

Cistercian Scholars at Oxford.

REWLEY ABBEY was originally founded in 1281 as a place of study at Oxford for Cistercian monks;¹ but it gradually changed its character and became a monastery of the ordinary type, while the students of the order appear to have resided unattached until the foundation of St. Bernard's College in 1437. Very little is known of their intermediate history, but some light is thrown on it by a taxation made on their behalf in 1400.² During the great schism a chapter-general of the order in England and Wales was held in the Monastery of Graces, by the Tower of London, in 1398, under the presidency of John, abbot of Boxley, and Herman, abbot of Stratford. A pitiful complaint of the scholars at Oxford was brought before the chapter by the abbot of Waverley, but, as it comprehended place and building, persons and their necessities, and books and ornaments, and many other things worthy of correction were also presented which could not be passed over, the chapter referred the matter to the two presidents and the next convocation of the province of Canterbury. They were to inform themselves seriously about it, treat with the abbot and convent of Rewley, levy a moderate contribution from all abbots of England and Wales, and make proper arrangements; and the chapter promised to confirm all that they did. The two abbots reported that they had met at Rewley to treat of the matter, and made an agreement with the abbot and convent *super loco honesto ibidem communibus expensis reedificando sive de novo construendo*; and an order for taxation was accordingly made at London on 15 July 1400: the sums to be paid to the abbots of Stratford or Woburn as collectors, either directly or through the father abbots, one moiety at the Purification and the other at Whitsuntide next, and so from year to year until the consummation of the work. Medmenham was for some reason omitted, but the other houses were taxed as follows:—

Furness, Rievaulx, Fountains, 66s. 8d.

Whalley, Beaulieu, Vale Royal, Tintern, 58s. 4d.

Quarr, Combermere, Stratford, Buckfast, Wardon, Bordesley, Kirkstead, Revasby, Hailes, Graces, Neath, Margam, Byland, Jervaux, Holmcultram, 46s. 8d.

Waverley, Ford, Louth Park, Kirkstall, Meaux, 40s.

Whitland, Strata Florida, 36s. 8d.

Biddlesden, 33s. 4d.

Garendon, Coggeshall, Thame, Pipewell, Boxley, Merevale, Stanley, Combe, Dieulacres, Bindon, Robertsbridge, Croxden, Dunkeswell, Conway, Salley, 80s.

¹ See A. G. Little, 'Cistercian Students at Oxford in the Thirteenth Century,' *ante*, vol. viii. (1893), pp. 88–85.

² Exchequer, K.R., Ecclesiastical Documents, 1 (5).

Swineshead, Kingswood, Bruerne, Sibton, Stoneleigh, Netley, Rewley, Basingwerk, Cwmbr, Dore, Llantarnam, Cymmer, Valle Crucis, Newminster, Roche, 26s. 8d.

Buckland, Cleave, Strata Marcella, 23s. 4d.

Buildwas, Woburn, Vaudey, Sawtry, Flaxley, Tiltay, Hilton, Newenham, Rufford, 20s.

Grace Dieu, Calder, 18s. 4d.

These seventy-four houses therefore contributed the large yearly total of 127*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; but the foundation of St. Bernard's College proves that little was done. At no time do the English Cistercians appear to have shown any real zeal for education.

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A Voluntary Subsidy levied by Edward IV in the Province of Canterbury, 1462

THE first parliament summoned by Edward IV accepted him as king of England by hereditary right and attainted his opponents, but it granted him no money. The extravagance of the ministers of Henry VI had been so loudly complained of, the cry that the king should live of his own so often repeated, that Edward, sorely as he needed money, dared not ask the commons for a grant. On 21 December 1461 parliament was prorogued, after the king had thanked the commons in a brief speech, and the chancellor had announced that certain articles directed against the giving of liveries and signs, maintenance, murders, and other crimes had been drawn up by the king's order and proclaimed in Westminster Palace, and that it was the king's intention to visit the different parts of his realm to inform himself more fully concerning these outrages, and give the injured parties an opportunity to lay their bills before him.¹ In January Edward made a pilgrimage to Canterbury, but before the end of that month he was again staying at Westminster Palace,² and the arrest, trial, and execution of the earl of Oxford and his son, on the charge of conspiring with Queen Margaret, kept him in London during the following month. On the last day of February however he left London and rode to Ware. From Ware he went to Cambridge, from Cambridge to Huntingdon, Peterborough, Stamford, Grantham, Newark, and Lincoln, and then back through Southwell and Lichfield to Leicester, which he reached at the end of the first week of April, and where he remained until early in July.³ A passage in one of the Paston letters indicates that this royal progress, the second which Edward had made since his coronation, was one of

¹ *Rot. Parl.* v. 487.

² *Privy Seals*; *Chronicle of John Stowe*, pp. 84-5.

³ *Privy Seals*.