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SOME ACCOUNT OF ANCIENT CHURCHWARDEN
ACCOUNTS OF ST. MICHAEL'S, BATH.

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THE notices which have appeared in the Transactions of the Royal Historical Society of the accounts of God's house at Southampton, and other documents of a like nature, have led me to think that some accounts of the churchwardens' accounts preserved in the vestry of St. Michael's, Bath, might prove interesting to the members. Their existence was known only to a few, and as far as I am aware no accurate examination has ever yet been made of them, or if made, not published to the world. I became acquainted with them about a year ago, and gave a short account of their contents to the Bath Literary Club, in consequence of which the members determined to have them copied by a practised decipherer in the British Museum; and the Somerset Archæological Society has undertaken to print portions of them in their Transactions. As these, however, will not circulate much beyond the county, and in many respects the documents in question differ a good deal from any already printed, as far as I have been able to ascertain, I think my paper this evening will not be regarded as a repetition of what is already known.

The earliest churchwarden accounts published are, I believe, those collected by Nichols in 1797. He says in his preface that those of St. Mary Hill, London, are "unparalleled in their kind, and also in point of time (1427) beyond any we have yet heard of;" but those of St. Michael's, Bath, begin in 1349,

22nd Ed. III., and go down, with occasional years wanting, to 1575, 17th Eliz.

They are 77 in number, 67 Latin and 10 English; written on parchment rolls, some much faded, torn, and stained, but the greater number in very good preservation, and some really beautiful specimens of the writing of the period.

Their peculiarity consists in the fact that the parish possessed considerable property, both in lands and houses, the management of which was entrusted to the Procuratores, who rendered their account yearly, generally on the feast of the 11,000 virgins, Oct. 21. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the wardens received 12d. yearly as a salary; subsequently they seem to have received an honorarium, "pro bono servicio suo," of various amounts. Besides, therefore, the ordinary church expenses, we have frequent notices of building and repairing of houses, which incidentally give data as to the cost of labour, materials, tenure of property and the like, which are of general value. How the property was first acquired does not appear. Edward III. granted the Corporation of Bath a charter, apparently in 1361, and by that charter, it is said by Wood, an early historian of Bath, that certain tenements were made over to the Corporation, with a reserved rent to the Crown, for the reparation of the Church of St. Michael without the Gate, and for the maintenance of the poor of that parish in particular, and of the city generally. He proceeds to enumerate the tenements and give their value. But in 1364 the rents of the parish are set down in the rolls at £2 10s. 8d., which in 1374, *ut patet per rentale eiusdem anni*, was raised to £2 14s. 8d.—exactly the sum which Wood gives as the rental of the tenements in question in 1527. It would seem, therefore, that the Corporation handed over the property to the parish very soon after it was committed to them by the Crown.

In 18th Henry VIII. "it was ordered by the rector and parishioners that the wardens should render an account of all annual receipts on the Lord's day next after the feast of the 1,1000 virgins, under pain of forfeiture to the said church

of 1-lb. of wax." The rental was reported accordingly, and is quoted in all subsequent accounts as the authoritative return. It is contained among these rolls—there were various tenements, closes, gardens, coppices, stables, cottages, &c., in Walcote, Walcotestrete, Bradestrete, Ffroglane, or Ffrogmerelane (where I understand New Bond Street is now), and Stallstrete. They claimed 12d. yearly for "the rector's tenement in Walcotestrete, called the Rectory." The number of various properties named is 37; the rents of Assise, as they were called, amounting then to £11 18s. 8d., a sum which should be reckoned now at twelve times as much at least, some think fifteen or twenty.

The accounts are systematic in their arrangement under various heads, the amount being added at the foot of each.

1. Arrears. 2. Rents of Assise. 3. Moneys received for various objects. 4. Yearly stated payments. 5. Rents in arrear, or deficient through tenements vacant or otherwise; the amount of which varies of course, but is generally considerable, and the same deficiencies recur in successive years, so that I conceive the debtors were mostly poor, and their rents were not rigorously exacted. 6. Costs and expenses of the church, and of houses belonging to the church. 7. Obits and anniversaries. At the close of many of the rolls there is a list of church goods, and also of articles held in pledge for security of moneys owing. The new wardens are named, specifying the one who is to bear the purse; "and so they depart in peace."

There is always a charge for the expenses of the account which does not vary from 1349 to 1523, and is curious, as we are thus furnished with the cost of the parchment before us, 1d. to 2d.; the pay of a clerk to write the bill, 12d.; 4d. for drink, and 12d. for refreshment.

The clerk was not always a layman; 20d. was paid in 1536 to the Vicar of Stalles for engrossing the account: whoever he was, he did not hesitate to use English if the Latin word did not readily occur, and thus there is a curious medley of phrases, many probably localisms, of which the exact meaning is lost.

