

XIX.—*A Mutilated Roll of Instruments relating to the Hospital of St. Edmund, at Sprotborough, near Doncaster; with prefatory remarks by EDWARD PEACOCK, Esq. F.S.A. Local Secretary for Lincolnshire: in a Letter addressed to Charles Spencer Perceval, Esq. LL.D. Director.*

Read May 6th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,

I forward you herewith a transcript of all such portions as can be read of a mutilated roll in the possession of Sir Joseph William Copley, of Sprotborough, in the county of York, Baronet. I am indebted for my copy to the courtesy of Charles Jackson, Esq. of Balby. The handwriting of the document is not much more modern than the date of the last instrument contained in it. It was certainly executed during the fifteenth century, probably about the middle of that period.

Of the Hospital of Saint Edmund the King scarcely anything whatever is at present known, except the few facts furnished by this very imperfect record. The late Mr. Hunter in his *South Yorkshire*^a tells us, quoting the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as to foundations in the parish of Sprotborough, that there was “a chantry or free chapel of Ancres juxta Doncaster,” and that this establishment was endowed with “a manse for the cantarist, a meadow called Ancres-ing, and lands at Newton producing annually 8*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*” That learned antiquary conjectured that this was probably the hospital of St. Edmund which Dodsworth had stated was distant from Sprotborough church a mile and a half.^b The discovery of the evidence now before us removes all doubt on the matter, for Sprotborough church is little more than that distance from the bridge of Doncaster, near which, as appears from the documents now printed, the hospital was situated; and the parish runs down to the river Don, which is crossed by the bridge.

As to the origin of this hospital we can say nothing. The foundation-charter, if indeed such a record ever existed, must have perished before this charter-roll was compiled, or we should have found it set forth at the head thereof, or possibly immediately after the Papal bulls. Humble institutions of this kind were widely scattered: of most of them but very slight historical memorials exist. It is not

^a i. 349.

^b See Tanner, *Not. Mon.* Yorkshire, Sprotburgh.

improbable that this hospital of St. Edmund, and many others of like character, were never founded in the strict legal sense of the term; but that a few pious persons, having gathered themselves together, erected a house of religion on a plot of waste land, and continued to hold the same without any definite title through the good will of the lord of the fee.

The institution appears to have been twofold,—consisting of a master, chaplains, and infirm persons, with two or possibly more anchoresses attached to their body. The memory of these religious is clearly retained in the name Ancres-Ing” given to their meadow in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

Of Thomas FitzWilliam, the grantor of the first charter, and of his son William FitzThomas or FitzWilliam, nothing need be said here. Almost all that can be told concerning the earlier members of this illustrious house has already been published.^a

I am, yours faithfully,

EDWARD PEACOCK.

[Roll, 2 feet 9 inches × 8 inches.]

BULLE HOSPITALIS SANCTI EDMUNDI REGIS ET MARTYRIS JUXTA PONTEM DONCASTR⁹.

. dilectis filiis infirmis fratribus Sancti Edmundi juxta Pontem Doncastr⁹ salutem et apostolicam benedictionem est nos facilem prebere consensum et vota que a rationis tramite non discordant dilecti in domino filii vestris iustis postulacionibus grato concurrentes assensu domum vestram mcia regulariter unius animi sub beati Petri et nostra proteccionem suscipimus et presentis entes ut de ortis et pomeriis vestris seu de nutrimentis animalium vestrorum vel extorquere presumat. Capellanum quoque ydoneum vos habere concedimus, qui in capella Indulgemus insuper ut pro sepultura vestra et eorum qui de familia vestra sunt ibidem ergo ut nulli omnino hominum liceat hanc nostre proteccionis seu constitutionis paginam infringere Si quis autem hoc attemptare presumpserit indignacionem omnipotentis dei et beatorum incursum. Datum Veller’ iij kalendis Aprilis

Confirmacio Bulle predictæ.

