesday he wrote to the King intreating the aid of the civil power.

The frequency and abuse of excommunication during this century had been both a scandal and a disadvantage to the church, by bringing the practice into some degree of contempt. Among the records of this reign are many applications to his majesty complaining of the resistance of excommunicated offenders, who defied the utmost that the church could do to reduce them to submission. Credit has been given to Swinfield for not having been forward in the exercise of ecclesiastical severity; the following is an instance in which his attempt to humble an offender appears to have failed. It is the last of his epistles that we shall have to produce, and may be thus rendered:—

To his most excellent prince and dread lord, the lord Edward, by the grace of God, illustrious King of England, Lord of Ireland, and Duke of Aquitaine, Richard, by mercy of the same God, humble minister of the church of Hereford, all possible reverence and honour. Be it known to your highness that Walter, called the young (or Young), of Leominster, of the county of Hereford, our diocese, order of law having been observed in all things, hath for his manifest contumacy as well as offence been noosed in the bond of greater excommunication, and hath with a hardened mind persisted in the same for forty days or more, in wicked contempt of the keys of the church. Whereas therefore, forasmuch as the church in this case hath nothing further that she can do, the secular arm is wont to be invoked, we humbly beseech your excellency that, for reverence of God, you would command the aforesaid Walter to be chastised according to the custom

* Reg. Cantil. f. 42 a.

† Reg. Cantil. f. 59 a. Dugdale, Mon. VI. p. 403. Reg. Swinf. ff. 20 a, 39 b.

‡ Tax. P. Nichol. pp. 158, 159 b, 172. The family of Map, Mabe, or Mapes, of which the celebrated archdeacon of Oxford, Walter de Mapes, was one, were benefactors to this priory. A Walter Map and his son Walter gave lands to it in the time of Hen. III. MSS. Harl. 472 b, ff. 213 a, 214 a. Biograph. Britann. Literaria, Wright, Anglo-Norman Period, p. 295. The race is by no means extinct among the peasantry of Herefordshire.

of your kingdom, until he shall have made competent satisfaction to God and the church in the premises. May the Almighty preserve you for the government of your kingdom for length of years to come. Given at Wormesley, the 30th day of the month of May, in the year of our Lord 1290.*

On Wednesday before he took leave of Wormesley he made John Sceluing sure of the prebend of Canon Pyon, vacant by the death of Master Walter de Haye (Delahay?), and with his collation to it gave him the prebendal house in Hereford that the deceased had occupied.† After a short journey he once more re-entered and continued in his own manor-house of

SUGWAS, from May 31 to June 9.

Thus was accomplished, for this season, the more laborious portion of this prelate's inspection of his diocese.‡ From his leaving Colwall on April 10, when he began at Cradley to advance on this northern round, to its conclusion at Wormesley on the last day of May, he had halted at thirty-eight different places; but, excepting in some of the parishes on the borders, at his own castle, and at a few convents, he had remained at no one of them more than a single night. The expense of this peregrination, however, was not a little lightened by procuration and hospitality. During twenty-four days of the one-and-fifty that he was thus engaged, himself and the whole of his attendants were victualled at free cost. And when this did not occur they received occasional presents of provisions, and were almost always sure of meeting with some friendly gift of hay and provender. Once at Monslow they bought hay; and at his own castle were compelled to lay in both hay and corn.

There is little in this part of the Roll that leads to the necessity of illustration in character or event. The diary exhibits arrangements and purveyance answerable to the season. Two short expeditions of personal

* Letters in the Tower, S. 148. John, vicar of Feckenham, had been excommunicated by Godfrey Bishop of Worcester, who appealed in the same manner for secular aid in Dec. 1289. Ibid. S. 132.

† Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

‡ His periodical proceedings of this kind, as far as they may be collected from the case of Wigmore abbey, described in pp. cci, ccii, point to a system of triennial supervision.

visitation intervene before he reaches a more permanent, if any thing with him could be considered a permanent, resting-place, and the family are again gradually reverting to purely domestic concerns. They are looking to the repair of their culinary vessels, and shoeing their horses, and sending them to fetch wine from Bosbury to Whitborne and Sugwas;* and they are eating up their old stock of salt venison to make room for the new that is coming in at Midsummer. Oatmeal begins to be served out to the hounds, and Adam, the marshal, who often accompanies the huntsmen, having been ill and left behind at Bromyard during the rest of the visitation, returns to his duties.† During the octave of Trinity, Roger Caperun, Swinfield's attorney at Westminster, has waited upon him at Sugwas and received six shillings and eight pence, part of his remuneration for professional trouble and attendance. A like sum he also received at Bosbury on the first Sunday in the following October.‡ At the above-mentioned octave the servants of the Barton at Hereford obtained a gratuity, and about the same time the harper of Sir John Tregoz had access to my lord at Sugwas, and departed with a reward.§

June 5 was taken up with an excursion to DORSTON, a parish and village lying remotely in a romantic nook at the upper extremity of the valley in which the Dore takes its rise, among slopes of arable and meadow land, overhung by graceful woods, and ascending towards those swelling eminences that lie expanded at the foot of the Black Mountain. A train of six-and-thirty horses, with their proportionate attendants, appearing suddenly among the inhabitants, could not but have taken them and their rector by surprise, had not their coming been announced by a special harbinger, and the preparation of their lodgings. As to provision in such a place, the conveying thither of fish brought from London by De la Dane helped to make up any deficiency that might have awaited them, and in most respects they were under the necessity of taking good care for themselves; for the incumbent gave them only a portion of the feed of their stud, amounting to one quarter and a bushel of oats: they paid for every thing besides.|| Indeed, visitation is not so much as hinted at, though it cannot be supposed that they would take pains to go aside in a by-way, when they were on their

* Roll, June 2.

† Id. June 4.

‡ Dors. || 15.

§ Id. || 34.

|| Id. June 7.

road to Clifford, for any other end. The church was a rectory of £20 per annum,* and in the gift of the prior and convent of Clifford, and so it remained till about 1334, when, upon the usual pleas for appropriation, they obtained the great tithes, with consent of Bishop Chorleton, and a vicar was introduced into the place.† A chapel annexed to the church had been built, according to tradition, by Richard Briton, one of the assassins of Archbishop Becket,‡ pursuant to a vow; and this was confirmed by an inscription upon a stone in the said chapel, § which on the rebuilding of the church, about the year 1829, was broken up by the workmen and buried in the wall. Ancient documents designate the place as Dorston in Straddel, an adjunct formerly applied to the names of several places and parishes along the line of the Golden Vale. The common boundary of the dioceses of Hereford and Llandaff once ran along the course of the Dore. || Straddel was the scene of one of Harold's successful dispersions of the Welsh in his military operations against them, when they escaped from him and fled to the mountains.

Another remove, a few miles to the west, brought them, June 8, to the

* Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

† Reg. Chorlton, ff. 3 a, 39 a.

‡ He dealt the last deadly blow on the head of Becket, and with such impetuosity that the lower part of his sword-blade was fractured against the pavement. Life and Letters, Giles, II. p. 333. This fragment had a special altar at Canterbury, and devout pilgrims frequently laid their offerings before it, *ad punctum ensis*. When Edward I. was last at Canterbury, on his return from France, he offered at this relic, Rot. Hospit. 17, 18 Edw. I. Carlton Ride; and the custom was kept up long after. Pilgrimages to St. Mary of Walsingham and St. Thomas of Canterbury, Nichols, 1849, p. 115.

§ A copy of the inscription, with which the Editor has been favoured by the Rev. Thomas Powell, the vicar, runs thus:

“ Hanc capellam, ex voto ad virginem Mariam, Ricardus de Brito dedicavit.”

But it is to be regretted that a date in the original had been omitted in the transcript, and cannot be recovered. Could this have been ascertained it might have helped to establish an historical fact. The miserable and speedy fate that the monkish writers of the day have awarded to the murderers is on good grounds considered apocryphal. Hugh de Morville and William de Traci are ascertained to have lived some time after the event (Pilgrimages, &c. ut supra, pp. 220, 221): it is not improbable that the same may have been the case with Briton, and that the chapel dedicated *ex voto* may have been an effort at expiation.

|| In a bull of Pope Honorius, a. 1129, it is thus described: “ Along Nantybardd to the Dour, along it to the Gwormwy (the Worm).” Liber Landav. p. 583.