Frequent mention is made of a locality called in 1403 Alleworde, afterwards Alvord, Alford-lane, and ultimately Alford. It was in the vicinity of Boat-stall, or Slippery Lane, where a ferry leading to Bathwick formerly existed. That it lay near the river is shown in 1478, by entry of "3d. given to the bailiff for fine for the water overflowing the road to Alford,"—and "2d. to a labourer for staking and freying the road by the Avon." In 1420 they built a house of some size there, and there was also a "dyyngge howse, formerly called horse-mill," held by Robert Batyn of the Church for the life of Isabell Bedford, at 6d. per annum, and a land tax to the bailly of the city of 1½d.*

On one of the closes, *juxta Abbonam*, named Elm-haye, there was evidently a good stock of elm trees, which were felled, sawn up, split into boards and palings, and the chips and hardwood sold and carried to account: occasionally one fell into the river, and had to be "plucked out of the water;" there is notice also of the sale of the pasturage, the "*gras*," the fruit, "*vestura*," of the trees, particularly apples, of loppings, "*tonsure*," of the trees, of stakes, planks, and poles, and even of the *nettles*. In 1400 I find *pro urticis venditis ad Lawrencium Bebbe*, 2d. They had a saw-pit, and all repairs seem to have been executed with their own materials as far as wood was concerned; stone (and other building materials, comprehended under the word *meramium* †) was fetched from Claverton by permission of the Provost, from Farley Hampton, Ynglescumbe, and other quarries. Straw for thatching was got from Charlcombe, Barewyke, and Walcote. Tiles for roofing were stone tiles, such as still exist on some old houses; indeed, in 1463 *tyle-stones* are named,—*pro 600 tyle stones dictis*

* 1460 occurs "cotagium Dionysii Dyer, vocatum *Berehowse*." Was this a house in which the *bier* was kept, or was it a *bear house*? anyhow I don't think it was a *beerhouse*.

† There are a multitude of other words referring to building materials, English and Latin,—*helme*, *tessel*, *spykys*, *lach-nayles*, *borde-nayles*, *hacche-nayles*, *stroke-nayles*, *bochelle-nayles*, *ston-nayles*, *crestes*, *serres*, *asseres-stoffe*, *rudyng*, *brekyng*, &c., &c.

tenementis solut, 6s. 8d.; and in 1465, *pro M. petris tegulis*, 6s. 8d. 1479, 20d. for 250 tiles. They were dug in quarries on Lansdown, which perhaps belonged to the Church, as mention is made of their sale,—*pro tegulis venditis* 6s. 8d.

They seem to have carried on a brisk trade in the sale and hiring of brazen jars, *olle enee*, which fetched from 4s. to 6s. 6d., and were hired for a year, or half a year, or less, at 8d. per annum. Thus 4d. *pro redditu unius olle enee locate a dominico Hokke (i. e., 15 days after Easter) usque ad Fest. S. Mich. pro dimidio anni*. Lime also was made and sold.

Some of the larger houses had two stories, with interclose, stairs, wood flooring, paved courtyard, and plots of ground round them; they were constructed of rough stone and timber, whitewashed with lime. Cottages apparently had no chimneys, but only smoke-holes.* I conclude they had but one story. The gardens were protected by walls, and also by hedges, for which thorn bushes and stakes were largely bought; what they grew in their gardens does not appear, except that there are several notices of the purchase of green beans,† which were made into pottage on certain occasions.”

The particularity and minutiae of repairs show vigilant care against ecclesiastical dilapidations. Mention is found of 2s. 2d. received at the letting, *locatio*, of the “King’s Crown,” of Bath, at Swaynswick; and 2s. received at Merffylde,‡ also *hospitium les belly*, in Walcote, is mentioned, probably a hostelry with

* 1430, *in factura de duo smokeholys in domo Wi. Osborne* 3½d.

† 1509, *pro duobus bushell viridium fabarum emendis cum factura earundem in potagio*, 8d. 1532, 8d. *pro dimidio modeo novarum fabarum*.

‡ John of Tours, the bishop to whom Bath was granted, and who accordingly constituted himself *ex officio* Abbot of Bath (whereby the monks, after having been governed by a resident abbot for about 110, years, were put under priors, subject to the bishop as abbot), gave back to the priors and monks for their maintenance, among other things, “the land of Hugh with the beard, to wit, Claverton, Docne, *Merffield* which is probably Marshfield and Eston.”

the sign "the Bells;" all these, from the rents paid, must have been good houses.

In 1435 the parish possessed a dovecote, held by William Phelpys, who paid 40s. pro fine columbarie, and 2s. rent.

1506. Culver-howse or Coln-howse Close yielded 6s. 2d. rent.

1487. We find xd. pro corona conducta Regi Attumnali isto anno. This the late learned Canon Lysons explained to mean "a coroner's quest held by the King's Attorney," and considered "Attumnali" to be a misreading for "attumnali." This may probably be the true explanation; but the word is the same in two or three other rolls.

1490. 8d. pro corona conducta Regi Attumnali isto anno.

1492. De 8d. receptis pro corona conducta ad Salford isto anno, et De 12d. receptis de Rege Attumnali pro corona ei conducta isto anno.

9th. Æn. 8 there is a notice of 8s. receptis de servisia facta per Wm. Wodewarde, ad proficium dicte ecclesie hoc anno; the first mention of a brewing of beer as a source of profit, which afterwards was common.

In later times the wardens kept sheep, as appears from various items for their keep, summer and winter; and the wool was sold for the profit of the church at 4d. a pound.