. dilectis filiis magistro et fratribus domus infirmorum Sancti Edmundi juxta pontem Doncastr⁹ [berie]dicionem. Cum a vobis petitur quod justum est et honestum tam vigor equitatis solitudinem officii nostri ad debitum perducatur effectum. Ea propter dilecti in domino concurrentes assensu domum vestram Sancti Edmundi predictam omnesque libertates im Romanis pontificibus sive per privilegia vel alias indulgencias vobis et domui pertinentiis suis necnon libertates et exempciones secularum exactionum a regibus fidelibus vobis et dicte vestre domui indultis sicut eas iuste et pacifice possidetis

^a Hunter’s *South Yorkshire*, i. 333; ii. 93.

[auctori]tate apostolica confirmamus et presentis scripti patrocinio communimus
 hanc paginam nostre communicionis infringere vel ei ausu temerarie contraire pre-
 sumpserit indignacionem omnipotentis Dei et beatorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum
 Datum Rome apud sanctum Petrum xv kalendas Maii Pontificatus nostri anno nono.

Carta Thome Fitz William^a in primis Anachoritis facta.

. ego Thomas filius Willelmi intuitu Dei pro salute anime mee et omnium anteces-
 sorum meorum dedi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Anabille et Helene sororibus
 inclusis octo quartaria frumenti ad earundem sustentacionem in tota vita sua annua-
 tim inclusarum memorato loco futuris temporibus invicem sibi succedentium que predicta
 de Sprotburgh per manus heredum meorum vel assignatorum suorum. Que predicti
 herede[s sine difficul]tate et impedimento reddent annuatim, scilicet duo quartaria ad Natale domini
 ad Pentecosten et duo infra octabas Sancti Michaelis. Cum vero contigerit unam vel utramque
 inclusarum vel forte locum vacare inclusarum tamdiu predictum frumentum vel
 medietas inclusa sacerdotibus dicti hospitalis Beati Edmundi Martyris ab heredibus meis
 vel eorum assignatis diebus certis pro anima mea et antecessorum et heredum meorum
 per bonorum virorum consilium vel incluse prefato inclusorio fuerunt institute. Hiis
 testibus Domino Waltero do Priore de Blida Domino Petro de Percy Domino
 Johanne filio Willielmi Ambrosio de militibus Roberto de Sprotburgh clerico Eugñi
 et Radulfo de Kaleham fratribus et aliis.

[*Carta*] *Willelmi filii Thome Fitz William^b secundo facta Anachoritis.*

. ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Willelmus filius Thome de Sprotburgh salutem
 in domino me caritatis intuitu pro salute anime mee antecessorum meorum et heredum
 meorum dedisse [et car]ta mea confirmasse Anabille et Helene sorori sue filiabus Jordani de
 Insula Ana[choritis] juxta pontem Doncastr⁹ omnibus diebus vite sue et omnibus anachoritis
 successoribus suis quod quondam habuerunt in predicto Hospitali Sancti Edmundi videlicet
 tempore In hiis nominatim quod Custos dicti hospitalis eisdem anachoritis et omnibus
 honore prout decet in omnibus exhibebit et missam horas canonicas pro salute anime
 fidelium defunctorum in dicta capella ad honorem dei et juxta libitum Volo
 eciam et concedo quod dictus Custos dicti Hospitalis vacas p' includendarum rationabiliter
 secundum (?) aysiamenta predicte domus tanquam sororibus propriis sumptibus faciet cus-
 todire. Preterea literium pro lectis fa[ciendis], communiam in curtilag' cum omnibus aysiamenis et

^a Sir Thomas FitzWilliam, grantor of this charter, lived in the time of Henry III.: the date of his death towards the end of that reign is not exactly known. If it be allowable to restore the name of the prior of Blythe, by reading [Theobal]do, the charter may be dated between 1260 and 1272, as in the former year Theobald became prior of that house. His predecessor was named Gilbert, a name which in the ablative would not give the final syllable *do*.