parish church and priory of CLIFFORD. The latter, at which they rested, was founded by Simon, grandson of Pons Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford, in the reign of Henry I., for Cluniac monks, and was a cell to the priory of Lewes in Sussex.* It stood in a low spot, exposed to intrusions from the Welsh, whenever they ventured to trouble the border, though it was not far from the Castle known as the birth-place of Rosamond, the mistress of Henry I. This fortress was advantageously placed on a commanding eminence above the Wye; but there was a hill between the dwelling of the monks and that of the lord of Clifford; and on its southern brow, a little above the priory, was the parish church. This is the present object of the Bishop's attention. The brethren had a conventual church of their own; and it may be discerned that Kemeseye only uses the term "parochial" by way of distinction in places where, as at Wenlock, Alberbury, Chirbury, Wigmore, Leominster, and Clifford, conventual as well as parish churches existed. Both this and that of Dorston were in the deanery of Weobley. It was a vicarage of £4; the great tithes, £30, went towards the maintenance of the priory; † there the visitor was on procuration till the next morning, when he turned back to

SUGWAS, from June 9 till 12.

The time had nearly come round when the river and the chase were to be rendered tributary to the table; but in salmon and deer-killing they seem still a little in advance of the season; the fence months had not yet expired. John the huntsman and William the under-groom had at least been looking out for game; and Harpin had been watching young falcons to catch them as soon as they were sufficiently fledged to be on the wing. ‡

* Tanaer in Clifford.

† Tax. P. Nichol. p. 159 b.

‡ Roll, June 9, 11. The fate of the genus *Falco* of the naturalists with its varieties in England is an emblem of the mutability of earthly importance. Checked in their earlier stage by the ruthless demolition of lofty timber, rendered useless by the introduction of inclosures upon champaign country, and daily perishing before the murderous gun, they are likely in a short time to leave nothing but a tradition and a name. Those predatory habits, that were the basis of the value attached to them, are now their ruin. That which once was the pride of princes, and fluttered and shook its bells on the hands of ladies, is treated as vermin, and shot down by the guard of the poultry, the farmer's boy. In his recollections of the traces of falconry, as respects Herefordshire, the editor can call to mind the hawk-chamber over the porch till of late existing at the Moor, the

The system of purchasing and paying for articles from the farm is again resorted to, and in pottage of new peas and beans we have notice of the earliest productions of the field or garden. The hounds must continue to have oatmeal, and bran is allowed to the horses; and some of them are sick after their long journey, and are recruited with bread. William, a carter of Sugwas, had a present from my lord of three shillings in consideration of a hurt received while he was accompanying them during their recent tour; he was a diligent and useful servant, and it may be remembered that he had been rewarded before.* The workmen in a quarry at Sugwas had a

residence of the ancient family of Penoyre, in the parish of Clifford. Among their groves there is still a Hawkwood, and the rare and appropriate appendage of a heronry, at the present hour. The right to aeries of hawks, down to the reign of Henry VIII. was as much the object of dispute as game has been in latter times. The servants of the landed proprietors of Rotherwas and Hom Lacy, adjoining estates near Hereford, by their mutual depredations brought on a law-suit between the families of Bodenham and Scudamore. This is described in a communication from William Dansey to his father-in-law, then in London. His letter, quaintly expressed, and directed "To the right worshipfull and his singuler good Master John Scudamore, esquier, geve this at the Courte," conveys intelligence of the trespasses committed on either hand. "Righte worshipfull and my synguler good Master, my duty remembred, This is to lett you understand that Mr. Bodnam hathe served processe upon your men, that did attempt to steale his hawkes, and meanethe to put them to great trowble, unlesse it will please your worshype to wrytte unto Mr. Boothe for to take it up untill such tyme as you come into the cuntry; for Mr. Boothe did tell me that he woold stay it almost three weakes to see yf that it will please you to send your letter unto hym in the behalfe of your men, because he saythe that upon your letter he will eyther stay it untill your comynge (*sic*) or else he will do the beste he can to make an end of hit hym selfe. I sent your worshype woord of the ordre of hit. Wherefore we truste you will not myslyke with that deed doynge, for that Mr. Thom's Bodname's man did stele your hawkes out of the Weast fyeld, and came unto the eyrye that is wachte at bolston,* and did shoote twice within thre scorre of the hawkes nest, and afterwards offered to shoote at the old hawke. . . . ffrom homlacye the xxiiijth of this June.