All the tenements of the Church paid a land tax, *languabulum, i. e., land gabelle*, at first to the Lord Bishop. This in 1468 was taken from him and paid to the bailly of Bath for the king, and seems to have continued as long as these rolls carry us. For some tenements fines were taken on the death of the tenant, *e. g., de fine domus Rt. Headiman*, £3 6s. 8d., 1426, but usually there seems to have been a yearly rent.

One of the earliest payments is 2s. 3d. to the Master of St. John's, Bath, for certain tenements belonging to the hospital in Walcote-strete, and as it was never discontinued down to 17th Elizabeth, for aught I know the hospital, which is still existing, may still hold the property.

4s. 4d. was also paid "*Rectori istius ecclie,*" for certain tenements in Walcote-strete. 20d. was paid to the Abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol, for tenements in Walcote-strete, which after the dissolution of the monasteries was paid to "the Trinite College, Bristowe." Queen Mary restored it to the Abbey, and as the Abbey lands were ultimately made over as an endowment of the new bishopric of Bristol, I imagine a rent "*schoparum apud Batho,*" which appears among them in Dugdale, represents the abbot's property, and perhaps the Ecclesiastical Commissioners hold it now. There were payments also for tenements in North-gate, Frog-lane and other places, to the Cofferer and Wardens of the city of Bath. 1504 the entry occurs "pro le Xmis. dicte ecclesie Domino Regi 6s. 8d.," the first notice of any such title paid to the king, nor do I find it again till the 14th Eliz., when there is the entry, "ixs. xid. to the Queene for tenths, iiijd. for a ywyttens for the payment thereof.

I find notice of miracle plays performed in 1482. "For potation of *le plaeyrs*, in remembrance of their plays on divers occasions, 8d. For 2 bushels of corn for the same play, 2s. Paid to Walter Corryer, for wood to make a chest at the same time, 8d. Paid to John Slagg for bread and flowers for the same 5s. 6d., for two dosyns of beer for the same play, 4s. 4d. Paid to Robt. Chapman, for cheese, 13d. Paid for skins (probably for disguise) for the same play, 20d.; and to Wm. Bayle for steyning divers utensils ordered for the said play, 3s.; and for carriage of timber and materials from the cemetery, 5d.

It may interest some to hear a list of the goods and chattels (*bonis et catellis*) handed over to the new wardens in 1427:—"Four chalices; one pair of new silk vestments; one *flamolum de Cypres* [a wrought brass cover, or mitre] for the pyx of the body of Christ, 8 linen towels [*manutergia*], 2 missals, 6 portiforia, 1 gradual, 8 processional, 1 ordinal, 1 legendum temporale, 1 Manual, and very many other ornaments."

In 1467 this list was increased by mention of "a silver-gilt

cross, a silver-gilt monstrance, 2 crewets of silver, six copes, whereof two of clothe of goolde, the gift of John Jewint, late rector of this Church, and 4 banners, two of silk, and 2 steyned." *

The cost of the books was considerable. 1349, 2s. was left by will of Wm. de Wyke towards a missal, 2d. was paid for a skin to bind it, and 46s. 2d. was paid for the missal itself. A *portiforium* cost £1 3s. 4d.; a processionale in 1426 cost 5s. 11d., of which 5s. 1½d. was collected for the purchase. In 1439 a manual was bought at Bristol for 16s. 8d., 1s. 6d. more being spent on "two men going on horseback to fetch the said book." There is also frequent mention of binding books, and of leather bought for that purpose; *e.g.*, 1439, "5s. for binding the *Legenda*."

The expense of vestments also was great; £1 6s. 10d. was collected at one time for them in 1426, equal probably to £15 now.

In 1376 a new cope cost 20s., which may fairly represent £12 now; in 1415, linen bought for a surplice, 5s. 2d.; for making it, 3s. 4d., would equal at the same rate of calculation £4 18s. now; 1425, 26s. 10d. was collected for new vestments, which were bought in 1426 for 46s. 8d., about £28 now. The cost of surplices varied much, probably in proportion to the quality of the material, as now, 1425, a surplice cost 23s. 1431, occurs 21d. for linen cloth for a surplice, and 18d. for making it. 1482, 7½ ells of linen to make a surplice for the parish clerk, 2s. 9d., and 9d. to his wife for making it; whereas in 1532 7s. 2½d. was paid for the rector's surplice and making it; in 1426, for a new alb 4s. 9d.; for setting on it the parure, 1d., for making it 8d., would amount to about

* To show how the old customes survived in post-Reformational times, I may mention that in 1631 the Swanswick account ends thus:—"So there remaineth to the next Churchwardens 2s. 9d., and one Communion cup, and the cover of silver, a clothe to keep it in, the carpet and one clothe for the table, one pot of pewtere, one surplice, one Bible, two Communion books, two Homilie books, Bishop Jewell's works, and Erasmus his Paraphrases, a cushion for the pulpit and one glass bottle, covered with leathere."

£3 6s., taking money as worth then twelve times its present value, a very moderate estimate.

Rochets and a "chesippall" (chasuble) are also mentioned, and constant repair and washing of vestments, and *buckram, linen, ribbons, &c.*, for them.