^b William, son of Thomas, was heir to Sir Thomas FitzWilliam. Anabel and Helen de Lisle, the two ancesses in whose favour the first charter was made, were still alive at the date of this. It is probably somewhat earlier than the fine which follows.

pertinenc[iis] ubique pertinentibus sine difficultate seu et contradiccione vel calumpnia omnibus ibidem includendis omnibus diebus vite sue predict' Custos inveniet et in [A]nabelle et Helene et omnes ibidem includend' esse concedo participes Insuper dictus singulis concedo duo quartaria frumenti de orrio dicti Custodis scilicet sine et contradiccione. Salva tamen in omnibus predictis iurisdiccione ad eñ In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum apposui. Hiis Doncastr⁹ Michaelae de Adwycke Willelmo filio Henrici de eadem Roberto cum multis aliis.

[Fin]alis Concordia.^a

. domini regis apud Eborum a die Sancti Johannis Baptiste in unum mensem anno regni coram Johanne de Vallibus Willelmo de Saham Rogero Lufday Johanne de Mes de Suddyngton Justiciariis itinerantibus et aliis Domini Regis fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus [inclu]sas sub capella Sancti Edmundi extra Doncastr⁹ querentes et per Thomam Gocelyn positum Willelmum filium Thome defortiantem de xxiiij quarteriis frumenti que eis aretro fuerunt debet unde placitatum fuit inter eos in eadem curia, scilicet quod predictus Willelmus reddent singulis annis imperpetuum predictis inclusis et aliis ad quatuor terminos anni scilicet ad festum Sancti Michaelis duo quarteria frumenti et ad festum Pentecostes duo quarteria frumenti. Et pro hac recognicione concessi[one] quiet⁹ tam pde se et de aliis inclusis que eis succedent omnia concordia facta fuit.

The next document is without heading, and so imperfect as to be quite unintelligible—"Isabella que fuit uxor domini Willielmi Fitz Willielmi Johannes filius Briani de Thornehill," occur in it. "Datum apud Sprotburgh vij die mensis Aprilis."

Scriptum Donacionis.

More imperfect than the last. "Elizabetha fitz Willielmi domina de Sprotburgh"^b conveys to Thomas de Sprotburgh certain lands: among others names of places which cannot be read, Aukenge and Rycroft occur. Mention is made of "Johannis de Neuton capellani." "Edmundo fitz William"^c Harlyngton Roberto Barr⁹ may be made out among the witnesses. Date 1384.

^a The fine of the copy of the record of which this is a fragment was levied in the 8th year of Edward I. as appears by Mr. Hunter's note (*South Yorks.* i. 336) of a more perfect copy in a MS. collection at Milton. The claim, it also appears, was for 24 quarters of wheat, which were in arrear of an annual rent of eight quarters, no doubt the gift of the conuzor's father recorded in the first charter.

^b Widow of Sir John FitzWilliam, of Sprotborough, and "de Arkeseye joust Doncastre," who died on or before 1385. In 1364 he had (says Hunter, i. 338) the King's licence to amortise land to the use of the master and chaplains of the hospital of St. Edmund of Sprotborough. Dame Elizabeth was a daughter of the house of Clinton, but her place in the pedigree is not clear. The *Rotuli Parliamentorum* of 1389 (iii. 260) contain a curious petition from Sir Thomas Metham, from which it seems Sir John FitzWilliam was murdered by Roger Spark, a servant of John Aske, of Ousthorp.

^c Probably Edmund FitzWilliam, ancestor of the family of that name, of Wadworth and Aldwark. Hunter's *South Yorkshire*, ii. 54.

A document without heading. A mere fragment, "Aukenge" and "Bentlay" mentioned. "Tho^s Knapnaue capellanus" occurs. Date 1409.

[In dorso Rotuli.]