"Your obedient servant,

"WILLIAM DANSEY."

Scudamore MSS. letters. This John Scudamore was apparently the same who has been already mentioned, and was receiver of the Royal Court of Augmentations in 30 Hen. VIII. and subsequent years.

* Dors. ||27, 49.

* Near Hom Lacy.

small donation of 6*d.* by express order of my lord; but the occasion of it is not set down. More than once the servants are treated with drink upon the roads. Hereford is more likely than any other place in the neighbourhood to have furnished the six iron-bound tankards that were bought for the buttery, as well as the hands that repaired two mazer cups, the unknown value of which is obscurely suggested by its having been done with plates of silver, and cost 3*s.* 6*d.*, about £2. 12*s.* 6*d.** On the last day of their stay one John de la Lee, of Denham, entered into a contract or agreement of money-lending with the Chancellor of Hereford, Gilbert de Swinfield, who had been residing in Oxford, but was then under his uncle's roof, and was shortly about to go abroad. A sum appears to have been borrowed that amounted, probably with interest, in the whole to a hundred shillings, eighty of which were repaid by the Bishop, at two instalments, in the course of the year.† This happened on a Sunday, and is not the only instance in which no difficulty seems to have been made by a dignitary of the church in an affair so entirely secular, in such a house, and on such an occasion, as though the day had sanctified the deed. It was the festival of Saint Barnabas, and was solemnized in the household with good cheer.

June 12 they took their leave of Sugwas, where we shall find them no more, and came to BODENHAM, a village and parish upon the river Lugg, about eight miles north-east of Hereford, in the deanery of Weston. They were entertained by procuration at the expense of the Dominican convent of Brecon, who held the appropriation. It was returned to the Commissioners for the Taxation at £13. 6*s.* 8*d.*; the vicarage at £5.‡ Whoever the present vicar might be, he was succeeded in July, 1291, by Sir Hugh de Kancia § (Kent). Humphrey de Bohun was lord of the manor. || At Bodenham Swinfield was met by Sir Reginald de Radnor, clerk, whom, on the presentation of the prior and convent of Monmouth, he admitted to the church of Welsh Bicknor.¶ Tuesday, June 13, they were at PENCOMBE, in the deanery of Frome, a rectory returned at £12.** At both these places the Bishop visited and claimed procuration; but the rector of

* Roll, June 11.

† Dors. || 19.

‡ Tax. P. Nichol. p. 153 b.

§ Reg. Swinf. f. 74 a.

|| Plac. de quo Warr. 20 Edw. I. p. 275 a.

¶ Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

** Tax. P. Nichol. p. 160.

Pencombe demurred, as the incumbents of Lugwardine and Bitterley had done, maintaining that the reception of his diocesan, as he the rector understood it, was not by procuration, but by desire, or as an invited guest (*ad ejus rogatum, sicut ipse intellexit*). Master John Chaundos, priest, had been instituted to this church on the presentation of Sir Eustace de Wyteneie (Whitney), Knight, Feb. 4, 1288.* From this point we lose sight of every thing relative to personal visitation. From Pencombe, across the country, they remove to

BOSBURY, June 14, 15, 16.

As Swinfield has been here for several weeks, during part of the preceding months of October and December, including the whole of November, and as no novelty of importance calls for Abstract or Illustration, we may accompany him at once to

WHITBORNE, from June 17 to July 20, inclusive.

Where they renew for awhile, without interruption, the system of purveyance and consumption that was interwoven with their domestic life. The contents of this section of the diary bear in most respects too strong a resemblance to what has been already so often pointed out to demand any further analysis of them; a few only may be selected to indicate the time and place. As to matters ecclesiastical, the two following instances of episcopal authority, that at this juncture fall in our way, are the last to be recorded.

In the æstuary of the Severn, on a rock at the confluence of that river and the Wye, near Chepstow, and opposite to a manor then belonging to the Bishop of Llandaff, called Mathern, stood a chapel, dedicated to an anchorite, Saint Tiriace, Tryock, or Tryackle, an appellation that has gained nothing in euphony or dignity by its subsequent transformation into Treacle.† John Steere, a Benedictine monk, although not of the diocese of Hereford, petitioned the Bishop for leave to celebrate divine service on this circumscribed

* Reg. Swinf. f. 59 a.