Gifts and bequests of various kinds were made to the church; *e. g.*, two silver-gilt rings at one time, and six more at another; a green carpet, an apron of fine linen, wool, bales of cloth, a bushel of malt; 1462, 2 sheep worth 20d. and 7d., from the executors of Wm. Drayton; a ewe and lamb, nine silver-gilt rosaries, one pair of chaplets (*preclarum*) of jet, eleven silver rosaries, and eleven coral beads, by bequest of the mother of Mr. Wm. Cliftone, lately deceased; a paten, a towel, &c. Also pledges were often given for debts, indicating scarcity of coin; *e. g.*, a roll of white cloth for 10s., a sash for 8s., a fur cloak for 10s., a tunic of tawny colour for 2s. 7d., a great dish for 20s., a lump of rock crystal, silver-gilt brooches, brass and pewter, &c.

The Church of St. Michael without the north gate, in the fourteenth and two next centuries, must have been large and handsome. I imagine a good deal of it was built in 1367-9, as there are various items for stone, "*ad opus ecclesie*," and a donation of 2s. is set down "*quod archidiaconus dedit ad opus ecclesie*." At that time (1367) occurs "*solut Johanni Gregory Xs de eo quod ipse tantum accommodavit ad opus ecclesie*." It must have had aisles, and a large chancel divided from the nave by a screen and rood-loft, which I am disposed to think consisted of an understructure of stone, pierced with doors and windows* opening into the chancel, upon which was set the rood beam, *trabs*, supporting a candelabrum of fifteen lights, the middle one of which was called—for some reason which Dr. Rock, a man learned in ancient ritual,

* My reason for hazarding this conjecture is that there is mention of repairing defects over the *window of the rood-loft*, and in the same roll, of XV. Judas lights for the rood-loft, and making three standards of iron, and one rod of iron with three *fleurs-de-lis* and three roses, upon the rood-loft.

cannot assign*—the Judas light, for which there is regular provision in the accounts.

In addition to the high altar (which had silken cloths and a canopy or baldachino over it) there were altars with lights always burning before them, to the B. V. Mary, the Holy Trinity, St. Catherine, St. Egidius or Giles,† and St. Christopher. Over the last (and probably over others) was a picture, which was sold 1st Edward VI.,—"20d. received for a *tablement* with an image of S. Christopher payntyd on ye same;" and "for another *tablement*, 12d."

Lights were also burned before the cross, and the font, called *Fontapere*, and notice is made of a herse, in the chancel, which was an open stone or iron-work erection, fitted with many candelabra, under which coffins of persons of importance were laid during the singing of the Requiem. There was also a holy sepulchre, which previously to Easter was watched, and lights burned before it; there was a Lenten veil, with cords and pulley to work it; a large chest for vestments in the chancel; banners which were carried in procession on Rogation days, Corpus Christi, Dedication, and others; large numbers of torches, weighing heavily, were always provided; *e.g.*, 1463—"for a new torch, weighing 24 lbs., whereof 8 lbs. belong to the church, and 16 lbs. of new wax was bought of John Wexmaker, 8s. 8d.;" 1485, "two torches of 42 lbs. weight at 3½d. a lb., 12s. 3d.;" 1503, "two torches weighing 27 lbs., 11s. 9d.;" for a new light for Easter,

* In the accounts of St. Mary Hill, London, 1511, occurs "Mem. : that the *Judas* of the pastal, *i.e.*, the tymbre that the wax of the pastal is driven upon, weigheth 7 lbs. ; and in those of St. Margaret's, Westminster, 1512, "pd. for 12 *Judacis* to stand with the tapers, 2s."

Among the cups belonging to the monastery of Durham before the dissolution is mentioned "a goodly great mazer, called *Judas cup*, edged about with silver, and double-gilt, with a foot underneath it to stand on silver, double-gilt, which was never used but on Maundy Thursday at night in the Frater House, where the Prior and the whole Convent did meet to keep their Maundy."

† The special saint of lepers and the like, and therefore to be looked for as having an altar in Bath.

making, to John Wexmaker, 8s. 8d. The whole cost of weighing 19 lbs., at 5½d. per lb., with 7 lbs. old wax, and wax and oil was very large; 1504, the cost of *making* lights for the rood, paschal, and font, exclusive of the purchase of the wax, was 10s. 10d.; for making all the jonnulles used during the year, 2s. 10½d.; for all the oil for the year, 5s. 8½d.; for small candles to light the others, 7d. Taking the same comparative value of money, this would amount to £12 now; and many other things show that the services of the church were liberally and handsomely provided for.

The church had a tower, with windows barred to keep out birds; * and a sanctus bell; but the bell tower, *campanile*, is always distinguished from the *turris*, and was apparently detached and stood by itself on land for which a quit rent was paid. † and contained six bells. The great, second, third, middle, tenor, and treble bells are all specified. ‡

In 1426 the wardens were minded to build a "new chapel to our Lady," apparently carried out beyond the former altar to her honour: encouraged, perhaps, by a legacy of 12d. from Philip Towker, *ad edificationem nove capelle*.

Their mode of procedure included no architect, plan, or contract apparently. I subjoin some of the items.

8d. to two men moving the altar of St. Mary.

4d. for horse hire to fetch the stone mason.