Scriptum Donacionis.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Robertus Waterton ^a jure Margarete uxoris sue et prefata Margareta eius vxor salute animarum nostrarum et anime Johannis fitz William nuper viri dicte Margarete et dedisse concessisse et hoc presenti scripto nostro confirmasse Roberto Vincent ⁹ et liberum hospitale Sancti Edmundi Regis et Martyris juxta pontem Doncastr⁹ et de Sprotburgh totaliter spectans prout a tempore in territorio de Scauceby ^b ac omnibus aliis proficuis et commoditatibus tam ultimo capellano hospitalis predicti aut aliis predecessorum suorum illa quod dictus Robertus aut alius capellanus nomine suo infra dictum hospitale in officio et alia divina servicia celebrando prout decet. Et nos vero dictus Robertus de Waterton predictur et Margareta vxor mea hospitale predictum cum omnibus terminum vite sue warrantizabimus et defendemus. In cujus rei testimonium apposuimus. Hiis testibus Leone Domino de Welles ^c Thoma^d Clarill Willelmo Sca [ar]migeris

^a Robert Waterton the younger, of Methley. Whitaker, *Loidis and Elmete*, 268. He would appear to be identical with Robert Waterton esquire, upon whose death several writs of inquiry issued (Esch. 3 Hen. VI. No. 16) as to what lands, &c. he died seised of in Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire. By the inquisitions taken in pursuance of these writs, it was found that he died seised of the manor of Northleverton, co. Notts, held of the Archbishop of York in socage by the service of 11s. per annum; of the manor of Westburgh, co. Line. held of the King *in capite*; of the manors of Brotton, held of the King *in capite*, and Everingham, held of the Archbishop of York, and of lands at Skynnergreve, in the county of York, all as tenant by the curtesy, these manors being of the inheritance of his late wife Joan, to whose son and heir Robert Elys they all remained. This Robert Elys was then 40 years old and upwards. He was found to have died on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Hilary then last past (Jan. 17, 1425), his heir being his son Robert Waterton, aged 16 years and upwards. Joan, who thus figures as the first wife of Robert Waterton, was a daughter of William de Everingham, and widow of Sir William Elys, and (with a sister) coheir of her brother Robert de Everingham, who died 44 Edw. III. (See Ord's *Cleveland under Skinningrove*.) Robert Waterton died, it will be observed, between the execution of the first and the second of the two charters in the text, and it is curious to find his widow confirming her own and her late husband's deed within two days of his decease. Sir Robert his father must have survived him, for he himself is returned as holding no other lands than those which he had by the curtesy. His son Robert also must have died without issue, as the daughters of Lady Welles became the coheirs of their uncle and grandfather, and as such made partition of the estates 26 April, 2 Hen. VII. according to a deed cited in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, ed. 1863.

^b Scawsby. Scalchebi, *Domesday*; Scauceby, *Kirkby's Inq.*; a hamlet in the parish of Brodsworth.

^c Leo Lord Welles, sixth Baron by writ, killed at the battle of Towton 1461; he married a daughter of Robert Waterton the elder, of Methley, who has been variously called Jane and Cecily.

^d Thomas Clarel, of Aldwark, was father of this Margaret, widow of John FitzWilliam. He was drowned in the River Don 1st May, 1442. It is more probable that it was his son who witnessed this donation. This person was aged 40 years at his father's death.

Johanne Dawnay et aliis militibus. Datum apud Methlay xij^o die Janu[arii] sexti post Conquestum Anglie tercio.

Scriptum et Confirmacio Donacionis predictæ.

Sciant universi Christi fideles quod ego Margareta Domina de Sprotburgh que fui vxor armigeri nuper vxor Johannis fitz William de Sprotburgh in mea pura viduitate et confirmo donacionem et concessionem per prefatum Robertum nuper virum meum Vincent capellano de libero hospitali Sancti Edmundi Regis et Martyris juxta pontem Doncastr⁹ commoditatibus in dicto scripto nostro specificatis. Et ulterius per presentem cartam meam Vincent do et concedo cum omnibus juribus proficuis et commoditatibus in predicto scripto con Vincent ad terminum vite sue modo et forma prout per prefatum Robertum Waterton nuper scripto expressatur volens et concedens Radulfo capellano cantarie in Sprotburg nomine et jure quantum in me est prefatum Robertum Vincent in dicto hospitali inde libet prout decet. In cujus rei testimonium presenti carte mee donacionis confirmacionis sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Leone Domino de Welles Th Johanne et Roberto fratribus meis Willelmo Scargill Thoma Womwell Armigero Methlay die Veneris decimo nono die mensis Januarii Anno Domini millesimo et anno Regni Regis Henrici sexti post Conquestum Anglie tercio.