† This chapel on the rock is noticed by William of Worcestre as that of Saint Tiriaceus the anchorite. *Distat a Kynrode per 6 miliaria in parte Walliæ coram Mathern villa manerii episcopi Landavensis per unum miliare de Chepstow*. Itiner. p. 147. See Archæol. XXIX. 26, 29.

spot, and obtained a free faculty so to do, whenever he could go and continue there, no canonical objection existing to the contrary.* The licence was dated at Whitborne on the 30th of June. Another, dated the 2d of July, relates to a private chantry at the eastern outskirt of his jurisdiction, near Whitborne. A knight, Sir Henry le Waleys, having built and fitted up an oratory at his manor of Salewell, in the parish of Clifton upon Teme, petitioned that a priest might be appointed to perform divine service during the life of himself and the lady Sybilla, his wife, whenever necessity or utility should require it. To this request a faculty was granted conditionally, that permission should be obtained from the parsons of the church of Clifton, to whom the tithes and obventions belonged, so that the said church might not be defrauded of any of them; but that all obventions of any kind whatsoever brought to the oratory should be immediately, entirely, and faithfully restored to the church of Clifton.†

Whitborne, as a manor, compared with the others attached to the see, might have been reckoned in the third class of them. It was situated in a corner of the diocese, contiguous to that of Worcester. Part of Bromyard adjoined it on the west, and the great wood of Brinksty was equally divided between the two parishes. The house, near the river Teme, might not be ill adapted to security and convenience. It was, if not then, certainly afterwards, surrounded with a moat, and possessed the usual conveniences of a mill and a warren. It had pasturage beside the river and pannage in abundance of mast and acorn in its wood. Our narrative of trifling observances here shall be brief. From the hour of their arrival they began to put their horses upon grass, and kept up only half of their allowance of corn. In removals of wine from Bosbury and Ledbury Whitborne had received its portion; and the weak white wine of the Ledbury vineyard here deposited perhaps was rightly reserved for summer use. According to their custom of drinking it from the wood, they had left a cask on tap when they were last at this place, and it is now brought to table with the red. This variety is discernible no where before, but begins from the first day, and is continued, with few intermissions, all the while they are here. Their general stock of foreign wine, however, required replenishing, and, as in the former half-

* Reg. Swinf. f. 65 b.

† Ibid. ut supra.

year, was sent for to Bristol.* Squire Raulin, or Ralph de Marines, was again charged with this commission; and he bought seven casks and a barrel, six of which were transferred to Bosbury, and one to Colwall. The whole cost of wine, freightage, and carriage to the Bosbury cellar, was fifteen pounds six shillings. Other articles were at the same time procured from that market. The expedition probably took up not less than a fortnight; no notice is taken of precautions, as in winter, to secure the contents of the vessels from the effect of weather during the voyage. Another half-yearly occupation was the slaughter of cattle for salting, though in the heat of summer. The employment of some species of fine linen in the kitchen or larder, to cover the meat, represents an annoyance from flies; † and the modern substitution of wire for the purpose is but a trifling advance upon the ingenuity of our ancestors. They bought a stock of geese, put them up and fattened them with paste made with milk and flour of wheat and oats. ‡ Other manors contributed to their maintenance; Sugwas and Bosbury sent fish and pastry, bread and meat. Saturday, the 24th of June, brought a number of persons thither, if the increase of horses be a fair criterion; they were probably dependents with their midsummer reckonings; the groom reported to Kemeseye that on the whole there had been forty horses on grass and corn that day.

The reader may have observed that the whole of the household could seldom, if ever, have been collected together at a given time; but they now seem to be gathering in. Thomas, the groom, who, with one of my lord's palfreys and some other servants, had been seven weeks in London, came down and had his and their expenses allowed. Adam the marshal, since his recovery and return, had been to Oxford, where he paid for the charges of the brothers Kingessuod at the University, and brought them to Whitborne immediately after the Translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, to pass some time under the roof of their patron and friend. § The arrival of these parties coincides with the first and second week in July. There might be a reason for summoning the servants from London, previous to the great ceremony that then was enacting there with so much pomp and concourse, and perhaps no little disorder, when the whole court and city

* Roll, July 11, 15.