For consecration of the altar of St. Mary *ad suffraganium* 7s. 8d. (does this mean *when the suffragan bishop came*, or

* 1536.—"8d. *p. c. lathes ad faciendam laticiam fenestris turris*;" also, 1532, 18s. 1½d. is set down for repairing and pointing the tower, and 4s. for a load of stone tiles for it.

† In 1400 occurs, "*de loco ubi campanile stat* 4s.," a charge which goes on to 1527.

‡ In 1484 one of the bells was taken to Bristol, at an expense of 5s. 6d. for carriage there and back, and cost 41s. for recasting, and 1s. for rehangin in the *campanile*—equal to about £30 now.

1518 is recorded a payment to Walter Merch, for hanging the 2nd. bell, and for nails and bolts, 16d., to Ths. Belleter de Borstelles (the bell-founder at Bristol?) £4 13s. 4d., and for repair of the bawdry kes. 4s. 2d.

for the supplemental oratory, in which the altar may have been temporarily placed while the new chapel was building?).

6s. 8d. paid to the stonemason on the vigil of Pentecost.

26s. 8d. paid to him on the vigil of All Saints.

8d. for a man and horse to fetch a mason and his tools for digging stone.

1d. for laying the first stone of the foundation of the chapel.

2d. for drink at the completion of two arches.

13s. 2d. for "lyme" for the whole building of the chapel.

8d. for divers other things.

1d. for men to carry two poles to the scaffold.

4s. 8d. for clearing away the old walls of the chancel.

16s. 8d. for opening a new window in the chapel.

7s. for carriage of stone.

2s. 3½d. for victuals for the carriers at various times.

2d. to the mason for over-hours, *pro serotico*, after two days.

1s. 5½d. for victuals for stone diggers, breaking and shaping.

4s. for stone of the Provost of Claverton.

1s. 10d. for a labourer for a week helping the mason and carpenter.

1d. for drink for him.

4d. for one "hurtyl" and spikes.

3s. 8d. for crests for the chapel.

8d. for a horse and man to fetch the tiler.

3s. 6d. for a new door, and making it.

2s. 4d. for nails, hinges, staple and hook to it, and for "nodys" for the roof.

1s. 8d. to a carpenter for two couplings on the old roof.

5d. to John Whytynge for supporting the chancel roof.

2s. 2d. for seeking two couplings, *copulis* (possibly coping stones), for the ancient arch from Locok.

6d. for the beginning of the carpenter and glazier's work.

6d. for a couple of rests for the "wynd-barge" of the new chapel.

10d. to J. Whytynge and his son for laying the gutters.

1d. for fetching them, and 6½d. for nails.

7½d. for nails to make firm a plank over the gutters.

1s. 8d. for 10 planks to secure the lead in the gutters.

£1 16s. 6d. to the plumber for new lead for the same gutters.

13s. 4d. for 1,000 tiles for the chapel.

2s. for a man to help the tiler.

5s. 2d. to Thomas Speke for labour, 12 days and over-hours.

3d. for carriage of sand.

1s. 6d. for "lathe nayls."

£1 0s. 10d. to the tiler, and 1d. for drink.

2s. 8d. for a horse and two men carrying away rubbish.

The latest attempt in church improvement seems to have been in 7th Elizabeth, when chimes were added to the clock. The clock itself was a very early institution, and the man who kept it got 4s. a year.

1482 we find "pro factura domus orologii et lapide, zabulo et clavis ac setting uppe dicti orologii, 6s. 8d."; but the parish clerk had charge of the clock itself fifty years earlier.

It is singular that there is no mention of any musical instrument throughout the rolls, unless a repair "viol argenti 3d., 1490," be one; but I fancy it is a silver vessel.

In 1246 occurs a charge of 1d. for preparing the floor of the church, for the putting up of seats. May we date the custom of seats from that year? There are several notices of seats afterwards.

1441.—8d. *pro una sede de Thom. Bradwey.*

1490 *pro restitutione Amisie Vayreoke pro sede sua relicta* 8d.

1494.—2d. *pro sede una in ecclesia di Eleanor Tyer.*

1520.—4d. *pro una sede in ecclesia hoc anno.*

Our ancestors cannot be said to have been at all teetotallers. *Potacion* is an invariable item at the beginning of each roll; in 1366 they spent 2d. on bread and beer, *cerevisia*, in celebration of their entrance in office.

It must be confessed that potations were rare and frugal in early times, but after the Reformation they were much more frequent and costly, and money "to

make the ringers drink,"* on various festive occasions, then first appears; "12d. to make the Rynggers drynk when they rounge the Daye of the Remembrance of the Crownasyon of oure Queene's Grace." (14th Eliz.)

Wine is rarely mentioned in early rolls; in 10th Elizabeth appears "5d. for a quarte of seke (*sack*) that was given to the Byshope's offycyall at his beyng here," but that was an unusual extravagance.

The earliest notice of a visitation is 1441, "6d. solut. in potacione in die visitacionis;" though "in una presertacione coram archidiacono 2s.," implies his visitation in 1370. The next is not till 1532, "2d. pro una billa facta et exhibita in visitacione;" and 1534 (25th Hen viii.), "1d. soluto in visitacione domini cantuarensis," which I imagine was "Cranmer's Metropolitan Visitation."