Hec subscripta noviter facta per Robertum Vincent in sua Cantaria juxta pontem Don . . .

In primis in choro j wyndow of stone iren and the makyng thereof.
j new auter, ij new auter clothes, j new corporax with a case of grene damask.
ij new frontels with frenges of silk a for the haluyng of them.
ij tables new made and paynted, ij new ymages paynted.
ij new tabernacles to the ymages, ij base stones.
j new vestment of bordalesawndre,^a j new kyst for vestmentes, and j new
j newe canope with the box, new deskes, formes, and j new celour in the p^c

In Corpore Ecclesie.

ij new auters with coveryng of borde, ijs. vj d.; iiij new ymages Katerin, Mathewe, Thomas, and William, with stones and the tabernacles, xiiij s.; j new wyndow made at Saynt Thomas auter, xij d.; j ne[w] tabill paynted with a crucifix, Mari and John; j new hynged laumpe, xij d.; j Christofer, ijs. iiij d.; new formes with the makyng, iij s. iiij d. Also Mari and Mighel; j new klok with all the pertenance, xxiiij s.; j new dore made into the gardyn, xvij for gystes, plauñch,^b stoghes,^c and nayles; j new grece^d to the chamber within the kyrk new dore; j new stone wyndow made in the same chaumbre.

^a An eastern fabric. It probably took its name from the city of Alexandria. Raine, *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, 338. Peacock, *Eng. Church Furnit.* 182.

^b Planks.

^c Stooths. Pieces of wood used to make the framework of plaster partitions. The word is still in use.

^d A step, or perhaps flight of stairs. "Grece or tredyl or steyre, gradus." *Prompt. Parv.* i. 209.

In the Parlor.

j new chimnay^a of lyme and stone with ij harthes and a doubill pype, iij li.; one new plauñch to the chaumber above the parlor, iiij s.; j new stone wyndow half glas, iij s. iiij d.; new boukes; j new lavatory, ij s.; j new Almary, vj s. Sum total .

In the Chaumber over the Parlor.

v grete new gystes; v grete new cupils; ij walplates with the in the stone thake,^b xvij s.; j new dore, xij d.; j new grece, xij d.; ij thak stones and thekyng ther of, xvij s.; j new wyndow glased thet one half, iij s.
Also j new kechrn with a littill a lede, a synke, and alle the tymbir in
Also in dikyng^c and wode setting aboute the grete medow vj s. viij d. In making of a drawell, palissyng^d gate, making a wall, the place, xij s. iiij d. In cleansing and ekyng^e of the grate ponde and making of

Apud Neuton.

ij lath endes new made, iij li.; ij new chambers and the endes spensis, dores, wyndowes, garners, and j privey, iiij li. x s.; and basyng and mendyng of an ouchote^f of the iij s. iiij d. Also wallyng, thekyng, dawlyng, nalyng at the other two Also in all costages for makyng of a new house by the and in all thingis

[In another hand.]

Also by hye ferete^g for pavyng of xij rode, the stone new boght and eich new
Also for makyng of iiij new arches, the sydes of new hewyn stone with tymber aboue under the arches with grete
freestone iustly semed and with rugh sto
ffor pauyng, wallyng, by the dyke sides in the ank
Also for the marig of amay of my kyn^h in all thynk
Also makyn vij new bellys
Also j new chalys xxiiij s. and medyng of an old messe boke
Also to the makyng of ij new belles at Sprotburgh.

^a In documents of this age chimney is usually understood to signify not the flue for carrying away the smoke, but the iron grate in which the fire burned. We have evidence here of its use in the modern meaning.

^b The rough thin Yorkshire flags with which many of the houses and churches in that neighbourhood are still covered.

^c Making ditches or cleansing them. The word is still common.

^d Paling gates, *i.e.* nailing thin perpendicular pales over the horizontal framework.

^e Enlarging.

^f Outshot.

^g A shrine, *feretrum*.

^h "The marriage of a maiden of my kin" seems meant, but why entered in this account?