† Id. July 10.

‡ Id. June 20, July 19.

§ Roll, July 7, Dors. || 9.

gave a loose to an unbounded expression of joy. On July 8 the princess Margaret, fourth daughter of Edward I. was espoused to John of Brabant; and the entertainment vied with and probably exceeded in magnificence and excess of princely and popular revelry any thing that had been witnessed at the preceding nuptials of Joanna with Gilbert de Clare.* That nobleman in compliment to the bride and and bridegroom, or that he might not appear inferior to his father in costly banqueting, gave a most sumptuous entertainment to them on the following day at his country residence in Clerkenwell. †

Whitborne might be an agreeable Midsummer retreat; but, as it was at some distance from the preserves of the "great game" that invited their attention, it could hardly have been so suitable for the main occupation of the season, in which some, the most active of the household, were engaged. For now every where throughout England, in forest, chase, and park, the huntsman's horn was wont to

Shake the high thicket. ‡

The king himself had issued orders to Roger Strange, justiciary of his forests on this side the Trent, and to the several keepers of those of Shotover, Cannock, Wanborough, Rockingham, Hatfield, Melksham, Devizes, and the Chase of Bristol, to capture deer for presents to his noble and right reverend friends.§ The servants of the Bishop of Hereford were no less diligent in this business. In June and July fresh venison, the

* See Dors. || c. p. 164, Commentary, where for Joanna, read Margaret.

† Green, Lives of the Princesses, II. p. 335. The King honoured it by his presence, as may be inferred from the record of a little accident that befel one of his attendants, proving that all who were upon duty were not so cautious as they might have been during the festivity of the hour. Geoffrey, the King's *aquarius*, whose office was to bring him water for his ablution in a costly basin, by some very imaginable occurrence missed it at the feast. He did not in consequence forfeit his post; but Edward with his own hand paid him in advance, or over and above his wages, the sum of sixty shillings to make good the loss. *Aquarius regis.* || *Eodem die* (sc. 16 Julii) *Galfrido Aquario regis de prestito super vadiis suis per manus proprias, quos (sc. solidos) cepit ad emendum quoddam lavacrum, quod perdidit ad festum Comitum Gloucestris.* *Lx.s.* Lib. Hosp. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

‡ Milton, Arcades, l. 58.

§ June 15, 21; July 3, 14, 15, 16, 17. Rot. Claus. 18 Edw. I. in Turr. Lond.

huntsmen, the hounds, and the chase, are repeatedly mentioned in the Roll. Adam as usual is of the party; on one occasion they are absent two days and nights.* On July 20 they draw nearer to the scene of action, for there is a general removal to Colwall; and they are out on the day following quenching their thirst in the Chase (*in potu venatorum in chacia*). And we might still have had other intimations of their labours and their spoils, with many particulars of far more interest or importance, that it might have been desirable to know, had we received Keme-seye's accounts complete to the end of the year. A fragment of Sunday, the 21st, is all that remains. Some rude or careless hand, more probably the relentless hand of Time, that rends asunder every tie, has removed the concluding membranes of the Roll. Here, therefore, the scene prematurely closes, the curtain drops, and the actors are visible no more. Those whose progress we have so long been observing from day to day, the prelate and his clerks, his squires, and the retinue of his household, with all their accompaniments and means of subsistence, man, horse, and hound, at once disappear from before us, like the sudden breaking up of some busy dream.

The allusion made in a former page † to the place where Swinfield died is more precisely confirmed by Leland, whose testimony has recently fallen under the notice of the editor. This, though loosely, and in some respects to all appearance inaccurately, worded, is sufficiently explicit as to the point in question. It shows that his death took place at Bosbury, and that he was interred with great ceremony in his own cathedral. His words are these :

“ Richard Swinefeld obiit anno Dom. 1316, die 5. Gregorii Pont. Ro. apud Bosburie. Sedit annis 34. Sepultus est pompa max. in Herifordensi ecclesia.” ‡

And they form no inappropriate close to our imperfect memorial of this prelate's character and mode of life.

Æors ultima linea rerum est.

* June 20; July 1.

† P. lxxvi. note.

‡ Itin. VIII. p. 70.