In Reformational times attendance both of wardens and other parishioners at visitations was very frequent and expensive, e.g., I. Edw. VI., "6d. to a clark makyng our byll at a visitacion held at Stalle Ch.; 8d. pd. hoths (oaths) at the said visitacion; 18d. pd. to them of the parishioners that appeared for 1 daye for mete and drink; 1d. for paper at the visitacion at Wells; 18d. for further costs repayd them that appeared at the visitacion; 3s. 4d. for the costs of persons that did appear at the said visitacion; 6s. for waytyng and other charges at the bp's. visitacion;" 2s. was also "payd to the Somner (Summoner) for discharging the Booke" for "lake of aperens" (lack of appearance); "2s. for two bookes to my Lord Byshop's Somner; 2d. spent upon the parson and him at that time; 12d. for wrytyng and kepyng of the paper booke."

The Reformation of course swept away the old Roman Catholic ceremonial entirely. The high altar was pulled down

* 10th Elizabeth occurs "12d. to the ryngers to ryng when the Duke came yn." This is explained to be the Duke of Norfolk, who is stated by Bristol history to have come "from Bath to Bristol, 1568, with the Earl of Worcester and others, but was sent for by the Queen from thence with all speed, and was soon after beheaded."—*Athenæum Sept.*, 1878.

3rd Edward VI., 1550, at a cost of 16d., and 6d. for "washing the Altar place with lyme." In 1552 occurs "for the stufe and makynge the Communion table 6s. 8d., and 8s. for a carpet to the same;" and, 2s. "for the Prayer Boke in Inglysche." There is nothing about a Bible till 14th Elizabeth, when "the owlde Bible" was sold for 6s. 8d., and "20s. paid to William Sherstone towards the payment of the new Bible."

The fabric of the church was allowed to get into bad order, till "the Queen's Majestie" came to Bath,* and then both St. Michael's and Stalls' Church were repaired, and the windows glazed, for her reception. As to the minister, he appears to have been left to starve. In 1551 the Wardens gave him 20d. "towards hys lyvyng;" and two years earlier 6d. is set down "to the two procurators sekynge ye good wyll and almes towards the parson's levynge." In 1563 I find "3s. 4d. for wages for the parson payd at Pensford," at the archdeacon's visitation; and the largest sum given is 1573,— "17s. 6d. payd toward the parson's wages."

The Abbey and Abbey Church fell almost into ruins. 2nd Edward VI. occurs "16d. for tyles and 2d. for their carriage from the Abbaye," which, I imagine, was used as a sort of quarry, from which building materials could be procured.

St. Michael's, together with Stalls' Church, St. James's, and St. Mary's, were annexed to the Abbey parish, and their ministers were provided by the Rector. Their separate property was nearly all ruthlessly confiscated.

* Several items prove that Queen Elizabeth visited Bath in 1574, although she is generally supposed not to have been there till 1592:—

Recd. of Wm. Acton for taxe money againste the Quene's coming 3s.

Given to the Queresteres of Wells att the Quene's Majestie being heare 10s.

Pd. to one that kepte cleane the walls of the cittie at the Quene's Majestie's being heare 2s.

Pd. to the tapster of the Harte for the gentlemen ushers and hys companys dynner 12s. 4d.

Pd. to Forte for glasing of Stall's Church windows at the Quene's Majestie being heare 4s. 4d.

Pd. to John More the foremason for making of the ring of the Westgate against the Quene's Majestie coming heare 5s. 5d.

The bequests for holding of obits and anniversaries were seized and appropriated by the Crown, and the lands, tenements, &c., cease to be mentioned in the Rolls after Edward VI.'s days, but apparently they passed back into the hands of the Corporation, as about 100 years ago a dispute arose between that body and St. Michael's parish about certain properties, and with a view to gaining evidence a so-called copy of these Rolls was made, but in so ignorant a manner that it could not have been of the slightest use.

It may be interesting if I give in conclusion a specimen of one of the Rolls in the original Latin, which will serve to illustrate the remarks which have been made on them.

Bathonia Compotus Ricardi Kippynges et Willelmi Walley pro
Ecclesia curatores ibidem a festo Sanctarum undecim Millia
Scti Mich virginum anno domini Millesimo CCCC^{mo} LXV^o usque
aelis extra. idem festum ex tunc proximo sequens A^o Domⁱ Mill^{mo}
CCCC^{mo} LXVI^o.

Arreagia, nulla.

Redditus Et de ixli xvis receptis de toto redditu assise per
Assize. annum ut patet per rentale factum tempore Rici.
 Thode et Johs. Sewey procuratorum dicte ecclesie An^o
Regis Henrici quinti, &c. septimo.

Summa ixli. xvjs.

Incrementum Et de iijs. iiijd. de incremento redditus tenementi
Redditus. nuper Walteri Riche pro vjs. viijd., modo Johs. Prioure
 pro xs.

Et de xvjd. de incremento redditus tenementi nuper Willmi.
Wyddenham pro viijd. modo. . . .

Et de iijs. viijd. de incremento redditus tenementi olim Rogeri
Hobbys una cum gardino nuper Johannis Roche et cotagii Dionysii
Dyer vocati Berhows modo concessi Ricdo. Reede per an. pro
xxiijs. iiijd.

Et de xvjd. de novo redditu prati nuper Henrici Thursden juxta
Cornewylle sic dimisso.

(And others of the same nature.)

Summa xxiijs. iiijd.

Receptus Et de vs. ixd. de denariis receptis et collectis ad
Denariorum. lumen trabis et cerei fontis Ano. isto ad Pascham.

Et de ijs. jd. ob de candelis provenientiibus cum pane benedicto isto Ano. et non plus quia j dimidium deficit ob missale.

Et de xijd. de legacione Agnetis Goldsmythe.

Et de xvjd. receptis pro j pecia ferri vendita Ji. Hampton.

Et de xxd. de denariis receptis de locacione corone regis ad festum Pentecosten Ao. isto.

Et de xijd receptis de Wmo. Montfort causa sursum redditionis tenementi sui ex concessu parochianorum.

Summa xijs. xd. ob.

Summa totalis receptuum, xjli. xijs. ijd. ob.

Resolucio De quibus computatur solvise ut in reddito resoluta
Redditus. domino * Episcopo Bathonie pro longabulo domini Regis pro diversis terementis istuis Ecclesie per an. iiijs. iiijd. ob.

Et dicto Episcopo pro tenemento nuper Johs. Whytynge modo Willmi. Abyndone iijd. ob.

Et in reddito resoluta pro tenemento The. Abell ijs. et Robti Walley dicto Episcopo per an. ij. iiijd.

Et in reddito resoluta Magistro Sti. Johs. Bapte. Bathonie per an. ij. vijjd.

Et in reddito resoluta Abbati Scti Augustini Brystollii pro tenemento Js. Pochyn in Walcote strete xxd.

Et in reddito resoluta Rectori hujus ecclesie pro tenemento nuper Johs. Whytynge quod Wills. Abyndone modo inhabitat iiijs. iiijd.

Et in reddito resoluta. procuratori Communitatis Bathonie pro tenementis The. Pelles et Willmi. Abyndone Vd. in Walcote strete ; et tenementi in Frog lane iijs. et tenementi Willmi. Carter in Brade stret xjd. iijs. xjd.

Et in reddito resoluta Cofferariis Communitatis Bathonie pro tenemento olim Walteri Riche quod Robs. Batyn modo tenet xijd.

Et in reddito resoluta Henrico Champeneys pro tenemento Ricard Reede per annum. ijd.

* This marks the beginning of the transfer of Land Tax from the bishop to the Crown.

Summa xxs, vijd.

Defectus Et in defectu redditus tenementi nuper Ricdi. Creket
 Redditus. in Bradestret ultra iijs. iiijd. levato de Robto. Somerset
 iijs. iiijd.

Et in defectu redditus tenementi nuper Js. Balle senioris modo Th. Scherwyn ad terminum vite xs. quia reliquit dictum tenementum in manibus parochianorum, et ea de causa allocatur ei totus redditus hujus anni.

Et in defectu redditus tenementi apud Alforde ultra xvjd. levatis de Edwardo Braylle per an. quia sic conceditur ei ad terminum vite per an. iijs. iiijd.

(Many other similar items.)

Et in defectu redditus tenementi Js. Story quia jacet vacuum et nil inde levari potest. vijs.

Summa xls. ixd.

Custodia Et petunt allocacionem de exitu suo anni precedentis
 domorum. ut patet in pede compoti ani. precedentis ljs. ob.

Et in M. petris tegulis emptis pro tenemento Rdi. Rede vjs. viijd.

Et in crestis emptis pro dicto domo xxd.

Et solutis cuidam latamo pro una fenestra ibidem firmanda et ponenda vjd.

Et in j quarteria calcis empta. vjd.

Et in ccc tabulis emptis pro dicto tenemento reparando et solario tabulando vjs.

Et solutis Galfrido Carpenter cum serviente suo per quatuor dies conductis ad* thm. pro dicto solario faciendo iiijjs.

Et solutis tegulatori conducto pro ij lovers† faciendis cum les barchys‡ dicte domus puntandis cum calce. xvd.

Et in tabulis ad idem emptis vjd.

Et solutis Laurentio pro dicto tenemento steddand,§ breydand, et

* Ad *theloneum* or *teloneum*, *i.e.*, according to estimate.

The carpenter and his man hired for four days to make an upper chamber, or Solar, according to estimate 4s., *i.e.*, 1s. p. day for the two, equivalent to 12s. now, of which probably Galfridus had 8s. and his man 4s., not bad wages.

† Or louvers, a wooden contrivance for escape of smoke.

‡ Possibly the *barge boarding*.

§ I cannot explain these words, apparently peculiar to the mason's work of the period.

ibidem iii stappys de lapide factis et murum dictum plastrand per ij dies ad th. xvd.

Et in lapidibus ad idem viijd.

Et in virgis ad dictum murum emptis. vjd.

Et in stovys* ad idem emptis. vjd.

Et in clavis ad idem. xd.

Et in gomphis † et vertinellis emptis pro hostio dicte domus. vjd.

Et in spinis emptis pro sepibus gardini includendis xxd.

Et in stakys ligni ad idem ixd.

Et in factura dictarum‡ hayarum vijd.

Et in uno guttere plumbi ponderis cc dimidii lbs. precium lb . . . empti pro tenemento Willi. Wodhulle. xijs. xjd.

Et in sowdyr§ empto ad idem iijd.

Et solutis plumbario pro dicto guttere ponendo ibidem iiijd.

Et solutis cuidam tegulatori conducto pro dicto tenemento per j. diem reparando ad th. vjd.

Et in mees|| ad idem empto lijd.

Et in clavis ad idem emptis jd.

Et in una hostio empto pro dicta domo viijd.

Et in gomphis et vertinellis ferri emptis pro dicto hostio vd.

Et in tabulis emptis pro uno alio hostio xijd.

Et pro factura dicti hostii. vjd.

Et in clavis iiijd. et in gomphis et vertinellis vd.

Et pro emendacione j flore iiijd.

Et in virgis emptis pro tenemento Wmi. Momforte reparando iiijd.

Et in studdis ad idem emptis iijd.

Et in uno herthe cum zabulo¶ ad idem cariendo in faciendo vjd.

Et sol. cuidam laboratori pro stodynge et bredyng et dawbyng xvjd.

Et sol. cuidam coopertori pro dicto tenemento reparando cum stramine et helme** ad th. xiijd.

* Thin spars of wood, al. *stovys*.

† *Latches and bolts* apparently. The words occur in connection with doors frequently. Du Cange quotes under *gumphus* (*Gesta Consulum Andeg.*, c. 3, n. 26), "Cum ostio fusili, quod *gumphis* et *vertinellis* et quatuor clavibus firmabatur."

‡ Hedges.

§ *Solder*, or *soder*.

|| Bundles of rods or laths.

¶ *Sabulo*, sand.

** Bundles of straw straightened for the thatcher's use. The word is still common.

Et in VIc spykys* ad idem emptis ixd. Et in helme ad idem ijd. ob.

Et in emendacione tenementi Johs. Savyer vjd.

Et in zabulo ad idem cariendo ijd.

Et in cera (*sera*) † ad dictum tenementum empta. iiijd.

Et in clavis ob. Et in zabulo cariendo ad tenementum. Ricdi, Reede ut in xxiiij cariagiis xijd.

Et in ij stapulis ferri emptis ijd.

Et sol. Galfrido Carpenter pro dolobracione‡ iiij stipidum ulmorum cum suo serviente ad th. per j diem et dimidium xvjd. ob.

Et sol. pro sarracione§ dictorum stipidum continentium iiijc pedes ; per c, xijd. iiijc.

Et sol. dicto Galfrido pro reparacione tenementi Thome Brydd ut in j steyre|| et j enterclos walle. Et pro reparacione j flore tenementi Willi. Wodehulle et uno hostio in tenemento Johs. Gregory facto ad th. iijs. vd.

Et in gomphis et vertinellis ad idem vjd.

Et in clavis ad idem xvjd. ob.

Et sol. Thome labourer pro breydyn et dawbing dicti parietis ad th. xd.

Et in virgis et studys ad idem vjd.

Summa vli. xvjs. xjd. ob.

Custodia Ecclesie. Et computant solvisse ut in denariis pro potacione ultimi compoti iiijd.

Et in candelis emptis in die dedicacionis et aliorum festorum. xijd.

Et sol. Andree Bedford pro oleo lampadum ardentium in ecclesia per an. ut patet per parcelas super hunc compotum ostensas. iijs.

Et sol. pro custodia orlogii per an. iiijc.

Et sol. pro bajulacione vexilli iid. crucis ijd. torticiorum jd. ob. in die Corporis Xti, et diebus rogacionis, vd.

Et sol. pro lavacione omnium linthyaminum dicte ecclesie p. an. xijd.

Et in cera empta erga festum Pascha et Natale Domini et Jornal Sancte Trinitatis Katerine et sepulcri cera, cum factura earum omnibus computatis anno isto. vs. viijd.

* *Wooden spikes* for thatching ; so called now.

† A latch.

‡ hewing.

§ Sawing.

|| One stair and one partition wall.

Et in ij Jurnalibus * cere ardentibus ante Michaellem anno xvjd.
 Et in denariis solutis pro Petrys pens vijd. ob.
 Et in j corda empta pro secunda campana ix d.
 Et sol. pro emendacione de le bawdre † dicte campane jd.
 Et sol. pro purgacione gutturarum ecclesie jd.
 Et sol. pro le schyttynge ‡ de j corda jd.
 Et in ij pellys § de ij Aubys suendis. ijd.
 Et sol. pro campanis unguendis per an. ijd.
 Et in jantaculum computanti et clerico compoti ano. isto xijd.
 Et sol. pro factura compoti xxd.
 Et in parcameno ad idem empto. ijd.

Summa xxjs. vijd.

Anniversaria. Et in denariis solutis pro omnibus anniversariis istius ecclesie per an. cum obitu Johs. Bode et Henci. Thursdene et Edithe uxoris dictorum xls. ijd.

Summa xls. ijd.

Summa omnium Expensarum xijli.

Et sic exeunt vijs. xd. Et eligerunt in procuratores Robertum Chepman et Ricardum Kyppyng.

* Large torches calculated to burn for a day.

† Bawdrick (spelt in half a dozen different ways), a leathern thong for the clapper of the bell.

‡ I imagine *splitting*.

§ Fur parures for Albes in winter.